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NEWS

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## DELAWARE CENTER FOR JUSTICE

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## The Benefits of Justice Reinvestment Headline *Visions of Justice XI* Forum



David Rogers, Janet Leban, and Joanna Champney

On Monday, May 2, *Visions of Justice XI* co-sponsors DCJ and SURJ (Stand Up for What's Right and Just) brought an informative, insightful, and often eye-opening forum experience to the 130 attendees gathered at The Queen on Market Street in Wilmington.

*Visions of Justice XI*, "Tools for Reform: The Roles of Data and Advocacy in Justice Reinvestment," featured a morning of presentations by Rebecca Neusteter, Research Associate, Urban Institute, and project director for its justice reinvestment efforts, and David Rogers, Executive Director, Partnership for Safety and Justice, Portland, OR. The forum included an afternoon of workshops, "Guiding Principles for Justice Reinvestment" led by Neusteter and "Building a Base of Support for Justice Reinvestment" led by Rogers.

Both presenters brought attendees vital information on how jurisdictions can put justice reinvestment into action.

Neusteter began her presentation making it clear that through the use of data and collaborative decision-making, we can lower crime and incarceration rates while reducing corrections expenditures. "The money saved," she said, "can be reinvested to yield a more cost-beneficial impact on public safety."

"The justice reinvestment model does not present a linear process," said Neusteter. "Local realities have to be considered and the plan of implementation flexible enough to redirect your

effort along the way." She also pointed out that to understand which policy changes should be considered, "...we need to be able to understand where we are in terms of our prison population and correctional spending and to project the incarceration rate five years down the line."

Delaware is now in the process of launching a justice reinvestment initiative, and included in the first phase of this process will be the formation of a planning committee comprised of all stakeholders. It is charged with overseeing the data collection and analysis and identifying strategies to reduce costs and increase public safety. In the second phase, according to the model presented by Neusteter, population/expenditure drivers will be identified so intervention strategies can be determined. From here, implementation will begin.

*"...we need to be able to understand where we are in terms of our prison population and correctional spending and to project the incarceration rate five years down the line."*

Rogers focused on justice reinvestment as a concept rather than a model, and he pointed out that evidenced-based policies are difficult to get enacted in our political system. "Change is not easy, and we have a heavy lift when we try to show that being tough on crime is really being smart about crime," he said.

Rogers said that data analysis, organizing, and advocacy can work to advance justice reinvestment, and he detailed how they were used in Oregon during a 2009 campaign to get a ballot measure passed that would shift the focus from prison building and incarceration to treatment and other prevention programs.

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# PROGRAMS IN ACTION

## The Benefits of Justice Reinvestment

*Continued from Cover*

The theme of the campaign was, “A Better Way to Fight Crime,” and the legislation passed, with the involvement of labor, law enforcement, elected officials, community agencies, and a vocal public. “We have to create innovative strategies for involving the community in policy reform,” he said, “so we can change the political landscape.”

Rogers emphasized that the bill that passed moved Oregon in the right direction, saving \$50 million by reducing the need for more prison beds and rein-

vesting the money into smarter approaches to public safety, from community-based addiction treatment and drug courts to community corrections.

“The coalition is still in place,” he said, “as the Coalition for Safety and Savings. It is working to help us sustain the changes called for in the bill in the wake of the expected push back. We have successfully addressed the low hanging fruit, and I believe the real paradigm shift is yet to occur.”

## Big Celebration for DCJ’s 91st Annual Meeting and Luncheon



*Susan Herman*

On Friday, June 3, more than 100 people gathered in Arsht Hall at the University of Delaware’s Wilmington campus to celebrate DCJ’s 91st anniversary. In addition to enjoying the celebratory annual meeting and luncheon and catching up with colleagues, they came

to hear the keynote presentation, “Parallel Justice: Where Victim Advocacy and Reentry Work Find Common Ground,” delivered by Susan Herman, Associate Professor, Department of Criminal Justice, Pace University, NYC, and pay tribute to John A. Shuford, this year’s William A. Vrooman “Exemplar of Justice” honoree.

Susan Herman began her remarks with kudos for the Delaware Center for Justice, saying, “Very few organizations actively seek justice for both victims and offenders as you do. You understand that justice for one does not diminish justice for the other. In many respects you are a lead innovator, a great pioneer in these efforts....”

As Herman pointed out, “After several decades of research, it is well documented that victims of crime have a greater likelihood of experiencing mental health problems, lower success at school and at work, and are more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol.”

*“Very few organizations actively seek justice for both victims and offenders as you do. You understand that justice for one does not diminish justice for the other...”*

Further, victimization often leads to delinquency and criminal behavior. “It weakens the very heart of our communities—the ability of people to relate to each other in healthy and productive ways. For the good of society at large, victims not only deserve a communal response, they deserve to be a high priority in receiving the support they need to rebuild their lives,” said Herman.

One of the most salient points Herman made was that, “Teenagers are twice as likely to be victims of crime than any other age group, and the least likely to get any kind of assistance. In fact, the people most at risk of violent crime in America are young men of color in urban communities.”

The question Herman asked herself about a decade ago was this: What is it victims need in the after-math of crime, and what are our societal obligations to them? This is when Herman began

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## DCJ's 91st Annual Meeting and Luncheon

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to use the term "parallel justice," as it made clear that in our legal and social systems, there are separate responses for victims and offenders.

"Imagine a ladder," she said. "[There are] separate paths to justice, one for victims, one for offenders, with the rungs representing opportunities for interaction between the two processes, and these responses, which are both designed to foster successful reintegration, can take place contemporaneously."

Herman focused on how the reentry process should operate if it is to address the needs of ex-offenders transitioning back into the community and victims, whose lives have been impacted by crime. This is her current work's area of concentration.

She explained that, "Reentry initiatives...for the most part, have not recognized the value of understanding the impact of one's crimes or the importance of providing restitution to victims. In so doing, they reinforce a certain collective denial. Offenders are denied opportunities to come to terms with their actions and the many consequences of those actions. Victims feel there has been no acknowledgement of what actually happened and that no one really cares."

According to Herman, the reentry process will recognize the realities of crime and victimization only by including programs that promote responsibility, encourage offenders to pay restitution, and provide victim assistance to offenders.

Read more about the annual meeting and listen to clips from Susan Herman's remarks, which you can download in their entirety, at [www.dcjustice.org](http://www.dcjustice.org).



*John A. Shuford*

### Governor Joins DCJ in Presenting Vrooman Award

The 2010 Vrooman Award was presented to John A. Shuford, for his decades of work in bringing the Alternatives to Violence Project into prisons in Delaware and around the globe, effectively helping offenders "transform violence to find peace and good within themselves," said Shuford in his acceptance speech.

Because Shuford's efforts have made such a positive and important contribution to policies and programs related to reentry in Delaware, Governor Jack Markell joined Mary Elizabeth Mical, DCJ's associate executive director and program director for DCJ's Victim Restoration/Mediation Programs, in presenting the award.



*Governor Jack Markell*

## PROGRAMS IN ACTION

### LOG ON TO DCJ'S NEW WEB SITE!

DCJ just launched its new web site, where you can find the latest news about the organization's programs, services, and people. There you will find archived Commentary newsletters and other resources you can review, download, and print out. We hope you will decide to make your voice heard through our new blog and show your support by contributing to DCJ online!

Visit us today at [www.dcjustice.org](http://www.dcjustice.org)



## PROGRAMS IN ACTION

# Delaware Youth Opportunities Initiative

*Julie P. Miller, Esq., Coordinator*

The Delaware Youth Opportunities Initiative (DYOI), which became a program of the Delaware Center for Justice in January, works to ensure successful transitions for those aging out of foster care. Since its inception, DYOI has been working with the University of Delaware, Delaware State University, and the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families to complete an environmental scan to identify gaps in services and to help map out what the Initiative must focus on once the program is implemented.

Findings from the environmental scan confirm:

- Youth feel the effects of being placed in foster care both physically and mentally, so both must be addressed as youth age out and try to transition to independent living.
- Only 30 percent of those receiving independent living services once they have aged out graduate from high school or receive a GED by age 19.
- By age 21, only 44 percent are employed.

- Many youth spoke about how having an unstable environment affected them negatively, raising many issues related to permanency.

One of the most important recommendations made in the environmental scan is to extend foster care to age 21. This policy reform, which research has shown improves outcomes for youth significantly, will serve as the backbone of the DYOI strategic plan which will be developed for implementation and will include the formation of a Community Partnership Board, chaired by Lt. Gov. Matt Denn, the involvement of the State's Youth Advisory Council, which advocates for policy changes that affect the child welfare system, as well as Opportunity Passport™, a financial literacy program for youth in and out of foster care.

If you would like more information on DYOI or read the full environmental scan, please contact Julie Miller at 302-658-7174 ext. 16 or [jmiller@dcjustice.org](mailto:jmiller@dcjustice.org).

## Young@Art

### In the Business of Creating Better Futures

Showcasing talent in the visual arts is at the heart of Young@Art, an entrepreneurial initiative developed as a partnership of the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families, and Delaware Girls Initiative (DGI), and Delaware Youth Opportunities Initiative (DYOI), both programs of the Delaware Center for Justice.

Through the Young@Art program, youth housed at any of the secure facilities for juveniles in Delaware have the opportunity to create and sell their artwork, which is displayed at venues and art shows around the state. Youth receive half the proceeds, and the other half supports the operation of Young@Art, which is run, in part, by youth aging out of foster care, who earn minimum wage for their efforts.

"We are very excited about the potential for Young@Art to foster self-esteem among those participating," said Joni Silverstein, director, DGI. "They see how their talent is appreciated and how the opportunity can help them become productive individuals who are giving back to the community. In addition, youth aging out of foster care have

the chance to get real-world work experience that should help them as they move toward their own futures."

Young@Art debuted at the Trolley Bazaar on June 3 and was a great success. More than 20 pieces of artwork were sold, with revenue exceeding \$600.

Young@Art will be open for business all summer. You will find artworks displayed:

- Wednesdays at noon at the Rodney Square Farmers Market.
- Thursday evenings, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Cool Springs Farmers Market at Cool Springs Park—through September 15.
- First Friday Art Loops, at various locations throughout the remainder of the year.

For more information about Young@Art, please contact Joni Silverstein, at 657-0902 or [jsilverstein@dcjustice.org](mailto:jsilverstein@dcjustice.org).



# Dynamic Program to Prevent Juvenile Gun Violence Off to a Fast Start

*Davi Mozie, Program Coordinator*

Since its inception at Ferris School and at Grace and Snowden Cottages in 2011, the Juvenile Gun Violence Prevention program (JGVP), which works with youth adjudicated delinquent for gun crimes as well as for other crimes, has completed two sessions based on the specialized curriculum designed to deter gun violence.

With help from volunteer presenters from the Department of Correction, Office of the Medical Examiner, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Child Development-Community Policing, Magee Rehabilitation, Philadelphia, PA, and the Wilmington Peacekeepers, students learned:

- conflict resolution;
- the impact of gun violence on individuals, families, and communities;
- what they can do to prevent gun violence in their schools and communities; and,
- protective factors that will reduce the likelihood of incurring a first or subsequent gun charge.

Students completed an end of class assignment where they were asked to address one of three questions:

- (1) What would a world without gun violence look like?
- (2) If there were one message they could give about gun violence, what would it be?
- (3) How can we solve problems without the use of guns?

The students created pieces of artwork, poems, songs, and skits that reflected the topics discussed and showcased their assignments at a certificate ceremony attended by their parents. The Hon. Chandlee Kuhn, Chief Judge of Family Court, who presides over gun court, presented the certificates and encouraged the students to take what they learned from the program and use it to avoid involvement in the adult correctional system.

In addition to implementing the curriculum, JGVP completed two train-the-trainer workshops. These workshops are given to qualified professionals throughout the state through their



*Joe Davis, clinical therapist at Magee Rehabilitation who was shot by a 14-year-old in Philadelphia, captures the attention of program participants at Ferris School*

community based organizations, schools, and other venues, equipping them to teach the curriculum to the people they serve. The first group of trained professionals works with Project Stay Free, a program designed to prevent at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system. The second workshop was held at the Milford State Service Center for staff of Juvenile Probation, YMCA, Catholic Charities, Criminal Justice Council, and others working with youth in the community.

Going forward, DCJ is collaborating with Big Brothers Big Sisters through JGVP, to add a mentoring component for the support and guidance youth need to make successful transitions to the community. Adult mentors will be paired with students before they leave Ferris or the Cottages to begin to foster the relationship that will continue throughout the transition and beyond.

For more information about JGVP, please contact Davi Mozie at [dmozie@dcjustice.org](mailto:dmozie@dcjustice.org).

PROGRAMS  
IN  
ACTION

## ON THE ISSUES

### Bill's Passage Strengthens Reentry Initiatives

In June, HB 12, which lifted the lifetime food stamps ban for felony drug offenders, passed in the General Assembly. Approximately 674 individuals who have applied for food stamps in Delaware had been turned away because of a drug felony conviction in their past, even if it occurred years ago. That affected the 1,381 children in those households who needed to be fed. Because we know that access to necessities like housing, food, and medication are critical to individuals exiting prison, this legislative change signals a significant victory for at-risk populations.

### In Support of Upcoming Vote in the House

HB 137 would allow Family Court judges to exert discretion in requiring sex offenders under the age of 14, and those age 14-17 who commit lower-level sex offenses, to be placed on the sex offender registry. The bill, which failed to be released from Committee last year, was released from the House Judiciary Committee this year and is now awaiting a vote in the House of Representatives. SURJ's Juvenile Justice Committee, which DCJ co-chairs, led the effort to organize 15 youth serving organizations (including the Office of the Child Advocate, Child Inc., the YWCA, and the Girl Scouts) in submitting a letter of support for modifying the current law. The reasons for our support are clear: (1) Research shows that being listed on a public sex offender registry has severe negative effects on youthful sex offenders and can actually hamper their rehabilitation; and, (2) Emerging research indicates that, contrary to what might be expected, public registration for this group of offenders does not promote public safety.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The Delaware Center for Justice, as well as other local partners, is joining with the American Civil Liberties Foundation of Delaware to help launch a campaign to repeal the death penalty in Delaware.

While there has been a moratorium on executions in the past 11 years as a result of legal challenges to the lethal injection process, those legal issues have been recently resolved. That means executions are likely to resume in the next 6 to 12 months.

Is Delaware a state that imposes the death penalty and/or executes those found guilty frequently? The answer is yes. By way of background, here are some pertinent facts:

- Per capita, Delaware ranks first among states that impose the death sentence.
- Based on the state's murder rate, Delaware ranks third in executions.
- The state statute governing the death penalty

is sufficiently broad that virtually any murder can be tried as a capital murder.

- Jury decisions not to impose a death sentence can be overridden by the trial judge.
- Numerous exonerations across the country demonstrate the fallibility of the death penalty.
- Convicted accomplices to a murder, even if just standing by, can be sentenced to death.

*"...legal issues have been recently resolved. That means executions are likely to resume in the next 6 to 12 months."*

The last execution in Delaware occurred in 2005, and, today, there are 18 men on death row in Delaware, and an average of 14 to 18 capital cases are in process at any given time in the state.

Before executions resume, the ACLU Foundation and its partners envision a community-based education effort and organizing campaign as well as an exploration of legislators' positions on the death penalty. Plans include introduction of a bill

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## What Do You Think

*Continued from previous page*

to abolish the death penalty in Delaware in 2013.

To prepare for this education effort, activities will include taking a poll of Delaware residents, research on the cost of the death penalty, building coalitions, identifying key leaders and spokespersons, and conducting a media campaign that reaches out to churches, schools, and community groups, among others.

Sixteen states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia, have abolished the death penalty. Worldwide, more than two thirds of the world has abolished the death penalty. Is Delaware ready to abolish the death penalty?

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Visit us with your thoughts on line:  
[www.dcjustice.org](http://www.dcjustice.org)



## New Funding for Project REACH

DCJ received \$11,040 from the Fund for Women in May to support Project REACH. This project, which has been in place for more than ten years, provides monitored visits at Baylor Women's Correctional Institution for incarcerated mothers and their children. These visits afford mothers with the opportunity to practice the good parenting skills they have learned through a CHILD, Inc. program at the facility. Our parenting specialist assists them

in planning for the visit, monitors the visit, and provides feedback to the mothers on their interactions with their child/children.

Strong connections between incarcerated mothers and their children are equally important for all participants. These connections provide a powerful motivation for mothers not to return to prison and make it easier for children when their mothers return to them in the community.

## Cindy McDaniel Joins DCJ

Following years as an activist and advocate for girls and women, Cindy McDaniel signed on full time with DCJ. She will put her skills and energy to work as coordinator of the School Diversion Program, providing youth and their parents with services, information, and skills needed to prevent youth arrested for the first time from re-offending.

Most recently, Cindy volunteered as a policy intern with the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, where she assisted coalition partners with work on the Grant to Encourage Arrests Project (GTEAP) and led the development and implementation of a yoga program for at-risk youth in Southbridge. In

addition, Cindy has devoted much time as a mentor and aerobics instructor for the women at Baylor Women's Correctional Institution. She has served as an associate for grants management and development for Girls, Inc. and was the director of public affairs for Planned Parenthood of Delaware.

Cindy graduated from Widener University with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Government & Politics and attended the Washington Semester on Foreign Policy program and internship at American University. When time allows, she continues her studies at the University of Delaware.

# OPPORTUNITY PLACE

## OUR MISSION:

For 91 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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