

PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Volume 34, Number 12

December 2023

THE JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION'S 2023 YEAR-END REVIEW

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is proud to share our many accomplishments throughout 2023. We wish to thank our various partners who helped with these achievements. Below is a year-end review of these accomplishments arranged alphabetically by program area:

Administration and Grants

- All 67 Pennsylvania counties applied for and received funding through the JCJC's Juvenile Probation Services Grant (JPSG) program, totaling \$18,945,000.
- Processes associated with the JPSG and the JCJC's annual budget have continued to be refined and improved upon, contributing to overall program efficiency and success.

Annual Conference

- 838 registrants attended the 2023 James E. Anderson Conference on Juvenile Justice.
- 50 exhibitors featured tables at Resource Day.
- Juvenile court judges and juvenile court hearing officers were invited to participate in a training entitled: "JJRA of 2018 & Other Issues Facing Regions of Our Commonwealth." This training included an opportunity for judges and hearing officers to assemble in regional Delinquency Roundtables and engage in a facilitated discussion.

Annual Report

• The Juvenile Court Annual Report was published on June 30, 2023. The report contained new metrics including school-related allegations, allegations involving weapons, Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory[™] risk levels and criminogenic needs, and the length of time from receipt of an allegation to disposition.

Detention Monitoring

- A statewide Interest of Justice reporting system was created within all Pennsylvania jails.
- 6,152 secure admission records were reviewed and closed.
- 1,126 police departments completed the annual facility designation. In 2023, OJJDP found Pennsylvania in compliance with the JJDPA mandates in its annual findings.
- Approximately 1,000 juvenile justice and criminal justice professionals attended a secure holding training.
- 502 secure monitoring activities were conducted, including 389 police departments, 49 jails, 32 courthouse secure holding facilities, 12 booking centers, 11 detention centers, and 9 secure treatment facilities.

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Graduate Education

- 10 new students entered the JCJC-sponsored Master of Science in Administration of Juvenile Justice (MAJJ) program at Shippensburg University.
- 10 students earned a JCJC-sponsored MAJJ degree in May 2023.

Information Technology

- 4 quarterly and 2 interim updates to the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System were released.
- The complete list of the 2023 Information Technology Division's year-end accomplishments will be highlighted in the January 2024 edition of this newsletter.

Juvenile Court Consulting

- 194 court service visits across 67 counties were completed by the Juvenile Court Consultants.
- Court service visits included 342 observations of juvenile court proceedings; data-driven discussions on the use of the YLS assessment within evidence-based practices timeframes and recidivism rates; compliance with the JCJC Standards required for participation in the JPSG; and county-level discussions about the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) survey and plan. Additionally, the Juvenile Court Consultants focused on the YLS assessment, case planning, graduated responses, diversion, racial/ ethnic disparities, and expungement protocols during their discussion with county juvenile courts.

Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES)

- Dr. Scott Weller joined the JJSES Leadership Team in 2023.
- The complete list of the 2023 JJSES year-end accomplishments will be highlighted in an early 2024 edition of this newsletter.

Other Activities

- The JCJC hosted a study visit on juvenile justice for Vietnamese judges and lawmakers.
- Over 7,500 expungements were received.
- 570 background checks were completed.

Professional Development

- 1,317 courses across the library of 28 available online training courses were completed.
- 58 workshops were scheduled with over 1,600 registrants attending. The total number of in-person and virtual workshops is double the number of scheduled workshops from the previous year.
- 3 Technology User Groups were facilitated.
- The 2023 Summer/Fall/Winter Staff Development Schedule booklet was released as a model for the forthcoming 2024 Staff Development Schedule booklet.

Research and Analytics

- 28 infographics were developed and published on the JCJC website.
- 18 third-party data requests were processed.
- 11 internal data-driven projects and reports were completed.
- 7 public reports were released.
- 5 different juvenile justice statewide workgroups/committees received data-related technical assistance.
- 4 data-related presentations were given to external stakeholders.
- 3 series of county-level data packets were completed for court service visits and the Delinquency Roundtable held at the 2023 James E. Anderson Conference on Juvenile Justice for a total of 201 countyspecific data packets.
- 2 internal projects received data-related support.

JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION UPDATES

JUSTINE FOWLER PROMOTED TO DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, EVALUATION, AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT



The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is pleased to announce that Justine Fowler has been promoted to the newly created position of Director of Research, Evaluation, and Policy Development, effective January 2, 2024.

Justine has been part of the JCJC staff for over 10 years. She originally joined the agency in June 2011 as a Stoneleigh Foundation Emerging Leader Fellow. Upon completion of her fellowship in July 2012, Justine was promoted to a full-time position as a Program Analyst, serving as the agency's lead research analyst. Justine held that role until January 2019, at

which time, she accepted a position as a Data and Policy Specialist with the Crime and Justice Institute (CJI), a national organization that provides technical assistance to criminal justice and juvenile justice agencies seeking to implement evidence-based, system-level reforms. While at CJI, Justine was the lead data analyst for several criminal justice projects, including the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) efforts in Nebraska, which involved using a data-driven approach to safely reduce the state's prison over-crowding problem. In October 2021, Justine returned to JCJC as the Director of Research and Analytics.

As the Director of Research, Evaluation, and Policy Development, Justine will marry the work of the agency's Research and Analytics Unit and the Quality Assurance Unit to advance juvenile justice policy across the state. In her new role, Justine will lead efforts to measure implementation of various initiatives; monitor practice, performance, and outcomes of the initiatives; and provide recommendations for improvements. She will also continue to oversee the agency's research and analytics efforts.

Justine currently lives outside of Hershey, PA, with her husband, Nathan, and two children, Jane and Jack. Congratulations, Justine!



COUNTY SPOTLIGHT



WELCOME CHIEF KRISTI FIELDS, ADAMS COUNTY

On December 18, 2023, Kristi Fields was appointed as the Chief Probation Officer in Adams County by President Judge Michael A. George. She fulfills this role for both the adult and juvenile probation services.

Kristi received her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Shippensburg University in 1991. After graduation, Kristi was a Youth Care Worker at a residential treatment program for delinquent youth and then worked as a Crisis Intervention Specialist which gave her valuable experience and resources in the mental health field. Kristi began her career as a juvenile



probation officer in Adams County in 1999. She supervised a juvenile caseload for 15 years before moving into the role as an intake officer for both juvenile and adult cases. In 2017, Kristi was promoted to the position of Director of the Intake and Administrative Services Unit, supervising adult and juvenile probation officers. She was then appointed to the position of Deputy Chief of Operations in 2020 where she remained until her promotion to Chief. Over the past 24 years, Kristi has been trained to facilitate Family Group Decision Making Conferences, Court Reporting Network evaluations, and the Youthful Offender Program through the DUI Association. She is a Victim/Community Awareness Curriculum facilitator and Train the Trainer, a Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory[™] Master Trainer and a trainer of the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory assessment. In Adams County, she is involved in the Criminal Justice Advisory Board, the Children's Roundtable, and the Adams County Technical Institute Advisory Committee for Criminal Justice. She is also part of the Inter-County Affairs Committee through the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

In her free time, Kristi enjoys coaching high school field hockey at her alma matter and spending time at the lake with her family. She is married to Mark Fields and has two children, Zachary (20) and Abbigail (20).

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

2024 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is excited to announce that the 2024 Staff Development Schedule booklet will be released the first week of the new year. The booklet will contain professional development opportunities for juvenile justice professionals to participate in throughout the year. Once the booklet is released, the training workshops will be available in the JCJC Event Management System (JEMS) for registration.

Two training workshops are scheduled in January 2024 and are open in JEMS for registration: "iLookOut Training Helps Promote Recognition of Protective Factors for Children and Families", and "Employee Burnout: Preventing, Supporting, Addressing in the Workplace". Please login to JEMS and register for these workshops and start off the new year increasing your knowledge and skills and obtaining training hours.

Contact Sonya Stokes, Director of Professional Development, if you have any questions about these or any other professional development opportunities at <u>systokes@ship.edu</u>.

January

- 10 iLookOut Training Helps Promote Recognition of Protective Factors for Children and Families - Virtual
- 25 Employee Burnout: Preventing, Supporting, Addressing in the Workplace - Virtual

February

- 1 Leadership and Emotional Intelligence Virtual
- 6 SPEP[™] Level 1 Learning Community Virtual
- 13 Developing a Positive Mindset Virtual
- 13 SPEP™ InfoCom Virtual
- 22 Empathy and Resilience: Understanding Trauma and Its Effects Virtual

March

- 5 Equity, Wealth, Race, and Racism in the Justice System -Virtual
- 7 Trauma-Informed Approach: Understanding Trauma and Its Impact - Virtual
- 11-13 EPICS Training for Juvenile Probation Officers -State College
- 14 Ethics, Confidentiality, and Legal Standards Virtual
- 20 Graduated Response Coordinator Learning Community -Virtual
- 21 Autism and the Brain Virtual
- 26-27 Officer Safety and Well-Being State College
- 27 Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships: The Importance of Recognizing Abuse Virtual

PaJCMS DATA ENTRY DEADLINE

As 2023 comes to a close, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) reminds counties to complete their data entry for all their 2023 juvenile allegations and dispositions into the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS). The deadline for this 2023 data entry is Friday, January 26, 2024. JCJC staff will begin running our final 2023 Statistical Evaluation Reports on January 29, 2024.

Also, please ensure all 2023 detention admissions are entered into the PaJCMS Detention Screen by January 26, 2024. Make certain that detentions have the appropriate Detention Section codes selected from the dropdown field on that screen.

Prior to these deadlines, each county has the ability to run their own Statistical Evaluation Report in PaJCMS. You can find the report in the JCMS Reports/JCJC Reports/Statistical Evaluation

report in the JCMS Reports/JCJC Reports/Statistical Evaluation Report. If you have any questions, please call (717)477-1199 or email the JCJC Help Desk at RA-JCJCHELPDESK@pa.gov.

- Reports List	
JCMS Reports	
JCJC Reports	
Statistical Evaluation Report	

TECHNOLOGY CORNER

The **Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory**[™] **(YLS)** is a risk/needs assessment used by juvenile probation departments in Pennsylvania. Throughout the duration of supervision, a youth should be receiving at least an initial and closing YLS assessment, but they may also qualify for a review assessment. Best practices recommend reassessment of a justice-involved youth every six months, while the youth is in the community. Life-changing events can also preclude a reassessment prior to the six-month mark. In addition, best practices recommend reassessment of a youth 90 days after discharge from a residential program.

Did you know in PaJCMS there are two ways to set your next YLS assessment date? First, if you know how many months after a youth's previous assessment you want their next assessment, then you can

go to Management Tools, followed by System Options.

This resets the reevaluation period for the county as a whole.

To reset the reevaluation date on a single assessment, view the juvenile's last assessment. Next, vou edit and enter the new review date, and then save it. Even if the assessment has been scored, you can make this change without having to rescore the assessment again.

If you have questions or

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need assistance, contact the JCJC Help Desk at <u>RA-JCJCHELPDESK@PA.gov</u>.

Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Position Announcement

Juvenile Court Policy and Program Development Specialist

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is seeking applicants for the position of Juvenile Court Policy and Program Development Specialist. This is a grant-funded position through the Shippensburg University Foundation and will be eligible for participation in the agency's telework program. A comprehensive benefits package is provided. This position reports directly to the JCJC's Deputy Director.

Position Description: In this position, you will actively participate in the planning, development, and implementation of juvenile justice-related policies and programs, while also providing expert guidance and technical assistance to juvenile court judges, chief juvenile probation officers, and juvenile justice stakeholders. You will represent the JCJC on various statewide committees and workgroups to develop policies, practices, and procedures intended to advance the use of evidence-based, juvenile justice practices, and improve the overall functioning of the Commonwealth's juvenile justice system. If you have experience and wish to explore a rewarding career with a nationally recognized leader in juvenile justice, the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission wants to hear from you!

Qualifications: Candidates must possess six years of professional juvenile justice experience which includes two years of experience developing, designing, or implementing juvenile justice programs as an administrator, supervisor, or consultant. The ideal candidate will possess either a master's degree in criminal justice, criminology, or the behavioral sciences or a bachelor's degree with relevant work experience. The annual salary will be commensurate with the candidate's education, work experience, and qualifications.

Please submit a cover letter and resume to <u>awork@pa.gov</u> or:

Angela Work Deputy Director Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Pennsylvania Judicial Center 601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 4600 PO Box 62425 Harrisburg, PA 17106-2425

Applications must be received by January 19, 2024, for consideration. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Angela Work at <u>awork@pa.gov</u> or (717) 705-6596.

Application Deadline: January 19, 2024



PHILADELPHIA REDUCES SCHOOL-BASED ARRESTS BY 91% SINCE 2013 – RESEARCHERS EXPLAIN THE EFFECTS OF KEEPING KIDS OUT OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Republished with permission from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article at: <u>https://theconversation.com/philadelphia-reduces-school-based-arrests-by-91-since-2013-researchers-explain-the-effects-of-keeping-kids-out-of-the-legal-system-217183</u>

THE CONVERSATION December 4, 2023

by Amanda NeMoyer, Drexel University and Naomi Goldstein, Drexel University

Across the United States, arrest rates for young people under age 18 have been declining for decades. However, the proportion of youth arrests associated with school incidents has increased.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, K-12 schools referred nearly 230,000 students to law enforcement during the school year that began in 2017. These referrals and the 54,321 reported school-based arrests that same year were mostly for minor misbehavior like marijuana possession, as opposed to more serious offenses like bringing a gun to school.

School-based arrests are one part of the school-to-prison pipeline, through which students – especially Black and Latine students and those with disabilities – are pushed out of their schools and into the legal system.

Getting caught up in the legal system has been linked to negative health, social and academic outcomes, as well as increased risk for future arrest.

Given these negative consequences, public agencies in states like Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania have looked for ways to arrest fewer young people in schools. Philadelphia, in particular, has pioneered a successful effort to divert youth from the legal system.

Philadelphia Police School Diversion Program

In Philadelphia, police department leaders recognized that the city's school district was its largest source of referrals for youth arrests. To address this issue, then-Deputy Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel developed and implemented a school-based, pre-arrest diversion initiative in partnership with the school district and the city's department of human services. The program is called the Philadelphia Police School Diversion Program, and it officially launched in May 2014.

Mayor-elect Cherelle Parker named Bethel as her new police commissioner on Nov. 22, 2023.

Since the diversion program began, when police are called to schools in the city for offenses like marijuana possession or disorderly conduct, they cannot arrest the student involved if that student has no pending court case or a history of adjudication. In juvenile court, an adjudication is similar to a conviction in criminal court.

Instead of being arrested, the diverted student remains in school and school personnel decide how to respond to their behavior. For example, they might speak with the student, schedule a meeting with a parent or suspend the student.

A social worker from the city also contacts the student's family to arrange a home visit, where they assess youth and family needs. Then, the social worker makes referrals to no-cost community-based services. The student and their family choose whether to attend.

Our team — the Juvenile Justice Research and Reform Lab at Drexel University — evaluated the effectiveness of the diversion program as independent researchers not affiliated with the police department or school district. We published four research articles describing various ways the diversion program affected students, schools and costs to the city.

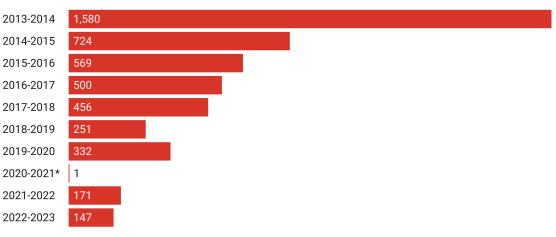
Arrests dropped

In our evaluation of the diversion program's first five years, we reported that the annual number of school-based arrests in Philadelphia decreased by 84%: from nearly 1,600 in the school year beginning in 2013 to just 251 arrests in the school year beginning in 2018.

Since then, school district data indicates the annual number of school-based arrests in Philadelphia has continued to decline — dropping to just 147 arrests

Arrests made in Philadelphia schools

The school diversion program began in May 2014. Before that, there were nearly 1,600 annual school-based arrests in the city. By the 2022-2023 school year, the number of school-based arrests had dropped to 147.



* School District of Philadelphia schools were largely closed for in-person instruction during the 2020-2021 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chart: The Conversation CC-BY-ND • Created with Datawrapper

in the school year that began in 2022. That's a 91% reduction from the year before the program started.

We also investigated the number of serious behavioral incidents recorded in the school district in the program's first five years. Those fell as well, suggesting that the diversion program effectively reduced schoolbased arrests without compromising school safety.

Additionally, data showed that city social workers successfully contacted the families of 74% of students diverted through the program during its first five years. Nearly 90% of these families accepted at least one referral to community-based programming, which includes services like academic support, job skill development and behavioral health counseling.

Fewer suspensions and expulsions

We compared data from 1,281 students diverted in the first three years of the school-based program to data from 531 similar students who were arrested in schools before the program began but who would have been eligible if the diversion program existed.

Diverted students were significantly less likely to be suspended, expelled or required to transfer to another school in the year following their school-based incident.

Long-term outcomes

To evaluate a longer follow-up period, we compared the 427 students diverted in the program's first year to the group of 531 students arrested before the program began. Results showed arrested students were significantly more likely to be arrested again in the following five years.

Although we observed impacts on arrest outcomes, the diversion program did not appear to affect longterm educational outcomes. We looked at four years of school data and found no significant differences in suspension, dropout or on-time graduation between diverted and arrested students.

Finally, a cost-benefit analysis revealed that the program saves taxpayers millions of dollars.

Based on its success in Philadelphia, several other cities and counties across Pennsylvania have begun replicating the Police School Diversion Program. These efforts could further contribute to a nationwide movement to safely keep kids in their communities and out of the legal system.



GRADUATED RESPONSE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MENTORSHIP



WHY JOIN GR-TAM?

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Collaborate with experienced mentors and peers.

Enhance Your Strategies:

Strengthen your Graduated Response policies and practices with expert guidance.

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Take advantage of a supportive network of peer probation officers.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"The mentor group has been wonderful with sharing their knowledge and giving tremendous insight on how to prepare the department for graduated responses!"

"They are really helpful and **full of insightful information**! Easy to talk with and discuss concerns, providing a lot of feedback. **Great support system**."

"The team helped me **strengthen our** graduated response policy. They supplied me with lots of ideas that are **training** and CQI related. They are very professional and knowledgeable."

To learn more, please visit:

https://www.pachiefprobationofficers.org/graduated_response_systems.php

NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

DATA SNAPSHOT SHOWS BULLYING REPORTED BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

OJJDP has updated its <u>Statistical Briefing</u> <u>Book</u> with a new <u>Data Snapshot</u> on the prevalence of bullying experiences reported by high school students in 2021. The snapshot draws on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's <u>Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System</u>. The data show that bullying on school property declined between 2011 and 2021, while bullying electronically remained stable. The data also show



that females were more likely than males to report bullying, while students who identify as heterosexual were less likely to report bullying experiences than their nonheterosexual peers.

Developed for OJJDP by the <u>National Center for Juvenile Justice</u>, the research division of the <u>National Council of Juvenile and Family Court</u> <u>Judges</u>, the Statistical Briefing Book offers easy online access to statistics on a variety of juvenile justice topics.

RESOURCES:

- Learn about OJJDP's <u>Preventing Youth Hate Crimes & Identity-</u> <u>Based Bullying Initiative</u>.
- Access the OJJDP-supported <u>Stopbullying.gov</u> website for bullying prevention resources.
- Access the full list of <u>Data Snapshots</u> and <u>Data Analysis</u> <u>Tools</u> available from the Statistical Briefing Book.
- Follow OJJDP on <u>X formerly known as Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>.

OJJDP HOSTS YJAM YOUTH AND FAMILY PANEL DIS-CUSSION

OJJDP hosted a <u>Youth Justice Action Month</u> (YJAM) panel discussion on "Centering Impacted Youth and Families" on October 26, 2023, in Washington DC.

This event featured a panel of youth and parent advocates impacted by the juvenile justice system. Panelists shared how their lived experiences in the justice system informed their development as leaders on behalf of young people. The panel made recommendations on ways policymakers and stakeholders can directly partner with youth and families impacted by the justice system.

OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan provided introductory remarks and comoderated the panel discussion along with OJJDP Program Manager Diamond Lewis. This panel discussion is one of several OJJDP events commemorating <u>YJAM</u>.

RESOURCES:

- Learn about OJJDP's YJAM observance and events.
- Learn about OJJDP's priorities.
- Follow OJJDP on X formerly known as Twitter and Facebook.

OJJDP NEWS @ A GLANCE, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) announces the availability of <u>OJJDP News @ a Glance</u>, November/ December 2023.

This issue's Message from the Administrator reiterates OJJDP's commitment to work closely with youth and families in the new year to transform the juvenile justice system. The top story provides an overview of the Office's fiscal year 2023 funding to states, Tribes, local governments, and community-based organizations.

Another feature describes a series of Tribal consultations OJJDP held to solicit feedback on its three priorities and proposed regulations. Additional stories highlight the Preventing Youth Hate Crimes and Identity-Based Bullying Virtual Symposium and a panel discussion on advocacy with system-involved youth and parents.

Other features in this issue-

- <u>Racial Bias in the Juvenile Justice System Has Lasting Impacts,</u> <u>OJJDP Administrator tells Youth Defenders</u>
- Staff Spotlight: Performance Measures Coordinator Carla Praylow
- <u>News in Brief</u>
- Upcoming Events
- New Publications

RESOURCES:

- OJJDP News @ a Glance, November/December 2023 (NCJ 307785) is available online.
- Follow OJJDP on <u>X, formerly known as Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>.

OJJDP ADMINISTRATOR'S DECEMBER UPDATE CALL POSTED

Did you miss OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan's December 19th Webex call, "<u>Today in Juvenile Justice: Administrator Update</u>"? You can catch up and <u>listen to the recording now</u>—it's available on the Administrator's webpage.

During this call, Administrator Ryan provided updates on OJJDP's fiscal year 2023 grant awards, the new monthly format of the <u>OJJDP</u> <u>News @ a Glance</u> newsletter beginning in January, and the upcoming activities for the 50th anniversary of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

Administrator Ryan also announced the new <u>Ask the Administrator</u> webpage. OJJDP stakeholders and individuals interested in youth justice issues are encouraged to submit their questions directly to Administrator Ryan for future monthly calls.

RESOURCES:

- <u>Listen to recordings</u> of previous monthly update calls hosted by Administrator Ryan.
- Follow OJJDP on <u>X formerly known as Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>.

This publication is produced monthly by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. Guest articles are welcome; please submit by e-mail to ra-oajcjcnews@pa.gov.

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