

Juvenile Justice in Pennsylvania

*Mission - Driven
Performance - Based
Outcome - Focused*



Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice:

Community Protection

Victim Restoration

Youth Redemption

Provided in a fair and unbiased manner



Mission of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System

- Community Protection refers to the right of all citizens to be and feel safe.
- Victim Restoration emphasizes that a juvenile that commits a crime harms the victim of the crime and the community, and thereby incurs an obligation to repair that harm to the greatest extent possible.
- Youth Redemption embodies the belief that juvenile offender have strength, are capable of change, can earn redemption, and can become responsible and productive members of their communities.

Goals of Balanced and Restorative Justice in Pennsylvania

- The purpose clause of the Juvenile Act, as amended by Act 33 in 1995, provides the framework for the following goals:
 - Community Protection
 - Accountability
 - Competency Development
 - Individualization
 - Balanced Attention

Why?

- Early 90's rising crime rates
- Increased media attention to juvenile crime
- High profile crimes resulted in challenged system
- 1994 Gubernatorial Campaign – Tough on Crime/Attention to Crime Victims

History of Balanced and Restorative Justice

Merging of two concepts:

- 1988 – Maloney, Romig and Armstrong wrote “The Balanced Approach ”
- 1990 – Howard Zehr wrote about “a justice system” that gives priority to repairing the harm done to victims and communities in his book, *Changing Lenses*. Zehr concluded that offenders should accept responsibility for the harm they have caused and take action to repair the harm.

Pennsylvania History

- Two specific acts of legislation changed how the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system delivers its services:
 - Act 33 of Special Session No. 1 of 1995
 - Crime Victims Act: Amendments of 2000 and 2002

Act 33 of Special Session No. 1 of 1995

Redefined the juvenile justice system mission with the following purpose clause:

“Consistent with the protection of the public interest, to provide for children committing delinquent acts programs of supervision, care and rehabilitation which provide balanced attention to the protection of the community, the imposition of accountability for offenses committed and the development of competencies to enable children to become responsible and productive members of the community.” page 1

The New Purpose Clause

The new purpose clause in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Act is premised on the concept that:

- The clients of the system include the crime victim, the community, and the offender, and that
- Each should receive "balanced attention" and gain tangible benefits from their interactions with Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.

Key Provisions of Crime Victims Act

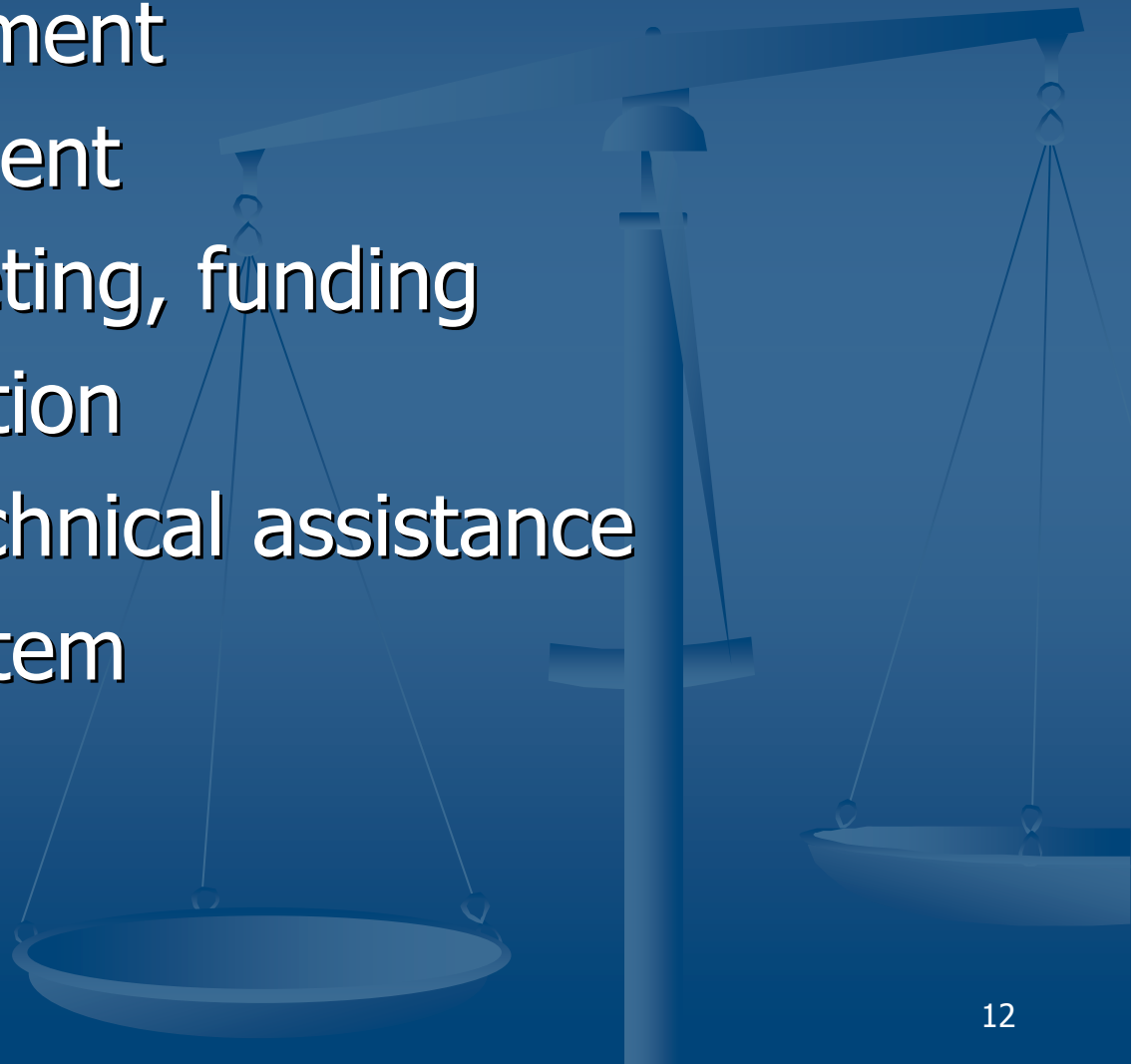
- The right to basic information concerning services
- Notification of, accompaniment to and input into proceedings
- Restoration to pre-crime economic status—to the extent possible
- Details of the final disposition
- Funding for VOJO positions

Operationalize the Mission

- Systemic Change
- Organizational Change
- Case specific – Individualization and Balance
- Community engagement

Systemic Change

- Judicial commitment
- Policy development
- Planning, budgeting, funding
- Resource allocation
- Training and technical assistance
- Information system
- Evaluation
- Outcomes



Organizational Change

- Chief Probation Officer (Administrators') commitment
- Direct management involvement
- Line staff leadership
- Stakeholder involvement
- Changes in mission, policy, practice, procedures, programs.

Case specific

- Case assessments
- Dispositional recommendations
- Dispositional court orders
- Review hearing format
- Conditions of Probation
- Case plans
- Supervision strategies
- Case outcomes

How?

- Collaboration
- Training
- Strategic Planning PCCJPO's & JJDPC
- Implementation Action Plan
- Publications
- Outcome measures

Collaboration



- Juvenile Court Judges Commission
- PA. Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers
- Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
 - The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
 - JJDPC Committee (State Advisory Group)

Collaboration Con't

- PCCD
 - The Victims' Services Division
 - Victims' Advisory Committee
- The Office of the Victim Advocate
- The National Center for Juvenile Justice
- The Department of Public Welfare
- Private Sector Service

Training & Education

- Various statewide forums and conferences
- County Juvenile Court assessments
- CJJT&R/JCJC training and TA
- BARJ Coordinators
- Report Cards
- Publications → Training

Strategic Planning

- Spring 1996 – Governor charges Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Committee with plan development
- 1996 – Pa. Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers educational forums
- 1998 – Strategic Plan Development
- 1998 – Balanced and Restorative Justice Specialist

Implementation Action Plan

■ OJJDP

- 1997 - Mission Statement & Guiding Principles
- 1998 - Statewide Balanced and Restorative Justice Specialist
- 1999 - PCCCD funding for county coordinators and programs
- 1997 – 2006 - Training grant to support implementation
- Evaluation of Change NCJJ

Implementation Action Plan

- PCCJPO's
 - 1995 -1996 Educational forums all inclusive (PCCD funded)
 - 1998 Strategic Plan (structure/integration)
 - Empowered Committees
 - Projects and activities

Publications

- *Victim/Community Awareness: Establishing a Restorative Community* authored by Valerie Bender and William Sarbo
- *"Victim/Community Awareness: An Orientation for Juveniles"* authored by Valerie Bender
- *"Victim Offender Conferencing in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System"* Co-authored by Howard Zehr and Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz

Outcomes and Evaluation Help Reach Goals

2005 JCJC Outcome Measures Report

In 2005 18,083 total cases were closed that involved probation supervision or other service.

Focus areas

- Community Protection
- Accountability
- Competency Development

2005 Statewide Outcome Measures

HIGHLIGHTS

Community Protection

15,801 (87.4%) successfully completed supervision without a new offense.

2005 Statewide Outcome Measures

Accountability

Community service –

65.3% assigned

94.2% completed

536,196 total hours completed

Restitution –

26.2% Ordered

85.3% Paid in full

\$2,362,067 Collected

2005 Statewide Outcome Measures

Accountability

*Victim Awareness

31.6% ordered

95.8% completed

VOJO Fee Collection

67% ordered

91.9% paid in full

\$353,774 Collected

2005 Statewide Outcome Measures

Competency Development

74.1% directed/ordered

91.6% completed

77.4% employed or engaged in educational or vocational activity at case closing

Where do we go from here?

- Pennsylvania specific definitions through white paper development for :
 - Competency Development
 - Accountability
 - Community Protection
- Enhance trainers network
- Regional forums for community
- Continue training and technical assistance

Thank You and Enjoy the Conference

A faint, stylized graphic of a balance scale is visible in the background, positioned on the right side of the slide. The scale is tilted, with the right pan being higher than the left pan. The entire graphic is rendered in a light blue color that blends with the dark blue background.

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