

The Role of Juvenile Court in Reentry

{ Chicago, IL
{ May 8 – 9, 2014



Presentation Given By:

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The Mission of the Allegheny County Juvenile Court Probation Department

To Reduce and Prevent Juvenile Crime, Promote and Maintain Safe Communities, and Improve the Welfare of Youth and Families who are Served by the Court.

The Principle Belief Supporting the Mission Are:

- ⌘ That the disposition of juvenile offenders always takes into account the best interests of public safety.
- ⌘ That juvenile offenders be held accountable for the harm they cause to individuals as well as the community at large.
- ⌘ That the primary objective of treatment is to improve and develop the juvenile offender's competency skills.
- ⌘ That community residents and organizations be actively engaged by the court in a cooperative effort to seek solutions to juvenile crime.
- ⌘ That excellence in the quality of court services requires sensitivity to racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the client population.
- ⌘ That victims are all integral parts of the justice system and should have their rights protected during all phases of the court proceedings including the right to be heard, notified, and restored.

Allegheny County Demographics

- ⌘ There are approximately 1.2 million people in Allegheny County
 - ⌘ There were a total of 3,788 referrals in 2013
 - ⌘ 79% of the referrals were male
 - ⌘ Most frequent referrals were assault related
 - ⌘ Second most common reason for referrals were drug related charges
 - ⌘ Total cases closed in 2013 were 1,526
 - ⌘ Of cases closed, total amount of restitution paid was \$190,006
- ⌘ Average length of supervision – Probation – is 24 months
- ⌘ Number and percentage of offenders who successfully complete a three hour Victim Awareness Curriculum is 1,048 – 99%
- ⌘ 108 Probation Officers and 32 Supervisors

Allegheny County Demographics

US Census 2010

- & Population -1.22 Million
- & 730 Square Miles
- & 130 Municipalities
Including Pittsburgh
- & 43 School Districts
- & Population Age 10 - 19
148,330
- & Over 140 Police
Departments



5th Judicial District of PA

PA System – Decentralized 67 Counties:

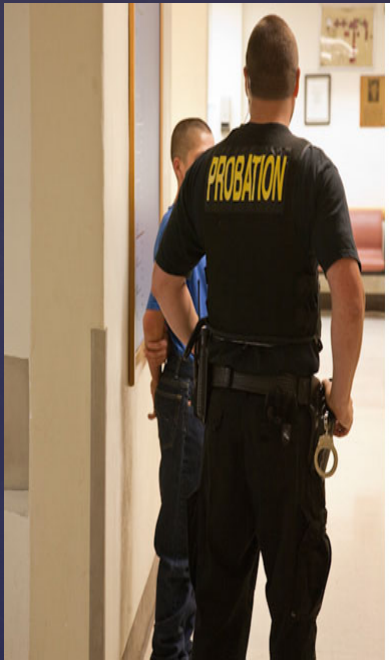
- ⌘ Probation is under Judicial Branch
- ⌘ Juvenile Court Judges Commission – advisory body, establish standards
- ⌘ Probation handles case from opening to closing

Allegheny County:

- ⌘ Among the 25 largest court systems in the nation
- ⌘ 43 Common Pleas Court Judges
- ⌘ 46 Managerial Districts
- ⌘ More than 1,200 employees

Probation Department Units

(Decentralized in 1974)



- ⌘ Intake Department
- ⌘ Community Based Probation (7 Supervisor Units)
 - ⌘ D&A Unit
 - ⌘ Sex Offender Unit
 - ⌘ YLS Unit
 - ⌘ Warrant Unit
- ⌘ School Based Probation (6 Supervisor Units)
 - ⌘ Educational Specialist
- ⌘ Community Intensive Supervision Program (CISP 6 Centers)

Educational Specialist – Aftercare Initiative

The Department has three Educational Specialists who work closely with probation officers, residential providers, home school staff, and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to improve educational reintegration for delinquent youth existing residential placement.



Educational Specialist – Aftercare Initiative (continued)

The Education Specialists are continuing to help the Department advance important education objectives including the following:

- ⌘ Gathering and updating key information regarding education programming available through our residential providers;
- ⌘ Working closely with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to ensure all relevant school information is promptly transferred to the residential provider upon commitment and back to the home school upon release;
- ⌘ Collaborating with Pittsburgh Public Schools and other school districts to establish a consistent protocol for reintegration, curriculum alignment, and credit transfer;

Educational Specialist – Aftercare Initiative (continued)

The Education Specialists are continuing to help the Department advance important education objectives including the following (continued):

- ⌘ Assisting the probation officer in developing a “Case Plan” in consultation with the provider and home school; the Case Plan includes educational goals, objectives, and activities that begin in placement and continue through the aftercare (post release) phase when the youth returns to the home school;
- ⌘ Monitoring and overseeing educational plans for those youth entering and exiting residential facilities;
- ⌘ Scheduling and facilitating School Reintegration Meetings to ensure a smooth transition from out-of-home placement back to the juvenile’s home school; for the 2011-2012 school year, 91 such meetings occurred.

Educational Specialist – Aftercare Initiative (continued)

The Education Specialists are continuing to help the Department advance important education objectives including the following (continued):

- ⌘ Reporting educational outcomes for juveniles returning from placement and monitoring the status of juveniles who had school reintegration meetings (SRM's) at the 45-day point and again at the end of the school year.
- ⌘ The educational specialists also assist in updating our departments institutional providers database.
- ⌘ The focus on this year is to develop a collaborative process with the placement and aftercare providers, probation officer and BJJS career tech ed. Specialist to better engage youth who are returning from placement with a GED or H.S. diploma, in job skill development/training programs to help these older youth succeed in their home community. By doing so we are hoping to reduce their risk to recidivate and keep them productive in the pursuit of their chosen career path.

RECONNECTING DELINQUENT YOUTH

Most school drop-outs are not delinquent

BUT

Most delinquent youth do not graduate from high school
and cannot find jobs

Youth sent to residential placement are most at risk



RECONNECTING LOST YOUTH

LINK BETWEEN DELINQUENCY AND ACADEMIC FAILURE WELL DOCUMENTED

- ⌘ Majority of youth who are sent to out of home placement do not graduate high school after reentry
- ⌘ Without basic skills, youth not equipped for 21st century jobs
- ⌘ VAST MAJORITY OF ADULT PRISONERS DID NOT COMPLETE HIGH SCHOOL
- ⌘ High cost to society in human and monetary capital
- ⌘ We can break cycle of failure by making high school relevant, directly connected to job preparation and post secondary options for all youth

BACKGROUND TO PACTT

In 2005 PA became first MacArthur Models for Change state, with one of its focuses on revamping aftercare

PA Joint Statement on Aftercare signed by key partners, included academic and employment focus

Philadelphia and Allegheny Counties (represent together 2,000 of 5,000 placed youth) began work on education and employment goals, identified common systemic problems

BACKGROUND TO PACTT

MacArthur All Sites meetings made significant progress in identifying model aftercare practices:

- **Need collaborative focus, including schools, workforce system, social service systems, providers**
- **Planning for re-entry begins at time of placement**
- **Placement facilities and community programs must be seamless, including academic work**
- **Entire process must be guided by probation single plan, which moves with youth from initial intake through discharge from the system**

RECONNECTING LOST YOUTH: Challenges to Academic Success



- ⌘ Youth significantly behind grade level; low literacy, weak bonding to school
- ⌘ Rolling admissions and discharges
- ⌘ CTE programs historically closed to them
- ⌘ Weak work habits (soft skills); not familiar with work culture; little work experience
- ⌘ Low expectations from systems that serve the youth

RECONNECTING LOST YOUTH: Challenges to Success

STATE'S DE-CENTRALIZED JJ STRUCTURE BOTH A STRENGTH AND A CHALLENGE

- ⌘ Majority of placement facilities privately run, paid through county contracts
- ⌘ 67 counties
 - ⌘ Historically inconsistent expectations
- ⌘ Over 150 private facilities
- ⌘ Juvenile justice system has not paid attention to academics and job training

NO COUNTY, FACILITY or SYSTEM CAN DO IT ALONE: THE PACTT IS BORN, 4/08

**Allegheny and Philadelphia Probation joined to
lead statewide effort to improve academic and
employment outcomes in placement**

- ⌘ PACTT sponsored by PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers
- ⌘ Funded by MacArthur Foundation, PCCD and Stoneleigh Center
- ⌘ Cross-system Advisory Board
- ⌘ Focus on largest facilities serving 2/3 of youth from Allegheny and Philadelphia Counties

Community Intensive Supervision Program (CISP)

- ⌘ Court Operated Program
 - ⌘ Step-up from Probation supervision
 - ⌘ Alternative to residential placement
 - ⌘ Aftercare (step-down) for juveniles released from placement since 1997



Community Intensive Supervision Program (CISP)



- ⌘ Nationally Known as an Intensive Supervision Program
- ⌘ Operates Out of 6 Neighborhood Centers around Pittsburgh
 - ⌘ Garfield, Hill District, McKeesport, North Side, Penn Hills, and Wilkinsburg
- ⌘ Model Site for the Balanced Approach
- ⌘ Started in June 1990
 - ⌘ Has served approximately 4,300 Clients
 - ⌘ Has Won Several Awards

CISP – Typical Day

School Accountability:

Monitoring checks with school regarding ATTENDANCE:

- ⌚ 3:45 – 4:00 Youth Reports to Center (class cards collected and reviewed)
- ⌚ 4:00 – 5:00 Homework; Computerized Educational Program; Drug Testing
- ⌚ 5:00 – 6:00 Dinner and Clean Up
- ⌚ 6:00 – 8:00 Drug Testing; Individual & Group Counseling; Community Service
- ⌚ 8:00 – 9:00 Therapeutic Recreation Activity
- ⌚ 9:00 – 10:00 Transport Youth Home
- ⌚ 10:30 – 11:30 Staff Check on Youth and Contact Parents

LEVEL SYSTEM OVERVIEW

LEVEL 1

COMMUNITY SAFETY

OBSERVATION/ASSESSMENT

DRUG AND ALCOHOL
BEHAVIOR FAMILY SCHOOL

ESTABLISH NORMS

MALE

BIOLOGICAL SEX

REMAIN IN CENTER

VICTIM EDUCATION

COMMUNITY SERVICE

LEVEL 2

COMPETENCY
DEVELOPMENT

COUNSELING/REMEDIATION

DRUG AND ALCOHOL
BEHAVIOR FAMILY SCHOOL

ESTABLISH COMPLIANCE

BOYHOOD

DEPENDENT *undisciplined*
behaviors passion driven

PAID ACTIVITIES

VICTIM AWARENESS

WORK/RESTITUTION

LEVEL 3

ACCOUNTABILITY

AFTERCARE PLANNING

DRUG AND ALCOHOL
BEHAVIOR FAMILY SCHOOL

ESTABLISH LEADERSHIP

MAN

INDEPENDENT *disciplined*
behaviors control of thoughts
senses/actions

PARENT PERMISSION
ACTIVITIES

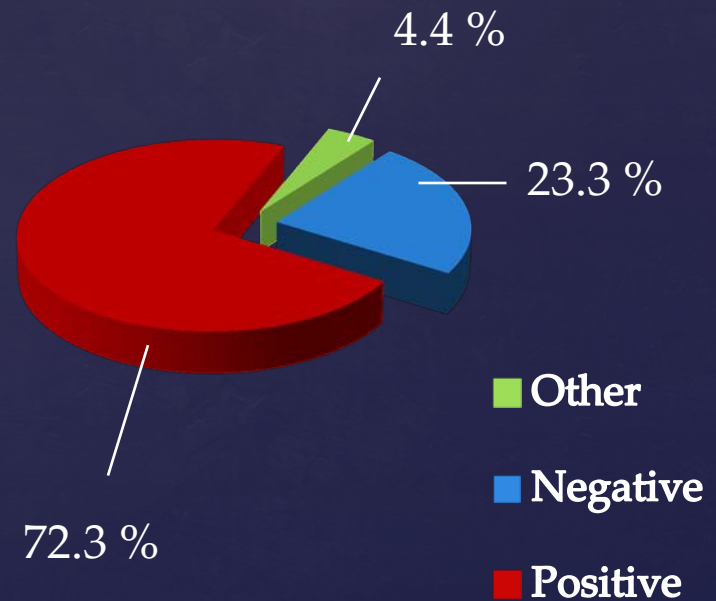
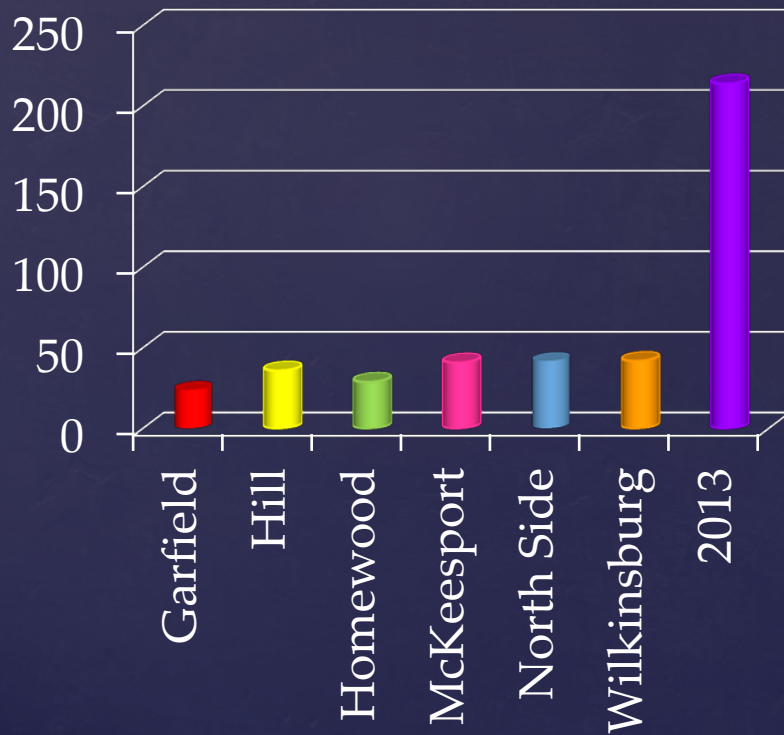
VICTIM
SENSITIVITY/MEDIATION

RESTITUTION/TARGETED
COMMUNITY SERVICE

2013 Commitments and Discharges

Commitments

Discharges



ALLEGHENY COUNTY JUVENILE COURT POLICY BULLETIN

AFTERCARE PLAN FOR INSTITUTIONAL YOUTH

APPROVED: James Reiland, Director

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 11, 1997

All youth released from public and private institutions should be placed in Aftercare at either CISP (if they live in appropriate census tracts) or the Academy. The length of placement will be a minimum of three (3 months). Exceptions may include:

- ⊗ Youth 18 years of age or older
- ⊗ Sex Offenders who qualify for Aftercare through the SSU
- ⊗ Youth released from community based programs and group homes
- ⊗ RTF releases
- ⊗ Drug and Alcohol Offenders who are receiving aftercare through the Court's Drug and Alcohol Unit. CISP is an appropriate D & A aftercare program.

PROCEDURE: At the time of commitment the Court Order should indicate that the youth will automatically be placed in the Aftercare Program upon release from the institution.

AFTERCARE PLAN FOR INSTITUTIONAL YOUTH

(continued, page 2)

PROCEDURE: (continued)

- ⌘ The recommendation will state that said child be committed to _____ and that upon release, child be placed in appropriate Aftercare Program and case be reviewed in six (6) months.
- ⌘ The Probation Officer/Intake Officer will make an aftercare referral to either CISP or the Academy approximately three (3) months prior to projected release.
- ⌘ The Probation Officer/Intake Officer will advise the youth's parent(s) of the purpose of the Aftercare and answer any questions they may have.

UPON RELEASE:

- ⌘ Upon release from a residential program the Court Order should read – That said child be released from _____ as of _____ and placed in _____ for Aftercare Programming. (Review dates for The Academy only.)
- ⌘ A Placement Order (handwritten Form #122) will be completed and sent to Court Accounting – Frick Building.
- ⌘ Female Offenders can be placed in the Academy Day/Evening Program or another appropriate Aftercare Program such as the Program for Female Offenders or the Pittsburgh Youth Initiative of the City for Pittsburgh residents.
- ⌘ The Pittsburgh Youth Initiative, Abraxas NRC, APA, Whales Tales, etc. will continue to be able to provide a service to youth in CISP or the Academy Aftercare.

Costs

- ⌘ The total amount budgeted for CISP in 2013 was \$5,856,905
- ⌘ The actual expenditures in CISP in 2013 amounted to \$4,697,915
- ⌘ The per diem cost during 2013 was \$122.42 per day, based on 38,375 days of service
- ⌘ \$6 million operating budget for 2014
- ⌘ \$4.8 million of that is for salaries and benefits
- ⌘ Breaks down to about \$1 million per center, per year
- ⌘ **Per Diem Rates:**
 - 100 Kids per Day - \$129/day
 - 125 Kids per Day - \$103/day
 - 150 Kids per Day - \$86/day
- ⌘ **Funding Source:**
 - State (ACT 148)
 - County Tax Dollars

