



# PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Volume 35, Number 7

July 2024

## HON. DAVID R. WORKMAN AND HON. MARGARET T. MURPHY END TENURES ON THE JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

On June 7, 2024, the Hon. David R. Workman and Hon. Margaret T. Murphy, ended their tenures on the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC).



On October 20, 2015, **Judge David Workman** was appointed by Governor Tom Wolf to serve as a member of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), for which he was re-appointed for two additional three-year terms. During his tenure with the JCJC, Judge Workman served as the JCJC's Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Judge Workman received his bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University, his master's degree in Judicial Administration from the University of Denver School of Law, and his juris doctor from Widener University School of Law. He served as Schuylkill County District Court Administrator and Lancaster County Director of the Domestic Relations Office, as well as a Master for Dependency Matters in Lancaster County. (Bio continued on page 2.)



On October 20, 2015, **Judge Margaret T. Murphy** was appointed by Governor Tom Wolf to serve as a member of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), for which she was re-appointed for two additional three-year terms. She received her bachelor's degree from Chestnut Hill College, her master's degree from Villanova University School of Law, and her juris doctor from Widener University School of Law. Before her appointment to the bench in 2000, Judge Murphy served as a Master in both divorce and support matters and the Deputy Court Administrator of Domestic Relations. Later, she served as the Supervising Judge of Domestic Relations. In 2012, she received the Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania President's Award for her leadership and promotion of a statewide child support enforcement program. (Bio continued on page 2.)

### INSIDE:

Save the Date:  
2024 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice.....2

Youth Awards Program Speaker Announced .....3

JCJC Endorses Class of 2026 .....3

2023 Juvenile Court Annual Report: 5 Key Takeaways .....4

Myth vs. Fact .....6

PA Delegation Participates in a Study Visit on Trauma .....7

Welcome Chief Charles Rossi Beaver County .....8

Clearfield County Hosts First Juvenile Justice Symposium .....8

Crawford County's Centralized Truancy Court Program Receives Innovation Award .....9

JCJC Graduate Education Program Alumni Spotlight .....9

Pennsylvania Youth Justice Advisory Board Convening .....10

July Is Minority Mental Health Awareness Month .....11

Staff Development Highlights .....11

Mental Health Awareness and Prevention in Our Community .....12

2024 JCJC Award Program Nominations Deadline Extended...13

National Juvenile Justice Announcements .....14



**2024 JAMES E. ANDERSON PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE  
YOUTH AWARDS PROGRAM SPEAKER ANNOUNCED!**

[See page 3](#)

### **(Judge Workman continued from page 1)**

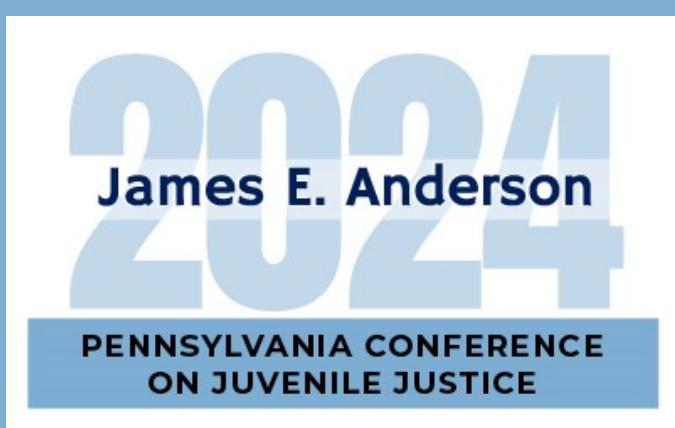
Judge Workman was elected to the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas bench in November 2003. He is currently a Senior Judge in Juvenile and Family Court, in which he has served for his entire judicial career. He is the past President of the Juvenile Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges and served as Chair of the Family Law Section for eleven years. Judge Workman is a current member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee. Judge Workman is the recipient of the President's Award and the Robert Stewart Award as statewide recognition from the Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania and received the Distinguished Service Award for a Court Officer from the Pennsylvania Partnership for Juvenile Services in October 2020. Judge Workman and his wife have also received the United States Angels in Adoption Award.

The JCJC extends great appreciation to Judge Workman for his tenure on the Commission, leadership as the JCJC Chair, and his dedicated service to youth, families, and communities in Lancaster County and across the Commonwealth!

### **(Judge Murphy continued from page 1)**

Judge Murphy is currently the Administrative Judge of the Family Division of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. She is responsible for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Sections of Family Court and oversaw the unification of Family Court at the current courthouse. Judge Murphy currently serves as a member on both the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committees. Judge Murphy is a frequent lecturer on the topic of family law for many organizations and law schools, including the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Philadelphia Bar Association, and the Pennsylvania Bar Institute.

The JCJC extends sincere gratitude to Judge Murphy for her tenure on the Commission and her steadfast commitment to youth, families, and communities in Philadelphia County and across the Commonwealth!



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# **SAVE the DATE**

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**November 6 - 8, 2024**

**Hilton Harrisburg**

#### **CONFERENCE - HOTEL INFORMATION**

At the **Crowne Plaza Harrisburg-Hershey**, the room block will close on 10/16/2024. Rooms are available on a first-come basis. You may visit the customized link to book online, [\*\*2024 Crowne Reservations\*\*](#), or call 717-234-5021 and identify yourself with the Conference using **GROUP CODE: CAL**. The hotel will confirm your reservation.

For all conference details as they become available, visit the [\*\*Annual Conference\*\*](#) page of [\*\*www.jcjc.pa.gov\*\*](http://www.jcjc.pa.gov).

# JAMES E. ANDERSON PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE YOUTH AWARDS PROGRAM SPEAKER ANNOUNCED



Leon Ford will be the featured speaker for the 2024 Youth Awards Program at the Hilton Harrisburg on November 6, 2024. A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Leon is a celebrated author, social entrepreneur, impact investor, international speaker, and changemaker dedicated to driving positive change in his community and beyond. In 2012, Leon was tragically shot five times by a police officer during a traffic stop, leaving him physically paralyzed. Nevertheless, he has continued to positively impact his community, working with police officers on cultural competency and legislators on drafting policies to modify the use of force laws. As a respected activist and mental health ambassador, Leon passionately addresses disparities by focusing on holistic wellness. His inspiring approach emphasizes the importance of resilience, transforming personal challenges into purpose, and creating a lasting societal impact.

Seeking to bridge the gap between residents, community leaders, and law enforcement to cultivate a safe and thriving community, Leon joined forces with former Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Chief Scott Schubert to co-found The Hear Foundation in 2022. In recognition of its innovative approach, the Foundation received the McNulty Catalyst Prize in 2023. Leon also joined more than 150 other leaders as a founding partner of the Starts With Us movement to end culture wars by fostering curiosity, compassion, and courage as daily habits.

In 2017, Leon was the recipient of President Obama's Volunteer Service Award. In 2018, he was among The Root 100 most influential African Americans, ages 25-45, and in 2019, he was recognized in Pittsburgh's 40 Under 40. Among his many accomplishments, Leon executive produced the Cannes Film Festival award winning documentary *Leon* (2019) and *Breaking Bread: A Conversation on Race in America* (2021), which won a Shorty Award. In 2023, Leon was recognized in Forbes 30 Under 30 and was the recipient of the National Urban League Community Service Award. In late 2023, Leon received the prestigious Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Award. Recently, Leon was named to Governor Shapiro's Pennsylvania Citizen Law Enforcement Advisory and Review (CLEAR) Commission to bring state law enforcement experts and criminal justice reform advocates together to support public safety and ensure accountability for state law enforcement agencies.

As an influential figure in social justice and mental health, Leon inspires others through speaking engagements, mentorship, and fostering open dialogue. Through his work, he cultivates leaders, organizers, and social entrepreneurs, ensuring his vision for a compassionate and just society endures for future generations.

## JCJC ENDORSES CLASS OF 2026

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) endorsed ten candidates for the JCJC-sponsored Graduate Education Program in Administration of Juvenile Justice at Shippensburg University who are scheduled to begin their coursework in August 2024. Congratulations to these talented students, the Class of 2026!

Giana Anastasio, Philadelphia Family Court Juvenile Probation

Mattea Dunn, Centre County Probation/Parole Department

William Keim, JCJC

Rolando Longueira, Blair County Juvenile Probation Office

Kaitlin Lunger, Lycoming County Juvenile Probation Office

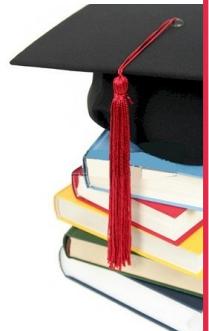
Taylor McKnight, Blair County Juvenile Probation Office

Lauren Mellott, Fulton County Adult and Juvenile Probation Department

Madison Miller, Blair County Juvenile Probation Office

Nicholas Sanservino, Wayne County Juvenile Probation Department

Brok Skiba, Crawford County Juvenile Probation



# 2023 Juvenile Court Annual Report

## 5 Key Takeaways

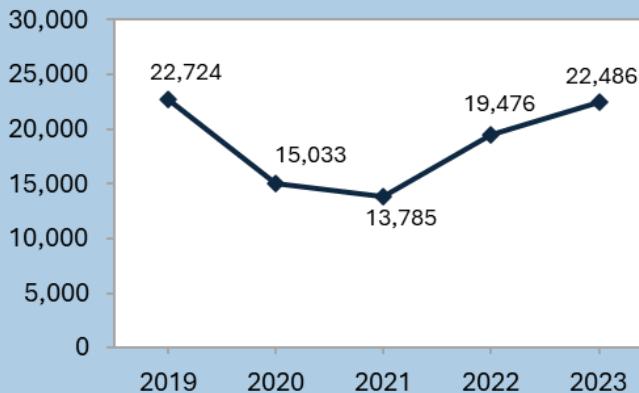


The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is pleased to present the 2023 *Juvenile Court Annual Report*. This Report continues to include dozens of metrics to help measure and quantify work done by juvenile justice professionals. This year's report also includes new sets of measures related to hearings, diversion from adjudication, and delinquency placements. The following Brief summarizes the 5 key takeaways from this year's report. To review the full report, please visit [www.jcjc.pa.gov](http://www.jcjc.pa.gov).

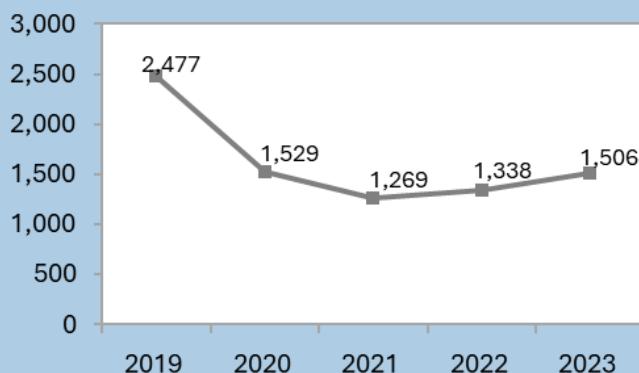
### 1. While written allegations have increased to near pre-pandemic levels, placements remain well below pre-pandemic levels.

After significant decreases during the COVID-19 pandemic, written allegations increased 63.1% between 2021 and 2023. The number of allegations received by juvenile probation departments in 2023 was nearly the same as those received in 2019. Conversely, between 2019 and 2023, delinquency placements declined 39.2% and currently remain well below pandemic levels.

**Delinquency Allegations, 2019-2023**



**Delinquency Placements, 2019-2023**



### 2. Secure detention admissions remain down, but median length of time in detention continues to increase.

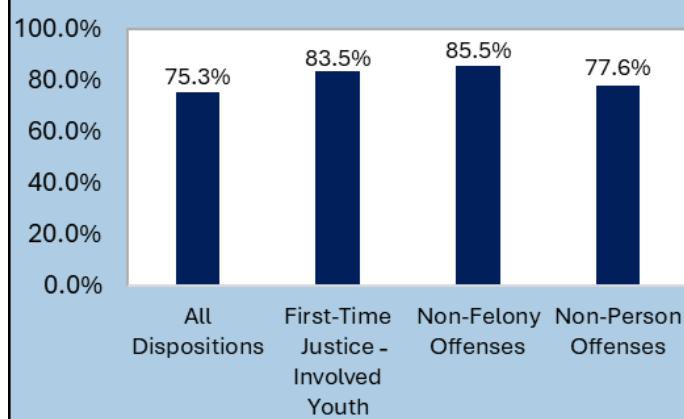
Detention admissions have declined 49.1% statewide since 2019, from 7,244 admissions to 3,686 admissions. This drop has been largely impacted by the decrease in the number of available secure detention beds.

Despite the decrease in admissions, however, the median length of time in secure detention has increased, from 12 days in 2019 to 15 days in 2023.

### 3. Most youth are being diverted from adjudication.

Most youth entering the juvenile justice system are not adjudicated delinquent. Approximately 75.3% of all dispositions resulted in a non-adjudication outcome in 2023. Additionally, 83.5% of first-time justice-involved youth were not adjudicated delinquent. Finally, 85.5% of non-felony offenses and 77.6% of non-person offenses were diverted from adjudication.

**Diversion from Adjudication, 2023**



**4. Delinquent behavior at school continues to serve as a primary pathway by which youth enter the juvenile justice system.**

School-related allegations accounted for nearly one-third of all allegations received in 2023, and Education/Employment is the top scoring criminogenic need for youth who received an initial Youth Level of Service assessment.

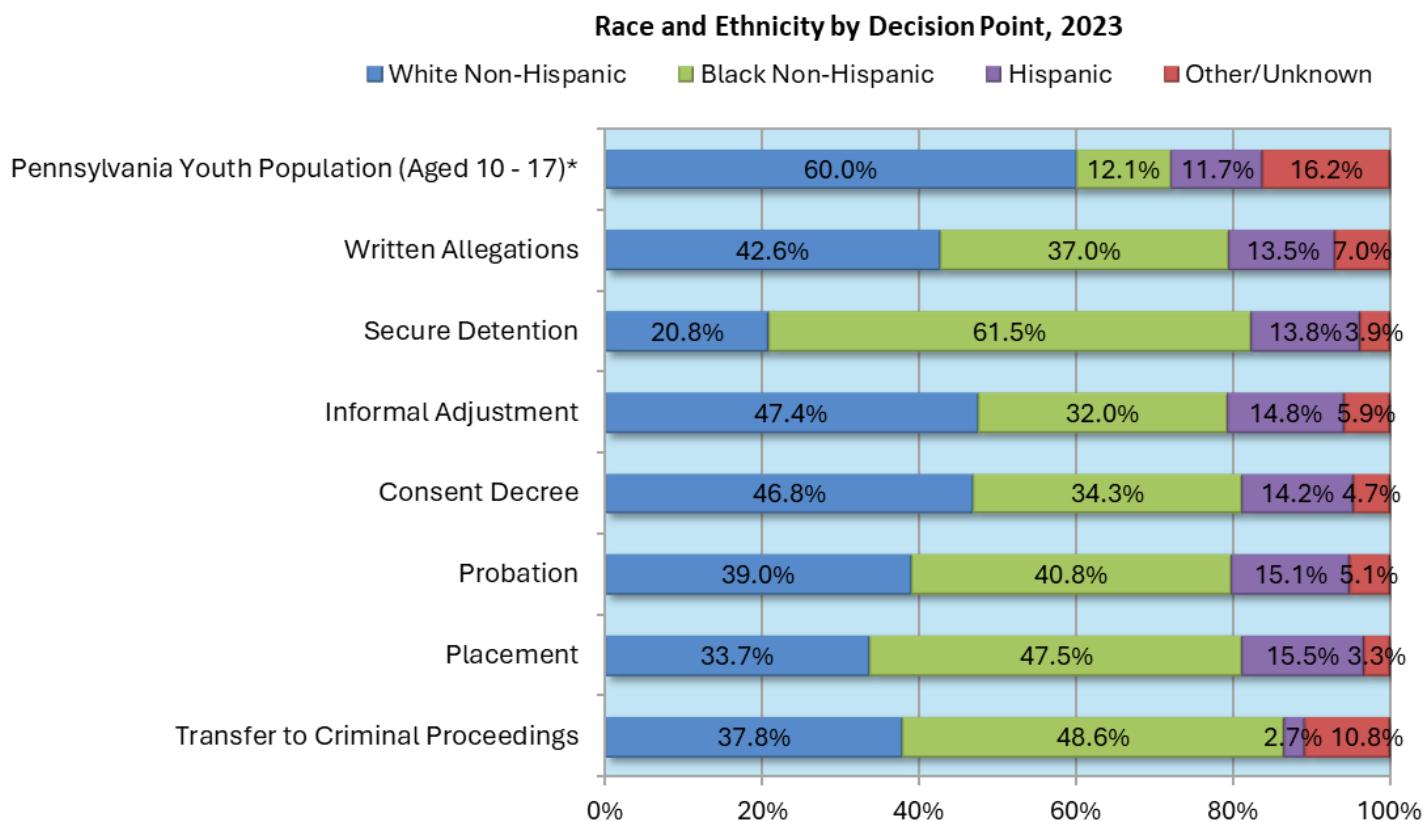
In 2023, 28.7% of all delinquency allegations received derived from incidents in which an alleged delinquency offense occurred at school. The most common alleged offenses included simple assault, possession of drugs, and weapon-related offenses.

Relatedly, the top scoring criminogenic need for youth entering the juvenile justice system in 2023 was Education/Employment. Approximately 78.3% of youth scored either moderate or high on this domain.

**5. Certain race and ethnicity groups continue to be overrepresented at key juvenile justice decision points.**

The chart below shows the distribution of various juvenile justice system decision points by race and ethnicity. To better contextualize the representation of a specific race at a given decision point, the overall youth population (aged 10 – 17) of the state is used as a benchmark.

Despite accounting for just 12.1% of the Pennsylvania youth population, Black Non-Hispanic youth were over-represented at key points in the juvenile justice system, including the most severe decision points (e.g., transferred to criminal proceedings) and those decision points which include removal from the home (detention and placement).



\*Youth population figures were retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/>

# MYTH



VS.

# FACT



The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission continues its monthly series, "Myth vs. Fact," which addresses common misconceptions about the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system. Using a combination of Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System data and scholarly research conducted by the field more broadly, this series will provide data-driven facts on all topics juvenile justice.

This month's installment is part two in a series of two examining adolescent brain development and what this means for juvenile justice practitioners.

## MYTH

Youth are just mini adults.

## FACT

The adolescent brain differs in important ways from the adult brain, making youth fundamentally different than adults.

As noted in last month's article, recent advances in science tell us that youth are not just mini adults. Instead, they differ physically, mentally, emotionally, and cognitively. These differences, grounded in biological and maturational development research, have practical implications for juvenile justice professionals who seek to promote behavior change among justice-involved youth.

In Pennsylvania, concepts of adolescent brain development are embedded within the state's efforts to integrate graduated response systems within each juvenile probation department.<sup>1</sup> As we learned last month, adolescents are overly sensitive to short-term rewards and fail to see the long-term consequences of their actions. Historically, juvenile probation was rooted in the use of sanctions alone to achieve a youth's compliance. A graduated response approach, however, relies on both strategic sanctions/interventions, and more importantly, the use of incentives, or short-term rewards, to encourage and support desired behaviors while discouraging undesired behaviors.

In order for any incentive, sanction, or intervention within a graduated response system to be effective, it must be:

1. **Certain:** Responses to behaviors should be predictable. If an identified behavior occurs, a specific and expected response must then occur.
2. **Swift:** Responses to the identified behavior should be administered as soon as possible after the behavior so the youth can make the connection between the behavior and the responses.
3. **Targeted:** Both desired and undesired behaviors must be clearly identified, communicated, and understood by the youth. All responses should be in direct connection to the identified behavior.
4. **Proportionate:** Responses, both incentives and consequences, should be proportionate to the behavior exhibited. Excessive praise or incentives for minimally compliant behaviors may diminish the intrinsic value of the behavior, whereas excessive punitive responses for minimal non-compliance may have detrimental effects on behavior change.

Additionally, youth are more likely to internalize and adopt desired behaviors if those behaviors are recognized, acknowledged, and affirmed. As a result, the ratio of incentives to consequences should significantly favor incentives, and it is recommended that incentives exceed consequences by at least a 4:1 ratio.

<sup>1</sup> For more information on graduated response systems and the implementation of such across the state, see [Graduated Response Systems: Guiding Principles and Protocol Development](#), a deliverable of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers' Graduated Responses Workgroup.

## PENNSYLVANIA DELEGATION PARTICIPATES IN A STUDY VISIT ON TRAUMA

On July 8 and 9, 2024, Hon. Stephen Minor, President Judge, Potter County and Chair, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC); Hon. Jennifer McCrady, Juvenile Supervising Judge, Allegheny County; Hon. Carolyn Nichols, Pennsylvania Superior Court; Hon. Wilden Davis, Magisterial District Judge, Delaware County; Bob Tomassini, Executive Director, JCJC; Angela Work, Deputy Director, JCJC; Rob Reed, Executive Deputy Attorney General, Office of Public Engagement, Office of Attorney General; Emily Robb, Director of Advocacy, Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project; and Lara Carpenter, Judicial Secretary, Allegheny County, traveled to the University of North Carolina's (UNC) School of Government and met with the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) to learn more about Chief Justice Paul Newby's Task Force on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Informed Courts. This task force was created to understand the impact of ACEs on children and to develop strategies for addressing these experiences within the court system. The Pennsylvania contingent was invited as members of the Commonwealth's HEAL PA initiative, whose mission is "[t]o lead and support Pennsylvania in becoming trauma-informed and healing-centered by providing resources, advocacy, and education via a multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach."

During this event, members of the task force, including Chief Justice Newby, delivered many impactful and informative sessions focused on topics including, but not limited to, judicial certifications, vicarious trauma trainings, Success Sequence Implementation, School of Justice partnerships, and philanthropies' role in supporting collaborative interests. Additionally, numerous resources, such as an ACEs-Informed Courts bench card, developed through the task force, were shared, and the Pennsylvania contingent was encouraged to use any of these resources to advance Pennsylvania courts' efforts related to trauma.



Members of the task force and presenters during the event, alongside the NCAOC, represented Duke University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University, UNC, and Wake Forest University. This membership exemplifies the partnerships between state government and North Carolina's research and philanthropic sectors. The collaborations include elevating North Carolina's internal capacity to use and generate evidence in its policy and programmatic functions.

Thank you to Chief Justice Newby and the NCAOC!

DID YOU KNOW...

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission first presented Pennsylvania juvenile court statistics in 1972, which began a yearly series lasting until 2016 entitled *Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Dispositions*—the forerunner of the current *Juvenile Court Annual Report*.

## COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

### WELCOME CHIEF CHARLES ROSSI BEAVER COUNTY



On April 8, 2024, Charles Rossi was appointed as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of Beaver County Juvenile Services by President Judge Richard Mancini. Charles earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Edinboro University in 2004. After graduation, Charles began his career as a juvenile monitor at Allencrest Juvenile Detention Center and Shelter. He worked there for a year before accepting a counselor position at the Beaver County Jail, where he worked for eighteen months. In October 2007, Charles accepted the position of Juvenile Probation Officer. In addition, Charles was a member of the Therapeutic Support Staff from 2005-2015. During his employment, he gained valuable experience as a line officer, aftercare officer, intake officer, supervisor, and Assistant Director. Charles credits experiences from those positions with assisting him in leading the department and its clients to have the best possible outcome. In addition, Charles gives credit to his predecessors, for whom he worked for the majority of his career in juvenile justice. Charles has completed various trainings and certifications over the years, which will assist him with his everyday decisions. He looks forward to continuing the mission of giving every client an opportunity for change and successfully graduating from the juvenile system.

### CLEARFIELD COUNTY HOSTS FIRST JUVENILE JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

On May 14, 2024, the Clearfield County Juvenile Probation Department hosted its first Juvenile Justice Symposium. The symposium was created as an opportunity to gather key stakeholders and assist in updating attendees about current evidence-based practices and juvenile justice trends. Representatives from local law enforcement, Magisterial District Justices, Court Administration, District Attorney's Office, Juvenile Probation Department, and the County Warden were in attendance. The day's agenda entailed presentations from various experts on pertinent juvenile justice topics, question and answer sessions, mock case scenarios as they pertain to local rules and state guidelines, and a catered luncheon. Seth Bloomquist, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's Director of Detention Monitoring, presented the topics of Interest of Justice and statutory and regulatory requirements (direct file cases). Kris Fenton, Program Manager, The Center for Community Resources, facilitated a question-and-answer session regarding best practices with juveniles who are in crisis. Dr. Mary Tatum, DPA, Director, Child Advocacy Center of Clearfield County, discussed the importance of mindfulness when conducting investigations with youth who have experienced trauma. Finally, Kate Hooven, Justice System Project Coordinator, Autism Services, Education, Resources, and Training Collaborative, provided best practices for law enforcement when encountering youth on the autism spectrum. The Clearfield County Juvenile Probation Department is anticipating hosting the Juvenile Justice Symposium on an annual basis. The symposium was well regarded among participants as it was a productive event in gathering stakeholders to continue discussions about collaboration and learning about the ongoing efforts to enhance services provided to the community by Clearfield County Juvenile Probation Department.



# CRAWFORD COUNTY'S CENTRALIZED TRUANCY COURT PROGRAM RECEIVES INNOVATION AWARD

*Reprinted with Permission by the Pennsylvania Courts*

**July 09, 2024** - The Pennsylvania Association of Court Management (PACM) has recognized Crawford County's Centralized Truancy Court program with PACM's Innovation Award for Crawford's approach to addressing truancy issues within its jurisdiction.

The PACM Innovation Award recognizes a project, program, or event that has had a perceivable impact in areas including, but not limited to, case processing, case management, court security, and access to justice. This recognition underscores the importance of community collaboration and innovative problem solving in addressing complex issues such as truancy.

Crawford County's Truancy Court Attendance Program (TCAP) is structured to provide uniform and comprehensive enforcement, together with support to students and their families to address the root causes of truancy and ensure that every child has the opportunity to succeed academically. Crawford County Magisterial District Judge Adam Stallard, Esq., handles all truancy citations, with access to an array of services. The creation of TCAP was a collaborative effort among Crawford County's Court Leadership and Administration, Magisterial District Judges, School District Superintendents, Juvenile Probation Department, and Children's Services.

"I am very thankful for the committed effort of all of our participants, all of whom have made our program a success. On behalf of everyone involved, I express our gratitude in becoming recipients of the Innovation Award," said Crawford County President Judge John Spataro.

Truancy occurs when a school-age student accrues unexcused absences, regardless of whether they occur separately or happen all at one time. Truancy has been linked to poor academics; serious delinquency, which can lead to a greater chance of incarceration; drug and alcohol use; poorer health outcomes; and lower paying jobs. The goal of any truancy case is to deter further attendance issues, address the root cause of the problem and ultimately help the student create a habit of showing up for school.

To learn more about truancy, a detailed one-pager is available [here](#), and for more information on the work of the state's judiciary, a detailed civics education toolkit is available [here](#).

## JCJC GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAM ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**What advice would you give anyone considering applying to the JCJC-sponsored Graduate Education Program who is concerned about balancing school, work, and personal life?**

*The JCJC-sponsored Graduate Program is a great opportunity for juvenile justice professionals. Like many things in life worth working for, it takes time and effort. However, the educators at Shippensburg were very supportive and understanding of the unique challenges of working in our field, the importance of family, and managing a master's course load. The relationships you build with your cohort create an atmosphere of support that motivates you to get the most out of the program and helps you to achieve your goal. I encourage anyone interested to take this amazing opportunity for professional growth and development.*

**Dwight Penberth - Class of 2018**  
**Lebanon County Probation Services, Juvenile Unit**

# PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD CONVENING



On June 28 and 29, 2024, the first ever Pennsylvania Youth Justice Advisory Board (YJAB) Convening event was held at the Bench Mark Program in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Youth members from all eight YJABs gathered to discuss Pennsylvania juvenile justice issues and possible theories of action.

The two-day event began with opening remarks from Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark, Chairperson of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJDPC). Youth then engaged in an icebreaker activity and split into groups to attend five juvenile justice strategic planning sessions addressing areas of interest identified from the

Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Plan developed by the JJDPC.

Sessions were co-facilitated by Dr. Rebecca Cunningham, YJAB staff/leaders, and YJAB youth members. The juvenile justice sessions focused on one of five areas:

1. Prevention/Intervention Programs
2. Support for Justice-Involved Youth
3. Safety of Youth/Staff in Residential/Detention Programs
4. Reduction of Gun Involvement/Violence
5. Diversion Programs

Youth were also given the opportunity to participate in psychoeducational group activities, which included:

1. Boxes of Appreciation
2. Helping Hands Art Project (*Pictured to the right*)
3. My 45
4. Communication Games

On day two of the event, two to three volunteer YJAB youth members from each strategic planning session led a discussion in which they summarized their identified theories of action, strategies for understanding and addressing the areas of concern identified from the JJDPC Plan. The remaining youth members rotated through all five areas of interest to hear from their peers about the work

that had occurred on day one. After hearing the summary from each strategic planning session, the youth members were given the opportunity to vote on which theory of action resonated the most with them. After the voting occurred, the top 5 highest-scoring theories of action were identified for each area of interest. These theories of action will be presented to the JJDPC on August 1, 2024.





## JULY IS MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Submitted by Dr. Abigail Wilson, Director,  
PCCYFS Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, and Education Services

Named after [Bebe Moore Campbell](#), co-founder of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Urban Los Angeles, July is Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. Campbell utilized her literary talents to address and educate about the impact of racism on mental health (NAMI, 2024). Mental health includes emotional, psychological, and social well-being (OMH, 2024). Racial and ethnic minority and American Indian/Alaska Native populations experience mental health disparities, including higher rates of attempted suicide in adolescents (OMH, 2024).

While a variety of barriers exist for mental health, there are added barriers for individuals in minority populations (NAMI, 2024). Stigma, language barriers, discrimination, provider bias, legal status, and poverty create added challenges to accessing mental health services. The Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health (OMH) created a [three-part infographic](#) to show examples of social determinants of mental health factors leading to poor mental health outcomes for racial and ethnic minority children and adolescents (OMH, 2024).

Professionals working directly with youth belonging to racial and ethnic minorities can help create bridges to access mental health services. This may include identifying gaps, creating new partnerships, and participating in trainings.

The [988 Lifeline](#) provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention, and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States. You can find resources specific to [Tribal communities](#), [Black communities](#), and [LGBTQI+ communities](#).

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OMH. (2024). *National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month 2024: Infographic*. <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/national-minority-mental-health-awareness-month-2024-infographic>

OMH. (2024). *National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month 2024*. <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/national-minority-mental-health-awareness-month-2024>

NAMI. (2024). 2024 Bebe Moore Campbell: *National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month*. [https://www.nami.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/NAMI\\_BBMC\\_Toolkit.pdf](https://www.nami.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/NAMI_BBMC_Toolkit.pdf)

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### August

- 21 Developing & Sustaining Dynamic Communication - Virtual
- 27-28 YLSTM Master Trainer Certification - State College
- 29 Improving Your Understanding of Juvenile Competency - Virtual

### September

- 9-13 Juvenile Probation Officer Academy - Camp Hill
- 11 Recognizing the Signs of Teen Dating Violence - Virtual
- 17 How to Use Setbacks for Setups - Virtual
- 18 Graduated Response Coordinator Learning Community - Virtual
- 26 Enhancing Probation Services: The Importance of Social Support Systems - State College

### October

- 8-10 EPICS Training for Juvenile Probation Officers - Camp Hill
- 15-18 Victim/Community Awareness Curriculum Train the Trainer - State College
- 23 The Urgency of Awareness Training - State College
- 24 SPEPSTM Combine (Level 1 and InfoCom Collaboration) - Virtual

For full schedule and registration information,  
please visit [www.jcjems.pa.gov](http://www.jcjems.pa.gov).

# MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND PREVENTION IN OUR COMMUNITY

*Submitted by Jeanine Wartell and Jennifer Ungarino, Montgomery County Juvenile Probation Department*

Over the past 75 years, advocates across the nation have observed May as National Mental Health Awareness Month to promote the importance of mental health and its impact on the wellbeing of our communities. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has been recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month since the program's development in 1992. By raising awareness, more services and supports have been identified to help individuals and communities impacted by the mental health crisis. Such services have been more in demand than ever over the past few years. The stress of school and workplace closures from the COVID-19 pandemic led to feelings of increased isolation and loneliness, which had a direct impact on rising rates of depression and suicidal ideation. Those who were already lacking in support and access to resources experienced worsening situations. The Journal of American Medical Association (2022) reported that school closures affected nearly 80,000 children, cutting them off from teachers, school social workers, and friends. Nearly 60% of students exhibited strong distress during this time. The US Department of Health and Human Services' Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, PhD, describes the mental health crisis as "unprecedented," indicating that 1 in 4 adults have reported a mental illness, 20% of adolescents aged 12-17 have reported a major depressive episode, and death by suicide occurs every 11 minutes in the United States. Additionally in May, National Prevention Week was observed May 12-28 in 2024. Prevention happens on a daily basis; however, National Prevention Week focuses on raising awareness and the promotion of ideas that can have a profound impact on communities and individuals. Mental health and substance use disorders do not discriminate based on age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, etc. Grassroots- level awareness and promotion can have far-reaching effects and have the ability to effect change on a larger, national scale.

In recognition of National Mental Health Awareness Month, Montgomery County officials and the Montgomery County Alliance for Prevention (MAP) hosted a Prevention Day event on May 14, 2024, to encourage healthy decision-making, celebrate prevention, and engage the community in awareness. "SAMHSA's National Prevention Week is an opportunity for us to join communities across the country to celebrate the community leaders and organizations that make a positive impact on substance misuse prevention," said Dr. Tamra Williams, Director, Montgomery County Health and Human Services. "Substance misuse prevention begins with each of us, and we all have the power to foster a healthier future for ourselves and those we care about."

In addition, former Montgomery County Commissioner and current Department of Human Services Secretary, Dr. Valerie Arkoosh, proposed investing \$20 million in statewide funding to support services that offer life-saving programming, as well as \$5 million to invest in crisis response management. Montgomery County provides 24/7 mental health assistance through Mobile Crisis services. This is a free service to anyone in the county—children, teens, and adults—who can call a toll-free number and be connected with a live person to talk about mental health and/or substance use concerns, and be connected to immediate resources. Everyone is offered assistance, regardless of insurance. Montgomery County also offers a Peer Support Talk Line.

Mental Health Awareness and Substance Abuse Prevention efforts have achieved great strides to provide understanding and assistance to those impacted. By strengthening local communities, we contribute to SAMHSA's nationwide mission to "promote mental health, prevent substance misuse, and provide treatments and supports to foster recovery while ensuring equitable access and better outcomes." The extent to which awareness and prevention are provided on a larger scale relies heavily on the engagement of smaller communities. Persistence of local acknowledgement and support for those impacted in their own communities is key to reducing stigmas and expanding on previous efforts to provide treatment.



# ANNOUNCEMENT

## Award Nomination Deadline Extended

For the Following Categories:

### Professional Awards

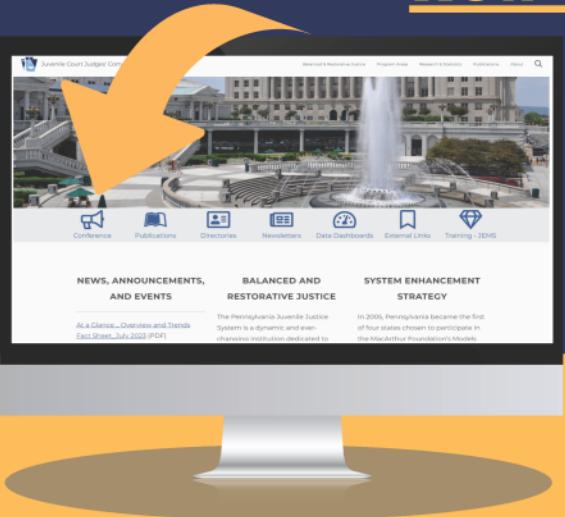
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year  
Juvenile Probation Supervisor of the Year  
Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year  
Victim Advocate of the Year  
Meritorious Service Award  
Juvenile Court Support Service Award  
Residential Program of the Year  
Court-Operated Program of the Year  
Community-Based Program of the Year

### Youth Awards

Creative Expression Contest  
Outstanding Achievement Award



## How to Nominate



1. Go to [www.jcjc.pa.gov](http://www.jcjc.pa.gov)
2. Select the "Conference" Icon
3. Fill Out the Nomination Form
4. Then Submit It!

**DEADLINE EXTENDED:  
August 12, 2024**

For questions, contact Angel Stewart at [angstewart@pa.gov](mailto:angstewart@pa.gov) or  
Keysla Rodriguez at [keyrodrigu@pa.gov](mailto:keyrodrigu@pa.gov).



## NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### SUBSCRIBE TO THE OJJDP NEWS @ A GLANCE NEWSLETTER!

Subscribe to get the latest news from OJJDP by subscribing to the award-winning *OJJDP News @ a Glance* newsletter. The redesigned monthly publication includes two feature articles highlighting news from OJJDP and the youth justice field. Other sections include:

- *From the Administrator's Desk*, featuring photos, quotes, and insights from OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan.
- *From the Field*, highlighting programs and news from OJJDP grantees.
- *Tribal Connections*, showcasing stories and activities involving Tribal youth.
- *News in Brief*, providing concise overview of news and events from across the youth justice field.

Since 2002, the *OJJDP News @ a Glance* newsletter has been the top resource for timely and relevant news about local and state efforts to prevent delinquency and improve juvenile justice systems. Subscribe to *OJJDP News @ a Glance* newsletter to get the latest updates on OJJDP-funded programs, youth justice-related activities, news, events, and more.

#### RESOURCES:

- [Browse past issues](#) of *OJJDP News @ a Glance* newsletter.
- Follow OJJDP on [X formerly known as Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

### OJJDP LAUNCHES JJDPA 50TH ANNIVERSARY SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

Join OJJDP and its partners in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the [Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act \(JJDPA\)](#), enacted on September 7, 1974. The year-long observance theme is "Looking Back, Moving Forward: Celebrating 50 Years of the JJDPA."

We invite you to participate in discussions and outreach activities highlighting advancements in juvenile justice reform over the last 50 years and beyond. We also encourage you to take this time to reflect on the youth justice system of tomorrow, one that focuses on support, healing, and restorative justice.

To help spread the word, [OJJDP's JJDPA 50th Anniversary Social Media Toolkit](#) is now available!

The toolkit includes:

- Downloadable JJDPA 50th anniversary graphics.
- Sample social media posts.
- Recommended hashtags.
- Additional resources, including OJJDP publications, access to juvenile justice facts and statistics, and more.

#### RESOURCES:

- Learn more about the [JJDPA](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [X formerly known as 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-oajcjnews@pa.gov](mailto:ra-oajcjnews@pa.gov).

To subscribe to Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice, please send your request to [ra-oajcjnews@pa.gov](mailto:ra-oajcjnews@pa.gov) to be added to the distribution list. You will receive an e-mail alert each month when the latest edition is available.

### DATA SNAPSHOT REVEALS ALARMING DEPRESSION RATES AMONG YOUTH

OJJDP has updated its [Statistical Briefing Book](#) with a new [Data Snapshot](#) on major depressive episodes (MDE) among youth.

The snapshot draws on data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

The data show one in five youth ages 12–17 experienced an MDE in 2022. Among youth who had experienced an MDE in 2022, nearly half received treatment for depression. The data also show that more than 8 in 10 youth who experienced an MDE in 2022 perceived the COVID-19 pandemic as having a negative impact on their emotional or mental health.

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

#### RESOURCES:

- Access the full list of [Data Snapshots](#) and [Data Analysis Tools](#) available from the Statistical Briefing Book.
- Follow OJJDP on [X formerly known as Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

### DATA SNAPS HIGHLIGHT YOUTH PLACEMENTS, COURT CASES JUDICIALLY WAIVED

OJJDP has updated its [Statistical Briefing Book](#) with two new data snapshots:

- [Highlights from the 2022 Juvenile Residential Facility Census](#) presents findings from OJJDP's biennial Juvenile Residential Facility Census. The data show the number of youth in placement in 2022 was 75 percent below the number reported in 2000. More than 90 percent of facilities reported evaluating youth for service needs within one week of admission.
- [Characteristics of Cases Judically Waived from Juvenile Court to Criminal Court](#) draws on data from OJJDP's [National Juvenile Court Data Archive](#). The data show the number of cases judicially waived in 2021 was 57 percent less than the number in 2005. Person offenses accounted for the largest number of judicially waived cases between 2005 and 2021.

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

#### RESOURCES:

- Access the full list of [Data Snapshots](#) and [Data Analysis Tools](#) available from the Statistical Briefing Book.
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