

PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Tom Wolf, Governor



Juvenile Justice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

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PA Supreme Court Declares "Juvenile Offender" Provisions of SORNA Unconstitutional

Pennsylvania's Supreme Court, in the case of [In the Interest of J.B.](#), ruled in a 5-1 decision that the "juvenile offender" lifetime registration provisions of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) are unconstitutional. Justice Max Baer, in writing for the majority, noted that SORNA violates juvenile offenders' due process rights by utilizing an irrebuttable presumption that all sexual offenders pose a high risk of re-offense.

The attorneys for the juveniles cited the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's [Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008 or 2009](#) which shows the recidivism rate for juvenile sexual offenders to commit another sexual offense is less than two percent (lower right).

In response to the Court's ruling, the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) have indicated they will no longer register "juvenile offenders" in Pennsylvania and juveniles who are currently in the data base will be removed. The PSP further indicated they will write to

all juvenile offenders currently in the data base to inform them that they are no longer required to register in Pennsylvania, but that they may be required to comply with sexual offender registration requirements in other states.

The Court left intact the registration requirements in SORNA that pertain to any individual classified as a "sexually violent delinquent child" who is committed to the "Act 21" Program. Please contact Keith Snyder at (717) 787-6910 or ksnyder@pa.gov, or Rick Steele at (717) 705-5633 or ricsteele@pa.gov, if you have any questions.

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Table 37: Sex Offenders Who Committed Subsequent Sex Offenses:
Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009

Sex Offense Committed On Base Case	2007			2008			2009			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Juveniles Who Committed Sex Offense on Base Case	Number of Juveniles Who Committed a Subsequent Sex Offense	Recidivism Rate	Number of Juveniles Who Committed Sex Offense on Base Case	Number of Juveniles Who Committed a Subsequent Sex Offense	Recidivism Rate	Number of Juveniles Who Committed Sex Offense on Base Case	Number of Juveniles Who Committed a Subsequent Sex Offense	Recidivism Rate	Number of Juveniles Who Committed Sex Offense on Base Case	Number of Juveniles Who Committed a Subsequent Sex Offense	Recidivism Rate
Aggravated Indecent Assault	39	1	3%	27	0	0%	30	0	0%	96	1	1%
IDS	61	1	2%	59	3	5%	64	0	0%	184	4	2%
Indecent Assault	233	0	0%	258	5	2%	226	2	1%	717	7	1%
Indecent Exposure	36	3	8%	37	2	5%	50	0	0%	123	5	4%
Rape	46	0	0%	43	0	0%	54	1	2%	143	1	1%
Sexual Assault	12	0	0%	14	0	0%	16	0	0%	42	0	0%
Statutory Sexual Assault	8	0	0%	13	0	0%	16	1	6%	37	1	3%
Total	435	5	1.1%	451	10	2.2%	456	4	1%	1,342	19	1.4%

Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice: Summary of Professional Caucuses

On November 5, 2014, participants of the 2014 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice had an opportunity to join with colleagues from their area of specialty/interest within Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest. A summary of the professional caucus discussion is provided for review.

Approximately 30 **Chief and Deputy Chief Juvenile Probation Officers** discussed a variety of topics during their session. Much of the conversation involved the Pa Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS)/ Common Pleas Case Management System (CPCMS) data sharing project and experiences and issues faced by county juvenile probation departments. Several counties also discussed their procedures regarding the electronic submission of the written allegations directly into CPCMS through PACFile, a web-based electronic filing system. Counties that have implemented CPCMS are able to work with their local police departments to initiate the electronic filing of written allegations. Another topic that generated much discussion was the status of the case plan contained within the PaJCMS. Updates were provided regarding the ongoing development of the case plan, upcoming webinars and trainings related to the "art" of developing good case plans, and the process of adding goals and activities into the case plan module within the PaJCMS. Information regarding a "field" case plan developed and used in Allegheny County was also shared with the group. As has become a

regular topic during this annual caucus, an update concerning The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) was provided and conversation ensued regarding the ongoing implementation of this project. Additional topics discussed with this group included the importance of information sharing with providers; ensuring providers are familiar with, and aligning their services to the Youth Level of Service (YLS) domains; a brief overview of Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Implementation Plans submitted to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission; and findings of the most recent recidivism report based on cases closed in 2011.

Juvenile Probation Supervisors began their discussion by sharing county's views on the ongoing implementation and use of the Youth Level of Service (YLS) risk/need assessment. Attendees were also asked to describe any issues or barriers specific to the YLS. Several counties described their current YLS efforts as being centered around policy development. All counties in attendance affirmed that they possess formal policies which direct their department's use of the YLS. One county offered that it was difficult to keep officers focused on the importance of timely reassessments, while several counties reported they have struggled with when to administer the initial YLS (pre vs. post adjudication). This led to a discussion on whether the YLS should be used to assist in the decision to divert youth from the formal juvenile court process. Several counties

also discussed the issue of push back from defense attorneys on the issue of self-incrimination. A brief discussion on the use of the YLS for sex offenders ensued.

Counties were asked to offer their thoughts on new/specialized positions that have been created in their counties as a result of the JJSES. Caucus attendees offered the following examples of JJSES specialized positions:

- Low Risk Probation Officers
- Moderate Risk/Informal Adjustment Officer
- Reintegration/Minimal Family Support Officers
- Cog POs
- JJSES Coordinator
- Quality Assurance Coordinators and Data Analysis Positions
- YLS Unit
- Positions with Split Caseload/JJSES Responsibilities

Attendees were asked to describe issues or barriers they have experienced with implementing the JJSES. Not surprisingly, this part of the caucus was lively and diverse. Participants offered a number of concerns including: resistance to change, unlearning old habits, lack of policy alignment, finding effective ways to respond to high risk youth, lack of placement resources, staff overload, training fatigue, caseload equity issues, the rapid pace of change, and role conflict. Some supervisors felt that recent college graduates with criminal justice majors have unrealistic expectations regarding the role of a juvenile justice professional

and the competencies needed to be a good juvenile probation officer. They felt that criminal justice majors seem to be law enforcement focused, while other social science majors (sociology, psychology, social work, etc.) seem to be more open to concepts like skill building, motivational interviewing, and cognitive-behavioral interventions.

The session came to a close with a discussion on the support supervisors need in order to continue to successfully implement JJSES related activities. The following needs were voiced:

- Improved pay equity for supervisors
- Better information sharing between counties (especially with inter-county transfer cases)
- Continued support from state leadership (Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, Chief's Council)
- A "Supervisors' Library" of resources (policy examples, protocols, research)
- More information on JJSES related specialized positions
- Direction for the implementation of graduated responses
- Advice/ideas on advancing family engagement practices

Approximately 35 **Juvenile Probation Officers** participated in a discussion led by Dr. Carrie Maloney (East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania), who explained to the participants the purpose of the dialogue was part of a research project Dr. Maloney is completing regarding YLS implementation in juvenile probation departments across Pennsylvania. After explaining her research project, Dr. Maloney asked the participants

questions specific to their county's use, policies and practices, as well as the participant's views concerning the accuracy of the tool, limitations and any additional personal opinions they had about the YLS.

Dr. Maloney extended her appreciation to the group in providing thoughtful input about the YLS process. She shared that the research is progressing and a survey is currently under development to be submitted for Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval in early February, with plans to distribute it statewide by the end of February or early March.

The **Victim Service Providers** caucus was attended by 12 professionals including state victim services representatives, allied professionals, and victim advocates from Chester, McKean, and Blair counties as well as the Bureau of Justice Services. The caucus was facilitated by Jennifer Storm, Victim Advocate for the Commonwealth.

A number of topics of interest were discussed, including: Victims of Juvenile Offenders (VOJO) funding challenges and the related need for training and networking specific to VOJO advocates, such as in JJSES and evidence based probation practices. The group also expressed interest in discussing further ways to enhance their skills and abilities to better assist in providing services to crime victims. Several participants suggested that in light of the fast paced movement of juvenile justice system reform, and some general confusion over their role and function, a strategic planning initiative around victim services would be of benefit.

Additionally, many participants voiced their concerns over the

transition to the CPCMS and the need to ensure the notifications are victim sensitive for crime victims to whom the juvenile justice system is responsible.

Participants in the caucus for **Service Providers** discussed a variety of topics, including a possible re-designed Chief/Provider Committee format. This discussion also included how to improve attendance by chief juvenile probation officers at Chief/Provider meetings. In addition, the group discussed training needs for providers; the idea of a yearly meeting between chief juvenile probation officers and provider administrators; concerns for providers regarding the wording of court orders and payment for educational services; transition planning for new state government and better proactive planning for future governmental changes; and, as discussed in the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer caucus, the importance of sharing information with juvenile probation departments and courts. Finally, an update on the Rate Methodology Task Force (RMTF) was provided to the group.

A detailed summary of the information collected in all caucuses will be reviewed by JCJC staff and the Executive Committee of the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. The effort of the various caucus facilitators was instrumental in the success of each forum, and gratitude is extended to Bernadette Bianchi, Elizabeth Fritz, Theresa Kline, Cheri Modene, and Jennifer Storm for their work, and to the activity recorders Susan Blackburn, Lanette Hutchinson, Leo Lutz, Michael Schneider and Robert Tomassini. It is anticipated that the caucuses will again be part of the next Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice.

RESEARCH IN BRIEF

Part 11 in a series

Source Document: Koehler, J., F. Losel, et al. (2013). "A systematic review and meta-analysis on the effects of young offender treatment programs in Europe." *Journal of Experimental Criminology* 9(1): 21.

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.

Influencing Factors of Treatment

*Reprinted with Permission from: Colorado Division of Probation Services. (November, 2014).
A systematic review and meta-analysis on the effects of young offender treatment programs in Europe.*

Retrieved from: http://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Administration/Probation/ResearchInBriefs/RIB_YoungOffenderTx-Nov14.pdf

The present study analyzed treatment programs for young offenders in Europe. Drawing from 21 controlled evaluations with 7,940 youth, the study discovered that treatment that incorporated cognitive behavioral and behavioral treatment programs with Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) principles had the largest impact on re-offending. The studies revealed a 16% reduction from a 50% base-line re-offense rate in control groups. Community based treatment, small sample sizes, high program fidelity, and being part of a pilot project were all factors that had positive effects on outcomes.

Youth offenders are a criminal justice population drawing much attention. Effectively treating and creating behavior change in youth offenders benefits the public monetarily (in future cost savings), and more importantly, future public safety. Researchers utilized studies from 1980 to 2009 regarding European corrections based treatment to determine the effectiveness of different treatment types on the re-offense rate of youth of-

fenders (under the age of 25). The study also examined different components of treatment to determine what characteristics had an impact on the effectiveness.

Researchers conducted a search for relevant articles and located 21,223 unique studies. After screening for eligibility criteria (e.g. location, population, outcome measures), the number of articles included in the study was reduced to 21. The studies analyzed 7,940 youth offenders with an average age of 17.9 years. Researchers then sorted, categorized, and analyzed the effect sizes of the different variables contained in the studies. The study used re-offense as an outcome, which was defined as any formal legal action or any self-report of re-offense.

The study concluded that cognitive behavior and behavioral treatment programs were more effective than deterrence based, non-behavioral, and other types of treatment. When the cognitive behavioral and behavioral treatment had high adherence to RNR, there was a 16% reduction in re-offense from a 50% base rate of re-offense in control groups. Researchers also discov-

ered that the following factors had an impact on effect size: provided in a community setting, small sample sizes, high program fidelity, and being part of a pilot program.

Practical Applications

- ✓ Refer moderate and high risk youth to cognitive behavioral treatment (CBT).
- ✓ When possible, enroll youth in treatment when they are still in a community setting, as this gives probationers a chance to practice skills learned in a real world environment.
- ✓ Adhere to the Risk principle by separating groups by risk level. This will also help ensure that high and moderate risk youth are receiving the proper dosage.
- ✓ Facilitators should ensure that specific responsivity (e.g. cultural, learning, gender, trauma) factors are addressed by discovering and accounting for any issues that may impact the youth's participation in treatment.
- ✓ Routinely check the fidelity of in house CBT programming. This will ensure the program is being facilitated as intended.
- ✓ Have conversations about curriculum type and fidelity of treatment with providers.
- ✓ Consider utilizing Carey Guides, BITS, and other in-appointment CBT interventions.

Limitations of Information

The type of study conducted was a meta-analysis. Meta-analyses are powerful in identifying broad themes in programming; however, organizations should not try to replicate the design or results from a meta-analysis. Organizations may have different opportunities or needs than organizations contained within a meta-analysis. The study consisted mostly of studies completed in the United Kingdom. It is unclear if other countries would produce similar results.

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 LeLutz@pa.gov.

Aggression Replacement Training® (ART®)

By Laura Mirsky, Assistant Director for Communications, International Institute for Restorative Practices, Bethlehem, PA

The goal of the Aggression Replacement Training (ART) program is to reduce recidivism in aggressive and delinquent youth, and studies show that the program is meeting this goal.

This cognitive behavioral intervention program has proven useful to many professionals who want to develop prosocial skills in youth. It helps young people improve social skill competence and moral reasoning, better manage their anger and reduce aggressive behavior, ultimately resulting in reduced recidivism.

The ART program, which is three hours a week for ten weeks, consists of specific cognitive behavioral intervention strategies with three components:

Skillstreaming — teaches a curriculum of prosocial, interpersonal skills (i.e., “what to do instead of aggression”).

Anger Control Training — teaches young people how to recognize and control angry feelings and “what not to do if provoked.”

Moral Reasoning Training — promotes values that respect the rights of others and helps youth want to use the interpersonal and anger management skills they’re being taught.

Starting with simple concepts and skills and building to a higher level each week, youth explore external and internal triggers for their anger and identify their own anger situations, behavior and consequences. They perform exercises where they role-play incidents and practice skills, including positive self-talk, anger reducers, exit strategies and healthy communication (Mirsky, 2014).

While learning how to better handle their previous anger experiences, youth simultaneously develop and practice new skills to help them improve their relationships, from “Introducing Yourself” to “Dealing with Someone Else’s Anger” to “Standing up for a Friend” to “Arranging Problems by Importance” and “Making a Decision” (McGinnis, 2012).

An Evidence-Based Practice sponsored by the Juvenile Justice Resource Center through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), ART has been utilized by 53 Pennsylvania probation agencies, schools and delinquency programs.

PCCD has a long history of supporting evidence-based programs and practices like ART, says John Frain, Director of PCCD’s Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention. “By supporting evidence-based programs and practices we can have more confidence that we’re utilizing state resources in an effective manner and doing the right thing for kids and families in Pennsylvania.” Frain says that PCCD continues to support ART implementation in the state. “We are looking forward to the time when a statewide structure for ART is developed so that ART can be sustainable.”

Widely recognized for its efficacy, ART is a model program of the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the U.S. Department of Justice, the American Correctional Association and the U.K. Home Office, and a Promising Program of the U.S. Department of

Education’s Safe, Disciplined, and Drug-Free Schools Expert Panel. It is in use in 21 U.S. states and in several other countries.

Says Frain, “My experience with ART has shown it to be a cost-effective way of reducing youth aggression. It’s also considered one of the more cost-effective interventions in the juvenile justice system nationwide.” He emphasizes, however, that it’s important to match youth with the right program. In that way, he says, “We can really make an impact on reducing antisocial behaviors with youth who go through that program.”

Master ART trainer Mark Amendola, L.S.W., B.C.D., Executive Director of Perseus House, Inc., a nonprofit residential and community services agency for delinquent youth in Erie, PA, has been responsible for shepherding ART in Pennsylvania and several other states, with his colleague, Robert Oliver, Ed.D., CEO of Perseus House’s Charter School of Excellence.

Since learning about Aggression Replacement Training from its primary developer, the late Dr. Arnold Goldstein, more than 25 years ago, Amendola has come to believe so strongly in ART’s ability to help chronically aggressive young people improve their behavior and transform their future that he is dedicated to teaching, developing and evaluating this program.

Amendola has overseen two decades of research on ART, by Perseus House, by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP), and by the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions. All these studies demonstrated that the

ART program reduces recidivism, enhances prosocial skill competency and overt prosocial behavior, reduces ratings of impulsiveness and decreases acting-out behaviors, while enhancing levels of moral reasoning (Amendola & Oliver, 2010).

A 2013 study of Perseus House youth who participated in the ART program, in both their residential and community-based services, showed significant increases in overall interpersonal skill competence, decreases in aggression scores and improvement in “thinking errors.” The study also tracked arrest rates of these youth at 3, 6, 9 and 12 months post-discharge. ART program youth from the community-based group recidivated 18% (n=599); from the residential group, 19% (n=300) (Amendola & Oliver, 2010).

Although, as Amendola says, “randomized controlled studies are tough to do in human services, with the WSIPP study, they were able to put together a control and treatment group for 1,500 kids.” This study showed significant differences between youth enrolled in a juvenile detention facility who participated in the ART program and those who

did not, one year after release, in recidivism rates, community functioning, return on investment per cost, and cost per taxpayer (Amendola & Oliver, 2010).

The ART program is effective because it employs specific strategies that can actually change negative antisocial thoughts, says Amendola, adding, “Besides really increasing their repertoire of social skills, ART helps kids develop an empathic point of view of others that they didn’t have before.” The program operates within the context of healthy interpersonal relationships, he explains. “We ask: how do we get kids to understand that it’s all about relationships? How do we get kids to create healthy relationships?”

Community Service Foundation (CSF Buxmont) programs for delinquent and at-risk youth operate according to the principles of restorative practices, which strongly emphasize building healthy relationships. Outcomes data compiled by the EPISCenter at Penn State University, collected from 67 at-risk youth at CSF Buxmont who completed the ART program from January 2012 through April 2014,

showed higher rates of reductions in aggression, covert aggression, overt aggression and cognitive distortions, as well as improvements in social skills, when compared with that of youth at other Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD)-funded ART sites (Mirsky, 2014).

ART and restorative practices are allied approaches that help youth improve their behavior and social skills. “ART helps give kids the skills and the competency to interact in their environment,” says Amendola, “But if the environment is not supportive, it’s not going to work.” He explains, “The restorative values of unconditional positive regard, working *with* youth, not doing things *to* them or *for* them, really get to the larger interpersonal view of not only how youths’ behavior impacts others but how they are interacting with the world overall.”

For information on being trained in Aggression Replacement Training, please see the Staff Development section on page 11.

References:

- Amendola, M. & Oliver, R. (2010). Aggression replacement training stands the test of time. *Reclaiming Children and Youth*. 19, 47-50.
- McGinnis, E. (2012). *Skillstreaming the adolescent: A guide for teaching prosocial skills* (3rd ed.). Champaign, IL: Research Press.
- Mirsky, L. (2014). Study shows youth are less aggressive with restorative practices. Retrieved from restorative-works.net/2014/09/aggression-replacement-training-csf-buxmont

Kelly Waltman-Spreha Joins CJJT&R Staff

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, in conjunction with the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R), is pleased to announce that Kelly Waltman-Spreha joined the staff of the CJJT&R as the Director of Training and Graduate Education on January 5, 2015. She will administer both the Center's Training Program and the JCJC's Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University. In addition, Kelly will provide technical assistance and advice to juvenile court judges and chief juvenile probation officers.



Mrs. Waltman-Spreha, an advanced doctoral student in the Temple University PhD in Criminal Justice program, brings sixteen years of experience to the Center. She began her career as a crime victim advocate with the Dauphin County Victim/Witness Assistance Program, and then moved on to become a juvenile probation officer with Dauphin County for six years. During her time with the probation department, Kelly was promoted to Assistant Supervisor, and served as a Firearms and Control Tactics Instructor for the agency. With a fellow probation officer, she also developed the "Interviewing and Job Skills Program" for juveniles active with the department. After her time with juvenile probation, she worked for Milestones Community Healthcare, Inc. as the program director for their behavior health services program. In the time since, Kelly has been a full-time instructor at Messiah College, and an adjunct instructor for Temple University and Harrisburg Area Community College.

As a member of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officer's Family Involvement Committee, Kelly has conducted research in collaboration with the Juvenile Law Center, including a "Family Guide Implementation Review." She is currently working on a review of the Family Involvement Training Curriculum.

Mrs. Waltman-Spreha earned her Bachelors Degree in Psychology from Messiah College, and her Masters in Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University. In 2005, she received the Dr. Anthony F. Ceddia Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Juvenile Justice. Kelly can be reached at (717) 477-1185, or kjwaltmanspreha@ship.edu.

Organized by the Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services

Do Something Remarkable!

*"It's not the mountain that we conquer but ourselves."
— Sir Edmund Hillary*

2015 PCCYFS ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE

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**Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel
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Visit PCCYFS.ORG or call 717.651.1725 for more information.



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT **Reno, NV**

Policy Analyst, Senior Juvenile and Family Law Programs Juvenile Law / Juvenile Justice

Salary Range: \$62,000 – \$72,000 per annum, DOE
FLSA Status: Exempt

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), a non-profit organization headquartered in Reno, NV, pursues a mission to improve courts and systems' practice and raise awareness of the core issues that touch the lives of many of our nation's children and families. A leader in continuing education opportunities, research, publication development, technical assistance, and policy development in the field of juvenile and family justice, the NCJFCJ is unique in providing practice-based resources to jurisdictions and communities nationwide.

NCJFCJ values staff who are independent, creative, tenacious, resourceful, dependable, and passionate about their work. NCJFCJ staff work collaboratively to achieve this mission.

A position of **Senior Policy Analyst** is currently available in Juvenile Law's Juvenile Justice program.

The minimum requirements for this position include a degree from an accredited university and at least five years of experience in juvenile justice or other juvenile law-related field. Preference will be given to candidates with a graduate or doctorate degree in social work, public administration, law, political science, sociology, or closely related field. Experience and knowledge of delinquency and education systems, particularly with a focus on student engagement issues (e.g., truancy) is highly desirable.

This position will serve as the primary staff for a national project aimed at supporting judicially-led approaches to increase collaboration among courts, the education system, law enforcement, and behavioral health to keep kids in school and out of court. The position will involve coordinating, planning, and implementing multidisciplinary initiatives by analyzing existing policies, procedures, and data for project sites and assisting judicially-led teams in strategic planning for sustainability of diversion efforts. The successful candidate should have the ability to identify and critically assess strengths and challenges of selected sites and connect courts to appropriate resources, conduct peer learning opportunities, develop research-based resources, write technical assistance publications, and support and community of practice. The skills necessary to be successful include critical thinking, analytical ability, efficiency in writing policy briefs and papers, and working collaboratively with high-level partners and system representatives. Successful applications will need to demonstrate effective communication skills, both verbally and in writing, regarding public policy, legal, and social aspects of specialized areas of juvenile law (e.g., reducing disproportionate minority contact). Applicants must have strong organizational skills with both a broad vision and attention to detail; comprehensive computer skills, including online meeting development and facilitation; and a willingness and ability to frequently travel nationwide and work evenings, weekends, or holidays. Occasional lifting up to 50 lbs. may be required.



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT **Reno, NV**

Web Developer Juvenile and Family Law Programs Family Violence and Domestic Relations

Salary Range: \$62,000 – \$92,000, DOE
FLSA Status: Exempt

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), a non-profit organization headquartered in Reno, NV, pursues a mission to improve courts and systems' practice and raise awareness of the core issues that touch the lives of many of our nation's children and families. A leader in continuing education opportunities, research, publication development, technical assistance, and policy development in the field of juvenile and family justice, the NCJFCJ is unique in providing practice-based resources to jurisdictions and communities nationwide.

NCJFCJ values staff who are independent, creative, tenacious, resourceful, dependable, and passionate about their work. NCJFCJ staff work collaboratively in a team setting to achieve this mission.

The Juvenile and Family Law Programs' Family Violence and Domestic Relations focuses its work on providing cutting-edge training, technical assistance, and policy development, and on enabling the collaboration of family violence/domestic relations professionals on a national level.

A position of **Web Developer** is currently available in the Family Violence and Domestic Relations program (FVDR). This multi-disciplinary, highly dedicated team is seeking a creative self-starter knowledgeable in designing dynamic multimedia websites. The successful candidate will assist with the creation, design, and implementation of website and database development, maintaining multimedia formats, online learning services, improving online functionality, and providing support for the team's overall vision and projects.

The minimum requirements for this position include:

- Associate's degree and comparable experience as a web/database developer
- Experience with CSS3, HTML 5, PHP, SQL, and XML
- Working knowledge of database and web application security issues
- Working knowledge of content management systems
- Experience with Adobe Connect, Bootstrap, LESS, Joomla! development, Linux, Microsoft Access, responsive design, and UX design are a plus

For complete job description and application instructions, please visit www.ncjfcj.org.

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.

- **Orientation For The New Juvenile Probation Professional**
Park Inn Harrisburg West
Session I - 2/23-27/2015
Session II - 3/16-20/2015
- **Heroin and Other Narcotics**
Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center
Bruce Schaffer
3/24-25/2015
- **Motivational Interviewing Coaches Forum**
Days Inn State College
MI Committee Members
4/8-9/2015
- **Sexual Identity, Sexual Orientation and Gender Role Issues of Adolescence**
Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center
Barbara Orr
4/21-22/2015
- **Motivational Interviewing 101**
Days Inn State College
Barbara Orr
4/30 - 5/1/2015
- **Addiction and Motivational Interviewing**
Days Inn State College
Marilyn Stein
5/7-8/2015
- **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and the Juvenile Justice System**
Days Inn State College
Gary Lewis
5/19/2015
- **Core Competencies for Supervisors**
Days Inn State College
Dawn Schantz, Angela Work
5/27-28/2015
- **Advanced Reading Workshop**
Days Inn State College
Doug McGuire
6/10-11/2015
- **Heroin and Other Narcotics**
Days Inn State College
Bruce Schaffer
6/18-19/2015



International Institute for Restorative Practices

Aggression Replacement Training

- March 2-3, May 12-13, July 16-17 and October 29-30 at the IIRP Campus, in Bethlehem.
- Online course - March 11 – April 15.

For more information on the ART event and online graduate course, go to: www.iirp.edu/aggression-replacement-training.php or call 610-807-9221. For more information on the IIRP Grad School, go to www.iirp.edu.

Please remember, all the details on these and other sponsored workshops may be reviewed at any time by visiting www.jcjcems.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.

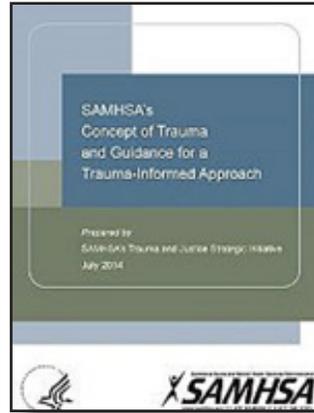


National Juvenile Justice Announcements

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

SAMHSA Releases Paper on Trauma and Using a Trauma-Informed Approach

The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA) has released “[SAMHSA’s Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach](#).” This paper identifies a working concept of trauma relevant to justice systems and other stakeholders, outlines fundamental assumptions and principles for developing a trauma-informed approach, and explores trauma in the context of community.

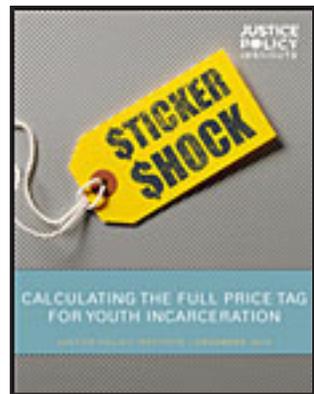


Resources:

[View and download](#) the full paper.

Justice Policy Institute Releases Report on Cost of Youth Incarceration

The [Justice Policy Institute](#) has released “[Sticker Shock: Calculating the Full Price Tag for Youth Incarceration](#).” The authors of this report estimate that the long-term costs to taxpayers for incarcerating juvenile offenders in the United States are \$8 to \$21 billion annually. Long-term costs include the effects of recidivism, fewer future earnings and tax revenues due to lost education opportunities, additional public assistance spending, and higher victimization rates. The report’s recommendations to policymakers for reducing incarceration include shifting funding to community-based alternatives and larger investments in diversion and prevention programs.



Resources:

[View and download](#) the full report.

Learn more about the OJJDP-sponsored [National Center for Youth in Custody](#).

[Learn more](#) about alternatives to incarceration.

OJP Releases FY 2015 Program Plan for Funding Initiatives

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) recently posted its [Program Plan](#) for FY 2015, a searchable online document of current funding opportunities for initiatives within each OJP office and bureau. Search OJP programs by [section](#) or alphabetized [index](#). A [glossary](#) of acronyms and definitions is also provided. The program plan includes [OJJDP’s funding opportunities](#) for juvenile justice programs on juvenile reentry, tribal and other minority youth, children’s exposure to violence, juvenile drug courts, at-risk or system-involved girls, crossover/dual- system youth, youth violence prevention, and other initiatives.

Resources:

[Learn more](#) about OJP’s Program Plan.

OJJDP Fact Sheet Highlights Findings From 2012 National Youth Gang Survey

OJJDP has published “[Highlights of the 2012 National Youth Gang Survey](#).” This fact sheet presents findings from the National Gang Center’s [National Youth Gang Survey](#), which collects data from a large, representative sample of local law enforcement agencies to track the size and scope of the national youth gang problem. The fact sheet discusses trends in gang activity, gang membership designation, and anti-gang measures.



Resources:

[Download](#) “Highlights of the 2012 National Youth Gang Survey” (NCJ 248025).

[Learn more](#) about the National Gang Center.

[Learn more](#) about the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model for addressing communities’ gang problems.

OJJDP Releases Fact Sheets on Delinquency Cases in Juvenile and Criminal Courts

OJJDP has released two fact sheets:

[Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Court, 2011](#) presents statistics on delinquency cases that U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction processed for public order, person, and property offenses and drug law violations between 1985 and 2011.

[Delinquency Cases Waived to Criminal Court, 2011](#) presents statistics on petitioned delinquency cases waived to criminal court between 1985 and 2011.

Resources:

These fact sheets are derived from the National Center for Juvenile Justice report [Juvenile Court Statistics 2011](#).

See OJJDP's [Statistical Briefing Book](#) for additional information on juvenile courts case processing.



OJJDP Announces New Funding Opportunities

OJJDP has announced the following fiscal year 2015 funding opportunities:

[Youth Violence Prevention Coordinated Technical Assistance Program](#). This program provides cross-functional technical assistance to communities, tribes, and agencies funded to serve children and youth as part of the Defending Childhood, National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention, and Community-Based Violence Prevention Programs. Applications are due by March 2, 2015.

[Second Chance Act Strengthening Relationships Between Young Fathers and Their Children: A Reentry Mentoring Project](#). This program supports efforts to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for young fathers returning to their families and communities. Applications are due by March 2, 2015.

Resources:

Visit [OJJDP's funding](#) page for more information about these solicitations.



This publication is produced monthly at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University. Guest articles are always welcome; please submit them by e-mail.

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