

# Juvenile Detention and Shelter Best Practices Award Official Entry Form

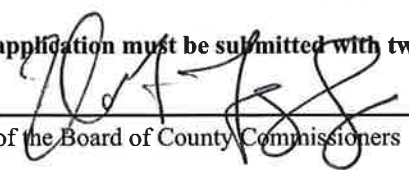
**Attach the form to all entries.** Entrants must complete all sections for the entry to be considered complete. A copy of this official entry is available electronically at [www.pacounties.org](http://www.pacounties.org).

County Name Bucks County Class 2-A  
Address 1750 Easton Rd City Doylestown Zip 18901  
Contact Name Ted Rice Title Director  
Department Youth Center Phone (215) 340-8300  
Fax (215) 340-8354 E-mail Tirice@co.bucks.pa.us

## PROJECT INFORMATION

Title Child Accountability Program Start Date April 2009

**Each application must be submitted with two signatures.** Place appropriate signatures on two of the lines below:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of the Board of County Commissioners

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Facility Chief Executive Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Oversight Board (where applicable)

## PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Attach a separate program narrative document to the form that addresses each of the following subject areas, and does so in the order presented below. **Entries must be typed in a Word-document, Times New Roman, 10-point type.**

**A separate program narrative document must be attached to this form that addresses each of the following subject areas, and does so in the order presented below.**

- A description of the identified need and the background including what programs were in place before the current project, if any, and how it led to this effort.
- A description of the project, including any evidenced-based approaches to divert individuals from further penetration into the juvenile or adult justice system, community involvement strategies, formation of stakeholder groups, county-wide planning strategies, etc.
- A description of expectations and measurable goals, including supporting data.
- A brief description of how the project was evaluated and any lessons learned.
- A brief description of the community, including a description of key stakeholders, organizations, and county departments that were involved in the project.
- A description of how the activities described in a project started in the past were altered or will be continued based on experience, including plans for leveraging additional resources.
- A description of any costs associated with the project and how it was funded; cost savings, if any, and any change in community acceptance, reductions in insurance costs, or inspection improvements that resulted from the program.

## DATA ELEMENTS

Award submissions will receive consideration for outcomes or best practices supported by data. Please attach any supporting data to demonstrate the impact of the project in cost or population outcomes, or other data to demonstrate the considerations utilized in determining the scope or design of the project.

Please attach supporting documents, forms or other information that support the award entry. Entries must be typed in a Word-document, Times New Roman, 10-point type. Entries must be received by close of business on March 1, 2012. Winners will be announced during the CCAP Spring Conference, March 25 - 27, 2012.

**More information: Brinda Carroll Penyak, [bpenyak@pacounties.org](mailto:bpenyak@pacounties.org)**

JAN 30 REC'D

## **CCAP Best Practices Award Nomination – 2012 Bucks County Youth Center – Child Accountability Program (CAP)**

In an effort to provide immediate consequences for delinquent behavior and probation violations, the Child Accountability Program (CAP) was created at the Bucks County Youth Center (BCYC) in 2009. It has run continuously since then and has served over 400 juveniles. The CAP program was created by BCYC in cooperation with Bucks County Juvenile Probation and Juvenile Court Judges as an alternative to longer term out of home placements. The program holds probationers accountable by providing weekend programming including competency development classes and community service work projects. CAP Residents are court ordered to reside at BCYC from Friday afternoon till Sunday afternoon.

The CAP program is available as an option to all Bucks County Juvenile Probation Officers to use with any of their juveniles. Typically, CAP weekends are put on the probationer's disposition order so they can be used if and when a juvenile violates their probation without needing to go back before a judge. The Youth Center was able to add this program as an additional service to the courts without increasing staff. It was also created utilizing existing space at BCYC and is example of the flexible use of detention. The program is coordinated by the Deputy Director of Program and programming is delivered by the line staff whom volunteered for the program as well as by the Special Services Unit of BCYC.

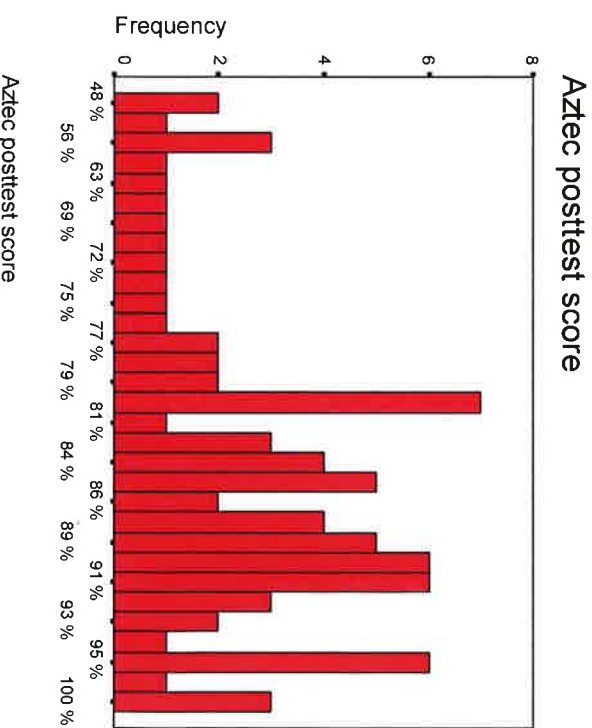
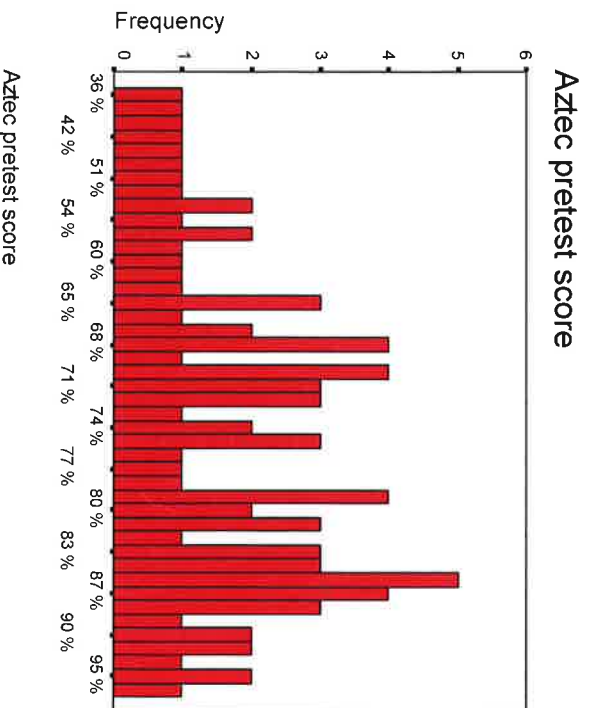
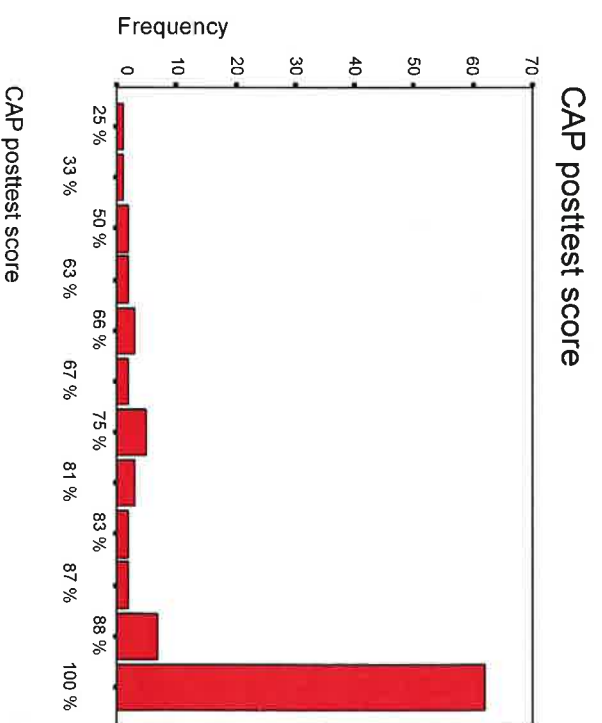
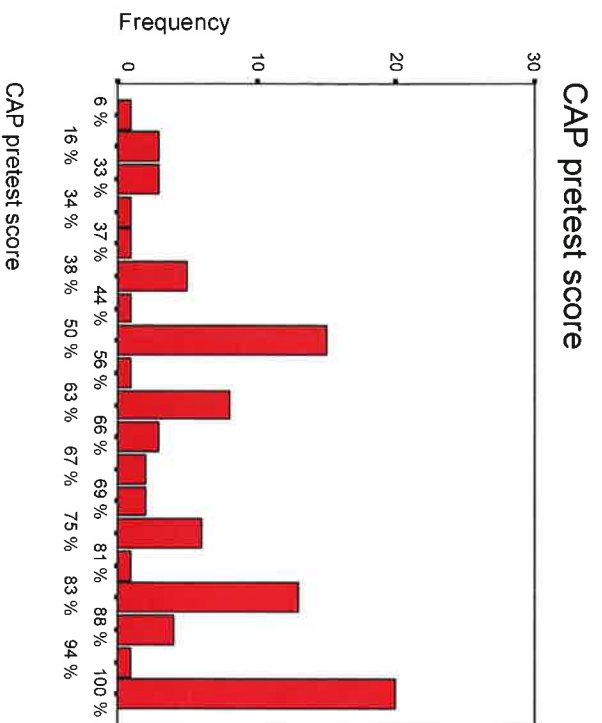
A major focus of the program is educating participants about Juvenile Justice System and Law Related Education (LRE). These curriculums, developed by BCYC staff, are used to help foster the resident's understanding of the law, legal system and the rights/responsibilities of engaged citizens. Another noteworthy class covers the topic of how to successfully complete probation. During this class staff reviews the resident's individual probation contracts and dispositional orders to coach them towards fulfilling their obligations. This can include assisting them in writing letters of apology, helping them fill out job applications and connecting them with community resources. Additionally, residents perform community service projects inside and outside of our facility during CAP weekends. Typically a resident works 4-8 hours per weekend and that time is credited to their probation requirement.

In an effort to assure quality outcome measurements, BCYC collects data in 21 separate areas for CAP residents. These data elements include pre and post testing for our Law Related Education and Aztec curriculums. On average, CAP residents have shown a 9.66% improvement rate on the Aztec program and a 22.04% improvement rate on the LRE curriculum. In addition to this objective data, the program has been deemed a tremendous success by the Juvenile Probation Department and the Judges that ultimately order the residents to the program. Referrals to the program have increased each year and have resulted in the program being offered every weekend after starting out as every other weekend. We are extremely proud to offer a program that provides an additional dispositional option for the courts and also utilizes the talents of BCYC staff members. Most importantly, we believe the CAP program is not only teaching the residents accountability but it is also educating them to be more productive citizens.

In 2011, another education component was implemented to the CAP program. The Aztec Learning System is a computer-based software program that teaches residents real-life academic and workforce skills. During CAP weekends, residents typically spend 2-4 hours completing individualized assessment and learning modules in subjects that are customized to their needs. This can include GED testing, academic subjects, vocations, and life skills topics.

In 2012, BCYC will look to work with more County agencies such as Neshaminy Manor (the County operated retirement home) and the Parks Department as we look to provide more educational community service offerings for the residents. BCYC will also look to incorporate diversified enrichment presentations for residents who are court ordered to multiple weekends in the program.

The CAP program is a demonstration of the flexible use of juvenile detention. It is a self sustained program. There is no additional staff assigned to the program or for floor coverage. The program uses existing building resources and materials during program operations. The program benefit is that it allows the juvenile to return back to school and work on Monday thus keeping them rooted in the community. The idea of community treatment is proven, effective evidenced based practice. The program is value oriented in that it provides the Courts with an option to long term placement. The program also provides an opportunity for staff to remain engaged and challenged with the population we serve on a day to day basis.



\*Note: **Data for the Child Accountability Program from 2011 (N=167)**. The mean score obtained on the CAP pretest was 69.16% and the mean score obtained on the CAP posttest was 91.20% which represents a 22.04% increase with Law Related Education. The mean scored obtained on the Aztec Program pretest was 73.32% and the mean score obtained on the Aztec Program posttest was 82.98% which represents a 9.66% increase by residents with the Aztec Program.

**DIRECTIONS**

**GPS Coordinates:**

N40°16.58538, W075°7.65702

**From the PA Turnpike:**

Take the PA turnpike to exit 343 (Willow Grove, formally exit 27). Follow Route 611 north until crossing Almshouse Road (approximately 7 miles). Turn left at the next traffic light. Enter the complex and turn right at the stop sign. Immediately turn left; and follow the long driveway to BCYC

**From I95:**

Take 95 north to Route 132 (Street Road). Continue West on Route 132 (Street Road) to Route 611. Turn right onto Route 611 and follow Route 611 north until crossing Almshouse Road (approximately 7 miles). Turn left at the next traffic light. Enter the complex and turn right at the stop sign. Immediately turn left; and follow the long driveway to BCYC

**From Route 313:**

Take Route 313 east to Route 611 south. Continue south on Route 611 to Edison Furlong Road (there will be a Gas Station on the left). Continue south on Route 611; cross the bridge (approx. 700 feet) and merge to the access lane (far right side). Turn right into the complex and continue to bare right. Follow the long driveway to the BCYC

**From Route 202:**

Take route 202 south to route 611. Continue south on Route 611 to Edison Furlong Road (there will be a Gas Station on the left). Continue south on Route 611; cross the bridge (approx. 700 feet) and merge to the access lane (far right side). Turn right into the complex and continue to bare right. Follow the long driveway to the BCYC

**NOTES**

Multiple horizontal lines for notes.

**BUCKS COUNTY  
YOUTH CENTER**

**Child Accountability Program  
(CAP)**

1750 Easton Road  
Doylestown, PA 18901  
(215)340 8300



**Director:**  
Ted J. Rice M.S.

**Deputy Director of Program:**  
John F. Corr, M.S., C.A.C

## INTRODUCTION

The BCYC Child Accountability Program (CAP) is offered as a placement option for the Bucks County Juvenile Court for male and female juveniles on probation. The program holds children accountable for negative behavior and serves as an alternative to lengthy out-of-home placements. The program consists of a two-day stay (Friday - Sunday) at the detention center for 1-4 weekends.

## CHILD ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM

The goals of this program are to provide a consequence to the child for delinquent behavior or probation violations; and to provide life skills education and community service work to fulfill their probation requirements.

Juveniles ordered to the program receive Life Skills education, also known as Competency Development, during their stay. This includes topics under the categories of Pro-Social Skills, Independent Living, Moral Reasoning, Academic Skills and Workforce Development. They will also participate in Team Building Activities. Community Service Projects will also be implemented for residents to complete during the weekend.

Residents of the program will be separate from the general detention population and will have limited privileges during their weekend stay. A progress report will be forwarded to their Juvenile Probation Officer after each weekend stay.

## SCHEDULE

### Friday

- 4:30pm-5:00pm Arrival, intake processing
- 5:00pm-6:00pm Program overview and Juvenile Justice Presentation.
- \* Residents will receive dinner, attend Life Skills class, and complete chores and showers during the rest of the evening.

### Saturday & Sunday

Activities will include the following:

- Competency Development/Life Skills Class
- Recreation and or Team Building Activities
- Community Service Projects
- Chores
- Homework/group projects

\* Residents attending the Child Accountability Program will be released to their parent or guardian at 4:30pm on Sunday.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Child Accountability Program

- Arrive at 4:30pm for intake processing. Pick up is 4:00pm on Sunday.
- Residents may only bring school work with them. No other items permitted.
- If resident is on medication, it must be provided by the parent in its original pharmacy packaging. Medication is only dispensed as per labeling.
- A Medical Consent form must be signed by parent at or before drop off. Parents must also supply any medical insurance info for their child to BCYC.

## OTHER INFORMATION

### Phone Calls:

- Residents will be permitted one ten minute phone call to his or her parent/guardian during their weekend stay.

### Visits:

- No visitations are permitted during weekend stay.

### Clothing:

- Resident's will be issued BCYC clothing for their stay.

### Progress Report

- A progress report will be written for each resident that will be sent to their probation officer after the weekend is completed

