

# Juvenile Detention and Alternative Programs 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). Please indicate if this is a secure detention an alternative program award entry.

Owner/Contracting County Bucks County County Class 6-A  
Address 1750 Eastern Rd City Doylesville Zip 18901  
Contact Name Ted Rice Title Director  
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## PROJECT INFORMATION

Title Residential Service Unit Start Date 1998

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.

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Please attach any supporting documentation 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. Scoring will be based on factors including the entrant's description of the problem, the soundness of the approach, and success in meeting goals and objectives. Award submissions will receive consideration for outcomes or best practices supported by data.

Entries must be typed in a Word-document, Times New Roman, 10-point type. Entries must be received by close of business on February 13, 2015. Winners will be announced during the CCAP Spring Conference, March 22 - 24, 2015.

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

## Program Narrative

The Bucks County Youth Center (BCYC) is a political sub-division of the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division (court). The County of Bucks is a Class 2-A county in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with an approximate population in 2014 of 630,000 people. The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) licenses BCYC for a maximum-secure juvenile detention program, as well as a separate license to operate a public, twenty-bed, non-secure residential program known as the Residential Services Unit (RSU) serving adjudicated delinquents (offenders) determined to be in need of treatment and supervision.

The RSU was created in 1998, originally serving twelve male offenders. In creating the program the court sought to accomplish the following goals: to fill a void in the continuum of care afforded to juvenile offenders within the county, to create a juvenile justice program consistent with the Balanced Approach to Restorative Justice (BARJ), to maintain offenders in programming within the community, to increase the effectiveness of accountability and youth redemption programming by involving offenders' communities and families, to reduce the cost to the county for residential placement of adjudicated offenders, and to affect the quality and safety of residential care for offenders by having direct control and supervision of the program. Prior to the creation of the RSU there were only two residential programs in the county, providing specialized services to sexual offenders and acute substance abusers in medical model programs. The vast majority of offenders for whom residential placement was deemed necessary were sent to programs that were out-of-county, and frequently in other regions of the Commonwealth. Northampton County was the only other county providing residential services as a separate license within their traditional secure detention facility. During an era in which juvenile justice facilities were perceived as physically dangerous places for residents and staff persons and harm reduction was primacy, the RSU had a restraint rate of .197. In 2014 BCYC became the first secure detention facility in Pennsylvania to become certified for compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). In 2014 the RSU received a 100% compliance rate during its Department of Human Services (DHS) inspection.

By 2011 BCYC was experiencing declining utilization of its secure detention program consistent with state and national trends. The courts tasked BCYC with finding new uses for its facilities and resources. Working with Bucks County Juvenile Probation (BCJPO) and the Bucks County Children's Coordination Steering Committee's (CCSC) Integrated Children's Service Plan (ICSP), BCYC identified the lack of residential services for female offenders as the major deficiency in the county's continuum of care for adjudicated delinquents. In expanding the RSU, BCYC sought to re-imagine the program for both male and female residents by incorporating best practices for residential care being used throughout the Commonwealth: the use of evidence-based, data-driven, trauma competent, and gender-specific programming. Surveying the use of best practices in residential care throughout the Commonwealth was accomplished with the assistance of the Juvenile Detention Centers Association of Pennsylvania (JDCAP).

Diverting offenders from penetration into the juvenile and/or adult justice system is partly a function of proper assessment at disposition and referral, but also a function of delivering effective programming. Admission to the RSU is informed by a BCJPO referral packet that includes psychiatric and/or psychological evaluations as well as a level of service assessment using the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Index (YLS/CMI). BCYC conducts risk assessment on each admission using the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument Version 2 (Maysi-2), which we have utilized since 1999 as part of the initial Pennsylvania pilot program. The Child Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) is the primary evidence-based tool used to inform residents' individual service plans upon admission, but also program effectiveness. This scientifically validated tool assesses youths' daily functioning through eight sub-scales and for tracking changes in functioning over time. The assessment is conducted at admission, and re-assessed every three months. An aggregate report comparing initial and most recent CAFAS assessments is attached to this narrative (attachment 1). The RSU has completed the initial steps in being evaluated by BCJPO and the Evidence Based Prevention and Intervention Support Center (EPIS) for the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP). The RSU is currently involved in a pilot program investigating the incidence of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in youth offender populations.

Permeating the interventions at the RSU is a dedication to being a trauma competent program. Being trauma competent means that the RSU assumes that significant levels of physical, sexual and emotional abuse are common denominators shared by our residents. Given that assumption our program culture and interventions are intended not only to detach from the cycle of victimization, but also to reduce the symptoms associated with trauma disorders evident in our residents. The process of training staff and designing programming through the lens of trauma competency was accomplished with the assistance of Bucks County Behavioral Health Systems who provided technical assistance in the form of Dr. Gordon Hodas who at that time was the Trauma Informed Care consultant to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (now the Department of Human Services, DHS).

“Victim/Community Awareness: Establishing a Restorative Justice Community” is the central accountability curriculum delivered by staff members in the program. The curriculum was authored by William Sarbo and Valerie Bender under a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) and staff training was delivered by the Juvenile Court Judges Commission (JCJC). Restitution and meaningful community hours performed are measureable accountability goals. Each resident must accomplish a minimum of 30 hours of community service in the program. Community service projects in 2014 were accomplished in partnership with the Central Bucks Family YMCA, the Doylestown Business Community Alliance, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist Church of Doylestown, the Bucks County Fire/Police Training Center, the Bucks County Housing Group, the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) of Quakertown, Central Bucks Cares Foundation, the Network for Victims Advocacy (NOVA), and the Bucks County SPCA among others. Residents have the ability to earn the privilege to obtain part-time employment in the community which may contribute towards their requirement to pay owed restitution and fines.

Youth redemption programming at the RSU includes therapeutic, substance abuse, academic and psycho-educational curriculums. A unique partnership with Lenape Valley Foundation (LVF), the mental health base services unit for central Bucks County, allows three licensed therapists to maintain a satellite office within the RSU. Under this partnership, LVF provides cognitive-based individual, family and group therapy to residents of the RSU. LVF also provides a two-track, co-occurring disorders group for those residents with different levels of substance abuse treatment needs. Physical proximity to residents’ homes and communities allows for meaningful family therapy. Residents with acute trauma issues requiring specialized interventions receive additional therapeutic supports through our partnerships with NOVA, A Woman’s Place, and private providers with whom the court contracts. The Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 (BCIU) provides academic programming at the RSU consistent with the Central Bucks School District curriculum. Residents earn the privilege of attending community-based schools in their home school districts as part of the transition back to their homes and communities while placed. The promising approaches psycho-educational curriculums Girls Circle and Boys Council are delivered by trained RSU and LVF staff persons. Prior to release many residents transition to their homes and community through the restorative practice known as Family Group Decision Making Conferences (FGDMC) which RSU staff members were trained to deliver through the Community Service Foundation (CSF) International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP). Finally, The RSU partners with the Community Conservatory to provide residents instruction in music, art, drama and voice in the form of individual and small group lessons.

We believe that the RSU meets the award program goals of providing a needed level of care in the continuum of Bucks County’s juvenile justice system, of encouraging and enhancing family and community involvement through its proximity to the community, of using data and scientifically validated instruments to inform programming, of creating a program that is consistent with BARJ objectives and that partners with public and private allied agencies to incorporate evidence-based programming. We hope that you will consider the RSU for the 2014 Juvenile Detention and Alternative Programs Best Practices Award.

### CAFAS® Aggregate Report Comparing Initial and Most Recent Assessments

Organization : Bucks County Youth Center

Report Date : 2/9/2015 9:23:30 AM

Service Area/Program(s) : Boys(All), Girls(All)

Time Range : Start Date : 1/1/2014; End Date : 12/31/2014

Active/Inactive Status : Both

Sample size for Comparison of Initial to Most Recent Assessments: 31

Age Mean : 15 years old.

Age Range : 13 - 19 years old.

Age Grouping : 0% Preadolescent; 100% Adolescent.

Gender : 61% Male; 39% Female; 0% Unspecified.

### CAFAS® Total Score

The CAFAS Total Score is the sum of the impairment ratings for the 8 subscales for the youth. For each subscale, the rater selects the item(s) which are true for the youth, which in turn, determines the youth's level of impairment for that subscale. There are 4 levels of impairment: Severe Impairment (30), Moderate (20), Mild (10), and No or Minimal (0) Impairment. A higher score indicates greater impairment.

For this administrative report, CAFAS Total Scores are aggregated across youths and a comparison is made between the average scores for the initial and most recent assessments. A lower average score at the most recent assessment indicates a positive change. The average difference score is also calculated: a positive number indicates improvement in functioning, 0 indicates no change, and a negative number indicates greater functional impairment.

Difference Between Average CAFAS Youth Total Score for Initial and Most Recent Assessments: 55

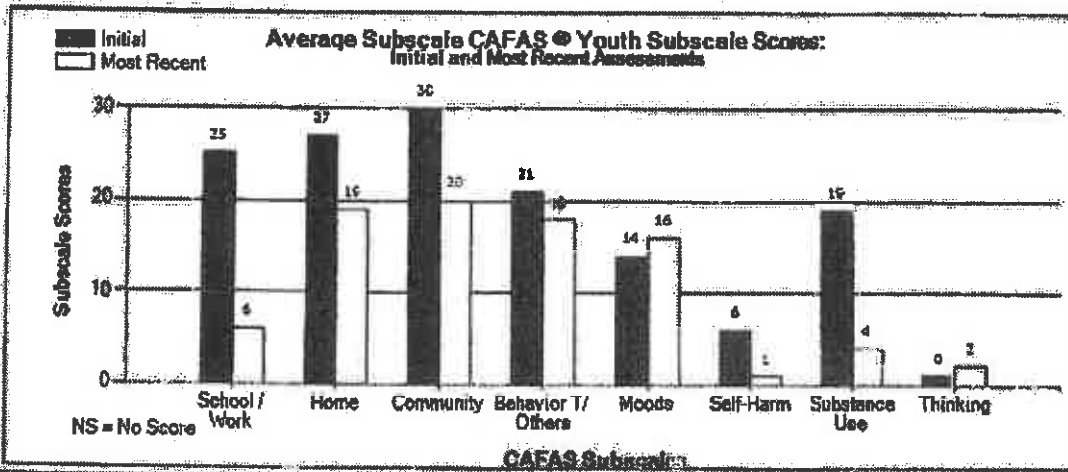
Average CAFAS Youth Total Score on Initial Assessment: 145

Average CAFAS Youth Total Score on Most Recent Assessment: 90

### CAFAS® Profile: Subscale Scores

The CAFAS subscales reflect the youth's day-to-day functioning across life domains. This chart presents a comparison of the average scores by subscale (aggregated across all clients selected) for the initial and most recent assessments.

Examination of the results by subscale highlights the needs of the youth you serve, which can be considered in program development.



## Outcome Indicators "At a Glance"

The following indicators show the percent of youth who improved on three outcome indicators, which vary in degree of ambitiousness. Not all youth would be expected to achieve success on all of these outcome indicators, depending on their

environmental circumstances and other issues related to treatment success. As an overview, the first indicator presents the percent of youth who improved on any of the three outcome indicators. For each indicator below, the number of cases excluded is given (i.e., the indicator could not be determined for the case). These cases were not included in calculating the percents for "improved" and for "not-improved". Comparisons are between each youth's initial and most recent assessment.

### Improvement on One or More Outcome Indicators

The # and % of cases who improved on at least one of 3 indicators between Initial and Most Recent CAFAS Assessments. The outcome indicators include: Meaningful and Reliable Improvement, # Severe Impairments, and Pervasive Behavioral Impairment.

Improved	30	(97%)
Not Improved	1	(3%)
Excluded	0	

### Meaningful and Reliable Improvement

The # and % of cases with an Improvement in CAFAS Total Score of 20 points or greater.

Improved	28	(90%)
Not Improved	3	(10%)
Excluded (Total score at Initial Assessment $\leq$ 20)	0	

### Severe Impairments

The # and % of youth who did not have any severe impairments at Most Recent CAFAS Assessment ("Improved") and those who still had at least 1 severe impairment at Most Recent Assessment ("Not Improved").

Improved	24	(77%)
Not Improved	7	(23%)
Excluded (No severe impairments at intake)	0	

### Pervasive Behavioral Impairment (PBI)

The # and % of youth who were identified as being Pervasively Behaviorally Impaired at Initial Assessment and no longer meet PBI criteria at Most Recent Assessment ("Improved") and those who still met PBI criteria at Most Recent Assessment ("Not Improved"). PBI criteria is defined as severely or moderately impaired on three CAFAS subscales: School, Home, and Behavior Toward Others.

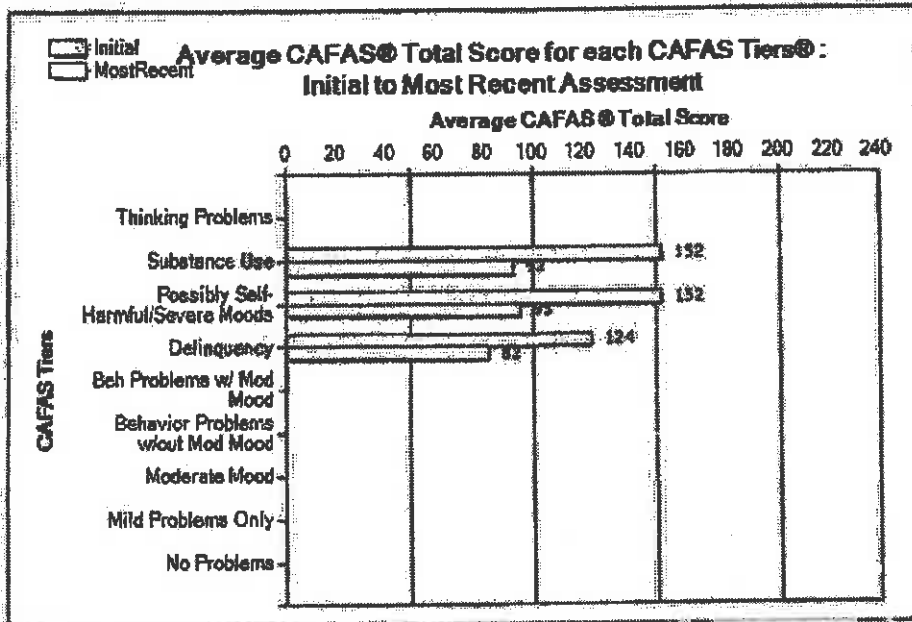
Improved	24	(96%)
Not Improved	1	(4%)
Excluded (Not pervasively impaired at intake)	6	

### Outcome by CAFAS Tiers®

The chart below shows change in average CAFAS Total Score by client type. It compares youth total CAFAS scores at two time points: initial and most recent assessment. Youths were assigned to the client type determined at initial assessment, regardless of the youths' client type at most recent assessment.

The purpose of this comparison is to provide a general indicator of the degree to which youths in each client type are able to make gains. This information can be useful in determining whether any programmatic changes may be needed.

More background on CAFAS Tiers: CAFAS Tiers is a classification system based on the youth's profile of subscale scores. The CAFAS Tiers grouping can be helpful in matching a youth's needs to the most appropriate and/or effective treatment protocol. It is a hierarchical system, such that the youth is assigned to the first tier to which he or she meets the criteria. The nine mutually exclusive "client types" are arranged such that the first ones considered are those that may need specialized care and/or generally reflect more salient impairment. For the algorithm used for determining CAFAS Tiers categories, refer to the *CAFAS Manual for Training Coordinators, Clinical Administrators, and Data Managers or the Evidence-Based Treatments for Children and Adolescents: A Compilation of Resources and Guide for Matching CAFAS Profiles to Evidence-Based Treatments*.



### Unreported Data

0 cases excluded because either the initial or most recent CAFAS was missing or not all CAFAS youth subscales were rated and thus a total score for the youth could not be calculated. Note that selecting "Could not score" on a youth subscale also prevents generating a total score.