Welcome to the second edition of the Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau Newsletter “Pathways to Success.” We hope you enjoyed our first edition in September. As our newsletter evolves, articles, editorials and other pertinent information on youth and juvenile justice are welcomed and encouraged for submittal from our readers. Please send your submittals to Sherry Beree at sberee@tulsacounty.org.

As many of you may be aware, the County continues the search for a new location for our Family Justice Center. As I reported in the last newsletter, property was located but alas, we were unable to secure the purchase. We have several other possible locations being vetted as of this writing.

In November, a team from Oklahoma that included Judge David Lewis from the Court of Criminal Appeals, Senator A.J. Griffin, Janell Bretten, Chief of Programs for OJA and myself attended a 50 state forum on reducing recidivism through best practices in juvenile justice. All 50 states were represented in this symposium conducted by the Council of State Governments Justice Center: https://csgjusticecenter.org/. As a follow up to this gathering, Oklahoma can now request technical assistance and other forms of grants to measure recidivism, assess best practice and implement research based programs.

There is a great amount of demographic changes occurring nationally with juvenile justice. The following link is a fun way to determine if you can answer the most frequently asked questions. Read the question then click on the caption at the end of each sentence for the answer: http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

The below link is a new publication on gender specific (female programming) that hopefully will be of interest to you.


The Bureau has recently contracted with an Analysis/Researcher to assess and evaluate certain aspects of our Family Drug Court. The report is due in February and we will be providing information from the report in this publication. Also, this is the beginning of outcome assessments for all aspects of the Bureau.

Lastly, and I know we are throwing a lot of hyperlinks at you, but the 2013 National Juvenile Court Statistics have been released and you can download and/or read the pdf report at http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/njcda/pdf/jcs2013.pdf?ed2f26df2d9c416fbdddd2330a778c6=qficeeece-wdcqeetp

Wishing all of you Happy and Safe Holidays! Enjoy this edition of the newsletter.

Justin Jones, Director
Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau
Meet ROSEMARY BROWN .......... Page 2
Court Services /A Farewell to Kay... Page 2
Detention Home/OJDA Conference Page 4
Detention Employees of Month Page 5
Tulsa Area CIC.......................... Page 6

→ Also In This Issue:
“Fostering Hilarity at Work”/Rebecca Peters Page 8
“South Africa Juvenile Justice”/Bill Anderson Page 9
Farewell Elana............................ Page 9

Meet Rosemary Brown!
Juvenile Bureau Chief Financial Officer

Rosemary is our new Chief
Financial Officer here at the Tulsa County
Juvenile Bureau; also known as the
Family Justice Center. Rosemary was
born and raised in Tulsa and attended
Booker T. Washington High School. She
attended college at Northeastern State
University. Prior to coming to the Bureau,
Rosemary worked for the State
Department of Human Services as a Child
Care Licenser. She also was employed for
many years with the Salvation Army.

Rosemary maintains a balanced life
with reading of morning devotions, a very
active 13 year old daughter and a host of close
friends that keep her grounded. Rosemary
reiterates that she is very happy to be working
for the Bureau, which adds to that balance.

The Bureau welcomes Rosemary to our
very dynamic workforce as she is truly an
asset that will keep us in the forefront in best
practices.

Court Services
“Fiercely Beautiful Service—
A Fond Farewell To Kay”

Kay Allen née Saumty retired from her
career as an advocate and Youth/Family
Counselor on August 31, 2015. She began
work with Tulsa County in 1999 as a
Probation Counselor and brought a piercing
intelligence and
grounded empathy to
her job. Kay has
always been an
outstanding example of
what the Probation
Counselor should be -
that delicate tight wire
act of changing hats
between officer, parent,
counselor, advisor,
confidant and reporter.

I learned so
much about doing
this job well from Kay,
that I didn’t feel
qualified to be her supervisor and regularly
enjoyed just sitting in her sage-smudged office
and asking her advice. Preparing this article, I
was deluged with tributes to Ms. Kay and I
have included several, but will lead with my
own...

About ten years ago, I was tasked to take
over the Northside Probation Branch as a
relatively young and green Probation
Counselor/now Coordinator.

Continued on Page 3
Court Services: “Fiercely Beautiful Service—A Fond Farewell To Kay” (continued from Page 2)

There was a strong culture at that branch and a very tight-knit group of Counselors, which could have easily made that position very difficult for me. Kay was the first to lead that group to give me a chance and to show me what leadership skills I needed to develop.

Marsha Chojnacki, Asst. Public Defender, wrote a letter to then-Probation Supervisor Haywood Hill in 2002 praising Kay by stating, “It is refreshing and inspiring to see someone go far beyond the call of duty; especially when they are already overworked.”

Co-worker Rebecca Peters stated, “My story of Kay is simple and not out of the ordinary. Kay and I developed a partnership to assist us during the tribunals of dealing in the wild and unruly bequests of our clients. Being a close colleague of Kay’s has made working with some of our teenagers and their families a little easier, and she has given me comfort anytime I’ve been in her company. I will never forget Kay’s efforts and her sacrifices for the Bureau and for her clients. Sharing in some of her excitement for life reminds me of the ways in which we are to appreciate the importance of our time while on earth and to make every moment count. I will miss Kay’s presence in the vicinity of my employment, and I know that Kay will always remain a part of my heart. Thank you, Kay!”

Lael Engstrom, former co-worker, remembered that “Kay always went the extra mile for her kids. If their goal wasn’t good enough, Kay reminded them to dream big. We used to say how awful it would be for one of their mediocre dreams to come true. Kay was intensively passionate for her kids and their success. She helped them dream bigger than big. It always dumbfounded me that such a tiny princess had such amazing energy and fortitude.”

Her original Coordinator, Nancy McBeath recalls, “When I reviewed Kay’s resume, I had no idea why she would want to work at the Juvenile Bureau. She had been the Director of an area mental health agency, she had a salary that was triple what she would initially make, she had a history of creative endeavors that seemed too sophisticated for the position but the Clinical Director convinced me to at least interview her. Not only was Kay an excellent therapist, she was one of the most professional employees I had the pleasure of working with.”

Kay was at her core a social worker and activist for her clients, and she was the heart and soul of this department. We have been immeasurably enriched by her work and service example for us, and we will forever be grateful to her as she enjoys her timely and richly-deserved retirement.

Richard Harris
Probation Supervisor
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More from... the Juvenile Detention Home

Congratulations to our recent EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH recipients!

September 2015 was shared by.....

Charlene Cypert, Detention Counselor

Lee Kinmon, Detention Counselor

Detention Employees of the Month receive a personalized plaque, which is presented at the monthly All Staff Meeting, and a designated parking space for the month on the Juvenile Bureau parking lot!
The Tulsa Area Community Intervention Center enters into its second quarter under the direction to the Juvenile Bureau of Tulsa County. The Center continues to experience a large influx of youth, as the number of youth served through this first quarter are over 500. Officer contact is up to 1048 visits to the center. These numbers position us in line to meet or surpass our last year’s total numbers of 1325 youth served. Of the 500-plus youth served at the Center, over 66% are males, and over 33% are female. Also, 28.4% of youth served are 17 years of age, declining respectively to age 11, with the largest decline percentage from ages 13 to 12 years of age. African American males dominate the utilization of the program, as more than 49% of those served are African American. This is despite the fact that in the greater Tulsa area, African Americans account for 10% of the population (Tulsa County Census 2014-2015, online). Hispanics now compose the largest minority group at 11% and numbers reflect a relative increase in contact with Hispanic youth served at 13%. Caucasian contact for the TACIC is at 31%, despite population numbers totaling 69%. TACIC tracks stats on four other racial demographics, though numbers in and of themselves do not reflect substantial denotation. But in retrospect, if you review the numbers from all other racial demographics compared to African American contact they just barely outweigh total involvement of African Americans. At an even further glance, seven minority youth are served to every three Caucasian youth served. This trend seems to follow national trends, as there is a disproportionate amount of minority contact with enforcement officers which tends to lead to higher arrest and accountability measures (The Marshall Project- “Our Prisons In Black and White” 2015).

In previous years under Youth Services of Tulsa, the Tulsa Area Community Intervention Center had entered into a collaborative effort with the Oklahoma Family Empowerment Center, charged with developing community game plans aimed at reducing the number of Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC). The TACIC seeks to again form bonds with this and other organizations dedicated to not only reduction in minority contact, but also in the reduction of juvenile contact and prevention of further penetration into the court system.

Approximately 43% of youth served through Tulsa Area Community Intervention Center are transferred to Tulsa County Juvenile Detention Home. Others are admitted or are funneled through other community resources for further services. Though juvenile crime can seem overwhelming with some cases garnering heightened media attention, it should be noted that the majority of offenses presented to the CIC are misdemeanor offenses... almost 60%. Of the felonies committed, most are property offenses, and not crimes against person.

TACIC serves the greater Tulsa County area, with some 17 municipalities who regularly utilize the services. Tulsa Police Department, Tulsa County Sheriff’s Office, Broken Arrow Police Department, Sand Springs Police Department, and Owasso Police Department are examples of the largest utilizers of the Center.

Continued on Page 7
Tulsa Area Community Intervention Center
(continued from Page 6)

Services and benefits to the District Court, Juvenile Courts, Police Divisions, Youth and Families, and Community includes:

- Assessments scheduled and completed with referrals to community agencies for counseling, education, medical, mentoring, independent living, and employment resources, etc.
- Centralized booking facility for arrested juveniles throughout Tulsa County.
- Available twenty-four hours a day, seven days per week for quick drop-off of arrested juveniles.
- Time savings - Reduction of time law enforcement officers are engaged with youth.
- Financial cost savings.
- Processing and maintenance of records and files for all arrested juveniles.
- Distribution of paperwork to multiple courts and records departments.
- Fingerprinting services for all arrested juveniles with felony charges.
- Detention searches of all juveniles ensuring safety of officers, staff, and juveniles.
- Confiscation of contraband turned in to law enforcement officers.
- Generating court docket numbers for all Arrest and Booking forms.
- Scheduling court dates for designated District and Municipal courts countywide.
- Effectively and efficiently identifying and intervening with juveniles at risk of becoming tomorrow’s serious, violent, and chronic offenders.
- Providing safer communities by holding juveniles accountable and providing immediate consequences for their delinquent behavior.
- Tracking trends in juvenile crime to support law enforcement, policy makers, and judicial authorities.
- And, providing financial cost savings to communities by allowing officers to quickly return to duty, thereby reducing the number of officers needed to patrol neighborhoods.

In this newsletter edition, TACIC would like to recognize Lisbet Ramos – Youth Specialist, for her support and quick learning. Lisbet is bilingual, and has proven invaluable with regards to working with Spanish speaking clients. She has been noted to be patient and informative with clients and their families, and a model for professional standards in line with the Juvenile Bureau Mission Statement.

Lastly, the TACIC Advisory Board continues to be a strong advocate for the operation of the TACIC. The Juvenile Bureau is working to strengthen bonds with the Advisory Board and to grow its collective numbers, along with finalization of the Advisory Board structure and bylaws. Appreciation goes to Charlie Jackson as the standing Chairperson, and others who have continued their support through the transition.

Submitted by Cortez Tunley
Program Administrator
“Fostering Hilarity at Work”

There is immaculate detail in the study of humor in a working environment. The same message is conveyed with the comportments of humor in which officers indulged each other while on active job duties. Though not dynamic, this was an important article from Mark Pogrebin and Eric Poole because it was an earnest effort to identify types of hilarity for the audience since they exposed some morale depth of the people whom they observed and studied.

Absorbing others in humor is a technique which is stated to release stress, as some may know. It does provide constancy to an environment ripe with openness and discretion. In most environments, there is no denying the presence of comical individuals who provide a healthy balance between themselves and those whom are relatively serious. The strategic use of humor gives workers opportunities to relay their fears to each other without reprisal; the reasons for their jokes or witticisms vary and were somewhat geared toward their superiors or toward their proposed policies. Is it effective for workers to invoke differing types of humor inside their organizations? Are their leaders responsible for the amount of vilification resonating from some officers indicated in Pogrebin and Poole’s article?

The makings of this article seemingly provided foundations for a qualitative research study. The authors, Pogrebin and Poole, concluded that there were setbacks in the relationships between line officers and their leaders. The outcomes of this study suggested that rancor increased with the observation of promotion of particular persons over others and the inevitable changes in alliances.

In the interim, certifiable information uncovered in the study of humor in the working environment is the fact that officers and/or any other workers can rely on one another when in duress or in tensely emotional situations. The position of this study, from this writer’s point of view, is that working relationships, which are founded and redefined by changes in their agencies management, can be supported with particular and applicable comedy.


Submitted By Rebecca Peters
Probation Counselor
Rehabilitation versus incarceration is an ever present dilemma in juvenile justice. South Africa has a similar system to the United States when it comes to juvenile justice. South Africa believes that a juvenile is not competent to be held responsible for a crime if they are under the age of 10. Juveniles between the ages of 10 to 14 may be arrested, but their competency must be evaluated before receiving further court involvement. Children between the ages of 14 to 18 may be arrested and follow the normal procedures of the Children’s Court. Children’s Courts are used in lieu of regular adult courts and the juveniles are evaluated to determine the best method to resolve and deal with the child. The child is evaluated by a probation officer and diversion, a fine, or incarceration is considered based on the evaluation and recommendations. A child will receive treatment based on their needs such as counseling for anger or substance abuse and if necessary the child can be removed from the home to go to a youth care facility, reform school, or imprisonment depending on the crime and recommendations. Youth can be held in juvenile services until age 21 and may be bridged over to adult incarceration depending on the recommendations made by the report from the youth care center.

“South Africa Juvenile Justice”

Submitted by Bill Anderson
Unit Coordinator

Farewell Elana

We wish Elana Grissom well as she returns to the world of High School Administration at Jenks. We thank her for her service of being our Education Coordinator at the Bureau and wish her the best. Here she is on her last day.