



**Robert F. Kennedy  
Children's Action Corps**  
**RFK National Resource Center  
for Juvenile Justice**

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

### Recent Events

#### **Developing a Trauma-Informed Roadmap to Prevent Juvenile Justice Involvement of Child Welfare Youth**

On April 30th, the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice partnered with The Children's Partnership to host an inspiring day focused on dual status youth reform. The event, ***Developing a Trauma-Informed Roadmap to Prevent Juvenile Justice Involvement of Child Welfare Youth: A Moral and Fiscal Imperative***,



brought together a variety of speakers, including youth advocates, leading researchers, and practitioners from around the nation to share their experiences, views and innovative ideas. The youth panel, moderated by Jennifer Rodriguez from the Youth Law Center, began the day by urging participants to focus on maintaining connections for youth and ensuring caring relationships that provide the love, healing, and support that each youth needs to thrive. Speakers Rafael Lopez, former Commissioner of the Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, and Sixto Cancel, CEO and Founder of Think of Us, discussed innovative ways to ensure these connections, with a particular emphasis on using technology.



Following valuable research findings from California State University Los Angeles and The Children's Data Network, we were particularly pleased to lead a panel with amazing representation from our Dual Status Youth Practice Network, including Melissa Blom, Barbara Duey, Mark Werner, and the Hon.

### We're on Twitter!

RFK Children's Action Corps and RFK National Resource Center are on Twitter! [@RFKChildren](https://twitter.com/RFKChildren)

[Follow us on twitter](#)

### In the Media

*The Juvenile Justice Information Exchange (JJIE) recently featured a new op-ed, authored by the RFK National Resource Center's Executive Director, John A. Tuell. The following is an excerpt from the editorial:*

#### **Transformation of Juvenile Probation Is Already Well in Progress in U.S.**

The recently released publication from the Annie E. Casey Foundation on probation transformation contains information that has been published and practiced in numerous jurisdictions across the country for more than a decade. Given the troubled pace of reform in far too many jurisdictions on behalf of our nation's most precious resource - our children and youth - one can nonetheless never have too many reminders of the key

Sheri Roberts. As always, these members communicated with both passion and practicality, providing valuable examples of how to achieve success with this population of youth, despite systemic challenges. These champions of dual status youth reform joined other speakers and attendees in small group discussions that delved more deeply into relevant topics such as trauma-informed care, coordination across systems, and the use of technology and information in serving dual status youth. These discussions generated a preliminary set of ideas, or recommendations, for a blueprint for dual status youth reform.

The conclusion of this remarkable day was truly only a beginning. Following this event, The Children's Partnership will be drafting and disseminating the roadmap to reform, with the goal of sharing the guidance in order to influence policy, practice, and innovations nationwide, at all levels of government and communities. We were privileged to partner with The Children's Partnership, and are grateful for all they did to make this event a success!

### **Latin American Learning Program**

On May 21st the RFK National Resource Center's Executive Director, John A. Tuell, provided the opening presentation and remarks for a Latin American Learning Program event, held in Fairfax County, Virginia. The event was sponsored by the U.S. State Department, and coordinated with the Director of the Fairfax County Court Service Unit and member of our [Probation System Reform Practice Network](#), Robert Birmingham. The program featured leadership delegations from Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Colombia. In his remarks, Mr. Tuell spoke about the primary responsibilities of the juvenile justice system (public safety, prevention of re-offending, accountability, and fairness) and highlighted the principles of adolescent development and how these principles are translated into effective practices. The event also featured other leaders from Fairfax County (including the Police Chief and Gang Intervention/Suppression experts) as the focus on high-risk youth was a featured topic. An engaged audience asked insightful questions and sought future partnerships that would assist their efforts in their Central American countries. It was a dynamic day that produced new opportunities for the RFK National Resource Center to support international reforms.

### **Bridging the Gap**

***Update Provided by the Executive Director, John A. Tuell***



components necessary to improve outcomes and opportunities for this invaluable portion of our population.

However, the publication understates that a substantial and powerful transformation has already begun in jurisdictions throughout the nation. [\[Click here to read more...\]](#)

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

**[Contact us now](#)** to ensure your jurisdiction has the opportunity to learn how to best address critical topics in juvenile justice.

The [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. Our 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 information to each individual jurisdiction. As a result, participants leave both 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](#)

On behalf of the RFK National Resource Center, I was privileged to provide the opening plenary presentation in my home state at the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice's (VA DJJ) Leadership Summit in Charlottesville, Virginia on May 23rd. The presentation was titled **Bridging the Gap: Translating Adolescent Science Research into Practice**. I want to thank the outstanding leadership at VA DJJ (Andrew Block, Director and Valerie Boykin, Deputy Director for Community Programs) for their support of my message and for driving the implementation of transformational reforms. I also want to offer a special thanks to Dee Kirk, Regional Program Manager, for her terrific passion and leadership. Above all though, I want to thank the leaders and innovators in the Court Service Units across the Commonwealth of Virginia for their energy and passion on behalf of the youth and families they serve - it was beautifully evident during my attendance and discussions with them. Congratulations Virginia, stay committed to the journey!

[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: [rfknrcjj.org/training-institute/](http://rfknrcjj.org/training-institute/)

## **How Can We Serve Your Community?**

To find out how the RFK National Resource Center can support reform in your community using proven frameworks for technical assistance, please [Contact Us!](#)

## **Visit Our Online Resource Library!**

All of our publications and tools are made available on our website to support jurisdictions undertaking reform, with or without technical assistance. Our Online Resource Library is designed to provide a 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:*

## **On the Ground**

### **Probation System Reform in Fairfax County, Virginia**

On May 22nd, the RFK National Resource Center's Consultant Team of Keith Snyder and John A. Tuell facilitated a series of meetings for Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court leadership and staff, which were convened to provide a report of findings and recommendations from our Probation System Review process. From May 2017 - April 2018, the Consultant Team worked collaboratively with Court Service Unit leadership, judges, commonwealth attorneys, public defenders, probation and intake officers, and numerous other juvenile justice stakeholders to complete the 10-month review of the probation and juvenile justice system. Eighteen recommendations were offered for their consideration and endorsement. The Fairfax County Court Service Unit is already well down the path of enhanced progress in implementing evidence-based approaches and reform; the report offers guidance and instruction on how to elevate their system's performance and improve their youth outcomes to potentially become a shining example of what we can achieve on behalf of our youth and families. We thank the staff for their partnership and applaud their commitment to excellence!

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

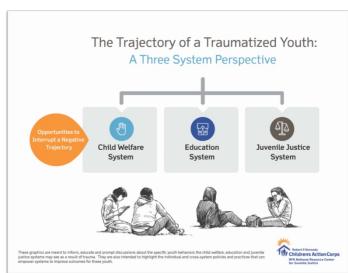
## **Celebrating National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day**

In accord with numerous communities and advocates throughout the country, the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice was delighted to recognize May 10, 2018 as National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. This significant day raises awareness about the importance of children's mental health and its impact on their healthy development.

The theme for this year's Awareness Day was "Partnering for Health and Hope Following Trauma," which emphasizes the importance of an integrated approach to caring for the mental health needs of children and families who have experienced trauma. Multi-system collaboration and trauma-informed care are two foundational pillars in the work of the RFK National Resource Center. We applaud the Substance Abuse and

Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for spearheading today's national events to bring awareness to these key focus areas.

The RFK National Resource Center also provides numerous publications and tools focused on trauma-informed care, all of which are available [on our website](#). These resources include:



### The Trajectory of a Traumatized Youth: A Three System Perspective

These infographics are designed to inform, educate and prompt discussions about the specific youth behaviors the child welfare, education and juvenile justice systems may see as a result of trauma.

They are also intended to highlight the individual and cross-system policies and practices that can empower systems to improve outcomes for these youth.



### Two-Part Series: Dual Status Youth and Trauma-Informed Care

These briefs focus on trauma-related procedures for use with dual status youth. Part one, *Trauma in Dual Status Youth: Putting Things In Perspective*, describes generally the state of our understanding of the prevalence of trauma-based behavior problems and considerations in designing agreed-upon best practices to identify them. Part two, *Identifying Dual Status Youth*

*with Trauma-Related Problems*, examines how to go about setting up a system for identifying trauma-related problems.

To further support our efforts to spread trauma-informed care and enhance multi-system efforts throughout the country, we encourage you to consider making a donation to the RFK National Resource Center. Your valued contribution directly supports the sustainability and expansion of the RFK National Resource Center's positive impact on children and families nationally. To make a donation, please [click here](#) and type in "RFK National Resource Center" in the "My donation is for a specific program" box. **Thank you!**

**Donate Now!**

***Please type in "RFK National Resource Center" in the "My donation is for a specific program" box. Thank you!***

[rfknrcji.org/resources](http://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.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).