

---

## DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

---

### **Amended Health Plan Provides Savings to DJJ**

In 2003, the Governor's Office revamped the State Health Plan's hospital reimbursement rates so that DJJ could cut its cost as a provider of health services to incarcerated youth. The amendment reduced the amount paid by DJJ for hospital services by 50 to 55 percent per charge. Under the amendment, DJJ's Health Services department paid \$208,020 in FY 2004-2005 in hospital charges for juveniles compared to the \$324,269 that would have been paid under the previous contractual agreements. This equates to savings of \$116,249 for the agency.

### **DJJ Supports Truancy initiative in Chester County**

In Chester County, DJJ is working closely with the Chester County School District in implementing a grant to combat truancy. DJJ Chester County Office Director Rick Wessinger helped to write the \$3 million "Safe Schools, Healthy Schools" grant, which will be administered over three years. DJJ's Chester County office is also helping to plan and coordinate activities for the Chester community aimed at encouraging school attendance.

The grant is focused on keeping juveniles in school and out of court. Currently, there are about 147 students in the program who are under Family Court order to attend school, many of whom have been through DJJ for failure to attend school.

### **Agency Activities**

- DJJ has received a grant award from the Juvenile Justice Formula Grant Program for Teen After School Centers (TASC) totaling \$48,825. The funds will be used in the operation of existing TASC sites.
- On August 19, DJJ held a Job Fair at the Department to recruit for vacancies in critical jobs within the agency. Those positions included Juvenile Correctional Officers, social workers, cooks, trades workers, residential and community specialists and full time and substitute teachers. The department was successful in having 286 people to sign in at registration. Of that number, 274 completed applications, and 74 were interviewed. Efforts are underway over the next few months to track the number of new hires resulting from this recruitment initiative.

### **Schedule**

September 20	Deliver Keynote Address National Leadership Summit on the Protection of Children Minneapolis, MN
September 28	DJJ Employee Recognition Ceremony Midlands Evaluation Center Gym
September 30	Governor's Budget Hearings Beaufort County Administration Building
October 14	Present at Children's Law Conference USC Capstone Conference Center