



## 2023 Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Accomplishments

The Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Leadership Team is proud to share our many accomplishments throughout 2023. The Leadership Team highlights include the JJSES Project and an in-depth list of its year-end accomplishments. Note, peer mentorship is available to assist with JJSES implementation and/or help provide continuous quality improvement (CQI) of JJSES activities.

### Stakeholder Engagement

- The Stakeholder Engagement Starter Kit, including Stakeholder Engagement Practices, Stakeholder Engagement Policy Outline, and two Stakeholder Engagement Policy Examples, was released and posted to the JCJC Strategic Plan dashboard.
- The Evidence-based Practices (EBP) 101 training was revised and subsequently continues to be adapted for use with various stakeholders and presentation formats by mid-2024.
- The Stage 1 Committee continued its efforts with stakeholder engagement by growing its membership to include representatives from the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers' (PCCJPO) Community Engagement and Family Engagement Committees.
- A proposal focused on educational stability was submitted to and approved by the Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services for presentation at their 2024 Annual Conference.

### Family Engagement

- The committee was renamed from "Family Involvement" to "Family Engagement." Family Involvement suggests families participate in activities predetermined for them whereas Family Engagement recognizes that families should be part of the decision-making process.
- The committee continued its efforts to grow its membership to include members with lived experience within the juvenile justice system.
- A shift in the committee's approach focused on retraining all things family engagement such as the basics of what family engagement means within the JJSES framework and how to utilize existing resources to engage families actively and effectively.
- The PCCJPO Family Engagement Committee developed an in-person workshop scheduled for 2024.

### Victim Awareness

- An assessment of the Impact of Crime Curriculum for Juvenile Offenders was completed by the PCCJPO Victim Awareness Committee. That assessment led to revisions and updates to the curriculum. The curriculum's rollout is expected in 2024.

### Motivational Interviewing (MI)

- 160 juvenile probation officers are MI coaches. MI was supported by two MI Coaches Forums with 23 participants and MI 101 with 18 participants.

## Youth Level of Service™ (YLS) and Case Planning

- 220 juvenile probation officers are certified YLS Master Trainers. The YLS was supported by a Master Trainer Certification workshop with 14 participants certified as YLS Master Trainers and three Master Trainer Recertifications with 85 participants, 52 participants, and 9 participants recertified, respectively.
- 137 juvenile probation officers are case plan coaches.
- The YLS User Ratings Guide was updated.
- The YLS policy adherence study was utilized to guide policy refinement in juvenile probation departments.
- A Pennsylvania-specific YLS validation study was initiated.
- A comprehensive online training titled “Case Planning Fundamentals” was developed.
- Case planning was supported by a Case Planning 101 workshop with 72 participants.
- The format of YLS Master Trainer and Case Plan Coordinator calls was modified. The calls are now Learning Community Meetings hosted via the Microsoft Teams collaboration platform.

## Child Trauma Screen (CTS) and Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument: Version Two (MAYSI~2)

- 265 MAYSI licenses are assigned to juvenile probation officers in 45 counties.
- 43 juvenile probation officers are trained CTS coaches.
- 22 counties have accessed the CTS training curriculum made available via the Brainier Learning Management System (LMS). Additional advancements include peer mentorship to support the curriculum’s implementation, development of policy and practices, and ongoing technical assistance.
- 2 CTS/MAYSI~2 Learning Community Meetings were held with 25 participants and 29 participants, respectively.
- A validation study was begun to learn if the established CTS cut score captures justice-involved youth clinically known to have trauma in Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system.
- The CTS/MAYSI~2 Steering Committee continues to advance trauma screening education and mental health assessment education and to promote the use of the CTS and MAYSI~2 during the intake process.

## Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI)

- 63 juvenile probation officers are trained as PaDRAI coaches.
- A second validation study of the PaDRAI was initiated.

## Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS)

- 431 juvenile probation officers have completed EPICS training. Twenty-three of these 431 juvenile probation officers participated in EPICS training during 2023. Two EPICS workshops for juvenile probation officers were held with 7 participants from 4 different counties and 16 participants from 7 different counties, respectively.
- 114 juvenile probation officers are trained as EPICS Internal Coaches, including 10 new Internal Coaches. Eighteen (18) Internal Coaches participated in the EPICS Train the Trainer (TOT) Certification program. Twelve (12) EPICS TOTs took part in coding EPICS session tapes to promote skill building and fidelity, and 29 EPICS session tapes were coded by the EPICS TOTs.



- The EPICS Steering Committee continues to support quality EPICS implementation, expansion, and continuous quality improvement (CQI).

## Graduated Responses (GR)

- 2 Peer Mentor Learning Community Meetings were held, and participants received program updates, technical assistance, and support. The statewide Peer Training Network includes 19 GR peer mentors. Additionally, 2 coaching sessions for GR coordinators were held with 36 participants and 46 participants, respectively.
- A prototype GR policy was finalized.
- A GR Advisory standard was finalized and adopted.
- Pennsylvania's GR system was presented during the American Probation and Parole Association's Regional Training Institute in Philadelphia.
- A GR and a GR-Technical Assistance Mentorship (GR-TAM) overview handouts were developed and distributed at the 2023 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice. Also, the GR Steering Committee hosted a table at the conference's Resource Day.
- An online training titled "Adolescent Development and Juvenile Probation" was developed in partnership with Dr. Naomi Goldstein and released via the Brainier LMS.

## Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol™ (SPEP)

- 636 SPEP informed stakeholders and 50 SPEP certified staff, i.e., Level 1, 2, or 3 trainers, are in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.
- 20 SPEP service implementations occurred in a residential setting, 13 SPEP service implementations occurred in a community-based setting, and 1 SPEP service implementation occurred in both a community-based and residential setting.
- 11 SPEP baseline assessments were completed. Forty-five percent (5 out of 11) were rated as having "High Quality of Service Delivery." Fourteen SPEP reassessments were completed. Fifty percent (7 out of 14) had both the Basic and Program Optimization Percentage Scores increase between the baseline and current reassessment, 21% (3 out of 14) had the Quality of Service Delivery increase between the baseline and current reassessment, and 57% (8 out of 14) sustained "High Quality of Service Delivery" between the baseline and current reassessment. Nine "Other" SPEP assessments were completed. Thirty-three percent (3 out of 9) were rated as having "High Quality of Service Delivery."
- Quarterly SPEP Advisory Group Meetings were held.
- A SPEP revalidation study was initiated.
- Professional development regarding the SPEP included a Level 1 SPEP Specialist Training with 9 participants from 5 counties; quarterly SPEP Level 2 Trainer: Process Development Group Meetings; 3 SPEP Learning Community Meetings; 3 SPEP Informed Community Meetings; a SPEP Combine, which brought together the SPEP Learning and SPEP Informed Communities for education and collaboration; 7 provider-focused SPEP Informed Trainings; 8 juvenile probation-focused SPEP Informed Trainings. Overall, 6 new counties initiated a department wide SPEP Informed Training, and 150 juvenile probation officers participated in a SPEP Informed Training.
- Various resources were developed and refined to support SPEP, including a Service Impact Map to better connect the components of Organizational Response to Drift and Quality of Service Delivery, the EPIS

Service Development and Implementation Manual to support providers in better manualizing their services, and Feedback Reports to include county-specific data when multiple counties are represented in a SPEG cohort. (All Level 1 counties receive a copy of the Feedback Report if they had referred youth that were included in the cohort.)

- Various additional infographics were designed to share project-related data with stakeholders, including quarterly articles printed in the JCJC's Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice newsletter.
- The rollout of strategic Regional Assist implementations of community-based services continued in partnership with multiple juvenile probation departments.
- The EPISCenter hosted a table at the 2023 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice's Resource Day.

## Refinement

- 22 county CQI assessments were completed to assist juvenile probation departments with prioritizing their CQI efforts.
- 6 logic models were created outlining the fundamental tenets of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system: accountability, community safety, competency development, professional development, data-driven decision making, and EBP.
- The development of a standardized CQI Position package was completed, including a job description template for a JJSES CQI position, a companion document with non-JJSES CQI-specific position language, and a performance appraisal template for statewide use.
- The services screen in the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System was refined.
- The construction of a standardized EBP service contract template for statewide use was begun.

## Racial/Ethnic Disparities (R/ED)

- An article about community outreach and R/ED in recognition of Black History Month was printed in the JCJC's Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Newsletter.
- Training and other materials related to implicit bias and cultural competency are in development by Racial and Equity Specialists from Allegheny County and Philadelphia County.
- Community events, including the Historically Black Colleges & Universities Festival, were shared during the PCCJPO's General Membership Meetings.
- A R/ED statement of purpose was created and included in the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Strategic Plan on the JCJC Strategic Plan dashboard and PCCJPO website.

## James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

- 838 attendees were onsite for the 2023 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice.

## PCCJPO Website for JJSES and Other Juvenile Justice Resources

- The design, access, and navigability to available JJSES and other juvenile justice resources, documents, and contacts was improved, including a link to the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Strategic Plan.



## Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Strategic Plan and Infrastructure

- The 36th Annual Strategic Planning Session was held at Seven Springs Mountain Resort on June 7-9, 2023. A presentation summarized the findings of the CQI Consultant's work, a discussion involved how Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system defines and measures "implementation", and an activity was facilitated to prioritize various juvenile justice system priorities. Also, work was done to develop a 5-year strategic plan that will promote advanced engagement by all counties in the sustainability of the JJSES.