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The Link: Spring 2010

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SCEIS and You

In a 1975 Business Week article entitled “The Office of the Future,” George E. Pake of Xerox predicted that by 1995 “. . . there will be a TV-display terminal with keyboard sitting on [my] desk. I’ll be able to call up documents from my files on the screen, or by pressing a button. I can get my mail or any messages. I don’t know how much hard copy I’ll want in this world.” His idea of a “paperless office” seemed fantastical in 1975. And for decades thereafter, paper continued to play a vital role in most offices. But in the 21st century, with computers becoming a “must-have” part of our lives, Pate’s vision of the truly paperless office is beginning to become a reality, even here at DJJ.

**THE
LINK**

A NEWSLETTER
FOR DJJ
EMPLOYEES

As you should know by now, our state government is preparing to launch a new records system on June 2nd called the “South Carolina Enterprise Information System” (SCEIS). This new system, designed to replace everything from paper pay stubs

to traditional requisition forms, is more than just a way for the government to eliminate traditional forms and procedures. It gives employees and managers more power than ever. Employees will be able to update their Human Resources information online. We will now be able to do things like change our addresses, update our direct deposit information, view our pay stubs, search a statewide employee directory, and view an accounting of leave time—all from the comfort of our offices or home computers.

“It’s really a change in the way we do a lot of things,” said DJJ Deputy Director of

Administrative Services Randy Grant. “But it’s something we had to do. The last time we made a major system change was in the early 1970’s, and the system we have just couldn’t be maintained anymore.”

Of course, as with all new systems, there is a downside. The SCEIS system may ultimately empower employees and modernize a lot of old-fashioned procedures, but it also requires a great deal of training and employee adjustment—leading to some frustration and confusion.



“Right now we’re sending out training DVD’s to persons whose jobs will not allow them to attend training in person and encouraging people to take the in-person and online SCEIS training,” said Grant. “But there are still a lot of kinks to work out, as there is in any new system of this size. There have been some system glitches, and it was really rough at first. A lot of it was just getting used to doing things a new way. But these are the kinds of issues we’re working on now. I think that within a few years, most of these problems will have been forgotten and SCEIS will be fully integrated into the way we do business here at DJJ.”

One of the worries that many managers initially had was the time involved in the training. “They told me it was going to be something like 60 hours of training, just to do some time records,”

said one employee. But many of these fears turned out to be unfounded. "We've reduced the amount of manager training considerably, and we've acknowledged that only certain specialized managers need anything intensive. Most managers will only be looking at a few short modules," said Grant.

So it may be a while yet before DJJ fully integrates SCEIS into every aspect of the agency. And, we're certainly a long way from leaving paper behind. But the day may come yet when paper forms and documentation become a part of the distant past. George Pate may have just been a few decades off.

Judge Byars Wins National Afterschool Alliance Award



On April 21st, the Afterschool Alliance honored Judge Byars for his support for afterschool programs at their annual "Breakfast of Champions," a gala event in Washington, D.C. that featured performances by Hootie and the Blowfish lead guitarist (and USC alumnus) Mark Bryan and afterschool youth. Judge Byars was one of just 10 individuals from around the country honored at the "Breakfast" for supporting and working on behalf of afterschool programs. The South Carolina Afterschool Alliance nominated him for the honor.

Judge Byars has been instrumental in establishing simple and innovative approaches to keeping non-violent youth ages 12 to 17 from entering the juvenile justice system. Through a partnership with the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus, he created the Teen After-School Centers (TASC) program in 2004. The South Carolina Afterschool Alliance, the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Friends

of Juvenile Justice, a non-profit organization that supports DJJ and at-risk youth, became partners in the initiative soon after its inception. TASC has served more than 2,070 youth over the years, helping to divert a large number of young people away from the juvenile justice system. "Judge Byars has been a staunch supporter of afterschool and extended day programs in South Carolina by way of creating TASC sites throughout the state," said Zelda Waymer, executive director of the South Carolina Afterschool Alliance. "There are currently 25 TASC sites throughout the state."

The "Breakfast of Champions" was part of the ninth annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*, sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance, which brings together hundreds of parents, educators, children, program directors and advocates from around the country for a series of events and meetings with Members of Congress. It was held this year in conjunction with "Be the Change," the National AfterSchool Association's annual convention. At the events, afterschool advocates urged Congress to safeguard federal funding for these programs and rejected Administration proposals to cut funding by \$13 million in Fiscal Year 2011 and to allow nonafterschool programs to compete for federal afterschool dollars.

BRRC "Cougar" Wins Scholarship

Brandon J., a DJJ youth and former player for the Broad River Road Complex "Cougars" has received an athletic scholarship to attend Allen University to play basketball this Fall. Brandon, a small forward and the Cougars "Most Valuable Player," averaged 21 rebounds and 17 points a game for the season. "His attitude changed completely once he joined the team," said Cougars coach Tyrone Brown. "He went from having a negative attitude and being a shy kid to being a well-mannered team leader with a bright future." Brandon was



recently released from DJJ and is back home now. He has also received interest from other colleges and universities, including Morris College.

The BRRC Cougars were established in 2006 as part of an effort to give DJJ youth a chance to participate in organized athletics. The team plays in the Greater Midlands Basketball Association league and had a 14-1 season this year, placing third in the league's championship tournament.

DJJ Dedicates Victims Memory Garden



On April 26th, DJJ and the Friends of Juvenile Justice (FJJ), in observance of National Victims' Rights Week, dedicated the newly landscaped BRRC "Memory Garden" to victims of crime in South Carolina. This spacious and beautiful garden, located outside of DJJ's Bill Rogers Community Center, has been in the development stages since the opening of the Center in 2008. A cascading water fountain serves as the focal point for the garden and is where a commemorative marker has been placed honoring crime victims.

At the dedication ceremony, representatives from DJJ and FJJ spoke, as well as crime victim Dale Wells, who told his own story of recovery, rebirth, and hope after being the victim of a brutal crime.

DJJ's Favorite Dog



If you catch sight of a dog inside a DJJ facility, odds are that this isn't just some pet or stray that wandered in. It's probably DJJ's own drug-sniffing dog, Marko. Though commonly mistaken for a German Sheppard, Marko is actually a Belgian Malinois, a breed known for its hard-working and protective nature. The breed is commonly used as a police dog across the U.S. and is now the only dog used by the U.S. Secret Service.

"Marko was trained in Germany to sniff out drugs and he's nationally certified in the U.S. in narcotics detection," notes his handler, DJJ K-9 Investigator Ray Warren. "He's been with us for 6 years now and in that time he's helped us search our DJJ facilities countless times." "Of course, he's also quite friendly and everyone who meets him falls in love with him" adds Warren. "Well, almost everyone..."

In addition to their duties in DJJ facilities statewide, Marko and Ray also travel around to public schools and to events throughout South Carolina to help out with drug prevention programs. "The children love Marko," says Warren. "He's a great ambassador for the agency and a way to get our positive message across and let kids know that we're not the bad guys."

Marko is not only a hard-working dog, he's also a very skilled one. "He can smell drugs even if they're in a sealed container like a refrigerator," says Warren. "He can detect in heavy winds. He can detect from two



South Carolina
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JUVENILE JUSTICE

rooms away. He's amazing." Warren also noted that Marko has never once had a false positive. "If he says there are drugs there, they are there."

So if you see Marko at one of the agency's facilities or at an event, be sure to give him a big thanks for his work. "He loves the attention," adds Warren.

DJJ Volunteers Making a Difference

Volunteers in the Young Craftsmen Program at the Department of Juvenile Justice were chosen to receive the Governor's Volunteer Group of the Year award, presented by the South Carolina Association of Volunteer Administrators. The volunteers were honored for their work during a luncheon on April 26. Volunteers in this program work with children at DJJ four days each week, teaching young men construction skills. Within the program, the children use their skills to build a variety of items including Adirondack chairs, picnic tables, and other wooden craft items. Donations for the items are used to help cover the cost of GEDs and to pay victim restitution.

Butterfly Project Raises Money



As one of their quarterly Community Service Projects, the girls residing in Willow Lane Transition House recently raised \$535 for the Palmetto Health Children's Hospital by selling their own special "butterflies." For a \$1 donation to the Butterfly Project, donors' names were printed on a paper butterfly decorated by the girls, which were then displayed on bulletin boards throughout the Willow Lane Campus. The girls would like to thank all of those who donated to this worthy cause.

DJJ School District Wins SCETV Award

The DJJ school district recently won an award for the highest utilization of ETV's "StreamlineSC" internet video-on-demand

resources among state-supported schools during this school year. ETV stated that, "This is a remarkable achievement in that it demonstrates your teachers' willingness to place the best educational resources in the hands of your students." StreamlineSC Internet video-on-demand is a free service to the user that ETV provides and pays for. Four school district staff members attended the luncheon on March 17, 2010 in honor of the DJJ school district.

Promotions, Announcements

Jennifer Clarke has been named the Spartanburg County Director. Jennifer has been with DJJ for approximately 12 years. She began as a probation officer in Greenville, and was later promoted to Probation Supervisor. She had been the Laurens County Director since 2008.

Tomiko Williams has been appointed as the Greenville County Office Interim Director. Williams was formerly an intake supervisor in the county office.

Gayle Ramsey has been named Program Facilitator for the BRRRC sewing and tile class. Before coming to DJJ two years ago, she had over 20 years of experience as a seamstress and three years experience in tile design.

Cpl. Vanessa Hardy was recently named the Birchwood Campus Officer of the Quarter.

DJJ School District Graduation is set for July 28th at 2 p.m. in the Birchwood Auditorium. DJJ's school district serves students from Birchwood School, Willow Lane School, and satellite programs at DJJ facilities.

