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A message from King  
County Prosecuting  
Attorney's Office

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At 206-296-9035

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Washington State Becca Task Force Truancy Conference: Another Success!

*By Jan Solomon, At-Risk Youth Program Manager*



*Justice Bridge & King County Prosecutor Maleng,  
Co-Chairs Washington State Becca Task Force*

Conference attendees at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Washington State Becca Task Force Truancy Conference, held this year on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, were inspired and motivated to continue their all-important work of fostering positive school engagement and keeping kids safe and on the road to graduation. Again this year, over 250 people attended, representing over 45 school districts and 20 counties in Washington State. Participants came from schools, courts, law enforcement, social services, public defender offices, prosecutor offices, community service programs, and mental health agencies in a true spirit of collaboration.

Motivation was provided by several keynote speakers this year, including Washington State Supreme Court Justice Bobbe Bridge and King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng (Becca Task Force co-chairs), and Judge Patricia Clark, Chief Juvenile Judge of King Country Superior Court. In

addition, we were fortunate to hear from Dr. Terri Bergeson, Director of OSPI, Dr. Ken Seeley, President of the National Center for School Engagement, Denise Fitch, Administrator of Washington State School Safety Center for OSPI, Senator Mike Carrell from the 28<sup>th</sup> District, and Dr. Delton Young, Interlake Psychiatric Associates.

Participants were treated to a wide range of workshop presentations, including such topics as Truancy and the Law, Partnering with the Community, Effective Sanctions, Cultural Competency, and Mental Health and Truancy. Feedback has continued to be very positive.

We look forward to having another successful Truancy Prevention Conference next year and hope to continue to learn from each other and collaborate in helping keep kids in school across Washington State.

## The National Truancy Conference

*By Commissioner Nancy Bradburn-Johnson*



*Bonnie Glenn, Jan Solomon, Justice Bobbe Bridge and Steve  
Gustafson at the United States Supreme Court*



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The National Truancy Conference, held in Washington D.C. for three days in December 2004, was the first of its kind. To underscore the importance of truancy prevention, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the Office Safe and Drug-Free Schools (OSDFS), U.S. Department of Education, joined to promote the theme: Partnering To Prevent Truancy: A National Priority. These two national agencies recognized that truancy is a problem with many dimensions, and for which wide-ranging approaches are necessary to create solutions.

The Conference gathered people from all across the country to discuss, analyze, and work on solving truancy. Educators, school administration personnel, Assistant Attorney Generals, Judges, Assistant District Attorneys, Program managers, Probation Officers, members of the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice, and many others appeared to brainstorm and trade information about keeping youth engaged in school through graduation.

The two and a half-day program included sessions on implementing, running, and evaluating truancy programs and strategies to prevent or reduce truancy. Particular emphasis was placed on programs that target under-served populations, such as youth with disabilities, in foster care, reentering the community from the juvenile justice system, tribal youth, and immigrant youth.

Keynote speakers J. Robert Flores, Administrator, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Deborah A. Price, Deputy Under Secretary, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, U.S. Department of Education, each discussed the results obtained from truancy research. Their message was that it is not enough to focus only

upon attendance. Truancy is a far more complex issue than simply getting a student to sit in class all day. The focus must be on the “three A’s”— **Attendance, Attachment, and Achievement**. Each of these components is necessary to a youth’s success in school, and later on, in life.



*Jan Solomon, Dawn Nannini, Suzie Carolan,  
Bonnie Glenn, and Steve Gustaveson at the Korean  
War Memorial*

Workshops focused on aspects important to solving issues relating to truancy. Some of the titles included Truancy and Students with Disabilities, Strong Community Partnerships To Reduce Truancy, California School Attendance Reviews Boards: It Takes a Community to Assure School Attendance and Achieve Academic Success, Addressing Truancy in Youth Court Programs, Truancy Prevention in Middle School, Truancy Prevention and Intervention in Rural Communities, Truancy Assessment Centers: Three Approaches, FERPA: Privacy Requirements That Relate to Disclosures About Truancy, Family Engagement and Community Partnerships: Pathways to School Success.

As part of the process of encouraging collaboration, a great deal of written information was presented. Gangs and bullying were two subjects on which



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much was written. Websites, such as [truancy prevention.org](http://truancy prevention.org) and [nrscrisisline.org](http://nrscrisisline.org) (the National Runaway Switchboard) were made available, as were some telephone numbers (such as the number for NRS: 1-800-RUNAWAY).

This first national conference recognized that treating truancy is a lynchpin for youth, and successful reduction in truancy opens up a life of achievement for many gifted youth who might otherwise be lost.

## 2005 Legislative Session

### SAVE NOW OR PAY MORE LATER



*By Bonnie Glenn, Deputy Chief of Staff King County  
Prosecuting Attorney's Office*

As the 59<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session came to a close, the Washington State Becca Task Force was successful in its efforts to maintain existing dollars to secure Becca Funding for the State of Washington. Special thank you to Senator Jim Hargrove, Senator Mike Carrell and the leadership of our Becca Task Force - Justice Bobbe Bridge and Norm Maleng. The only cut in funding came in allocating dollars for the Regional Crisis Residential Centers, "CRC'S". This legislative session, the CRC's took a cut of \$1.712 million for the biennium. Secured Crisis Residential Centers however, did maintain their statewide budget of \$9.4 million for the biennium. The following is a breakdown of the state dollars allocated for our Becca Programs:

1. TRUANCY:	\$7.1 million (AOC)
2. ARY / CHINS:	\$6.1 million (AOC)
3. SCRC/CRC:	\$15.2 million (PSEA/G.F.)
4. SCHOOLS	\$3.0 million (AOC)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31.4 million</b>

Special acknowledgement to our presenters at our March 22, 2005, joint legislative education work session before the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee and the House Juvenile Justice and Family Law Committee. Without your leadership we could not continue to help raise awareness about the importance of our Becca Laws: Senator Jim Hargrove, Norm Maleng, Bruce Knutson, Pat Donahue, Lt. John Hayes – SPD, Charlotte Booth, Dr. Dolores Gibbons, and Judge Leonard Costello.

After the fall out – here are a few key bills of note. To look up the entire text of the bills please go to [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov).

#### **HB 1279: Public Access to At-Risk Youth and CHINS Hearings**

The bill passed the House Rules Committee 89-0. The bill died in the Senate Rules Committee.

#### **HB 1660: Expanding the definition of "at Risk"**

The bill never made it out of the House Appropriations Committee.

#### **SSB 1708:**

This bill would have created a workgroup with OSPI and AOC to look at our Becca Laws and Attendance. The Governor vetoed this bill.

#### **ESB 6090: Budget**

Please note, the CRC's and the SCRC's are budget items. You will find mention of them in the budget under Section 202: DSHS. The specific cuts are not



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mentioned as a line item. You can see reductions on page 177 in reviewing the agency detail report under DSHS - Item 27.

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/pub/billinfo/2005-06/Htm/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/6090-S.PL.htm>

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Congratulations to everyone for your efforts in helping children and families during times of challenge. Way to go TEAM!!



## Did You Know?

Research by Kimberly Frederick  
Seattle University School of Law Student

- ✓ After the police opened a truancy center in North Miami Beach and began picking up truant children during school hours, crime diminished substantially in the targeted neighborhoods, with vehicle burglaries decreasing by 22% and residential burglaries and criminal mischief both dropping by 19%. Berger and Wind, "Police Eliminating Truancy: A PET Project," FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, Vol. 69, No. 2, Feb 2000, p. 16-19.
  - ✓ When police in Van Nuys, California conducted a three-week truancy sweep, shoplifting arrests fell more than 60%. Schuster, B., "L.A. School Truancy Exact a Growing Social Price," Los Angeles Times, June 28, 1995, sec. A, p.12.
  - ✓ Police in Saint Paul, Minnesota report that crimes such as purse snatching dropped almost 50% after police began picking up truants and bringing them to a new school attendance center. McMillen, Kaufman, and Whitener, "Dropout Rates in the United States" US Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, p. 15 (1993).
  - ✓ In 1997, 41% of prison inmates and 31% of probationers 18 years and older had not graduated from high school or earned a GED, compared with 18% of the general population. Harlow, C.W., "Education and Correctional Populations," Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report, January 2003.
  - ✓ Data from the 2000 Census show that high school dropouts had only a 52% employment rate in 1999, compared to 71% for high school graduates, and 83% for college graduates. Of those who worked full-time, year-round in 1999, high school dropouts earned only 65% of the median earnings.  
<http://www.census.gov/hhes/income/earnings/call1usboth.html>
  - ✓ Several studies have documented the correlation between drug use and truancy. A report from the University of Maryland found that 51% of female juvenile detainees not in school at the time of their arrests tested positive for drug use. Gray, Levine and Wish (1996), "Recent Drug Use in Female Juvenile Detainees: Estimates from Interviews, Urinalyses, and Hair Analysis", Center of Substance Abuse Analysis, University of Maryland, p. 4.
  - ✓ Another study by the US Department of Justice's Drug Use Forecasting Program reported that more than half (53%) of a group of 403 juvenile male arrestees in San Diego, California tested positive for drug use when taken to juvenile hall. Of the arrestees, 69% of those who did not attend school tested positive for drug use compared to 49% of those who did attend. "Drug Use Among San Diego Arrestees," SANDAG Info, Special Issue 1996.
- As the above information shows, the work you do everyday in Truancy Prevention makes a



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difference to our community and the many students and families in need! Thank You!!!

### Of National Note ...



Research by Kimberly Frederick  
Seattle University School of Law Student

### Successful Truancy Programs Across the Country

Our truancy prevention program here in Washington is praised as one of the best in the nation. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the US Department of Justice chose it as one of 6 programs across the country to serve as national models. Because of our program's impressive results, King County was chosen, along with Houston and Jacksonville, to become the focus of an in-depth outcome research project- the results of which will be released in the fall. Here's a look at some other programs that have achieved dramatic results:

#### Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Program elements:** Parents, police, and the school system focus on the causes of truancy in the Truancy Abatement and Burglary Suppression (TABS) initiative in Milwaukee. Attendance is taken every period in all high schools. Local police officers pick up truant students and bring them to a Boys and Girls Club for counseling. Parents are called at home automatically every night if their child did not attend school that day. If the parent is not supportive of regular school attendance, then the district attorney is contacted.

**Results:** In a recent sample of students who went through the TABS process, 73 percent returned to school the next day, 66 percent remained in school on the 15th day, and 64 percent still are in school 30 days later. Since the TABS initiative began, daytime burglary in Milwaukee has decreased 33 percent, and daytime aggravated battery has decreased 29 percent.

#### Rohnert Park, California

**Program elements:** The Stop, Cite and Return Program is designed to reduce truancy and juvenile crime in the community and to increase average daily attendance for the schools. Patrol officers issue citations to suspected truants contacted during school hours, and students are returned to school to meet with their parents and a vice-principal. Two citations are issued without penalty; the third citation results in referral to appropriate support services.

**Results:** Due in large part to this initiative, the daytime burglary rate is 75 percent below what it was in 1979.

#### Atlantic County, New Jersey

**Program elements:** The Atlantic County Project Helping Hand receives referrals from six Atlantic City and four Pleasantville elementary schools for youth in K through eighth grades who have five to 15 days of unexcused absences. A truancy worker meets with the youth and family to provide short-term family counseling, usually up to eight sessions. Referrals for additional social services are made on an as needed basis. If the family fails to keep appointments, home visits are made to encourage cooperation. Once a truancy problem is corrected, the case is closed and placed on an aftercare/monitoring status with contact made at 30, 60, and



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90-day intervals to ensure that truancy does not persist.

**Results:** During the past school year, 84 percent of the students who participated in the Atlantic County program had no recurrence of truancy.

### Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**Program elements:** The THRIVE (Truancy Habits Reduced Increasing Valuable Education) initiative is a comprehensive anti-truancy program spurred by an ongoing community partnership of law enforcement, education, and social service officials. Police bring a suspected truant to a community-run detention center where, within one hour of arrival, officials assess the youth's school status, release the youth to a parent or relative, and refer the family to any needed social service agencies. Parents are notified by the district attorney of potential consequences for repeat behavior. Parents who harbor youth with 15 days of consecutive unexcused absences are subject to misdemeanor charges.

**Results:** Since THRIVE's inception in 1989, the Oklahoma City Police Department reports a 33 percent drop in daytime burglary rates.

### Peoria, Arizona

**Program elements:** In Operation Save Kids, school officials contact the parents of students with three unexcused absences. Parents are expected to relay back to school officials steps they have taken to ensure their children regularly attend school. When students continue to be truant, cases are referred to the local district attorney. To avoid criminal penalty and a \$150 parent fine, youth are required to participate in an intensive-counseling program, and parents must attend a parenting skills training program.

**Results:** Since Operation Save Kids began two years ago, daytime juvenile property crime rates have declined by 65 percent. Truancy citywide has been cut in half.

From US Department of Ed Website.

## Volunteers & Externs Helping Keep our Kids in School!



By Bonnie Glenn, Deputy Chief of Staff King County  
Prosecuting Attorney's Office

I want to thank this year's law students for their volunteer work with our truancy prevention program. Without your assistance, we could not do the work that we do. You are a valuable part of helping this office reach out to students and families who are in need. Special thank you to 2<sup>nd</sup> year Seattle University School of Law student volunteer, Elinor Tesfamariam. Elinor helped work with truancy prevention last semester and assisted with work on juvenile justice issues, our county television program on homelessness and research on youth courts and other juvenile issues. Elinor is co-chair of the Black Law Student Association, "BLSA," at Seattle University School of Law and helped bring this year's BLSA Regional Conference here to Seattle. In her spare time, she took time to help with this year's King County Academic Awareness Awards Program this last May. Thank you so much, Ellie! This summer, Kimberly Frederick will serve as an extern in our office in Truancy Prevention and our MDOP Unit. Kimberly



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is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year law student who is excited about a career in criminal law to develop and fine-tune her litigation skills. Kimberly is a proud mom of a one-year old son named Remi (for Remington) and a loving wife. I told her that I had no concerns about her ability to multi-task if she can keep that many balls in the air. We look forward to having her work with our office this summer and thank her for her hard work in putting this newsletter together, assisting with legal research, and helping with this year's awards program.

## Greater King County Police Activities League - GJJAC Grant Awarded!

*By Sergeant Reid Johnson, King County Sheriff's Office*

The Greater King County Police Activity League ("PAL") is gearing up for a great summer! Thanks to grants recently awarded PAL by the National Police Activities League, King County and the Governor's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, programs will continue through the summer and into next year. Teaming up with King County Parks and Recreation, the White Center Log Cabin area will be hopping with recreational activities for at-risk kids, school readiness sessions and arts and cultural events. The focus will continue into next school year with weekly tutoring and homework clubs, character development activities and lots of fun recreational opportunities such as soccer, boxing, judo, dance and volleyball.

PAL activities are open to all youth but a special focus is placed on recruiting at-risk youth into the programs. Most of these at-risk kids don't qualify for traditional after school activities and PAL is an outstanding outlet. The goal of PAL is to

connect kids with law enforcement in a positive environment designed to keep youth busy, off the streets and out of trouble.

King County Sheriff Deputy Steve Beets, SRO at Evergreen High School, and Carlos Bratcher, SRO at Dimmitt Middle School will be heading up the programs. If there are questions or referrals, please contact Sgt. Reid Johnson

### Upcoming Event

<b>Event:</b>	2005 D.A.R.E./SRO/OSPI Conference
<b>Date:</b>	August 1-4
<b>Location:</b>	Clarion Hotel, 1507 N. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street Yakima, WA 98901
<b>Contact:</b>	Lisa Piculell lpiculell@ci.bellevue.wa.us

## 2005 King County Academic Awareness Awards "Believe and Succeed"

*By Bonnie Glenn, Deputy Chief of Staff King County  
Prosecuting Attorney's Office*

On May 18, 2005, the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office held its annual King County Academic Awareness Awards. The awards were created by Norm Maleng to recognize students from across King County who have overcome obstacles and have returned to school with the assistance of the schools, courts, parents, and community. In addition, the awards are a special time to honor special individuals who have contributed to making our Becca Laws work here in King County. Special thank you to our hosts Norm Maleng and Chief Juvenile Judge Patricia Clark and our special guests, Justice Bobbe Bridge, Councilmember Larry Gossett, and Commissioner Nancy Bradburn-Johnson. The following are a listing of this year's award winners and photos of the event:



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**2005 Winners:**

*Jacinto Carrillo, North Shore School District; Eric John Gulla, North Shore School District; Nick Milanese, Kent School District; Katerina Manis, Tahoma School District; Kristina Manis, Tahoma School District; Sandy Noriega, Lake Washington School District; Glenda Ramirez, Bellevue School District; Nissim Shulman, Seattle School District; Tyler Schwald, Tukwila School District; Danielle White, Seattle School District; Adam Willard, Federal Way School District; Brian Willard, Federal Way School District.*

**Outstanding Achievement Award Winners-***Catheryne Baker, Renton School District; Weslee Reynolds, Highline School District.*

**Angel Award Winners-***Kyle Buchanan and Bob Otto.*

**Peer Award Winner-***Jim Lutz*

**Special Recognition-***Linda Lillevik*

**Congratulations to the 2005 Truancy Award Winners!**



From Left to Right- Back Row: *Commissioner Nancy Bradburn-Johnson, King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng, Kyle Buchanan, Adam Willard, Weslee Reynolds, Nissim Shulman, Jacinto Carrillo, Catheryne Baker, King County Councilman Gossett.* Front Row: *Justice Bridge, Sandy Noriega, Eric John Gulla, Adam Willard, Danielle White.*



Presenters: Norm Maleng, Councilman Gossett, Justice Bridge, and Judge Clark



Veronique Chevallier-Gruschow, Tim Reynolds, Weslee Reynolds, and John Leonard



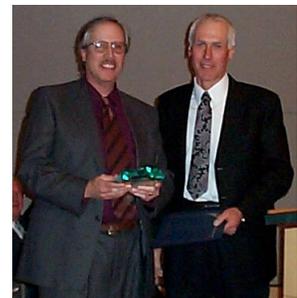
Justice Bridge and Catheryne Baker



Commissioner Bradburn-Johnson and Kyle Buchanan



Linda Lillevik, Norm Maleng, and Judge Patricia Clark



Jim Lutz and Stan Lemmel



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Jim Turner, Jim Lutz, Mark Froes, Nancy Saunders, Dawn Nannini, and Veronique Chevallier-Gruschow



Norm Maleng, Councilman Gossett, Justice Bridge and Eric John Gulla



Nissim Shulman, Norm Maleng, Councilman Gossett, Justice Bridge, and Judge Clark



Danielle White, Norm Maleng, Councilman Gossett, Justice Bridge, Judge Clark



Adam Willard, Norm Maleng, Brian Willard, Councilman Gossett, Justice Bridge, and Judge Clark



Kimberly Frederick, Bonnie Glenn, and Elinor Tesfamariam

