

# Enhancing Our Response to Crime Victims

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# Workshop Goals

- To provide an overview of Victim Restoration/Accountability/JJSES in the PA Juvenile Justice System
- To distribute & review *“PA’s Crime Victims Rights and the Corresponding Rules of Delinquency Procedure for Victims of Juvenile Offenders: A Handbook for Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Professionals and Victim Service Providers”*
- To review the Juvenile Justice System proposed outcomes regarding the Accountability Goal
- To provide an overview/update of the Victim Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) strategic planning and VOJO updates.
- To provide updates from the Office of the Pennsylvania Victim Advocate
- To provide general Restitution Task Force updates

# Balanced and Restorative Justice

## Mission Statement:

Community Protection

Victim Restoration

Youth Redemption

## Goals

Community Protection

Competency Development

Accountability

## Clients

Community – Victims – Youth

Balanced Attention

# 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.**

# Advancing Balanced and Restorative Justice Through Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy A Monograph for Pennsylvania

- Need for clarification on the interrelationship of BARJ and JJSES
- JJSES – means to an end – Achieving our mission and BARJ goals
- Research informing Practice
- A reduction in recidivism is not the lone goal of juvenile justice.
- Few research-based practices have been identified that address how to improve the experience of a crime victim and how the youth can best repair the harm caused by his or her illegal behavior.

Advancing Balanced and Restorative Justice Through Pennsylvania's  
Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy  
A Monograph for Pennsylvania

## A Monograph for Pennsylvania

- Balanced and Restorative Justice Overview  
White Papers Summary – page 7
- Emergence of the JJSES
- The Intersection of BARJ and JJSES
- Examples of Competency Development
- Ten Decision Points – page 24
- Summary and Next Steps

# Victim Restoration

Encompasses two objectives:

- 1) Attending to victims' needs, honoring their rights, and ensuring services are available to support them; and
- 2) Providing opportunities for youth to repair the emotional, physical, and financial harm caused by their behavior.

# PA Juvenile Justice Accountability Goal

- The obligation of the system toward offender accountability exists independently of the level of attention that needs to be paid to the system's other goals.
- Consequently, every delinquent youth should be required to participate in appropriate restorative-based accountability activities.

# What It Means To Be Accountable

Accountability, is measured by the degree to which youth

- understand,
- acknowledge, and
- worked to repair the harm caused by their actions,

It is critical to a community to see all of its members as vital contributors to healthy families and safe neighborhoods.

# What We Need To Know

- Victim's constitutional and statutory rights/Rules
- The impact of crime on victims
- What crime victims want and need
- Best Practices for providing services
- Agencies and services available in the community for crime victims and how to access them
- Juvenile justice outcomes enhancements

# **Pennsylvania's Crime Victims' Rights and the Corresponding Rules of Juvenile Delinquency Procedure for Victims of Juvenile Offenders: A Handbook for Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Professionals and Victim Services Providers**

- This booklet focuses on the importance of the delivery of crime victim rights to individual victims and to the juvenile justice system. The rights of victims fall into three primary categories around which this booklet will be organized. Those categories are:

The Right To Be **Notified**

The Right To Be **Present**

The Right To Be **Heard**

# Pennsylvania Crime Victims Act

- The rights of crime victims in Pennsylvania are outlined in the Crime Victims Act title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes section 11.101. Effective December 29, 2000, Act 86 of 2000 created a “Bill of Rights” for victims of juvenile crime.
- This Act enhanced the Crime Victims Act to provide for victims of crimes committed by juveniles involved in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system. The Crime Victims Act can be found at <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/US/PDF/1998/0/0111..PDF>

# Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure

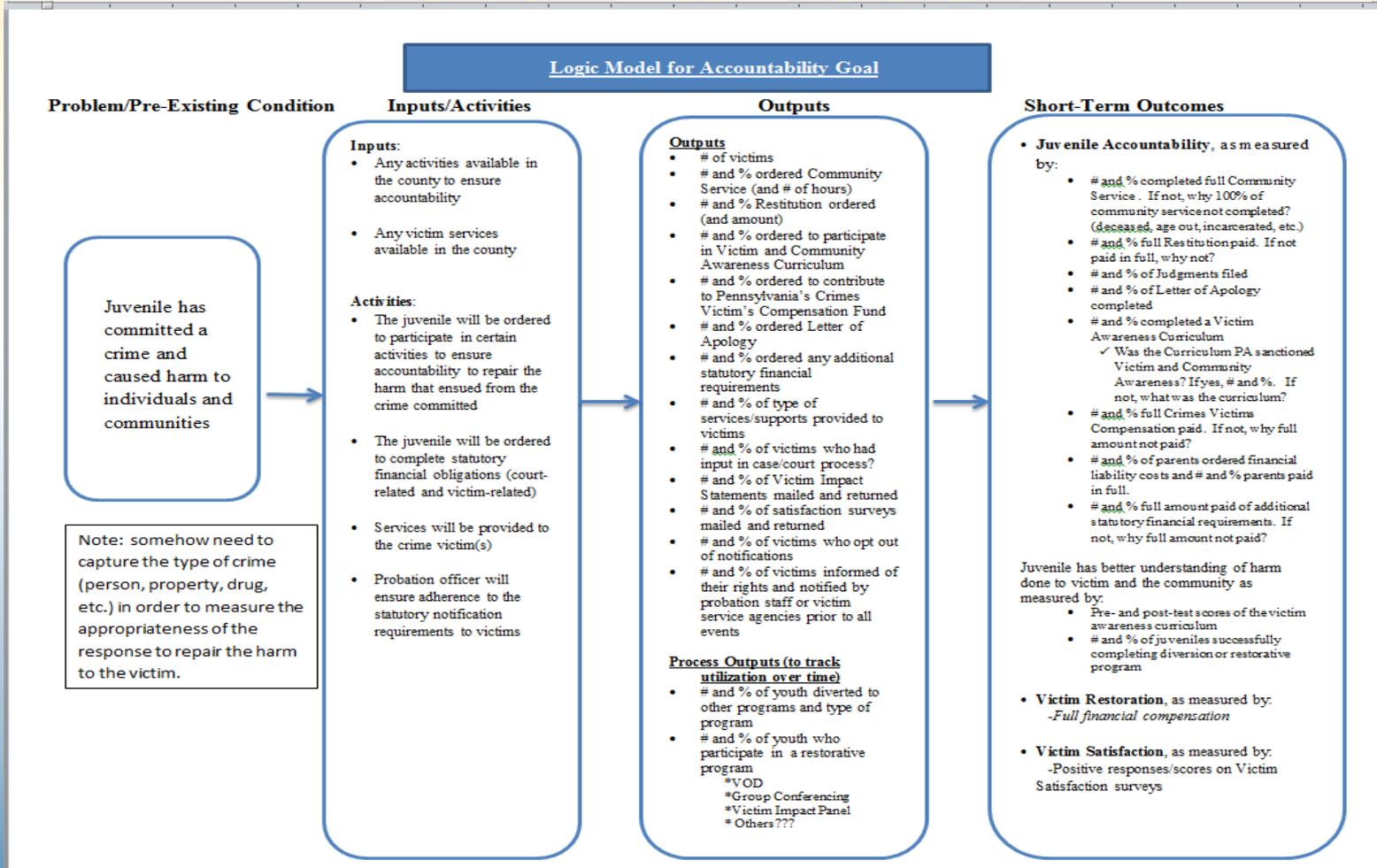
- The Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure further outline and expand upon these rights which include notification of actions and proceedings within the juvenile justice system. Rule 102 (Pa.R.J.C.P) all laws are suspended to the extent they are inconsistent with the prescribed rule.
- The PA Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure have deviated from the restrictions on offenses in the Crime Victims Act. The Rules of Juvenile Court Procedures can be found at :<http://www.pacourts.us/courts/supreme-court/committees/rules-committees/juvenile-court-procedural-rules-committee/juvenile-court-committee-rules-and-forms>

# **Pennsylvania's Crime Victims' Rights and the Corresponding Rules of Juvenile Delinquency Procedure for Victims of Juvenile Offenders: A Handbook for Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Professionals and Victim Services Providers**

## Implementing Victims' Rights: Why Juvenile Court Professionals Should Care

- Background of Rights for Victims of Juvenile Offenders in PA
- Victim Rights : To be Notified
- Victim Rights : To be Present
- Victim Rights : To be Heard
- Collaboration with Victim Services Programs
- Appendix A : Crime Victims Act - 18 P.S. § 11. 201 Rights
- Appendix B : Rights and Corresponding Delinquency Rules
- Appendix C :Victim Service Programs in Pennsylvania
- Appendix D : Comments to the Rules of Delinquency Procedure
- Appendix E : Additional Resources

# Outcomes for Victim Restoration/Offender Accountability



# Office of Victims' Services & VOJO Survey

- Victim Services Advisory Committee
  - Goal & Purpose
  - Engaged in an intensive strategic planning process
    - Normally meet quarterly...met 9 times
    - Initial goal: to identify, categorize and prioritize short-, medium- and long-term service delivery needs for victims of crime of PA.
    - Understand the impact that funding cuts and repeated fluctuations in funding have had on victim service programs over the past few years

# Office of Victims' Services & VOJO Survey

- Reached out to JCJC for assistance in its planning efforts
  - Facilitate a short survey to Juvenile Probation Offices to:
    - Gain information on how the Juvenile Justice system operates in each county
    - Learn how juvenile probation offices and the county victim service colleagues collaborate to ensure that services are provided to victims of juvenile offenders.
    - Learn about the victim service-related needs in counties across the state, identify and share best practices and enhance service delivery to victims of juvenile offenders.

# Survey Results VOJO JCJC

**The top five crime victims in communities for which there are limited or no services available are as follows:**

- Immigrants/Refugees
- LGBTQ
- Individuals with disabilities(Cognitively or physical)
- Individuals in rural areas
- Hispanics/Latinos

**The top five needs of crime victims in communities that are NOT currently being adequately met are as follows:**

- Transportation (assistance to attend court hearings and appointments related to victimization)
- Emergency Housing/Shelter
- Safety planning (addressing physical and emotional safety of victim)
- Counseling and support (Mental health services, counseling, therapy, support groups)
- Financial losses as a result of crime (medical, funeral, loss of earnings,etc.)

**The top three barriers in communities for crime victims in seeking services to address their victimization are as follows:**

- Transportation to access services
- Knowledge of Services Available
- Lack of trust in the system/agencies that will respond

# Office of the Victim Advocate

- Opportunities to Speak- Resilient Voices
- Inmate Apology Bank
- Victim Offender Dialogue
- Impact of Crime Classes
- Victim Awareness Class
- Restitution Advocate
- Miller vs Alabama (2012 U.S. Supreme Court decision)

# Restitution Task Force Report updates

- To access the full report as well as other resources and documents:
- [www.Pa-RestitutionTaskForce.info](http://www.Pa-RestitutionTaskForce.info)
- Or
- [www.ova.state.pa.us](http://www.ova.state.pa.us)

# Restitution Research

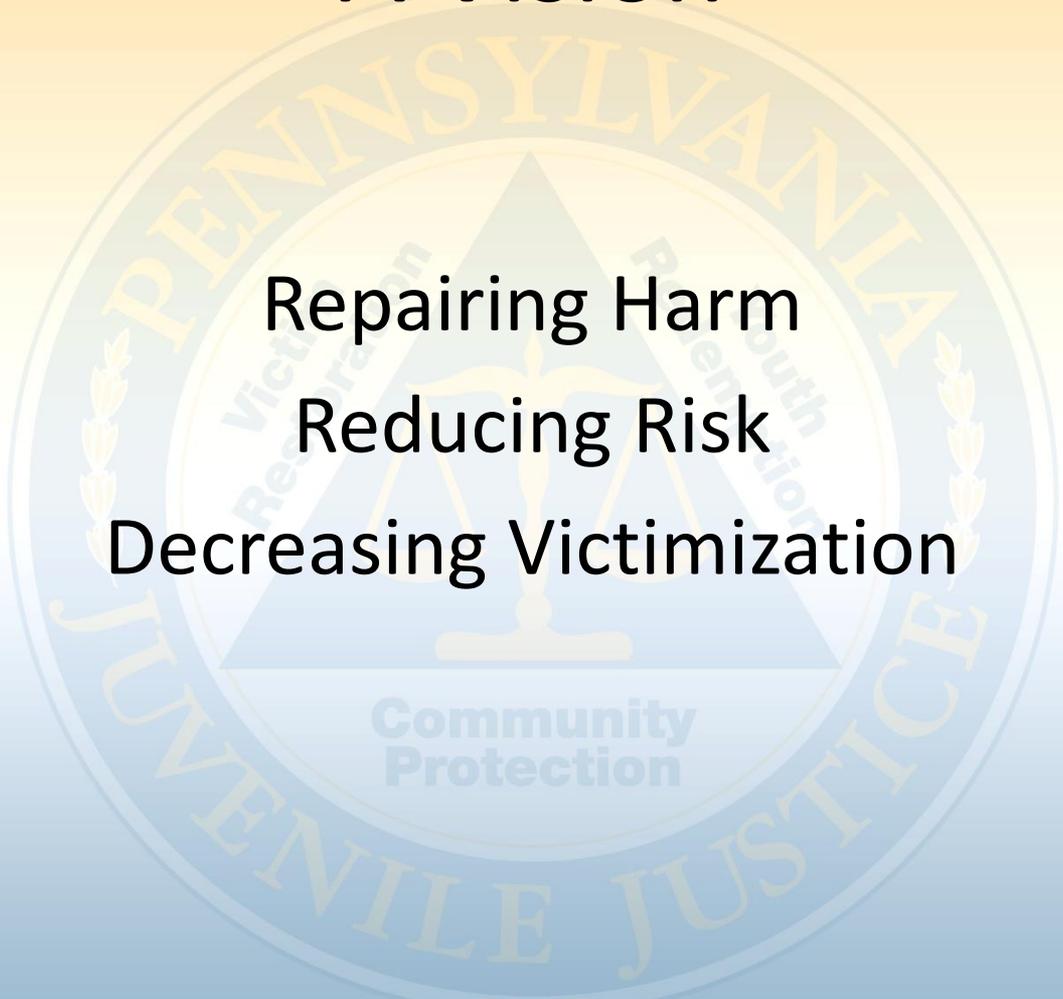
Studies done by Dr. Barry Ruback and others suggest:

- Their understanding of the restitution process influences victims' overall satisfaction with the criminal justice system
- Financial reparation is the number one satisfier for victims in the criminal justice process
- When defendants know and understand that they are being required to make payments to compensate the victims of their crimes, they are less likely to recidivate than if they are unaware of the restorative nature of those payments.

# Upcoming Trainings

- 3 Regional VOJO/JPO specific sessions
- Restitution Forum/training
- Restorative Practices Overview
- Victim / Offender Dialogue
- Other?

# A Vision

The seal of the Pennsylvania Department of Juvenile Justice is a large, semi-transparent watermark in the background. It features a central scale of justice, a triangle, and the text 'PENNSYLVANIA' at the top and 'JUVENILE JUSTICE' at the bottom. Inside the seal, the words 'Victim Restitution' and 'Prevention' are written on either side of the scale, and 'Community Protection' is written at the bottom.

Repairing Harm  
Reducing Risk  
Decreasing Victimization

# Thank you and enjoy the conference!

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