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Keynote Puts Juvenile Justice Center Stage at DCJ’s 92nd Annual Meeting and Luncheon

“The juvenile justice system has to stop doing harm to kids,” said Robert Schwartz, the keynote speaker at DCJ’s 92nd annual meeting and luncheon, held on Thursday, June 7, in Arscht Hall at the University of Delaware’s Wilmington Campus. About 100 people gathered to celebrate DCJ’s long legacy of strengthening Delaware’s criminal justice system, to hear Schwartz’s presentation, “Understanding the Relationship Between Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice,” to honor Paul J. Collins, this year’s William A. Vrooman “Exemplar of Justice” awardee, and to pay tribute to Constance McCarthy, DCJ’s first Mary Elizabeth Mical “Volunteer Service Award” recipient.



DCJ Board President Carl Schnee, Executive Director Janet Leban with keynote speaker Robert Schwartz, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia, PA

Schwartz, a renowned children’s rights advocate who has fought nationally and internationally for juvenile rights, began his presentation by explaining how research on adolescent development, which began in the 70s, has gained steam over the years and caused a paradigm shift in policies, practices, and attitudes related to juvenile justice. “This year we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of a child’s right to counsel, where kids are promised due process under the 14th amendment,” he said. Before this right became law, there were a myriad of cases where juveniles were deprived of counsel and, as a result, given harsh sentences that had no relation to justice.

By way of example, Schwartz cited a case where one youth who had made some lewd telephone calls was brought into court, given no opportunity to get a lawyer, and then given a six-year sentence. In another case, a young girl posted a parody of her school’s vice principal on Facebook, and the police charged her with a misdemeanor. Without knowing it, she signed away her right to a lawyer, and a judge sent her to jail in shackles. “Her mother contacted the Juvenile Law Center,” said Schwartz, “and our lawyers got her out of jail on a writ of habeas corpus.” Schwartz pointed out that as a result of

this case, the Juvenile Law Center investigated other youth who faced unjust imprisonment, and in many instances took cases to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. “We found that several judges were taking bribes to keep the detention center filled with kids,” he said. “The good news is this: we were able to expunge 2,500 records, and the judges ended up doing hard time.”

Another improvement in juvenile justice occurred in the wake of taking the girl’s case. “No longer are kids allowed to be shackled in Pennsylvania courts,” explained Schwartz. “Judges who give jail time to kids must explain the reasoning behind their decision, and no juvenile is permitted to give up his or her right to counsel.”

Schwartz homed in on the multi-million dollar research undertaken in 1996 by the MacArthur Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice, to show how its major findings impacted policies and practices in the juvenile justice system. The research, which was conducted at several sites across the nation, produced three key findings that help us answer the following questions:

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SURJ Team Works to Move Justice Reinvestment Forward

By: Kirstin Cornell MS, SURJ Advocacy Coordinator

The goal of Stand Up for What's Right and Just (SURJ), which became a program of the Delaware Center for Justice in February 2012, is to advocate for criminal justice reform in Delaware. Following the recent passage of Senate Bill 226, SURJ is focusing its advocacy efforts on promoting validated measures to enhance pretrial justice practices. SB 226 promotes informed decision making in the criminal justice system by institutionalizing the use of evidence-based practices in decisions concerning bail, rehabilitation, and probation services.

SURJ's work in this area will be funded by a two-year grant from the Public Welfare Foundation. The Foundation is particularly interested in the issue of pre-trial detention, and Foundation staff will be assisting SURJ in exploring community-based alternatives to pre-trial detention that could be appropriate in Delaware. The SURJ at DCJ program will engage in research on the issue of pre-trial detention and will hold public education events to highlight potential solutions for reducing Delaware's pretrial detention population.

SB 226 promotes informed decision making in the criminal justice system by institutionalizing the use of evidence-based practices in decisions concerning bail, rehabilitation, and probation services.

SURJ has already been engaging with a variety of stakeholders on the issue. DCJ staff members Kirstin Cornell and Joanna Champney traveled to Washington, D.C. in July to meet with representatives from the Public Welfare Foundation, the Vera Institute of Justice, the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the Pretrial Justice Institute to talk about the future of Justice Reinvestment and pretrial detention in Delaware. Additionally, Chief Magistrate Alan Davis and the Justice of the Peace Court staff are expected to assemble



Kirstin Cornell and Joanna Champney

a working group to develop and implement a pretrial risk assessment tool and have invited SURJ to participate.

Delaware faces unique challenges in regard to implementing a risk assessment tool due to the fact that most JP courts are open on a 24-hour basis. Implementing a new tool will require creative staffing and time management efforts in order to maximize limited resources. Further, an effective risk and needs assessment tool depends upon the availability of evidence-based community programming in order to allow for judges to creatively address both public safety concerns and a defendant's rights during the pre-trial phase of the system. Bail decisions should be informed decisions, and objective research-based tools exist that can help Delaware assess flight risk and level of danger posed to the community by looking at a wider range of factors than traditionally considered.

If you would like more information on SURJ or would like to be part of SURJ's community committee on pretrial justice, please contact Kirstin Cornell at 302-658-7174 ext. 15 or kcornell@dcjustice.org.

DCJ's 92nd Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Continued from Cover

1. Are young adolescents competent to stand trial?
2. What is the extent of youth's blameworthiness & culpability in cases involving the death penalty?
3. Why do kids stop offending?

In answer to the first question, findings showed that young adolescents are not competent to stand trial. "The ability of their brains to understand the trial process and make decisions regarding their cases is similar to adults who are mentally retarded. Laws must therefore recognize that youth are developmentally immature," said Schwartz.

Regarding question two, findings showed that juveniles are not capable of understanding consequences findings showed that juveniles are less capable than adults of understanding the consequences of their actions. This suggests that their level of blameworthiness and culpability may be lower than an adult's, making it unjust to try juveniles as adults in death penalty cases. Schwartz exemplified this point by relating the case of a nine-year-old boy who shot a gun out of his bedroom window in anger and killed his seven-year-old friend. "Did he know he would kill her? Did he understand what that meant?" asked Schwartz. "Our deepening understanding of how children's brains work demands that we look at our sentencing policies. As of today, two states have banned trying children as adults—Washington and Colorado. Also, two Supreme Court cases involving 14-year-olds who have been

given life without parole are being considered," said Schwartz.

By 2006, when neuroscience gave us brain imaging to confirm earlier assumptions about how the adolescent brain worked, the answer to question three became clear. Most youth stop offending when they enter early adulthood and the brain centers that control impulse and judgment are finally developed, which happens between the ages of 20 and 24. "We have to understand how important this realization is if we are to have true justice and fair sentencing in our juvenile justice system," said Schwartz. "Think about the collateral consequences of not handling these cases right, of issuing sentences to kids and adolescents that ruin their lives forever. Lost drivers' licenses...having a record for life...having to struggle to get a job..."

In his conclusion, Schwarz said that if we are to make sure our system of justice is working for kids, we have to also look at trauma and its profound consequences. We have to do more to understand how exposure to violence affects kids who end up in the juvenile justice system. DCJ is pleased to offer a range of juvenile programs that reflect the implications of Schwartz's presentation. Juvenile programs at DCJ include prevention resources and restorative justice alternatives to sentencing, in addition to advocacy programs for youth who are at highest risk of entering or remaining in the juvenile justice system.

DCJ Honors Two Individuals for their Dedication to Securing Justice in Delaware



DCJ bestowed the William A. Vrooman "Exemplar of Justice" Award to **Paul J. Collins**, who has devoted more than

40 years to prison ministry, helping countless individuals reintegrate into their communities after serving time in a correctional facility.



Constance McCarthy was also honored as the recipient of DCJ's first Mary Elizabeth Mical "Volunteer Service Award". Given in honor of Mary Elizabeth Mical, the now-deceased director of our victim-offender mediation programs (VOMP) and, in recent years, DCJ's associate executive director. Mary Elizabeth

passed away on July 31, 2011 after 18 years with DCJ. The award recognizes Constance's various charitable and volunteer activities, including her involvement as a DCJ volunteer mediator in our Court of Common Pleas Mediation Program.

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HJR 18 Starts Process of Extending Foster Care to Age 21

By: Julie P. Miller, Esq., Delaware Youth Opportunities Initiative Coordinator

Young people who age out of foster care face significant challenges as they attempt to make the transition to adulthood on their own. Over the past decade, knowledge about adolescent brain development has increased our understanding of “emerging adulthood.” Emerging adulthood is a period that spans early adolescence through age 25, during which time young people are developing the knowledge and skills that will serve them throughout their adult life. With this new information, states across the country are looking at ways to redefine adolescent foster care, and Delaware is at the forefront of these efforts.

The Policy Working Group of the Delaware Youth Opportunities Initiative (DYOI) has made major strides in helping youth aging out of foster care, using research-based tactics. Over the past few months, this working group drafted a resolution to begin the process of extending foster care in Delaware from age 18 to age 21. Much of the resolution was written with the help of current and former foster youth and with support from Lt. Governor Matt Denn, Cabinet Secretary Vivian Rapposelli, and the Department of Services for

Children, Youth and their Families. Through their hard work and support, HJR 18 was passed unanimously by both the House and Senate during the last week of the legislative session and signed by Governor Markell.

A report is being drafted to assess the fiscal impact of the proposed policy change and to describe all proposed programmatic elements. The report, which will be sent to the General Assembly and to the Governor in September, includes DYOI and its Policy Working Group will be part of a committee tasked with framing extended care in Delaware. Once the General Assembly views this report, a bill will be submitted in January to formally extend care to 21 in a developmentally appropriate way, with full implementation expected by 2014, if the bill passes. In extending care, DYOI and the new Policy Working Group will be listening to those who experienced foster care in order to build the best system possible in Delaware. In addition, Delaware will act as a model for a national campaign by the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, Beyond 18: Doing it Right, to extend care in a developmentally appropriate way in every state.

Equal Rights for All: Expanding Voting Rights for People With Criminal Histories

By: Joanna Champney, Associate Executive Director

In Delaware, 3.7% of the voting age population is disenfranchised (unable to vote) due to a felony conviction. Delaware is one of a small number of states that has imposed a “waiting period” for reinstating voting rights after individuals have been discharged from prison & probation and have paid all fines & restitution owed.

House Bill 9 is the first leg of a constitutional amendment that would remove the current 5 year waiting period for felons who have served their prison time, have been discharged from probation, and have paid all fines & restitution. Under the new law, individuals who are discharged from probation and who have paid all fines & restitution can immediately register to vote. The first leg of HB 9 passed in the General Assembly in June and

was signed by the Governor on June 28. Because an amendment to the state’s constitution is required for this change, the bill must successfully pass through the General Assembly again during the next legislative session in order for the revision to be adopted.

The number of people nationally who are barred from voting due to a felony conviction has risen dramatically in recent decades, according to the national criminal justice sentencing reform group The Sentencing Project, based in Washington, D.C. Of the 5.85 million Americans who were disenfranchised in 2010, only about one quarter of these were actually incarcerated at that time.

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Lamar's Path to Success

By: Hannah Glassman, intern with DCJ's Community Reentry Services Program

When Lamar was placed on probation, he felt overwhelmed and needed lots of guidance. He was struggling, didn't have a job, and in Lamar's own words, "I needed to learn how to stay on the straight and narrow path." In time, his probation officer saw potential in him. He referred Lamar to the Delaware Center for Justice's Community Reentry Services Program, in hopes that he would find rewarding employment to place him on that path. It was then that Lamar met Jessica Alicea, one of DCJ's case managers.

When Lamar started the program, he was eager to find any job he could. "I was really aware of how competitive the job market was. It's especially hard for me when other people have college degrees or a clean record," Lamar said. At first, his only goal was finding a steady job. However, when Jessica mentioned the Food Bank's Culinary Program, his mind became set on his new potential career. His mind became set on his new potential career. "It's hard, but this program got me a job at the Food Bank."



Lamar at the Food Bank of Delaware

have surrounded myself with the right people." His case manager, Jessica Alicea, is one of those people. "She's great. She helped me adjust my attitude positively, helped me find a job, and showed that she really cared about me. You could tell this isn't just a '9 to 5' job for her." If it were not for her efforts, Lamar would not be at Delaware's Food Bank. He said, "I wouldn't have developed the skills needed [to find and secure a] job I enjoy."

Talking about his future, Lamar says, "It looks bright. I'm an optimistic person—the sky is the limit. Whether I continue working in the food industry or not, anything is possible if you put in the work." Lamar's hard work and dedication to his case manager, his education, and most importantly himself allowed him to set himself up for success. He also advises anyone in his former situation of hardship, "Start to associate with the right people. When you're with people who care about you, you start to care about yourself. It's definitely worth putting in the effort."

Lamar expressed his gratitude to his case manager, Jessica, by saying, "Thank you for everything you've done. You've put me on the right path."

"It's great. I'm on the right track. I am working in a setting I truly enjoy and I have surrounded myself with the right people."

Jessica didn't just get him an interview; she got him into the Food Bank's Culinary Program, allowing him to receive training and a guarantee of a job once he graduated. Lamar told us, "Jessica went above and beyond to get me into the program. She called numerous people, she vouched for me, and she went out of her way to help me get the proper identification needed for working there." Not only did he get into the program, but he is now currently working.

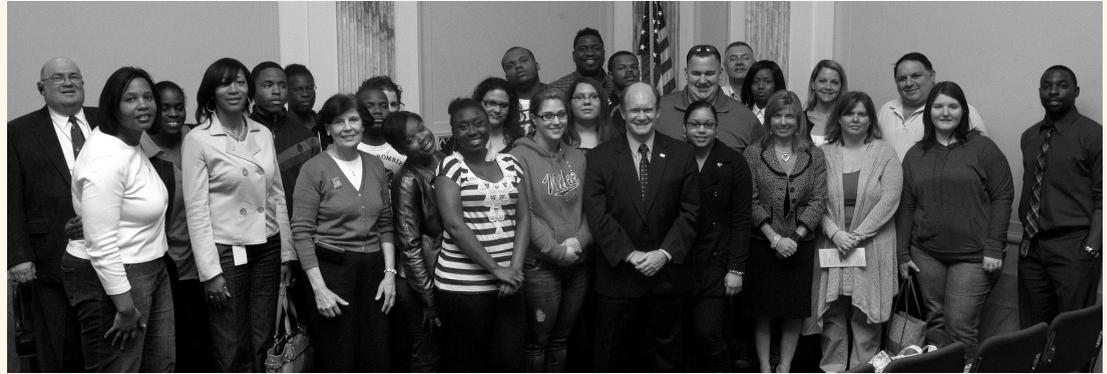
When asked about how he is doing now with his goals, Lamar smiled, "It's great. I'm on the right track. I am working in a setting I truly enjoy and I

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Delaware's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) Visits Nation's Capital to Speak about Foster Care Issues

By: Julie P. Miller, Esq., Delaware Youth Opportunities Initiative Coordinator



In April 2012, Delaware Youth Advisory Council (YAC), a statewide group of current and former foster youth, were invited to visit Washington, D.C. by Senator Chris Coons. First, the group of about 40 young adults, ages 14 – 27, met with Sen. Coons early in the day to discuss foster care issues. Maegan Soll, former YAC President, spoke about the need for more resources from the Federal Government for those who age out of care. In addition, she asked for the support of Delaware's federal legislators when Delaware seeks to extend care to 21. Sen. Coons spent almost forty-five minutes with YAC, and seemed impressed by the group's professionalism and thoughtful commentary. Later in the day,

YAC toured the Capitol, saw the Supreme Court building, and met with Vice President Joe Biden's Director of Legislative Affairs, Tonya Williams. Ms. Williams shared her experiences of building her career in the political sector and gave insight as to how she came to be where she is now. She then led YAC on a tour of Vice President Biden's Legislative office. The youth of YAC enjoyed their time in the nation's Capital, having raised awareness about the issues they feel are important. They have already asked when they can go again! DCJ and DYOI are pleased to provide meaningful opportunities for youth to become effective self-advocates.

Equal Rights for All

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The remaining three quarters of the group were on probation, parole, or were paying fines & restitution. In 2010, an estimated 25,638 individuals in Delaware were impacted by the voter disfranchisement policy.

Withholding voting rights from people who have "done their time and paid their fine" erects an unjust barrier for individuals with felony convictions. In a press release issued by the Delaware General Assembly, Senator Margaret Rose Henry stated, "This is an important civil

rights issue. We're talking about restoring one of our most precious freedoms to people who have made a mistake, but have fully paid their debt to society." We couldn't have said it better ourselves. Please stay tuned to learn how you can help us to advance phase two of this legislative effort, beginning in January 2013 when the General Assembly reconvenes.

To receive Action Alert updates from us, please visit www.dcjustice.org and subscribe to our email list.

Staff Gain Tools for Motivating and Supporting Client Progress

By: Hannah Glassman, intern with DCJ's Community Reentry Services Program



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On April 16, DCJ hosted a full-day training on the use of Motivational Interviewing with clients who are involved in the justice system. The Delaware Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health sponsored the training, and Dr. David Mee-Lee, a nationally renowned expert on how to improve program outcomes and increase motivation among clients, served as the trainer. Many of DCJ staff are already utilizing elements of Motivational Interviewing in their interactions with clients, and the training provided DCJ with tips for ensuring that all of our programs are utilizing the framework.

Motivational Interviewing is a technique that helps to instill motivation in clients to pursue positive change, rather than a program or a case manager “forcing” them to work toward change. “It’s hard to attract people into recovery when they feel like they’re being judged,” Mee-Lee said. Mee-Lee opened the session by reminding us that “many clients have been told, ‘You’re a loser! You’re never going to make it!’ So, why would they display self-efficacy? We have to facilitate the change process.”

More than 40 case managers, both from DCJ and partner agencies, learned how to integrate the technique into their interactions with justice-involved clients. Case managers who work with people in the justice system are typically assisting their clients with a variety of needs including lack of housing, substance abuse, unemployment, and

family reunification issues. Mee-Lee presented research showing how important the therapeutic alliance between the client and their therapist or case manager is in determining whether the client will be successful. In order to encourage positive change, Mee-Lee discourages ever using the phrase “you should” with a client. Mee-Lee explained that “the goal is for the client to want to change, not for you to tell them to change.”

Attendees learned how to express empathy for the challenges their clients face, assist clients in identifying how their current situation is incompatible with their goal, avoid argumentation with the client, and much more. In addition to presenting a therapeutic framework that can be applied to working with all clients, Mee-Lee presented practical tips for engaging clients in a positive way that can help reveal a client’s motivation and what is driving their own desire for change.

DCJ’s Associate Executive Director, Joanna Champney, viewed the training as extremely beneficial for DCJ’s Programs. “Often, clients come into our programs with several areas of significant need. That can be overwhelming for a case manager and it can be frustrating if it seems to the case manager that they are working harder than the client is. With the Motivational Interviewing approach, the case manager has the client really take the lead by identifying what they want to work on and why they want to work on something, and DCJ then takes a supportive role in helping the client meet their own goals. And, if the client needs to meet certain conditions in order for the case to be dismissed by the court, or to be discharged from probation, we can help to frame those conditions as necessary elements for helping the clients get what they want. Because at the end of the day, forced change doesn’t last. We’re trying to tap into the client’s own desire to change and grow. There’s a lot of opportunity for the client within that context.”

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DCJ works with more than 2,000 youth and adults each year, working for positive change and growth with those at risk or those already involved in the justice system. Sometimes, though, the lives we touch are those of our own staff. Here, Nicole Byers, a DCJ staffer with the Delaware Youth Opportunities Initiative who was recently hired by Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn, highlights the impact that DCJ had on her life story. She is a testament to the wonderful things that young people can do if given the support they need. We are so very proud of Nicole's hard work. *—Janet Leban, Executive Director*

Confidence, Courage, and Invaluable Connections: Nicole's Story

Written by Nicole Byers, former Youth Advisor

Throughout my relatively short lifetime, I have achieved many goals, though the odds were against me and I've triumphed over many large obstacles. I have experienced the bad, the ugly, and the unimaginable. I have also been forced to mature at a faster pace than most of my peers. Despite these experiences, I have always been self-driven, resilient, and motivated by my enduring optimism. Even so, I still credit much of my current successes to the Delaware Center for Justice (DCJ).

From the age of 16, I was working almost full-time at a local seafood restaurant. A year after I began working at the restaurant, I started studying at the University of Delaware, and trying to figure out what to do with my life after graduating. In the midst of all of this, I also became a ward of the state. One winter in 2010 at a Delaware Youth Advisory Council (YAC) skating party, I was gliding around the rink when the Delaware Independent Living

Program Manager and the Deputy Director of the Division of Family Services wheeled up next to me and tapped me on my shoulder. They urged me to apply for a position as a Youth Advisor at DCJ in the Delaware Youth Opportunities Initiative (DYOI), which helps youth who "age out" of foster care to make their way in the world. As the bright lights danced around on the dark rink and my wheels rolled across the glazed wood floor, I took in a deep breath and realized that this could be exactly the opportunity that I was looking for.

By going in with a freshly updated résumé, the interview process was a breeze. My Youth Advisor position was quite new to me and

different from anything I had experienced before. DCJ worked around my school schedule and was flexible for me. I was able to part ways on good terms from my restaurant job and focus more fully

At 20 years old, I was being seen as an important and valued employee. I had my own office, business cards, I could inspire others with my story, I was meeting some of Delaware's great leaders (including the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, various legislators, and top administrators in various state agencies) in the child welfare system, and I was being heard as a voice for youth who have aged out of foster care!

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Confidence, Courage, and Invaluable Connections: Nicole's Story

Written by Nicole Byers, former Youth Advisor

on college and on my new career path. At 20 years old, I was being seen as an important and valued employee. I had my own office, business cards, I could inspire others with my story, I was meeting some of Delaware's great leaders (including the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, various legislators, and top administrators in various state agencies) in the child welfare system, and I was being heard as a voice for youth who have aged out of foster care!

Now, looking back across the last 6 years, I realize that one of the most developmentally beneficial, and skill sharpening experiences I have had was with the Delaware Center for Justice and the wonderful passionate people who work hard for what they believe.



While working at DCJ and after four years of striving to graduate, I received a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services with a focus in Administration and Family Policy in May of 2012. Because of connections and relationships that I was able to build through my work at DCJ as an advocate for youth in foster care, I was invited by the Lieutenant Governor's Office to apply for a position with the State. The professional mentoring I received from DCJ staff and the confidence I gained in my role as Youth Advisor at DCJ gave me the courage to step outside of my comfort zone and leap at an opportunity that comes once in a lifetime. I accepted the offer and am now in my second month of employment with the state.

If someone had told me in 2007 that in the future, I would have a job relevant to my degree before graduating, be able to leave my restaurant job, graduate college on time, and then receive a request directly after graduation to be the full-time Assistant to Delaware's Lt. Governor, I would have told that person that they may want to seek professional help for their insanity. Now, looking back across the last 6 years, I realize that one of the most developmentally beneficial, and skill sharpening experiences I have had was with the Delaware Center for Justice and the wonderful passionate people who work hard for what they believe. Such an atmosphere of rich fertile minds can only bear marvelous fruits. I sincerely thank the staff of DCJ and DYOI!

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DCJ Welcomes Five New Staff Members



Amanda Brennan has joined the Delaware Youth Opportunities Initiative as its new Youth Advisor. Amanda began working with DYOI through the Policy Working Group in March 2012 and was hired by DYOI in July 2012. Amanda states, “The choice to join DYOI was the best decision that I have made for myself. Delaware Center for Justice, through DYOI, will be a great new home for me as we embark on life changing, meaningful work that is to come. As a former foster child, I hope that my experiences will assist in giving insight into the life and mind of a youth. More importantly, I hope that I will be able to help other youth feel comfortable reaching out, because they will not have to do it alone.”



Kirstin Cornell has joined the DCJ staff as the new advocacy coordinator for the SURJ at DCJ Program. She will be facilitating DCJ’s criminal justice advocacy activities, focusing primarily on Justice Reinvestment. Largely, she will be working to mobilize policies and programs that provide community-based alternatives to individuals who are detained in correctional settings pre-trial. Kirstin joins DCJ with a variety of past experiences including working as a litigation paralegal in Washington, D.C., working with the Philadelphia City Council, the Vera Institute of Justice, and with LIFT, a nationwide non-profit that focuses on expanding opportunity within low-income communities. Kirstin earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology from Georgetown University and her master’s degree in social policy from the University of Pennsylvania.



Shannon Hargreaves is the case manager for the Truancy Reduction Program at DCJ. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from the University of Delaware, and recently graduated with a Master’s Degree in Education from Wilmington University. Her goals for the Truancy Reduction Program are to help students re-engage and succeed in school by providing them with support services that address their academic and personal needs.



Patti Mattson-Hannigan was recently hired as the new program assistant for the SURJ at DCJ Program. She will help support SURJ’s advocacy work, with a particular focus on issues surrounding pre-trial detention. Patti earned her bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from LaSalle University and her master’s degree in criminology from the University of Maryland. Prior to joining DCJ, Patti was a project manager for the United State Census Bureau and helped to plan and direct the national biennial felony sentencing project. Patti also works with her local YMCA and owns and operates her own catering business, Dinner at Your Door.

DCJ Welcomes Five New Staff Members

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Anthony Jacobs, has joined the DCJ team as case manager for our Community Reentry Program. Anthony will be taking the place of Angie Walker, who was with DCJ for 12 years, working with probation to help clients get back on their feet. He received his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from West Chester University of Pennsylvania, and has since worked for the New Castle Police Department, Keystone Health and Human Services Mid-Atlantic, and most recently—Project Stay Free. He is dedicated to working in his community, and we are pleased to have Anthony as part of our team.



Donna M. Pugh, Esquire, was recently hired as the program partner for the Juvenile Gun Violence Prevention Program. Donna is a graduate from North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC, with a bachelor's degree in political science, a graduate from North Carolina Central University School of Law with a juris doctorate of law, and she is currently working towards a PhD in criminal justice. Before joining the DCJ team, Donna worked as an assistant public defender assigned to juvenile court, and an assistant district attorney assigned to the special victims division in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. She also has worked as an assistant visiting professor in criminal justice studies for Lincoln University.

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OPPORTUNITY PLACE

OUR MISSION:

For 92 years, the Delaware Center for Justice has dedicated itself to building a safer, more secure Delaware through advocacy, education, research, and direct services that work toward restoring justice to all who are involved in and affected by Delaware's criminal justice system, including victims, offenders, their families, and the community.

Volunteer Opportunity

If you would like to volunteer at BWCI to assist incarcerated mothers with reading books on tape to their children, call Janet Leban at 658 - 7174, ext. 14.

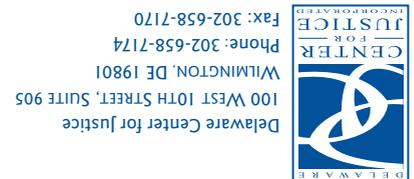
COMMENTARY

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Bringing issues to light
that will help improve
Delaware's system of justice...



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