

PENNSYLVANIA

Juvenile Justice

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Tom Corbett, Governor



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

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August 2013

Dr. Gina Vincent Providing Afternoon Plenary Session at 2013 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice



Dr. Gina M. Vincent will be the featured speaker for the Afternoon Plenary presentation at the 2013 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice on November 7, 2013 at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers. Her presentation will be entitled "Risk Assessment in Juvenile Justice: Enhancing Decision-Making, Case Planning and Service Delivery."

Dr. Vincent is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry

at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and Co-Director of the National Youth Screening and Assessment Project (NYSAP), a technical assistance center designed to assist juvenile justice agencies with the selection and implementation of both mental health and delinquency risk assessments. Dr. Vincent consults with juvenile justice agencies and juvenile justice systems across the United States around the implementation of risk assessments and case planning. She worked closely with Pennsylvania in the selection and implementation of the Youth Level of Service (YLS) risk/needs assessment instrument. She has received funding from both the National Institute of Mental Health and the MacArthur Foundation to conduct research regarding risk to re-offend, mental health problems, and substance abuse among youth in the juvenile justice system.

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Conference Registration Now Open:

2013 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice is now open for registration. Please visit www.jcjems.pa.us to get registered to attend this event. Over 1,000 participants each year receive valuable training on the most up to date issues across the state and within the juvenile justice field, and can take advantage of networking opportunities on Resource Day. Join us this year for another informative conference.

A Special Season

by: Mike Flavelle, Northampton County Juvenile Probation, Community Service Coordinator

The day was Saturday, April 27, 2013. I stepped out of my car not fully knowing what lied ahead. I was a little nervous, but I must admit I was also very excited. As I remember, it was a clear crisp April day. I proceeded to enter a place I have never been before. You see, on this day, we (Northampton County Juvenile Probation Community Service Department) agreed to be a sponsor for a Miracle League team. For those of you that have never heard of the Miracle League, it is a non-profit organization that provides an opportunity for children and adults with disabilities to play baseball at a special facility that meets the unique needs of the players and their families. By sponsoring a Miracle League team, it meant that we agreed to provide a volunteer, "buddy," to assist each special needs individual throughout the game and season; help them in the batter's box; be with them as they go around the bases; as well as be with the player out in the field when they are not batting. The spring season consisted of ten games (on Saturdays). Our team consisted of fifteen players. The team name was the "METS." I grew up watching and loving the METS professional baseball team. This had to be a positive omen!

I was nervous for a couple of reasons. I was responsible to have fifteen juveniles appear and behave appropriately. I cringe on days when I have just five individuals to supervise on [community service] work crews. Today I was having three times this amount. I must admit, I did try to stack the deck a little bit with individuals who I knew had some decent communication skills, and who were involved with outside activities. Without turning this article into a Steven King length novel, the day ended perfectly. My fifteen volunteers appeared, and each one of them did a super job being a "buddy" to their assigned special needs individual.

To me, the whole season was a highlight. I have embedded in my brain the faces of the players, their parents, and our volunteers. The season was a great success! There were only one-two occasions when I was short a player over this time period. Considering this time period involved high school proms, graduations and family vacations, I can live with this percentage. There was never a behavioral issue at any time. The juveniles really seemed to enjoy their time being a "buddy." So did I!



If I must pick out a few highlights, I would pick:
1) seeing the faces of the special needs players light up as their "buddy" returned the following week.

Thus, in turn, the player's reaction put a smile on the volunteer's face; 2) having a volunteer being excited (and proud) because he taught his "buddy" to throw a ball; 3) having another volunteer being emotionally touched due to a parent walking over to him and thanking him for working with their son; 4) I remember this special needs individual hitting a home run during a particular game, he flipped his bat while in the batter box like Barry Bonds and he trotted around the bases with his index finger pointing high in the air toward his home run area. Then, upon reaching home plate, he jumped in the air to land on the base and then he proceeded to flap his jersey up and down, while having the biggest smile on his face (I was also remembering at this time, that this individual would probably never have had this opportunity if it wasn't for the Miracle League); 5) last but not least, having numerous adults walking over to me and stating how terrific our group of kids have been throughout the season.

I would encourage any probation office with a Miracle League organization in their area to partner up with them. The rewards are endless! To see more information on our specific Miracle League organization please check out the following website: www.miracleleagueofnc.org

Governor Corbett Makes Appointments to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Governor Tom Corbett appointed **Judge Kim Berkeley Clark** (Allegheny County), and reappointed **Judge Kevin M. Dougherty** (Philadelphia County) and **Judge Rea B. Boylan** (Bucks County), to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.

Judge Dougherty is currently Vice-Chair of the JCJC and has been serving as a member since October 2003. Judge Boylan has been serving as a member since June 2004. The appointment of Judge Clark fills the vacancy on the Commission created by the expiration of the term of **Judge H. William White, Jr.** (Venango County). Judge White served as a member since June 2004.

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Elects Officers

On July 24, 2013, members of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) elected the following officers for 2013-2014:

Chair – **Judge Arthur E. Grim** (Senior Judge), who has served as a member since October 1997;

Vice-Chair – **Judge Kevin M. Dougherty** (Philadelphia County), who has served as a member since October 2003; and

Secretary – **Judge Lori A. Dumas Brooks** (Philadelphia County), who has served as a member since June 2007.

Upcoming Staff Development Opportunities:

The JCJC/CJJT&R Staff Development schedule is being updated regularly with more workshops. Please be sure that you check the listing frequently.

- **Enhance Your Training Skills and Become The Ultimate Educator**
Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center, Mechanicsburg
Anne Seymour - 9/11-13/2013
- **Male Issues and Violence**
Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center, Mechanicsburg
Bruce Schaffer - 9/19-20/2013
- **JJSES Implementation Leadership Forum**
Days Inn State College, State College
Geraldine Nagy - 9/19/2013
- **The Trajectory of Gangs in the 21st Century**
Days Inn State College, State College
Jason Marque Sole - 9/26-27/2013
- **Training for Trainers for Facilitators of the Victim Community Awareness: An Impact of Crime Curriculum** Days Inn State College, State College
Susan Blackburn - 10/1-4/2013
- **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and the Juvenile Justice System**
Days Inn State College, State College
Kristine Demnovich - 10/10/2013
- **Addiction and Motivational Interviewing**
Days Inn State College, State College
Marilyn Stein - 10/10-11/2013
- **Sexual Identity, Sexual Orientation and Gender Role Issues of Adolescence**
Days Inn State College, State College
Barbara Ulmer - 10/24-25/2013
- **The Darker Side of Technology**
Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center, Mechanicsburg
James Dill - 10/30-31/2013
- **Motivational Interviewing: Skills Every Juvenile Probation Officer Should Know**
Days Inn State College, State College
Barbara Ulmer - 11/13-14/2013



Please remember, all the details on these and other sponsored workshops may be reviewed at any time by visiting www.jcjems.state.pa.us for regular updates to the schedule.

Hosting a training you would like to see listed here? E-mail us the details and we'll list it in our next issue.

Leo J. Lutz Joins CJJT&R Staff



The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, in conjunction with the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R), is pleased to announce that Leo J. Lutz joined the staff of the CJJT&R as the Director of Training and Graduate Education on August 12, 2013. He will administer both the Center's Training Program and the JCJC's Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University. In addition, Leo will provide technical assistance and advice to juvenile court judges and chief juvenile probation officers.

Mr. Lutz brings eighteen years of juvenile justice system experience to the Center. He began his career in 1995 as a drug and alcohol counselor at Manos. In 1997, Leo transitioned to the role of juvenile probation officer in Lancaster County, where he was promoted to the role of supervisor in 2008. He received the Dr. Anthony F. Ceddia Award

for Outstanding Scholarship in Juvenile Justice in 2006.

Leo has provided leadership and been integrally involved in every aspect of Lancaster County's implementation of evidence-based probation practices. He serves on the Detention Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, and is the current First Vice-President of the Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections.

Leo holds both a Bachelors Degree in Psychology from Penn State University and a Masters Degree in Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University. He can be reached at (717) 477-1185, or LJLutz@ship.edu.

CJJC Graduate Education Program Accepting Applications for the Class of 2016

Looking to advance in Juvenile Justice?

Applications are now being accepted for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University. Members of the class of 2016 will begin classes in the Summer of 2014. The deadline to apply is October 1, 2013.

The Shippensburg University program offers students a Master of Science degree in the Administration of Justice. This is a 36-credit hour program that includes courses in research methods, theory, administration, and policy analysis. Also featured is a practicum study which is conducted throughout the two-year program. This practicum study provides students the opportunity to evaluate an existing program or practice that serves juvenile offenders in their home county.

What are the benefits of the CJJC Graduate Education Program?

- ***Free tuition;***
- ***Free lodging on class weekends;***
- ***No weekday or evening classes;***
- ***A Master's curriculum specifically tailored to working juvenile justice professionals;***
- ***Networking with other juvenile justice professionals from across the Commonwealth;***
- ***Opportunity to learn how to evaluate juvenile justice programs in your county.***

This program is available to county juvenile probation officers – and county juvenile detention staff – who will have at least two years of post-baccalaureate experience in the juvenile justice field prior to the start of classes. Other juvenile justice professionals – such as residential placement staff and victim services providers – may also apply and be accepted into the program on a “self-pay” basis as space is available.

Additional information about the program is available on the [Graduate Education](#) pages at www.jjc.state.pa.us. If you have any questions regarding eligibility or the application process, please contact [Leo J. Lutz](mailto:LJLutz) at 717-477-1185.



Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Building Blocks for a Better System

JJSES STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To work in partnership to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission by: employing evidence-based practices, with fidelity, at every stage of the juvenile justice process; collecting and analyzing the data necessary to measure the results of these efforts; and, with this knowledge, striving to continuously improve the quality of our decisions, services and programs.

Part 20 of a series: "JJSES Building Blocks"

Continuous Quality Improvement

The term "continuous quality improvement" or "CQI" is used to describe a process that, when effectively implemented, can better ensure that a set of desired practices are delivered in the manner they were intended, continuously and over time.¹ Research demonstrates that when agencies introduce sound quality assurance processes they realize more effective outcomes. For example, when agencies effectively train their staff in a new skill area, improved outcomes result;² when they establish internal quality assurance processes around strategies designed to reduce risk of reoffense, recidivism rates decrease;³ and when they modify their approaches based on the results of their quality assurance processes, they realize substantially better outcomes, including cost-benefit and effect-size results that are four times greater than those of agencies that do not use quality assurance

to improve their processes.⁴

Realizing reductions in recidivism outcomes is not as simple, however, as implementing a new process or providing staff with a one-time introduction to a new skill set. Indeed, new skills and processes take time to fully integrate and may, at least at first,

result in reluctance and discomfort among those who are affected by the change.

Therefore, agencies interested in improving outcomes must commit to an implementation process that ensures that staff receive adequate initial training as well as ongoing encouragement, feedback, and coaching designed to improve knowledge, skills, confidence, and competency. In fact, research suggests that the amount of time devoted to the change process is an indicator of whether or not superior results will be derived.⁵

A number of commonly used quotes are often used to illustrate the importance of quality assurance including:

"What gets measured, gets done"

"If you can't measure it, you can't manage it"

The purposes of a CQI process are to

- determine the degree to which the assessments and risk reduction strategies are used in the manner for which they are intended;
- identify agency and staff strengths (e.g., processes that are working effectively, advanced knowledge and skill level of staff);
- identify areas in need of improvement;
- provide staff with specific and direct feedback in order to support incremental improvements in their skills; and
- identify enhancements to existing processes and structures (e.g., additional training, increased oversight by supervisors) that will support the greater achievement of agencies' goals.

Definitions

For purposes of the Monograph, Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) is defined as:

A set of professional development opportunities that generate current, specific feedback for the purpose of ensuring that services and practices are delivered in the intended manner.

Quality Assurance (QA) is defined as:

An audit process that retrospectively examines practices for the purposes of identifying and correcting divergence from policy or protocol.

Examples of possible CQI processes include:

Motivational interviewing: degree to which staff are using motivational interviewing techniques

Inter-rater reliability: degree to which the assessment tool is being administered in accordance to the author's instructions consistently across users

One-on-one interactions: degree to which staff are using the four core competencies in their one-on-one sessions, such as conducting skill practice in the criminogenic areas, reinforcing prosocial attitudes, and redirecting antisocial attitudes

Cognitive behavioral facilitation: degree to which the facilitators are conducting the sessions according to the author's instructions and utilizing effective group facilitation skills

Case Planning: degree to which staff write a case plan according to the "SMART" principles (specific, measurable, appropriate, relevant, and time bound), use offender strengths, identify and address triggers, integrate responsivity factors, and manage treatment dosage requirements

¹ Coaching packet Carey, M. (2010). Coaching Packet: Shaping Offender Behavior. **FY 2007 Presidential Prisoner Reentry Initiative Training and Technical Assistance Program**, 8. Silver Spring, MD: Center for Effective Public Policy.

² Bonta, Bogue, Crowley,& Motiuk, 2001

³ Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2002

⁴ Carey, Finigan, & Pukstas, 2008

⁵ Flores, Lowenkamp, Holsinger, & Latessa, 2006

Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) Training

In July, a four-day Orientation and Scorer's training in the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) was hosted by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), and the Evidence-based Prevention & Intervention Support Center (EPISCenter) at the Child Welfare Center in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

The audience included Juvenile Justice System Improvement Specialists from the EPISCenter, juvenile probation officers from the five SPEP pilot counties (Berks, Bucks, Lehigh, Allegheny, Dauphin) identified as SPEP probation liaisons, and staff from the Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF), JCJC and PCCD. The first half of the training was designed to provide a background about Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) and share research on characteristics of juvenile offenders and their paths into and out of delinquency. These provided a context for understanding the research basis of using the SPEP to improve juvenile justice services. The research leading to the development of the SPEP was covered in-depth and resulted in an engaging discussion. The first half of the training concluded with an overview of mapping juvenile justice services and system capacity. Presenters for the first half of the training included: Keith Snyder, Deputy Director of JCJC; James "Buddy" Howell Ph.D., National Gang Center; Edward Mulvey, Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh; Mark W. Lipsey, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University; and Marion Kelly, Comprehensive Strategy Group.

The second half of the training was specifically targeted toward the Juvenile Justice System Improvement Specialists from the EPISCenter and the juvenile probation officer SPEP Liaisons. This included in-depth training on the "nuts and bolts" of the SPEP process. It covered "unpacking" and classifying programs, identifying primary and supplemental services, developing the actual SPEP score with quality, dosage, duration, and youth risk data, and program improvement planning. The second half of the training included practice scenarios for scoring, the development of program feedback reports, and identifying strategies for system improvement.

Meghan Blevins, Director of Olivet's Boys and Girls Clubs, discussed her experience working with the Berks County Juvenile Probation Department as the first SPEP'ed provider in Berks County, and answered questions that participants had regarding her experience thus



From left to right: John Wilson; Derin Myers; Dr. Ed Mulvey; Dr. James "Buddy" Howell; Keith Snyder; Brian Bumbarger; Mike Pennington

far. Meghan's contribution from the provider perspective was well-received and found to be a valuable part of the training. Presenters during the second half of the training included: Marion Kelly; Gabrielle Chapman, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University; Stacia Castro, Comprehensive Strategy Group; and Jeff Gregro and Laurie Hague of the Berks County Juvenile Probation Department.



One of the most important lessons emphasized during the training was that the SPEP score is owned by both the juvenile probation department and the provider. The SPEP assessment includes three components: 1) the service type, 2) how it is being delivered by the provider, and 3) how the service is being utilized by the probation office. The message was clear that SPEP is not a way to "rate" providers, but an invaluable tool that will enable system enhancement through improvements in probation referral practice and provider service delivery.

For more information regarding Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP), please visit www.episcenter.psu.edu/juvenile.



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT Reno Office

Development Specialist Development Department

Salary Range: \$19.71 – \$27.10 per hour, DOE
FLSA Status: Non-Exempt

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

The Development Department of the NCJFCJ focuses its efforts towards fundraising in order to meet annual operating revenue goals. Development staff work collaboratively in a team setting, both internally and interdepartmentally, to achieve these strategies.

The NCJFCJ is currently seeking a **Development Specialist** to join its fast-paced, dynamic team. This department is growing and evolving, so this position will be instrumental in laying the framework and the work and duties may likely change. The successful candidate for this position will be involved in the implementation and coordination of development and fundraising efforts.

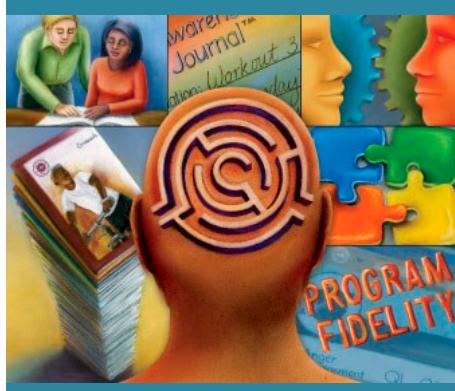
The Development Specialist position requires:

- Bachelor's degree
- Three years' experience in development or fundraising
- Excellent time management and organizational skills
- Ability to make clear and concise decisions
- Superior analytical and problem solving skills
- Excellent written and communication skills with high attention to detail
- Reliability and exemplary professionalism
- Ability to coordinate many programs simultaneously
- Proficient in the use of computer software programs including, but not limited to Microsoft Word and Excel
- iMis database experience helpful

This position is located in Reno, NV. May require some travel, locally and out-of-state, along with working occasional evenings, weekends, or holidays if required. Occasional lifting up to 50 pounds (with assistance).

FOR FULL CONSIDERATION, applicants must submit the following:

- Tailored Letter of Interest
- Résumé or CV
- National Council Application form ([available at www.ncjfcj.org](http://www.ncjfcj.org))



Provide your staff with access to NCTI's Complete Behavior Change System at an upcoming training:

- Learn to deliver evidence-based curricula
- Extend learning beyond the classroom
- Strengthen program fidelity

NCTI Upcoming Facilitator Certification Trainings

A Partnership You Can Trust. NCTI's recognized, evidence-based curricula and facilitator certification training come with a complete system of powerful tools that helps create an effective path to positive behavior change:

- APPA Accredited Evidence-Based Curricula and Cognitive Facilitator Certification Training
- Structured Homework
- Role Plays to practice newly acquired skills.
- Cog Talk™ Extended Learning Guide
- Real Colors® Personality Instrument
- Pre/Post-Tests
- Technical Assistance & Continuing Education

REGISTER FOR A TRAINING:

[White Plains, NY - October 7- 11, 2013](#)

[Philadelphia, PA - October 21 - 25, 2013](#)

[Napa, CA - October 21 - 25, 2013](#) (California STC approved)

[San Diego, CA - October 28 - November 1, 2013](#) (California STC approved)

[Gilbert, AZ - November 4 - 8, 2013](#)

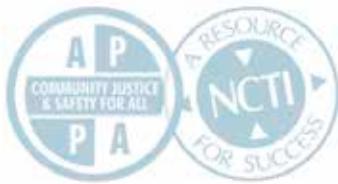
[Harrisburg, PA - January 10 - 14, 2013](#)

Each training is accredited by the American Probation and Parole Association and is approved for 35 professional/skill-based training hours. Discounts are available for multiple attendees from the same agency. If you prefer to have this training closer to your staff, NCTI will come to your county, region, or department and deliver the training on site (a minimum number of participants is required)

Participants will learn to:

- Instruct individuals in clarifying the relationship between Values, Attitudes, and Behaviors.
- Implement an array of cognitive behavioral and offense specific curricula for juvenile and adult individuals.
- Identify their own learning styles and the learning style of the individuals they are working with using NCTI's Real Colors Personality Instrument.
- Facilitate the group process using cognitive behavioral techniques.
- Construct open-ended questions to elicit an intrinsic commitment to change.
- Use group process techniques to involve even the most disinterested individuals.
- Use the Personal Awareness Journal™ as a tool to reinforce cognitive learning.

For any additional information, contact Jeff Koenig at (800) 622-1644 extension 5236 or by e-mail at jkoenig@ncti.org





REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

**Youth Awards
Program & Dinner**

Wednesday, November 6

**Annual Training &
Awards Program**

Thursday, November 7

Resource Day 2013

Friday, November 8

The Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 6-8, 2013

at the Harrisburg Hilton & Towers



The 2013 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice will conclude by presenting Resource Day – 2013, during which representatives from residential programs, electronic monitoring companies, drug testing companies, and other service providers will be available to discuss their programs with the Pennsylvania juvenile justice community. This informal marketplace will offer an important opportunity for consumers to learn about new and innovative services.

Registration Now Open!

www.jcjems.state.pa.us

**VENDOR INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Chris Heberlig at
(717) 477-1448 or
c-cheberli@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

Westmoreland County Juvenile Court Presents

Signs & Symptoms of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder In the Adolescent Population

SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2013
9AM~3PM



TRAIN THE TRAINER

PRESENTED BY:

KRISTINE DEMNOVICH, BASW, MS
PTSD PROJECT COORDINATOR
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER II

This 1 day interactive training experience will review basic information of the signs and symptoms of PTSD.

At conclusion of the training each participant will receive a facilitator training manual to further train their staff.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

ANY PROFESSIONAL WORKING WITHIN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE PROFESSION, PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND/OR SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES.

As space is available, we will continue to accept registrations until the day before the training begins. A \$20 registration fee per participant should be mailed as soon as possible. If necessary, please cancel registrations via the email no later than 72 hours before the program in order to receive a refund/credit of registration fees. The last minute substitution of personnel is perfectly acceptable. When registering, please enter the name of each registrant as it should appear on their certificate of completion.

Registrations must be received by September 6th, 2013

ONLY CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS ACCEPTED MADE TO THE ORDER OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY.
PLEASE SEND PAYMENT TO WESTMORELAND COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION, ATTENTION STACY PASTOR 2771 SOUTH GRANDE BLVD., GREENSBURG, PA

15601

Limited to 30 Participants per Training.

*Training will be held at
The Westmoreland County
Juvenile Services Center
2771 South Grande Blvd.
Greensburg, PA 15601*

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN.

ACT 48 HOURS AND/OR TRAINING CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE UPON COMPLETION OF TRAINING.



*The Pennsylvania Family Group
Decision Making
Conference Advisory Committee
is pleased to announce the*

Call for Presentations

for the Pennsylvania 2014 Conference on
Family Group Decision Making (FGDM):

“Family Values, Value Families”

To be held:

April 22 and 23, 2014 at the Hershey Lodge

For complete information please [download the documents by clicking on this link.](#)

Proposal must be received no later than **September 20, 2013.**

National Juvenile Justice Announcements

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

Department of Health and Human Services Releases Guidance on Victims of Childhood Trauma

The [Department of Health and Human Services](#) (HHS) recently issued a comprehensive [guidance letter](#) to child welfare professionals and providers serving children and families who have experienced severe trauma. This guidance—based on emerging research and the [Adverse Childhood Experiences Study](#)—encourages the integrated use of trauma-focused screening, functional assessments, and evidence-based best practices to improve children's well-being. Robert L. Listenbee, the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, wrote in [a letter](#) to the juvenile justice community: "The attached guidance, issued recently by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ... sets forth a clear pathway for those who work with children to integrate the use of trauma-focused ... practices in child-serving settings to improve child well-being. It also outlines federal financial resources for addressing child trauma. I congratulate my colleagues at HHS for clearly showing us the way forward and commend the attached document to you."

Resources:

[Download](#) the HHS guidance letter.

Learn more about the Attorney General's [Defending Childhood initiative](#).

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

Bureau of Justice Statistics Releases 2012 School Crime and Safety Report

The [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#) (BJS) has released "[Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2012](#)." This report, a joint effort by BJS and the [National Center for Education Statistics](#), provides the most current data on crime and safety at school. The report contains 21 indicators of school crime from a variety of sources, including national surveys of students, teachers, and principals. Topics include victimization at school, teacher injury, bullying and cyberbullying, school conditions, fights, weapons, drugs and alcohol, and student perceptions of personal safety at school.

Resources:

[Download](#) the online report.



Podcasts Address Impact and Prevention of Underage Drinking

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's)



[Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center](#) is hosting the podcast series "[A National Conversation on Protecting Our Youth](#)" to provide environmental strategies that address underage drinking-related issues in communities, states, and territories and reduce youth access to alcohol. Parents, researchers, law enforcement officials, coalition members, youth groups, advocates, and experts discuss public health and safety issues of youth alcohol use and share successful outcomes and strategies.

Resources:

[Access](#) the podcasts.

Learn more about OJJDP's [Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws](#) program and access bulletins from the [Underage Drinking series](#).

American Bar Association Endorses Task Force Recommendations To Address Children's Exposure to Violence, Urges Immediate Implementation

On August 12, 2013, the [American Bar Association](#) (ABA) House of Delegates unanimously approved a [resolution](#) supporting the implementation of the 56 policy recommendations set forth in the "[Report of the Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence](#)." The report—commissioned as part of Attorney General Eric Holder's [Defending Childhood Initiative](#)—is a blueprint for reducing the impact of trauma on children who witness or experience violence. Describing the recommendations as timely and significant, the ABA stated that the "comprehensive implementation of these recommendations will ensure that federal, state, and local governments are held responsible for the care and well-being of violence-exposed young people, provide a fair legal process and meaningful access to justice, and offer services to improve the lives, rehabilitation, and future of court-involved youth."



Resources:

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

[Learn more](#) about the ABA Commission on Youth at Risk.

MacArthur Foundation To Fund Juvenile Justice Resource Center Partnership

The [John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation](#) has [announced](#) their commitment of an additional \$15 million to juvenile justice reform, part of which will establish the [Models for Change Resource Center Partnership](#). The Partnership will fund four resource centers that will provide technical assistance, training, and resources to juvenile justice practitioners, policymakers, mental health and social service agencies, and advocates working to advance juvenile justice reform nationwide. The resource centers are scheduled to be operational by the end of 2013.

Resources:

[Read](#) about the MacArthur Foundation's "Models for Change: Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice" initiative.



Juvenile Justice Resource Hub Adds Alternatives to Detention Section

Developed by the Juvenile [Justice Information Exchange](#) and the [National Juvenile Justice Network](#) with support from the [MacArthur Foundation](#), the [Juvenile Justice Resource Hub](#) provides timely, in-depth information on juvenile justice issues and trends. In addition to a section on [mental health and substance use](#), the Hub recently added a section on [community-based alternatives](#) for justice system-involved youth. Future Hub topics include indigent defense, evidence-based practices, racial/ ethnic disparities, and aftercare.



Resources:

[Watch](#) a video on community-based alternatives from the Juvenile Justice Resource Hub.

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



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

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