



## RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice E-Newsletter

### On the Ground

#### Statewide Dual Status Youth Initiative Launched in North Dakota

On May 31, 2017, the RFK National Resource Center launched a Dual Status Youth Initiative in the state of North Dakota. This effort is jointly supported by the North Dakota Court System, the Department of Human Services - Children and Family Services Division, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation - Division of Juvenile Services, and the North Dakota Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group. The Initiative seeks to improve multi-disciplinary policies and practices impacting North Dakota's dual status youth population statewide. We are honored to have the opportunity to support the dedicated professionals of North Dakota in this important endeavor.

#### New Juvenile Justice Partnership Supported by the State Justice Institute

We are pleased to announce a new multi-organizational partnership that has been awarded a two year project grant from the State Justice Institute to support their Juvenile Justice Reform and the State Courts Initiative. The partner organizations include the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), the National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC), the Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP), the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the National Center for State Courts, and the RFK National Resource Center. Building on each of the organization's rich history of field-based support, this exciting new partnership will develop and present training, provide targeted technical assistance to aid court efforts to reform their juvenile justice systems, and develop national resources to assist state courts toward improved system performance and youth outcomes. This resource center partnership will also disseminate information about the project's resources and reform progress through a variety of communication mechanisms to ensure the broadest awareness and access to the field. Stay tuned for more information!

#### Executive Director Presents on Juvenile Justice Reform at National Conference

On June 15, 2017 John Tuell (Executive Director of the RFK National Resource Center) presented a workshop session entitled "Transforming Youth Justice in Probation,

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### How Can We Serve Your Community?

To find out how we can support your community, please [Contact Us!](#)

### We're on Twitter!

RFK Children's Action Corps and RFK National Resource Center are on Twitter! [@RFKChildren](#)

[Follow us on Twitter](#)

**From the Field -**  
*New Op-Ed Featured by the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange*

**Untreated Traumatic Brain Injury Keeps Youth in Juvenile Justice System**  
*By Tanya Renn and Christopher Veeh*

"Traumatic brain injury (TBI) within youth, defined by the Centers for Disease Control and

*Dual Status Youth and Adolescent Development: Innovative Training and Technical Assistance Available in Your Jurisdiction*" at the Coalition for Juvenile Justice's 2017 Annual Conference (Access, Accountability, & Advocacy: Addressing Educational, Physical, and Mental Health Needs in the Juvenile Justice System) in Washington, DC. The session highlighted the array of training and technical assistance curricula available to the field from the RFK National Resource Center.

## Team Spotlight - Meet Lisa Jacobs!



Lisa Jacobs joined our team of expert consultants in the spring of 2015. Since then, Lisa has worked closely with our Practice Networks and served as a Senior Consultant to jurisdictions throughout the country to support their Dual Status Youth reform efforts.

Lisa is an attorney with an extensive background in court and judicial administration as well as criminal justice, juvenile justice and human services policy and practice issues. She currently manages Loyola University's new Center for Criminal Justice Research, Policy and Practice. Prior to the Center's launch, she managed the Illinois *Models for Change* Initiative, which was funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to promote effective juvenile justice policy, practice and programming in diverse jurisdictions across the state.

[Click here](#) to read more!

Prevention as an injury to the head that causes disruption of the normal function of the brain, is fast becoming an issue of concern for parents across the United States. High-profile incidents of TBI reported in professional athletes have sparked conversations on the safety of youth participation in a variety of sporting activities including hockey, boxing, soccer and full-contact football..."

[Click here](#) to read the full Op-Ed.

## Check Out Our Online Resource Library!

All of our publications and tools are made available online to support jurisdictions undertaking reform, with or without technical assistance. In an effort to enhance that support, we recently updated our website to provide a more user friendly experience for accessing our practical and informative resources, as well as presentations and materials from our events.

To access all of our Resources, please visit:  
[rfknrcjj.org/resources](http://rfknrcjj.org/resources)

## About Us

Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice, led by Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, uses proven models, frameworks, tools, resources and the best available research to serve local, state, and national leaders, practitioners and youth-serving agencies to improve system performance and outcomes for youth involved with the juvenile justice system. RFK National Resource Center focuses primarily on youth with prior or current involvement in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems (dual status youth), the review and improvement of juvenile probation systems, and the use of a model framework to address the state and national laws and policies governing the exchange and sharing of data, information, and records for youth and families. To learn more about us and how we can serve your jurisdiction, please visit [www.rfknrcjj.org](http://www.rfknrcjj.org).

## **Every Child Deserves a Childhood**

Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps is a private, non-profit licensed child welfare agency providing community-based services, education, foster care and adoption, residential treatment, and juvenile justice programming to individuals and families in crisis. Our programs are focused on helping children and adolescents deal with past hurts, develop self-esteem, and have a chance for a brighter future as contributing members of society. All that we do at RFK Children's Action Corps is based on the belief that every child deserves the chance to lead a happy, healthy, and productive life. For more information and to get involved, visit [www.rfkchildren.org](http://www.rfkchildren.org).

## **Models for Change Resource Center Partnership**

Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice is part of the *Models for Change* Resource Center Partnership, established by the MacArthur Foundation to advance juvenile justice reform efforts throughout the country. To learn more, visit [modelsforchange.net/resourcecenters](http://modelsforchange.net/resourcecenters).

