



# Neighborhood Justice

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

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## New Drug Treatment Resources

Due to increasing arrests with drug cases we have stepped up our efforts in finding more resources for juveniles to receive drug treatment. These sites are for juveniles to go to voluntarily. Please do not force a juvenile into treatment. Please note if you refer a juvenile to one of these drug treatment programs and they do not qualify after an intake assessment this is not a reason to breach their contract. Many of our juveniles are low-level users and may not be suitable for drug treatment. However, if you refer juveniles they are expected to make an appointment for an intake assessment. Below are some resources we believe will be successful.

**Consortium, Inc. - WILLPOWER OPTIONS RESOURCES and DIRECTIONS (W.O.R.D.):** The W.O.R.D. Program is an addictions treatment for teenagers, with an additional emphasis on prevention. The facility is located at 26 S. 40<sup>th</sup> Street, 19104. The intake contact person is **Chamaïne Henry at 215-596-8300 (ext. 1300)**. Please see your Crime Prevention Officer for a release of information form to send with your assigned juvenile.

**JFK:** Addictive Behavior Services offers drug and alcohol counseling, methadone maintenance treatment, co-occurring disorders, and specialized services for teenagers and first time offenders. JFK encourages participants to reverse the destructive patterns substance abuse can engender and to enjoy the opportunities a drug and alcohol-free lifestyle offers. The facility is located at 112 N. Broad Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, 19102. To set up an intake appointment please call the front desk at **215-568-0860 (ext. 3351)**. The contact person that will be providing treatment is **Tiffany Smith at 215-568-0860 (ext. 3101)**. The juvenile will sign a JFK release form once accepted for treatment. Ms. Smith will be able to provide attendance and drug screen results to panelists.

**Shalom, Inc.:** Shalom, Inc is a private, non-profit, non-sectarian organization, which as of June 30, 2011, has completed its thirty-eighth year of providing exemplary services in the schools and communities of Philadelphia. Shalom began as a high school based drug and alcohol abuse program in 1973. In a provision of these prevention services, an overwhelming need for intervention services became apparent. Shalom has expanded and received new initiative funding over the past years that has broadened the array of services offered and the target population of our services. The facility is located at 1080 N. Delaware Ave., #602, 19125. The intake person is **Jane Kalitz at 215-425-7727**. Please see your Crime Prevention Officer for a release of information form to send with your assigned juvenile. In the event that the juvenile does not qualify for treatment Shalom, Inc. will offer other programs that could be suitable to the juvenile.

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## New Drug Treatment Resources (continued from page 1)

**Warren E. Smith - Passages Program:** The Passages Program is one way WES Horizons helps adolescents (ages 11–17 years) with their substance abuse problems in either their school or home environments. Passages outpatient treatment services focus on returning the affected individuals to a status in which they no longer use drugs or alcohol, have healthier levels of self-esteem, and are better prepared for a life of achievement and success.

The program strives to eliminate drug and alcohol usage; assist in resolving any personal and family problems that may contribute to the perceived need to rely on illegal substances; empower adolescents with the skills necessary to overcome life's daily problems; provide support and direction as adolescents learn ways to accept responsibility for their own behaviors; aid adolescents in dealing with co-dependent environments; and offer intervention and treatment options for the entire family as needed.

The facility is located at 2514 N. Broad Street, 19132. A prescreen intake is done over the phone by **Marge Lockwood at 215-456-2701**. Once a juvenile is assigned to a therapist he or she will sign a release of information form.

## Afterschool Programs

**LEAP AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (The Literacy Enrichment Afterschool Program) at the Free Library of Philadelphia:** LEAP provides homework assistance, computer literacy, and library skills for students in grades 1-12, and daily literacy enrichment activities for elementary school students. LEAP is in operation after school Monday-Thursday from September to June at all Free Library neighborhood libraries and Parkway Central Library, and Tuesday-Friday in the three regional libraries.

LEAP activities and programs promote traditional literacy as well as literacy in science, technology, and cultural arts. LEAP also introduces students to the many Library resources and materials that are available, free of charge, to help them with school assignments, applying to college, and eventually securing meaningful employment. In addition to encouraging academic achievement, LEAP also fosters a safe and supportive, non-judgmental zone for children and teens.

LEAP is a free, open, drop-in program, so no registration is necessary. Please see your Crime Prevention Officer for a LEAP flyer.

**ASAP (After School Activities Partnerships):** ASAP is a non-profit organization that facilitates and coordinates afterschool enrichment activities at sites across Philadelphia. ASAP maintains a citywide directory of after school enrichment and recreation programs in Philadelphia, featuring more than 1,000 entries. It is updated throughout the year and is available as a searchable document on our website. Information provided is subject to change. Please visit [www.phillyasap.org](http://www.phillyasap.org) to see what options are available in your neighborhood. Please see your Crime Prevention Officer for an ASAP flyer.

## Addressing Victims' Needs and Restoring the Community through Victim Offender Conferencing

By Randy Duque, Managing Director, Good Shepherd Mediation Program

*"I want you to enroll in our tutoring program and to volunteer your time here; and you can come to me if you ever have any problems here."*

These words sound very similar to terms one could find in a Youth Aid Panel Contract, but instead came from a victim of vandalism.

The Victim Offender Conferencing (VOC) project offered at Good Shepherd Mediation Program is a service that allows victims to have their needs addressed in a safe space while meeting with the youth offender and parent. As a restorative justice process, the goal of VOC is to *make things right* to the greatest extent possible for the person who was harmed, while also being mindful that the offending youth is a member of the community. In the example above, three juveniles were charged with vandalizing a recreation center in which the director wished to meet with them face-to-face to find out why they had destroyed the property; explore what they can do to repair the harm they had caused; and help prevent these boys from becoming statistics of delinquency.

*"I already replaced the equipment that was destroyed and I know you boys don't have money, so what can you do to repay me and assure me that you won't do this again?"*

The VOC process prepares victims and juvenile offenders through individual meetings prior to coming together with skilled volunteer and staff facilitators who assess the youth's accountability; inform the parties of the VOC process, explore possible topics of discussion and restitution proposals, and address questions and concerns that an offender or victim might have relating to meeting with each other. In the case of the damaged recreation center, all parties involved knew that they would talk about the events that led to the arrest, the effects of the youths' actions on the victim and community, and that they would finally discuss terms of restitution. The director was prepared to seek symbolic ways the youths can repay him and was not expecting to negotiate a payment schedule. Instead, he sought an apology from each boy and possibly more. What he received were sincere apologies from each youth and an agreement in writing that each boy would spend their after-school hours attending the recreation center's tutoring program, as well as, helping to maintain the property.

Victims often feel that their voices are not truly heard. The Victim Offender Conferencing project gives those who have been harmed this chance—not only to be heard—but to heal in personal ways while simultaneously offering youth offenders the opportunity to make amends for their actions ultimately leading to restoration in the community.

If you have a victim who has reached out to your panel, please refer them to Good Shepherd Mediation Program's Victim Offender Conferencing project at 215-843-5413.

## From the Juveniles

By A Youth Aid Panel Juvenile

“Explain being in the statistics”

“Being a statistic for being arrested makes me feel like I am ‘one of them’. When I say ‘one of them’ I mean one of the people who are NOT trying to make the world a better place. When people look online or in books I am one of the numbers in the statistics for arrests. I added a tally to the rest; I am one out of a set number of people who committed a crime. I am now one of the people who are making the streets worse. Being a criminal will follow me for a long time because it could always be on my record. Being a statistic means I cannot do a lot of things that require a background check. I will be looked at differently because I will not be trusted. I wish that I did not have a record and if I could go back I would do a lot of things differently. I wish I could be in the statistics for the people who have not been locked up. “



## Friendly Reminders

- Please make sure the paperwork from your panel’s cases is sent to our office in a timely manner, preferably by the end of each week.
- 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.
- 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.

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