

Please consider this nomination for Tracey Blundi, MS (Special Services Counselor, Bucks County Youth Center) for the *"2018 JDCAP Distinguished Service Award to an Individual within the Field of Juvenile Justice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."* I consider Tracey an exceptional nominee for this award. Tracey is completing her 31st year of service in secure detention after completing her undergraduate degree at Temple University in Criminal Justice. Tracey continued her professional development by earning a graduate degree in the Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University through the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission program.

Tracey began her career as a Youth Counselor in our secure detention program, earning a reputation for being a devoted, caring counselor who formed strong rapport with residents and was an exceptional listener. In 1991, Tracey moved to the position of Case Manager working primarily with residents of our county group homes. In addition to excelling in this role, Tracey demonstrated her interest in incorporating new practices to enhance our programming effectiveness by introducing the Problem Severity Index (PSI) assessment tool for our detention residents. In 1994 Tracey was recognized by her peers at the facility by being awarded the BCYC Outstanding Service award.

In 1995 Tracey joined the JDCAP Training Committee, a position in which she continues to serve. In that capacity Tracey has served the Commonwealth by writing training policy, making training recommendations to the JDCAP Administrative Council, planning and organizing annual JDCAP Conferences and regional trainings, and directly delivering training at JDCAP conferences and at other facilities. Tracey also took on the role of Training Coordinator at BCYC. She continues to coordinate, organize, and schedule all trainings in our facility for our direct care staff persons and supervisors, in both our secure detention and residential programs. In 2006 Tracey completed the Trainer Coordinator Program at the National Institute of Justice in Longmont, CO. In 2018, BCYC again received a 100% compliance rate during our annual Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Human Services licensing audit which is in part a testament to Tracey's diligence with our training program.

An important innovation championed by Tracey was the implantation of the Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) curriculum from Cornell University, at BCYC in 1995. Through her persistence and fidelity to the TCI curriculum model Tracey has completely transformed the institutional culture at BCYC. TCI forms the backbone of both our training curriculum at BCYC but also our entire approach to counseling youth in our care. Long before the Commonwealth began to address the issue to restraint reduction, BCYC began experiencing historically low restraint numbers. From 2006-2017 BCYC has averaged 1.38 restraints per 1,000 Child Care Days in secure detention which is in large part due to the success with which the TCI curriculum has been implemented at all levels of the organization.

Tracey has served in our Special Services Unit since 2004. In that capacity she processes admissions to both secure detention and our residential program through our Offender Management System (OMS). Tracey has participated in developing three different OMS systems at BCYC during her career. Tracey administers the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (Maysi~2) to secure detention admissions. She serves as a court liaison, accompanying residents to court so that our facility is kept abreast of our residents' legal situations, and can advise residents about what has occurred at their hearings. Tracey helps maintain information about dispositional programs used by Bucks County Juvenile Probation to help residents prepare to go to court-ordered placements. Tracey is also responsible for acting as a liaison to various allied professionals on behalf of the facility. It is for all of these reasons that I believe Tracey Blundi, MS is a worthy nominee for this award.