



# PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

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## JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION PRESENTS AT STATE CONFERENCE

On April 11, 2024, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) partnered with the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO) for a presentation titled "Educational Stability: Helping Youth Remain on the Path of Academic Success" at the Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Families (PCCYFS) 2024 Annual Conference. Angela Work, Deputy Director, JCJC, welcomed the standing room only audience and opened the presentation with a review of educational stability and Pennsylvania law, particularly Act 1 of 2022 and Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure Rule 148. This review laid the legal foundation for educational stability statewide and segued into a longer conversation that followed about the practical aspects of educational stability associated with Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.



Donald "Don" Corry, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Chester County Juvenile Probation Department, and President, PCCJPO, led the second part of the presentation by linking educational stability to balanced and restorative justice; the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy; evidence-based practices; and the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory™ 2.0, especially the "Education/Employment" risk/need factor. Don concluded this informative and insightful conversation with a look at the [Educational Stability Checklist](#) and several practical applications juvenile justice professionals may use to support the educational stability of a justice-involved youth.

The presentation concluded with a 70-minute panel discussion moderated by Dr. Scott Weller, Director, Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research, JCJC.



The panelists were Justin Weber, a parent with lived experience; Joseph "Joe" Gifford, Juvenile Probation Officer, Dauphin County Juvenile Probation De-

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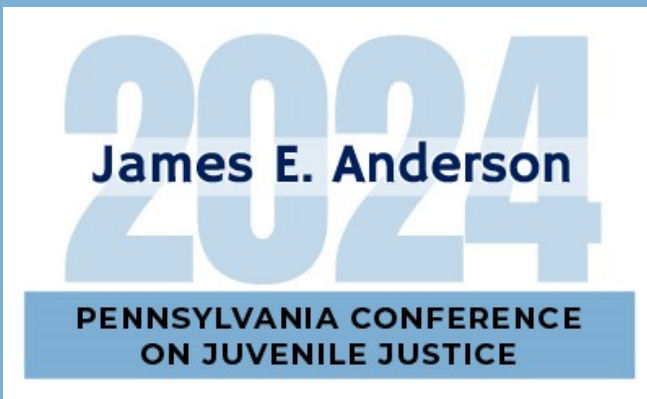
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partment; and Dr. Morgan Crozier, Director of Operations, The Academy Community-Based Services. The panelists answered questions posed by the moderator, including “As a parent with lived experience, how did your child benefit from educational stability and what were their academic successes?”, “What considerations are made by juvenile probation officers during planning for a justice-involved youth’s educational stability?”, and “How does a service provider assure a justice-involved youth’s educational stability at the time of admission, during their length of stay, and at the time of discharge?” Audience members asked the panelists similarly thoughtful questions about topics such as assistance and guidance regarding educational stability for marginalized populations and justice-involved youth with special needs, empirical evidence related to educational stability, and the importance of collaboration and communication amongst a youth’s support systems to guarantee their educational stability. The panel discussion was an energizing, engaging, and nonstop discourse between the panelists and audience members.

The JCJC thanks PCCYFS for the opportunity to participate in their 2024 Annual Conference!



# SAVE the DATE

## November 6 - 8, 2024

### Hilton Harrisburg

#### CONFERENCE - HOTEL INFORMATION

We are pleased to announce the room block at the Hilton Harrisburg is open. Early reservations are encouraged to secure the contracted rates. Please see below for reservation details.

At the **Hilton Harrisburg**, the room block will close on 10/06/2024. Rooms are available on a first-come basis. You may visit the customized link to book online, **2024 JCJC Annual Conference Room Block Booking**, or call 717-233-6000 and identify yourself with the Conference using **GROUP CODE: 96J**. The hotel will confirm your reservation.

At the **Crowne Plaza Harrisburg-Hershey**, the room block will close on 10/16/2024. Rooms are available on a first-come basis. You may visit the customized link to book online, **2024 Crowne Reservations**, or call 717-234-5021 and identify yourself with the Conference using **GROUP CODE: CAL**. The hotel will confirm your reservation.

For all conference details as they become available, visit the “**Annual Conference**” page of [www.jcjc.pa.gov](http://www.jcjc.pa.gov).



#### CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS DEADLINE EXTENDED TO MAY 17, 2024!

Each year, the conference includes workshops that highlight practices, programs, and initiatives which exemplify the various components of Pennsylvania's Balanced & Restorative Justice mission and the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy. Workshops are to encourage dialogue among professionals, spark imagination, and discover solutions to our system's ongoing challenges. The conference focus will be rooted in responsivity in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system.

We cordially welcome submissions for presentations. Interested parties can complete and submit the presentation proposal form by either method listed below. Submissions are due by **Friday, May 17, 2024**.

To download and complete, please visit: <https://www.jcjc.pa.gov/Program-Areas/AnnualConference/Documents/2024%20Conference%20Documents/2024%20Call%20for%20Presentations.docx>.

To complete and submit online, please visit: [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QSiOQsgB1U2bbEf8Wpob3iZS\\_UDhpZ5Mr8iYxNeQEP1UM1BFWjVWODI3NDIxODdURzIOWlpPRU5WTi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QSiOQsgB1U2bbEf8Wpob3iZS_UDhpZ5Mr8iYxNeQEP1UM1BFWjVWODI3NDIxODdURzIOWlpPRU5WTi4u).

# JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION UPDATES

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is excited to announce that Anu Jose, Misty Strine, and Stefanie Goeke are the newest members of the JCJC. Additional information on each can be found below.



**Anu Jose** joined as our Applications Developer 1 on March 25, 2024. Anu, who was born and raised in Kerala, India, began her career in Information Technology (IT) for H.E.B Grocery Company in Texas after completing her master's degree in Computer Applications. After working with H.E.B for five years, in 2019, she moved to Camp Hill, PA. Anu is enthusiastic about becoming a part of the JCJC team and further developing her skills in IT. In her free time, she enjoys traveling with her family, exploring new cuisines, watching movies, and listening to music.



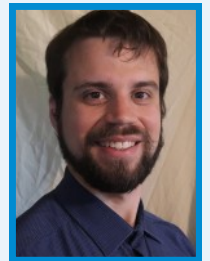
**Misty Strine** joined as our Information Technology Generalist 1 on March 25, 2024. Born and raised in York, PA, Misty began her career as a Clerk Typist 2 for the Department of Public Welfare. Misty obtained her Network and Internet Security Administration degree in 2008 and started her career in IT with the Federal Communications Commission as a Desktop Support Engineer in Gettysburg, PA. She later went on to work for Defense Logistics Agency in New Cumberland, PA, as an Identity and Access Manager. Misty is ready to continue expanding her IT skills, and working with her new colleagues. In her free time, Misty enjoys taking road trips with her husband and spending time with her family and four dogs.



**Stefanie "Stef" Goeke** joined as our Clerical Assistant 3 on March 26, 2024. A native of Buffalo, NY, Stef has a diverse background. From 2008-2017 she was overseas serving underdeveloped populations through humanitarian aid and relief, as well as teaching English. With a penchant for hospitality, she earned her Culinary Arts degree at HACC in 2020 while providing incredible customer service in corporate food retail with Wegmans Food Markets. She joined the Commonwealth in 2022 with the Department of General Services, serving on staff at the Governor's Residence in Harrisburg. Stef is eager about her new supportive role in the JCJC as she continues to grow and develop her career. In her free time, Stef enjoys reading, spending time in nature, cooking, baking, and spending time with her two adolescent sons. Go Bills!

## JARRETT VOIGHT PROMOTED TO SENIOR APPLICATIONS DEVELOPER

The JCJC is pleased to announce that Jarrett Voight has been promoted to the position of Senior Applications Developer effective April 20, 2024. Jarrett has been part of the JCJC staff as an Applications Developer for almost ten years. He joined the JCJC's Information Technology Division after graduating from Shippensburg University in May 2014. After his initial projects incorporating the Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment (PaDRAI) into the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) and assisting with the centralization of county data, he began researching ways to improve both the user experience and the technology in the application. Over the last ten years, he has taken leadership of the development for many PaJCMS projects and has played a key role in determining the technology and design standards for all JCJC applications.



As Senior Applications Developer, he will direct the work of JCJC's talented development team on all JCJC applications, which includes not only the rewrite for PaJCMS but also several exciting new projects. He will be working to ensure JCJC's applications are using modern technologies to allow for more flexibility and potential for future modules and enhancements. Jarrett currently lives in Shippensburg, PA with his wife Sarah, and together they enjoy birdwatching and traveling.

*Congratulations Anu, Misty, Stef, and Jarrett!*

# MYTH



VS.

# FACT



The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) continues its monthly series, "Myth vs. Fact," which addresses common misconceptions of the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system. Using a combination of Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System data and scholarly research conducted by the field more broadly, this series will provide data-driven facts on all topics juvenile justice.

This month's installation examines calls to not regain the beds lost during Pennsylvania's juvenile detention crisis.

## MYTH

Pennsylvania's decreased access to juvenile detention beds and decline in detention utilization present an opportunity to eliminate secure detention and instead rely on community-based alternatives.

## FACT

Juvenile detention, when used appropriately, protects communities from high-risk youth.

### Secure Detention in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's Juvenile Act establishes the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system's purpose as: "Consistent with the protection of the public interest, to provide for children committing delinquent acts programs of supervision, care and rehabilitation which provide balanced attention to the protection of the community, the imposition of accountability for offenses committed and the development of competencies to enable children to become responsible and productive members of the community."<sup>1</sup> Secure detention falls within this continuum of services, allowing the system to achieve its goals, particularly community protection.<sup>2</sup>

Pennsylvania remains strongly committed to only using secure detention for the youth at the greatest risk, and then only after considering and rejecting less restrictive alternatives. Between 2009 and 2022, secure detention admissions declined 80%.<sup>3</sup> Between 2006 and September 2021, 15 detention facilities ceased operations in Pennsylvania.<sup>4</sup> As of April 2023, only 13 facilities provided secure detention services in Pennsylvania<sup>5</sup>, with 62 counties sharing access to just eight facilities.<sup>4</sup> This significant decline in the availability of secure detention beds has contributed to the current system-wide crisis.

This detention crisis serves as a natural experiment to determine the extent to which secure detention promotes community protection. By examining the reoffending patterns of youth deemed most in need of detention, but who were released into communities due to detention bed unavailability, stakeholders can quantify the impact of secure detention on community protection. The JCJC undertook such an examination in April 2024. The results of this analysis are described below.

## The Study

Most Pennsylvania counties use the Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI), an objective and validated tool, to inform the critical decision of whether to securely detain a youth, release a youth to an alternative to detention (ATD), or release a youth to a parent or responsible adult's custody.

The JCJC analyzed 11,378 PaDRAI assessments completed in 2023 to determine the recidivism outcomes<sup>6</sup> of youth who were ultimately not detained. Approximately 83% (9,399) of assessments resulted in the youth being released to the community or to an ATD, giving them the opportunity to reoffend. Within that population, JCJC identified youth who scored to be detained, but because of no detention bed were released to the community or an ATD. This population was then compared against youth who were released or placed on an ATD per the tool's recommendation.

## Findings

- 397 documented instances of the PaDRAI recommended a youth be detained, but due to no available detention bed, the youth was released to the community (93 youth) or on an ATD (304 youth).
- 31% of the youth released outright to the community (i.e., not to an ATD) due to no detention bed committed a new offense within 60 days. Comparatively, youth released because of the tool's recommendation to release reoffended at a rate of just 6%, a statistically significant difference.
  - Of the 31% who reoffended, 69% reoffended by committing person or property offenses.
- 17% of youth who were released or placed on an ATD because of no detention bed reoffended. Comparatively, 8% of youth released or placed on an ATD because of the tool's recommendation reoffended, a statistically significant difference.

The results of this natural experiment suggest that there are certain scenarios in which secure detention should be used, and, absent these options, there is an ongoing risk to community protection. Furthermore, without a continuum of these services, the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system cannot fulfill its purpose.

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<sup>1</sup>Act 33 of Special Session No. 1 of 1995.

<sup>2</sup>For additional information on the utility of secure detention as part of a continuum of services in a juvenile justice system, please see:

- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. (2018). *Enhanced Juvenile Justice Guidelines*. National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.
- Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. (2018). *Pennsylvania Juvenile Delinquency Benchbook*. Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.
- Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. *Detention Handbook*. Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.
- Torbet, P. (2008). *Advancing community protection: A white paper for Pennsylvania*. National Center for Juvenile Justice.

<sup>3</sup>Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. (2023). *2022 Juvenile Court Annual Report*. Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.

<sup>4</sup>Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. (2023). *Pennsylvania Secure Detention Gap Analysis*. Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.

<sup>5</sup>Some Pennsylvania counties utilize two additional facilities located in Ohio.

<sup>6</sup>Recidivism was defined as reoffending within 60 days after the PaDRAI assessment date.

## COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

### COLLEEN TITTIGER RETIRES BEAVER COUNTY



On April 5, 2024, Colleen Tittiger retired as Chief of Beaver County Juvenile Services after almost 35 years of service to the juvenile justice system. Colleen began her career in May of 1989 when she was hired as a probation officer by the Beaver County Juvenile Probation Department (now the Juvenile Services Division). She initially served as a line juvenile probation officer before later becoming an after-care probation officer, intake officer, and intake coordinator. In 2004, Colleen was promoted to supervisor of the intake department and then line-staff before advancing to become Assistant Director of the Juvenile Services Division in 2012, followed by an appointment to Director in 2021. Colleen was instrumental in the creation of the Juvenile Courtroom.

Colleen holds a bachelor's degree in art education and a master's degree in the administration of criminal justice. While attending the JCJC-sponsored Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University, as part of her practicum, Colleen created and operated the restitution program in Beaver County. Colleen was also crucial in running the Underage Drinking Program for approximately eight years and designing and implementing the Truancy Intervention Program. She has been a proponent of evidence-based practices and was one of the first to be trained in the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory™, Motivational Interviewing, and the Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument. Since 2009, Colleen has been a strong supporter of collecting statistical data and compiling it into an annual report.

Colleen has been married to her husband, Bill, for almost 40 years. She has been involved with her church over the last 35 years. She has taught Sunday school, been a prayer counselor, and is very involved with local art groups. She has three children and a son-in-law, Heather, Steve, Ryan, and Sam, and three grandchildren, Logan, Micah, and Nico.

Congratulations Colleen and good luck on your future endeavors!

*Please join the JCJC in welcoming Charles Rossi, Jr., Chief of Beaver County Juvenile Services, effective April 8, 2024. Congratulations to Chief Rossi!*

DID YOU KNOW...

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's mission is to provide the leadership, advice, training, and support to enable Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to achieve its goals related to community protection, offender accountability, restoration of crime victims, and youth competency development.



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY YOUTH FIRE PREVENTION & INTERVENTION PROGRAM

*Submitted by William Wiegman and Andrew Backlund*

According to an analysis of intentional fires conducted by the National Fire Prevention Association (2007-2011), an estimated 282,600 intentional fires were reported to United States fire departments each year, with associated annual losses of 420 civilian deaths, 1,360 civilian injuries, and \$1.3 billion in direct property damage. According to the FBI's *Crime in the United States*, two out of five of the individuals arrested for arson were under 18 years of age. The misuse of fire has many variables, including age, motivation for fire-setting behavior, type of fire set, ignition materials used to set the fire, and the child's understanding and limitations of fire. Fire-setting behavior is often a symptom of the problem and may be manifested through stress and crises in children's lives.

The mission of the Montgomery County Youth Fire Prevention & Intervention Program (PIP) is to address youth fire-setting behavior within Montgomery County and to reduce the risk of fire-related loss of life, personal injury, and property destruction. The goals and objectives of the program are accomplished through interventions, including education and supportive service through community interventions. The program provides immediate risk mitigation through the collaborative efforts of fire service professionals, mobile crisis, and the youth and their families.

The Intervention Team was formed in 2022 after several years of planning and coordination. The team consists of fire service professionals, mobile crisis workers from Access Services, and Montgomery County's Juvenile Probation Department, Office of Children and Youth, and Office of Mental Health. This multidisciplinary team (MDT) engaged in several training courses throughout 2022 facilitated by the National Fire Academy, State Fire Academy, and the University of Pittsburgh. Team members received national certifications through the National Fire Academy and the National Professional Qualifications Board. The team consulted with several experts, including State Fire Commissioner Thomas Cook; David J. Kolko, Ph.D., ABPP; Dr. Laura Billon; and several treatment providers at the University of Pittsburgh.

The goals of the program include:

- Provide a safer community by reducing instances of youthful fire-setting behavior that lead to loss of life, injury, and the destruction of property.
- Empower youths and families to lead more resilient lives by reducing systematic gaps through a collaborative relationship with the MDT.
- Provide assessment, education, and recommendations for support and services.
- Collect data on the misuse of fire by youths residing in Montgomery County.

Youths can be referred to the program through two pathways. Crisis referrals are for identified youths who are in crisis and require immediate stabilization and intervention. The referring agency can request an immediate response from the program through the Montgomery County Public Safety Emergency Communications Center. The dispatch center will contact the Program Coordinator, who will then notify Mobile Crisis and the appropriate Fire Official of the request to respond to the fire scene.

Once on scene, the team will meet with the youth and their family. The team will then conduct an assessment and engage in safety planning with the family. A home safety check will be conducted if appropriate.

The team will provide for the stabilization of the youth and family. Mobile Crisis will work with the family to address any immediate needs of the youth and family. The Fire Official will then send a referral to the Program Coordinator to begin the Community Referral Process with the youth and their family.

Community referrals are for identified youths who are not in crisis and do not require immediate stabilization and/or intervention. These referrals will be received by the Program Coordinator who will then pass the information along to Access Services and the appropriate Fire Official to conduct an assessment with the youth and their family at the home. The appropriate Fire Official will coordinate with the assigned Mobile Crisis Specialist and the family to interview within thirty days of receiving the referral.

The team meets with the youth and their family at the home or an agreed-upon meeting place to conduct the intake interview and assessment. The program utilizes the *Pennsylvania Child and Parent Juvenile Fire-setter Screening Tool*. This Screening Tool is completed by the Fire Official, family, and youth. The Mobile Crisis Worker assists with the completion of the screening tool and completes the required assessment forms for Access Services. The team makes a safety plan with the family, conducts a home safety check, and provides stabilization and fire safety education to the parents. The team informs the youth and family of the MDT review process and the potential for participation in the Educational Intervention Program.

The team presents the referral at the next monthly meeting of the MDT. The MDT will review the referral and make the appropriate recommendations, including education and ongoing services. The MDT consists of members from the fire service; Access Services mobile crisis team; community-based service providers; school social workers; and representatives from the Montgomery County's Juvenile Probation Department, Office of Mental Health, and Office of Children and Youth. The MDT is comprised of a robust membership that spans public safety, mental health, social services, community-based services, and county agencies.

The program provides fire safety and wellness education for referred youths. Education includes several components such as fire science, fire safety, fire survival, and general mental wellness. The program provides a comprehensive intervention for youthful firesetters. The education is delivered by fire service professionals and behavioral health service providers. There is a service-learning component where students will engage in positive prosocial activities that benefit the community. Students receive a certificate upon successful completion of the educational component. The team takes a holistic approach to intervention, including education, mental health services, and the referral and coordination of community-based interventions.

The program utilizes the Burn Prevention Foundation's *A Spark of Knowledge*, an intervention curriculum for fire safety education. Access Services utilizes a wellness education program for youths. The education program includes PowerPoint presentations, a service-learning project, wellness education, and the distribution of certificates of completion.

The program is now beginning to take referrals. The MDT is working on building and fostering relationships with school districts, police departments, fire departments, courts and probation, and community-based intervention programs. Youths can be court-ordered to complete the program as a condition of their probation or Youth Aid Panel. However, the program is unique in that youths do not have to be court-ordered. Youths can be referred to the program by parents, social workers, treatment providers, and other community-based services. The program will meet the juvenile and family where they are, providing assessments in the home, community, or alternative living environments. The educational program can be tailored to the youth, allowing for group or individual programming. Intervention programs like Montgomery County PIP have been shown to statistically reduce recidivism rates in youthful firesetters (Kolko, 2001).





# Time is Running Out!

**The deadline for the James E. Anderson  
Juvenile Justice Youth Scholarship Award  
nominations is quickly approaching.**

**June 3, 2024**

**For a nomination form, please visit [www.jcjc.pa.gov](http://www.jcjc.pa.gov).**

For questions, contact Angel Stewart at [angstewart@pa.gov](mailto:angstewart@pa.gov)  
or Keysla Rodriguez at [keyrodrigu@pa.gov](mailto:keyrodrigu@pa.gov).



## TECHNOLOGY CORNER



On May 21, 2024, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) will host a virtual workshop titled "An Introduction to the New Expungement Eligibility Dashboard" recommended for juvenile probation department end-users only to prepare them for the forthcoming dashboard. This workshop provides participants with an opportunity to explore this new dashboard integrated into the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System.

The workshop will include viewing a live demonstration of the dashboard, instruction on the dashboard's functionality, exploration of the dashboard's usefulness and limitations, and the opportunity to ask questions and share feedback regarding the dashboard. Following the workshop, participants will be able to use the dashboard's features; identify expungement eligible cases captured, and not captured, by the dashboard; and recognize the dashboard as an aid for the determination of expungement eligibility.

To register for this event, please visit [JCJC Event Management System \(JEMS\)](#). For any inquiries about the workshops content, please contact the JCJC Help Desk team at [ra-jcichelpdesk@pa.gov](mailto:ra-jcichelpdesk@pa.gov).

We look forward to your participation!

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### TRAIN THE TRAINER/ FACILITATOR: HOW TO DELIVER ENGAGING AND IMPACTFUL PRESENTATIONS TO ADULT LEARNERS

Want to sharpen your presentation skills? The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is offering the "Train the Trainer/Facilitator: How to Deliver Engaging and Impactful Presentations to Adult Learners" training workshop, facilitated by June Fisher. Ms. Fisher is nationally recognized for her skills as a certified trainer and curriculum writer. Ms. Fisher provides dynamic, interactive live and web-based workshops for families, agencies, and communities. She has also guided numerous facilitators to develop and present workshops. In 2009, she was named Trainer of the Year by the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program.

This one-day, in-person training workshop is recommended for trainers, facilitators, peer trainers, and individuals who want to facilitate workshops. It will be presented on May 17, 2024, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, at the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC), Mechanicsburg, PA.

Mastering the art of adult learning requires a unique combination of knowledge and effective delivery skills. This workshop will provide a valuable chance for participants to collaboratively explore adult learning principles and hone their skills in delivering engaging and impactful presentations. Participants will be able to review and practice evidence-based instructional techniques and trauma-informed principles for effective learning, develop strategies to create a safe and supportive learning environment, explore the concept of cultural humility and its importance in training diverse groups, and review how to foster inclusive learning environments.

Join us to enhance your abilities and contribute to a dynamic learning community. This training workshop is open for registration in the [JCJC Event Management System \(JEMS\)](#). Contact Sonya Stokes, Director of Professional Development, if you have any questions about this or any other professional development opportunities at [systokes@ship.edu](mailto:systokes@ship.edu).

#### May

- 8 Healthy Versus Unhealthy Relationships: The Importance of Recognizing Abuse - Virtual
- 17 Train the Trainer/Facilitator: How to Deliver Engaging and Impactful Presentations to Adult Learners - Mechanicsburg
- 21 An Introduction to the New Expungement Eligibility Dashboard - Virtual
- 23 SPEP™ Level 1 Learning Community - Regional In Person
- 30 SPEP™ InfoCom - Virtual

#### June

- 4 A Snapshot of Courtroom Presentations for Coaches - Virtual
- 6 Criminal Minds - Criminal Behavior - State College
- 11 How to Tell Fear Where to Get Off - Virtual
- 20 Graduated Response Peer Mentor Learning Community - Virtual
- 25 Courtroom Presentation: Come Learn Better Writing and Speaking Skills - Greensburg
- 26 Courtroom Presentation: Come Learn Better Writing and Speaking Skills - Greensburg
- 27 Elevating Excellence: Performance Measurement & Management in Juvenile Justice - Mechanicsburg

#### July

- 15-17 EPICS Training for Juvenile Probation Officers - Greensburg
- 18 Courtroom Presentation: Come Learn Better Writing and Speaking Skills - Mechanicsburg
- 23 Courtroom Presentation: Come Learn Better Writing and Speaking Skills - Wyomissing
- 31 Mental Health in Adolescence - Virtual

For full schedule and registration information, please visit [www.jcjcem.pa.gov](http://www.jcjcem.pa.gov).

# Cognitive Certification Training - Harrisburg, PA

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania | June 24 - 28, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Crossroads® facilitators are difference makers. Join our community of professionals who are invested in making a difference in the lives of others. Cognitive Certification Training is fast-paced and interactive.

This course equips participants with the skills necessary to successfully facilitate NCTI's full line of evidence-based, effective Adult and Youth Crossroads

Programs AND Real Colors. This training is accredited by the American Probation & Parole Association (APPA), and is approved for 40 Contact Hours.



NCTI's [Complete Behavior Change](#) system is more than a checklist to work through with your clients, and it's more than just generic curriculum that could fit any client's needs. Our evidence-based, need-specific, risk-level based suite of curriculum truly meets your clients at their point of need and gives you the tools you need as well.

Furthermore, you have access to [NCTI's Pre and Post Online Testing](#) system where organizations with Certified Crossroads Facilitators are able to measure their clients' change in thinking and what areas still need to be addressed. This makes the communication with referring professionals simple and evidence-based.

As part of your training, you are also a Certified Facilitator of Real Colors®; this tool provides the foundation for understanding motivations, recognizing the "why" that fuels behaviors, and building instant rapport between facilitators and clients. Real Colors is the start of each program, and it sets you and your clients up for success.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.ncti.org/product/cognitive-certification-training-harrisburg-pa-june-24-28-2024/>



The 2024 National Symposium on Juvenile Services and the 2024 Leadership Institute Call for Presentations deadline has been extended until **Friday, May 17, 2024!** We're looking for juvenile service experts and engaging speakers to join the line up!

**Apply Today!**

[Symposium Application](#)

[Leadership Institute Application](#)

Not interested in presenting, but would like to attend? Register today!

**Leadership Institute Registration – [REGISTER NOW!](#)**

**Symposium Registration – [REGISTER NOW!](#)**

**Leadership Institute and Symposium Registration – [REGISTER NOW!](#)**

**Exhibitor and Sponsor Registration – [REGISTER NOW!](#)**

Visit our website to learn more about the [2024 Symposium](#) and the [2024 Leadership Institute](#).

Interested in becoming a Sponsor? View our [Sponsorship Packages](#).



**FREE WEBINAR May 14th, 2024 at 9:30 AM**

Pre-registration required: [Youth Courts \(traumainschool.org\)](https://traumainschool.org)

Join us for an insightful webinar delving into the operational dynamics of Youth Courts as a crucial mental health support system. The webinar is tailored for a diverse audience including school board members, superintendents, building administrators, teachers, parents, school resource officers, climate managers, school counselors, social workers, law enforcement, and other stakeholders.

Discover a student-led initiative designed to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline, offering a restorative approach that fosters positive outcomes for school communities, youth, and their families.

Our distinguished panel is comprised of professionals advocating for the integration of Youth Courts as a proactive measure to alleviate the trauma associated with punitive disciplinary practices.



# NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## OJJDP OBSERVES NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

President Biden [proclaimed](#) April as [National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#). Join OJJDP in honoring those who work to support children, strengthen families, and raise awareness about child abuse prevention.

“Every child in America deserves to grow up safe, supported, and surrounded by love. This month, we remember that we all play a part in making that real.”

—President Biden

OJJDP funds programs, training, and technical assistance that are critical to the intervention in and investigation of child abuse and neglect cases. In fiscal year 2023, the Office awarded \$39 million under its Victims of Child Abuse Act Program, including more than \$35 million for [Children's Advocacy Centers](#), \$3 million in training and technical assistance for child abuse professionals, and \$1 million for child abuse training for judicial and court personnel. The Office also awarded nearly \$9 million under its [Strategies to Support Children Exposed to Violence](#) program, including more than \$7 million to program sites plus \$1 million in training and technical assistance awards.

### RESOURCES:

- Download OJJDP's In Focus: Children's Advocacy Centers [fact sheet](#).
- Review [OJJDP's Model Programs Guide](#) literature review on [Children Exposed to Violence](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [X formerly known as Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

## OJJDP ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE FOR MARCH POSTED

Did you miss OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan's March 27th Webex call, "[Today in Juvenile Justice: Administrator Update](#)"? You can catch up and [listen to the recording now](#)—it's available on the Administrator's webpage.



During this call, Administrator Ryan highlighted the expansion of OJJDP's partnership with AmeriCorps to support community-based programs that increase reentry services to justice-involved youth.

### RESOURCES:

- [Listen to recordings](#) of previous monthly update calls hosted by Administrator Ryan.
- Follow OJJDP on [X formerly known as Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

## APRIL IS SECOND CHANCE MONTH

President Biden has [proclaimed](#) April as Second Chance Month. Join OJJDP and the Department of Justice's [Office of Justice Programs \(OJP\)](#) in supporting second chances for system-involved youth.



Each year, OJJDP takes this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to helping youth successfully transition out of the justice system and back into their communities. Throughout April, there were Second Chance Month webinars and events in collaboration with OJP program offices.

In fiscal year 2023, OJJDP awarded more than \$15 million through its Second Chance Act programs to support youth reentry, strengthen community-based youth reentry programs, and provide youth reentry training and technical assistance. OJJDP also awarded more than \$4 million to support programs to assist incarcerated parents who have children younger than 18 years old.

### RESOURCES:

- [View and download](#) OJJDP's guide to youth reentry.
- Follow OJJDP on [X formerly known as Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

## OJJDP NEWS @ A GLANCE, APRIL 2024

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) announces the availability of [OJJDP News @ a Glance](#), April 2024. This month's feature stories focus on how an educational advocate helps youth who are leaving residential placement reengage with the education system, and two grantees under OJJDP's *Building Local Continuums of Care To Support Youth Success* initiative.

"From the Field" highlights CALiO, a digital library launched by the National Children's Advocacy Center for professionals working to prevent child abuse. "Tribal Connections" features a Tribal Youth Program in Fairbanks, AK, that promotes academic success among middle and high school students.

Other features in this issue—

- [News in Brief](#)
- [New Publications](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

### RESOURCES:

- [OJJDP News @ a Glance](#), April 2024 (NCJ 308777) is available [online](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [X formerly known as 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](mailto:ra-oajcnews@pa.gov).

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