

PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Tom Wolf, Governor



Juvenile Justice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

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April 2016

Further Benchmarking Pennsylvania's Juvenile Recidivism Rate: The Outcomes of the University of Pittsburgh's Juvenile Justice Research Project (Part 2)

In 2014, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) was approached by Dr. Ed Mulvey from the University of Pittsburgh about working on a collaborative recidivism research project. More specifically, Dr. Mulvey and his colleagues were interested in determining if the offender population in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system changed over time due to the implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES), and if so, what impact that change had on recidivism rates. In addition, the research team was also interested in examining placement-related trends over time.

JCJC enthusiastically agreed to this collaborative effort, and funding was secured from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) in early 2015. The project officially began in April 2015, and six months later, in October 2015, it was completed.

Using the same dataset utilized for JCJC's annual recidivism reports, the project involved approximately 91,000 youth who had a case closed from a juvenile probation department in Pennsylvania in the years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011. Recidivism was defined as: a subsequent adjudication of delinquency in juvenile court or conviction in criminal court for a felony or misdemeanor offense within two years of case closure. Juvenile court data was obtained from the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS). Criminal court data was obtained from the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Court's (AOPC) Common Pleas Case Management System (CPCMS).

The following article is Part 2 of a two-part series meant to disseminate the results of this comprehensive work. It will focus on placement-related outcomes, specifically addressing whether placement trends changed over time and the impact of length of stay in placement on recidivism. Part 1 of this series was published in the March 2016 newsletter.

As previously mentioned, the first placement-related research question that the University of Pittsburgh research staff sought to answer focused on whether Pennsylvania's placement trends changed over time. First, the researchers discovered that the rate of placement remained relatively stable over the five year time period examined (as indicated by the nearly flat trend line in the graph on page 2). More specifically, between 2007 and 2011, approximately 15% of juveniles had a placement experience between their referral date and close date.

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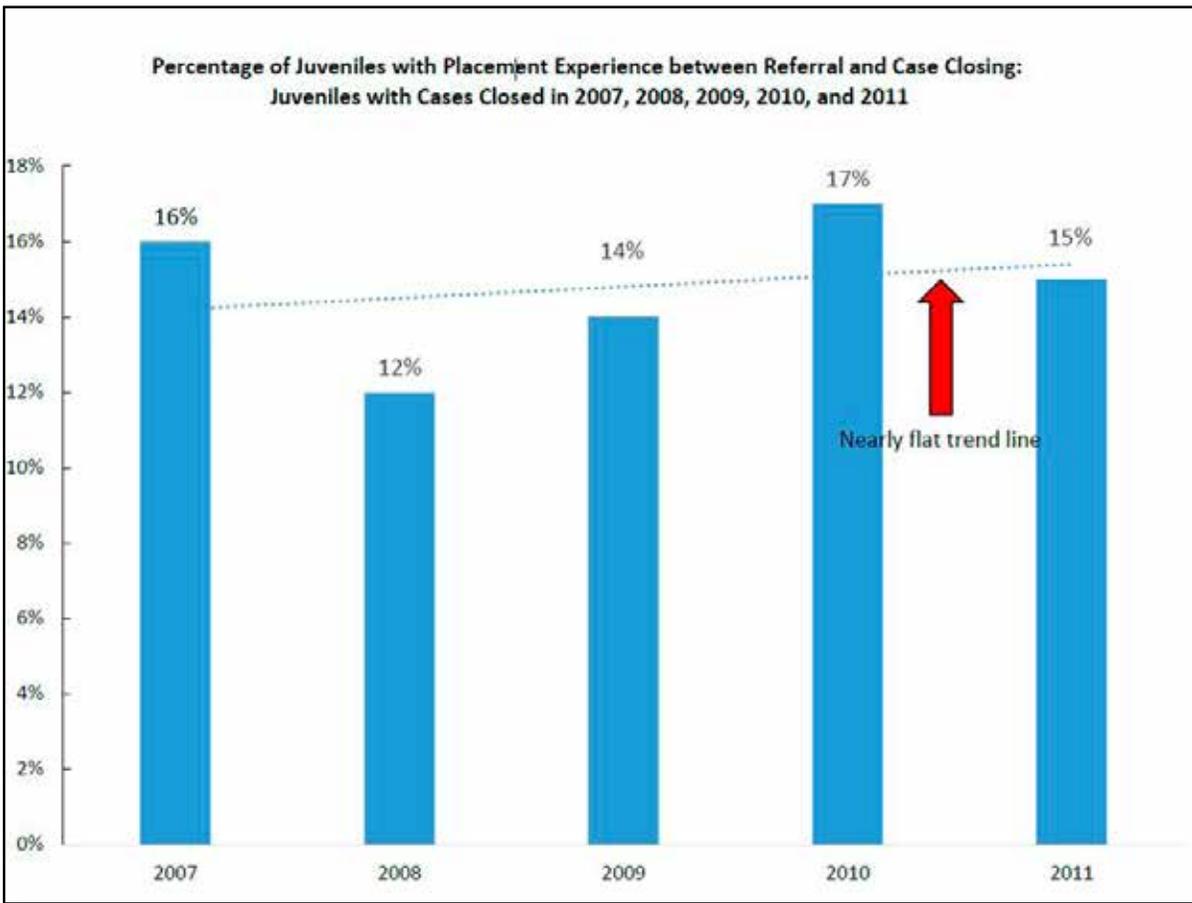
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However, while the *percentage* of youth placed did not change significantly between 2007 and 2011, the *characteristics* of youth who were placed did change. More specifically, youth with cases closed in 2010 and 2011 who had been placed were more “serious” types of offenders than prior years:

- Their age at first adjudication was younger.
- They were older at case closure.
- They had higher numbers of prior referrals.
- There was a substantial increase in the proportion that were classified as chronic offenders.
- The percent of youth who had a person offense was consistently higher than other types of offenses.
- There was also a gradual increase in percentage of minority youth over the five years.

Next, the University of Pittsburgh research staff were interested in examining the *expected* recidivism rates of youth who had been in placement for each of the five years and then comparing that rate to the *observed* recidivism rate. Since YLS data was not available for all youth in the sample, each juvenile was assigned a “likelihood to re-offend” score based on the following variables: gender, race, age at first referral, age at case closure, number of written allegations, county, prior

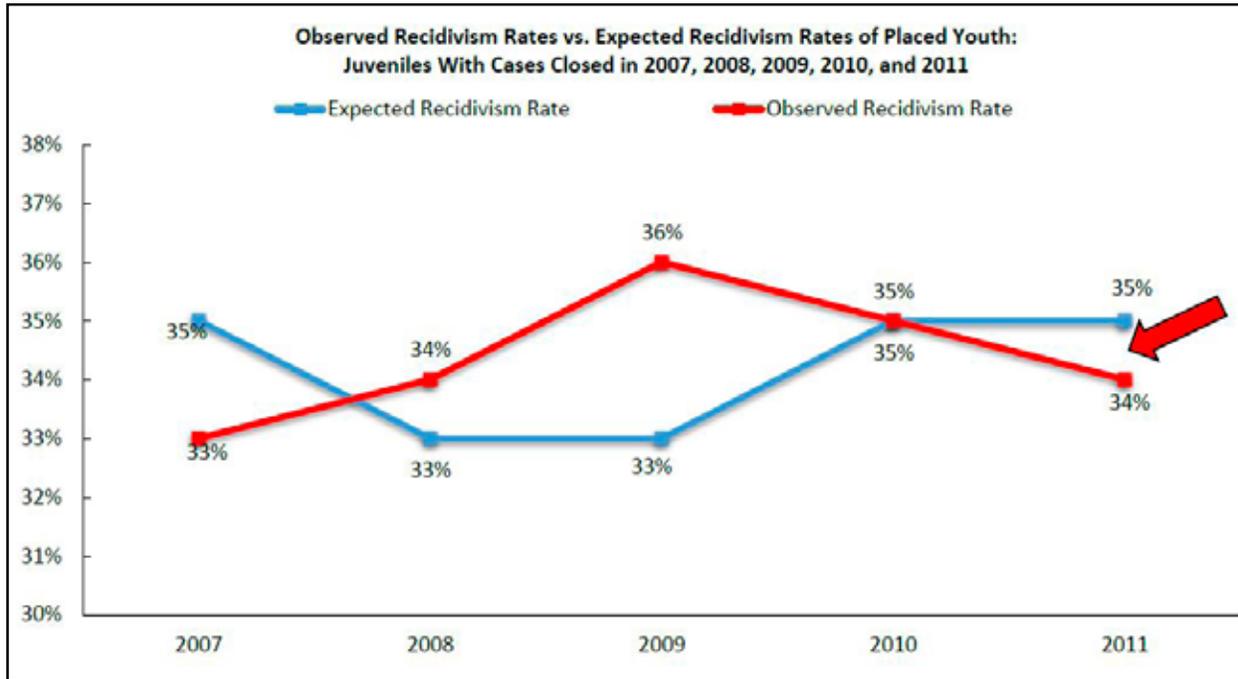
adjudication, placement experience, serious, violent, or chronic offender status, and offense type. This score ranged anywhere from 0 to 1.

To illustrate how this assignment of “likelihood” scores worked, consider the following examples: a twenty-year old male, whose age at first referral was ten years, and who met the definition of a serious, violent, and chronic offender may be assigned a score of 0.75, while a first-time female offender who committed a retail theft may only score a 0.15. In the first example, the male exhibited several characteristics known to be associated with recidivism, hence the higher likelihood score. In the second example, the female exhibited almost no characteristics known to be associated with recidivism, hence the lower likelihood score. Once each of the juveniles was assigned a likelihood score, the average likelihood score of all youth was calculated, resulting in the expected recidivism rate. This was then compared against the actual, or observed, recidivism rates.

The chart on the next page illustrates the expected and observed recidivism rates of youth who had been in placement for each of the five study years. In sum, in 2007, the observed recidivism rate for youth who had been in placement was lower than the expected recidivism rate. In 2008 and 2009, the observed recidivism

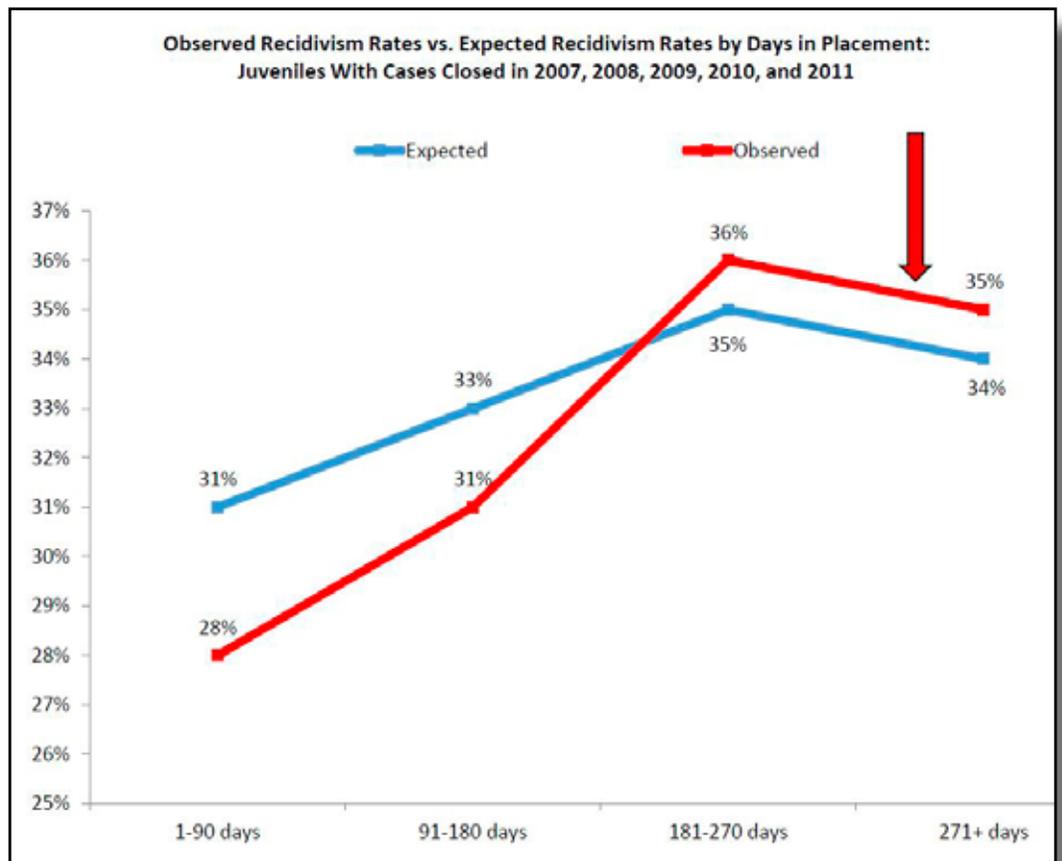
rate for youth who had been in placement was higher than the expected recidivism rate. In 2010, there were no differences between the observed recidivism rate and the expected recidivism rate for youth who had been in placement. In 2011, the observed recidivism rate for

youth who had been in placement was lower than the expected recidivism rate. This trend is consistent with overall expected and observed statewide recidivism rates that were reported in Part 1 of this series.



Finally, the researchers were interested in examining the impact of length of time spent in placement on recidivism rates. They determined that even when controlling for the background characteristics of youth who had been placed, juveniles who spent 180 days (6 months) or longer in placement had higher recidivism rates than expected.

It should be noted that these figures did not take into account the type of programming the youth received while in placement, the dosage/duration of that programming, at what point in time the programming started, or who provided the services. In general, however, existing empirical evidence suggests that keeping juveniles in placement for longer periods of time “just because” is not appropriate. To view the full report of findings, please click [here](#).



JJSES Pilot Project Announcement

Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS)

Research is ongoing as to how much treatment dosage is required to effectively reduce recidivism among moderate and high risk offenders. With the exception of Mark Lipsey's 1999 meta-analysis that found that juvenile offender programming effectiveness was linked to duration, most of the research has focused on adult offenders. The research was also initially focused on treatment that was delivered in correctional facilities. While empirical guidelines have yet to be established, it is generally believed that anywhere from 100 to over 300 programming hours are required based upon an offender's risk level. As most offenders are supervised within the community, how can probation officer interventions be counted toward dosage?

Studies looking at the link between probation officer supervision and recidivism reduction date back to 1979. Results from several studies suggest that the use of the principles of effective intervention (Risk-Need-Responsivity) along with the core correctional practices can effect meaningful reductions in offender recidivism. It is clear that when probation officers utilize certain skills with their offenders (such as pro-social modeling and reinforcement, problem-solving, and cognitive techniques), their clients tend to reoffend less often.

The introduction of the Four Core Competency training as part of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) was the initial attempt to teach probation officers to deliver more effective interventions. Its goal was to move probation officers further along the continuum from case managers who focused on compliance to change agents. If the Four Core module was the appetizer, the introduction of EPICS is the main course.

EPICS, developed by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI), is a nationally recognized model of community supervision. It teaches probation officers how to use the principles of risk-need-responsivity along with a cognitive-behavioral

approach that targets criminogenic needs of higher risk offenders. EPICS' four step structured approach to one-on-one interactions with offenders includes a check-in, review of the prior session, intervention with a new skill taught and practice of the skill including homework. While EPICS is not intended to replace programming and services, it is designed to deliver treatment dosage and better utilize staff as behavior change agents.

The JJSES leadership team is excited to provide counties with an opportunity to have officers trained in EPICS in order to test the model for applicability prior to a statewide rollout. A total of 30 officers will be trained this fall and receive ongoing coaching and feedback from UCCI over a period of 6-8 months. Ideally, interested counties will send five officers to be trained with one of them selected as the lead officer/coach. The EPICS model should be attractive to rural counties who may experience difficulty at times running group sessions or providing treatment dosage. Rural counties may want to consider partnering to send a group of five officers.

The initial three-day training session will be held this fall. Following training, officers will submit five audio tapes of a one-on-one session for coding and feedback. The lead officer/coach will work with UCCI in reviewing the tapes and becoming comfortable with providing feedback once the formal coaching ends. Video-conferencing coaching sessions will be conducted by UCCI following each submission.

To learn more about this exciting opportunity, the JJSES Leadership Team will be hosting a webinar with UCCI on May 20th at 9am. More information about accessing the informational webinar will be made available in the very near future.

2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice Call for Workshop Presentations

The 2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice, sponsored by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges will be held November 2-4, 2016 at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers.

Each year the Conference includes training workshops highlighting practices, programs and initiatives exemplifying best-practices related to the various components of Pennsylvania's Balanced & Restorative Justice mission and Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). This year's workshops will take place on Thursday, November 3, 2016. The workshops will be 90 minutes in length, and will be repeated via morning and afternoon sessions.

We enthusiastically welcome submissions for presentations. Interested parties can use the Call for Presentations form contained in this newsletter, or access the [electronic version](#) to submit their proposal(s). Please note that up to two presenters from each selected workshop will have all Conference registration fees waived (presenters are responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses).

Submissions for proposals are due by Friday, June 3, 2016, and can be directed to Leo J. Lutz, Director of Policy and Program Development at lelutz@pa.gov.

- SAVE THE DATE -

The 2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 2-4, 2016 at the Harrisburg Hilton & Towers

Youth Awards Program & Dinner

Wednesday, November 2

Annual Training & Awards Program

Thursday, November 3

Resource Day 2016

Friday, November 4

The 2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice will conclude with Resource Day, 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.

Conference Registration Opens in August!

www.jcjc.pa.gov

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

**FOR
EXHIBITOR INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

Kelly Waltman-Spreha

at 717.477.1185 or

kjwaltmanspreha@ship.edu

Name of principal trainer: _____

Title: _____

Agency/organization and address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Co-presenter(s):

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Name: _____

Email address: _____

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.

PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION AND ATTACH SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAM DESCRIPTIVE MATERIALS, LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND TRAINER’S VITA BY FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2016 TO:

Leo J. Lutz, Director of Policy and Program Development
Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Ave., Suite 9100
P.O. Box 62425
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2425

Phone: 717-705-2290
Fax: 717-783-6266
E-mail: lelutz@pa.gov

[*Click here to access the electronic form.*](#)

2014 Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Dispositions

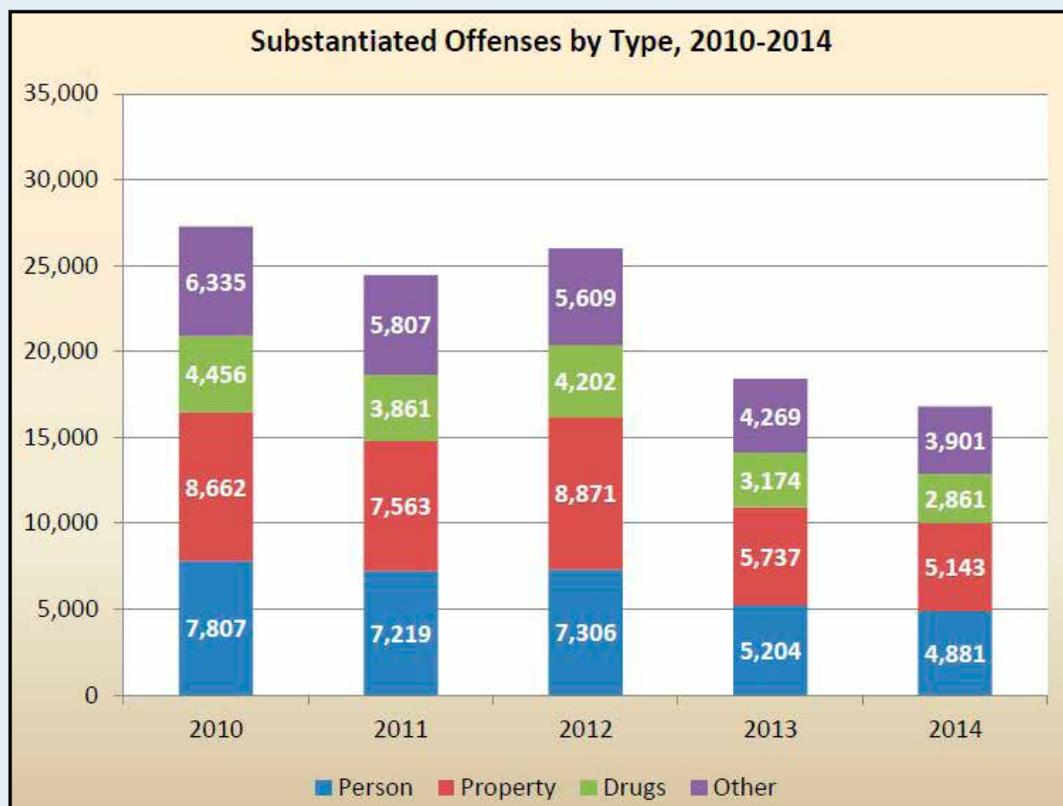
Alleged and Substantiated Offenses Continue to Decline in 2014

Statewide alleged and substantiated offenses, as reported to the JCJC from county juvenile probation departments in Pennsylvania, have declined from 2013 to 2014. There have also been significant decreases in both of these areas over a five-year period, from 2010 to 2014.

The total number of alleged offenses decreased by 12.4% from 2013 to 2014. The largest decrease by type of alleged offense has been in the property offense category (-16%), while drug offenses decreased by 14.6%. Since 2010, the total number of alleged offenses has decreased each year with an overall decrease of 37.6%

Similar to alleged offenses, the total number of substantiated offenses decreased from 2013 to 2014, with the largest decrease in the property offense category (-10.4%) while drug offenses decreased by 9.9%. The total number of substantiated offenses has decreased by 38.4% from 2010 to 2014. Each category of substantiated offenses remains below their respective 2010 levels.

County-specific data on alleged and substantiated offenses are contained within the appendices of the [2014 Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Dispositions Report](#).





Elizabeth Fritz, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Lehigh County and outgoing president of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers was recognized for her service at the March 18, general membership meeting. Introducing Ms. Fritz and presenting her with a plaque acknowledging her term and accomplishments is Russell Carlino, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Allegheny County, and current Vice-President of the the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

THE CHIEFS COUNCIL AND JCJC SPONSOR ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW CHIEFS

The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers partnered with the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) to provide an Orientation Program for New Chief Probation Officers on April 14, 2016 in State College. The program was attended by newly appointed chiefs, as well as several deputy chiefs and senior-level supervisors. In total, the event was attended by twenty-eight individuals representing twenty-two counties.

The concept was initiated over a decade ago, and since that time, has been delivered approximately every other year. The main objective of the program is to provide those who have recently been appointed to the position of Chief Juvenile Probation Officer with the information and contacts necessary to navigate this critical position.

The orientation was delivered in two parts. In the morning, participants received an overview of the programs, services and resources available through the JCJC. In the afternoon, participants received information related to many of the current activities of the Chiefs Council. Additionally, participants learned about the Needs-Based Budget process, as well as the support available through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

Following the workshop, participants enjoyed a networking dinner where they were given the opportunity to make contacts with JCJC staff, members of the Chiefs Council's Executive Committee, and each other. Participants were also invited to attend the Executive Committee Meeting of the Chiefs Council on April 15.

Given the increasing complexity of the chief position, together with the enormous amount of recent innovation in PA's juvenile justice system, a program of this type has never been more valuable. Clearly, information, support and resources are essential to chiefs and administrators in order to succeed in the worthy endeavor of leading a county juvenile probation department.

Information and registration details of sponsored workshops may be reviewed at any time by visiting www.jcjcjems.state.pa.us for regular updates to the schedule.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

- 11 Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI) Coordinator Training
- 18 Supervisor's EBP BriefCASE
- 19-20 Loss, Grief, Dying, Death and Childhood/Adolescence
- 24-25 Human Trafficking

June

- 21-22 Ten Steps to Recidivism Reduction
- 23-24 Advanced Reading Workshop
- 28-29 Motivational Interviewing 101

August

- 22-26 Orientation For The New Juvenile Probation Professional - Session I

September

- 7-8 Mood Disorders
- 19-23 Orientation For The New Juvenile Probation Professional - Session II

Noteworthy EBP Workshops Added to Training Schedule

The JJSES Leadership Team has collaborated with The Carey Group to offer several key workshops aimed at expanding the knowledge and skills of probation staff related to evidence based practices.

The first workshop, the *Supervisor's EBP BriefCASE* is a skill-based training which introduces supervisors to the Carey Group's EBP BriefCASE—a module based curriculum designed to be delivered by the supervisor in one-hour meetings with staff. It also provides participants with opportunities to practice using the curriculum material. The workshop was developed to provide supervisors with the structure to establish a collaborative coaching relationship with staff, and the knowledge and tools to teach and reinforce EBP and core competencies.

This one day workshop will be offered three times in 2016 as follows:

- On May 18, 2016 at the Days Inn in State College, PA.
- On September 28, 2016 at the Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation Department in Greensburg, PA.
- On November 30, 2016 at the Child Welfare Resource Center in Mechanicsburg, PA.

The second workshop, *Ten Steps to Risk Reduction* introduces line staff and supervisors to the 10 steps to risk reduction—from developing rapport with youth and establishing clear roles to preparing youth to exit the juvenile justice system. The workshop also provides participants with 25 tools they can use to achieve these steps. Among these tools are:

- the Role Script, a script to be used at the first appointment between a juvenile justice professional and a youth to clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of each party
- the Driver Workbook, to help juvenile justice professionals identify a youth's most influential criminogenic need
- the Goal Appointment Card, which identifies the primary case plan goal on which the youth is currently working, the specific skill that is being developed to support achievement of that goal, the youth's take-home assignment, and the date of the next appointment.

The training concludes with participants identifying the tools that will best assist them in achieving their risk reduction goals and by creating an action plan to use these tools.

This one and a half day workshop will be offered twice in 2016 as follows.

- On June 21 and 22, 2016 at the Days Inn in State College, PA.
- On October 13 and 14, 2016 at the Child Welfare Resource Center in Mechanicsburg, PA.

These workshops are being supported by a grant through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. Therefore, the only cost associated with registration is a nominal fee to cover morning refreshments for participants. **Registration is available at [JEMS](#).**

SAVE THE DATE

PA ON THE M.O.V.E.
Motivating Others Through
Voices of Experience

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS FAIR
May 13, 2016 | from 10am - 2pm
Strawberry Square
11 N. 3rd Street | Harrisburg, PA 17101

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
www.samhsa.gov | 1-877-SAMHSA | (717) 624-2311

PA's Partners in Mental Health

Logos for: Pennsylvania Department of Case Management, SAMHSA, Pennsylvania Department of Health, PA's Partners in Mental Health, PA Healthy Transitions Partnership.

This project, publication/report/etc. was developed (in part) under grant numbers SM61915 and SM061250 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The views, policies, and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or HHS.

Philadelphia Police School Diversion Program

In Philadelphia and across the country, recognition has grown that zero-tolerance policies have increased arrests and incarceration of school-age youth, creating what many have termed a “school-to-prison pipeline.” In an effort to dismantle this pipeline, the Philadelphia Police Department, in collaboration with major youth-serving agencies in the city including the School District of Philadelphia (SDP) and the Department of Human Services (DHS), initiated the Police School Diversion Program. The Police School Diversion Program, implemented in all Philadelphia schools in May 2014, aims to divert students from arrest to prevention services and avoid the collateral consequences of justice system involvement.

The Police School Diversion Program represents an ambitious and shared vision among system partners to 1) dramatically reduce the number of children arrested and referred to the juvenile justice system in the City of Philadelphia; 2) improve school retention by reducing rates of school disciplinary actions; 3) eliminate racial and ethnic disparities among students arrested, suspended, and expelled/transferred in Philadelphia schools; and 4) provide prevention services to address underlying issues and help students succeed.

The program targets youth who are at least 10 years old, have committed low-level summary or misdemeanor delinquent acts on school property, and who have no previous delinquency findings, no previous diversions from the juvenile justice system, and are not currently under juvenile probation supervision.

Evaluation of the Police School Diversion Program—Year 1 Outcomes

With a grant from the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Dr. Naomi Goldstein from Drexel University, and the Juvenile Justice Research and Reform Lab are conducting a three-year implementation and outcome evaluation study of the Police School Diversion Program. The Diversion Program represents a substantial departure from previous school and police practices, and descriptive data for the first year of the program suggest outstanding results.

The number of school-based arrests for the 2014-2015 academic year was down 54% from the academic year prior to implementation of the Diversion Program - a decline from 1,582 to 724 arrests. Particularly notable were the reductions in arrests for possession of weapons/cutting instruments (87% reduction, from 162 to 21 arrests), marijuana possession/use (85% reduction, from 130 to 19 arrests), and disorderly conduct/fighting (77% reduction, from 319 to 74 arrests). During Year 1, 486 students were diverted through the program, and the vast majority of these youth and their families accepted the voluntary intensive prevention services. Only six (1.2%) diverted youth have since been arrested for other offenses in school or in the community - a particularly impressive rate when compared to the percentage of youth rearrested within one year of release from correctional custody (between 37% and 67% depending on the state) (Mendel, 2011).

Beyond diverting students from arrest, the program also seeks to improve school safety and student retention. The number of behavioral incidents in School District of Philadelphia schools was down 17% from the pre-diversion school year to the year following Diversion Program implementation, a decline from 6,359 to 5,298 incidents. Additionally, rates of expulsion and school disciplinary transfer decreased approximately 75% from the pre-diversion school year to the year following implementation.



Additional information about the Police School Diversion Program can be found in the brochure available [here](#).

Motivational Interviewing Coaches' Forum 2016 Collaboration, Skills, & Strategies



Motivational Interviewing is a conversation about change. At the 2nd Annual Motivational Interviewing Coaches' Forum, there was an abundance of conversation regarding the strategies and support measures available to coaches for county MI implementation. The 1½ day Forum took place April 6-7, 2016 in State College and was attended by 78 coaches, representing 32 counties. The program, coordinated and presented by the members of the MI Committee, opened with a discussion of how Motivational

Interviewing permeates other JJSES activities and suggestions for bridging the gap with providers. MI Coaches have the unique responsibility for providing boosters and trainings. To enhance group boosters, coaches were offered strategies and tips reflecting adult learning principles, engaging participants, and retaining content to create an enjoyable learning experience. To assist in the development of the actual content of the boosters, coaches were introduced to the Motivational Interviewing Coaches' Workbook. Coaches caught a glimpse of, and were provided some activities from the workbook, which contains chapters specific to the eight stages of learning MI as well as a chapter on the Stages of Change. A variety of activities and worksheets are contained within each chapter. Clearly noted directions, tips, time, skill level as well as overlap to other JJSES activities are noted. (Note: This



resource is currently in the editing phase with a completion goal later in 2016). Participants attended breakout sessions on Creating Booster Ideas, Implementation and Policy Development, and Coding on Specific Change Talk or Specific Observation. The Forum concluded with skill practice for all coaches on coding and providing effective feedback. Perhaps some of the greatest value came from what each of the participants brought themselves, in terms of learning, experiences new and past, commitment, and willingness to network and share. MI Coaches' Forum 2016--there was conversation and change is happening!



PaJCMS has successfully passed the Commonwealth Application Certificate and Accreditation (CA²) process within the PaJCMS test environment. The CA² process is a policy compliance assessment of the state's information and technology (IT) security standards. Since the implementation of centralization, PaJCMS has been provided to county juvenile probation departments through a secured, dedicated line (T1) from the Pennsylvania Justice Network (JNET). The JCJC has been working with JNET on upgrading our technology and improved methods to continue secure access to PaJCMS. With advancements in technology, as well as ongoing plans to enhance the PaJCMS program, it has been determined T1 lines have limitations that prohibit the ability to support these planned enhancements, as well as requiring significant resources and maintenance. Work is currently being performed to implement the CA² requirements into the PaJCMS production (live) environment. Once completed in the PaJCMS production environment, this will allow secure access to PaJCMS, by authorized users only, from any location with internet access. This will also lay the foundation for future projects such as providing secure, mobile PaJCMS access to authorized users, as well as greater opportunities for data sharing and other projects.

Lycoming County Announces Roll Out of the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol

On April 13, 2016, the Honorable Richard A. Gray, Juvenile Court Judge, and Ed Robbins, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Lycoming County, met with state and local stakeholders to introduce the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™) process in Lycoming County. Additional presenters included Rick Steele, Deputy Director of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, Matt Minnier, Deputy Chief Juvenile Probation Officer and SPEP™ Specialist, as well as Heather Perry and Shawn Peck, Juvenile Justice System Improvement Specialists at Penn State's EPISCenter. In addition to the Honorable Joy Reynolds McCoy, Juvenile Court Judge, attendees included County Commissioners, juvenile probation officers, community based and residential service providers, children and youth staff and representatives from the District Attorney's Office and Public Defender's Office.

Information was presented on the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy and statewide recidivism and disposition trends, Youth Level of Service (YLS), the SPEP™ and the research supporting it, and how Lycoming County can benefit from its use. Participants were also shown data for Lycoming County Juvenile Probation on referrals, YLS risk levels, and delinquency placements. Finally, participants received a general overview of the SPEP™ process and an update on the SPEP™ roll out in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania was one of the first states to pilot the SPEP™ beginning with Berks County's participation in the Juvenile Justice System Improvement Project through Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform in 2011. In 2013, the pilot expanded to include Bucks, Lehigh, Allegheny, and Dauphin Counties. In October 2015, the project expanded further to include Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Lycoming, and York Counties. To date, more than 100 services have been through or are involved in the SPEP™ process. For more information on the SPEP™, click [here](#).





Caring for Every Child's Mental Health

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
SAMHSA

2016 National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day (Awareness Day) 2016 is Thursday, May 5.

The 2016 national event will take place on Thursday, May 5, at 7 p.m. EDT in Washington, DC, at The George Washington University School of Media & Public Affairs' Jack Morton Auditorium. The event—Awareness Day 2016: “Finding Help, Finding Hope.”—will explore how communities can increase access to behavioral health services and supports for children, youth, and young adults who experience mental or substance use disorders and their families.

The event will feature a highly interactive format in which youth and family leaders, educators, law enforcement officials, and behavioral health professionals will discuss how communities can work together to improve access to behavioral health services and supports. The event will be webcast live as a special edition of Knowledge Network for Systems of Care TV (KSOC-TV) (link is external).

Communities, collaborating organizations, and individuals around the country will participate in Awareness Day Live! activities to view the live webcast and interact with the onstage discussion by sharing questions, ideas, or insights via email, Twitter, or text. As moderator, NBC4's Aaron Gilchrist will share questions and comments from viewers around the country onstage. Some Awareness Day Live! activities will be large, community-level gatherings hosted by systems of care or national collaborating organizations, while others will take place within smaller groups.

Viewers are encouraged to use the hashtag #HeroesofHope when participating in the national event discussion on social media.

Communities nationwide can participate in the national event by:

Organizing an Awareness Day Live! viewing event on May 5 at 7 p.m. EDT. Gather a group to watch the live webcast and participate in the onstage discussion via digital or social media using the hashtag #HeroesofHope.

Hosting a viewing event of the on-demand version of Awareness Day Live! The event might involve a viewing of all or part of the national webcast, along with a discussion of the unique challenges and opportunities related to behavioral health care access in your community.

Join the social media conversation using the hashtag #HeroesofHope. Use the hashtag to share your ideas and perspectives leading up to Awareness Day, during the national observance on May 5, and throughout the month of May.

Participating in the Awareness Day 2016 Text, Talk, Act (link is external) conversation. Through text messaging, small groups can receive discussion questions that lead them through a conversation about mental health.

www.pasocpartnership.org

July 27th-29th
Annual
Sapen Conference
2016

Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Network

Featuring:



Anna Salter, Keynote Speaker

Days Inn
State College, PA

For more information, please visit:

www.sapen.org

Registration can be completed by mail or online, and includes Networking Hour at Mad Mex on Wednesday from 5pm-7pm, and breakfast Thursday and Friday

Workshops:

- Wednesday PM: Anna Salter
- Thursday AM: Michael Miner, PhD - Risk Assessments
- Thursday PM: Tyffani Monford Dent, PsyD - Vicarious Trauma: Staying Healthy in an Unhealthy Environment
- Friday AM: Victim Trauma - Andrea Pottgen, MEd, and Megan Schroeder, LSW, Pittsburgh Action Against Rape





National Juvenile Justice Announcements

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

ADMINISTRATOR LISTENBEE JOINS LAUNCH OF STOP SOLITARY FOR KIDS NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

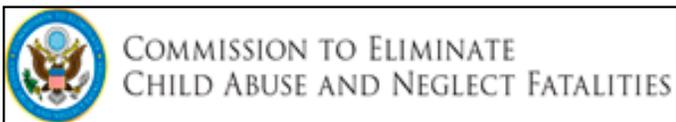
On April 19, 2016, in Washington, DC, OJJDP Administrator Robert L. Listenbee joined youth corrections administrators, impacted families, researchers, and advocates to announce the launch of [Stop Solitary for Kids](#), a national campaign to end the use of solitary confinement for youth in juvenile facilities. The Center for Children’s Law and Policy, the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University, the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, and the Justice Policy Institute are jointly sponsoring the campaign. Stop Solitary for Kids plans to work with federal, state, and local governments to end the use of solitary confinement through research, public education, policy reform, improved facility practices, legislative changes, training, and technical assistance. Acting on [recommendations](#) outlined in the U.S. Department of Justice’s *Report and Recommendations Concerning the Use of Restrictive Housing*, [President Obama](#) recently [banned](#) solitary for youth in federal custody and encouraged state and local corrections systems to follow suit.



Resources:

View and download the [Justice Department report](#) on restrictive housing (solitary confinement) in federal prisons.

COMMISSION TO ELIMINATE CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT FATALITIES RELEASES FINAL REPORT



The [Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities](#) (CECANF) has released its final recommendations for developing a national strategy to reduce fatalities resulting from child abuse and neglect. The [report](#) outlines 10 recommendations to help organizations and communities implement a strategic response to protect children at high risk of fatality from abuse or neglect.

Resources:

View and download the CECANF final report [fact sheet](#).

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

Learn more about OJJDP’s [series](#) on the National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence.

BJJS AND OJJDP ANNOUNCE FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY ON JUVENILE JUSTICE DATA ANALYSIS

The [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#) (BJS) has announced the following fellowship solicitation:

[FY 2016 BJS Visiting Fellows: Criminal Justice Statistics Programs](#). OJJDP, in collaboration with BJS, seeks a Visiting Fellow to enhance its capacity to analyze and report critical data to the field regarding juvenile justice populations. OJJDP and BJS are particularly interested in hosting a Fellow to expand OJJDP’s capability to analyze and report data on youth in adult prisons and jails, needs of youth in custody and availability of services, and youth victimization and offending. Applications are due by May 23, 2016.

Resources:

Visit OJP’s [funding](#) page for information about other current funding opportunities.

ATTORNEY GENERAL LYNCH ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR CHILD EXPLOITATION PREVENTION AND INTERDICTION

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch has [announced](#)



the release of the second [National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction](#) report to Congress and [four video public service announcements](#) that the Department produced in partnership with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children to address the threat of sextortion.



The Attorney General made the announcements during plenary remarks she delivered at the “[2016 National Law Enforcement Training on Child Exploitation](#)” on April 19, 2016. The National Strategy details national efforts to address child exploitation; provides a threat assessment of the nature and scope of the problem; lays out plans for future investigations and prosecutions, outreach and education, victim services, and policy initiatives; addresses child exploitation in Indian Country; and offers Department statistics and research on the topic.

Resources:

Read the Department of Justice [press release](#) on Attorney General Lynch’s announcement.

Read the [executive summary](#) to the National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction.

[Learn more](#) about the ICAC Task Force Program.

NCJJ RELEASES CASE STUDY OF STATE EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES IN JUVENILE JUSTICE

The [National Center for Juvenile Justice](#) (NCJJ) has released a new [case study](#) on evidence-based policies, programs, and practices in juvenile justice. This case study details how three states established evidence-based practice support centers to promote research-informed juvenile justice systems through training and technical assistance, data collection and analysis, and stakeholder involvement. This is the second in a new series of case studies supporting themes explored on NCJJ's [Juvenile Justice Geography, Policy, Practice, and Statistics \(JJGPS\) website](#).

Resources:

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

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

NIJ ANNOUNCES FUNDING TO SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY INITIATIVE

The [National Institute of Justice](#) (NIJ) is accepting applications for its [FY 2016 Comprehensive School Safety Initiative](#) (CSSI). This program funds rigorous research to produce practical knowledge that can improve the safety of schools and students. CSSI is carried out through partnerships between researchers, educators, and other stakeholders, including law enforcement, behavioral and mental health professionals, courts, and other justice system professionals. Applications are due by May 27, 2016.

Resources:

Visit OJP's [funding](#) page for information about other current funding opportunities.

FREE ONLINE ARTICLE AVAILABLE ON SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AFTER DETENTION

The *American Journal of Public Health* is providing free access to a new [article](#) by OJJDP-funded researchers that examines the health disparities in drug and alcohol use disorders of delinquent youth for as many as 12 years after detention (median age 28 years). The article is based on findings from the Northwestern Juvenile Project, a longitudinal study of a diverse sample of juvenile detainees. The researchers found that substance use disorders after detention differed markedly by sex, race/ethnicity, and substance abused. Most common substance use disorder *changed* as youth aged (from marijuana to alcohol).

Resources:

View and download other bulletins in OJJDP's Beyond Detention series:

["The Northwestern Juvenile Project: Overview."](#)

["PTSD, Trauma, and Comorbid Psychiatric Disorders in Detained Youth."](#)

["Psychiatric Disorders in Youth After Detention."](#)

OJJDP LAUNCHES INTERACTIVE TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MAP



OJJDP has launched the [Training and Technical Assistance Map](#), an interactive resource available through the [OJJDP National Training and Technical Assistance Center](#) (NTTAC) website.

Users can view the training and technical assistance that OJJDP provides nationwide by state, city, congressional district, topic, type of technical assistance, and audience. The map is based on data captured in TTA360, the training and technical assistance management system that OJJDP launched in 2015. OJJDP's NTTAC also provides resources to assist users, including the ["Training and Technical Assistance Map Quick Reference Guide"](#) and the OJJDP Help Desk.

Resources:

View the Training and Technical Assistance Map [video tutorial](#).

Contact the OJJDP Training and Technical Assistance Help Desk for assistance at 800-830-4031 or email ojjdpтта@nttac.org.

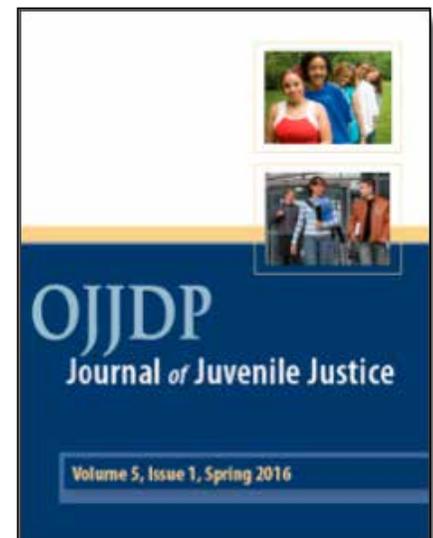
OJJDP RELEASES SPRING 2016 ISSUE OF JOURNAL OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

OJJDP has released the [spring 2016 issue](#) of the online ["Journal of Juvenile Justice."](#)

This issue features articles on the impact trauma has on youth and the importance of a trauma-informed juvenile justice system. Other topics include studies on substance use as a predictor of the types of offending among youth, the effect of ethnic/racial socialization on recent aggressive behaviors among youth who offend, and gender and the risk for recidivism among youth in truancy court. Also included is a pilot study to assess probation officer knowledge of youth with intellectual disabilities.

Resources:

Access [previous issues](#) of the semi-annual, peer-reviewed journal. [Submit manuscripts](#) for the journal.



OJJDP ANNOUNCES JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM ASSESSMENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

OJJDP has announced the following fiscal year 2016 funding opportunity:

[Assessing the Impact of Juvenile Justice Reforms Program.](#)

This program supports research and evaluation to investigate the effectiveness and/or cost-efficiency of juvenile justice system reforms. OJJDP is interested in measuring the impact of policy changes that have been enacted or implemented in states participating in OJJDP's Smart on Juvenile Justice Initiative and reforms in other states and local jurisdictions that are consistent with OJJDP's vision for juvenile justice. Applications are due by May 23, 2016.

Resources:

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

OJJDP ANNOUNCES NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Several fiscal year 2016 funding opportunities are now available from OJJDP, including:

[Smart on Juvenile Justice: Reducing Out-of-Home Placement Program.](#) Applications are due by May 25, 2016.

[Juvenile Justice Emergency Planning Demonstration Program.](#) Applications are due by May 31, 2016.

[Family Drug Court Implementation and Enhancement.](#) Applications are due by May 31, 2016.

[Smart on Juvenile Justice: Statewide Juvenile Justice Reform Planning Grants and Training and Technical Assistance.](#) Applications are due by May 31, 2016.

[National Mentoring Resource Center.](#) Applications are due by May 31, 2016.

Visit the [funding page](#) for details about these and other OJJDP funding opportunities.

OJJDP ANNOUNCES ANTIGANG FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

OJJDP has announced the following fiscal year 2016 funding opportunity:

[Comprehensive Antigang Strategies and Programs.](#)

This program provides funding for localities to enhance coordination of federal, state, and local resources in support of community partnerships implementing the following antigang programs: primary prevention, secondary prevention, gang intervention, and targeted gang enforcement. Applications are due by May 23, 2016.

Resources:

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

OJJDP ANNOUNCES TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

OJJDP has announced the following fiscal year 2016 funding opportunity:

[Evaluations of Trauma-Informed Care in Juvenile Justice Settings/Girls' Trauma-Informed Programs.](#) This solicitation will support two or more rigorous evaluations focused on the integration of trauma-informed care for youth who have come into contact with the juvenile justice system. Category 1 applicants may propose to evaluate trauma-informed care approaches serving both boys and girls in contact with the juvenile justice system. Category 2 applicants will focus on evaluating trauma-informed gender-specific programming for girls in the juvenile justice system. Applications are due by May 23, 2016.

Resources:

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

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT [WEB DATABASE DEVELOPER](#)



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.

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