



# PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

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## AFTERNOON PLENARY SPEAKER ANNOUNCED

### EMILY BAXTER

#### WE ARE ALL CRIMINALS: MORE THAN OUR MISTAKES

Emily Baxter is the executive director of *We Are All Criminals*, a media-based advocacy project and organization that serves as a catalyst for conversations about crime, privilege, punishment, and second chances. Using first-person narratives, compelling photography, statutes, and statistics, Ms. Baxter leads an examination of the disparate impact of the criminal and juvenile justice systems on people of color and poor people across the country. The work of *We Are All Criminals* asks us to look at how each of us is more than our mistakes.



Prior to her work with *We Are All Criminals*, Ms. Baxter served as the director of advocacy and public policy at the Council on Crime and Justice. As an assistant public defender at the Regional Native Public Defense Corporation, she represented indigent members of the Leech Lake and White Earth Bands of Ojibwe charged with crimes in Minnesota state court. Ms. Baxter is a former fellow at the University of Minnesota Law School's Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice. She began developing *We Are All Criminals* through an Archibald Bush Leadership Fellowship in 2012. Ms. Baxter resides in Durham, North Carolina.

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# SAVE THE DATE

## 2018 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

**November 7-9, 2018**

Sponsored by:  
 The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission  
 The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers  
 The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency  
 The Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges

**Harrisburg Hilton & Towers**

# BEAVER COUNTY YOUTH AT READY YOURSELVES YOUTH RANCH

Ready Yourselfes Youth Ranch (RYYR) is a non-profit, faith-based organization established to rescue horses and mentor youth facing conflicts and challenges through an equestrian experience. The program at RYYR connects one youth, one horse, and one mentor for an interactive learning experience. Beaver County Juvenile Services Division became aware of this program in early 2016, and shortly thereafter, they began offering this program as an opportunity for youth to complete their community service hours.

The Beaver County Juvenile Services Division quickly realized the impact of this experience. In partnership with RYYR, the Beaver County Children and Youth Services, and through the Needs-Based Budget, a twelve-week camp was developed. Twelve youth were referred from the Juvenile Services Division, while an additional six were referred from Children and Youth Services. This summer the second annual camp took place where the theme was "Freedom from Fear."

While at the RYYR, youth worked with mentors in caring for the horses, planting a garden, and working on various skill deficits using the BITS and Carey Guides. The mentors included the staff at RYYR, as well as family members, and parents and caregivers were encouraged to work alongside their child. In working with the horses, youth cared for their daily needs and then learned to groom, tack up, and ride.

The produce harvested from the garden was used in an activity where the youth prepared homemade salsa. Also, at the end of each day they were able to take fresh vegetables home to their families. The Juvenile Probation Services staff engaged the youth in various role-playing activities focused on problem-solving skills, anger management, life skills, and patience. Throughout the course of the camp, youth also created various art projects including a Circle of Control Canvas which represented all the things in their lives they could not control, as well as all the things they can.

On August 25, 2018, at the close of the summer camp, a banquet was held to honor the youth. About 120 people including RYYR staff, representatives from the courts including Juvenile Court Administrative Judge Mitchell Shahan and Juvenile Court Judge Deborah DeCostro, Juvenile Services Director Gary Rosatelli and his staff, caseworkers from Children and Youth Services, and the client's families celebrated the fears these youth overcame this summer. Angela Work from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission was the guest speaker. She spoke to the youth about opportunity and turning points, to all participants about the positive impact this program has had on our community while recognizing the support and encouragement this program has received from the community. She also talked about the effectiveness of



locally-developed programs and highlighted the recidivism data from youth who participated in the program at RYYR stating “these results are noteworthy.” Each youth received their own individual recognition award, a certificate of completion, and a red, white, and blue championship ribbon that represented this year’s motto, “Freedom from Fear.” At the end of the dinner, the youth “saddled up” to show their families “there is nothing to fear but fear itself.”

Debra Landsbaugh, Beaver County Juvenile Probation Officer, commented: “Through my experience as a Community Service Liaison, there have been numerous projects and events that our clients have participated in that have been very beneficial, but none of them come close to this. The benefit of the relationship between the clients and the horses they work with is very impactful. It is not only giving our clients a sense of purpose but also achievement.”

Ready Yourselves Youth Ranch  
[www.ryyr.org](http://www.ryyr.org)

Local News Paper Article  
<http://www.timesonline.com/entertainmentlife/20180730/place-of-hope-and-healing-new-sewickley-horse-ranch-mentors-troubled-kids?rssfeed=true>



## GOVERNOR WOLF PROCLAIMS JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK OCTOBER 7-13, 2018



Governor Tom Wolf proclaimed the week of October 7 – October 13, 2018 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 [ra-oajcnews@pa.gov](mailto:ra-oajcnews@pa.gov) for publication in a special section celebrating Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice week. Please have all entries submitted by October 19, 2018.**

## BLAIR COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION CHANGES



Nancy B. Williams, Blair County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, retired on July 31, 2018, after 43 years of service to the citizens of Blair County. Nancy began her career in juvenile justice as an intern with the Blair County Juvenile Probation Office in 1974, and was hired as a probation officer after graduating from the Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement and Corrections in 1975. In 1982, Nancy was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief. In 1985, she received a Master of Science Degree in Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University through the JCJC Graduate Education Program. Nancy was appointed as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in 1995.

Under Nancy's years of leadership, the probation department has been engaged in many transformational processes including implementation of Balanced and Restorative Justice principles, Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategies, and evidence-based and delinquency prevention practices. During Nancy's administration, implementation of community-based programming was increased for youthful offenders with the establishment of MST, FF, and the Juvenile Drug Court. Improved screening and treatment for youth with behavioral health issues was instituted through the introduction of the MAYSI 2 trauma screening and TF-CBT. Services for offenders such as alternatives to detention practices, cognitive behavioral interventions, victim community awareness programming and information and services for victims of juvenile crime were implemented. Prevention and court practices were expanded through Nancy's leadership as co-chair of the Blair County Children's Roundtable since 2004.

Throughout her tenure, Nancy supported family engagement practices, obtaining a Credential in Family Development (FDC) from Cornell University in 2010 and certification as an instructor and portfolio advisor. In 2013, Nancy received her Family Development Leadership Credential (FDLC) and Credential for Strengths-Based Family Workers (SFW) in 2017 from Temple University – Harrisburg. Under Nancy's direction, family involvement probation practices were enhanced with all juvenile probation officers obtaining their credential in Strengths-Based Family Work from Temple University.

Nancy has been a member of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers serving on the Executive Committee as Membership Chair since 1992. Throughout the years, Nancy has served on many statewide committees of the council, most recently the Awards Committee, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and the Evidenced-Based Practices Performance Measures Work Group. In 2001, Nancy was recognized as Pennsylvania's Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year. In retirement, Nancy looks forward to having the time and the freedom to pursue her interests, hobbies, and spending time with family and friends.



## WELCOME CHIEF JON FRANK



On August 1, 2018, Jon Frank was appointed as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Blair County by the Honorable Elizabeth A. Doyle, President Judge.

Jon began his employment at Blair County as a Probation Officer in 1988. He was subsequently promoted to the position of Supervisor in 1995 and to Deputy Chief in 2012. Jon graduated from Penn State with a B.S. in Administration of Justice. He also earned his Master's Degree from Shippensburg University through the JCJC sponsored Graduate Education Program. Jon is a very active member of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation

Officers, in which he currently serves as Secretary and the Chair of the Public Relations Committee. He is a lifelong resident of Altoona, where he resides with his wife, Shelly, and his son, Nicholas.



### GREG MOORE, LEHIGH COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER, RECEIVES AWARD AT APPA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

*"It works when your eyes are open,  
your ears are listening, and your  
desire to serve is primed."*

These words demonstrate the commitment of Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Officer Greg Moore. That quote, like so many others from Greg, reflect an individual with 22 years' experience as a juvenile probation officer, and someone more dedicated than ever to his profession. On July 29, 2018, Greg Moore was honored to receive the Scotia Knouff Line Officer of the Year award at the American Probation Parole Conference in Philadelphia.

At a time of such substantial change and well needed reform in the juvenile justice system, Greg is having such a tremendous influence over others, demonstrating his strength as a leader among his peers. Greg is most dedicated to trying to help create an environment for change among the youth and family he serves and the community in which he works. With such significant change and the implementation of new research-based initiatives over the years, we often see our more tenured staff struggle to embrace these new ways. However, Greg is an example of exactly what we hope to see among our probation officers-- a willingness to keep their eyes and ears open, to be informed and educated on these changes, to be engaged in the discussions around change initiatives, and always remember that our goal is to create a safer community by developing stronger, confident, and more competent youth, all through interactions with those under our supervision. For some it is a mission, a calling. That embodies Greg Moore.

Anyone having the opportunity to interact with Greg, whether personally or professionally, cannot come away from the conversation as anything other than impressed. One always feels that they have learned something, something that requires some sense of self-reflection. Greg understands the need to hold youth accountable, but the compassion, genuineness, and willingness to listen, often creates a space in which youth and families feel comfortable to talk to Greg and develop a trust and willingness to work with him. They know he genuinely wants them to be successful, not only while under supervision, but far beyond that.

Greg has been instrumental in helping the Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department achieve so many of their milestones by implementing evidence-based practices. Greg is personally committed to our community where he also serves as an assistant football coach for a local high school. In that capacity, Greg also sees it as a mission to help the youth he serves, in whatever capacity, develop confidence and a commitment to not only their own sense of well-being, but also to their community. Greg firmly believes that most youth can and will change and his commitment is to see them through to that. He humanizes his relationships and displays a level of humility and empathy in all that he does.

Greg demonstrates why we are engaged in this work. Those who are truly committed, see it as a way to serve others and are indeed those who will have the most influence in helping create an environment for change. Lehigh County congratulates Greg Moore on this recognition.

## 2018 CONFERENCE MOBILE APP

### How do I get the conference app?

There are two ways you can easily download this year's conference app: Either scan the QR code found on the conference announcement you've received or navigate to <http://my.yapp.us/JCJC2018> on your smartphone's browser.



### How do I add items to my personal agenda?

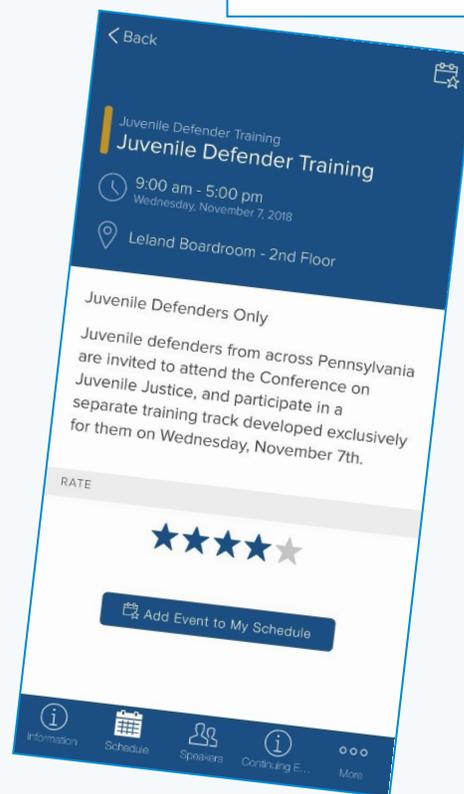
It's easy to create your own schedule by adding only the events you are interested in attending. Simply navigate to an event on the schedule page and then tap "Add Event to My Schedule". To access this personalized schedule, click the small calendar icon on the upper right portion of the main Schedule screen.

### How do I find out where an event is located?

Each item in the schedule will have a location listed below the title of the event. If you do not remember where a certain room is, you can look on the "Floor Plans" page and easily find it on the map.

### Can I give feedback on sessions that I have attended?

Yes. You can click on an individual event and give it a rating out of five stars along with any comments you might have. We would encourage you to do this, so we have an idea of how well received each event is.



## STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### October

- |    |   |       |  |
|----|---|-------|--|
| 4  | EPICS Forum   | 23-24 | Motivational Interviewing 101              |
| 10 | The Next Generation: Cell Phones, Tablets, Gaming Systems, and Social Media | 23-25 | Level 1 SPEP Specialist Training           |
| 16 | Graduated Responses User Group  | 30-31 | Adolescents Sex and Drugs: Dual Companions |
| 17 | Probation Officer Well-Being: Strategies for Safe Working Environments      |       |  |

**Registration available at**  
[www.jcjcjems.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjcjems.state.pa.us)

## EPISCENTER HIRES ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR EXPANSION OF SPEP™

The Evidence-based Prevention & Intervention Support Center (EPISCenter) recently hired four additional Juvenile Justice System Improvement Specialists (JJSIS), creating a total of six JJSIS' to support probation departments in the implementation of the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™). Currently, 12 counties are implementing the SPEP™ and five additional counties are sending probation officers to be trained as Level 1 SPEP™ Specialists from October 23-25, 2018. Additionally, several juvenile probation departments expressed interest in learning more about the SPEP™ and how it can benefit their decision making. Each JJSIS will primarily work regionally to provide technical assistance to probation departments as they implement the SPEP™. The SPEP™ is located under Service Provider Alignment within Stage Three (Behavioral Change) of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSSES).



**Heather Perry** has been a Juvenile Justice System Improvement Specialist (JJSIS) at the EPISCenter since 2013 and is currently in the process of becoming certified as a Level 3 SPEP™ Master Trainer through Vanderbilt University. Previously, Heather was an Adult and Juvenile Probation/Parole Officer. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in the Administration of Justice from Penn State University, and a Master of Science in Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University, with a focus on Juvenile Justice. Heather brings approximately 20 years of experience working in juvenile justice.

**Lisa Freese** has been a Juvenile Justice System Improvement Specialist (JJSIS) at the EPISCenter since 2013 and is currently in the process of becoming certified as a Level 3 SPEP™ Master Trainer through Vanderbilt University. Previously, Lisa was a consultant for the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Penn State University in Administration of Justice, and a Master of Science in Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University. Lisa brings approximately 30 years of experience working in juvenile justice.



**Christa Park** was recently hired as a Juvenile Justice System Improvement Specialist (JJSIS) at the EPISCenter and is currently in the process of becoming certified as a Level 1 SPEP™ Specialist to implement the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™). Previously, Christa was a Clinical Director at Abraxas Youth & Family Services. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Administration of Justice from Penn State University, and a Master of Arts in Health Care Administration from Ashford University. Christa brings approximately 20 years of experience working in juvenile justice.

**Anthony Stukes** was recently hired as a Juvenile Justice System Improvement Specialist (JJSIS) at the EPISCenter and is currently in the process of becoming certified as a Level 1 SPEP™ Specialist to implement the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™). Previously, Anthony was a Director at Diakon Youth Services. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Criminal Justice from Temple University, and a Master of Social Work from Widener University. Anthony brings approximately 20 years of experience working in juvenile justice.





**Shannon O'Lone** was recently hired as a Juvenile Justice System Improvement Specialist (JJSIS) at the EPISCenter and is currently in the process of becoming certified as a Level 1 SPEP™ Specialist to implement the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™). Previously, Shannon was the Balanced and Restorative Justice Coordinator/Probation Officer for Erie County Juvenile Probation. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Art Therapy with a concentration in psychology from Mercyhurst University. Shannon brings over 20 years of experience working in juvenile justice.

**Amy Herb** was recently hired as a Juvenile Justice System Improvement Specialist (JJSIS) at the EPISCenter and is currently in the process of becoming certified as a Level 3 SPEP™ Master Trainer through Vanderbilt University. Previously, Amy was the Administrator of Program Evaluation & Second Chance Act Project Director for the Delaware Youth Rehabilitative Services, Quality Improvement Unit in New Castle County, Delaware. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Science from Wilmington College and a Master of Science in Administration of Justice with a Concentration in Criminal Behavior from Wilmington University. Amy brings approximately 14 years of experience working in juvenile justice.



### **Dr. Thomas L. Austin Undergraduate Scholarship Fund**

We invite you to participate in supporting the Dr. Thomas L. Austin Undergraduate Scholarship Fund. Since 1986, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission has awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to an undergraduate student at Shippensburg University majoring in Criminal Justice. This scholarship is named in honor of Dr. Thomas L. Austin, who taught in the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University from its inception in 1982 until his retirement in 2011. The criteria for this scholarship are academic excellence and an interest in juvenile justice.

**Donate to the Juvenile Justice Scholarship Fund today!**

**<https://tinyurl.com/JJScholarshipFund>**



# NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## OJJDP NEWS @ A GLANCE, JULY/AUGUST 2018

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) announces the availability of [OJJDP News @ a Glance](#), July/August 2018. In this issue's Message from the Administrator, Caren Harp discusses how OJJDP is changing its Title II Formula Grants program to help states improve their juvenile justice systems, maintain public safety and ensure youth are treated fairly and held appropriately accountable for their actions. The top story highlights Administrator Harp's participation in the National Campaign to Stop Violence's "Do The Write Thing Challenge" ceremony, challenge finalists' essays, and agency efforts to safeguard children from violence.



Other features in this issue—

- [Administrator Harp Addresses Coalition for Juvenile Justice Annual Conference](#)
- [OJJDP Coordinates National Law Enforcement Training on Child Exploitation](#)
- [OJJDP Demos Youth Suicide Prevention Virtual Simulation at UNITY Conference](#)
- [OJJDP Hosts Staff Session on Averted School Violence Initiative](#)
- [Staff Spotlight: OJJDP Senior Policy Advisor Sanzanna Dean](#)
- [Stakeholder Corner: Childhood Experience With CASA Leads to Child Advocacy Career](#)
- [Research Central: The Importance of Protective Factors in Reducing the Likelihood of Delinquency Among Children Who Are Maltreated](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [News In Brief](#)
- [New Publications](#)

## APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR MULTI-SYSTEM COLLABORATION TRAINING PROGRAM

The [Center for Juvenile Justice Reform](#) (CJJR), in partnership with OJJDP's [Center for Coordinated Assistance to States](#), has issued a request for applications from jurisdictions seeking to engage in multi-system improvement efforts. The [Multi-System Collaboration Training and Technical Assistance Program](#) supports jurisdictions that are interested in developing a sound infrastructure to promote multi-system

approaches to serving at-risk youth and youth involved with the justice system and their families. CJJR will provide onsite and distance-learning training and technical assistance to a cohort of as many as four jurisdictions—at no cost to the sites—to help them identify gaps in policy and practice, enhance information-sharing capacities, explore how key decision points impact youth, and develop an evaluation strategy for tracking system- and youth-level outcomes. **Apply by October 1, 2018.**

## OJJDP ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

OJJDP is accepting applications to serve on the [Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice](#) (FACJJ). Composed of members of state advisory groups (SAGs) on juvenile justice, the committee advises the President and Congress on matters related to juvenile justice, evaluates the progress and accomplishments of juvenile justice activities and projects, and advises the OJJDP Administrator on the work of OJJDP.



Candidates must be SAG members at the time of application and throughout their entire term. Selected FACJJ members will serve a 2-year term with the possibility of renewal for another 2-year term.

Applications are due by October 1, 2018. To request an application or for more information, contact Elizabeth Wolfe at [Elizabeth.Wolfe@usdoj.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Wolfe@usdoj.gov) or Sarah Wisniewski at [Sarah.Wisniewski@bixal.com](mailto:Sarah.Wisniewski@bixal.com).

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](mailto:ra-oajcnews@pa.gov).

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