



PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

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NEW MASTER'S DEGREE IN ADMINISTRATION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAM

In 1982, the Juvenile Court Judge's Commission (JCJC) partnered with Shippensburg University to sponsor a Master's Degree in the Administration of Justice through the Criminal Justice Department at Shippensburg University. The graduate program has served as a hallmark of Pennsylvania juvenile justice professional development, and since its inception, over 600 individuals have graduated from the program. As is the case with any longstanding venture, there is an inherent need to periodically reassess and refine the work being done. A competitive and high quality graduate education program must consider changes in personnel, technology, student needs, as well as use the most current science available to the fields of juvenile justice and pedagogy. Taking all of this into consideration, in May 2016, the Judges of the JCJC directed that a comprehensive review of the program be conducted. The goals of this endeavor were to:

- Create a nationally recognized graduate education program that aligns with the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) certification standards.
- Create a program that provides a focus on juvenile justice with practical applications for Juvenile probation officers throughout the Commonwealth.
- Deliver a program taught by committed faculty with working knowledge of juvenile justice best practices.

In the months following the Commission meeting, a program review was conducted in partnership with JCJC, Shippensburg University faculty and administration, and representatives from several county juvenile probation departments. The workgroup conducted extensive research, including administering a statewide survey and compiling data from other Master's Degree programs throughout the country, in developing program recommendations.

In July 2017, the JCJC judges voted unanimously to support the new program, and we are pleased to announce that in December 2017 the Office of the Chancellor for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education approved the new Juvenile Court Judges' Commission sponsored Masters in Administration of Juvenile Justice program at Shippensburg University!

In addition to a new title, the revamped program has a renewed focus on juvenile justice in the curriculum, new courses built into the core and elective curricula, and an updated approach to coursework delivery. The new curriculum also addresses essential juvenile justice administration skills, such as strategic planning and finance.

As Dr. Melissa Ricketts, Criminal Justice Department faculty member, stated in her description of the review process, "as a collective, we envisioned and created a new graduate education program that is not only timely and unique, but holds true to the original vision of the program that was established 35 years ago." Additionally, Judge Carol Van Horn, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Member, acknowledged "a new sense of energy, excitement, and commitment by all involved with the new program;" and Richard Steele, JCJC Executive Director and graduate of the program, proudly added "the changes made to the program truly embody the goals and vision of the program when it was initially established."

Additional details regarding the program are included in the flyer on the following page. Applications to the new program are currently being accepted for admission in Fall 2018. For additional information on the program you can visit the JCJC website at www.jcjc.pa.gov, and to apply for admission please visit www.ship.edu.

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We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Shippensburg University Administration and the Department of Criminal Justice.

Additionally, we express deepest gratitude to the workgroup members: Dr. Melissa Ricketts, Criminal Justice Dept. Faculty Member; Dr. Cyndi Koller, Criminal Justice Dept. Faculty Member; Mr. Russell Carlino, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Allegheny County; Mr. Thomas Backenstoe, Chief Probation Officer, Centre County; Mr. Scott Shea, Supervisor, Cumberland County Juvenile Probation; Ms. Carrie Orndorff, Juvenile Probation Officer, Dauphin County Probation Services



**SHIPPENSBURG
UNIVERSITY**

Apply now: www.ship.edu/apply
Program information: www.jcjc.pa.gov

Program contact:
Sonya Stokes, 717-477-1294
systokes@ship.edu

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ADMINISTRATION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

HYBRID FORMAT | 33 CREDIT PROGRAM | START FALL 2018

Looking to advance your career in juvenile justice? The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission sponsors a graduate education program at Shippensburg University, a Master of Science in Administration of Juvenile Justice.

This 33-credit hour advanced degree program in the Department of Criminal Justice includes courses in research methods, theory, administration, and policy analysis.

CAREER-CHANGE & GROWTH

Upon completion of the program, student learners should generally possess:

- An advanced understanding of administrative principles and practices found in juvenile justice agencies.
- Advanced knowledge of theories relating to crime causation and criminality.
- In-depth knowledge of the interdisciplinary nature of the juvenile justice system.
- Knowledge of contemporary technologies used to manage juvenile justice information.
- Skills that enable the learner to conduct and evaluate juvenile justice-related research.
- Advanced problem-solving skills that enable the learner to identify, analyze, and solve juvenile justice operational problems that affect the delivery of services.
- Advanced reading, writing, and verbal communication skills.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Nationally recognized program, taught by highly qualified and experienced faculty.
- Free tuition and lodging provided by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.
- A hybrid 33-credit program.
- Summer coursework fully online and 3 face-to-face weekend sessions during the fall and spring semesters.
- A cohort-based program designed to enhance professional networking across the Commonwealth.
- Practical courses designed for juvenile justice professionals with an emphasis on evidence-based practices.

This program is designed for:

- County juvenile probation officers and county juvenile detention staff, who will have at least two years of post-baccalaureate experience in the juvenile justice field prior to the start of classes.
- Students who would like the opportunity to learn effective methods to efficiently evaluate juvenile programs and policies with the hopes of creating initiatives to address and reduce juvenile delinquency.
- Practitioners to be challenged and prepared for the evolving and ever-changing field of juvenile justice and provide them with the tools to offer outstanding youth services to help remediate juveniles.

Shippensburg University is a member of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) and an equal opportunity educational institution.



Industry-focused course options

REQUIRED (21 CRS.)

- AJJ 501: Seminar in Juvenile Justice & Delinquency
- AJJ 502: Advanced Criminological Theory
- AJJ 503: Leadership in Juvenile Justice
- AJJ 504: Advanced Research Methods
- AJJ 505: Quantitative Analysis
- AJJ 506: Strategic Planning, Budgeting & Finance
- AJJ 507: Seminar in Policy Analysis

ELECTIVES (6 CRS.)

**Elective courses are offered periodically*

- AJJ 520: Advanced Studies in Policing
- AJJ 521: Seminar in Victimology
- AJJ 522: Seminar in Social Justice
- AJJ 523: Mental Health & the Administration of Justice
- AJJ 524: Anatomy of Violence
- AJJ 525: Intimate Partner & Family Violence
- AJJ 540: Selected Topics
- AJJ 541: Selected Topics
- AJJ 550: Independent Study

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CAPSTONE (6 CRS.)

- AJJ 551: Practicum I
- AJJ 552: Practicum II

COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

STEVE HOULOOSE RETIRES AS CHIEF JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER IN MONROE COUNTY



On December 29, 2017, Steve Houloose retired from Monroe County as the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer following more than 39 years of dedicated service to the department. Mr. Houloose began his career in 1978 as a Probation Officer in Monroe County. He was promoted to the position of Chief in 1985 (he was 28 years of age), where he remained until his recent retirement.

Mr. Houloose holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Mansfield College. In 1986, he earned his Master of Science Degree in the Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University, where he was a member of the 3rd class of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission sponsored Master's Degree Program.

Mr. Houloose states that he plans to spend much time golfing and fishing during his retirement.

THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHIEF JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICERS CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

On November 30, 2017, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers gathered at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College to celebrate their 50th anniversary. It was at that same hotel on November 14, 1967, that the Council held their first organizing meeting attended by 22 chief juvenile probation officers. Among those present that day was Cambria County Chief Daniel Roberts who appeared at the 50th anniversary as one of the guest speakers.

The Council is one of the oldest organizations nationally that represent chief juvenile probation officers. At the time it was formed, juvenile probation offices statewide were dissatisfied with the then Department of Public Welfare (DPW) who administered grants to juvenile programs and controlled training standards and programs for juvenile probation officers. When a proposal was floated in September 1967 that would bring juvenile probation offices under DPW's umbrella,

the chiefs promptly responded and formally organized two months later. One of the Council's first positions taken was its support of a Senate Bill that would transfer annual grant funding from DPW to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC). The passage of the bill in 1968 led to a long-lasting relationship with JCJC that has seen both organizations work in concert to build a nationally recognized juvenile justice system.

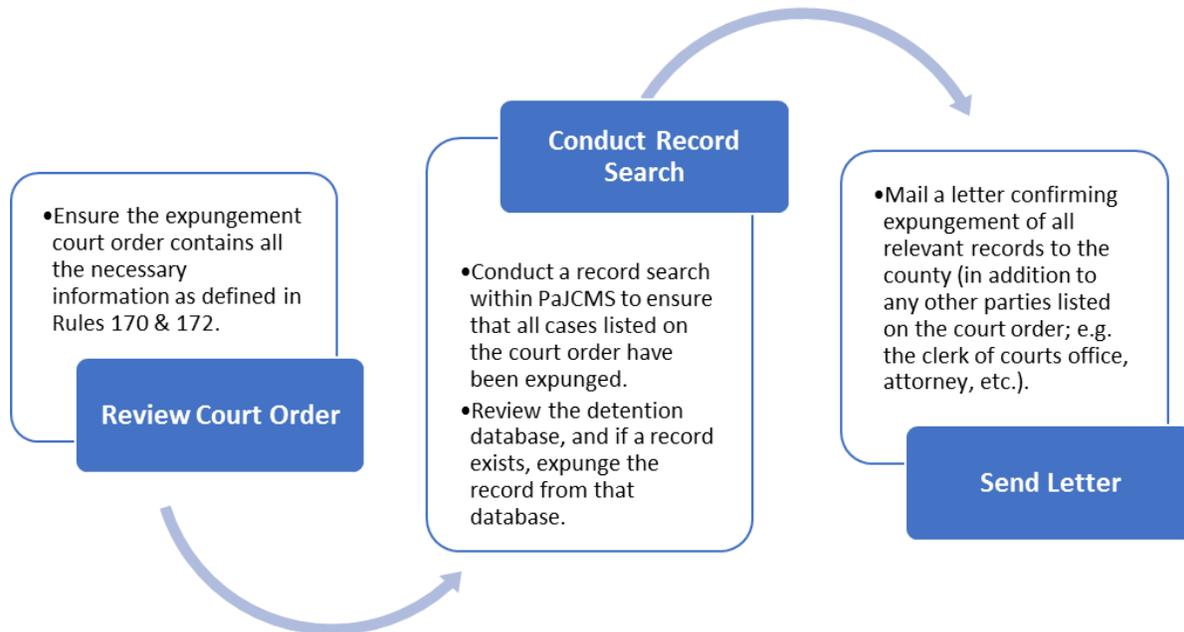
Past Council president and former Allegheny Chief, James Rieland, served as the master of ceremonies for the 50th anniversary. The Honorable John Cleland, senior judge from McKean County, gave remarks on behalf of the Commission judges. The audience was taken on a 50-year journey of the Council's history through a panel of speakers that included Daniel Roberts, former JCJC Executive Directors Ronald Sharp and James Anderson, current JCJC Executive Director Richard Steele, past Council Presidents Thomas Antolik and Robert Stanzione, and outgoing President Teresa Wilcox.



JCJC's Process for Expunging Juvenile Court Records

When a court order is sent to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (JCJC/CJTT&R) for processing pursuant to Pa. R.J.C.P. 170 and 172, there are several processes that take place in order to have the juvenile record expunged.

Upon receipt of an expungement order, JCJC/CJTT&R staff do the following:



While the JCJC/CJTT&R do play an integral role in the expungement process, it is important to stress that the county is responsible for expunging a juvenile's records from PaJCMS.

Additionally, counties should begin the record expungement process immediately upon receipt of the court order; there is no need to wait until they receive the confirmation letter from JCJC.

If JCJC/CJTT&R staff discover that the county has not yet expunged the record from PaJCMS, a follow-up search in PaJCMS is conducted approximately one month after receipt of the expungement order; and if necessary, notification is provided to the county that the record still needs to be expunged.

If you have any questions regarding the expungement process, please contact Lanette Hutchison at 717-477-1412, or lahutchiso@pa.gov.



Did you know that a small group of staff from CJTT&R assist with approximately two dozen data requests and research projects each year? These consist of either annual

reporting or onetime requests. Requests can come from internal sources, such as counties or JCJC staff, or external research agencies, our graduate education students, or higher education facilities. 2017 topics included residential placement trends by gender, recidivism, and risk reduction. Annually, we perform research on reported outcome measures, disproportionate minority contact, and various analyses for the disposition report. Many of these projects can be found on our website <http://www.jcjc.pa.gov>.

RESEARCH BRIEF

RISK REDUCTION IN PENNSYLVANIA'S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

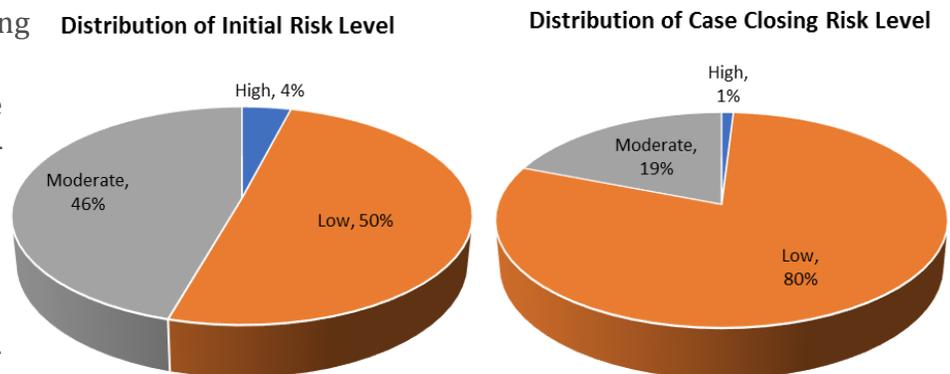
In November 2010, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) unanimously endorsed a comprehensive strategy, known as the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES), to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to achieve its mission of Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ). The JJSES seeks to employ evidence-based practices, with fidelity, at every stage of the juvenile justice process; to collect and analyze the data necessary to measure the results of these efforts; and to continuously improve the quality of decisions, services, and programs.

As many know, one of the cornerstones of the JJSES is the implementation and utilization of the Youth Level of Service, or YLS, within juvenile probation departments. The YLS is an actuarial risk assessment tool used for youthful offenders in Pennsylvania. The tool contains 42 static and dynamic risk factors, divided into eight domains, that have been identified as most predictive of youthful re-offending. Generally, youth are assessed at the time they enter the juvenile justice system. Upon completion of the YLS assessment, youth are assigned a numeric score and risk level (i.e., low, moderate, high, or very high) and their top criminogenic needs (those things recognized as driving their delinquent behavior) are identified. These results assist juvenile probation officers in targeting a youth's specific needs through treatment, interventions, and services.¹

Best practice also dictates that youth be re-assessed at regular intervals while under juvenile court supervision and again at the time of case closure. Changes in scores between the youth's initial YLS assessment and the youth's case closing assessment serve as one indicator of the impact of a youth's involvement in the juvenile justice system. Decreases in risk scores would, therefore, indicate a positive outcome for the youth.

Using a total of 4,350 youth with cases closed from a Pennsylvania juvenile probation department in 2016, an analysis was conducted to determine the change in risk between initial and case closing assessments. Youth were only included in the study if they had both an initial YLS assessment and a case closing YLS assessment completed.

The data indicated the overwhelming majority of youth (approximately 80%) had a lower YLS score at case closure than at the time of their initial YLS assessment. The greatest impact on risk score occurred for youth identified as either moderate risk or high risk at their initial YLS assessment. By case closure, 89% and 95% of these youth, respectively, had a lower risk score.



¹ For more information on the Youth Level of Service, please visit the [Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's website](#).

RESEARCH BRIEF

(continued)

In addition, significant risk reduction occurred across all gender groups, race/ethnicity groups, and age groups. Both males and females experienced similar rates of risk reduction (about 80% had a lower risk score at case closure). White Non-Hispanic youth experienced the greatest rate of risk reduction (about 80% had a lower risk score at case closure), followed by Hispanic youth (77% decreased) then Black Non-Hispanic youth (74% decreased). Finally, youth aged sixteen and seventeen experienced the greatest rate of risk reduction (80% had a lower risk score at case closure), followed by individuals aged eighteen and older (79% decreased), thirteen to fifteen (76% decreased), and ten to twelve (73% decreased).

Gender	Impact on Risk Score at Case Closure: Gender				
	Decreased	Remained the Same	Increased	Total	Percentage Decreased
Male	2,484	337	366	3,187	78%
Female	899	125	125	1,149	78%

decreased), thirteen to fifteen (76% decreased), and ten to twelve (73% decreased).

In some instances (approximately 10% of cases), youth's risk scores increased between their initial YLS assessment and case closing assessment. While these scores are only one indicator of the impact of a youth's involvement in the juvenile justice system, these cases allow juvenile justice professionals and practitioners the ability to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions utilized in these particular cases, as measured by risk reduction.

Race & Ethnicity	Impact on Risk Score at Case Closure: Race & Ethnicity				
	Decreased	Remained the Same	Increased	Total	Percentage Decreased
White Non-Hispanic	1,962	263	240	2,465	80%
Black Non-Hispanic	782	117	155	1,054	74%
Hispanic	494	71	76	641	77%

Overall, however, the results of this study provide a preliminary indication that the work being done by juvenile justice professionals in Pennsylvania is having a positive impact on risk reduction. A full report on these findings is forthcoming.

Age	Impact on Risk Score at Case Closure: Age				
	Decreased	Remained the Same	Increased	Total	Percentage Decreased
Ten to Twelve	180	32	36	248	73%
Thirteen to Fifteen	1,213	196	194	1,603	76%
Sixteen to Seventeen	1,675	200	212	2,087	80%
Eighteen and Older	326	36	50	412	79%

Initial Risk Level	Impact on Risk Score at Case Closure				
	Decreased	Remained the Same	Increased	Total	Percentage Decreased
Low	1,474	394	325	2,193	67%
Moderate	1,755	68	160	1,983	89%
High	165	2	7	174	95%
Total	3,394	464	492	4,350	78%

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

February

22 Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment (PaDRAI) Coordinator Training
State College

March

21 Sexual Identity, Sexual Orientation and Gender Issues of Adolescence
Mechanicsburg

April

12 Orientation Program for New Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
State College

18-19 Stimulants
Mechanicsburg

19 PTSD in Special Populations
Westmoreland County

23-27 Orientation for the New Juvenile Probation Professional - Blended Learning Course
Mechanicsburg

May

2 Cultural Competence
State College

June

19 Mindfulness Practices & Emotional Intelligence
State College

Registration now available at www.jcjcjems.state.pa.us

PENNSYLVANIA DETENTION RISK ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT (PaDRAI) COORDINATOR TRAINING SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 22, 2018

This training is designed for juvenile probation staff to serve as “PaDRAI Coordinators” responsible for implementation, training, and management of the Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI) in their respective departments. The PaDRAI is a structured decision-making tool developed to assist juvenile probation officers with detention decisions. The PaDRAI is based on a national model, is validated for use in Pennsylvania, and is a component of the Commonwealth’s Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES).



JDCAP
Juvenile Detention Centers
and Alternative Programs

PO Box 60769 • Harrisburg, PA 17106-0769
717-526-1010 • Fax: 717-526-1020 • www.jdcap.org

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

PA Juvenile Justice Service Conference -

Enhancing Services for Youth and Families September 26-28, 2018

Kalahari Resort and Conventions, 250 Kalahari Blvd., Pocono Manor, PA 18349

Sponsored by: Juvenile Detention Centers and Alternative Programs (JDCAP)

The Juvenile Detention Centers and Alternative Programs is pleased to issue a “[Call for Presentations](http://www.jdcap.org/Pages/ConferenceInformation.aspx)” for our upcoming PA Juvenile Justice Service Conference being held September 26-28, 2018, at the Kalahari Resort and Conventions in Pocono Manor, PA. To make this Conference successful for juvenile justice professionals, we need subject matter experts who are willing to share their wealth of knowledge. For more information, please visit <http://www.jdcap.org/Pages/ConferenceInformation.aspx>.



JANUARY 26, 2018

WOLF ADMINISTRATION OFFERS WORK-READINESS PROGRAMS FOR ADJUDICATED YOUTH

DHS Focuses on Empowering Youth to Self-Sufficiency

Reprinted with permission by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

HARRISBURG, PA – Department of Human Services (DHS) Acting Secretary Teresa Miller today visited Youth Forestry Camp 3 (YFC3), a 50-bed residential facility for adjudicated delinquent males in James Creek. In recent years, the camp has been focused on better preparing the individuals they serve for successful societal reentry, particularly in terms of employment.

DHS has partnered with Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11 (TIU11) to provide recognizable, industry-standard training, and certification to eligible youth through vocational programs in Welding Certification and the Ricoh Digital Literacy training and certification. Both certifications provide participating residents real-world certifications used to qualify for job opportunities upon release from YFC3.

“Too often a shadow is cast on this group of individuals, whom have experienced trauma at some point in their young lives. The department is committed to supporting these youth toward independence to becoming productive, contributing citizens,” said Secretary Miller. “Employment gives us all a sense of purpose and identity, and these youth are no different. Programs like YFC3 provide the necessary, individualized rehabilitation for youth to make positive changes for their future.”

All programs within the YFC system are Pennsylvania Academic and Career/Technical Training Alliance (PACTT) affiliates. The department is focused on ensuring delinquent youth receive appropriate academic, career, and technical training opportunities through committed affiliate partnerships with residential, community-based and post-placement providers.

In addition to work-ready certifications, YFC3 has multiple rehabilitation programs for youth ranging from drug and alcohol treatment, cognitive therapy, and community service programs. The department is committed to providing a system of individualized treatment services that values strong child, family and community partnerships to promote competency development and victim awareness to the youth entering rehabilitation.

“It is critical that we continue to provide real life opportunities to these individuals as they work toward bettering their future upon release. The work being done at YFC3 to prepare these youth is a testament to our mission at DHS to empower the individuals we serve to be self-sufficient. Every youth throughout Pennsylvania should be given the tools necessary to thrive and succeed.” said Secretary Miller.

For more information on YFC3 and DHS visit www.dhs.pa.gov.



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PODCASTS ADDRESS FAMILY AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN SCHOOL-JUSTICE PARTNERSHIPS



The [National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice](#), with support from OJJDP's [School-Justice Partnership Project](#), is hosting the podcast series "[Strategies to Build Family](#)

[and Youth Engagement to Keep Kids in School.](#)" This podcast series highlights family and youth engagement in school-justice partnerships. Episodes will share strategies to help youth with behavioral health needs and their families make connections with schools and stakeholders to improve youth outcomes.

Resources:

Access the podcasts on [SoundCloud](#), [Stitcher](#), or [iTunes](#).

REGISTER TO ATTEND BLUEPRINTS CONFERENCE FOR HEALTHY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The [Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence](#) at the University of Colorado Boulder will host the 2018 [Blueprints Conference](#) on April 30 to May 2, 2018, in Denver, CO. The conference will focus on evidence-based programs that promote positive youth development and will provide guidance for practitioners implementing these programs in their communities. Blueprints founder Dr. Delbert Elliott; Dr. David Hawkins, founding director of the Social Development Research Group; and Dr. James Mercy, director of violence prevention with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will present keynote addresses.



Resources:

[Register](#) online to attend the conference.

See OJJDP's [Model Programs Guide](#) literature review on [positive youth development](#).

We Are Better Together

SAVE THE DATE

20th Children's Interagency Conference
April 30-May 3, 2018
Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College, PA

sponsored by
Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Bureau of Children's Behavioral Health Services
PA System of Care Partners, and the PA Child Welfare Resource Center

For more information: Contact ra-pwintagencyconf@pa.gov. Website: pasocpartnership.org

Logo by Matthew Budd, Delaware Valley High School, Pike County, PA

SAVE THE DATE

Pennsylvania
Family Group Decision Making
Statewide Conference

April 16 - 17, 2018

Hershey Lodge, Hershey PA

Sponsored by:

- FGDM State Leadership Team
- Pennsylvania State Roundtable
- Office of Children & Families in the Courts
- Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
- Office of Children, Youth and Families
- Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center

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