



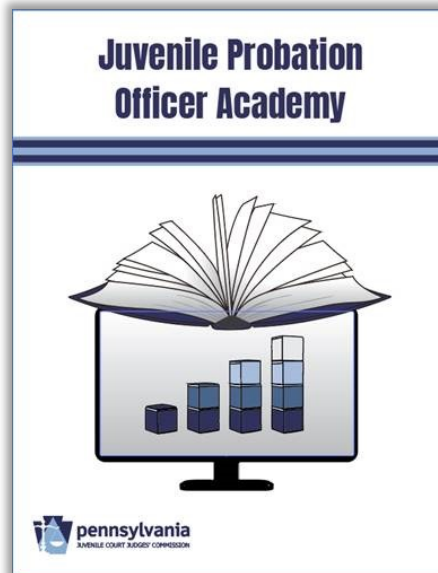
THE JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION INTRODUCES THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER ACADEMY

On April 15, 2024, the first cohort of juvenile probation officers and other juvenile justice professionals will attend the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's (JCJC) reimagined Pennsylvania Juvenile Probation Officer Academy. This multiday workshop is offered semiannually during which juvenile probation officers and other juvenile justice professionals learn introductory knowledge and skills. The Academy replaces the Orientation for the New Juvenile Justice Professional and improves upon it in several ways.

First, the knowledge and skills learned during the Academy are directly applicable to new juvenile probation officers and other juvenile justice professionals as well as those individuals already experienced in the juvenile justice field who may want to revisit the foundational learning that guides their work. For example, participants will explore the responsibilities and roles of the juvenile justice professional as they apply to Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system, the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice, and the initiatives of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES).

Second, the Academy better supports skill development as an equal partner to knowledge acquisition. The workshop's participants will return to their agencies with skills immediately useful for their work with justice-involved youth. For instance, the participants will be fully trained in Motivational Interviewing (MI), will have completed the classroom portion of Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS), and will be introduced to the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System before they leave the Academy.

Third, the Academy's duration was extended to a two-week, in-person workshop with a month-long break between the two sessions. Consequently, the juvenile justice professionals are exposed to a larger number of foundational



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topics which broadens their overall knowledge and skills. For example, participants will now learn the fundamentals of oral and written courtroom presentation, dual status crossover, and personal and professional wellbeing alongside topics previously presented at the Orientation for the New Juvenile Justice Professional such as ethics, safety, and victims and their rights. Also, extending the Academy’s duration allows the juvenile justice professionals to spend more time together building lasting relationships; learning collaboratively; meeting JCJC team members, veteran and supervisory juvenile probation officers, and third-party subject matter experts serving as trainers during the Academy; networking with peers; and sharing experiences and ideas.

Finally, the Academy’s learning pathway flows in a logical progression where each topic builds upon the topics preceding it. Two examples reflective of the pathway’s flow include cultural competency building upon the fundamental fairness incorporated in the JJSES and evidence-based practices leading into MI, which in turn contributes to EPICS.

These improvements to the curriculum guarantee that juvenile probation officers and other juvenile justice professionals who attend the Academy will leave the two-week workshop with a well-rounded foundation of knowledge and skills. The participants may then build upon that solid foundation through their future professional development and work experience to the benefit of the justice-involved youth they serve.

The Academy has generated a buzz amongst juvenile justice professionals in Pennsylvania. Interest in the initial offering of the Academy was strong, with the workshop nearly reaching its capacity within the first week after it was posted in the JCJC Event Management System (JEMS).

Registration for both semiannual sessions of the Juvenile Probation Officer Academy is available via [JEMS](#). Please contact Sonya Stokes, JCJC Director of Professional Development, at systokes@ship.edu with any questions.

JUVENILE COURT JUDGES’ COMMISSION UPDATES

BILL KEIM JOINS JCJC



The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC) is pleased to announce that William “Bill” Keim joined our team as our new Policy and Program Development Specialist on March 4, 2024. Bill arrives after working with the youth and families of Berks County as part of the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office. He last served as a Deputy Chief of the department. Bill would like to thank his former coworkers for a rewarding and fun 17 years. In his new role, Bill will supervise the JCJC Court Consultants, continue to serve as a Stage 3 Co-Chair on the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy Leadership Team, work on professional development, and continue to help move juvenile justice forward in Pennsylvania through his committee work. Bill is excited for the opportunity to continue working with juvenile justice practitioners and stakeholders across Pennsylvania.

In his free time, Bill loves spending time with his three children, Brooke, Breckin, and Benny, and wife, Kelly. He enjoys coaching, playing golf and softball, and laying on any beach.

DID YOU KNOW...

The nine judges of the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission are nominated by the Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and appointed by the Governor for three-year terms.

MATTHEW GARVEY RETIRES - NORTHAMPTON COUNTY



On February 16, 2024, Matthew “Matt” T. Garvey retired from Northampton County as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer following 24 years of service to the department. Matt began his career at Northampton County’s detention center in 1991 as a youth care worker. He was promoted to supervisor nearly two years later and was hired as a school-based probation officer at Northampton County Juvenile Probation in 2000. Matt held several positions, including Intensive Aftercare Specialist and Supervisor, prior to being appointed to Chief Juvenile Probation Officer on January 1, 2015. Matt obtained his bachelor’s degree in Political Science and American Studies from Rider College in 1991. In 2008, he obtained his Master of Science in the Administration of Juvenile Justice at Shippensburg University through the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission’s Graduate Education Program.

During his time in Northampton County, Matt proudly participated in county and state-wide committees. He was active in the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers where he chaired the Legislative Committee. Other contributions included his role in the Data Action Committee, part of Resilient Lehigh Valley - a collaboration between numerous systems to bring trauma awareness and resources to Northampton (and Lehigh) counties. Matt recognizes and highlights numerous professional partnerships and friendships during his time in Northampton County, including now Chief Steven Pfeiffer and Deputy Chief Shelly Bundro. He also recognizes President Judge Craig Dally and Juvenile Court Administrative Judge Samuel Murray, both of whom showed consistent support during his time as Chief, and former Chief Michael Schneider. Last, Matt is grateful for a strong and supportive family system. He looks forward to golfing and traveling during his retirement.

Please join JCJC in welcoming Steven Pfeiffer, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Northampton County, effective February 19. Congratulations to Chief Pfeiffer!

PCCJPO RECOGNIZES FORMER PRESIDENT CHAD LIBBY

During its General Membership Meeting on March 15, 2024, Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO) President Don Corry recognized former President and current Dauphin County Probation Services Director Chad Libby for his outstanding service to the PCCJPO. Chad served two two-year terms as President of the PCCJPO from 2020-2023. The PCCJPO’s many achievements during his presidency included building a professional alliance with Secretary of Human Services Dr. Valerie Arkoosh and Deputy Secretary for the Office of Children, Youth, and Families Laval Miller-Wilson; informing legislators and their legislative staff about important and timely statewide juvenile justice issues; strengthening collaboration with the service provider community such as networking events; recruiting motivated and talented leaders in Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system to join the PCCJPO and support its important statewide work; leading the PCCJPO through the COVID-19 pandemic; and engaging all juvenile probation departments to ensure the goals and initiatives of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) are embraced by every department.



Chad expressed his gratitude to the PCCJPO and its Executive Council, the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission and Executive Director Bob Tomassini, his fellow chief juvenile probation officers and their staffs, the service provider community, and other juvenile justice system partners for their staunch support and commitment to Balanced and Restorative Justice and the JJSES. He also thanked the Dauphin County Probation Services staff, especially Deputy Chief Juvenile Probation Officers Chris Hakel and Nicole Mattern, for their relentless efforts to assist justice-involved youth and their families and for their unwavering support which allowed him to serve as the PCCJPO President for the past four years.

MYTH



VS.

FACT



The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission continues its monthly series, "Myth vs. Fact", which addresses common misconceptions of the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system. Using a combination of the 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 installment addresses a circulated myth surrounding the use of validated risk assessment instruments such as the Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI) or the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory™ (YLS).

MYTH

Using validated risk instruments to guide subjective decision-making such as detention, disposition, and case planning makes existing racial disproportionalities worse.

FACT

Risk assessments, when implemented with fidelity, lead to less bias in justice systems, particularly when compared to professional judgment alone.

Why Risk Assessments Are Criticized

- One of the frequent criticisms of risk assessment instruments is rooted in how they are developed. The development of risk assessment tools relies heavily on administrative data generated by the juvenile justice system. This data reflects existing racial inequities in policing and access to resources. Since certain racial groups are historically disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system, these groups are automatically prone to score higher on non-biased, well-validated instruments because of mathematics.

Why That's Not the Whole Story

- Empirical studies have consistently found that when implemented with fidelity, validated risk assessment instruments do not predict outcomes differently for youth of different races (Campbell et al., 2018; Villanueva et al., 2019). In Pennsylvania, the two most commonly used risk assessment instruments are the PaDRAI and the YLS. Both have been rigorously validated and shown to reduce bias in the juvenile justice decision-making process (Maloney, forthcoming; Perrault et al., 2017).

Other Considerations

- Risk assessments are used to inform, not dictate, decision-making. Best practice states that the use of risk instruments should be accompanied by professional judgment to achieve the best outcomes (Applegarth et al., 2023).
- Risk assessment scores should statistically relate to the outcome the instrument was designed to predict (i.e., failure to appear or recidivism) and should do so in the same way regardless of group membership: each group should have a similar probability of recidivism at each score on the instrument.

References:

1. Applegarth, D., Lewis, R., & Rief, R. (2023). Imperfect tools: A research note on developing, applying, and increasing understanding of criminal justice risk assessments. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 34(4), 319-336.
2. Campbell, C., Papp, J., Barnes, A., Onifade, E., & Anderson, V. (2018). Risk assessment and juvenile justice: An interaction between risk, race, and gender. *Criminology and Public Policy*, 17(3), 525-545.
3. Perrault, R., Vincent, G., & Guy, L. (2017). Are risk assessments racially biased? Field study of the SAVRY and YLS/CMI in probation. *Psychological Assessment*, 29(6), 664-678.
4. Villanueva, O., Gomis-Pomares, A., & Adrian, J. (2019). Predictive validity of the YLS/CMI in a sample of Spanish young offenders of Arab descent. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 63(10), 1914-1930.
5. Vincent, G. & Viljoen, J. (2020). Racist algorithms or systemic problems? Risk assessments and racial disparities. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 47(12), 1576-1584.

MARCH IS BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

Submitted by MJ Schmidt, BIAPA Training Outreach Coordinator

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month—and a great reminder of the impact that brain injury has on the youth we serve. In the intricate web of youth justice, an invisible component that often goes unnoticed: brain injury. While discussions surrounding juvenile delinquency often revolve around socioeconomic factors, family dynamics, and societal influences, the profound impact of brain injury on justice-involved youth remains largely underreported and underdiagnosed.



Brain injury among justice-involved youth is more prevalent than commonly assumed. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a significant proportion of young offenders have experienced traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and non-traumatic brain injuries (nTBI) before entering the justice system. These injuries, resulting from incidents such as accidents, sports-related collisions, substance use, or violence, can have lasting consequences on cognitive functions, emotional regulation, and behavioral control. Despite this prevalence, systematic screening for brain injury within juvenile justice settings remains inadequate, leading to undiagnosed and untreated conditions.

The repercussions of brain injury on justice-involved youth are multifaceted. At the forefront is the worsening of existing vulnerabilities. Brain injury can compound preexisting social, emotional, and behavioral challenges, increasing the likelihood of engagement in delinquent behavior. Moreover, the cognitive impairments associated with brain injury can hinder educational attainment, perpetuating cycles of disadvantage and involvement in the justice system. Challenges with executive functioning (i.e., attention, initiation, problem-solving, judgment, inhibition of behavior, planning/anticipation, self-monitoring, emotional regulation, organization, and mental flexibility) often impact day-to-day functioning and productivity. These issues can also lead to problems with self-regulation, personality changes, antisocial behavior, and impaired self-awareness.

It is crucial to understand that a brain injury is not an excuse for behavior but an explanation for it. Misattributed behaviors can easily be misunderstood by school personnel as well as juvenile service providers and may ultimately be interpreted as willful, defiant, behavioral in nature, or the result of "criminal thinking." They also have implications for an individual's ability to meet the demands of probation, correction environments, and ultimately to stay out of trouble with the law. Without proper recognition and support, youth with history of brain injury are at risk of being trapped in a cycle of recidivism, perpetuating the cycle of involvement in the justice system.

The Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania (BIAPA) has been working on projects related to this issue for more than ten years by providing training, conducting research, and offering technical assistance. From 2014-2018, they conducted a pilot in two juvenile detention centers in southeastern Pennsylvania. Its core strategy was to identify youth with history of brain injury, determine their neurocognitive barriers to successful re-entry, and create release plans with connections to appropriate resources. Results indicated that nearly half (49%) had a history of brain injury, with an average of nearly 3 injuries per youth. Sixty-two percent of injuries did not involve a loss of consciousness, and two-thirds never sought treatment for their injury. A history of repetitive blows to the head was also common and often caused by violence. Fifty-seven percent demonstrated evidence of significant cognitive impairment on the neuropsychological assessment, with the most common impairments being working memory, behavioral regulation, and delayed recall of novel information. The pilot also included referrals to brain injury school re-entry programs, vocational rehabilitation, and medical rehabilitation.

BIAPA has also worked with the National Partnership for Juvenile Services to develop a Position Statement highlighting the importance of this issue:

The National Partnership of Juvenile Services (NPJS) strongly advocates that juvenile justice professionals have adequate resources to meet the needs of youth with brain injury, including staff training, validated tools for screening, and intervention strategies to address associated behaviors, as well as access to trained education staff and/or local school districts to assist in providing appropriate educational supports. Additionally, brain injury specialists must be accessible to assess youth identified as having impairments as a result of brain injury to determine specific rehabilitation treatment needs. Local resources must be identified that can offer support, intervention, and/or treatment to address associated impairments while youth with brain injury are in custody and upon return to their community/home. Additionally, services that are designed to address recidivism as well as cognitive academic supports must be tailored for youth with impairments from brain injury. (Adopted by NPJS in 2018.)

Fortunately, resources are available to help. To learn more about brain injury, related resources, and its intersection with justice-involved youth, check out:

- BIAPA's website: www.biapa.org
- Criminal and Juvenile Justice Best Practice Guidelines: <https://www.nashia.org/acl-cji>

There are also resources for training and technical assistance to juvenile service providers. In partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, BIAPA provides training, education, and technical support to juvenile justice providers in Pennsylvania related to the issue of brain injury among justice-involved youth. Training and technical assistance to juvenile service providers, including juvenile probation departments, is available.

The connection between brain injury and juvenile justice underscores the imperative for a compassionate and comprehensive approach to supporting justice-involved youth. By recognizing the invisible struggles faced by these individuals and implementing proactive measures to address their unique needs, we can strive towards a more equitable and inclusive juvenile justice system—one that empowers youth to overcome adversity and realize their full potential.

For more information contact:

MJ Schmidt

BIAPA Training and Outreach Coordinator

schmidt@biapa.org

JCJC GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAM ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Why did you choose to participate in the JCJC Graduate Education Program?

I enrolled in the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Master of Science in Administration of Juvenile Justice (MAJJ) program to open new doors and perspectives in my professional life. I considered it several years ago, but life got in the way at the time. Many of my colleagues have gone through the program as well, so I knew it was pertinent to our jobs. I'm also a lifelong learner, so there was a part of me that liked the idea of pushing myself to a new goal.

Abigail Runk - Class of 2023
York County Department of Probation Services - Juvenile Office

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Submitted by Rachel Guttentag, Community Autism Peer Specialist (CAPS)

Language has been a hot topic in the autism advocacy community, not to mention the wider disability advocacy community, for a while now. Specifically, what is the right kind of language to use? What is the least problematic, least harmful, most inclusive, most empowering way to talk about autism and autistic individuals?

I will let you in on the difficult truth of it all: there is no easy answer.

Most of us would like there to be. The many attempts to compile a list of the best language to use around autism and other disabilities attest to that. If you are someone who tries to stay up to date on inclusive language, you have probably seen some of these yourself. Unfortunately, there is no magic phrasing that will cause anti-disability bias or prejudice, also known as ableism, to vanish.

Besides, different individuals have different language preferences. A word or phrase that empowers one person might alienate another, and that does not mean either of them is wrong. It does mean that language policing, however well-intentioned, is not the way to make a space more accessible and inclusive.

This issue can be seen most visibly in the frequent push-pull between person-first (person with autism) and identity-first (autistic person) language. It used to be that person-first was considered the gold standard for inclusive language, acknowledging that a person was more than just their disability. However, many self-advocates in the autistic community, and beyond, have pushed back against this language in favor of identity-first language. Claiming that their disability is part of what makes them who they are and wanting to separate them from it is an ableist way of thinking. As a result, identity-first is starting to become the new standard in many places. It is important to remember, though, that individuals will have their own preferences and that their reasonings behind those preferences are equally valid, despite often being contradictory. These preferences can even vary depending on the specific disability being talked about. As a personal example, I call myself an autistic person but I also say that I am a person with ADHD (and not just because it rolls off the tongue better).

Of course, it is important to remember that some language is not appropriate in a general sense, even if some individuals may prefer it. For example, while some individuals may still refer to themselves as having Asperger's Syndrome, this diagnosis no longer exists and thus should not be used when talking about autism in general. Other words for autistic and otherwise disabled individuals that may be commonly used as insults should also be treated carefully. However, in many other cases, the issue of inclusive language is a lot less black and white than is often assumed.

If there is anything you should always do to make sure the language you are using is inclusive, it is to listen and take cues from the people (of whatever community you are trying to be inclusive of) you are talking to. Speak as sensitively as you can to the best of your knowledge but be prepared to adjust based on what words a person may ask you to use or even just based on how they talk about themselves. One of the best ways to make a person feel included is to make them feel validated. Seeking to do that, rather than worrying over what words are right or wrong, is what will truly help you build an inclusive space.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

April

- 3-5 Victim/Community Awareness Curriculum Training for Facilitators - Greensburg
- 4 Case Planning 101 Training for Coordinators: A Foundational Training Curriculum for Implementation in Your County Department - Morton
- 9 How to Win at Any Relationship - Virtual
- 15-19 Juvenile Probation Officer Academy - Camp Hill
- 16 Family Engagement - Effective Strategies for Engaging Youth and Families - State College
- 18 Let's Keep It Balanced (and Restorative): Trauma-Informed Strategies for Meeting Victims' Needs - Mechanicsburg
- 23-24 SPEP™ Level 1 Specialist Training - Virtual
- 25 Officer Safety and Wellbeing - Scranton

For full schedule and registration information, please visit www.jcjems.pa.gov.

May

- 8 Healthy Versus Unhealthy Relationships: The Importance of Recognizing Abuse - Virtual
- 13-15 EPICS Training for Juvenile Probation Officers - Pending - Eastern Region
- 17 Train the Trainer/Facilitator: How to Deliver Engaging and Impactful Presentations to Adult Learners - Mechanicsburg
- 23 SPEP™ Level 1 Learning Community - Pending
- 30 SPEP™ InfoCom - Virtual

June

- 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
- 27 Elevating Excellence: Performance Measurement & Management in Juvenile Justice - Mechanicsburg

2024
James E. Anderson
2024

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE
ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

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.

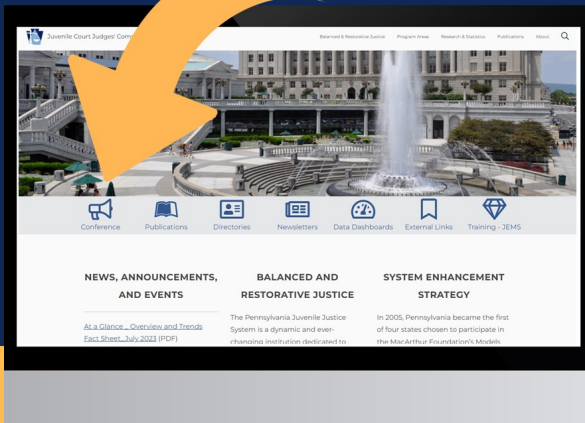


ANNOUNCEMENT

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE JAMES E. ANDERSON JUVENILE JUSTICE YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



How to Nominate



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

DEADLINE:

JUNE 3, 2024

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

Call for Presentations

November 6 - November 8, 2024

Hilton Harrisburg

Are you enthusiastic about enhancing Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system with your professional expertise? Do you want to spread your message to 1,000 of your colleagues? We cordially welcome submissions for the 2024 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice, to be held on November 6-8, 2024, at the Hilton Harrisburg.

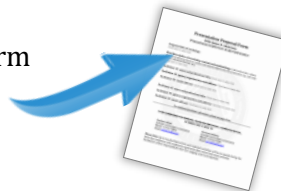
The conference focus will be rooted in responsivity in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system. Each year the conference includes workshops that highlight practices, programs, and initiatives which exemplify the various components of Pennsylvania's Balanced & Restorative Justice mission and the Juvenile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

This year's conference workshops will take place on Thursday, November 7, 2024. Themes may include but are not limited to professional alliance skills, diversity and/or inclusion, stakeholder engagement, and responsivity factors. **Interested parties should complete and submit the following presentation proposal form by Friday, May 3, 2024.**

The 2024 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice is sponsored by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges.

Presentation Proposal Form

Click here to download
or visit:



<https://www.jcjc.pa.gov/Program-Areas/AnnualConference/Documents/2024%20Conference%20Documents/2024%20Call%20for%20Presentations.docx>

To complete the form and submit online, please visit: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QSiOQsgB1U2bbEf8Wpob3iZS_UDhpZ5Mr8iYxNeQEP1UM1BFWjVWODI3NDIxODdURzIOWlpPRU5WTi4u



PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Register now for the Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services (PCCYFS) 2024 Annual Conference, taking place on April 10 and 11 at the Best Western Premier (800 E. Park Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17111). Register here: [2024 Annual Conference - PCCYFS](#)

Wednesday's keynote speaker, Gerardo Lopez, a former MS-13 gang member, will share his experiences and story of survival. On Thursday, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Deputy Secretaries Jennifer Smith and Laval Miller-Wilson will discuss topics relevant to providers who service children, youth, and families via contracts and/or agreements with schools, county child welfare, county juvenile probation, and behavioral health managed care organizations (BH-MCOs). The audience will be invited to participate in a Q & A session following prepared remarks.

Sessions during the conference include a variety of educational and topical content, with many qualifying for Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

Your favorite networking events are returning this year! On Tuesday, early arrivals may join PCCYFS staff at the hotel bar/restaurant for Tuesday Trivia Night sponsored by Turning Points for Children. PCCYFS will host trivia from 7:00 to 9:00 pm and award prizes. Play individually, as your own group, or at the PCCYFS "group" table reserved for our use. It's sure to be a good time!

On Wednesday, PCCYFS will offer its popular evening networking mixer from 6:30 to 10:00 pm, sponsored by enkompas and Binti. From 6:30 to 9:00 pm there will be a wine tasting in the Heritage Room, sponsored by enkompas! Listen to live music as you delight your palate with a selection of red and white wines and delicious hors d'oeuvres.

More details are available at [2024 Annual Conference - PCCYFS](#), where you will find a special section for the conference with the daily schedule and a full list of conference FAQs.

To sponsor the conference or for more information contact Kim Yakowski, PCCYFS Communications Director, at: kimberlyy@pccyfs.org or 717-460-6813.

Gerardo Lopez



Gerardo Lopez grew up in gang territory in Los Angeles, California, and was just 14 years old when he joined MS-13, the notorious Salvadoran gang. Why did he join and why did he leave? Gerardo "Clever" Lopez has worked in gang intervention for over two decades. Gerardo escaped gang life and now ensures that at-risk youth avoid making the same mis-

takes. He is Executive Director of the Denver chapter of Homies Unidos, a nonprofit dedicated to ending violence and promoting peace through gang intervention and prevention.

Gerardo presently serves as a Mayoral appointee, Commissioner for the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships.



JUVENILE JUSTICE TECHNOLOGY FORUM

SAFE SOLUTIONS SUPPORTING YOUTH CONNECTIONS AND TRANSFORMATION

Host: National Partnership for Juvenile Services

Date: April 15-17, 2024

Location: Live! Hotel, Baltimore, MD

Goal: Improve youth access to resources and therapeutic tools that enhance the youth's long-term success using technology.

Forum Overview: Educational programs within congregate care settings have begun to utilize devices to connect with external support services (continuing education, supplemental academic programming, etc.). While some residential and community-based services are providing youth with tablets to better connect with community and family supports as well as clinical tools, many are uncertain about how to overcome the cyber security risks. This forum will share the most current approaches to safely provide access to youth, to monitor and manage risk while improving outcomes for youth.

Audience:

- Juvenile Justice Residential & Secure Care Service Providers
- Juvenile Probation Chiefs
- Community-Based Service Providers
- Clinical Directors
- Alternative Education Administrators
- Agency IT Directors (or their delegates)
- Others Interested in the Implementation & Utilization of Technology in JJ Settings

More Information:

Event Planner: Abby.Schrum@npjis.org

Program Chair: Wayne.Bear@npjis.org

VALUABLE RESOURCES FOR YOUTH, FAMILIES, AND JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM PRACTITIONERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

PA Navigate:

<https://pa-navigate.org/>

A statewide community information tool designed to address health and social care needs for Pennsylvanians by connecting them to community services.

Prevention Learning Portal:

<https://plp.psu.edu/elearning>

An eLibrary created to offer free prevention information to those new to prevention and to increase the knowledge of those who work actively in prevention efforts in their communities.

Pennsylvania's 21st Children's Interagency Conference

[Register Now](#)



Building Youth Wellness & Resilience

April 22 to April 25, 2024

Penn Stater Hotel, State College, PA

Shine the Light on Mental Health

Building Youth Wellness & Resilience

[21st Children's Interagency Conference Website](#)

For more information, visit <https://conta.cc/3Irkk90>.

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/>



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OJJDP TO HOST 2024 NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON YOUTH JUSTICE

Join us at the [2024 OJJDP National Conference on Youth Justice](#) from November 19-21, 2024, in Washington, D.C. The conference will offer opportunities to collaborate with youth justice partners, families, grantees, and others who are working to transform the juvenile justice system. This year's theme is "Shaping the Next 50 Years." The conference is the capstone event for OJJDP's year-long celebration of the 50-year anniversary of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Attendees can explore over 70 workshops, three plenary sessions, and networking events focused on youth justice. Stay tuned to JUVJUST for conference-related updates, including registration information.



RESOURCES:

- Follow OJJDP on [X formerly known as Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

OJJDP UPDATES MODEL PROGRAMS GUIDE WITH THREE LITERATURE REVIEWS

OJJDP's Model Programs Guide [literature reviews](#) provide practitioners and policymakers with relevant research and evaluations on more than 50 juvenile justice topics and programs. OJJDP has added three new literature reviews to its [Model Programs Guide](#):

- "[Age Boundaries of the Juvenile Justice System](#)." The review provides a summary of the lower and upper age limits in the United States, presents data trends with respect to age in the juvenile justice system, and summarizes research related to adolescent developmental science.
- "[Gun Violence and Youth/Young Adults](#)." This review focuses on intentional gun violence involving youth ages 10 to 24. It explores evidence-based practices and programs to reduce gun violence, including homicides, assaults, and other violent crime.
- "[Youth in the Adult Criminal Justice System](#)." This review describes the legal mechanisms by which youth can be processed and incarcerated with adults and provides recent data on the number of youth in adult jails and prisons. The review also provides a historical policy overview.

RESOURCES:

- Learn more about OJJDP's [Model Programs Guide](#).
- Read about OJJDP's [Literature Reviews Development Process](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [X formerly known as Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

DOJ PROGRAM PLAN SUMMARIZES OJP FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The [Department of Justice \(DOJ\)](#) has released its [Fiscal Year 2024 DOJ Program Plan](#) to help grant applicants identify funding opportunities to enhance community safety and improve justice systems. The funding is administered by DOJ's Office of Justice Programs (OJP), the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

The web-based program plan provides summary details of the funding opportunities each grant-making office has released or anticipates releasing each fiscal year.

RESOURCES:

- Learn how to apply for DOJ funding at the [JustGrants Resources Application Submission Training page](#).
- Visit OJJDP's [funding page](#) for details about OJJDP funding.
- Follow OJJDP on [X formerly known as Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

OJJDP NEWS @ A GLANCE, MARCH 2024

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) announces the availability of [OJJDP News @ a Glance](#), March 2024.

This month's feature stories focus on OJJDP's continuum of care framework—a holistic approach to delivering juvenile justice services emphasizing prevention and early intervention services for most youth, and intensive programming for youth at high risk of system involvement—and recent trends in youth crime and victimization.

"From the Field" highlights an OJJDP-supported gang violence reduction program in south central Virginia that focuses on mentorship, workforce development training, and restorative justice practices. "Tribal Connections" features a conversation between Administrator Liz Ryan and Tribal youth.

Other features in this issue—

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

RESOURCES:

- [OJJDP News @ a Glance](#), March 2024 (NCJ 308637) 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.

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