Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report Released

The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission recently released “The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report: Juveniles with a 2007 Case Closure.” This groundbreaking and comprehensive research is the first such study conducted regarding juvenile offenders in Pennsylvania. This research project of the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission was supported with funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the Stoneleigh Foundation Emerging Leader Fellowship Program.

In 2010, the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency endorsed the Statement of Purpose for Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES), which is designed to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system to achieve its mission of balanced and restorative justice. The JJSES seeks to employ evidence-based practices, with fidelity, at every stage of the juvenile justice process, collect and analyze the data necessary to measure the results of these efforts, and, with this knowledge, to continuously improve the quality of decisions, services, and programs.

The core premise of the JJSES is that recidivism rates can be reduced through the implementation of evidence-based practices. The goal of the study is to establish a recidivism benchmark against which the impact of the JJSES can be measured. The current report provides the first of three year’s worth of data that will be used to set the pre-JJSES benchmark. The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission is currently completing similar analyses on cases closed by county juvenile probation departments in 2008 and 2009, and these will be included with 2007 case closures to establish this benchmark. These three years were chosen for the benchmark because JJSES implementation was not initiated in any jurisdiction until 2010.

The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission specifically cautions against comparing the recidivism rates of individual counties or individual service providers for several significant reasons. First, risk assessment instruments were rarely being used in Pennsylvania prior to 2009, so there is no way to determine the risk levels of youth who had been under supervision in a particular jurisdiction in 2007. In addition, there have been varying degrees of implementation of...
evidence-based practices across the state. Finally, case expungement practices vary widely across the state.

It is important to note that expunged cases create a significant limitation to this study. In Pennsylvania, when a case is expunged, all of a juvenile's identifying information pertaining to that case is “erased” and is therefore not available for analysis. Consequently, juveniles with a 2007 case expungement were omitted from the study's sample, unless they had a separate case closed in 2007 that was not expunged. Arguably, juveniles whose cases are expunged are presumed to be individuals who are lower risk to recidivate. In general, counties that expunged significant numbers of cases had higher recidivism rates than their counterparts. A possible explanation for this result is that a significant number of lower risk youth were removed from the research sample in these jurisdictions.

For the purposes of this report, recidivism is defined as: a subsequent delinquency adjudication or conviction in criminal court for either a misdemeanor or felony offense within two years of case closure. The report was created utilizing juvenile court data received from county juvenile probation departments through the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System, developed by the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission, as well as criminal court conviction data that was provided by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts.

Below are some of the major findings from the report:

- One in five juveniles (20%) recidivated within two years of their 2007 case closure.
- The average length of time to recidivism was 11.5 months from case closure.
- 80% of recidivists were from “disrupted” family situations (e.g., biological parents deceased, biological parents never married, or biological parents separated/divorced). Only 20% of recidivists were from family situations in which their biological parents were married.
- 44% of juveniles with both biological parents deceased recidivated.
- 15% of juveniles whose biological parents were married recidivated.
- Juveniles who had been under supervision for the commission of a sex offense re-offended at a rate of 14%. Approximately 2% of sex offenders committed another sex offense within two years of their case closure.
- Juveniles who committed indecent exposure recidivated at higher rates than any other sex offenders.
- Juveniles with only one written allegation in their juvenile offending history (i.e., first time offenders) re-offended at a rate of 13%. Conversely, juveniles with four or more previous written allegations (i.e., chronic offenders) re-offended at a rate of 37%.
- The younger a juvenile was at the time of his or her first written allegation, the more likely he or she was to recidivate. Conversely, the older the juvenile was at the time of his or her first written allegation, the less likely he or she was to recidivate.
- The older the juvenile was at the time of case closure, the more likely he or she was to recidivate. Conversely, the younger the juvenile was at case closure, the less likely he or she was to recidivate.
- Males were almost three times more likely to recidivate than females.
- One in four Black offenders re-offended, while one in six White offenders recidivated. Only one in 12 Asian offenders were recidivists.
- Drug offenders and Property offenders were most likely to commit the same types of crimes when they re-offended. Person offenders and offenders who committed “Other” offenses were less likely to commit the same types of crimes when they re-offended.
- 70% of juveniles committed a misdemeanor offense when they recidivated.
- Only 15% of juveniles who had NO out-of-home experience recidivated, while 30% of juveniles who at least one out-of-home experience recidivated.
- The average recidivism rate for juveniles who had a placement experience at a private sector placement facility was 34%, while the average recidivism rate for juveniles who had a placement experience at a Youth Development Center/Youth Forestry Camp operated by the Department of Public Welfare was 40%.
- One in five juveniles with a 2007 case closure were either a “serious offender,” a “violent offender,” OR a “chronic offender,” as defined by the study.
- Only 0.4% of juveniles with a 2007 case closure were “serious,” “violent,” AND “chronic” (SVC) offenders, though 48% of SVC offenders recidivated.
- Only 2% of juveniles with a 2007 case closure were “child offenders,” as defined by the study, though 29% of “child offenders” recidivated.
- 45% of “child offenders” were either a “serious offender,” a “violent offender,” or a “chronic offender.”

To view the full report, please visit www.jcjc.state.pa.us.
From April 7-10, 2013, forty-eight juvenile court judges from throughout the Commonwealth participated in a comprehensive Juvenile Justice Academy developed by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) in cooperation with the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC). Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille wrote personally to the President Judge of every judicial district to announce the Academy and to explain the application process. The program was held at the Hershey Convention Center, and was moderated by JCJC member and McKean County Senior Judge, the Honorable John M. Cleland. On Sunday afternoon, April 7, 2013, Judge Cleland also served as faculty for the opening training program entitled “The Role of the Juvenile Court Judge”, which laid the foundation for the intensive work to follow at the Academy.

**Click here** to read the text of Judge Cleland’s inspirational message to his judicial colleagues:

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**The Role of the Juvenile Court Judge**

*By: Judge John M. Cleland*

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**JCJC 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 18, 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 JCJC Graduate Education Program?**

- Free tuition;
- Free lodging on class weekends (for students traveling more than 50 miles);
- 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.jcjc.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us). If you have any questions regarding eligibility or the application process, please contact Stephen Bishop at 717-477-1294.
Dauphin County’s Juvenile Probation Director, Stephen J. Suknaic, vividly remembers the popularity of Harrisburg’s Police Athletic League in the 1950’s and 1960’s. “The PAL was extremely popular among the youth of Harrisburg”, Suknaic recalls. “The dances sponsored by the PAL at various locations throughout the city were very well attended. Youth boxing matches were televised live on local television stations. Most importantly, the local volunteer police officers coached the youth in basketball, baseball, and other activities and became role models and mentors for the children of Harrisburg”, recollects Steve Suknaic with nostalgia.

Recently Harrisburg Mayor Linda Thompson and Police Officer Jennie Jenkins have resurrected the program with significant momentum. During the summer of 2012, the Harrisburg Police Athletic League was re-established. Support was provided by the Dauphin County Commissioners, District Attorney Ed Marsico, Susquehanna Township Police Chief Robert Martin, and several local organizations. The PAL is a juvenile crime prevention program that uses educational, athletic, and recreational activities to bring cops and kids together in a positive manner. Mayor Thompson called PAL a crime prevention tool because it teaches kids to resist peer pressure and to trust law enforcement officers. Officer Jenkins believes that the PAL can change how kids think, give them drug prevention, gang prevention, and positive role models. Mentoring is at the core of all of the PAL activities.

Today the Harrisburg Police Athletic League has its headquarters on North Sixth Street. Most of the activities for youth occur on Friday evenings at Downey School, Foose School and Camp Curtin School. Future plans include the location of new sites in various parts of Dauphin County. The youth and law enforcement volunteers play sports (e.g. basketball), do arts and crafts, computer activities, and other recreational activities. There are also discussions about violence prevention, substance abuse prevention, gang prevention, leadership, and being positive role models for other children.

One youth who has been participating in the PAL activities has stated, “I like the police officers. They help people and they are role models for kids. Officer Jenkins is my role model because she does the right thing and cares about us.” Because she cares, Officer Jenkins is pursuing a $250,000 “Drug Free Communities” grant that could be used to enhance the PAL efforts in drug prevention and youth leadership development. She hopes to receive the grant funding later this year. “Failure is not an option,” declares Officer Jenkins. “I want to help to make Harrisburg and this region a better place to live!”

Harrisburg Mayor Linda Thompson and Police Officer Jennie Jenkins have provided the leadership to resurrect the Harrisburg Police Athletic League throughout Dauphin County.
Juvenile Justice in Vietnam

By: Phil Harris*  
Department of Criminal Justice - Temple University

Imagine the time long before *In re Gault* when our juvenile court was informal, person-oriented and largely focused on socializing children of the poor. Now take away all the programs we value and add our current transfer laws. This is what Vietnam’s juvenile justice system looks like. Administrative laws are used by representatives of the local People’s Committee – not judges – to sanction children under the age of 14 accused, by any adult, of criminal or immoral acts. The same procedures are employed if the youth is between the ages of 14 and 16 and the offense is minor. Serious offenses committed by youths 14-16, and all offenses committed by youths 16-18 are tried in criminal court, but penalties are reduced in recognition of the person’s age. That being said, both prosecutors and defense attorneys say little during the trial. Instead, the judge interrogates the defendant or defendants as well as the victim, pressing them for thorough descriptions of the offense. After all, it’s the truth they are after. Sitting behind the juvenile is his or her mother. Fathers are consigned to seats in the audience. Once guilt and the details of the crime are established to the judge’s satisfaction, sanctions are considered.

Sentencing in juvenile cases includes questioning by representatives of the People’s Committee (PC), two of whom sit on either side of the judge and advise the judge on the appropriate sentence. Both the judge and at least one of the PC members lecture the defendant and then, separately, the mother on the moral implications of the offense and the responsibilities of parents to socialize their children. Then the youth, the mother, and the youth’s attorney plead for leniency.

The penal code is explicit about sentences for specific offenses, but in the case of a person under 18, the judge must reduce the sentence. If the penalty is a prison sentence, the sentence length can be reduced by anywhere from half to 80 percent of the adult penalty. So once the initial penalty is announced and pleas for leniency are heard, the judge and the two PC members leave the court to deliberate. Upon their return, the judge announces the final sentence, which is typically less than the one initially stated. The judge then asks the mother if she is satisfied with the sentence, fully expecting and getting approval.

Juvenile crime, including drug use, violence and theft, is seen as growing, but little thought is being given to the reasons for these trends. Programs and policies designed to prevent crime, drug use, traffic fatalities or recidivism in any form simply do not exist; punishment is the government’s only response to social problems. And so kids go to detention centers and prisons or are simply released – no probation, no community-based programs, no aftercare services.

Vietnam is still adjusting to reunification and continues to fear intrusions from more powerful nations. China is its current potential nemesis. So the law and the courts, which are subservient to the Communist Party, should be understood as tools for protecting reunification, geographical boundaries and internal peace and harmony even if imposed. Unfortunately, this national protection and preservation perspective places individual rights below the interests of the Fatherland.

Adherence to this point of view, however, generates blindness to the sources of social problems and the alienating effects of governmental arbitrariness. The Vietnamese people grumble constantly about unfair policies and corruption, but for the time being they accept this as their reality. They smile and maintain a level of civility often hard to fathom. Perhaps visible signs of change, such as construction of factories and bridges and office buildings, and public discussions of constitutional amendments and economic policy changes provide a sense of hope.

Reform efforts here require tremendous patience, respect for resistance to change, knowledge of the political system, and an understanding of the Vietnamese culture. Undoubtedly, as Vietnam increases participation in international organizations, exposure to the experiences of other countries, including our own, will influence the direction of change. Keep in mind, however, that approaches to delinquency we have found effective in America may not map well onto life in Vietnam.

*Phil is currently a Fulbright Scholar based at the School of Law, Vietnam National University, Hanoi.
Congratulations to the Class of 2013 of the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission’s Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University! Commencement ceremonies were held at Shippensburg University’s H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center on Friday, May 10, 2013. Prior to commencement exercises, the JCJC graduates were recognized with a reception, hosted at the Shippensburg University Foundation Conference Center. In attendance at the reception were several members of the JCJC, staff of the JCJC and the CJJT&R, several university administrators, faculty of the Criminal Justice Department, as well as family and friends of the graduates.

Gary Lewis was named the Graduate Student of the Year. He will receive the Dr. Anthony F. Ceddia Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Juvenile Justice at the Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice on November 7, 2013.

On behalf of the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission and the faculty at Shippensburg University, we offer our congratulations on these students’ outstanding achievements and wish them all the very best in their future endeavors.
Members of the Restitution Task Force in Pennsylvania addressed the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 30, 2013 with recommendations to significantly improve state laws and procedures related to the quality of restitution ordering, collection and disbursement to crime victims.

“Restitution is a restorative justice concept that recognizes the harm to individual victims and attempts to repair the damage caused by the crime,” Victim Advocate Carol Lavery said. “It is inherently rehabilitative as it holds the offender accountable and provides the opportunity to right a wrong.”

The Restitution in Pennsylvania Task Force was convened by the Pennsylvania Office of the Victim Advocate to examine the restitution laws, rules, policy and processes currently in place throughout the Commonwealth in an effort to maximize the reimbursement of financial losses to crime victims, and to advance restitution within the context of restorative justice for victims, the community, and offenders.

The 39-member Task Force, chaired by Lavery, was comprised of representatives from all three branches of state government, counties, the criminal and juvenile justice systems, advocacy groups and crime victims.

The members met over a 12-month period to determine how to maximize the reimbursement of financial losses to crime victims. The Task Force’s 47 recommendations are grouped into four categories:

- Uniformity of Practice
- Strengthening Accountability
- Coordination of Information
- Expansion of Authority

Some of the recommendations of the task force include: the development of benchbooks; reference guides and a toolkit specifying best practice; placing defendants on a single electronic payment plan to ensure that prior, older cases are not neglected in favor of the most current case; and legislation to authorize courts to order wage attachments and or the suspension of drivers licenses for defendants who have been found in contempt for non-payment of restitution, costs or fines.

Of particular interest to the Juvenile Justice System are recommendations to:

- Clarify and strengthen existing tools to enhance restitution collection with particular attention to the issue of collecting restitution from adjudicated delinquents between the ages 18-21 and;
- Encourage the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission to work with the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers to create or modify existing juvenile justice data collection and reporting processes to accurately, and in detail, track and publish county-specific information regarding the ordering and collection of restitution.

Members of the Task Force have committed to move forward through collaboration and efforts across all levels of government and stakeholder organizations have taken on numerous recommendations which are applicable and specific to their area of focus and expertise.

The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts; (AOPC), has reviewed the recommendations and preliminarily defined 26 recommendations which they believe are most applicable to the Courts. The AOPC will be pursuing the development of a bench book and reference guides for judges, as well as addressing training needs outlined in the report.

The Victims Services Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, along with staff of the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, will review the report/recommendations and develop a plan for implementing the relevant recommendations. The Victims Services Committee has already begun the development of a Guide for Victims of Juvenile Crime, similar to the Family Guide to the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System.

The complete report of the task force is online at www.PA-RestitutionTaskForce.info
Lamb-Mawby Honored for Longtime Service

Reprinted with permission from The Daily Local News.
By MICHAEL P. RELLAHAN
mrellahan@dailylocal.com  - Thursday, May 2, 2013

WEST CHESTER — Marietta Lamb-Mawby, the chief juvenile probation officer of Chester County for 15 years but a fixture in county government for more than three decades, was sent off to retirement Wednesday, May 1, with praise, applause, and not a little appreciation.

Those who spoke in admiration of her work with the Juvenile Probation Department during a celebration of her career in Courtroom One of the county Justice Center remembered her not only for the leadership she provided, but also for her friendly and open personality.

“Her friendliness is apparent to everyone who meets her,” said Common Pleas Court Judge John Hall, who recalled being introduced to Lamb-Mawby as a young judicial clerk playing in the county courthouse softball league and later on the board of the Chester County Domestic Violence Center, where she was president.

Lamb-Mawby is someone people could “immediately connect with,” he said.

“This is a compassionate person, who cares very deeply” about those troubled individuals she comes in contact with, said Hall, who now oversees the county’s Juvenile Court system. “I cannot think of a leader in Chester County that I’ve worked with who was more effective, and who more people wanted to work with.”

Lamb-Mawby is retiring on Friday, May 3, leaving the Juvenile Probation Department in the hands of her longtime assistant, Don Corry. She was first hired as an administrator in the county’s Department of Children and Youth in 1977, and was selected to lead the juvenile department in 1998 after working as co-administrator in the county’s Domestic Relations Office.

State Superior Court Judge Paula Francisco Ott, who served as Juvenile Court judge before becoming the county’s president judge in 2005, was instrumental in choosing Lamb-Mawby to lead the department. In remarks at the goodbye ceremony, she pointed to Lamb-Mawby’s organizational and people skills that helped improve the services provided by the office.

“I have appreciated your leadership and your friendship over the years, and also those ‘don’t-let-the-turkeys-get-you-down telephone calls,’ and I wish you the best,” Francisco-Ott said.

The courtroom was packed with staff members from the department and various current and former colleagues of Lamb-Mawby’s in the county’s court system. Her years of service were recognized with a citation from the county commissioners, delivered by commissioners’ Vice Chairwoman Kathi Cozzone.

In addition to Francisco-Ott, two other president judges on the county’s bench paid tribute to Lamb-Mawby: Judge James P. MacElree II, the current supervising judge, and Senior Judge Thomas Gavin.

In his remarks, MacElree spoke of her 3½ decades in service to the public, and of the “very high standards” she set for herself and her colleagues.

“Your leadership and dedication has left an indelible mark on the (juvenile court) system,” MacElree said. “You obviously care from the bottom of the soles of your feet about the people you’ve been serving.”

Gavin, who appointed Lamb-Mawby to the position she now leaves, made reference to the high quality of the professional staff in the Juvenile Probation Department, a tribute to Lamb-Mawby, but also noted that many of those adolescents who went through the system came out much better than when they went in.

“They turned out pretty good because of you and your staff,” Gavin said, looking at Lamb-Mawby, who was seated with her husband, Norman Mawby. “You really cared about them. There are a lot of young men and women walking around the streets today who made the transition because of you.”
SAVE THE DATE

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.

Exhibitor Registration open in August:
www.jcjc.state.pa.us

Sponsored by
The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission
The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
The Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges
Director of Training and Graduate Education

Shippensburg University is currently accepting applications for a Director of Training and Graduate Education in the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research. Anticipated starting salary range is $56,652 to $66,093 annually including an extensive benefits package and tuition waiver for employees and dependents. This is a grant-funded management position that is contingent upon continued annual funding.

This position directs the overall design, organization, administration and coordination of the Center’s training program. This position is also responsible for coordinating the operations of the agency's Graduate Education and Research Programs and providing on-going technical assistance to juvenile court judges, chief juvenile probation officers and others regarding juvenile court issues.

Shippensburg University employees value teamwork and collaboration, are dependable, take initiative, solve problems effectively, communicate clearly and support organizational change. University employees work closely with individuals of diverse backgrounds and race, as well as those of differing religious affiliations, sexual orientation and gender. They must possess good interpersonal skills and be able to communicate effectively with all members of the campus community.

Qualified candidates will have seven years of professional juvenile justice experience which includes five years of experience as a juvenile probation officer and two years in an administrative, supervisory, or professional juvenile court consulting capacity and a Master's Degree in criminal justice, criminology or the behavioral sciences. Candidates should have knowledge of current theories and research related to juvenile crime (including evidence-based practices), the principles of criminal and juvenile justice public policy and also be familiar with the inter-relationships of juvenile courts, juvenile probation and juvenile correctional agencies. Successful performance in an on-campus interview is required.

Additional information and applications are available at www.ship.edu/HR. Candidates must submit an official Shippensburg University Application for Employment in addition to a cover letter and resume to the Human Resources Department, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257 with review beginning May 31, 2013 and continuing until the position is filled. Materials which do not include the official Shippensburg University Application for Employment form will not be considered.

Shippensburg University is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Individuals from traditionally underrepresented populations are encouraged to apply.
POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
Reno Office

Communications & Development Specialist
Communications and Membership Services

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 Communications and Membership Services (CMS) Department of the NCJFCJ is charged with the development and implementation of an integrated strategic communications plan using technology to advance NCJFCJ’s brand identity; create broad awareness of its programs, membership, publications, and priorities; and increase the visibility of its work across key stakeholder audiences through marketing/public relations strategies and defining communications opportunities and solutions. The Development Department focuses its efforts towards fundraising in order to meet annual operating revenue goals. The CMS and Development staff work collaboratively in a team setting, both internally and interdepartmentally, to achieve these strategies.

The NCJFCJ is currently seeking a Communications & Development Specialist to join its fast-paced, dynamic team. These departments are growing and evolving, so this position will be instrumental in laying the framework and the work and duties will likely change. The successful candidate for this position will be involved in the implementation and coordination of communications, marketing, public relations, development, and fundraising efforts.

The Communications & Development Specialist position requires:

- Bachelor’s degree
- Three years’ experience in communications, development, marketing, or public relations
- 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, and/or database functions

This position 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).
POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
Reno, NV

Policy Analyst, Senior
Juvenile and Family Law Programs
Family Violence and Domestic Relations

Salary Range: $47,925 – $71,900 per annum, DOE
FLSA Status: 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.

NCJFCJ values staff who are independent, creative, tenacious, resourceful, dependable, and passionate about their work. NCJFCJ staff work collaboratively in a team setting, both internally and interdepartmentally, to achieve this mission.

A position of Senior Policy Analyst is currently available in the Family Violence and Domestic Relations (FVDR) program. This position requires previous experience in responding to the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment, domestic violence policy, and practice advocacy in the child protection system. The minimum requirements for this position include:

- A degree from an accredited four-year college or university
- At least five years’ experience in providing child protection or child welfare services, domestic violence, or juvenile/family law-related field
- Demonstrated understanding of policy development processes in relation to the co-occurrence of domestic violence of domestic violence and child maltreatment, domestic violence, and child welfare fields
- Demonstrated ability to work in a team setting and process-oriented environment as well as work independently to initiate, organize, and follow tasks to completion
- The ability to work cooperatively with staff, partner organizations, child welfare agencies, domestic violence advocacy groups, the judiciary, and FVDR advisory committees and groups
- Demonstrated ability to write grants and complete grant requirements in a timely manner
- Familiarity with budget management

This position has a strong emphasis on critical thinking, analytical ability, writing policy briefs and papers, providing in-depth technical assistance and training on the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment and related submit matter, and working collaboratively with partners and system representatives. Applicants must have strong organizational skills with both a broad vision and attention to detail, comprehensive computer skills, and a willingness and ability to travel nationwide. Occasional lifting up to 50 lbs. may be required.
POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
Reno, NV

Attorney, Associate
Juvenile and Family Law Programs
Family Violence and Domestic Relations

Salary Range: $51,000 – $68,000 per annum, DOE
FLSA Status: 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.

NCJFCJ values staff who are independent, creative, tenacious, resourceful, dependable, and passionate about their work. NCJFCJ staff work collaboratively to achieve this mission.

NCJFCJ’s Juvenile and Family Law Programs is seeking an Associate Attorney to join the Family Violence and Domestic Relations’ multi-disciplinary and highly dedicated team. This position must have an understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence as it pertains to juvenile and family justice, with an emphasis on child custody and visitation, child protection, and protection order legal interventions.

The minimum requirements for this position include:

- Juris Doctorate degree from an ABA-accredited law school
- At least three years’ experience practicing law, with a focus on domestic violence; experience working with the courts or judiciary or with domestic violence advocacy groups may be substituted
- Excellent analytical, writing, and research skills
- Superior knowledge of the dynamics of domestic violence and the intersection with juvenile and family justice, including custody and visitation issues, child protection issues, and protection order issues
- Ability to design, coordinate, and complete projects that improve the justice system’s response to the public
- Familiarity with Westlaw/Westlaw Next and tracking legislative issues
- Ability to work collaboratively with staff, partner organizations, other domestic violence advocacy groups, courts and the judiciary, project advisory committees and subcommittees, and volunteers
- Strong speaking and presenting skills, especially in adult education settings
- Experience with Native American victims, domestic violence organizations, or courts is a plus
Print copies of the “Report of the Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence” are now available. The Attorney General commissioned this report as part of the Defending Childhood Initiative. It details the findings and 56 policy recommendations of the National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence and is a blueprint for reducing the impact of trauma on children who witness or experience violence.

OJJDP Announces its Reorganization

On May 3, 2013, Robert L. Listenbee, Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), announced that the agency has completed its reorganization. He shared this news during his keynote address to the membership attending the Coalition for Juvenile Justice's annual conference.

“We believe that our new structure allows us to better integrate our research, policy, program, and capacity development activities to support the field and our partners,” said Administrator Listenbee. “I expect that this reorganization will position us to more effectively and efficiently serve the youth and families of our nation.”

Applications for Multi-System Integration Certificate Program Being Accepted

The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute is accepting applications for its Multi-System Integration Certificate Program to be held October 23–30, 2013, in Washington, DC.

Designed for leaders in the fields of juvenile justice, child welfare, or behavioral health, the program will—

Highlight multisystem reform efforts related to at-risk or system-involved youth, with a focus on crossover youth, and improve organizations' ability to serve these youth.

Provide participants with an opportunity to develop collaborative leadership skills and build a nationwide network committed to systems improvement.

OJJDP Updates Statistical Briefing Book

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has updated its Statistical Briefing Book (SBB). Developed by the National Center for Juvenile Justice, the SBB offers easy access to a host of juvenile justice resources. The following SBB resources have recently been updated:

FBI Arrest Statistics through 2010 to include arrest rates for juveniles.
Juvenile Court Statistics between 1985 and 2010.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Juveniles in Court and Juveniles on Probation to 2010.
In addition, FAQs in the Juvenile Justice Structure and Process resource section have been reorganized and new FAQs have been added, including state comparisons on how probation and aftercare are administered.

SAMHSA Launches Underage Drinking Prevention Campaign

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has launched “Talk. They Hear You,” a national campaign to provide parents, guardians, and communities with the information and resources they need to increase their awareness of the prevalence and risk of underage drinking and to address the issue of alcohol with youth. The campaign also features public service announcements in English and Spanish.

Resources:
Watch the campaign launch to learn more.
Read SAMHSA’s “Report to Congress on the Prevention and Reduction of Underage Drinking 2012.”
Learn about the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws program and Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center and access bulletins from the Office's Underage Drinking series.
“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 19 of a series: “JJSES Building Blocks”

Responsivity

The three fundamental principles of Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) are risk, criminogenic need and responsivity. Of the three, responsivity is the least understood and least applied by practitioners, despite the fact that it is a crucial contributor to a juvenile’s motivation to change and a crucial factor for mediating the success of treatment. Unless responsivity is given ample attention when case planning and determining programming, along with risk and need, the effectiveness of individual supervision will be severely diminished.

There are three primary reasons why practitioners treat responsivity as the “odd factor out” when implementing EBP. First, very few managers, supervisors and officers actually understand what responsivity means. Secondly, even if they do, there are very few standardized assessment instruments available to measure its various elements. Finally, even when corrections professionals understand the probationer’s responsivity issues they may not have a sufficient continuum of services to select from in order to match the response with the need.

Responsivity states that the styles and modes of supervision and treatment must be matched with the preferred learning preferences and abilities of the youth in order for behavioral change to occur. Responsivity consists of three basic components:

- Matching the skills of the officer or service provider with the type of program or intervention being offered.

Some of the most important attributes that affect a juvenile’s responsivity and readiness to learn are motivational levels, personality characteristics, cognitive and intellectual deficits, mental health problems, gender, demographic and cultural variables, and personal maturity. Thus, research shows that cognitive-behavioral programs prove more effective with youths of average to above average intelligence and less effective with those exhibiting below-average intellects. Moreover, mixed gender treatment groups tend to be less successful than those consisting solely of boys or girls.

Given the fact that large numbers of delinquents are relatively unconcerned about the consequences of their actions (except possibly in a narrow legal sense) and feel coerced into supervision, engaging and motivating them in the treatment process becomes a primary factor of success. Effective officers and service providers are adept at addressing those responsivity factors of the youth that might block learning and preclude the development of a professional alliance between both parties. It is here that tools such as motivational interviewing, cost-benefit exercises, role modeling, reinforcement and sanctioning come into play. Their competent use can enhance the interaction between corrections professional and juvenile. On the other hand, where officers’ and providers’ attitudes and competencies do not match the motivational and learning requirements of the juvenile, failure becomes a real possibility.
While practitioners in the field of juvenile justice are becoming more and more adept at assessing risk, identifying criminogenic needs, and incorporating the results into supervision processes and case plans, they still remain adrift in terms of dealing with factors of juvenile responsivity. The consequences of such negligence can be substantial. In the words of one prominent researcher in the field, “failure to appropriately assess and consider responsivity factors may not only undermine treatment gains and waste treatment resources, but also may also [sic] decrease public safety.”