

PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
Tom Wolf, Governor



Juvenile Justice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

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JJSES IMPLEMENTATION FORUM

GRADUATED RESPONSE SYSTEMS: STRUCTURING RESPONSES TO BEHAVIOR

The challenges of attempting to encourage desired behaviors and discourage undesired behaviors is familiar to anyone responsible for attempting to guide or alter the behavior of another individual. It is true for parents, teachers, employers, and juvenile justice officials. An approach to affect human behavior, which is firmly grounded in empirical research across multiple fields of study, is the use of incentives and sanctions within the framework of a graduated response system. Simply described, a graduated response system is an evidence-based practice that uses incentives and sanctions, delivered in a structured and systematic manner, to encourage and discourage specific behaviors.

The use of graduated response systems is an integral element of Stage Three: Behavioral Change of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). When properly developed and implemented, it can support successful completion of the youth's case plan, more effective community supervision practices, provide alternative responses to technical violations of probation, and set the stage for long-term behavioral change.

For the past two years, the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officer's (PCCJPO) Graduated Response Workgroup has worked on the development of Graduated Response Guiding Principles and Protocol Development for Juvenile Probation, as well as identified and created tools and resources to assist in the development and implementation of Graduated Response Systems in juvenile probation departments. One of the resources, the Graduated Response Bench Card can be found at: http://pachiefprobationofficers.org/bench_cards.php

A JJSES Implementation Forum: Graduated Response Systems is scheduled for May 18, 2017 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Days Inn, State College, PA. The purpose of the Forum is to introduce the philosophy and principles that serve as the foundation to develop and implement Graduated Response Systems at the local level, as well as the work of the Graduated Response Workgroup. Dr. Naomi Goldstein and Elizabeth Gale-Bentz of Drexel University's Juvenile Justice Research and Reform Lab will lead Forum par-

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ticipants through an interactive presentation and discussion of the opportunities and challenges in the development and use of Graduated Response Systems.

The forum is designed for Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, Deputy CJPOs, and Juvenile Probation Officers whom may be responsible for implementation. Due to space limitations, counties are asked to register a maximum of four (4) participants from their respective departments. Registration details are available through the JCJC Event Management System (JEMS). For additional information, you may contact Laurie Hague at LHague@countyofberks.com, Alan Tezak at alantezak@comcast.net, or Kelly Waltman-Spreha at kjwaltmanspreha@ship.edu.

SAVE THE DATE

Join us in November for training workshops, exhibitors, two awards dinners, and networking with over 900 attendees.

2017 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

NOVEMBER 15-17, 2017

Harrisburg Hilton & Towers, Harrisburg PA

HOMELESS YOUTH LEGAL NETWORK

The American Bar Association is creating a Homeless Youth Legal Network to increase legal services for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. This Network will provide information and foster collaboration in order to help attorneys and other advocates address existing gaps in legal services, and improve outcomes for homeless youth and young adults—including those transitioning from the child welfare system and exiting the juvenile justice system.

We are currently looking to connect with attorneys, as well as legal and youth-serving organizations, to identify professionals who may wish to participate in the Network, as well as to determine the current scope of legal services provided to homeless youth across the country. (This includes civil legal matters, juvenile and criminal defense, and policy work/impact litigation for minors, as well as young adults through at least age 25.)

If you are an attorney/legal office representing homeless youth, or a homeless youth organization that either partners with legal providers or is interested in partnering with legal providers, we invite you to complete our brief survey at <http://bit.ly/2jwUWme> and sign up to be part of our listserv by e-mailing hyn@americanbar.org. We would also appreciate your forwarding this request to other relevant individuals, groups or lists. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Russo at Kelly.Russo@americanbar.org.

2017 JCJC AWARD PROGRAM NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is pleased to announce that nominations for the 2017 JCJC Awards Program are now open and include eight professional categories as well as the youth awards contest. The awards will be presented at the 2017 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice on November 15 and 16, 2017 at the Harrisburg Hilton.

Nomination packets have been sent to juvenile court judges, chief juvenile probation officers, and agencies currently serving delinquent youth in the juvenile justice system. The Awards Committee requests that all juvenile justice professionals encourage youth under their jurisdiction to participate in the contest. Both Professional and Youth Awards materials must be postmarked by **May 1, 2017**.

Thank you for your interest and support of the 2017 Awards Program. Please contact Keith A. Graybill at (717) 705-9006 or kgraybill@pa.gov if you have any questions or desire additional information.

2017 Professional Awards Program

The 2017 Professional Awards Program includes the below categories:

Juvenile Probation Supervisor — any individual who supervises other employees, but who is not a Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, as of the date of the nomination letter's postmark. This category includes all Deputy Chiefs, Assistant Directors, Supervisors, and others functioning in a similar capacity.

Juvenile Probation Officer — any individual who is employed as a Juvenile Probation Officer, but who is not a Chief Juvenile Probation Officer or Juvenile Probation Supervisor, as of the date of the nomination letter's postmark.

Meritorious Service Award — any individual not receiving remuneration for working with at risk, alleged and/or delinquent children. This individual is a volunteer committed to furthering the development of youth in the juvenile justice system.

Court Operated Program — any program operated by court employees which serves alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth.

Residential Program — any public or private sector program serving alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth in a residential setting. This includes foster homes, group homes, residential treatment programs, general child care facilities, shelter care facilities, detention centers, independent living programs, and other programs providing out-of-home, overnight care to children. Award winners prior to 2015 are eligible for nomination.

Community-Based Program — any public or private sector program, not operated by the Court, which provides community-based, non-residential care to alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth, including but not limited to, day treatment programs, in-home services, Boys and Girls Clubs, and outpatient services.

Juvenile Court Support Service Award — any individual who provides clerical, secretarial, management, information technology or other support services to the Juvenile Court. This includes receptionists, secretaries, clerk/typists, information technology specialists, fiscal specialists, office managers, and others functioning in a similar support capacity.

Victim Advocate Award — any individual who works on behalf of crime victims in a district attorney's office, juvenile probation department, or in a community-based agency. This individual does not need to be in a position that is entirely dedicated to victims of juvenile crime, but it should be a significant part of their position.

2017 YOUTH AWARDS PROGRAM — additionally, the JCJC will again sponsor a Youth Awards Program to honor youth selected as winners in the Creative Expression and Outstanding Achievement contests. The 2017 theme is "Positive Thoughts Lead to Positive Actions".

[2017 Creative Expression Contest Entry Form](#)

[2017 Outstanding Achievement Contest Entry Form](#)

THOMAS BACKENSTOE APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF PROBATION SERVICES FOR CENTRE COUNTY



The Honorable Thomas King Kistler, President Judge of Centre County, appointed Mr. Thomas E. Backenstoe as the Director of Centre County Probation Services on February 13, 2017 after serving as interim director since January. Chief Backenstoe replaces Thomas J. Young, who retired on January 13, 2017.

Chief Backenstoe received his undergraduate degree from Pennsylvania State University in 1985 and in 1991 he obtained his graduate degree through the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Graduate program at Shippensburg University. His emphasis in both programs was Administration of Justice. As an adjunct instructor for Penn State since 2007, Backenstoe also brings his "real world" experience to the classroom through the Introduction to Criminal Justice course.

Thomas Backenstoe brings 32 years of experience to his new position. He began his career with the Centre County Probation Agency in 1985 as a dual juvenile and adult probation officer. In 1991, he was appointed as the supervisor overseeing the juvenile division and continued to maintain cases serving the adult ARD program.

Tom has been central to the implementation of Balanced and Restorative Justice, the development of the School-Based Probation Services program, and now leads the implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy in Centre County Juvenile Services. He plans to maintain the department's priority on the collection of restitution and anticipates steering the criminal justice system of Centre County toward evidence-based probation practices.

As a newly appointed Director, Tom is excited to continue to advance the department's enhancement of the balanced and restorative justice mission through the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy and engage with other Chief Probation Officers in the years to come.

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.**





JD CAP
Juvenile Detention Centers
and Alternative Programs

PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT Lessons Learned: For Successful Implementation and Sustainability

**Hosted by: The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania's
PCoRP Insurance Program
and
The Juvenile Detention Centers and Alternative Programs**

April 27, 2017
Registration 9:30
Presentation 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Many Pennsylvania prisons and juvenile facilities have successfully passed their first PREA audit and many others are just starting the process. During this one day workshop, attendees will hear updates on key findings since the implementation of the PREA standards, they will learn about the new online audit procedures and success stories will be shared. This session will

CLC 2017 WEBINAR SERIES

We invite you to join our 2017 Cultural & Linguistic Competency Series: Sustaining Our Journey.

Inclusive, Local Hiring: Building the Pipeline to a Healthy Community

Tuesday, April 25, 2017 @ 10:00 AM

Learn how to develop an inclusive and local hiring pipeline by creating more external community. Explore ways to leverage already existing resources to positively impact the health and well-being of underserved neighborhoods and diverse communities while meeting institutional workforce needs. Participants will learn about how inclusive, local hiring can help institutions achieve diversity goals, address community health and reduce turnover.

PA SOC Partnership CLC Pilot Project 2.0

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 @ 10:00 AM

Learn from Luzerne, Crawford, and York Counties on their experience as participants in the PA SOC Partnership Cultural and Linguistic Competency Pilot Project 2.0. The webinar will share steps to incorporating culturally and linguistically competent methods into your System of Care CLC planning process by engaging youth, family, and system partners in the following core areas: (1) Assessment; (2) Planning; and (3) Implementation.

To Join the Meeting Series please follow these directions:

1. Please join my GoTo meeting.

[https://
global.gotomeeting.com/
join/902797949](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/902797949)

2. Join the conference call:

Call toll free (888) 744-8762
Access code 5698012#

Meeting ID: 902-797-949

If you have any questions please contact Kelsey Leonard, CLC Coordinator at leonardkt@upmc.edu.

SPEP™ COUNTIES BUILD CAPACITY BY ADDING TRAINED STAFF

JJSES Stage 3 SPEP™ activity continues to expand as more and more services are assessed statewide. As original SPEP™ staff retire, move into new positions, etc., training is necessary to replenish staff that can assess services. This ensures that the process is maintained with fidelity and that trained personnel are available to sustain the initiative over time.

On February 22 and 23, 2017, juvenile probation staff from five Pennsylvania counties were trained on the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol. The training began with welcoming remarks by SPEP™ developer Mark Lipsey, Ph.D., Research Professor, Peabody Research Institute at Vanderbilt University. SPEP™ Level II Trainers from the EPISCenter conducted the training.

Allegheny, Berks, Bucks and Dauphin Counties sent representatives to State College for the 2 day capacity-building training that was offered specifically for counties that had staff previously trained to administer the SPEP™ tool. Lebanon County was included at the request of the JJSES Leadership Team. There are now more than 40 persons trained in the SPEP™ in Pennsylvania, with many still completing training requirements that must occur before they receive certification by Vanderbilt University. There are currently 27 probation staff actively involved in the assessment of services. In order to receive certification as a SPEP™ Specialist, the trainees will participate in shadowing experiences in the field, and will complete related assignments or tasks to meet SPEP™ training requirements. Certification as a SPEP™ Specialist is expected to be completed in 12 months or less.



Pictured from left to right in front row: Rich Kubicek, Bucks; John Fiscante, Allegheny; Sue Christner, Lebanon; Bill Shultz, Allegheny; Melanie King, Allegheny; Shawn Peck, EPISCenter; Bill Keim, Berks; Jason Cole, Bucks. Back row: Brian Barnhart, Allegheny; Lisa Freese, EPISCenter; Ken Chiaverini, Allegheny; Kija Waithe, Dauphin; David Evrard, Allegheny; Ryan Alena, Berks; and Michele Howard, Allegheny.

The SPEP™ is a validated, data-driven assessment tool used to determine how well the characteristics of an existing program match research evidence for that type of intervention. The™ is based on a meta-analysis by Dr. Lipsey of more than 700 research studies of programs designed to reduce delinquency. 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 System Reform in 2011. In 2013, the pilot expanded to include Bucks, Lehigh, Allegheny, and Dauphin Counties. In 2015, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Venango, and York Counties joined the project. In 2014, Pennsylvania became the first state to have Vanderbilt-certified trainers and continues to be a model implementation site for the SPEP™.



Courage

Strength

Resilience



The Office of Victim Advocate is forwarding the following information regarding the 14th Pathways for Victim Services Conference on to you for the Office of Victims' Services. Please see the information below to register for the event!



2017 Pathways for Victim Services Conference Hershey Lodge | Hershey, PA | May 8-10, 2017



REGISTRATION FOR THE 14th PATHWAYS FOR VICTIM SERVICES CONFERENCE IS NOW OPEN!

OVS is pleased to announce that registration is NOW OPEN for the 2017 Pathways for Victim Services Conference.

The conference will be held at the Hershey Lodge and Conference Center in Hershey, PA on the following dates:

- Monday, May 8, 2017
- Tuesday, May 9, 2017
- Wednesday, May 10, 2017

OVS is very excited about the upcoming Pathways Conference and we look forward to seeing you there!

[Follow this link to view event details and to register online.](#)

Registration deadline: Monday, April 24, 2017



Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers

50th Anniversary Celebration

When:

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Where:

Nittany Lion Inn, State College

More Information to Follow



SAVE THE DATE

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

April

- 3-7 Orientation Academy
- 12-13 Comorbidity of Trauma and Delinquency

May

- 2-3 Heroin and Other Narcotics
- 24-25 Social Media: Teens & Technology

June

- 1 MI Coaches Forum
- 14 YLS Master Trainer Recertification
- 15 Mental Health and Delinquency
- 28-29 MI 101

September

- 7-8 Youth Mental Health First Aid
- 11-15 Orientation Academy
- 26 YLS Master Trainer Recertification
- 28-29 Ultimate Educator

October

- 12. Enhancing Professional Alliance through Cultural Competency
- 17 Adolescent Development
- 18 YLS Master Trainer Recertification
- 25-26 Refusal Skills
- 25-26 YLS Master Trainer Certification

2017

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Eden Resort & Suites
Lancaster
May 1st-2nd

PCB's 18th Annual Conference

Registration is now open for PCB's 18th Annual Conference. We are excited to announce that this year's conference has moved to a larger venue: **Eden Resort & Suites, Lancaster PA.**

First-rate and diverse trainings | Peer networking
Wide array of exhibits and give-a-ways | Awards luncheon

Up to 12 hours of PCB approved education and MORE!

A full schedule can be found [here](#), or you can download the conference invitation [here](#).

You can complete the conference registration process below, or [download the Registration Form](#) and email or fax it to PCB.

Dates: Monday, May 1-2, 2017 - 7:00am to 12:00pm \$175.00

First-rate and diverse trainings | Peer networking
Wide array of exhibits and give-a-ways | Awards luncheon
Up to **12 hours of PCB approved education** and MORE!



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

NEW BRIEF ADDRESSES YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE POLICY

The [MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Law and Neuroscience](#) has released “[How Should Justice Policy Treat Young Offenders?](#)” This brief explores current research and justice policy advances related to adolescent and young adult brain development. The report examines the neuroscience of adolescents and young adults aged 18-21, discusses how adolescent development has impacted justice policies, and offers recommendations for tailoring justice policies to youth who commit offenses—such as community-based alternatives—to help them reach their potential.

Resources:

Read the National Institute of Justice/OJJDP [Justice Research](#) bulletin “[Young Offenders: What Happens and What Should Happen](#)” that examines policies that affect youth who commit offenses.

See OJJDP’s [Model Programs Guide](#) to learn more about [youth development](#).

GUIDE SUPPORTS LGBTQ/GNCT YOUTH IN CALIFORNIA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

[Impact Justice](#) and the [National Center for Lesbian Rights](#) have released “[Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Questioning, and/or Gender Nonconforming and Transgender Girls and Boys in the California Juvenile Justice System: A Practice Guide](#).”

This guide is designed to help California probation officials protect the safety and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, and/or gender nonconforming and transgender (LGBQ/GNCT) youth in their care and custody. The guide recommends policies and procedures to prohibit discrimination, prevent harm, and promote fair and equitable treatment of LGBQ/GNCT youth in the state’s juvenile justice system.

Resources:

See OJJDP’s Model Programs Guide literature review on [LGBTQ youth in the juvenile justice system](#) and read the OJJDP listening session report, “[Creating and Sustaining Fair and Beneficial Environments for LGBTQ Youth](#).”

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR TRAINING ON CREATING A TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOL

The [National Center for School Engagement](#) is offering “[Creating a Trauma-Informed School](#)” on June 9, 2017, in Colorado Springs, CO. This training will provide educators and counselors with an understanding of the educational impacts of trauma on students. Participants will learn strategies to help students who have experienced trauma to become successful in the classroom, school, and community.

Resources:

[Register](#) to attend.

[Visit the Changing Minds website](#) to learn about this Department of Justice campaign to draw attention to children’s exposure to violence and trauma. The campaign was created as part of the [Defending Childhood Initiative](#).

Access publications in OJJDP’s [National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence series](#).

BJS AND OJJDP ANNOUNCE FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS JUVENILE JUSTICE POPULATIONS

The [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#) (BJS), in collaboration with OJJDP, is [seeking](#) a visiting fellow to enhance the capacity to analyze and report critical data to the field regarding juvenile justice populations. Visiting fellows will have an opportunity to address substantive, methodological, and analytic issues relevant to OJJDP programs and to further knowledge about and understanding of the operation of the juvenile justice system. Fellowships may provide as much as \$200,000 for as long as 12 months to support research conducted at BJS or their home sites, use BJS and OJJDP data and facilities, and interact with BJS and OJJDP staff. Applications are due by May 4, 2017.

Resources:

[Read the solicitation](#).

Visit [OJJDP’s funding page](#) for more funding opportunities.



OJJDP ANNOUNCES NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

OJJDP has announced the following fiscal year 2017 funding opportunities:

- [Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program](#). Applications are due by May 2, 2017.
- [Changing Minds: Professional Development and Public Education to Address Children Exposed to Violence and Childhood Trauma](#). Applications are due by May 2, 2017.
- [National Incidence Studies of Missing Children Reported to Law Enforcement](#). Applications are due by May 3, 2017.

Resources:

Visit the [funding page](#) for details about these and other OJJDP funding opportunities.

APPLICATIONS FOR YOUTH IN CUSTODY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM BEING ACCEPTED

The [Center for Juvenile Justice Reform](#) (CJJR) is accepting applications for its 5th Annual [Youth in Custody Certificate Program](#) to be held July 10–14, 2017, at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. This training, conducted with support from OJJDP, is designed for juvenile justice system leaders and partners working to improve outcomes for youth in post-adjudication custody. This year, CJJR has partnered with the [Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators](#) to run the program.

The [application](#) deadline is April 7, 2017.

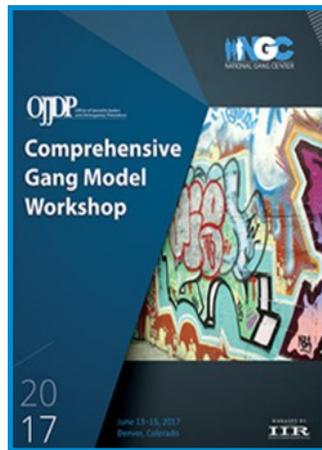
Resources:

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR OJJDP COMPREHENSIVE GANG MODEL TRAINING

The OJJDP-funded [National Gang Center](#) is offering free training on the [OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model](#) at the [2017 Comprehensive Gang Model Workshop](#) on June 13–15, 2017, in Denver, CO. The OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model offers strategies to help communities prevent and reduce gang violence. This training is designed for local teams representing juvenile and/or adult probation and parole, schools, law enforcement, social services, public health, and the community. Team members will learn how to conduct a thorough gang assessment, build community partnerships, and develop a plan using the Model's five core strategies.

Resources:

[Learn more](#) about the workshop and how to register.

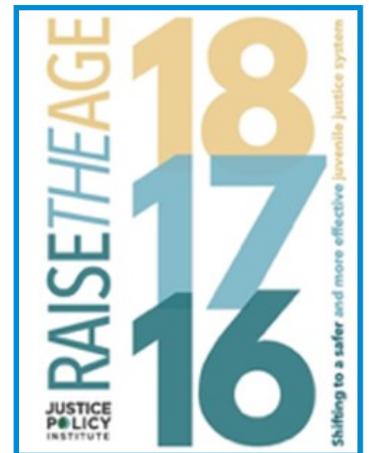


Learn more about the OJJDP-funded National Gang Center. NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS RAISING THE AGE OF JUVENILE COURT JURISDICTION

The [Justice Policy Institute](#) has released “[Raising the Age: Shifting to a safer and more effective juvenile justice system](#).” This report highlights the experiences of states that have raised the age of criminal responsibility from 16 or 17 years of age to 18 years of age. The report shows how states implemented “raise the age” laws, reallocated resources to serve more youth in cost-effective ways, improved public safety, and cut the number of youth in the adult system by about half.

Resources:

[View and download](#) the report.



This publication is produced monthly by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. Guest articles are welcome; please submit by e-mail to ra-oajcnews@pa.gov.

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