

PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Tom Wolf, Governor



Juvenile Justice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

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July 2016

James Dill featured as Afternoon Plenary Speaker at the 2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice



Mr. James Dill will be the featured speaker for the Afternoon Plenary presentation at the 2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice on November 3, 2016 at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers. His presentation, "Teens and Technology: The Hidden Dangers," is unique, interactive, and eye-opening. Mr. Dill will share information on supposedly self-destructing photo apps, secret messaging apps, information hidden in digital photos, location sharing, sextortion, and the way some juveniles are hiding things from their parents, teachers, and law enforcement. In addition to showing the hidden dangers of technology, he will also provide tools, resources, and advice to help navigate the world of teens and technology.

Mr. Dill is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Indiana University of PA, with a BA in Criminology. He has dedicated his entire law enforcement career to matters dealing with investigative technologies. He is a 30-year veteran of the PA Office of the Attorney General, with 27 of those years in the unit responsible for investigative technology and counter surveillance matters. Throughout his career he has participated in hundreds of investigations involving the use of investigative technology for the Attorney General, as well as with a variety of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. He has been qualified and has testified as an expert on investigative technologies in both the Common Pleas and Appellate Court systems. Jim currently serves as a subject matter expert and instructor for his own company (ITIS, LLC), as well as Alutiq International and the Northeast Counterdrug Training Center. His "Darker Side of Technology" series has provided valuable insight and understanding on the misuse of today's technology to probation officers, law enforcement, judges, businesses, victim advocate groups, educators, and community organizations across the country.

The 2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 2-4, 2016 at Harrisburg Hilton & Towers

Registration Opens in August!

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Legislative Updates

Governor Wolf Signs “Interagency Information Sharing” Bill Into Law

Governor Wolf signed Senate Bill 917 (1922) into law, as [Act 78 of 2016](#), on July 8, 2016. Act 78 adds a new §6352.2 (related to interagency information sharing) to the Juvenile Act to create a process for court-approved interagency information-sharing agreements.

Act 78 provides that interagency information-sharing agreements may be developed in each county among the county children and youth agency, juvenile probation department, local law enforcement agencies, mental health agencies, drug and alcohol agencies, local school districts, and other agencies and entities as deemed appropriate to enhance the coordination of case management services and the supervision of children who have been accepted for service by a county children and youth agency or who are being supervised by a juvenile probation department. Any agreement must be signed by the chief executive officers of the aforementioned entities, as well as the public defender’s office and guardian ad litem in each county, and must be submitted to the court for approval.

All information-sharing agreements must provide that information will be shared under current state statutes, and whenever possible, the preferred method for obtaining authorization to share confidential information will be upon the written, informed consent of the person authorized to consent to the release of information under current applicable law after that person has been provided with a full understanding of the circumstances under which and with whom the information will be shared. Act 78 becomes effective on September 6, 2016.

Governor Wolf Proclaims Juvenile Justice Week October 2-8, 2016

Governor Tom Wolf proclaimed the week of October 2 – October 8, 2016 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.

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 for publication in a special section celebrating Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice week. Please have all entries submitted by October 14, 2016.



Cumberland County Juvenile Probation Quality Assurance

Cumberland County Juvenile Probation has been quietly enhancing practices and services through quality assurance within their department over the last several years. Chief Probation Officer Sam Miller recognized the need to have an identified probation officer dedicated to collection of data and the examination of trends of their juvenile population in order to make better informed decisions towards improvements of the juvenile justice system within Cumberland County. Rob Swanger has been that probation officer, diligently collecting information to examine the impact that the department is having on the juveniles that come through their doors. Rob initially started in his quality assurance role back in 2009 by working on a project related to the YLS and recidivism. This project has been an accumulation of years of YLS and recidivism data and examining, to date, over 152 variables at the time of case closure. This ongoing analysis has allowed for the department to find trends within various risk levels and domains of juvenile offenders and how that translates into future recidivism. As this project continues, Cumberland County hopes to be able to identify key risk factors and patterns within their juvenile population that leads to recidivism and provides interventions and supports that can disrupt the likelihood of re-offending. To date, Cumberland County has been able to track and evaluate over 2,000 juveniles. Rob is also a Master Trainer for the YLS and maintains a small caseload to stay fresh with departmental practices.

In addition to Rob and his role with the YLS and recidivism, the Cumberland County Juvenile Probation Supervisors have also played a major role in the quality assurance practices within the department. Dennis Drachbar, Andy Benner, and Scott Shea play a vital role in the success of the department. Engaging in case reviews after every intake, methodical case reviews that include discussions around the YLS and case planning, and utilizing the reports in JCMS have allowed the supervisors to create a culture within the department that stresses using the information that has been collected to make the best decisions possible for the juveniles they supervise. The completion of their case closure form that collects the 152 variables is also an essential practice that allows the department to gather information that can help make future decisions for programming/services, risk reduction practices, and even those practices to avoid that have not been successful.

Cumberland County has also started to gather information on service provider outcomes, including evaluating services that their department operates. As Cumberland County continues to run cognitive behavioral groups through the NCTI Crossroads Curricula, the data collected from the pre and post-tests are examined, along with the YLS risk level/domain scores and any recidivism. Rob and the supervisors are hoping to continue to expand their evaluation of the services provided to the juveniles in their county moving forward.

Attention Facilitators of the Victim/Community Awareness Curriculum

Spanish Translation Available for the “Victim Community Awareness: An Impact of Crime Curriculum for Juvenile Offenders ”

Lehigh County Juvenile Probation has translated into Spanish the participant handouts of the “Victim/Community Awareness: An Impact of Crime Curriculum for Juvenile Offenders”. The translation of the role-plays and handouts for the youth who are participating in the class cover the three sections of the group session from pre-test to post-test. These materials enhance the ability of probation officers and providers to facilitate group sessions with Spanish-speaking juvenile offenders. Funding for this project was provided by The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Disproportionate Minority Grant. To obtain copies of the Spanish translation of the participant handouts for the “Victim/Community Awareness: An Impact of Crime Curriculum for Juvenile Offenders”, through The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission, Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research, please contact: Monica Iskric, at 717-477-1709 or email: msiskr@ship.edu

Juvenile Justice VOJO Survey: Preliminary Results

The Victims' Services Committee of the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and the Office of Victims' Services staff from PCCD have been working together to assess and to more specifically define the provision of services in local county VOJO programs. A survey assessing the specific services of the VOJO program in every county was sent to each chief juvenile probation officer with a return of 67/67 counties reporting. The survey questions were based on the rights outlined in the Crime Victims Act, the Rules of Delinquency Procedure and an inquiry of service gaps, barriers and needs of victims of juvenile offenders, as well as an assessment of juvenile probation officer training needs.

The preliminary analysis of the survey reveals there is a wide variety of operational structures for the provision of services to victims of juvenile offenders throughout the Commonwealth. The top type(s) of training related to understanding victimization which would be helpful to CJPO's and their staff were reported as follows:

- Understanding how trauma impacts victims and their sense of physical, emotional and psychological safety
- Understanding victim rights
- Understanding available services/resources
- Understanding victimization - generally

Additionally, a primary VOJO contact person for each county has been identified and has subsequently been added to the Juvenile Court Directory published annually by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC).

The Victims' Services Committee of the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, in collaboration with the Office of Victims' Services in the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, will continue to analyze these survey results to provide information regarding the services and needs related to the VOJO programs in the Commonwealth.

The next step in this process will be individual reviews of randomly selected county VOJO programs to further analyze the individual county responses and the embedded comments within the survey responses. Also, additional training sessions which will meet the reported needs of juvenile justice professionals will be developed in the near future.

The survey data also provided important information regarding the Needs/Gaps/Barriers in the provision of services to victims of juvenile offenders (VOJO). The following are the actual survey results:

1. The top five crime victims in communities for which services are limited or not available:
 - Immigrants/Refugees
 - LGBTQ
 - Individuals with disabilities (Cognitively or Physically)
 - Individuals in rural areas
 - Hispanics/Latinos
2. The top five needs of crime victims in communities that are NOT currently being adequately met:
 - Transportation (assistance to attend court hearings and appointments related to victimization)
 - Emergency Housing/Shelter
 - Safety planning (addressing physical and emotional safety of victim)
 - Counseling and support (Mental health services, counseling, therapy, support groups)
 - Financial losses as a result of crime (medical, funeral, loss of earnings, etc.)
3. The top three barriers in communities for crime victims in seeking services to address their victimization:
 - Transportation to access services
 - Knowledge of services available
 - Lack of trust in the system/agencies that will respond

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 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 1

| Question: To what degree are the following stakeholder groups currently engaged in JJSES activities? | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| | Actively Engaged | | Occasionally Engaged | | Not Engaged | |
| | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Probation Officers | 64 | 65 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Judge(s) | 41 | 42 | 21 | 21 | 4 | 4 |
| District Attorneys | 29 | 25 | 28 | 30 | 9 | 12 |
| Public Defenders | 26 | 21 | 30 | 39 | 10 | 7 |
| Service Providers | 36 | 40 | 23 | 21 | 6 | 5 |
| Children & Youth Staff | 12 | 16 | 33 | 28 | 19 | 20 |
| Victim Advocate | 24 | 26 | 22 | 18 | 17 | 20 |

In 2015, the majority of juvenile probation departments reported that most stakeholder groups identified were actively engaged in their JJSES activities. The most actively involved stakeholders were probation officers (n= 65), judges (n= 42), service providers (n= 40), victim advocates (n= 26), and district attorneys (n= 25).

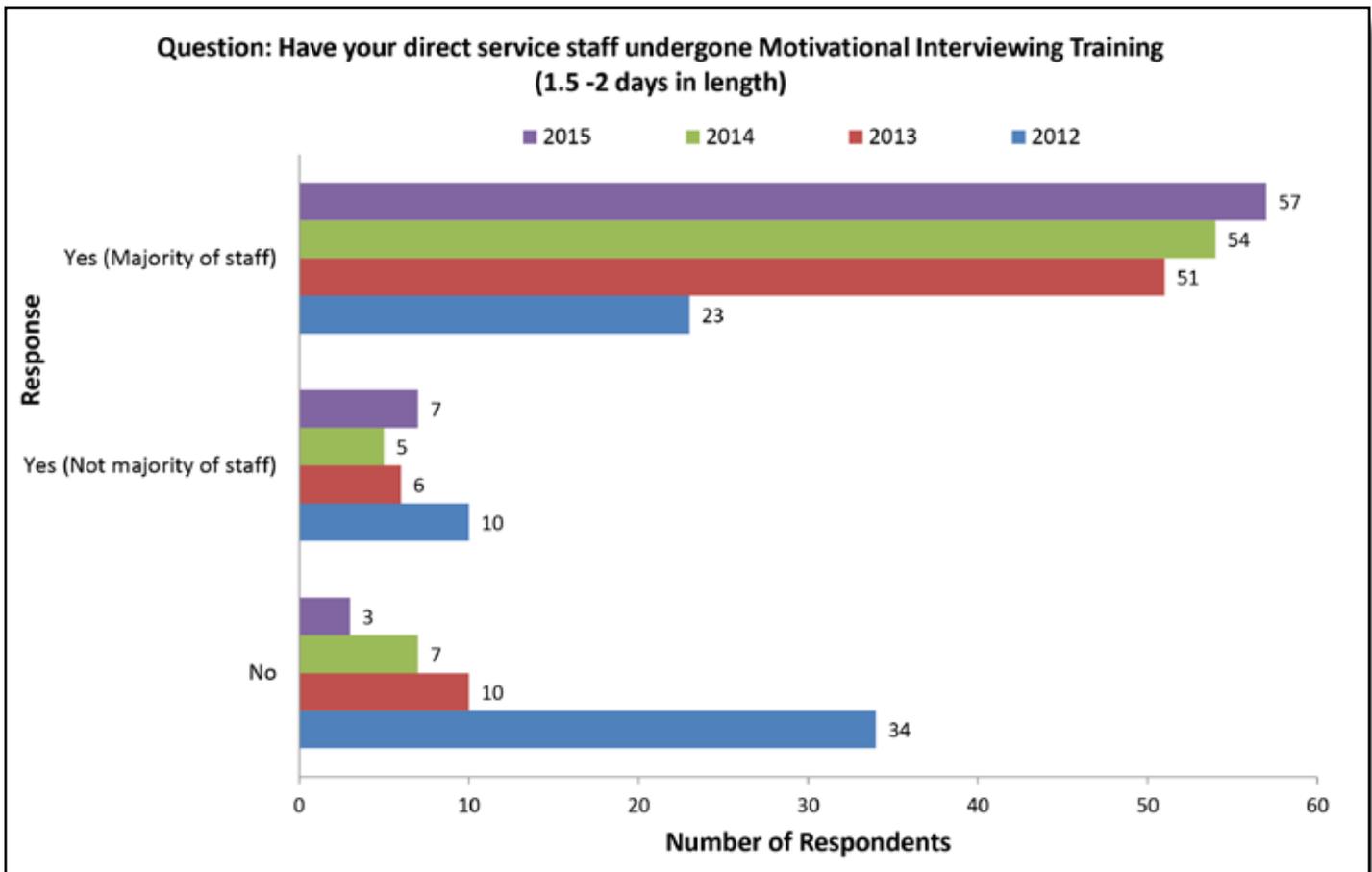
Summary of Key Findings: Stage 2

In 2015, the majority of juvenile probation departments (n= 57; 86%) reported that they have developed a department-specific service matrix corresponding to identified risk levels or were in the process of doing so. In 2012, only 64% (n= 43) of juvenile probation departments reported such.

In 2015, sixty-four (97%) juvenile probation departments reported that they utilize the results of the YLS to assist in developing dispositional recommendations. In 2013, only fifty-two (79%) juvenile probation departments reported doing so.

In 2015, fifty-five (82%) juvenile probation departments reported developing a formal case plan that identifies services and activities for juveniles and their families in some or the majority of cases. In 2012, only forty-nine (73%) reported such. Furthermore, fifty-two (78%) departments reported that they use the results of the YLS in their case plans, up from thirty-three (49%) in 2012.

In 2015, sixty-four juvenile probation departments reported that either the majority or some of their staff had received Motivational Interviewing training. This means that over 95% of juvenile probation departments in Pennsylvania have had some exposure to Motivational Interviewing. This is an increase from thirty-three (49%) juvenile probation departments in 2012.



Approximately half (n= 35) of juvenile probation departments reported in 2015 that they have trained Motivational Interviewing “coaches” or other similar staff positions who are responsible for the training and quality assurance practices within their departments or were in the process of training such. Across Pennsylvania, there were 130 individuals who had been identified as Motivational Interviewing “coaches,” according to the 2015 EBP Implementation Survey.

JCJC Outcome Measures 2015

10,408

Total cases closed in 2015

1,690

Charged with a new offense while under supervision

8,718

Juveniles successfully completed supervision

147,111

Total cases supervised statewide since 2006



In Pennsylvania, each time a juvenile's case is closed with a juvenile probation department, outcomes related to the state's Balanced and Restorative Justice mission are reported to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. The data included in the following charts and graphs show select information regarding Community Protection, Competency Development and Accountability measures.

* New offense that resulted in a Consent Decree, Adjudication of Delinquency, ARD, plea of Nolo Contendere, or a finding of guilt in a criminal proceeding



The median length of stay in out-of-home placement has decreased by a full month since 2013.

The percentage of juveniles who successfully completed supervision has remained consistent between 83% and 86% since 2006.



7.9

Median length of stay in out-of-home placement in months

8.9

Median length of supervision in months

2,122

Technical violations of probation

2,379

Juveniles committed to an out-of-home placement for 28 or more consecutive days

2015 Program Completion Rates



% of juveniles who successfully completed a competency development activity while under supervision

Juveniles employed or engaged in an education or vocational activity at case closing

% of juveniles who were ordered to participate in and successfully completed a substance abuse treatment program

% of juveniles who were ordered to participate in and successfully completed a victim awareness program

Advancing Balanced and Restorative Justice Through the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy

In 2015, the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Leadership Team, along with assistance from Mark Carey developed the monograph *“Advancing Balanced and Restorative Justice through Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy.”* The monograph was introduced at the 2015 James E. Anderson Conference on Juvenile Justice in connection with Pennsylvania’s commemoration of 20 years of balanced and restorative justice (BARJ). At that time, copies of the monograph were distributed to each conference participant.

For two decades, Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system has aspired to achieve the mission of BARJ by advancing the goals of community protection, accountability, and competency development. Following years of steady progress toward these goals, the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system challenged itself to incorporate evidence-based practices.

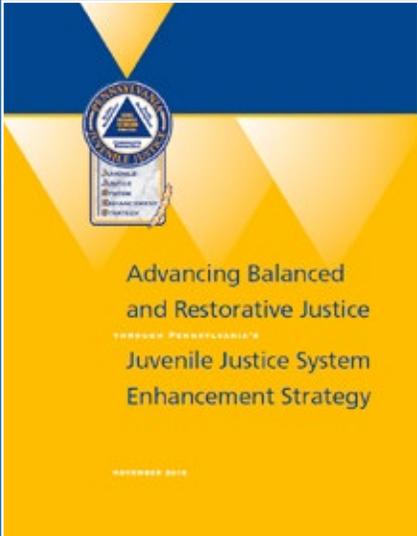
In 2010, Pennsylvania formalized its intentions to apply science to every stage of the juvenile justice process through the initiation of the JJSES. Equipped with a robust body of research on “what works” to reduce recidivism, juvenile probation departments – small and large, rural and urban, as well as service providers and other key system stakeholders, have been re-tooling their operations to improve outcomes under the rubric of the JJSES.

There is no doubt that the JJSES has produced a paradigm shift in how we conduct business in Pennsylvania. Our sights remain firmly fixed on our goals of balanced and restorative justice, but our path forward has been forever altered by our JJSES. This monograph seeks to explore the unique interrelationship between JJSES and BARJ.

Recently, the JJSES Leadership Team, with funds from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, purchased printed copies to support the distribution of a copy of the monograph to every juvenile probation officer in the state. Efforts to distribute monographs to all juvenile probation officers are currently underway.

The monograph can also be located at the following link:

<http://www.jcjc.pa.gov/Publications/Documents/JJSES/Advancing%20Balanced%20and%20Restorative%20Justice%20Through%20Pennsylvania’s%20Juvenile%20Justice%20System%20Enhancement%20Strategy.pdf>



“The JJSES is a means to an end – a means to achieving our statutory mission of Balanced and Restorative Justice. We have done good work, but we need to challenge ourselves to do more.”

-- Former Executive Director of the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission, Keith Snyder



JCMS and JEMS Usergroup Workshop is being planned. More details to come in a future newsletter edition.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

WORKSHOPS TO WATCH FOR...

We are still adding workshops to our schedule and currently working on getting the final details of the following 2 workshops... Be sure to check www.jcjcjems.state.pa.us for more details on them, as well as registration once released. They are sure to be full of valuable information.

“HOW TO” FACILITATE RESTORATIVE GROUP CONFERENCES

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, as well as 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.

CROSSING BRIDGES: AN INTRODUCTION TO RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

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.

HEROIN AND OTHER OPIATES WORKSHOP TO BE FEATURED AT PITT - BRADFORD CAMPUS

Did you know that between 2007 and 2012 heroin use doubled in the United States? Today we have an estimated 1.2 million heroin users in the U.S., with half of young people who have used heroin reporting prescription pain killer (opioids) abuse prior to starting their heroin use.

On August 11, 2016, on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh - Bradford, Dr. Paul Martin will lead an in-depth discussion on heroin and other commonly abused opioids, drug dependence, drug tolerance, and drug half-life. Additionally, he will discuss who gets addicted and how heroin and other opioids get into the community and workplace. Common signs of abuse, addiction, and withdrawal, along with treatment options (including naran) will also be outlined.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August

- 11 Heroin and Other Opiates
- 22-26 Orientation For The New Juvenile Probation Professional - Session I

September

- 7-8 Mood Disorders
- 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
- 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.jcjcjems.state.pa.us for regular updates to the schedule.

Case Plan Forum Planned

September 15, 2016 - Days Inn, State College

Given its utility to the application of evidence-based practices, case planning is a critical component of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy. Effective case planning is gaining empirical support as an effective model for use with youthful offenders in bringing about long term behavioral change and reducing risk to recidivate (Lipsey, 2009).

The case plan is the blueprint for the youth while under the Court's supervision. More specifically, case plans are written documents that articulate goals and activities that are to be completed during a period of a youthful offender's supervision. The goals and activities outlined in a youth's case plan are the result of a collaborative process aimed at linking criminogenic needs to goals and activities aimed at producing long-term positive behavior change.

On September 15th, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers are sponsoring a **Case Plan Forum**. The forum will focus on the discussion of practical strategies for the implementation and use of a case plan in a juvenile probation department. This workshop is specifically for chiefs, deputy chiefs, and key staff responsible for implementing the case plan within their department.

This workshop will explore the current statewide efforts to support the development and implementation of effective case planning. Participants will discuss the current research supporting the practice of case planning, case plan policy development, effective case plan skills, and training related to case planning. The workshop will also discuss various tools and state level support available to counties including the Chiefs Council's Assessment/Case Plan Committee, the Case Plan Handbook, the Field Base Case Plan, and training.

Registration for this workshop is now available through the [JCJC Event Management System \(JEMS\)](#) and is only available to chiefs, deputy chiefs and county case plan coordinators.

Source: Lipsey, M. (2009). The primary factors that characterize effective interventions with juvenile offenders: A meta-analytic overview. Victims and Offenders, 4, 124-147.

- SAVE THE DATE -

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

The 2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice will conclude with Resource Day, during which representatives from residential and community-based programs, along with other service providers and vendors, 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.

Conference Registration Opens in August!

www.jcjc.pa.gov



National Juvenile Justice Announcements

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

REGISTRATION OPEN, WORKSHOP PROPOSALS SOUGHT FOR NATIONAL DMC CONFERENCE

On December 4-6, 2016, the [Coalition for Juvenile Justice \(CJJ\)](#) will host the [2016 CJJ National DMC Conference](#) in Baltimore, MD.



This conference will focus on disproportionate minority contact (DMC) in the juvenile justice system. The [Maryland State Advisory Group](#) will cohost this event, “Confronting the Crisis: Creating Pathways to a More Equitable Juvenile Justice System,” which will address ways state advisory groups, young people and their communities, law enforcement, and court officials can work together to combat racial and ethnic disparities. Sessions will explore what other communities can learn from Baltimore; the role of state and local entities; how communities can take action; and the importance of youth engagement.

CJJ is seeking proposals for workshops to be held on December 5-6, 2016.

Resources:

[Register](#) for the conference. Early bird discount by August 1, 2016.

View the draft [agenda](#).

MORE THAN 1,300 SUSPECTED CHILD PREDATORS ARRESTED DURING OPERATION BROKEN HEART

The Department of Justice has [announced](#) that the recently concluded Operation Broken Heart III led to the arrest of more than 1,300 suspected child predators. This operation was conducted during April and May 2016 by the OJJDP-funded [Internet Crimes Against Children \(ICAC\) Task Forces](#) as a coordinated investigation to identify and arrest suspected child sexual predators. OJJDP launched the ICAC Task Force Program in 1998 to help federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies enhance their investigative responses to individuals who use the Internet, online communication systems, or computer technology to exploit children.

Resources:

[Learn more](#) about the [ICAC Task Force](#) program.

UNITED STATES, MEXICO, AND CANADA STRENGTHEN AMBER ALERT TIES AT TRINATIONAL FORUM

The Department of Justice’s Office of Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training and Mexico’s Office of the Attorney General recently sponsored a [Trinational Forum](#) in Mexico City.



The event brought together AMBER Alert Coordinators from Mexico, the United States, and Canada to discuss ways the three countries can better respond to potential cross-border cases of missing children. In her [remarks](#) at the recent National Missing Children’s Day ceremony in Washington, DC, Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch said, “I am proud to say that our Department of Justice has collaborated with the Attorney General of Mexico on the development of Mexico’s AMBER Alert System, which has already resulted in the rescue of hundreds of Mexican children.” Since 2012, AMBER Alert has led to the rescue of more than 350 children in Mexico.

Resources:

[Read the press release](#).

Learn more about the [AMBER Alert program](#), coordinated nationally by the U.S. Department of Justice and the [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#).

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS NATIONAL FORUM ON YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The [Research and Evaluation Center at John Jay College](#), supported by OJJDP, has released “[Durable Collaborations: The National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention](#).”

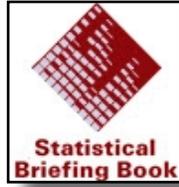
This report is based on a survey of community leaders in the 15 cities participating in the [National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention](#) on their perceptions and attitudes about youth violence prevention. The report highlights their belief that the Forum develops greater opportunities for youth, more effective violence prevention approaches, improved perceptions of law enforcement, and a broader engagement of community members.



OJJDP UPDATES JUVENILE HOMICIDE DATA TO STATISTICAL BRIEFING BOOK

OJJDP has updated its [Statistical Briefing Book](#) (SBB):

FAQs describing juvenile [homicide victims](#) and juvenile [homicide offending](#) have been updated to include data through 2014.



[Easy Access to the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports](#) (EZASHR), a data analysis tool, has been updated to include data through 2014. EZASHR provides access to more than 30 years of national and state data on homicide victims and homicide offenders, including information on the age, sex, and race of victims and individuals who offend; the victim-offender relationship; and the type of weapon used.

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

Resources:

Access the [OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book](#).

OJJDP RELEASES DATA FROM CAUSES AND CORRELATES PROJECT

OJJDP has released data for secondary analysis from its [Program of Research on the Causes and Correlates of Delinquency](#). OJJDP launched the Causes and Correlates project in 1986 to learn more about the root causes of juvenile delinquency and other problem behaviors. Three coordinated longitudinal studies constitute the program: Denver Youth Survey, Pittsburgh Youth Study, and Rochester Youth Development Study. In each project, researchers conducted face-to-face interviews with at-risk youth. In addition, the data collection involved interviews with the primary caretaker and, in two sites, school teachers. Researchers also collected administrative data from official agencies, including police, schools, and social services.

Resources:

Researchers interested in learning more about this project and how to access data from the [National Archive of Criminal Justice Data](#) may visit the [Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research](#).

FUNDING AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS

The [National Institute of Corrections](#), in partnership with the [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) and the Department of Health and Human Services, is accepting applications for the solicitation [FY 2016 Safeguarding Children of Incarcerated Parents: Developing and Implementing Family Strengthening Policies at Correctional Institutions at the Local and State Level](#). Under this cooperative agreement, awardees will develop training materials and implement evidence-informed, model policies that local jails and state prisons can adopt to reduce the traumatic impact of parental incarceration on children and improve reentry outcomes for parents. Applications are due by August 8, 2016.

Resources:

[Download the full solicitation](#).

DOJ, HUD AWARD GRANTS TO SUPPORT JUVENILE REENTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have made available approximately \$1.75 million in grants for the [Juvenile Reentry Assistance Program](#). The grants, funded through DOJ's [Second Chance Act](#) funds, will reduce barriers to public housing, employment, and education for justice-involved youth who are transitioning to the community. Attorney General Loretta Lynch and HUD Secretary Julián Castro [announced](#) the Juvenile Reentry Assistance Program grantees—18 public housing authorities—during National Reentry Week in April 2016. The program is a response to recommendations from the President's [My Brother's Keeper Task Force](#) and the [White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable](#).

Resources:

Learn more about the [Juvenile Reentry Assistance Program](#).

Visit the [National Reentry Resource Center](#).

Read about [Second Chance Act](#) initiatives to facilitate successful juvenile reentry.

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.

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