



# Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center



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The Youth Intervention Center is under the direction of Drew Fredericks and is located on the Sunnyside Peninsula at 235 Circle Avenue in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Center provides both detention and shelter care services for males and females from the ages of 10 to 18. Detention program has a 72-bed capacity and is supported by a staff of 62 Youth Care Workers whereas the Shelter program has a 24-bed capacity and is supported by 27 Youth Care Workers. The Youth Intervention Center is licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and abides by their regulations. The Center is also a member of the Juvenile Detention Centers Association of Pennsylvania (JDCAP), the Northeast Juvenile Detention Coalition (NJDC), and the National Juvenile Detention Association (NJDA).

Historical records indicate that the first facility dedicated to housing delinquent children was built in 1799. An Almshouse was built at 900 East King Street, currently the location of the Children and Youth Agency. The Almshouse not only housed delinquent children but also housed those who were poor, immoral, mentally ill, and criminal as defined in that era. These residents were expected to work the grounds of the farm or the stone quarry in order to offset their expenses. The focus at that time was not on rehabilitation or education.

Turning the clock ahead more than 200 years brings us to Barnes Hall. Constructed in 1963 and named after the County's first probation officer, Edgar R. Barnes, Barnes Hall was designed as a group home setting for the delinquent youth of Lancaster County. Due to the deterioration of Barnes Hall, and the need for more space in order to accommodate the rising juvenile crime rate in our area, on March 9, 2002, the Youth Intervention Center opened its doors to serve the citizens of Lancaster County.

The Youth Intervention Center's Detention program provides temporary custody for alleged and adjudicated male and female residents from the ages of 10 to 18. The mission of juvenile detention is the temporary and safe custody of juveniles who are accused of conduct subject to the jurisdiction of the court who require a restricted environment for their own, or the community's protection, while pending legal action. The facility's Shelter care program provides temporary and emergency care for alleged and adjudicated dependant and less at risk delinquent male and female residents from the ages of 10 to 18.

Daily life for both Detention and Shelter residents is highly structured, focusing on year-round schooling, structured recreational activities, voluntary religious services, psycho-educational programming, family interaction, and countless dedicated volunteers from throughout Lancaster County. The goal of the facility's programming is to provide the residents with a positive environment full of diverse, structured, and life enhancing activities. Residents also receive a full spectrum of services such as comprehensive medical and dental care, mental health care, and counseling, just to name a few.

The facility's Community Intervention Services program offers both "eye-opening" and educational presentations about juvenile delinquency, juvenile justice system, and what the results are from poor decision-making. These presentations are free to interested parents, schools, and organizations.

The Youth Intervention Center has been honored with multiple statewide awards for excellence in staffing, programming, and leadership.

## **Do you offer any services to the community?**

We offer three different intervention programs for concerned parents/guardians and educational organizations.

### **Operation Deterrence**

This experience is ideal for parents whose child has been displaying inappropriate behavior, but has not yet entered into the juvenile justice system. This experience shows them where the results of their poor decision-making could lead. Loss of freedom is the key message that will be delivered to the child. There is no exposure to the current residents at the Youth Intervention Center. This experience is free for interested parents.

### **Operation Deterrence presentation has a 93.75% success rate!**

Since September 2005, a total of 240 at-risk juveniles have experienced the Operation Deterrence presentation. Out of these 240 juveniles, only 15 returned as official admissions into the detention center.

### **Eye-Opening Experience**

This experience is ideal for parents whose child has been displaying inappropriate behavior, but has not yet entered into the juvenile justice system through an arrest. This experience shows them where the results of poor decision-making could lead. Loss of freedom is the key message that will be delivered to the child. A Power Point presentation can be given at your school that talks about loss of freedom, and the consequences of poor decision-making. The goal of the program is to prevent delinquency before it even starts, in an informative way. This experience is free for interested schools and organizations.

### **The Educational Experience**

This presentation is for educational classes, or groups, who are interested in learning more about juvenile delinquency, juvenile justice, and detention and shelter-care at the Youth Intervention Center. This presentation can be held at the Youth Intervention Center, or off-site at the group's meeting place. Group size at the Youth Intervention Center is limited to 25 people at the maximum. This experience is free for educational organizations.

## **What type of programming and services do you offer to the residents?**

When a resident is admitted to our facility, they will have entered into an extremely structured, disciplined, and educational environment. Upon wake up each day, a resident will experience hygiene, year-round schooling, year-round recreational activities, voluntary religious services, psycho-educational groups, and opportunities for family interaction. Our residents' daily routine is loaded with positive, structured, and life-building programming.

### **Educational Services**

Upon admission, each resident will be given an educational screening and assessment in order to gauge their educational needs. Our school program is provided year-round through the School District of Lancaster. The educational program is culturally sensitive and reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of the community.

### **Religious Programming**

Our religious program contains a diverse variety of volunteer church groups that accommodate the religious needs of our residents. Our facility has a full-time chaplain and two part-time chaplain assistants, along with over seventeen volunteer church groups. Participation in religious activities is voluntary for our residents.

### **Family Interaction and Support**

Our program provides visitation, mail, and telephone services with the goal of promoting appropriate support, interaction, and involvement with family members.

## **Mental Health Assessment**

Our in-house Case Manager assesses and identifies the mental health needs of our residents. In addition, she also runs our psycho-educational programs. Some of the topics include:

- Drug and Alcohol Issues
- Anger Control
- Communication Skills
- Living and Coping with Mental Illness
- Fatherhood Initiative
- Travel
- Preventing Abuse
- Dance Therapy
- Music Therapy
- Victim Impact
- Combating Prejudices and Hatred

## **Health Services**

Our medical department is accredited by National Commission on Correctional Health Care (*NCCHC*).

Upon arrival to our facility, all juveniles undergo a Receiving Screening and Suicide Assessment within one (1) hour of arrival.

All juveniles receive a complete Health Assessment by Nursing within twenty-four (24) hours. A physical is performed by a Provider (*PA or CRNP*) within ninety-six (96) hours of arrival. A dental exam is performed within thirty (30) days, with a cleaning completed every six (6) months.

The intake process also includes a Vision and a Hearing Screening, a PPD, and Sickle Cell Screening for all African American juveniles.

All juveniles who arrive on medications, have those medications continued and are seen by either the MD or the Psychiatrist (*or Psychiatric CRNP*). All juveniles also have the opportunity to request a visit with any Provider at any time by submitting a Sick Call request or making a verbal request to the Medical Department.

## **Recreational Programming**

Our Program Coordinator provides a structured recreational program that includes a variety of activities that promote physical and mental health. Some of these programs include:

- Physical Education
- Nutritional Programs
- Pet Therapy
- Girl Scouts
- Master Gardening Program
- Art Classes
- Smart Angler Program (*Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission*)
- And many more...