

Strategies to Support & Engage Families

*2013 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
November 7th
10:30 to 12:00 and 1:30 – 3:00*

Mark Benedetto, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Mercer County

Wendy Luckenbill, Senior Recovery & Resilience Specialist, Community
Care Behavioral Health Organization

Chairs, PCCJPO Family Involvement Committee

And

Kelly Waltman, PhD Student, Department of Criminal Justice, Temple
University

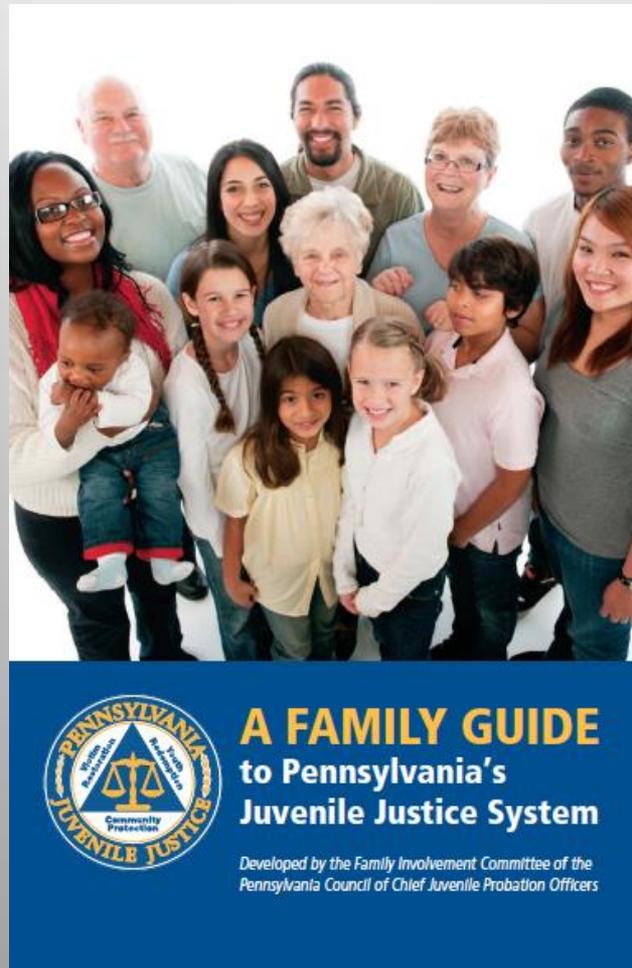
Workshop Overview

- Wendy- National update and implications for PA
- Kelly- JLC Sponsored Family Guide Review and FGC/FGDM Evaluation
- Mark- State update and perspective
- Participant feedback, what is working on local level

Research Updates

- JLC Sponsored Family Guide Review
- FGC/FGDM Evaluation

Family Guide Review



Juvenile Law Center/ MacArthur Foundation

Purpose of Study

To conduct an initial review of Family Guide dissemination practices and its impact on family-practitioner relationships.

Research Questions:

1. Has the guide impacted policy and practice within the local jurisdiction / county?
2. Has the guide impacted the quality of the interface between a family and the juvenile justice practitioners?
3. Has the guide impacted the quality of the family's ability to: participate in their child's juvenile probation process; better prepare for and participate in meetings and planning; better participate in planning goals and activities?

Family Guide Review

● Study included 6 counties:

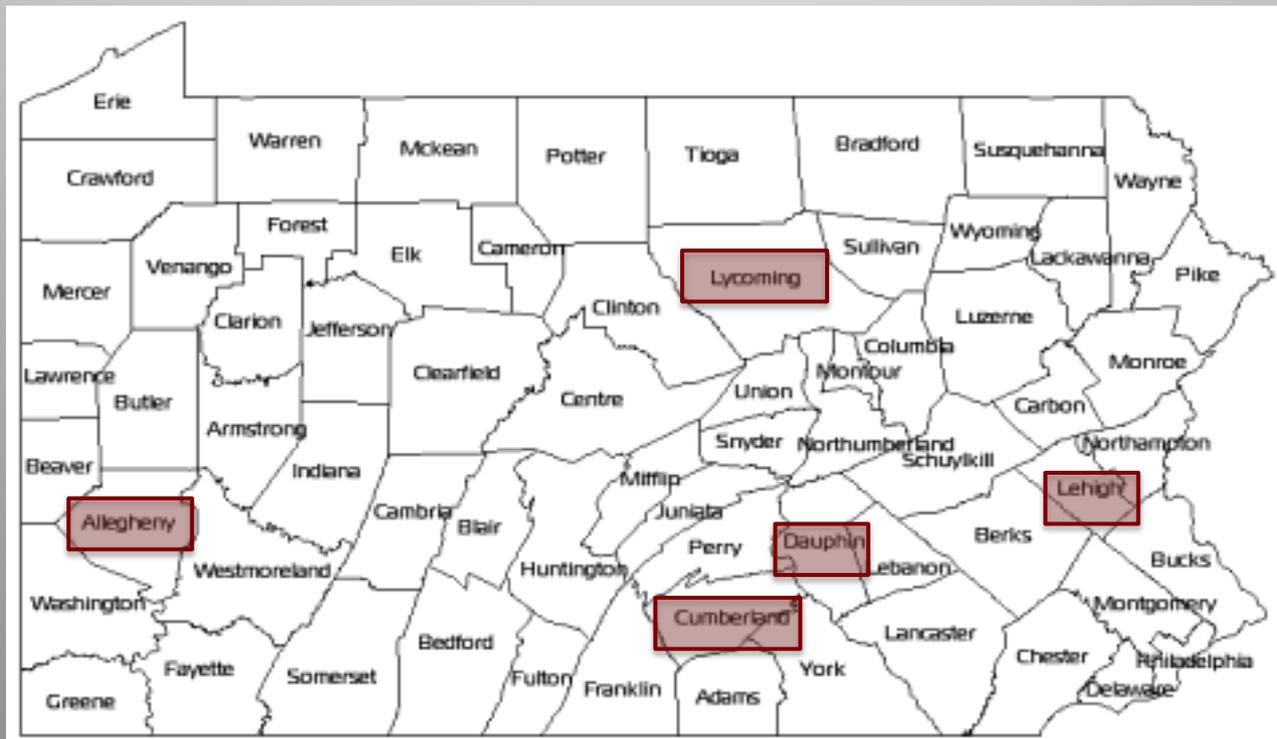
-Allegheny

-Cumberland

-Dauphin

-Lehigh

-Lycoming



Family Guide Review

- Survey Measures:
 - Chief JPO
 - Probation Officers
 - Family Members
- Sample
- Analysis

A Closer Look at Family Group Conferencing in Juvenile Justice



Purpose of Study

- To examine the impact of using FGC (via a probation department) on juvenile recidivism

Research Questions:

- Is there a relationship between the completion of an FGC and juvenile recidivism?
- Does the completion of an FGC reduce the likelihood of reoffending?

Research Design

- Dauphin County Juvenile Probation
- Quasi-Experimental Design using an Individually Matched Comparison Group
- Treatment Group:
 - All juveniles completing an FGC during the years of 2004-2008
- Comparison Group:
 - Individually matched for year of referral, age at time of referral, and gender

Independent and Dependent Variables

● Dependent Variable

- Recidivism

● Independent Variables

- Gender
- Race
- Age at time of referral
- Age at first offense
- Year of study referral
- Drug use history
- Grading of first offense
- Category of first offense
- History of out of home placement
- Completion of an FGC

Sample

	Study Referral Year					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Treatment Group	75	55	38	68	106	342
Comparison Group	75	55	38	68	106	342
Total	150	110	76	136	212	684

*Juveniles were monitored for recidivism for 2 years from referral

Sample

Gender			
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Male	476	69.6	69.6
Female	208	30.4	30.4
Total	684	100.0	100.0

Race			
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Non-White	398	58.2	58.2
White	286	41.8	41.8
Total	684	100.0	100.0

Age at Time of Referral: Min = 11; Max = 17; Mean = 15.88, SD = 1.858

Age at Time of First Offense: Min = 10; Max = 17; Mean = 14.29; SD = 2.033

Analysis - Binary Logistic Regression

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% C.I. for EXP(B)	
							Lower	Upper
Gender	.356	.213	2.789	1	.095*	1.428	.940	2.169
Age	-.285	.052	29.543	1	.000***	.752	.679	.834
Race	.648	.204	10.064	1	.002**	1.911	1.281	2.852
FGC	-.566	.201	7.901	1	.005**	.568	.383	.843
Referral Year	-.342	.071	23.175	1	.000***	.710	.618	.816
Placement History	1.283	.213	36.373	1	.000***	3.608	2.378	5.475
Drug History	.973	.244	15.968	1	.000***	2.646	1.642	4.264
Age at First Offense	-.285	.052	29.543	1	.000***	.752	.679	.834
Grading of First Offense	-.027	.211	.016	1	.898	.973	.643	1.473
Category of First Offense	-.154	.223	.473	1	.492	.858	.554	1.329
Constant	689.032	142.500	23.380	1	.000	1.750E+299		

Model Fit:

Wald Chi-Square = 41.877; $p < .05$ Hosmer & Lemeshow Chi-Square = 4.462; $p > .05$

Cox & Snell R square = .249 Nagelkerke R square = .340

*Sig: $p < .10$ **Sig: $p < .05$ ***Sig: $p < .001$

*Sig: $p < .10$

Findings and Discussion

- There is demonstrated support for the alternative hypothesis.
- While controlling for all other variables in the model, completion of an FGC decreases the odds of recidivating by 43%.

Conclusion and Limitations

- While the current study assists in understanding the relationship between FGC and juvenile recidivism, some additional factors that need to be explored include:
 - Family Composition
 - Selection Bias?
 - Another variable that can explain the large effect?

PA's National Legacy

- Our work is having far reaching impact
 - Monograph established foundational concepts and recommendations.
 - Curriculum established model training and development of practice tools.
 - Guide is first system/practitioner/family framework to support FI.
 - All FI work is being developed and rolled out under the MfC and JJSES frameworks, which center on Evidence Based Practice

PA Monograph Triggers National Dialogue

→ Publication of Family Involvement in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System monograph
&

→ PA's subsequent national leadership under the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur's Models for Change Action Networks triggers:

- ✓ a national dialogue calling for reforms to practice, policy and research
- ✓ resulted in several reports
- ✓ enhanced activity within OJJDP to address this issue.

Justice for Families Report- 2012

National family focus group participants' findings:

- 91% said that courts should involve families more in decisions on what happens to a child found delinquent/guilty.
- > 80% reported that they were never asked by a judge what should happen to their child.
- Only 18 % of families reported that juvenile justice practitioners were “helpful” or “very helpful” during the court process
- Described feeling blamed throughout the process and feeling as if they had committed a crime

Families Unlocking Futures: Solutions to the Crisis in Juvenile Justice

http://www.njjn.org/uploads/digital-library/Fam_Unlock_Future_EXEC_SUMNOEMBARGO.pdf

Center for Juvenile Justice Reform- 2011

“This push and pull around the role of families has been a focal point of the juvenile court since its inception and ... how to best apply the doctrine of *parens patriae*, while ...working in a respectful and supportive way with the families of the children and youth... This is difficult work. It is about building bridges between workers and the families they serve... being transparent, telling the truth, and building trust.” Foreword- Shay Bilchik

Safety, Fairness, & Stability: Repositioning Juvenile Justice & Child Welfare to Engage Families and Communities

Safety, Fairness & Stability for Youth and Families: Recommendations to Strengthen Federal Agency Support of family Engagement Efforts

<http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/pdfs/famengagement/FamilyEngagementRecommendationstoFederalAgencies2011.pdf>

Campaign for Youth Justice Report- 2012

In a transformed system families will:

1. Be supported before and after challenges arise.
2. Have access to peer support from the moment a youth is arrested through exit from the system.
3. Be involved in decision-making processes at the individual, program, and system levels to hold youth accountable and keep the public safe.
4. Be strengthened through culturally competent treatment options and approaches.
5. Know their children are prepared for a successful future.

Family Comes First: Transforming the Justice System by Partnering with Families, Campaign for Youth Justice, Arya, Neelum. 2012.

<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/navigate-the-system/family-comes-first.html>

FAMILY Comes First: A Workbook to Transform the Justice System by Partnering with Families

- A framework—The FAMILY Model—to guide efforts to create and sustain meaningful family-system partnerships.
- Used national focus groups to research family perspective on what works- findings mirror our monograph
- Recommendations for educating, supporting change, and developing a policy agenda.
- <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/navigate-the-system/family-comes-first.html>

Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach

The National Academies, Committee on Assessing Juvenile Justice Reform Report- 2012 (released Fall 2013)

- “Expanding the role of families in juvenile justice appears to be a critical, unmet challenge, but the potential contributions of families in many interventions and in the juvenile justice process remain ill defined.
- Additional research regarding the processes of family involvement in juvenile justice and methods for successfully involving parents in these processes is urgently needed.”

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=14685

State News

PCCJPO Family Involvement Committee Efforts to Support Practice

- Court Standards
- Satisfaction Survey
- Translation of Family Guide to Spanish
- Family Involvement and JJSES

JJSES Framework 2011

Achieving our Balanced & Restorative Justice Mission



- Intro To EBP Training
- Organizational Readiness
- Cost Analysis
- Stakeholder Engagement

Delinquency Prevention

Diversion



- Motivational Interviewing
- YLS Risk/Need Assessment
- MAYSI Screen
- Detention Assessment
- Case Plan Development
- Structured Decision Making
- Inter-rater Reliability



- Skill Building & Tools
- Cognitive Behavioral Programming
- Service Provider Alignment- Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP)
- Evidence-based Programming & Interventions
- Responsivity Tools
- Graduated Responses



- Policy Alignment
- Dashboard Measures
- EBP Service Contracts



Family Involvement

Training

Data Driven Decision Making

Continuous Quality Improvement

Local Perspectives

- What is working and what are barriers at the local level for family engagement and involvement?
- Are you measuring family involvement?