

Enhancing Our Response to Crime Victims

Presented by:
Teresa Wilcox
And
Valerie Bender

Balanced and Restorative Justice

**Community Protection
Victim Restoration
Youth Redemption**

**Three Clients
Community – Victims – Youth
Balanced Attention**

Rights And Services for Victims of Crime

- ▶ Amendments to Crime Victims Act

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/information_and_victim_rights/20957/pennsylvania%27s_crime_victims_act/1180822ding

- ▶ VOJO funding

- ▶ Responsibilities for specific rights

- ▶ Delinquency Rules Enhancements

<http://www.pacourts.us/assets/files/setting-1744/file-1560.pdf?cb=ae9e98>

Victim Restoration

- ▶ Restoring victims to their pre-crime status to the degree possible
 - Victims Rights
 - Restitution
 - Meaningful Community Service
- ▶ The Accountability Goal
 - Process of defining and repairing harm with input from the crime victim
 - Juvenile Justice has responsibility to ensure offenders meet their obligations and *honor and protect victims' rights*



JJSES adds a shot of Adrenaline to Balanced and Restorative Justice

Foundation of JJSES

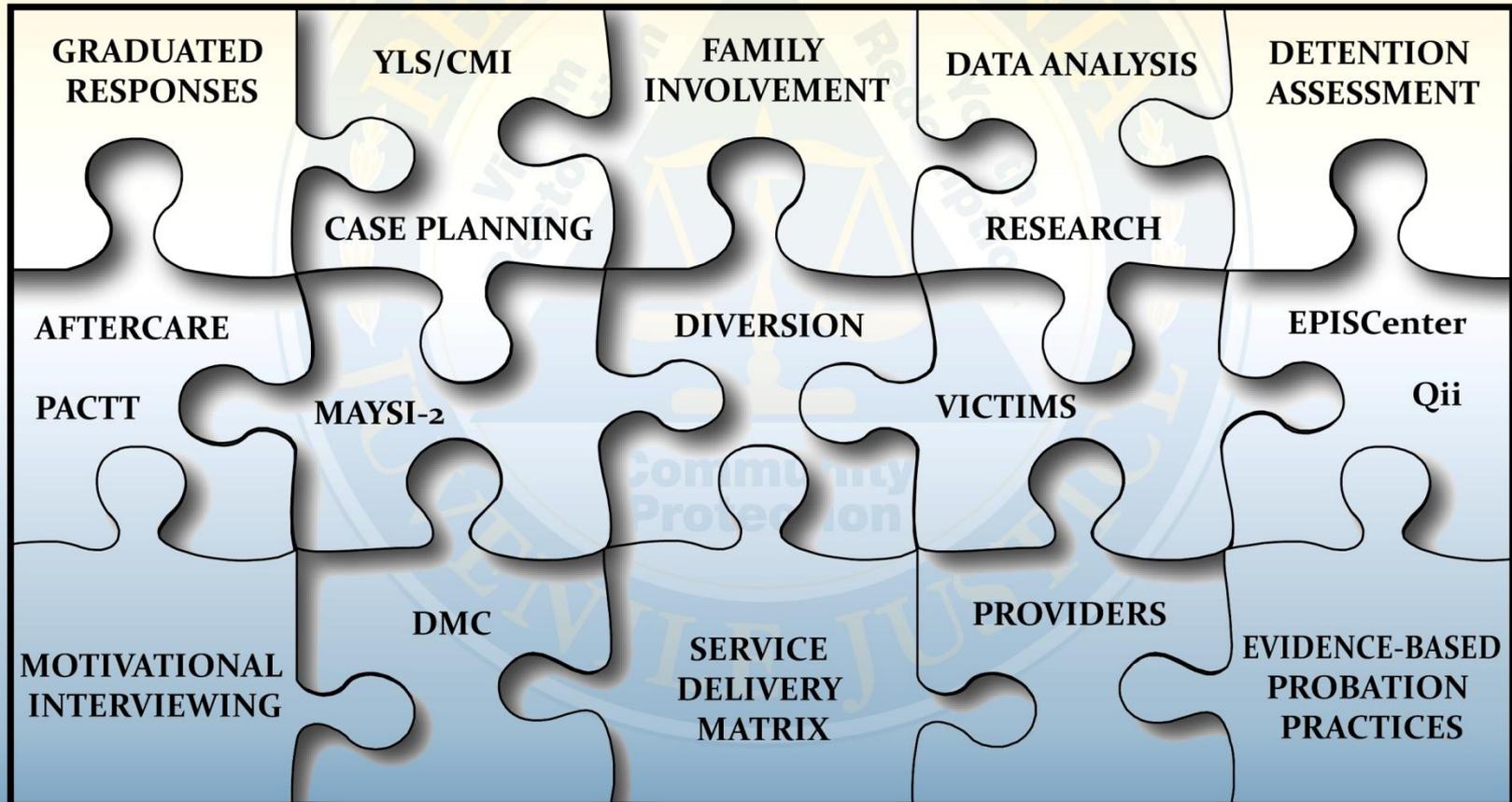
- ▶ Balanced and Restorative Justice 1995 (Law and Mission)
- ▶ Models for Change – MacArthur Foundation 2005 – 2010
- ▶ Increased knowledge around “what works” in reducing recidivism/reducing harm
- ▶ Evidence-based practice

JJSES Statement of Purpose

We dedicate ourselves to working in partnership to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission by:

- ▶ Employing evidence-based practices, with fidelity, at every stage of the juvenile justice process;**
- ▶ Collecting and analyzing the data necessary to measure the results of these efforts; and, with this knowledge,**
- ▶ Striving to continuously improve the quality of our decisions, services and programs.**

Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy



Challenges of JJSES:

- ▶ The pieces of the puzzle were at various stages of implementation among jurisdictions
- ▶ How do we “transform” the pieces of the puzzle into a comprehensive strategy?
- ▶ How does JJSES and Victim Restoration align?
- ▶ Do we have the necessary infrastructure to support implementation of each element?
- ▶ Recognizing the enormity of EBPP

Challenges Facing Juvenile Justice Related Victim Services Programs

- ▶ While adhering to laws and standards, juvenile justice victim service programs are structured differently in each of the counties
- ▶ How do victim service programs measure success?
- ▶ Do we have the infrastructure to determine how data collection and analysis will benefit victims and communities?
- ▶ Is there an advantage to becoming “evidence based”?

Promising Practices

- ▶ Victim Impact Statements <http://www.appa-net.org/eWeb/docs/APPA/pubs/PVRPPP-FACTSHEET-5.pdf>
- ▶ VCAC
- ▶ Victim Restitution
- ▶ Restorative Community Service
- ▶ Restorative Opportunities for crime victims
 - Victim/Offender Conferencing
 - Restorative Group Conferencing

Additional Resources

- ▶ **Media Guide** <http://www.victimprovidersmediaguide.com/>
- ▶ **Articles and Publications**
http://justicesolutions.org/art_pub.htm
- ▶ **Recommendations from APPA** <http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/docs/appa/pubs/PVRPSPP.pdf>
- ▶ **Vision 21** <http://www.ovc.ncjrs.gov/vision21>
- ▶ **Restitution** <http://www.center-school.org/Restitution/>

A Vision

Repairing Harm
Reducing Risk
Decreasing Victimization