



# The PAPPC Journal

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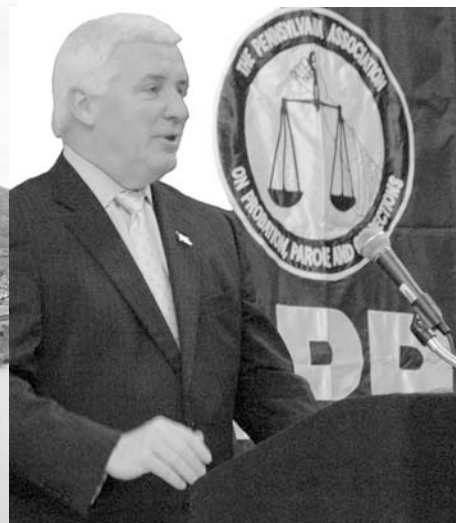
*A publication of The Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections*

**The Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections  
and the Juvenile Detention Centers Association of Pennsylvania**



**JDCAP  
2006**

hosted a joint **Training Institute & Conference**  
from **May 21-May 24, 2006** in **Pittsburgh, Pa.**  
at the **Sheraton Station Square**



Attorney General Tom Corbett (left) addresses participants during the opening session.

Closing Speaker Andre J. Norman (above) was also well-received.

*The 2006 Conference & Training Institute with the theme, "Raising the Bar," was a big success with over 400 attendees, 40 exhibitors and 30 workshops.*

**Mark your calendar now!**

**May 22, 2007**

PAPPC Annual Business Meeting & Training  
Holiday Inn Harrisburg East



**July 8-11, 2007**

PAPPC is co-sponsoring a National Training Institute with the American Probation and Parole Association in Philadelphia





## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*It seems like just yesterday when we were at Station Square, Pittsburgh for the Annual Conference. Welcome to all of our new members and members from the Juvenile Detention Centers Association of Pennsylvania. Our organization is rich in history and has over 1100 active members. I am excited to have a journal published and I hope you take the time to read it.*

*All positions on the PAPPC executive board have been filled. The entire board is enthusiastic and we are moving in a positive direction. Recently the board prioritized its initiatives for this year. The prevailing theme in developing these initiatives was how can we better serve you, "our membership." The first order of business was to re-establish the communication with you beyond our annual meeting. I would like to thank the Executive Board and the Journal Chair for helping putting this journal together.*

*For the past few months PAPPC has been working hard on meeting our membership's needs. We have been contacting legislatures on important issues related to probation, parole and corrections; we are setting up regional trainings, and making sure that PAPPC remains fiscally sound.*

*In this edition you will see that PAPPC recently contacted each legislator and supported House Bill 2715 which amended, "An act providing for the payment of death benefits to the surviving spouse or children or parents of firefighters, ambulance service or rescue squad members, law enforcement officers or National Guard members killed in the performance of their duties," extending benefits to State or county probation or parole officers, investigators or supervisors. Similarly we supported House Bill 2716 which amends the Act of December 16, 1998 (P.L. 980, No. 129), entitled, "An act providing for a waiver of tuition and other fees for children of certain deceased police officers, National Guard members, firefighters*

*and correction employees at community colleges and State-owned and State-related institutions of higher education and for additional powers and duties of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency and the Department of General Services" extending benefits to State or county probation or parole officers. As a board we felt that these were important matters to support. All of the legislatures we contacted were 100% supportive of these issues.*

*Keep an eye on the PAPPC web site [www.papppc.org](http://www.papppc.org) for upcoming events. We will soon be offering at no cost to you three regional trainings entitled "Raves and Club Drugs." Ed Bachert of the Allentown Police Department will be providing the training for us. If you recall his seminars in Pittsburgh were very well attended and received the highest ratings possible.*

*Currently, PAPPC is operating as a non-profit association and is fiscally sound. We as a board will continue this practice of remaining a non-profit. PAPPC will continue fund raising for local charities through our silent auction. PAPPC is reducing operating expenditures and is having an independent audit done on our accounts. We will also be exploring the idea of giving scholarships to members' families that are attending college and studying criminal justice. More information will be forthcoming on this topic.*

*In closing, I would like to encourage all of you to get involved with PAPPC and to contact board members with your thoughts, ideas and news of local events. All contact information is on the PAPPC web site and the President's email address is [president@papppc.org](mailto:president@papppc.org)*

Nicolas Barrelet  
President  
Pennsylvania Association on  
Probation, Parole and Corrections



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## History & Objectives

The Association is recorded as being organized on January 11, 1921, in Harrisburg, PA. Twenty-seven people from twelve counties (Allegheny, Beaver, Blair, Bucks, Chester, Crawford, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Lehigh, Lycoming and Philadelphia) felt the need for a state conference on behalf of probation and parole officers to share and exchange ideas, to advance methods and to establish standards in the field of juvenile and adult probation, parole and institutional care. It was also set as a goal to support appropriate legislation and to cooperate, whenever possible, with movements promoting the prevention of crime, as well as advocating progressive treatment of those involved in the justice system.

PAPPC remains the only professional association in Pennsylvania whose membership is open to all active and retired juvenile and adult criminal justice practitioners in Pennsylvania.

The Association is a non-profit volunteer group with support and recognition from many aspects of the criminal justice field. It is noted in Purden's Statutes. Although PAPPC continues to perform a valuable function, it could do more if all those connected with it would contribute, not only by membership, but by some form of active participation. Come join us and lend your personal support and expertise as well as underwriting history as an important part of the justice system.

## CONTACT US...

The PAPPC Journal is published by members of the Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections, P.O. Box 5553, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

Articles can be sent directly to Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections, P.O. Box 5553, Harrisburg, PA 17110 or [president@pappc.org](mailto:president@pappc.org).

Membership Information and applications are available from Patricia Farrell, 1401 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102; phone 215-683-6947

To request information about Advertising in the PAPPC Journal, contact Nic Barrelet at 717-787-7752.

Visit our Website at [www.pappc.org](http://www.pappc.org)

Article II of the Association By-Laws set forth the **PAPPC Objectives:**

- 1) To work toward the advancement of methods and standards in the field of juvenile and adult probation, parole and institutional care.
- 2) To promote appropriate legislation.
- 3) To cooperate as far as possible with all movements promoting the progressive treatment and prevention of delinquency and crime.

Though primarily concerned with the areas of probation, parole and corrections, PAPPC is acutely aware of the growing need for cooperation between and among other facets of the Juvenile and Criminal Justice Systems if the clients of the systems and citizens of the Commonwealth are to be served effectively.



## PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION ON PROBATION, PAROLE AND CORRECTIONS

# **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

## **2006-2007**

### Executive Committee 2006-2007

President .....	Nicolas Barrelet .....	Children, Youth and Families
President Designate .....	Thomas Costa .....	PA Board of Probation & Parole
First-Vice President .....	Robert E. Kelsey .....	Bucks County Adult Probation
Second-Vice President .....	John Cookus .....	Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
Immediate Past President .....	Marcia Combine .....	PA DOC - Sharon CCC
Treasurer .....	Richard McFadden .....	PA Board of Probation & Parole
Secretary .....	Kristin L. Sayers .....	PA Dept. of Corrections/ Region 3
Membership Chairman .....	Patricia Farrell .....	1st Judicial District
Site Committee Chair .....	Lisa M. Hearn .....	Bucks County Adult Probation
Local Arrangements Chair .....	Tonuia Smith .....	Westmoreland County Adult Probation
Member-at-Large (05) .....	Robert Malvestuto .....	Philadelphia Adult Probation
Member-at-Large (05) .....	Chris Cortazzo .....	PA Dept. of Corrections/ Region 3
Member-at-Large (06) .....	Kim Mackey .....	Delaware County Adult Probation

### Committees 2006-2007

MASCA Affiliate Liaison .....	Darlene Zelazny .....	PA Board of Probation and Parole
Program Chair (06) .....	Brian Elliott .....	BCC Region II Office
Chairman, Journal .....	Vacant	
JCJC Liaison .....	Keith A. Graybill .....	Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research
Education & Professional .....	Audia J. Boyles .....	Department of Corrections, Cresson SCI
Development Chair		
Resolution and By-Laws .....	Connie Gargiulo .....	PA Board of Probation and Parole
Legislative Chair .....	W. Conway Bushey .....	County Chief Adult Probation & Parole Officers' Association
Awards Chair .....	Tonuia Smith .....	Westmoreland County Adult Probation
Public Relations Chair .....	Gail Schuchart .....	Cumberland County Juvenile Probation
Warden's Association Liaison .....	James Robinson	
Adult Chiefs Liaison .....	Robert E. Kelsey .....	Bucks County Adult Probation
Juvenile Chiefs Liaison .....	David Stager .....	Tioga County Probation
Victim Services Liaison .....	Melissa Repsher .....	PBPP, Office of Victim Advocate
PBPP Liaison .....	John Tuttle .....	PA Board of Probation & Parole
ACA Affiliate Liaison .....	Robert E. Kelsey .....	Bucks County Adult Probation
APPA Affiliate Liaison .....	Thomas Costa .....	PA Board of Probation & Parole
Budget & Finance Chair .....	Richard McFadden .....	PA Board of Probation & Parole
Web-Site Coordinator .....	Bob Bell .....	Consultant Only
Solicitor .....	Ron Turo, Esquire .....	Turo Law Offices Carlisle, Pa

### Area Councils 2006-2007

Delaware Valley .....	David Miller .....	Bucks County Adult Probation
Lehigh Valley .....	Richard Dreisbach .....	Bureau of Offender Re-Entry Transition Services & Staff Liaison Division
North Central .....	Gregory Smith .....	Transitional Living Center, Inc.
Northeast .....	Michael Vecchio .....	Luzerne County Probation/Parole
Northwest .....	James H. Wright .....	Erie Community Corrections Center
South Central, Co-chair .....	Sam Amendola .....	PA Board of Probation and Parole
South Central, Co-chair .....	Richard M. Smith .....	PA DOC, Johnstown CCC
South East .....	Phil Arnold .....	Lancaster County Adult Probation
South West, Co-chair .....	Dawna Miletics .....	Westmoreland County Adult Probation



## WHO'S WHO in PAPPC

With Each PAPPC Journal we will now be featuring a member of the Executive Board.



# nicolas barrelet

**Q** Name?

**A** Nicolas E. Barrelet

**Q** Current Position?

**A** President

**Q** Years experience in this field?

**A** 18

**Q** What has drawn you to stay in this field?

**A** *Ever since I was a kid I watched my friends get locked up or caught up with drugs. I soon realized how easy it was to go down the wrong path and how difficult it was to change your life and go down the right path without education, hard work and some luck. Since then I have devoted most of my career to the various services within the criminal justice system with emphasis on juvenile justice.*

**Q** What changes do you hope to bring to this field, what do you want to see in the future, what do you want to accomplish?

**A** *I would like to see an increase in understanding for the victims of crime and for officers to have the necessary equipment and training to do their jobs safely and effectively.*

**Q** What do you feel would be beneficial to assist our populations in the future?

**A** *All criminal justice agencies are struggling from financial cuts that have eliminated services and staff. Caseloads and populations are at an all time high. We must now enhance services within the community, county probation, state probation and parole, jails and*

*prisons by increasing resources. This can be done by implementing best practice competency based programs (through evidence based studies) and providing up to date technology and safety equipment. This will eventually reduce crime, provide manageable case loads and reduced populations. This in turn will benefit our clients and communities. Pennsylvania can then be called the model Criminal Justice System*

**Q** What do you intend to accomplish while in your current position with the PAPPCC?

**A** *I plan to increase the voice of PAPPCC in the Pennsylvania Legislature. In the next few months provide regional training to our membership on the topics of gangs, drugs and Satanism and, finally, assure that PAPPCC is financially solvent for years to come.*

**Q** What are your future plans or hopes for the PAPPCC to accomplish?

**A** *To have full time employees that can complete the operations of the organization as well as manage federal and state grants that are awarded to PAPPCC.*

**Q** Is there a special field of interest that you would like to see at a training, seminar or conference that you feel would be beneficial to your current position?

**A** *(see above)*

**Q** Why did you become a member of the PAPPCC?

**A** *A college professor informed me of the organization and of the importance of giving back to the community through community and state boards*



Earlier this year the executive board approved supporting 2 bills that would provide death benefits to surviving members of fallen probation and parole officers. Below you will see a copy of the letter that was sent to each member of the Senate and House of Representatives. As of the deadline for this Journal the legislation did not pass in the legislature. PAPPC will continue to advocate for any legislation that is pertinent to the members of the criminal justice community.



## The Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections

P.O. Box 5553, Harrisburg, PA 17110

www.pappc.org

RE: House Bill 2715 (PN 4133)

RE: House Bill 2716 (PN 4134)

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_:

I am the President the Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole, and Corrections (PAPPC), a statewide volunteer organization with support and recognition from many aspects of the criminal justice field. It is our goal: (1) to work toward the advancement of methods and standards in the field of juvenile and adult probation, parole and institutional care; (2) to promote appropriate legislation, and: (3) to cooperate as far as possible with all movements promoting the progressive treatment and prevention of delinquency and crime.

To fulfill our goal related to legislation, our Association is asking your support of the House Bills referenced above. Specifically House Bill 2715 amends the Act of June 24, 1976 (P.L. 424, No. 101), entitled, as amended, "An act providing for the payment of death benefits to the surviving spouse or children or parents of firefighters, ambulance service or rescue squad members, law enforcement officers or National Guard members killed in the performance of their duties," extending benefits to State or county probation or parole officers, investigators or supervisors.

Similarly, House Bill 2716 amends the Act of December 16, 1998 (P.L. 980, No. 129), entitled, "An act providing for a waiver of tuition and other fees for children of certain deceased police officers, National Guard members, firefighters and correction employees at community colleges and State-owned and State-related institutions of higher education and for additional powers and duties of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency and the Department of General Services," extending benefits to State or county probation or parole officers.

The field of probation, parole and corrections has become increasingly dangerous and we strongly believe that any efforts to provide additional benefits to those who work with adult and juvenile offenders are warranted. We thank you in advance for any support that you can give to passage of these Bills and if you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Nicolas E. Barrelet  
PAPPC President  
717-787-7752

Nicolas Barrelet, President; Thomas Costa, President Designate  
Robert Kelsey, First Vice President; John Cookus, Second Vice President  
Richard McFadden, Treasurer; Kristin Sayers, Secretary



# PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION ON PROBATION, PAROLE AND CORRECTIONS

## 2006 TRAINING INSTITUTE

May 21–24, 2006

### AWARD WINNERS

Pittsburgh, PA

PAPPC recognized award recipients in a variety of categories at the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Institute held in May 2006.

JUVENILE CORRECTIONS  
PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

*Andrew Snyder, Director*

*Central Region Youth Development Centers*



JUVENILE PROBATION  
PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

*Lloyd Woodward*

*Allegheny County*



Andrew Snyder (r) receives the award from Nicolas Barrelet.

*PAPPC congratulates all of the award winners for the hard work and dedication that earned them recognition.*



Jim Rieland, Director of Allegheny County Juvenile Probation presents the award to "Woody" (r).

ADULT PROBATION  
PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

*Catherine Goodman*

*Pa. Board of Probation and Parole*

ADULT PROBATION  
OFFICER OF THE YEAR

*Michael Potteiger*

*Northumberland County*



Catherine Goodman (center) receives the award from John Tuttle (l) and Thomas Costa (r).



Michael Potteiger (2nd from left) receives the award from Nicolas Barrelet. Also pictured, Marcia Combine (l) and Northumberland County Court Judge (r).



## SUICIDES WITHIN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM: THE NEED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT

Alvin W. Cohn, D.Crim., Past President, NJCSA

Suicides among youths in the United States is a national tragedy. A successful suicide by an adolescent within the juvenile justice system is both preventable and unconscionable and tends to occur as a consequence of poor or inappropriate staffing, inadequate training, and/or the lack of policy and procedure enforcement. Suicides among detained youth can and should be prevented and the role and responsibility of court and probation administrators with regard to detention facility oversight sadly have been neglected.

Unfortunately, we have not always had accurate and up-to-date data on attempted and successful suicides among youths detained in correctional facilities. According to a report prepared a couple of decades ago (Memory, 2005), it was reported that detained youths were "...four to five times more likely to be the victim of suicide than were similarly aged youths in the general U.S. population." According to Snyder (2005:84) and based on National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) data, recent rates for suicide vary among different juvenile population groups:

The average annual suicide rate is greater for 17-year-olds than 14-year-olds (9.6 versus 3.8), greater for males than females ages 12 through 17 (17.6 versus 2.2), and greater for American Indian youths and non-Hispanic white youths ages 12 through 17 than for similarly aged Hispanic and non-Hispanic Black youths (10.8, 5.6, 3.6, and 3.4 respectively).

For adults, the leading cause of deaths in U.S. jails is suicide (Goss, J. R., 2002) while in prisons it ranks third as the primary cause (Couturier & F. R. Maue, 2000). In a study conducted in England and Wales (Fazel, et al, 2005), Standardized Mortality Ratios (SMRs) were calculated for different age groups in terms of suicides. It was found that the age-specific suicide rate for all ages for those incarcerated was 5.1. However, for detained boys ages 15 to 17, the rate was an astonishing 18. It was also found that suicide has been about five times more common among male prisoners (all ages) in England and Wales than in the general male population. Fazel, et al, (2005:2) conclude "...that this excess is...particularly striking among incarcerated boys, and it has been steadily increasing over recent decades."

### MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS

It has become common knowledge that many detained youths have mental health problems, which is recognized as a critical risk factor that can lead to suicides. In fact,

as Grisso, et al (2001) report, while youth in the U.S. make up an average of 20 percent of those being supervised among juvenile justice agencies, their level of mental health disorders is higher and, in fact, according to Pumariega (1994), the level has even been likened to patients in mental hospitals.

Based on the research by Shelton (as quoted in Hosley, et al, 2005:23), it was found that 53 percent of youths within the juvenile justice system who had been assessed for mental health problems met criteria for diagnosable mental disorders, with 26 percent needing immediate mental health services and 14 percent requiring restrictive settings. Furthermore, as Hosley, et al (2005:23) point out:

...investigators have examined the prevalence of specific disorders among juvenile offenders, including conduct disorders (50 to 90 percent), substance abuse (50 to 80 percent), attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (19 to 46 percent), and mood disorders (32 to 78 percent).

Although there are other risk factors associated with suicides among detained youths (e.g., abandonment and neglect by parents and significant others, bullying by peers, generalized depression, punishments and/or misplaced disciplinary actions by caretakers, and/or extensive placements in 'quiet rooms'), it is recognized that the failure to diagnose and treat mental disorders among this population not only facilitate recidivistic behavior upon release, but suicide attempts while in a detention facility. For those youths who have borderline intellectual abilities, their ability to understand staff instructions and behavioral requirements not only can lead to anger and frustration, but self-destructive behavior (i.e., suicide attempts) as well.

### NATIONAL SURVEY OF DETAINED YOUTH

As a consequence of the inadequacy of data concerning suicides among juveniles in detention in the U.S., the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) commissioned the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives (NCIA) to conduct a comprehensive effort to determine the scope and distribution of suicides by youth confined in U.S. public and private juvenile facilities. In 2004, a report of findings was prepared by Lindsay M. Hayes, the project director.

The study identified 110 juvenile suicides that occurred between 1995 and 1999, but there were data on only 79





of these cases. Hayes (2004:ix) concludes:

Of these suicides, 41.8% occurred in Training School/Secure Facilities, 36.7% in Detention Centers, 15.2% in Residential Treatment Centers, and 6.3% in Reception/Diagnostic Centers. In addition, almost half (48.1%) of the suicides occurred in facilities administered by state agencies, while 39.2% took place in county facilities and 12.7% in private programs.

Among some of the most critical findings of the study, Hayes (2004:ix-x) reports:

- 68.4% were Caucasian
- 79.7% were male
- Average (mean) age of victims was 15.7, with over 70% between the ages of 15 and 17
- Approximately two-thirds (67.1% were held on commitment status at the time of death, with 32.9% on detained status; and 88.5% of the victims held in Detention Centers were on detained status
- All Detention Center suicides occurred within the first four months of confinement, with over 40% occurring within the first 72 hours
- 74.3% had a history of mental illness, including depression
- 71.4% had a history of suicidal behavior, with 45.5% having had prior suicidal attempts
- Approximately half (50.6%) of suicides occurred during the six hour period of 6:01 pm and midnight, and almost a third (29.1%) sustained between 6:01 pm and 9:00 pm; and 70.9% of suicides occurred during traditional waking hours
- 74.7% of victims were assigned to single-occupancy rooms
- 15.4% of the victims were found after more than one hour of last being seen alive
- 50% of victims were on room confinement at the time of death
- 16.5% of the victims were on suicide precaution at the time of their deaths, most of whom were required to be observed at 15-minute intervals

Hayes (2004:xii-xiii) concludes:

Findings from this study create a formidable challenge for both juvenile correctional and health care officials...for example, although room confinement remains a staple in most juvenile facilities, *it is a sanction that can have deadly consequences....* In addition, because data also showed that suicides can occur at any time during a youth's confinement, with the same number of deaths occurring within the first few days of custody...intake screening for the identification of suicide risk...should be viewed as time-limited.

Instead, because youth can be at risk at any point during confinement, the challenge will be to conceptualize the issue as requiring a continuum of comprehensive suicide prevention services. (Emphasis added)

#### THE CASE FOR LIABILITY

It has been over a decade since the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling of *Farmer v. Brennan* [511 U.S.825 (1994)]. Although concerned with the liability of jail officials, the decision has significant implications for the management of juvenile facilities as well. As Robertson (2004:1) explains: "This decision mandated a subjective form of deliberate indifference, in which liability for a constitutional tort arises when 'the official [actually] knows of and disregards an excessive risk to inmate health and safety'." He goes on to state (p.2): The *Farmer* Court operationalized the "actual knowledge" requirement as follows:

- To incur liability, "the official must *both* be aware of the facts from which the inference could be drawn that a substantial risk of serious harm exists, *and* he must also draw the inference."
- When awareness can be inferred from circumstantial evidence, especially when the risk is "obvious," the trier of fact can conclude that the official "must have known" of the danger."
- While ignorance of obvious risks will remain a defense, "[the] official would not escape liability if evidence showed he merely refused to verify underlying facts that he strongly suspected to be true, or declined to confirm inferences of risk that he strongly suspected to be exist.

Robertson (2004:2) also concludes: "The Court handed inmate Farmer a victory of sorts by ruling that his failure to inform prison staff of the dangers facing him did not preclude a finding of actual knowledge."

#### CORRECTIONAL STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to examining detained youths at the time of intake to identify risks for such problems as mental illness and suicidal ideation, among others, the failure to continue to observe, case manage, diagnose where indicated, train staff appropriately on suicide prevention techniques, and constantly observe youth can lead to disaster, including successful suicides. This also holds true for various policies and procedures that are commonly found in institutional settings, including leaving youth unattended or unobserved, the over-use of quiet rooms where youths are alone and sometimes without direct supervision, and such a 'stupid' approach to youth with suicidal ideation who are placed in suicide prevention rooms with shoelaces and/or belts!



Court and correctional administrators are obliged not only to train staff appropriately in suicide prevention techniques, they also sometimes fail to ensure that medical and correctional staffs regularly communicate with each other. No one should require a youth careworker to 'diagnose,' but it is incumbent upon clinical staff to train line-level staff to "observe and report" any changes in a youth's demeanor or behavior that *may* be symptomatic of underlying suicidal ideation, mental illness, and/or the side effects of various drugs not only at the time of intake, but throughout the youths' detention. Careworker staff are – or should be – in constant observation of youths – always within sight or sound of them. Except for the child who first comes into the facility, these workers truly get to know the children under their supervision and, therefore, should be acutely aware of changes that may signal problems.

Additionally, proper training should alert these line workers as well as their supervisors to the research findings about suicide, such as when they are likely to occur, the reasons why some children respond negatively to events outside of their control, peer bullying, existing depression, self-mutilation and prior suicide attempts, histories of physical and sexual abuse, the use of illicit substances, the failure of parents to visit or the death of a significant other, adverse responses to certain drugs, existing mental illness, and/or a sense of hopelessness regarding future institutionalization or the potential (unwanted) disposition of their cases, among others. (See, for e.g., Rowan & Hayes, 1995; Prison Health Services, 2001, & Pima County Sheriff's Department, n.d.)

As the *Farmer v. Brennan* ruling indicates, the failure of administrators and supervising staff to be sensitive to the potential of suicides among residents and/or the specific knowledge staff may have about a youth's realistic likelihood of suicide attempts and such staff not taking appropriate action unquestionably will lead to litigation when a successful suicide does occur.

#### THE ROLE OF THE JUVENILE COURT JUDGE

The history of juvenile justice clearly reveals that the role of the judge is one not only that is concerned about hearings and trials, etc., it is one that also requires advocacy for the well being of those juveniles coming before the court. Additionally, while the judge may or may not have administrative responsibility for managing probation and/or detention services, it should be his or her responsibility to hold staff accountable for ensuring that all youths are treated fairly, humanely, and according to constitutional, civil, and human rights. Where there is a court administrator, this becomes his or her derivative responsibility, as well as it should for the chief probation officer.

It is also incumbent upon these administrators to ensure that a detention facility in his or her community is staffed with appropriately trained personnel, that the detention center has explicit policies and procedures that are enforced by top-level staff, and that there is routine and constant monitoring of programmatic activities. This also means that administrators, as advocates, should ensure that the detention facility has the necessary and appropriate resources, including mental health staff, to accomplish its assigned duties and responsibilities. There should also be procedures in place to make sure that these juvenile facilities guarantee the safety of the youths in confinement, particularly those at risk for self-harm.

What Hayes (2004:48) concludes about training for correctional staff unquestionably has significance for the role an administrator should have with regard to ensuring that such training occurs:

Staff are at a distinct disadvantage in both the identification and management of suicidal youth if they have received little or no training in suicide prevention. Bluntly stated, young lives will continue to be lost and jurisdictions will incur unnecessary liability from these tragic deaths unless administrators create and maintain effective training programs.

#### SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMMING

Hayes (2004:45-46) suggests that all juvenile correctional facilities achieve total compliance with the following eight suicide prevention components:

1. TRAINING: Eight (8) hours of initial training in suicide prevention followed by a minimum of three (3) hours of annual, in-service training.
2. IDENTIFICATION/SCREENING: Intake screening immediately upon confinement and prior to housing assignment with an appropriate form indicating risk factors, with referral for mental health assessment where indicated.
3. COMMUNICATIONS: Enhanced communications between transporting officers and family, between and among facility staff, and between facility staff and the suicidal youth.
4. HOUSING: Isolation is to be avoided and youths always should be within proximity to supervising staff.
5. LEVELS OF SUPERVISION: Two levels are recommended: (1) *close observation* reserved for youth not actively suicidal at staggered intervals not to exceed 15 minutes; and (2) *constant observation*, reserved for the youth who is actively suicidal and at intervals not to exceed every five minutes.
6. INTERVENTION: Intervention should be three-



fold: (1) all staff trained in CPR and first aid, (2) an immediate response when a youth is found to be attempting suicide with an immediate call to medical, and (3) staff should never presume the youth is dead, so life-saving measures should be instituted immediately.

7. REPORTING: When there is an attempt or an actual suicide, appropriate officials should be notified immediately and all involved staff should be required to submit written incident reports.
8. FOLLOW-UP/MORTALITY REVIEW: All involved staff (as well as youths) must be offered critical incident debriefing and a "psychological autopsy" should be conducted to identify factors that contributed to the suicide. This should be done to determine what factors contributed to the suicide, including personnel behavior, organizational policies and procedures, and what changes in protocols are indicated.

## SUMMARY

In the final analysis, while it may never be possible to eliminate suicide attempts and gestures among detained youth, there is hardly an excuse for a successful suicide if appropriate policies, procedures, and training are in place and are enforced with proper supervision. It is inevitable that some youth unfortunately believe that life is not worth living, while others may attempt suicide in a manipulative manner as an effort to gain attention. Moreover, if staff are properly trained and constantly alert to possible precipitating (risk) factors, successful suicides can and should be averted. Therefore, supervisory personnel must hold all staff accountable for ensuring all youths are constantly monitored and all appropriate policies and procedures regarding suicide prevention are implemented.

While court administrators and chief probation officers may not have ultimate responsibility for the administration of detention services, they should accept the task of providing oversight to ensure that detention facilities are appropriately programmed and administered in a manner that ensures youth safety, human and civil rights are protected, and that with appropriate advocacy that ensures the facility has sufficient resources to accomplish its assigned duties. This also holds true for statewide facilities that may be located within the community and to which the court commits youth.

By working in concert, top-level court staff together with detention facility staff should collectively be able to guarantee a level of youth safety that leads not only to well-managed operations, but also to an organization that is committed to the elimination of successful suicides

by detained youth and the litigation that is likely to ensue as a consequence.

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## THE PICTURE PROJECT HISTORY

By Dennis Heintz

A few years ago Sue Weber (currently the Erie County Controller) attended a speech given by Ann Weiss. Ann had toured *Auschwitz-Birkenau* in 1986 and came across a room full of photographs brought to the concentration camps by prisoners. Through much work, Ann was able to get control of the photos and begin the project of returning them to the survivors or their families. She has written a book about this titled *The Last Album: Eyes from the Ashes of Auschwitz-Birkenau*. Sue was so impressed with the talk, that she purchased the book and began a dialogue with Ann.

After the devastation of Katrina, it occurred to Sue that we should attempt to do the same for the survivors of the hurricane. Imagining that pictures were just strewn about everywhere, she sent an e-mail throughout the Court House to see if anyone was interested in traveling to the Gulf area to gather these photographs. Karla Anderson (who is an intake officer in my office) responded. Since Sue already knew me, she asked if I would like to be involved. After much excited conversation, we thought that this was not only a great idea for Hurricane Katrina, but also could turn into a permanent national project that could be put into place whenever a natural disaster occurred. We would use the Katrina Hurricane disaster as a blue print in the future. We planned on taking a group to the Gulf area sometime in October to gather pictures. Ann Weiss was very excited and asked to join the photo gathering trip. After hearing all of the incredible news stories of the after effects we decided that we should do a preliminary trip to set up a photo gathering trip. This as it turns out was a very smart move on our part.

By this time, Sue had already made numerous contacts locally looking for support for the project. **Lou Baxter**, the News Director for our local **ABC/FOX** affiliate was incredibly excited and had committed to sending a team down with us when we went to gather photos. He also promised whatever other backing he could give.

**J. H. Bennett**, the local United Van Lines agent offered to send a storage container to the area for the retention of pictures. Their owner **J. Gordon Naughton** promised that they would transport the container to Erie when the time came. Also, his organization also runs a records storage facility and those services and space have been offered for the project. Gordon has been a tremendous help even in advising us on certain business practices that we may follow. The storage contained with the pictures gathered from the Gulf area is due in Erie within the next week or so.

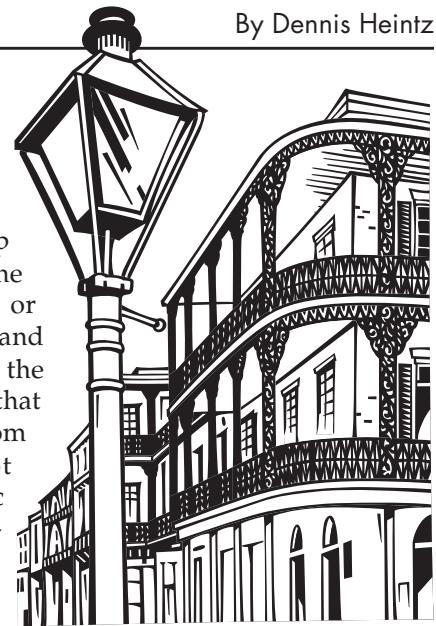
On Thursday morning September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Sue, Karl

and I left Erie for the Gulf area. Our goal was to set up a picture gathering trip sometime within the next 4 to 6 weeks or sooner if possible and to find a place for the storage container that was to be sent from J.H. Bennett. Not having any specific destination we decided to head south through Alabama and then west towards

Louisiana to see what we could find. We weren't sure how far in to the area we would even be permitted to travel. As we drove through Alabama I called Lou Baxter to get the number for the local affiliates in the Biloxi/Gulfport area since we decided this might be a good place to start. At about 11 AM on Friday we stopped unannounced at the ABC station in Biloxi and spoke with the General Manager. Their station was about a half mile from the Gulf and had sustained much damage. The staff was overwhelmed and we were told that most areas where destruction had taken place were not accessible. After much discussion we found that there seemed to be no place for us to put a team to search for photos. As we left we noticed that the local newspaper was located directly across the street, but since we had no contacts there, we didn't stop.

Still looking for a way to get this project off and running, we decided to visit the FOX station in Gulfport. On the way we stopped at the local DSL office to see if they might be interested in joining our project as a carrier for the pictures. When we got to the DSL offices and saw their personal devastation we didn't even broach the subject with them. So we traveled on to the FOX station. There we spoke with **Ray Luke** the Operations Manager and Chief Engineer. He was very excited about our idea, but being a small station with no local programming his station was not in the position to get involved in the project. He did offer to give us as many public service announcements as possible whenever we needed them. He then recommended that we travel into Gulfport to City Hall and speak with the deputy mayor for ideas and assistance.

What a glorious idea this was. As all of this is happening, Karla, Sue and I were continually discussing the project





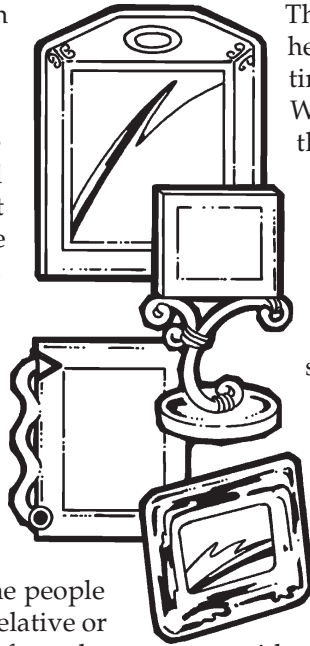
and formulating plans and directions that the project might take.

Walking into Gulfport City Hall four weeks after the hurricane was literally like walking into a war zone command center, tables were set up on the veranda for contractors to get licenses and inside was a flurry of confusion and chaos. We found the deputy mayor (and unfortunately I don't remember his name) at the reception desk in the center of the hallway. He was directing the day to day operations and creating organization out of chaos. It was truly amazing to see someone remain so calm and unruffled in the midst of all that was happening. We spoke with him and explained our idea in hopes of meeting the mayor.

By this time after all of our conversations with folks from the region, we only hoped to locate those who had found pictures and the idea of sending a team to gather was slowly becoming an unreasonable approach. The deputy mayor informed us that the local newspaper had done an article on just that topic the previous Sunday. He gave us the name of the reporter and we were off. It was now 4:15 PM on a Friday and the paper closed at 5.

Back to where we first started in Biloxi. The Sun-Herald was directly across the street from our very first stop. We made it by 4:45 and tried to track down the reporter who wrote the story. Everyone we spoke with that day was incredibly helpful and many had their own stories to tell. More than half of the people employed at the paper had lost a home or a relative or someone close to them and there were only a few who did not have some type of damage to their homes. The staff was incredibly helpful and was finally able to track Ricky down at 5:15. When we explained to him why we were there, he was amazed. It seems people had been calling the newspaper wondering what to do with the pictures they had found. The project had fallen to Ricky and he was considering having a photo fair where people could come and display the pictures they had found. However, everyone was so overwhelmed, space was so limited due to the destruction and devastation and so many people had left town that the newspaper didn't think the idea of a photo fair would work. We walked in from out of nowhere with the solution to their problem and they were amazed. We ended up staying at the paper and talking with John McFarland, the journal General Manager, until 7:30 on that Friday night. It seemed like everyone needed to talk and John and the rest of the staff definitely helped us get our thoughts and ideas together. We left there Friday with a new direction and full of hope and gratification. We definitely felt that we were doing some good and something that others wanted us to do.

After we returned to Erie, Sue worked through the Sun-Herald to try to set up drop off sites for the pictures that had been found. At first they tried churches, but that just didn't work. Eventually Wal-Mart agreed to be a partner in the project. It was at this time also, that Sue got in touch with Kodak. Our original intent was to get advice on how to clean pictures before we scanned them into the computer. In these talks, Kodak suggested that we not clean the pictures, but scan them on to the web-site as is and when someone identifies a picture we are to let Kodak know. Kodak will then have their technicians take the picture off the web-site where they will work their technical magic and print a brand new photo to mail to the owner.



The weekend before Thanksgiving Sue and her sister traveled back to Biloxi. It was at this time that the drop-off boxes were put into the Wal-mart stores. There is more detail about this trip in the news section of the web-site.

The drop boxes are located in the photo department at six locations in the Gulf area. Along with the boxes are signs explaining what the Picture Project is and how to label the pictures for better processing. Sue has also spoken with DSL since she returned to Erie. Talks are taking place in regards to the carrier handling late pictures that come in and future events.

The web-site actually went live on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006. If you go to the site you will see a new section that explains the latest developments in the project, a contacts section where people can get in touch with us and the main page which explains what the project is all about. We have also included a sponsor section with direct links to their web-sites. How the web-site will work is: when the pictures are ready to be found, the "search" tab at the top of the page will be activated. When entering the search page you will be able to enter your zip code and check a map to get the surrounding zip codes. Based on the direction the storm took you will search the zip codes starting with your own and move outward from there. All pictures will be tagged with a numerical identifier that will list the zip code in which they were found (if available) and the zip code in which they were turned in. This way people shouldn't have to search too far from their homes and everyone won't have to go through all of the pictures. Once a picture is identified there will be a "claim this picture" link which will take them to a form they can fill out for us. The basic information filled out will enable us and Kodak to return the picture to them (at this point we plan to keep the originals unless they are specifically requested as we don't have the funds to be doing mass mailings). The form that they fill out will also be directly linked to the



## CAROL LAVERY

### APPOINTED PENNSYLVANIA VICTIM ADVOCATE

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On Friday, February 24, 2006, Carol Lavery was sworn in as Pennsylvania's Victim Advocate.

"Carol is one of the most recognizable leaders in the victim advocacy movement at the local, state and national levels," said Governor Edward G. Rendell. "For more than 30 years, she has spoken out for legislative and policy changes that have resulted in enhanced rights for victims of crime. I can think of no one more qualified or more deserving to assume the highest victim advocacy leadership role in our Commonwealth." Lavery began her career in victims' services in Luzerne County in 1979, where she served as executive director of the Victims Resource Center, an organization she helped to establish. She led the agency for 17 years as it grew from a small rape crisis center to a comprehensive victim services agency.

In 1996, Lavery was appointed as the first director of the Office of Victims' Services at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, a position she held until her recent appointment. Under her leadership, the Office of Victims' Services made impressive progress in serving victims of crime in Pennsylvania, including,

- Eliminating the backlog of more than 1,200 claims filed by victims for crime victim compensation.
- Reducing the time victims have to wait for compensation from an average of 26 weeks in 1996 to the current average of 12 weeks and increased the number of annual claims from 2,000 to more than 6,000.
- Overseeing the expansion of state and federal grant funding for programs that serve victims from \$10 million to \$32 million annually.
- Directing the creation and implementation of rights and services for victims whose offenders are in the juvenile justice system.
- Overseeing the development of community crisis response services for victims of mass violence and terrorism.

In 2005, Lavery became president of the National Organization of Victim Assistance (NOVA).

"I am honored to assume the role of Pennsylvania Victim Advocate," Lavery said. "The office already provides a high level of service to victims and their families, and the Governor has challenged me to raise the bar even higher. Together, our goal is to ensure that every victim is aware of the programs provided by the office and knows how to access them."

picture they chose. We will then notify Kodak and they will develop a new print and mail it to the owner.

The pictures are due in Erie sometime within the next week or so. Although we don't know how many pictures there will be, we are very excited. Once the pictures have arrived in Erie volunteers will begin the scanning process and we hope to have the pictures available to the public by the end of February. At this time we will begin a rather heavy advertising campaign to "get the word out about the site."

A bank account has been set up at the First National Bank of Erie, State Street Branch: 711 State St. Erie, PA 16501, (814)871-1765. Donations can be made to The Picture Project at this address. Unfortunately since we are new, contributions are not yet tax-deductible.

In writing this history, I tried not repeat very much of the information that can currently be found on the website. (February 2006)



## TRAINING INSTITUTES

<b>2007 APPA Winter Training Institute</b> .....	February 11 - 14, 2007 Atlanta, Georgia
<b>American Correctional Association's 2007 Winter Conference</b> .....	January 19-24, 2007 Tampa Convention Center
<b>PAPPC One Day Presentation / Awards Luncheon Business Meeting</b> .....	May 22, 2007 Holiday Inn East Harrisburg
(more details to follow at <a href="http://www.pappc.org">www.pappc.org</a> )	
<b>32<sup>nd</sup> PAPPC/APP A Annual Training Institute</b> .....	July 8 - 11, 2007 Downtown Marriott Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
<b>87<sup>th</sup> Annual PAPPC Training Institute</b> .....	May 18 - 21, 2008 Pocono Manor Inn & Golf Resort Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania

### December 2006

Dec. 1 – 3	<b>2006 Zero to Three National Training Institute</b> Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, NM
Dec. 3 – 6	<b>Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases</b> La Fonda On the Plaza, Santa Fe, NM
Dec. 4 – 8	<b>OJJDP 2006 Regional Training Program: Child Sexual Exploitation Investigations</b> Contact FVTC for event site, Tucson, AZ
Dec. 4 – 8	<b>OJJDP 2006 Regional Training Program: Managing Juvenile Services</b> Contact FVTC for event site, Tucson, AZ
Dec. 4 – 8	<b>OJJDP 2006 Regional Training Program: Responding to Missing and Abducted</b> Contact FVTC for event site, Tucson, AZ
Dec. 11 – 13	<b>Youth for Justice Seminar for School Resource Officers and Community Police</b> Treasure Island Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV

### January 2007

Jan. 22 – 26	<b>21st Annual San Diego International Conference on Child &amp; Family Maltreatment</b> Town & Country Hotel Resort and Convention Center, San Diego, CA
Jan. 31 – Feb. 2	<b>Putting the Pieces Together for Children and Families</b> Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, CA

### February 2007

Feb. 26 – 28	<b>Child Welfare League of America 2007 National Conference</b> Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC
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### March 2007

March 4 – 7	<b>Tough Cases: Advanced Training for Juvenile Court Prosecutors</b> Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, San Diego, CA
March 4 – 7	<b>34th National Conference on Juvenile Justice</b> Town & Country Resort and Convention Center, San Diego, CA
March 21 – 24	<b>18th National Youth Crime Prevention Conference and International Forum</b> Adam's Mark Hotel, Denver, CO

### July 2007

July 22 – 25	<b>70th National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Annual Conference</b> The Westin St. Francis, San Francisco, CA
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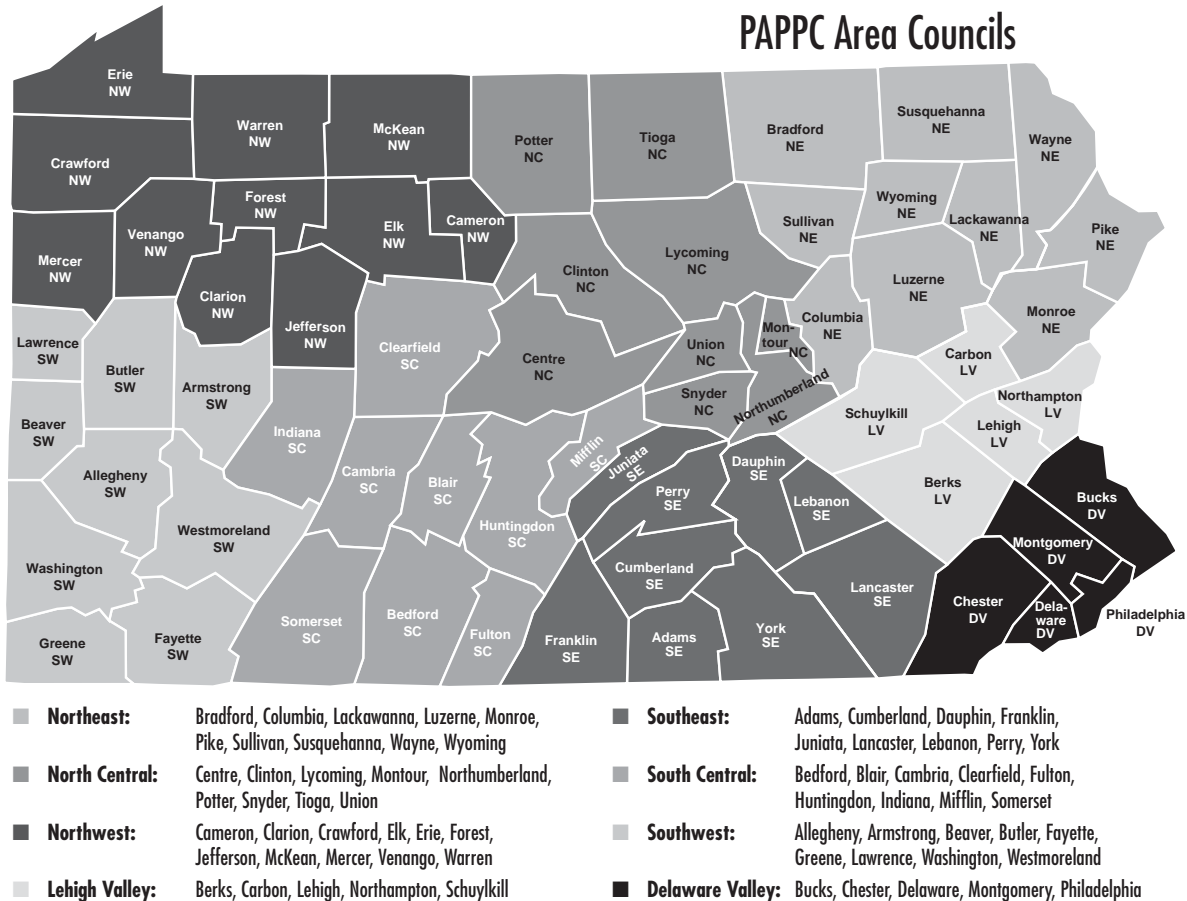


# FREE TRAINING

Due to the overwhelming response we had at the conference in Pittsburgh, PAPP is sponsoring 3 regional trainings of Raves and Club Drugs which will be presented by Ed Bachert. These trainings will be free to PAPP members at a nominal cost to non-members. The trainings will be held in Clarion (Western Region), State College (Central Region) and Allentown (Eastern Region). The presentation will focus on current trends and offer an in-depth look into various types of drugs that are available and used at rave parties. It will examine how these drugs affect the body and how to recognize the use and abuse of these substances. It will also examine how these drugs are manufactured, processed, distributed, and marketed in society.

Ed Bachert holds a Master of Public Administration from Kutztown University, a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from Saint Joseph's University and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Kutztown University. He has been with the Allentown City Police Department since completing their Police Academy in 1990. Ed is currently employed in the position of Administrative Sergeant and is assigned as the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Manager and the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies Manager. Other duties include policy writing, grant writing and grant management, budgeting, administrative duties, contract monitoring, work studies, special projects, community relations, terrorism task force, and police liaison to numerous organizations. He is also a member of the Emergency Response Team and the Assistant Commander of the Hostage Negotiation Team.

The trainings will be held after the new year between the months of January and March 2007. More information regarding the dates, times and location of the Raves and Club Drug trainings will be forthcoming at found at [www.papp.org](http://www.papp.org). Don't miss this opportunity to train with PAPP.







# Mark your calendar!

## May 22, 2007

**The Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections**  
Annual Business Meeting & Training  
Holiday Inn Harrisburg East



This one-day event will provide training, a business luncheon and a closing speaker.  
Please check our website at [www.pappc.org](http://www.pappc.org) for additional information.



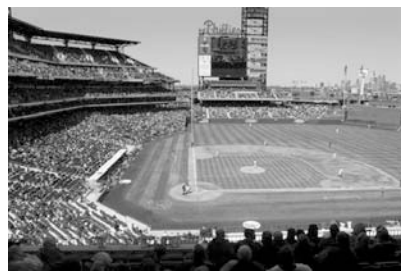
# & July 8-11, 2007

**PAPPC** will be co-sponsoring a  
**National Training Institute in Philadelphia**  
with the **American Probation and Parole Association**

Visit [www.pappc.org](http://www.pappc.org) and link to APPA for more information.



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