



AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION



JWatch: An Integrated, Web-Based, Data/Case Management System for Juvenile Probation in the Second Judicial Circuit

The 2nd Judicial Circuit of Illinois Juvenile Justice Data Project (JWatch) is an effort jointly supported by Redeploy Illinois and the MacArthur Foundation's Model for Change Initiative. The project's goal is to improve the 2nd Judicial Circuit's Probation Department's current automated case tracking systems capabilities, specifically as they relate to supervision of juvenile cases.

JWatch is an integrated software tool that supports the needs of the user community by collecting a wide expanded range of case-level juvenile justice data to better understand its juvenile offender population, better identify appropriate services and interventions, and provide a better understanding of program effectiveness and overall system performance. JWatch was created to fully support and integrate the needs of the 12 local probation departments in the judicial circuit and may be used by any probation and detention office in Illinois.

One of the guiding project principles has been to ensure that the data is fully integrated so that all users can access all appropriate data. The presentation will include a demonstration of the JWatch - Juvenile Probation application, a discussion of how a diverse user group was instrumental in the application design and decision making, and problems and successes along the way. Future development (JWatch-Detention) also will be discussed.

Michael Abell
Director of Court Services
Second Judicial Circuit

Michael Abell has worked in the juvenile justice system for more than 30 years. Mr. Abell retired from the Illinois Department of Corrections after 23 years of service and is presently the director of Court Services for the Second Judicial Circuit. He is responsible for all probation services in the 12 counties of the circuit, as well as operation of the Franklin County Juvenile Detention Center, which houses youth from 26 different counties in Southern Illinois.

Contact Mr. Abell at mjabell@il2ndcircuit.org.

Susan Witkin
Coordinator, Research Programs
University of Illinois Center for Prevention Research and Development

Susan Witkin is a coordinator of Research Programs with the University of Illinois Center for Prevention Research and Development. In her role, Ms. Witkin assists in the development of data collection systems that support the assessment and evaluation of programs and initiatives. She is a program evaluator for various grants. She has served in the public service sector her entire



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career, with an extensive court-related background and experience in using data to plan, inform, and track outcomes for community-based services.

Contact Ms. Witkin at witkins@illinois.edu.

Judge George W. Timberlake (Ret.)
Chairman
Second Circuit Juvenile Justice Council

George W. Timberlake served as a trial court judge for 23 years and retired in 2006 as chief judge of the Second Judicial Circuit. He serves as chairman of the 12-county Second Circuit Juvenile Justice Council, and as a member of the JWatch Development Group. He is a member of the JDAI Partners Group and a board member of IJJI, IBARJ P, Redeploy Illinois, and Models for Change Coordinating Council. Judge Timberlake received his juris doctorate and master's of business administration at the University of Illinois.

Contact Judge Timberlake at gwtimberlake@jpc.us.com.