



RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice E-Newsletter

On The Ground

Dual Status Youth Reform in Texas

In January our Executive Director, John A. Tuell, presented on Dual Status Youth (DSY) Reform to the Texas Family Justice Conference just outside of Austin, Texas. This opportunity was made available through our partnership with the Texas Children's Commission (TCC). Following the Conference, John met with TCC's leadership to strategize on methods to deploy the DSY training and technical assistance to interested jurisdictions within Texas. The RFK National Resource Center is delighted to support the State's ongoing and committed interest in improving practice and policy on behalf of the DSY population.

Expanding Probation System Reform

We are looking forward to the launch of two new field-based technical assistance partnerships in Washington County, Minnesota (March 2018) and the state of Delaware (tentative April 2018) to conduct Probation System Reviews. In both new sites, leadership has demonstrated an interest in advancing their policies and practices in probation and their juvenile justice systems around the best available adolescent development science and evidence-based approaches and services.

Ongoing Work in Nebraska and Nevada

The RFK National Resource Center is preparing for returns to Lancaster County, Nebraska (Lincoln) and Clark County, Nevada (Las Vegas) in April 2018 to present the final report of findings and recommendations from the conduct of Probation System Reviews in each jurisdiction covering the period from May 2017 - March 2018. The leadership and staff among all probation and juvenile justice system stakeholders are to be congratulated for their active and open participation throughout the ongoing review.

To learn more about our site-based work, please [visit our website!](#)

Upcoming Event

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

We're on Twitter!

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

[Follow us on twitter](#)

Have You Scheduled an On-Site Training in Your Community?

Only a few slots remain for on-site training this spring and summer. Don't delay! [Contact us now](#) to ensure your jurisdiction has the opportunity to learn how to best address critical topics in juvenile justice.

Our [Training Institute](#) brings 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

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: www.cwla.org/resilience2018/.

facilitated activities aimed at applying the 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: rfknrcij.org/training-institute/

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

Update from Our Practice Networks

On January 8 and 9, 2018 representatives from the Milwaukee County Division of Youth and Family Services and the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families participated in a site visit to Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. Jefferson Parish was one of the first jurisdictions to participate in the Probation System Review process back in 2009. Milwaukee County's probation system review concluded in October 2017 and they are embarking on an 18-month process to implement the improvements recommended in the review.

Drawing from the insights and lessons learned from Jefferson Parish, Milwaukee County is better prepared to address critical improvements in their screening and intake process, benchmark best practices and performance measures, and make improvements in matching youth to the programs that best meet their needs. Milwaukee County appreciates the kindness and hospitality shown by the people of Jefferson Parish Department of Juvenile Services that made the trip so pleasant, memorable and productive.

This learning opportunity was spearheaded by members of the RFK National Resource Center [Practice Networks](#). We applaud Mark Mertens (Administrator, Division of Youth and Family Services, Milwaukee County Health and Human Services Department & DSY Practice Network Member) and Dr. John Ryals (Evaluation/Treatment Supervisor, Jefferson Parish Department of Juvenile Services & PSR Practice Network Member) for their innovative leadership and ongoing commitment to juvenile justice reform!

In the Media & From the Field

Guam Daily Post Highlights Local Probation System Reform Efforts

The Guam Daily Post recently reported on Guam's ongoing Probation System Reform efforts, supported by the National Resource Center. [Click here](#) to read *DYA Reform Sought*.

Law Enforcement Leadership for Equity Initiative Shared on Behalf of the Children's Law and Policy Center (CCLP)

Project Overview: Eliminating racial and ethnic disparities and ensuring fairness for youth of color in the justice system are critical challenges for our country at this time. With the heightened discourse around policing and its impact on communities of color, many law enforcement agencies are actively seeking ways to enhance equity in policing practices, eliminate racial and ethnic disparities for youth of color, and improve relationships between law enforcement and the communities of color they serve. With support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, CCLP offers comprehensive training and technical assistance to support local law enforcement agencies in their pursuit of these goals.

CCLP will help law enforcement leaders implement a data-driven and collaborative approach for addressing racial and ethnic disparities (RED) in arrests of youth. CCLP will provide targeted technical assistance to help law enforcement leaders diagnose where disparities exist and implement evidence-based strategies that combat individual and structural bias. To learn more about the Initiative, please [click here](#).

Now Available - New Brief Focused on Improving Education Services in Juvenile Justice Facilities

The National Reentry Resource Center, the CSG Justice Center, and the American Youth Policy Forum released a new policy brief today that provides state and local policymakers as well as education and juvenile justice leaders with information about how they can use requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to improve education and workforce outcomes for youth in long-term juvenile justice facilities. The brief, [Leveraging the Every Student Succeeds Act to Improve Educational Services in Juvenile Justice Facilities](#):

- Summarizes relevant ESSA provisions and outlines its key accountability requirements;
- Highlights three priorities for states to focus on as they contemplate accountability for juvenile justice programs and schools;
- Provides key questions to help state and local leaders consider their current policies and identify gaps and opportunities for improvement; and
- Features states that are carrying out promising practices in each of the three priority areas, which can serve as examples for other states that are seeking to improve accountability for juvenile justice schools.

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: rfknrcji.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.rfknrcji.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.

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.