



**Robert F. Kennedy  
Children's Action Corps**

**RFK National Resource Center  
for Juvenile Justice**

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

### **Message from Our Executive Director**



#### ***Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!***

On behalf of our entire staff at the RFK National Resource Center, I am pleased to offer our hope for everyone to experience a wonderful holiday season that is full of blessings, good tidings, and opportunities to spend time with our families and children. As we approach the holiday break, I am concluding a rigorous professional travel schedule that has afforded me and my colleagues the opportunity to continue our cherished field-based partnerships that are producing innovative enhancements to policy and practice on behalf of our nation's youth and families. We have much to accomplish as we look to 2018 and beyond but as we take a brief respite during this holiday season to focus exclusively on our families and friends, we can do so with the knowledge that together we are making a positive difference for youth across all regions of the United States. We are grateful for our partnership and extend to you our most sincere and warmest holiday wishes.

Warm regards,  
*John A. Tuell & the RFK National Resource Center Team*

### **Events**

#### **Register now for the Child Welfare League of America's National Conference!**

At the 2018 Child Welfare League of America National Conference, the RFK National Resource Center will be providing an extended learning opportunity as part of CWLA's Training Institute. In this training, staff from the RFK National Resource Center will provide dynamic guidance on the tools, approaches, and recommended practices to improve outcomes for dual status youth, thereby strengthening the systems and agencies serving these important young people. For more information, and register for this exciting opportunity, please visit:

### **We're on Twitter!**

RFK Children's Action Corps and RFK National Resource Center are on Twitter!

[@RFKChildren](#)

[Follow us on \*\*twitter\*\*](#)

### **Announcing the Launch of our NEW Training Institute**

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new [Training Institute](#), featuring a portfolio of on-site training opportunities addressing critical topics in juvenile justice.

Our training programs bring experts and experienced facilitators into local jurisdictions, ensuring that all vital leaders, staff, and stakeholders have the opportunity to benefit from the experience. Each curriculum utilizes well-established frameworks for reform that have been applied in numerous jurisdictions throughout the nation, while also incorporating current research and emerging best practices. The training approach balances traditional presentation with dynamic discussions and facilitated activities aimed at applying the

## On the Ground

### Report on Executive Director's trip to China for the Juvenile Trial Reform Seminar

Last month our Executive Director, John A. Tuell, concluded his trip to Shenzhen, China for the China-United States Juvenile Trial Reform Seminar. The two day seminar, attended by justices from every province and leaders from China's Supreme People's Court, included presentations and substantive discussions with Chinese justice system experts on the role of judges, community-based solutions, family involvement, and the potential introduction of risks-needs instruments among other relevant topic areas. Despite being in practice for less than thirty years, the Chinese justices shared concerns and issues that mirror many of the issues we struggle with in our United States juvenile justice systems, along with their desire to "treat the juvenile offender as a child rather than the child as a criminal," which opened the door to discussions about the current research on adolescent development. Mr. Tuell was part of a team of five juvenile justice experts making the trip, which was sponsored by the Dui Hua Foundation. The Executive Director of the Foundation, John Kamm, described the discussions and substantive exchange that occurred during the trip as "on a scale of 1-10, an 11." Mr. Tuell commented that the trip "was a professional and personal highlight of my career because we all left the experience feeling as if we had made a difference in the practice and belief system for the Chinese juvenile justice system." For more details on the trip, please [click here](#).



information to each individual jurisdiction. As a result, participants conclude the training well-informed and poised to begin taking action immediately.

*The Training Institute includes the following programs:*

**Dual Status Youth: Improving Outcomes for Youth Involved in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice** ([Learn More](#))

**Dual Status Youth: Implementing and Sustaining Reforms** ([Learn More](#))

**Advancing Best Practices in Youth Justice Seminar** ([Learn More](#))

**Probation System Review Training** ([Learn More](#))

**Multi-System Information & Data Sharing** ([Learn More](#))

Our training staff and consultants look forward to talking with you to discuss how we can meet your jurisdiction's unique training needs!

To learn more about the Training Institute, please visit our website: [rfknrcj.org/training-institute/](http://rfknrcj.org/training-institute/)

## From the Field - Events and Resources

### Registration Open for Judicial Institute on Domestic Child Sex Trafficking

On February 12-14, 2018, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, in partnership with OJJDP and Rights4Girls, will host the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Child Sex Trafficking in Asheville, NC. This interactive training for judges and judicial officers will address child sex trafficking in the United States. The training will feature hypothetical case scenarios, practical courtroom exercises, small group discussions, and lectures. Participants will develop or enhance their ability to identify and work with trafficking victims and children at risk. [Click here](#) to learn more.

## The Prevalence of Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships

### How Can We Serve Your Community?

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

### Visit Our Online Resource Library!

All of our publications and tools are made available online to support jurisdictions undertaking reform, with or without technical

## Among Children and Adolescents

Released by the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency (OJJDP), September 2017

This bulletin describes the study of safe, stable, nurturing relationships (SSNR) among children and youth in the United States using a nationally representative sample. The authors provide a comprehensive assessment of SSNR factors; examine interrelationships among different indicators of safe, stable, nurturing relationships; and, investigate the consequences of SSNRs for child and adolescent mental health. [Click here](#) to access this publication.

## Crossover Youth: Los Angeles County Probation Youth with Previous Referrals to Child Protective Services

By Children's Data Network, October 2017

This new study finds that the troubles of the hundreds of youth leaving the juvenile justice system in Los Angeles County each year may have started at home in early childhood. Findings document that most youth had a history of maltreatment referrals, including many dating back to early childhood. Study findings call attention to a significant group of juvenile justice involved youth who came to the attention of child protective services when they were quite young, well before they became involved in the delinquency system. [Click here](#) to access this publication.

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)*

## Quick Links

[Who We Are](#)

[Our Work](#)

[Contact Us](#)



## 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).

