

KANE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

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MEET ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT AMY SIERRA

Amy Sierra has over 26 years of experience at the Juvenile Justice Center. She started her career as a Youth Counselor in 1991 at the former Kane County Youth Home in Batavia, IL. She was certified by the National Institute of Corrections in Gender-Responsive Programming Development and she has also conducted extensive training in Sexual Misconduct and Staff Boundaries issues. Amy was promoted to her current position of Assistant Superintendent in 2010, and began to transition the JJC's programming and services to be aligned with evidence-based practices. She also began to lay the foundation for the JJC's compliance with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) in 2013. Amy is a previous recipient of the National Partnership for Juvenile Services (NPJS) Bob Rader Detention Services Worker of the Year Award and the Community Crisis Center Partners in Peace Award.



Amy Sierra, Assistant Superintendent

A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Although the Andy Williams song says, "It's the most wonderful time of the year", the truth is the holidays can be tough for anyone. This is especially true of young people who are detained and away from their families. So rather than acting as if holidays don't exist in juvenile detention, we did our best to give the kids a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. All the while, setting the example of what it means to care about and have empathy for others. This includes our kitchen personnel preparing special meals, holiday decorating contests, extra visitation and providing residents with a small gift to open on Christmas morning. The residents were also encouraged to think about others and were provided with greeting cards they could give to staff or send to loved ones. With the help of our volunteers, staff, community and intergovernmental partners, the residents were treated to a Christmas Party which included food, games, cookie decorating and even a little caroling. Thanks to the support of the Regional Office of Education, to further promote the spirit of thinking of others during the holiday season, the residents had the opportunity to purchase small gifts for family members by using coupons they'd earned for positive behavior and achievement in school. Prior to the party, daily focus groups concentrated on etiquette while hosting an event, demonstrating pro-social behavior and showing appreciation to others. In 2018, we're going to continue to do our best to promote a positive environment and to assist our residents in developing the skills necessary to change thinking and positively influence decision making.

Mike Davis, Superintendent

JOHN HOWARD ASSOCIATION REPORT

The John Howard Association (JHA), independently monitors correctional facilities, policies and practices, and advances reforms needed to achieve a fair, humane and effective criminal justice system in Illinois.

JHA's vision for Illinois is to achieve a smaller, rehabilitative criminal justice system that supports incarcerated individuals so they may return to society as productive citizens.

In June of 2017, the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center was visited by the JHA. Aside from praising the JJC's school program, the association commended the JJC for actively seeking out community partners to provide youth with diverse and meaningful programming. The advocacy group also

acknowledged the JJC for our commitment to transparency and understanding of the importance of accountability to the public.

You can view the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center report at:

http://www.thejha.org/special_reports

ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Illinois Juvenile Justice Leadership Council is a key group of Illinois juvenile justice leaders, decision-makers, service providers, government and reform advocates whose focus is creating and sustaining support and resources for juvenile justice reform in Illinois.

Superintendent Davis was asked to be a panelist at the Illinois Juvenile Justice Council's Quarterly Meeting on January 23, 2018. The focus was on the benefits of external oversight of Illinois detention centers.

PAULINE GANSAUER AWARD



Pauline Gansauer was a charter member of Illinois Probation and Court Services Association (IPCSA) and was part of the first group ever to have attended Probation Officer Training in 1969. Pauline was dedicated to her department, IPCSA and the profession.

Each year, the IPCSA presents an award in her honor, named the Pauline Gansauer Award, Field of Dedication. This year, the Executive Board and Awards Committee would like to congratulate Victor Rivera from Kane County as the 2017 Recipient. Congratulations Victor!!!

IPCSA President Mark Krueger with Victor Rivera

CERAMICS

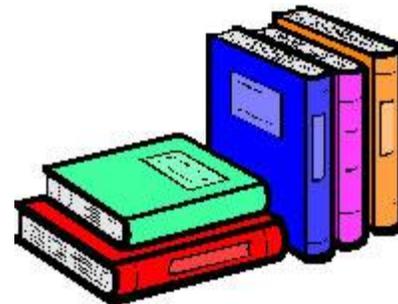
JJC Volunteer, John Lo, worked with the residents creating these beautiful ceramic dishes.



Expungement packets are available to all Kane County residents upon their release from the Juvenile Justice Center.

JJC LIBRARY

Through an intragovernmental agreement, the Kane County Law Library & Self Help Legal Center librarians Halle Cox and Ellen Schmid maintain the JJC Library's collection, along with planning for its future. This includes serving on the Library Committee along with JJC employees Mike Davis, Amy Sierra, Durin Caplan and Pam Ely and employees from the Regional Office of Education, Rich Grenda, Kathy Lawson, Shirley LeClere, Murphy Mahalik and Ivars Spalis. The library committee's vision is "to provide residents a safe place to explore and develop their potential with services and resources that honor the vast possibilities of their futures and help them choose a successful, law-abiding lifestyle." The committee implemented a new book discussion group for residents with the possibility of bringing in authors for visits. There are also plans for creating book trailers and making posters!



If you are interested in donating gently-used books to the JJC Library, please note that titles must be current and appropriate for our residents. If you would like a tour or are interested in volunteering with us, please contact Ellen Schmid at schmidellen@co.kane.il.us. We look forward to seeing you!

SALVATION ARMY



Giving
Hope
Today

Thank you to Dean McDiarmid and the Salvation Army for their donation of backpacks filled with items for residents in need upon their release. The Salvation Army also donated an abundance of items for the JJC Resident Christmas Party. We are very thankful for all of their assistance!

GRIEF COUNSELING

The JJC has partnered with Jill Thorsen and the Hands of Hope Grief Counseling Program, who are conducting weekly groups and individual sessions for our residents on issues related to loss.



SMILE ILLINOIS

Dental Care

Smile Programs, the mobile dentists, is an "in-school" dental program designed to address today's dental care crisis and keep children healthy. Their innovative model offers state-of-the-art dental care. This program is easy and convenient, and is offered at no cost to parents* and no cost to the JJC.

Many children sadly find themselves without affordable access to dental care. The Smile Program uses the latest technology in portable equipment, bringing dental services directly to the JJC. They use their network of locally-licensed dentists, hygienists, and assistants to provide high quality care to our residents. Their program sets up a mini dental clinic directly in the JJC.

The residents will receive:

- Complete oral exam
- Cleaning
- Oral health education
- A Report Card from the dentist
- A free toothbrush

* In most states for children with Medicaid



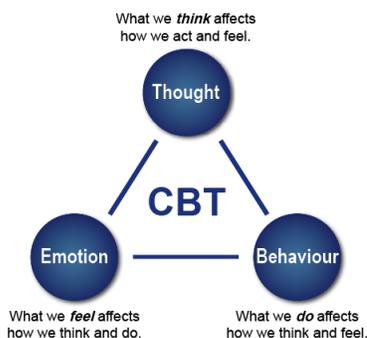
MEET IVARS SPALIS, JJC PRINCIPAL

Ivars has been the JJC School Program administrator since 2007 and officially became principal of the program in 2014. Before taking the helm as principal, Ivars was a classroom teacher at the JJC from 1999 until 2007. He earned his B.A. (Secondary Education/Language Arts) and teaching certification from Northeastern Illinois University in 1999. Ivars greatly enjoyed serving the students in his time as a classroom teacher and enthusiastically used innovative approaches to keep his lessons engaging. As an employee of the Kane County ROE under the leadership of late Assistant Superintendent Julie Vallejo, Ivars was encouraged to pursue his Master's Degree in Educational Leadership at Aurora University in order to become a school administrator. Ivars completed this program of study in 2007, enabling him to make a greater impact for the students at the JJC. As a member of the Kane County ROE's School Principals Network, Learning Leaders, and Teach to Lead team, Ivars continues to advocate for JJC students and networks with others to ensure JJC students receive the best possible education. He gives much credit to his growth as an educator to Shirley LeClere of the ROE who has served as his mentor. The support of Pat Dal Santo, Kane County ROE Superintendent, has been an integral part of the success of the JJC School Program. Ivars grew up in Rolling Meadows, Illinois, the son of Latvian immigrants who instilled in him the value of education. He speaks and reads Latvian fluently and has actively participated in Latvian-American organizations, including schools over the years.



Ivars Spalis, JJC Principal

CBT



On July 6, 2014, the JJC implemented the CBT program, which uses positive reinforcement through incentives such as a token economy, level-based privileges, and special events. In return, residents attend 300 minutes of school and engage in cognitive groups and exhibit pro-social behavior. They earn rewards for good behavior with commissary nights, Friday night movies with popcorn, and Saturday night Plus Parties. Also included in the program are community-based programs such as therapy dog, gender-specific groups, grief counseling, and community health organizations.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Founded in 1987, Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a Christian non-profit that provides nutritionally complete meals specifically formulated for malnourished children.



Photos courtesy of The Beacon News

On February 6, 2018, Kane County JJC residents, staff, administrators, teachers, probation officers and the DuPage County Transport Team, worked together to package 15,000 meals – enough to feed 42 kids for a year.



JJC staff packaging meals with JJC residents

Pam Ely, PREA Coordinator/Program Manager, told the Beacon News, "It made them feel useful and productive. And anything we can do to help them helps us as a society, as well."

"I really do want to help others," one 17 year old said after he'd removed his gloves to shake the reporter's hand. "But I did not know where to start."

MEET SUPERVISOR VICTOR RIVERA



Victor Rivera, Supervisor

I'm a life-long Aurora resident, who grew up on the East side. I think I have a pretty good sense of humor and compassion for people. I graduated from Aurora Central Catholic in 1986 and went to do a little military time as a member of the Illinois Army National Guard. Once done, I attended and graduated college from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I'm also a life-long Cubs fan (yea I know...don't feel sorry for me). I'm also the second kid of 5 five children. I have many passions in life like fishing, golfing, traveling, coaching basketball and writing (to name a few). My wife of 21 years thinks I'm a little OCD (and if you look at my desk and the fact that I purchased a carpet sweeper for the Supervisor's Office, she may have a point). Of course, what I am most proud of are my three daughters (you can feel sorry for me about this one). My eldest graduated from college with a teaching degree and has since moved to Australia. She is getting married next September. My middle child is an excellent student and chess champion. She's headed to Loyola University next fall. As for my youngest, she's an outstanding basketball player and has dreams of playing in college and eventually going into police work, or the FBI. As for any of the quirky questions that are typically asked of a person, I'm an Aquarius on the Astrological Zodiac and a Monkey on the Chinese Zodiac (I don't know what either zodiac entails, but I can be definitely be monkey like on occasion). Even though I like people, places and things, I'm pretty much a loner who steers clear of too much drama. However, if you need a hand with something or someone to talk to, I've always been reliable, easy going, trustworthy, kind and honest with people. I hope to move to a place, after I retire, where I can fish and golf all year long. The simple things in life keep me sustained, as does my family and hard work (whether at work or at home).

NEW FLOORING

In keeping up the appearance of the building, the JJC has refinished the floors, as well as laid new carpet in Units 1 & 2. The other units had previously been completed.



YWCA GIRLS GROUP

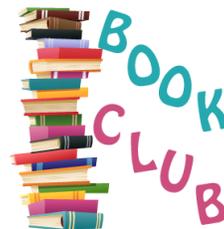


Staff from the YWCA in Addison come once a month to facilitate a group for our female residents. In addition to discussing the services that they offer to girls and women, they also cover topics such as sexual assault/rape and healthy relationships.

BOOK CLUB

The JJC Book Club is a small community of JJC residents brought together for the purpose of sharing the same piece of literature. We have taken examples from existing book clubs, for juveniles in detention, to help model our new endeavor. The Book Club meets once a week to discuss their current activity. Through these activities, facilitated by a volunteer and a JJC teacher, we hope to achieve the following goals:

- First and foremost, to develop the joy of reading
- To introduce a variety of highly engaging types of literature
- To create confidence in reading and encourage reading for pleasure among our residents
- To reinforce the notion that literacy development comes from any and all types of reading
- To activate and engage minds through book discussions



CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES



Artwork by Mr. Drews



DuPage County Transport Team



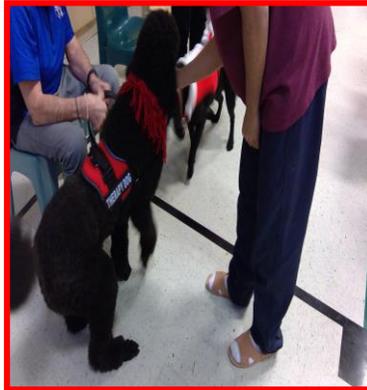
Resident working on a Christmas puzzle



Therapy dogs Harry and Rose



Delicious food prepared by the kitchen staff



Therapy dog Harry



Gift table



Resident wrapping a gift that he purchased



Cookie decorating



JJC Administration – Amy, Mike, Pam

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank the following people and organizations for their help throughout the year!!!

Dean McDiarmid and the Salvation Army * DuPage County Transport Team
Jill Thorsen and Hands of Hope Grief Counseling * Marv Kombrink and Canine Companions
Jessica Montgomery and the YWCA in Addison * JJC Volunteers – Sandra Morefield, Alex
Morefield, John Lo, Liz Whitaker, Julie Kratochvil, Bonnie Streid * JJC Staff – Administration, Supervisors, Youth
Counselors, Kitchen * A special “Thank You” goes to Pam Ely, PREA Coordinator/Program Manager, for her hard work
and dedication to the staff and residents of the JJC.

GOOD BYE AND GOOD LUCK

Congratulations to Judge Hull on his assignment to the Felony and Special Court Division.
We appreciate everything Judge Hull has done during his time at the JJC and wish him the
best of luck.



Judge Clint Hull

WELCOME



Judge William Parkhurst

We'd also like to welcome Judge Parkhurst and look forward to working with him in the future.

KANE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER ADMINISTRATION

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