



PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Volume 30, Number 9

September 2019

AFTERNOON PLENARY SPEAKER ANNOUNCED JUDGE JOHN M. CLELAND

“REMEMBERING ‘KIDS FOR CASH:’ NEVER AGAIN? LET’S BE SURE”



In August 2009, the Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice (ICJJ) was created through the cooperative efforts of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the Legislature, and the Governor to investigate what came to be known as the “kids for cash” scandal and to make recommendations for improvements in Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system.

The eleven member Commission held eleven days of public hearings and heard from more than sixty witnesses before issuing its report. They made forty-three recommendations addressed to all three branches of government. As a result, new statutes, rules of court and administrative procedures were adopted with the intention of preventing what occurred in Luzerne County from occurring again in the juvenile justice system in Pennsylvania.

During this session, Commission Chair Judge John M. Cleland will look back on the events that took place a decade ago, and look forward to remind us of lessons learned and lessons not to be forgotten. Commission members and others directly involved in its work will participate in a discussion regarding their experiences and the subsequent impact these events have had on Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system.

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Registration Open!!

Click this banner or visit:

<https://www.jcjcjems.state.pa.us/CPS/ConferenceDefault.aspx> to register.

SAVE *the* DATE

Harrisburg Hilton and Towers
NOVEMBER
6-8, 2019

2019 James E. Anderson
PENNSYLVANIA
CONFERENCE
ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

SAMUEL E. MILLER, JR. RETIRES AS CHIEF JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER

On September 3, 2019, Samuel E. Miller, Jr. retired as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of Cumberland County. Sam began his career with Blair County Juvenile Probation in November of 1976 where he worked as a Juvenile Probation Officer. In July of 1978, he resigned to join the United States Army where he served for 3 years until August of 1981. In August of 1981, Sam was hired by the Camp Hill Borough Police Department and served as a patrolman until being hired with the Cumberland County Juvenile Probation Office in December of 1983. He was promoted to a Probation Officer II in June of 1998 and to Probation Officer Supervisor in July of 2001. Sam was appointed to Cumberland County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in August of 2004 by President Judge George E. Hoffer.

Serving as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Cumberland County Sam was involved in leadership at both the state and local levels. He was instrumental in developing and implementing the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) and converting Cumberland County into an evidence-based department. Sam has been a leader in Pennsylvania in Juvenile Justice for the last 15 years and has served as a member, committee chair, and President (2012-2013) of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. Additionally, Sam was an integral member of the JJSES Leadership Team. Sam's vision for an evidence-based department in Cumberland County has been accomplished. Sam's achievements over the last 15 years are too many to mention as he was a change agent for both statewide juvenile justice and the Cumberland County Juvenile Probation Department. In 2014 Samuel E. Miller, Jr. was recognized as the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of the year.

In 2010 Sam helped to establish the Hoffer Scholarship to benefit youth of Cumberland County that have been involved with the department to assist with college tuition over their 4 year college career. Sam has given over 36 years of his life to the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System and his presence both in Cumberland County and statewide will be missed.

Mr. Andrew S. Benner has been appointed as the new Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Cumberland County.



Pictured from left to right:
Russ Carlino and Samuel
Miller

ADDITIONAL COUNTIES SEND JUVENILE PROBATION STAFF TO BE TRAINED TO IMPLEMENT THE SPEP™

JJSES Stage 3 SPEP™ activity continues to expand as more counties commit to have juvenile probation staff trained to implement the SPEP™. On September 12th and 13th, 2019, eleven juvenile probation staff from seven Pennsylvania counties received the initial training as Level 1 SPEP™ Specialists. Lawrence and Philadelphia Counties sent staff to begin implementing the SPEP™ and Dauphin, Erie, McKean, Lebanon, and York Counties sent additional staff to build their existing capacity in implementing the SPEP™.

There are now more than 29 juvenile justice practitioners certified by Vanderbilt University to implement the SPEP™ in Pennsylvania and 21 probation staff are currently in the training process. In order to receive certification as a SPEP™ Specialist, trainees will also participate in shadowing experiences in the field and

co-facilitate meetings as part of their training requirements. The Level 1 SPEP™ Specialist certification process takes approximately 12-18 months to complete.

The SPEP™ is a validated, data-driven assessment tool used to determine how well the characteristics of an existing service match research evidence for that type of intervention. The SPEP™ is based on a meta-analysis conducted by Dr. Mark Lipsey of Vanderbilt University of more than 700 research studies of programs designed to reduce recidivism. Pennsylvania was one of the first states to pilot the SPEP™ beginning with Berks County's participation in the Juvenile Justice System Improvement Project through Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice System Reform in 2011.

In 2013, the pilot expanded to include Allegheny, Bucks, Dauphin, and Lehigh Counties. In 2014, Pennsylvania became the first state to have Vanderbilt University certify Level 2 SPEP™ Trainers and has served as a model implementation site for the SPEP™. In 2015, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Venango, and York Counties joined the project. Lebanon County was included at the request of the JJSES Leadership Team in 2017. In 2018, Erie, Franklin, Lancaster, and Montgomery Counties sent probation staff to be trained to implement the SPEP™.

In 2019, Level 3 Master SPEP™ Trainers from the Penn State EPISCenter trained three Level 2 SPEP™ Trainers from Allegheny, Berks, and Lebanon Counties to train juvenile probation staff as Level 1 SPEP™ Specialists. There are six Level 2 SPEP™ Trainers in Pennsylvania from Allegheny (1), Berks (2), Dauphin (1), Lebanon (1), and Lehigh (1) Counties.



Pictured from left to right in front row: Sue Christner, (Level 2 Trainer – Lebanon), Matt Kline (Lebanon), Ted Memo (Lawrence), Teresa Wilcox (McKean), Bill Cooney (Philadelphia), Regina Trabosh (Philadelphia), Maggie Joyce (Philadelphia), Ashley Woolweaver (EPISCenter), Dawn Hooton (EPISCenter), Shannon O'Lone (EPISCenter), Shawn Peck (EPISCenter – Level 3 Master Trainer). Second row: Joe Gifford (Dauphin), Kevin Perluke (EPISCenter), Bill Keim, (Level 2 Trainer – Berks), Brandon Manifrang (Lawrence), Andrew Guise (York), Alex Hromyak (Erie), Christopher Espinosa (Philadelphia), Lisa Freese (EPISCenter – Level 3 Master Trainer), and Bill Shultz (Level 2 Trainer – Allegheny). Not pictured: Jeff Gregro (Berks – Level 2 Trainer), and Tracie Davies (Lehigh – Level 2 Trainer).

Annual Awards Program

On July 18th, 2019, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's Awards Committee convened in Pittsburgh, PA, to select the recipients of the 2019 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice Annual Awards.

This year's JCJC Awards Committee included Chair, Teresa Wilcox (McKean), Committee Members Bob Blakely (Erie), John Boeckman (Crawford), Michele Howard (Allegheny), Patrick Micco (Lawrence), Kimmy Mulik (Carbon), Diana Munson (Chester), William Rufe (Bucks), and Angela Zera (Luzerne). After much deliberation, the Committee selected the following 2019 Annual Award winners:

Congratulations

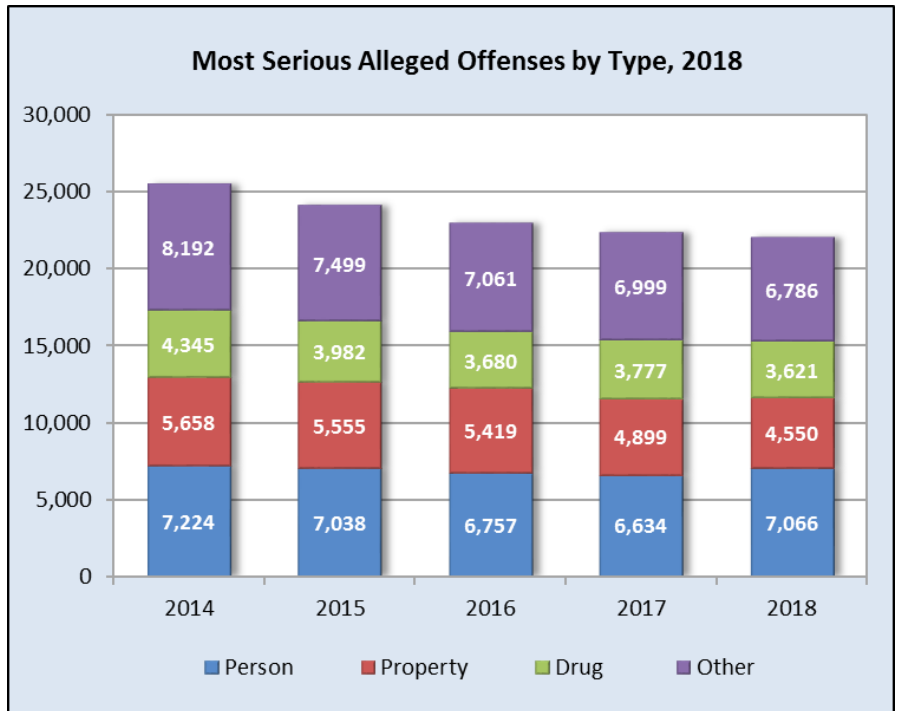
Chief JPO of the Year:	Kathleen McGrath (Franklin County)
Juvenile Probation Supervisor:	David Daniels (Delaware)
Juvenile Probation Officer:	Mary Lynn Bolla (Chester)
Juvenile Court Support Staff:	Michelle Fischer (Montgomery)
Victim Advocate:	Jennifer McCune (Westmoreland)
Meritorious Service:	Darian Colbert (Lehigh)
Court Operated Program:	Dauphin County Diversion Program (Dauphin)
Residential Program:	William's House, Adelphoi Village (Westmoreland)
Community-Based Program:	Community-Based Services, Justice Works Youthcare Inc. (Berks)

JCJC would like to congratulate this year's Annual Award winners, and thank everyone for their submissions. Please join us at this year's Annual Awards Program on November 7th, 2019, at the Harrisburg Hilton & Towers for the awards presentation. For event registration and conference information, please visit www.icjc.pa.gov.

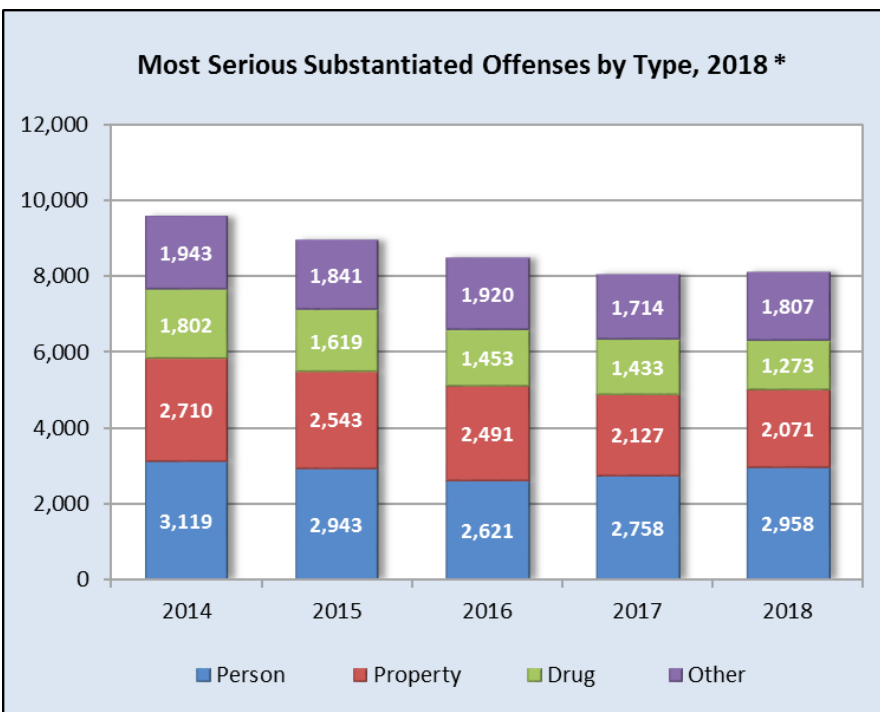
PENNSYLVANIA'S 2018 JUVENILE COURT ANNUAL REPORT

Delinquency Dispositions – Most Serious Alleged and Substantiated Offenses

Most serious alleged offenses* in Pennsylvania have decreased by 1.3% from 2017 to 2018 and have decreased by 13.4% since 2014. The number of alleged offenses within the Property offense category has shown the largest decrease (7.1%) from 2017 to 2018, followed by Drug offenses (4.1%), and “Other” offenses (3.0%). Person offenses increased by 6.5% for this time period. Since 2014, Property offenses have shown the sharpest decline (19.6%). “Other” and Drug offenses have also declined considerably, 17.2% and 16.7%, respectively. Person offenses decreased 2.2% over this five-year time period.



*Most serious alleged offenses are compiled based on the most serious alleged offense for each juvenile delinquency disposition.



Most serious substantiated offenses* in Pennsylvania have increased slightly (<1.0%) from 2017 to 2018. Person offenses increased by 7.3% and “Other” offenses increased by 5.4% from 2017 to 2018. Drug and Property offenses decreased by 11.2% and 2.6%, respectively, for this same time period. The total number of substantiated offenses in 2018 remains well below 2014 levels. Similarly, each category of substantiated offenses (Person, Property, Drug, and “Other”) remained below their respective 2014 levels.

*A substantiated offense is any petitioned offense the court finds the juvenile committed.

County-specific data on Most Serious Alleged and Substantiated Offenses can be found in the appendices of the [Pennsylvania 2018 Juvenile Court Annual Report](#).

THE KEYSTONE LOGIN INITIATIVE

The Keystone Login Initiative requires that all new applications created by agencies that fall under the Governor's Jurisdiction will need to incorporate the Keystone Login into their application.

What is Keystone Login?

Keystone Login is an account management system for Commonwealth online services. You can use your Keystone Login username and password to log into any online service that participates in Keystone Login.

What does Keystone Login provide?

- Account Creation and Management
- Identity Verification
- Authentication Services and Single Sign-on (sign on once to access multiple applications)
- Risked Based Multi-Factor Authentication (RBMFA)

How does Keystone Login protect my information?

Keystone Login uses modern security and authentication methods to ensure that your information is protected from unauthorized access or use.

It is equally important that Keystone Login users protect their login credentials. For example, do not share them with anyone else, do not write them down and do not use the same username and password for other, unrelated accounts.

What does this mean to us?

When we build the new Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS), or any new application, we will be required to incorporate the Keystone login into the application. By doing this, we are mitigating security risks, verifying identities, and providing a single login to all our applications and other Commonwealth applications that support the Keystone Login. If you have any questions about the Keystone Login Initiative, please contact Mike Tan at 717-477-1746.

REQUEST FOR ONLINE TUTORIAL TOPIC IDEAS FOR PaJCMS



We are looking for your ideas and suggestions for future tutorials that we can create for the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS). These tutorials will be made available to all county probation staff.

Topic suggestions could include: instructions on how to enter specific information, specific items to orient new staff to processes in juvenile justice, or questions that are asked frequently by staff, and should be topics that can be quickly accessed and completed in 20 minutes or less.

Please email suggestions to RA-JCJEVENTS@pa.gov with topics you would like to see developed.

Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Position Announcement

Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is seeking applicants for the position of Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R).

Position Description:

This position is responsible for planning, directing, and coordinating all programs administered at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research including: oversight of the agency's Professional Development and Graduate Education Programs; the agency's Information and Technology Division, including the design and implementation of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System and activities associated with data collection, data analysis, and publication of juvenile court dispositions and other related juvenile justice information. This position also oversees juvenile justice-related research projects and provides technical assistance to juvenile court judges and chief juvenile probation officers.

- Civil Service Permanent Full-Time Position—The examination announcement for this position is available at:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/pabureau/jobs/2563812/director-of-center-for-juvenile-justice-training-and-research?keywords=juvenile%20justice&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>

Qualifications:

Applicants must possess seven years of professional juvenile justice experience which includes five years of experience as a juvenile probation officer and two years in an administrative, supervisory, or professional juvenile court consultative capacity; and a master's degree in Criminal Justice, Criminology, or the Behavioral Sciences.

Please contact Richard D. Steele, JCJC Executive Director, at ricsteele@pa.gov or (717) 787-6910 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Application Deadline: Friday, October 18, 2019



STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

October

- 1 YLS Master Trainer Recertification
State College
- 2 Case Plan Forum
State College
- 9 SPEP™ Informed Training
State College
- 15-16 YLS Master Trainer Certification
State College
- 17 Continuous Quality Improvement Forum
State College

October (continued)

- 22 YLS Master Trainer Recertification
Greensburg

November

- 20-21 Probation Officer Well-Being: Strategies for
Safe Working Environments
State College

Registration available at
www.jcjem.state.pa.us

GIVE BACK!



Dr. Thomas L. Austin Undergraduate Scholarship Fund

We invite you to participate in supporting the Dr. Thomas L. Austin Undergraduate Scholarship Fund. Since 1986, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission has awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to an undergraduate student at Shippensburg University majoring in Criminal Justice. This scholarship is named in honor of Dr. Thomas L. Austin, who taught in the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University from its inception in 1982 until his retirement in 2011. The criteria for this scholarship are academic excellence and an interest in juvenile justice.

Donate to the Juvenile Justice Scholarship Fund today!
<https://tinyurl.com/JJScholarshipFund>



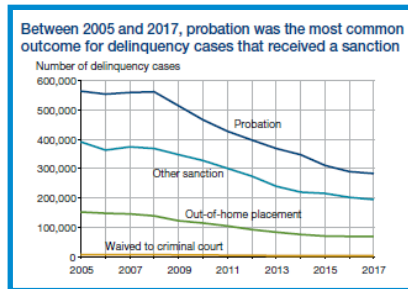
NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OJJDP STATISTICAL BRIEFING BOOK ADDS TWO NEW DATA SNAPSHOTS ON JUVENILES IN COURT

OJJDP has updated its [Statistical Briefing Book](#) to include two new Data Snapshots that draw on data from OJJDP's National Juvenile Court Data Archive:

- [Characteristics and Trends of Delinquency Cases Resulting in Probation](#)
- [Characteristics of Cases Judicially Waived from Juvenile Court to Criminal Court](#)



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

RESOURCES:

- Access the full list of [Data Snapshots](#) available from the Statistical Briefing Book.
- Keep up with the Statistical Briefing Book on [Twitter](#).

ON 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT, ADMINISTRATOR HARP CITES LAW'S IMPACT

In a [video](#) now available on the OJJDP website, Administrator Caren Harp reflects on the 45th anniversary of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJD) Act and its impact on juvenile justice. Signed into law on September 7, 1974, the JJD Act established OJJDP to support local and state efforts to prevent delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system.



Administrator Harp notes that the Office has awarded more than \$11 billion since 1974. Among other achievements, the funding has enabled OJJDP and its partners to make significant strides in preventing child abuse, locating missing and exploited children, implementing interventions for young offenders, and forming effective partnerships with tribal communities.

Administrator Harp also heralds the recent passage of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act. This law reauthorizes the original Act and continues the important work of the Office.

RESOURCES:

- [Watch](#) Administrator Harp's video message.
- Learn more about the [JJD Act](#) and the [Juvenile Justice Reform Act](#).

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS' BLOG DISCUSSES AMBER ALERTS IN INDIAN COUNTRY

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) has posted a new [blog](#) discussing AMBER Alerts in Indian country born out of the tragic abduction and murder of 11-year-old Ashlynn Mike of the Navajo Nation in 2016. The tragedy revealed that American Indian tribes lacked access to the [AMBER Alert system](#) to assist in the recovery of abducted children.



The blog details this summer's National AMBER Alert in Indian Country Symposium, sponsored by OJJDP, where Pamela Foster, Ashlynn's mother, shared her story at the National AMBER Alert Symposium this summer. The blog describes the passage of the Ashlynn Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act and highlights how OJP and OJJDP are working with tribes to integrate AMBER Alerts. Since its inception in 1996, the AMBER Alert program has helped 967 abducted children return home safely.

RESOURCES:

- View and download OJJDP's "[Implementation of the Ashlynn Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act of 2018: A Report to Congress](#)."
- Learn about the OJJDP-supported [AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program](#).
- [Access](#) OJJDP's resources related to missing and exploited children.

OJJDP PROVIDES GRANT TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO GUAM

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention recently visited Guam and provided training and technical assistance on Title II Formula Grants Program (Title II) compliance. States and territories must comply with the [core requirements](#) outlined in the [Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act](#) to receive federal funding under Title II. Grants Management Specialist Tina Borner met with representatives from various agencies within Guam's [Department of Youth Affairs](#) to address challenges faced by Guam and provide training on program management and effective record keeping. Borner stated, "With the new change in administration, we really felt that there was a need to come out and ensure that they really understand what it is that we need in order for them to be successful." [Learn more](#) about this visit.

RESOURCES:

- [Access](#) information about Title II Formula Grants Program.



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OJJDP UPDATES STATISTICAL BRIEFING BOOK

OJJDP has updated its [Statistical Briefing Book](#) (SBB):

- [Easy Access to Juvenile Populations](#) and related FAQs in the [Juvenile Population Characteristics](#) and [Hispanic Youth in the Juvenile Justice System](#) sections have been updated to 2018.
- FAQs in the Juvenile Population Characteristics section have been updated, including [living arrangements](#), [teen moms](#), and [high school completion](#).
- [Easy Access to State and County Juvenile Court Case Counts](#) has been updated to include data through 2017.
- FAQs about school-related violent deaths in the [Juveniles as Victims](#) section have been updated to include 2017 data.
- FAQs about juveniles in adult [jails](#) and [prisons](#) have been updated to include 2017 data.

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:

- Keep up with OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book on [Twitter](#).

OJJDP OBSERVES NATIONAL GANG VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK

President Trump issued a [proclamation](#) recognizing September 15 to 21, 2019, as National Gang Violence Prevention Week. This weeklong observance is dedicated to combating gang violence in communities nationwide. The proclamation supports the Department of Justice's work with state, local, and tribal law enforcement partners to implement Project Safe Neighborhoods, a data-driven, comprehensive violent crime reduction program. OJJDP works to reduce gang violence through research and evaluation, training and technical assistance, demonstration programs and the [National Gang Center](#), co-funded with the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

RESOURCES:

- [View](#) OJJDP's In Focus page on gang violence prevention.
- Learn more about OJJDP's [Comprehensive Gang Model](#).
- View and download "[A Law Enforcement Official's Guide to the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model](#)."
- View and download the "[Gangs in Schools](#)" bulletin.

We Want to Hear from You!

Juvenile Justice Week is October 6 - 12, 2019



Send us photos and information on any Juvenile Justice Week activities in your county and we may highlight them in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

Please send correspondence to ra-oajcnews@pa.gov.

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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