

PENNSYLVANIA

Juvenile Justice

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Tom Corbett, Governor



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

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Nominations Now Being Accepted for the 2014 "James E. Anderson Juvenile Justice Youth Scholarship Award"

The Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges voted unanimously at its February 2014 meeting to rename the former Juvenile Justice Youth Scholarship Award, the "James E. Anderson Juvenile Justice Youth Scholarship Award" in honor of his outstanding contributions to Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. The Juvenile Court Section will again award \$1,500 scholarships to two deserving youth at the 2014 Youth Awards Program. The awards are designed to recognize the resiliency and exceptional accomplishments of young persons who are currently, or were at some point in the past, involved in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system and who are also currently pursuing post-secondary education or advanced technical training on a full-time basis. Individuals scheduled for initial post-secondary education enrollment for the fall 2014 semester are also eligible for nomination.

The scholarship awards will be presented this November, once again, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice. Judges and Chief Juvenile Probation Officers should have previously received nomination materials and are encouraged to actively review the award criteria in order to identify a deserving nominee from their jurisdictions. Completed nominations should be returned with a post mark of no later than May 2, 2014. For additional information concerning the nomination process, feel free to contact Rick Steele at 717-705-5633 or at ricsteele@pa.gov.

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Reminders:

April is:

- [National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#)
- [National Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#)
- April 11-13
[National Youth Service Days](#)
- April 20-26
[Administrative Professionals Week](#)

Save the Date!

November 5-7, 2014

Harrisburg Hilton and Towers, Harrisburg PA



RESEARCH IN Brief

Part 2 in a series

Source Document: Taxman, F. (2006). Assessment with a Flair: Offender Accountability in Supervision Plans. *Federal Probation*, 70(2), 2-7.

The body of scientific knowledge related to the field of juvenile justice is growing at an exponential rate. With this knowledge, new processes leading to improved outcomes are routinely generated. Clearly, the need to have access to, and understand scientific information is critical. Unfortunately, practitioners often do not have the time to sort through the literature. With this issue in mind, in 2006, *the Colorado Division of Probation Services* began to publish **Research in Briefs (RIB's)**. These documents are intended to summarize potentially helpful research related to effective practices, as well as provide ideas for practical applications of the information. More information on RIB's can be found here: http://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Administration/Probation/ResearchInBriefs/RIB_Summary1213.pdf

Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) rests on two interlinked foundations: the best empirical research available in the field of juvenile justice and a set of core beliefs about how to integrate this research into practice. With this in mind, as an ongoing feature of *Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice*, "**Research In Brief (RIBs)**" will provide summaries of published research related to various aspects of the JJSES. The **RIBs** will convey how various scientific studies support the JJSES Statement of Purpose.

Assessments and Case Plans

Reprinted with Permission from: Colorado Division of Probation Services. (October, 2009). Assessments and Case Plans. Retrieved from: <http://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/File/Administration/Probation/ResearchInBriefs/RIB-AssmtPlans-oct%2009.pdf>

"Assessment is not just a stand-alone process." The LSI or CYO-LSI (and its juvenile justice counterpart, the YLS/CMI) is a validated instrument, with a great deal of research behind it. Although there are times when professional judgment seems to be enough, "research persists in demonstrating that standardized objective tools enhance decision-making," and guard against biased or inconsistent decisions.

The goal of assessment is to provide the probation officer with a reliable identification of risk and criminogenic needs. The risk level indicates the likelihood the offender will engage in future crime. The criminogenic needs, "if unaddressed, tend to increase the risk that the individual will commit criminal acts." Sometimes it is difficult to discern which needs "should be addressed as part of the juvenile justice system, and which factor may be important for the person to address in the greater scheme of his or her overall health and well-being, but do not necessarily need to be encompassed in the juvenile justice system." An example is substance abuse. Even though a majority of offenders are drug involved, research cited in the article indicates that only about one-third of males "have substance abuse patterns that require treatment." When identifying substance

use as a possible criminogenic need, the PO needs to understand "the relationship between substance use and crime depends upon the nature of the use and situation." Treatment should be reserved for the higher risk population. Some personal factors, which intuitively seem like they should be addressed as part of probation supervision (such as "mental health status, self-esteem, low educational attainment"), have not been found to predict criminal behavior, "and the research literature does not demonstrate that the presence of these attributes predicts recidivism or involvement in criminal behavior." However, these non-criminogenic needs should be considered, when developing individualized case plans, while giving priority to criminogenic need areas.

Practical Applications

- ✓ Use Motivational Interviewing (MI) techniques to conduct assessment interviews to engage the probationer and more accurately identify criminogenic needs.
- ✓ Ensure quality assessments, verified with collateral information, and trust the tools to provide accurate results upon which to act.

- ✓ Assessments scores should drive the length and intensity of supervision and treatment needs.
- ✓ Avoid over-supervising low risk probationers. Consider a supervision alternative, such as a youth aid panel.
- ✓ Focus resources on the higher risk probationers.
- ✓ Learn to discern the difference between a criminogenic need and a need that may improve their overall well-being but isn't associated with their propensity to commit crimes, ie: substance use.
- ✓ Collaborative case plans should be developed for higher risk probationers, with time-framed goals aimed at effecting criminogenic needs and changing probationer behavior.

Summary/Conclusions

The author has conducted a significant amount of work in the criminal justice system. She teamed with the State of Maryland to create the Proactive Community

Supervision model, which used research-driven and evidence-based practices (EBP) to reduce rates of recidivism and technical violations. This article highlights “Rule Number One in EBP,” which includes focusing services on the highest risk offenders. Taxman details the use of assessments to determine the criminogenic needs and risk, which are combined to determine the areas to address in case plans. Effective case plans must address both treatment and supervision needs to ensure proper length and intensity.

Limitations of Information

Although the article cautions against over-supervising low risk probationers, some districts have limited supervision options for this population. Also, caseloads are rising and probation officers are tempted to rush through the assessments. Because quality assessments drive the supervision level, the case plan, and referrals, it is the most important step in supervision. To be done well, it requires detailed attention and time.

Caveat: The information presented here is intended to summarize and inform readers of research and information relevant to probation work. It can provide a framework for carrying out the business of probation as well as suggestions for practical application of the material. While it may, in some instances, lead to further exploration and result in future decisions, it is not intended to prescribe policy and is not necessarily conclusive in its findings. Some of its limitations are described above.

JJSES Statement of Purpose

To work 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.

Readers are encouraged to submit ideas and suggestions related to the JJSES that they would like to have addressed. Ideas and suggestions may be submitted to: Leo J. Lutz at LJLutz@ship.edu.

Dr. Edward J. Latessa announced as Keynote Speaker for PAPPC Conference

Dr. Edward J. Latessa will provide the opening Keynote presentation at the '93rd Annual Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole, and Corrections Training Institute and Conference, being held on May 18-21, 2014, at The Inn at Pocono Manor, Pocono Manor, PA. The theme of the conference is "Combating Crime and Reducing Recidivism: Technology and the Era of Evidenced-Based Practices." Dr. Latessa is a professor and Director of the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Latessa has published over 140 works in the area of criminal justice, corrections, and juvenile justice. He is co-author of eight books including, *What Works (and Doesn't) in Reducing Recidivism*, *Corrections in the Community*, and *Corrections in America*. Professor Latessa has directed over 150 funded research projects including studies of day reporting centers, juvenile justice programs, drug courts, prison programs, intensive supervision programs, halfway houses, and drug programs.



To register for the PAPPC Conference go to www.pappc.org.

Armstrong County Chief David Hartman Turns Over The Reins To Regina Himes

David Hartman retired as Chief Probation Officer for the Armstrong County Court of Common Pleas on January 3, 2014. Chief Hartman was employed with Armstrong County for thirty-seven years. Beginning as a juvenile probation officer and rounding out his career as the chief, Hartman managed both the adult and juvenile probation departments. David was the ultimate professional and a quiet leader who led his staff to effectively advance the vision, mission and enhancements of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. David portrayed great passion and extreme commitment to the juvenile justice system and those it serves.

Chief Hartman was a member of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and believes that this organization, as well as the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, contributed to his ability to successfully lead Armstrong County in a progressive direction over the years. David plans to spend time with his wife, children, and grandchildren in retirement.

Ms. Regina B. Himes was appointed as the Chief Probation Officer for the Court of Common Pleas of Armstrong County and will manage both the adult and juvenile probation departments.

Ms. Himes began her career as a juvenile probation officer in Armstrong County and subsequently served as a juvenile probation officer, an adult probation officer and as the Deputy Chief Probation Officer. She worked with Hartman throughout her career and looks forward to continuing the leadership exhibited by her longtime mentor. She also anticipates working with the other chief juvenile probation officers in the Commonwealth through the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers.



Sherry Lupton Wins the Ruby M. Payne Cook Award

The Crispus Attucks Community Center in Lancaster, Pennsylvania awarded Sherry Lupton the Ruby M. Payne Cook Award for her outstanding work and commitment to reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.

Sherry is a supervisor for the Lancaster County Office of Juvenile Probation and she is an associate minister at the Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. In the Office of Juvenile Probation, she supervises seven probation officers who work in middle, high and alternatives schools in the City of Lancaster. Additionally, she has led several community-based initiatives focused on tackling racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.

Sherry started developing programs for youth of color at risk of entering the juvenile justice system in the 1990s, when she started the Rites of Passage mentoring program in partnership with Bright Side Baptist Church. Rites of Passage matched youth with mentors and activities that promoted college and job readiness. The program included workshops on applying to college, opportunities to shadow professionals, and visits to local colleges. Rites of Passage lasted for approximately ten years and almost all of the youth participants went on to attend college.

While the MacArthur Foundation's *Models for Change* initiative was active in Pennsylvania, Sherry led Lancaster County's Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Committee, focusing on data-driven strategies to reduce racial and ethnic disparities, such as implementation and analysis of a detention risk assessment instrument in collaboration with the court.

She is currently involved with two initiatives to help reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system. The annual DMC Youth/Law Enforcement Forum at Millersville University brings youth and law enforcement officers together to learn how to minimize the likelihood that young people will become juvenile justice-involved. Youth complete a questionnaire about their perceptions of the police, perform vignettes about interacting with the police, and participate in breakout sessions with law enforcement officials. For the last eight years, Millersville University has hosted the Forum and approximately 125 youth have participated each year. This year, with support from the Crispus Attucks Community Center, the Forum will be expanded to four schools in Lancaster County. Sherry worked tirelessly to launch the DMC Interfaith Program in July of 2013. This program will match first-time nonviolent youth on probation with mentors from the faith community in Lancaster County. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lancaster County received funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to help coordinate the program and to provide training to volunteers working with the young people.

The Crispus Attucks Community Center named the Ruby M. Payne Cook Award after its first executive director in memory of her commitment and dedication to the Center and the African American community. Sherry's receipt of the Ruby M. Payne Cook Award is a wonderful acknowledgment of her hard work and dedication to the young people of Lancaster.



Congratulations!

2014 JCJC AWARDS PROGRAM

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is pleased to announce the 2014 JCJC Awards Program which will include eight categories as well as the youth awards contest. Nomination packets for these categories were forwarded to all Pennsylvania juvenile court judges and chief juvenile probation officers and are available on the JCJC website www.jcjc.state.pa.us.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

Honors any public or private sector program serving alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth in a residential setting.

COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

Honors any public or private sector program which provides community-based non-residential services to alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth.

COURT OPERATED PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

Honors a program operated by court employees which serve alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth.

JCJC VICTIM ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Honors an individual who works on behalf of crime victims as a victim advocate in county government or in a community-based agency. This individual does not need to be in a position that is entirely dedicated to victims of juvenile crime, but it should be a significant part of their position.

JUVENILE COURT SUPPORT SERVICE AWARD

Honors an individual who provides secretarial support services to the juvenile court. This includes receptionists, secretaries, clerk/typists, office managers or others functioning in a similar capacity.

Nomination packets have been sent to juvenile court judges, chief juvenile probation officers and agencies currently serving delinquent youth in the juvenile justice system. The Awards Committee requests that all juvenile justice professionals encourage youth under their jurisdiction to participate in the contest. Youth Awards materials must be postmarked by May 2, 2014.

Thank you for your interest and support of the 2014 JCJC Awards Program. Please contact Keith A. Graybill at (717) 705-9006 or kgraybill@pa.gov if you have any questions or desire additional information.



PAPPC

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION ON PROBATION, PAROLE AND CORRECTIONS

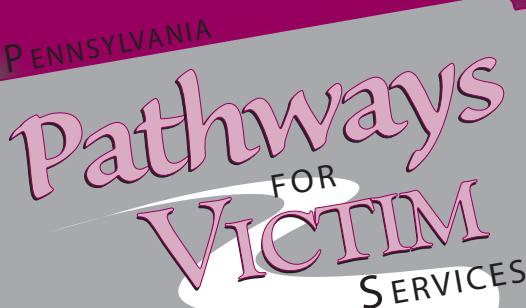
The Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole, and Corrections is pleased to invite you to the 2014 Annual Training Institute, scheduled for May 18-21, 2014 at the Inn at Pocono Manor, in Mt. Pocono, PA.

The theme for this year's Training Institute is: "**Combating Crime and Reducing Recidivism: Technology and the Era of Evidence Based Practices**". The opening keynote speaker this year will be **Edward J. Latessa, Ph.D.**, one of the foremost authorities on Evidence Based Practices in Probation, Parole, and Corrections. The closing speaker will be **John Ulsh**. Mr. Ulsh will share his inspirational story of recovery and strength.

There we will be many workshops to choose from throughout the Training Institute; workshops that will focus on the conference theme, as well as other aspects of Probation, Parole and Corrections.

Registration is now open! Visit www.pappc.org to register, and to obtain all of the necessary information to attend, as well as information pertaining to exhibiting and presenting! Be sure to check back for further details yet to come!

Please consider joining PAPPC in the beautiful Pocono Mountains for this year's Training Institute. Please feel free to spread the word, and we look forward to seeing you there!



June 4-6, 2014

13th STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

**Call for Workshop Proposals
Deadline: January 10, 2014**

**Call for Governor's Victim Service
Pathfinder Award Nominations
Deadline: January 10, 2014**

www.Pathways2014.org

Nominations are now being accepted for the Governor's Victim Service Pathfinder Awards. New this year, nominations can now be submitted online!

Online Nominations must be submitted by January 10, 2014. Paper Nominations and supporting documents must be postmarked by 5:00 p.m. January 10, 2014.

Visit the conference website for details and information about online and paper nomination submissions.

**Ramada Hotel and Conference Center
State College, Pennsylvania**

Tom Corbett, Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Mark R Zimmer, Chairman, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency



Office of
Victims' Services

PENNSTATE



Fayette

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Campus



National Juvenile Justice Announcements

The following announcements are reprinted from JUVJUST, an OJJDP news service:

Research to Practice Collaborative Releases Briefing Papers on Disparities in School Discipline

The [Discipline Disparities Research-to-Practice Collaborative](#) has released a [series of briefing papers](#) that will inform policymakers about disparities in school discipline policies based on race/ethnicity, gender, disability, and sexual orientation. This research follows the federal guidance that the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education released on January 8, 2014, outlining

civil rights obligations for school systems in administering discipline and detailing best practices to improve school climate. Through the [Supportive School Discipline Initiative](#), OJJDP and the Departments of Justice and Education coordinate their work with other public and private entities to address harsh and exclusionary school disciplinary policies that push youth out of school and into the justice system. "These research briefs fill a gap in our understanding of how schools' zero tolerance policies remove too many children from their classrooms and push them into the juvenile justice system," said OJJDP Administrator Robert L. Listenbee. "OJJDP joins with our partners across the federal government, private entities, states, tribes, and communities to ensure that our schools become safe, welcoming, and productive education environments for all of our nation's children."

Resources:

Access the [school discipline guidance package](#) released by the Departments of Justice and Education to help states, districts, and schools enhance school climate and improve discipline policies and practices.

[Read](#) more about the Supportive School Discipline Initiative.



NIJ Announces Funding for Research To Increase School Safety

The [National Institute of Justice \(NIJ\)](#) has announced the fiscal year 2014 funding opportunity, [Investigator-Initiated Research: The Comprehensive School Safety Initiative](#). Under the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative, NIJ will make available approximately \$15 million for multiple grants to fund research to examine the root causes of school violence and to develop new technologies, apply evidence-based practices, and test pilot programs to enhance school safety.

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. ET on May 20, 2014.

Resources:

Visit [NIJ's funding](#) Web page for grant opportunities.

[Read](#) about the Supportive School Discipline Initiative, launched by the Departments of Justice and Education.

[Access](#) Department of Education resources on school climate and discipline.

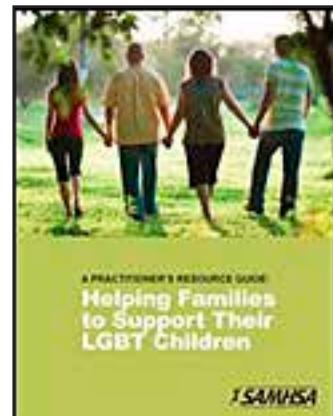
SAMHSA Releases Guide for Helping Families Support Their LGBT Children

The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) has released ["A Practitioner's Resource Guide: Helping Families to Support Their LGBT Children"](#) to assist healthcare and social service practitioners in engaging with and helping families support their lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) children. This guide describes the early ages of self-awareness and the coming out process for LGBT youth and discusses the critical role of families in reducing the risks and promoting the well-being of LGBT children.

Resources:

View and download the free [resource guide](#).

View and download SAMHSA's free publication, "[Top Health Issues for LGBT Populations Information & Resource Kit](#)".



OJJDP Announces Funding for High-Risk Youth Mentoring Research

OJJDP has announced the fiscal year 2014 [High-Risk Youth Mentoring Research](#) funding opportunity. This program will support research and evaluations to further examine how certain characteristics, components, and practices of mentoring programs can best support youth who are at high risk for becoming involved in the juvenile justice system.

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. ET on May 12, 2014.

Resources:

View [FAQs](#) about this funding opportunity.

Visit OJJDP's [funding](#) page for more information on this and other funding opportunities.



OJJDP Announces Funding Opportunity for Practitioner-Researcher Mentoring Program

OJJDP has announced the fiscal year 2014 [Practitioner-Researcher Partnership Mentoring Children of Incarcerated Parents Demonstration Program](#) funding opportunity. This program will support a practitioner-researcher partnership to develop, implement, and evaluate new practices and services in an existing multisite mentoring program that serves children of incarcerated parents. Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. ET on May 27, 2014.



Resources:

View [FAQs](#) about this funding opportunity.

Visit OJJDP's [funding](#) page for more information on this and other funding opportunities.

JCJC Graduate Education Program Accepting Applications for the Class of 2017

Looking to advance in Juvenile Justice?

Applications are now being accepted for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University. Members of the class of 2017 will begin classes in the Summer of 2015. The deadline to apply is October 1, 2014.

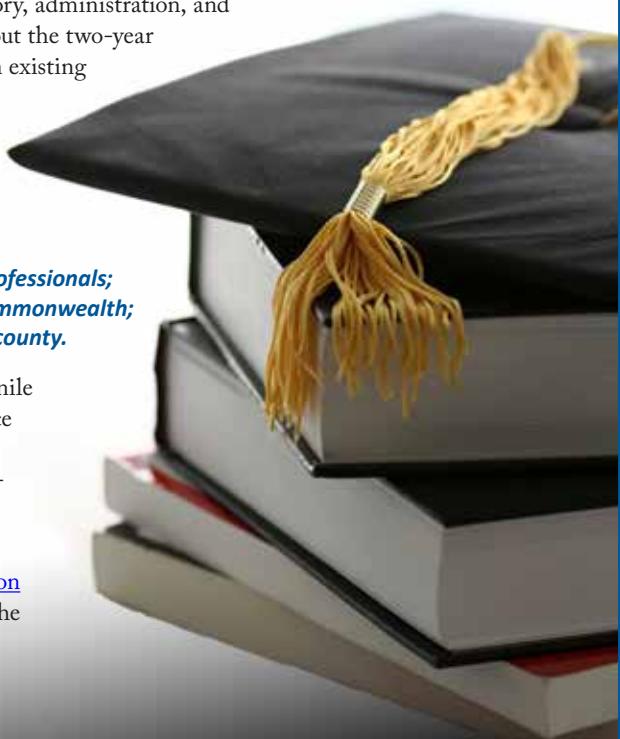
The Shippensburg University program offers students a Master of Science degree in the Administration of Justice. This is a 36-credit hour program that includes courses in research methods, theory, administration, and policy analysis. Also featured is a practicum study which is conducted throughout the two-year program. This practicum study provides students the opportunity to evaluate an existing program or practice that serves juvenile offenders in their home county.

What are the benefits of the JCJC Graduate Education Program?

- **Free tuition;**
- **Free lodging on class weekends;**
- **No weekday or evening classes;**
- **A Master's curriculum specifically tailored to working juvenile justice professionals;**
- **Networking with other juvenile justice professionals from across the Commonwealth;**
- **Opportunity to learn how to evaluate juvenile justice programs in your county.**

This program is available to county juvenile probation officers – and county juvenile detention staff – who will have at least two years of post-baccalaureate experience in the juvenile justice field prior to the start of classes. Other juvenile justice professionals – such as residential placement staff and victim services providers – may also apply and be accepted into the program on a “self-pay” basis as space is available.

Additional information about the program is available on the [Graduate Education](#) pages at www.jcjc.state.pa.us. If you have any questions regarding eligibility or the application process, please contact [Leo J. Lutz](#) at 717-477-1185.



Upcoming Staff Development Opportunities:

The JCJC/CJJT&R Staff Development schedule is being updated regularly with more workshops. Please be sure that you check the listing frequently.

- **Juvenile Aftercare: Strategies for a Successful Reintegration Into the Community**
Park Inn Harrisburg West - Mechanicsburg, PA
Jason Marque Sole
4/8-9/2014
- **Addiction and Motivational Interviewing**
Days Inn State College - State College, PA
Marilyn Stein
4/10-11/2014
- **Criminal Minds, Criminal Behavior**
Cranberry Highlands Golf Course - Cranberry, PA
Dr. Paul Martin, D.O.
4/25/2014
- **Youth Level of Service (YLS) Master Trainer Certification**
Days Inn State College - State College, PA
Shannon Semmel and Dawn Shantz
5/15-16/2014
- **Adolescent Development**
Days Inn State College - State College, PA
Barbara Ulmer
5/15-16/2014
- **Advanced Reading Workshop**
Days Inn State College - State College, PA
Doug McGuire
6/4-5/2014
- **Gangs**
Days Inn State College - State College, PA
Bruce Schaffer
6/12-13/2014



Please remember, all the details on these and other sponsored workshops may be reviewed at any time by visiting www.jcjciems.state.pa.us for regular updates to the schedule.

Hosting a training you would like to see listed here? E-mail us the details and we'll list it in our next issue.

This publication is produced monthly at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University. Guest articles are welcome.

Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research, Shippensburg University
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Stephen Bishop - Editor

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