

# PENNSYLVANIA

# Juvenile Justice

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.  
Tom Wolf, Governor



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

Volume 28, Number 9

September 2017

## PENNSYLVANIA FAMILY COURT JUDGE

### RECIPIENT OF WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST AWARD

*Reprinted with permission from: Lorri W. Montgomery, National Center for State Courts*

Williamsburg, Va. (September 12, 2017) — Pennsylvania family court Judge Kim Berkeley Clark has been named recipient of the 2017 William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, the highest honor bestowed to a state court judge by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Judge Clark has earned a national reputation for transforming the way children and families who enter the court system are treated, by creating a “trauma-informed” courthouse.

The Rehnquist Award recognizes a state court judge who possesses integrity, fairness, open-mindedness, intellectual courage, and sound judgment. Judge Clark, of the 5th Judicial District of Pennsylvania, will be presented the award in November during a dinner at the U.S. Supreme Court hosted by Chief Justice of the United States John G. Roberts Jr.

“The National Center is honored to present the Rehnquist Award to a state court judge who demonstrates the power of leading by example. Judge Clark is a leader who is committed to helping families,” NCSC President Mary C. McQueen said. “Her work has dramatically improved the lives not only of those who have entered her courtroom but of thousands of other families.”



Judge Clark works in Pittsburgh, but her programs have been replicated in courts across Pennsylvania and across the country.

“Judge Clark is a spirited trailblazer,” said Sharon M. Biasca, assistant administrator of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, who nominated Judge Clark for the award. “Working in Judge Clark’s trauma-informed courthouse has been the highlight of my professional career.”

Judge Clark was appointed to the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County by Governor Tom Ridge in March 1999. She was elected to a full 10-year term in November 1999. Prior to becoming the administrative judge of the Family Division, she served as the Supervising Judge of Juvenile Court.

(Continued on page 2)

## INSIDE:

OJDP Publishes Report on Effectiveness of Restorative Justice Programs ..... 2

Dr. Melissa Ricketts Receives Award for Extraordinary Service ..... 3

2017 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice Resource Day ..... 3

Save the Date: 2017 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice ..... 4

Professional Caucuses to be Held at the 2017 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice ..... 4

New Mobile App Announced..... 4

Technology Corner ..... 5

County Spotlight ..... 5

Pennsylvania Statewide Outcome Measures Report ..... 6

2016 Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Dispositions..... 8

Staff Development Highlights ..... 9

PACCIPO 50th Anniversary Celebration..... 10

Save the Date: FGDM Statewide Meeting..... 11

Save the Date: 20th Children’s Interagency Conference ..... 11

Save the Date: FGDM Statewide Conference ..... 11

National Announcements ..... 12

(Continued from page 1)

She serves as chair of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and as past president of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges.

In her capacity as a juvenile and family court judge, Judge Clark also serves as a member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Juvenile Procedural Rules and Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committees, the Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission on Racial, Gender, and Ethnic Fairness, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee, the Pennsylvania State Children's Roundtable (chair of the Dependency Benchbook Committee), and the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network.

The National Center for State Courts, headquartered in Williamsburg, Va., is a nonprofit court organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice by providing leadership and service to the state courts. Founded in 1971 by the Conference of Chief Justices and Chief Justice of the United States Warren E. Burger, NCSC provides education, training, technology, management, and research services to the nation's state courts.

## RESEARCH BRIEF

### OJJDP PUBLISHES REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

In June 2017, OJJDP published the report, *Effectiveness of Restorative Justice Principles in Juvenile Justice: A Meta-Analysis*, by Dr. David Wilson, Dr. Ajima Olaghere, and Catherine Kimbrell.

In the study, the authors reviewed 99 publications addressing the relationship between restorative justice programs and 1) delinquency outcomes; 2) non-delinquency outcomes; and 3) victim outcomes.

The results of the meta-analysis revealed promising findings for delinquency outcomes, with a demonstrated moderate reduction in future delinquent behavior for youth participating in restorative-based programs (rather than traditional court processing). Promising findings were also found for the non-delinquency and victim outcomes:

youth participating in restorative justice programs had a greater perception of fairness. The results also suggest that restorative justice youth are more satisfied with the restorative justice programs and have somewhat less supportive attitudes toward delinquency. Similarly, victims reported improved perceptions of fairness, greater satisfaction, improved attitudes toward the juvenile, are more willing to forgive the offender, and are more likely to feel that the outcome was just (p. 3).

While the authors point out that the effect size for the findings was smaller in studies with more rigorous empirical design (random assignment studies), they also state that "the bottom line for restorative justice program and practices is that the evidence is promising...[and] additional high quality research of these programs is clearly warranted (p. 3)."

Link to full report: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/grants/250872.pdf>

## DR. MELISSA RICKETTS RECEIVES AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE

At the annual Shippensburg University open faculty meeting on August 23, 2017, Dr. Barbara Lyman, University Provost and Executive Vice President, presented the Provost's Award for Extraordinary Service to Criminal Justice Professor, Dr. Melissa Ricketts. The award is given for exemplary accomplishments in teaching, research/scholarly activities, and/or service. Dr. Ricketts served for several years as the chair of the Criminal Justice department, and currently serves as the department's JCJC Graduate Program Coordinator. She was chosen to receive the award based upon her exceptional service, leadership, and tireless contribution to the JCJC Graduate Program review. JCJC/CJJTR staff were in attendance for the award presentation, and sincerely appreciate the work and commitment demonstrated by Dr. Ricketts, in addition to the recognition and relationship with Shippensburg University. Congratulations, Dr. Ricketts!



Pictured from left to right: Richard D. Steele, Executive Director, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission; Dr. Barbara Lyman, University Provost and Executive Vice President; Dr. Melissa Ricketts, Criminal Justice Professor; Kelly Waltman-Spreha, Director, Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research; Robert Tomassini, Deputy Director, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

## 2017 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

### Resource Day

Friday, November 17 - 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Join us for this unique opportunity to interact with each other and learn about new, innovative and creative approaches to working with youth and their families!

Resource Day provides exhibitors with a venue for exclusive access to all conference attendees, which includes Judges and Hearing Officers, Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, Juvenile Defenders, Juvenile Probation Officers, Service Provider Staff, and others associated with the juvenile justice system.

#### Presented by:

Pennsylvania Juvenile Court  
Judges' Commission - [www.jcjc.pa.gov](http://www.jcjc.pa.gov)

Pennsylvania Council of  
Chief Juvenile Probation Officers  
[www.pachiefprobationofficers.org](http://www.pachiefprobationofficers.org)

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime  
and Delinquency - [www.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov)

Juvenile Section of the Pennsylvania  
Conference of State Trial Judges  
[www.pcstj.org](http://www.pcstj.org)

#### Featuring vendors from the following areas:

- Residential Programs
- Community-Based Programs
- Diagnostic Services
- Mental Health Services
- Drug and Alcohol Services
- Colleges and Universities
- Evidence-Based Curricula Developers
- Equipment Services (monitors, D&A testing, etc.)
- The PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers
- The Pennsylvania Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services

## 2017 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

**NOVEMBER 15-17, 2017**

Harrisburg Hilton & Towers, Harrisburg PA

Registration  
Is Open!  
[Click here](#)

### PROFESSIONAL CAUCUSES TO BE HELD AT THE 2017

### JAMES E. ANDERSON PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

On Wednesday, November 15, 2017, participants of the 2017 Pennsylvania James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice will have the 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. As in the past, the following professional caucuses will be held from 2:00pm to 3:30pm: chief juvenile probation officers, juvenile probation supervisors, line probation officers, residential service providers, and victim service providers. In addition, for the second year, district attorneys will have their own caucus to attend. These facilitated caucuses will be highly interactive and offer participants the opportunity to discuss critical issues and needs for the future.

### NEW MOBILE APP ANNOUNCED

Download the new mobile app for the 2017 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice from Yapp and have all the conference details in the palm of your hand.

With the mobile app, this year attendees are able to:

- access the full agenda for the conference,
- build your own personalized agenda of events,
- browse detailed descriptions of each event,
- view floor plans to help you navigate the conference area,
- learn more about the speakers and exhibitors and gain contact information, and
- receive real-time announcements or updates on conference events.

Visit <http://my.yapp.us/ICJC2017> on your device and click "Download" to download the Yapp app.

Once downloaded, simply open the Yapp app and you should see the 2017 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice event.

To build your own personalized agenda, view the full schedule located on the bottom of the home screen. Once inside the schedule page, select an event you wish to attend and then select "Add Event to My Schedule." Do this for all the events you wish to attend. To view your personalized agenda, select the calendar icon in the top right corner of the schedule screen.

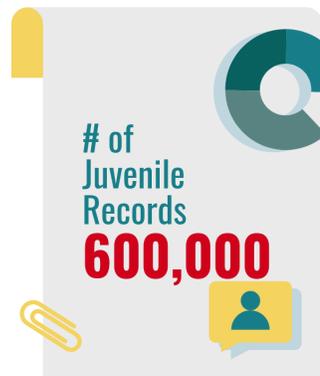


*We hope that you enjoy the app and find it beneficial during the conference.*

## TECHNOLOGY CORNER

### Part II - Data, Information, and Knowledge: What Does it All Mean?

As noted in Part I of this series, while it is imperative that we continue to expand our data collection efforts, collecting increasingly more data poses its own set of issues and considerations. Warehousing such large amounts of data



can cause storage and performance issues. As the numbers displayed here demonstrate, the amount of data currently stored in the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) is staggering! Can we ever

have too much data? Probably not, however it doesn't mean that all of the data must reside in the same location. Much of the information housed in PaJCMS is archival in nature – meaning it doesn't need to be accessed on a regular basis. Currently, we are housing all of the data since the onset of PaJCMS in the production database. This can be



inefficient and cause latency issues with the application, as well as increasing the run-time for reports.

Archiving is a great alternative to purging old data. Current data would be kept in a production environment used regularly, while older data would be moved to an archive environment. The archived data would still be readily accessible, but it wouldn't bog down the frequently used portions of PaJCMS. As a part of their assessment, Integrity Consulting, LLC is providing the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC)/Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research (CJJT&R) with options and recommendations for archiving data, and we look forward to finding the best solution for making data retrieval more efficient.



## COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Juvenile Justice Week is October 1—7, 2017

Send us photos and information on any Juvenile Justice Week activities in your county and we may highlight them in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

Please send correspondence to [ra-oajcnews@pa.gov](mailto:ra-oajcnews@pa.gov).



# PENNSYLVANIA STATEWIDE OUTCOME MEASURES REPORT

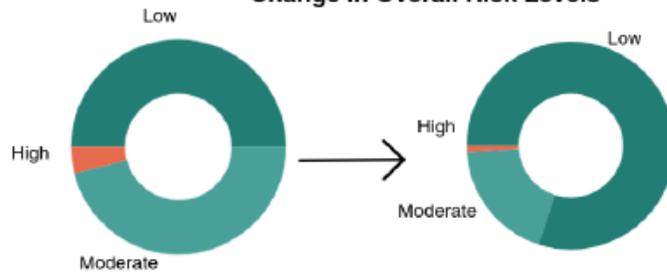
Report Period: January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

All data is based on youth closed during the period indicated.



## Risk Level

### Change in Overall Risk Levels



In comparison to initial YLS assessments, the percentage of youth who scored low at case closing increased, while the percentage of youth who scored moderate or high decreased.



# 80%

Youth with lower risk score at case closing.

### Moderate Risk Youth with Lower Risk Score at Case Closing



### High Risk Youth with Lower Risk Score at Case Closing



## Community Protection

The citizens of Pennsylvania have a right to safe and secure communities, and the juvenile justice system has a responsibility to protect the community from known juvenile offenders.



# 84%

Youth who successfully completed supervision without a new offense.

# 5%

Youth charged with a new offense while under supervision and whose case was pending in criminal court.

# 9.0 Months

Median length of supervision.



# 20%

Youth with a judicial finding of a technical violation of probation.



# 9.7 Months

Median length of stay in out-of-home placement.



# 0.5%

Youth charged with a "direct file" offense while under supervision.



### Accountability

In Pennsylvania, when a crime is committed by a youth, an obligation to the victim and community is incurred.



**3 in 4**  
Youth assigned community service.



**95%**  
Youth who fulfilled community service obligation.

**336,603**

Number of service hours completed.



**1 in 4**  
Youth assigned restitution.



**83%**  
Youth assigned restitution who fulfilled obligation.



**\$1,880,110**  
Amount of restitution collected.



**51%**  
Youth ordered to participate in a victim awareness curriculum/program.



**96%**  
Youth assigned participation in a victim awareness curriculum/program who completed it.



**\$214,997**  
Amount paid to Crime Victim's Compensation Fund.



### Competency Development

Youth who come within the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system should leave the system more capable of being responsible and productive members of their communities.



**75%**  
Youth assigned participation in a competency development activity.



**94%**  
Youth successfully completed a competency development activity.



**1 in 4**  
Youth ordered or directed to participate in a licensed substance abuse treatment program.



**89%**  
Youth successfully completed or were actively participating in a licensed substance abuse treatment program at case closing.



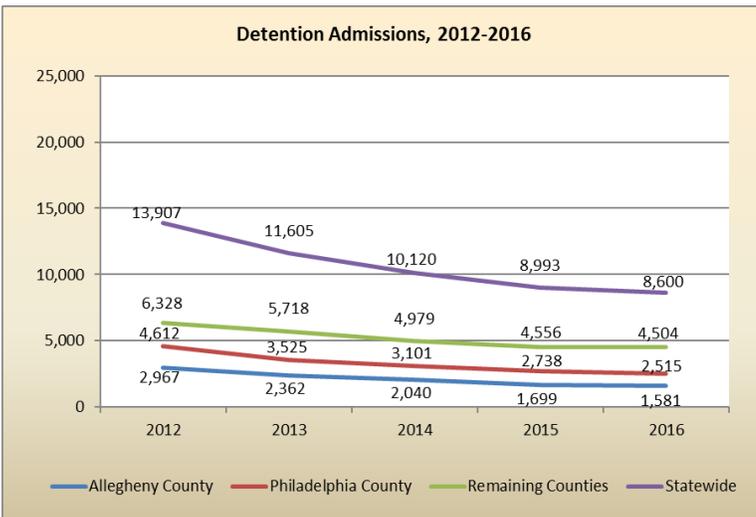
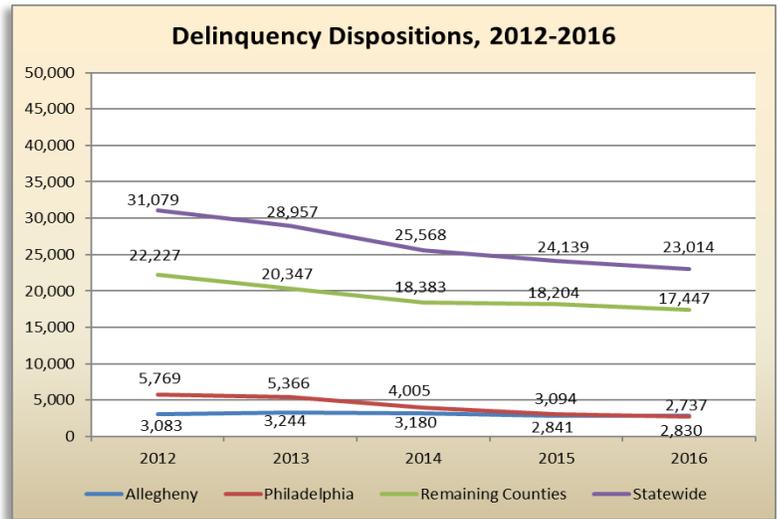
**85%**  
Youth were employed or engaged in an educational or vocational activity as case closing.



# 2016 PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS

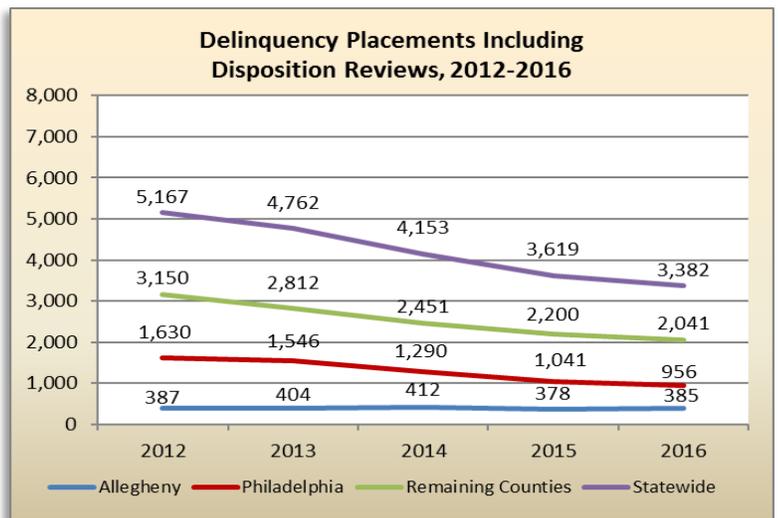
## Dispositions, Secure Detention, and Placements Continue to Decline

The total number of delinquency-related dispositions in Pennsylvania has decreased in each of the last five years. This includes a 4.7% decrease from 2015, and an overall decrease of 25.9% since 2012. The Commonwealth's largest jurisdictions, Allegheny and Philadelphia, also reported decreases in delinquency dispositions from 2015 to 2016, with Allegheny at <1.0% and Philadelphia with an 11.5% decrease.



The utilization of secure detention in Pennsylvania continues to decline, as reflected in the 4.4% decrease from 2015 to 2016. This includes decreases in the Commonwealth's two largest counties, Allegheny (-6.9%) and Philadelphia (-8.1%), which comprised 47.6% of statewide secure detention admissions in 2016. Statewide, secure detention admissions have declined by 38.2% since 2012.

Delinquency placements, including those resulting from dispositional review hearings, have also decreased in each of the last five years. Statewide, delinquency placements decreased by 34.5% since 2012, and by 6.5% from 2015 to 2016. The 3,382 delinquency placements in 2016 represented 6.9% of all delinquency dispositions. Delinquency placements in Philadelphia County decreased 8.2% from 2015 to 2016 and placements in Allegheny County increased 1.9% from 2015 to 2016.



County-specific data on delinquency dispositions, secure detention admissions, and delinquency placements can be found in the appendices of the [2016 Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Dispositions Report](#).

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### October

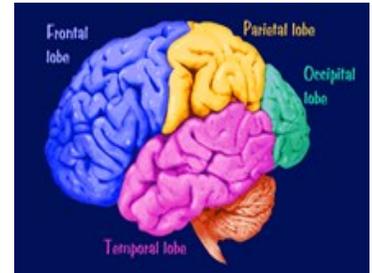
- 12 Enhancing Professional Alliance through Cultural Competency
- 17 Adolescent Development
- 18 YLS Master Trainer Recertification
- 19 JJSES Leadership Forum
- 25-26 Refusal Skills
- 25-26 YLS Master Trainer Certification

### November

- 15-17 2017 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

## ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 17, 2017

As highlighted in the morning plenary session at the 2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice, adolescence is a time of significant brain development. Understanding and applying the ever-growing body of research related to adolescent development is critical for juvenile justice practitioners.



This one-day workshop will help practitioners understand and effectively apply the current knowledge of adolescent development, with a focus on scientific findings about the adolescent

brain. Participants will gain an understanding of the main adolescent development categories/benchmarks, learn about important brain changes during adolescence, and increase their understanding of effectively communicating with adolescents to promote success.

## Are you a Chief, Deputy Chief or Juvenile Probation Supervisor?

*If so, you are encouraged to attend the JJSES Implementation Forum:  
A Model for Leadership Using the Essentials of Supervision.*

**A Process to Manage Staff EBP Performance:** The purpose of the forum is to introduce management and supervisors to Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Performance Management of Juvenile Probation staff.

**Designed Specifically for Managers and Supervisors:** The ongoing development of managerial and supervisory skills is crucial to ensure that EBPs are part of the normal course of business of Juvenile Probation. This forum provides a great learning opportunity for managers and supervisors who often do not have this type of opportunity specific to their needs.

**More than Annual Evaluations:** The forum will use the *Essentials of Supervision* model to establish a foundation and framework that emphasizes clear communication and expectations, direction, support, and accountability and integrates this approach into the development, use, and assessment of EBP skills of Juvenile Probation staff, including the use of an EBP Performance Appraisal process.

**Registration is Not Limited:** The forum will be held at the Atherton

Hotel in State College which will accommodate multiple participants from every county. Registration will not be limited to a specific number of participants from a county. Counties may register as many managers and supervisors as they believe will benefit.

**Lunch Provided!** For the \$25 registration fee, morning refreshments and lunch will be provided to maximize the time for the presentation of information and materials.

### JJSES Implementation Forum

October 19, 2017



To obtain additional information and register, go to [JEMS](#). Questions can also be directed to Kelly Waltman-Spreha at [kjwaltmanspreha@ship.edu](mailto:kjwaltmanspreha@ship.edu) or Alan Tezak at [alantezak@comcast.net](mailto:alantezak@comcast.net).



## Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers

### 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Anniversary Celebration

Honoring the Council's Commitment to Excellence in Juvenile Justice: Past & Present

**When:** Thursday, November 30, 2017  
Reception from 6:00 - 7:00 PM  
Dinner and program to follow from 7:00 – 11:00 PM

**Where:** Nittany Lion Inn, State College

**Hotel Information:**

Contact the Nittany Lion Inn at (800) 233-7505  
A block of rooms has been reserved at \$135/night  
Code: **PACC17C**

<p><b>Registration Deadline: October 31, 2017</b></p>
---

**Cost:** \$40 per person, includes dinner/ Cash Bar

For further information contact Robert J. Blakely, Chief Erie County Juvenile Probation Office at (814) 451-6052 or [bblakely@eriecountypa.gov](mailto:bblakely@eriecountypa.gov)

---

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Agency/Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Select Dinner Choice: Beef Braised Ribs or Salmon*

**Special Dietary Needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to **PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers.**

Send to the attention of:

**Robert J. Blakely, Chief Erie County Juvenile Probation Office,  
140 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 401, Erie, PA 16501-1076**



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**FGDM STATEWIDE MEETING  
“OLDER YOUTH  
ENGAGEMENT”**

**OCTOBER 24, 2017  
9:30 AM TO 3:00 PM**

JOHN HEINZ INSTITUTE OF REHABILITATION  
150 MUNDY STREET, WILKES-BARRE TOWNSHIP, PA 18702



Sponsored by: PA FGDM Leadership Team  
Location sponsored by: John Heinz Institute of Rehabilitation

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: [ENGAGEPA@PITT.EDU](mailto:ENGAGEPA@PITT.EDU)



**SAVE THE DATE**

**20th Children’s Interagency Conference  
April 30-May 3, 2018  
Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College, PA**

sponsored by  
*Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Bureau of Children’s Behavioral Health Services  
PA System of Care Partners, and the PA Child Welfare Resource Center*

**For more information:** Contact [ra-pwinteragencyconf@pa.gov](mailto:ra-pwinteragencyconf@pa.gov). Website: [pasocpartnership.org](http://pasocpartnership.org)

*Logo by Matthew Budd, Delaware Valley High School, Pike County, PA*

# SAVE THE DATE

**Pennsylvania  
Family Group Decision Making  
Statewide Conference**

**April 16 - 17, 2018**

**Hershey Lodge, Hershey PA**

Sponsored by:

FGDM State Leadership Team  
Pennsylvania State Roundtable  
Office of Children & Families in the Courts



Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission  
Office of Children, Youth and Families  
Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center



# NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## NEW TOOLKIT ADDRESSES POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN JUVENILE FACILITIES

The [Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators](#) (CJCA) has devel-

oped a [Positive Youth Development Toolkit](#). This resource is designed to help agencies, organizations, and stakeholders improve services, programs, and outcomes for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The toolkit is based on recommendations shared at the 2015 CJCA Leadership Institute that included OJJDP's address on positive youth development.

### RESOURCES:

- See OJJDP's [Model Programs Guide](#) literature review on [positive youth development](#).



## PERFORMANCE-BASED STANDARDS LEARNING INSTITUTE RELEASES NEW PUBLICATION

The [Performance-based Standards Learning Institute](#) has released "[PbS Perspective July 2017](#)." This biannual brief provides a national snapshot of juvenile justice residential care based on data-driven [performance-based standards](#). "PbS Perspective July 2017" highlights survey findings that show that family engagement is important to reducing recidivism and ensuring positive outcomes for youth in confinement. Launched in 1995 by OJJDP, Performance-based Standards sets standards for safety, rehabilitation services, programming, reentry, and family connection.

### RESOURCES:

- Learn about programs on youth detention, confinement, and supervision in OJJDP's [Model Programs Guide](#).



## NATIONAL CAMPAIGN IN OCTOBER TO SUPPORT CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS

The [New York Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents](#), a project of the Osborne Association, will hold its [See Us, Support Us](#) national campaign during October to raise awareness about children of incarcerated parents. The campaign includes an online [toolkit](#) with resources to help support children of incarcerated parents, including a social media guide and guidance on identifying and supporting those children in child welfare.

### RESOURCES:

- Learn about programs on youth detention, confinement, and supervision in OJJDP's [Model Programs Guide](#).

## FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE RELEASES STATE BY STATE SURVEY OF JUVENILE JUSTICE INITIATIVES

The [Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice \(FACJJ\)](#) has released its "[Spotlight on Juvenile Justice Initiatives: A State by State Survey](#)." This OJJDP-sponsored report highlights the results of a state-level survey of juvenile justice initiatives from 34 states as reported by their State Advisory Groups (SAGs). The survey results will help other states tackling juvenile justice issues and guide the work of the FACJJ.

Composed of appointed representatives of the SAGs, the FACJJ advises the President and Congress on matters related to juvenile justice, evaluates the progress and accomplishments of juvenile justice activities and projects, and advises the OJJDP Administrator on the work of OJJDP.

### RESOURCES:

- [Register](#) for the next FACJJ meeting.
- [Access](#) FACJJ annual reports.



## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES ISSUES GUIDANCE ON YOUTH, FAMILIES IN THE COURT SYSTEM

The [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#) recently passed resolutions and policy statements on how to improve the lives of youth and families involved with juvenile or family courts. The resolutions address the needs of [homeless youth and families](#), support a developmental approach to [juvenile probation](#), and recognize the need for [independent oversight](#) of youth confinement facilities. The Council also released two bench cards: one with [guidance on working with youth regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression](#), and one on [applying principles of adolescent development in delinquency proceedings](#). In addition, the Council released a guide of principles and practices addressing [custody and visitation](#).

### RESOURCES:

- See OJJDP's [Model Programs Guide](#) literature review on [positive youth development](#).
- Access OJJDP's [Survey of Youth in Residential Placement Series](#).



This publication is produced monthly by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. Guest articles are welcome; please submit by e-mail to [ra-oajcnews@pa.gov](mailto:ra-oajcnews@pa.gov).

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