



# PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Volume 32, Number 11

November 2021

## 2021 JAMES E. ANDERSON PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

The 2021 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice, sponsored by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), 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, was held virtually from Wednesday, November 3rd through Friday, November 5th. The conference theme was "Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice: Building Strong Alliances with Youth, Families, Victims, and Communities." The virtual conference included a live awards program, plenary speakers, professional caucuses, workshops, Chief/Provider Forum, and a Judges and Hearing Officer Training. This year, more than 1,000 individuals registered for the virtual conference. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, conference registration was once again free for all participants.

### JCJC Annual Awards Program

On Thursday, November 4, 2021, the 2021 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice hosted the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Awards Program. The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers honored both individuals and programs for their outstanding work in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. Nearly 400 conference attendees tuned in to watch recipients be recognized.

Youth were recognized for being selected as winners in Creative Expression and Outstanding Achievement award categories. Additionally, the Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges presented two deserving youth with the James E. Anderson Juvenile Justice Scholarship. To celebrate the youth award winners and their accomplishments, the event featured a video compilation of the youth award winners answering the question, "What does Moving Forward in Unity mean to you?" In combination with this year's Youth Award theme of Moving Forward in Unity, the Youth Award winners gave thanks to those that supported them along the way and recognized that it is together that they move forward. The video is available to view in the youth awards gallery on the [conference website](#).

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On September 8, 2021, the JCJC Awards Committee convened via video conference to select award recipients. This year's JCJC Awards Committee included Chair, Patrick Micco (Lawrence County), Committee Members Mary Jo Battle (Erie County), Jon Frank (Blair County), Michele Howard (Allegheny County), Kimmy Mulik (Carbon County), Justin Popovich (Bradford County), Amy Warner (Philadelphia County), Abigail Wilson (PCCYFS), Angela Zera (Luzerne County), Angel Stewart (JCJC), and Keysla Rodriguez (JCJC). After much deliberation, please see the Committee's selected 2021 Annual Award winners shown on pages [6](#) and [7](#).

## Juvenile Defender Training

On Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, over 40 juvenile defenders from across Pennsylvania participated in a virtual training developed exclusively for them during the conference. Presentations included: "PA Juvenile Justice Task Force Update & Next Steps, JJD-PA: Latest Updates & Advocacy Tips" presented by Katherine M. Parker, Esquire, Director of Policy, Defender Association of Philadelphia; "Understanding Your Client's IEP in Simple & Easy Terms/Rule 148 - Any successes?" presented by C. Christine Porter, Esquire, Education Attorney, Juvenile Division Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender; and "SCOTUS & Pennsylvania Case Law Update" presented by Steven A. Tehovnik, Esquire, Managing Attorney, Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender. A JDAP General Membership meeting was also held prior to breaking for lunch.

## Professional Caucuses

On Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, participants of the 2021 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice were invited to join with colleagues from within their juvenile justice system area of specialty to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest. Individual caucuses were hosted for chief juvenile probation officers, juvenile probation supervisors, juvenile probation officers, service providers, and victim service providers. A summary of the professional caucus discussion will be included in next month's newsletter.

## Judges & Hearing Officers

On Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, over 80 judges and hearing officers from across the Commonwealth participated in a training event titled: "The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Task Force: Findings, Recommendations, and Next Steps."

Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark, Allegheny County President Judge and Chair of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), offered welcoming remarks to all participants. Richard D. Steele, Executive Director of JCJC, presented an overview of the Juvenile Justice Task Force and facilitated the program. Justine Fowler, Director of Research and Analytics at JCJC, used data to explore the major findings and recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Task Force. Various juvenile court judges contributed to the session as they shared, in detail, innovations related to the Juvenile Justice Task Force recommendations already underway in juvenile courts across the Commonwealth. Areas of focus included diversion, failure to comply and creative alternatives to fines, financial obligations including restitution, the use of the Youth Level of Service (YLS) in the courtroom, alternatives to placement and graduated responses, racial and ethnic disparity, and expungement.

The JCJC extends their appreciation to the following juvenile court judges for their contribution to this session:

- Honorable Michele G. Bononi, Westmoreland County – MDJ Failure to Comply, Creative Alternatives to Fines
- Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark, Allegheny County – Financial Obligations/Restitution & Expungement
- Honorable Michael W. Flannelly, York County – Diversion
- Honorable Angela R. Krom, Franklin/Fulton Counties – YLS in the Courtroom
- Honorable Walter J. Olszewski, Philadelphia County – Alternatives to Placement/Graduated Responses
- Honorable David R. Workman, Lancaster County – Racial and Ethnic Disparity

## Chief/Provider Forum

This year's Chief/Provider Forum focused on topics related to budgeting, contracting, and educational data. Cumberland County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Andrew Benner, opened the forum by welcoming participants and reviewing the agenda for the event. The first half of the forum focused on challenges facing providers and juvenile probation departments with the needs-based budgeting process, with tips and key takeaways provided to assist with this process. This discussion was led by Jay Deppeler, Executive Vice President of Valley Youth House; David Evrard, Assistant Chief, Allegheny County Juvenile Probation; and Dr. Craig Adamson, who oversees CSF Buxmont restorative programs and initiatives.

The second half of the session focused on educational data from the Pennsylvania Academic, Career and Technical Training (PACTT) Alliance, and other data and practices that support the positive work that is being done in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System. Presenters included Abigail Wilson, Manager of Children's Policies and Programs for the Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services (PCCYFS); Russ Zemanek, Director of the Division of Pennsylvania Academic, Career and Technical Training within Pennsylvania's Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services (BJJS); and Dr. Craig Adamson.

## Opening Plenary

### **"One Minute - One Hour - One Day at a Time"**

The opening plenary session explored how administrators, teachers, and other school staff created a school environment conducive to positive youth development. The session featured Mr. James Harris, the Superintendent of the Woodland Hills School District in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

Throughout the session, Mr. Harris used anecdotes and experiences to describe how he and his staff took a school district that was weighed down with behavioral difficulties and a negative community perception and created a culture where students and professionals could thrive. Mr. Harris credits much of this success in his district to establishing a

climate where everyone - staff, students, and community members have a voice, and issues are treated as "teachable moments." The results have been remarkable--since becoming the Superintendent of the Woodland Hills School District, Mr. Harris has led an approach that's resulted in dramatic decreases in negative incidents, as well as increases in student and staff retention, test scores, and graduation rates. Additionally, the greater community has seen decreases in disengagement and violence. Mr. Harris concluded the session by answering questions asked by plenary attendees.

## Workshops

### **A Conversation on Cultural Competency for Juvenile Justice Professionals and Stakeholders**

In this workshop, Marilyn Stein, the owner of MGS Consulting, examined how our core beliefs and personal experiences influence our ability to effectively be with those unlike ourselves. Ms. Stein suggested that, in juvenile justice settings, it is imperative that professionals understand how culture shapes youth behavior and that culture offers strengths in which to build pro-social change.

### **A Conversation on Restorative Justice in Practice**

In this workshop, Krista Rittenhouse, the Director of Restorative Justice at Advoz and Dan Dudenhoefer, a juvenile probation officer in Erie County, explored various avenues to facilitate victim restoration, including a victim-offender dialogue process, as well as how probation departments can use innovative programs that enable juvenile offenders to compensate the victims of their crimes.

### **Advancing Continuous Quality Improvement: A Provider & Probation Partnership**

Scott Walkowski, the Quality Assurance Coordinator at Pathways Adolescent Center, and Julie Bullard, the Juvenile Division Supervisor at the Venango County Juvenile Probation Department, led this workshop which highlighted the quality assurance practices being utilized by residential providers, as well as how a probation/provider partnership can enhance these activities.

## **Best Practices to Intervene and Advocate for Autistic Youth in the Juvenile Justice System**

Kate Hooven, the Justice System Project Coordinator for ASERT (Autism Services, Education, Resources and Training); Lindy Mishler, a Clinical Consultant for the Bureau of Supports for Autism and Special Populations, Office of Developmental Programs; and William F. Ward, an attorney with Rothman Gordon, P.C. and a former Common Pleas Judge in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, facilitated this workshop which provided an introduction to autism as well as resources for helping autistic youth and their families navigate Pennsylvania's complex justice system.

## **Competency Development: The Pennsylvania Academic, Career and Technical Training Project (PACTT) Overview and Public Reports**

In this session, Russell Zemanek, the Director of the Division of Pennsylvania Academic, Career and Technical Training within Pennsylvania's Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services (BJJS), and Roger Chu, a Senior Research Analyst and Research Systems Developer at Research for Action (RFA) provided an overview of the Pennsylvania Academic, Career and Technical Training (PACTT) project and the agency-specific public reports that will become available starting in 2021. These new reports provide an opportunity to gather Pennsylvania specific information related to employment, job training, and academic services provided to adjudicated youth.

## **Implementing Graduated Responses in Juvenile Courts and Juvenile Probation Departments**

This session provided details on graduated response systems in juvenile justice. First, Dr. Naomi Goldstein, Professor of Psychology, Co-Director of the JD/PhD Program in Law and Psychology, and Director of the Juvenile Justice Research and Reform (JJR&R) Lab at Drexel University, provided an overview of graduated response systems as a developmentally informed, research-based approach to enhancing youth success on probation and long-term wellbeing. Second, a panel consisting of Andrew S. Benner, the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Cumberland County; Lisa Pema Harvey, Esq., a Chief in the Juvenile Branch of the First Judicial District,

Court of Common Pleas, Family Court Division (Philadelphia County); Sue Christner, the Deputy Director of Lebanon County Juvenile Probation Services; and Danielle Crampton, a Juvenile Probation Officer in Chester County, answered questions regarding their experiences with graduated responses, including system development and implementation, challenges, benefits, collaboration and supports needed, and quality assurance.

## **Exploring the Phenomenon of Social Media Addiction**

This workshop discussed the phenomenon of social media addiction. Presenter Devon Petrusky led participants in a discussion on the topic of technology addiction, including an overview of why this is occurring, the collateral problems associated with it, how violence plays into media addiction, our tolerance for media, and the issues we are seeing in terms of delinquency-related behaviors online.

## **Improving Youth Outcomes Through Data-Driven Decision Making: The First Match Program**

This session, presented by Shawn Peck, Vice President of FirstMatch® at Adelphi Innovative Solutions; David Evrard, an Assistant Chief for the Allegheny County Juvenile Court; Michael McCartin, a Supervisor at the Lancaster County Probation Department; and Stacey Wellman, an Implementation Specialist with the FirstMatch® team, highlighted how several Pennsylvania Counties are working to implement FirstMatch®--an admissions software solution that uses predictive analytics to help identify the most appropriate program for specific youth. The session explored how counties are using FirstMatch® with community-based service providers to advance data-driven decision making, evaluate effectiveness of services, identify service gaps, and improve outcomes.

## **Ten Years of the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol in Pennsylvania: Past, Present, and Future**

This workshop, facilitated by Jeff Gregro, a Deputy Chief in Berks County; Kris Glunt, the SPEP™ Project Manager at EPIS; Lisa Freese, a SPEP™ Implementa-

tion Specialist at EPIS; and Christa Park, the SPEP™ Data Manager at EPIS, featured an overview of the history and status of SPEP™ implementation in Pennsylvania, as well as key data points from a recent validation study. Additionally, participants heard from probation officers and service providers on the value and impact that SPEP™ has had on their work. Finally, the session concluded with an outline of the project's future vision, which is centered around statewide saturation and engagement through the minimization of participation barriers.

### **The Role of Organizational Context and Culture in the Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices**

Dr. Brian Lovins, a Principal for Justice System Partners, facilitated this session which provided participants with a clear understanding of what characteristics must be present within an organization to effectively implement any evidence-based practices. Specifically, participants were challenged to consider a new identity for juvenile justice professionals - one of coach.

### **Understanding Adolescent Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues**

In this workshop, members of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officer's SOGIE (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Expression) Committee provided an overview of information related to the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) community, and offered basic education for juvenile justice professionals regarding language issues, LGBTQ youth and mental health/trauma, and the overwhelming rate of suicide among LGBTQ youth. Presenters of this session included: April Billet-Barclay, the Director of Probation Services in York County; youth counselor, Melissa Perkins; and Megan Mullen, a juvenile probation officer in Berks County.

## **Closing Plenary**

### **“Leading With Purpose: The Hidden Part of Evidence-Based Practices Implementation”**

Dr. Brian Lovins, PhD, a Principal for Justice System Partners delivered the closing plenary entitled, Leading with Purpose: The Hidden Part of Evidence-Based Practices Implementation. Dr. Lovins' thought-provoking address focused on creating an organizational culture that allows evidence-based practices to flourish. Much of Dr. Lovins' address encouraged participants to begin to think of themselves as coaches rather than referees. Dr. Lovins suggested that a coaching model center professionals around change and success. In contrast, referees are generally concerned with compliance with rules and have little stake in outcomes. Dr. Lovins discussed practical ways that juvenile justice professionals can focus on the purpose of the work they do--to help court-involved youth be successful, and, in turn, help communities grow.

## **Virtual Exhibitor Gallery**

Available throughout the entire conference was the Virtual Exhibitor Gallery featuring 28 different providers highlighting public and private residential and community-based programs, technological products, and other relevant services available to the juvenile courts in Pennsylvania. Each provider was able to place organization information, including their logo, website address, and contact information. Attendees were able to access this valuable information and contact them at any time throughout the event.

**SAVE the DATE! SAVE the DATE! SAVE the DATE! SAVE the DATE! SAVE the DATE!**

Thank you for making this year's virtual conference a huge success! The 2022 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice is scheduled to be held on **November 2-4, 2022.**

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission congratulates all of the

## 2021 Award Winners

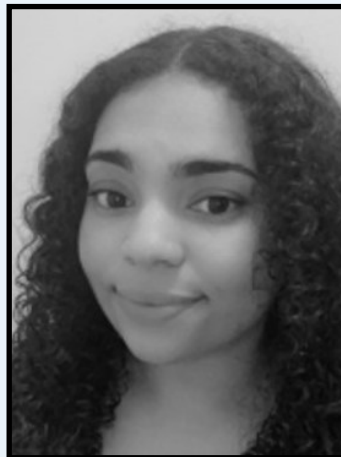


OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD  
Hon. Carol L. Van Horn



DENNIS M. MALONEY AWARD  
Elizabeth A. Fritz

DR. ANTHONY F. CEDDIA  
AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING  
SCHOLARSHIP IN JUVENILE  
JUSTICE  
Damon A. Jones  
Allegheny County



DR. THOMAS L. AUSTIN  
UNDERGRADUATE  
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD  
Alexis Clark  
Montgomery County



COURT OPERATED  
PROGRAM OF THE YEAR  
Joseph Gifford  
Reel In Success  
Dauphin County

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM OF  
THE YEAR  
Ian Bialo  
Pathways Adolescent Center



*Congratulations!*

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission congratulates all of the

## *2021 Award Winners*



COMMUNITY-BASED  
PROGRAM OF THE YEAR  
Jeremias Garcia  
Center Point Day Treatment Program



VICTIM ADVOCATE  
OF THE YEAR  
Mary Beth Collins  
Allegheny County

JUVENILE COURT SUPPORT  
SERVICE AWARD  
Celene Barno  
Allegheny County



JUVENILE PROBATION  
OFFICER OF THE YEAR  
Bernard D. Rendler  
Dauphin County



JUVENILE PROBATION  
SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR  
Angela Mackley  
Franklin County

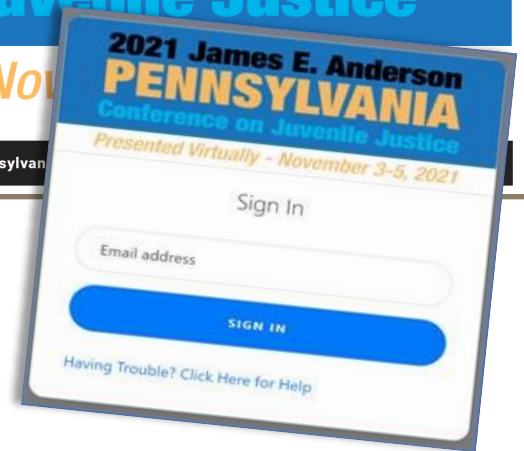
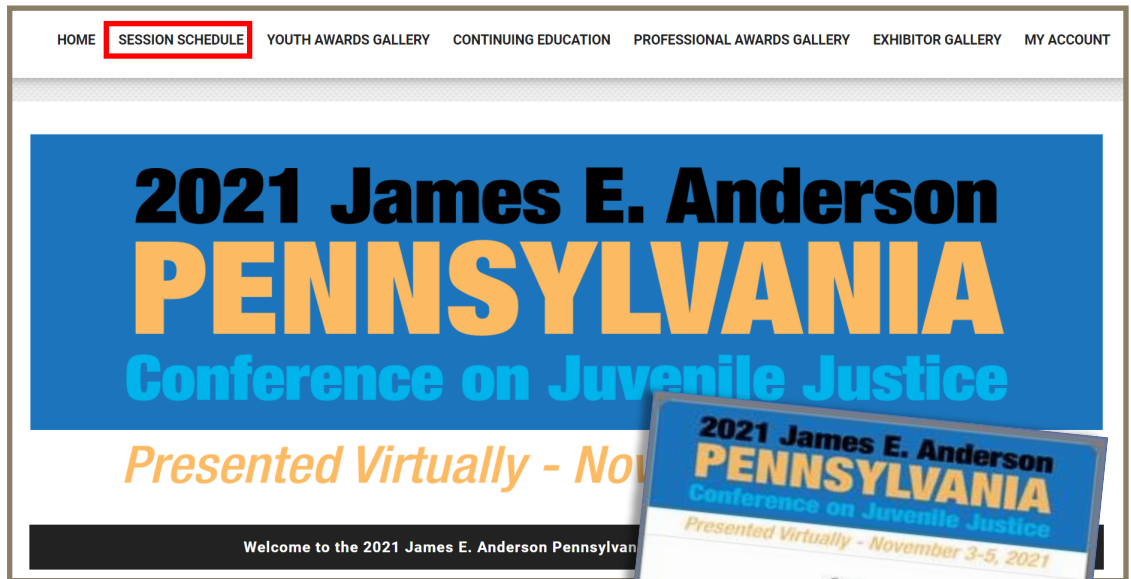
CHIEF JUVENILE PROBATION  
OFFICER OF THE YEAR  
Teresa Wilcox  
McKean County



*Congratulations!*

# 2021 JAMES E. ANDERSON PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING

As an attendee of the virtual conference held on November 3rd - 5th, 2021, you have access to view events that you wanted to attend, but couldn't. These events will be available to view for a year on the conference website at <https://jcc-conference2021.secure-platform.com/a/organizations/main/home>. Simply click on the SESSION SCHEDULE tab and you'll be redirected to a Sign In page. Enter the email address you used for registration, click "Sign In", and you will receive an email that will include a "Login Link for Your Conference" (please be sure to check your junk mail if you do not receive it). Click on this link and you will be provided access to the secure conference site. Navigate to the Session that you are interested in and a video will be available for viewing on the Session Detail page.



Would you like to view the events but weren't able to register and attend the conference? You can still register and view the events for a year by emailing [ra-jcicevents@pa.gov](mailto:ra-jcicevents@pa.gov). This is the first step to getting access to the recorded content.

Also, still available for viewing are the Awards and Exhibitors pages. Click on either the YOUTH AWARDS or PROFESSIONAL AWARDS tabs to view the winners and their submissions. Navigate to the EXHIBITORS tab to take advantage of the opportunity to learn about new, innovative, and creative approaches to working with juveniles and their families, or use the available contact information to connect with a representative.

Thanks to Our Sponsors





## MIKE YODER JOINS JCJC STAFF



The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is pleased to announce that Michael (Mike) Yoder has joined the staff on November 22, 2021, as a Juvenile Court Consultant. In this role, he will be responsible for conducting annual court service visits to review department policies, practices, and statistics, as well as to observe courtroom procedures, providing technical assistance and advice to juvenile court judges and chief juvenile probation officers, and will represent the agency on various statewide committees and activities.

Mike has been employed over the past 32 years with Montgomery County Juvenile Probation Department, most recently as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer.

Mike retired from Montgomery County in March 2021. While employed by Montgomery County, Mike was responsible for the implementation and administration of all JJSES activities. He was actively involved with the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, acting as the Chairman of the Technology Committee, a member of the Prevention/Diversion Committee, and the Ethics Committee. Mike was a YLS Master Trainer, Carey Guides Trainer, and has been trained in the EPICS model, BITs, BRIEFcase and the Child Trauma Screen.

Mike obtained his Bachelor's Degree from Shippensburg University in Criminal Justice, and his Master's Degree in Administration of Justice, with a focus on Juvenile Justice, also from Shippensburg University. He can be reached at 717-705-9006 or at [michaeyoder@pa.gov](mailto:michaeyoder@pa.gov).



## COUNTY SPOTLIGHT



## TROY FREEMAN APPOINTED CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER IN TIOGA COUNTY

On August 3, 2021, Troy Freeman was appointed as the Tioga County Chief Probation Officer. Troy replaces David Stager, who retired on August 2, 2021.

Troy received his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Mansfield University. Troy served as a Juvenile and Adult Probation Officer for 15 years with Tioga County before being promoted to a supervisor position. After serving as Juvenile and Adult Probation Supervisor for seven years, Troy was promoted to the Deputy Chief of both Juvenile and Adult Probation in Tioga County. He remained in the position of Deputy Chief until his recent appointment as Chief Probation Officer.



As the newly appointed Tioga County Chief Probation Officer, Troy is looking forward to collaborating with other leaders in the field as they support the mission of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.

## CARBON COUNTY WELCOMES CHIEF JOSEPH GRECO



On October 4, 2021, Joseph Greco was appointed as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Carbon County by the Honorable Roger N. Nanovic, President Judge.

Mr. Greco joined the Carbon County Juvenile Probation Department in August of 1995 after a short period of employment at the Carbon County Correctional Facility. During his years of service with Carbon County Juvenile Probation, he has been involved in numerous projects within the office, including school-based probation, coordinating community service work/restitution programs, electronic monitoring, and the implementation of a juvenile fire-setter intervention program. Mr. Greco was recognized as the *Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year* in 2013 at the

Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice.

Mr. Greco is an active volunteer firefighter and presently serves as the Fire Chief for the American Fire Company #1 in Lansford, PA. Mr. Greco is a certified State Fire Instructor and an American Red Cross instructor. Consequently, he has served as Carbon County’s “in-house” trainer for annual CPR/AED/First Aid Training since 1996.

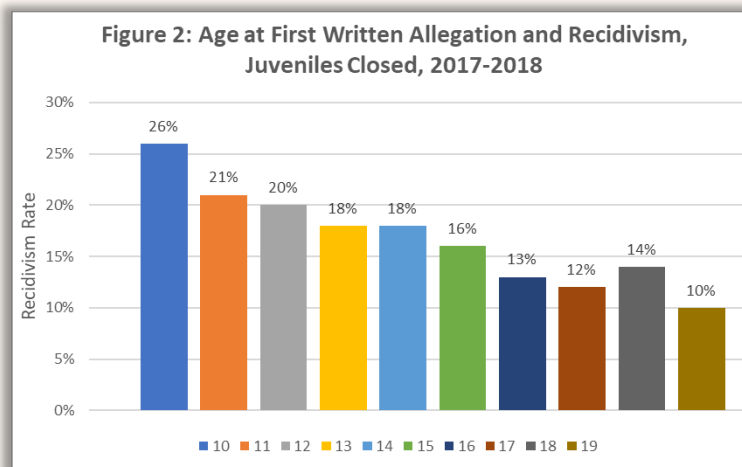
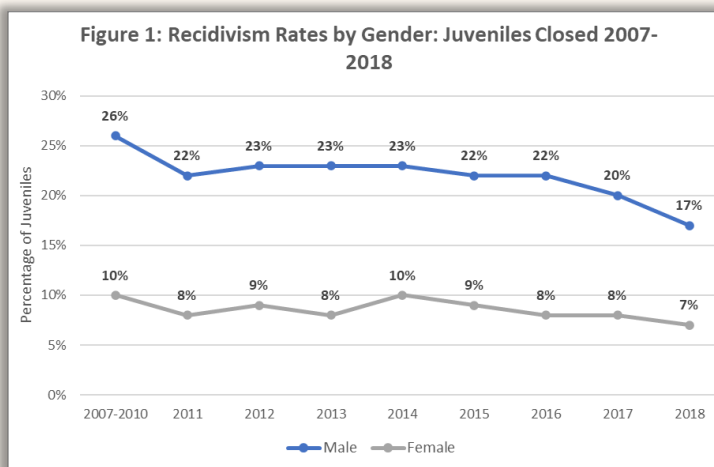
Mr. Greco holds a bachelor’s degree in Sociology/Criminal Justice from East Stroudsburg University. In addition, he earned his Master of Science degree in Administration of Justice in 1999 through the JCJC sponsored Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University. Mr. Greco resides in Lansford, PA with his wife of 26 years, Mary Ellen, their three children, Anthony (22), Thomas (19), Lucy (15), and their dog Sandy.

## PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE RECIDIVISM REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

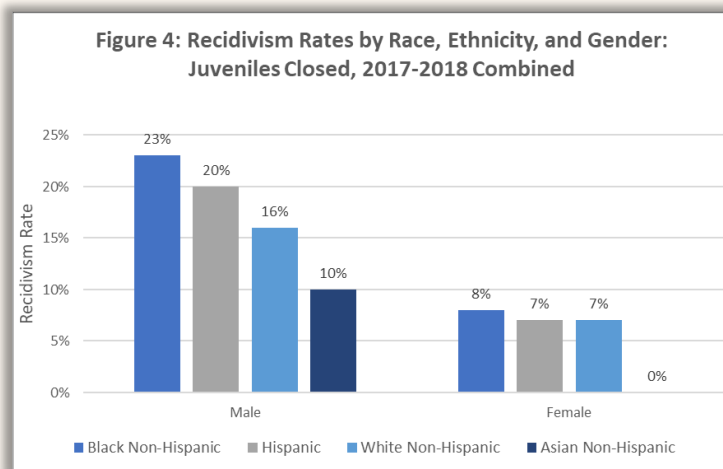
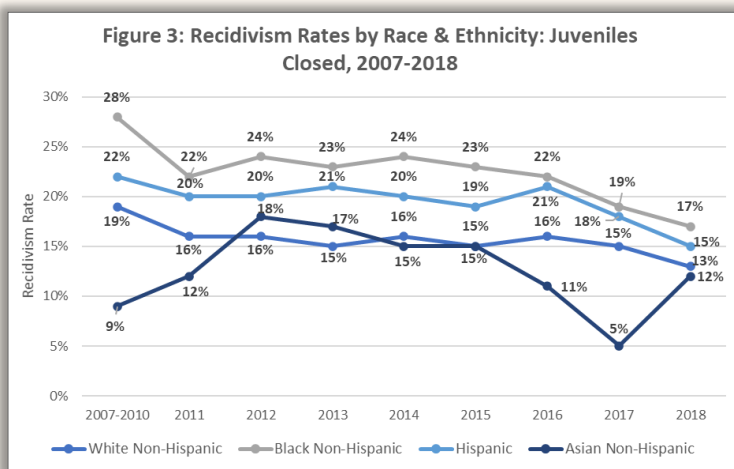
In September, the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC) released its seventh recidivism report, entitled: *The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report: Juveniles Closed 2007-2018*. The current study updates the analysis of recidivism trends and predictors to include juveniles closed in 2017 and 2018. This report is part of Pennsylvania’s longstanding effort to measure the impact of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) on recidivism and other youth outcomes. Data for this project was compiled from the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Court’s (AOPC) Common Pleas Case Management System (CPCMS). Recidivism is defined as: A subsequent delinquency adjudication in juvenile court or conviction in criminal court for either a misdemeanor or felony offense within two years of case closure.

This is Part 3 of a four-part series meant to highlight key findings from this report. Part 3 examines trends in the demographic characteristics of juveniles closed between 2007 and 2018 and how those characteristics relate to recidivism. To review a copy of the full report, please visit: [www.jcjc.pa.gov](http://www.jcjc.pa.gov).

- Consistent with prior recidivism reports and criminological research findings, the strongest predictors of recidivism for juveniles closed in 2017 and 2018 were gender and age.
  - As Figure 1 shows, over the last twelve years, males have consistently recidivated at a much higher rate than females.
    - In 2017, 20% of males recidivated compared to 8% of females. In 2018, 17% of males recidivated compared to 7% of females.
  - As Figure 2 illustrates, juveniles closed in 2017-2018 whose first written allegation occurred at a younger age were more likely to recidivate than juveniles whose first written allegation occurred at an older age.
    - Twenty-six percent of juveniles whose first written allegation was at age 10 recidivated compared to 12% of those whose first allegation was at age 17 and 14% of those who were age 18 at the time of their first allegation.



- Consistent with prior recidivism reports, for juveniles closed in 2017 and 2018, race/ethnicity was not as strongly correlated with recidivism compared to gender and age (see Figure 3).
  - As Figure 4 shows, racial/ethnic differences in recidivism for juveniles closed in 2017-2018 were greater for males than for females, consistent with findings presented in the last recidivism report.<sup>1</sup>
    - Among males, 23% of Black Non-Hispanic, 20% of Hispanic, 16% of White Non-Hispanic, and 10% of Asian Non-Hispanic youth recidivated.
    - Among females, 8% of Black Non-Hispanic, 7% of Hispanic, 7% of White Non-Hispanic, and 0% of Asian Non-Hispanic youth recidivated.

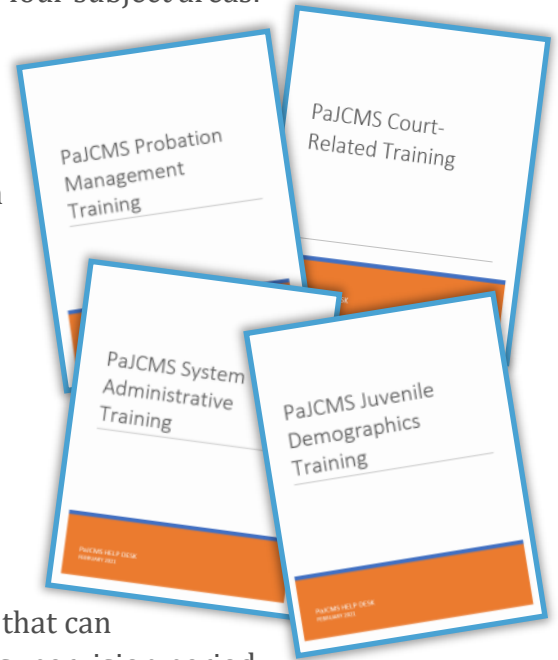


<sup>1</sup>The recidivism rate of Asian Non-Hispanic youth varies greatly likely because of the small number of Asian Non-Hispanic youth included in this study.

## TECHNOLOGY CORNER

Over the years, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) help desk staff have traveled to many counties holding training classes for the PaJCMS (Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System). Since there are currently restrictions on traveling, JCJC has authored several training sessions that can be held virtually via Zoom or Teams. The courses have been broken into four subject areas:

1. **Juvenile Demographics:** This training focuses on juvenile information, addresses, medical information, identifying information, family, and other personal information.
2. **Case and Court-Related Information:** This class focuses on the proper entry of cases, alleged charges, hearings, disposition and other court/disposition-related information. Other items included here would be special conditions and services for a disposition, placements and any information from the court order.
3. **Probation Management Information:** This training is focused on probation officers and tools that assist them while supervising a juvenile. Topics include, YLS, Maysi, Trauma Screening, community service, drug screening, case notes/calendar entries, dashboards, and a wide array of other tools that can be helpful while providing services to a juvenile during their supervision period.
4. **PaJCMS Administrator Training:** This training is geared towards the PaJCMS administrator in a county. This includes creating logins for new employees and assigning permissions. Other tasks here include training on use of the Lookup Table Maintenance screens where new values are added to drop-down boxes that are used throughout PaJCMS. This would include adding Judge and Attorney names to the hearing screen new disposition codes to the disposition screen, and items on the juvenile screen such as hair color, build, and other similar items.



These courses also include instruction on using the report screen in PaJCMS and some tips and tricks for getting the most out of your reports. The reports training may also help you recognize the need for a new report that would simplify your job that currently is not available. If there is a need for a report that currently does not exist in the system, JCJC is able to help customize a report that can be added to your reports menu under the customized heading. There are often letters, reports, and forms needed by counties that are very specific to a county and we can help create those.

At some point, most counties within the state knew of these services offered by JCJC. However, over the years with staff turnover, it's always good to remind everyone of the services we offer with regards to trainings and reports.

If you have a need for any of these trainings or to find out more information on a customized report that you may need, please contact the PaJCMS help desk at [RA-JCJCHELPDESK@pa.gov](mailto:RA-JCJCHELPDESK@pa.gov).

If you wish to obtain the classroom material to review on your own before deciding to take a class, please request this through the help desk email.

# PENNSYLVANIA'S 2020 JUVENILE COURT ANNUAL REPORT

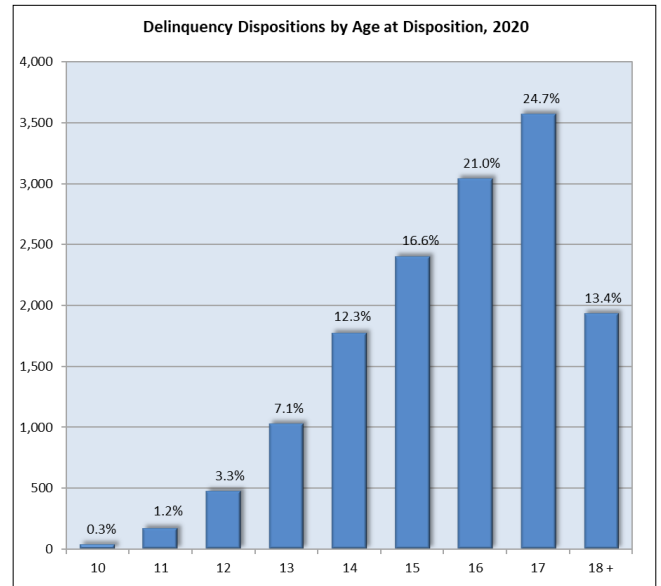
## Juvenile Demographics

As we wrap up the series of newsletter highlights on the Pennsylvania 2020 Juvenile Court Annual Report, this issue examines the juvenile demographics, including gender, age, educational status, family status, living arrangement, and race/ethnicity of juveniles who were active with Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice in 2020.

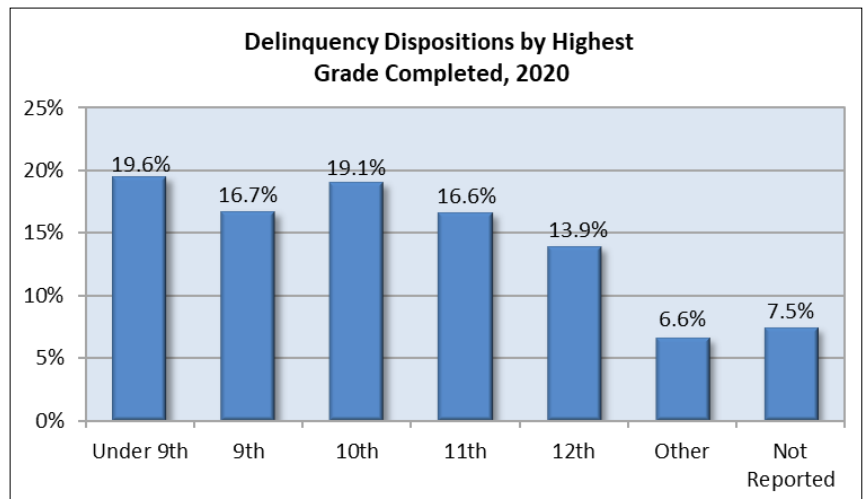
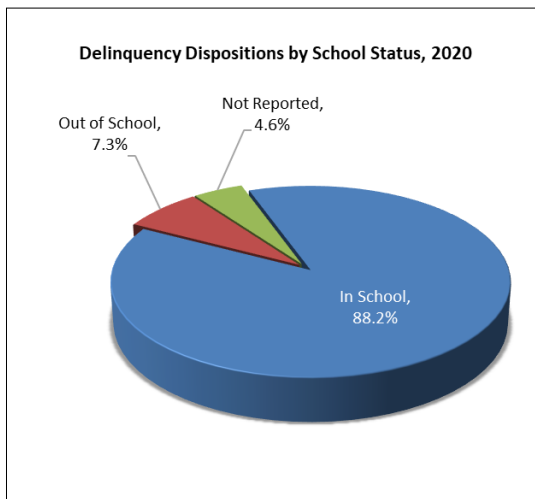
Juvenile Court dispositions in Pennsylvania continue to primarily involve males. While the number of total dispositions decreased from 2019 to 2020, in both years the distribution of dispositions by gender was relatively consistent, 73.7% male and 26.3% female in 2019, compared to 74.2% male and 25.7% female in 2020. As reflected in the chart above, the proportion of males receiving delinquency dispositions related to new allegations of delinquency increases as the disposition type becomes more restrictive.

SELECTED DISPOSITIONS	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
Transferred to Criminal Proceedings	25	96.0%	4.0%
Placement	723	89.5%	10.5%
Probation	2,605	81.9%	18.1%
Consent Decree	3,149	73.8%	26.2%
Informal Adjustment	2,673	67.0%	33.0%
All Dispositions	14,460	74.2%	25.7%

Seventeen-year-olds accounted for 3,576 (24.7%) of all juvenile delinquency dispositions in 2020, representing the most dispositions for any age group. Juveniles aged 16 accounted for 3,043 (21.0%), while 15-year-olds accounted for 2,402 (16.6%) of the dispositions.



The vast majority (88.2%) of delinquency dispositions in 2020 reflected youth who were reported as In School at the time of disposition. Seventy-three percent of youth were reported as having completed grades 9, 10, 11, or 12, or as being in an “Other” educational program.



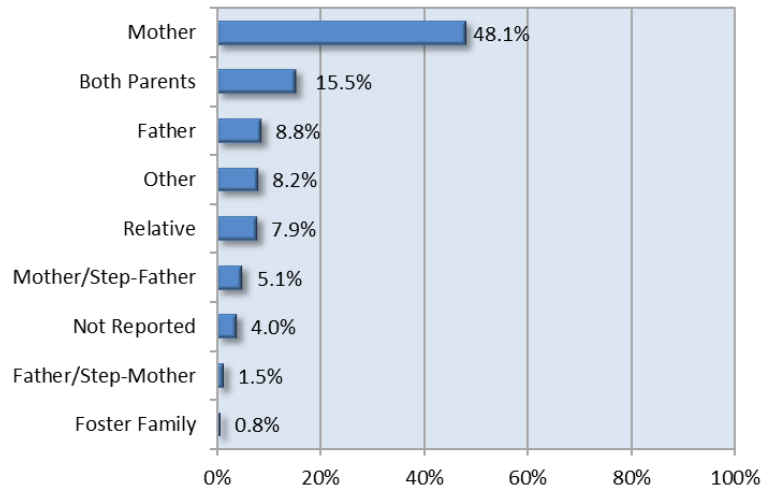
In juvenile delinquency dispositions, youth whose parents were reported as never married represented the largest group—greater than 50%. In only 14.4% of cases, the parents were reported as married at the time of disposition. The majority of youth (48.1%) resided only with their mother, while only 15.5% of juveniles resided with both parents.

In 2020, White Non-Hispanic youth represented the largest racial/ethnic category for all delinquency dispositions. However, in comparison to the racial/ethnic distribution of all youth in Pennsylvania ages 10-17, the representation of Black Non-Hispanic youth is disproportionate: 14.3% of the total population versus 36.9% of all delinquency dispositions. When excluding Philadelphia County and Allegheny County, Black Non-Hispanic youth represent 8.5% of the youth population, but 27.6% of all delinquency dispositions.

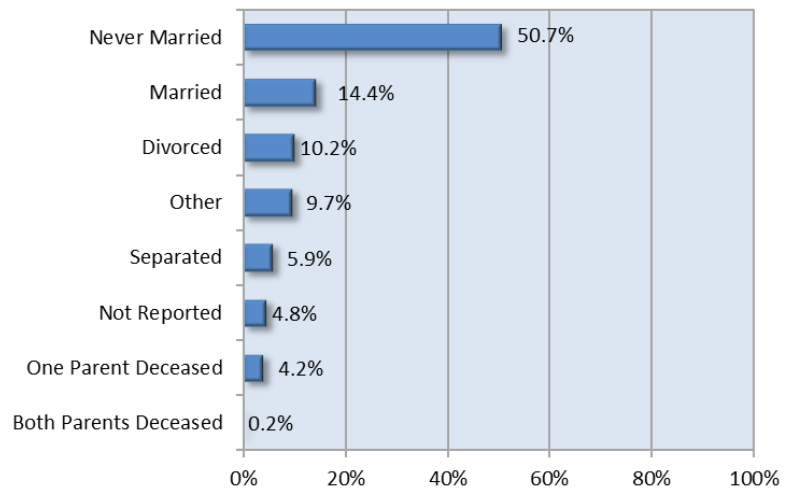
County-specific data on juvenile Demographics can be found in the appendices of Pennsylvania’s 2020 Juvenile Court Annual Report at: <https://www.jcjc.pa.gov/Research-Statistics/Disposition-Reports/2020-Juvenile-Court-Annual-Report.pdf>.

\*At the time of publication of the Pennsylvania 2020 Juvenile Court Annual Report, the 2020 Population Estimates had not yet been published. We have included the 2019 Population Estimates in the chart above. 2019 Population Estimates retrieved from The Centers for Disease Control available online at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/bridged-race-population.html>.

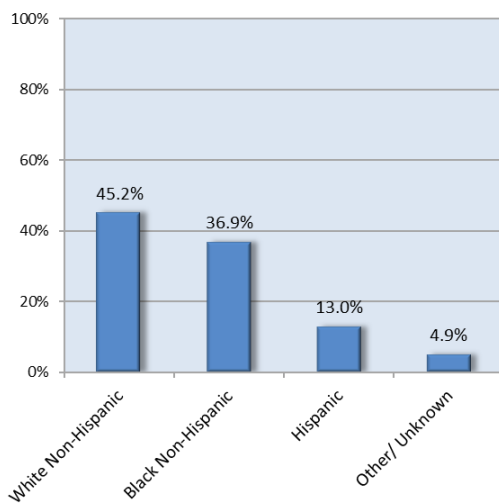
**Delinquency Dispositions by Living Arrangement of Youth, 2020**



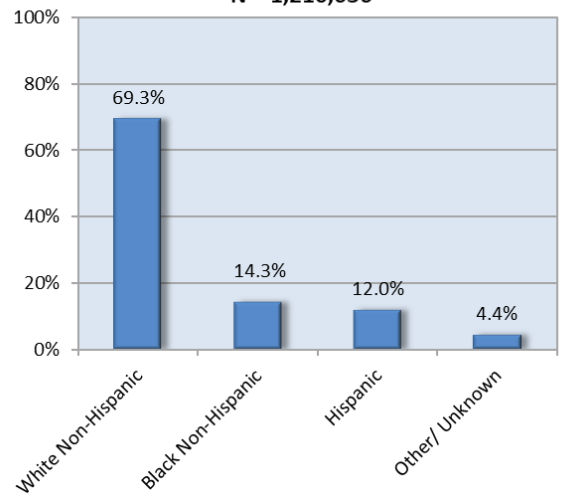
**Delinquency Dispositions by Family Status, 2020**



**2020 Delinquency Dispositions  
N = 14,460**



**2019 Pennsylvania Population\*  
Ages 10 to 17  
N = 1,210,636**





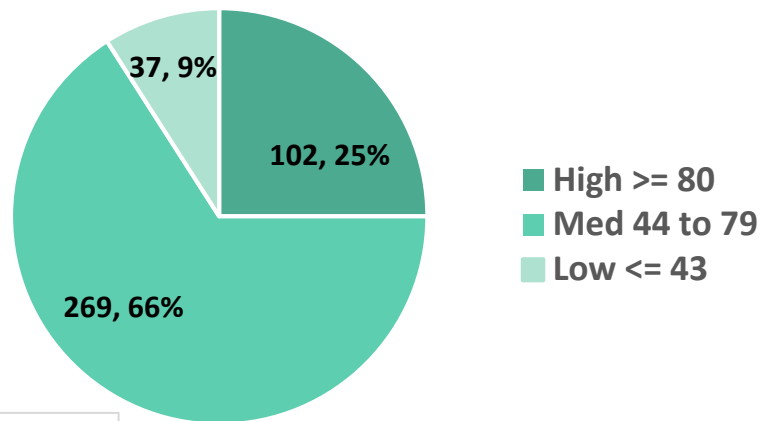
## The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™) Activity Report: SPEP™ Scores

The **Basic Score** refers to the expected overall recidivism reduction when compared to *all service classifications*. The **Program Optimization Percentage (POP Score)** tells us how well the service being assessed compares to other services *within the same service grouping*. Additional information on fully assessed services can be found on the [SPEP™ Activity Map](#).

Three data-driven, score-based groups were identified in Pennsylvania’s Validation Study for the **Basic Score**: High (80-100), Medium (44-79) and Low (23-43). The two higher scoring groups produced favorable recidivism outcomes as compared to expected recidivism outcomes.\*

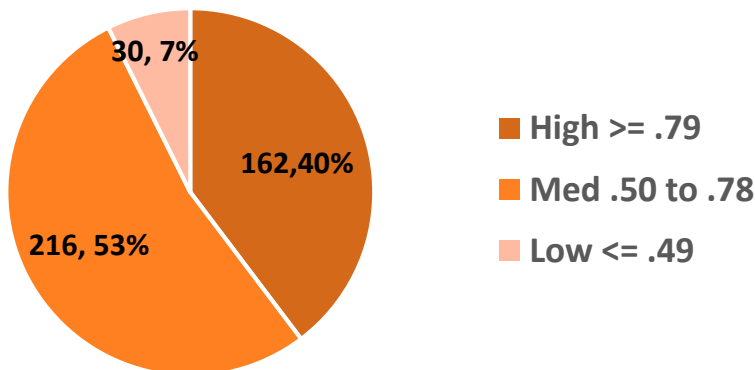
### SPEP™ Basic Scores

(SPEP™ Assessments resulting in Full Score)



### SPEP™ POP Scores

(SPEP™ Assessments resulting in Full Score)



Three data-driven, score-based groups were also identified for the **POP Score**: High ( $\geq .79$ ), Medium (.50-.78) and Low ( $\leq .49$ ). The two higher scoring groups produced favorable recidivism outcomes as compared to expected recidivism outcomes.

\* Validation Study Summary (Edward P. Mulvey, Carol A. Schubert, Bobby Jones, & Samuel Hawes, 2020)

Note: data compiled November 30, 2021

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### PROBATION SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM REMINDERS

An annual requirement for participation in the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's (JCJC) Juvenile Probation Services Grant program is the submission of the Training Expenditures report and the Schedule of Staff Salaries. As the end of the calendar year approaches, we wanted to take a moment to remind all counties that submission deadlines for these reports are **January 31, 2022**.

**Training Expenditure Report** – All counties are required to report their training activities and expenditures to the JCJC through the completion of the Training Expenditures Report in the JCJC Event Management System (JEMS).

**Schedule of Staff Salaries** – All counties are required to report information reflective of your staff complement as it will be on December 31, 2021. This information is used to determine each county's annual training allocation and to complete the annual statewide Juvenile Probation Personnel Report.

If you have any questions or concerns about either of these reports, please contact JCJC Director of Professional Development, Sonya Stokes, [systokes@ship.edu](mailto:systokes@ship.edu).

#### December

- 9 Adolescent Brain Development - Virtual
- 14 Implicit and Unconscious Bias: Recognizing Hidden Prejudices that Impact How We Do Our Jobs - Virtual

#### January

- 12 2021 Master Trainer Recertification Supplemental Session - Virtual
- 20 2021 Master Trainer Recertification Supplemental Session - Virtual

Registration available at [www.jcjcjems.pa.gov](http://www.jcjcjems.pa.gov)

## SETON HILL UNIVERSITY OBSERVES PENNSYLVANIA'S ANNUAL JUVENILE COURT WEEK

*Submitted by Skylar Hayden, Seton Hill Criminal Justice Student*

On October 6th and 7th 2021, Seton Hill University's Criminal Justice Program partnered with the Westmoreland County Juvenile Court, Adelphoi Village, Pennsylvania State Police, PFLAG, PA Youth Congress, and the Westmoreland County Diversity Coalition to observe Juvenile Court Week. Four workshops were designed around the theme of adolescence for professionals, faculty, and students. These workshops were facilitated by four presenters, Rich Shingler, (Adelphoi Village), Youth Congress, Dr. Adamsky, (Adelphoi Village) and Corporal Aaron Allen, (Pennsylvania State Police). The first workshop presented by Rich Shingler provided attendees information about Choice Theory Groups and also provided an inside look at therapy sessions at Adelphoi's facility. During the workshop, a role play of a counseling session was completed by some of the faculty members who attended the event, including Criminal Justice professors Dr. Shavonne Arthurs and Professor Deb Slates-Ciocco.

The second workshop was presented by a member of the Youth Congress. This workshop provided students with knowledge and training about safe zones while working within the LGBTQI+ community. This session was very informative and provided student and faculty interaction. One thought-provoking group activity was each group of the audience received a certain amount of money to choose what privileges they wanted to buy with their amount of money. This activity was eye opening because to many, these privileges were just normal activities; while for others, the privileges were something they wish they could have.



The third workshop was facilitated by Dr. Danielle Adamsky. She provided information on adolescent brain development, and the need to utilize multimodal therapies. In addition, she also presented the audience a packet of clinical cases. Each scenario described a brief background history of several unidentified serial killers. As a group, each case was solved with excitement by identifying the killer.

The fourth and final workshop was delivered by Corporal Aaron Allen. Cpl. Allen discussed several key points regarding policing. His lecture included information that ranged from the history of policing to today's community policing. Community policing is very important to him and has enabled him to create a relationship between the community and police. He also explained how he and his team are working within the state to provide a safe and trusting environment between officers and community members.

These interesting and interactive workshops were well attended by staff, students, faculty and community members. The plan may be to continue this annual observation on campus!



## 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 State and County Juvenile Court Case Counts](#) data analysis tool has been updated to include state and county juvenile court data to 2019.
- FAQs on [child maltreatment](#), [serious violent crime committed by juveniles](#), trends in [violent victimization of youth](#), and [school crime victimization](#) have been updated.
- FAQs on substance youth reported by high school students have been updated in the [Self-report Behaviors](#) section to include 2019 data on substance use.



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:

- Access the full list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [Data Analysis Tools](#) available from the Statistical Briefing Book.
- Learn more about the OJJDP-sponsored [National Juvenile Court Data Archive](#).

### 39TH ANNUAL NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY POSTER CONTEST NOW OPEN

OJJDP invites fifth graders to participate in the [39th Annual National Missing Children's Day poster contest](#). This contest creates an opportunity for schools, law enforcement, and other child advocates to discuss the issue of missing and exploited children with youth, parents, and guardians and to promote child safety. The Department of Justice will recognize the poster contest winner at the National Missing Children's Day ceremony on May 25, 2022.

The theme of the poster contest is "Bringing Our Missing Children Home."

Visit the [National Missing Children's Day web page](#) and the [poster contest packet](#) for additional information, including contest rules, submission deadlines, and contact information for state contest managers.



#### RESOURCES:

- Visit [OJJDP's National Missing Children's Day web page](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [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](mailto:ra-oajcnews@pa.gov).

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