



Franklin County's

JPO Times

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20 Years of Youth Aid Panels in Franklin County

Since 2002, youth aid panels have been running in Franklin County. The youth aid panel (YAP) is a diversion program for first-time juvenile offenders, with the premise of the community being responsible for their youth. Panels have run in various locations within the county during this time, with Waynesboro being the most consistently active. Currently, panels are held regularly in Waynesboro and Chambersburg. Over five hundred cases have been referred to the youth aid panels in Franklin County.

On April 20, 2022, the Waynesboro panel met to celebrate the 20th anniversary of YAP. Panel members received certificates of appreciation and were recognized for the time they donate to keep the program running. Additionally, training on vapes or electronic smoking devices was held to assist panel members in keeping up with trends.

Panel members tailor contracts with each juvenile based on the offense, how they can repair any harm to the victim and/or community, and the needs

of the juvenile. They then work with the juveniles to complete the conditions of the contract. From January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021, 151 referrals were received. 90% of those who completed the panel in that time were successfully discharged.

For more information on the Franklin County Youth Aid Panel or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Dora Housekeeper, YAP Coordinator, at 717-261-3122 ext. 21217 or dhousek@franklincountypa.gov.



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Brought to you by Franklin County

Juvenile Probation

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Welcome Ciaira Brown!

Probation Officer Ciaira Brown was sworn in on June 24, 2022. Get to know more about Ciaira in the next edition of the JPO Times.

Pictured above (from left): Judge Shank, President Judge Meyers, PO Brown, Judge Krom, and Chief Ackerman

The Remuneration Fund Helps Victims and Juveniles

The remuneration fund allows juvenile offenders to earn the money to pay restitution, thus restore their victims. Over \$24,000.00 has been paid to victims since the program began in August of 2014. In 2021, ten juveniles participated in the program. This resulted in their victims being paid a total of over \$3,000.00.

Juveniles are able to earn up to \$500.00 a fiscal year, which is paid directly to their victim. The juveniles are paid minimum wage for completing service projects that are supervised by probation officers. Previous service projects have included repairing and painting pavilions, painting the fish

hatchery building, splitting firewood (which is sold by the Friends of Caledonia State Park), and work at the Chambersburg Area School District. Juveniles, especially younger juveniles, benefit from participating in the remuneration fund as they earn money for restitution which allows them to complete supervision requirements in a timely manner and they may learn additional skills while completing service projects.

Victims are required to complete a W9 prior to the juvenile participating in the program. This is to maintain appropriate fiscal management of the funds. Victims benefit from

the remuneration fund as they receive restitution payments in a timely manner, and possibly receive the full restitution owed quicker.

This program helps meet the balanced and restorative justice principles of accountability and competency development, as juveniles are held accountable by earning restitution that is paid to the victims of their crimes and juveniles can learn skills or competencies at the same time. Most of this work occurs during the summer, as school is closed for the summer. The goal for this summer is that \$5,000.00 will be earned and paid to victims.

PO Spotlight: Tara Whitsel

Where are you from?
Three Springs, PA

What degrees do you hold and where from?
Bachelors from Shippensburg

Why did you choose to work in juvenile justice?
I actually wanted to work with adults, but this was my first job offer 22 years ago!

What do you enjoy the most about your job?
I love talking with juveniles and learning from them.

Which attribute of yours do you think helps you the most working with youth?
I don't judge the juveniles or the families. I treat them like any other person and I try to put myself in their shoes.

What goals would you like to accomplish in the next five years?

I don't really have any goals. I really enjoy my life exactly the way it is and don't see a need for any major changes.

What do you like to do for fun?
I enjoy camping, skiing, kayaking, riding four wheelers and spending time with friends and family.

Do you have any pets?
I have an 8 year old mix breed dog named Cappy.

What is something your coworkers would be surprised to learn about you?
I am a certified Youth ATV safety instructor. I also have my school bus license.



The Handprints of Crime Can Last a Lifetime

Crime Victims' Rights Week was honored in Franklin County by having juvenile's under supervision write down impactful statements received on victim impact statements. The statements were placed on hands and then hung up at the administrative complex of Franklin County. This was to show how crime affects victims and to raise awareness for victims and what they go through when a crime is committed against them.

JJSES Spotlight: Continuous Quality Improvement Update

You may be wondering what Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) is, and simply it is the evaluation of how well the department has done its work with particular attention being given to evidence-based practices established by the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). While the juvenile justice system does well at reporting what has been done, there is always room for growth regarding how well things are done, especially in regards to the implementation of evidence-based practices. In addition to developing protocols and practices to support various JJSES activities, CQI includes

safeguarding that the protocols and practices are followed.

In Franklin County, CQI has included updating policies to include safeguards and a booster process for relevant policies, including motivational interviewing and Youth Level of Service (YLS) policies. YLS Master Trainers, Motivational Interviewing coaches, Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) coaches, and case plan coaches work to ensure probation officers are using these tools effectively. This is done by reviewing the work completed by probation officers or listening to audio recordings of meetings probation

officers held with offenders, when the offender and their parent/guardian have given permission for meetings to be recorded. Probation officers then receive feedback to assist them as they transfer the skills learned into practice. Additionally, booster trainings are held yearly.

Data from the feedback tools is collected and analyzed by the CQI Coordinator. This data will be used to help determine which areas to focus on in the booster trainings, to determine if additional training is needed, and to ensure that tools are being used properly. The CQI committee continues to work on refining the process of collecting and analyzing data.

Day of Service Held

On April 18, 2022 the Juvenile Probation Department held a day of service. Multiple projects were completed or worked on as many schools were closed for in-service activities. One group worked on the Bike Project, by disassembling bikes to be used for parts or recycling. Salvageable parts will be used to repair other bikes as part of the project. Another small

group assembled the hands for the Crime Victims' Rights Week display. The third group split wood and stacked it at Caledonia State Park. The wood will be sold at the campground with the money benefitting the Friends of Caledonia State Park. This group continued to work, even when it began to snow!

