

PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

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PLENARY SPEAKER ANNOUNCED FOR THE 2021 JAMES E. ANDERSON PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE



James P. Harris, Jr. is the current Superintendent of the Woodland Hills School District, which serves twelve municipalities in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. In this capacity, Mr. Harris has led the creation of a school culture that has resulted in significantly improved district-wide outcomes in areas such as increased student and staff retention, elevated test scores, higher graduation rates, lower disciplinary issues, and extensive reductions in school-related referrals to the police. Mr. Harris states, "My philosophy of education leadership is largely

a reflection of my philosophy of living. I believe that each day we are both educators and learners; that the interaction between education and learning is an intricate one. Moreover, if we are active and practice participatory citizenship, our lives truly becoming enriched by these experiences."

Mr. Harris was born in Camden, New Jersey. After graduating high school, he enlisted in the Army, where he served as a Military Policeman for 6 years. Following an Honorable Discharge, Mr. Harris earned a bachelor's degree in Behavioral Science from Seton Hall University in New Jersey, and a master's degree in Business Administration from Rosemont College in Philadelphia. Mr. Harris spent several years in private sector business, working for Coca-Cola, Glaxo Smith-Kline, and Bristol Myers-Squibb. Next, he transitioned to public service and began a career in the education field. As a school administrator, Mr. Harris has served as the Chief Operating Officer for the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation in Indiana, and the Dayton City Schools in Dayton, Ohio. He also served as the Business Operations Manager for the Breakthrough Charter Network in Cleveland, Ohio. Next, Mr. Harris worked to support school turnaround efforts with Project Grad USA. Following a very brief stint with the Philadelphia School District, Mr. Harris was recruited to be the Superintendent for the Daniel Boone Area School District in Berks County before moving into his current position as the Superintendent of the Woodland Hills School District.

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Mr. Harris has also spent time in the classroom as an adjunct instructor at the University of Evansville School of Business in Evansville, Indiana, and Holy Family University in Philadelphia. He instructed leadership techniques to future Principals for the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and he has presented at numerous conferences on the topics of Corporate Ethics, Strategy vs. Tactics, and the Impact of Gentrification in Urban Education. Mr. Harris currently serves on the leadership boards of four organizations: Penn State University - Allegheny campus, Auberle (a family and youth support non-profit), Pittsburgh Musical Theatre Company, and the Allegheny and Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. Complimentary to his work in education, Mr. Harris is proud to have created four unique business concepts: three restaurants and one art gallery (Noella--a mash of his children's names Noah and Ella).

JUDGE CAROL L. VAN HORN ENDS TERM ON THE JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

On June 7, 2021, the Honorable Carol L. Van Horn (Franklin/Fulton Counties) officially ended her term as a member of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. Judge Van Horn was initially appointed to the Commission on June 14, 2012, and re-appointed to serve two additional terms in 2015 and 2018. Judge Van Horn has served actively throughout her appointments, serving as Secretary from 2016 – 2018 and Vice-Chair from 2018 to 2021. Judge Van Horn also chaired the Juvenile Delinquency Benchbook rewrite committee, and through her leadership, the Benchbook was updated for the first time in many years. The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission extends its sincere appreciation to Judge Van Horn for her numerous contributions to the Commission and our juvenile justice system.



THE JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION ELECTS OFFICERS

On July 28, 2021, members of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) elected the following officers for 2021-2022:

- Chair Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark (Allegheny County), who has served as a member since August 2013;
- Vice-Chair Hon. David R. Workman (Lancaster County), who has served as a member since October 2015; and
- Secretary Hon. Stephen P.B. Minor (Potter County), who has served as a member since June 2017.

Time is running out and we need your nominations!

If you know a juvenile justice professional that has gone above and beyond in their field or an outstanding youth that you would like to recognize, nominate them for a JCJC Professional or Youth Award.

The deadline for submissions has been extended. Be sure to visit the <u>JCJC website</u> to download the nomination forms and submit them by:

August 23, 2021.

For questions, contact Angel R. Stewart at angstewart@pa.gov or (717) 783-7835.



SUE BARKET RETIRES FROM JCJC



On July 16, 2021, Sue Barket retired from her position as Administrative Officer with the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.

In 2003, Sue began her employment with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in a temporary position. From 2004 – 2013, she was employed as a clerical supervisor and purchasing agent. In 2013, she joined the JCJC.

Sue's responsibilities with the JCJC included serving as Human Resources Liaison, Timekeeper, Procurement and Budgeting, and various other administrative duties. She also assisted with the JCJC's Juvenile Probation Services Grant Program by preparing grant documents, county invoices, and performing other responsibilities.

She was also a key contributor to the annual James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice, where her smile and outgoing personality were a constant presence.

In retirement, Sue plans to spend time with her grandchildren and continue to travel the world.

Thank you, Sue, for your outstanding service to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, and best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement!

2020 PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is pleased to announce the release of the fourth edition of its Juvenile Court Annual Report. Prior to the publication of the 2017 report, Pennsylvania juvenile court statistics were presented in a yearly series entitled Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Dispositions. The series, which ran from 1972 to 2016, focused primarily on juvenile court dispositions.

Beginning in 2017, the annual report has been enhanced to include additional juvenile court statistics to better measure and quantify work across the state by juvenile justice professionals. Specifically, information related to delinquency allegations received by each juvenile probation department is included. Key indicators including the volume of allegations received, allegation sources, and the most serious alleged offense by youth are presented. This information is critical to understanding who is entering Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. It is anticipated this report will continue to evolve over time and will eventually include additional measures of juvenile justice workflow in Pennsylvania. Juvenile delinquency dispositions continue to be summarized in this report, as in the past.

Beginning in 2019, the detention data within this report was extracted directly from the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS). Prior to 2019, this data was received from juvenile detention centers and included a significant number of unreported detention codes. By using data taken directly from PaJCMS, the number of unreported detention section codes decreased from 16.0% in 2018 to 0.7% in 2020, providing a more accurate reflection of secure detention utilization.

The Annual Report generally describes trends and patterns, without seeking to interpret them—though there are some exceptions made in this year's report given the pervasive effects of COVID-19 on the juvenile court system. The goal of Chapter 3 in this year's report is to further analyze and explain how the pandemic affected the juvenile justice system. Therefore, hypotheses for the observed trends are discussed when they seem reasonable based on the data and other evidence or knowledge about how the juvenile justice system functions.

On the following page are the statistical highlights of the 2020 Juvenile Court Annual Report, along with the statistical highlights of the impact of COVID-19. To view the report in its entirety, please visit: https://www.jcjc.pa.gov/Research-Statistics/Disposition Reports/2020 Juvenile Court Annual Report.pdf.

15,033

Delinquency-Related Allegations

- **▼** 37.0% from 2016
- **▼** 33.8% from 2019

14,460

Delinquency-Related Dispositions

- **7** 36.9% from 2016
- **▼** 30.9% from 2019

4,202

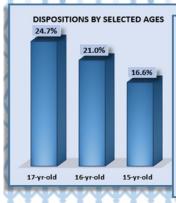
Secure Detention Admissions

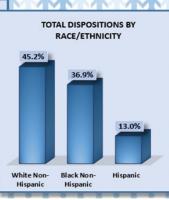
- **▼** 51.1% since 2016
- **V** 42.0% since 2019

1,529

Delinquency Placements

- **55.6% since 2016**
- **▼** 38.3% since 2019







2019 - 2020 Pandemic Months

- **▼ 44.0% Written Allegations**
- **▼** 41.6% Hearings Held

2019 - 2020 Pandemic Months Largest % Decrease

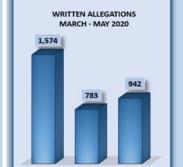


Top 5 Offenses

- ▼ 87.6% Aggravated Assault Against a Teacher
- **▼** 74.5% Disorderly Conduct
- **▼** 70.6% Terroristic Threats
- ▼ 64.1% Retail Theft
- √ 60.0% Institutional Vandalism

2020 Pre-Pandemic vs. Pandemic Months

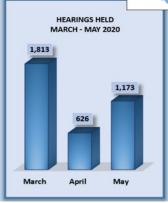
▼ 24.5% - Average Number of Youth in Placement First Day of Each Month

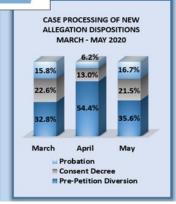


April

May

March







Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Position Announcement

Juvenile Court Consultant

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is seeking applicants for the position of Juvenile Court Consultant.

Position Description:

The Juvenile Court Consultant is responsible for providing support and technical assistance to juvenile court judges, chief juvenile probation officers, juvenile justice agencies, and community organizations throughout the Commonwealth regarding programs, organizational procedures and operations, and evaluates compliance with JCJC standards and JCJC endorsed best practices to improve juvenile court and juvenile probation services. This position also represents the JCJC on various committees and workgroups. This position is based at the JCJC's Administrative Office in Harrisburg.

 This is a Civil Service Permanent Full-Time Position - The examination announcement for this position is available at: https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/pabureau/jobs/3164554/juvenile-court-consultant?sort=PostingDate%
 7CDescending&page=2&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs

Qualifications:

Applicants must possess five years of experience as a juvenile probation officer and a master's degree in criminal justice, criminology, or the behavioral sciences.

Please contact Leo Lutz, JCJC Director of Policy and Program Development, at lelutz@pa.gov or (717) 705-2290 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Application Deadline: August 25, 2021



2020 PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM OUTCOMES REPORT HIGHLIGHTS - COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT

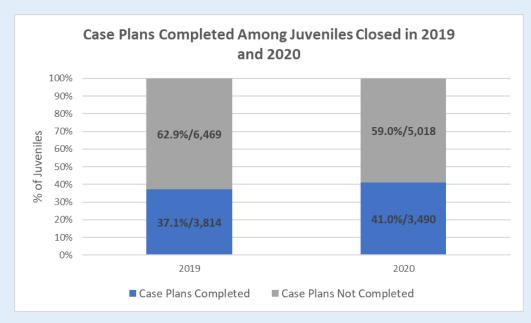
The 2020 Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System Outcomes Report was released in April and can be viewed at https://www.jcjc.pa.gov/Documents/2020%20Pennsylvania%20Juvenile%20Justice%20Outcome%20Measures%20Report.pdf. Each time a case is closed within a juvenile probation office, juvenile probation officers are required to provide information specific to the services that the youth received and their behavior while under court supervision. 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 and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. 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.

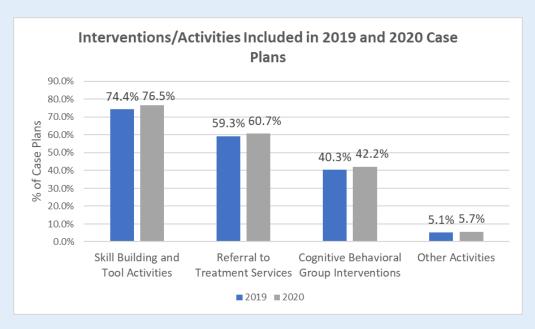
This is the final article in a three-part series meant to highlight key findings from this report, and will examine outcomes in the area of Competency Development. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic created serious and unforeseen challenges for juvenile probation departments and the juveniles and families they serve. This series highlights changes that occurred between last year and this year, and where appropriate, suggests possible explanations for the observed trends. In the case of Competency Development, however, the data suggests more continuity than change.

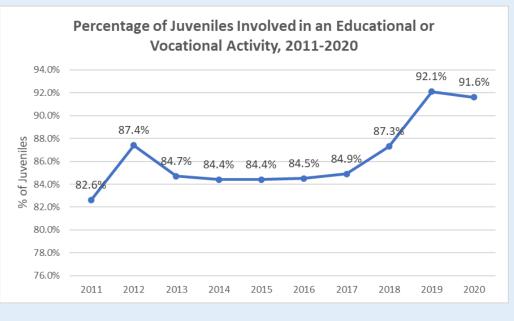
5

- 1. 41.0% of juveniles closed in 2020 had case plans completed that included goals and risk reduction activities to address the top 2-3 criminogenic needs identified by the YLS. This is higher than the 37.1% of juveniles closed in 2019 who had case plans completed.
- 2. More than three-quarters (76.5%) of case plans completed included Skill Building and Tool Activities, 60.7% included Referral to Treatment Services, 42.2% included Cognitive Behavioral Group Interventions, and 5.7% included Other Activities. Between 2019 and 2020, there were slight increases in case plans' inclusion of each of these categories of intervention.
- 3. The percentage of juveniles closed who were involved in an educational or vocational activity declined very slightly from 92.1% in 2019 to 91.6% in 2020. Overall though, a higher percentage of juveniles closed over the last two years were involved in an educational or vocational activity than in 2011-2018, when the yearly average was 85.0%.

According to this metric, COVID-19 does not seem to have had a major impact on youths' involvement in educational or vocational activities. Nor are there major differences between 2019 and 2020 in the type of ac-







tivity youth are engaged with (not shown, see <u>full report</u>).

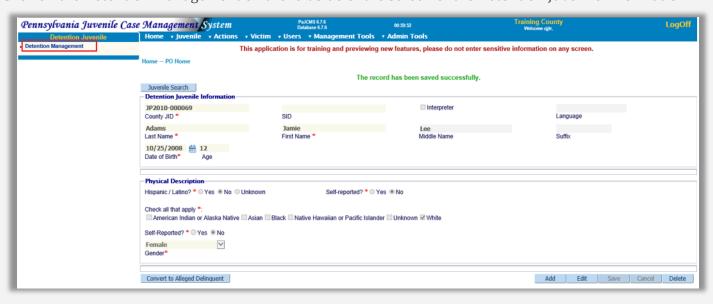
TECHNOLOGY CORNER

The PaJCMS helpdesk receives many calls regarding the entering of juvenile data. One recent recurring question was how to enter a juvenile that was picked up on a warrant, but with no current allegations.

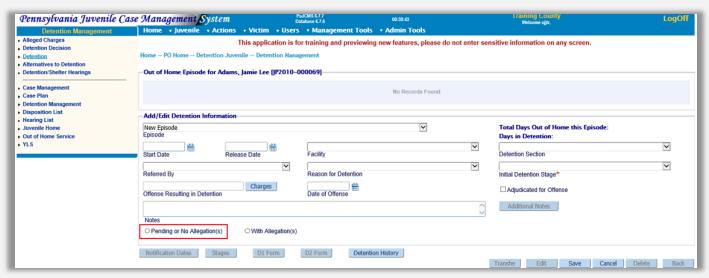
This information can be entered into PaJCMS by inputting the information in the Detention Management section. From the search screen, go to the Juvenile dropdown and select Add New Detention Juvenile.

The screen below is the first screen you need to fill out with any or all juvenile information. (*Are fields that are required to be filled out to save the screen.) Click on the Detention Management on the left side of the screen of the Detention Juvenile Information.





Add new Detention Management, but since there is no new allegation, you do not need to enter any charges. Go to the left side and click on Detention. Click leave this page.



Fill out the above screen and remember to click the circle before Pending or No Allegation. Save this screen. That is all you need to do if you pick up a juvenile on a warrant with no additional allegation(s).

2020 JJSES IMPLEMENTATION SURVEY RESULTS

To conclude the 2020 JJSES Implementation Survey results multi-part newsletter series, the JCJC is pleased to share the Trauma Screening infographic to offer a visual representation of the implementation of this activity. While trauma may not be considered a criminogenic factor when assessing the risk to recidivate, it is a responsivity factor that may impact the ability of the youth to adequately respond to services.

We have learned youth who become involved in the juvenile justice system are more likely than their peers to have been exposed to multiple types of traumatic victimization. Left unaddressed, these experiences can lead to mental health and substance use disorders, school failure, increased risk taking, and delinquency. Through the Trauma Expansion Project, Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System is becoming more trauma informed and skilled in the use of Trauma Screening tools including the Child Trauma Screen (CTS) and the Trauma-Informed Decision Protocol (TIDP).

The CTS is intended to be used as a very brief, empirically-based screen for child traumatic stress. The goals of the CTS are to identify youth who are likely to be suffering from trauma exposure and who would benefit from being referred for a more comprehensive traumafocused assessment completed by a trained clinician, as well as to function as an engagement tool to allow professionals working with youth to briefly discuss the child's exposure to trauma and trauma-related reactions and to support the child/caregiver. A new cohort of juvenile probation departments interested to implement the CTS is being developed. Participating juvenile probation departments will receive training and implementation support virtually. Please contact Angela Work (awork@pa.gov) or Jay Leamy (idleamy@chesco.org), prior to September 1, 2021, to learn more.

The TIDP is a 9-step decision framework that integrates the results of a risk/needs assessment (i.e., YLS/CMI), trauma screening (i.e., CTS), and mental health screening (i.e., MAYSI-2) into a replicable framework for juvenile justice case planning. The TIDP decision steps are anchored in the Risk-Needs-Responsivity model and specifically address the linkage between traumatic event exposure, trauma reactions, and mental health problems as specific responsivity factors and dynamic criminogenic needs to facilitate decisions about further trauma assessment and/or treatment and creation of a trauma-responsive case plan. The goals of the TIDP are to ensure balanced identification and tracking of risk/needs assessment results, trauma screening results, and mental health screening results; to increase attention to the Responsivity Principle by asking juvenile probation officers to specifically consider the impact of traumatic events, trauma reactions, and mental health problems on dynamic criminogenic needs; to successfully identify youth who require follow-up trauma assessment and/or treatment; and to increase the likelihood that traumatic event exposures and trauma reactions are identified as specific responsivity factors on a youth's case plan. Trauma Expansion Project coordinators representing the ICIC and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, alongside Dr. Keith Cruise of Fordham University, continue to provide technical assistance to juvenile probation departments implementing the TIDP.

JJSES IMPLEMENTATION SURVEY 2020 STAGE TWO: INITIATION TRAUMA SCREENING

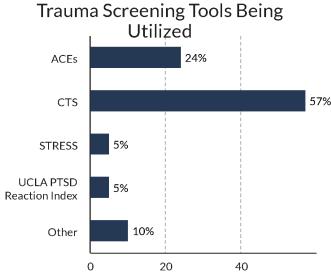
31% implemented a trauma screening tool.

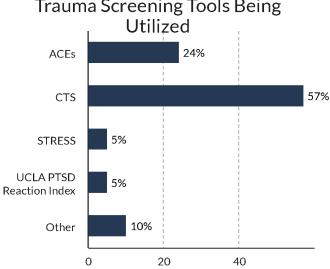
86% have received formal training on trauma screening tools.

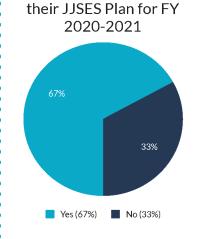
90% received specific training focused

on trauma.

have a written policy specific to trauma screening tools.

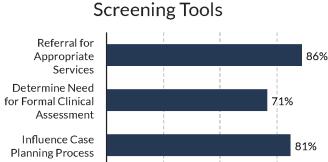




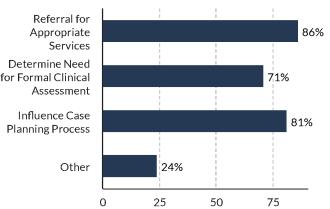


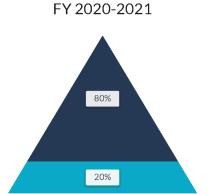
Have Included Trauma

Screening Activities in



Utilize the Results of the Trauma





Yes (20%) No (80%)

Planning to Implement

Trauma Screening During



STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

August

- 3-4 The Mindful Awareness Program for Wellness in Juvenile Justice Virtual
- Motivational Interviewing Coaches Booster
 Series: 1 MI 101 Review Virtual
- Case Planning Training for Coordinators Series: 1
 Case Planning CQI and the Case Planning
 Coaches Guide Virtual

September

- 15 YLS Master Trainer Recertification 2021 Virtual
- 22-24 Victim/Community Awareness Curriculum Training for Facilitators Virtual
- 28 YLS Master Trainer Recertification 2021- Virtual
- Case Planning Training for Coordinators: 2
 The Integration of Case Planning and EPICS Virtual

October

- Motivational Interviewing Coaches Booster
 Series: 2 Coding and Inter-Rater Reliability
 Virtual
- 12 Case Planning Training for Coordinators Series: 3 New or Revised Implementation of Case Planning - Virtual
- 13 YLS Master Trainer Recertification 2021 Virtual
- 21 YLS Master Trainer Recertification 2021 Virtual

November

Motivational Interviewing Coaches Booster Series: 3 Coding, Traps, and Giving Feedback - Virtual

Registration available at www.jcjcjems.pa.gov

STATE MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING COMMITTEE TO DELIVER VIRTUAL BOOSTER TRAININGS FOR COACHES

Recognizing that Motivational Interviewing (MI) training, as well as support for MI Coaches was paused during the pandemic, the State MI Committee has been working diligently to assemble three virtual training offerings to occur over the second half of 2021. The workshops are designed for those trained as MI Coaches and will be held over Zoom. Each training will be a quick booster on very specific topics that will help coaches to refocus on their skills and provide material they can use with the staff they coach. Registration is open in JEMS for MI Coaches only. Below are specific descriptions for each workshop.

Motivational Interviewing Coaches Booster Series: 1 Motivational Interviewing 101 Review Date: August 5, 2021, 10:00 am-11:30 am

The Motivational Interviewing 101 review training will provide a refresher for MI coaches. This workshop will explore the skills needed to coach the practice of motivational interviewing with probation officers. There will be a focus on how the MI coach can assist in continued development of the core MI skills each probation officer uses daily during the supervision of youth. The basic principles of motivational interviewing will be covered, with an emphasis on the spirit of motivational interviewing. The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic will be covered, as well as how motivational interviewing can overcome the barriers the pandemic presented to supervision and interventions.

Motivational Interviewing Coaches Booster Series: 2 Coding and Inter-Rater Reliability

Date: October 5, 2021, 10:00 am-11:30 am

In this booster session, MI coaches will review the structure of the MI coding form and explore the benefits of Inter-Rater Reliability exercises. Coaches will have coding opportunities and compare results with discussion of common strength/deficit areas. Participants will also examine the challenges of hearing DARN-C and strategies for coding Eliciting Change Talk (ECT). A specialized coding form will be introduced to enhance the skills covered in the session.

Motivational Interviewing Coaches Booster Series: 3 Coding, Traps, and Giving Feedback

Date: November 16, 2021, 10:00 am-11:30 am

In this booster session, MI coaches will review and discuss the various interviewing traps that may be observed during the coding/feedback process. Coaches focus on building confidence in their ability to hear and identify the common traps. The session will also include discussion focused on giving strength-based and constructive feedback.



Restorative justice is a collaborative approach to repairing harm caused by crime. Approaches often include facilitated discussions between those who caused harm and the victims and communities who suffered as a result of the harm. The restorative justice process builds resiliency by incorporating principles of empowerment into the resolution process.

This symposium from the PA Office of Victim Advocate will examine restorative justice principles and practices and explore community trauma and community healing. We will hear from members of the community who have been impacted by the criminal justice system. Restorative justice embraces the cornerstone of justice, which is: all people have inherent value and life itself embodies the possibility of change.



August 24 | virtual event

Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pa-restorative-justice-symposium-2021-tickets-163391312815

See you in Harrisburg!

SAVE the DATE

2021 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

> November 3 - 5, 2021 Harrisburg Hilton and Towers



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OJJDP LAUNCHES REDESIGNED NATIONAL MENTOR-ING RESOURCE CENTER WEBSITE

The OJJDP National Mentoring Resource Center (NMRC) has launched a newly designed website. Features on the refreshed website include:



- Streamlined, user-friendly homepage navigation.
- A <u>log-in feature</u> to create a user account. Creating an account allows users to bookmark resources and participate in forum discussions.
- <u>Access</u> to peer-to-peer learning discussion boards.
- A self-guided <u>Resources Assessment</u> page to help practitioners find tools, templates, and readings to enhance their programs.
- A <u>Youth Involvement</u> page with resources for youth, and practices and strategies to ensure youth voices are represented in mentoring programs.

To help users identify where mentoring grantees operate nationwide, an OJJDP Grantee Geomap will be added to the NMRC website this fall.

Register to attend a Geomap virtual information session on August 10, 2021, at 2 p.m. ET.

RESOURCES:

- Visit OJJDP's mentoring webpage.
- View and download OJJDP's Mentoring Youth In Focus fact sheet.
- Follow OJJDP on Twitter and Facebook.

NEW OVC RESOURCE HELPS CHILD VICTIMS AND WITNESSES NAVIGATE THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Office of Justice Programs' Office for Victims of Crime has released Child Victims and Witnesses Support Materials, a new online resource to help children and youth in the justice system who are victims of or witnesses to a crime.



In illustrated narratives, child and youth characters show how the justice system works in a child-friendly and developmentally appropriate way. The materials explain child victims' rights, the role of practitioners, how to cope with feelings of anxiety, and how to prepare for court and to testify. Companion <u>practitioner and parent/</u> caregiver guides are also available.

Learn how OJJDP addresses child abuse through partnerships, programs, and training and technical assistance.

RESOURCES:

- <u>Learn</u> about Children's Advocacy Centers.
- 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-oajcjcnews@pa.gov.

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