



KEITH A. GRAYBILL RETIRES FROM THE JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION



After thirty-nine years of service to the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system, Keith A. Graybill retired from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) on March 27, 2020. Keith began his career as a juvenile and adult probation officer with the Juniata County Probation Department in 1981. Keith was promoted to the position of Chief Probation Officer in 1987, where he remained for the next twelve years. In 1999, after working 18 years in Juniata County, Mr. Graybill joined the staff of JCJC as a Juvenile Court Consultant.

Mr. Graybill stands out as a highly visible and steady figure in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice and public policy fields with a solid track record of service. Several highlights of Mr. Graybill's career are as follows:

- Mr. Graybill worked as a Juvenile Court Consultant for most of his tenure at JCJC, however, he served as the Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research from 2004-2006.
- Mr. Graybill was a long-time active member of both the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and the Adult Chief Probation Officers Association.
- In 2007, Mr. Graybill was appointed to the Pennsylvania County Firearms Education and Training Commission by then Governor Ed Rendell. He served as Chair of the Commission from 2012-2016, and as member of the Commission until his retirement.
- Mr. Graybill was a career-long member of the Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections, serving as President from 2000-2001. He also served as Chair of the Association's Professional Development Committee and the Bylaws Chairperson for numerous years.
- Mr. Graybill was a long-time member of both the American Correctional Association and the American Probation and Parole Association.

INSIDE:

Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Continues to Respond to Challenges Presented by the Coronavirus..... 2
 Save the Date: 2020 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice..... 4
 Cheri Modene Appointed Chief in Lancaster County 5
 Ryan Smeltzer Appointed Director of Probation and Parole in Centre County 5
 This Is a Marathon - Not a Sprint: Strategies to Address Wear & Tear in Helping Professionals During COVID-19 6
 2019 JJSES Implementation Survey Results 9
 Call for Presentations: 2020 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice..... 11
 2020 JCJC Awards Program Nominations Submission Deadline Extended 12
 Nominations Submission Deadline Extended for the "2020 James E. Anderson Youth Scholarship Award" 13
 Technology Corner 13
 Staff Development Highlights..... 14
 Virtual SPEP™ Training for Probation Departments 14
 National Juvenile Justice Announcements..... 15

- Since 2007, Mr. Graybill has been a Certified Criminal Justice Addictions Professional.
- Throughout his career, Mr. Graybill served on numerous state-level advisory groups, including: the State Leadership Team of the Pennsylvania Care Partnership; the Advisory Board of the Youth and Family Training Institute; the Children’s Committee of the Pennsylvania Mental Health Planning Council; the Family Group Decision-Making Planning Council; and the Pennsylvania Community of Practice on School-Based Behavioral Health.
- Mr. Graybill served in various community leadership roles in his home county, including a fourteen-year stint with the Juniata County Prison Ministry.
- During his tenure with JCJC, Mr. Graybill was instrumental to the planning and execution of the annual James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice. Every year, Mr. Graybill coordinated many of the event’s logistics and program events. In addition, since 2011, Mr. Graybill led the Commission’s Awards Committee, which organizes its highly regarded awards program.

Mr. Graybill holds a B.S. degree in Social Work from Eastern Mennonite University and an M.S. in Criminology from Florida State University. Mr. Graybill plans to keep busy in retirement by camping with his wife, visiting with family in Pittsburgh, PA and Meridian, MS, and engaging in church-related activities. Congratulations, Keith!

PENNSYLVANIA’S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM CONTINUES TO RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGES PRESENTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS

The Commonwealth’s juvenile justice system continues to confront the challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic. This article highlights the following current events related to the effect of the coronavirus on Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system:

- the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s denial of a petition asking the high Court to exercise its King’s Bench Authority.
- the suspension of enforcement of several Rules of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles.
- a summary of a survey of juvenile probation departments regarding staff furloughs.

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Action

On April 7, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court *denied* an “Application for Extraordinary Relief under the Court’s King’s Bench Jurisdiction,” filed by the Juvenile Law Center and the DLA Piper Law Firm. The petition asked the State Supreme Court to reduce the number of juveniles in placement by ordering that juveniles entering the juvenile system not be placed into detention or residential care, and that juveniles in detention and placement be reviewed for release, with certain presumptive categories of juveniles being immediately released, in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in facilities housing juveniles.

In denying the petition, The State Supreme Court emphasized that the immediate and wholesale release of juveniles detained in various facilities would fail to take into account the individual circumstances and safety of each juvenile, public safety concerns, and the diversity of situations present within individual institutions and communities.

Also in its response to the petition, the State Supreme Court recognized that public health authorities, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, continue to issue guidance on best practices for institutions where individuals are detained specifically and con-

gregate settings generally to employ preventative measures, including social distancing to control the spread of the disease. The Court also acknowledged the statewide efforts of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission to eliminate the threat of COVID-19 within Pennsylvania's juvenile residential placements. Consequently, the Court specifically directed county courts to:

- engage all relevant county stakeholders to immediately review the current capabilities of residential placements within their counties where judges have placed juveniles to address the spread of COVID-19. (It's important to note the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission created a protocol to assist residential providers in the assessment of key factors relevant to addressing their capabilities to deal with the current health crisis.)
- consult with relevant county stakeholders to identify juveniles and/or classes of juveniles for potential release from placement to reduce the current and future populations of the institutions during this public health crisis with careful regard for the individual circumstances of juveniles in placement as well as their safety and the public's safety with awareness of any statutory rights of victims.
- undertake efforts to limit the introduction of new juveniles into out-of-home placement during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Considering the extraordinary adjustments to the administration of juvenile justice in Pennsylvania during the Pandemic, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) will continue to work with juvenile courts, juvenile probation departments, providers, and other stakeholders to ensure that proper care and attention continues to be provided to all juveniles and families served by our system, especially those juveniles in out-of-home placement.

Interstate Compact for Juveniles Suspends Enforcement of Rules

On April 23, 2020, the Interstate Compact on Juveniles (ICJ) held a special meeting to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the meeting, the Commission recognized that a declaration of a national emergency may compel the Commission to suspend enforcement of the ICJ Rules. Therefore, the Commission adopted and immediately implemented Rule 2-108 allowing for the emergency suspension of enforcement of the ICJ Rules. The new rule emphasizes that any suspension of rule enforcement must be justified based on the degree of disruption caused to the procedures or timeframes regulating the movement of juveniles, the benefit of the suspension to the juvenile and/or public safety, and the anticipated duration of the emergency. The new rule further requires states to continue performing all duties required by the Compact to the greatest extent possible during any suspension of rule enforcement. In further action, the Commission immediately leveraged Rule 2-108 and voted to suspend enforcement of the following sections of [ICJ Rules](#):

Section 400: Transfer of Supervision

Section 500: Supervision in a Receiving State

Section 600: Voluntary and Non-Voluntary Return of Juveniles/Runaways

Section 700: Additional Return Requirements for Sections 500 and 600

Section 800: Travel Permits

The ICJ noted that it will continue to issue communication as the conditions related to the pandemic change.

Survey of Juvenile Probation Departments Regarding Staff Furloughs

To understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the operations of Pennsylvania's juvenile courts and probation departments, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) distributed a series of surveys to all chief juvenile probation officers. The most recent survey focused on information related to furloughs resulting from the pandemic. For the purpose of this survey, furlough was defined as the temporary layoff of employees who are expected to return to work. The survey was open for three days (April 13-15) and was completed by 56 juvenile probation departments (84% of all the juvenile probation departments in the Commonwealth). A summary of the analysis is included on the next page.

Of the juvenile probation departments that participated in the survey, 41 had not experienced furloughs (this includes support staff, administrative staff, specialized positions, juvenile probation officers and other positions within the department). However, among departments that had not yet experienced furloughs, nine were facing the prospect of furloughs, and eleven were uncertain as to whether employees would be furloughed.

Fifteen departments participating in the survey had experienced staff furloughs. In these departments, support/administrative staff and juvenile probation officers were furloughed in 13 and 5 departments, respectively. One department reported the chief and deputy/supervisors are on partial furlough and they share a rotating work schedule. Among the 15 departments where employees had been furloughed, responses regarding the duration of furloughs varied as follows:

- Eight departments responded that furloughs would continue for an undetermined amount of time.
- Four departments responded that furloughs would last up to 30 days.
- One department responded that furloughs would last between 30 and 60 days.
- One department indicated that furloughs would be reviewed within the next two weeks.
- One department indicated that furloughs would continue until the emergency declaration has been lifted.

Among departments where furloughs had occurred, the decision in determining who was appropriate to be furloughed was primarily made by the judge or the chief juvenile probation officer (10 and 11 departments, respectively). One department responded that employees could volunteer for furlough, and another indicated that because employees are unionized, reverse seniority determined who was furloughed.

To capture the compound effects of furlough, the survey asked respondents to answer a series of questions regarding healthcare benefits and returning to work. Of the departments experiencing furloughs, 13 respondents reported that employees will maintain healthcare coverage and employees in 11 departments are guaranteed to return to work.



SAVE *the* DATE

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**NOVEMBER
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2020 James E. Anderson

**PENNSYLVANIA
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ON JUVENILE JUSTICE**

CHERI MODENE APPOINTED CHIEF IN LANCASTER COUNTY



On February 17, 2020, Cheri Modene was appointed to the position of Director of the Lancaster County Juvenile Probation Department by President Judge David L. Ashworth. Ms. Modene began her career in 1992 as a Youth Care worker at the Barnes Hall Juvenile Detention Center located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Ms. Modene also worked as a clinical caseworker early in her career. In 1996, Ms. Modene joined the Lancaster County Juvenile Probation Department as a Sex Offender Specialist Probation Officer. She was promoted to the position of Supervisor in 1996, and to the position of Deputy Director in 2018.

In addition to her juvenile justice experience, Ms. Modene is active at both local and state levels. She serves on the Lancaster County Workforce Investment Board Youth Council, and the Lancaster County Truancy Task Force. Ms. Modene is also an active member of the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, where she serves as the Chair of the Detention Committee. Ms. Modene was honored as Supervisor of the Year at the 2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice.

Ms. Modene holds a B.S. degree in Human Development and Family Studies from the Pennsylvania State University. Ms. Modene's initial plans as Director include continuing Lancaster County's implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy, with an emphasis on case planning and Lancaster County's involvement in the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol. Ms. Modene also plans to continue the improvement of Lancaster County's response to youth in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Congratulations Cheri!

RYAN SMELTZER APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF PROBATION AND PAROLE IN CENTRE COUNTY

On February 10, 2020, Ryan D. Smeltzer was appointed as the Centre County Director of Probation and Parole by President Judge Ruest. Ryan replaces Thomas E. Backenstoe, who retired on January 31, 2020.

Ryan received his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Legal Studies from Penn State University in 2007. Prior to his appointment as the Centre County Director of Probation and Parole, Ryan was employed for 13 years with Mifflin County Probation. After serving as an Adult Probation Officer in Mifflin County for seven years, Ryan was promoted to the Supervisor of Adult Probation. While working in Mifflin County, Ryan demonstrated his leadership skills as a certified Defensive Tactics Instructor, Alcohol Highway Safety Instructor, and served as the DUI Taskforce Coordinator.

Ryan actively engages as a leader in Centre County by serving on the Training Committee for the County Chief's Association. While away from work, Ryan dedicates time to his community by volunteering as a coach for the local Little League team. In his free time, he also enjoys spending time with his family, sports, and hunting.

As the newly appointed Centre County Director of Probation and Parole, Ryan is looking forward to collaborating with other leaders in the juvenile justice field as they support the mission of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System.

THIS IS A MARATHON – NOT A SPRINT: STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS WEAR & TEAR IN HELPING PROFESSIONALS DURING COVID-19

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April 2, 2020/By TEND - There is now wide consensus that responding to the COVID-19 pandemic will take months rather than weeks.

As professionals in essential services, we all need to consider strategies that will help us stay well long-term rather than racing to just get through another day.

What can we do to remain clear-headed and balanced during this pandemic?

Launched into Crisis: The Dangers of Wear & Tear on Helping Professionals

I am sure that many of you remember the scene in the movie *Apollo 13* where the crew is urgently trying to find a way to perform a lifesaving repair on their spacecraft's air supply. A NASA engineer throws a box of assorted items on a table and says to his colleagues:

"OK people, listen up [...] we gotta find a way to make this, fit into the hole for this, using nothing but that."

The team could only use materials that the stranded astronauts would have access to on their ship. These engineers needed to think fast and creatively – with the eyes of the entire world watching them. Failure to resolve this problem meant certain catastrophe for the crew.

High stakes, lots of pressure, intricate problems, and few resources – during this COVID-19 pandemic, many of us feel like those NASA folks and the key challenge is this:

How do we access creative problem solving when we are stressed and exhausted? How do we retain the ability to think clearly when the reality is that many of us were launched into this crisis already tired and depleted?

The Impact of Wear and Tear: A Cautionary Tale

When experts discuss burnout, compassion fatigue and moral distress, they often overlook a crucial contributing factor to provider impairment – **plain old fatigue**.

In her explosive book *Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death at a Storm-Ravaged Hospital*, Pulitzer-prize winning journalist Sheri Fink investigates what took place in a New Orleans health care facility in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005.

For several days, the hospital lost power as well as much of its contact with the outside world. Exhausted staff, all of whom were now taking refuge in the sweltering facility, were desperately trying to care for patients – often working with very little sleep, a lack of food, and no sanitation, air conditioning or electricity.

Leadership quickly eroded. Medical professionals who were stuck in the hospital had to contend with a lack of communication about evacuation plans and no hope of respite to come. There were no more established shift schedules, handover, or time for rest.

In her book, Fink shares numerous interviews with staff where they describe overwhelming moral distress, feelings of burnout, and anger towards senior leadership and the government. It is widely agreed that these factors contributed to serious lapses in judgment by some of those health care workers which led to some questionable ethical decisions in the end.

Our organizations experience significant challenges at the best of times and there are many cautionary tales such as those in *Five Days at Memorial* that describe the dangers of pushing employees past their level of healthy functioning. In the face of this COVID-19 pandemic, we have additional work pressure including supply and equipment shortages; fear of contagion for patients, for ourselves, and our families; difficult ethical decisions; and significant moral conflict.

Five Days at Memorial demonstrates the potentially catastrophic consequences of wear and tear in crisis situations as well as the deterioration of problem-solving skills that can occur when we do not have time to refuel and reset.

What can be done?

First, Secure the Foundations: Physical & Mental Hygiene

Dr. Patricia Fisher, clinical psychologist, and senior advisor at TEND, is an expert in organizational stress and burnout in health care and other human service organizations. Dr. Fisher has long expressed concerns about the potentially disastrous impact of ignoring the basics of human physiology of helping professionals and their leadership.

As she explains in her book *Resilience, Balance and Meaning*:

We are pretty good at dealing with spikes in stress levels as long as we get back to a relaxed state. Unfortunately, many people are consistently living with higher levels of chronic stress and their bodies are simply unable to experience any respite from the pressure. This has consequences.

Physical and mental health are often the first things that are sacrificed in crisis situations. As we know, in order to maintain our ability to think clearly and to do our work well, we all need to:

- **Get enough sleep**
- **Have a realistic shift schedule**
- **Eat quality food at regular intervals** (including complex carbohydrates, healthy fats, greens, and healthy protein sources)
- **Maintain regular physical exercise** (helps to reduce anxiety and boost immunity)
- **Monitor caffeine intake** (improve sleep and reduce anxiety)
- **Monitor mood-altering drug intake** (such as alcohol)
- **Stay connected** with loved ones and colleagues
- **Limit media exposure** to once or twice a day, only checking trusted sources
- **Access emotional support** (debrief and create a space to respectfully share)
- **Access support to juggle family demands and/or caregiver roles** while working front-line

Although these suggestions seem simple, we need to be mindful about checking-in with ourselves and monitoring our physical and mental health.

For leaders, check-in with your staff to ensure that they have what they need – and don't forget that your own self-care is important too.

Communication – Keep it Clear & Consistent

We are all currently receiving a large volume of rapidly evolving and sometimes contradictory information about COVID-19. As teams, it can be difficult, time consuming and confusing to have to wade through the deluge of information.

What can be done?

- **Establish a communication protocol:** Develop a concise, clear, and consistent method for communicating important information among teams. Take time to ensure that your communication methods are ones that staff regularly consult. For example, sending emails may not be the best for your team if staff rarely have access to that technology. You may also consider the generational and personal preferences for communication methods.
- **Provide regular updates:** Each day, appoint a time to provide your team with necessary updates. Avoid too often (emails every hour) or too infrequent (once a week).
- **Debunk rumors:** Nominate one person to fact-check information and then have them report back to the team. Encourage staff to send their questions to this fact-checker and encourage everyone to avoid sharing information prior to this vetting system. This can be a useful system for curbing rumors and avoiding miscommunication.
- **Be honest:** If you are a leader and you don't know something, tell your staff the truth – but also commit to finding out when you can. This is true for information about infection control, access to crucial supplies and referral resources, workload, layoffs and many other crucial factors that can impact the entire team physically and psychologically.

Ensuring that we maintain clear communication is a crucial component of keeping our teams cohesive and functioning well.

Reset & Listen to Your Body

The amount of stress we experience during times of crisis depends on many factors including past experiences, personality factors, current life stressors, coping strategies, prior training, personal resilience, and many others.

Regardless of the level of stress that we experience, it is important that we reset ourselves into a “rest and digest” state rather than some form of fight, flight, or freeze state as quickly as possible after a period of increased stress.

If we pay attention to our body at these times, it will give us clues as to what needs to happen next in order for us to reset ourselves. Often our body knows what to do – for example, bodies often tremble following a crisis event.

Things like crying and trembling are activities of the parasympathetic nervous system that the body uses to reset itself. It is best to allow the body to run through its course rather than forcing yourself to stop.

What can be done?

Activities of the nervous system that allow the body to metabolize stress hormones include:

- Trembling or shaking it off
- Crying
- Laughing
- Singing or chanting
- Moving our body in some way and getting our heart rate up (e.g. jumping jacks, running, climbing stairs)
- Relaxation activity (e.g. meditation)
- Connecting with a significant other or beloved pet

For more information visit www.tendacademy.ca



PPJS
Pennsylvania Partnership
for Juvenile Services

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NPJS TRAINING FOR TRAINERS

Presented by:

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Hosted by: Pennsylvania Partnership for Juvenile Services

August 10 – 14, 2020

Mon-Thu 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

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County Commissioners Association of PA
2789 Old Post Road
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PPJS is hosting a 1-week Training for Trainers presented by the NPJS. This is an excellent training for new agency training directors/trainers and a great refresher/professional development opportunity for existing agency trainers.

Registration information can be found at www.pp-js.org or by clicking [HERE!](#)

2019 JJSES IMPLEMENTATION SURVEY RESULTS

The 2019 Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Implementation Survey results are available on the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) website, www.jcjc.pa.gov. In continuation of the 2019 JJSES Implementation Survey results multi-part newsletter series, the JCJC is pleased to share the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™) infographic to offer a visual representation of the implementation and application of Stage Three of the JJSES in Pennsylvania.

The SPEP™ is a validated, data-driven rating system for determining how well a service matches what research tells us is effective for reducing the recidivism of juvenile offenders in that particular type of program. Dr. Mark Lipsey of the Peabody Institute at Vanderbilt University conducted a meta-analysis of the characteristics of effective delinquency interventions, with the goal of providing a foundation for improving delinquency programs and services. Based on his analysis of over 748 controlled studies of interventions with juvenile offenders, Dr. Lipsey developed the SPEP™.

Dr. Lipsey's work provides specific research-based profiles of program characteristics that can be used both as "best practice" standards against which to evaluate juvenile justice programs and as roadmaps for improving the programs. Research indicates several general characteristics are most strongly related to their effects on juvenile delinquency: the type of program, the amount of service, the risk levels of the youth served by the program, and the quality with which the program is implemented. Using the SPEP™, these characteristics can be evaluated to determine a service's predictive impact on reducing recidivism among juvenile offenders.

Aligning with the JJSES mission, Stage Three emphasizes the use of evidence-based practices, data analysis, and application of evidence-based research. The partnership between probation departments and service providers, as well as the effective use of evidence-based interventions, are critical to achieving long-term risk reduction outcomes. The SPEP™ provides guidance to juvenile justice professionals in aligning service needs with quality local programming in order to achieve such outcomes.

In order to make proper referrals and effectively address the needs of juvenile offenders, probation departments need to be knowledgeable about local community-based services. Furthermore, service providers need to be confident about implementing the most effective programs, targeting the proper behavioral skills, and guarding against drift in the quality of service delivery.

A fundamental component of the JJSES is the continuous quality improvement of decisions, services, and programs within the juvenile justice system. The initial SPEP™ score offers service providers the ability to establish a baseline SPEP™ Score for performance improvement. The resulting performance improvement process must be a collaborative effort between probation departments and service providers to effectively address the needs of juvenile offenders and achieve recidivism reduction.

To help establish this necessary collaboration, the Penn State Evidence-based Prevention & Intervention Support (EPIS) works closely with juvenile probation departments to implement the SPEP™ with juvenile justice service providers, explain the meaning of the SPEP™ score, and answer any questions related to the SPEP™. For more information about the SPEP™ please contact Shawn Peck at smp31@psu.edu, Angela Work at awork@pa.gov, or click the following link: [SPEP™](#).



JJSES Implementation Survey 2019

STAGE III: BEHAVIORAL CHANGE

STANDARD PROGRAM EVALUATION PROTOCOL (SPEP™)

By 2018, a total of 261 SPEP™ services were scored;

61% Residential.

39% Community-Based.

80% engaged in SPEP™ for the first time.

3% for the third time.

17% for the second time.



A total of 106 programs were engaged in the SPEP™ process in 2018.

94% Residential.

6% Community-Based.



A total of 16 services were identified as PACTT affiliated in 2018.

A total of 52 service provider agencies were engaged in the SPEP™ process in 2018.

For more SPEP™ data information, please visit: www.pccd.pa.gov keyword: **SPEP**.

30% of departments have included SPEP™ activities in their JJSES Implementation Plan this fiscal year.



pennsylvania

JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION



Call for Presentations

The 2020 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 4 - 6, 2020
Harrisburg Hilton and Towers

The 2020 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice, sponsored by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges will be held November 4-6, 2020 at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers.

Each year, the Conference includes workshops that highlight practices, programs, and initiatives that exemplify best-practices related to the various components of Pennsylvania's Balanced & Restorative Justice mission and our Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). This year's workshops will take place on Thursday, November 5, 2020. The workshops will be 90 minutes in length and will be repeated via morning and afternoon sessions.

We enthusiastically welcome submissions for presentations. Interested parties can complete and submit the following presentation proposal form. Please note that up to two facilitators from each selected workshop will receive free Conference registration and meals (facilitators are responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses).

Submissions for presentations are due by **Monday, June 1, 2020**, and can be directed to Leo J. Lutz, Director of Policy and Program Development at lelutz@pa.gov.

Presentation Proposal Form
Click here to download
or visit:



<https://www.jcjc.pa.gov/Program-Areas/AnnualConference/Documents/Call%20for%20Presentations%202020.pdf>

2020 JCJC AWARDS PROGRAM

NOMINATIONS SUBMISSION DEADLINE EXTENDED

We are pleased to announce the deadline for submitting nominations for the 2020 JCJC Awards Program has been extended until June 1, 2020. The awards include eight professional categories, as well as the two youth awards contests. The awards will be presented at the 2020 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice on November 4 and 5, 2020 at the Harrisburg Hilton.

Nomination packets have been sent to juvenile court judges, chief juvenile probation officers, and agencies currently serving delinquent youth in the juvenile justice system. The Awards Committee requests that all juvenile justice professionals encourage youth under their jurisdiction to participate in the contest. Both Professional and Youth Awards materials must be postmarked by **June 1, 2020**.

We encourage you to help honor exemplary performances by individuals and programs serving children in Pennsylvania. Please contact Keysla Rodriguez at 717.783.8960 or at keyrodrigu@pa.gov if you have any questions or need further assistance. Thank you for your partnership and ongoing commitment to this program.

Please Note: Submissions that were not winners may be resubmitted for consideration in the same category.

2020 Professional Awards Program

The 2020 Professional Awards Program includes the following categories:

[Juvenile Probation Supervisor of the Year](#) - any individual who supervises probation officers, but who is not a Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, as of the date of the nomination letter's postmark. This category includes all Deputy Chiefs, Assistant Directors, Supervisors, and others functioning in a similar capacity.

[Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year](#) - any individual who is employed as a Juvenile Probation Officer, but who is not a Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Deputy Chief, or Juvenile Probation Supervisor, as of the date of the nomination letter's postmark.

[Residential Program of the Year](#) - any public or private sector program serving alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth in a residential setting. This includes foster homes, group homes, residential treatment programs, general childcare facilities, shelter care facilities, detention centers, independent living programs, and other programs providing out-of-home, overnight care to children. Award winners prior to 2015 are eligible for nomination.

[Community-Based Program of the Year](#) - any public or private sector program, not operated by the Court, which provides community-based, non-residential care to alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth, including but not limited to, day treatment programs, in-home services, Boys and Girls Clubs, and outpatient services.

[Court Operated Program of the Year](#) - any program operated by court employees which serves alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth.

[Meritorious Service Award](#) - any individual not receiving remuneration for working with at-risk, alleged and/or delinquent children. This individual is a volunteer committed to furthering the development of youth in the juvenile justice system.

[Juvenile Court Support Service Award](#) - any individual who provides clerical, secretarial, management, information technology or other support services to the Juvenile Court. This includes receptionists, secretaries, clerk/typists, information technology specialists, fiscal specialists, office managers, and others functioning in a similar support capacity.

[Victim Advocate Award](#) - any individual who works on behalf of crime victims in a district attorney's office, juvenile probation department, or in a community-based agency. This individual does not need to be in a position that is entirely dedicated to victims of juvenile crime, but it should be a significant part of their position.

2020 YOUTH AWARDS PROGRAM - additionally, the JCJC will again sponsor a Youth Awards Program to honor youth selected as winners in the Creative Expression and Outstanding Achievement contests. This year's theme is "**2020 I Can See Change**". The requirements of each nomination can be found by clicking the links below.

[Creative Expression Contest Entry Form](#)

[Outstanding Achievement Contest Entry Form](#)

NOMINATIONS SUBMISSION DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR THE “2020 JAMES E. ANDERSON JUVENILE JUSTICE YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD”

Since 2012, the Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges has awarded scholarships to exceptional young people who are currently, or were at some point in the past, involved in Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system, and are currently pursuing post-secondary education or advanced technical training on a full-time basis, or will be enrolled for such in the Fall 2020 semester. The awards will be presented this November in conjunction with the 2020 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice.

The Scholarship Award Nomination Form, criteria, and instructions are available at:

<https://www.jcjc.pa.gov/Program-Areas/AnnualConference/Documents/2020%20James%20E%20%20Anderson%20JJ%20Youth%20Scholarship%20Award%20Nomination%20Form.docx>

Award nominations must be post-marked no later than **June 1, 2020**.

TECHNOLOGY CORNER

Working Remotely During the Coronavirus Crisis

Many of us in Pennsylvania have altered our routines and are working from home in order to take proper precautions to prevent employees from being exposed to the coronavirus outbreak. Technology tools and communication are more important than ever in accomplishing our tasks as we are working remotely.



The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission helpdesk personnel have had to make several adjustments to work from home as we now have to rely solely on helpdesk emails rather than phone calls. We also have routine conference calls since we cannot meet in person to discuss any questions or issues that arise. We each set up our own home workspace for our laptops, phone, and any reference paperwork we brought with us from our office, in a location with proper lighting and the least distractions possible.

Simple ways to help those of us working from home stay productive, focused, and psychologically healthy as we work from home may include:

1. Take a shower/get dressed – this provides a huge mood booster to start your day.
2. Wear comfortable clothes – comfort helps your ability to focus.
3. Keep a schedule and stick to a routine.
4. Create and customize the right work-space to maximize productivity.
5. Schedule meals/snacks to avoid grazing when you aren’t hungry.
6. Weather permitting, take a midday or afternoon break for a brief walk to get some fresh air. This provides some physical activity and a chance to clear your head.
7. Leave TV off while you work – although this is a personal preference, it creates excess noise and can be a big distraction.
8. Stay hydrated – keep water in your work area as you work to get your recommended 8 glasses throughout your day.

While everyone has their own preferred work habits, hopefully these suggestions will help you practice effective and healthy ways to work from home more efficiently until we are all able to return to our normal routines at our offices. Stay healthy and safe!

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

May

- 5-6 Probation Officer Well-Being: Strategies for Safe Working Environments
State College - **CANCELLED**
- 14-15 Heroin and Other Opioids
Camp Hill - **CANCELLED**
- 18-22 Orientation for the New Juvenile Probation Professional - Blended Learning Course
Camp Hill - **CANCELLED**
- 26-27 **NOW VIRTUAL** Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™) Level 1 Training

June

- 2-3 Mindful Awareness Program for Wellness in Juvenile Justice
State College
- 23-24 Motivational Interviewing (MI) Coaches
State College

September

- 24 Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™) Informed Training
State College

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

Virtual SPEP™ Training for Probation Departments

The Level 1 SPEP™ Specialist Training scheduled for May 26th and 27th will be offered virtually via Zoom in response to the restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The training will be modified to 6 hours over a two-day period.

Level 1 SPEP™ Specialists are trained to assess community-based and residential programs with the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™). The certification process to become a Level 1 SPEP™ Specialist takes approximately one year to complete and consists of initial training (classroom or virtual), shadowing, and co-facilitation. Training requirements can be met virtually.

Probation staff certified as Level 1 SPEP™ Specialists are not expected to travel outside their county upon completion of the training and are encouraged to focus on local community-based and residential programs. Staff from Penn State Evidence Based Intervention & Support (EPIS) provide technical assistance and training for all SPEP™ assessments and limit the workload for probation staff as they implement the SPEP™.

Nineteen probation departments have implemented or are in progress of implementing the SPEP™. There are now more than 29 juvenile justice practitioners certified by Vanderbilt University to implement the SPEP™ in Pennsylvania and 20 probation staff are currently in the training process. Probation departments who are currently implementing the SPEP™ can use this training to increase their capacity. Additionally, probation departments who are not currently implementing the SPEP™ can begin doing so with this training.

Probation staff can register for this free training through the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's (JCJC) Event Management System ([JEMS](#)) through May 20th.



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

NEW FEDERAL SCHOOL SAFETY WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The Department of Justice recently announced the launch of the federal school safety website SchoolSafety.gov. This website is a clearinghouse of school safety and security resources for K-12 administrators, educators, parents, and law enforcement. SchoolSafety.gov is a collaborative effort by the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, Education, and Health and Human Services. The website was created in response to a recommendation from President Trump's Federal Commission on School Safety.

RESOURCES:

- See [OJJDP's Model Programs Guide](#) to learn about programs promoting school safety.
- Read the Federal Commission on School Safety's [final report](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS ANNOUNCES MORE THAN \$55 MILLION TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) recently announced more than \$55 million in grant funding to help communities combat human trafficking and serve children and adult survivors of trafficking. Today, OJJDP released the Preventing Trafficking of Girls funding opportunity, which supports prevention and early intervention programs for girls who are at risk of or are victims of sex trafficking. Visit the [funding page](#) for details about other OJJDP funding opportunities.

"Human traffickers pose a dire threat to public safety and countering this threat remains one of the Administration's top domestic priorities," said OJP Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Katharine T. Sullivan.

To learn more about open OJP funding opportunities to prevent human trafficking, visit the OJP funding [website](#).

RESOURCES:

- Visit OJJDP's Human Trafficking Resources [webpage](#).
- Visit OJJDP's Missing and Exploited Children [webpage](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

OJJDP NEWS @ A GLANCE, MARCH/APRIL 2020

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) announces the availability of [OJJDP News @ a Glance](#), March/April 2020. This issue's top story and

"Message from the Administrator" highlights the Office of Justice Programs' (OJP's) recent outreach sessions to educate rural and tribal organizations and agencies about funding opportunities from OJP and other Department of Justice grant-making offices.



Other features in this issue—

- [OJJDP Will Expand Services for Child Abuse Victims in Alaska and Tribal Communities in the Lower 48 States](#)
- [Staff Spotlight: Associate Administrator Janet Chiancone](#)
- [Research Central: Assessing the Impact of a Graduated Response Approach for Youth in the Maryland Juvenile Justice System](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [News in Brief](#)
- [New Publications](#)
- [News from the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#)
- [News from the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice](#)

RESOURCES:

- [OJJDP News @ a Glance](#), March/April 2020 (NCJ 254558) is available [online](#).
- 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-oajcnews@pa.gov.

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