



CSSD Chronicle



A regular publication of information and news about Court Support Services Division

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Tuesday, November 25, 2008

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CSSD STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This edition of the CSSD Chronicle is the second in an occasional series that focuses on CSSD employees who have been recognized for their professionalism and commitment to public service. Under the headline of *CSSD Staff Accomplishments*, the purpose is to highlight their accomplishments and the recognition of their professional expertise in the various criminal justice arenas that CSSD is involved in. If you know of other individuals who might be featured, please contact Rena.Goldwasser@jud.ct.gov for additional information.

National Recognition of a CT Expert

From his work over the years in CSSD Juvenile Detention, and as recent Superintendent of the Bridgeport and later the New Haven Juvenile Detention Centers, Karl Alston has been very instrumental in bringing about the many positive changes in detention that have resulted in CT's system being recognized and accredited as one of excellence by the American Correctional Association 2003. (*See CSSD Chronicle March 13, 2003*). Now in his current position as Deputy Director of CSSD Juvenile Residential Services, Karl was named as the East Region Vice President of the National Juvenile Detention Association (NJDA) in October. As noted by Michael Jones, Managing Director of the NJDA, "a membership-based association is only as strong as the members who maintain an active involvement and who provide their collective support in guiding the organization. The Association needs hard working, committed leaders (like Karl)... to continue to grow and work to ensure that the Association's principles, standards and philosophies of juvenile detention are sustained."

The National Juvenile Detention Association, founded in 1968 exists exclusively to advance the science, processes, and art of juvenile detention services through

the overall improvement of the juvenile justice professional. In 2004 the Association merged their membership organization with the Council for Educators of At-Risk and Delinquent Youth (CEARDY), the Juvenile Justice Trainers Association (JJTA), and the National Association for Juvenile Correctional Agencies (NAJCA) under the one NDJA operational entity. In 2007 a fifth organization, The National Association for Children of Incarcerated Parents (NACIP) also came into the partnership.

The NJDA has also forged an association with the National Partnership for Juvenile Services (NPJS) www.npjs.org. The National Partnership provides professional development and technical assistance and promotes best practice and standards to the juvenile justice field that will positively impact youth, families, and communities. One of the special initiatives that the NPJS is currently involved with includes the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The NJDA is also supporting this Initiative. The project is dedicated to demonstrating that jurisdictions can safely reduce reliance on secure detention and strengthen juvenile justice systems through the use of inter-related reform strategies that include use of evidence based practices, gender and culturally appropriate strategies and behavioral motivation techniques which are some of the enhancements that have been made in CT's residential and services detention system that Karl has been involved in implementing www.aecf.org. The National Partnership is also committed to ending the practice of trying, sentencing, and incarcerating children under age 18 in the adult criminal justice system. CT is poised to join this movement with the implementation in 2010 of legislation that will raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction to include 16 and 17 year old adolescents who are currently handled in the adult system.

SUGGESTIONS? QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? CONCERNS? CONTACT US!

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In addition to advancing the overall goals and projects of the NJDA, as East Region Vice President Karl will be spearheading a review of American Correctional Association standards which are used to issue national ACA accreditation awards to detention centers throughout the country. CT's three juvenile detention centers have been accredited since 2003 and are scheduled to undergo their third ACA re accreditation process in March of next year.

CSSD's Executive Director Bill Carbone congratulated Karl on his appointment. "Our CSSD employees are motivated to be the best that they can be and make important contributions to the field. Karl's recognition by his peers in being named East Region Vice President of NJDA is a great example of this spirit."

The Chronicle Staff
Wishes a Happy and
Health Thanksgiving to
All of our Readers!!!



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