



Neighborhood Justice

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Newsletter of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office Youth Aid Panels
R. Seth Williams – District Attorney

Community Resources

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Assistant District Attorney Lakeisha Fields has been busy researching new resources that Youth Aid Panels and their participants can utilize. Below are a few resources we believe will be successful. **STOP (Student Training Opportunity Program)** is a drug treatment program that has agreed to accept YAP referrals. The program is run by **Darryl James, PhD (215-227-7867)**. The program offers: individual and family therapy, credit recovery for students, music and art therapy, cosmetology, weight management, features a radio station for those interested in radio broadcasting, and a number of additional services. The program is designed to administer drug testing and address the addiction issues through counseling and treatment. This program is one stop shopping, as the children can also learn skills in the above areas while being treated for their addiction.

Nu Sigma Youth Services is a program that has agreed to accept YAP referrals. The contact person is **Brandon Brown (215-851-1755 and BBrown@NuSigma.org)**. Nu Sigma Youth Services has identified the following program goals, which will be targeted through its program activities:

- To increase skills among participants to resist peer pressure through leadership development and training;
- To increase the knowledge of participants of the negative consequences of involvement with negative behaviors such as substance abuse, violence and high-risk sexual activity;
- To increase awareness of cultural values and heritage;
- To improve academic performance and increase awareness of careers and educational opportunities.

Effective immediately ***Don't Fall Down In The Hood*** will resume recruiting suitable youth to enroll into its intensive community-based treatment program for males across the City of Philadelphia, ages 14-18, for a 3-4 month period. The program is conducted on Temple University's Main Campus, Ritter Annex, room 320 (Corners of 13th Street and Cecil B. Moore Ave.), Mondays through Thursdays, 4:00-7:30pm. A nightly dinner and Septa tokens are provided for the youth. In addition to the daily program offerings youth are required to complete sixty hours of supervised community service, engage in a mentoring relationship, and participate in other activities as they emerge. On a monthly basis the case manager will visit the youth at home and at school where appropriate. This program is truly intensive and requires parental involvement for nightly curfew checks and the attendance of a monthly parent support meeting. Please refer your most challenged youth to the program, as they will receive immeasurable support and service. If you should have further questions, or wish to have an in-person presentation please contact **Wesley Jones (215-235-1307 and wjones@idaay.org)**.

Please see your Crime Prevention Officer for referral forms. If you have questions or need more information please contact ADA Lakeisha Fields at 215-686-6310.

From the Juveniles

By A Youth Aid Panel Juvenile

“Good Shepherd Mediation Reflection: Conflict Resolution Workshop”

“When I attended the conflict resolution workshop the first thing that came to my mind was it is too early to be here and I did not want to be there. It was not about what I wanted it was about what I had to do. I sat there and the program began explaining everything we were going to do that day. We began by introducing ourselves. We got to hear each other’s stories and the reasons to why everyone was there. The staff made everything smooth for us and they helped us to understand that we were not criminals like everyone else was making us out to be. They understood that we were humans who made a mistake that got us where we were, but more importantly that we were learning from the mistakes we made. The staff also taught us how to not keep doing the same things and repeating our mistakes. After that we were asked our definitions of “respect”. The staff went around the room and we got to hear each other’s opinions. The staff gathered us together and we did some other activities for awhile. Then we went on a lunch break. We got to order food, talk on our phones, and get to know each other a little better. After lunch we went back in and settled down in the class. While others were participating in activities the staff took us one-on-one and got to know us better. They told us we did not have to be strangers and that we can trust / open up to them. Afterwards we did an activity where we had to name the things that put us in a bad mood. We had to put those things on a scale from one to ten. We reflected on things that angered us, hurtful words, and bad actions. We taped our top three things together on the wall and then read our reasons. Each person identified their reasons and why they felt that way. We then took another break. After break the staff wanted us to get in groups and role play to see how we would react to a given situation. The staff then congratulated us for completing the workshop and gave us our diplomas. Our parents came to pick and up and the staff talked to them. The staff let our parents know what we did that day. At the end of the day I learned a lot and it went better than I thought it would. I am glad I went, because now I see things differently and I am thankful for the staff helping kids in my situation.”



Book Club

A new suggestion for Youth Aid Panel participants

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens

By: Sean Covey

A panelist recently recommended a book that he has found to be highly favored among juveniles in his panel. Being a teenager is both wonderful and challenging. In *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, author Sean Covey applies the timeless principles of the 7 Habits to teens and the tough issues and life-changing decisions they face. In an entertaining style, Covey provides a step-by-step guide to help teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals, get along with their parents, and much more. In addition, this book is stuffed with cartoons, clever ideas, great quotes, and incredible stories about real teens from all over the world. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* will engage teenagers unlike any other book.

An indispensable book for teens, as well as parents, grandparents, and any adult who influences young people, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* is destined to become the last word on surviving and thriving as a teen and beyond. Please consider this book while drafting your contracts.

Source: www.bookbrowse.com

Good Shepherd Tracks YAP Participation

By Randy Duque, Managing Director, Good Shepherd Mediation Program

This article is part one of a two-part series.

This year, Good Shepherd Mediation Program (GSMP) conducted a comprehensive 3-year recidivism study of their Juvenile Offender Diversion Program (JODP) Workshops. GSMP tracked juveniles who were referred to and successfully completed a Conflict Resolution Workshop, a Retail Theft Module, or an Impact of Auto Theft Workshop between July 2007 and June 2010.



The following information summarizes successful YAP participation to JODP by geographical location. Geographical location is based on the Philadelphia Police District in which a juvenile resides and are categorized by eight sections of the city—Northeast (2nd, 5th, 7th, and 8th Districts), Northwest (5th, 14th, 35th, and 39th Districts), North (22nd and 23rd Districts), East (24th, 25th, and 26th Districts), Central (6th, 9th, and 17th Districts), South (1st, 3rd, and 4th Districts), Southwest (12th District), and West (16th, 18th, 19th, and 90th Districts).

The Conflict Resolution Workshop

Juveniles referred by the Youth Aid Panel made up 67% of the total number of participants to the Conflict Resolution Workshop. Of that number, youths from the Northwest and Northeast sections of the city made up the highest percentages of participants from YAP at 26% and 25%, respectively. The next highest percentages of regions came from West (20%) and East (18%). While South and Central regions came in at 5% and 6%, juveniles from the Central and Southwest accounted for less than 1% in three years.

Effects of Retail Theft Module

Youth Aid Panel referrals that successfully completed an Effects of Retail Theft Module made up 90% of the total participants with 40% of them residing in the Northeast section of Philadelphia. The next largest group came from Central (27%) while the other sections report at 11% (South) or lower.

Impact of Auto Theft Workshop

Forty percent of the juveniles who successfully completed an Impact of Auto Theft Workshop were referred by YAP. The highest amount of referrals came from East Division (34%) with the next two highest regions—Northwest and Northeast—tying at 21% each. Youths from West follow in highest percentage at 9% while the remaining sections fall at 6% (Central) or below.

While your region may not experience many retail theft or auto theft cases, you may want to consider increasing your referrals to the Conflict Resolution Workshop since preliminary results show the consistent 3-year low recidivism trend of 24% for juveniles who successfully complete a Conflict Resolution Workshop regardless of from whom they were referred.

In the final installment, GSMP will share some of the findings on the success rate of the youths you referred to a JODP Workshop or module.

Hail and Farewell

We would like to welcome the following Crime Prevention Officers:

Officer Paul Bryson replaces **Officer Steve Uzdienski** at the **1st** Police District.

Officer Jennifer Coco replaces **Officer John Miracle** at the **15th** Police District.

Officer April Garner replaces **Officer Frank Holmes** at the **17th** Police District

Kara Zavilla, Law Clerk, since 2006 has been pursuing her Masters in Education from Temple University. Ms. Zavilla left the District Attorney's Office in September to begin her student teaching. Ms. Zavilla is teaching 1st grade at McCall Elementary School.



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Friendly Reminders

- Our office has moved. Please forward all mail to the address below to ensure arrival in a timely manner.
- Please make sure the paperwork from your panel's cases is sent to our office in a timely manner.
- Please leave the duty of rescheduling cases to the District Attorney's Office. This prevents over-scheduling and cases getting lost in the mix. Keep the lines of communication open with us. We are here at all times to answer any questions.
- Enclosed with the newsletter is the 2011 Youth Aid Panel calendar. Please make District Attorney staff members aware of any changes that individual panels make.
- The Philadelphia District Attorney's Office is always seeking adult neighborhood volunteers to serve on Youth Aid Panels. We are looking for special people who are willing to give their time to point first-time juvenile offenders away from the criminal justice system and toward more productive life choices.

The same folks who administer the Youth Aid Panels bring NEIGHBORHOOD JUSTICE to you:

R. Seth Williams, District Attorney

George Mosee, Deputy District Attorney

Lakeisha Fields, ADA Coordinator

Erica Baiocco, Law Clerk

Michelle Yarnell, Secretary