



# PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

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December 2019

## CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUVENILE COURT JUDGES JOIN GOV. WOLF, GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ESTABLISHING JUVENILE JUSTICE TASK FORCE

On Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Chair and Allegheny County President Judge Kim Berkeley Clark joined Governor Tom Wolf, Lehigh County Judge Douglas G. Reichley, and a bipartisan group of leaders from the General Assembly to announce the formation of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Task Force.

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Thomas Saylor established the task force in collaboration with Gov. Wolf and the legislative leadership.



Judge Kim Berkeley Clark making remarks at the kick-off press conference. Pictured behind, left to right: Governor Tom Wolf, Senator Mike Regan, and Judge Douglas G. Reichley

“Participation in this task force provides an opportunity to assess the treatment of youth who come in contact with the criminal justice system and ultimately to improve the lives of Pennsylvania youth and families,” Chief Justice Saylor said in a press release.

In her remarks, Judge Clark highlighted the work of juvenile probation officers, judges, and others across Pennsylvania who work hard to improve outcomes through local initiatives of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy and other efforts. Yet Judge Clark noted that the task force presents an opportunity to join with the General Assembly to build upon past initiatives and further strengthen the system.

“I think no matter what side of the aisle you're on, so to speak, we all agree that we want our communities to be safe and we want our children to thrive,” Clark said. “And this task force will seek to do that.”

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The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission voted unanimously at its July 2019 meeting to support the creation of the task force.

"This is an opportunity to expand upon what is working well in our juvenile justice system and to address continuing challenges using data, research, and stakeholder input," said Richard Steele, Executive Director of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. "The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission looks forward to engaging in a clear, transparent, and comprehensive process involving the voices of people who work in our juvenile justice system every day."

Task force members will be appointed in the coming weeks and will include representatives from a broad range of juvenile justice stakeholder groups, including judges, juvenile probation officers, service providers, and others. The group is charged with delivering a report with data-driven, research-based findings and recommendations by November 30, 2020 for consideration by the General Assembly during the subsequent legislative session. The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Crime and Justice Institute will provide technical assistance to the task force.

## PROFESSIONAL CAUCUSES HELD AT THE 2019 JAMES E. ANDERSON PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

On Wednesday, November 6th, six professional caucuses were held at the 2019 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice. Participants had the opportunity to join with colleagues from their specialty within Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern. Below is a synopsis of topics covered at each caucus.

The **Chief and Deputy Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Caucus** was facilitated by Russ Carlino, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer from Allegheny County. Approximately forty chief and deputy chief juvenile probation officers from across the state were in attendance.

Starting this session, a county shared their experience with the recent Federal IV-E audit and their frustrations with this process. This was followed by an update on Penn DOT's handling of the ignition interlock penalty for juveniles charged with Driving Under the Influence (DUI). Next, the conversation shifted to the impact of the new law requiring a DNA sample by all juveniles adjudicated delinquent on all Misdemeanor 1 charges and select Misdemeanor 2 charges. Following this, discussion took place regarding recent requests made by police departments for

juvenile probation departments to make juveniles available to be fingerprinted, regardless of their status with the juvenile court. Much of this discussion involved counties sharing their practices regarding the fingerprinting of juveniles. A conversation about expungement practices then ensued, with counties again sharing their local practices regarding the expungement of juvenile records.

Following this, the challenges facing juvenile probation departments and their supervision of gang involved youth was discussed. The session ended with a conversation outlining the ongoing challenges and complexities juvenile probation departments face with handling those juveniles with complex needs.

The **Juvenile Probation Supervisors Caucus** was facilitated by Jay Leamy from Chester County. Twenty-two juvenile probation supervisors representing nine counties attended the session.

Mr. Leamy led participants through a thought-provoking discussion on a variety of topics. The conversation began as participants were interested to hear from one another concerning policy discussions relating to juveniles participating in Pennsylvania's medical marijuana program.

Next, the discussion focused on supervisory and leadership development training. Participants expressed a strong interest to access training to improve their effectiveness as supervisors and further develop their leadership skills. There was also mention of the importance for learning opportunities focused on the juvenile justice system as it was discussed that supervisors are sometimes hired from other professions. Members of the group shared information about local training curriculums with one another.

The establishment of standards for community-based service providers was another topic that generated enthusiastic discussion. Participants talked specifically of procedures to confirm juveniles receive services which align to the needs that prompted the service referral. The discussion included how to convey expectations of service delivery and receipt of written reports through the development of contractual agreements.

Additional topics included the lack of compensation for supervisors and deputies, working with juveniles who have multi-system needs, the administration of the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI-2) and Child Trauma Screen (CTS), and the juvenile court intake process.

The **Juvenile Probation Officers Caucus** was facilitated by Charles Hoch, Juvenile Probation Officer from Lehigh County. Approximately forty juvenile probation officers from across the state were in attendance. Following a welcome and opening remarks, the group discussed the challenges of working with juvenile offenders that chronically violate the terms of their probation supervision. Specifically, the attendees discussed a need for more resources to address violations within the scope of a graduate responses model, as well as, additional support from the District Attorney's office.

Next, the participants engaged in discussion surrounding the topic of medical marijuana. Ideas and experiences were exchanged regarding how to appropriately manage the population of youth that are prescribed medical marijuana. Insightful conversation took place among participants on the various ways to differentiate between appropriate use of medical marijuana versus substance abuse, as well

as, how probation officers can maintain adequate supervision and accountability for such youth.

The caucus concluded with discussion regarding an increase in complex cases. Attendees shared experiences and creative solutions to address needs surrounding system-involved youth with unique medical and/or mental health needs. Participants offered strategies on how to address the various needs that coincide with these cases, particularly the challenges that arise when detention or placement become necessary.

**The Service Providers Caucus** was facilitated by Andy Benner, Chief Probation Officer of Cumberland County Juvenile Probation and Abigail Wilson, Children's Programs Specialist at the Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth, and Family Services. It was a large group—approximately eighty attendees were present. Andy welcomed everyone and, after suggesting some possible points of discussion, asked for help from audience members. This prompted a mainly free-flowing discussion, occasionally benefiting from Benner and Wilson's follow up questions, that touched on a number of topics.

The first topic of conversation was the pressure on providers by the courts to accept youth to their programs that they were not equipped to handle. The paucity of detention beds and the lack of programs with services to deal with complex cases and juveniles addicted to methamphetamine were mentioned in this conversation. There was general agreement that providers often have good reasons for denying certain youth acceptance to their placement programs, and that accepting these cases often goes beyond the training of their staff and requires the provider to take on a great deal of risk and liability.

The discussion turned to other issues such as how placement providers are adapting to the needs of transgender youth. Participants told several stories about the challenges they faced enforcing rules for everyone while being mindful of these juveniles' specific needs and concern. Later on, several audience members discussed the issue of initiating state-level reform in the current system of how rates of reimbursement for providers are calculated.

A theme that weaved its way through much of the caucus discussion was the challenging nature of to-

day's work environment for providers. There was general agreement that the group of juveniles receiving provider services today are very difficult to serve because of the complexity of their mental health needs and experiences of trauma, the extent of which is only revealed after trial and error in different programs. Plus, some voiced the opinion that providers are being vilified by the public and one-sided research and lobby organizations, who view them as abusing and warehousing youth rather than helping them. Meanwhile, providers are being asked to take on responsibility and risk for difficult cases without adequate resources. Several audience members believed that there is a need to counteract these impressions by better utilizing data to help explain their successes to the public. Others articulated a need to overcome distrust that has developed between providers and probation and judges—a theme that was carried forward into the Chiefs-Providers Forum that followed the caucuses.

The session ended with a topic that had also come up earlier—the difficulty that providers experienced getting juveniles foster care services due to burdensome eligibility requirements and unrealistic program demands—and specifically, the effect the Family First Prevention Services Act is expected to have on how services for foster care youth are funded and accessed.

**The Victim Services Caucus** was facilitated by Kathleen McGrath, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of Franklin County Juvenile Probation and Chair of the Victim Services Committee of the Chiefs Council. Several individuals representing various victim service providers were in attendance.

The discussion at this year's caucus centered around several topics of interest to the participants: victims' rights to be present at an intake conference, victims' statements being provided at review hearings, notifications of victims, as well as discussions around restitution.

In the discussion about victims being present at an intake conference, it was determined that an intake conference has a different definition in different counties. In some counties, an intake conference is a hearing, or an informal way of handling the charges, in which the victims have the right to be present. In other counties an intake conference is a meeting to

gather information in which a victim would not be able to be present.

The conversation then shifted to victims' statements being provided at review hearings. Most of the participants expressed that there is nothing stating that a victim statement can or cannot be presented at review hearings. If the disposition of a case is going to change the victim can provide input.

Next, the group discussed notifications of victims. Some of the participants said that they call the victim (s), mail the packet and then send certified mail, if they are unable to make contact. If the mail is undeliverable, they will try to track down the correct address. Most of the advocates said that they notify the victim, until the victim requests they no longer want to be notified.

The caucus concluded with a discussion regarding restitution. The group discussed different scenarios about restitution and how restitution can be handled. Advocates provided some examples of cases that had very high restitutions and how those cases have been handled in their counties. Some of the advocates discussed the use of the restitution fund within their counties.

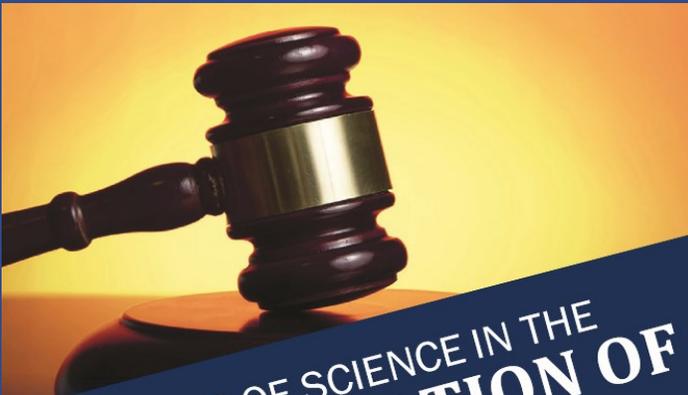
Following a one-year hiatus, the Conference included a Caucus for **Juvenile Prosecutors**. The lightly attended caucus was facilitated by Renee Merion, an Assistant District Attorney from Chester County, and Don Cory, the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Chester County and Stage One Leader of the JJSES Leadership Team. Following brief introductory remarks, the caucus began with a discussion on how to encourage a consistent dialogue with juvenile prosecutors. Participants emphasized that, while the caucus is an effective venue for the exchange of ideas, it would be beneficial for juvenile justice system partners to participate in the Juvenile Prosecutors Network Annual Conference, which occurs each April.

As the caucus continued, participants engaged in discussion about diversion programs, the juvenile prosecutor's perspective on graduated responses, issues related to high risk and need youth who commit relatively minor offenses and cases involving domestic violence. The caucus concluded with a conversation on restitution-related issues, including how various counties handle restitution to insurance companies.

## TECHNOLOGY CORNER



The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is pleased to announce that on September 28, 2019, Lanette Hutchison was promoted to the position of Information Technology Generalist I. Ms. Hutchison has been employed with the JCJC's Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R) since April 1988, and served as Quality Assurance Supervisor for the past eighteen years. In her new role, Lanette will be responsible for providing statewide technical assistance related to Pennsylvania's Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS), specifically around policy and procedures, quality assurance, and data integrity. She will evaluate the PaJCMS business practices of users across the state, as well as serve as liaison between county users, committee members, and the PaJCMS application developers. During her employment at CJJT&R, Lanette obtained her bachelor's degree in social work from Shippensburg University and interned with them on Balanced and Restorative Justice initiatives. Lanette can be reached at 717-477-1412 or at [lahutchiso@pa.gov](mailto:lahutchiso@pa.gov). Congratulations, Lanette!



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Program Contact: Sonya Stokes, 717-477-1294 [systokes@ship.edu](mailto:systokes@ship.edu)



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[www.jcjc.pa.gov/Program-Areas/Graduate-Education](http://www.jcjc.pa.gov/Program-Areas/Graduate-Education)

## PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHIEF JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICERS 2020-2021 ELECTION RESULTS

During the November 22, 2019 general membership meeting of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, and per the adopted Bylaws of the organization, the election of officers was held for the positions of President, Vice President, and Secretary. These officers will be formally installed at the first yearly meeting in 2020.

### Newly elected officers for 2020 – 2021:

President – Chadwick Libby, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Dauphin County

Vice-President – Teresa Wilcox, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, McKean County

Secretary – Jon Frank, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Blair County

Congratulations!!!!!!!!!!!!



## COUNTY SPOTLIGHT



### SCOTT LIZARDI RETIRES AS CHIEF JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER UNION COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION

On December 15, 2019, Scott Lizardi retired as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer following 40 years of service. Mr. Lizardi began his criminal justice career in 1979. He was employed as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for 34 years.

Mr. Scott Kerstetter has been appointed as the new Chief Juvenile Probation Officer. He can be contacted at [skerstetter@unionco.org](mailto:skerstetter@unionco.org). Naaman Morris has been appointed Deputy Chief Probation Officer. He can be reached at [nmorris@unionco.org](mailto:nmorris@unionco.org).

## 2019 JJSES IMPLEMENTATION SURVEY RESULTS

The 2019 Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Implementation Survey results are in. The Implementation Survey report includes an executive summary of the statewide aggregate data; JJSES activity-specific narratives; and to further enhance the report, juvenile probation professionals will have the ability to visually interpret Implementation Survey results using infographics.

In a multi-part newsletter series, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) will publish these infographics to illustrate the implementation and sustainability of the JJSES in Pennsylvania using information from each county's FY 2019-2020 JJSES Implementation Survey and Plan.

Kicking off the newsletter series is Evidence-Based Practices (EBP): "Introduction to Evidence-Based Practices" training is a key part of preparing for JJSES. It provides basic knowledge about evidence-based and risk-reduction research and explores how the principles of risk, need, and responsivity are relevant to decisions made by staff. EBP is an essential component of stage one of the JJSES framework.

The 2019 JJSES Implementation Survey report will be sent electronically to all juvenile court judges and chief juvenile probation officers in the upcoming weeks. A copy of the report will also be placed on the JCJC website [www.jcjc.pa.gov](http://www.jcjc.pa.gov). Please contact your JCJC court consultant to obtain available EBP training resources.

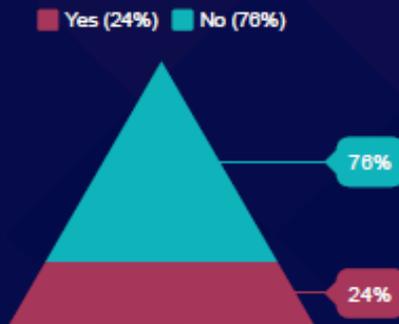


JJSES Implementation Survey 2019

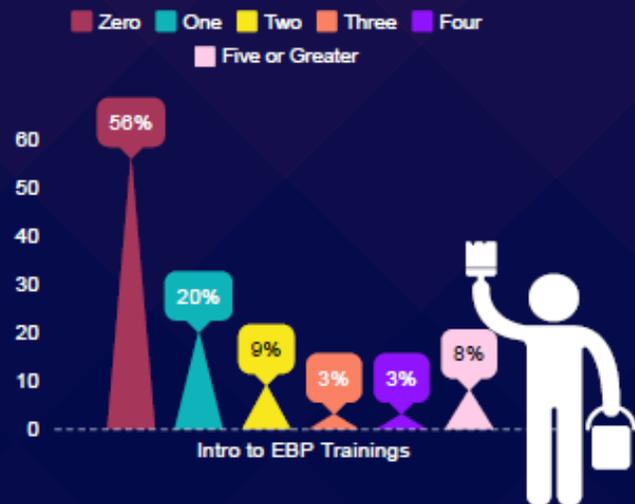
# STAGE I: READINESS

## EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES (EBP)

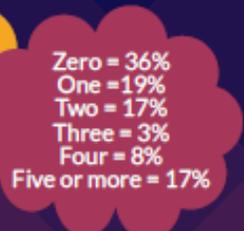
Has your department developed policies to ensure newly assigned probation officers & stakeholders are offered introduction to EBP training?



How many times was an EBP introductory training provided by your department last year?



How many EBP booster trainings were provided by your department last year?



Out of the departments that provided EBP training in the past year 95% of those in attendance were probation officers.



# NORTHUMBERLAND HOLDS ANNUAL JUVENILE COURT BANQUET

*Submitted by Lisa Donlan, Northumberland County Juvenile Court Services*

The Northumberland County Juvenile Court Services Advisory Board was established by Order of Court on August 29th, 1978. The original creators of the board were President Judge Peter Krehel, Juvenile Court Judge Samuel C. Ranck, and Michael J. Breslin, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer. The board was developed at a time in which a growing number of community-based treatment programs were being developed for juveniles referred to juvenile court and they sought to provide a means through which community support and input would occur.

The board played a vital role in the development of the annual Juvenile Court Banquet which began in 1982 and included the presentation of the Fred Piermattei Youth Service Award. In 1990, it then established the Judge Michael Kivko Youth Scholarship Award.

The Fred Piermattei Youth Award is presented by the Northumberland County Juvenile Court Services and its Advisory Board in memory of the late Fred Piermattei. Fred was active in serving youth of Northumberland County for many years. During this time, Fred was a foster parent for the Juvenile Court and Children and Youth Service Agencies and impacted on the lives of approximately 120 foster children. He was an active member of the Northumberland County Juvenile Court Advisory Board and Foster Parent Association.

The Judge Michael Kivko Youth Scholarship Award was established in 1990 in the memory of the Michael Kivko. Mr. Kivko served as an assistant district attorney from 1945 -1957. He subsequently became President Judge of Northumberland County in 1966 and served in this capacity until his retirement in 1975. Judge Kivko was a man who possessed a deep and compelling commitment to youth. His dedication and enthusiasm to the youth of the county was evidenced through his involvement in the Boy Scouts as well as his impact in shaping the Juvenile Justice System of Northumberland County. The fund provides financial assistance for educational opportunities to delinquent and dependent youth who have made a positive adjustment in their lives and wish to further their education beyond high school.

In the last several years, the board has also established several other awards in order to honor key partners in the Juvenile Justice system. They include the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, the Hon. Wm. Harvey Wiest and Karen Wiest Educator of the Year, Juvenile Court Excellence Award, and Juvenile Court Employee of the Year.

The annual banquet is held in October in conjunction with Juvenile Justice week in PA.



Pictured from left to right: Amy Young, Speaker Rachel Farrow, Mercedes Rodarte holding her son, Major, Garrett Sassani, Matthew Schantz, Kristen Seedor, and Trooper Eileen McDermott

## AWARD WINNERS:

### **Educator of the Year**

Amy Young – 4th grade teacher, Line Mt. Elementary

### **Judge Kivko Scholarships**

Dakota Hart  
Matthew Schantz  
Garrett Sassani

### **Juvenile Court Employee of the Year**

Kristen Seedor

### **Juvenile Court Youth Excellence Award**

Mercedes Rodarte

### **Law Enforcement Officer of the Year**

Trooper Eileen McDermott – PSP Milton

### **Piermattei Youth Service Award**

Evy Bartholomew (actively involved with Cub Scout Pack 3331 for many years)

# STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## CHESTER COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION TRAINED TO INTERPRET THE SPEP™

The footprint of Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™) continues to increase as additional probation staff are trained to understand how the SPEP™ can benefit their decision making. On November 20, 2019, Juvenile Court Judge John L. Hall, 35 juvenile probation staff and representatives from the public defender's office and community-based providers participated in a SPEP™ Informed Training held at the Chester County Justice Center. The ½ day SPEP™ Informed Training enables probation staff to gain a better understanding of how SPEP™ is affecting the services they utilize. The SPEP™ Informed Concept was initially developed to assist juvenile probation to:

- *Interpret* SPEP™ research findings and implications to inform recommendations for dispositional hearings in terms of risk, need and responsivity factors.
- *Explain* this information to judges, district attorneys, public defenders, placement liaisons, and community-based providers.
- *Make more specific recommendations* to the Court which match dosage and duration targets outlined in the research. This will assist communication with families in understanding length of stay or assigned weeks in community-based services.
- *Understand* service provider needs as the alignment between juvenile probation and the service provider becomes clear.

Chester County Juvenile Probation is scheduled to host a statewide Level 1 SPEP™ Specialist Training on May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Currently, eighteen Counties have staff trained as Level 1 SPEP™ Specialists (to create SPEP™ Scores), five counties have staff trained as Level 2 SPEP™ Trainers, and eleven counties have staff trained as SPEP™ Informed.

Additionally, service providers have requested to be trained in the SPEP™ Informed Concept to prepare them for the SPEP™ process and to assist them with implementing performance improvement plans. In response, several SPEP™ Informed Trainings were held in tandem with other SPEP™ meetings and delivered by EPISCenter and probation staff.

Because probation departments and service providers are at different stages of implementing the SPEP™, each training is uniquely developed to best benefit the audience, as part of Service Provider Alignment, under JJSES Stage 3.

SPEP™ Informed Trainings can be facilitated for individual probation departments, service providers, or regionally upon request. For more information about SPEP™ Informed Trainings or inviting a training to your area, please contact Shawn Peck, SPEP™ Project Manager at [smp31@psu.edu](mailto:smp31@psu.edu).

### March

- 11 Trauma Informed Decision Protocol (TIDP)  
State College
- 26 Trauma Informed Care in Criminal Justice  
State College

### April

- 14-15 Motivational Interviewing (MI) 101  
State College
- 29-30 The Internet, Social Media, and Data Privacy  
for Juvenile Justice Professionals  
Camp Hill

### June

- 23-24 Motivational Interviewing (MI) Coaches  
State College

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



# NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## NEW ISSUE OF AMBER ADVOCATE NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE

OJJDP has released the latest issue of [The AMBER Advocate](#) newsletter.

This issue features articles on:

- The tragic ties between missing and abducted children and child sex trafficking, spotlighted at the 2019 National AMBER Alert Symposium,
- The Navajo Nation symposium on child sex trafficking in tribal communities, and
- European police officers' animated video created for International Missing Children's Day.



The AMBER Advocate newsletter is now available [online](#).

The U.S. Department of Justice and the [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#) coordinate the [AMBER Alert program](#) nationally.

### RESOURCES:

- [Learn](#) more about the AMBER Alert Program.
- Access [previous issues](#) of the newsletter.
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

## REDESIGNED AMBER ALERT WEBSITE NOW FEATURES INDIAN COUNTRY RESOURCES

OJJDP has [launched](#) a refreshed [AMBER Alert website](#). The refreshed website now includes access to the [AMBER Alert in Indian Country website](#), a summary of the [AMBER Alert in Indian Country Initiative](#), and training and technical assistance resources. The website, managed by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), provides resources to help regional and state-level AMBER Alert training and coordination efforts and links to resources that support the AMBER Alert program through national partners and OJJDP grantees. "This updated website gives our AMBER Alert partners more information, greater access to resources and a better chance to rescue endangered children," said OJP Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Katharine T. Sullivan and National Coordinator for the AMBER Alert Program.

### RESOURCES:

- View and download OJJDP's "[Implementation of the Ash-lyne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act of 2018: A Report to Congress](#)."
- Access OJJDP's Missing and Exploited Children [webpage](#) for resources.
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

## OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS AWARDS MORE THAN \$212 MILLION TO SUPPORT JUVENILE JUSTICE

Today, the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) [announced](#) awards of more than \$212 million to support juvenile justice. The awards will enhance state and local juvenile justice systems; provide gang prevention and intervention services; support mentoring and reentry services for youth and families; and help states comply with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. OJJDP and the Office for Victims of Crime awarded grants to more than 150 states, local jurisdictions, research and academic institutions, and public and private organizations nationwide.

The grants include:

- Nearly **\$83.1 million** to fund mentoring programs and services for youth.
- A total of **\$42.7 million** to provide assistance to states' juvenile justice systems and staffs.
- More than **\$38.3 million** to fund juvenile and family drug courts and provide services to youth impacted by the opioid crisis.
- More than **\$11.2 million** to supplement reentry services for juveniles and parents of minors.
- Nearly **\$10.7 million** to bolster advocacy for abused and neglected children in child welfare systems and other legal proceedings.
- Almost **\$7.4 million** to support gang intervention, prevention, and education efforts.
- A total of **\$6.9 million** to support juvenile justice research and data collection.
- Approximately **\$3.4 million** to support treatment and services for youth with sexual behavioral problems.
- A total of **\$2.7 million** to provide child abuse training for judicial personnel.
- Nearly **\$1.8 million** to support juvenile indigent defense.
- A total of **\$1.5 million** to fund training for juvenile prosecutors.
- A total of **\$1.4 million** will support American Indian and Alaska Native youth programs and services.
- A total of **\$450,000** will fund training for juvenile corrections facility leadership.
- A total of **\$433,000** will support emergency planning activities for juvenile justice residential facilities.

### RESOURCES:

- For additional information about these awards, see the Office of Justice Programs' [fact sheet](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



# NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS' BLOG ADDRESSES RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH

The Office of Justice Programs has posted a [blog](#) commemorating November's [National Runaway Prevention Month](#). The blog highlights efforts by OJJDP and the [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#) to respond to and provide services for runaway youth. The [National Runaway Safeline](#) reports that between 1.6 million and 2.8 million youth run away each year. Read the blog to learn about how OJJDP's reentry, [mentoring](#), and [drug treatment courts](#) programs are helping to improve outcomes for these youth.

### RESOURCES:

- Visit [OJJDP's Runaway and Homeless Youth webpage](#).
- View and download OJJDP's [juvenile reentry toolkit](#).
- See OJJDP's [Model Programs Guide](#) for juvenile reentry programs.
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

## OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS AWARDS MORE THAN \$143.7 MILLION IN CHILD PROTECTION GRANTS

Today, the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs [announced](#) awards of more than \$143.7 million in child protection grants. The awards will enhance state, local and tribal jurisdictions' capabilities to protect children and respond to juvenile victimization. OJJDP and the Office for Victims of Crime awarded grants to

more than 120 sites, jurisdictions, and task forces nationwide. The funds will help communities find missing children, support law enforcement investigations, and increase overall public safety through prosecution of those who seek to abuse or exploit children.

The grants include:

- More than **\$48.2** million to support missing and exploited children programs and services.
- A total of **\$36.1** million to help combat and prevent Internet crimes against children.
- Nearly **\$30** million to fund services for child and youth victims of human trafficking.
- More than **\$22** million to fund multidisciplinary efforts to improve the community response to child abuse.
- A total of **\$7.1** million to help communities address youth violence and victimization through a comprehensive school-based approach.
- OJJDP also awarded **\$300,000** to provide culturally relevant training and technical assistance to support Alaska Native youth.

### RESOURCES:

- For additional information about these awards, see the Office of Justice Programs' [fact sheet](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

This publication is produced monthly by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. Guest articles are welcome; please submit by e-mail to [ra-oajcjnews@pa.gov](mailto:ra-oajcjnews@pa.gov).

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