

---

## **DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

---

### **DJJ Intensive Supervision Initiative is Studied**

Representatives from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Juvenile Justice spent three days recently at the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to learn how South Carolina's reintegration efforts have evolved through the Intensive Supervision Initiative (ISI). The Bureau was represented by its divisional director, reintegration director and the assistant reintegration director, who spent time with DJJ's intensive supervision officers to observe them at work.

The ISI is an expansion of the federally funded reentry initiative started in 2003. Currently, DJJ has 30 state funded ISOs in 23 counties and anticipates adding another 21 officers.

### **DJJ/FJJ Community Connections Center**

The Department of Juvenile Justice's ability to connect juveniles with parents or guardians in a more welcoming environment will get a boost once the construction of the Community Connections Center is complete. An informal groundbreaking celebration will be held for DJJ staff and supporters on Tuesday, June 26 on site at the Broad River Road Complex. Construction of DJJ's first Community Connections Center is expected to be completed in summer 2008.

The non-profit Friends of Juvenile Justice (FJJ) is a DJJ partner that is leading a \$3.3 million capital fund campaign to cover construction and furnishing cost for the facility. The center will provide space for more private family visitations, and for those persons involved in the rehabilitation of juveniles including clinicians, educators, therapists, probations and intensive supervision officers, and volunteers. FJJ is chaired by Louise Slater, the founder of FJJ and one its leading supporters.

### **Joe Benton Named State Employee of the Year**

Joe Benton, a career Department of Juvenile Justice employee, was recently chosen as a 2007 State Employee of the Year by the South Carolina Employees Association. Benton has worked on behalf of youth and colleagues in various human services and professional capacities since 1965. He joined the association in 1985, and is its current president and the Southern Regional Executive Committee member on the National WAGE Board.

Benton is DJJ's special assistant for Faith Initiatives, under a partnership with the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He previously served as county director for the DJJ Richland County office.

### **Schedule**

June 26	Groundbreaking Celebration for DJJ Community Connections Center DJJ Broad River Road Complex
---------	---