



GOVERNOR SHAPIRO APPOINTS JUDGE MICHELE G. BONONI TO THE JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION



On June 7, 2023, Governor Josh Shapiro appointed the Honorable Michele G. Bononi to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) filling a vacancy created with the term of Judge Maureen Skerda (Forest/Warren Counties) ending. Judge Bononi currently sits as a Judge for the Court of Common Pleas in Westmoreland County where she serves in the Family and Juvenile Delinquency Divisions and is the Administrative Judge for Juvenile Probation.

Judge Bononi obtained a bachelor's degree in psychology, graduating magna cum laude, from Seton Hall University. She earned her juris doctorate from the Pettit School of Law at Ohio Northern University and is admitted to practice law in both the State of New Jersey and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Following graduation, Judge Bononi worked with the New Jersey Law Firm of Dato, Ippolito and Carracino, Attorneys at Law and Juman & Juman, Attorneys at Law, where she specialized in civil litigation, specifically plaintiff's personal injury law. After relocating to the Greensburg region, she worked for Thomas Livingston and Associates in Pittsburgh, before establishing Bononi & Bononi, P.C., where she specialized in family law. In addition, she worked for Westmoreland County as a Title IV-D attorney, as well as a hearing officer for Domestic Relations. Judge Bononi has also provided legal services to several nonprofit organizations.

Judge Bononi currently sits on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee and Westmoreland County's Juvenile Detention Board. She is an active member of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges (PCSTJ), and currently serves as an officer with the Juvenile Court Section of the PCSTJ. Additionally, Judge Bononi oversees the Criminal Justice Advisory Board in Westmoreland County.

Judge Bononi has also served on various committees for the Supreme Court and previously sat on the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Executive Council

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for the Women in Legal Profession. She was also a Board Director for the Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce, past Treasurer of Westmoreland Case Management & Supports, Inc., past Board President of the Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol Commission, past Board Vice-President of the Health and Welfare Council, and past President and Treasurer of Laurel Legal Services, Inc. She has also served on the boards of the Alzheimer's Association, Greensburg Rotary, the Girl Scout Council, and the advisory board for the PA State Bar Association Family Law Committee.

Judge Bononi is a past recipient of the Community Service award from the Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce, a Paul Harris Fellow award from Rotary International, previously named one of the 50 Best Women in Business in Pennsylvania, recipient of the Pittsburgh National Association of Women Business Owners Award and the Woman of Distinction Award from the Girl Scouts. She is a member of the Westmoreland and Pennsylvania Bar Associations, the Westmoreland Cultural Trust, the Greensburg Rotary, the YWCA, the United Way's Leadership Council for Women, and the Ligonier BPW.

Judge Bononi has lectured on family and juvenile issues for the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Westmoreland Bar Association, the PCSTJ, the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania.

JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION UPDATES

HONORABLE MAUREEN SKERDA ENDS TENURE ON THE JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

On June 7, 2023, the Honorable Maureen Skerda ended her tenure on the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC). Judge Skerda was appointed to the JCJC by then Governor Tom Corbett on June 9, 2014, and served the three, three-year terms permissible for a Commission Member. An active member throughout her tenure, Judge Skerda was a strong advocate and voice for the rural and northwest counties in Pennsylvania.



Judge Skerda was elected as the first female Judge of the 37th Judicial District (Warren and Forest Counties) and began her term of office in January 2006. She became the 26th President Judge on January 1, 2010. Judge Skerda is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Pennsylvania State Conference of Trial Judges, where she serves as the current President of the Juvenile Court Section. She participates in the Regional and Local Leadership Roundtables and the Autism Committee on Juvenile Dependency issues. Judge Skerda also initiated a Local Treatment Court.

JCJC extends great appreciation to Judge Skerda for her tenure on the Commission and her dedicated service to youth, families, victims, and communities in Warren and Forest Counties and across the Commonwealth.

Adapted and used with permission from <https://warrenforestcourt.org/departments/court-administrators-office/>.

COMMISSION MEMBER RE-APPOINTMENTS

On June 7, 2023, Hon. Stephen P.B. Minor, President Judge, Potter County, and Hon. Walter J. Olszewski, Supervising Judge of the Family Court Division, Philadelphia County, were re-appointed for an additional three-year term. Governor Tom Wolf first appointed Judge Minor and Judge Olszewski to the JCJC on June 8, 2017.

JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION UPDATES (CONT'D)

KEYSLA RODRIGUEZ PROMOTED TO QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALIST



JCJC is pleased to announce that on June 5, 2023, Keysla Rodriguez was promoted to the position of Quality Assurance Specialist. She has been employed with the JCJC since August 2018 and served as Quality Assurance Assistant. Prior to this, Keysla was an independent contractor and intern for the JCJC assisting with the development of online trainings for juvenile justice professionals across the Commonwealth.

In her new position, Keysla will take an active role in continuing to advance juvenile justice practices to best serve departments and youth. Her expertise will be utilized in creating as well as designing tools and documents to measure initiative implementation, help monitor practices, and recommend improvements in conjunction with QA team members.

During her employment with the JCJC, Keysla also obtained her Master of Administration in Juvenile Justice from Shippensburg University. Keysla can be reached at 717-783-8960 or at keyrodrigu@pa.gov. Congratulations, Keysla!

DONNA EYER JOINS JCJC



JCJC is pleased to announce that Donna Eyer has joined our team as our new Quality Assurance Assistant at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R) on June 20, 2023. A lifelong resident of southcentral Pennsylvania and 1993 graduate of Biglerville High School, Donna spent many years working in retail management and as a pharmacy technician. In 2019, she joined the Department of Transportation, Franklin County Maintenance Office, where she spent the last four years as a winter dispatcher/clerical assistant.

Donna resides in Willow Hill, PA with her husband David, as well as a dog and two cats. In her free time, she enjoys writing, photography, stargazing, reading, spending time outdoors, and rooting for the Altoona Curve and Pittsburgh Pirates.

2023 ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

The 2023 Strategic Planning Meeting was held on June 8-9 with 29 attendees who came together with the mission to support and enhance the values, principles, and programs that advance the goals of Balanced and Restorative Justice while employing evidenced-based practices whenever possible. The meeting was a collaboration between the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency which took their shared vision for Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system and evaluated the previous year's goals, set system priorities for the coming year, and kept the system moving forward in the direction that best serves justice-involved youth. This year's session focused on counties' ongoing implementation, fidelity, and continuous quality improvement (CQI) associated with the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy's activities. The session emphasized CQI, including an informative presentation by CQI Consultant Beth Fritz; professional development; and juvenile justice system priorities.

COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

LUZERNE COUNTY CELEBRATES MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Luzerne County's Wellness Court recently participated in several events in May to bring attention to Mental Health Awareness Month, and provide support to the local community. Wellness Court-involved youth participated in the National Alliance of Mental Illness walk on Saturday, May 20 to raise awareness of mental health and substance abuse. Participants in Wellness Court also volunteered at Luzerne County's "Fork Over Love" food drive, which connects families with food insecurity to locally owned and operated restaurants. The drive took place on Wednesday, May 24 at Hazleton High School. Lastly, Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Mental Health & Developmental Services and System of Care partnered with local minor league baseball team, the RailRiders, to host "Strike Out the Stigma" on May 25. All Wellness Court-involved youth (and other service-involved youth) received free tickets and food vouchers to attend the game.



Questions about Wellness Court? Feel free to reach out to Luzerne County Juvenile Probation.

SAVE *the* DATE

Hilton Harrisburg

**NOVEMBER
1-3, 2023**

2023 James E. Anderson
**PENNSYLVANIA
CONFERENCE
ON JUVENILE JUSTICE**

CONFERENCE - HOTEL INFORMATION

We are pleased to announce the room blocks at the **Hilton Harrisburg** and **Crowne Hotel** are 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 10/13/2023. Rooms are available on a first come basis. You may visit the customized link to book online, [2023 JCJC Annual Conference Room Block](#), or call 717-233-6000 and identify yourself with the Conference using **Group Code: JCJC23**. The hotel will confirm your reservation.

At the **Crowne Hotel**, the room block will close on 10/11/2023. Rooms are available on a first-come basis. You may visit the customized link to book online, [2023 JCJC Annual Conference Room Block](#), or call 717-234-5021 and identify yourself with the Conference using **GROUP CODE: CAL** in the JCJC Call-In Block. The hotel will confirm your reservation.

For general conference information, please contact us at ra-icjcevents@pa.gov.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Now Accepting Award Nominations

For the Following Categories:

Professional Awards

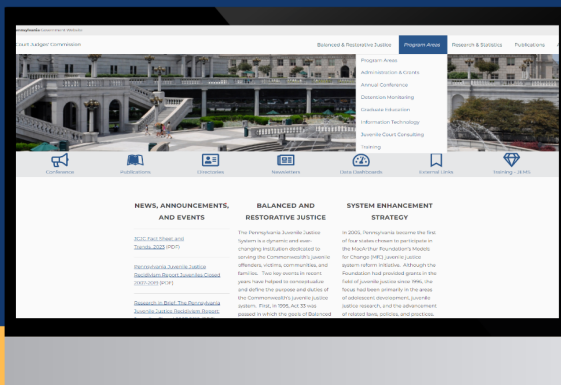
- Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year
- Juvenile Probation Supervisor of the Year
- Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year
- Victim Advocate of the Year
- Meritorious Service Award
- Juvenile Court Support Service Award
- Residential Program of the Year
- Court-Operated Program of the Year
- Community-Based Program of the Year

Youth Awards

- Creative Expression Contest
- Outstanding Achievement Award



How to Nominate



1. Go to www.jcjc.pa.gov
2. Select the "Conference" Tab
3. Fill Out the Nomination Form
4. Then Submit It!

DEADLINE:

AUGUST 14, 2023

For questions, contact Angel Stewart at angstewart@pa.gov or Keysla Rodriguez at keyrodrigu@pa.gov.

2022 JJSES IMPLEMENTATION SURVEY RESULTS

To offer a visual representation of the progressive implementation and sustainability of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) in Pennsylvania, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is eager to share the Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) infographics. MI and EPICS are essential components of Stage Two and Three of the JJSES, respectively.

Over time, juvenile probation departments throughout the Commonwealth have progressed through the foundational steps of the JJSES. Beginning in 2016, targeted efforts to fully integrate Stage Two JJSES activities, including MI, were strongly encouraged, though not required. As a result of these efforts, the percentage of departments that implemented MI increased by 33%. According to the 2022 JJSES Implementation Survey, 96% of juvenile probation departments in the state have now initiated the formal implementation of MI.

MI skills enhance the amount and quality of information collected during the assessment practices established in Stage Two and help to guide and strengthen a youth's motivation for change. While MI does not address a specific skill deficit, it sets the stage to address the identified needs of youth, ultimately reducing the risk for reoffending. Stage Three of the JJSES builds upon Stage Two by engaging evidence-based behavioral change strategies.

With the endorsement of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO), in 2016 the JJSES Leadership Team selected EPICS as the model of community supervision in Pennsylvania and have worked to build statewide capacity. In 2021, eight juvenile probation officers from across the Commonwealth and a representative from JCJC obtained EPICS Training of Trainers (TOT) certifications and began facilitating training. To further advance the expansion of this activity, in 2022 an additional ten juvenile probation officers received EPICS TOT certifications and have also begun facilitating training. Coupling MI with EPICS enhances the ability of juvenile justice professionals to motivate youth and engage them in behavioral change. Based upon the 2022 JJSES Implementation Survey, over a third of juvenile probation departments are engaged in EPICS activities.

The JCJC, PCCJPO, and Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) are dedicated to the sustainability of JJSES activities. Specifically, the state has developed a peer trainer network that function as subject matter experts on various JJSES activities, including MI and EPICS. These professionals are available for training, technical assistance, peer support and mentoring, and play an important role in the state's Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) efforts. To demonstrate, in 2022, there were 161 MI Coaches and 108 EPICS Internal Coaches throughout the Commonwealth.

A MI Coaches training is scheduled to take place August 8-9, 2023, at the Hyatt Place Hotel in State College. The MI Coaches training will present participants with the advanced skills necessary for juvenile probation departments to achieve long-term sustainability in the use of MI within their organizations. Additionally, an EPICS training is scheduled to take place August 14-16, 2023, at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Greensburg. This training will teach juvenile probation officers how to use the EPICS model to target the criminogenic needs of youth using cognitive-behavioral interventions and core correctional practices.

Counties interested in either the MI Coaches or EPICS trainings may register for the events in the [JCJC Event Management System \(JEMS\)](#). Questions regarding MI may be directed to either Leo Lutz (lelutz@pa.gov) or Nick Caramenico (njcaramenico@buckscounty.org). Questions regarding EPICS may be directed to either Angela Work (awork@pa.gov) or Bill Keim (wkeim@countyofberks.com).

JJSES STAGE TWO:

MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING (MI)

2022

 **64**
DEPARTMENTS
ACTIVELY ENGAGED
IN MI ACTIVITIES

HAVE STAFF/UNITS RESPONSIBLE FOR MI
TRAINING AND
QUALITY ASSURANCE

63%



MOST COMMON METHODS OF
QUALITY ASSURANCE:
BOOSTER TRAININGS
SKILLS PRACTICE
SUPERVISORY REVIEW

DEPARTMENTS
PLANNING MI ACTIVITIES
FOR FY2022-2023

51

161 MI COACHES
STATEWIDE

88%

HAVE THE MAJORITY OF
STAFF TRAINED ON MI

56%

HAVE A WRITTEN POLICY
ACTIVELY IN PLACE THAT
INCORPORATES MI

*N=64 DEPARTMENTS FOR ALL PERCENTAGES



pennsylvania

JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

JJSES STAGE THREE: EFFECTIVE PRACTICES IN COMMUNITY SUPERVISION (EPICS) 2022

 **25**
DEPARTMENTS
ACTIVELY ENGAGED
IN EPICS ACTIVITIES

 **88%**

HAVE STAFF/UNITS
RESPONSIBLE FOR EPICS
TRAINING AND QUALITY
ASSURANCE

108 INTERNAL
EPICS COACHES
STATEWIDE

DEPARTMENTS PLANNING
EPICS ACTIVITIES
FOR FY2022-2023

 **16**

363 STAFF TRAINED
ON EPICS
STATEWIDE

 **64%**

HAVE THE MAJORITY OF
STAFF TRAINED ON EPICS

 **56%**

HAVE A WRITTEN POLICY
ACTIVELY IN PLACE THAT
INCORPORATES EPICS

*N=25 DEPARTMENTS FOR ALL PERCENTAGES



pennsylvania
JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

August

- 8-9 Motivational Interviewing (MI) Coaches - State College
- 14-16 EPICS End User Training - Greensburg
- 23-25 Victim/Community Awareness Curriculum Training for Facilitators - West Chester
- 31 Growing Yourself Personally and Professionally - State College

September

- 6 Addiction 101 - State College
- 12 MAYSI-2 101 - Virtual
- 21 Graduated Responses (GR) Coordinator Group - Virtual
- 27 YLS Master Trainer Recertification - State College

October

- 2-6 Orientation for the New Juvenile Probation Professional - A Blended Learning Course - Camp Hill
- 16-18 EPICS End User Training - State College
- 17 SPEP™ Combine (Level 1 and InfoCom Collaboration) - Virtual
- 18 YLS Master Trainer Recertification - Greensburg
- 24 MAYSI-2 & CTS Coordinator Meeting - Virtual

November

- 9 Graduated Responses (GR) Peer Mentoring - Virtual
- 15 Case Planning 101 Training for Coordinators: A Foundational Training Curriculum for Implementation in Your County Department - State College

Registration available at www.jcjcjems.pa.gov

WHAT IS S.O.G.I.E., AND WHY IS S.O.G.I.E IMPORTANT?

Submitted by Barbara Dancy, S.O.G.I.E Chair

As we near the end of PRIDE month and the LGBTQ+ community celebrations, the S.O.G.I.E. (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression) Committee thought it would be essential to highlight and increase the understanding of juvenile probation officers' knowledge around S.O.G.I.E. While that may seem complicated, it merely means accepting youth whose journey of self-awareness is unique to them by conveying their gender identity and expression.

Adolescence is a tough time, and some youth experience significant physical, emotional, and social changes. It can be particularly challenging for young people who identify as LGBTQ+. The Trevor Project notes that LGBTQ youth are more than four times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers (Johns et al., 2019). Even more troubling, The Trevor Project estimates that more than 1.8 million LGBTQ youth (13-24) seriously consider suicide each year in the U.S., and at least one attempts suicide every 45 seconds (The Trevor Project, 2021). Not providing an open and affirming environment increases isolation, loneliness, and low self-esteem, leading to mental health issues such as depression and anxiety.

Conversely, The Trevor Project reported that LGBTQ+ youth with one accepting adult decrease their risk of suicide by 40 percent, and they are more likely to have positive mental health outcomes, and better social and emotional well-being (The Trevor Project, 2021). Acceptance can also lead to a sense of belonging and connection, which can protect against adverse outcomes, as mentioned above.

As our level of understanding continues to evolve, particularly for young people who identify as LGBTQ, the more we can begin to become open and affirming for LGBTQ+ youth to express themselves, and, while doing so, become a more diverse juvenile justice system that is an inclusive, safe space for LGBTQ youth.

References

- Johns, M. M., Poteat, V. P., Horn, S. S., & Kosciw, J. (2019). Strengthening our schools to promote resilience and health among LGBTQ youth: Emerging evidence and research priorities from The State of LGBTQ Youth Health and Wellbeing Symposium. *LGBT Health*, 6(4), 146-155.
- The Trevor Project. (2021, December 15). *Facts about LGBTQ youth suicide*. <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/article/facts-about-lgbtq-youth-suicide/>.



ATTENTION!

EPICS TRAINING

WHAT IS EPICS?

Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) is a model of community supervision in which juvenile probation officers apply the principles of effective intervention to target the criminogenic needs of youth using cognitive-behavioral interventions and core correctional practices.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF EPICS?

With the EPICS model, juvenile probation officers provide a structured approach to community supervision. The EPICS model empowers juvenile probation officers to motivate youth to engage in behavior change that addresses their identified risks and needs, ultimately reducing the risk for reoffending.

INFORMATION

DATE:
8.14.23 - 8.16.23

TIME:
9:00AM- 4:30PM

VENUE:
Courtyard by Marriott
700 Power Line Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601



TRAINING SIGN UP:
www.jcjcjems.pa.gov



HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:
www.marriott.com



QUESTIONS:
Sonya Stokes:
SYStokes@ship.edu



pennsylvania
JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION



TECHNOLOGY CORNER

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) Technology User Group was held virtually on Thursday, June 22. Sixty-five county end-users attended the event. The first part of the workshop covered data entry and integrity which are important for counties when they are preparing their data to be published in the Juvenile Court Annual Report. This valuable information was followed by a session on dashboards and a roadmap that illustrated where to enter data into the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) in order for an associated dashboard to populate correctly. The second part of the workshop was a very interactive session on PaJCMS including questions from end-users and discussions and suggestions about future enhancements to the application. The next Technology User Group will be held in-person in Fall 2023 with additional information forthcoming in JCJC Event Management System (JEMS). The JCJC encourages and welcomes end-users to please submit any possible training topics and/or trainers for the next Technology User Group to the JCJC Help Desk at RA-JCJCHELPDESK@pa.gov. Thank you to the attendees for their participation and the JCJC looks forward to seeing you in the fall!

JCJC AND PCCJPO PARTNER TO HOLD ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW CHIEF JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICERS

On May 17 and 18, 2023, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO) held an Orientation Program designed specifically for new chief juvenile probation officers and other juvenile justice administrators. The program was held at the Scholar State College, and was attended by 19 new chiefs, deputy chiefs, and supervisors.

The program began with opening remarks from Robert Tomassini, Executive Director of JCJC, Chad Libby, Chief Probation Officer in Dauphin County and current President of the PCCJPO, and Michael Purcell, Deputy Chief in Schuylkill County and Chair of the PCCJPO Program, Planning, and Training Committee. The program included information essential for a new chief to be successful including:

- An address on the "Role of the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer" delivered by Andrew Benner, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Cumberland County.
- A discussion of the primary activities of the Chiefs Council presented by Chad Libby.
- An Overview of the JCJC presented by several program directors from JCJC.
- A discussion on the current focus of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) presented by several members of the JJSES Leadership Team.
- An overview of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) provided by Greg Young, Deputy Director for Juvenile Justice Services at PCCD.
- An examination of the Needs-Based Budget Process led by Don Corry, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Chester County and Treasurer of the PCCJPO.

In addition to the training program, the PCCJPO hosted a networking dinner on May 17 at the Hyatt Place State College. The dinner was attended by many participants and program faculty. Additionally, many program participants also joined in several other PCCJPO activities taking place in the same week including the Chiefs/Provider Meeting, the PCCJPO Probation Only Meeting, and the PCCJPO General Membership Meeting. We thank all new chief juvenile probation officers and others who took advantage of these networking opportunities and participated in the informative program, and we wish them well as they embrace their new roles!

HUNTER HURST IV NAMED

DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges recently announced that Hunter Hurst IV has been named as the new Director of the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), following the retirement of Dr. Melissa Sickmund. For the past 50 years, NCJJ has completed research and analysis to provide objective and critically important information to juvenile justice professionals. NCJJ serves each of the states and the agency is located in Pittsburgh, PA. Mr. Hurst will lead the NCJJ's efforts to provide research and data to inform policy, practice, and decision-making in the field of juvenile justice.

Mr. Hurst is no stranger to NCJJ as his father, Hunter Hurst III, was the founding Director of NCJJ from 1973 to 2008. Mr. Hurst began his career at NCJJ in 1992 as a research assistant. Throughout his tenure, he has contributed significantly to various initiatives at the NCJJ, demonstrating his expertise in juvenile law topics. Mr. Hurst has made valuable contributions to the advancement of the field from juvenile justice reform efforts, to examining racial and ethnic disparities, to establishing model juvenile justice data. He has also played a key role in directing daily operations for large-scale justice system improvement efforts, both federally and privately funded, while also supporting smaller, focused endeavors at the state and county level.

To learn more about the NCJJ, please visit the agency's [website](#).



Justice Center
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS



Courting Judicial Excellence: A Juvenile Justice Judicial Training Institute

September 24-28, 2023
Embassy Suites by Hilton Albuquerque, New Mexico
No Registration Fee

**Space is limited to 50 Judicial Officers.
Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.**

For more information, please visit:

[Courting Judicial Excellence: A Juvenile Justice Judicial Training Institute - NCJFCJ](#)

SAVE THE DATE

The first annual victim regional forums are being held in an effort to provide more localized training and networking for those who are serving the needs of victims in the Juvenile Justice System.

2 Hours of credits to go towards RASA/VOJO training requirement

Itinerary

10:00 am-12:00 pm: Presentation on restorative practices for victims of Juvenile crime

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm: Lunch on your own

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm: Networking and Wrap up



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Diane Weaver-Thomas

Restorative Practices Advocate



Western Regional: September 20, 2023

At Center for Victims Pittsburgh Office --> 3433 East Carson Street, Pittsburgh PA 15203



Eastern Region: September 27, 2023

At Berks County Services Center --> 633 Court Street, Reading PA 19601



Central Region: October 4, 2023

At Child Welfare Resource Center --> State College Training Room, 274 W. Hamilton Avenue, State College, PA 16801

Victim Services Committee Chair
Angela Mackley, Deputy Chief
Franklin County Juvenile Probation
W: (717)-261-3122 ext. 21202
C: (717)-658-5148
amackley@franklincountypa.gov

Please consider attending this event to unify and support those who offer their services to victims daily!



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

U.S. SURGEON GENERAL ISSUES ADVISORY ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy has issued an [advisory](#) about social media's impact on youth mental health. It notes that while social media can provide benefits for some children and youth, there is a growing body of research about potential harms social media use poses.

Children and adolescents on social media are commonly exposed to extreme, inappropriate, and harmful content and frequent social media use can contribute to poor mental health, including depression and anxiety. The advisory outlines action steps that policymakers, technology companies, researchers, and families can take to mitigate the risk of harm and make social media safer and healthier for children and youth. OJJDP, in partnership with the [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#) (NCMEC), provides resources to keep youth safe online, including NCMEC's [NetSmartz](#) program. In addition, OJJDP's [mentoring programs](#) support youth mental health and its [National Mentoring Resource Center](#) is dedicated to enhancing mentoring practices that support positive youth outcomes.

RESOURCES:

- Visit OJJDP's [June is Internet Safety Month](#).
- Access [OJJDP's Bullying and Cyberbullying Literature Review](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

OJJDP ADDS NATIONAL RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES DATABOOK TO STATISTICAL BRIEFING BOOK

OJJDP has updated its [Statistical Briefing Book](#) (SBB) to include the [National Racial and Ethnic Disparities \(R/ED\) Databook](#). This data tool presents a national picture of racial and ethnic disparity in the juvenile justice system. The data book describes how racial and ethnic disparities are measured and identifies at which decision points in the system the greatest disparities exist. An important resource for the youth justice field, the data book provides a national benchmark against which local data can be compared, helping jurisdictions determine where to focus their efforts.

Developed for OJJDP by the [National Center for Juvenile Justice](#), the research division of the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#), SBB offers easy online access to statistics on a variety of juvenile justice topics.

RESOURCES:

- Apply for OJJDP's "[Center for Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities \(R/ED\) in Juvenile Justice](#)" funding opportunity.
- [Visit OJJDP's webpage](#) on Racial/Ethnic Disparities.
- Access [OJJDP's Racial and Ethnic Disparity in Juvenile Justice Processing Literature Review](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

WHITE HOUSE RELEASES NATIONAL PLAN TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The White House has [released](#) the first-ever "[U.S. National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence: Strategies for Action](#)." The plan is a comprehensive, government-wide approach to prevent and address sexual violence, intimate partner violence, stalking, and other forms of gender-based violence.

The report discusses several OJJDP programs, including the [National Resource Center for Justice-Involved LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirit Youth](#), [Strategies To Support Children Exposed to Violence](#), and [Reducing Risk for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System](#).

RESOURCES:

- View OJJDP's [Children Exposed to Violence](#) webpage.
- Read OJJDP's Model Programs Guide literature review on [LGBTQ Youths in the Juvenile Justice System](#).
- Read and download the OJJDP's bulletin on "[Girls in the Juvenile Justice System](#)."
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

OJJDP WEBINAR HIGHLIGHTS FINDINGS FROM YOUTH AND THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM REPORT

On May 17, 2023, OJJDP hosted a [webinar](#) highlighting recent data from the "[Youth and the Juvenile Justice System: 2022 National Report](#)." OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan and researchers from the [National Center for Juvenile Justice](#) (NCJJ) participated in the webinar, now available online.



To answer the needs of justice-involved young people and their families—to do it well—OJJDP and our grantees must have accurate, relevant data drawn from reliable research. The NCJJ's work enables us to identify trends and to anticipate and respond to changes.

OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan

Topics discussed during the webinar included violent crime by and against youth, racial and ethnic disparities within the juvenile justice system, state changes regarding the transfer of youth from juvenile to criminal court, and trends in the youth residential placement population. A Q&A session concluded the webinar.

The report, funded by OJJDP and managed by the [National Institute of Justice](#), was produced by the National Center for Juvenile Justice, the research division of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

RESOURCES:

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