

PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Tom Wolf, Governor



Juvenile Justice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

Volume 26, Number 6

June 2015

Pennsylvania Participates in Mid-Atlantic Region Juvenile Justice Reform Summit

Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Saylor was invited to send a team of representatives from Pennsylvania to attend a Mid-Atlantic Region Juvenile Justice Reform Summit sponsored by the National Center for State Courts and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation on May 13–15, 2015 in Annapolis, Maryland. In addition to Pennsylvania, the summit brought together teams from Delaware, Maryland, New York, the District of Columbia, New Jersey, and West Virginia, as well as a team from Trinidad and Tobago. The purpose of the summit was to call attention to juvenile justice reform strategies and resources developed under the Models for Change initiative, permit state courts and other stakeholders to share successful strategies and evidence-based practices, and facilitate the development of state action plans for system improvements.

Team members from Pennsylvania included Supreme Court Justice Max Baer, Judge Arthur Grim, Judge John Cleland, Judge Walter Olszewski, Elizabeth Fritz, Sandra Moore, Rick Steele and Keith Snyder. Pennsylvania's team members actively participated in the conference and were presenters during the following plenary sessions or workshops:

- Understanding and Implementing an Array of Reform Strategies
- Access to Counsel and the Quality of Representation in Delinquency Proceedings
- Collaborating to Implement System Reforms
- Reducing Recidivism through Meeting the Needs of Youth
- Dual Status Youth: New Strategies, Tools, and Resources for Improving Outcomes in Youth Jurisdiction
- Identifying and Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Youth Who Have Contact with the Juvenile Justice System
- Probation Systems Reform: Achieving Improved Outcomes through Improved Practices

Pennsylvania's team chose to develop several goals coming out of the summit which included: improving our data collection and analysis capacity to determine the effectiveness of services and programs; and training for judges on holding effective hearings and ensuring the quality of programs and services.

Please contact either Rick Steele (ricsteele@pa.gov) or Keith Snyder (ksnyder@pa.gov) if you have any questions or would like additional information about the summit.

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Reminders:

[*National Night Out - August 4, 2015*](#)



SAVE THE DATE!

Youth Awards Program & Dinner

Wednesday, November 4

Annual Training & Awards Program

Thursday, November 5

Resource Day 2015

Friday, November 6



The 2015 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 4-6, 2015

at the Harrisburg Hilton & Towers

The 2015 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice will conclude with Resource Day – 2015, during which representatives from residential and community based programs, along with other service providers and vendors will be available to discuss their programs with the Pennsylvania juvenile justice community. This informal marketplace will offer an important opportunity for consumers to learn about new and innovative services.

Registration Opens in August!
www.jcjc.state.pa.us

Sponsored by

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
The Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges

**EXHIBITOR INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

Kelly Waltman-Spreha
at 717.477.1185 or
kjwaltmanspreha@ship.edu

Deadline Extended!

Call for Presentations

The 2015 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 4 - November 6, 2015
Harrisburg Hilton and Towers

The sponsors of The 2015 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice are requesting proposals for workshop presentations to be offered on Thursday, November 5, 2015. **Preferred workshop topics are those related to Balanced and Restorative Justice, the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) and/or evidence-based practices in general.** Workshops should be designed for a **90 minute presentation**, and will be offered in a morning session, and repeated in the afternoon. Interested presenters should complete this form and return it by **Friday, July 10, 2015**. In order for your application to be considered, please submit a program description, a brief biography of the trainer and any supplementary materials.

• **Proposed title of workshop:** _____

• **Brief description of presentation: (50 words or less)** _____

• **Brief biography of the trainer(s): (50 words or less)** _____

• **Please list a reference and contact information of someone who is familiar with the trainer/presentation:**

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Telephone: _____

Please Note: Up to two presenters from each selected workshop will be our guests during the course of the three-day conference with all registration fees waived. Presenters will be responsible for their own lodging and travel expenses.

• **This workshop is recommended for:** (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Court Judges | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Court Masters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential Program Providers | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Prevention Specialists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Probation Officers | <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Juvenile Probation Officers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Probation Supervisors | <input type="checkbox"/> Victim Services Representatives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local and State Policy Officials | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | |

Name of principal contact person/trainer: _____

Agency/organization and address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email address: _____

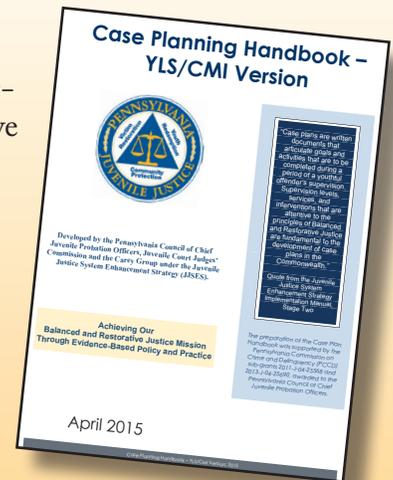
**PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION AND ATTACH ALL
SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAM DESCRIPTIVE MATERIALS,
TRAINER'S VITA, AND PARTICIPANT HANDOUTS BY
FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2015 TO:**

Rick Steele, Deputy Director
Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Ave., Suite 9100
P.O. Box 62425
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2425

Phone: 717-705-5633
Fax: 717-783-6266
E-mail: ricsteele@pa.gov

Case Planning Handbook - YLS/CMI Version Now Available

The JJSES Leadership Team is excited to announce the release of the *Case Planning Handbook - YLS/CMI Version*. The Handbook is the result of a collaborative effort between the JJSES Leadership Team, the Assessment/Case Planning Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, and the Carey Group. It is designed to assist staff who have been trained through the Quality Case Planning Curriculum to select case plan goals and activities that align with the criminogenic needs identified by the YLS/CMI. The structured design of the handbook provides a point of reference for juvenile probation officers as they develop case plans using activities to build skills and achieve goals that reduce a youth's risk to reoffend. The Handbook can be located on both the [JCJC](#) website and the website of the [Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers](#).



JCJC Graduate Education Program Accepting Applications for the Class of 2018

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 2018 will begin classes in the Summer of 2016.

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. The practicum study provides students the opportunity to evaluate data from their home county to address relevant research needs and topics (i.e. case planning, detention reform, YLS, diversion, and/or Disproportionate Minority Contact).

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 probation 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 [Kelly Waltman-Spreha](#) at 717-477-1185.



Amanda K. Gallagher Appointed Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Washington County

The Honorable Katherine Emory, President Judge of Washington County, appointed Ms. Amanda K. Gallagher as the new Washington County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer on April 17, 2015.

Ms. Gallagher attended the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, obtaining a bachelor's degree in Criminology in 2001. In 2005, she obtained her Master's of Business Administration from Robert Morris College, specializing in non-profit organizational management.

Amanda began her career as a juvenile probation officer in Allegheny County in 2005. She served in the Special Services Unit for 5 years, focusing on sexual offender supervision. Prior to her departure from Allegheny County she had been promoted to a District Supervisor within that Department. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her position in Washington County.

Ms. Gallagher has two children; Molly age 2 and Lillian age 4, with whom she devotes her time outside the office.

Chief Gallagher relayed that she is looking forward to working with a great team of juvenile probation officers in Washington County and to advancing the department forward with the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy.



SAVE THE DATE

**Pennsylvania
Family Group Decision Making
Statewide Conference**

April 26-27, 2016

Hershey Lodge, Hershey PA

Sponsored by:

FGDM State Leadership Team		Juvenile Court Judges Commission
Pennsylvania State Roundtable		Office of Children, Youth and Families
Office of Children & Families in the Courts		Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center

RESEARCH IN BRIEF

Part 16 in a series

Source Document: Trotter, C. (2012). "Effective community-based supervision of young offenders." *Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice* (448): 1 - 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.

Skill Use Decreases Recidivism

Reprinted with Permission from: Colorado Division of Probation Services. (August, 2013). Effective Community-Based Supervision of Young Offenders-Skill Use Decreases Recidivism.

Retrieved from: https://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Administration/Probation/ResearchInBriefs/RIB_EffectiveSupJuvAug13.pdf

In recent years there has been a wealth of research regarding evidence-based skills in supervision of adults but very limited research on evidence-based skill use with juveniles. This study directly observed and coded 117 staff and juvenile interactions in Australia. During each session, staff were evaluated on 15 evidence-based skill areas. Researchers discovered there was a significant positive relationship between the use of skills and decreased recidivism. Staff who received a global skill rating of 6 or more had clients with lower rates of recidivism than those who had a lower global skill rating.

Building upon prior research, evaluators studied the effects of evidence-based skills on juvenile populations in New Wales, Australia. Previous studies evaluating skill usage have focused on adult clients. Researchers were also interested in whether or not certain skills or differences in staff characteristics (e.g. enforcement versus therapeutic) contributed to any reductions in recidivism.

Over 4 years, researchers observed 117 interviews conducted by Juvenile Justice Counselors and Juvenile Justice Officers. Collaborating with researchers from other projects, a coding manual was developed that evaluates 15 different evidence-based skills (e.g. structure of the interview, role clarification, problem solving, and pro-social modeling). Staff were evaluated through direct observation or audio tape. The interactions were between 5 minutes and 102 minutes. The study participants received a global skill score between 1 (low skill use) and 10 (high skill use). Researchers later analyzed police records for recidivism. The study defined recidivism as a conviction of a new offense within two years.

Staff who received a skill score of 6 or more only had lower rates of recidivism (62.5%) compared to staff who scored 4 or less (81%). Two skills that appeared to be correlated with reduced recidivism were incentives and a non-blaming attitude. Proper use of incentives was the only skill found to be statistically significant in reducing recidivism. Lastly, the study discovered those

who had counseling backgrounds were more likely to use evidence-based skills despite managing higher risk cases than enforcement-oriented peers. The staffs' increased skill usage resulted in lower recidivism.

Practical Applications

- ✓ Identify and incentivize pro-social behavior.
- ✓ Try to avoid blaming when working with juveniles. Seek understanding about factors that may have contributed to the situation or behavior instead of focusing on the result.
- ✓ Consider asking what problems the juvenile would like to work on. This tactic can avoid blaming and begin a case planning process.
- ✓ Ask your supervisor to schedule a direct observation. Direct observations provide a great opportunity to practice skills, receive feedback, and set performance goals.
- ✓ Develop and utilize evidence-based skills.
- ✓ Consider hiring candidates with sociology, psychology, or counseling backgrounds. The study found therapeutic oriented individuals were more likely to use evidence-based skills.

Limitations of Information

The skills of criminal justice professionals in New Wales, Australia were evaluated. It is unclear how criminal justice professionals in the United States would have performed in the study. The sample study group consisted of volunteers and may not be representative of all staff. The quality and quantity of training in the Australian criminal justice system and how different training impacts staffs' skills is unknown.

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

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.

Readers are encouraged to submit ideas and suggestions related to the JJSES they would like to have addressed. Ideas and suggestions may be submitted to: Leo J. Lutz at LeLutz@pa.gov.

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.

- **Diversity Issues in Criminal Justice: Creating Space for Honest Conversations**
Days Inn State College
Jason Sole
8/4/2015
- **YLS Master Trainer Recertification**
Days Inn State College
Assessment/ Case Plan Committee
8/5-6/2015
- **Darker Side of Technology**
Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center
James Dill
8/19/2015
- **Prescription Drug Abuse**
Days Inn State College
Dr. Paul Martin, D.O.
8/27-28/2015
- **Motivational Interviewing 101**
Days Inn State College
Barbara Orr
9/9-10/2015
- **Cognitive Behavioral Training**
Days Inn State College
Mark Carey
9/10/2015
- **Reactive Attachment Disorder**
Days Inn State College
Amy Swigart, Susan Roop
9/16/2015
- **Orientation For The New Juvenile Probation Professional Session I**
Holiday Inn Harrisburg East
9/21/2015
- **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorders (FASD)**
Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center
Robin VanEerden
9/29/2015
- **YLS Master Trainer Recertification**
Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center
Assessment/ Case Plan Committee
9/30 - 10/1/2015
- **Gangs**
Days Inn State College
Bruce Schaffer
10/14-15/2015
- **Orientation For The New Juvenile Probation Professional Session II**
Holiday Inn Harrisburg East
10/19/2015
- **Responsivity and Pre-Contemplative Primer Training**
Days Inn State College
Mark Carey
10/21/2015
- **Ultimate Educator**
Holiday Inn Harrisburg East
Anne Seymour
10/28-29/2015
- **Youth Level of Service (YLS) Master Trainer Certification**
Days Inn State College
Ben Rea, Shannon Semmel
11/18/2015

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

Registration Open for Rural Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Conference

On August 5–7, 2015, the [Coalition for Healthy Youth](#) will host the 8th Annual National Rural Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Conference, “[Emerging Trends and Critical Issues](#),” in Lancaster, SC. This conference will focus on strategies for preventing substance abuse in rural communities. Topics will include the growing use of social media tools, sustainability, and environmental prevention. A 2-day pre-conference on grant writing will be available to the first 50 registrants.



Resources:

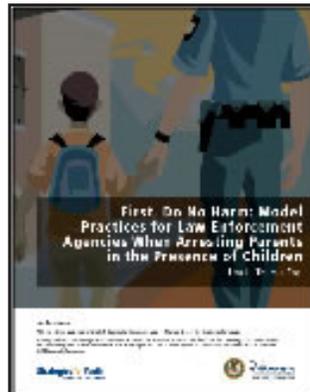
[Register](#) online.

View the conference [brochure](#).

OJP Releases Law Enforcement Report on Responding to Children of Arrested Parents

The [Office of Justice Programs \(OJP\) Diagnostic Center](#) has published “[First, Do No Harm: Model Practices for Law Enforcement Agencies When Arresting Parents in the Presence of Children](#).”

This report recommends model practices for law enforcement agencies for reducing trauma to children during parental arrests, including trauma-informed training, collaboration with social services and child advocacy groups, and enhanced data collection.



Resources:

Download the model policy “[Safeguarding Children of Arrested Parents](#).”

Access [publications](#) in OJJDP’s National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence series.

Learn more about the Attorney General’s [Defending Childhood Initiative](#).

NIJ Releases Evaluation Findings on Defending Childhood Demonstration Sites

The [National Institute of Justice \(NIJ\)](#) has released “[Protect, Heal, Thrive: Lessons Learned from the Defending Childhood Demonstration Program](#).”

This report highlights process evaluation findings from six of the eight sites participating in the Defending Childhood Demonstration Program, a national initiative that the Department of Justice funds and OJJDP supports to address children’s exposure to violence. The researchers evaluated the strategies that the six sites implemented to reduce and raise awareness about children’s exposure to violence in their communities and make recommendations for jurisdictions and tribal sites planning similar work.



Resources:

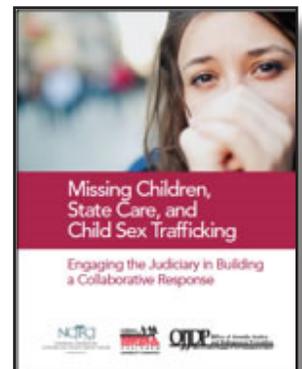
Learn more about the [Defending Childhood initiative](#).

Access OJJDP [publications](#) on children’s exposure to violence.

NCJFCJ/NCMEC Brief for Judges Addresses Missing Children’s Resources

The [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges \(NCJFCJ\)](#) and the [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children \(NCMEC\)](#) have released “[Missing Children, State Care, and Child Sex Trafficking: Engaging the Judiciary in Building a Collaborative Response](#).”

This online brief provides information for juvenile and family court judges about NCMEC’s missing children’s resources that can help juvenile justice and child welfare agencies, law enforcement, legal guardians, and other stakeholders involved in efforts to locate and recover children missing from care.



Resources:

Access resources for families of missing or exploited children on the [OJJDP](#) and the [Missing and Exploited Children’s Program](#) websites.

Learn more about NCJFCJ juvenile justice [resources](#).

National Center for Juvenile Justice Updates Juvenile Justice GPS

The [National Center for Juvenile Justice](#) (NCJJ)



has released a new section of the [Juvenile Justice GPS—Geography, Policy, Practice & Statistics](#) (JJGPS), an online resource funded by the [John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation](#). This website features national and state information on state laws and juvenile justice practice to help chart system change. The new status offense issues section examines how states classify status offenders and includes a summary of status offenses in each state. This section also profiles national data on status offenses and trends data that states report on formal status offense cases referred to court.

A future section of the JJGPS website will address racial and ethnic fairness in juvenile justice.

Resources:

JJGPS is one of several strategies in support of juvenile justice reform through the [Models for Change initiative](#).

NCJJ is the research division of the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#).

Juvenile Law Center Paper Addresses Reducing Length of Stay in Youth Facilities

The [Juvenile Law Center](#) has released “[Ten Strategies to Reduce Juvenile Length of Stay](#).” This paper highlights recommendations for states to reduce the length of stay of youth in juvenile facilities and to expand the availability of community-based placement, including services for youth living at home. The paper cites research findings indicating that lengthy juvenile confinement is costly, largely ineffective at reducing recidivism, and potentially harmful to youth and communities.

Resources:

[View and download](#) the paper.

Days Inn
State College, PA

FOR MORE
INFORMATION PLEASE
VISIT
www.sapen.org

> DAVID PRESCOTT, LICSW
"Engaging Sex Offenders in
Treatment"

> BRADLEY ORSINI, FBI
"Human Trafficking"

> DR. DAVID DELMONICO
"#cyberoffense: Assessment,
Management, and Treatment of
Cyberoffenders"

> AND MORE.....

JULY 29th-31st
ANNUAL 2015
SAPEN CONFERENCE
Sexual Abuse Prevention and
Education Network

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 to rtomassini@pa.gov.

Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research, Shippensburg University
1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299.

To subscribe to the JCJC newsletter, Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice, please send your request to jjcnews@ship.edu to be added to the distribution list. You will receive an e-mail alert each month when the latest edition is available.

