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Center for
Community Leadership
of Berks County

**2005
BERKS COUNTY
FORUMS ON JUVENILE CRIME**

*For Municipal, School, and Police Officials
and
Community Representatives and Residents*

FORUM I: *Juvenile Crime Trends and Root Causes*
Saturday, March 5, 2005 - Wyomissing High School



FORUM II: *Recognizing and Understanding Juvenile Crimes*
Saturday, March 19, 2005 - Governor Mifflin High School



**FORUM III: *Resources Available and Successful Initiatives
for Dealing with Juvenile Crimes***
Saturday, April 9, 2005 - Exeter High School



**FORUM IV: *Developing an Action Plan:
Connecting Youth with Resources***
Saturday, April 30, 2005 - Muhlenberg High School



All Sessions Begin at 9:00 AM (Registration at 8:30 AM)
Ending Times Varies (See Brochure)

Sponsored by the Berks County Commissioners

Co-Sponsors:

Berks County Crime Alert	Berks County Youth Center
Berks County District Attorney's Office	Center for Community Leadership
Berks County Intermediate Unit	City of Reading
Berks County Juvenile Probation Office	Community Prevention Partnership
Berks County MH/MR Program	Council on Chemical Abuse
Berks County Police Chiefs Association	United Way of Berks County
Berks County Sheriff's Office	

Objectives of the Forums

The Forums will provide an opportunity for the participants –

- to become familiar with recent trends in and root causes of juvenile crime
- to obtain information for recognizing and understanding major juvenile crimes
- to learn about services and programs available to prevent juvenile crime and/or assist juvenile offenders in modifying their behavior, and
- to develop a local action plan for connecting youth with appropriate resources.

Who Should Attend?

Municipal and school officials, law enforcement officers, community representatives and local residents concerned about recent trends in juvenile crime within the school setting and local communities.

While all interested persons are invited to attend, participants are encouraged to invite other people from their community to participate as a team that includes individuals from the various backgrounds identified above.

Must People Attend All Four Sessions?

No. People may attend as many sessions as their schedules allow. Attendance at all four sessions will provide participants with a comprehensive perspective on the issues but there is no requirement to attend all the sessions.

The Desired Outcome – An Action Plan

The first three sessions will assist individuals in becoming more knowledgeable about juvenile crime trends, causes, and behaviors as well resources available and successful initiatives for addressing juvenile crime.

The fourth session will be devoted to assisting participants in applying the information through the development of action plans for local communities.

Registration Fee

There is no registration fee for participation in the forums but pre-registration is required. Please complete the registration form included in this brochure.

Registration Information

Registration Confirmation: All program registrants will receive confirmation of their registration by e-mail, fax, or mail.

Emergency Cancellations: In the event that emergency cancellation of any program becomes necessary, an advisory will be broadcasted on AM Radio Station WEEU, and will be recorded on John Kramer’s voice mail, which may be accessed at (610) 921-7246.

For More Information: Please contact Kelly Yanos at (610) 929-6503 or kyanos@alb.edu.

Please return your registration form to—
Center for Community Leadership, c/o Albright College
P.O. Box 15234, Reading, PA 19612-5234

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Municipality/Organization: _____

School District: _____

Position: _____

Phone: _____ Fax _____

E-mail: _____

I would like to register for the following program(s)

- Forum I: *Juvenile Crime Trends and Root Causes*
- Forum II: *Recognizing and Understanding Juvenile Crimes*
- Forum III: *Resources Available and Successful Initiatives for Dealing with Juvenile Crimes*

Note: Forum III registrants, pick one from the following:

- Community Involvement Through Community Youth Aid Panels
- Successful After School Programs
- Providing Role Models through Mentoring Programs
- Prevention - Youth Leading the Way
- Forum IV: *Developing an Action Plan: Connecting Youth with Resources*
- Please send me directions to the meeting facility.**

Trainees are admitted to workshops without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, political affiliation, national origin or disability.

◆ **Prevention - Youth Leading the Way**

This workshop will describe “peer to peer” prevention programs that encourage youth to lead lifestyles free of violence, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

- 10:40 – 10:55 AM: Break
- 10:55 - 12:10 PM: Panel Discussion on Successful Cooperative Initiatives
- *Effective School/Police/Community Working Relationships at Fleetwood High School*
 - *Strengthening Communication through Youth Involvement: Antietam and Exeter School Districts and Berks County Crime Alert*
 - *Operation Night Light: A Partnership between Local Law Enforcement and Juvenile Probation*
- 12:10 – 12:30 PM: Preparing to Develop Your Action Plan in Session IV

Forum IV
***Developing an Action Plan:
Connecting Youth with Resources***

Saturday, April 30, 2005 **Muhlenberg High School**
9:00 AM to 12:15 PM Sharp Ave. & Frances Str., Laureldale

This session will focus on the participants’ development of local action plans for connecting youth with appropriate resources. A model format will be shared that will enable the participants to incorporate the information from the previous sessions into a plan for future action.

Agenda

- 8:30 – 9:00 AM: Registration
- 9:00 – 9:20 AM: Welcome and Overview of Sessions I, II, and III and the Program Series
- 9:20 – 9:35 AM: Review the Format for the Local Action Plans
- 9:35 – 11:15 AM: Development of Local Action Plans
- 11:15 – 12:00 Noon: Sharing the Highlights of the Action Plans
- 12:00 – 12:15 PM: Next Steps and Assistance Available

Forum I
Juvenile Crime Trends and Root Causes

Saturday, March 5, 2005 **Wyomissing Area High School**
9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon 630 Evans Ave., Wyomissing

This session will focus on trends in juvenile crime, including such issues as the types of crimes, location of juvenile crime throughout the county, ages of juveniles offenders, etc. The speakers also will address the key root causes affecting juvenile behavior.

Agenda

- 8:30 – 9:00 AM: Registration
- 9:00 – 9:15 AM: Welcome and Introductions
- 9:15 – 9:45 AM: Keynote Address: “The Realities of Juvenile Crime in the 21st Century”
Speaker: *Judge Scott E. Lash*
- 9:45 – 10:45 AM: “Recent Trends in Juvenile Crime”
Speakers: *Kim Epler
Berks County Juvenile Probation Office
Dean Patton, District Justice
Charles Broad, Chief
City of Reading Police Department*
- 10:45 – 11:00 AM: Break
- 11:00 - 12:00 Noon: “Examining the Root Causes of Juvenile Crime”
Speakers: *Dr. Thomas Baker, Psychologist
John Karahota, Guidance Counselor
Conrad Weiser School District*

Forum II

Recognizing and Understanding Juvenile Crimes

Saturday, March 19, 2005

Governor Mifflin High School

9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

10 South Waverly Street, Shillington

This session will discuss the major juvenile crimes – drugs, violence, gangs – and assist the participants in recognizing and understanding these behaviors. Other crimes related to these activities, such as burglary, theft, assault, etc. also will be part of this discussion.

Agenda

- 8:30 – 9:00 AM: Registration
- 9:00 – 9:20 AM: Welcome & Overview of Session 1 and Program Series
- 9:20 – 10:00 AM: “Understanding Changes in Drugs and Alcohol Use”
Speaker: *Greg Pease, Berks County District Attorney’s Office*
- 10:00 – 10:15 AM: Break
- 10:15 - 11:00 AM: “Gang Activity - What to Look For”
Speaker: *Sgt. Steve Powell, City of Reading Police Department*
- 11:00 – 12:00 Noon: “Dialogue with a Panel of Experts”
Moderator: *Greg Pease
Berks County District Attorney’s Office*
Speakers: *Julie Kirlin
Berks County Juvenile Probation Office
John McCormack
Berks County Youth Center
Sgt. Steve Powell
City of Reading Police Department
Donald Stewart, Detective
Berks County District Attorney’s Office
David Haughney, Principal
Schuylkill Valley High School
Corporal Derek Bush
PA State Police*

Forum III

Resources Available and Successful Initiatives for Dealing with Juvenile Crimes

Saturday, April 9, 2005

Exeter High School

9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

201 East 37th Street, Reading

This session will address services and programs available through governmental and social service agencies, and community organizations that are designed to prevent juvenile crime and/or assist juvenile offenders in modifying their behavior. Examples of successful initiatives will be presented.

Agenda

- 8:30 – 9:00 AM: Registration
- 9:00 – 9:20 AM: Welcome & Overview of Sessions 1 & 2 and Program Series
- 9:25 – 10:40 AM: Workshops (Participants choose one of the following)
- ◆ **Community Involvement Through Community Youth Aid Panels**
Community Youth Aid Panels were developed in Berks County in 2000 as a diversionary program for juvenile offenders. This collaboration between juvenile probation, police, and community members has proven to be successful. The panels will be discussed by a group of those involved in the program including representatives from juvenile probation, a participating police department, a panelist, and a juvenile, parent, and victim who have appeared before a panel.
 - ◆ **Successful After School Programs**
Research shows that between the hours of 3-6 pm are the most likely times youth engage in negative activities. This session will focus on positive after school programs designed to give youth a safe space and supportive environment to make healthy decisions.
Representatives from Boyertown Communities That Care, the Olivet Boys and Girls Club, and the Berks County Food Bank’s Kids Café Initiative will share their successes in keeping youth off the streets.
 - ◆ **Providing Role Models through Mentoring Programs**
Formal and informal mentoring is a key success factor in helping youth to thrive and resist environmental pressures. Representatives from Big Brothers/Big Sisters, YES Mentoring, and the Wilson School District will share their programs and successes.