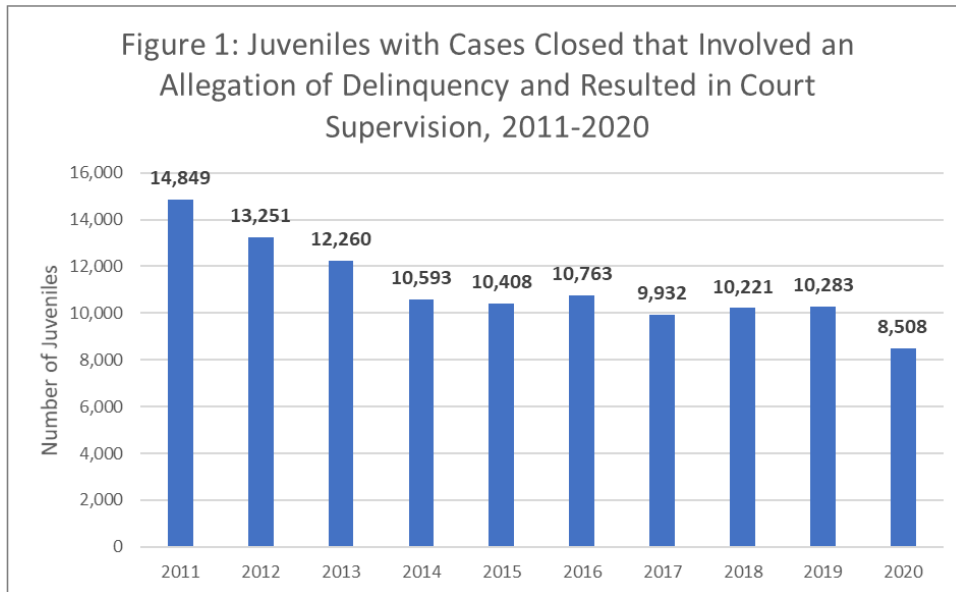




2020 PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM OUTCOME MEASURES REPORT RELEASED

The 2020 Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System Outcome Measures Report has been released and can be viewed at www.jcjc.pa.gov. Each time a case is closed within a juvenile probation office, juvenile probation officers are required to provide information specific to the services that the youth received and their behavior while under court supervision. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic created serious and unforeseen challenges for juvenile probation departments and the juveniles and families they serve. Most likely as a result of this disruption to business-as-usual, there was a 17% decline in the number of juveniles closed, from 10,283 in 2019 to 8,508 in 2020, the largest year-to-year change that has occurred over the last ten years (see Figure 1).



It is also possible that the outcomes of juveniles with cases closed might diverge from previous years as a result of the pandemic. These reports will highlight changes that occurred between last year and this year, and where appropriate, will suggest possible explanations for the observed trends.

This is the second year in which additional fields were added to allow for deeper analysis through a collaboration between the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO). These new measures offer a more detailed look at juvenile outcomes in the areas of Community Protection, Victim Restoration, Competency Development, and Risk Level Change. Over the next few months, we will take a closer look in the newsletter at each of these areas, with a focus on these new fields. This month's report begins by examining Community Protection outcomes.

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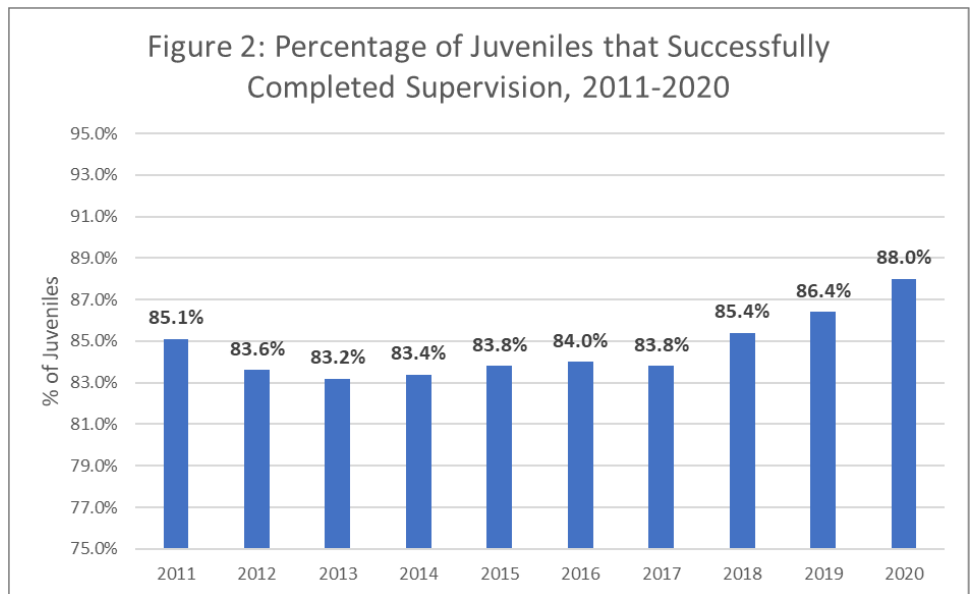
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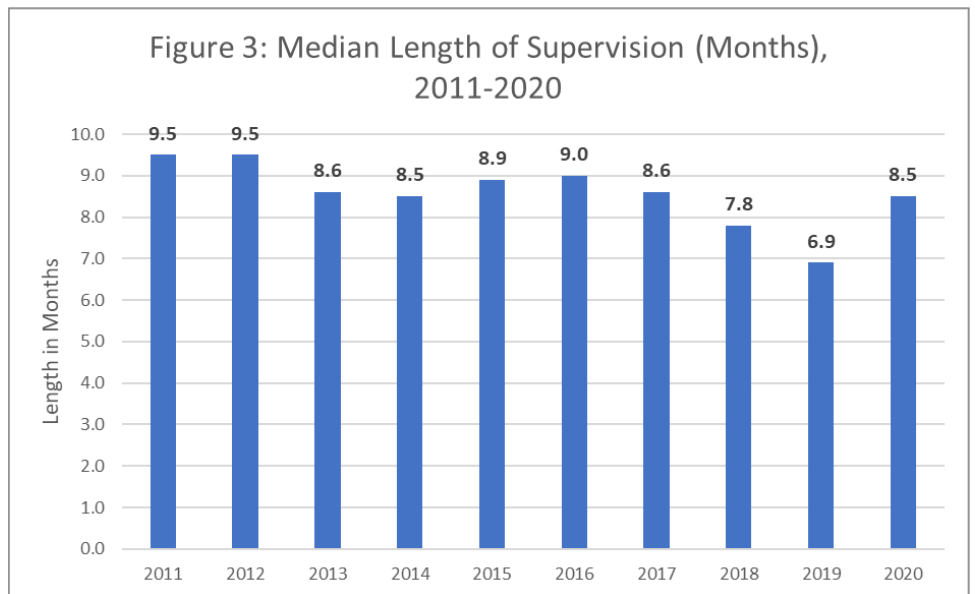
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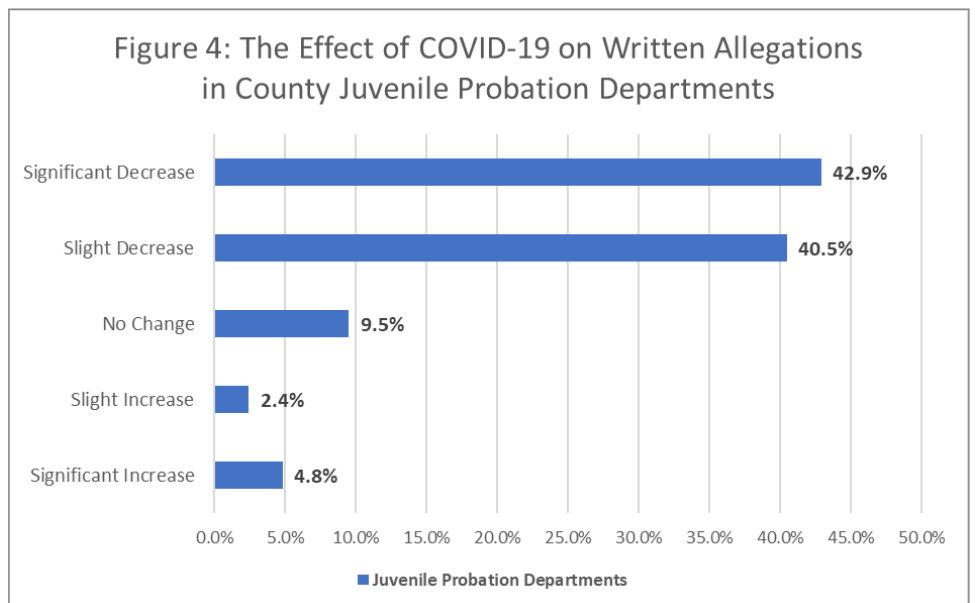
- In 2020, 88.0% of youth successfully completed supervision without a new offense resulting in a Consent Decree, Adjudication of Delinquency, ARD, Nolo Contendere, or finding of guilt in a criminal proceeding. This is the third year in a row in which the successful completion rate has gone up by a percentage point or more (see Figure 2).



- After two years of relatively large declines in the median length of supervision, there was a 23% increase in the length of supervision between 2019 and 2020 (6.9 months vs. 8.5 months). Both the declines in the number of juveniles with cases closed and the growth in the median length of supervision may be a result of the pandemic. In the August 28th through September 4th survey of county probation departments conducted by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission on the effect of COVID-19 on Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system, most counties (83%) reported declines in the number of written allegations as a result of the pandemic (see Figure 4).

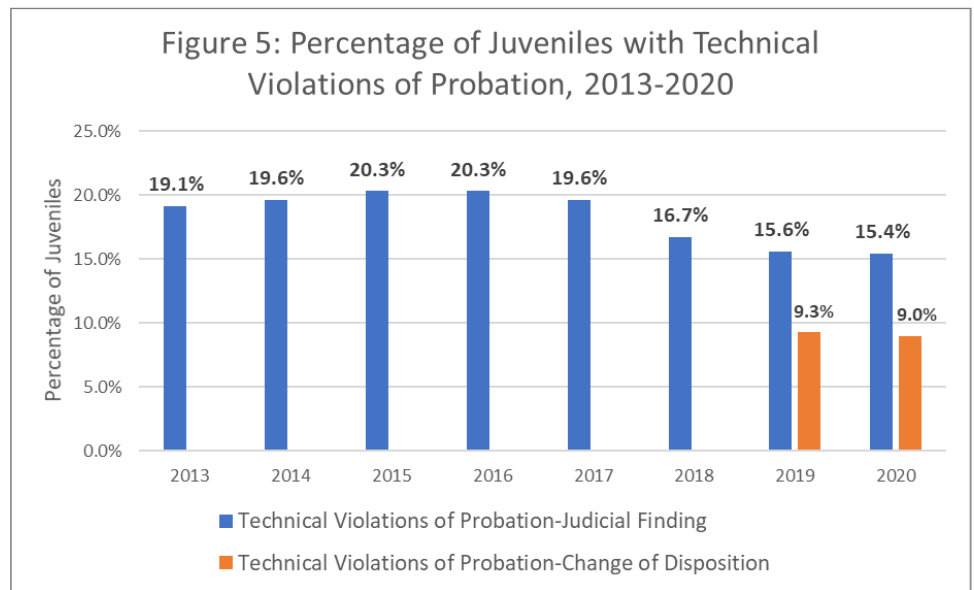


- Law enforcement may have modified their practices to only file on more serious charges in response to having diminished resources due to the pandemic. As a result, less serious offenses that would normally receive pre-petition diversion (e.g., informal adjustment) and have a short median length of supervision may have been diverted away from the juvenile court.



This is one hypothesis for why there would be both substantial declines in the number of juveniles with cases closed and an increase in the median length of supervision (after two years of declines).

- 15.4% of juveniles closed in 2020 were petitioned to court for a technical violation of probation, a slight decline from 2019 (15.6%). Over the last three years (2018-2020), an average of 15.9% of juveniles



closed were petitioned to court for a technical violation of probation, well under the average of 19.8% for the years 2013-2017 (see Figure 5).

- This is the second year that JCJC has recorded the percentage of juveniles with a change of disposition due to a violation of probation (9.3% in 2019 and 9.0% in 2020). This measure captures violations that impact court decisions, whereas the above measure (15.4%) captures all technical violation petitions regardless of whether there was a change in the juvenile’s disposition. JCJC and the Chiefs’ Council continue to examine ways to measure and analyze technical violations.

2021 JAMES E. ANDERSON PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission Is Accepting Nominations for the James E. Anderson Youth Scholarship Award!

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges Juvenile Court Section, the James E. Anderson Youth Scholarship is awarded to youth who have demonstrated remarkable resiliency and exceptional accomplishments. All scholarship nomination submissions must be submitted no later than **June 1, 2021**.

The scholarship nomination form can be found on the Annual Conference page at www.jcjc.pa.gov.

Please Note: All nomination forms must contain appropriate signatures to be accepted for consideration.

JCJC Award Nomination Forms Available May 17, 2021!

The award nomination forms for the Creative Expression Contest, Outstanding Achievement Award, and the JCJC Professional Awards will be available on the Annual Conference page at www.jcjc.pa.gov on **May 17, 2021**.

All Creative Expression Contest and Outstanding Achievement Award nominations must be postmarked no later than **August 16, 2021**.

JCJC Professional Award nominations must be submitted via email no later than **August 16, 2021**.

For additional information regarding nominations or the 2021 Annual Awards Program, please contact Angel R. Stewart at angstewart@pa.gov or Keysla Rodriguez at keyrodriagu@pa.gov.

NEW SPEP™ PROJECT MANAGER HIRED

Penn State Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support (EPIS) hired a new Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™) Project Manager, Kristopher “Kris” Glunt. Kris began this new role on April 19, 2021. He will provide oversight to the continued implementation and progression of the SPEP™ as a component of Stage 3 activities of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES).



Kris earned his bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from Lock Haven University. He began his career as a probation officer in Centre County, supervising a caseload comprised of both adults and juveniles. He also served as the Program Coordinator for Centre County’s DUI Treatment Court upon its inception.

Additionally, Kris held the position of Prevention Coordinator for the Penns Valley Area School District, where he coordinated the implementation of evidence-based programming and served as an Executive Committee member for the Centre County Communities that Care. It was during this time that Kris served as a consultant for the Drug Resistance Strategies project, an initiative aimed at modifying the substance use prevention curriculum, “Keepin’ it REAL”, and testing its effectiveness within rural school districts across Pennsylvania.

Kris joined EPIS on July 1, 2013 as an Implementation Specialist, providing technical assistance around a variety of evidence-based programs. Most recently, he worked as the Department of Drug and Alcohol Prevention (DDAP) Systems Coordinator, where he assisted Pennsylvania’s DDAP in developing a needs assessment and planning process for the Single County Authorities (SCA) in Pennsylvania.

In his free time, Kris enjoys coaching high school basketball and has recently taken a lead role in the boys' program at Bald Eagle Area, where he resides with his wife and three boys.

The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission extends a warm welcome to Kris.



BETH FRITZ HIRED AS CQI CONSULTANT

The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO) recently filled the newly developed position of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Consultant. On April 1, 2021, Elizabeth “Beth” Fritz began a new role in Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system as CQI Consultant.

Beth retired from the Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department on January 8, 2021, after nearly 40 years of service to Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system. Beth began her career as an intake Probation Officer with Lehigh County in 1982. She was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief Probation Officer in 2007 and Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in 2009. Beth’s appointment as Chief coincided with many significant changes in Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system. Consequently, she has been at the forefront of implementing these changes both in Lehigh County and at the state level. Beth and her staff in Lehigh County set the benchmark for institutionalizing a culture of CQI, which has fundamentally changed the way Lehigh County administers policies, programs, data collection, and outcomes. This work to advance CQI has become a model for Pennsylvania.

Beth will work closely with the JJC’s Director of Quality Assurance in Juvenile Justice, Angela Work. Their work will focus to provide county-specific support to assist juvenile probation departments in the development, implementation, and sustainability of CQI practices and processes to reinforce desired evidence-based practices and ensure fidelity of those practices. Currently, a statewide data-driven assessment is underway to learn more about the established quality assurance and CQI practices of each juvenile probation department. Over the next several weeks, Beth will be reaching out to counties to further discuss those processes. Furthermore, Beth and Angela will collaborate with and assist the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Leadership Team in identifying statewide needs regarding quality assurance and CQI practices and support.

On behalf of the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission, it is with great enthusiasm we welcome Beth to her new role in Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system.

INTERBRANCH TASK FORCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE CONTINUES

In December of 2019, the Interbranch Task Force on Juvenile Justice was created through the efforts of Governor Tom Wolf, along with leadership of both the Senate and House, as well as the Supreme Court. The group was tasked with conducting a comprehensive, data-driven assessment of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system and making recommendations for reform supported by research. Individuals associated with The Pew Charitable Trusts are serving as staff to the Task Force.

The Task Force first met in February of 2020 with a diverse membership inclusive of various system stakeholders appointed by the entities responsible for its creation. The original plan was for the group to present its recommendations by November of 2020. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the project timeline was altered to include final recommendations to be made in March of 2021.

The group met rather intensively from May through the end of 2020 with the focus on review of data obtained primarily from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), with additional data provided by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS), and Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). This data, in turn, was analyzed by staff associated with The Pew Charitable Trusts.

At the conclusion of the intensive data evaluation and review, the Task Force membership, numbering over 30 individuals, was assigned to one of three working subgroups assigned with using the data to generate recommendations for system reform. These three groups included the general topic areas of: Pre-Adjudication and Diversion Processes, Oversight and Accountability, and Disposition.

Beginning in January of 2021, the subgroups met individually to develop recommendations specific to their assigned topic. In February, the full Task Force was provided with a list of recommendations established by each subgroup and combined in a single document. During subsequent meetings, the Task Force reviewed all recommendations with the goal of gaining consensus on the proposals to be included in the final report. Input has also been received from various system stakeholder groups regarding the proposed recommendations.

The final meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for May 5th, with the final report expected to be submitted shortly thereafter. Additional details regarding the Interbranch Task Force on Juvenile Justice will be included in future editions of *Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice: The Newsletter of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission*.

2020 JJSES IMPLEMENTATION SURVEY RESULTS

In continuation of a multi-part newsletter series, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is pleased to share the Motivational Interviewing (MI) infographic to illustrate the implementation and sustainability of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) in Pennsylvania.

Stage Two of the JJSES helps probation departments prepare for behavioral change practices that are effective in reducing a youth's risk to reoffend. This is accomplished through the assessment process, whereby a number of actuarial tools are used to assist juvenile justice professionals in more accurately identifying the needs of youth.

MI is one of the most important skills introduced in Stage Two of the JJSES because it enhances the amount and quality of information collected during the assessment process and helps juvenile justice professionals to engage youth and families. MI does not address a specific skill deficit; rather it prepares youth and their families for change. Additionally, MI helps juvenile justice professionals establish a professional alliance by building rapport with youth and their families. This professional alliance sets the stage for juvenile justice professionals, youths, and youths' families to address the needs identified through the assessment process and ultimately reduce the risk for reoffending.

JJSES IMPLEMENTATION SURVEY 2020

STAGE TWO: INITIATION

MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING (MI)

93%

have implemented MI.

76%

initiated formal implementation described in the MI: Implementation and Practice Manual.

155

MI Coaches.

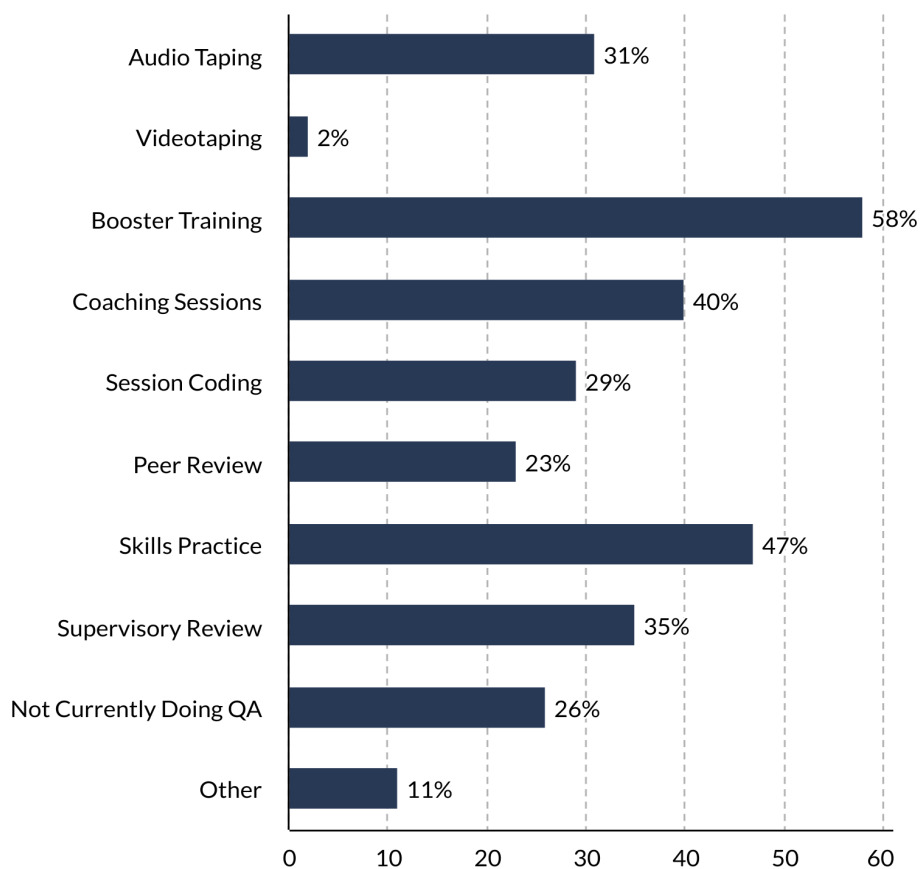
50%

of departments report their MI Coaches are responsible for training and QA practices.

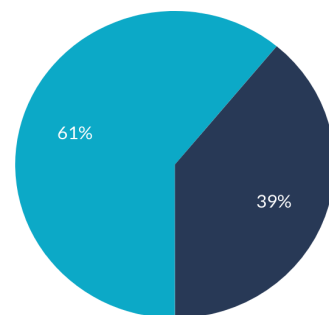
44%

have a MI policy.

MI Methods of QA Currently in Practice

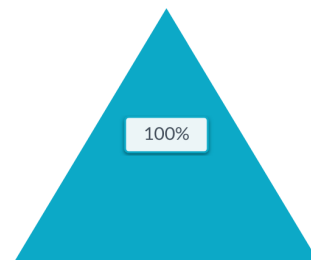


Have included MI Activities in their JJSES Plan for FY 2020-2021



■ Yes (61%) ■ No (39%)

Planning to Implement MI During FY 2020-2021



■ Yes (100%)



pennsylvania
JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

SETON HILL UNIVERSITY CREATES MENTORING PROGRAM WITH YOUTH FROM OUTSIDE IN SCHOOL OF EXPERIENCE

Written by the students of Seton Hill University Restorative Justice Class Spring 2021

During March 2021, criminal justice majors from Professor Deb Ciocco's Restorative Justice class at Seton Hill University had a wonderful opportunity to work with court-ordered youth from the Outside In School of Experience and staff, including Skip and Amy Eicher. The class was a hands-on, immersive experience that explored the value of restorative justice in the criminal justice system. In this class, students worked to understand how the restorative process is utilized in both the adult and juvenile systems. In order for the Seton Hill students to understand how restorative justice works within the juvenile system, a mentoring experience was developed with the Outside In School of Experience. This was the first time mentoring was established between criminal justice students and those from the Outside In Program.

Prior to the students meeting the Outside In youth, every student and the professor wrote short biographies about themselves with a photo attached to send to the Outside In School. Skip Eicher was able to prepare the young men for their short journey to the university, calm their nerves, and relieve their anxieties. Activities were developed to provide enriched competency development with the youth. The youth were able to ask questions about the university and the students. Throughout the weekly visits, the restorative justice class was able to offer a sense of college life and introduce an opportunity for the youth to attend college.



Seton Hill University committed to providing financial opportunities for any of the youth planning to attend the university in the future. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the class along with the Outside In students worked in challenging circumstances to make the experience worthwhile.

During the first week of the program, the youth had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the college experience at Seton Hill University. They asked a broad range of questions regarding student life, living on campus, health services, the food, personal experiences, and much more. This question engagement was conducted as a "Circle" activity which gave the young men a chance to feel welcome, comfortable, and learn a little bit more about the students. The first "Circle" was so intriguing to the youth, that they wanted the students to ask questions about their life at the Outside In School. The students actually met to develop questions to ask the young men about their time spent at Outside In. There was a great range of questions that the university students had for them including: what they do in their free time, their favorite activities, their plans for the future, advice they would give to incoming youth, and what changes they have seen within themselves and/or each other. Their responses to the questions were not only insightful, but also inspiring.

During week two, the boys were an audience to a virtual tour of the dormitories created by the students, due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. However, after that introduction to resident life, an in-person tour of the campus was given by the students, visiting various areas, library, cafeteria, classrooms, and the field house because each boy expressed interest in playing sports. For many of the youth, this was the first time they had seen a real college baseball field, turf field, and/or weight room. The youth could not help but walk onto the field and stare at the university and smile. This made Eli, one of the very personable youth, want to play sports in college, in order to earn a more affordable education. This experience had a great impact on another youth, Matt, as he stated, "One thing I took away from this experience is that I definitely want to go to college." This was a huge step in Matt's life that could only have been possible because of this project.

As the final week approached, the focus was set on the impact the students had on the youth as well as the inspiration the youth gave to the students. With all the information gained from the four young men, a graduation certificate ceremony was planned. Awards were specifically designed by the students for the youth

that matched their personalities and exhibited the traits learned from them throughout the process. At the award ceremony, the youth were awarded for The Most Adventurous (Matt), The Best Team Player (Miguel), The Best Leadership (Eli), and The Most Personable (Devon). The youth appreciated these awards and they really embraced the atmosphere around them that changed the way they thought of themselves. In addition to the awards, small corresponding tokens of appreciation, medals, and small gift bags for each of the young men were created. The gifts and awards were received with smiles and appreciation from all four of them. So much so that two of the youth, Matt and Eli, said they both want to attend college, they even mentioned the possibility of them playing a sport and both are intending to apply to Seton Hill University!



The project actually continued off of the Seton Hill University's campus, when the students were able to visit Outside In and see and experience the program and how the youth participate in treatment. This visit took place on a bright Sunday morning, when the groups reunited. While touring the students found evidence of the importance of the project for the youth, the certificate and "award" were proudly displayed on Matt's bed. This display of admiration was all the students needed to see and supplied the perfect ending to a rewarding and restorative experience.

Undoubtedly, the project had a positive impact on both groups involved. Throughout the month the students were together, they played games, learned about the university's campus, and created bonds with one another. The chance to work with the Outside In program was a perfect example of what restorative justice is supposed to demonstrate. The students will forever share memories of conversations, mentoring, and college life. The skills that both groups of students learned together, will surely help them in career paths along with independent situations later in life. Both of the groups worked extremely well together and were pleasantly surprised by the outcome.



TECHNOLOGY CORNER



Data Archiving Project

Currently, the Information Technology Department of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is working with the Pennsylvania Office of Administration to contract a vendor for a new data archiving project.

Several years ago, JCJC enlisted an independent contractor for a technical assessment of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS). This assessment identified areas for improvement in performance, security, and the user interface. In a summary of the findings, it was recommended that archiving inactive data be utilized to improve performance. Approximately two-thirds of PaJCMS data may be able to be archived and would reduce the size of the PaJCMS database. Archiving data will increase search and report speed as well as the overall performance of PaJCMS.

A second goal of the project is to ensure all counties still have easy access to all of their data. The PaJCMS screens are tentatively scheduled to be modified, allowing access to both the active and the archived data.

If you have any questions regarding the data archiving project, you may contact the PaJCMS Helpdesk at RA-JCJCHELPDESK@pa.gov.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

ORIENTATION PROGRAM HELD FOR NEW CHIEF JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICERS

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, held an Orientation Program for new chiefs, deputies, and high-level supervisors. The program took place via three virtual sessions on Wednesday, March 31st and Thursday, April 1st. Thirty-two juvenile justice administrators attended the program, which was aimed at providing new leaders with networking opportunities, and information related to their responsibilities as a chief juvenile probation officer or administrator.

Participants were welcomed to the program by Rick Steele, Executive Director of JCJC, and Mike Purcell, Chair of the Chiefs Council's Program, Planning, and Training Committee. The remainder of the initial session was dedicated to an overview of the programs administered by JCJC. JCJC program directors provided information on the leadership, advice, services, and assistance provided by JCJC to juvenile courts and juvenile probation departments.

The second session highlighted the work of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. Bob Williams, Chief Probation Officer in Berks County, began with a thought-provoking and inspiring address entitled, "The Role of the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer." Next, Chad Libby, Chief Probation Officer in Dauphin County and President of the Chiefs' Council, spoke to participants about the current structure and efforts of the Council. Mr. Libby strongly encouraged participants to become involved

May

26-28 Victim/Community Awareness Curriculum
Training for Facilitators - Virtual

Registration available at www.jcjcjems.pa.gov

in the activities of the Council. In addition, Mr. Libby provided an overview of the Chiefs' Council's Safety Committee, and Andy Benner, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Cumberland County, introduced participants to the Chiefs/Provider Committee.

In the final session, participants were presented an overview of the current focus of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Leadership Team. Subject-matter experts discussed current efforts in the following areas: Assessment & Case Planning, Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS), the Trauma Informed Decision Protocol (TIDP), Detention Risk Assessment (DRAI), Graduated Responses, the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™), and Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Job Descriptions and Performance Appraisals. In addition, Mike Pennington, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), provided a summary of the role and responsibilities of PCCD. The day concluded with presentations on the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Strategic Plan, and the Needs-Based Budget process.

We would like to extend our appreciation to all those who contributed their time in making this information-packed program a success, and we wish all participants good luck in their roles as juvenile justice system leaders.

See you
in Harrisburg!

SAVE the **DATE**
2021 JAMES E. ANDERSON PENNSYLVANIA
CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

November 3 - 5, 2021
Harrisburg Hilton and Towers

PFSA IS CONTINUING TO OFFER VIRTUAL MANDATED REPORTER TRAINING AT NO COST TO MANDATED REPORTERS IN PENNSYLVANIA!

This three-hour virtual training is approved by the Departments of Human Services, Education, and State and meets all requirements for training on recognizing and reporting child abuse (to include Act 126 for school employees).

It is also approved for continuing education credits under Act 31 (Department of State for health-related licenses) and Act 48 (Department of Education for teachers) at no cost. PFSA will submit your training verification to the Department of State or Education as appropriate on your behalf (details provided during training).

Please register for your preferred training date and time by clicking one of the session links below.

Wed. May 5th 1-4pm
Thurs. May 6th 9am-12pm
Thurs. May 6th 1-4pm
Fri. May 7th 1-4pm
Sat. May 8th 9am-12pm
Mon. May 10th 1-4pm
Tues. May 11th 9am-12pm
Tues. May 11th 1-4pm
Tues. May 11th 6-9pm
Wed. May 12th 9am-12pm
Wed. May 12th 1-4pm

Thurs. May 13th 9am-12pm
Thurs. May 13th 1-4pm
Fri. May 14th 9am-12pm
Mon. May 17th 1-4pm
Tues. May 18th 9am-12pm
Tues. May 18th 1-4pm
Wed. May 19th 9am-12pm
Wed. May 19th 1-4pm
Thurs. May 20th 9am-12pm
Thurs. May 20th 1-4pm
Thurs. May 20th 6-9pm

Fri. May 21st 9am-12pm
Sat. May 22nd 9am-12pm
Mon. May 24th 1-4pm
Tues. May 25th 9am-12pm
Tues. May 25th 1-4pm
Wed. May 26th 9am-12pm
Wed. May 26th 1-4pm
Thurs. May 27th 9am-12pm
Thurs. May 27th 1-4pm
Fri. May 28th 9am-12pm

Each person must log in through separate devices, using the unique access link emailed to them after registration to receive credit.

For questions or to schedule a session specifically for your organization, please email PFSA at training@pa-fsa.org



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

AMBER ALERT PROGRAM DEVELOPS VIRTUAL TRAINING IN RESPONSE TO PANDEMIC

OJJDP has released the latest issue of [The AMBER Advocate](#) newsletter. This issue features articles on:

- Virtual AMBER Alert training during COVID-19
- The Utah AMBER Alert that led to the safe recovery of an abducted infant girl
- AMBER Alert in Indian Country
- Corporal Shawn Kofluk, Pennsylvania's AMBER Alert Coordinator
- AMBER Alert briefs
- AMBER Alert international news

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.
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



[Read the Latest Issue Here!](#)

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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