



Franklin County's

# JPO Times

Volume 22 Issue 3

## Detention Bed Shortage Affecting Franklin County

Juvenile probation officers have been struggling to find detention beds when needed. The decision to remove a juvenile offender from their home is not one that is taken lightly and is often done to protect the community and ensure a juvenile offender will appear for their hearings. The use of the Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PADRAI) and the detention standards are used to determine if someone should be removed from the

community. However the potential need for a detention bed does not ensure one may be available.

According to a report from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), as of November 15, 2021 only fourteen facilities in the state provided secure detention. Seven of those facilities contracted exclusively with six counties, leaving the remaining sixty-one counties to vie for beds at the remaining seven facilities. The seven

facilities without an exclusive contract account for one hundred eighty-eight beds, of which one hundred thirty-five are staffed.

Juvenile probation officers in Franklin County traveled a median distance of one hundred sixty-six miles for out-of-county admissions based on the report from JCJC. The need to travel for out-of-county admissions may increase due to the closure of the Cornell Abraxas Youth Center in South Mountain. Due to a lack of available beds, probation officers have spent more time calling to attempt find a bed and utilize alternatives to detention more frequently. Shelter care is the most restrictive alternative to detention. As the Children's Aid Society and Abraxas Youth Center are the only shelter care facilities within Franklin County, the need for travel to place a juvenile and/or the use of other alternatives to detention may rise.

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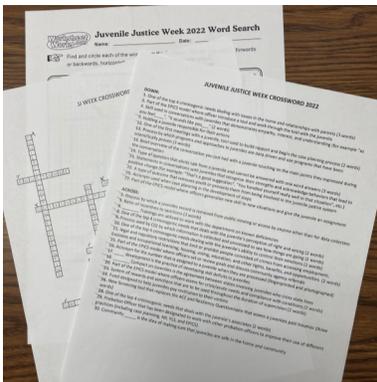


Juvenile Probation participated in Trunk or Treat along with over 20 other agencies. It is estimated that 2,800 kids and their families attended.

## Meritorious Service Award Presented to Dr. Eaton

Dr. Kimberly Eaton was awarded the Meritorious Service Award by the Juvenile Court Judges Commission (JCJC) at their annual conference on November 3, 2022. Those nominated to receive this award must be a volunteer dedicated to furthering the development of at-risk or delinquent youth. Dr. Eaton has been serving as a volunteer with the Franklin County Youth Aid Panels in Waynesboro since 2004. She is attributed with the successfully keeping Waynesboro's panel running by recruiting other community members to volunteer, coordinating the schedule for the panel, and mentoring youth involved.

The Franklin County Youth Aid Panels have been active since 2002. Between 2002 and 2022, 229 cases were referred to Waynesboro's panel and 77% of those successfully completed the panel. Cases were referred by the Magisterial District Judges and the probation department. Without the hard work of Dr. Eaton, the panel would not have been able to keep these youth from formally entering the juvenile justice system.



## Juvenile Justice Week 2022

The Franklin County Juvenile Probation Department celebrated Juvenile Justice Week during the first week in October. The activities committee planned food for each day, games, and a gift card giveaway. The week allowed time for staff to get to know each other better over meals and test that knowledge over office trivia. It was determined that our department knows each other well, as it took multiple tie-breakers to determine a winning team.

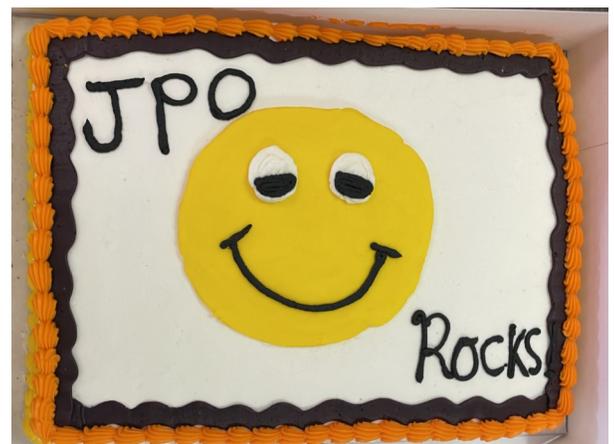
The quality assurance/continuation quality improvement committee assisted on Wednesday with booster trainings

on YLS, PaDRAI (Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument), motivational interviewing, and EPICS (Effective Practices In Community Supervision). This training helps ensure that probation officers and supervisors remain up-to-date on changes to tools used and that all are using the tools in the same way.

The Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year was announced, and Brian Kaspick was awarded the honor. Fellow officers commended Brian for being the "go to" person when things may go bad and his knowledge of the electronic monitoring equipment.



Above: Judge Krom, PO of the Year Kaspick, Deputy Chief Mackley, Chief Ackerman. Left: juvenile justice week crossword and word search. Right: cake that was provided by Judge Krom and Judge Shank for the probation office, along with gifts for the daily drawings.



## PO Spotlight: Ciaira Brown

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### Where are you from?

King of Prussia, PA

### What degrees do you hold and where from?

I have a B.A. in Political Science from Shippensburg University, and am currently pursuing my Master's degree in Criminal Justice at Shippensburg University.

### Why did you choose to work in juvenile justice?

I chose to work in juvenile justice because I think it's important to allow someone so young to rehabilitate instead of just giving up on them and sending them to a facility. Being able to help rehabilitate and keep them out of trouble is what makes me happy. Some things you aren't able to come back from but the resources the juvenile justice system offers will allow kids to still have a future and be held accountable for their actions.

### What do you enjoy the most about your job?

I enjoy everything about my job. In the office, I love that the people I work with are so welcoming and helpful whenever I have a question or may be confused about something. I also enjoy a healthy work environment. It makes coming to work easy!

I also love helping juveniles grow from their mistakes. Watching them take accountability and make changes they need to make to grow is amazing and I am glad I can be a part of that change.

### Which attribute of yours do you think helps you the most working with youth?

I am extremely patient and I think working with youth we go through a lot of trial and error until we find something that works for them

and sometimes that takes time. I am also creative which also helps when working with youth.

### What goals would you like to accomplish in the next five years? (professional or personal)

Professionally, I would like to obtain a J.D. degree.

### What do you like to do for fun?

I like to go to the gym, go shopping, go to sports games, and I like to take my dogs to the dog park and on long walks.

### Do you have any pets?

I have two dogs, Lily & Lollipop (Lolly).

### What is something your coworkers would be surprised to learn about you?

I played lacrosse for 4 years.

## JJSES Spotlight: Motivational Interviewing Coaches' Forum Held

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The Motivational Interviewing Committee of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy Leadership Team hosted the fifth Motivational Interviewing (MI) Coaches' Forum on October 12, 2022. Forty-nine coaches, including three from Franklin County, from twenty-seven counties attended the forum in State College. The main purpose of the forum was to standardize the use of MI in the PA juvenile justice system.

The committee partnered with

Michael Clark, a nationally recognized MI trainer and the Director of the Michigan-based Center for Strength-Based Strategies; Marilyn Stein, a long-time MI trainer and owner of MSG Consulting; and Dr. Kelly Waltman, author, organizational leadership trainer, and owner of SLR Leadership Consulting. Large group discussion and activities were held to allow MI coaches from across the state to network and exchange ideas. MI implementation, consistency in

quality assurance mechanisms, and coaching fundamentals were key topics for the day.

The biggest takeaway from the perspective of Franklin County's MI coaches was to give good feedback when coaching others. This is important as good feedback will help them to improve their use of MI. Another takeaway is that everyone sees things differently and this does not mean the other person is wrong. This led to discussion on perspectives.

## PO Spotlight: Thomas McGraw

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### Where are you from?

York, PA

### What degrees do you hold and where from?

Bachelors in Science for Criminal Justice - Shippensburg University

### Why did you choose to work in juvenile justice?

While taking classes at Ship, I decided to take an elective class of Juvenile Justice. The class was very interesting and peaked my interest in the subject and field. My professor was also very good and got me thinking about a career as a juvenile PO after college. I also come from a family of educators and I think if I wasn't a CRJ major I would of majored in education. I enjoy working with kids and trying to be a positive role model for them.

### What do you enjoy the most about your job?

I haven't been on the job long but from what I have seen I really enjoy the community engagement part of the job. I enjoy going out on house calls or going to the schools and meeting with clients and parents. Also the factor of not

knowing what situation you might walk into and being able to use the skills and training to deal with the situation.

### Which attribute of yours do you think helps you the most working with youth?

I think being young in this career is an attribute that might at times seem like a downside, but can also help me relate more to the clients that we deal with. I myself went through the same issue of having to do school online and talked to my mom who is a teacher about the struggles that online school during the pandemic caused. I think that having that knowledge and how to return back to normal school is important as many of these kids are lacking education or fell behind during the pandemic. I also feel as though I get along well with others and new people and find it easy to build a rapport with them. I believe this is a skill that will become very important as I start to get cases of my own.

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

I always strive to be successful in whatever I do and I plan on continuing that into this job. I don't know what roles or responsibilities are in store for me but I look forward to the task and plan on doing them to the best of my abilities. I also hope to eventually go back to school and get my M.S. in CRJ and advance my career possibilities further.

### What do you like to do for fun?

I love to work out and play team or recreational sports. I also like to disc golf during the warmer months. I'm also big into video games and building my computer to the highest specs.

### Do you have any pets?

I do not

### What is something your coworkers would be surprised to learn about you?

I'm certified to drive a bus, I've fired just about every different type of weapon you can think of, and I can touch my tongue to my nose.

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## Back To School Shopping

On August 2, eighteen kids from nine families were able to get new clothes and shoes for school. Each kid was able to spend \$100 on clothing, undergarments, or shoes at Target. Families in need were identified by probation officers, and all the school-aged children in the home were eligible.

This event was possible due the generosity of the Exchange

Club of Chambersburg. They worked with the juvenile probation department and children and youth to identify families in need. Part of the mission of the Exchange Club of Chambersburg is to combat child abuse and neglect, and they have been in existence for over 35 years.



Pictured from left: Judge Krom, PO McGraw, Chief Ackerman, Judge Shank