



PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

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PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM RESPONDS TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

The unprecedented and dynamic nature of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic has required courts and probation departments across the Commonwealth to take swift action in order to effectively continue operations in a manner that protects the health and safety of court personnel, youth and families, and members of the public.



This article highlights the following current actions affecting Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system:

- Orders made by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court;
- Advice of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission to juvenile courts and probation departments regarding youth in placement; and,
- A summary of a survey of juvenile probation departments regarding the impact of the coronavirus on their local court proceedings and operations.

PA Supreme Court Issues Orders in Response to the Coronavirus

In response to developments regarding the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and its impact on court operations, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court recently issued two Court Orders.

The first order, issued on March 16, 2020, declared a statewide judicial emergency until April 14, 2020, related to COVID-19. In this Order, the Court directed the entire Pennsylvania Judiciary to consider -- on a district-by-district basis -- the appropriate measures to be taken to safeguard the health and safety of court personnel, court users, and members of the public.

The Order issued on March 16, 2020, authorized President Judges to declare judicial emergencies in their judicial districts through April 14, 2020, or for part of that period, should they deem it appropriate. Furthermore, upon the declaration of a judicial emergency in a particular judicial district, the Order authorized the President Judge to:

- Suspend time calculations and deadlines relevant to court cases or other judicial business;
- Consider additional uses of advanced communication technology to conduct court proceedings;
- Take other necessary actions permitted by the Rules of Judicial Administration; and
- Arrange for the provision of essential judicial services.

INSIDE:

Mike Tan Promoted to Director of JCJC's Information and Technology Division 5

Save the Date: 2020 James E. Anderson PA Conference on Juvenile Justice..... 6

2019 JJSES Implementation Survey Results 6

Call for Presentations: 2020 James E. Anderson PA Conference on Juvenile Justice..... 8

2020 JCJC Award Program Nominations Announcement..... 9

Nominations Being Accepted for 2020 James E. Anderson Juvenile Justice Youth Scholarship 10

Trauma Informed Decision Protocol Training..... 10

County Spotlights..... 11

JCJC Position Announcement Update 12

Research Brief 13

Staff Development Highlights..... 14

National Juvenile Justice Announcements..... 15

A second Order was issued on March 18, 2020, directing all Pennsylvania courts be **closed to the public** for non-essential functions through at least April 3, 2020. In this second Order, the Court suspended all time calculations and deadlines relevant to court cases or other judicial business also through April 3, 2020. As in the initial Order, the Court authorized and encouraged the use of advanced communication technology to conduct emergency court proceedings.

The second Order outlined essential functions as:

- Emergency bail review and habeas corpus hearings;
- Gagnon 1 hearings;
- Bench warrant hearings pursuant to Pennsylvania Rule of Criminal Procedure 150;
- Juvenile delinquency detention;
- Juvenile emergency shelter and detention hearings;
- Temporary protection from abuse hearings;
- Emergency petitions for child custody;
- Emergency petitions for guardianship;
- Civil mental health reviews (50 P.S. §302);
- Any pleadings or motions relating to public health concerns and involving immediate and irreparable harm; and
- Any other function deemed by a president judge to be essential consistent with constitutional requirements.

The Court Orders, as well as additional information about the impact of COVID-19 on court operations is available on the website of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts at:

<http://www.pacourts.us/ujs-coronavirus-information>

Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Issues Guidance to Juvenile Courts and Juvenile Probation Departments Regarding Youth in Placement

Considering the extraordinary operational adjustments to both court and probation proceedings during these unprecedented times, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) issued guidance to juvenile court judges and juvenile probation departments to ensure the proper care and attention continues to be provided to all juveniles and families, with an emphasis placed on juveniles in out-of-home placement.

On behalf of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, JCJC Executive Director, Richard Steele, sent correspondence to all juvenile court judges and chief juvenile probation officers noting that despite these extraordinary times, judicial districts have continued to find ways to review cases and make release decisions on an individual basis in a method that takes all relevant matters into consideration. The means by which these hearings are being held has varied greatly, although a common denominator to most has been the use of advanced communication technology: teleconference, various videoconferencing capabilities, emailed written reports/recommendations, etc. The outcomes of these placement review hearings appear to be similar to those of the pre-Coronavirus past: some youth remain in placement, some youth are released under continuing supervision. Some jurisdictions are reviewing at some level all cases where youth are currently in placement specifically to determine whether an early release may be appropriate.

Mr. Steele continued by announcing the JCJC strongly recommends that timely proceedings related to the review of juveniles in out-of-home placement remain a priority of juvenile court functions during the pandemic crisis, and that every consideration be given to the release of youth, or to alternative dispositions, when this can be accomplished in a safe manner and within the mandates of our Balanced and Restorative Justice mission. While every youth has their own individual characteristics and situations to be considered during these reviews, outcomes that ensure that the least restrictive alternative to disposition be utilized remains a mandate of our Juvenile Act. Consideration of release is particularly important for youth with health issues that may make them particularly vulnerable at this time. When appropriate, the reduction in the number of youth in placement will play a vital role in maintaining the health of the youth, as well as facility staff.

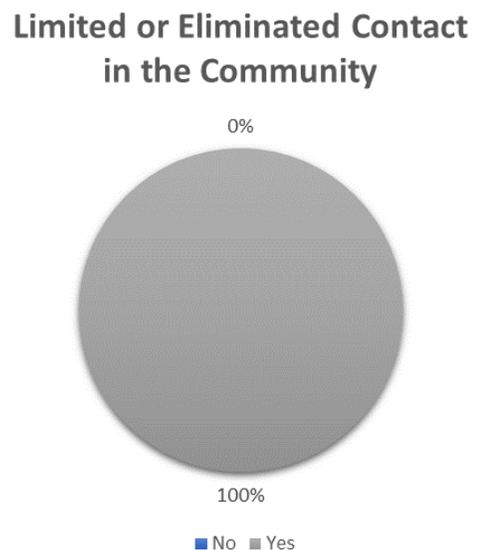
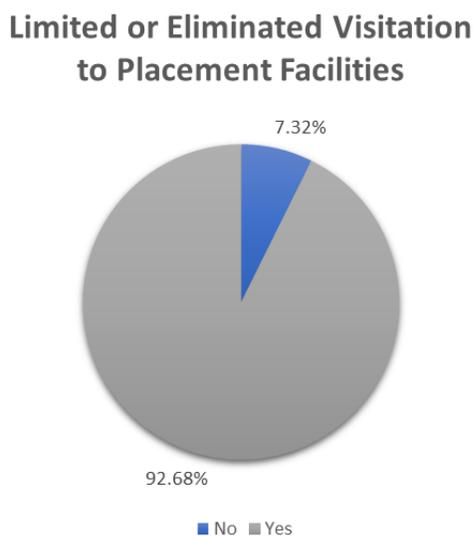
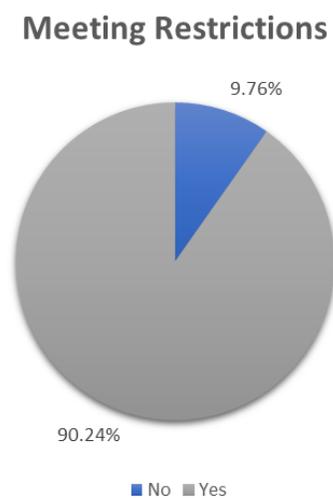
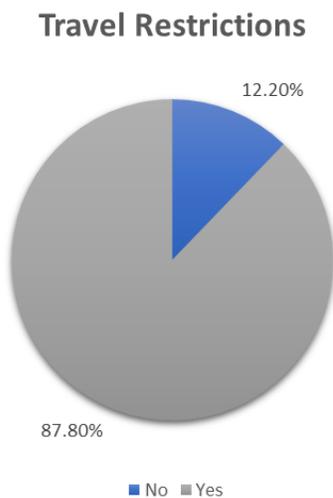
In closing, Mr. Steele commented that in these unprecedented times, it is critically important that our juvenile justice system remains viable, including, and perhaps especially, the provision of focused attention on our youth in out-of-home placement. He thanked all juvenile court judges and chief juvenile probation officers for their incredible efforts under these extraordinary circumstances and their continued work and commitment to youth and their families.

Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Surveys Juvenile Probation Departments

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) was interested to learn more about the impact the coronavirus (COVID-19) is having on the local business practices of Pennsylvania's juvenile probation departments and court proceedings. In an effort to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the JCJC developed and distributed a survey to collect data which could aggregately represent these impacts statewide.

The survey was distributed to all chief juvenile probation officers. Forty-one surveys were completed during the pre-identified timeframe of Thursday, March 26th through Friday, March 27th of 2020. A summarization of the analysis is included below, this data is representative of forty-one juvenile probation departments in Pennsylvania, 61% of juvenile probation departments in the state.

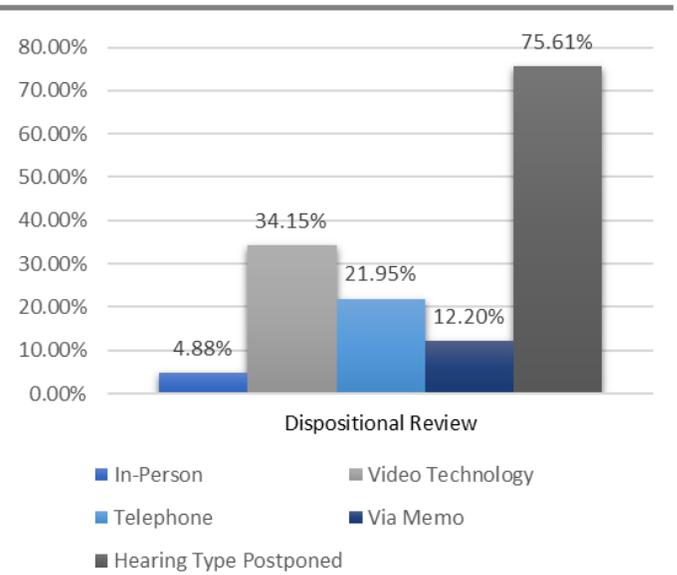
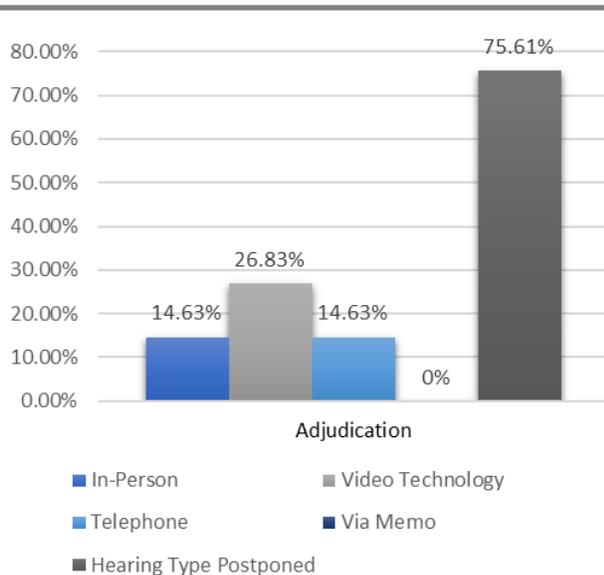
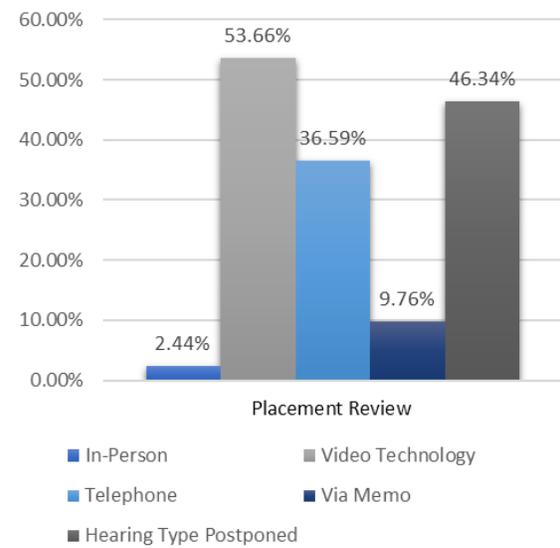
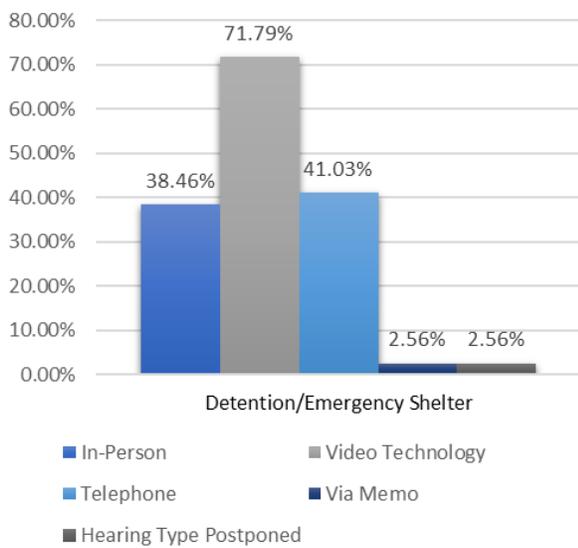
In the majority of juvenile probation departments participating in the survey, business practices have been modified in response to COVID-19. These modifications include travel restrictions; large meetings, conferences, training, and community event meeting restrictions; and limitations or the temporary elimination of juvenile probation officer visitation to placement facilities and/or with youth and families in the community. The graphs below illustrate this data:



Additionally, the majority of respondents indicated modifications to the intake process and changes to office coverage in juvenile probation departments.

- 48.78% (20 = n) of departments report the intake process is on hold as no intakes are occurring at this time, 39.02% (16 = n) reported intakes continue to occur by telephone, and 4.88% (2 = n) reported in-person intakes continue to occur. 13 respondents (31.71%) reported “Other” indicating intakes are also continuing with the support of various methods of advanced communication technology. For those departments continuing with the intake process, the initial YLS is being administered in 61.29% (19 = n) of departments.
- 2 (4.88%) departments reported no changes in their department’s office coverage during this situation. The remainder of respondents indicated office coverage has been modified (some departments are reporting greater than one modification); in 43.90% (18 = n) of departments all staff are rotating shifts in the office, in 31.71% (13 = n) of departments select staff are rotating shifts in the office and in 19.51% (8 = n) of departments select staff are working remotely to name a few of the modifications.

Relating to court proceedings, the majority of responding juvenile probation departments reported continuation in the scheduling of detention/emergency shelter hearings and placement review hearings as necessary while postponing adjudication and disposition review hearings where appropriate. As recommended in the March 16, 2020 Order of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the majority of departments are utilizing advanced communication technology to conduct essential court proceedings. The tables below illustrate this data:



Furthermore, the majority of juvenile probation departments participating in the survey have reviewed the caseloads of youth in residential care for the purposes of early release and work to ensure continued service delivery.

- 73.17% (30 = n) of departments report having reviewed the caseload of youth in residential care for the purposes of making decisions regarding potential early release, where appropriate, and 26.83% (11 = n) of respondents indicated this has not occurred within their department.
- In the past two weeks, 43.90% (18 = n) of departments have released youth from residential care, 31.71% (13 = n) have released youth from detention, 39.02% (16 = n) from probation supervision and 4.88% (2 = n) from shelter care. For this question, respondents were able to select all that applied.
- 92.68% (38 = n) of departments reported youth are receiving some form of community-based interventions and aftercare support services during this period of time, and 7.32% (3 = n) reported youth are not receiving these services.

During these unprecedented times, and always, the JCJC will strive to provide continued support and technical assistance whenever possible. If you believe we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Executive Director, Richard Steele at ricsteele@pa.gov; Deputy Director, Robert Tomassini at rtomassini@pa.gov; or any of our JCJC staff. We extend well wishes of safety and health to all.

MIKE TAN PROMOTED TO DIRECTOR OF JCJC'S INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY DIVISION



On March 28, 2020, Dawasy “Mike” Tan was promoted to the position of Director of the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission’s (JCJC) Information and Technology Division (ITD). Mike initially joined JCJC in 2006 as an Application Developer for the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) and the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Restitution System (PaJCRS) applications. In 2015, he was promoted to Senior Application Developer with a focus on project management of all application development. In addition, Mike was responsible for quality assurance, process improvements, and meeting end-user requirements.

In his new position, Mike will oversee, coordinate, and direct all of JCJC’s IT projects while also providing recommendations to JCJC’s Executive Director and Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R) on policy and practice changes, implementation of such changes, and determination of significant programming needs within the Information Technology Division to accommodate an extensive, comprehensive, and ever-expanding statewide juvenile justice information system.

Mike is currently completing his senior research in Artificial Intelligence at Shippensburg University and plans to graduate in December 2020 with his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science.

Congratulations on your promotion, Mike!!!!!!!

SAVE *the* DATE

Harrisburg Hilton and Towers

**NOVEMBER
4-6, 2020**

2020 James E. Anderson

**PENNSYLVANIA
CONFERENCE
ON JUVENILE JUSTICE**

2019 JJSES IMPLEMENTATION SURVEY RESULTS

The 2019 Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Implementation Survey results are now available on the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) website www.jcjc.pa.gov. The report includes an executive summary of the statewide aggregate data; JJSES activity specific narratives; and infographics. In continuation of the JJSES Implementation Survey results multi-part newsletter series, the JCJC is eager to share the Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) infographic to illustrate the implementation and sustainability of Stage Three of the JJSES in Pennsylvania.

Stage Three of the JJSES builds from the information amassed from the screening and assessment practices established in Stage Two with a focus on behavioral change. Stage Three includes such tasks as putting in place cognitive behavioral programs, applying responsivity information to referral decisions, ensuring that programs are evidence-based, and giving case management staff the competencies and tools necessary to ensure that their one-on-one sessions build skills that address criminogenic needs. As an integral component of Stage Three of the JJSES Framework, the EPICS model assists juvenile justice professionals in facilitating such behavioral change.

The EPICS model is designed to use a combination of monitoring, referrals, and face-to-face interactions to provide the offenders with a sufficient "dosage" of treatment interventions and make the best possible use of time to develop a collaborative working relationship. The EPICS model helps translate the risk, needs, and responsivity principles into practice.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the EPICS Train the Trainer event previously scheduled to take place April 20, 2020 through April 24, 2020, has been postponed. This training event will be rescheduled as soon as possible. Please contact Angela Work, JCJC Director of Quality Assurance in Juvenile Justice, at awork@pa.gov or Robert Williams, Berks County Chief Probation and Parole Officer, at rwilliams@countyofberks.com to obtain available EPICS related resources.



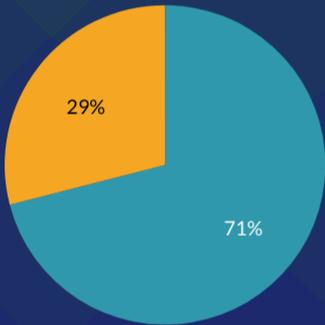
JJSES Implementation Survey 2019

STAGE III: BEHAVIORAL CHANGE

EFFECTIVE PRACTICES IN COMMUNITY SUPERVISION (EPICS)

Has your department implemented EPICS?

No (71%) Yes (29%)



If No...



Six additional departments plan to implement EPICS during the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Does your department have a trained internal EPICS Coach who is responsible for the training and quality assurance practices?

70% said yes.

10% said no.

20% said "Other".

If Yes...

In Pennsylvania, there are more than 70 EPICS Coaches.

30% have an EPICS policy.

The most common forms of quality assurance are...

41% Booster Training.

65% Audio Taping.

53% Coding Sessions.

71% Coaching Sessions.

Over 230 juvenile probation staff have successfully completed EPICS training.



80% have included EPICS activities in their JJSES Implementation Plan this fiscal year.



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 AWARD PROGRAM NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce that nominations for the 2020 JCJC Awards Program are now open and 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 **May 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 BEING ACCEPTED 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 **May 1, 2020**.

TRAUMA INFORMED DECISION PROTOCOL TRAINING

On March 11, the Trauma Informed Decision Protocol Training (TIDP) took place at the Days Inn Penn State. Participation was outstanding with juvenile probation representatives from each of the 12 counties participating in the Trauma Expansion Project in attendance. Additionally, representatives from Crawford and Venango Counties attended as they were the initial Pennsylvania counties working with Dr. Keith Cruise in a National Trauma Protocol Pilot to implement the use of trauma screening and the TIDP for juvenile justice agencies. In total, there were 55 participants present.

Dr. Keith Cruise, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology and Adjunct Professor of Law at Fordham University, along with Graduate Student Anthony Fortuna, provided an overview of the TIDP, strategically walking through each step of the Protocol with participants. They also provided instruction to increase attendees knowledge of traumatic event exposures and trauma reactions as responsivity factors and then linked the TIDP to Pennsylvania’s case planning process.

The TIDP is a document that assists in the integration of trauma and behavioral health screens and risk/need assessment results into a replicable framework for juvenile justice case planning based on the Risk-Need-Responsivity model. The TIDP is a 9-step decision-making framework that facilitates consideration of trauma-specific information as responsivity factors and how they may impact criminogenic needs. This is how the TIDP enhances the focus on a trauma-informed or trauma-responsive case planning process.

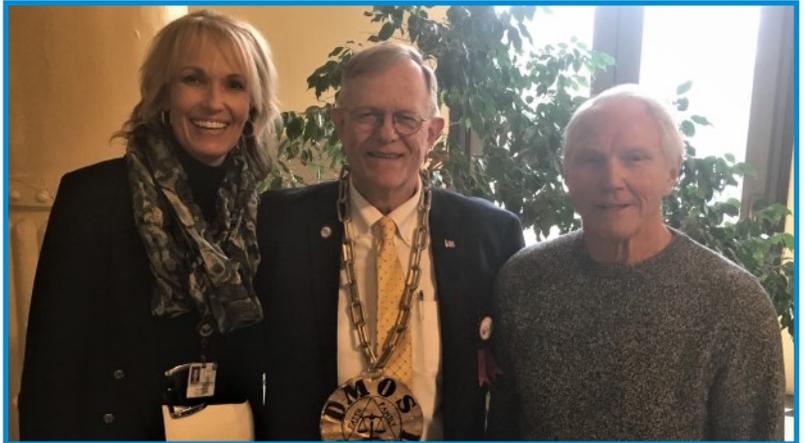
Pennsylvania began the Trauma Expansion Project in July of 2019 with the Child Trauma Screen (CTS). The CTS is a brief screen of lifetime traumatic event exposure and current trauma symptoms. The CTS has been validated. Validation of the cut-off scores indicates promising accuracy in identifying youth who endorse significant trauma symptoms. There are ongoing validation studies with juvenile justice involved youth in Connecticut.

In the eight months since the Trauma Expansion Project kicked-off, juvenile probation representatives from 12 counties have participated in training, implementation and data collection of the CTS. Additionally, the CTS has been integrated into the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission’s (JCJC) Pennsylvania Case Management System (PaJCMS). This integration allows for data entry, record keeping, and the analysis of county-level and aggregated data. With the recent TIDP training, the Project will now move into a new phase as counties work to implement the TIDP into their local policy and practices.

If you have any questions regarding the Trauma Expansion Project, please contact Angela Work, Director of Quality Assurance in Juvenile Probation at the JCJC at awork@pa.gov or Jay Leamy, Deputy Chief Probation Officer in Chester County at jdleamy@chesco.org.

DAVID H. MUELLER RETIRES

After 30 years of distinguished service, David H. Mueller retired as the Director of the Lancaster County Juvenile Probation Department on February 14, 2020. Mr. Mueller joined Lancaster County's Juvenile Probation Department in 1990 as an intensive drug and alcohol probation officer. In 1993, he was promoted to supervisor and, in 2001, Mr. Mueller was appointed to the position of Director by then President Judge Michael A. Georgelis.



Pictured from left to right: Lancaster County's last three chiefs, Cheri Modene (current chief), David Mueller (recently retired), Earl Stoudt (previously retired).

Mr. Mueller stands out as a personable leader of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system who leaves behind a considerable record of accomplishments. Several highlights of Mr. Mueller's career are as follows:

- Mr. Mueller continued the implementation of Balanced and Restorative Justice in Lancaster County, building on the foundation established by his predecessor as chief, Earl W. Stoudt.
- Mr. Mueller advanced reforms in Lancaster County that focused on the development of community resources to reduce the use of out-of-home placement, including the establishment of several community-based probation officer positions, the use of a detention risk assessment instrument, and the implementation of an evening reporting center.
- Mr. Mueller led Lancaster County's implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy.
- Mr. Mueller was a long-time member of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Awards Committee, serving as the committee's chair for three years.
- Mr. Mueller was a long-time active member of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, where he served on the Executive Committee and as Chair of the Detention Ad Hoc Committee.
- As Chair of the Chiefs Council's Detention Ad Hoc Committee, Mr. Mueller led the development and implementation of a Statewide detention risk assessment tool, better known as the Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI).
- In 2007, Mr. Mueller was appointed to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee by then Governor Ed Rendell. He served on the Committee until his retirement.
- In 2015, Mr. Mueller was recognized as the Chief of the Year at the annual James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice.

Mr. Mueller holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Waynesburg University and a Master of Divinity from Missio Biblical Theological Seminary. Mr. Mueller will no doubt be busy in retirement with family and church-related activities.

DAVE ROMAN APPOINTED CHIEF IN SOMERSET



On January 31, 2020, David Roman was appointed as Chief Probation Officer in Somerset County by the Honorable D. Gregory Geary, President Judge.

Dave earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education from West Virginia University in 1985. He received a Master of Science degree in the Administration of Justice through the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission’s sponsored Graduate Program at Shippensburg University. While at West Virginia University, Mr. Roman worked summers as a job counselor for a youth employment program in Somerset County. Upon graduation, he was hired as an Intensive Probation Officer for Somerset County Juvenile Probation and three years later he was promoted to supervisor. During that time, he was active in the county on the Student Assistance

Team, the Somerset County Police Chief’s Association, and the Somerset Principals Association. He also served on the County Death Review Team, Multidisciplinary Investigative Team, and numerous other committees over the years. He served as chair of the Jail and Police/Lock-Up Subcommittee of the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers from 1991 to 1996.

Dave has served as an instructor for numerous criminal justice courses at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, Pennsylvania. He is also a member of the Criminal Justice Advisory Board at Penn Highlands Community College. Dave and his wife Renae, of 33 years, have three children - Joe is a juvenile probation officer in Monongahela West Virginia, Mike is a senior Nursing student, and Olivia is a freshman Exercise Physiology student, both at West Virginia University.

MICHAEL HODAK RETIRES AS INDIANA COUNTY CHIEF

Mr. Michael Hodak recently retired as the Chief Probation Officer in Indiana County, completing a 37-year career with the Indiana County Probation Department. He served as an Indiana County Deputy Sheriff from 1977 to 1983. In 1983, he was appointed as an adult probation officer. He then served as Supervisor from 1977 to 1988 until his appointment as Chief Probation Officer of both Adult and Juvenile Probation. Mr. Hodak is a native of Indiana County and graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1975 with a degree in criminology. He is an avid runner and has participated in several Boston Marathon events.

Janis Baun was appointed Acting Chief Probation Officer upon Mr. Hodak’s retirement.

JCJC POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT UPDATE

In light of the coronavirus and the impact it has on the Commonwealth, a general freeze on all hiring is in effect for all agencies under the Governor’s jurisdiction. Therefore, the Juvenile Court Consultant position announced in the January issue of the “Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice” newsletter, is impacted by this action. The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission will provide further details as they become available.

RESEARCH BRIEF



Creating a website that archives pertinent, quality materials pertaining to our JJSES has been a project of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Probation Officers' Research Committee for the last couple of years. We are happy to announce that the website is up and running. The direct link is https://www.viethconsulting.com/news_archive_headlines.php?org_id=PCJP&snce=0#. It can be found under the "Resources" tab on the main page of the Chiefs' Council's webpage and the title of the page is "Research Committee." The site covers research on a wide range of topics such as the YLS, family factors and youth reoffending, and the right dosage and duration of interventions. It also contains a keyword search tool. The research article described below is summarized on this website, though in a somewhat different format.

O'Hara, K. L., Duchschere, J. E., Shanholtz, C. E., Reznik, S. J., Beck, C. J., & Lawrence, E. (2019). Multidisciplinary partnership: Targeting aggression and mental health problems of adolescents in detention. *American Psychologist*, 74(3), 329–342. <https://psycnet.apa.org/doiLanding?doi=10.1037%2Famp0000439>

This article offers a unique look at the challenge of initiating new evidence-based therapeutic programming in the juvenile justice system, and the potential for collaboration between researchers and practitioners. The authors, clinical psychologists at Arizona State University, detail how they worked with a multidisciplinary team to create a novel program for males in a county detention center with demonstrated aggression and other mental health problems. They sought to take acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT)—an evidence-based approach for adults convicted of domestic violence—and adapt it to juveniles who had directed aggression toward family members. The scope and nature of the intervention that the researchers envisioned was transformed by the partnership that they initiated with probation officers, court-based psychologists, court administrators, and judges. This multi-disciplinary team incorporated ACT's focus on personal values into interactive group therapy sessions that also addressed triggers, family dynamics, and other contextual factors related to youth violence against family members. The advice of practitioners was crucial to improving the content of the therapy. For example, a judge's advice helped the team refocus a session designed for adults on how childhood experiences affected their behaviors into an activity in which "participants are instructed to write characteristics of family members on slips of paper. Based on their identified life values, they create a visual 'chain' to help them decide if they would like to 'add another link' by continuing the behaviors of family members or 'break the chain' by acting differently" (p. 332).

Initial study results were encouraging, though only preliminary given methodological limitations. Study youth showed statistically significant declines in "experiential avoidance" and perceived progress in moving toward their self-identified values, as well as declines in depression and anxiety (recidivism data was still being collected). The researchers encountered roadblocks to finding an adequate control group for evaluating their program and were working with their practitioner partners to try to solve that problem for the larger study that they will attempt in the future.

Possible Implications:

1. The article contains specific advice for how researchers and practitioners can collaborate effectively to develop and implement innovative programming rooted in evidence-based principles; the article could be consulted by both researchers and practitioners.
2. Practitioners who are thinking about bringing in research partners from outside the court system might consult this article in thinking through the model partnership they would like to create.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

April

- 14-15 Motivational Interviewing (MI) 101
State College - **CANCELLED**
- 20-24 EPICS Train the Trainer
State College - **CANCELLED**
- 29-30 The Internet, Social Media, and Data Privacy for
Juvenile Justice Professionals
Camp Hill

May

- 5-6 Probation Officer Well-Being: Strategies for Safe
Working Environments
State College
- 14-15 Heroin and Other Opioids
Camp Hill
- 18-22 Orientation for the New Juvenile Probation
Professional - Blended Learning Course
Camp Hill

May (continued)

- 26-27 Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol
(SPEP™) Level 1 Training
West Chester

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



PPJS
Pennsylvania Partnership
for Juvenile Services

PO Box 60769 • Harrisburg, PA 17106-0769
717-526-1010 • Fax: 717-526-1020 • www.pp-js.org

NPJS TRAINING FOR TRAINERS

Presented by:

National Partnership for Juvenile Services

Hosted by: Pennsylvania Partnership for Juvenile Services

August 10 – 14, 2020

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

Fri 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

County Commissioners Association of PA
2789 Old Post Road
Harrisburg, PA 17110

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!](#)



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OJJDP ANNOUNCES NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

OJJDP has announced the following fiscal year 2020 funding opportunities:

- [Opioid Affected Youth Initiative](#)
All applications are due by April 20, 2020.
- [Delinquency Prevention Program](#)
All applications are due by April 21, 2020.
- [Juvenile Justice System Enhancements](#)
All applications are due by April 27, 2020.
- [Reducing the Use of Isolation in Juvenile Facilities](#)
All applications are due by April 27, 2020.
- [Strategies To Support Children Exposed to Violence](#)
All applications are due by April 27, 2020.
- [Second Chance Act Youth Offender Reentry Program](#)
All applications are due by April 28, 2020.
- [Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program](#)
All applications are due by May 4, 2020.

RESOURCES:

- Visit the [funding page](#) for details to learn more about OJJDP funding opportunities.
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

OJJDP ANNOUNCES FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES DEADLINE EXTENSIONS

OJJDP has announced a 2-week closing date extension on solicitation applications originally scheduled to close between March 16 and March 31, 2020. The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is actively assessing the potential impacts that COVID-19 may have on the FY 2020 grant application process. OJP will continue to monitor the situation to determine if additional adjustments to closing dates are needed.

RESOURCES:

- Visit the [funding page](#) for details about other OJJDP funding opportunities.
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

OJJDP ANNOUNCES NEW CLOSING DATES ON FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

OJJDP has announced new closing dates for the following fiscal year 2020 funding opportunities:

- [Juvenile Justice Emergency Planning Demonstration Program](#)
All applications are due by March 30, 2020.
- [Victims of Child Abuse Act Training and Technical Assistance for Child Abuse Professionals](#)
All applications are due by March 31, 2020.
- [National Gang Center](#)
All applications are due by April 6, 2020.
- [Missing and Exploited Children Training and Technical Assistance Program](#)
All applications are due by April 6, 2020.
- [Family Drug Court Program](#)
All applications are due by April 8, 2020.
- [Alaska Children's Advocacy Center Expansion Initiative for Child Abuse Victims](#)
All applications are due by April 8, 2020.
- [National AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program](#)
All applications are due by April 9, 2020.
- [Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces: Forensic Capacity Hiring Program for Wounded Veterans](#)
All applications are due by April 9, 2020.
- [Alaska Native Youth Training and Technical Assistance Project](#)
All applications are due by April 13, 2020.
- [Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program](#)
All applications are due by April 13, 2020.

RESOURCES:

- Visit the [funding page](#) for details about other OJJDP funding opportunities.
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Save the Date – 2020 Crime Victims' Rights Rally
 Sponsored by Crime Victims' Alliance of Pennsylvania (CVAP)
Seek Justice – Ensure Victims' Rights – Inspire Hope
APRIL 20, 2020 – 11AM – HARRISBURG STATE CAPITOL – ROTUNDA
 Exhibitor Tables can be reserved through Monica Iskrac at msiskr@ship.edu
 A post rally event sponsored by The Office of Victim Advocate (OVA) will be held immediately following the Rally.

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.

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

