Community Based Probation & Balanced Restorative Justice
Prior to 1990

• Traditional Probation
  – Courthouse based
Summer, 1990

• School Based
  – Middle schools
• Improve academic performance and school behavior
Fall, 1993

• School Based
  – High schools
Spring, 1997

• Evaluation of school based
  – Less recidivism
  – Less time in placement
  – Cost effective service (cited by OJJDP in 1999 as an exemplary program)
1997

• Restructuring of Department
  – Community based supervision;
  – Initiate BARJ
Restorative Justice

• “Balanced” attention means that all parties will have their needs addressed.
Restorative justice works to make people and communities whole.

- What restorative justice can do is move communities in a new and more positive direction.
Our New Goal

- Find meaningful ways to repair the harm caused by crime.
- Work to help crime victims, offenders and communities restore and improve the quality of their lives adversely changed by crime.
Three Concepts

- Community Protection
- Accountability
- Competency Development
Community Protection

- “The citizens of Pennsylvania have a right to safe and secure communities.”
Accountability

• “In Pennsylvania, when a crime is committed by a juvenile, an obligation to the victim and the community is incurred.”
“Juveniles who come within the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system should leave the system more capable of being responsible and productive members of their community.”
1999

- Initiation of Balanced and Restorative Justice
- Development of Practices and Projects
Department Committees

- Offender
- Victim
- Community Relations
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
Steering Committee

• Judges
• Victim Advocates
• District Attorney
• Public Defender
• Law Enforcement

• Probation
• Social Agencies
• Businesses
• Public
• Schools
COMMUNITY JUSTICE

To Our Readers

Welcome to the first edition of “Community Justice” in Lehigh County. This publication will present to the audience of Lehigh County various points of information regarding the treatment and reintegration of juveniles offenders.

As part of the ongoing effort to highlight the importance of community involvement in the juvenile justice system, this newsletter will feature case studies, success stories, and best practices that exemplify the systemic approach to juvenile justice. We believe that by sharing these stories, we can inspire others to take similar actions in their communities.

This edition features articles from a variety of perspectives, including perspectives from professionals in the field of juvenile justice, as well as personal stories from individuals who have been affected by the system. We hope that these stories will provide valuable insights and resources for those working in this field.

Please visit our website for more information and to access the full content of this newsletter.

Inside this Issue

1. Introduction
2. Community Justice Profiles
4. Accountability – the Ultimate Virtue

For more information, please visit our website.
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CLUBS
Volunteer and Community Justice Panel
COMMUNITY PROTECTION
Community Justice

On Wheels
Neighborhood Crime Watch
SHOCAP: Serious Habitual Offenders Comprehensive Action Program
Intensive Aftercare

Community Support and Supervision Services
VICTIM SERVICES
Victim Advocate Services
Victim Awareness Class
ACCOUNTABILITY
Community Alternative Work Service

- Over 200 Active Worksites throughout Lehigh County
Garden Project
Recycling Center
Community Impact

• Five million pounds of materials recycled each year from Lehigh County residents
• More than 1 ton of fresh produce grown and delivered to needy families each year
• Homes in the community renovated and offered to first-time home buyers
• Painting, construction and major clean-up of roadways and trails
Community Impact

- Graffiti removal and community clean-up
- Construction of erosion devices along steams to prevent flooding
- Restoration of a damaged and overgrown historical graveyard
- Setup and breakdown of community fairs and festivals
COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT
T.E.A.M.

- Teen Enrichment through Advocacy at Moravian
Collegiate Mentoring

Programs

• Moravian College
• Lehigh Carbon Community College
• Muhlenberg College
Afterschool Programs

- Pro-social Community Activities
- Athletic and Academic Opportunities
Habitat for Humanity
Community Service Marketable Skills

- Construction
- Carpentry
- Home Repair
- Project Coordination
- Office Skills
- Gardening
Prisoners Against Drugs
Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program
COMMUNITY TREATMENT SERVICES
United Way
Wraparound Facilitator
EVIDENCE BASED PROGRAMS

Multi-Systemic Therapy

Functional Family Therapy
Specialized Probation
Community Liaison
S.P.O.R.E.

• Special Program for Offenders in Rehabilitation and Education
Interagency Agreements

• Drug & Alcohol
• Children & Youth
• Mental Health/Retardation
Principles of Balanced & Restorative Justice

• Public Safety
  – The public has the right to safe and secure homes and communities

• Accountability
  – When an offense occurs, the offender incurs a personal responsibility to restore the victim’s loss and restore the community’s loss.

• Competency Development
  – Offenders should leave the system more capable of living responsibly and productively in the community
Principles of Balanced & Restorative Justice

• Individualization
  – Each offender had a unique set of circumstances and factors that contributed to the offense behavior. Those circumstances must be addressed if the offense pattern is to interrupted.

• Balance
  – Justice is best served when the principles of public safety, accountability and competency development are balanced.
Invest more in children, less in jails, Powell says

Retired general wins raves for message at conference of nation's governors in State College.

By MARIO F. CATTABIANI
Of The Morning Call

STATE COLLEGE — States should spend more of their budget surpluses from a booming economy on character-building programs for their young and less on new prison cells, retired Gen. Colin Powell told the nation's governors Sunday.

"Children don't start out on their way to jail," Powell told about 40 governors assembled here for the annual National Governors' Association conference. "All they really need is people in their lives who will point them in the right direction.

"... It's time to stop building jails and get back to building our kids."

The former head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairs America's Promise — The Alliance for Youth, a national crusade aimed at strengthening the character of the country's youth. He launched the program three years ago with chief executives of 30 states.

It has grown considerably, reaching 1,000 communities in the 50 states.

"It's all starting to come together," Powell told the governors. "And the finest leaders, the best leaders, the most necessary leaders of this effort are the governors. You know what has to be done."