

# PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,  
Tom Wolf, Governor



## Juvenile Justice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

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### Judge Lori A. Dumas Honored by the NCJFCJ For Significant Work Helping Child Sex Trafficking Victims

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National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges ([www.NCJFCJ.org](http://www.NCJFCJ.org))

#### Judge Dumas was the first recipient of the NCJFCJ Innovator of the Year Award.

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) announced the first-ever recipient of the NCJFCJ Justice Innovation Awards *Innovator of the Year* to the Honorable Judge Lori A. Dumas, Philadelphia family court judge and presiding judge of the WRAP Court: *Working to Restore Adolescents' Power*.

The *Innovator of the Year* Award honors an NCJFCJ member who innovatively re-thinks, reimagines, and redefines justice for children and families, thus advancing the NCJFCJ's vision—a society in which every family and child has access to fair, equal and timely justice.

WRAP is an innovative, new court program of the First Judicial District Family Court Division that seeks to provide alternatives to criminalization for minor victims of sex trafficking by providing specialized trauma-informed treatment to victims in the least restrictive and most holistic environment.

Children who have been arrested and identified as victims of sexual trafficking are offered an opportunity to participate in WRAP through a pre-trial diversion program. The goal of the team, and the program, is to work collaboratively with the child to promote treatment, healing and restoration, and ensure the safety of the child victim in the least restrictive setting possible. Rather than adjudicating these children delinquent for crimes that directly result from their

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### The 2015 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 4-6, 2015 at the Harrisburg Hilton & Towers

Registration Now Open!

sexual exploitation, the WRAP program diverts the child from the adjudicatory system into the child welfare system, empowering them to heal and move away from their trauma.

The historic 99-0 U.S. Senate vote to approve the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act expands law enforcement tools to target sex traffickers and creates a new fund to help victims. This decision will help reinforce the importance of domestic child sex trafficking, and raise better awareness for Judge Dumas' work with the WRAP project.

"Judge Dumas sits at the table face-to-face with each child, speaking directly to her and building trust," said Philadelphia assistant district attorney Carlos Vega and the person that nominated Dumas for the award. "She goes beyond the call of duty to build relationships of mutual respect and accountability with these girls. She is truly an innovative jurist."

All juveniles who have been identified as victims of human trafficking and receive services through WRAP have their cases addressed by a multidisciplinary team including Judge Dumas, a prosecutor, defense counsel and treatment providers.

"It has been a privilege to bear witness to the love and steely commitment of Judge Dumas to make better the lives of our most vulnerable girls," said Malika Saada Saar, executive director of the national human rights organization, Rights4Girls.

"She is advancing a new and innovative approach to child victims of trafficking in Philadelphia to provide services and help – and move the city away from the approach of criminalizing girls who have been subject to serial, commercial rape. Her efforts, and the spirit she brings to those efforts, set a national example."

Components of the WRAP program include: Diversion of delinquent petitions of all but the most serious felonies through reporting consent decree on new arrests; Early expungement of delinquent records after program com-

pletion; Community-based services from providers with experience in trauma-based treatments for victims of human sexual trafficking; A team approach to problem solving including frequent informal conversations with the child; Dependent (child welfare) services provided as opposed to delinquent system treatment whenever possible; and an approach where children receive treatment in the least restrictive setting available.

"Judge Dumas has a reputation for being a tough, no-nonsense but fair judge," said Ebony D. Wortham, Esq., assistant district attorney, director of truancy prevention for the Philadelphia district attorney's office. "This work, which I believe she was born to do, has stretched her beyond the traditional judicial role. While ensuring that this population is held accountable, she often provides a shoulder to cry on, a hug at the perfect time, words of affirmation, and even forgiveness and grace to help counteract the devastating impact of human trafficking."

"Judge Dumas has been incredibly creative, open to hearing new ideas and very receptive to our work as victim service providers," said Jamie Manirakiza, director of anti-trafficking and social services at The Salvation Army. "She has been mindful of the challenges victims face as we seek to provide services for a very traumatized population."

Judge Dumas was presented the *Innovator of the Year* award at NCJFCJ's 78th Annual Conference in Austin on July 28.



The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) announces the first-ever recipient of the NCJFCJ Justice Innovation Awards Innovator of the Year to the Honorable Judge Lori A. Dumas, Philadelphia family court judge and presiding judge of the WRAP Court: Working to Restore Adolescents' Power. Click on the above image to watch the video.

# Luzerne County Juvenile Offenders Sell Produce They Grew While Learning New Skills

Reprinted with permission from Times Leader of Wilkes-Barre

By Jennifer Learn-Andes - [jandes@timesleader.com](mailto:jandes@timesleader.com)

A 16-year-old juvenile offender sold cucumbers, zucchini and squash he helped grow at a stand inside Luzerne County's Penn Place Building in Wilkes-Barre Wednesday.

The new produce stand is part of a community garden program set up by the county's juvenile probation division to teach young offenders new skills and help them open up about their struggles with the probation officers working alongside them.

Sale proceeds go into a fund to help buy more seeds and supplies to continue the garden. Unsold produce is donated to the local soup kitchen.

Michael, the juvenile working the stand Wednesday, said he doesn't have a garden at his home and never grew anything on his own.

"I might even start a garden myself," he said. "It's a good experience."

Wilkes-Barre resident Dominique Tyson said she had her guard up when she volunteered to work at the community garden in April. She just turned 19 but said she was assigned to juvenile probation for 60 days this year due to an offense when she was 17, which she described as a "bad decision I have owned up to."

As she and the probation officers nurtured seeds in cups and later buried them in a 50-by-30-foot plot on county-owned property in Forty Fort, Tyson started sharing details about her past and seeking out their advice.

"I didn't expect to like my probation officers. I thought they were just going to tell me what to do and boss me around," Tyson said. "I got to know them all very personally,

and they know my whole life story. I've been through a lot with them."

Tyson also never anticipated the thrill of seeds sprouting.

"I took pictures and thought, 'I made these.' I felt like they were my kids, and they were growing," said Tyson, who has obtained two part-time jobs and started contemplating a career working with troubled youth since she completed probation.

Probation employee Al Zangardi said another juvenile garden participant recently brought up concerns about his friend who had died in a drug overdose, prompting a deep discussion about life choices. The exchange would have been unlikely if they hadn't gotten to know each other through gardening, Zangardi said.

"You really get to interact with them and get to their core problems," he said.

"It helps us talk to them more easily," chimed in probation worker Neal Johnson, who also helped man the stand Wednesday.

Although the produce stand is new, the garden program started three years ago. Probation worker Theresa Kline said counties are increasingly creating hands-on programs for juveniles, and a garden was selected here largely because the ability to cheaply grow food can help them in adulthood.

The juveniles also grew tomatoes, watermelon, cantaloupe, beans, peas,



Luzerne County worker Debbie Roan checks out produce inside the county's Penn Place Building Wednesday as county juvenile probation workers Theresa Kline, seated, and Neal Johnson discuss the community garden program for juvenile offenders.

carrots, peppers and radishes, and the probation department is seeking donations to add fruit trees.

County Court of Common Pleas Judge William Amesbury, who handles most juvenile cases, said participants learn about planting, cultivating, harvesting, selling and how to interact with and provide monetary change to customers at the food stand.

"These are transferable skills that will make them more desirable to potential employers in the future," Amesbury said. "The garden project is a tremendous concept that gives kids many opportunities for growth and development."

The stand is open to the public from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays during harvest season in the lobby of the Penn Place Building at the corner of Market Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

# Motivational Interviewing Regional Peer Roundtable

Angela Work, McKean County

Supported by a PCCD grant to enhance JJSES activities, in 2013, Forest, McKean, Venango and Warren Counties attended a Regional MI 101 Training followed by Coaches Training in 2014. In the latter months of 2014, the importance to continue this multi-county approach to provide continued support, be resourceful and work together to strengthen inter-rater reliability in rural counties was recognized. It was at this time when the planning process for a regional roundtable began. The reception from neighboring counties was that of great interest, engagement and support.

On July 8, 2015, nine counties comprised of Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Crawford, McKean, Mercer, Venango, Warren and Washington joined together for their first annual Motivational Interviewing Regional Peer Roundtable. Additionally, a representative from Keystone Adolescent Center; MI Consultant, Dawn Schantz and Pediatrician/Researcher, Dr. Merrian Brooks also joined in this event.

The purpose of the roundtable was to provide an opportunity to join together as neighboring counties to share and create strategies while further developing inter-rater reliability. The group explored various implementation strategies, discussed advancements in JJSES activities and other department developments relating to MI. Conversation was abundant as topics including policy development, consent forms, training, methods of observation, coding, offering feedback, quality assurance and inter-rater reliability were discussed.

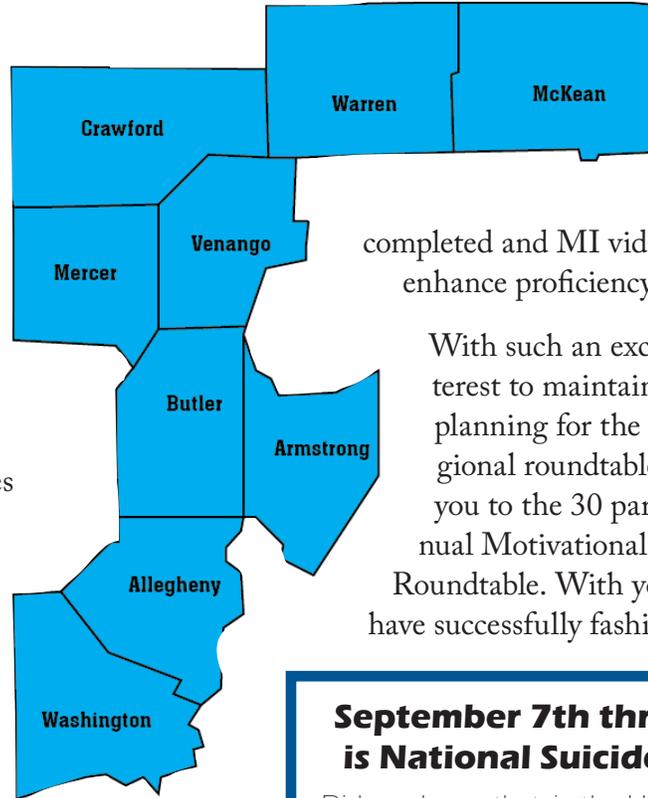
Numerous documents were shared throughout the day which prompted discussion related to the development and use of all provided materials. These materials in-

cluded a policy, an audio consent, data collection methods, coding and feedback forms, training materials and small booster activities.

During the sharing of these documents, the quantitative and qualitative elements of coding were presented.

A coding exercise was completed and MI videos were shared to further enhance proficiency.

With such an exciting response and strong interest to maintain regional support, advanced planning for the second annual western regional roundtable is underway. A great thank you to the 30 participants of our first annual Motivational Interviewing Regional Peer Roundtable. With your interest and support we have successfully fashioned a regional MI network.



## September 7th through September 13 is National Suicide Prevention Week.

Did you know that, in the United States, more people die by suicide (50% more) each year than by homicide?

Experts believe that most suicidal individuals do not want to die. They just want to end the pain they are experiencing. When suicidal intent or risk is detected early, lives can be saved.

Please join in supporting suicide prevention. Together we can reduce the number of lives shaken by a needless and tragic death. Visit <http://www.suicidology.org> for more information.

### Myths about Suicide

**MYTH**  
Suicidal teens overreact to life events

**FACT**  
Problems that may not seem like a big deal to one person, particularly adults, may be causing a great deal of distress for the suicidal teen. We have to remember that perceived crises are just as concerning and predictive of suicidal behavior as actual crises.

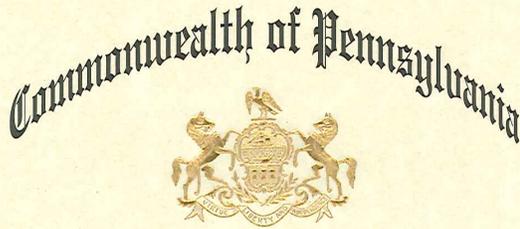
Find out more  
[www.suicidology.org](http://www.suicidology.org)  
[www.preventyouthsuicide.org](http://www.preventyouthsuicide.org)

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
SUICIDALITY  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE  
PREVENTION OF YOUTH SUICIDE

# Governor Wolf Proclaims Juvenile Justice Week

## October 4-10, 2015

Governor Tom Wolf proclaimed the week of October 4 – October 10, 2015 as Juvenile Justice Week in Pennsylvania. Juvenile probation departments across the Commonwealth are encouraged to utilize Juvenile Justice Week as an opportunity to engage the public about the mission and outcomes of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.



### Governor's Office

#### PROCLAMATION

#### JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK October 4-10, 2015

*WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system is charged with providing programs of supervision, care, and rehabilitation, which provide balanced attention to the protection of our communities; the imposition of accountability for offenses committed by juveniles; and the development of competencies to enable children within the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system to become responsible and productive members of their communities; and*

*WHEREAS, the mission of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system is based on the principles of restorative justice, which give priority to repairing the harm done to crime victims and communities, and which define offender accountability in terms of assuming responsibility and taking action to repair harm; and*

*WHEREAS, the mission is premised on the belief that crime victims, communities, and juvenile offenders must all be regarded as clients of the juvenile justice system who should receive tangible benefits from their interactions with the system; and*

*WHEREAS, the Governor's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee has adopted the following mission statement for Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system: "Juvenile Justice: Community Protection, Victim Restoration, Youth Redemption;" and*

*WHEREAS, community protection refers to the fundamental right of all Pennsylvanians to be free of, and feel safe from, crime. Victim restoration emphasizes that crime can forever change its victims and that restoration programs should seek to restore crime victims, to the greatest extent possible, to their pre-crime status. Youth redemption embodies the belief that the vast majority of juvenile offenders are capable of change and have strength upon which treatment services can build; and*

*WHEREAS, all of the services designed and implemented to achieve this mission and all hearings and decisions under Pennsylvania's Juvenile Act – indeed, all aspects of the juvenile justice system – must be provided in a fair, unbiased manner; and*

*WHEREAS, counties throughout Pennsylvania sponsor annual Juvenile Justice Week activities to enhance public understanding of our juvenile justice system and pay tribute to those who are part of this important effort.*

*THEREFORE, In special recognition of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system and its work with juvenile offenders, crime victims, and communities, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 4-10, 2015, as JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK in Pennsylvania.*



*GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this fourteenth day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and fifteen, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and fortieth.*

*Tom Wolf*  
TOM WOLF  
Governor

The proclamation notes that Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system is charged with "providing programs of supervision, care, and rehabilitation, as well as providing balanced attention to the protection of our communities, the imposition of accountability for offenses committed by juveniles, and the development of competencies to enable children within the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system to become responsible and productive members of their communities".

**We encourage Chief Juvenile Probation Officers to send media accounts of local Juvenile Justice Week activities to [jjcnews@ship.edu](mailto:jjcnews@ship.edu) for publication in a special section celebrating Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice week. Please have all entries submitted by November 13, 2015.**

# JJSES LEADERSHIP FORUM

September 17, 2015  
Days Inn, State College

Leading change becomes particularly complex as leaders and managers maneuver through the later stages of Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) implementation. Until recently, most have faced the challenge of implementing EBP by simply figuring it out on their own. However, the tide is beginning to turn as practitioners turn to Implementation Science to lead their efforts. EBP involves change among multiple players and multiple layers both within and outside of the organization. Building a framework that recognizes the various layers makes it possible to define the key responsibilities at each level, identify strategies that might otherwise be missed, and develop a structure for more effective decision making. In building this framework, we must also turn to research on decision making, which might help leaders understand and overcome common barriers they typically face as they implement EBP.

On September 17th, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, through funding provided by PCCD are sponsoring the 2015 JJSES Leadership Forum. The theme of this year's forum revolves around aligning your organizational culture with Evidenced Based Practices, performance evaluations, and institutionalizing Evidenced-Based Practices for the long term. This training is specifically for chiefs, deputy chiefs, and key supervisors responsible for implementing Evidenced-Based Practices within their department.

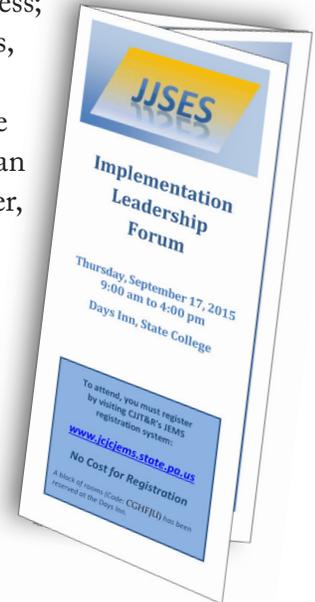
This workshop will explore specific practices and skills which help managers make more effective decisions based on research and knowledge instead of traditions, hunches, or outdated leadership information. The goal is to influence and engage staff and contribute to a culture that supports EBP on a practical level.

This program will focus on: challenges and issues facing juvenile probation leaders; problem-solving

through a collaborative process; application of proven models, strategies and techniques; learning from the experience of peers; and learning from an experienced EBP practitioner, Dr. Geraldine Nagy, who will facilitate the session. Dr. Nagy has more than 30 years of criminal justice experience including Director of the Travis County, Texas Community Supervision and Corrections Department and Pretrial Services, where she led efforts

to transform operations to be in alignment with Evidence-Based Practices. As Pretrial Director, Dr. Nagy worked with the judiciary and local officials to establish coordinated processes to identify mentally ill pretrial detainees, design diversion programs, and establish risk-based pretrial decision-making, resulting in promising improvements in jail release rates. She has worked with the National Center of State Courts to provide training on evidence-based sentencing and has served on a number of national committees to facilitate the adoption of progressive practices nationwide. Prior to Travis County, Dr. Nagy was Deputy Director of the Community Justice Assistance Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and a staff psychologist and research analyst for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. She holds a bachelor's degree from California State University at Sacramento and a PhD in Psychology from Kansas State University.

Registration for this training is now available through the [JCJC Event Management System \(JEMS\)](#) and is only available to chiefs, deputy chiefs and supervisors.



# *The Power of Victim Impact*

*Eva Frederick*

*Juvenile Probation Officer, Victim Coordinator*

We heard voices. Voices that radiated strength, courage, and should never be silenced. The victim impact panel who spoke to **Lehigh County Juvenile Probation** on April 21, 2015 articulated the effect of juvenile crime with more sentiment than anyone else could have on their behalf. Their stories reminded our department of the physical, emotional and financial toll crime takes on individuals and families. Undoubtedly, their influence has assisted our department in educating clients on victim impact from a real life perspective.

Our panelists stressed the importance of the criminal justice system acknowledging the harm, communicating with victims and making information on services available. They impressed upon us the need to keep them informed of court and a juvenile's probation progress. Besides so many other worries that a victim may hold deep inside, there may be fear of what is going to happen next. Being unfamiliar with the system can add to this stress. As probation officers, we look to answer questions as they pertain to personal and community safety, accountability for the harm, and the competencies we hope to instill in youth during supervision.

Setting the stage for the panel presentation, Sara Ulmer, Supervisor of Community Programs at Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley, provided training on services, victims' rights, crisis reactions and approaches to use when working with victims.

The knowledge we gained from both presentations has enhanced our ability to work with youth in building empathy, improved our interactions with victims and is another step forward in our department showing priority to victim issues. Our juvenile probation department continually strives to improve in meeting victims' needs, ensuring their rights, employing restorative practices and holding our clients accountable to the harm they caused.

## *PACTT Alliance Announces New Job Opportunities*

The PA Department of Human Services is seeking applicants for the position of Career and Technical Education Advisors that will be assigned to the Pennsylvania Academic & Career Technical Training (PACTT) Alliance. The PACTT Alliance is an important partner in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice community, and their work is focused on assisting affiliated programs in the creation and delivery of competency development initiatives within residential and community-based treatment facilities located throughout the Commonwealth.

As a representative of the PACTT Alliance, the incumbent will provide professional consultation and direct assistance to agencies serving our unique populations. The primary focus of the work is to promote and assist in the creation of career & technical education services that meet the dual purpose of developing postsecondary readiness skills and career pathways that will effectively transition with youth as they move between service settings. The position is very unique in that it requires both a high degree of independence and the ability to collaborate effectively with an extensive network of system stakeholders. For additional information regarding the job expectations or the PACTT Alliance initiative, interested parties can contact the Project Director - David Dickson via email at [dadickson@pa.gov](mailto:dadickson@pa.gov).

The current openings are located in Erie and Montour counties and offer a starting salary of \$52,186 plus an excellent benefits package. In order to be considered, applicants must be PA residents and meet the following requirements: Four years of professional experience in the field of career and technical education, including one year of experience in the development and implementation of career and technical education curricula or programs; or any equivalent combination of experience and training. For information about the nature of work, how to apply, and more, visit the Job Seekers page of the PA State Civil Service Commission's website: [www.scsc.state.pa.us](http://www.scsc.state.pa.us). Pennsylvania is proud to be an equal opportunity employer supporting workforce diversity.

# Save the Date

October 15, 2015  
9 am - 4 pm

Days Inn - State College

There is no cost for this training, and lodging for new Chiefs will be covered by the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers.

## NEW CHIEFS ORIENTATION

### *JCJC Graduate Education Program Accepting Applications for the Class of 2018*

#### *Looking to advance in Juvenile Justice?*

Applications are now being accepted until October 15, 2015 for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University. Members of the class of 2018 will begin classes in the Summer of 2016.

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. The practicum study provides students the opportunity to evaluate data from their home county to address relevant research needs and topics (i.e. case planning, detention reform, YLS, diversion, and/or Disproportionate Minority Contact).

#### *What are the benefits of the JCJC 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 probation 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 [Kelly Waltman-Spreha](#) at 717-477-1185.



# RESEARCH IN BRIEF

Part 18 in a series

**Source Document:** Louden, J. & Skeem, J. (2012). "How Do Probation Officers Assess and Manage Recidivism and Violence Risk for Probationers With Mental Health Disorder? An Experimental Investigation." *Law and Human Behavior*: 13.

The body of scientific knowledge related to the field of juvenile justice is growing at an exponential rate. With this knowledge, new processes leading to improved outcomes are routinely generated. Clearly, the need to have access to, and understand scientific information is critical. Unfortunately, practitioners often do not have the time to sort through the literature. With this issue in mind, in 2006, *the Colorado Division of Probation Services* began to publish **Research in Briefs (RIB's)**. These documents are intended to summarize potentially helpful research related to effective practices, as well as provide ideas for practical applications of the information. More information on **RIB's** can be found here: [http://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Administration/Probation/ResearchInBriefs/RIB\\_Summary1213.pdf](http://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Administration/Probation/ResearchInBriefs/RIB_Summary1213.pdf)

Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) rests on two interlinked foundations: the best empirical research available in the field of juvenile justice and a set of core beliefs about how to integrate this research into practice. With this in mind, as an ongoing feature of *Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice*, "**Research In Brief (RIBs)**" will provide summaries of published research related to various aspects of the JJSES. The **RIBs** will convey how various scientific studies support the JJSES Statement of Purpose.

## ***The Importance of Actuarial Assessments***

*Reprinted with Permission from: Colorado Division of Probation Services. (January, 2014).  
How do Probation Officers Assess and Manage Recidivism and Violence Risk for Probationers  
With a Mental Health Disorder? An Experimental Investigation.*

Retrieved from: [https://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Administration/Probation/ResearchInBriefs/RIB\\_MH\\_CM\\_Jan14\(1\).pdf](https://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Administration/Probation/ResearchInBriefs/RIB_MH_CM_Jan14(1).pdf)

Prior research indicates that mental health diagnosis alone is not a factor leading to recidivism. The present study examined the effect of mental health and substance abuse diagnoses had on probation officers' (PO) perception of risk and the impact on their case management decisions. Researchers found that mental health disorders increased the officers' perception of risk. The only condition that was not associated with an increased perception of risk of violence was depression. POs were more likely to recommend higher levels of containment and mandate court ordered treatment to those with mental health disorders.

In the present study, 234 POs were asked to assess risk and make a series of case management decisions based on vignettes. Each officer was assigned one vignette to evaluate. The vignettes contained similar information, but changed variables to control for mental health disorders and substance abuse. The variations were: control (a troubled individual), major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, cocaine dependence, major depres-

sion with cocaine dependence, bipolar depression with cocaine dependence, and schizophrenia with cocaine dependence.

Officers reviewed the vignette and were asked their perception of risk for technical violation, risk of new offense, and risk of violence. Officers were asked to provide recommendations for level of containment, frequency of contacts, and endorsement of forced mental health treatment. Finally, officers were asked on a scale of zero (do nothing) and six (seek revocation) how they would respond if the probationer technically violated, committed a serious offense, or did not comply with treatment and officer appointments.

Consistently, POs rated mental health disorder vignettes at a much greater risk of technical violation and re-offense. With the exception of two vignettes, the mental health disorder vignettes were also viewed as having an increased risk of violence. Depression and depression with cocaine dependence were the two

vignettes that were rated at a lower risk of violence than the control vignette. Officers recommended a high level of containment for those with a mental health diagnosis and were more likely to mandate mental health treatment. Schizophrenia had the greatest impact on frequency of contacts. Only the substance abuse vignette derived a significant response from officers when the client missed treatment/PO appointments. All other responses were generally the same sanction level regardless of the type of vignette.

### Practical Applications

- ✓ Use the YLS (an actuarial assessment) to determine risk level and criminogenic needs.
- ✓ Supervise cases according to their assessed risk. Overriding cases due to mental health may result in over-supervision, which may lead to increased levels of probation failure.
- ✓ Be thoughtful about specific responsivity factors (e.g. mental health) when utilizing responses/sanctions. Each incentive and response/sanction should be individualized to juveniles.
- ✓ Use appropriate graduated sanctions in lieu of filing violations. Often mental health disorders can create added hurdles for individuals to function within societal norms.

- ✓ Be thoughtful when addressing mental health issues. Mental health can carry a stigma in society and even more so in different cultures, it is common for individuals to feel ambivalent about mental health treatment.

### Limitations of Information

The officers' perceptions are based from vignettes, which may provide a more limited source of information and context than probation officers are accustomed (e.g. lack of criminal history information, assessment results). Each officer reviewed one vignette. It is unclear if officers reviewing several vignettes would result in similar findings. The probation officers in this study may not be representative of probation officers in Pennsylvania.

*Caveat: The information presented here is intended to summarize and inform readers of research and information relevant to probation work. It can provide a framework for carrying out the business of probation as well as suggestions for practical application of the material. While it may, in some instances, lead to further exploration and result in future decisions, it is not intended to prescribe policy and is not necessarily conclusive in its findings. Some of its limitations are described above.*

## JJSES Statement of Purpose

We dedicate ourselves to working 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.

Readers are encouraged to submit ideas and suggestions related to the JJSES they would like to have addressed. Ideas and suggestions may be submitted to: Leo J. Lutz at [LeLutz@pa.gov](mailto:LeLutz@pa.gov).

## 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.

- **Motivational Interviewing 101**  
Days Inn State College  
Barbara Orr  
9/9-10/2015
- **Cognitive Behavioral Training**  
Days Inn State College  
Mark Carey  
9/10/2015
- **Reactive Attachment Disorder**  
Days Inn State College  
Amy Swigart, Susan Roop  
9/16-17/2015
- **JJSES Implementation Leadership Forum**  
Days Inn State College  
9/17/2015
- **Orientation For The New Juvenile Probation Professional Session I**  
Red Lion Hotel  
9/21/2015
- **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorders (FASD)**  
Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center  
Robin VanEerden  
9/29/2015
- **YLS Master Trainer Recertification**  
Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center  
Assessment/ Case Plan Committee  
9/30 - 10/1/2015
- **Gangs**  
Days Inn State College  
Bruce Schaffer  
10/14-15/2015
- **Orientation For The New Juvenile Probation Professional Session II**  
Red Lion Hotel  
10/19/2015
- **Responsivity and Pre-Contemplative Primer Training**  
Days Inn State College  
Mark Carey  
10/21/2015
- **Ultimate Educator**  
Red Lion Hotel  
Anne Seymour  
10/28-29/2015
- **Youth Level of Service (YLS) Master Trainer Certification**  
Days Inn State College  
Ben Rea, Shannon Semmel  
11/18-19/2015

Please remember, all the details on these and other sponsored workshops may be reviewed at any time by visiting [www.jcjcjems.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjcjems.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.*

**Click here  
for more information**

2016 FGDM Conference  
Call for Presentations



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

## ***Call for Presentations***

for the Pennsylvania 2016 Conference on  
Family Group Decision Making (FGDM):



**“Coloring Outside  
the Lines...”**

April 26 and 27, 2016 at the Hershey Lodge

**Click here  
for more information**

**The Pennsylvania Council  
of  
Children, Youth and Family Services**

*Is pleased to announce the*

**Call for Presentations**

*For the*

2016 PCCYFS Annual Spring Conference

**Your Legacy:  
40 Years of Courage, Heart and Wisdom**

To be held April 6 -7, 2016  
at the Sheraton  
Harrisburg - Hershey Hotel

Please review the attached documents for complete information  
Proposals must be received no later than Monday, September 21, 2015

Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services  
2040 Linglestown Road, Suite 109, Harrisburg, PA 17110  
Tel: (717) 651-1725

[hbgoffice@pccyfs.org](mailto:hbgoffice@pccyfs.org) - [www.pccyfs.org](http://www.pccyfs.org)



# National Juvenile Justice Announcements

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

## White House Report Highlights OJJDP Delinquency Prevention Models

The [White House's Council of Economic Advisers](#) has released a [report](#) on closing opportunity gaps for disadvantaged youth that highlights two promising programs: One Summer Jobs Plus (OSP) and Becoming a Man (BAM). With OJJDP-supported evaluation grants, the University of Chicago Crime Lab is currently testing both youth-focused delinquency prevention models. The White House has recognized the BAM approach as an example of innovation in advancing the goals of the [My Brother's Keeper](#) initiative for minority males.

### Resources:

For more on the OSP evaluation findings, read "[Summer Jobs Reduce Youth Violence Among Disadvantaged Youth.](#)"

For additional details about the evaluation of BAM and the Match Math Tutoring Program, read "[Not Too Late: Improving Academic Outcomes for Disadvantaged Youth.](#)"

## OVC Releases Status Report on Federal Efforts To Improve Services for Trafficking Victims

OJJDP is among the Office of Justice Programs' agencies working with the [Office for Victims of Crime](#) (OVC) to ensure that victims of human trafficking in the United States have access to quality services. OVC has released the "[Fiscal Years 2013-2014 Status Report for the Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States.](#)" The strategic plan defines 4 goals and 8 objectives and contains more than 250 associated action items for victim service improvements. This report documents the progress that federal agencies made during fiscal years 2013 and 2014 on each of the

action items listed in the plan.

### Resources:

Download a copy of the National Academy of Sciences report [Confronting Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Minors in the United States.](#)

Learn more about OJJDP's [Missing and Exploited Children's Program.](#)

## OJJDP's Model Programs Guide Adds Three Literature Reviews

OJJDP's [Model Programs Guide](#) (MPG), an online resource of evidence-based juvenile justice and youth prevention, intervention, and reentry programs, has added three new [literature reviews](#). MPG literature reviews provide practitioners and policymakers with relevant research and evaluations on more than 40 juvenile justice topics and programs. These three literature reviews address:

[Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Treatment/Therapy](#)  
[Implementation Science](#)  
[Status Offenders](#)

In addition to literature reviews, MPG offers program profiles, information on program implementation, and resource links.

### Resources:

[Learn more](#) about OJJDP's Model Programs Guide.

## OJJDP Bulletin Examines Deterrence Among High-Risk Adolescents

OJJDP has released "[Studying Deterrence Among High-Risk Adolescents](#)," the latest bulletin in the Pathways to Desistance series. This bulletin examines the link between perceptions of the threat of sanctions and deterrence from crime among high-risk adolescents. The authors' findings show that severe punishment—such as

correctional placement or a longer stay in correctional placement—does not meaningfully reduce juvenile offending or arrests among these youth.

The findings are the result of the OJJDP cosponsored [Pathways to Desistance study](#), which investigates the factors that lead serious juvenile offenders to cease or continue offending.

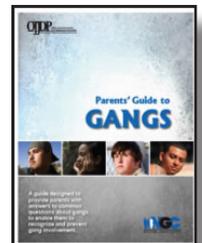
### Resources:

Bulletins from OJJDP's [Pathways to Desistance series](#) are now available in [EPUB](#) and [MOBI](#) formats.

## National Gang Center Updates Parents' Guide to Gangs

The [National Gang Center](#) has published an updated version of the "[Parents' Guide to Gangs.](#)"

This guide provides parents with answers to common questions about gangs to enable them to recognize and prevent their child's involvement in a gang. The National Gang Center is supported by OJJDP and the [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#).



### Resources:

[Frequently Asked Questions About Gangs](#) answers many of the most frequently asked questions on gangs, gang joining, gang trends, and more that the National Gang Center receives.

In the online video "[Why Youth Join Gangs.](#)" gang researchers, practitioners, and young people who were previously involved in gangs talk about research regarding gang joining and provide insights into what you might observe when interacting with youth who are at high risk of joining a gang.

[Learn more](#) about the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model for addressing communities' gang problems.

## Applications Being Accepted for Juvenile Diversion Certificate Program

The [Center for Juvenile Justice Reform \(CJJR\)](#) at [Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy](#), in partnership with the [Juvenile Law Center](#) and the [National League of Cities](#), is accepting applications for its [Juvenile Diversion Certificate Program](#) to be held December 15–18, 2015, in Washington, DC. This program will help current and future leaders strengthen their diversion efforts and reduce the use of formal processing and incarceration, improve public safety, avoid wasteful spending, reduce racial and ethnic disparities, and limit the collateral consequences youth encounter through exposure to the juvenile justice system.



[Apply](#) by September 18, 2015.

### Resources:

Download the [Juvenile Diversion Guidebook](#), co-authored by CJJR as part of the [Models for Change](#) Juvenile Diversion Workgroup.

## CJJR Issues Solicitations for Multi-System Improvement Grant

The [Center for Juvenile Justice Reform \(CJJR\)](#) at [Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy](#)—part of OJJDP's [Center for Coordinated Assistance to States](#)—has issued a Request for Applications (RFA) for jurisdictions seeking to engage in system improvement efforts through the [Multi-System Collaboration Training and Technical Assistance Program \(MSC-TTA\)](#). This program supports jurisdictions that are interested in developing a sound infrastructure to better serve at-risk or multi-system youth and their families. CJJR will provide distance learning training and technical assistance at no cost to a cohort of as many as six jurisdictions to help them identify gaps in policy and practice, enhance their information sharing capacities, explore how key decision points impact the trajectory of the youth they are currently serving, and support culture change through leadership development. Apply by September 11, 2015.



### Resources:

[Download](#) the RFA for the MSC-TTA program.

[Read](#) CJJR's Crossover Youth Practice Model: An Abbreviated Guide.

# National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS



## SITE MANAGER JUVENILE AND FAMILY LAW PROGRAMS CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

## PROGRAM ATTORNEY



This publication is produced monthly at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University. Guest articles are always welcome; please submit them by e-mail to [rtomassini@pa.gov](mailto:rtomassini@pa.gov).

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