GOVERNOR WOLF MAKES APPOINTMENTS TO THE JUVENILE COURT JUDGES’ COMMISSION

On June 8, 2019, Governor Tom Wolf appointed the Honorable Joy Reynolds McCoy to the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC). Judge McCoy serves on the Court of Common Pleas in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. She is currently in her tenth year on the bench. She oversees the Family Court Division, primarily presiding over cases involving custody, support, divorce, domestic violence, delinquency and Children & Youth matters. Judge McCoy has been the Administrative Judge for Children & Youth since January 2010. She is also the Administrative Judge for the Juvenile Probation Office and the Domestic Relations Office.

Judge McCoy helped to create and presides over the Williamsport Area School District Attendance Improvement Court and the Williamsport Middle School Behavior Improvement Court. She also created the Lycoming County Canine in the Courts Initiative in 2018 and oversees the program which includes Jedi II, a Courthouse Facility Dog. Judge McCoy is chair of the Lycoming County Domestic Violence Task Force and founder of the Lycoming County Fatality Review Team.

In July 2018, Judge McCoy was appointed to a second three-year term by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as a member of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee.

In 2011, Judge McCoy received Lycoming County YWCA’s Unsung Hero Award and Women of Excellence Award. She is an advisory board member for Big Brothers/Big Sisters in Lycoming County and Volunteers as a Big Sister.

Judge McCoy is married to Ed McCoy, Chief of the Lycoming County Adult Probation Office. She has two children: Collin, a Clinton County Juvenile Probation Officer; and Abby, who attends Emory & Henry College in Virginia on an equestrian scholarship.

The appointment of Judge McCoy fills a vacancy on the Commission created by the retirement of Judge Nathaniel C. Nichols (Delaware County), who retired in January of this year.

Governor Wolf also reappointed Judge Kim Berkeley Clark (Allegheny County) and Judge J. Brian Johnson (Lehigh County) to additional terms on the Commission. Judge Clark serves as the Chair of the JCJC and has been a member since 2013. Judge Johnson has served as a member since 2016.
Chief Robert (Bob) J. Blakely retired from the Erie County Juvenile Probation Department on June 17, 2019, after 38 years of service. Bob began his career as a Juvenile Probation Officer on February 23, 1981. He was promoted to supervisor on January 14, 1991 and to Chief Juvenile Probation Officer on April 15, 1999. It was at this time that Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) evolved and Bob actively promoted the institutionalization of BARJ into the work of Erie County Juvenile Probation. Bob earned his master’s degree in Administration of Justice from Mercyhurst University in 1992.

For the last 20 years as Chief, Bob was active in Erie County’s Juvenile Justice becoming a driving force in collaborative efforts with all local agencies. Bob fostered a positive relationship with Office of Children and Youth (OCY), breaking down barriers and improving communication. He received the James V. Kinnane award in 2008 for being outstanding in the Criminal Justice field. Of great significance was Bob’s involvement with the McArthur Foundation’s Models for Change Initiative. Just one result of his work being the creation of a structured approach to screening and assessment involving juvenile probation and local mental health providers. To date, stakeholders meet weekly to arrange mental health and/or drug and alcohol evaluations and make referrals for appropriate services at an expedited speed.

Bob “just a few things” Blakely was active with the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC) and Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PaCCJPO) for many years. He served as the Chair of the Awards and the Planning Committees. In his role as Chair of the Planning Committee, Bob facilitated quarterly Probation Only Meetings to provide an opportunity for juvenile probation departments to have open dialogue. Bob was always a supporter of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) initiative and, as a result, Erie County Juvenile Justice has made efforts to integrate these philosophies in all areas of practice. Furthermore, the department has partnered with the Mercyhurst Civic Institute to collect data to examine trends and help develop program policies.

A well-attended retirement party was held for Bob on June 13, 2019. The number of people who attended reflected the respect Bob earned in Erie County and statewide. Bob was always willing to talk to anyone or help with any issue that arose. He was a level-headed leader who cared about the welfare of everyone. Bob is looking forward to retirement and spending time with his wife Pam, tending to his tropical fish, hunting, and perfecting the miter cut. Additionally, he continues his involvement with Mercyhurst University as an adjunct professor of Juvenile Justice.

JCJC POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND GRANT PROGRAMS

The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC) is currently accepting applicants for the position of Director of Administration and Grant Programs. This position is responsible for the administration of the annual JCJC Probation Services Grant Program, the agency’s operating budget, and the provision of technical assistance to juvenile court judges and chief juvenile probation officers. Qualified candidates must have seven years of professional juvenile justice experience, which includes five years of experience as a juvenile probation officer, and a Master’s Degree in criminal justice, criminology or the behavioral sciences; experience in an administrative, supervisory, or professional juvenile court consulting capacity preferred. The annual starting salary for this position is $56,059 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 salary history. Candidates must submit a cover letter and resume to Robert Tomassini, Deputy Director, Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission, 601 Commonwealth Ave., Suite 9100, P.O. Box 62425, Harrisburg, PA 17106-2425 or rtomassini@pa.gov. For full consideration, applications must be submitted by July, 31, 2019.
SPOTLIGHT ON CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

The Continuous Quality Improvement Committee held a webinar on June 17, 2019, to raise awareness of the release of the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Sustainability Planning Guide, published in March 2019; help departments understand the Guide’s potential value to them; and to introduce the CQI Forum to be held in State College on October 17, 2019.

The development of the CQI Sustainability Planning Guide is an initiative of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). Its goal is to help Pennsylvania juvenile probation chiefs, as well as those responsible for the development and implementation of quality assurance, establish a continuous quality improvement plan in key areas related to risk reduction and to avoid “drift.” Drift can be defined as the process of incrementally departing from an endorsed, proven procedure. Drift occurs when one is trained in the proper way to execute a skill, assessment, or tool only to depart from the sanctioned approach over time. Without a process to prevent drift, it is inevitable. Assessments will not be done accurately, tools will not be used properly, and techniques will be misapplied. The process of CQI will uncover areas in which drift has occurred—as well as the gaps in services and processes, policy shortcomings, and lack of resources that have contributed to the drift—and new areas that need attention. As such, CQI is not the final stage of JJSES implementation; rather, it leads to constant cycles of discovery, action, improvement, and measurement as illustrated below.

The webinar reviewed the development of the CQI Sustainability Guide; policy issues around coaching, boosters, learning teams, and organizational culture; resources to help departments implement CQI; and CQI activities in seven key areas including:

- Motivational Interviewing (MI)
- Youth Level of Service (YLS)
- PaDRAI
- Case planning
- One-on-one interventions
- Cognitive behavioral interventions
- Graduated responses

The hour-long webinar (which was recorded for those who were unable to attend) ended with a description of the process for applying to attend the CQI Forum kickoff, October 17, 2019, in State College. This daylong CQI Forum is for juvenile probation departments interested in advancing their CQI efforts in one of the seven key areas. It will be a working session whereby departments will be given information, provided structure to conduct local work, and given onsite technical assistance. As such, juvenile departments are encouraged to send teams (2-6 individuals responsible for CQI planning or implementation). Rural counties might consider creating a team with neighboring counties to provide support and explore ways to partner around this effort. If counties join to form a team, they should agree on their area of CQI focus. All seven CQI areas described in the CQI manual will not be addressed in this forum; rather, attention will be devoted to 2-3 areas. Forum slots are limited because the forum format will consist of working teams requiring individual attention. The CQI Committee anticipates that the demand for this event will exceed its capacity. For this reason, departments are required to submit an application identifying their CQI needs. Departments will be
selected based on their needs and the ability of the CQI Committee to organize the event around the areas of greatest demand. The decision as to whether to hold a second forum will be made at a later point, contingent on the applications submitted. Departments interested in attending the CQI Forum need to submit an application by July 10, 2019 and will be notified of decisions by July 31. Applications should be sent to Nicole Mattern by email nmattern@dauphinc.org or mail by sending it to Dauphin County Probation Services, 100 Chestnut Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

To view the CQI Sustainability Planning Guide, click here

Or visit:


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**EPISCENTER HIRES NEW STAFF FOR SPEP™ PROJECT**

*Submitted by Shawn Peck*

The Evidence-based Prevention & Intervention Support Center (EPISCenter) recently hired two new SPEP™ Implementation Specialists, creating a total of six SPEP™ Implementation Specialists to support probation departments in the implementation of the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™). Currently, 16 counties are implementing the SPEP™ and additional counties are sending probation staff to be trained as Level 1 SPEP™ Specialists in September 2019. Additionally, several juvenile probation departments expressed interest in being trained as SPEP™ Informed. As SPEP™ Informed, probation staff will learn more about the SPEP™ and how it can benefit their decision making. Each SPEP™ Implementation Specialist 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 (JJSES).

Dawn Hooton was recently hired as a SPEP™ Implementation Specialist 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, Dawn was a Juvenile Probation Officer with Lebanon County Probation Services. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice from California State University Sacramento, and a Master of Science in Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University. Dawn brings approximately 8 years of experience working in juvenile justice.

Kevin Perluke was recently hired as a SPEP™ Implementation Specialist 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, Kevin was an Admissions Specialist at Mid-Atlantic Youth Services and a Juvenile Probation Officer with Luzerne County. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in History from Mansfield University. Kevin brings approximately 14 years of experience working in juvenile justice.
FOURTH MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING COACHES’ FORUM HELD

The fourth Motivational Interviewing (MI) Coaches’ Forum was held on May 22, 2019 at the Days Inn in State College, PA. The event aspired to energize Motivational Interviewing Coaches and provide focus for their efforts to sustain the use of MI in their local jurisdictions. The forum also provided an opportunity for participants to network and share ideas with fellow coaches from around the Commonwealth. The State MI Committee took advantage of the occasion to gain valuable feedback from coaches that will help to refine our unique approach for the advancement of Motivational Interviewing in Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system.

The event’s lead facilitator, Mr. Michael Clark, guided participants through discussion and activities related to various topics important to MI Coaches, including building confidence as a coach; strategies for coaching the MI processes of engagement, examining resistance, focusing, and evoking change talk, and tips for reviewing observation tapes. Mr. Clark also entertained many questions from participants throughout the day. Coaches left the event with a wealth of content to assist them in their coaching endeavors including handouts, a flash drive with resources, and a copy of Mr. Clark’s recently published book, Motivational Interviewing with Offenders.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING TRAINER MICHAEL D. CLARK

Members of the State Motivational Interviewing Committee served as the lead facilitators of the first three Motivational Interviewing Coaches’ Forums. In contrast, this year, to provide MI Coaches with an energetic and fresh voice, the Committee welcomed Mr. Michael Clark as the lead facilitator for the event. Mr. Clark is an internationally recognized expert on the use of Motivational Interviewing within various contexts, including juvenile justice. He is a consultant and trainer who previously served as a juvenile probation officer and a family court hearings magistrate. Currently, Mr. Clark is the Director of the Center for Strength-Based Strategies (www.buildmotivation.com), a technical assistance group that develops and applies the Strengths Approach and Motivational Interviewing to the fields of addictions, mental health, corrections, and juvenile justice. Mr. Clark is also a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT) and the author of resources and books related to Motivational Interviewing.

Prior to the forum, Mr. Clark answered the following interview questions about the use of MI in the field of juvenile justice.
What advice would you give a Juvenile Justice professional who is being exposed to Motivational Interviewing for the first time?

Realize that MI isn’t a “fire-bomb” that burns everything out, leaving only MI in its place! Motivational interviewing tells us there are three styles of communication; directing, guiding, and following. They’re all appropriate and surely, we turn to all three styles during a day of working with youth. When I’m serving probation orders, I tend to be directive. If, during an office visit, a youth breaks into tears and I don’t know why, I tend to ask a few gentle questions and listen more, using a “following” style. However, when a juvenile says, “I don’t care what my court orders say, I’m NOT going to treatment!”, I move into Motivational Interviewing which embraces a guiding style.

By the way, what’s my first response to the youth who gets angry and says, “I don’t care what my court orders say, I’m not going to treatment!”? My response would be, “You’re upset by this, you don’t feel treatment is right for you.” First steps should always be listening and connecting. Connect first, guide later.

It’s also tempting to think of MI as a set of rules and that we must get everything right. Learning to use MI takes time and practice! I think staff who are new to MI are starting to “get it” when they can start to move flexibly between a directing style and a guiding style. Knowing when to move out of directing to guiding is important.

Where do you see Motivational Interviewing having the greatest impact in the field of Juvenile Justice?

This is difficult to answer, but I would say it’s in the ability to help PO’s lower resistance and keep a positive alliance. When I worked as a juvenile probation officer and ran into a hostile youth, it seemed like everything I did made the situation worse. What seems to cause the biggest ruptures in our work is our own emotional reactivity. When I get “hot,” the situation is likely to get worse. One of the first benefits of MI that I noticed was much less tension when a youth turned angry. I had skills to use and did not feel my emotions ramping up as much when the youth would “go off.” A juvenile probation officer working in California told me about similar experiences. This officer had been trained in MI and attended one of my booster sessions to sharpen his skills. During a discussion over a morning break, he said, “It’s funny, when I get a real compliant youth in my office, I think to myself, ‘boring!’ But when a kid digs in and says, ‘To hell with the judge, I ain’t doing it!’ I start to think, ‘Oh cool, time for MI – I’m ready for ya.” This comment captured what I had always felt was a huge benefit to using MI in this tough job.

What else would you like to tell us?

MI changes you. Juvenile justice professionals across the country have told me how they feel “different” after using MI. I’ve had trainees coming back for booster sessions who say, “You told me it would change the youth I’m working with, but you never told me how much it would change me.” Embracing the Spirit of MI can be career changing. Under the MI Spirit dimension of acceptance, you have the concept of “absolute worth.” Absolute worth is a challenge to look within yourself to decide whether a youth’s law-breaking behavior negates their humanity. MI says it does not, but how we wrestle with this notion is very personal. Teaching the MI Spirit dimension of “compassion” has not always been easy in adult corrections and juvenile justice. I state in my book that one of the most powerful human motivations is the power of the committed heart. But this commitment of heart involves more than just the youth, it also involves the values, beliefs, and desires of staff. There are two people in an interaction, and what we as professionals think, feel, and believe is critically important.
Pennsylvania's Motivational Interviewing Accomplishments

2012
- The MI Committee is formed.
- MI implementation protocol is developed.

2014
- MI is incorporated into Orientation for New Juvenile Justice Professionals.

2015
- The first MI Coaches' Forum is held.
- The MI Implementation and Practice Guide is released.
- MI Consultant is hired to advance MI implementation statewide.

2016
- MI training video is created.
- MI Benchcard is created.
- MI Overview Training for Juvenile Court Judges is developed.
- The second MI Coaches' Forum is held.

2017
- The third MI Coaches' Forum is held.
- The MI Coaches Workbook is released.

2018

Implementation
- 47 counties have initiated MI implementation.
- 138 MI Coaches have been identified.
- 26 counties have developed MI specific policies.

Training
- The MI Committee developed the MI 101 Training Curriculum.
- The MI Committee developed the MI Coaches Training Curriculum.

Quality Assurance/CQI
- 37 counties are engaging in Booster Trainings.
- 32 counties are engaging in Skills Practice.
- 26 counties are engaging in Coaching Sessions.
- 25 counties are engaging in Coding Sessions.
INTRODUCTION
The rollout of the YLS/CMI in PA county juvenile probation offices took place in one of four staggered phases (2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012). Today, 66 out of 67 counties use the YLS/CMI.

Between 2015 and 2018, several years after its rollout, study authors conducted research to examine the implementation outcomes in county offices. Specifically, they assessed the form county YLS/CMI policies took; how officers’ routinely used the YLS/CMI; and how state and county factors had shaped local policies and practices.

To do this, they collected data from five diverse case study counties, including interviews with 87 juvenile probation officers (JPO’s), about 200 hours of observations of JPOs in their daily work, and a review of YLS/CMI-related policy documents. They also conducted interviews with 12 state reform leaders. Finally, they conducted a state wide email survey to which a total of 492 officers responded (who also indicated their county affiliation), from 56 counties—an overall response rate of 37%

COUNTY YLS/CMI POLICIES
The state-wide YLS/CMI implementation strategy had paid significant attention to engagement, training, and quality assurance, and continued to involve monitoring and problem-solving. The effort encouraged counties to have their staff complete the YLS/CMI and use it to inform dispositional recommendations and case planning. The state also provided performance statistics, licensed local ‘Master Trainers’, and supported local YLS/CMI training, and continued to revisit and develop strategies to support the tool.

However, counties had been left to develop YLS/CMI policies to best fit local context and sensibilities. Local case study policies were somewhat similar to one another, focusing on risk and need principles, and allowing for general responsivity (though providing less detailed direction on specific responsivity). A set of “core” policies focused on conducting the YLS/CMI assessment, and applying results to officer actions and decisions (including court recommendations, case plans, supervision contact frequency and interactions with clients) and the sharing of YLS/CMI information with court actors and service providers. Supporting policies promoted adherence to core policies, for example through training, performance reviews, supervision, and quality assurance. There were however variations in case study counties in the extent of their policy development.

Key findings:
A study of implementation outcomes of the Youth Level of Service/Case-Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) in PA juvenile probation, several years after its rollout, found:

- A state-wide implementation strategy had paid significant attention to engagement, training, and quality assurance, and continued to involve monitoring and problem-solving.
- Local county YLS/CMI policies, while varied, supported the completion and application of the YLS/CMI in probation practice.
- Juvenile probation officers (JPOs) were generally positive about the YLS/CMI.
- JPOs tended to complete the YLS/CMI when required and (to a lesser extent) apply it in their actions and decisions.
- There were variations in the extent of local implementation, reflected in both policy and practice.
- A number of factors seemed to shape local implementation outcomes. The following seemed most important:
  - Office leadership and climate.
  - Office YLS/CMI quality assurance (especially of JPO actions and decision-making).
  - Officers’ enthusiasm for evidence-based practice (shaped by recruitment, staff turnover, and officers’ adaptations to reforms).
  - Broader office context, including relationships with stakeholders and the availability of services.
FRONTLINE PRACTICES

Overall, study results suggest a substantial level of statewide practitioner support for, and adherence to, the core YLS/CMI policy model.

Box 1. Examples of what JPOs said and did

What JPOs said about the YLS/CMI:

“I think it’s the best resource we have to get information and identify risk and to steer us toward what programs to use and the amount of contacts that are necessary”

“I try to touch the top two [criminogenic needs] during supervision”

“Typically, when I receive a case, the YLS isn’t something that I would typically turn to for help.”

What JPOs said about YLS/CMI / case plan supervision:

“[With my supervisor] We get into discussions about how we can better target certain areas/domains ... It’s not just a formality.”

“They have given me [a supervisor] the case plan, because we need a supervisor signature….I don’t know if they are keeping track of it or if they even come back to it...”

What researchers observed about case management:

[The JPO] asked the juvenile if he remembered talking about his case plan and his goals last week. The juvenile said that he did. The PO then reminded him of the goals they had talked about.

The JPO told the kid right away that he had court coming up and that he would not be getting off probation...he was failing classes and still showing up late to school ... all of those things would need to stop before he could get off. [There was no mention of goals, case plan or YLS/CMI].

However, there were some variations in adherence across types of activities, counties and officers. The application of YLS/CMI results to decisions and activities is probably less consistent than the actual completion of the YLS/CMI. There was also evidence that officers sometimes deviated from state scoring guidelines.

Box 2. Common confusions in YLS/CMI scoring

- Whether to count infractions occurring since the current disposition in “prior convictions,” “failures to comply”, and “Prior custody”.
- Whether to use the characteristics of the instant offense alone to infer general patterns of behavior (e.g. “Disruptive classroom behavior”, “Physically aggressive” inferred from their instant offence).
- Whether to use dated school information to fill out the “Education/Employment” section, after the youth has left school.
- Differentiating between “Substance use linked to offense(s)” and just a drug offense.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on variations across offices and officers, we identified the following strategies as potentially important for county leaders for promoting utilization of the YLS/CMI among staff:

Quality assurance
- Develop quality assurance mechanisms that focus on the way YLS/CMI results are applied, not just whether they are completed.

Staff orientation
- Engage staff in dialog about the YLS and Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs).
- Use positive narratives about reforms that connect with officers’ professional goals.
- Recruit staff who are positive about EBPs.

Office context
- Involve juvenile justice stakeholders as partners in the YLS/CMI and other reforms.
- Cultivate diverse services to meet varied criminogenic needs, through existing service providers and through the development of in-house programs.

Office leadership and climate
- Encourage openness and dialog among managers and staff.
- Promote staff development, through training and growth opportunities.
- Incorporate performance measurement and quality assurance into office processes.
Did you know...

According to the Pa. Rules of Juvenile Court Procedures, the definition of a juvenile court record “is the information collected and retained by juvenile justice agencies concerning juveniles, and arising from the initiation of delinquency proceedings, consisting of identifiable descriptions, dates and notations of arrest, written allegations, petitions, other formal charging documents, official court records, and any dispositions arising from those records. The juvenile record does not include intelligence information or investigative information that is maintained separately by law enforcement agencies.” (Pa.R.J.C.P. 120).

Juvenile court records are generally confidential and only the following people may see and make a copy of a child’s court records (42 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 6307):
- The Child, Child’s attorney, or Victim(s)’ attorney
- Department of Corrections, the Parole Board, or any agency providing supervision or having custody of the child
- Court personnel, including judges, officers, and professional staff
- Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts

So, what does that mean for you and me?

It means that we must safeguard access to all juvenile information we work with from anyone not permitted access from the list above according to (42 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 6307). Following are a few guidelines to protect the juvenile data you work with:
- Position computer monitors and documents containing juvenile information in such a way as to prevent unauthorized individuals from access and view.
- Destroy physical media by shredding or incineration.
- Degauss or overwrite digital media at least three times prior to disposal or release for reuse by unauthorized individuals.
- Encrypt all outgoing mail to third parties and/or business partners that includes juvenile information.

Resources:
Applications Being Accepted for Transforming Juvenile Probation Certificate Program and TA Package

Applications Due by July 26, 2019.

CJJR is pleased to partner with the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Council of State Governments Justice Center to release an RFA for the 2019 Transforming Juvenile Probation Certificate Program.

As part of the package, the selected jurisdictions will attend a weeklong Certificate Program that will run from November 4-8, 2019 at Georgetown University.

Click Here to Apply
OJJDP ANNOUNCES NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

OJJDP has announced the following fiscal year 2019 funding opportunities:

- Strengthening Investigative Tools and Technology for Combating Child Sexual Exploitation Applications are due by July 29, 2019.
- Specialized Services and Mentoring for Child and Youth Victims of Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation Applications are due by July 29, 2019.

RESOURCES:

- Visit the funding page for details about these and other OJJDP funding opportunities.

OJJDP'S AMBER Alert FIELD GUIDE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS NOW AVAILABLE

OJJDP has released the "AMBER Alert Field Guide for Law Enforcement Officers." Designed to help law enforcement officers improve their response to cases of missing or abducted children, the guide provides best practices from subject matter experts in AMBER Alert programs nationwide. Topics include establishing leads and leads management, search and recovery operations, screening and training volunteers, interacting with abduction victims’ families, managing media, and more.

RESOURCES:

- Learn more about the AMBER Alert program.
- Access OJJDP’s Missing and Exploited Children webpage for resources.

NEARLY 1,700 SUSPECTED CHILD SEX PREDATORS ARRESTED DURING OPERATION “BROKEN HEART”

The Department of Justice has announced that the recently concluded Operation “Broken Heart” led to the arrest of almost 1,700 suspected online child sex offenders. The OJJDP-funded Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Forces conducted this operation during the months of April and May 2019 as a coordinated investigation to identify and arrest suspected online child sex offenders. OJJDP launched the ICAC Task Force Program in 1998 to help federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies enhance their investigative responses to individuals who use the Internet, online communication systems, or computer technology to exploit children.

RESOURCES:

- Visit the ICAC Task Force website.

OJJDP RELEASES REPORT TO CONGRESS ON AMBER ALERT IN INDIAN COUNTRY

OJJDP has released the "Implementation of the Ashlynne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act of 2018: A Report to Congress." The report provides Congress with an assessment of the readiness, education and training needs, technological challenges, and obstacles encountered by tribes in the integration of state or regional AMBER Alert communication plans. The report includes data obtained from 100 federally recognized tribes and 33 state AMBER Alert coordinators. The Act reauthorized the AMBER Alert grant program and provides grants to states and federally recognized Indian tribes for AMBER Alert implementation. The AMBER Alert is an early warning system that mobilizes community support to help recover abducted children.

RESOURCES:

- Learn more about the AMBER Alert program.
- Access OJJDP’s Missing and Exploited Children webpage for resources.

OJJDP ADDS COURT DATA TO STATISTICAL BRIEFING BOOK

OJJDP has updated its Statistical Briefing Book (SBB) to include national estimates of delinquency and petitioned status offense cases processed in juvenile courts through 2017. Resources include:

- A Data Snapshot describing the characteristics and processing outcomes of delinquency cases handled in juvenile court in 2017.
- The Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics data analysis and dissemination tool.
- Frequently Asked Questions about Juveniles in Court and Juveniles on Probation.
- A Special Topics section, including detailed tables that describe delinquency cases involving Hispanic youth.
- Developed for OJJDP by the National Center for Juvenile Justice, the research division of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, SBB offers easy online access to statistics on a variety of juvenile justice topics.

RESOURCES:

- Access the full list of Data Snapshots and Data Analysis Tools available from the Statistical Briefing Book.
- Learn more about the OJJDP-sponsored National Juvenile Court Data Archive.
OJJDP RELEASES 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

OJJDP has released its 2018 Annual Report to Congress. The report describes OJJDP’s programs and activities during fiscal year (FY) 2018. OJJDP awarded approximately $300 million in FY 2018 to fund programs, research, training and technical assistance, and information dissemination activities that enhance public safety, ensure young offenders are held appropriately accountable, and empower youth to live productive, law-abiding lives. In FY 2018, the Office supported efforts to address drug use, gang and gun violence, missing and exploited children, and a range of other issues through a diverse portfolio of programs and resources.

RESOURCES:
- Read the Office’s previous annual reports.

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR TRANSFORMING JUVENILE PROBATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR), in partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Council of State Governments Justice Center, has released a request for applications for its 2019 Transforming Juvenile Probation Certificate Program, which will take place November 4-8, 2019, in Washington, DC. This program will provide weeklong training to help probation leadership, judges, attorneys, and other stakeholders transform juvenile probation in their jurisdictions. Apply by July 26, 2019.

RESOURCES:
- Access the OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book to learn more about juveniles on probation.
- Learn about all of CJJR’s Certificate Programs.

OJJDP NEWS @ A GLANCE, MAY/JUNE 2019

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) announces the availability of OJJDP News @ a Glance, May/June 2019. This issue’s top story and Message From the Administrator discuss the Department of Justice’s observance of National Missing Children’s Day.

Other features in this issue—
- Implementing the Juvenile Justice Reform Act
- OJJDP Holds Listening Session on Preventing and Responding to School Violence
- OJJDP Hosts National AMBER Alert Symposium
- New Issue of AMBER Advocate Available
- Stakeholder Corner: Addressing Trauma and Transforming Policy and Practice in Greater East St. Louis
- Research Central: Studying Risk Assessment Implementation and Youth Outcomes in the Juvenile Justice System
- Upcoming Events
- News in Brief
- New Publications
- News From the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

RESOURCES:
- OJJDP News @ a Glance, May/June (NCJ 252760) is available online.

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

To subscribe to Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice, please send your request to ra-oajcjcnews@pa.gov to be added to the distribution list. You will receive an e-mail alert each month when the latest edition is available.