

2007/08

Fiscal Year

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

Walter M. Phillips, Jr., Esq.
Chairman

Michael J. Kane, Esq.
Executive Director

Annual Report to the Governor
and General Assembly



pennsylvania

COMMISSION ON CRIME
AND DELINQUENCY



pennsylvania

COMMISSION ON CRIME
AND DELINQUENCY

Mission:

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
Promotes a Collaborative Approach to Enhance the Quality of Justice
through Guidance, Leadership and Resources
by Empowering Citizens and Communities
and Influencing State Policy.



Vision:

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
Strives to be a State and National Leader
by Providing Innovative Services and Programs
that Promote Justice for all Citizens and Communities
of Pennsylvania.

VALUES ♦ COMMITMENT ♦ DEDICATION ♦ RESPECT
INTEGRITY ♦ OPTIMISM ♦ TEAMWORK

Dear Governor Rendell and Members of the General Assembly

Since its creation in 1978, the mission of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency has been to improve the criminal justice system in Pennsylvania. PCCD accomplishes this mission by supporting the work of criminal justice entities, community organizations and victim service agencies.

In the 2007-08 fiscal year, PCCD awarded more than \$127 million in federal and state grants to improve the criminal justice system and enhance services to victims of crime.

In this report, we've provided highlights of just a few of the many endeavors PCCD supports, like the Pennsylvania Weed and Seed program, which enables communities to take back their neighborhoods from crime. The Pennsylvania Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification System is another successful endeavor. PA SAVIN works by immediately notifying a victim when an inmate is transferred or released, or has escaped from a county prison.

We're working to curb the intimidation of court witnesses, reduce recidivism by developing treatment courts, train law enforcement personnel, use technology to enhance the processing of forensic evidence, and support Criminal Justice Advisory Boards, which are making a real difference on the county level.

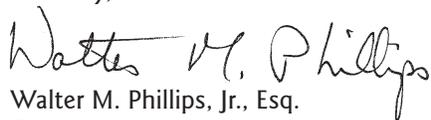
We're seeing a good return on these investments. A recent study conducted by Penn State's Prevention Research Center found that juvenile delinquency prevention programs supported by PCCD not only were effective in preventing delinquency, but also reduced costs, including future corrections costs in communities across our state, resulting in a \$317 million return to the state.

In the past year, PCCD has faced some difficult fiscal challenges in those efforts, due to significant cuts in federal funding received through the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, or Byrne/JAG. These are funds used to help communities with crime prevention programs and services, fight drug-related and violent crime, assist law enforcement in purchasing vital crime-fighting technology and equipment, and provide financial support to innovative programs such as drug courts.

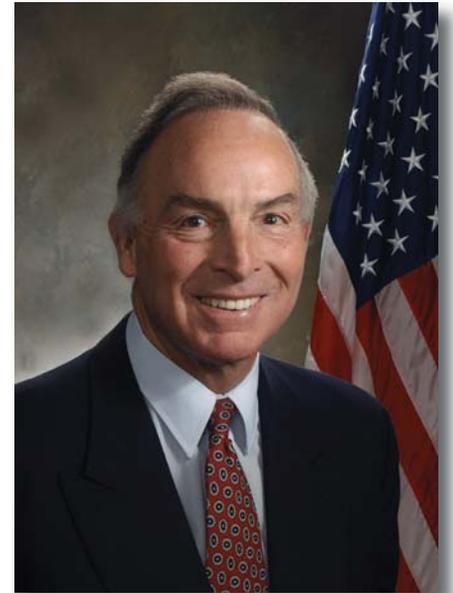
Despite a 67 percent cut in those funds from the previous year, PCCD remains committed to finding solutions to the problems of crime and delinquency in the Commonwealth. We have implemented strategies to ensure that both federal and state dollars are wisely spent on proven programs designed to make - and keep - Pennsylvanians safe.

On behalf of the entire Commission, I hope this report will provide you with a clear understanding of our efforts and work, always with the ultimate goal and focus on improving lives of all Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,



Walter M. Phillips, Jr., Esq.
Chairman



Walter M. Phillips, Jr., was appointed chairman of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency by Governor Edward G. Rendell on March 22, 2004.



Mr. Phillips spent ten years as a prosecutor at the federal, state and local levels, serving as assistant district attorney in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and special prosecutor/deputy attorney general for police and official corruption in Philadelphia.

For the last two years that he was in the United States Attorney's Office, Mr. Phillips served as chief of that office's narcotics unit where he prosecuted international narcotics traffickers and major organized crime figures.

For three years, Mr. Phillips served as chairman of the Philadelphia Ethics Board under former Mayor William Green. Currently, Mr. Phillips is of counsel to the law firm of Obermayer, Rebmann, Maxwell & Hippel, LLP, in Philadelphia, where his areas of practice include white collar criminal defense, employment and commercial litigation.

Mr. Phillips received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University and his law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.



Errika Fearbry Jones has served as vice chair of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency since May 28, 2003.



Ms. Jones is director for the Pittsburgh Youth Intervention Project (PYIP) for the Pittsburgh Board of Education. This United States Department of Justice Project is one of four in the country. The PYIP initiative is a collaborative strategy that focuses school district staff, law enforcement personnel, government officials, and community members on solutions to address gang/youth violence. In addition, Ms. Jones has worked with the Department of Justice as a national trainer on the Comprehensive Gang Model, has served as a C-SPAN panelist discussing alternatives to gangs, and as a panelist for the Department of Justice's nationally telecast "Preventing Gangs in our Communities" series.

Prior to her current position, she worked with former Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy as the city's youth policy director. In that position, she spearheaded Pittsburgh's Serious Juvenile Offender Initiative policies that affected young people throughout the city. She is the first African American and the first woman named as vice chair. She is also the chair of the Evaluation Advisory Committee.



Michael J. Kane was appointed executive director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency by Governor Edward G. Rendell on June 20, 2005.



Mr. Kane previously served as Deputy Secretary for Enforcement at the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue.

During his 18-year career as a federal and state prosecutor, Mr. Kane served as an assistant United States attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and senior deputy attorney general in the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. He was chief deputy district attorney in Denver, Colorado, and served as a special prosecutor in Boulder, Colorado.

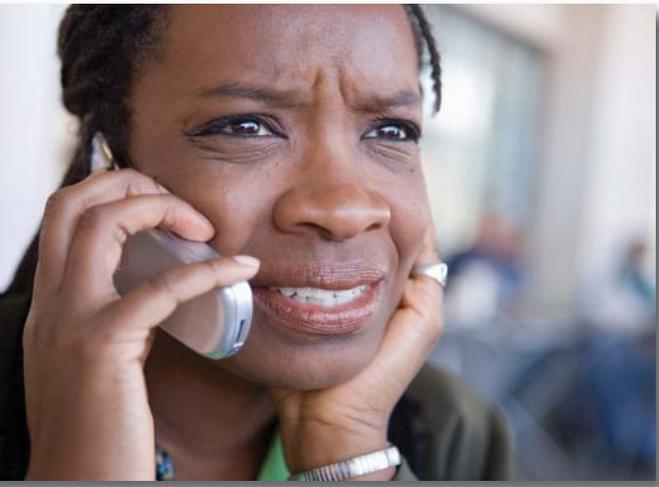
Mr. Kane is a 1975 graduate of St. Joseph's College (now University) in Philadelphia and a 1979 graduate of the University of Colorado Law School in Boulder.

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PA SAVIN is Invaluable to Victims of Crime



“When he’s behind bars, my family and I go about our lives as we always have and feel completely safe, but when he is released from prison, my life completely changes.”

... Julie McKelvey

When an offender is released or escapes from prison, victims of crime benefit from prompt notification of the offender’s movement. Julie McKelvey, a victim of stalking, understands the emotional rollercoaster a prisoner’s movement can cause.

“When he’s behind bars, my family and I go about our lives as we always have and feel completely safe,” said McKelvey, “but when he is released from prison, my life completely changes.”

That’s why McKelvey appreciates PA SAVIN, the Pennsylvania Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification service. PA SAVIN allows individuals, including victims of crime, their families and law enforcement, to register to be notified of an offender’s release, transfer or escape from a county prison. Real-time notifications are made by phone or e-mail, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“We couldn’t be happier with PA SAVIN,” said Erie County District Attorney Brad Foulk. Prior to implementing PA SAVIN, Foulk said the county used a cumbersome and less effective manual system to notify victims.



PA SAVIN is Invaluable to Victims of Crime *continued*

“Some time ago, I was a victim of crime and learned first-hand the beauty of PA SAVIN when I received notification that my alleged perpetrator was released from bond,” Foulk said. “We have heard nothing but positive things about PA SAVIN from victims.”

PA SAVIN gives McKelvey and other victims the ability to arrange their schedules and implement their personal safety plans.

“PA SAVIN is invaluable to me and to every victim, because we will always know when there is any movement with a prisoner, and we will at least have some notice if they are released,” she said. “This will give us time to make the inevitable arrangements in our lives and do what we need to do to ensure our safety.”

**Real-time notifications are made by phone or e-mail,
24 hours a day, seven days a week.**

**To learn more about PA SAVIN, visit
www.pacrimevictims.state.pa.us.**



Pennsylvania is one of 13 states to receive funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance within the U.S. Department of Justice to launch PA SAVIN service. PCCD partnered with the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute (PDAI) to coordinate and implement PA SAVIN state-wide. PA SAVIN was implemented by Appriss Inc., a Kentucky-based technology company, which launched the first victim notification service in 1994.

Research:

Preventing Youth Violence and Delinquency

Program Investment Represents Potential \$317 Million Savings

Since 1998, PCCD has invested more than \$60 million in grant funding for 170 programs aimed at preventing youth violence and delinquency. This investment is showing promising returns.

The Prevention Research Center at the Pennsylvania State University scrutinized seven programs at the core of PCCD's juvenile delinquency prevention strategy, including LifeSkills Training, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Functional Family Therapy. These evidence-based programs provide mentoring for at-risk children, school-based and family building initiatives, substance abuse prevention, and individual and family therapy for juvenile offenders.

Researchers discovered that not only do the programs significantly reduce crime and violence, they also represent a \$317 million potential cost savings for Pennsylvania. This savings includes reduced corrections costs, welfare and social service burdens, and drug and mental health treatment, and increased employment and tax revenues. These programs produced returns of between \$1-\$25 for every dollar invested.

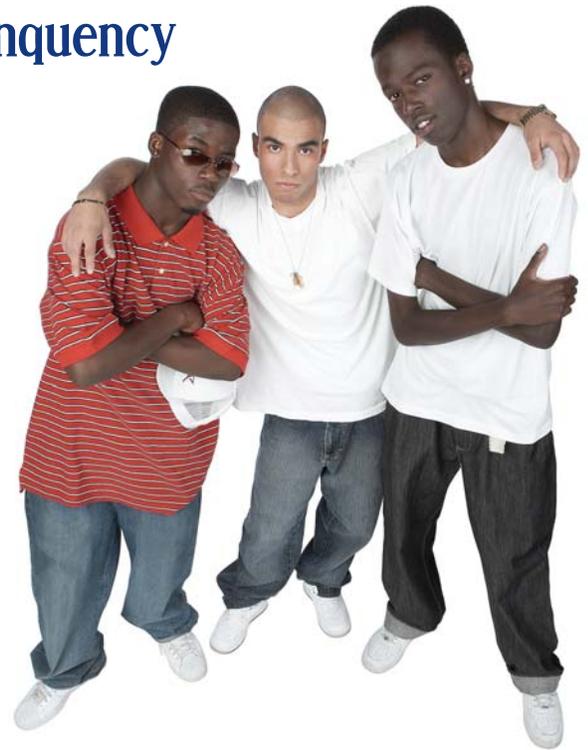
"PCCD wants to ensure that state dollars are being wisely invested and this report shows that is exactly what we're doing," said PCCD Chairman Walter M. Phillips, Jr. "We will continue to support these vital programs that are proven to prevent crime and save taxpayers money."

"The results are indisputable," said Mark Greenberg, director of the Prevention Research Center. "These programs are not only effective for families, they are also a cost-effective, wise investment of taxpayer dollars that will continue to pay dividends for years to come."

"Those of us on the front lines in the fight against crime understand that we'll never be able to just arrest and imprison our way out of the crime problem," said Cumberland County District Attorney David J. Freed. "Pennsylvania's commitment to putting criminals in jail must be matched by our commitment to keeping kids from becoming criminals in the first place by investing in programs shown by research to be effective."

The full report, *The Economic Return on PCCD's Investment in Research-Based Programs: A Cost-Benefit Assessment of Delinquency Prevention in Pennsylvania*, is available at:

www.prevention.psu.edu



"These programs are not only effective for families, they are also a cost-effective, wise investment of taxpayer dollars that will continue to pay dividends for years to come."

... Mark Greenberg



Research: Preventing Youth Violence and Delinquency *continued*

PCCD to fund Pennsylvania Resource Center



To protect its continued investment in the Commonwealth's young people, PCCD is joining the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) in funding the development of a Pennsylvania Resource Center for Evidence-Based Prevention and Intervention Programs and Practices. The Resource Center will provide an education and information-sharing framework – including training and technical assistance – for evidence and research-based juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention programs.

The mission of the Resource Center is to support the expansion and sustainability of effective juvenile justice intervention and delinquency prevention efforts. It will promote best practices and programs to increase protective factors, reduce risk factors related to juvenile delinquency, address juvenile justice goals and respond to behavioral health treatment needs.

PCCD will work with other state agencies and stakeholders, including the Departments of Public Welfare, Education and Health, in developing the Resource Center.

“We want to work collaboratively to support the proliferation and sustainability of effective juvenile justice intervention and delinquency prevention programs throughout Pennsylvania,” said Michael Pennington, director of PCCD’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.



Return on Investment in Preventing Youth Violence and Delinquency

	Big Brothers Big Sisters	Life Skills Training	Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care	Multisystemic Therapy	Functional Family Therapy	Nurse-Family Partnership	Strengthening Families Program 10-14
Per dollar return on investment	\$1.01	\$25.72	\$11.14	\$3.61	\$14.56	\$3.59	\$7.82
Benefits minus costs per person served	\$54	\$808	\$79,331	\$16,716	\$32,707	\$37,367	\$6,541
Estimated number of programs statewide	28	100	3	12	11	25	15
Estimated average economic benefit	\$13,500	\$161,600	\$475,986	\$2,570,400	\$12,395,953	\$4,782,976	\$872,133
Total (current) potential economic benefit statewide	\$378,000	\$16,160,000	\$1,427,958	\$30,088,800	\$136,355,483	\$119,574,400	\$13,082,000

Reducing Recidivism Among Offenders with Mental Illness

Individuals with mental illness are significantly overrepresented in the criminal justice system. According to the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, approximately 5 to 7 percent of adults in the United States suffer from a serious mental illness. Compare this to 17 to 38 percent of the prison population.

For many offenders with mental illness, there is a direct link between the illness and their criminal actions. Recognizing the need for a new approach in working with this population, PCCD partnered with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) to establish mental health courts in Pennsylvania.

The mental health court initiative gives non-violent offenders the opportunity to avoid incarceration if they agree to comply with community supervision and mandated treatment. The intent is to successfully address the mental illness and prevent the offender from committing future crimes. Participation is voluntary.



The mental health court initiative gives non-violent offenders the opportunity to avoid incarceration if they agree to comply with community supervision and mandated treatment.

A mental health court provides supervision, substance abuse testing, treatment and case management services, and immediate sanctions and incentives. Participants are strictly monitored and held accountable through regular court appearances, drug testing, and work or school performance.

Allegheny County Judge John Zottola became involved with his county's mental health court more than two years ago. He said he was initially ambivalent about the court's success, but once involved, he embraced the initiative wholeheartedly.

"Over a two-year period of time in our county, these courts saved Allegheny County more than \$3 million and our recidivism rate for these offenders is at 14 percent, compared to other offenders, which can range anywhere from 50 to 70 percent," Zottola said.

Zottola is quick to add that these courts are not just about saving taxpayer dollars.

"You can't put a financial designation on someone's quality of life. When these individuals are getting treatment for their illnesses, they are not behind bars and they are becoming productive members of society," he emphasized.

Allegheny County's efforts have earned national attention from US News and World Report, and PBS television's investigative show, Frontline.

Adult mental health courts are operating in Allegheny, Chester, Erie, Lackawanna, Lycoming, Northumberland and York Counties. Using federal funds, PCCD and the Department of Public Welfare were able to provide funding to expand or establish nine mental health courts in the following counties: Chester, Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Luzerne, Montgomery and Washington.

"Over a two-year period of time in our county, these courts saved Allegheny County more than \$3 million and our recidivism rate for these offenders is at 14 percent, compared to other offenders, which can range anywhere from 50 to 70 percent."

***... Judge John Zottola,
Allegheny County***



Improving Counties' Criminal Justice Systems

Effectively rendering criminal justice and promoting public safety are top priorities for Pennsylvania counties. Many different entities are involved in a county's criminal justice system, including judges, county commissioners, prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, health and human services, victim services and others.



Each entity has a different role in administering justice and protecting the public, thus collaboration is imperative to ensure consistency and to avoid working at cross-purposes. Criminal Justice Advisory Boards (CJABs) enable counties to develop collaborative relationships that supersede individual agency goals.

A CJAB is a policy-level problem solving group that works to implement criminal justice best practices to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

How can a county benefit from a CJAB?

- Clearly defined criminal justice priorities and objectives.
- Improved communication and cooperation between local and county officials.
- Collaborative efforts that achieve county-wide criminal justice objectives.

A CJAB can lead to improved services, better allocation of resources and a more efficient justice system.

“For my county, I felt it was the best mechanism to discuss issues of concern, using evidence-based approaches, and have there be less of a focus on politics,” said Union County Commissioner William Haas, who has been a member of that county's CJAB since 2006. “We have major stakeholders, community members and policy leaders on board. Communication and information sharing is vital, because the more you learn, the more you can evaluate and make the best decisions for your county.”

“For my county, I felt it was the best mechanism to discuss issues of concern, using evidence-based approaches, and have there be less of a focus on politics.”

***... William Haas,
Union County Commissioner***

Haas said the Union County CJAB has helped the county address drug and alcohol abuse. He noted that 26 percent of the county's budget went toward drug and alcohol abuse issues. Following the creation of a drug prevention committee and three major public forums, the CJAB voted to create a drug court, a treatment court that oversees cases involving non-violent offenders with substance abuse issues.

“Initially, some were hesitant to support this court,” Haas said, “but we were able to provide the community with evidence that this court can work for our county and address the problems with drug and alcohol abuse.”



Rebuilding Our Communities, One Street at a Time

Pennsylvania Weed and Seed

Crime can devastate a community. Its impact can quickly spread beyond the direct victims into homes, schools, churches, playgrounds, businesses and local organizations.

But when a community is equipped to stand up and say “Enough,” change happens.

Pennsylvania Weed and Seed is a program designed to help communities fight crime and restore their towns and neighborhoods to safe places to live, work and play. Since the Pennsylvania program was launched in 1996, PCCD has provided more than \$37 million to communities to fight crime.

Pennsylvania Weed and Seed works to revitalize small communities, not just larger municipalities. The foundation of Weed and Seed is collaboration. First, local law enforcement work in partnership with Pennsylvania State Police personnel to combine talent and resources to implement the most effective strategies to weed the community of crime.



Above & below: Residents attending a Block party sponsored by the City of Allentown Weed & Seed Block Program as a fun reward for a successful year keeping their blocks clean and repaired.



Since the Pennsylvania program was launched in 1996, PCCD has provided more than \$37 million to communities to fight crime.

The next phase is planting seeds of hope back into the neighborhood through collaborations of non-profit, public sector and private sector partners. When so many entities participate in the rebuilding of their community, the return on investment is immeasurable.

“The success of Weed and Seed comes from the community. It only happens if the residents are empowered and work together with law enforcement, city leaders and local organizations to revitalize their neighborhood.”

***... Olga Negron,
Allentown Weed and Seed***

“The success of Weed and Seed comes from the community,” says Olga Negron, a Target Area Local Leadership Coordinator for the Allentown Weed and Seed site. “It only happens if the residents are empowered and work together with law enforcement, city leaders and local organizations to revitalize their neighborhood.”

Rebuilding Our Communities, One Street at a Time Pennsylvania Weed and Seed *continued*

Norristown, a Pennsylvania Weed and Seed site since 2000, is one example of success. The Norristown Area School District has one of the highest incidences of truancy in Pennsylvania, with more than 56,000 reports of truancy in 2005-06 for a student population of nearly 7,000 students.

Truancy can have substantial negative effects on a community. Research shows a link between truancy and rates of vandalism, retail theft, and other property crimes and assaults. Truancy in juveniles can lead to future criminal behavior in adulthood.

Municipal leaders, residents and community groups teamed up and formed the Norristown Truancy Abatement Initiative. The effort centered on a four-pronged approach to reduce truancy:

- Prevention through parent education and youth outreach
- Timely Intervention
- Enforcement
- Follow-up



The results?

- A 25 percent decrease in the number of students who once habitually missed school.
- Eighty five percent of participants in parent education and counseling classes reported an increased ability to prevent or reduce at-risk behavior among school students.
- A 20 percent decrease in the rate of unexcused absences in the 2006-07 school year – the first year of the program – compared to truancy data in 2005-06. School officials anticipate that future data from the 2007-08 school year and beyond will echo similar results.

Weed and Seed's success is driven by the collaboration and involvement of the entire community ... including law enforcement, churches, schools, businesses, social service agencies, health care organizations and others.



Rebuilding Our Communities, One Street at a Time Pennsylvania Weed and Seed *continued*

<i>Weed & Seed Site</i>	<i>Launch Date</i>	<i>FY 2007-08 Funding</i>	<i>Totals to Date 1996-2008</i>
Aliquippa	06/12/02	\$190,000	\$1,832,760
Allentown	11/19/02	\$240,000	\$1,500,010
Chester	05/21/97	\$239,986	\$3,359,288
Coatesville	08/29/01	\$240,000	\$2,232,982
Easton	11/03/02	\$240,000	\$2,369,944
Erie	10/30/02	\$240,000	\$1,814,793
Harrisburg	11/20/02	\$233,125	\$1,906,134
Lancaster	08/01/96	\$210,000	\$4,377,153
McKeesport	05/18/01	\$240,000	\$2,120,980
New Kensington/Arnold	07/01/02	\$240,000	\$1,588,657
Norristown	10/05/00	\$240,000	\$2,222,412
Reading	06/13/01	\$239,497	\$2,416,471
Sharon/Farrell	12/05/01	\$240,000	\$2,285,578
Wilkinsburg	05/31/02	\$240,000	\$1,863,680
York	04/07/99	\$240,000	\$5,239,294
	Total:	\$3,512,608	\$37,130,136



Enhancing Justice Through Technology and Collaboration

Web Enhances Sharing of Forensic Evidence

This project holds the promise of reducing staff hours necessary for submission of evidence by opening a new and readily available line of communication to enhance the process. This time savings will be realized both by law enforcement officers and evidence technicians in the lab through application of a web-based evidence pre-log system linking law enforcement to the laboratory serving their jurisdiction. By pre-logging evidence, critical evidence evaluation and acceptable criteria can be quickly communicated between the lab and law enforcement. This, in itself, can greatly reduce unnecessary and time-consuming trips to the laboratory. In addition, pre-logging streamlines physical evidence receipt since all reviews and case information input is completed prior to the officers' arrival in the lab.

... **Major Nancy Burkhart Kovel,**
Director,
Bureau of Forensic Services
Pennsylvania State Police



PCCD is the Commonwealth's lead agency for criminal justice policy issues, including justice planning. PCCD's Office of Criminal Justice System Improvements (OCJSI) works with all levels of criminal justice agencies to identify issues, develop policies and programs, and implement innovative justice improvement solutions – all with the goal of enhancing public safety.

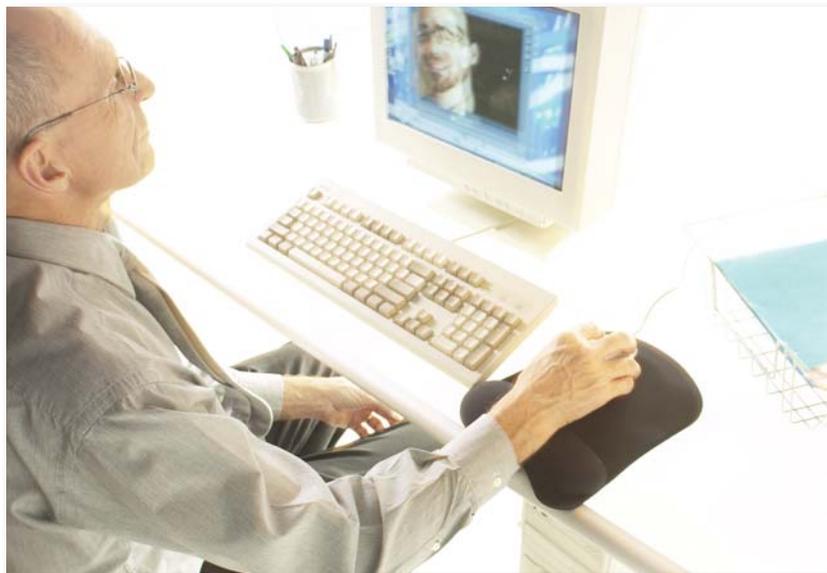
Technology Upgrades Enhance Offender Identification

PCCD provided funding to upgrade the Commonwealth Photo Imaging Network (CPIN) to ensure its compliance with changes regarding the registration and verification of convicted sex offenders under Pennsylvania's Megan's Law.

The previous system was a cumbersome, paper-driven process which led to significant delays in notifying law enforcement officials – and the public – about the location of convicted sex offenders.

The enhanced system enables CPIN stations to capture and store digital photographs of arrested individuals. Officers can take up to eight digital photos of a suspect's face, tattoos and other distinguishing features. The images are then electronically uploaded and are available within minutes to law enforcement.

These improvements mean faster and more efficient processing of an offender's information, quicker posting to the Pennsylvania State Police Megan's Law website, expanded records storage and easier accessibility to sexual offender data. PCCD funding allows photos of suspects to be processed at over 160 locations across Pennsylvania.



Enhancing Justice Through Technology and Collaboration *continued*

Collaboration Improves Forensic Evidence Processing

PCCD funded an initiative with the Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Forensic Services, the Allegheny County Coroner's Office Crime Lab, the Philadelphia Police Department Crime Lab, Cumberland County District Attorney's Crime Lab, PCCD, Pennsylvania's Justice Network (JNET) and the Office of Administration to create a web portal that will enable municipal, state and federal law enforcement agencies to request services provided by the participating laboratory.

This project is designed to use existing criminal justice records management systems to help Pennsylvania law enforcement agencies share and transmit forensic information faster using a secure web-based system. Agencies can pre-log criminal case information, allowing lab personnel to more efficiently plan and schedule evidence processing.

The project also included the development and implementation of standards on how laboratory results are collected and processed. The project will produce faster delivery of reports, invoices and other relevant forensic information to law enforcement agencies.

PCCD believes this collaborative initiative could be expanded to include other data-sharing systems within the criminal justice system, such as those used by prosecutors and court personnel.



Answering the Questions: Do Criminal Justice Programs Work?



Each year, PCCD administers millions of dollars in grant funding to criminal justice programs. There are programs for victims of crime. There are programs for juvenile and adult offenders. There are programs to support and educate law enforcement. PCCD-funded programs touch every aspect of the criminal justice system.

It is imperative to know if these programs are working.

PCCD's Office of Research, Evaluation and Strategic Policy Development (ORESPD) researches and evaluates criminal justice efforts, and determines the best application of state and federal grant funding. ORESPD plays a critical role in identifying which programs and technologies are most effective at meeting the needs of victims, strengthening communities and enhancing justice.

In addition to evaluating PCCD-funded programs, the Office also analyzes other criminal justice programs. It also compiles crime, corrections and sentencing statistics.

ORESPD assists PCCD staff with interpreting data to design or enhance programs, measure program outcomes and identify areas for improvement.



Access and Information for Victims of Crime

The Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) helps victims of crime by easing the financial impact of the crime. The ORESPD coordinated a study to determine if crime victims were underutilizing VCAP services.

Researchers from the Justice Research and Statistics Association in Washington, D.C., used data from the Dependable Access for Victimization Expenses (DAVE) System, as well as feedback from victims of crime and surveys of victim service providers. The data review shows that the number of claims received and paid for by VCAP grew steadily, with an average processing time of just under eight weeks. Ninety-two percent of victims who filed a compensation claim with VCAP were satisfied with the process and the services they received.



The research indicated that some respondents were not taking full advantage of VCAP services. Based on that finding, PCCD has implemented a number of strategies, including web-based surveys and outreach efforts, to increase victims' awareness of their rights.



Answering the Questions: Do Criminal Justice Programs Work? *continued*

Evaluating the Department of Corrections’ Re-Entry Program

To reduce recidivism and promote public safety, it is imperative that offenders are adequately equipped to reenter the community. To achieve this goal, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections developed the Community Orientation and Reintegration (COR) program.

ORESPD conducted a thorough, unbiased evaluation of the COR program. The study identified consistent failures of program participants in most substance abuse and employment measures that were evaluated.

As a result, the Department of Corrections has revamped its re-entry program. The program builds on the employment and job placement assistance strategies of the original COR program and has added decision-making and problem-solving skills training.

“This study illuminates the value of partnerships between agencies, external researches and funding agencies like PCCD in the pursuit of evidence-based criminal justice practice,” said Dr. Gary Zajac, Chief of Research Evaluation within the Bureau of Planning, Research, Statistics and Grants in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. “Our agency gets the research that it needs, researchers can participate in program development efforts and PCCD gets the opportunity to support and advance a research agenda that advances the public interest.”

“Our agency gets the research that it needs, researchers can participate in program development efforts and PCCD gets the opportunity to support and advance a research agenda that advances the public interest.”

**... Dr. Gary Zajac,
Department of Corrections**



Ninety-two percent of victims who filed a compensation claim with VCAP were satisfied with the process and the services they received.

A listing and summaries of completed and ongoing evaluation projects can be found on www.pccd.state.pa.us under Justice Research.

Training

Deputy Sheriffs, Constables and Deputy Constables

Training Sheriffs

There are nearly 2,100 deputy sheriffs in Pennsylvania. To achieve initial certification, a deputy sheriff must complete 760 hours of initial training. To maintain certification, a deputy sheriff must complete 20 hours of continuing education every two years.

PCCD is responsible for overseeing deputy sheriff training. The Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board recommends to PCCD the priority training issues and needs across the Commonwealth.

In 2007:

63 deputy sheriffs completed basic training, which included instruction in civil and criminal law, prison transport, courtroom security, use of force, crisis intervention, first aid, firearms, defensive tactics, custody and emergency vehicle operations, investigations, motor vehicle code and terrorism indicators.

775 deputy sheriffs completed continuing education, including courses on infectious disease prevention, cultural diversity, domestic violence, drug identification, use of force, prisoner transport, tactical communications, professional responsibility and liability, and legal updates.

122 deputy sheriffs completed an abbreviated, two-week basic training course of certification. This waiver training is designed for new deputy sheriffs who have worked in law enforcement and completed training comparable to the required basic training.

PCCD also oversees merit courses on topics dealing with advanced security, infectious disease prevention and criminal law. Merit courses offer deputy sheriffs the opportunity to acquire advanced skills and education.

Training Constables and Deputy Constables

There are more than 1,200 constables and deputy constables in Pennsylvania. To perform judicial duties, constables and deputy constables must complete 80 hours of initial basic training and 20 hours of continuing education each year. Constables and deputy constables who want to carry a firearm must pass an initial 40-hour firearms course and an annual 20-hour continuing education course.

PCCD is responsible for their training and certification. The Constables' Education and Training Board offers training recommendations to PCCD.

In 2007:

PCCD offered 170 training courses for constables and deputy constables.

101 individuals completed basic training.

1,277 individuals completed continuing education.

904 individuals completed firearms training and were certified to carry a firearm.

Pennsylvanians can verify the certification status of constables and deputy constables by using the “constable” finder on the PCCD website (www.pccd.state.pa.us). Select Criminal Justice> Training and Certification> Constables' Training and Education Program> Online Services



PCCD Forum on Witness Non-Cooperation

In the fall of 2007, PCCD sponsored a forum on a widespread problem that all too often results in violent criminals walking free: witnesses who are reluctant or refuse to provide information to police and prosecutors about a crime.

Over three days, representatives from local, state and federal law enforcement and community groups, government officials, PCCD staff and Chairman Walter M. Phillips, Jr. discussed the extent and causes of the problem. The forum concluded that there were many reasons why witnesses are reluctant to cooperate, including fear of retaliation, feelings of alienation as well as cultural and peer pressure. Though the consensus was that the problem will never be completely eliminated, forum participants suggested a wide range of actions which could help ameliorate it.



A report was prepared that included findings and some specific recommendations on how the different forms of the problem might be addressed.



The report was submitted to the Commission at its December 2007 meeting and is available on the PCCD website (www.pccd.state.pa.us) under Press Office > Publications/Resources



PCCD staff is now working with Pennsylvania courts and prosecutors to develop a resource to address witness intimidation occurring in and around the courthouse. It will provide legal and practical information to judges, courthouse staff and security, prosecutors and victim-witness advocates on how to prevent, identify and respond to behavior and conditions that could intimidate and discourage witnesses from testifying and offering the truth about what they know.

PCCD Grant Funding

State Funding Streams

Drug Education and Law Enforcement Grant Program funds are awarded for certified law enforcement officers to teach the D.A.R.E. curriculum in Pennsylvania's elementary, middle and secondary schools.

Evidence-Based Prevention and Intervention Programs and Practices funds are awarded to support the PA Resource Center for Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Programs and Practices and provide training and technical assistance for programs and for communities to implement and sustain the Communities That Care community assessment and planning process.

Intermediate Punishment funds are awarded to support county restrictive intermediate punishment programs consistent with approved county intermediate punishment plans.

Police on Patrol Program funds are awarded to directly enhance local law enforcement resources by increasing the number of local police on patrol within communities. The impact of this funding is intended to enhance local efforts to investigate and interdict the commission of violent crimes.

Research-Based Delinquency and Violence Prevention funds are awarded to communities for the implementation of Research-Based programs designed to reduce the risk factors associated with delinquency.

Restrictive Intermediate Punishment funds are awarded to support drug and alcohol assessment, evaluation and treatment services related to county intermediate punishment activities.

Safe Neighborhoods funds are awarded to cities of the first class to support programs to reduce the level of violent crime, especially gun violence, through a collaborative approach with local, federal and state law enforcement, community leaders and community-based organizations.

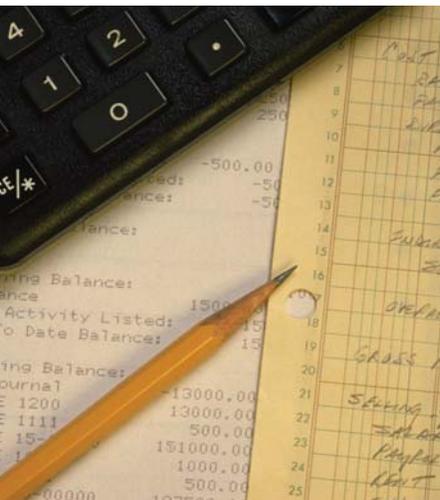
Substance Abuse Education and Demand Reduction funds are awarded for implementation of proven approaches to public awareness, prevention, intervention, training, treatment and education services to reduce substance abuse and implement statewide programs to assist families in accessing such services.

Victim/Witness Services funds are awarded for system-based services for victims consistent with the Crime Victim's Act and PCCD Standards (orientation/opportunities for input to and notice of pleas, sentences, releases/assistance with restitution and compensation). Funds are made available through a \$25 penalty assessment on convicted/diverted offenders.

Victims of Juvenile Offenders funds are awarded through an allocation from the Commonwealth Budget to encourage system-based services for victims of juvenile offenders consistent with the Crime Victim's Act and PCCD Standards (orientation/opportunities for input to and notice of pleas, diversions, dispositions, releases/assistance with restitution and compensation).

Violence Reduction funds are awarded to target the reduction of violence in local municipalities.

Weed And Seed funds are awarded to "weed out" violent offenders through intensive law enforcement and prosecution efforts, and then "seed in" prevention, intervention, treatment and development services to promote community revitalization using research-based violence prevention programs. The initiative helps to address capital needs for local community and economic development and restore neighborhood quality of life. Grants serve the fifteen current PA Weed and Seed sites.



Federal Funding Streams

Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program funds are awarded to provide assistance to state and local units of government in implementing projects that offer high probability of improving the criminal justice system.

Drug Control and System Improvement funds provide seed money to assist state and local government entities to implement a wide range of drug enforcement, correctional treatment/supervision victim services, juvenile justice and criminal justice system improvement projects.

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws funds support activities to address the issue of underage drinking. Funds are used for law enforcement activities as well as education opportunities for youth, law enforcement agencies and licensed distributors of alcoholic beverages.

Juvenile Accountability Block Grant funds are awarded to address the problem of juvenile crime by encouraging accountability-based reforms at the state and local level.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Formula Grant funds are used to provide grants to units of local government and private non-profits for a broad range of juvenile justice, delinquency prevention and JJDP Act Compliance Monitoring activities.

National Forensic Science Improvement Act funds are awarded to improve the quality, timeliness and credibility of forensic science services for criminal justice purposes.

Project Safe Neighborhoods funds are awarded to bring together federal, state and local agencies to focus community attention and energy on reducing gun violence. Each U.S. Attorney is required to establish a task force to develop a comprehensive gun violence reduction strategy and assess how new resources can impact resolution of the problem.

Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act funds are awarded for programs/projects that (1) prevent school violence/drug use; and (2) help schools and communities create safe, disciplined, and drug-free environments that support academic achievement.

Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification System (SAVIN) funds are awarded to implement an automated, integrated, statewide system of identifying and notifying victims of crime, law enforcement, and the community-at-large of the status of criminal offenders.

STOP Violence Against Women funds are awarded to improve the criminal justice system's response to violence against women and to improve the services to women who are victims of violent criminal acts.

Victims of Crime Act funds are awarded to provide direct services, e.g., crisis intervention, counseling, accompaniment, legal advocacy, shelter, etc., for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and other serious crimes.



State*	# Grants	Amount
Drug Education and Law Enforcement (D.A.R.E.)	255	1,828,000
Evidence-Based Prevention and Intervention Programs and Practices	79	4,974,000
Intermediate Punishment	56	3,354,338
Police on Patrol Program	18	9,491,522
Research-Based Delinquency and Violence Prevention	37	4,790,000
Restrictive Intermediate Punishment-Drug & Alcohol	32	17,877,561
Safe Neighborhoods	5	2,950,000
Substance Abuse Education & Demand Reduction	15	4,380,142
Victim/Witness Services (1/1/07 - 12/31/07)	114	8,169,788
Victims of Juvenile Offenders	76	3,294,521
Violence Reduction	1	250,000
Weed and Seed	34	2,778,962
Total State	722	\$64,138,834
Federal**	# Grants	Amount
Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program	138	10,324,480
Drug Control & System Improvement	6	6,369,870
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Block Grant	8	420,271
Juvenile Accountability Block Grant	47	1,381,186
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act	23	3,746,902
National Forensic Science Improvement Act	1	343,985
Project Safe Neighborhoods-Middle District	2	89,000
Project Safe Neighborhoods-Middle District Anti-Gang	19	106,159
Project Safe Neighborhoods-Western District	8	277,115
Project Safe Neighborhoods-Western District Anti-Gang	4	260,259
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act	10	1,970,783
Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification	1	400,000
STOP Violence Against Women	52	3,650,609
Victims of Crime Act (149 two-year grants were awarded last year)	2	264,924
Total Federal	321	\$23,605,543
Total State and Federal	1,043	\$87,744,377

* State funded awards made from SFY 2007-08 appropriations

** Federal funds awarded by the Commission between 7/1/07 and 6/30/08



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Fiscal Year 2007-2008

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