

Mercyhurst College Civic Institute



CUMULATIVE REPORT
June 1996 – June 2002

ANNUAL REPORT
2001-2002

Civic Institute Mission Statement

The Mercyhurst Civic Institute is a college-community partnership dedicated to the social, health, educational, and civic well being of the Erie region.

Its purposes are:

- Providing high quality objective information to inform local decision making.
- Convening community forums that encourage reasoned reflection and free and open discussion of regional issues.
- Educating the Erie community about various issues through Institute reports and publications.
- Fostering human networks that enhance communication, link resources, strengthen community participation and build social capital.
- Providing research, policy development and learning opportunities for the Mercyhurst community.

The Mercyhurst Civic Institute is made up of three Centers of expertise and focus: the *Center for Child and Family Policy*, *Center for Justice Research and Policy*, and *Center for a Healthy Community*.

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Mercyhurst Civic Institute
Board of Visitors

Mercyhurst College Community

College President – Dr. William P. Garvey

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Chair of Board of Trustees – William Sennett

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Superintendent of Schools for the City of Erie – Dr. James Barker

District Attorney – Brad Foulk

Director Department of Human Services –

Warden, Erie County Prison – Charles Barber

Erie County Planning Department - Dave Skellie

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President of Hamot Health Systems – John Malone

Director of Catholic Charities - Msgr. Michael McGraw

President, Sisters of Mercy - Sr. JoAnne Courneen

President of the NAACP – Dorothy Smith

President of CALL – Reverend Charles Mock

Oath of the Athenian City State

“We will strive for the ideals and sacred things of the city,

both alone and with many;
we will unceasingly seek to quicken the sense of public duty;
we will revere and obey the city's laws;
we will transmit this city not only not less,
but greater, better and more beautiful
than it was transmitted to us"

Mercyhurst College
Civic Institute

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Director's Letter

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to submit the 2001-2002 Mercyhurst College Civic Institute Annual Report to the

community. I do so with gratitude to our community partners without whom our efforts would be only academic and with hope that our combined efforts help improve community decision-making. It is fundamental to the mission of Mercyhurst College and to the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy that we make efforts toward using scholarship in service to community. The Civic Institute is one of the many ways this is accomplished at Mercyhurst College.

This report, like the previous reports, is really two reports. One is a cumulative report of our activities and projects over the last several years and the other is a report of activities over the most recent year. Italics and green ink note information relevant to the most recent year. The remainder applies to previous years. We do this to better inform the public and because a sense of our, albeit brief, history helps us to focus our present and future endeavors.

One thing that I think the reader will notice is an increase in the breadth of Institute activities. We find this gratifying because it suggests to us that there is community support for the kind of college-community partnership the Institute represents.

Similarly to our other reports, this cumulative/annual report is posted on the Civic Institute web site <http://civicinstitute.mercyhurst.edu/> where you can also post your thoughts, recommendations and concerns. We look forward to hearing from you and continuing to share our assistance.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Gamble, Ph.D.
Director of the Mercyhurst College Civic Institute

III. Organizational Structure and Staffing

The interdisciplinary staff has extensive experience in health and human services management, research methods and program evaluation, data analysis, grant writing, strategic planning, and community relations. The Institute consists of three Centers: The Center for Child and Family Policy, The Center for Justice Research and Policy and The Center for a Healthy Community.

* **Thomas Gamble**, Ph.D., is Director of the Civic Institute, the Center for Child and Family Policy, and is an associate professor of criminal justice and psychology at Mercyhurst. Prior to joining the faculty at Mercyhurst, Dr. Gamble served as Executive Director of Children & Youth Services. He is a graduate of the Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs at Syracuse University and the Yale University Post-Doctoral Program in Child Development and Social Problems.

* **Arthur C. Amann**, Associate Director of the Civic Institute, has several years of administrative experience in criminal justice and earned his Master's Degree in Corrections. He was the Warden of the Erie County Prison and Chief of the Erie County Adult Probation Department. In addition to his work with the Civic Institute, he is an adjunct faculty member and coordinator of Criminal Justice programs at Mercyhurst College North East.

* **Peter Benekos**, Ph.D., is a professor of criminal justice and the Chair of Mercyhurst College's Social Science Division and serves as the Director of the Center for Justice Research & Policy as well as a Senior Policy Analyst.

* **Mark Levine**, M.D., Director of the Center for a Healthy Community, received his Medical Degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University. He is a member of the teaching faculty at Hamot Family Practice Residency.

* **Sr. Maura Smith**, RSM, ED.D., Senior Policy Analyst, has been affiliated with the Center for four years. She has many years experience as a teacher and administrator. Current areas of expertise include: neighborhood planning and revitalization, affordable housing programs, and public policy issues involving welfare reform and higher education.

* **Julie Bush-Miller**, Research Policy Analyst, received her Masters of Science in Speech-Language Pathology from the Texas Woman's University and a Masters of Science in Administration of Justice from Mercyhurst College. Prior to joining the Civic Institute she was a Pretrial Services Officer Assistant with the United States Pretrial Services Agency. Her current areas of expertise include research methodology, data collection, data analysis and program evaluation.

* **Amy Danzer**, Research Policy Analyst, received her Masters Degree in Psychology from Princeton University. Her areas of expertise include policy analysis, grant writing and proposal design, as well as resource identification, neighborhood revitalization and early childhood programming. She is also an expert in compiling, analyzing and presenting census data.

* **Sherrie Sonnenberg**, Research Policy Analyst, received her Masters Degree in Administration of Justice from Mercyhurst College. Her areas of expertise include: juvenile delinquency, juvenile justice, research methodology, data collection, grant management and program evaluation.

* **Sue Johnson**, Administrative Assistant, received her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Mercyhurst College. Her role includes database management, website management, monthly

invoicing, and assisting with budget accountability.

During 2001-2002, the *Civic Institute* used several consultants to assist with a variety of projects and they are as follows; Captain Ron Davis, Dr. Frank Hagan, Dr. Michael Rutter, Paul Gambill, Bill Hale, Paul Kovacs, Professor Tina Fryling and Stan Rockovich. The *Civic Institute* also has graduate and undergraduate students assisting in projects.

IV. Grants Prepared and Received

→ ***Department of Public Welfare Governor's School Readiness Initiative (2002)***

The *Center for Child and Family Policy* helped prepare the Parent-Child Home grant that was recently funded in the amount of \$480,000 over the next 4 years. This is a home-based early education program that aims to promote success in education by building communication and learning skills between parents and their toddlers. This program will serve 50 families throughout the course of 2 school years.

→ ***Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children ("Children's Partnership") Grant (Fall 2001)***

The *Civic Institute* prepared and received a grant in the amount of \$25,000 for the School District of the City of Erie from the Children's Partnership to study the implementation of a youth-related website and to propose "An Erie Youth Opportunity Fair." The Fair is to provide connecting/networking opportunity for area youth and community organizations and businesses to gain summer employment, volunteer community service, and career exploration experiences.

• ***Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children ("Children's Partnership") Grant (Fall 2000)***

The *Center for Child and Family Policy* prepared and received a grant in the amount of \$24,000 from the Children's Partnership to interface Erie County's Communities That Care initiative with Erie's Promise. The Center has taken on the consultant role of collecting and assessing data on programs that provide the five fundamental resources to Erie County's youth to determine which youth they help, how they help the youth, and what their effectiveness in assisting youth is. The five Fundamental Resources noted by America's Promise are: (1) ongoing relationships with caring adults, parents, mentors, tutors or coaches safe places with structured activities during non-school hours; (3) healthy start and future; (4) marketable skills through effective education; and (5) opportunities to give back through community service.

→ ***Pennsylvania Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs Grant (1999-2002)***

The *Civic Institute* was awarded \$168,645 from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs to evaluate an innovative program for treating persons coming out of Pennsylvania Department of Corrections facilities with a dual diagnosis of substance abuse and mental illness. Named CROMISA, the three-year treatment program funded for \$590,995 is being implemented by the Erie County Office of Drug and Alcohol Abuse in partnership with GECAC Drug and Alcohol Program Stairways, Serenity, Inc.,

the Forensic Mental Health Program of Erie County (part of Case Management Support Services), the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, and the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole.

→ ***Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG) (Annually Since 1999)***

On behalf of the Erie County Department of Human Services, the *Center for Child and Family Policy* prepared and, in April 2002, received notification of a fourth year of funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. Erie County was awarded \$171,037 to implement a juvenile crime reduction plan. The plan includes: (1) reducing the influx of juveniles entering juvenile probation with allegations of “failure to comply” sentences, (2) providing critical competency development support to youth being released from out-of-home placements, (3) reducing the overcrowding problem in the secure detention program at the Edmund L. Thomas Adolescent Center and improving the efficiency of the court by utilizing teleconferencing to conduct detention and review hearings for juvenile offenders, (4) improving the coordination and communication between the City of Erie Bureau of Police and other agencies in an attempt to gather and share information on truancy and gang related activity, and (5) to support data analysis of juveniles in residential placement for the Erie County Juvenile Probation Department to determine which programs are producing the most desirable results.

• ***Nurse Home Visiting/PATHS Project Grant (Summer 1999)***

On behalf of the Erie County Policy and Planning Council, the *Center for Child and Family Policy* assisted the Erie County Health Department in submitting a grant application in the amount of \$294,690 to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. This application provides for the implementation of a Nurse Home Visiting Program (NHV) and the Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS) Program. Nurse Home Visitation is a program that sends nurses into the homes of at-risk pregnant women bearing their first child to ensure the health of the mother and child and to address the needs of young school aged children. The Center also proposed to implement the PATHS Project to assist children in evaluating their options and pursuing the path containing fewer high-risk behaviors.

V. **Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation**

→ ***Department of Public Welfare Governor’s School Readiness Initiative (Ongoing)***

The *Civic Institute* is evaluating the Parent-Child Home program that was recently funded in the amount of \$480,000 over the next 4 years. This is a home-based early education program that aims to promote success in education by building communication and learning skills between parents and their toddlers.

- ***Juvenile Detention Census Management Project (Ongoing)***
 In August 1998, the *Center for Child and Family Policy* developed a pilot Level of Security Screening Instrument to help the Edmund L. Thomas Adolescent Center make decisions about which youth admitted to detention are eligible for transfer to shelter services. The Mercyhurst Level of Security Screening Instrument (MLSSI) attempts to assure that those youth transferred pose less risk to community safety, less risk of absconding, and less risk of harming themselves or reoffending than do ineligible youth. The Center's staff complete screening forms on all youth admitted to secure detention and prepare monthly Census Management Reports for the Department of Human Services.

- ***Quarterly Report of Juvenile Placement Trends and Practices (Ongoing)***
 The *Center for Child and Family Policy* prepares a Report detailing expenditures and placement number trends over time for dependent and delinquent youth in Erie County.

- ***Initial Evaluation of the Erie County Juvenile Probation Department's Neighborhood Centered Community Supervision Program (2001)***
 The *Center for Child and Family Policy* conducted a study the Neighborhood Centered Community Supervision program to determine (1) whether or not it was successful, and (2) to identify the types of data needed to maintain continuous assessment of NCCS to ensure that appropriate and targeted outcomes are being achieved.

- ***An Assessment of the Programs in Erie County that Provide Each of the Five Fundamental Resources to Erie County Youth and Their Effectiveness to Assist Youth (2001)***
 The *Center for Child and Family Policy* conducted a study to survey programs in Erie County, Pennsylvania to determine which programs provide one or more of the Five Fundamental Resources identified by America's Promise.

- ***Intermediate Punishment Evaluation (1998)***
 The *Center for Justice Research and Policy* was awarded a grant in the amount of \$38,480 from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to study Erie County Intermediate Punishment Programs. These programs provide an alternative to incarceration, while maintaining family stability and holding offenders accountable to their family and the community. The focus of the study was to examine program completion, cost effectiveness, and the utilization of jail cells. Three Mercyhurst College graduates, Maria Garase, Carol Gullifer and Tara Puhlman assisted in the data entry phase of the research.

- ***Initial Evaluation of Collaborative Intensive Community Treatment Program (1998)***
 One of the *Center for Child and Family Policy's* previous graduate assistants evaluated the Collaborative Intensive Community Treatment Program (CICTP). CICTP is a private, nonprofit, treatment program for adjudicated dependent and delinquent youth in Erie County. The program is designed to address the increase in juvenile residential placements in Erie County and the escalating costs associated with them. This evaluation

measured recidivism, behavioral performance and cost effectiveness. The report was released in June 1998.

- ***Communities That Care (CTC) Evaluation (Delinquency Prevention Program(s)) (1998)***

The *Center for Child and Family Policy* is continuing its fourth-year project of monitoring attendance, behavior and academic performance of children participating in the Communities That Care (CTC) delinquency prevention program at Edison Elementary School. Evaluation results have proved CTC's success in preventing the onset and continuance of juvenile delinquency.

VI. **Publications**

→ *Modified Adult Probation Sanctions: Evaluation of Probation Supervision Sanctions Systems, April 2002*

→ *An Assessment of the Programs in Erie County that Provide Each of the Five Fundamental Resources to Erie County Youth and Their Effectiveness to Assist Youth, May 2001*

→ *Analysis of Police Stops & Searches, City of Erie, April 2002*

- *Area 13 Neighborhood Action Plan, February 2000*

This is a report on the neighborhood planning process in Erie's East side that was sponsored by the Erie Neighborhood Watch Council in collaboration with Mc Auley Institute and the Mercyhurst Civic Institute.

- *Annual Report of the Office of Drug and Alcohol Abuse, 1998, 1999, 2000*

The *Center for Child and Family Policy* analyzed data, graphed trends, wrote portions of and organized the Annual Report for the Erie County Office of Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

- *"Directions: Understanding Child and Family Well-Being in Erie County, PA, 1998"*

This 100 page tabulation and analysis of 16 child and family well-being indicators is the most comprehensive compilation of information about children and families available for Erie County. It analyzes the county, the city, and the municipalities, and it provides comparisons to state and similar county rates.

Institute Special Reports

→ *Juvenile Offenders & Crime, June 2002*

→ *Teen Pregnancies & Births, June 2002*

- *Erie County Drug Treatment Court: 18-Month Status Report*, April 2002
- *Erie County Drug Treatment Court: One-Year Status Report*, October 2001
- *Erie County Adult Criminal Justice System*, April 2001
- *Juvenile Offenders & Crime*, April 2001

Erie County Policy and Planning Council for Children and Families: Working Together on Behalf of Children and their Families, November 2000

Erie County Adult Criminal Justice System Study, September 2000

Juvenile Offenders & Crime, March 2000

Teen Pregnancy & Births, March 2000

Local Juvenile Detention Center Overcrowding Reduced Through Census Management Project: A Local Example of Applied Policy Research, September 1999

Juvenile Offenders & Crime, February 1999

Births to Single Women, September 1998

Erie County's Communities That Care Initiative, August 1998

Juvenile Crime and Violence, March 1998

Teen Pregnancy and Adolescent Childbearing, February 1998

Youth and Crime in Erie County, Winter 1997

Other Publications

The Facts, February 1997

Adolescent Pregnancy and Births to Single Teens in Erie County

Institute Insight, Summer 1997

A free newsletter discussing policies and programs impacting children and families.

The Mentor, Fall 1999, Spring 2000, Fall 2000, Spring 2001.

A student edited biannual, research-based newsletter whose primary focus is social policy issues. The publication was co-authored and edited by graduate students Kari Repenning and Heather Powell. The project was sponsored by an Academic Enrichment Grant, the Mercyhurst Civic Institute, and Alpha Phi Sigma, the criminal justice honor society.

VII. **Community Planning / Community Development**

• ***Grass Roots Leadership Training Class***

In conjunction with Corrine Egan, the *Center for Child and Family Policy* coordinates and conducts an eight to twelve week leadership training course. The participants in these training sessions are community grassroots leaders who want to become more effective in their volunteer and civic roles. To date, Grass Roots Leadership training has been provided to the Black Achievers of the Glenwood YWCA, members of the Tenants Council, Neighborhood Watch Groups and ethnic outreach workers of the Hispanic-American Council.

→ ***United States Department of Justice Teleconferences***

The *Center for Child and Family Policy* sponsored and organized several national satellite videoconferences presented by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. They included Juvenile Offenders and Drug Treatment: Promising Approaches, Mentoring for Youth in Schools and Communities, Juveniles and the Criminal Justice System, Integrating the Professionals in Child Maltreatment Cases, Using Research to Improve Drug Abuse Treatment, School Violence Prevention, What About Girls? Females in the Juvenile Justice System, Model Court Practices in Abuse and Neglect Cases, Promising Practices for Safe and Effective Schools, Crowding in Juvenile Detention: A Problem Solving Approach, Comprehensive Framework for School Violence Prevention, Child Delinquency: Early Intervention and Prevention, Employment & Training for Court-Involved Youth, Integrated Systems of Care for Mentally Ill Offenders and School-Wide Education for Violence Prevention.

• ***Harvard School of Public Health and the Prevention Institute***

The *Center for Child and Family Policy* worked with GECAC Drug and Alcohol to present and foster discussion on a series of four Violence Prevention Videoconferences presented by the Harvard School of Public Health and the Prevention Institute. The teleconferences included Organizing for Change, Building Bridges: Strengthening Schools and Communities, Preventing Bias and Promoting Respect, and Bringing the Elements Together: Ending the Cycle of Violence.

• ***Building Positive Teen Behaviors, An Erie Area Youth Empowered Program***

The *Civic Institute*, in conjunction with the Office of the County Executive, received a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to complete a Building Positive Teen Behaviors Through the Media project. The project, to design and create public service announcements, was open to all public and private schools. The County Executive's Office joined with the Civic Institute, Pro Video Publications, Inc.

and the Times Publishing Company to offer this competition to students in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. The participating schools formed teams of 6 or less students and submitted 30 second scripts which focused on drug awareness, teen pregnancy prevention, reduction of juvenile crime, and conflict resolution. A total of 39 teams entered this competition with 7 being chosen for production. The 7 public service announcements were judged by a student media committee, as well as representatives from each of the local broadcast networks. The top two productions were aired on the local broadcast networks and all seven were shown on the school closed circuit television.

A second component to the Building Positive Teen Behaviors Through the Media project included Newspaper in Education supplements that were made available to schools and teachers. The supplements were developed around a variety of teen behaviors from Drug Awareness and Conflict Resolution to Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Juvenile Crime. The Institute provided text to various supplements and was also charged with evaluating the teenagers' responses to the supplement.

- ***Solutions 2000...Strategies for Safe Schools and Student Success***
August 15 – 17, 2000

The *Center for Child and Family Policy* played a dual role at a local safe schools conference. Dr. Thomas Gamble provided a profile of America's Children and stated that profiling of children at all levels has become a common and useful way of targeting resources to the children and communities most in need of assistance. Amy Danzer co-facilitated a conference workshop called "Grant Writing and Funding Strategies."

- ***Drug Courts: Breaking the Drug-Crime Cycle***
June 28, 2000

The keynote address for the Center for Justice and Mental Health Issues' annual Criminal Justice Conference and Awards Luncheon was given by Joseph C. Peters, the White House Drug Policy Office's Deputy Director for State and Local Affairs. The focus of this conference was on the proliferation of "drug courts," which deal with all drug-using offenders while they are on probation and supervised in the community.

- ***Investing in Prevention Through Community Collaboration: Local Policy Maker's Role***
May 23, 2000

The *Civic Institute* was invited to participate in an invitation-only special policy maker's forum in Harrisburg, PA. The forum was offered in conjunction with the Building Partnership's Conference and was in partnership with the County Commissioners

Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP). The forum brought together key policy makers from select community collaboratives who are working together to produce better outcomes for children and their families. The forum provided skill development and resource material on the benefits and challenges of community collaborative prevention, strategies for improving the capacity to lead in a changing community environment and the use of a field analysis tool to explore opportunities for developing stronger, more effective community collaboration.

- ***Building Our Community***

May 10, 2000

The *Mercyhurst Civic Institute*, Erie County Assistance Office, Erie County Department of Human Services, Erie County Policy and Planning Council, and the United Way of Erie County sponsored a welfare reform presentation titled, “Building Our Community.”

Guest speaker, Dr. Sherri Heller, Deputy Secretary of Income Maintenance for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, discussed the direction of welfare reform in Pennsylvania. The lecture also focused on initiatives and collaborations between the Erie County Assistance Office and community service providers, as well as perspectives on service needs and gaps.

- ***Building a Healthy Housing System Summit***

March 1, 2000

A dynamic coalition of housing professionals joined hands to impact the housing services system and financing in Erie. The objective of this summit was to gather the critical concerns and the creative ideas of the best and brightest housing professionals in the county and collectively prepare recommendations that were submitted to HUD, County Officials and the City Planning Office for the purpose of impacting the Consolidated Plan.

- ***Sustainable Community Development in an Urban Context Conference***

May 14-15, 1999

The McAuley Institute, a Washington, D.C. housing organization, along with the *Center for a Healthy Community*, hosted a two-day conference for approximately 50 local planners, governmental leaders, social service agency employees and residents. Topics included the history of urban development, successful ways to plan growth and revitalization of deteriorating areas and discussions to set priorities in creating urban revitalization with the City of Erie.

- ***Teen Pregnancy***

December 2, 1998

The *Center for Child and Family Policy* co-sponsored a community forum on teen pregnancy along with The Erie Community Foundation. The purpose of the forum was to help individual donors and corporate grant makers make more informed decisions on the issue of teen pregnancy. Facts on statistical trends in teen pregnancy at the national,

state, and local levels were presented.

- ***Adolescents***

September 2, 1998

The *Center for Child and Family Policy*, in conjunction with The Erie Community Foundation, sponsored a community forum on the issue of adolescents. More specifically, it answered the following questions: What is the nature and scope of the delinquency problem in Erie?; What nonprofit programs effectively curb delinquency?; What are the current and long-term costs of delinquency?; and Where are the roles of family, school, church, neighborhoods, and non-profits?

- ***Child Care***

June 3, 1998

The *Center for Child and Family Policy* and The Erie Community Foundation sponsored a forum on child care in Erie County. The discussion focused on the availability of day care, the relationship between day care and welfare reform, and the relationship between the quality of day care and child development.

- ***Nurturing Neurons Colloquium***

April 24, 1998

The *Center for Child and Family Policy*, in conjunction with the University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics and The Erie Community Foundation, sponsored a colloquy on the policy and program implications of infant brain research. Recent infant brain research indicates that the nature and quality of the prenatal and postnatal environment have important implications for brain development and for the future life chances of children. Children who are provided with cognitive, linguistic and social stimulation, who are properly nourished and who receive medical care will experience optimal conditions for brain development which will have an effect on their ability to learn quickly and efficiently. This conference explored the social policy and social program implications of such research and tried to assure that children in Erie County benefit from this research.

The panelists included: Dr. Heidi Feldman, Program Director from the University of Pittsburgh, University of Community Leaders and Individuals with Disabilities; Dr. Robert McCall, Co-Director, Office of Child Development; and Mr. Robert Nelkin, Starting Points, Office of Child Development. In addition, three local panelists, The Honorable Jane Earll, Senate of Pennsylvania, 49th District; The Honorable Judith M. Lynch, Erie County Executive; and Mr. R. Benjamin Wiley, CEO, GECAC, spoke at the session.

- ***Understanding Homelessness in Erie County***

March 4, 1998

The *Center for Child and Family Policy* and The Erie Community Foundation sponsored a forum entitled “Understanding Homelessness in Erie County” to help individual donors and corporate grantmakers make more informed decisions on the issue. Michael Batchelor, president of the Foundation, and Dr. Thomas Gamble welcomed participants

and introduced the speakers. Facts were presented on defining homelessness, identifying service providers and understanding funding sources. At the conclusion of the presentation, there was a panel discussion in which Dr. Randall Clemons, associate professor of political science at Mercyhurst, served as moderator.

- ***Allegheny County's Early Childhood Initiative***
December 10, 1997

The *Center for Child and Family Policy*, in conjunction with the Institute of Politics at the University of Pittsburgh and the Erie Community Foundation, sponsored a colloquy on building effective public-private partnerships to serve children. This was the first time that these three institutions collaborated to bring the community this type of program.

A panel from Allegheny County, including Margaret Petruska of the Heinz Endowment, Christina Groark of the Office of Child Development at the University of Pittsburgh, Karen Shapira from the United Way of Allegheny County and Martha Isler from the Allegheny County Early Childhood Initiative, discussed the process used to create a \$59 million initiative to develop high-quality child care centers.

VIII. **SPEAKER SERIES**

→ ***“Developmental Pathways to Delinquency”***
April 19, 2002

The *Civic Institute* sponsored a lecture by **Rolf Loeber, Ph.D.**, professor of psychiatry, psychology, and epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh on the Pittsburgh Youth Study. This is a longitudinal study of 1,517 inner-city boys from Pittsburgh, PA, and is 1 of 3 coordinated projects that have been supported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention since 1986 through its Program of Research on the Causes and Correlates of Delinquency. The Pittsburgh study has been following three samples of boys for more than a decade to advance knowledge about how and why boys become delinquent and develop other problem behaviors.

→ ***“Soul of a Citizen: Living with Conviction in a Cynical Time”***
September 17, 2001

The *Civic Institute* sponsored a lecture by **Paul Rogat Loeb**, an associated scholar at Seattle's Center for Ethical Leadership. Mr. Loeb asked the question, “How do we challenge our culture's pervasive cynicism?” He presented an alternative vision of hope and courage in his new book, *Soul of a Citizen*. Based on thirty years studying the psychology of social involvement, Loeb describes how ordinary citizens can make their voices heard and their actions count in a time when we're often told neither matter.

- ***SPSS On-Site Training***
June 27- 28, 2001

The Civic Institute sponsored an on-site SPSS training course at Mercyhurst College for Civic Institute staff, members of the Mercyhurst College Social Science Division and community members.

- ***Juvenile Justice: Ancient and Modern, the Value of Doing Less Harm***
October 16, 2000
 The *Civic Institute* sponsored a lecture on the Juvenile Justice System with guest speaker Professor **Franklin E. Zimring**, the William G. Simon professor of law and Director of the Earl Warren Legal Institute at the University of California at Berkeley. Professor Zimring argued that the key function of juvenile justice was and still is to divert kids from the harm that the adult criminal process would inflict on them.
- ***“Kids Who Beat the Odds”***
October 4, 2000
 The *Civic Institute*, Mercyhurst College Education Department and the Mercyhurst College Social and Behavioral Sciences Division invited **Jonathan Kozol** to Erie to speak on behalf of “Kids Who Beat the Odds.” “For more than 30 years, Kozol has used his writing to give voice to the dispossessed of American society. He has ventured where few Americans care to look, let alone spend time-homeless shelters, housing projects, inner city schools-offering unflinching portraits of adults and children facing poverty, racism, and the inequities of American life.”
- ***“Preventing Crime & Violence: the Case for Early Intervention”***
April 10, 2000
 “Preventing Crime & Violence: the Case for Early Intervention” was the title of a talk given by **Dr. Daniel S. Nagin**, professor of public policy and management at the H. John Heinz III School of public policy and management at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. The talk, which was sponsored by the *Civic Institute*, was intended to provide the most recent findings on developmental trajectories and criminal careers, especially regarding the relationship between Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and delinquency.
- ***Centennial Celebration of the Juvenile Court***
June 8, 1999
 The *Center for Child and Family Policy* invited a panel of national and state experts to Erie to speak on the centennial celebration of the Juvenile Court. The speakers, along with their presentation titles, are as follows: **Dr. Howard Snyder**, National Center of Juvenile Justice, Exploring the Meaning of State & National Juvenile Arrest Trends; **Dr. Jeffrey Butts**, The Urban Institute, The History and Future of the Juvenile Court; **Mr. James Anderson**, Juvenile Court Judges Commission (JCJC), The Role of JCJC in the Development of Juvenile Justice Policy in Pennsylvania and Its Vision for the Future; and **Mr. Clay Yeager**, Governor’s Community Partnership for Safe Children, The Role of the Governor’s Partnership in the Development of Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Policy and Its Vision for the Future.
 In addition to a national and state perspective, we also invited key leaders from Erie County to speak on the local perspective. Those who participated in the presentation were: The **Honorable Ernest DiSantis**, Erie County Family Court, The Present and Future of the Erie County Juvenile Court; **Dr. Robert Oliver**, Erie School District, The Significance of Collaboration and Local Community-Based Initiatives for Preventing and Responding to Delinquency; **Mr. Thomas Antolik** and **Mr. Robert**

Blakely, Erie County Juvenile Probation Department, The Changes in the Juvenile Court and the Probation Department's Response.

- ***Social Structure, Race and the Transformation of the Juvenile Court***

March 16, 1998

The *Center for Child and Family Policy* sponsored a lecture with **Barry Feld, PhD, JD**, Centennial Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota. The objectives of the session were to examine the social structural forces and racial changes affecting juvenile justice administration, examine Dr. Feld's view of the transformation of the juvenile court from a nominally rehabilitative welfare agency into a scaled-down second-class criminal court for young offenders, and consider the future role of the juvenile justice system and the implications of abolishing the juvenile court.

- ***Family Violence and Corporal Punishment: The Effects on Children and Families***
December 11, 1997

The *Center for Child and Family Policy* sponsored a lecture on intra-familial violence. Guest speaker **Dr. Murray Strauss**, professor of sociology at the University of New Hampshire and Co-Director of the Family Research Laboratory, provided the most recent findings on the effects of family violence and corporal punishment on children and families and the long term effects of the use of corporal punishment on deviance and crime.

- ***Community Action Plan***

An Erie County Policy and Planning Council *Community Action Plan* was designed by the *Center for Child and Family Policy* to inform the Council of the well-being issues related to teen pregnancy, the problems associated with it, available community resources and present recommendations to the community on the issue.

IX. **Presentations**

→ **May 24, 2002**

Dr. Thomas Gamble, Director, *Civic Institute* was asked by the Pennsylvania Office of Children Youth & Families to conduct a workshop for Pennsylvania Counties on "Using Federal Child and Family Service Review Data to Develop County Plans for Children & Youth" (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania).

→ **January 10, 2002**

Dr. Thomas Gamble, Director, *Civic Institute* made a presentation to Mercyhurst College Police Science students on "Studying Racial Disparity & Racial Bias" (Erie, Pennsylvania).

→ **June 20, 2001**

Dr. Thomas Gamble, Director, *Civic Institute* made a presentation entitled "Erie's Model Preschool Projects" for the Heinz Foundation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

→ **May 24, 2001**

"Results-Based Research for Community Collaboratives" was the name of a presentation

given by Dr. Thomas Gamble, Director, *Civic Institute* at the State Building Stronger Communities Conference in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

→ **April 17, 2001**

“State of Evidence of Racial & Gender Bias in Juvenile Justice in Erie County, PA” was the title of a testimony given by Dr. Thomas Gamble, Director, *Civic Institute* on behalf of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Committee on Racial & Gender Bias (Erie, Pennsylvania).

→ **April 4, 2001**

“Prospects & Perils in Profiling America’s Youth” was the name of a presentation Dr. Thomas Gamble, Director, *Civic Institute* gave at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences conference in Washington, D.C.

→ **March 26, 2001**

Dr. Thomas Gamble, Director, *Civic Institute* made a presentation to the Pennsylvania County Commissioner’s Association on “Juvenile Detention Census Management” (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania).

→ **February 28, 2001**

“Building a Healthy Community” presented by Mark J. Levine, MD, Director, *Center for a Healthy Community* at the “Working for What?” conference held at Penn State Behrend, Erie, Pennsylvania.

→ **February 22, 2001**

The Erie County Policy and Planning Council in conjunction with the *Civic Institute* and the Office of the County Executive presented the second annual Briefing of the Governor’s Budget for Children by the Children’s Advocacy Network of the Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children.

December 3, 2000

“Producing Health: The Role of the Environment” presented by Mark J. Levine, MD, Director, *Center for a Healthy Community* at the “Greening the Campus” conference held at Mercyhurst College, Erie, Pennsylvania.

November 30, 2000

“Building a Healthy Community” presented by Mark J. Levine, MD, Director, *Center for a Healthy Community* at the meeting of the Sierra Club of Northwest Pennsylvania, Erie, Pennsylvania.

November 15, 2000

“Producing Health: The Role of the Environment” presented by Mark J. Levine, MD, Director, *Center for a Healthy Community* as part of the Environmental Science Series, Gannon University, Erie, Pennsylvania.

October 21, 2000

“Stories from the Front Lines: Building a Healthy Community” presented by Mark J. Levine, MD, Director, *Center for a Healthy Community* at the Annual Physicians Leadership Meeting, Chicago, Illinois.

September 22, 2000

Mark J. Levine, MD, Director, *Center for a Healthy Community* presented at the Healthy Community Summit 2000, Institute for Healthy Communities, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

September 22, 2000

Center for Justice Research and Policy staff presented a workshop entitled, “Does Community Service Work” in State College, PA. This presentation was made as part of the Pennsylvania Community Service Association’s annual conference.

August 17, 2000

Dr. Thomas Gamble, Director, *Civic Institute* made a presentation on “A Profile of America’s and Erie County’s Youth” at the Solutions 2000 Conference in Erie, PA.

August 2000

The Office of the Attorney General invited Dr. Thomas Gamble, Director, *Civic Institute* to make a testimony on “Policy Implications of School Violence” (Erie, Pennsylvania).

July 2000

“Will Crime Rates Continue to Fall” was a presentation Dr. Thomas Gamble, Director, *Civic Institute* gave for the Pennsylvania Mayor’s Association in Erie, PA.

June 21– 23, 2000

Art Amann, Director of the *Center for Justice Research and Policy* was part of a panel discussing county policy boards and their role in technology planning and implementation at a statewide Criminal Justice Technology Conference in Hershey, PA. The conference was attended by hundreds of county and state officials and technology experts.

May, 2000

Art Amann, Director, *Center for Justice Research and Policy*, was a presenter at the annual conference of the Pennsylvania Association of Probation, Parole and Corrections. The focus of his presentation was on the origins of probation in the United States.

April 4, 2000

Dr. Peter Benekos, Dr. Thomas Gamble and Mr. Art Amann from the *Civic Institute* were invited to address the senior management team of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) on April 4, 2000. The purpose of the presentation was to inform the managers about the successful community building strategies used by the Institute.

March 25, 2000

Lisa Roberts, *Center for Justice Research and Policy*, presented a paper entitled “The Drug Court Phenomenon: It’s Impact on Erie County, Pennsylvania” at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences convention in New Orleans, LA. The paper detailed the findings of the drug court feasibility study in Erie County.

March 13, 2000

Lisa Roberts, *Center for Justice Research and Policy*, presented a paper entitled, “Responding to School Violence: An Assessment of Conflict Resolution Programs” at the American Society of Criminal Justice Sciences Conference in Orlando, FL.

State Budget Briefing

March 3, 2000

The *Mercyhurst Civic Institute*, in partnership with the United Way of Erie County, participated in a state budget briefing. As part of the Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children State Fiscal Analysis Initiative, Joan Benso, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Partnerships, presented an analysis of the impact of the Governor’s 2000-2001 budget proposal on children and families

November 20, 1999

Members of the *Mercyhurst Civic Institute* staff presented the following papers at the International American Society of Criminology Conference, “Explaining and Preventing Crime: The Globalization of Knowledge,” November 17-20, 1999, in Toronto, Canada. At a session titled “Alternative Juvenile Crime Strategies,” papers were presented by Dr. Peter Benekos, Dr. Thomas Gamble, Sherrie Sonnenberg, and Lisa Roberts.

November 20, 1997

Dr. Peter Benekos, Amy Cuzzola-Kern and Sherrie Sonnenberg, *Center for Child and Family Policy*, presented papers at the American Society of Criminology’s 49th Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA., November 19-22, 1997. Their papers, entitled “Trends in Youth Crime: Erie County, PA”, “Explaining the Increase in Juvenile Delinquency Residential Placements: A Study of Erie County, PA”, and “Responding to the Costs of Youth Placement: A Study of Community Intervention as an Alternative to Placement”, reported research findings on juvenile crime and juvenile justice in Erie County and Pennsylvania.

X. Technical Assistance

→ ***Analysis of Police Stops and Searches, April 2002***

The *Civic Institute* was asked by the City of Erie to conduct a study to ascertain the presence or absence of racial or ethnic disparity in police-citizen contacts.

→ ***Erie Metropatterns: A Regional Agenda for Community and Stability in the Erie***

Region, Fall 2001

The *Civic Institute* assisted in bringing Myron Orfield, Director and President of the Metropolitan Area Research Corporation to Erie, PA to review the relationship between common regional development patterns and growing social and economic disparities in regions throughout Erie County. He urged collaboration and strategizing on the part of region as opposed to individual municipalities to enhance cost savings and effectiveness as well as economic growth.

→ ***Cancer Registry Project***

The *Center for a Healthy Community* partnered with the Regional Cancer Center and the Erie County Department of Health to complete a Cancer Registry Project. The project is based on the hypothesis that the measurement of our ability to find the most common cancers at their earliest stages is necessary to provide outcome data crucial to continuous improvement and health services planning. Cancer cases are currently being mapped with the ArcView GIS software and will be developed into a report at a later date.

→ ***Center for Child and Family Policy Library***

The *Civic Institute* has established a research library for Mercyhurst College students and the Erie community to promote the study of child and family issues. Resources include various publications/articles on issues such as poverty, crime, juvenile justice, health, education, program evaluation, and county profiles.

→ ***Children's Advocacy Center***

The *Civic Institute* provides consultation and technical assistance for the Erie County Children's Advocacy Center. The Mission of the Center shall be to support the well being of children victimized by physical or sexual abuse by promoting a coordinated, multidisciplinary response that reduces further trauma and improves the investigative process of interviewing children.

• ***Continuum of Care Submission***

The *Center for Child and Family Policy* was instrumental in obtaining a total of \$1,580,000 in grants for three area social service agencies. The Center provided technical assistance to the Erie County Department of Human Services and the City of Erie Department of Economic and Community Development to prepare this year's Continuum of Care submission to U.S. Housing and Urban Development. The \$1.5 million awarded to Erie County will be used to assist homeless persons in finding permanent housing and support services.

• ***Drug Court Feasibility Study for the Erie County Drug Court Steering Committee***

The *Center for Justice Research and Policy* conducted a study for the Erie County Court of Common Pleas to assess the feasibility of establishing a Drug Court. The project was funded by the United States Office of Justice Programs, Drug Courts Program Office. The Center evaluated probation and jail records for juvenile and adult offenders to determine the needs of the target population and eligibility for developing a specialized Drug Court in Erie County.

- ***Environmental Education Through Art***
The *Center for a Healthy Community* in partnership with Mercyhurst College Service Learning Office has received a grant from the Pennsylvania Campus Compact Public Initiative Agenda to initiate a watershed art project that promotes awareness of environmental stewardship and the link between the environment and human health.
- ***Erie County Network for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention***
The *Center for Child and Family Policy* provided staff support for the development of the ECNAPP project (Erie County Network for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention). ECNAPP is a network of policy makers, service providers, governmental agencies and concerned community groups, as well as citizens and teenagers, that will coordinate, strengthen and enhance teen pregnancy prevention services in Erie County. The Center prepared a grant proposal for the 1998 Joint Corporators Project from St. Vincent's Health Center and Hamot Medical Center that was approved for funding in the amount of \$80,000. The Center also prepared and distributed the ECNAPP request for proposal (RFP). The RFP was distributed to community agencies interested in serving as the host agency.
- ***Erie County Policy & Planning Council for Children and Families***
The *Center for Child and Family Policy* provides staff support to the Erie County Policy and Planning Council for Children and Families. The Council represents 60 community human service leaders, community representatives, non-profit organizations, government agencies, consumers of service and educators. The purpose of the Council is to provide a setting in which concerned agency representatives serving children and families seek to improve outcomes through adopting a more holistic and less fragmented approach to service provision. The Council also serves as a mechanism to stimulate research, discussion, evaluation and implementation of policy and programs to strengthen children and families in Erie County.

In October 1999, Erie County received two awards for its collaborative efforts. Erie was honored as a "Lighthouse County" by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and received an award from the Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children for sustaining collaborative leadership for safe children and communities.

- ***Erie County Criminal Justice Advisory Board***
The Erie County Criminal Justice Advisory Board, formerly known as the Corrections Advisory Board, brings together criminal justice professionals, public officials, and private citizens to discuss pertinent topics affecting Erie County's criminal justice system. The Board provides a forum to share priorities, concerns, and opportunities and to work together on strategies for change. The *Center for Justice Research and Policy* helps to coordinate activities of the Board and provides staff support.

- ***Statewide JNET (Justice Network) Training Subcommittee***
The subcommittee develops training curriculum for JNET related issues and subsequently filtered down to the municipal level.
- ***Erie County Drug Treatment Court Evaluation***
Through grants from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the Erie County Drug Treatment Court was able to begin operation on March 2, 2000. The *Center for Justice Research and Policy* is conducting an evaluation of the program. The evaluation looks at the effectiveness of the program, as well as characteristics of the target population.
- ***Erie County Pre-Trial Processing System Evaluation***
A Technical Assistance grant was secured by the *Center for Justice Research and Policy* to begin a review of the pre-trial processing system in Erie County. The National Institute of Corrections will fund the study. Staff of the Center will work closely with a team of County professionals selected by the President Judge.
- ***Grant Writing Workshops for The Erie Community Foundation***
The *Center for Child and Family Policy*, at the request of The Erie Community Foundation, sponsored a series of Quarterly Grant Writing Workshops for those looking for grant funding. The workshops cover the essentials of basic grant writing and provide resources for finding appropriate grant sources, as well as information specifically about the grant process through The Erie Community Foundation.
- ***Implementing a Mental Health Court Feasibility Study***
The *Center for Justice Research and Policy* assisted Erie County officials in obtaining a small federal grant to explore the feasibility of implementing a Mental Health Court. The grant provided travel expenses to allow the President Judge and Mental Health experts to view Mental Health Courts in Oregon and Washington.
- ***Incorrigibility Work Group within the Erie County Policy & Planning Council***
The *Center for Child and Family Policy* provides staff support to the Incorporrigibility Work Group. The term incorrigibility refers to youth who are out of the reasonable control of parents, teachers and other legitimate authorities but not yet delinquent. It is very likely that an effective service system for such children would pay significant benefits in reduced financial and human costs associated with intervening after delinquency occurs. The mission of the Incorporrigibility Work Group is to work toward the development of a

system of services for incorrigible youth in Erie County that is accessible, coordinated, effective, and accountable and that minimizes the need for juvenile probation or child welfare involvement with affected children and families while identifying children and families who truly need such services.

- ***Lake Erie Law Enforcement Association***

The Lake Erie Law Enforcement Association (LELEA) was founded in the 1970s to provide leaders in the criminal justice community with an informal setting in which they could get to know one another better and share information and ideas relating to their work. The organization disbanded in the mid-1980s, but has been revived through the assistance of the *Center for Justice Research and Policy* and is meeting bi-annually.

Martin Luther King Center Strategic Plan, Fall 2000

The *Civic Institute* assisted the Martin Luther King Center's Board of Director's in developing an ongoing strategy for the MLK Center's future endeavors.

→ ***Modified Adult Probation Sanctions: Evaluation of Probation Supervision Sanctions Systems***, April 2002

The *Center for Justice Research and Policy* was asked by the Erie County Court of Common Pleas to conduct a study concerning the efficiency of adult probation/parole violation sanctions.

→ ***Partnership for A Healthy Mill Creek Watershed***

The *Center for a Healthy Community* in partnership with local neighborhood organizations, academic institutions and others has received a planning grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to initiate a watershed association in the Mill Creek Subwatershed. The partnership was designed to raise awareness of the link between environment and human health, promote environmental stewardship and engage youth in neighborhood-based activities that meet the above goals.

→ ***Placement Study***

Through a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the *Civic Institute* is conducting an analysis of juveniles in residential placement for the Erie County Juvenile Probation Department. The Department is interested in determining which residential programs are producing the most desirable results.

- ***SPSS Technical Assistance to Erie County Adult Probation***

The *Center for Child and Family Policy* provided technical assistance to the Erie County Adult Probation Department in developing a data collection instrument. Assistance has also been provided in setting up and analyzing data in SPSS, a statistical analysis software package. The Probation Department is interested in assessing the utilization of the Erie County Intermediate Punishment Programs.

→ ***State of the Region Project***

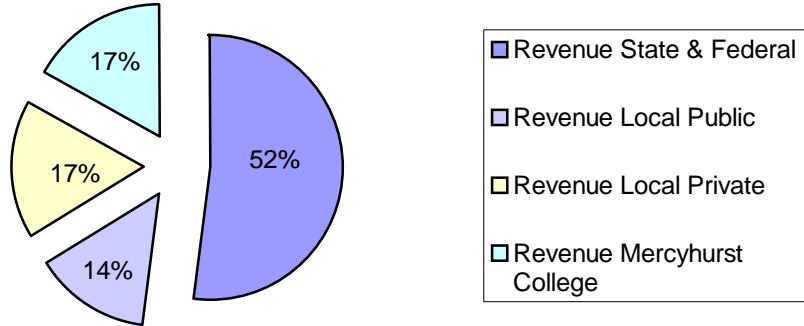
The Northwest PA Workforce Investment Board asked the Civic Institute to develop indicators of the quality of life and ultimately identify goals and action steps for Northwestern PA.

→ ***West Side Neighborhood Project***

Through a grant from the Erie Community Foundation, the Trinity Center has expanded their after-school program for elementary students and added a middle school program during the 2000-2001 school year. The Heinz Endowments of Pittsburgh funded 3 years of a laboratory preschool for four and five-year-olds in the surrounding neighborhood beginning in September 2000. This Center City Child Learning Center is located in the former St. Joseph School. There will be low child-to-teacher ratios (7 to 1), and teachers will also make home visits to ensure good communication with the child's caregivers. The Erie School District and the preschool will work together to facilitate the transition from preschool to formal elementary education and to make sure children enter school ready and able to learn. Most of the children who attend the preschool will eventually enroll in the new elementary school being built on 21st and Sassafras Streets. The School District is also interested in supporting the Trinity Center after-school programs by providing academic support and possibly implementing some aspects of the Trinity Center programs in other existing programs located in the schools.

XI. Revenue Sources and Expenses

**Mercyhurst Civic Institute
Revenue 2000-2001**



**Mercyhurst Civic Institute
Expenses 2000-2001**

