



PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Volume 32, Number 10

October 2021

REGISTRATION REMAINS OPEN FOR THE 2021 JAMES E. ANDERSON PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

It's not too late to register for this year's conference. Please visit www.jcjc.pa.gov to register for this **FREE** virtual event. In addition to the engaging plenary sessions highlighted below, 12 separate training workshops will be held on November 4th and 5th, 2021.

Opening Plenary, November 4th - "One Minute - One Hour - One Day at a Time"



James P. Harris, Jr., the current Superintendent of the Woodland Hills School District in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, will discuss how administrators, teachers, and other school staff created a school environment conducive of positive youth development. Using anecdotes and experiences, Mr. Harris will show how he and his staff took a school district that was weighed down with behavioral difficulties and

a negative community perception and created a culture where students and professionals could thrive.

Closing Plenary, November 5th - "Leading with Purpose: The Hidden Part of Evidence-Based Practices Implementation"



Dr. Brian Lovins, PhD., a Principal with the consulting group, Justice System Partners, will deliver a session that will encourage participants to re-center on purpose. Assessments, case plans, skill-building sessions, and graduated response grids are all important parts of our work, but they are not the end goal. The true end goal is to achieve behavioral

change in youth that are struggling in their lives. Participants will learn real world, practical ways to rediscover (or enhance) the purpose to help court-involved youth be successful - in turn helping our communities grow.

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2021 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania
Conference on Juvenile Justice
41st Annual Professional Awards Program - LIVE!
November 4th - 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOCUS ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS

This year, the training workshops for the 2021 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice will focus on various topics and issues facing juvenile justice professionals, while also highlighting best-practices, programs, and initiatives that exemplify Pennsylvania's Balanced & Restorative Justice (BARJ) mission and the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). Unless noted, training workshops will be offered on both Thursday, November 4th and Friday, November 5th.

OUR WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

- * **A Conversation on Cultural Competency for Juvenile Justice Professionals and Stakeholders (*Ethics Credits) (Thursday Only)**
Presented By: Marilyn Stein
- * **A Conversation on Restorative Justice in Practice**
Presented By: Krista Rittenhouse, Dan Dudenhoefer
- * **Advancing Continuous Quality Improvement: A Provider & Probation Partnership**
Presented By: Scot Walkowski, Julie Bullard
- * **Best Practices to Intervene and Advocate for Autistic Youth in the Juvenile Justice System**
Presented By: Kate Hooven, Lindy Mishler, William F. Ward
- * **Competency Development: The Pennsylvania Academic, Career, and Technical Training (PACTT) Overview and Public Reports**
Presented By: Russell Zemanek, Roger Chu
- * **Exploring the Phenomenon of Social Media Addiction (Thursday Only)**
Presented By: Devon Petrusky
- * **Implementing Graduated Responses in Juvenile Courts and Juvenile Probation Departments (Thursday Only)**
Presented By: Andrew S. Benner, Dr. Naomi Goldstein, PhD., Sue Christner, Lisa Pema Harvey, Esq., Danielle Crampton
- * **Improving Youth Outcomes Through Data-Driven Decision Making: The First Match Program**
Presented By: Shawn Peck, David Evrard, Michael McCartin, Stacey Wellman
- * **Ten Years of the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol in Pennsylvania: Past, Present, and Future**
Presented By: Jeff Gregro, Kris Glunt, Lisa Freese, Christa Park
- * **The Importance of Connection: Understanding the Role of Workplace Culture and Psychological Safety on Employee Engagement, Productivity, and Retention (for Supervisors and Managers) (Thursday Only)**
Presented By: Dr. Kelly Waltman, PhD.
- * **The Role of Organizational Context and Culture in the Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices (for Supervisors and Managers) (Friday Only)**
Presented By: Dr. Brian Lovins
- * **Understanding Adolescent Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues**
Presented By: April Billet-Barclay, Melissa Perkins, Megan McMullen

Once you've registered, be sure to check out our Professional and Youth Awards Gallery tabs where you can browse the winners and their submissions. Our virtual exhibitors can be found on the Exhibitors tab at the start of the conference and throughout the entire event. If you need any assistance before the event, please reach out to us through email at ra-jcicevents@pa.gov. We hope that you are available to join us!

Annual Awards Program

On September 8, 2021, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's Awards Committee convened via video conference call to select the recipients of the 2021 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice Annual Awards.

This year's JCJC Awards Committee included, Chair Patrick Micco (Lawrence), Committee Members Mary Jo Battle (Erie), Michele Howard (Allegheny), Jon Frank (Blair), Kimmy Mulik (Carbon), Justin Popovich (Bradford), Amy Warner (Philadelphia), Abigail Wilson (PCCYFS), Angela Zera (Luzerne), Angel Stewart (JCJC), and Keysla Rodriguez (JCJC). After much deliberation, the Committee selected the 2021 Annual Award winners (see below).

JCJC also congratulates the Honorable Carol L. Van Horn (Outstanding Leadership Award) and Elizabeth A. Fritz (Dennis M. Maloney Award) for their remarkable contributions to Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System.

Please join us at our virtual Professional Awards Program on **November 4, 2021** where all award winners will be recognized.

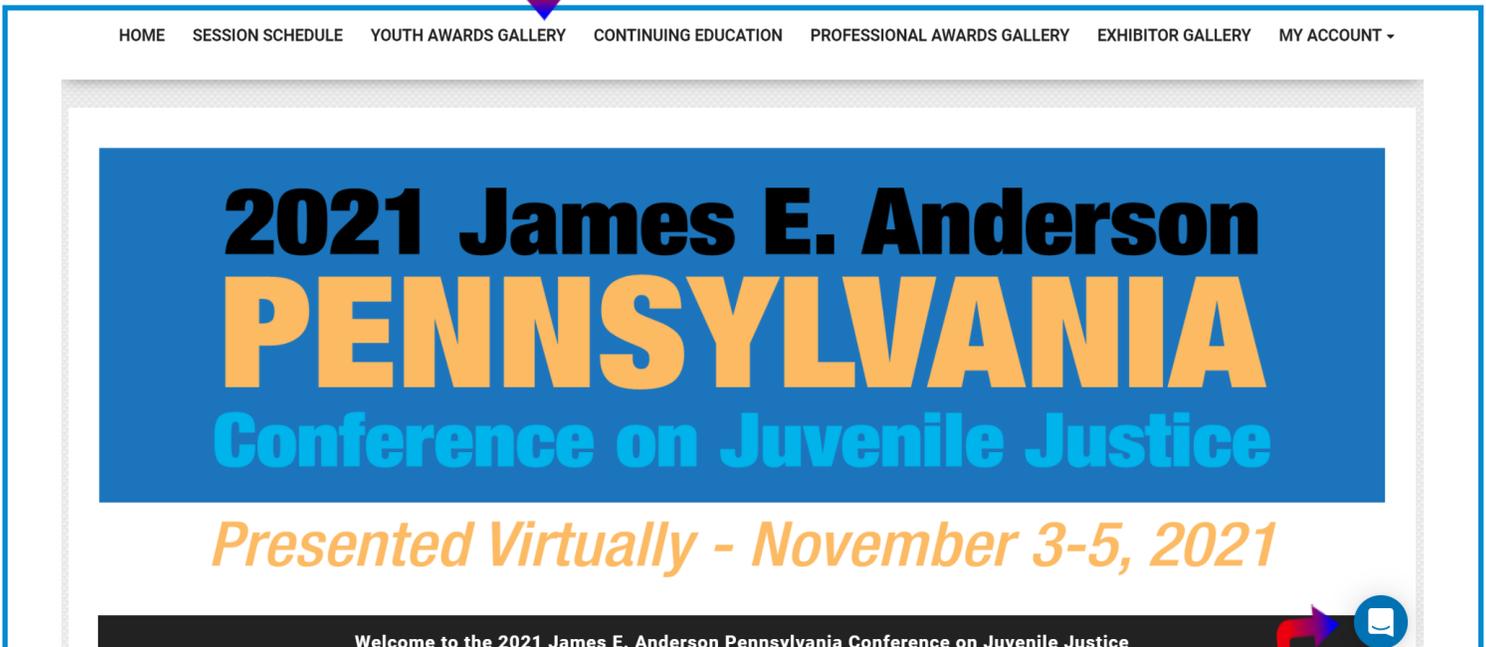
Congratulations

Chief JPO of the Year:	Teresa Wilcox (McKean)
Juvenile Probation Supervisor:	Angela Mackley (Franklin)
Juvenile Probation Officer:	Bernard Rendler (Dauphin)
Juvenile Court Support Staff:	Celene Barno (Allegheny)
Victim Advocate:	Mary Beth Collins (Allegheny)
Court Operated Program:	Reel In Success (Dauphin)
Residential Program:	Pathways Adolescent Center (Venango)
Community-Based Program:	Diakon Center Point Day Treatment Program (Cumberland)
Outstanding Leadership Award:	Honorable Carol L. Van Horn (Franklin and Fulton)
Dennis M. Maloney Award:	Elizabeth A. Fritz (Lehigh)

JCJC would like to congratulate this year's Annual Award winners, and thank everyone for their submissions. For event registration and conference information, please visit www.jcjc.pa.gov.

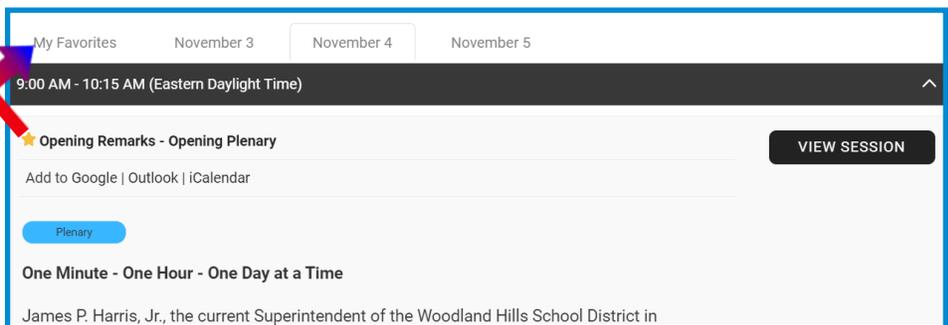
HELPFUL TIPS FOR NAVIGATING THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE

The 2021 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice is only days away! Registration is **FREE**, so if you haven't done so already, visit www.jcjc.pa.gov and register today! After you are registered, you will receive a confirmation email. The day before the event, you will receive an email with additional details and a link to access the conference site. Once on the site, you will see tabs at the top that provide you access to all conference areas. The tabs will always be viewable, making navigating from page to page easy.



Need help? On any page, you'll have access to a support chat widget in the bottom right hand corner. Click on this and our friendly help desk staff will assist you with anything that you may need.

Want to build your own personalized schedule? Once your registration is completed, you will be able to access the Session Schedule tab. Simply click on the star in front of the title and a My Favorites tab will appear with only the starred events listed. You can also add any event to your calendar by clicking on the appropriate choice on the Add to feature.



Not sure which to choose? Click on the title or the View Session button to view detailed information on the session and the presenters. At the time of the chosen event, click the Join Session button and you will have access to the room when the event begins. Thank you for your continued support of our conference. Enjoy!

Thanks to our Sponsors



JUSTINE FOWLER RETURNS TO THE JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION



On October 11, 2021, Justine Fowler returned to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) in the position of Director of Research and Analytics. Justine began her employment with JCJC in June 2011 as a Stoneleigh Foundation Fellow. In that role, Justine developed the framework and methodology for the state's first-ever recidivism report. This report eventually became the yard stick for capturing the impact of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) and is now completed on an annual basis. Upon completion of her Fellowship, Justine joined the staff of JCJC full time in July 2012 as a Program Analyst, serving as the agency's lead research analyst. In that role, she conducted data analysis and research on various topics directly impacting the state's juvenile justice system. She also assisted in the re-development of the agency's annual disposition report and the creation of several training presentations and curricula.

In January 2019, Justine accepted a position as a Data and Policy Specialist with the Crime and Justice Institute (CJI), a national organization that provides technical assistance to criminal justice and juvenile justice agencies seeking to implement evidence-based, system-level reforms. While at CJI, Justine was the lead data analyst for several criminal justice projects, including the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Task Force, and most recently, the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) efforts in Nebraska, which involved using a data-driven approach to safely reducing the state's prison over-crowding problem.

Justine currently lives outside of Hershey, PA, with her husband, Nathan, and two children, Jane and Jack.

PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE RECIDIVISM REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

In September 2021, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) released its seventh recidivism report, entitled: *The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report: Juveniles Closed 2007-2018*. The current study updates the analysis of recidivism trends and predictors to include juveniles closed in 2017 and 2018. This report is part of Pennsylvania's longstanding effort to measure the impact of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) on recidivism and other youth outcomes. Data for this project was compiled from the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Court's (AOPC) Common Pleas Case Management System (CPCMS). Recidivism is defined as: A subsequent delinquency adjudication in juvenile court or conviction in criminal court for either a misdemeanor or felony offense within two years of case closure.

This is Part 2 of a four-part series meant to highlight key findings from this report. The last two recidivism reports have added analyses of the relationship between juveniles' assigned risk level on the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS) and recidivism. Part 2 explores the relationship of the YLS risk level on a youth's final assessment¹ and recidivism. To review a copy of the full report, please visit: www.jcjc.pa.gov.

Analysis of the relationship between YLS risk levels and recidivism is important because it provides validation for the tool's ability to distinguish juveniles who are at greater risk of recidivating from those who are at a lower risk. The YLS also provides information that can be used to examine whether trends in recidivism are a product of improvements in the juvenile justice system or changes in the characteristics of juveniles closed.

Consistent with past years (2015-2016), juveniles closed in 2017-2018 who were assessed as high or very high risk were much more likely to re-offend than moderate risk youth, who, in turn, were much more likely to re-offend than low risk youth (40% vs. 28% vs. 13%). See Figure 2. These findings are in line with research that validates the YLS as a risk assessment tool.²

The latest recidivism report shows that recidivism rates have seen substantial declines over the last two years, dropping from 18.4% in 2016 to 16.7% in 2017 and 14.6% in 2018. These trends could be a result of changes in the characteristics of juveniles closed. It is also possible—and these explanations are not mutually exclusive—that among youth assessed at the same risk level (e.g., moderate risk youth) fewer recidivated, perhaps as a result of the system’s improved performance. The evidence presented in Figures 1 and 2 suggests that both hypotheses are relevant to explaining recent recidivism trends.

- There has been a small increase in the percentage of youth assessed as low risk on their final YLS (from 73% in 2015 to 76% in 2017 and 77% in 2018). See Figure 1.
- There was a notable decline in the recidivism rates of youth assessed as high or very high risk, dropping from 58% in 2015 to 36% in 2018. See Figure 2. The recidivism rates of moderate risk youth have also declined less dramatically over the last three years.

Main Conclusion

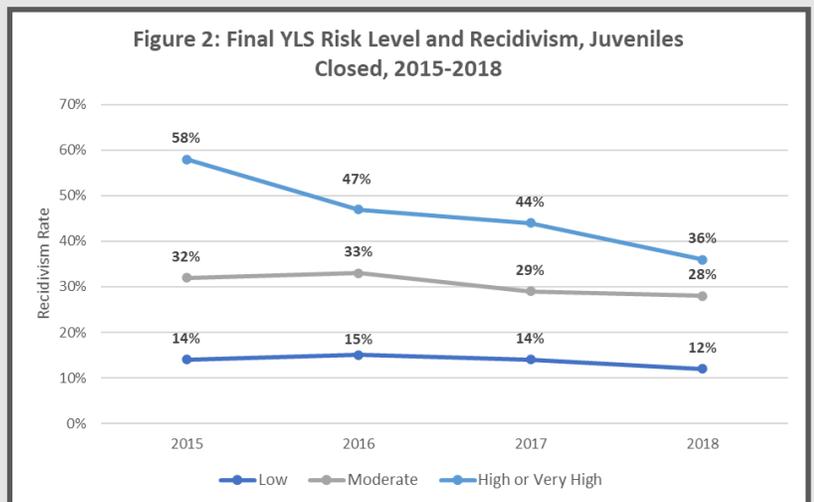
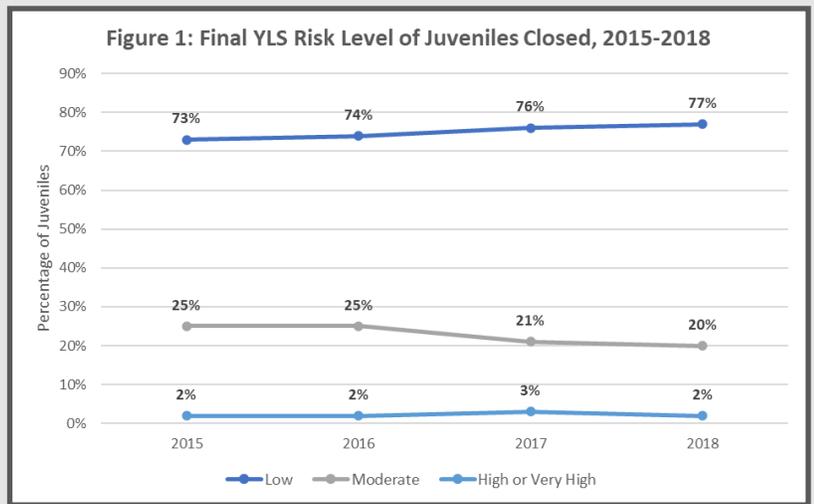
- Having a less “at risk” group of juveniles closed could play a role in why recidivism rates have gone down over the last few years. At the same time, declining recidivism rates among youth assessed as having the same risk level (high or very high risk youth in particular) suggests that something other than the characteristics of those youth measured in the YLS must explain those trends. These latter findings are consistent with the idea that the programming innovations occurring under JJSES are continuing to bear fruit and drive recidivism rates down.

Limitations

It is important to remember that only 58% of juveniles closed in 2017-2018 had a final YLS assessment within six months of their case closure. This is concerning because it is possible that juveniles with a YLS assessment differ from those that did not have a YLS assessment. In future reports, a larger percentage of juveniles closed are expected to have YLS data available to analyze, and it is possible that some of the findings in this report will not be replicated.

¹This report only analyzes YLS risk levels for juveniles whose last YLS assessment (regardless of assessment type) was within 6 months of their case closing. Fifty-eight percent (16,187/27,711) of juveniles closed in 2017 and 2018 met this criterion.

²Hoge, R.D., & Andrews, D.A. (2011). *Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory 2.0: User’s Manual*. North Tonawanda, NY: Multi-Health Systems, Inc.



COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

WELCOME CHIEF COLLEEN TITTIGER BEAVER COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION



On October 4, 2021, Colleen Tittiger was appointed as Beaver County's Chief Juvenile Probation Officer by the Court of Common Pleas of Beaver County.

Ms. Tittiger has been employed at Beaver County Juvenile Services for thirty-two years. Throughout her career, she has worked in multiple positions within the juvenile services department including juvenile probation officer, dependency and delinquency aftercare specialist, intake officer, intake coordinator, supervisor, and assistant director. Ms. Tittiger facilitated the creation of three programs in the Juvenile Services Department which include the Redeem Program (a restitution program), the Truancy Intervention Program, and the Underage Drinking Program. Additionally, she was essential to the planning, implementation, and advancement of various activities of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) and other projects supported within the department. In her new role, Ms. Tittiger will guide a department comprised of twenty-five staff.

Ms. Tittiger has a Bachelor of Science degree in Art Education and a Master's degree in the Administration of Criminal Justice. She is married, a mother of three grown children, and now a grandmother of three grandsons. In her free time, Ms. Tittiger enjoys fine art painting and playing guitar.

JIM DODSON RETIRES CARBON COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION

After 38 years of service, Jim Dodson retired as the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of the Carbon County Juvenile Probation Department on October 1, 2021. Mr. Dodson began his career in 1983 as a Correctional Officer at the Carbon County Prison. In 1985, Mr. Dodson accepted a position as a counselor at the Concern Treatment Unit for Boys. In 1990, Mr. Dodson began work as a Probation Officer at the Carbon County Adult Probation Department, and in 1993, he was promoted to Chief Juvenile Probation Officer.



During his time as the Chief, Mr. Dodson has been involved in setting up a Restitution Program, and he was instrumental in obtaining the Live Scan/CPIN machine for the county. Additionally, Mr. Dodson has been the county administrator for JNET and CLEAN since their inception.

Mr. Dodson holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Shippensburg University. Mr. Dodson is an avid fisherman, baseball card collector, and softball player. He has won 5 state softball championships during his career and continues to enjoy playing the game he loves. Mr. Dodson has been married to his wife Elizabeth for the past 40 years, and their daughter Beth is an attorney who recently moved back to the Carbon County area. Upon retirement, Mr. Dodson has been hired by Carbon County as a consultant through the Sheriff's Department, and he will remain as the administrator for the County's JNET and CLEAN systems on a part-time basis.

STATEWIDE AUTISM AND THE COURTS INITIATIVE

Written by Kate Hooven and submitted on behalf of the Behavioral Health Subcommittee

Here in Pennsylvania, it became clear that there was a need for autism education and awareness, so in 2015, the Autism Services, Education, Resource and Training (ASERT) Collaborative began training law enforcement officers, probation and parole officers, judges, and other justice system personnel. Since then, ASERT has trained over 8,900 justice system personnel, first responders, autistic individuals, family members, and providers. In addition to training, ASERT has created numerous resources for justice system personnel such as *Signs of Autism: A Guide for Justice System Personnel*, *How to Approach Someone with Autism*, *What is the Law Social Story* and *A Judges Guide to Autism* bench book. These resources and more can be found at <https://paautism.org/resource/justice/>.

In February of 2020, the Administrative Offices of PA Courts, initiated by Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Kevin M. Dougherty, acknowledged the need for judges and court personnel to be exposed to autism training and invited staff from the Bureau of Supports for Autism and Special Populations (BSASP) and ASERT to present a four-hour autism training at their annual meeting in Philadelphia. Over 200 judges were in attendance. Recognizing the importance of this moment, and the overall positive response from attendees to further their understanding the impact an autism diagnosis can have on individuals appearing in the court system, Justice Dougherty expanded on this one-day training event by convening PA court and autism stakeholders to conduct a statewide Autism and the Courts Initiative.

Five regional panels were held across the Commonwealth with local representatives from the judiciary, autistic self-advocates, judges, attorneys, law enforcement, parents of autistic loved ones, and mental health/service providers comprised each panel. With over 1,200 audience attendees, representing 62 out of the 67 counties in Pennsylvania, many important topics and initiatives were discussed, including the importance of early disclosure of an autism diagnosis, the need for more autism training across the justice system, and more inclusive courtrooms. All the voices heard in each regional discussion, be that of a panel member or an audience attendee, were imperative to instigating positive change within Pennsylvania's Court System, but none greater than the voices of the autistic self-advocates who graciously educated all in attendance.

For more information on ASERT's free and tailored training, please email info@paautism.org and if you would like to view any of the Autism and the Courts Initiative regional panels, visit: <https://www.pacourts.us/learn/autism-and-the-courts>.

2021 PENNSYLVANIA FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

The 2021 Statewide Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) Conference, sponsored by the Office of Children and Families in the Courts, Office of Children, Youth and Families, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network, and the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center, was held virtually on September 29th and September 30th. The conference theme was "Adjusting Our Lens: Gaining Perspective by Challenging Perceptions." The virtual conference included keynote speakers and breakout sessions showcasing an array of possibilities for how FGDM can be used with children and their families.

The first day of the conference featured opening remarks from FGDM Leadership Team Co-Chairs, Maryrose McCarthy, Chief Clerk of Northumberland County, and Crystal Natan, Executive Director of Lancaster County CYS. In addition, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Children, Youth and Families, DHS, Jon Rubin, introduced the first keynote speaker, Jodi Pfarr. Jodi's "*The Urgency of Awareness*" session offered a deeper look into a few of the more common societal categorizations placed upon us by ourselves or others, and how these categori-

zations impact our life experiences, and thereby, the work we do with children and families. A better awareness and understanding of these societal categorizations can lead to better engagement of families and FGDM growth within communities throughout Pennsylvania.

On September 30th, JCJC Executive Director, Richard D. Steele, provided opening remarks and introduced conference attendees to the Honorable Justice Kevin M. Dougherty, Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Justice Dougherty then provided an introduction of keynote speaker, Mary Montague. Mary has developed and delivered mediation interventions and training programs in areas such as the Balkans, Afghanistan, Pakistan region and Sudan. Mary's "*Knowing Me, Knowing You: Diversity Works!*" session invited attendees to examine the personal values that underpin professionals' work with children and families. The session also examined how these values can create "diversity triggers" that impede our work to better engage families in the agency, court, and community.

Following the keynote presentations on both days of the conference, attendees were invited to participate in breakout sessions covering a wide variety of topics, as they related to the use of FGDM, including addiction and recovery, parent and parent attorney roles and collaboration, reduction of congregate care in Pennsylvania, human trafficking, kinship care, and family connectedness.



TECHNOLOGY CORNER



For many years, Internet Explorer has been the default browser for all Microsoft computers and has been the standard for our applications. There are many features used in creating websites that are treated differently by the various web browsers so by choosing a browser that comes with most computers, web developers can make sure everything looks consistent.

However, many of the technological improvements used by newer browsers and newer websites are not supported by Internet Explorer. With the release of Windows 10, Microsoft began transitioning away from Internet Explorer by including a new browser with their new computers: Microsoft Edge. Since that time, applications such as Word, Excel, and Teams have switched over to the new browser. Microsoft writes on their blog, "...the future of Internet Explorer on Windows 10 is in Microsoft Edge. Not only is Microsoft Edge a faster, more secure and more modern browsing experience than Internet Explorer, but it is also able to address a key concern: compatibility for older, legacy websites and applications."¹

Microsoft is ending support for Internet Explorer on June 15, 2022. The Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research (CJJT&R) has been transitioning away from Internet Explorer for several years and will support Microsoft Edge and its contemporaries such as Google Chrome and Firefox without using compatibility mode. The past few years have initiated an exciting time of change at CJJT&R between the analysis and ongoing rewrite of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS). As juvenile justice professionals and their partners throughout the Commonwealth work hard to continue to enhance the justice system in Pennsylvania, we are eager to embrace these changes to make sure we are offering the best possible tools to our users!

If you have any questions about Internet Explorer and Microsoft Edge, please do not hesitate to contact our helpdesk at RA-JCJCHELPDESK@pa.gov.

¹<https://blogs.windows.com/windowsexperience/2021/05/19/the-future-of-internet-explorer-on-windows-10-is-in-microsoft-edge/>

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

ORIENTATION FOR THE NEW JUVENILE PROBATION PROFESSIONAL

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) was once again able to offer the Orientation for the New Juvenile Probation Professionals virtually using the Zoom virtual platform. This Orientation was held October 5, 6, 7, 13, 14 and 28, 2021. Although there was no in-person learning, the curriculum is still offered in a hybrid structure, the juvenile probation officers are required to complete online courses as well as the courses that were offered virtually.

The orientation began with opening remarks by Bob Tomassini, JCJC Deputy Director, and Chad Libby, Dauphin County Probation Services Director and President of PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. The morning of the first day consisted of an introduction to the juvenile justice system presented by Angela Work, JCJC Director of Quality Assurance in Juvenile Justice and BARJ/JJSES was presented by Russell Carlino, Allegheny County Juvenile Probation Chief, and Bob Tomassini. Other experienced juvenile justice professionals presented the following curriculum on the subsequent days:

- * Cultural Competency presented by Marilyn Stein, MGS Consulting, LLC
- * Phase I Safety presented by Michael McCartin, Lancaster County Juvenile Probation Supervisor
- * EBP 101 presented by Leo Lutz, JCJC Director of Policy & Program Development
- * Core Skills for Risk Reduction Work presented by Nicole Mattern, Dauphin County Probation Services Supervisor, Jonathan Kuykendall, Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Officer, and Bill Keim, Berks County Juvenile Probation Assistant Chief
- * Victims' Rights presented by Cathy Eichelberger, Office of Victim Advocate Juvenile Justice Victim Assistance Coordinator
- * Impact of Crime presented by Abby Runk, York County Juvenile Probation Victim/Restitution Officer
- * Detention Standards presented by Seth Bloomquist, JCJC Director of Detention Monitoring
- * Motivational Interviewing (MI) presented by Barbara Orr

For more information about orientation and other professional development opportunities, contact Sonya Stokes, systokes@ship.edu.

November

- 9 Implicit and Unconscious Bias: Recognizing Hidden Prejudices That Impact How We Do Our Jobs Virtual
- 16 Motivational Interviewing Coaches Booster Series: 3 Coding, Traps, and Giving Feedback Virtual

December

- 9 Adolescent Brain Development - Virtual

Registration available at www.jcjcjems.pa.gov

JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK EVENTS

Chester County

IN WAKE OF IDA, CHESTER COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION STAFF PITCHES IN TO HELP VICTIMS

*Reprinted with Permission By Michael P. Rellahan,
Daily Local News*

Juvenile Justice Week set for county

WEST CHESTER — The concept of restoring people in the Chester County community is central to the work of the county Juvenile Probation Office. Its focus is on “balanced and restorative justice” for individual youth offenders, as well as whoever might be victimized by their crimes.

So it might come as no surprise that when Hurricane Ida hit the county last month, there were many who work in that office who decided that they needed to step in and do something to help those who suffered in its wake restore some sense of recovery.

In mid-month, more than two dozen of the employees in the office took it upon themselves to bring food, supplies, and in one case, home appliances to those in the areas of the county affected by Ida.

Their efforts are a reminder of the community efforts of juvenile probation officers as the county celebrates Juvenile Justice Week, from Monday through Friday, with a ceremonial event Wednesday at which those in the office are recognized for their work by the county.

The county commissioners will issue a proclamation commending those in the office for their efforts “to improve and enhance the lives of the youth in Chester County. “

“Juvenile Justice Programs can help at-risk children and their families stay crime-free, leading to fewer crimes and a safer community,” the proclamation reads. “Juvenile justice personnel are highly skilled, dedicated professionals responsible for creating balanced and restorative plans for juvenile offenders.”

In partnership with local law enforcement, community agencies, families and schools, “juvenile justice personnel supervise juvenile offenders based on their individual level of risk to the community, provide opportunities for juveniles to understand the harm they have caused and how they can make amends to victims, and develop ways to help juveniles to become responsible and productive members of the community,” the commissioners state.

Chief Probation Officer Don Corry said last week that the idea of pitching in to help those who suffered through Ida was formed through various new discussion efforts within the office to address concerns raised by current events, including notions of bias and social justice, as well as the damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It was a combination of things,” he said in an interview. Not only were there ongoing committee meetings to address social concerns but in the wake of the hurricane, there were people in the office whose lives were upturned by the storm, bringing home the personal devastation it had caused.

Those included a woman whose husband’s auto repair business was flooded in Downingtown, destroying equipment and cars there; a family whose basement was flooded and suffered a significant amount of damages and whose car was lost to flooding on Route 322; and another couple whose apartment was flooded and has to stay in a hotel for a week.

“We were very aware that people across the county were hit hard because we had people in our office who were hit hard,” said Corry. “And there is an overarching goal in our office to make connections to the community. This is an example of that.”

“We recognize that our interaction with anyone individual (offender) is not that long,” he noted. “But supporting the overall community is something we try to prioritize in an ongoing effort.”

“The very nature of the work of a juvenile probation officer is that you are trying to help others, so I am very proud of them,” said Corry.

JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK EVENTS

He pointed to one of the staff, Lai-Onda Welcome, a juvenile probation officer specialist, as the primary organizer of the Ida relief efforts.

A woman who is a native of Coatesville and has worked in the office for more than 10 years, Welcome said she worked with other staff such as Jason Torres and Kathy Young to put the wheels in motion.

They were able to collect everything from baby needs, non-perishable food and hygiene items to some electric dryers and a refrigerator that were donated to people and organizations in Downingtown and West Chester.

“I believe the department absolutely saw a need, and they stepped up to help restore the citizens we serve,” Welcome said in an interview. “They jumped right in to help the hardest-hit areas in Chester County.”

“We are not always seen in a positive light by people in the community, because of the nature of our job. But we are here to serve the community in any way we can, both helping youths become better citizens, and by being better citizens ourselves.”

To contact staff writer Michael P. Rellahan call 610-696-1544.

Franklin County

Submitted by Franklin County Juvenile Probation

The Franklin County Juvenile Probation Department celebrated Juvenile Justice Week October 4-8, 2021.

The activities committee planned the week to have fun while refreshing our skills and doing some teambuilding. Individual officers were challenged with a juvenile justice themed crossword, which needed to be completed in order to have the answer bank for the word search.



Probation officers and supervisors teamed in pairs for the juvenile justice themed \$100,000 Pyramid. Teambuilding continued with a scavenger hunt, which included office items and fill-in the blank JJSES questions.

Training, including a YLS booster and PaDRAI (Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument) refresher, was held on Wednesday with lunch provided. A survey was completed on Thursday to

determine if additional training refreshers were needed on the use of any programs regularly used by probation officers.

For the first time, the Franklin County Juvenile Probation Department named a Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year. Chance Kelley was awarded this honor as he received the most nominations from fellow probation officers. Fellow officers commended Chance on his ability to be a voice of reason when things become hectic and his desire to learn and grow.

Daily drawings for gift cards were held with all staff eligible to win. Some of the gift cards were purchased by the activities committee, while others were donated by our judges. The week ended with a corn hole tournament with Franklin County Adult Probation & Parole. Teams were randomly selected and the winning team contained one juvenile probation officer and one adult probation officer.



JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK EVENTS

Lycoming County

THIS WEEK'S LION: WAY TO GO JPO

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Author Larry Stout*

When someone visits the Lycoming County Court of Common Pleas, it is generally a visit that they would rather not be having. That was not the case on Tuesday, October 5th, when Judge Joy Reynolds McCoy, along with President Judge Nancy Butts, Judge Eric Linhardt, and Judge Ryan Tira, came together to recognize the work of the JPO, the Juvenile Probation Office of Lycoming County to celebrate Juvenile Justice Week. Further recognition was given to the Lycoming County's JPO a week later at the County Commissioners Meeting on Tuesday, October 12th.

They deserve all the appreciation they can get. Few people know how difficult it is to work with troubled youth. There are hundreds of cases that the county is monitoring at any one time. Obviously, parents are the most important to integrate into the process. But, when these individuals also have issues they are dealing with, it is necessary to partner with other agencies. The Juvenile Probation Department may get involved with the county's Children and Youth Services and even volunteer agencies such as the Salvation Army or other local churches.

A chief and deputy chief do this work with three clerical staff and eleven officers. For 24 years, the department was headed up by Ed Robbins. His leadership was so exemplary that he was recognized last year with the highest award given by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission of Pennsylvania. Ed retired in July of last year and was succeeded by Dave Goodwin.

The good news about Director Goodwin is that the department has not skipped a beat. He has continued the solid evidence-based practices that are part

of the DNA of the department and has let his exceptional staff do their job, which they do so well.

And they really are an exceptional staff. Of the eleven officers, seven have over 20 years of experience. There are officers with master's degrees in education; three are military veterans, two of which served in combat abroad. There are officers who engage in community activity with churches, coaching, and other community involvement. In short, they are engaged beyond their job — but that is what makes them so good at their job.

Juvenile Probation is an unpleasant task. These are boys and girls from ages 10-17 who are brought before the Juvenile Court and are given court-ordered dispositions. Depending on the severity of the offense, it might require a period at a residential institution but more often involves community probation, accountability and victim restoration, and also developing youth competencies. The overall goal is that the youth will leave the program better than when they entered.

Each of these youths has a specific plan designed just for them by their JPO officer. The officers develop a case plan that outlines the court directives, monitoring and responding requirements, victim-related responsibilities, specific programming and interventions, community service obligations, and an educational development plan. All of this is designed around evidence-based practices that also involve the family and engagement with the community. The end result makes it all worth it, as statistics show a reduced recidivism among those who have gone through the Juvenile Probation Department.

So, here is a big Webb Weekly Leaders in Our Neighborhood (LION) Tribute to an incredible group of people that help us all through their commitment to troubled youth.

JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK EVENTS

Philadelphia County

Submitted by Philadelphia County Juvenile Probation

October 4-8, 2021 marked Juvenile Justice Week in the State of Pennsylvania. Activities were scheduled throughout the week to acknowledge staff contributions and engage in events with families and youth in the City of Philadelphia. The week kicked-off with donuts, pretzels, treats and coffee for staff appreciation.



Read Along and Crafts with Somerset Preschoolers

It is never too early to influence and engage our young people! Probation staff engaged youth at a local preschool with activities such as Circle Time, Read Alongs, teaching sign language, and Arts and Crafts on 10/5/21. There was also an exercise of building trust amongst young people with law enforcement.

Community Engagement Events

There have been a series of community events throughout the City of Philadelphia spearheaded by the Juvenile Probation Department's Community Relations Unit. These have included Community Empowerment Events, Community Cleanups during Juvenile Justice Week, and Mural Arts Dedications.



Youth Recognition Day

On October 7, 2021, members of the Community Relations Unit recognized four youth under probation supervision for their outstanding achievements. The youth were presented with gift certificates and a Certificate of Recognition from the Juvenile Probation Department.

Giving Back: Philabundance Non-Profit Foodbank that Serves the Region and US

Juvenile Probation Officers volunteered at Philabundance on October 6, 2021. Philabundance is the largest hunger relief organization in the Delaware Valley. Fifteen Probation Officers assisted at sorting food in order to give back to the communities and families in need.



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT - SPEP™ SPECIALIST

POSITION SPEP™ Specialist – Education Program Specialist 3 - Fixed Term 1

INTRODUCTION

The position of SPEP™ Specialist is part of the Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support Center (EPISCenter) in the Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center (PRC) at Penn State University. This position is part of a team responsible for the statewide rollout of the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™), an initiative to apply evidence from meta-analysis to strengthen and improve programs and services for juvenile offenders in Pennsylvania. This is a fixed-term appointment with excellent potential for renewal.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The job responsibilities for the SPEP™ Specialist involve partnering with local juvenile probation offices and juvenile justice service providers to engage them in the process of having their practices assessed using the SPEP™. This will include supporting the adoption and sustainment of SPEP™ for a region of counties in PA, conducting the SPEP™ across counties in that region in a timely and accurate fashion.

- North and South Central Pennsylvania
- Western Pennsylvania

The SPEP™ Specialist will work with a specified protocol to:

- Cultivate, develop, and maintain client relationships and partner with local juvenile probation offices and juvenile justice service providers to engage them in the process of having their practices assessed using the SPEP™;
- Interpret and communicate SPEP™ concepts, information, ideas and instructions clearly, accurately and persuasively both verbally and in writing;
- Serve as region liaison for information, clarification and direction to achieve immediate and long range projections derived from the data analysis of SPEP™. Coordinate, organize, and execute regional SPEP™ events, including Learning Community events and regional training opportunities.
 - North and South Central Pennsylvania
 - Western Pennsylvania

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree required (in social sciences, education, criminal or juvenile justice, public health, or other related fields; Master's preferred)
- Three years' experience in juvenile justice probation or service provider organization; five years preferred (or equivalent combination of education and experience)

SALARY

Competitive, commensurate with background and experience. An attractive benefits package is available.

MORE INFORMATION

Please see official job posting at: https://psu.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/PSU_Staff/job/University-Park-Campus/Education-Program-Specialist-3--SPEP-Specialist- REQ_0000021269-1



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ACCESS THE LATEST JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS 2019 REPORT

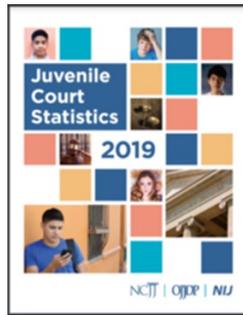
The [National Center for Juvenile Justice](#) has released "[Juvenile Court Statistics 2019](#)." This report describes delinquency cases and status offense cases handled between 2005 and 2019 by U.S. courts with jurisdiction over youth populations.

In 2019, these courts handled an estimated 722,600 delinquency cases and an estimated 90,500 petitioned status offense cases. Explore comprehensive data on juvenile court cases and demographics of justice-involved youth, and analyze caseload trends from 2005 to 2019.

This report pulls data from the [National Juvenile Court Data Archive](#), funded by OJJDP and managed by the National Institute of Justice.

RESOURCES:

- See OJJDP's [Statistical Briefing Book](#) for additional information on juvenile court case processing.
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



OJJDP ANNOUNCES UPCOMING WEBINARS

Register for upcoming juvenile justice-related webinars on funding, programs, and initiatives.

- November 2, 2021 [Preventing Substance Use Among the Youth Register](#)
- November 3, 2021 [Preventing Substance Use Among the Youth Register](#)
- November 4, 2021 [Response to At-Risk Missing and High-Risk Endangered Missing Children Register](#)
- November 9, 2021 [Initial Response Strategies and Tactics When Responding to Missing Children Incidents Register](#)
- November 15, 17, and 19, 2021 [What Executive Directors Need to Know about Direct Service Provision Register](#)

NEW ISSUE OF AMBER ADVOCATE AVAILABLE NOW

OJJDP has released the latest issue of [The AMBER Advocate](#) newsletter. This issue highlights the 2021 National Missing Children's Day [virtual commemoration](#) and features articles on:

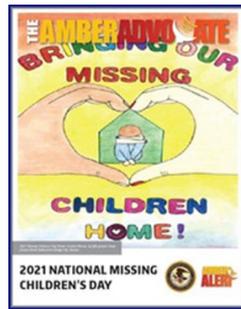
- The Missouri AMBER Alert that led to the safe recovery of an abducted girl.
- The Washington State's Homeward Bound Program partnership with trucking companies to display images of missing children on trailers.
- Deborah Flory, Maryland's AMBER Alert Coordinator.
- AMBER Alert briefs.
- AMBER Alert international news.

The issue's cover features the National Missing Children's Day winning poster by fifth-grader Heidy Jimena Perez Veleta.

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

RESOURCES:

- Access [previous issues](#) of the newsletter.
- [Visit](#) the AMBER Advocate website.
- 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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