



Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps

RFK National Resource Center
for Juvenile Justice

RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice E-Newsletter

Special Announcement

New Grant Awarded through the Second Chance Act

We are pleased to announce that the RFK National Resource Center has received a grant from the federal Office of Justice Programs under OJJDP's Second Chance Act (*Ensuring Public Safety and Improving Outcomes for Youth in Confinement and While Under Community Supervision*). This substantial award recognizes the impact of our historical and current Probation System Reform focus (through our seminal Probation System Review framework and extensive experience in the field) and seeks to extend that impact to more state and local jurisdictions throughout the country over the next three years. Through this work, we will grow our opportunities to improve the performance of our probation and juvenile justice systems so that we effectively protect public safety and every youth may realize a future of positive opportunities as if each one of these youth were our own. Additionally, we will be partnering with several distinguished national organizations with an outstanding history for implementing critical facets of juvenile justice system improvements. These include the National Juvenile Defender Center, National Center for Juvenile Justice, Impact Center at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and the expertise of Dr. Keith Cruise, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Fordham University.

New Resources

Coming Soon - Probation System Review Guidebook, 3rd Edition

The RFK National Resource Center is working on the 3rd edition of the *Probation System Review Guidebook* which will include updates, lessons learned from the diverse array of state and local jurisdictions with whom we have partnered over the past three years, and new resources to support jurisdictions who undertake the Probation System Review process. Please be looking for this important new contribution to the field as we enter the 2019 calendar year.

The Probation System Review Guidebook, 2nd Edition is currently available [on our website](#).

Making the Case for Pre-Adjudication Diversion

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?

[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



This month, the RFK National Resource Center released ***Strengthening Interagency Collaboration: The Case for Pre-Adjudication Diversion***. This new resource is co-authored by Probation System Reform Practice Network member Dr. John S. Ryals, Jr. (Jefferson Parish Department of Juvenile Services) and Blake Bascle (Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Juvenile Diversion Program). The use of pre-adjudication diversion in interagency

processes can result in dramatic improvements in youth outcomes, community safety, system performance, and interagency collaboration. Benefits of using pre-adjudication diversion goals are rooted in the history of the juvenile justice system, demonstrated through proven intervention approaches, and embedded in adolescent development research. This practice brief describes how the use of pre-adjudication diversion is supported by current knowledge about youth development and highlights benefits of diversion programming in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. To access this practice brief, please [click here!](#)

Recent Event

Event Hosted by Mutual of America in NYC

On October 4, 2018, Mutual of America hosted a reception at their headquarters in New York City in support of RFK Children's Action Corps and the RFK National Resource Center. The event provided a valuable opportunity for John Tuell and Kari Harp to discuss the RFK National Resource Center's national reach in supporting the needs of youth in the juvenile justice system. We would like to thank board members Michael Watson and Chris Bailey for supporting and hosting this event which successfully connected non-profit, government and business leaders with the work of the RFK National Resource Center and RFK Children's Action Corps, thereby broadening support for our juvenile justice and child welfare system reform efforts. We look forward to similar events that will connect our work with passionate leaders, organizations and persons with philanthropic interests committed to system reform and improved youth outcomes.



On the Ground

Probation System Review - More Jurisdictions Participating in Probation Reform

The RFK National Resource Center has recently continued its Probation System Review projects in the state of Delaware; Cook County, Illinois; Washington County, Minnesota; and Cobb County, Georgia. In addition, implementation technical assistance support provided by the RFK National Resource Center is active in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin; Lancaster

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 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/

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

County, Nebraska; Fairfax County, Virginia; Clark County, Nevada; and the Territory of Guam. It is very rewarding to partner with extraordinary professionals who seek to positively impact the life of every youth and family that comes into contact with their local juvenile justice systems. The champions in these jurisdictions are truly creating an impressive set of replicable practices, policies and approaches - based on the research and best evidence of effectiveness - that is transforming probation and juvenile justice nationwide. The RFK National Resource Center is proud of our partnerships and contribution. We invite more jurisdictions to explore partnerships with us to improve system performance and the outcomes for our nation's youth.

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

RFK National Resource Center Welcomes Bob Bermingham to its Consulting Team



We are delighted to welcome Mr. Robert (Bob) A. Bermingham, Jr. to our family of consultant partners. Bob currently serves as the Director of the Court Services Unit for the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court in Virginia. He has served in this capacity for the past nine

years and possesses extensive executive and management leadership experience as well as direct practitioner expertise in juvenile justice operations and system reform spanning over 30 years. He has also served as a consultant, trainer, and teacher on the implementation of evidence-based, best practices in juvenile services, adult community corrections and domestic relation services. He is currently partnering with John A. Tuell in support of Clark County, Nevada and its efforts to implement recommended probation and juvenile justice reforms resulting from its completed Probation System Review. In the near future, Bob will serve as a consultant to our work supported by OJJDP's Second Chance Act Ensuring Public Safety and Improving Outcomes for Youth in Confinement and While Under Community Supervision.

From the Field

Guide on the Disclosure of Confidential Information

The Massachusetts Court Improvement Program recently published its online Guide on the Disclosure of Confidential Information: For Professionals in Massachusetts Working with Children, Youth, and Families. Staff from the RFK National Resource Center served as consultants in the development of this guide and witnessed first-hand the dedicated efforts of a collaborative group of attorneys and practitioners, including Probation System Review Practice Network Member John Millett. The sharing of information among youth- and family-serving systems is a critical component of collaborative and effective work; however, a client's interest in the confidentiality of sensitive and personal information is just as vital. Understanding how to balance those interests and understanding the relevant laws and regulations is a complex

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: rfknrcji.org/resources

Quick Links

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task. An easily accessible and navigable resource such as this provides needed guidance, thus facilitating the lawful exchange and protection of essential information. We congratulate the Massachusetts Court Improvement Program on its excellent product, and firmly believe that this will serve as a model for other jurisdictions throughout the nation. To access this guide, please visit:
<https://www.mass.gov/handbook/guide-on-the-disclosure-of-confidential-information>.

Support 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!

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.

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.