



# The PAPPCC Journal

Volume 69  
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Spring 2012

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

## What is a Community Corrections Center?



John E. Wetzel  
Secretary  
Pennsylvania Department of Corrections

Visit [www.pappcc.org](http://www.pappcc.org) for  
conference registration materials.



**91ST**  
The Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections  
**Annual Training Institute**  
**JUNE 17-20, 2012**

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PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION ON PROBATION, PAROLE, AND CORRECTIONS

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## PAPPC

# *Mission Statement*

THE MISSION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION ON PROBATION, PAROLE AND CORRECTIONS (PAPPC) SUPPORTS AND PROMOTES BEST PRACTICE METHODS AND PROFESSIONALISM IN THE FIELD OF JUVENILE AND ADULT PROBATION, PAROLE, CORRECTIONS, INSTITUTIONAL CARE AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION.



The Pennsylvania Association on  
Probation, Parole and Corrections  
P.O. Box 5553 | Harrisburg, PA 17110  
[www.papppc.org](http://www.papppc.org)

# SAVE THE DATE!

## June 17-20, 2012

Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association &  
Pennsylvania Association of Probation Parole and Corrections

*present*

# *Working Together:*

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## THE KEYSTONE FOR SUCCESS.

CONTACT:



Mary Rose Worthington - [mrworthington@minsec.us](mailto:mrworthington@minsec.us) - 610.892.9167



Stephen Bishop - [spbish@ship.edu](mailto:spbish@ship.edu) - 717.477.1294



West Chocolate Avenue & University Drive  
Hershey, PA

## 2012 CALL FOR PRESENTERS

*Proposals are due by March 11, 2012*

### Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association & Pennsylvania Association of Probation Parole and Corrections *present*



**June 17-20, 2012 – Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA**

MASCA and PAPPCC invite you to submit topics for consideration on subjects that will help juvenile and adult criminal justice practitioners and related service providers deal more effectively with the challenges of today's workplace. Workshops will explore winning strategies, promising practices and Evidence-Based Practice in the field of adult and juvenile, county and state probation, parole and institutional care. Systems approaches to addressing public safety, cross system networking, treatment and victim concerns will be appreciated. Topics can include the following: Institutions, Adult Probation and Parole, Juvenile Probation, Administration and Management Issues, Academic and Research, Terrorism and Critical Instance Response, Victim Advocacy and Awareness, Offender Treatment, and other relevant topics.

**Workshop Proposal:** Please attach this form to the front of your submission. Electronic proposal preferred. Use one form for each proposal if submitting more than one.

**Person Submitting Proposal:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company/ Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Presenter Information, please list Name (s), Title (s), and Licensing (i.e., Ph.D. LSW), Organization(s):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Presentation Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Length of Presentation will be 1½ hours.**

**I have enclosed the following:**

- An outline of the presentation
- Learning Objectives of Presentation
- 200 word description of topic on 8 ½" x 11" paper or electronic file attachment
- Brief biographies of presenters

**Presenter Agreement:**

If this proposal is accepted by MASCA and PAPPCC, the undersigned guarantees that he/she is the sole proprietor of this material, that no proprietary rights or copyrights belonging to any other person exists. The undersigned further agrees to deliver in advance, to the Program Committee the proposed session materials and handouts. The undersigned agrees that no fees or reimbursement of expenses will be paid by MASCA and PAPPCC unless agreed upon otherwise. Presenters will receive a free registration/ lunch for the same day that they present. MASCA and PAPPCC will provide a projector and a screen. Presenters are responsible for any other audio/ visual needs.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please E-mail (*Preferred*) or fax your proposal by March 11, 2012 to:**

Rick Parsons - MASCA Program Committee Co-Chair  
PHONE – 610-992-7766 — FAX – 610-992-7778  
[rparsons@montcopa.org](mailto:rparsons@montcopa.org)

Leo Lutz - PAPPCC Program Committee Co-Chair  
PHONE – 717-299-8161 — FAX – 717-295-5992  
[lutzl@co.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:lutzl@co.lancaster.pa.us)

***PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MAKE COPIES AND SHARE WITH OTHERS.***

# What is a Community Corrections Center?

John E. Wetzel, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections



Reprinted with permission from Newsfront, Volume XXXVII, No. 9, 2011  
Newsfront is published by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections'  
Press Office, P.O. Box 598, Camp Hill, Pa.

A community corrections center is better known as a halfway house. Department of Corrections inmates are eligible for placement into a center after having served at least nine months in a state prison, so long as they have complied with prison rules and have not received a major misconduct. The Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole also uses the centers and can parole an offender to a center rather than to the street if officials believe the parolee requires additional supervision while in the community.

The DOC operates 14 CCCs across the state in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Erie, Johnstown, Scranton, Allentown, Harrisburg, and York. In addition, the DOC contracts with private entities that operate nearly 40 other contract facilities. The DOC tries to locate its centers near public transportation to help offenders get to and from their jobs.



Allentown Community Corrections Center

The purpose of the centers is to assist offenders' return to society as they either are nearing release or upon parole. Programs provided at the centers include alcohol and other drug treatment, education and vocational training, violence prevention, batterer's intervention, sex offender programming and "Thinking for a Change," to name a few. The programs are designed to address an offender's criminal ways of thinking, as well as preparing the inmate to establish and maintain gainful employment.

The concept of community corrections is not new to Pennsylvania. The community corrections system was created in 1968 under the authority of Act 173. The system first began with one 39-bed center in the early 1970s. Today there are more than 3,900 offenders (DOC inmates and parolees) in the system.

Over the last several decades, literally thousands upon thousands of offenders have returned to society through a CCC or contract facility.

"Ninety percent of offenders will return home one day," said Corrections Secretary John Wetzel. "Regardless of their offense, it is important to help these offenders reengage in society under the supervision of corrections professionals."

While at centers, offenders obtain employment and pay rent and taxes. They also continue to pay any court-ordered costs, fines, and victim restitution.

The centers are located in areas that are in close proximity to where the offender originally lived prior to incarceration. Residents of the centers also are able to complete mandated treatment programs, continue their education

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*"Ninety percent of offenders will return home one day. Regardless of their offense, it is important to help these offenders reengage in society under the supervision of corrections professionals."*

– JOHN WETZEL

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*“We are seeing an increase in the number of inmates entering the system with what we call short minimum sentences – or less than nine months to serve before becoming eligible for parole at their minimum sentence expiration date.”*

–JOHN WETZEL

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and work to restore family bonds that may have been broken during their time in prison.

While at these centers, offenders are permitted to leave to go to work and school, but leaving the centers is not as easy as some people may think. The offender must have an actual purpose in order to leave the center, and center staff verifies the purpose and an offender’s whereabouts at all times.

The offender must sign out in order to leave and they must return by a specific time. Center staff checks on each offender to ensure they are where they claim to be going.

Offenders who break rules or who are not where they say they are face being issued misconducts and even return to prison. Staff works with the offender to help them be accountable and responsible for their actions.

When an individual is approved for placement in a CCC or contract facility, it is up to that offender to get to the center on his or her own. Prison and CCC staff knows how long it will take for an offender to get to a center from any prison. The offender is responsible to make appropriate travel arrangements – taking a bus or having a family member drive them to the center.

If the offender doesn’t arrive within the appropriate amount of time, center staff begins searching for the inmate based upon a checklist. Officials check to see whether the mode of transportation is experiencing problems – perhaps a bus broke down or there is an accident blocking/delaying traffic. In those cases, if possible, the offender should call the center to notify staff of the delay.

In more serious cases, it is possible the offender has become ill or injured. Center staff, if they do not receive a call from the offender, will begin checking with hospitals.

Finally, the staff will check with law enforcement.

If the offender still does not make it to the center, he or

down or there is an accident blocking/delaying traffic. In those cases, if possible, the offender should call the center to notify staff of the delay.

In more serious cases, it is possible the offender has become ill or injured. Center staff, if they do not receive a call from the offender, will begin checking with hospitals.

Finally, the staff will check with law enforcement.

If the offender still does not make it to the center, he or she risks being declared an escapee (for DOC inmates) or an absconder (for parolees).

This same procedure is followed if an offender fails to return after signing out.

Officials work closely together to monitor offenders. The DOC and PBPP meet regularly and also work with local law enforcement.

These centers also serve an important role in parole violations. There are times when parolees, for whatever reason, do not follow their parole plan. Violations can range from failing to report a change in address to their parole officer to committing a new crime. In the less serious case of an address change, rather than place the offender back into a state prison, officials have the option of placing the individual in a center for a period of time. This is known as half-way back. Rather than taking up expensive cell space housing such a violator, the center setting is more appropriate and allows the offender to get back on the right track.

However, a new, serious violation while on parole will likely result in return to a state prison.

The DOC, through a number of new initiatives, expects to see an increase in the use of the community corrections system over the next few years.

“We are seeing an increase in the number of inmates



Johnstown Community Corrections Center

entering the system with what we call short minimum sentences – or less than nine months to serve before becoming eligible for parole at their minimum sentence expiration date,” Wetzal said.

Current regulations require an offender to spend at least nine months in a facility before becoming eligible for CCC placement.

This can result in a short minimum offender spending on average 14 months beyond their minimum before they can be placed in a center. The DOC is working with legislators and district attorneys to change the requirement, thus allowing such offenders to be placed in a center sooner and allowing them to complete necessary programming while in the center. This will allow them to be eligible for parole closer to their minimum sentence expiration date rather than later.

## Contribute to the PAPPJ Journal!

Your articles, announcements and information relevant to our membership are welcome.

Please submit to:

Tom Costa  
2630 North 13th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19132  
Phone: 215-560-6597 | Fax: 215-560-1545  
tcosta@pa.gov

# 2012 SILENT AUCTION

*benefits*

## THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE



The Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections conducts a silent auction at its annual conference to benefit a local charity.

Last year, PAPPJ contributions were donated to The Veteran's Group of Philadelphia. This year, the proceeds will be donated to The Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House keeps children and families together by providing temporary housing to out-of-town families of seriously ill children who are being treated at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital. Services are provided at no cost to guests using the House and Family Room. In addition, The Ronald McDonald House also supports other not-for-profit programs that assist children in Central Pennsylvania to reach their fullest potential through a community grant program.

We are requesting a donation from you to auction at our event, which will be held on June 18 & 19, 2012 at The Hershey Lodge, Hershey PA. Two separate auctions will be held during the conference. The item(s) could be mailed to the address below or picked up by a member who is located in the area in which you are located. All mailed items should be sent to:

PAPPJ/MASCA Silent Auction  
Attention: Kristin Sayers,  
PA Department of Corrections Office of Reentry  
2520 Lisburn Road  
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Your assistance in making this event a success would be gratefully appreciated. If you have any questions, please call Kristin Sayers at 717-975-4981 or e-mail [krsayers@pa.gov](mailto:krsayers@pa.gov).

*Thanks again to all of you who have contributed to this initiative over the years!*

## PAPPC congratulates Michael Potteiger

Governor Corbett names Michael Potteiger as Chairman of Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole

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Governor Tom Corbett today appointed Michael C. Potteiger of York County as the new chairman of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, effective Feb. 1.

Potteiger, 45, of York Haven, succeeds Lloyd A. White, who has served as acting chairman since last July.

“Mike Potteiger has the depth of experience to lead this agency as well as the foresight and imagination to look for new solutions to improve the system and reduce recidivism,” Corbett said. “I also want to thank Lloyd White for his willingness to guide us through this transition period.”

White, who has been a member of the board since 2001, thanked Corbett for the opportunity to serve as its acting chairman.

“It has been my sincere honor to lead this agency during this time of change, and I thank the governor for his confidence in me. I look forward to working with Mr. Potteiger and in continuing to serve the citizens of Pennsylvania in my capacity as a board member.”

Corbett nominated Potteiger to the state board in July and he was confirmed by the Senate in December. As chairman, Potteiger will earn \$122,309.

Potteiger has more than 20 years experience in the crimi-

nal justice system, including designing and overseeing programs that contribute to community safety, re-entry efforts and supervision.

A graduate of Penn State University, Potteiger began his career as a Dauphin County probation officer. While supervising convicted drug offenders, Potteiger was instrumental in the planning and development of the Intensive Drug Unit.

He then served as chief adult probation officer in Northumberland County, helping implement a treatment court for drug and alcohol offenders, as well as people with mental health issues.

In 2008, he returned to Dauphin County as the director of the Adult Probation and Parole Services. As director, he developed programs to focus on re-entry by engaging offender’s family members in the process. He was instrumental in developing Dauphin County’s veterans court. Potteiger also currently serves as president of the Pennsylvania County Adult Probation Chiefs Association.

The Board of Probation and Parole is committed to protecting the safety of the public, addressing the needs of crime victims, improving county adult probation and parole services and assisting in the fair administration of justice by ensuring the custody, control, and treatment of offenders under the board’s jurisdiction.

For more information, visit the board online at [www.pbpp.state.pa.us](http://www.pbpp.state.pa.us).



### VISIT PAPPC.ORG

News and Updates are located front and center to make communicating information quick and easy to find. With links that will take you directly to the source of the information we hope you find it beneficial to bookmark us and visit often.

Not sure of your current Region? We have a map that you can click on to take you directly to the region that your county is associated with, along with training information and contact information for your area; this will be your first stop for getting to know your local PAPPC again.

The Links page features a quick link to other agencies in the industry that you may want to check out. If you would like your agency or organization to be featured here, just let us know.



# 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Institute

The Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections (PAPPC) hosted its 90th Training Institute at the Radisson Valley Forge Convention Plaza in King of Prussia May 22-25, 2011. The theme for 2011 was *Community Supervision: Moving Forward with Less*. Welcoming remarks were presented by Dr. Richard A. Kipp, retired Pennsylvania Parole Board Member and retired Chief of Probation and Parole for Lehigh County. Conference attendees participated in more than 30 workshops and had the opportunity to visit with numerous exhibitors to learn about new products and services. John E. Wetzel, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, delivered closing remarks.

MAY 22 – 25, 2011

Radisson

RADISSON VALLEY FORGE CONVENTION PLAZA



## Silent Auction



Proceeds from the Silent Auction, conducted during the conference benefited The Veteran's Group, a non-profit 501(c)(3) agency situated in the quiet Powelton Village section of West Philadelphia.

# 2011 *Annual Awards Program*

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**KRISTA GRIFFITH**

ADULT PROBATION/PAROLE  
PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

*presented by Cindy Daub*



**GINA CLARK**

ADULT CORRECTIONS  
PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

*presented by Mike Wenerowicz*



**ARLEATHIA DAVIS-YELLOCK**

JUVENILE CORRECTIONS  
PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

*presented by Steve Bishop*

**KRISTA GRIFFITH** possesses those unique organizational, initiative and supervisory attributes that set her apart from her contemporaries. As a Parole Manager she was solely responsible for reviewing and completely revamping the agency's Pardon Board procedures. As a result of her tireless efforts, parole supervision staffs are no longer required to conduct pardon board investigation of "summary" offenses, resulting in a significant workload reduction for the staff.

Griffith's analytical abilities allowed her to work with select institutional parole staff in preparing the agency institutional clerical manual. The clerical manual is a step-by-step procedural reference specifying vital functions performed on a daily basis by the institutional staff.

Krista incorporates her extensive management skills in the daily oversight of the PA Board of Probation and Parole Reentry Bureau, Parole Staff Technicians. This oversight includes the parole staff technicians' daily processing of paroled offender delinquency reports ensuring that pertinent data is documented in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database.

Griffith is a Command Sergeant Major for the Pennsylvania Army Reserve National Guard (PAARNG), 166th Regional Training Institute, which is the senior most enlisted position. She is also involved with the Lions Club and is currently the 2nd Vice District Governor of District 14-T. District 14-T covers the counties of Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata and Perry and consists of 1750 Lions, Lionesses and Leos.

As 2nd Vice District Governor, Griffith is solely responsible for the leadership and direction of an organization that provides immense benefits to the local communities.

Krista Griffith was selected and participates in the Commonwealth Mentor Program. She completed the intense National Institute of Corrections Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) Training. As a result of this training, Krista was certified as a Global Career Development Facilitator. This certification enables Griffith to train a diverse group of Commonwealth professionals in the OWDS curriculum. The trained professionals collaborate their efforts and use the knowledge and skills to improve employment and job retention outcomes for offenders within their jurisdiction.

**GINA CLARK** joined the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections in February of 2002 as a Corrections Officer Trainee. She is a graduate of Academy Training Class #590. She has a Bachelors Degree in Justice Administration with a minor in Sociology. As an officer she worked primarily in the RHU's and in Control posts. She went to RHU School and served as a member of the Hostage Negotiations Team.

Ms. Clark became a Corrections Counselor in 2006. She is currently a Certified Case Management Instructor and Integrated Case Summary Instructor. She was one of the primary contributors to the Graterford Corrections Case Manager Reference Manual which was recently completed and posted on Graterford's web site. She was a facilitator for Thinking for a Change, which is a cognitive-based program to enable offenders to change their behavior patterns by recognizing how they think.

She has received two letters of Commendation during her tenure. In 2005 she was responsible for detecting a drug transaction in the visiting room. In 2009 she was recognized for her exemplary performance and positive contributions to the institution through her work as a Case Manager. Gina Clark received the 2010 Eastern Region Outstanding Performance Award.

Ms. Clark is a dedicated member of the

SCI-Graterford staff whose quiet diligence makes a positive difference in the lives of her co-workers and the overall effectiveness of treatment delivery to the inmates on her case load.

Ms. Clark has diligently worked to improve the quality of work produced through her own methodical approach to assignments, as well as acting as a support, a mentor and a guide for less experienced CC2s assigned on and off her Unit. She demonstrates leadership and consistently exceeds the expectations of the Unit Managers and support staff in achieving excellence. Her skill in motivating inmates to set and meet goals is instrumental in supporting inmates to make a meaningful change in their behavior and set the stage for successful return to the community for many offenders. The contributions she makes to protect public safety by ensuring the readiness of offenders, as well as the accuracy and timeliness of her documents is unparalleled.

Ms. Clark is proactive in the identification of problems and she is creative in her approach to solutions, while maintaining compliance with rules and regulations. Her contribution to the creation of a Case Managers Reference Manual has had a positive impact beyond the institution and will have a continued impact on the work force for many years to come.

**ARLEATHIA DAVIS-YELLOCK**

Arleathia Davis-Yellock has worked with the Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services for 34 years and has been in her current position as Director of Transitional Services for 2 years. Davis-Yellock is responsible for coordinating and developing the YDC/YFC Systems processes for placement, intake, diversion, release planning and aftercare. She is the first person to this position; she was responsible for bringing all of these different entities together under one umbrella to form the Transitional Services Department.

Arleathia Davis-Yellock is a positive role model exhibiting at all times professionalism, commitment and dedication.

Arleathia does community volunteer work in four areas. They are youth mentoring, assisting senior citizens, helping at the community recreation center and sharing her expertise by helping with programs for women.

Arleathia belongs to several professional organizations; the Diversion Subcommittee Models for Change, the executive Committee of the American Federation of African American Affairs and National Education and Research. She is the vice chairperson in CHOICES, Community Development Corporation where she assists in the implementation of educational, social and human programming.



**CHRIS HEBERLIG**

*receives a*

**DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD**  
*presented by John Cookus and Steve Bishop in recognition and appreciation of her years of exceptional leadership and devoted service to the Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections.*