



PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

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SUSAN L. BLACKBURN RETIRES FROM JCJC



After four decades of service to the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system, Susan “Susi” Blackburn retired from the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission on January 3, 2019. Susi began her career as a juvenile probation officer with Somerset County Probation and Youth Services in 1979. From 1990-1994 she served as the Assistant Chief and in 1994 she was named Chief Juvenile Probation Officer. In 1998, after working 19 years in Somerset County, Susi joined the staff of the Juvenile Court Judges’

Commission as the statewide Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) Specialist. Susi’s passion for BARJ made her the perfect person for the job, and her enthusiasm and advocacy for restorative justice has never waned.

Anyone who has ever met Susi knows her energy is infectious. Susi’s knowledge and insights regarding BARJ, restorative practices, and victim services within a juvenile justice context are unparalleled. Throughout her career, Susi’s expertise was a benefit to her colleagues, and to external stakeholders at the county, state, national, and international levels.

Her accomplishments during her tenure are too extensive to list, from the composition of white papers and other research publications, development and presentation of training curricula, committee contributions, and outstanding consultation and technical assistance - Susi brought a passion and enthusiasm to her work that is indescribable. She is adored by her colleagues, has cultivated countless relationships throughout her career, and is consistently held in high regard.

As recognition for her unwavering commitment and dedication to restorative justice, in 2015 at the James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice, Susi was presented with the Dennis M. Maloney Award. Since its establishment in 1997, the award has only been presented three times, with Susi being the third and most recent recipient.

While many people may slowly pull back and ease into retirement, that was not Susi’s style. Even up to her last day, she worked tirelessly to see several large projects to completion.

Susi has undoubtedly earned her retirement after decades of tireless service to the youth, families, victims, and stakeholders of juvenile justice, but our system will miss one of its most prolific practitioners. Congratulations, Susi!

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JUSTINE FOWLER ACCEPTS POSITION AT CRIME AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE



On January 11, 2019, Justine Fowler ended her tenure with the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) to pursue a position as a Policy Specialist with the Crime and Justice Institute (CJI), a division of Community Resources for Justice (CRJ). Headquartered in Boston, CRJ is a non-profit organization that works with local, state, and national criminal and juvenile justice organizations to provide "technical assistance... using a data-driven approach to design, enact, and implement system-level reforms." Justine began her employment with the JCJC in 2011 as a Stoneleigh Fellow hired to develop an annual recidivism report. This report became the premier publication of the efforts to operationally define recidivism in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system—the yardstick for articulating progress in the state's efforts to implement evidence-based policies and practices. During her employment, Justine continually pushed the scope of, and enhanced, the recidivism report. She also expanded her work to so much more than analyzing recidivism data – she assisted in the publication of the agency's annual disposition report, routinely supplied and analyzed miscellaneous data elements and reports as requested by legislators and external stakeholders, and assisted in the development of training presentations and curricula. Justine's contributions to Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system have been exceptionally valuable, and she will no doubt continue to do great things with CRJ. We wish Justine all the best as she begins this new career journey!

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Family Involvement and Youth Outcomes



A recent study examined the relationship between family involvement during the juvenile justice process and youth outcomes.

A key finding from the study was related to family member presence at court hearings and youth recidivism.

Youth who had at least one court hearing without a family member present experienced:



3x greater odds of having a violation of probation filed and substantiated.



2.5x greater odds of recidivating



Shorter time to rearrest (of those who recidivated).

Study Sample
300 youth



203 males

97 females

Waltman-Spreha, K. (2018). *Examining the Relationship Between Family Involvement in the Juvenile Justice Process and Recidivism*. Doctoral dissertation submitted to Temple University.

COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

WELCOME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GALE KENDALL ADAMS COUNTY PROBATION SERVICES



On October 15, 2018, Gale Kendall was appointed as Executive Director of Adams County Department of Probation Services by the Honorable Michael George, President Judge. In this position, Ms. Kendall will oversee both the Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments in Adams County.

Prior to this position, Ms. Kendall served as the Administrative Services Manager for 1 ½ years with Adams County Department of Probation Services. Ms. Kendall also served as a Deputy Court Administrator for the 39th Judicial District of Franklin and Fulton Counties for over 7 years. Ms. Kendall gained experience working with juveniles through her employment with Franklin County Juvenile Probation for 5 years, as well as some work as a counselor with George Junior Preventative Aftercare and work experience gained in Foster Care with Washington County, MD Department of Social Services. Ms. Kendall holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, with a concentration in Juvenile Justice, from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. Ms. Kendall is eager to “immerse herself” into all the current innovation in the juvenile justice field.

LANCASTER COUNTY HOSTS SPEP™ KICKOFF EVENT

Submitted by Cheri Modene, Lancaster County

On January 24, 2019, Lancaster County Juvenile Probation, in conjunction with the EPISCenter, hosted a SPEP™ kickoff event. The purpose of the event was to educate stakeholders about the SPEP™ Project and how, together, we can be more successful in aligning our services with evidence-based practices. This agenda was accomplished through a series of presentations to our provider network and to our Juvenile Court Committee. The content of these presentations focused on the many facets encompassing service provider alignment.

David Mueller, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, provided the welcome and talked about the importance of seeing the SPEP™ process as a “team” endeavor. Robert Tomassini, Deputy Director, Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission, provided an introduction to the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). Kelli Davis, Probation Officer, Senior, provided information on the foundation of the process and explained the training process. Shawn Peck, Project Manager, Penn State EPISCenter, followed with a review of SPEP™ research findings and the implications of these findings. Cheri Modene, Deputy Director, led a discussion of the enhanced partnership, generated by SPEP™, between juvenile courts and service providers. The succeeding presentation was led by Cheri Modene, as she presented a review of data specific to youth supervised by Lancaster County. The final presentation was an overview of the SPEP™ process facilitated by Shawn Peck and Anthony Stukes, Implementation Specialist, Penn

State EPISCenter. In conclusion, there was time allotted for a period of open discussion and questions.

Lancaster County Juvenile Probation would like to extend our thanks to stakeholders who joined in making the SPEP™ kickoff event a success. Our gratitude is extended to Lancaster County Juvenile Court Judge David R. Workman and Judge Christopher A. Hackman, and Court Administrator Mark M. Dalton, along with representatives from the Juvenile Probation Department, District Attorney’s Office, and Public Defender’s Office. We also extend our appreciation to community-based providers for agreeing to partner with us in order to provide the highest quality services for our youth. We value your interest and attentiveness to performance improvement through the SPEP™ process.

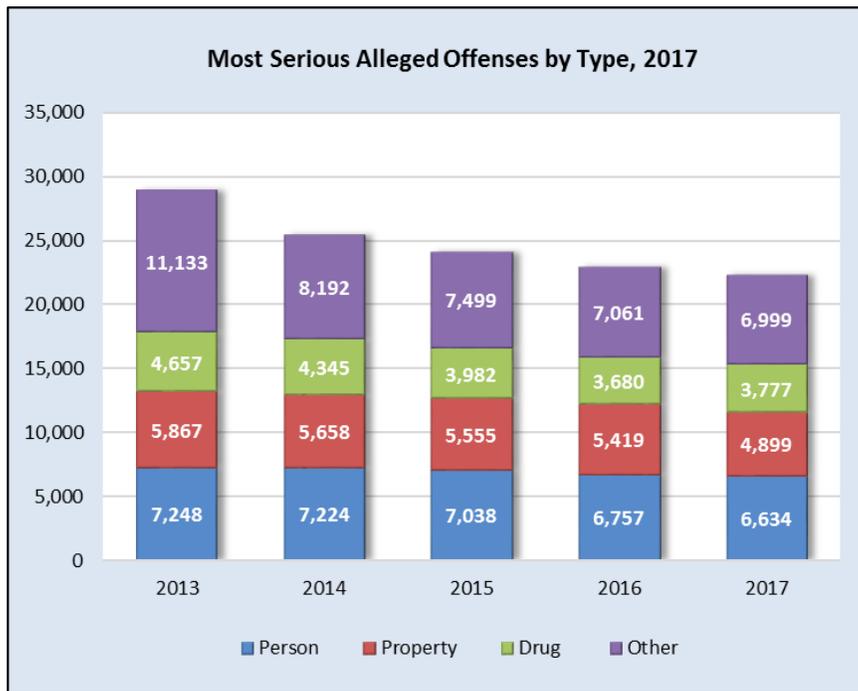
In addition, we would like to offer our thanks and gratefulness to representatives from the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission and Penn State EPISCenter for their participation and continuous support.

In the upcoming months, Lancaster County Juvenile Probation and the EPISCenter will be joining together with interested service providers to initiate the SPEP™ process. Collaborating as a community, we will strive to strengthen our partnerships during the process of determining the most effective interventions for our youth in our quest to reduce recidivism. For more information about the SPEP™ process, please review detailed materials at the EPISCenter website located under the Juvenile Justice tab: www.episcenter.psu.edu.

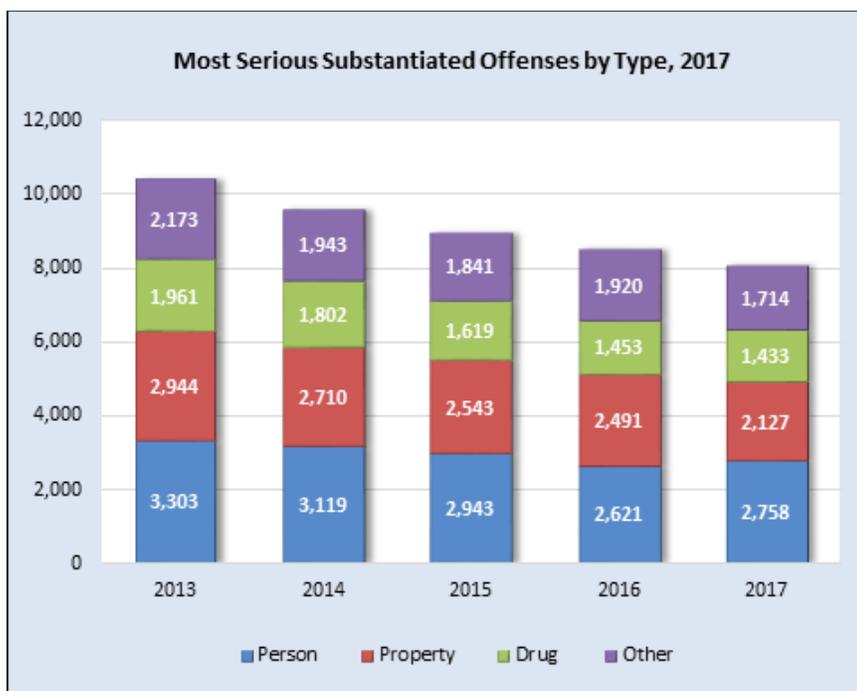
PENNSYLVANIA'S 2017 JUVENILE COURT ANNUAL REPORT

Delinquency Dispositions – Most Serious Alleged and Substantiated Offenses

Most serious alleged offenses* in Pennsylvania have decreased by 2.7% from 2016 to 2017 and have decreased by 22.8% since 2013. The number of alleged offenses within the Property offense category has shown the largest decrease (9.6%) from 2016 to 2017, followed by Person offenses (1.8%), and “Other” offenses (<1%). Drug offenses increased by 2.6% for this time period. Since 2013, “Other” offenses have shown the sharpest decline (37.1%). Drug and Property offenses have also declined considerably, 18.9% and 16.5%, respectively. Person offenses decreased 8.5% over this five-year time period.



*Most serious alleged offenses are compiled based on the most serious alleged offense for each juvenile delinquency disposition.



Similar to the most serious alleged offenses, the number of substantiated offenses* also declined in this time period. From 2016 to 2017, the largest decrease occurred in the Property offense category (14.6%), followed by “Other” offenses (10.7%) and Drug Offenses (1.4%). Person offenses, however, increased by 5.2%. The total number of substantiated offenses in 2017 remains well below 2013 levels. Similarly, each category of substantiated offenses (Person, Property, Drug, and “Other”) remained below their respective 2013 levels.

*A substantiated offense is any petitioned offense the court finds the juvenile committed.

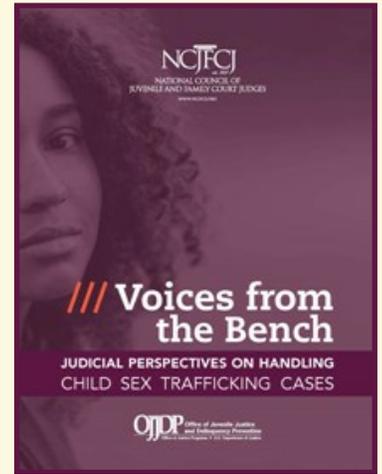
County-specific data on Most Serious Alleged and Substantiated Offenses can be found in the appendices of the [Pennsylvania 2017 Juvenile Court Annual Report](#).

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

As cited by the NCJFCJ, “Child sex trafficking occurs every day across the U.S. and can happen to any child. Children involved in child welfare and the juvenile justice system are particularly vulnerable to becoming victims. The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) believes juvenile and family court judges can play an important role in identifying child sex trafficking victims and stimulating community and systems collaboration to better serve victimized children.” To offer technical assistance to judges, and as a resource for other practitioners, NCJFCJ recently released the “Voices from the Bench” bulletin.

To access the resource, click on the image or visit:

https://www.ncjfcj.org/sites/default/files/NCJFCJ_DCST_Judicial_Voices_Final_Web.pdf



TECHNOLOGY CORNER

Quality Assurance and Data Collection

Data is an integral part of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). Through your counties participation and utilization of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) and the collection of data, you have made Pennsylvania one of the leading juvenile justice data sets in the country.

Quality data is essential in the application of evidence-based practice in juvenile justice. The utilization of this data continues to be at the forefront of reducing offender risk, providing for the integration of quality research evidence, as well as guiding policy and practice decisions throughout the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system.

The publication of the 2017 Juvenile Court Annual Report is an illustration of the continued efforts of Pennsylvania juvenile probation departments in quality assurance and data collection. The 2017 publication is the first year that allegation statistical data has been included in the annual report. If you wish to review this report, you may access it through the following link:

[Pennsylvania 2017 Juvenile Court Annual Report.](#)

The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC) and Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R) desire to continue to enhance the Juvenile Court Annual Report. With the addition of JJSES initiatives, the continued partnership in the practice of quality data collection, and the enhanced outcome measures we are confident that the annual report will continue to be a vital tool in guiding the JJSES framework and mission.

JCJC and CJJT&R are tremendously grateful for the ongoing partnership with county juvenile probation departments in all data collection efforts. It is your continued participation that will enable the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System to continuously improve decisions, services, and programs.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

February

27-28 Motivational Interviewing 101
State College

March

20 Taking Care of Yourself as a Helper
State College

April

8-12 Orientation for the New Juvenile Probation
Professional—Blended Learning Course
Camp Hill

29-30 Youth Mental Health First Aid
Harrisburg

May

22 MI Forum
State College

30-31 Understanding Mood Disorders and Why Youth
with Trauma and Attachment Disorders Have
Anxiety and Depression
Harrisburg

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

JCJC POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT RESEARCH ANALYST

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is currently accepting applicants for the position of Research Analyst. The position is a grant-funded Shippensburg University Foundation position, and will be based in the administrative office of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission in Harrisburg, PA. This position serves as the agency's lead research analyst, and provides research and support for the development and implementation of juvenile justice policy and practice. This position is responsible for working with large administrative datasets and administrative performance measures. The position requires extensive writing assignments, and some travel may be required.

Qualified candidates will have a combination of education and experience of either: a bachelor's degree and two years of experience conducting program analysis involving the use of statistical and quantitative data analysis techniques; or a master's degree within the social science field. Candidates with juvenile justice research experience will be given preference. The annual salary range for this position is \$44,362 - \$87,844 and includes a comprehensive benefits package. Appointments above the starting salary may be considered, and will be commensurate with the candidate's education, work experience, and qualifications.

Candidates must submit a cover letter and resume to ricsteele@pa.gov or:

Richard D. Steele, Executive Director
Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
601 Commonwealth Ave., Suite 9100
P.O. Box 62425
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2425

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MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ADMINISTRATION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

HYBRID FORMAT | 33 CREDIT PROGRAM | START FALL 2019

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

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

JOIN US!

Family Peer Support Specialist Training

The Family Peer Support Provider Practice Model provides a framework for the essential functions of a Parent Peer Support Specialist, offering core competency training and practicing of skills across the 6 phases of parent peer support: Connect, Discover, Support, Empower, Prepare and Take Care. This is a 5-day comprehensive training using the FREDLA Family Peer Support Provider Practice Model.

To participate in the training, you **MUST** be a parent/caregiver who has raised or been the primary caregiver of a child or youth who has been involved in the Mental Health/Behavioral Health System. Your lived experience is an essential piece of being able to work with families who are navigating systems and sharing the same or similar experiences as your own!

COMING: A Pennsylvania certification for Family Peer Support Specialist. This training will be a mandatory requirement for certification.

Where: Beacon Health Options

300 Seven Fields Blvd., Suite 100

Seven Fields, PA 16046

Dates: March 18, 19, 20 and 25,26

When: 9:00am to 5:00pm

Deadline for applications: March 11, 2019 **Registration is limited.**

Lunch will be provided. Wear comfortable clothes.

What do I need to do? If you are interested fill out the application to participate and the Training Program Coordinator will contact you.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y7Z573P>

Questions: Contact Jill Santiago at santiagoj@upmc.edu

Family Peer Support Specialist Training Program Coordinator



PA Care Partnership Trauma Informed Trainings for Youth, Family and System Partners

The PA Care Partnership is sponsoring Trauma Training, provided by the Lakeside Global Institute. For more information to see if your organization is eligible to have one or more of these live and in person two-hour trainings, contact info@pacarepartnership.org.

The following are the classes available:

- * Trauma 101: An Overview of Trauma-Informed Care (2-hour workshop)
- * Trauma 102: Basic Skills of Trauma-Informed Care (2-hour workshop)
- * Trauma 103: Recognizing Vicarious & Secondary Trauma for Caregivers
- * Trauma 105: An Introduction to Trauma for Parents & Caregivers
- * Trauma 106: An Introduction to Trauma for Youth

If you have a group of people that you would like to have trained in any of the listed workshops and have a space for training, PA Care Partnership will provide trainers and all materials at no charge.

Contact info@pacarepartnership.org with questions or to schedule trainings.



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OJJDP BULLETIN SUMMARIZES JUVENILE ARRESTS

Today, OJJDP released "[Juvenile Arrests, 2016](#)." This bulletin describes the current arrest trends for juveniles from 1980 to 2016, using data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report. Findings presented in this bulletin show that the number of juvenile arrests was at its lowest since 1980, with much of the decline occurring within the past 10 years. However, patterns vary by offense and demographics. For example, while both male and female juvenile arrests declined in the last 10 years, declines have been greater for males in many offense categories. In addition, while juvenile arrest rates for violent crimes such as robbery and aggravated assault have declined in the last five years, the juvenile arrest rate for murder has increased.



RESOURCES:

[Learn more](#) about OJJDP's data analysis tools.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE RELEASES COORDINATED TRIBAL ASSISTANCE SOLICITATION

The U.S. Department of Justice has [announced](#) the release of the Fiscal Year 2019 [Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation](#) (CTAS), which allows tribes to submit a single application for most of the Department's tribal grant programs. Funding will be used to improve public safety and victim services in tribal communities. OJJDP supports two purpose areas under CTAS: [Juvenile Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts](#) and the [Tribal Youth Program](#). Applications are due by February 26, 2019.

RESOURCES:

The following webinars have been scheduled to assist applicants: Application Checklist and Q&A: February 12, 2019, 2 to 3:30 p.m. ET. [Register](#).
Learn more about the FY 2019 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation.

OJJDP NEWS @ A GLANCE, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) announces the availability of [OJJDP News @ a Glance](#), November/December 2018. This issue's [top story](#) and [Message From the Administrator](#) discuss OJJDP's fiscal year 2018 priorities, activities, and funding.

Other features in this issue—

- [Overview: OJJDP's Intervention Division](#)
- [OJJDP Holds Core Requirements Training for States](#)
- [Facts in Focus: OJJDP's Reentry Guide for Youth](#)
- [November: Native American Heritage Month](#)
- [Staff Spotlight: Will Bronson, Deputy Associate Administrator and Operations Manager](#)
- [Research Central: Data on Characteristics, Risk Factors, and Protective Factors of Children With Incarcerated Parents](#)
- [Stakeholder Corner: Guam's New Family Drug Court Supports Parents in Recovery and the Reunification of Families](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [News in Brief](#)
- [New Publications](#)
- [News From the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#)

RESOURCES:

[OJJDP News @ a Glance](#), November/December 2018 (NCJ 252198) is available [online](#).

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT REAUTHORIZED

In December, President Trump signed into law the [Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018](#), reauthorizing and substantially amending the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDP Act). Since the bill's signing, OJJDP has received several requests for information and guidance regarding the implications of the Act's provisions to state-level juvenile justice systems and programs. OJJDP is reviewing the bill to identify changes to the JJDP Act that will impact the field and will work with states to implement the new requirements. Please look for future communication and training opportunities from OJJDP on this topic post-federal government shutdown.

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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