



JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR AT THE CENTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE TRAINING AND RESEARCH



On May 9, 2022, Scott Weller joined the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research as Director. Previously, Dr. Weller worked as a Counselor and Mental Health Professional at Paradise School for Boys for 10 years. He was responsible for providing clinical services and case management for dependent children, delinquent juveniles, and special education day students in Paradise School for Boy's educational, residential, and/or partial hospitalization programs.

In 2007, Dr. Weller was promoted to the position of Director of Clinical Services wherein he was responsible for supervising the facility's partial hospitalization program and its staff. His experiences implementing various initiatives ignited an interest in leadership and policymaking that benefits children. In 2011, Dr. Weller left Paradise School for Boys and enrolled in Penn State Harrisburg's PhD program in Public Administration. Additionally, he was an adjunct instructor from 2016 until 2022 teaching various courses in health administration, political science, public administration, and public policy at Penn State Harrisburg and Franklin & Marshall College.

Dr. Weller holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (double major) in Criminology and Psychology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He also holds a Master of Arts degree in Criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. In 2020, Dr. Weller earned his PhD in Public Administration from Penn State University. His research interests include hybrid organizations, juvenile justice, and social entrepreneurship. Notably, his dissertation's research site was a nonprofit organization, the JT Dorsey Foundation, that offers sports-based development programs using the medium of soccer for the underprivileged and at-risk youth in Pennsylvania's inner-city communities.

In his free time, Dr. Weller enjoys watching sports particularly his favorite teams: Liverpool FC, New York Yankees, Penn State Nittany Lions, Philadelphia 76ers, and Pittsburgh Steelers. He resides in Harrisburg, PA with his wife, Courtenay, who is a former elementary school teacher; dog mom to Chloe, Stella, and Violet; and horse mom to Louie. He is also the proud father of three children, Emma (20), Mason (18), and Sadie (15).

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BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH JUVENILE JUSTICE TASK FORCE INTRODUCED

The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Task Force, co-chaired by Sen. Lisa Baker, Sen. Jay Costa, Rep. Tarah Too-hil, and Rep. Mike Zabel, released its [comprehensive final report](#) on June 22, 2021, with policy recommendations intended to protect public safety, increase accountability, achieve savings for reinvestment, and improve outcomes for youth, families, and communities.

Four bills directly related to the findings of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Task Force were recently introduced in the Pennsylvania Senate. The prime sponsor of all four bills is Senator Lisa Baker, the Chair of the Senate's Judiciary Committee. All four bills, as currently written and described below are supported by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC).

[Senate Bill 1226](#)

Senate Bill 1226 would amend Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) to provide for a standardized statewide process for expungement proceedings of juvenile delinquency records. It would require the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission to implement technology that would notify county chief juvenile probation officers that a juvenile delinquency case is eligible for expungement considerations based on the original disposition of the case and related statutory requirements for expungement. This would be accomplished through JCJC's statewide Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) data extraction. Chief juvenile probation officers, in turn, would be required to notify the court that the juvenile delinquency case is eligible for expungement and request an expungement proceeding in accordance with applicable statute. Further, Senate Bill 1226 would allow for expungement of most misdemeanor adjudications two years after the final discharge of the child from court supervision. Current statute allows for this expungement to occur after five years following final discharge, which is the same time requirement as that of felony adjudications.

[Senate Bill 1227](#)

Senate Bill 1227 would amend the Human Services Code under *Article VII Children and Youth* in relation to the annual "needs-based budgeting process" to provide both juvenile justice and child welfare goals that are consistent with the statutory mandates of the *Juvenile Act*. Currently, the Human Services Code does not contain the goals of either system. This amendment, establishing a new purpose clause for Article VII would specifically set forth "child welfare" goals consistent with the *Juvenile Act's* mandates relating to dependent children, and the "juvenile justice" goals consistent with the *Juvenile Act's* mandates relating to delinquent children. This amendment would add clarity to and guide the planning process and requests for annual budget allocations by counties to support the provision of necessary services relative to the two sets of goals.

[Senate Bill 1228](#)

Senate Bill 1228 would amend Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) through the *Juvenile Act* providing that a judicial disposition review hearing shall be held by the court for all youth who have been committed to out-of-home placement following an adjudication of delinquency at a minimum of once every three months. Currently, these hearings are required to occur minimally once every six months. It would also require the court to determine, on the record, a minimal set of findings from the course of the hearing regarding the youth's circumstances. These findings include a determination about the receipt of necessary services or treatment while in placement, the assessment of any continued threat posed by the child to the community, whether additional services are necessary, whether the child should remain in treatment or be released to aftercare services, and the date of the next hearing when applicable.

Senate Bill 1228 intends to provide that youth in out-of-home placement remain in that placement only for the minimum period necessary to assure the goals and reasons for placement are addressed. Given the responsibility of judges in initially determining the need for out-of-home placement, as well as when to end the placement, mandatory increased frequency of judicial reviews will aid in ensuring that placements are as limited in duration as necessary.

[Senate Bill 1229](#)

Senate Bill 1229 would amend the Human Services Code by providing for reimbursement to counties for the costs of the appointment of counsel for indigent children in the context of delinquency proceedings. This reimbursement would be through the current needs-based planning and budget process utilized by each county to receive state reimbursement through the Department of Human Services for authorized services to children who are involved through the dependency and/or delinquency systems.

Juveniles who come within the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system are required to be represented by an attorney at nearly every proceeding. All juveniles are determined to be indigent and the waiver of counsel by juveniles has been virtually eliminated as a response to the Luzerne County judicial scandal, and the ensuing recommendations of the Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice established in response by Act 32 of 2009. The quality of representation provided to youth varies widely across the Commonwealth due in part to the lack of state funding for these essential services. Currently, Pennsylvania is the only state that does not appropriate or otherwise provide for any level of funding for juvenile indigent defense.

Senate Bill 1229 would provide for reimbursement at a rate of 50% for indigent defense costs. It is noted that counties currently receive 50% reimbursement for the costs of assigned guardian ad litem representation and separate counsel assignment to youth involved in dependency proceedings. These reimbursements are provided through the needs-based process and allocations from the Department of Human Services.

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HOLDS PUBLIC HEARING ON JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORMS

On May 23, 2022, the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Senator Lisa Baker, convened a Public Hearing on Juvenile Justice Reforms. The hearing consisted of four panels made up of various juvenile justice stakeholders, including: Justice Task Force members; judges; state leaders; district attorneys and defenders; juvenile probation officers; and victim advocates, providers, and youth. The intent of the hearing was to provide legislators, stakeholders, and the public with information related to several bills that were recently introduced in the Pennsylvania Senate. These bills are directly related to the findings of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Task Force and would provide for reforms to the juvenile justice system to protect public safety, increase accountability, achieve savings for reinvestment, and improve outcomes for youth, families, and communities.

During the hearing, panelists provided testimony to the committee regarding legislative proposals that were recently introduced in the Senate, and other important issues impacting Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. Hearing panelists included the following juvenile justice system stakeholders: the Honorable David R. Workman, Judge, Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas and Vice Chair of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission; Richard D. Steele, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission; James E. Anderson, Executive Director (Retired), Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission; Jonathan Rubin, Deputy Secretary, Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families; Russell Carlino, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Allegheny County; Chadwick Libby, Director of Probation Services, Dauphin County; and Suzanne Estrella, Commonwealth Victim Advocate.

The entire public hearing can be viewed [here](#).

2021 JJSES IMPLEMENTATION SURVEY RESULTS

In continuation of a multi-part newsletter series, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is pleased to share the Graduated Response infographic as an illustration of implementation and sustainability progress for this element of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) in Pennsylvania. According to the 2021 JJSES Implementation Survey, 45 of the 67 county juvenile probation departments in Pennsylvania have already implemented Graduated Responses. Ten additional juvenile probation departments plan to implement Graduated Responses this fiscal year.

The JCJC, Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO), and Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) continue to engage efforts to expand the use of Graduated Responses throughout the Commonwealth by providing training and technical assistance to county juvenile probation departments as they integrate the use of Graduated Responses into their daily practices. To ensure the sustainability of the JJSES over time, the JCJC, PCCJPO, and PCCD provide ongoing training and technical support to juvenile probation departments that have implemented Graduated Responses. As such, a virtual Graduated Response Coordinator meeting is scheduled to take place on June 30, 2022. These meetings, which are held quarterly, are designed to provide existing Graduated Response Coordinators with continual support and technical assistance. Furthermore, as a result of the Graduated Responses Technical Assistance (GR-TAM) peer mentorship project, a virtual Graduated Response Peer Mentor call has been scheduled for July 14, 2022. Building a foundation of Continuous Quality Improvements (CQI) for juvenile probation departments and graduated response coordinators, this call will offer discussion of constructive feedback related to the GR-TAM project, technical support, and the expansion of the peer mentors, as well as other project goals. In addition, a Graduated Response module has been available in PaJCMS since 2017. In 2022 alone, 17 counties have used the Graduated Response module in PaJCMS. The combined usage of these 17 counties totals 2,351 entered responses since January 1, 2022.

The JJSES Leadership Team Graduated Response Steering Committee oversees the activity, while peer trainers provide individual support to the counties, ensuring sustainability of the activity over time. Peer trainers are available for training, technical assistance, peer support and mentoring, and they are an integral component of the state's CQI efforts. Members of the Graduated Response Steering Committee recently completed a cross reference related to Graduated Response system implementation of all counties using the 2021 Implementation Survey Report with formalized county-specific and statewide Graduated Response implementation trainings/forums. The resulting data will be used to inform training and technical assistance work with counties. In support of CQI, the Graduated Response Steering Committee is working to identify the status of Graduated Response system development and implementation within each county across the Commonwealth. As a result, a Graduated Response Implementation/Fidelity Checklist has been developed to assess the alignment of departmental Graduated Response systems with the Graduated Response Guiding Principles. All chief juvenile probation officer's received detailed information surrounding this checklist on May 23, 2022.

To register for the upcoming Graduated Response Coordinator meeting or Peer Mentor call, please go to the [JCJC Event Management System \(JEMS\)](#) website. Counties interested in training, implementation support, or looking for technical assistance related to Graduated Responses may also contact Angela Work (awork@pa.gov) or Andy Benner (abenner@ccpa.net).

JJSES IMPLEMENTATION SURVEY 2021

STAGE THREE: BEHAVIORAL CHANGE

GRADUATED RESPONSES

67%

have implemented Graduated Responses.

67%

have Graduated Response Coordinators.

56

Graduated Response Coordinators.

64%

have a Graduated Response policy.

71%

have a Graduated Response matrix.

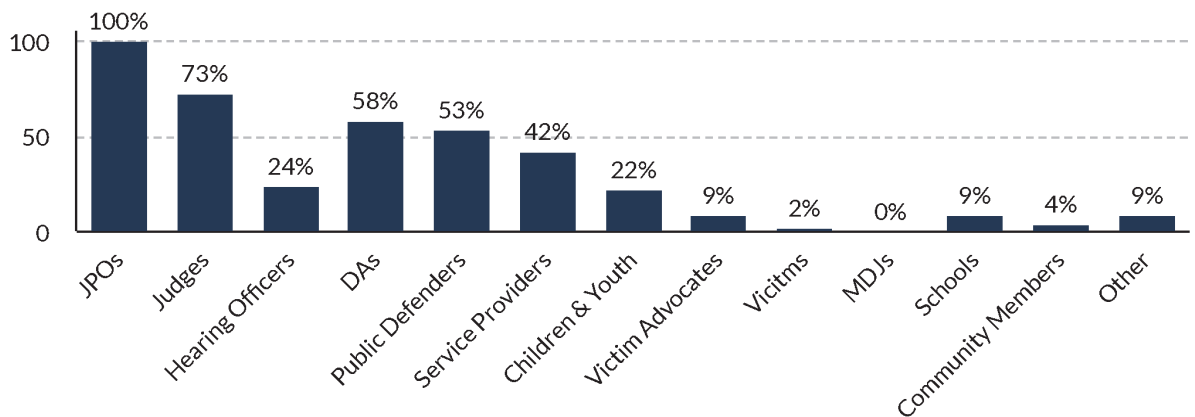
27%

utilize the Graduated Responses module in PaJCMS.

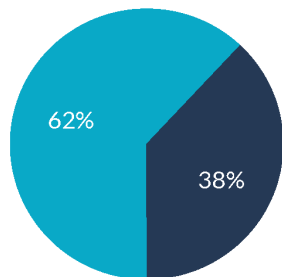
73%

have participated in formal Graduated Response training.

Stakeholder Groups Engaged with Graduated Responses

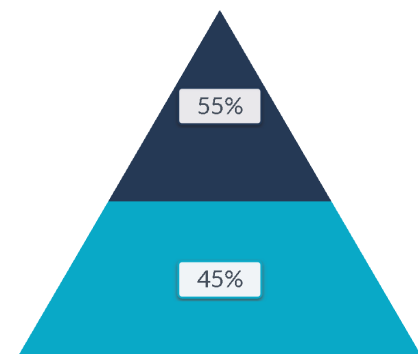


Have Included Additional Graduated Response Activities in Their JJSES Plan for FY 2021-2022



Yes (62%) No (38%)

Planning to Implement Graduated Responses During FY 2021-2022



Yes (45%) No (55%)



pennsylvania
JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

2022 JCJC AWARD PROGRAM NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is pleased to announce that nominations for the 2022 JCJC Awards Program are now open and include eight professional categories, as well as the youth awards contest. The awards will be presented at the 2022 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice November 2-3, 2022, at the Harrisburg Hilton.

Nomination packets have been sent to juvenile court judges, chief juvenile probation officers, and agencies currently serving delinquent youth in the juvenile justice system. The Awards Committee requests that all juvenile justice professionals encourage youth under their jurisdiction to participate in the contest. The professional and youth award nomination materials must be submitted by **Monday, August 15, 2022**.

We encourage you to help honor exemplary performance by individuals and programs serving children in Pennsylvania. Please contact JCJC Awards Liaison Angel R. Stewart at 717.783.7835 or angstewart@pa.gov or Keysla Rodriguez at 717.783.6263 or keyrodrigu@pa.gov if you have any questions or need further assistance. Thank you for your partnership and ongoing commitment to this program.

PLEASE NOTE: Submissions that were not selected as winners may be resubmitted for reconsideration in the same category.

2022 Professional Awards Program

The 2022 Professional Awards Program includes the following categories:

[Juvenile Probation Supervisor of the Year](#) - an individual who supervises probation officers but who is not a Chief Juvenile Probation Officer as of the date of the nomination email submission. This category includes Deputy Chiefs, Assistant Directors, Supervisors, Coordinators, and other positions functioning in a similar capacity that supervise Juvenile Probation Officers.

[Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year](#) - an individual who is employed as a Juvenile Probation Officer but who is not a Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Deputy Chief, or Juvenile Probation Supervisor as of the date of the nomination email submission.

[Meritorious Service Award](#) - a volunteer committed to furthering the development of at-risk, alleged and/or delinquent youth (Examples of volunteer work may include youth aid panels, youth commissions, anti-violence programs, school-based programs, diversionary programs, mentoring programs, faith-based programs, community centers or other similar programming).

[Court Operated Program of the Year](#) - any program operated by court employees which serves alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth.

[Juvenile Court Support Service Award](#) - Individuals eligible to receive this award include those persons who provide clerical, secretarial, fiscal specialist, management, information technology, quality assurance, or other support services to the juvenile court. This includes receptionists, secretaries, clerk/typists, information technology specialists, quality assurance specialists, office managers and others functioning in a similar support capacity. **Juvenile Probation Officers are not eligible for this award.**

[Residential Program of the Year](#) - any public or private sector program serving alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth in a residential setting. This includes foster homes, group homes, residential treatment programs, general childcare facilities, shelter care facilities, detention centers, independent living programs, and other programs providing out-of-home, overnight care to children. **Award Winners prior to 2017 are eligible for nomination.**

[Community-Based Program of the Year](#) - any public or private sector program, not operated by the court, which provides community-based, non-residential services to alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth including, but not limited to, day treatment programs, in-home services, Boys and Girls Clubs, education services, and outpatient services.

[Victim Advocate Award](#) - an individual who works on behalf of crime victims in a district attorney's office, juvenile probation department, or in a community-based agency. This individual does not need to be in a position that is entirely dedicated to victims of juvenile crime, but it should be a significant part of their position.

2022 YOUTH AWARDS PROGRAM - Additionally, the JCJC will again sponsor a Youth Award Program to honor youth selected as winners of the Creative Expression Contest and recipients of the Outstanding Achievement Award. This year's theme is "**Unfiltered: See Me, I Am Enough.**" The requirements of each nomination can be found by clicking the links below.

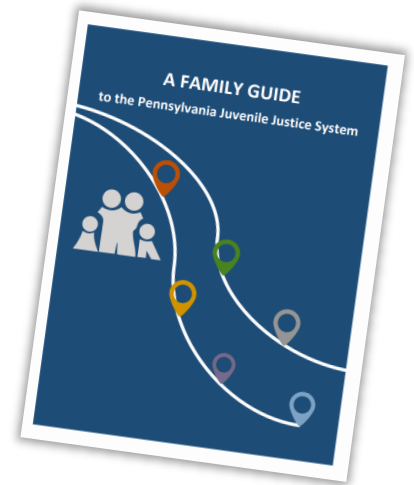
[Creative Expression Contest Entry Form](#)

[Outstanding Achievement Contest Entry Form](#)

FOCUSING ON FAMILIES

The Family Involvement Committee of the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers is committed to developing system-wide tools, interventions, and practices that support the role of families in the juvenile justice system. The committee is comprised of juvenile justice professionals, family advocates, treatment providers, and family members of justice-involved youth.

A product of this committee's work, the [*Family Guide to Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System, 2nd Edition*](#), was developed as a resource for families, juvenile probation officers, service providers, and family support organizations. The Family Guide offers families of justice-involved youth an understanding of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system and how families and juvenile justice officials can collaborate to achieve positive outcomes for their child. "Family," in the context of the Family Guide, is broadly defined as any adult responsible for the care of a child under juvenile probation supervision.



First and foremost, the Family Guide is designed to help families navigate the juvenile justice system and understand their rights and responsibilities. The Family Guide also provides information regarding the roles and responsibilities of the juvenile justice system.

The intent of the Family Guide is to be presented in an informational and interactive manner to engage the family at the earliest stages of the juvenile court process and establish constructive dialogue and collaboration.

The Family Guide can be a training tool for juvenile probation officers, service providers, and other juvenile justice-related organizations to view the juvenile court process through the perspective of the family. It prepares juvenile justice professionals to respond to questions and offer information in a manner better understood by families.

The structure and format of the Family Guide is intentional to promote partnerships and professional alliances between families and juvenile justice professionals. Some elements of the Family Guide include:

- Designed to engage families in a manner that is respectful and supportive.
- Available in English and Spanish, the language and tone are 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.
- It 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.

The central focus of the Family Guide remains the Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) mission of the Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system and use of evidence-based practices as articulated by the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). A formal Recommendations for Use document is forthcoming and will soon be available to download from the [Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers website](#) as well as the [Juvenile Court Judges' Commission website](#).

A SPOTLIGHT ON THE ENGAGEMENT OF JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENTS DURING NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM'S RIGHTS WEEK ACTIVITIES

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first national "Crime Victims Week" as part of a growing initiative to meet the needs of victims of crimes. Later renamed "National Crime Victims' Rights Week" (NCVRW), this week is dedicated to raising awareness surrounding victims' rights and services, as well as honoring those who diligently work to ensure justice for victims of crime.

The theme for the 2022 NCVRW was "RIGHTS, ACCESS, & EQUITY – for all victims." This year's NCVRW theme emphasizes the importance of helping crime survivors find their justice by enforcing victims' rights, expanding access to services, and ensuring equity and inclusion for all. Nationwide, communities observe NCVRW through various events that advocate justice for victims of crime, this year NCVRW took place during the week of April 24 – 30, 2022. This article spotlights a few of the activities which took place in Cumberland, Franklin, and Westmoreland counties.

Cumberland County

On April 26th, 2022, the Cumberland County District Attorney's Office commemorated NCVRW with its 21st Annual Victims' Rights Rally and One Mile Walk. The event reflected the NCVRW theme by promoting crime victims' rights and providing victims with information about resources and services available to them. In addition, the Cumberland County Victim Advocacy Award for Law Enforcement, Victim Advocacy Legacy Award, Domestic Violence Services Volunteer Award, and the YWCA Sexual Assault Rape Crisis Services Volunteer Award were presented to individuals that are dedicated to supporting victims of crime. The Cumberland County Victim Services, a division of the District Attorney's Office, was established to assist victims and witnesses of crime during their involvement with the criminal justice system. The office strives to help victims recover from the physical, emotional, and financial impact of the crime. The goal of the office is to ensure that victims' rights are met, and all concerns and needs are addressed. The rally began at the historic courthouse and commenced with a one mile walk around town.

Franklin County

The handprints of crime can last a lifetime.



NCVRW was honored in Franklin County by engaging youth to write impactful victim statements on cut-out paper hands. These hands were then put on display at the administrative complex of Franklin County. The purpose of this activity was to demonstrate how crime affects victims and to raise awareness of the victim's experience.

Westmoreland County

Westmoreland County held several activities in observation of NCVRW. In the juvenile probation department, the week kicked off with a breakfast, meaningful discussion surrounding the purpose behind NCVRW, and education of procedural rule changes to raise the awareness of juvenile probation officers to best serve victims.

In another activity, Westmoreland County hosted a local agency representative of The Black Burn Center to speak about services for victims of crime and information about human trafficking and trauma. This event was followed by an opportunity to watch videos on human trafficking and teen dating violence stories, which led to impactful discussions for participants.

The week concluded with a restorative justice and circles training coupled with a pizza luncheon and a game that involved answering questions correctly from things learned throughout the week.

CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT: INITIAL TRAINING AND BOOSTER TRAININGS

Most of us recognize the importance of training as a component to advancing our continuous quality improvement (CQI) efforts throughout Pennsylvania. We have established a good model within the juvenile probation departments and through statewide training. The information below is meant to explore other considerations to help departments further advance their work.

One example of CQI that we seem to have a good handle on is that of training and booster trainings. Establishing a structured process for initial training and booster trainings will provide a solid foundation for implementation of the various Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) activities.

How are you addressing training for new probation officers?

Are you waiting until there is training offered through the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research? What do you do if there are months in between hiring and that training? Establishing a process in which you offer at least an informal training on key components of the JJSES will be beneficial to acclimating

new staff to these activities. We encourage the Master Trainers, Coaches, or Coordinators to have an organized and coordinated approach to providing, at least, an introduction to these concepts. Once new staff are trained, are you requiring them to complete practice cases to ensure the YLS/CMI is done correctly? Are they required to do practice case plans? Utilizing the booster cases offered statewide could be an option. Certainly, this process can also be done to ensure fidelity with other screening or assessments used within a department.

Over the past several years, juvenile probation departments have done an impressive job expanding their **booster process** to include multiple components of JJSES. Booster trainings should be occurring at least twice a year and the YLS and Case Plan serve as the foundation for these booster trainings. Departments may want to consider including graduated responses, motivational interviewing, or refreshers on the various tools used for skill building.

Many counties are asking their staff to complete the YLS booster case and case plan during the training; however, other counties are now having this completed ahead of time, which then allows for a more focused training and discussion. Master Trainers, Coaches, and Coordinators have a role to play in these trainings but embracing other members of your staff may be helpful to the peer-to-peer learning process. Booster trainings help with inter-rater reliability of the YLS, and help to avoid drift. Incorporating the other aspects of JJSES helps to show the interconnectivity of these activities.

Providing feedback to staff around the booster process is vitally important. Offering guidance and support in a coordinated way will provide another learning opportunity. Departments should have a process in place to provide feedback in an expedited manner. Ongoing monitoring should occur when areas of concern are noted.

Tracking data around proficiency is also highly recommended even if it is done in a simplified manner. Anecdotal information does not always show the level of information we would like to gather around fidelity and inter-rater reliability, as data does. **Monitoring proficiency** can show patterns that will help offer individual feedback or training topics for the entire department. As long as you are tracking some proficiency data in order to see progress over time, the manner in which you do this is not critically important.

What is the difference between an informal and formal training and is one more beneficial over the other?

Pennsylvania has developed an exceptional framework for implementation of the JJSES activities including training, booster training, policy development, data collection, etc. Juvenile probation departments may decide to implement one of the activities on their own - informally. At times this can create unique implementation barriers and impact long term sustainability. Providing a formalized training in your department on a subject matter, or sending staff to a formalized training, will assist you in establishing a solid and more sustainable foundation. Often

this will come with guidance around policy development and brainstorming solutions to overcome challenges to implementation. Participating in ongoing subject matter calls during and following implementation can also provide departments with examples of how to enhance their quality assurance and continuous quality improvement.

Taking the necessary time to address training processes within your department will help staff **avoid drift**. To keep diverse topics at the forefront of their attention, consider doing training “nuggets” for staff from time to time. Training alone is not sufficient; staff need to be able to practice their own skills in order to transfer that learning into practice; therefore, providing these opportunities is imperative. Some departments have offered unique training opportunities on focused topics during voluntary “brown bag lunches” or incorporating a training segment into unit meetings. Finally, consider including a section on CQI practices in each of your relevant policies. This increases the likelihood of developing an infrastructure within your department where CQI is just a normal part of the process.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES HELD FOR THE JUVENILE COURT JUDGES’ COMMISSION’S GRADUATE EDUCATION CLASS OF 2022

Congratulations to the Class of 2022 of the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission’s Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University! Commencement was held at Shippensburg University’s H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center on Friday, May 6, 2022. Prior to the commencement ceremony, the JCJC graduates were recognized with a reception, hosted at the Shippensburg University Foundation Conference Center. In attendance at the reception were staff of the JCJC/CJIT&R, several Shippensburg University administrators, faculty of the Criminal Justice Department, as well as family and friends of the graduates.



On behalf of the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission and Shippensburg University, we offer our congratulations to Danielle Crampton (Chester), Zachary Hibbs (Fayette), Alyssa Konas (Lancaster), Michaella Mowers (Westmoreland), Lauren Painter (Cumberland), Keysla Rodriguez (JCJC), and Matthew Stanzone (Lycoming) on this outstanding achievement.

Michaella Mowers, a probation officer from Westmoreland County, was chosen as the Graduate Student of the Year. She will receive the Dr. Anthony F. Ceddia Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Juvenile Justice at the James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice on November 3, 2022.

The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission and Shippensburg University again offer our congratulations to these students and wish them all the very best in their future endeavors.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: PIONEER OF RISK-NEED-RESPONSIVITY

INTERVIEWED ON THE MODEL'S IMPACT

A key component of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) is enhancing the capacity of our juvenile justice system to achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission through the implementation of evidence-based practices (EBP). Simply stated, EBP asserts that public policy and practice should be based on the best available scientific evidence in order to effectively achieve stated goals and efficiently use taxpayer dollars. Failure to match services to rigorous, evidentiary standards not only makes poor use of limited public funds but can even lead to an exacerbation of the problems and issues the juvenile justice system seeks to resolve. In the juvenile justice context, research has demonstrated that the

proper implementation of EBP can lead to significant reductions in juvenile delinquency and recidivism.

Arguably, the most widely accepted model for the application of science to policy and practice is the *Risk-Needs-Responsivity Model (RNR)*. As the name implies, the model asserts that three main principles--Risk, Need, and Responsivity--guide evidence-based policy and practice (see sidebar for additional information on the principles of Risk, Need, and Responsivity).

Recently, Dr. James Bonta, a world-renowned psychologist and one of the pioneers of the RNR Model, was interviewed on the impact of the model on the fields of criminal and juvenile justice. The full interview in *Justice Trends* can be found at the following link:

<https://justice-trends.press/risk-need-responsivity-how-the-rnr-model-is-making-a-difference-in-public-safety/>

SIDEBAR

The **Risk Principle** refers to the probability that a youth will reoffend, based on characteristics that are correlated with future delinquency. These risk factors are static, or non-changeable. They include, for example, current age, age at first arrest, and number of prior arrests. Risk information is used to classify youth for purposes of supervision and to determine the level of external control and treatment required during that supervision.

The **Need Principle** defines the youth's individual and environmental attributes that are predictive of future delinquent behavior and that can be changed (i.e., that are dynamic in nature). These are known as criminogenic needs. Examples of criminogenic needs include antisocial attitudes and beliefs, antisocial peers, temperament issues (such as impulsivity and poor problem-solving and decision-making skills), lack of family support, substance abuse, lack of education, and lack of prosocial leisure outlets. To reduce the probability of delinquency and recidivism, a youth's criminogenic needs must be accurately assessed and then effectively addressed through individual supervision and programmatic interventions. The primary tool for formally establishing, tracking, and documenting the accomplishment of these goals is a comprehensive case plan that describes the steps that must be taken by the juvenile probation officer, service provider, and the youth to reduce the risk of recidivism.

The **Responsivity Principle** emphasizes the importance of characteristics that influence a youth's ability and motivation to learn. Individual traits that interfere with—or facilitate—learning are known as “responsivity factors.” The basic assumption underlying the responsivity principle is that all youth and all programs are not the same. As such, better treatment outcomes will result from properly matching a young person's individual characteristics (e.g., culture, cognitive ability, maturity, and gender) with service characteristics (e.g., location, structure, length, dosage, methodology, and facilitator traits).

In short, the risk principle helps identify who should receive juvenile justice interventions and treatment. The need principle focuses on what about the young person must be addressed. The responsivity principle underscores the importance of how treatment should be delivered, with behavioral and cognitive behavioral skill-building techniques being the most effective.

See you
in Harrisburg!

SAVE *the* DATE

Harrisburg Hilton and Towers

**NOVEMBER
2-4, 2022**

**2022 James E. Anderson
PENNSYLVANIA
CONFERENCE
ON JUVENILE JUSTICE**

CONFERENCE – HOTEL INFORMATION - At the **Crowne Plaza** the contracted rate varies based on room type starting at \$117.00 a night. This room block will close on October 3, 2022. You may visit the customized link to book online, [JCJC Conference](#) or call the hotel directly at 717-234-5021 (Voucher Counties call 717-920-1792) / **Group Code: CAL**. The hotel will confirm your reservation.

For general conference information, please contact us at ra-jcjcevents@pa.gov.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

June

30 Graduated Responses Coordinator Group - Virtual

July

12-13 Motivational Interviewing (MI) Coaches - State College

14 Graduated Response Peer Mentor Call - Virtual

August

29-30 The Internet, Social Media, and Data Privacy for Juvenile Justice Professionals - State College

September

15 Leading with Purpose: How to Center Success - State College

19-23 Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) - Virtual

26-30 Orientation for the New Juvenile Probation Professional A Blended Learning Course - Camp Hill

October

4 Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument: Version 2 (MAYSI~2) - Virtual

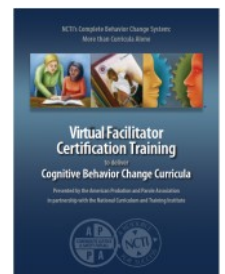
6-7 Youth Level of Service (YLS) Master Trainer Certification
Camp Hill

18 Learning Community for MAYSI~2 & CTS Coordinators
in PA's Juvenile Probation Departments - Virtual

Registration available at www.jcjcjems.pa.gov

COGNITIVE BEHAVIOR CHANGE CURRICULA VIRTUAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

National Curriculum Training Institute (NCTI), in partnership with the American Probation and Parole Association, is offering a virtual certification training to deliver Cognitive Behavior Change Curricula. The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is looking for those interested in taking part of this opportunity. Dates for this training will be determined once we have at least 20 people commit to the training. Take a moment to review the information ([Crossroads Certification Brochure](#)) and if you are interested in becoming a certified trainer to deliver the cognitive behavior change curricula, please contact Sonya Stokes, Director of Professional Development at systokes@ship.edu or 717-477-1294.





EPIS

Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support



The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™): SPEP™ Specialist Training

SPEP™, a Stage 3 activity of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES), continues to saturate the state as additional juvenile probation officers are trained to administer the SPEP™. On April 6 & 7, ten juvenile probation officers representing Armstrong, Beaver, Berks, Chester, Dauphin, Fayette, Montgomery, Venango, and Westmoreland counties participated in a virtual Level 1 SPEP™ Specialist training. This Level 1 training develops skills for juvenile probation departments to engage in the SPEP™ assessment of community-based and residential services.

The Level 1 training was enhanced for the virtual platform to better enable juvenile probation staff to:

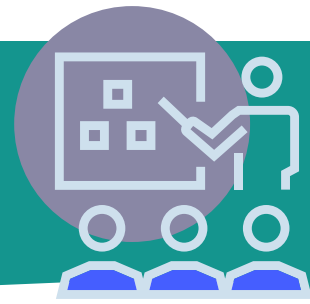
1. Gain an understanding of the overall SPEP™ Project in Pennsylvania and the core aspects of its implementation.
2. Increase knowledge of the research behind the SPEP™ and its practical applications in the field.
3. Learn the key components of the SPEP™ and how each part of the score is calculated.
4. Develop key skills in properly identifying service types and appropriate matches to the meta-analytic research base.

While it is a goal to increase the counties trained and engaged in the administration of the SPEP™, we recognize juvenile probation departments have different needs and capacities which impact their ability to become fully involved with the SPEP™ Project. Tailored engagement packages are available to meet the diverse needs of counties across the Commonwealth. This variety of SPEP™ trainings provides an opportunity for every county to engage in the SPEP™ Project.

Currently, 26 counties have individuals trained as (or in the process of becoming) Level 1 SPEP™ Specialists and 5 counties have individuals trained as Level 2 SPEP™ Trainers. Seventeen counties have initiated department-wide SPEP™ Informed training to better facilitate an understanding of and use of the SPEP™ results.

For more information about the SPEP™, training opportunities, or if you would like to host a SPEP™ training, please contact Kris Glunt at ktg10@psu.edu, Jeff Gregro at jgregro@countyofberks.com, or Angela Work at awork@pa.gov.

Pennsylvania Academic and Career/Technical Training Alliance (PACTT) 2022



PACTT seeks to develop the academic and career-related competencies of juvenile justice-involved youth by supporting affiliated human service agencies in Pennsylvania. The supports that PACTT provides are designed to help juvenile offenders gain the capacity to graduate from high school, transition to postsecondary schools or training, and/or obtain employment.

Initially established as a privately-operated initiative funded by grants, PACTT transitioned to Pennsylvania's Department of Human Services Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services (BJJS) in 2014. BJJS currently provides funding and staffing for PACTT, which had grown from 23 affiliated agencies in 2014 to 69 affiliated agencies in January 2020. As a result of pandemic-related closures, PACTT supports 57 affiliated agencies as of April 2022.

All PACTT affiliates must meet PACTT's core affiliation requirements, including meeting specific PACTT-defined standards for providing youth with academic supports, vocational training, workplace experiences, and opportunities to develop soft skills. Starting in 2019, agencies may affiliate with PACTT in one or more specific areas that represent PACTT goals: academic instruction, job skills training, and work-related services.

PACTT Goals

Academic Instruction

Enhance programming; improve coordination with school districts; and promote practices aimed at accelerating remediation, credit recovery, and credit transfer.

Job Skills Training

Develop career and technical training programs that lead to industry-recognized certifications and certificates.

Work-Related Services

Develop work readiness and employability soft skills, and create employment opportunities for juvenile justice-involved youth.

PACTT Supports Provided to Affiliates

Support Staff

Nine PACTT staff located across Pennsylvania provide on-site supports to help affiliates achieve and maintain PACTT standards for academic instruction, job skills training, and work-related services.

Coordination with Districts

To minimize disruptions in schooling, PACTT has worked to improve the timeliness of transferring youth education records between affiliates and school districts.

Data-Driven Decision Making

PACTT provides affiliates with a standardized online database for recording data related to PACTT services. PACTT staff support agencies in using these data to make data-driven decisions.

Research

PACTT has funded annual research conducted by Philadelphia-based Research for Action aimed at understanding the connection between PACTT services received by youth and later academic success.

PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency Grants

PACTT has provided over \$5.3 million in grants between 2013 and 2021 to support human service agencies in developing their academic, job skills, and work-related programs for juvenile justice-involved youth.

Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Youth

Through partnership with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, PACTT has enhanced the accessibility of Pre-Employment and Transition Services to disabled youth served by its affiliates.



Main Contact

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Office of Children, Youth and Families, Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services, PO Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717)705-8799 | rzemanek@pa.gov

PACTT in 2021

Affiliated Agencies

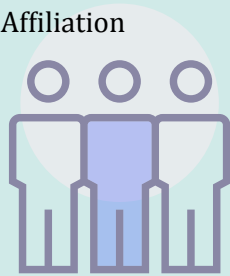
60 Affiliates

- 32 with Academic Affiliation
- 40 with Work-Related Affiliation
- 23 with Job Skills Training Affiliation

PACTT Staff

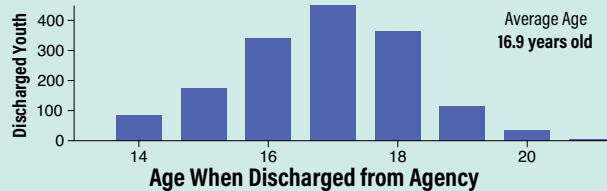
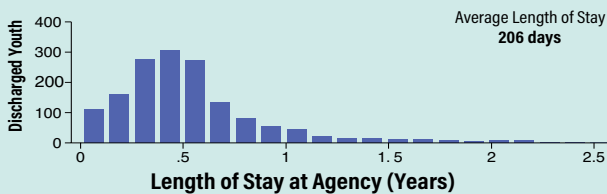
9 Staff

- 4 located in Eastern PA
- 3 located in Western PA
- 2 administrative staff



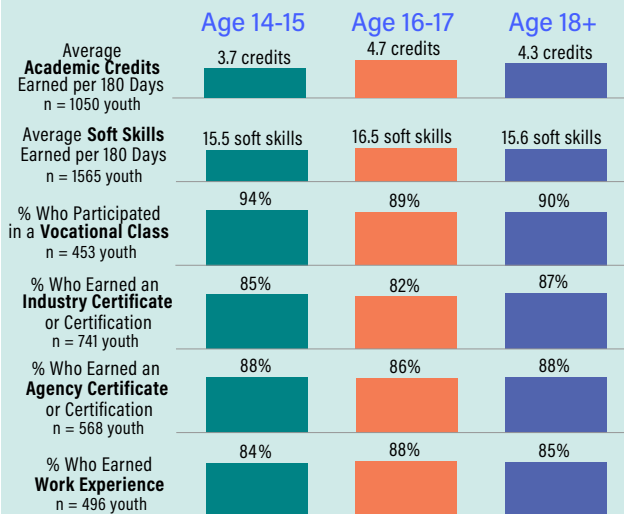
Youth Discharged from Affiliates in 2021

1,565 PA youth age 14+ at discharge



Outcomes for Youth Discharged in 2021

Each outcome is reported only for youth with the goal of participating in that programming.



High School Diplomas and GEDs in 2021

- Of 189 youth age 18+ with a goal of earning a high school diploma, 117 (62%) earned a diploma prior to discharge.
- Of 74 youth age 18+ with a goal of earning a GED, 47 (64%) earned a GED prior to discharge.

Youth Outcomes Available in Public Reports

PACTT began publishing public reports for each affiliate starting in July 2021. Each affiliate's public report describes the PACTT-related services received by youth discharged from their care during the previous twelve months. Public reports are tailored to the specific PACTT affiliations that each agency holds.

Public reports for agencies holding academic affiliation include academic outcomes such as percentage of academic transcripts received, average academic credits earned, and improvements in literacy and numeracy for discharged youth with academic goals.

Public reports for agencies holding work-related affiliation include youth outcomes such as the percentage of youth who completed career interest assessments and who participated in paid work-based learning experiences.

Public reports for agencies holding job skills training affiliation include youth outcomes such as the percentage who participated in a vocational program and the certifications and certificates earned by youth.

New public reports are published for each affiliate every six months and can be viewed at <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Children/PACTT/Pages/PACTT.aspx>

Partnership with Vocational Rehabilitation

PACTT partnered with PA's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in 2017 to provide workplace readiness training and job exploration and counseling to adjudicated youth with disabilities. Since 2017, the PACTT-OVR partnership has supported workplace readiness training for almost 4,000 youth, as well as instruction in self-advocacy, independent living skills training, and job exploration counseling for hundreds of youth.

PACTT and OVR have extended their partnership through 2026 with an expanded focus on developing summer programs for youth, collaborating with PA community colleges on career exploration programs, increasing accessibility to paid work experiences, and coordinating with juvenile probation officers on providing diversionary services to cohorts of youth.

Partners

- County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania Department of Education
- Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry
- Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
- Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
- Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers
- Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services
- Pennsylvania CareerLink

TECHNOLOGY CORNER

The PaJCMS helpdesk receives many calls regarding charges that require DNA. When searching for a charge on the alleged charge screen, there is a column, as shown below, that lets you know there is DNA required and the effective date. If there is no date in this column, DNA is not required.

Charge Search

Charges

183307 Charge Code Description

Charge Code Sort By

Inside Search Include Terminated Charges

Search Close

Charge List

| Code | Description | Grade | Effective Date | Termination Date | DNA Required |
|---------|---|-------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| 183307 | INSTITUT'L VANDALISM-DESECRATE OR >\$5000 | F3 | | | 05/31/2013 |
| 183307 | INSTITUTIONAL VANDALISM | M | | | No |
| 183307 | INSTITUTIONAL VANDALISM | M2 | | | No |
| 183307 | INSTITUTIONAL VANDALISM | F | | | 05/31/2013 |
| 183307A | INSTITUT'L VANDALISM-DESECRATE OR >\$5000 | F | | | 05/31/2013 |
| 183307A | INSTITUT'L VANDALISM-DESECRATE OR >\$5000 | F3 | | | 05/31/2013 |
| 183307A | INSTITUTIONAL VANDALISM | M | | | No |
| 183307A | INSTITUTIONAL VANDALISM | M2 | | | No |

The notification will appear on the juvenile face sheet or the probation officer's dashboard 30 days after the juvenile has been adjudicated delinquent on any charge that requires DNA. The DNA information can also be added to the DNA Info screen, and the appropriate cases can be selected.

-DNA Info for Birch, Brass [JP2010-000003]

SHUMAN DETENTION CENTER
DNA Testing Agency

SVarner Collected By 05/03/2022 Date Collected

CNailor Submitted By 05/04/2022 Date Submitted

DNA Research

Clear Edit Save Cancel

-Cases with DNA Charges

| Override | Docket Number | Case Number | Allegation Date | Last Changed By |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | 2010-000036 | 04/15/2020 | |

Update Overrides Cancel Overrides

In a few circumstances, the DNA requirement could be overridden if the DNA is unable to be collected. A few examples would be that the juvenile could be deceased or AWOL and therefore unavailable to collect samples.

The DNA Research Details screen can be used if the case is a courtesy transfer to your county and the other county completed the DNA. This screen can be completed to note your findings.

-DNA Research for Birch, Brass [JP2010-000003]

| Action | Research Date | Research By | DNA Found |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 05/04/2022 | SVarner | YES |

-Add/Edit DNA Research Details

05/04/2022 Research Date* SVarner Researched By* DNA Found

DNA was collected by Dauphin County on 05/02/2022.

Notes

DNA Information Add Edit Save Cancel Delete

If you click on the DNA Information button it will take you back to the main DNA Information page. If you have any questions, please contact the PaJCMS helpdesk at RA-JCJCHELPDESK@pa.gov.

JULY 27-29, 2022
Graduate Hotel
State College, PA

SAPEN

Sexual Abuse Prevention & Education Network



Keynote Speaker

Clark Fredericks



Female Offenders

Dr. Holly A. Miller, Ph.D.

Human Trafficking in YOUR
Neighborhood

Rebecca Mackenzie, MS



Sexual Abuse and IDD

Robert Krome, M.Ed., CSOTP



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REGISTRATION CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.SAPEN.ORG



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OJJDP OBSERVES NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH

May is [National Drug Court Month](#). Join OJJDP and its partners in highlighting the vital role drug treatment courts can play in helping youth and families overcome the effects of substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders. In 2020, more than 41 million people aged 12 or older needed substance use treatment. OJJDP helps communities establish or expand juvenile drug treatment courts, family treatment courts, and Tribal juvenile healing to wellness courts. In 2021, OJJDP awarded more than \$26 million to drug court programs nationwide. OJJDP recently announced fiscal year 2022 funding opportunities to support its [Family Treatment Court Program](#) and [Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program](#).

OJJDP also supports the following resources:

- A [series of podcasts](#) hosted by [National Drug Court Resource Center](#) that include discussions on family treatment courts and juvenile drug treatment courts.
- The [National Family Drug Court Training and Technical Assistance Program](#) provides resource material and learning opportunities for family treatment court professionals.

The [National Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Training and Technical Assistance Program](#) helps courts implement best practices and effectively deliver services to youth and families.

RESOURCES:

- View and download OJJDP's [drug courts fact sheet](#).
- View and download NADCP's [National Drug Court Month toolkit](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

NEW OJJDP ADMINISTRATOR ANNOUNCED

On May 4, 2022, the Office of Justice Programs Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Amy L. Solomon [announced](#) that President Biden has appointed Liz Ryan as Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

"Liz Ryan is an impassioned advocate for America's youth and a visionary whose actions have benefitted our nation's young people in countless ways," said Solomon.

Ryan joins OJJDP from the Youth First Initiative, a national campaign to end youth incarceration, which she founded and served as president and CEO.

There, Ryan led a multi-state effort to shift resources from incarceration to community-based services. The initiative led to the closure of youth prisons in a half-dozen states and redirection of more than \$50 million to non-incarceration alternatives.

As head of OJJDP, Ryan will direct grant programs, training initiatives, and policy activities aimed at protecting youth and advancing youth justice reforms.

Ryan's appointment is effective May 16, when she takes over the leadership post from Chyrl Jones, who has served as OJJDP's Acting Administrator since January 2021.

RESOURCES:

- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

OJJDP/NIJ BULLETIN SUMMARIZES FINDINGS FROM 2019 CENSUS OF JUVENILES IN RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT

OJJDP and the National Institute of Justice have [released](#) "Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2019." The bulletin presents findings from OJJDP's Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, a biennial survey that details the characteristics of youth held for delinquency and status offenses in public and private juvenile residential facilities. Findings indicate that the number of youth in residential placement continues to decline.

Key findings from the report include:

- Number of youth in residential placement decreased 65 percent between 1997 and 2019, reaching the lowest level since data collection began.
- Females accounted for 15 percent of the placement population.
- Black youth accounted for the largest share of youth in placement.

RESOURCES:

- Visit the [OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book](#) to access a [Data Snapshot](#) on OJJDP's Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement.
- Access the [Juvenile Residential Facility Census Databook](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

STATISTICAL BRIEFING BOOK OFFERS DATA SNAPSHOT ON YOUTH VICTIMS OF SUICIDE AND HOMICIDE

OJJDP has updated its [Statistical Briefing Book](#) with a new [Data Snapshot](#) on youth victims of suicide and homicide. Drawing on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the data snapshot details the characteristics and trends of youth victims of suicide and homicide in 2020. While the number of youth suicide victims changed little from 2019 to 2020, the number of youth homicide victims increased 47 percent.

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:

- 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.

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