

RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice E-Newsletter

Ongoing Partnership with CWLA

Special Training Institute at CWLA National Conference

On April 12, the RFK National Resource Center facilitated a Special Training Institute session, entitled *Proven Effective Methods and Practices that Create Futures of Opportunity for Youth Involved in both Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems*, as part of the CWLA National Conference in Washington, DC. This dynamic and interactive session featured two jurisdictions (Douglas County, Nebraska and Hampden County, Massachusetts) that have successfully transformed their multi-system practices for *dual status youth* - youth involved with both child welfare and juvenile justice. Both jurisdictions leveraged the extensive field-based training, technical assistance, and consultation expertise of the RFK National Resource Center and its reliance on evidence-based and research-informed approaches for dual status youth. The session also featured expert analysis of the implications of the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018.

On the Ground

Dual Status Youth Training in Ohio

Throughout April, the RFK National Resource Center concluded four, one-day Dual Status Youth Training events in Dayton, Toledo, Columbus and Akron. The training faculty facilitated an interactive learning atmosphere for teams of youth-serving professionals representing more than 25 counties during this period of time. Ohio county teams received a comprehensive overview of the best practices and approaches of a multi-system, coordinated effort to improve both outcomes and system performance for dual status youth. In the next two months, the RFK National Resource Center will partner with the Ohio Supreme Court, Office of Court Services to competitively select county applicants to receive intensive technical assistance, using the Dual Status Youth Technical Assistance framework, for a period of twelve months. This is an exciting project that has been met with significant enthusiasm by Ohio youth-serving professionals.

NEW Technical Assistance Partnership with the State of Arkansas

The RFK National Resource Center will partner with the Supreme Court of Arkansas through a grant from the State Justice Institute. Through this effort, we will work with a newly developed Arkansas Advisory Group to examine the current hiring qualifications, certification standards, and training requirements as a preamble to developing best practices in each of these important areas. This project will refine the departmental training curriculum that includes focusing on pre-service, orientation, in-service and specialty skills

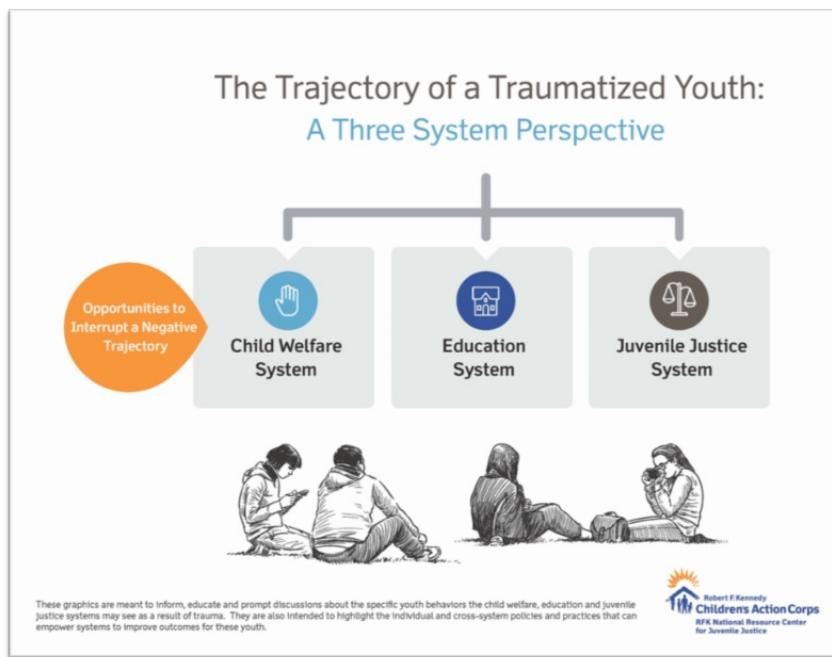
Meet Our Peer Mentors!

The RFK National Resource Center is delighted to offer **Peer Mentorship**, a valuable opportunity for leaders, practitioners, and collaborative teams from sites embarking on reform efforts to learn from the experience and expertise of the RFK National Resource Center's Practice Networks. Members of the Dual Status Youth (DSY) and Probation System Reform (PSR) Practice Networks represent communities from across the nation that have championed change, leading to enhanced system performance and improved outcomes for children and families. Practice Network Members have a deep understanding of the processes, challenges, barriers, and benefits of juvenile justice and child welfare reform efforts. With their

designed to equip juvenile probation personnel with essential competencies. The six-month project, to be initiated in Little Rock in June, will produce a new Juvenile Probation Officer Training Curriculum and an annual plan to ensure compliance with the new certifications and requirements.

Useful Resource

The Trajectory of a Traumatized Youth: A Three System Perspective



While many agencies are becoming trauma-informed and implementing the best practice of trauma screening, it is important to understand the entire trajectory a youth may travel into and within the systems as a result of trauma. Members of the RFK Dual Status Youth Practice Network developed a comprehensive three system graphic depicting the potential role trauma plays in bringing youth into the systems and moving them deeper into system involvement. Education, child welfare and juvenile justice each have a unique opportunity to interrupt this negative trajectory and create the best opportunities for successful outcomes. These graphics are meant to inform, educate and prompt discussions about the specific behaviors systems may see as a result of trauma while highlighting the individual and cross-system policies and practices that can empower systems to improve outcomes for these youth.

To access this resource, please visit our website:
<https://rfknrcjj.org/resources/trauma/>

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!](#)

on-the-ground experience, members of our Practice Networks are uniquely qualified to offer peer-to-peer mentorship, guidance, and support to other communities.

[Click here](#) to meet our Dual Status Youth Peer Mentors!

[Click here](#) to meet our Probation System Reform Peer Mentors!

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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.