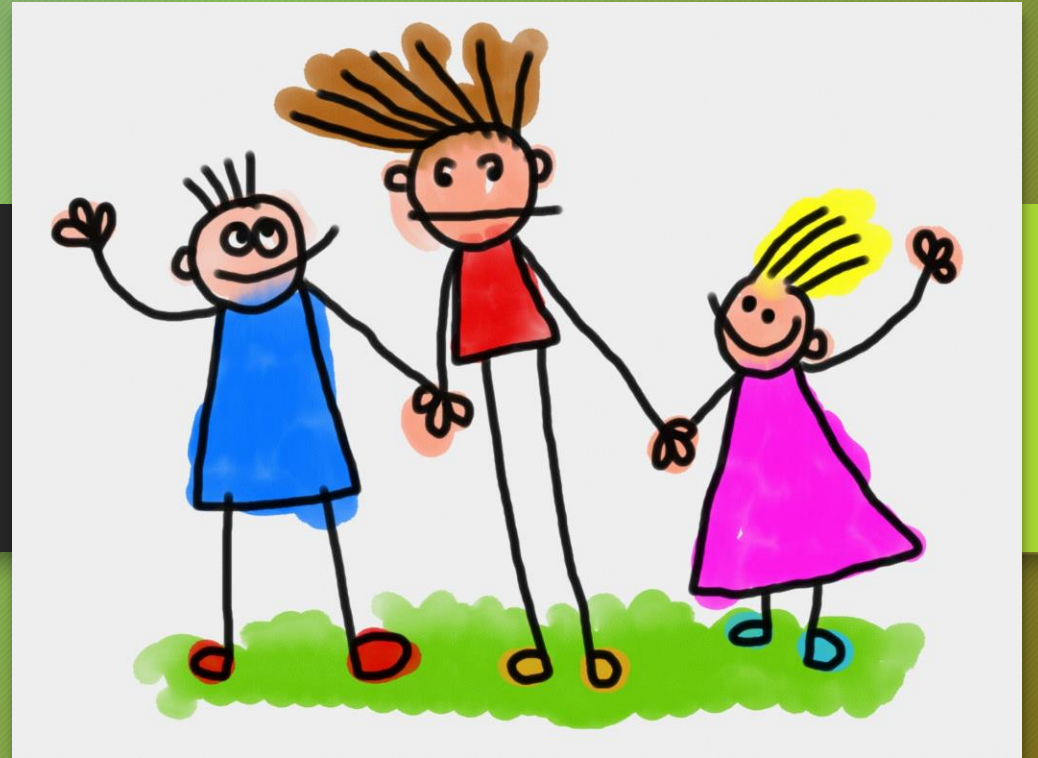


# Family Engagement in Juvenile Justice

A Presentation of the Family Involvement  
Committee

November 2022





*“Alan Tezcat”*

What adjectives/phrases would families use to describe the JJ system experience?

What adjectives/phrases would you use to describe families?

# Focus Groups: Barriers to Engagement



- ‘The P.O. always made me feel like everything was my fault’
- ‘The P.O. pretended he was a cop’
- ‘The P.O. had no clue and could care less about my concerns’
- ‘I didn’t even know the P.O.’s name - I never saw her’
- ‘The P.O. talked down to me - made me feel worthless, as if I was on probation’
- ‘No planning, no visits - ZERO communications’





# Focus Groups: Bridges to Engagement

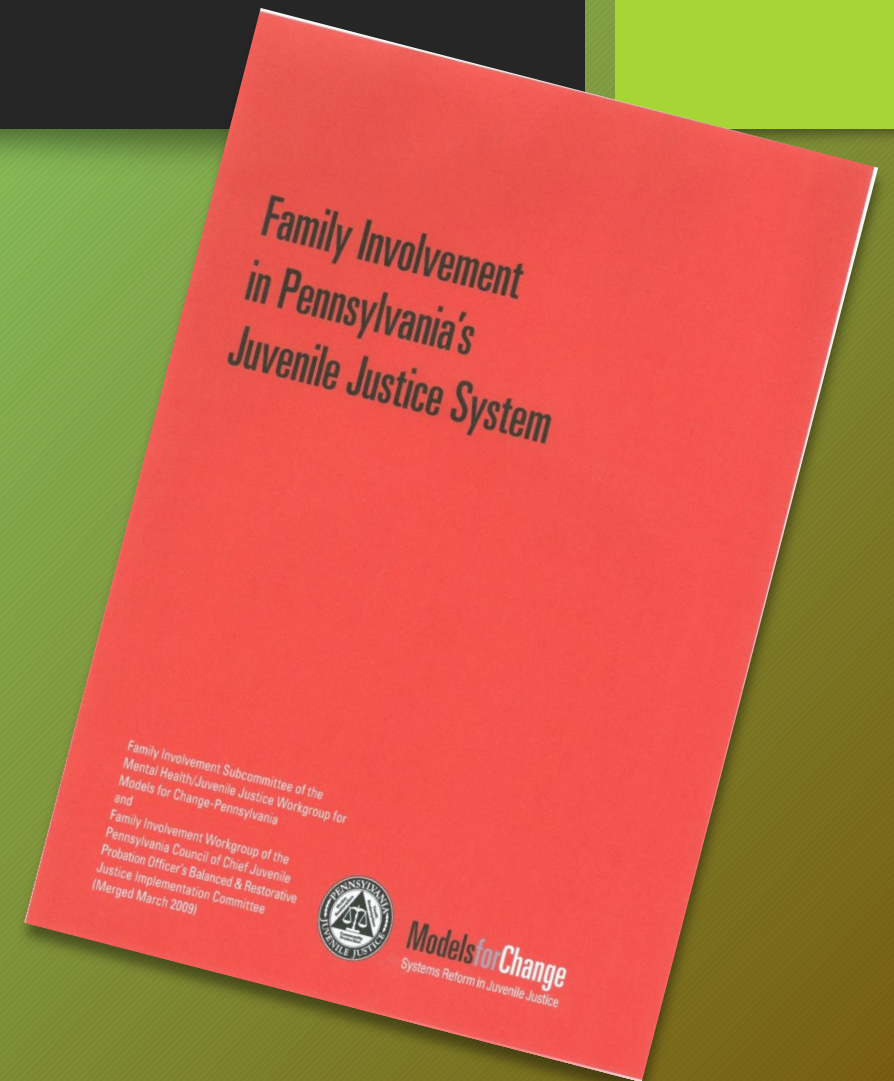


- ‘The P.O. really *cared* about my son’
- ‘Held her accountable for HER behavior’
- ‘Constantly kept me in the loop’
- ‘Made me feel like a real partner’
- ‘Was always honest and upfront’
- ‘I could always count on her’
- ‘The P.O. treated me with respect’



# Creating the Monograph

- Purpose: reorient/change the culture to view families as a resource. Move from kid-centered to family-centered.
- Developed from 16 focus groups that involved families, advocacy groups and system professionals.
- Powerful comments.
- Contributors include - Wendy Luckenbill, Clay Yeager, Susan Blackburn, Keith Snyder

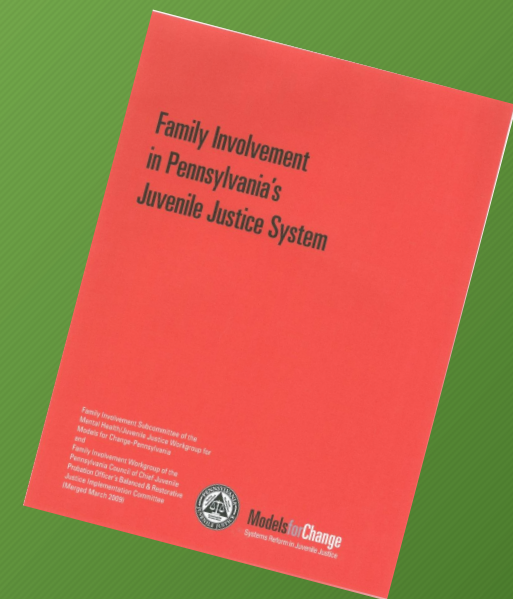




# Family Involvement Monograph (2009)



- Availability & Access to Effective Early Prevention & Intervention:  
*Families may have history of frustration with children's systems.*
- Communicating Respect:  
*Families & practitioners alike hold respect as key to engagement.*
- Juvenile Court Policy & Practice:  
*Local juvenile justice departments can improve their family engagement efforts.*
- Statewide Policy & Oversight:  
*State level revision of practice & policy will eliminate barriers to engagement & increase capacity for proactive & effective family involvement.*



# Weaving FI Through All JJ Processes

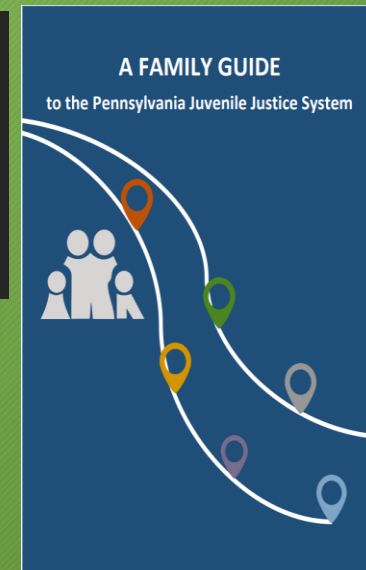


- Building Block
- Professional Alliance
- YLS
- MI
- Case Plan
- Graduated Responses
- Skill transfer to families for long-term behavior change



# Family Guide to PA Juvenile Justice System

- Designed to engage families in a manner that is respectful and supportive.
- Available in English and Spanish, the language and tone is designed to encourage interaction and information sharing.
- Presents information in a readable, clear, and concise manner.
- Color-coded to promote easy understanding of the stages of the process of the juvenile justice system.
- Provides useful resources for families, including an ability to organize important information.
- Provides information from the perspective of what families believe is important to know about Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.



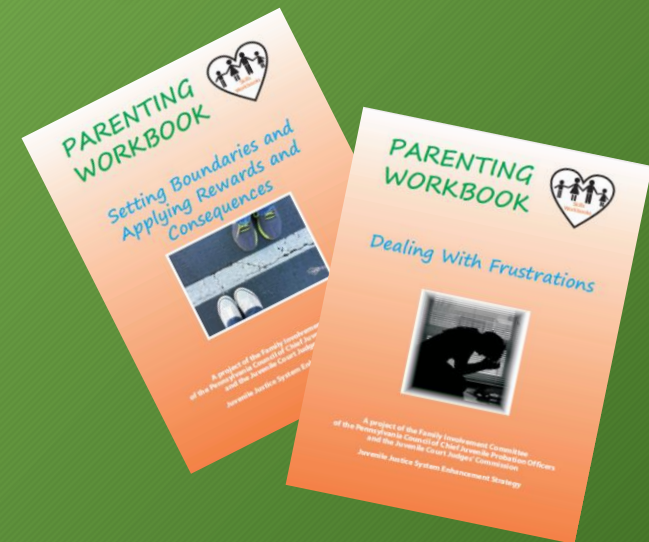


# Parenting Skills Workbooks



A method to:

- Introduce exercises/practices for the purpose of building cognitive skills for caregivers
- Reduce conflict at home thereby addressing the family criminogenic need
- Build stronger families, improve family function
- Reduce recidivism rates; promote public safety
- Enhance youth's ability to achieve his/her goals



# PANEL DISCUSSION



- John Fiscante, Allegheny County Juvenile Probation
- Crystal Karenchak, Family Advocate
- Greg Moore, Lehigh County Juvenile Probation
- Shannon O’Lone, Penn State EPIS

