

PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Tom Wolf, Governor



Juvenile Justice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

Volume 27, Number 8

August 2016

Keith Snyder Retires as JCJC Executive Director

Keith Snyder retired from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) on July 22, 2016 following 36 years of service to Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. Keith began his career in 1980 as a juvenile probation officer in Dauphin County and joined the staff of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission as a Juvenile Court Consultant in 1987. Keith was promoted to the positions of Director of Policy and Program Development in 1993, Deputy Director in 2000, and Executive Director in 2014 following the retirement of James E. Anderson. While at Dauphin County, he received JCJC's Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year award for 1987.



Keith's influence and leadership have been significant. He has led several major statewide juvenile justice system reform initiatives in Pennsylvania over the past ten years. He served as Chair of Pennsylvania's Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Coordination Targeted Area of Improvement (TAI) in conjunction with Pennsylvania's Models for Change initiative, and received a national "Champion for Change Award" from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for his work in that area. He also served as first Coordinator of Pennsylvania's comprehensive Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) beginning in 2010. Keith served as President of the Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections from 1996-1997, and held several gubernatorial appointments over the years including memberships on the County Probation and Parole Officer's Firearm Education and Training Commission, the State Advisory Panel for Special Education, the Targeted Community Revitalization and Crime Prevention Advisory Committee, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee. He is widely known, respected, and

The 2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 2-4, 2016 at Harrisburg Hilton & Towers

Registration Now Open!

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sought after across the Commonwealth and beyond for his knowledge, commitment, and passion for the juvenile justice system and at-risk youth in general.

As per Keith's wishes for a "low key" sendoff, current and former members of the JCJC staff celebrated his retirement at a dinner held on July 15. The Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers also hosted a dinner in Keith's honor on June 9 at Seven Springs Mountain Resort.

Keith holds both Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University. In retirement, he plans to spend time with his family including his wife, Tracy, and sons Mike and Rob. Additionally, Keith plans to travel extensively, starting with a six week excursion to Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania. He also will provide some "limited" ongoing consultation work nationally on issues of juvenile justice reform.

Keith will be greatly missed by all of those who had the opportunity and privilege to work with him.

We wish him the best in retirement!

The 2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 2-4, 2016 at the Harrisburg Hilton & Towers

Youth Awards Program & Dinner

Wednesday, November 2

Annual Training & Awards Program

Thursday, November 3

Resource Day 2016

Friday, November 4

Training Workshops Announced:

Sixteen separate training workshops will be held on Thursday, November 3, many of which specifically highlight various aspects of evidence-based probation practice and Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy. With the exception of two workshops for judges, all morning workshops will be repeated during the afternoon session in an effort to allow participants to maximize exposure to topics of interest.

The workshops include:

- Probation Officer Self-Care: Proven Strategies to a Successful Career
- Philadelphia Police Diversion Program: Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline
- The Path to a Trauma Informed Juvenile Probation Department
- An Evaluation of Cumberland County's Risk Reduction Efforts
- The Dynamics of Adolescent Females and Addiction
- Uncovering the World of the Transgender Youth
- Data and the Juvenile Justice System: Recent Developments in PaJCMS and JNET
- Introduction to the Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) Model
- Advancing Effective Case Planning: A Panel Discussion
- Victim Offender Dialogue: Toward Successful Victim Restoration Practice
- Exposing Opiate Abuse and Other Current Drug Trends
- Enhancing Family Involvement in Residential Treatment Services
- The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and its Effects on the Juvenile Justice System
- Autism in the Juvenile Justice System: Strategies for Success
- The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol: What Judges Need to Know
- Trauma Assessment and Treatment: What Judges Need to Know

Conference Registration Is Now Open!

www.jcjc.pa.gov

New Members Appointed to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Judge J. Brian Johnson and Judge Nathaniel C. Nichols Appointed, Judge Kim Berkeley Clark Re-appointed by Governor Wolf

On June 8, 2016, Governor Tom Wolf appointed Judge J. Brian Johnson and Judge Nathaniel C. Nichols to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. Governor Wolf also re-appointed Judge Kim Berkeley Clark for another three-year term. Judge Johnson and Judge Nichols succeed Judge Rea B. Boylan and Justice Kevin Dougherty as members of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.

Judge J. Brian Johnson is currently a judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County, having been elected in 2003. He has served in the Civil, Family and Orphan's Court Divisions, including as Administrative Judge of the Orphan's Court and Administrative Judge of the Civil Division. He served as a member of the Supreme Court Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee, Statewide Children's Roundtable, co-chair of the Leadership Roundtable and also chairs Lehigh County's Children's Roundtable. Judge Johnson has taught a Master's degree course, Legal and Ethical Issues in Psychology, at Chestnut Hill College School of Graduate Studies since 2011, and also taught Business Law at Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales, now DeSales University. He has been a speaker at various continuing education programs and educational events. Judge Johnson is a graduate of Villanova University and Temple University School of Law.

Judge Nathaniel C. Nichols is a Juvenile Court Judge in the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas, having been elected to the bench in 2011. He currently also serves as a member of the Pennsylvania State Trial Judges Ethics Committee. Judge Nichols began his legal career at Delaware County Legal Assistance association where he became managing attorney, after which he entered private practice. He then entered legal academia as a Professor at Widener University School of Law. While there, he wrote a number of law review articles and served as Associate Dean of Students from 1992–1995. For twenty-five years he supervised law students who appeared before the courts in Delaware County and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Philadelphia. Judge Nichols has been active in a variety of Delaware county organizations and has received a number of awards and recognitions for his work. He has also served on the 7th Congressional District's West Point Selection Committee. Judge Nichols is a graduate of Howard University and the Columbia University School of Law.

Judge Kim Berkeley Clark was re-appointed to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission for a second three-year term by Governor Wolf. Judge Clark currently serves as the Juvenile Court Administrative Judge in Allegheny County, Chair of the JCJC and is the immediate Past President of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, and Past President of the Juvenile Court Section of the conference. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee and the Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee. She also serves on Pennsylvania's Interbranch Commission on Racial, Gender, and Ethnic Fairness; the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee; Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency; the State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision; the Pennsylvania State Children's Roundtable (Chair of the Dependent Children of Incarcerated Parents Workgroup and Dependency Bench Book Committee); and the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network. In June of 2013, Judge Clark had the honor of moderating a panel discussion on the needs of caregivers of children of incarcerated parents at the White House.

Luzerne, York, and Mercer Counties Kick Off the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol™

Recently, the Luzerne, York and Mercer County Juvenile Probation Departments met with local stakeholders to introduce the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™) process. In each county information was presented on Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy, statewide recidivism and disposition trends, and the Youth Level of Service (YLS) data. Participants were also shown data related to their respective county's referrals and delinquency placements. Finally, participants received a general overview of the SPEP™ process, the research supporting it, and how the county can benefit from its use.

In York County, Susan Claytor, Deputy Director of Administrative Services and Danielle Salisbury, Juvenile Probation Officer, introduced the SPEP™ to five judges of the York County Court of Common Pleas, representatives from the York County District Attorney's and Public Defender's Offices, York County Children and Youth Agency, and other local stakeholders. This meeting preceded two presentations to the York County Juvenile Probation staff and service providers who work with York County Juvenile Probation involved youth.

In Luzerne County, Angela Zera, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer and Neal Johnson, Juvenile Probation Officer, delivered the presentation to staff and service providers. Additionally, participants received a general overview of the SPEP™ process and an update on the SPEP™ rollout in Pennsylvania by the Juvenile Justice System Improvement Specialists from the EPISCenter at Penn State University.

In Mercer County, Mark Benedetto, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer met with his staff to introduce the SPEP™ process. Additional presenters included Joshua Leskovak, Deputy Chief Juvenile Probation Officer; Pam Farkas, Community Based Juvenile Probation Officer and SPEP™ Specialist; as well as Heather Perry, Juvenile Justice System Improvement Specialist at Penn State's EPISCenter. In addition to the juvenile probation staff, President Judge Thomas R. Dobson and the Honorable Daniel P. Wallace were also in attendance.

Pennsylvania was one of the first states to pilot the SPEP™ beginning with Berks County's participation in the Juvenile Justice System Improvement Project through Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform in 2011. In 2013, the pilot expanded to include Bucks, Lehigh, Allegheny, and Dauphin Counties. In October 2015, the project expanded further to include Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, and York counties.

To date, more than 100 services have been through or are involved in the SPEP™ process. For more information on the SPEP™, click [here](#).



Timothy P. Heitzman Appointed Chief Probation Officer in Northumberland County

The Honorable Charles H. Saylor, President Judge of Northumberland County, appointed Mr. Timothy P. Heitzman as the new Northumberland County Chief Adult and Juvenile Probation Officer on March 22, 2016. Chief Heitzman, a native of Northumberland County, graduated from Mansfield University in 1998 with a degree in Criminal Justice Administration. His career in the probation field began in 1999 as a juvenile probation officer in Dauphin County. In 2001, he was hired by Northumberland County as an adult probation officer and in 2008 was promoted to Senior Supervisor. In 2008, he was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief Probation Officer of adult probation, a position he held until his most recent appointment as Chief Probation Officer.

One of Chief Heitzman's goals is to develop a culture of evidence-based thinking within the department that will impact practices and lead to the improvement of the lives of the community and court involved youth and adults. Heitzman serves on the Northumberland County Systems of Care Team, Northumberland County Leadership Committee, and the New Prison Workgroup for Northumberland County. He is also a presenter for the County Orientation Program and a member of the Adult Chiefs Association Committee for Probation and Parole Strategic Planning.

Timothy Heitzman enjoys spending time hunting and fishing with his daughter as well as coaching her Upward Program basketball team. He can be reached at tim.heitzman@norrycopa.net or 570-495-2344.

Justin Popovich Appointed Chief Probation Officer in Bradford County

The Honorable Maureen T. Beirne, President Judge of Bradford County, appointed Mr. Justin Popovich as the new Bradford County Chief Adult and Juvenile Probation Officer in June 2016. His appointment followed the retirement of Thomas R. Schuster who had served the county for 35 years.

Chief Popovich is a 2008 graduate of Wilkes University, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology and a minor in Business Administration. He received a Master of Science Degree in Administration of Justice in 2014 through the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's Graduate Education Program.

Popovich worked as a Residential Program staff employee at Children's Service Center and led an Asset Protection team for Target Corporation prior to being hired by the Bradford County Probation Department.

Popovich's career with Bradford County Probation began in 2009 when he was hired as a school-based probation officer, where he was responsible for not only the supervision of offenders but also for the Juvenile Court Intake Process.

One of the ways in which Mr. Popovich serves his community is as the Head Coach of the Towanda Black Knights boy's varsity basketball team, a position he has held since 2014.

Mr. Popovich can be reached at popovichj@bradfordco.org



Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy Evidence-Based Practices Implementation: Results from the 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 Statewide Surveys

Beginning in 2012, juvenile probation departments in Pennsylvania have been asked to complete an Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) Implementation survey. This survey was designed to provide stakeholders with the capacity to examine the implementation progress of evidence-based practices and the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) across the Commonwealth on both a county-specific and statewide aggregate level. A full report has been compiled to provide a synopsis of the responses from each of the four surveys and will be forthcoming on the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's website. The following is a snapshot of some of the major findings from this report. This information helps to chronicle the incredible progress that has been made to further the implementation of evidence-based practices and evidence-based programming throughout the Commonwealth, particularly between 2012 and 2015. This progress has not only changed the vernacular of juvenile justice professionals, it has also transformed the way they "do business." Indeed, juvenile probation officers are no longer just "enforcers of the law." Rather, they have become "agents of change." All of this has been accomplished thanks to the dedication of all stakeholders involved: from statewide leadership, to county-level champions, to those on the front line working directly with youth. Remarkable progress has been made, and the lives of juvenile offenders, their families, victims, and communities have been improved.

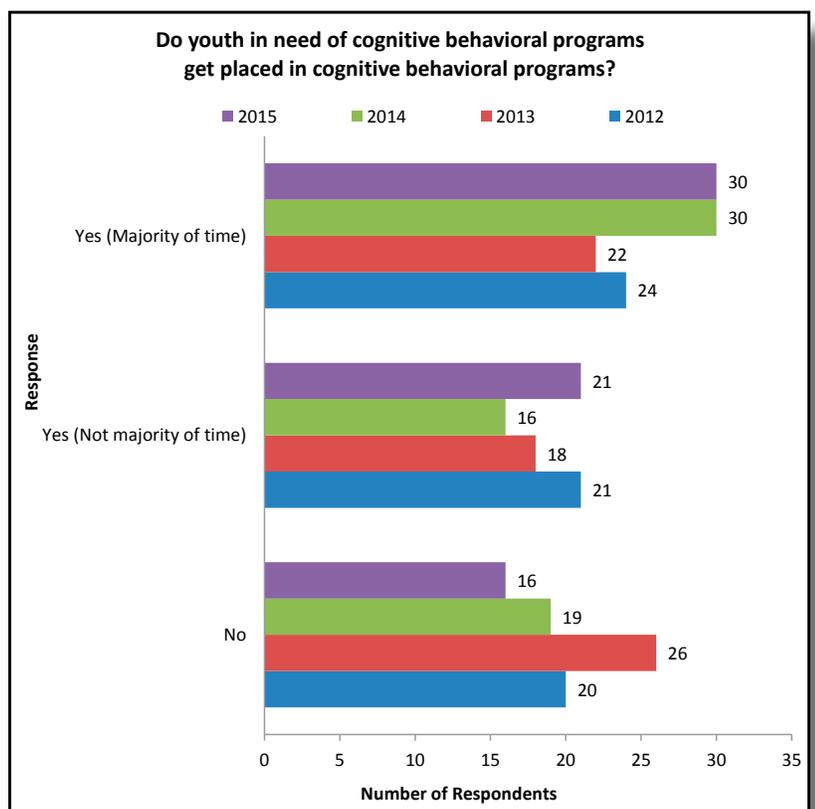
Summary of Key Findings: Stage 3

In 2015, fifty-one (76%) juvenile probation departments reported that youth in need of cognitive behavioral programs get placed in such programming all or some of the time. In 2012, only forty-five (67%) departments reported such. The most commonly reported utilized cognitive behavior programs were ART and Thinking for a Change (T4C). Juvenile probation staff, however, were most likely to be trained as facilitators in NCTI (National Curriculum and Training Institute) programming.

The number of juvenile probation departments that reported that their line staff had been trained in the use of the Four Core Competencies or were in the process of being trained increased from twenty-seven (40%) departments in 2013 to fifty-four (81%) departments in 2015.

The number of juvenile probation departments that reported their staff had been trained in the use of the Carey Guides to assist youth in skill building targeted to identified criminogenic needs increased from seven (10%) departments in 2013 to thirty (45%) departments in 2015. An additional eight (12%) juvenile probation departments reported in 2015 that they were in the process of training staff members.

In 2015, thirty-eight (57%) juvenile probation departments reported that their staff had been trained on the use of the BITS, while an additional eight (12%) were in the process of doing such. In 2014, only twenty-one (31%) juvenile probation departments had been trained on the BITS, while an additional four (6%) reported that they were in the process of such.

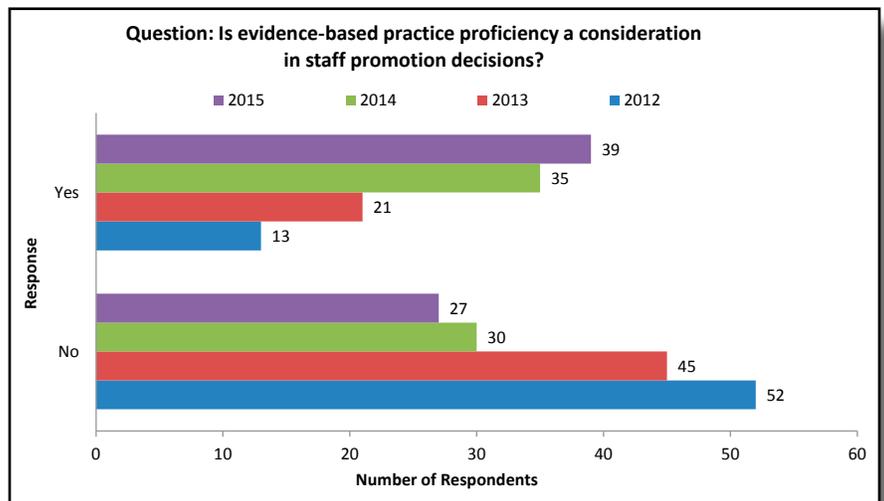
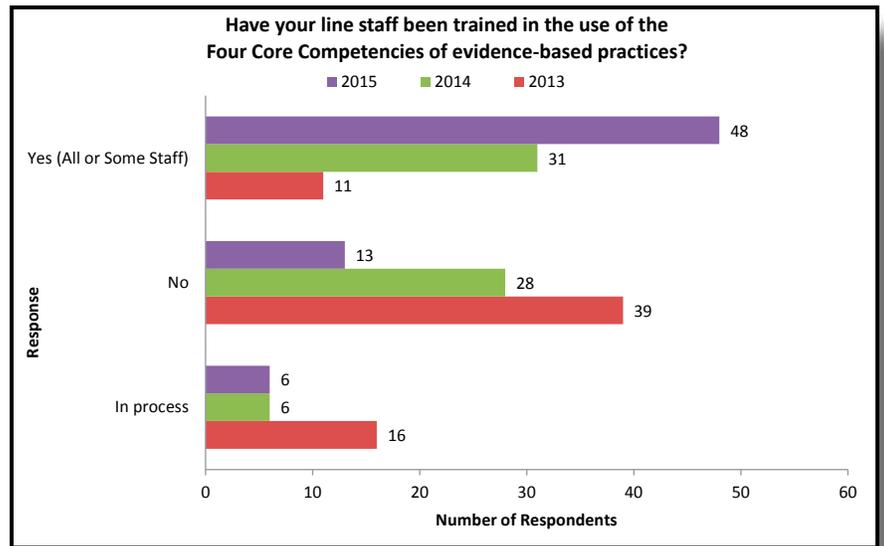


Summary of Key Findings: Stage 4

The total number of juvenile probation departments reporting that the majority or some of their policies and procedures adhere to the principles of evidence-based practices increased from 2012 (n= 35; 52%) to 2015 (n= 56; 84%).

A total of twenty-eight (42%) juvenile probation departments reported in 2015 that their department's job descriptions reflect principles of evidence-based practices, up from seventeen (25%) in 2014. Additionally, twenty-nine (43%) juvenile probation departments reported that staff proficiency in evidence-based practices is taken into consideration when conducting performance evaluations/reviews the majority of times or sometimes, up from ten (15%) juvenile probation departments reporting such in 2012.

Twenty-six (39%) juvenile probation departments reported in 2015 that evidence-based practice proficiency was a consideration in hiring decisions. Only ten (15%) departments had reported such in 2012. Similarly, thirty-nine (58%) juvenile probation departments reported that evidence-based practice proficiency was a consideration in staff promotion decisions, up from thirteen (19%) in 2012.



Other JJSES-Related Activities

In 2015, fifty-seven (85%) juvenile probation departments reported that they provide “A Family Guide to Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Justice System” to families in the majority of times or sometimes.

YLS 2.0 Conversion Underway

A principal value of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy is the commitment to using the best and most current empirical research available to drive policy and practice. Consistent with this ideology, during the later months of 2016, Pennsylvania will begin the conversion to YLS 2.0.

YLS 2.0 is an updated version of our current risk/needs assessment, the YLS/CMI. The updates and enhancements included in YLS 2.0 are based on a larger and more current normative sample.

YLS 2.0 contains no changes with respect to how a juvenile justice professional administers the assessment. In fact, comparable to the original YLS, the completion of YLS 2.0:

- Requires a structured interview with the youth and family, along with the collection of information from additional sources.
- Requires the assessor to rate the youth on the same 42 risk factors contained in the original YLS.
- Provides for the assessor to identify the youth's strengths.
- Provides for the assessor to identify youth and family related responsivity factors.
- Provides for the option of a professional override.

On the other hand, the updated normative sample informs several significant and useful changes to the assessment. Specifically, YLS 2.0 contains more youth-related responsivity factors along with improved definitions for many of the responsivity factors. Also, YLS 2.0 offers improved definitions for the use of strengths. Finally, YLS 2.0 includes updated overall risk level cutoffs based on gender and setting (community vs. institutional).

A goal conversion date of January 1, 2017 has been set, and a plan to implement the conversion is being executed. Staff at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research are preparing the PaJCMS for the conversion. In addition, over the remaining months of 2016, YLS Master Trainers will be provided with training and support to equip them with the knowledge and the tools necessary to advance the conversation in their respective counties.

Any questions related to YLS 2.0 or the conversion process should be directed to the co-chairs of the Chiefs Council's Assessment/Case Planning Committee, Beth Fritz (elizabethfritz@lehighcounty.org) or Leo Lutz (lelutz@pa.gov).

The **normative sample** used to advance YLS 2.0 is based on a data set collected from 2001 to 2008 on 12,798 youth offenders from across the United States. The sample contains significant gender and minority representation, as well as significant representation of youth in both community and institutional settings.

Upcoming Webinar: Understanding Trauma in the Context of Juvenile Justice Systems

Nearly all youth who enter the juvenile justice system have experienced trauma – often as a result of exposure to violence. Building practitioner skills to understand the impact of trauma on youth and to structure systems that support youth is critical for successful outcomes. This webinar will define trauma and traumatic stress reactions, identify how routine juvenile justice practices can function as triggers for youth, provide real life examples of youth behavior resulting from experiences of trauma, and offer strategies for the juvenile justice system to address traumatic stress reactions. This webinar will be presented as part of the Defending Childhood State Policy Initiative.

The National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, located at Policy Research Associates, Inc., assists the field in developing improved policies and programs for youth with behavioral health disorders in contact with the juvenile justice system based on the best available research and practice.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

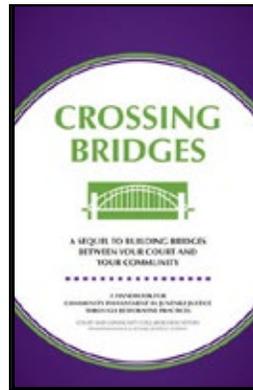
WORKSHOPS TO WATCH FOR...

We are happy to announce we have finalized details of the following 2 workshops... Be sure to check www.jcjems.state.pa.us for more details on them, as well as registration. They are sure to be full of valuable information.

CROSSING BRIDGES: AN INTRODUCTION TO RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

September 14-15, 2016
9:00AM-4:00 PM & 9:00AM-12:00PM

This training session will expose you to the strengths and differences of the various restorative practice models and help you to increase the accountability outcomes for youth, increase victim satisfaction, provide opportunities for the involvement of families and community members, and provide additional tools for your toolbox. You will learn what these practices look like and better understand how these practices reflect the JJSES.



“HOW TO” FACILITATE RESTORATIVE GROUP CONFERENCES

October 18-20, 2016
9:00AM-4:00PM

This “how – to” training is intended to provide the participant with the knowledge and skills to facilitate a restorative group conference. A Restorative Group Conference (also called a Community Group Conference, a Community Accountability Conference or a Family Group Conference) is a non-adversarial, community-based restorative justice intervention that is receiving widespread attention throughout the United States, and internationally. Based on restorative justice values and meaningful accountability, it is a voluntary process that seeks to identify and repair harm by providing an opportunity for a face-to-face dialogue between those harmed and those who cause the harm.



UPCOMING EVENTS

September

- 7-8 Mood Disorders
- 14-15 Crossing Bridges: An Introduction to Restorative Practices
- 15 Case Plan Forum
- 19-23 Orientation for the New Juvenile Probation Professional - Session II
- 28 Supervisor’s EBP BriefCASE
- 28-29 Refusal Skills in a Relapse Perspective

October

- 4-5 Sexting and the Dangers of Technology
- 12-13 Youth Level of Service (YLS) Master Trainer Certification
- 13-14 Ten Steps to Recidivism Reduction
- 18-20 “How to” Facilitate Restorative Group Conferences
- 19 Taking Care of Yourself

November

- 2-4 2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice
- 30 Supervisor’s EBP BriefCASE

Information and registration details of sponsored workshops may be reviewed at any time by visiting www.jcjems.state.pa.us for regular updates to the schedule.

SAVE THE DATE

Initial Training Program per JCPR 182 and 1182

June 6, 2017
(Dependency)

June 7, 2017
(Delinquency)

Location: Child Welfare Resource Center, 403 East Winding Hill Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Per JCPR 182 and 1182, this is a mandatory session
for all current Dependency and Delinquency Hearing Officers

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
THIS OPPORTUNITY IS AVAILABLE
ONE TIME ONLY.**



2016 Human Trafficking Symposium

You are cordially invited to attend the 2016 Human Trafficking Symposium: Addressing Victims of Sex Trafficking in Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency will be hosting a one-day symposium on Human Trafficking. The specific focus of the conference will be on child and adult sex trafficking and how federal, state and local authorities and non-profit organizations in Pennsylvania are collaborating to address this important issue in their communities.

WHEN: September 28, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Days Inn
State College, Pennsylvania

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

We encourage prosecutors, victim service providers, law enforcement, human trafficking task force members, multidisciplinary investigative team members, and other organizations or individuals interested in learning more about child and adult sex trafficking.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: September 22, 2016

For [CONFERENCE AGENDA, HOTEL and REGISTRATION INFORMATION](#).

Any questions, please feel free to contact Luanne Melia at lmelia@pa.gov, phone: (717) 265-8497 or Danielle Chubb at dchubb@pa.gov, phone: (717) 265-8502.

Traumatic Brain Injury Training for Agency Leaders, Medical Staff, and Clinicians

Juvenile Justice Stakeholder,

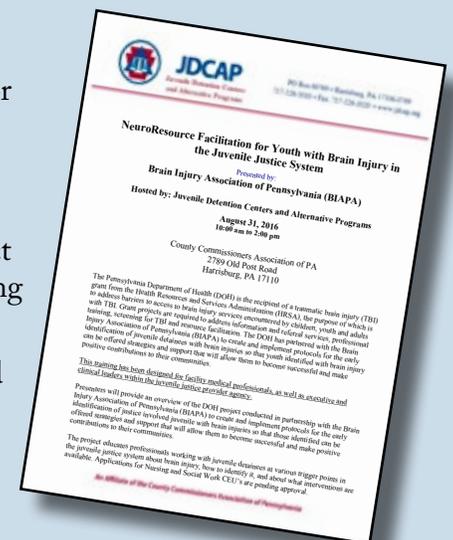
JDCAP is hosting a 1-day workshop on NeuroResource Facilitation for Youth with Brain Injury in the Juvenile Justice System.

Over the past year, JDCAP has been involved in working with the Department of Health, the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania (BIAPA), and the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission in a pilot project to identify justice involved youth who are at risk of impairment resulting from traumatic brain injury.

We encourage you to send key staff to this one-day workshop designed to learn more about the project, the youth involved, and what role you may have in following up with identified youth.

See our training information at www.jdcap.org or contact Wbear@pacounties.org for additional information.

Wayne R. Bear, MSW





National Juvenile Justice Announcements

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

WORKSHOP PROPOSALS SOUGHT, REGISTRATION OPEN FOR NCJFCJ CONFERENCES

The [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#) (NCJFCJ) is accepting workshop proposals for its [National Conference on Juvenile Justice](#) to be held February 12-15, 2017, in New York, NY, and for its [80th Annual Conference](#) to be held July 16-19, 2017, in Washington, DC. The National Conference on Juvenile Justice will examine the issues facing courts and stakeholders in the juvenile justice system. The 80th Annual Conference is the annual meeting for the NCJFCJ membership and will include juvenile and family court judges and court and community affiliates. Registration is open for both NCJFCJ conferences online.



Resources:

[View](#) the call for workshop proposals and apply by September 30, 2016.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BLOG SUPPORTS REFORMING JUVENILE LIFE SENTENCES

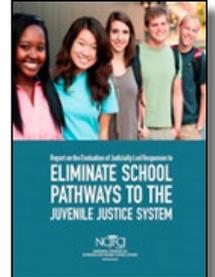
In a new [blog post](#) on the [Department of Justice website](#), OJJDP Administrator Robert L. Listenbee and [Office for Victims of Crime](#) (OVC) Director Joye E. Frost discuss the importance of reforming juvenile life sentences. In 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Miller v. Alabama* ruled that mandatory life sentences without the possibility of parole for juveniles are unconstitutional. Earlier this year, in *Montgomery v. Louisiana*, the Court ruled that states must apply the findings in *Miller* retroactively, and juveniles sentenced to mandatory life without parole can seek to be resentenced. Listenbee and Frost note that recent Court decisions have established that children are constitutionally different from adults for sentencing purposes. The blog underscores the [Office of Justice Programs'](#) work to support states and local stakeholders in implementing reforms for juvenile life sentences, including two OJJDP studies and OVC efforts to meet victims' postconviction needs. In addition, they emphasize the need for collaboration at the state and local levels, and highlight a [resource](#) for victims by Pennsylvania's Office of Victim Advocate, Department of Corrections, and Board of Probation and Parole that explains the parole process and role of various stakeholders within the state.

Resources:

The OJJDP-commissioned studies, *Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach* and *Implementing Juvenile Justice Reform: The Federal Role*, are available online.

REPORT EXAMINES JUDICIAL MODEL TO ELIMINATE SCHOOL PATHWAYS TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#) has released "[Report on the Evaluation of Judicially Led Responses to Eliminate School Pathways to the Juvenile Justice System](#)." This OJJDP-funded report discusses the findings from an evaluation of a judicially led collaborative model to reduce referrals of youth to juvenile courts for school-based behaviors and disciplinary infractions. The report presents recommendations for future research and data collection in this area.



Resources:

[View and download](#) the report.

REPORT ADDRESSES STRATEGIES FOR ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

The [World Health Organization](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), in collaboration with eight partner agencies, have released "[INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children](#)." This report identifies evidence-based strategies to help communities reduce or prevent violence against children.



Resources:

[View and download](#) the report.

MULTI-SITE STUDY EXAMINES COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF YOUTH

The [Center for Court Innovation](#) has released the OJJDP-sponsored "[Youth Involvement in the Sex Trade: A National Study](#)." This report examines a multi-site study of youth involvement in the commercial sex trade across six sites: Atlantic City, NJ; Bay Area (San Francisco/Oakland), CA; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; Las Vegas, NV; and Miami, FL. The report presents findings from nearly 1,000 youth interviews, arrest patterns and prosecution and recidivism outcomes for these youth, and findings from interviews with service providers and police officers.

Resources:

Learn more about the [study and access the resulting OJJDP-funded site reports](#).

Access resources on OJJDP's [Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children website](#).

NATIONAL GANG CENTER RELEASES SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER

The [National Gang Center](#) (NGC) has released its [summer 2016 newsletter](#).

This issue features articles on gang tattoos, successful partnerships between businesses and youth job-training programs, and planning for program sustainability. Also included are a review of NGC's collaborative webinar, an update on NGC's 2015 gang legislation, and a Spanish Parents' Guide to Gangs resource. NGC is supported by OJJDP and the [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#).



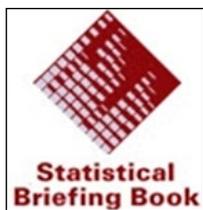
Resources:

Access [previous issues](#) of the newsletter.

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

OJJDP STATISTICAL BRIEFING BOOK OFFERS DATA SNAPSHOT ON YOUTH RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

OJJDP recently introduced a Data Snapshot series on its [Statistical Briefing Book](#) (SBB) to disseminate current research and statistical information about youth in the juvenile justice system. Each one-page Snapshot focuses on a specific topic and highlights policy-relevant findings. The latest [Data Snapshot](#) focuses on the changing nature of facility populations, characteristics, and practices from data that OJJDP's Juvenile Residential Facility Census collected in 2014.



Developed for OJJDP by the [National Center for Juvenile Justice](#), the research division of the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#), SBB offers easy online access to statistics on a variety of juvenile justice topics.

BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS RELEASES REPORT ON CO-OFFENDING AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN VIOLENT VICTIMIZATIONS

The [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#) has released "[Co-Offending Among Adolescents in Violent Victimization, 2004–13](#)." This report presents estimates of nonfatal violent victimizations that adolescents ages 12 to 17 committed during 2004–13. This report compares the characteristics of violent victimizations that adolescents committed acting alone, with other adolescents, and with young adults ages 18 to 29. The report highlights victim, offender, and incident characteristics, including type of crime, weapon use, victim injury, and whether the incident was reported to the police. The findings are based on data from the [National Crime Victimization Survey](#).

Resources:

[View and download](#) the report summary.

Read the [press release](#).

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 [jcyjnews@ship.edu](mailto:jcjnews@ship.edu).

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