

WI Department of Corrections

Division of Juvenile Corrections

E-News Bulletin



Issue No. 1

April 2009

Welcome to the first issue of the DJC E-News Bulletin! Please feel free to forward this to others who may be interested.

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DJC will reserve space in each news bulletin to include program changes, program improvements & highlights, training opportunities, and resourceful information. If you have a contribution for the next bulletin, please forward it to Jocelyn Petersen at jocelyn.petersen@wisconsin.gov. Thank you.

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Ethan Allen School Holds 2nd Annual Student Career & Post Secondary Education Fair

The Ethan Allen School (EAS) Employment and Post Secondary Partner Committee held its 2nd Annual Student Career and Post Secondary Education Fair in the EAS Gymnasium from 9 am until noon on Thursday, February 19, 2009. The purpose of the fair was to promote successful reentry of EAS youth to their communities by building connections between youth, employers and educational programs. Over 190 students and graduates interacted with exhibitors to learn about application and job requirements, as well as for potential admission to area college programs. Graduates, institutional workers and older youth in transition had additional time allocated in the afternoon from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm to meet with representatives. The fair offered 26 exhibitor tables including:

Anderson Pump & Process;
 Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee;
 Bureau of Apprenticeship;
 Center for Driver's License Recovery and Employability;
 Circle of Hope Mentoring Program;
 Department of Workforce Development;
 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation;
 Milwaukee Area Technical College (foundation, recruitment, cosmetology and barbering);
 Milwaukee Area Electrical JATC;
 Milwaukee Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 118;
 Milwaukee Public Schools Department of Parent & Student Services;
 Northern Wisconsin Regional Council of Carpenters Training Fund;
 Outpost Natural Foods;
 Professional Services Group, Inc.;
 Transition High School;
 SEWCTC/Carpenters;
 University of Phoenix;
 US Army National Guard;
 Waukesha Area Technical College (nursing, recruiting, technology);

Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership/Building Industrial Group Skilled Trades Employee Program (WRTP/Big Step)

The fair was co-sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Division of Juvenile Corrections, the Milwaukee Area Technical College, and the Waukesha Area Technical College.

First Lady Jessica Doyle speaks at Ethan Allen School for Black History Month

On Thursday, February 26, Ethan Allen School students and staff had the opportunity to host First Lady Jessica Doyle as a guest speaker at a Black History Month Program. Superintendent Kyle Davidson, Division of Juvenile Corrections Administrator Margaret Carpenter and Secretary Rick Raemisch also spoke at the program.

The Black History Month Program consisted of student presentations of a book report regarding black history, PowerPoint slides about prominent African-Americans, and a display case. A youth's poem was read, and a description of a project involving donation of pillows to the Milwaukee Women's Correctional Center was given to the audience of students, staff and guests from the community. At the end of the program, the First Lady was presented with a jewelry box made by a youth in a woodworking class.

About a dozen lucky students had the opportunity to meet with the First Lady after the program to get their questions about education, training and employment answered. The students were excited to meet the First Lady, and she expressed her delight at having the chance to talk with the youth in a letter she sent to EAS after her visit.

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Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee Receives Department of Public Instruction Award

The State Superintendent of Public instruction hosted an Awards Breakfast at the Radisson Paper Valley Inn on February 26, 2009 at the Wisconsin Association of Career and Technical Education Conference, where the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee (BGCGM) received *A Business Friends of Education* plaque, in recognition of their partnership with Ethan Allen School. BGCGM representatives Charles Brown and Clarence Montgomery received the award which honored the Boys and Girls Club for helping to raise academic achievement of educationally and economically disadvantaged students at EAS. The Boys Club staff co-sponsored the EAS Career and Post Secondary Education Fair; Charles Brown, Clarence Montgomery and other BGCGM staff mentor students to increase employability, career, and postsecondary options.



From left to right:
Dr. Paula Decker,
Education Director-
EAS; Charles
Brown, BGCGM;
Clarence
Montgomery,
BGCGM; Janell
Lathrop, DJC
Education
Coordinator;
Sharon Wendt, DPI
Career & Technical
Education Director

Brown and Montgomery served on the *Business Friends of Education* Partner Panel following the ceremony; the two gentlemen, along with 11 other award recipients, described their partner programs with schools throughout the state as part of the conference schedule. Dr. Paula Decker, EAS Education Director nominated the Boys and Girls Club for the award; she and Janell Lathrop, DJC Education Coordinator, attended the ceremony to applaud Mr. Brown and Mr. Montgomery's service to DJC/EAS youth.

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Southern Oaks Girls School Engages Families in JCIP Skill-Building

Since 2005, Southern Oaks Girls School has been complementing their *Juvenile Cognitive Intervention Program (JCIP)* with an educational component involving students' family members, caregivers, and community support personnel entitled, *Families Count*.

This *Families Count* session has been designed as a bridge program for youth entering the Transition Phase of correctional programming. During a three-hour *Families Count* event, students act as both co-facilitators and program participants. In this dual role, students are granted an opportunity to demonstrate the skills and techniques they have mastered via the JCIP Program; teach their community caregivers the basic concepts of JCIP programming; and publicly voice regrets and commit to change upon community reintegration. The Families Count session also allows parents, guardians, and aftercare personnel to share their common concerns, possible challenges, and effective strategies for remaining hopeful and optimistic as students prepare to leave the

institutional setting. A brief intermission with light snacks and beverages allows caregivers and students an opportunity to enjoy one another's company in a relaxed atmosphere.

The *Families Count* Program is coordinated and delivered by formally trained JCIP facilitators at Southern Oaks Girls School; this group includes treatment social workers, teachers, psychologists, and administrators. Stacy Truman and Sherryl Buska have provided ongoing leadership to this multidisciplinary team. *Families Count* events have been facilitated on a quarterly basis since 2005 and participation levels have risen steadily. Strong partnerships within the Northwest and Southeast aftercare personnel and county-specific aftercare personnel have enhanced participation by agents and families.

Southern Oaks Girls School's most recent *Families Count* session was conducted on Thursday, March 19, 2009. Thirteen families were invited to participate in the event with five family members and one aftercare agent ultimately in attendance. The infant son of one Southern Oaks Girls School student was able to participate in the session with his mother—a great lesson in juggling multiple activities with quality and attention! This was a very productive session with meaningful interaction and learning by all in attendance!



Group Photo of JCIP Facilitators with Dr. Smith

Since the program's inception, evaluative comments and feedback gathered from SOGS students and guests have been consistently quite positive:

Family/Caregiver-Generated Feedback:

"I liked that the program included the whole family so that we could be more on the same page."

"I like seeing the potential for growth which each individual experiences here. You all do amazing work."

"I liked interacting with my daughter and seeing how far she's come."

"I am (truthfully) surprisingly impressed with the changes I see in my sister. I had no idea someone or something would have such a positive effect on her. This is a great program!"

"I enjoyed hearing from my daughter directly regarding her past faults and future plans to not repeat them. I appreciated her honesty regarding her feelings and behaviors."

"I liked the fact that the girls had the opportunity to share their progress in such a comfortable environment with family."

"We liked the discussion of the "hot buttons" (triggers) and "cool switches" (strategies) and ways to overcome those touchy situations. My wife and I both think that our daughter's stay here has been very productive and we both look forward with great anticipation to her return home."

Student-Generated Feedback:

"I enjoyed explaining to myself and to others how I hope to stay positive so that others can remind me and help me."

"I learned that communication is the key to success."

"I found it helpful to talk with my families about what our triggers. I got a better understanding about how my past and present can help my future."

"I liked letting my mom know that I'm trying to counter think when I'm too negative."

"I liked being able to work with my dad so he knows what plans and ideas I have for when I leave Southern Oaks Girls School."

"I liked getting to know my probation officer better and what he expects of me."

"It was helpful to share with our parents what our goals are. I thought it was good and helps our parents better understand why we do things. I needed to think about what I would say when I apologized for my actions—it was hard."

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Report: Facts & Figures of the Lincoln Hills School HSED Program

Between 2005 and 2008, Lincoln Hills School (LHS) averaged 89 new High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) enrollees per year and an average of 72 HSED graduates per year, with 80.89 % of enrollees successfully completing the HSED program while at LHS. If the HSED program is appropriate for a youth, who also turns 17 years old while at LHS, they will take at least one of the five HSED tests prior to their release, ensuring that they can continue with the HSED program at the technical college in their home community. In addition, youth will have completed the Employability, Civics, and Health requirement prior to release from LHS.

In 2007, 80 youth graduated while at LHS; 78 with the HSED and two with a LHS High School Diploma. In addition to youth enrolled prior to January 1, 2007, 155 youth were enrolled in the HSED program. LHS is an HSED testing site, and during 2007 the total number of tests taken was 559. The average passing rate for LHS youth was 83.39%, while the national average passing rate for HSED tests is approximately 70%. Youth took 119 reading tests, with a 93.28% passing rate; 111 writing tests, with a 82.89% passing rate; 96 math tests, with a 76.05% passing rate; 118 social studies tests, with a 84.75% passing rate; and 115 science tests, with a 80% passing rate.

In 2008, 77 youth graduated while at LHS; 70 with the HSED and seven with a LHS High School Diploma. In addition to youth enrolled prior to January 1, 2008, 106 youth were enrolled in the HSED program. The total number of HSED tests administered at LHS during 2008 was 561. The average passing rate for LHS youth was 86.34%, while the national average passing rate for HSED tests is approximately 70%. Youth took 117 reading tests, with a 95.73% passing rate; 104 writing tests, with a 85.58% passing rate; 93 math tests, with a 79.57% passing rate; 127 social studies tests, with a 77.17% passing rate; and 120 science tests, with a 93.34% passing

rate.

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The Latest at Lincoln Hills School: A highlight of their recent program entitled “Expanding Opportunities Program”

Since early 2008, Lincoln Hills School has been working cooperatively with Workforce Connections, Inc. as they have a grant to provide services to juveniles under what is called *Expanding Opportunities Program*. Teresa Maciejewski is the Employment/Youth Coach and is employed by Workforce Connections, Inc. The following is a brief description of the program along with the successful outcomes achieved thus far.

The aim of *Expanding Opportunities* is to assist youth in developing and working towards a career goal. An employment/youth coach will help prepare individuals to make better choices and to succeed as a crime-free productive citizen. They also assist with providing direction and offering resources youth need to become successfully employed at a “good” job. There are many elements to being successful at work; education and training being the preliminary foundations. This program provides several services covering numerous areas. They will cover areas including: building life skills, skills assessments, career exploration, individualized employment plan development, GED/HSED or occupational skills training, work readiness and experience, and counseling services (AODA, mental health, or behavioral). This program will also assist with gaining access to programs for those with disabilities and those who would like help with parenting skills, financial literacy, mentoring, and support services. Teresa works with youth while they are at LHS, and continue to work with them even after they are released back into the community. She also works with those who are not enrolled in *Expanding Opportunities*; those who would like assistance with résumé writing, job searching and/or applying to businesses, and interview skills.

Since Teresa began enrollment in April 2008, she has enrolled 28 youth. Two of those 28, however, have a different case manager. From those 26 whom she is the primary case manager to, six are currently enrolled in some sort of post secondary program; nine are currently working; and five are actively seeking their HSED completion. Besides those individuals enrolled, she has worked with an approximate 100+ youth since February of 2008.

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Plan for Improvement: A Strategy to Implement a Systematic Shift in the Behavioral Program Structure & Skill-Building Opportunities for Youth at Lincoln Hills School

Generally speaking, youth incarcerated in a juvenile correctional institution have typically experienced little success in resolving conflicts with others. Rather, their anti-social behavior and inability to regulate their emotions has negatively impacted on their interpersonal relationships. Recent brain development research suggests that cognitive development in these youth, based on their previous experiences, has been delayed and led to their poor decision making. The research further indicates cognitive growth can take place in a supportive environment; one that actively engages youth emphasizes critical thinking and offers skill-building opportunities.

Implementation Strategy:

Over the last six to eight months, Lincoln Hills School (LHS) staff studied conflict resolution models and anger management programs that could be integrated into the institution in an effort to teach youth new skills and positively affect cognitive development. During this same time, work has also been progressing on revising the

behavioral program to ensure that it is consistent, “balanced” and expects youth to succeed in education and treatment. LHS has now reached the point where the following three initiatives can be implemented.

Behavior Programs:

New institution-wide behavior programs will begin in general population living units (except for Hughes) and in school, effective March 1, 2009. These programs will incorporate a balanced approach that is progressive and balances incentives with disincentives. Changes to the behavior programming in security living units will follow.

Anger Management:

LHS will implement two anger management programs. One program (*The Real Deal*) will be used with all youth throughout the institution. The other program (*CALM*) will focus on those youth needing more intensive attention. *CALM* will begin the end of March and *The Real Deal* will similarly be implemented in the Reception Program.

Conflict Resolution:

LHS will develop a conflict resolution model that will be integrated throughout the institution. To achieve this goal, LHS will develop a formalized conflict resolution process for youth and staff, establish a conflict resolution skill set for youth and staff and create an ongoing training program. Given the comprehensive nature of this program and the need to systematically integrate and sustain it, a one to two year period of time may be necessary to fully implement.

Summary and Vision:

The strategic implementation of these three initiatives will engage youth, challenge their decision making and offer them additional opportunities to increase their competencies. If implemented correctly, youth will learn to regulate their anger and resolve conflicts in a more pro-socially accepted manner. It also will give staff additional “tools” in working with this challenging population.

The potential impact of teaching youth to resolve conflicts through training, coaching and perhaps peer mediation not only will benefit them while incarcerated at LHS, but has the potential to teach them relevant, life long skills; skills that they can use when they return to their family, school and community.

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Juvenile Court Intake Worker Training: June 8th-12th, 2009-Eau Claire, WI

Basic Juvenile Court Intake Worker Training

June 8th-12th, 2009 in Eau Claire, WI

For registration information, contact Kim Boldon, Waukesha County DHHS at: 262.548.7336

Juvenile Information Sharing Webinar on May 20th, 2009 from 12-1 pm

State Juvenile Records Laws & Interagency Collaboration

This webinar will expand the dialogue to include Federal laws and answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding privacy laws and the sharing of juvenile and youth records.

To register online for this webinar, visit: <http://www.juvenileis.org/webinar.asp>

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Kim Killebrew Appointed to the DJC Southeast Regional Team

We are pleased to announce the addition of Kim Killebrew to the Southeast Regional team in the Division of Juvenile Corrections. Ms. Killebrew holds a B.A. degree from Concordia University in Management of Criminal Justice. She has also obtained her M.S. from the University of Wisconsin Platteville in Project Management. Ms. Killebrew is currently an Adjunct Instructor for the School of Criminal Justice at ITT Technical Institute. Ms. Killebrew serves as a Field Supervisor in the Milwaukee office; where she has already made an impact by exploring collaborative efforts with four local law enforcement agencies and the families of youth relative to securing A.W.O.L. youth. Ms. Killebrew began her new position on January 18th.

Welcome, Kim!

Jim Fuls Appointed DJC Probation & Parole Agent C

We are pleased to announce the addition of Jim Fuls will be joining the Division of Juvenile Corrections as a juvenile Probation and Parole Agent C in our Schofield Field Office. Jim's background is in the Criminal Justice field. He has a BS in Sociology/Criminal Justice from UW River Falls graduating in 1989 and has worked for 18 years in DOC. He worked briefly as a youth counselor at Sheriff's Youth Programs in Austin, MN, from 1989-1990. He was hired by Lincoln Hills School on 9/24/90 and briefly worked in the AODA unit there before becoming the Reception Center Social Worker. In December of 1993, Jim transferred into a Probation and Parole Agent position with the Division of Community Corrections focusing on a specialized sex offender caseload. Jim began his new position on March 2nd.

Jim is married and has four children that love youth hockey and soccer so he is kept very busy!

Welcome, Jim!

Shannon Fenceroy Appointed DJC Court Liaison

We are pleased to announce the addition of Shannon Fenceroy to the Southeast Region's team. Ms. Fenceroy serves as the Court Liaison at the newly named Vel R. Phillips Juvenile Justice Center in Milwaukee. After a short period of orientation and training, Ms. Fenceroy will be providing 20 hours of court coverage for the Division on a weekly basis. Ms. Fenceroy is a recent graduate of Mount Mary College with a Masters in Community Counseling. She comes with noteworthy and diverse experiences in strength-based case management, group facilitation, and court testimony, and has longstanding ties to the Milwaukee juvenile justice system.

Welcome, Shannon!

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