

Testimony of C. Jeffrey Patton

Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Assistant Director

Presented To: The Children and Youth Committee of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
House of Representatives

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I. **C. Jeffrey Patton, Assistant Director of the Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Office**

- A. Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Officer for 33 years, 22.5 years as Assistant Director.
- B. Lived in Dauphin County my entire life.

II. **Dauphin County Juvenile Crime Referral Statistics**

- A. From 1987 to 1996, juvenile offenders referred to the Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Office increased 93% from 685 to 1,320.
- B. During the same time period, the number of delinquent acts those offenders were charged with by local law enforcement increased 69% from 2,300 to 3,894.
- C. The Dauphin County 18 bed detention center was consistently filled to capacity and as a result many Dauphin County juveniles were being housed in other juvenile detention centers throughout the commonwealth as far away as Westmoreland, Blair, Cambria, and Centre County.

III. **The development of Community Based Programs in Dauphin County**

- A. The county initiative to develop and implement community based alternative programs started in 1996. This was done primarily to help manage the large number of referrals the juvenile probation office was receiving as well as to implement the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice; Community Protection, Accountability, and Competency Development.
- B. Between 1996 - 2003, four very important community-based programs were developed. The Abraxas Youth and Family Service Non-Residential Detention and Non-Residential Treatment Programs, and the Dauphin County Female

Offenders Program (currently named, The Program): Detention Alternative and Treatment Alternative Programs.

- C. These programs help supplement traditional juvenile probation supervision and serve as an alternative for juvenile offenders to be able to reside in their own homes instead of being placed in secure detention or expensive out of home placements.
- D. Case managers supervise a very small caseload of offenders and provide approximately 15 - 20 hours of face to face contact with every juvenile offender weekly.
- E. Focus is on individual and family counseling, completion of community service, participation in community activities, monitoring school and job attendance and performance, and curfew monitoring. Many juveniles involved in these programs are also placed on electronic monitoring for added community protection and accountability.
- F. There are usually approximately 40 – 50 juvenile offenders being supervised on these programs every day. The average length of supervision is approximately 30 – 120 days depending on the juvenile's progress and completion of treatment goals.
- G. In 2009, there were a total of 152 juvenile offenders supervised on the four programs with an aggregate successful completion rate of 70%.
- H. The per diem for these programs range between \$30.00 - \$50.00 per day compared to out of home residential placement per diems that are often in excess of \$200.00 per day.

IV. National Blue Print Evidence Based Programs

A. Multisystemic Therapy

- 1. Started in Dauphin County in 2002. Services are provided by Hempfield Behavioral Health in Harrisburg.**
- 2. High impact family based therapy for 12 – 17 year old youth.**
- 3. MST Therapists service 4 – 6 families.**
- 4. As of April 2010, 202 juvenile probation offenders have received MST and 71% of those youth have successfully completed the therapy.**
- 5. In May 2010, Pennsylvania Counseling Services has been added as a second MST provider.**

B. Functional Family Therapy

- 1. Started in Dauphin County in 2008. Services are provided by VisionQuest.**
- 2. One therapist handles a caseload of 12 – 15 families.**
- 3. Therapy consists of 12 – 30 family sessions with each session lasting 1 – 2 hours in duration.**
- 4. As of April 2010, 51 juvenile probation offenders have received FFT and 56% of those youth have successfully completed the therapy.**

- C. In 2010, Dauphin County will add a third National Blue Print Program – Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care. The Children’s Home of Reading (CHOR) will be the provider for this program.

V. The Dauphin County Neighborhood Reporting Center

- A. Started in Dauphin County in February 2009. Alternative Rehabilitation Communities (ARC) is the vendor. Only the second program in the Commonwealth.
- B. 15 – 18 year old male offenders who live in the City of Harrisburg. The capacity of the program is 18 juveniles.
- C. Center operates Monday – Friday from 3:30pm to 9:30pm and 10:00am to 3:30pm on Saturday. The location is the Bethel Church in uptown Harrisburg.
- D. Program focuses on; Drug and Alcohol Education, Anti Gun Violence, Effective Parenting Skills.
- E. To date, 96 juveniles are presently enrolled or have been enrolled in the center.