



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

RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice E-Newsletter

Policy Update

CONNECT Act Reintroduced

Bipartisan Bill Addresses the Needs of Dual Status Youth

On May 14, U.S. Senators Gary Peters (D-Michigan) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) reintroduced bipartisan legislation known as the CONNECT (Childhood Outcomes Need New Efficient Community Teams) Act. This important legislation (S.1465) will assist states in addressing the unique challenges of youth who are involved with both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, known as dual status youth. The RFK National Resource Center is proud to have assisted with the development of the CONNECT Act and applauds the diligence of Senators Peters and Grassley in working to ensure its passage.

To read the press release issued by the Offices of Senator Gary Peters and Senator Chuck Grassley, please [click here](#).

Special Announcement

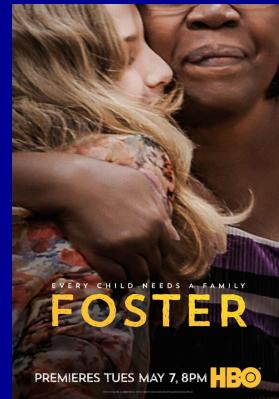
Ivy Tillman Joins Our Team of Expert Consultants!

We are thrilled to welcome Ivy Tillman to our family of consultant partners. Ms. Tillman currently serves as the Deputy Director of Residential Services for the Fairfax County Juvenile Domestic Relations District Court. She has administrative oversight of the Juvenile Detention Center, Shelter Care, two residential treatment programs and a probation unit that serves as an alternative to incarceration. As Deputy Director, Ms. Tillman has helped to champion the efforts of juvenile justice reform across the entire child service system to include the



In the Media

FOSTER - A New Documentary from HBO



Now Available On Demand and on HBO GO!

From Oscar™-winning

filmmakers Deborah Oppenheimer and Mark Jonathan Harris, FOSTER takes an unprecedented look at an often-misunderstood world and upends some of the most enduring myths about foster care and those involved in the system. With one in eight American children suffering a confirmed case of neglect or abuse by age 18, there are currently more than 400,000 children in foster care in the U.S., a number that continues to grow each year. Powerful and poignant, FOSTER

residential services within JDRDC, ensuring that staff are trained in the Risk-Need-Responsivity Model and other evidenced-based practices such as Anger Replacement Training (ART). She is also the chairman of the Court Service Unit's Family Engagement Committee. As the Chairman, Ms. Tillman guided the committee in creation of "A Family Guide to Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court." She, along with the committee, has trained the JDRDC staff in the principles and practices of family engagement. Ms. Tillman has 27 years of varied work experiences. She has worked in and managed community-based residential programs and worked as a field probation officer in the Juvenile Justice System. She has also worked as a Court Liaison and Family Intervention Resource and Engagement (F.I.R.E) social worker in the child welfare system and worked in the private sector as a home-based therapist.

On the Ground

Milwaukee County DYFS - On the Rise!

The Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin continues its unrelenting march toward advancing the positive transformation of their youth justice system. Depicted below are the devoted leadership and management staff during a meeting discussing effective Implementation Science methods as they work to ensure sustainability of improved intake and diversion practices, enhanced case management approaches that focus on risks-needs and positive youth development, effective methods for family engagement and involvement at every key point in the justice system, and collaboration with judges, prosecutors and public defenders to adopt a bifurcated plea-disposition process. They are making a difference - and we should take notice. The RFK National Resource Center is proud to partner with Milwaukee DYFS in this ongoing transformation process on behalf of thousands of Milwaukee's most precious resource - their youth and families.



Advancing Best Practices Training Seminar Delivered for the Judiciary of Guam

This month, Executive Director John A. Tuell provided two days of judicial training, primarily using the Advancing Best Practices in Youth Justice Seminar curriculum, at the request of the Judiciary of Guam. Held in Hagatna, Guam, the session was open to critical juvenile justice stakeholders (i.e., attorney general, public defense, probation, community providers, and education) and attended by over 30 participants. The dynamic training featured segments on adolescent development, trauma, use of risks-needs-responsivity instruments, alternative responses to formal prosecution, positive youth development, graduated responses, dual status youth and implementation science. The judicial training launched a renewed partnership with Guam to continue their advance toward the positive transformation of their juvenile justice system.

is a compassionate and eye-opening look at the foster care system as seen through the eyes of those who know it best.

HBO's documentary, *FOSTER*, explores foster care through compelling stories from the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, the largest county child welfare agency in the country. The documentary mixes firsthand accounts of people navigating the system with insights from social workers, advocates and others, offering a realistic but hopeful perspective on a community that needs society's support.

Special Mention! The RFK National Resource Center is especially proud to share that the documentary features Barbara Duey, who serves a member of our Dual Status Youth (DSY) Practice Network and as a DSY Peer Mentor. We applaud and congratulate Barbara for this outstanding acknowledgement of her work and dedication to serving kids and families in Los Angeles!

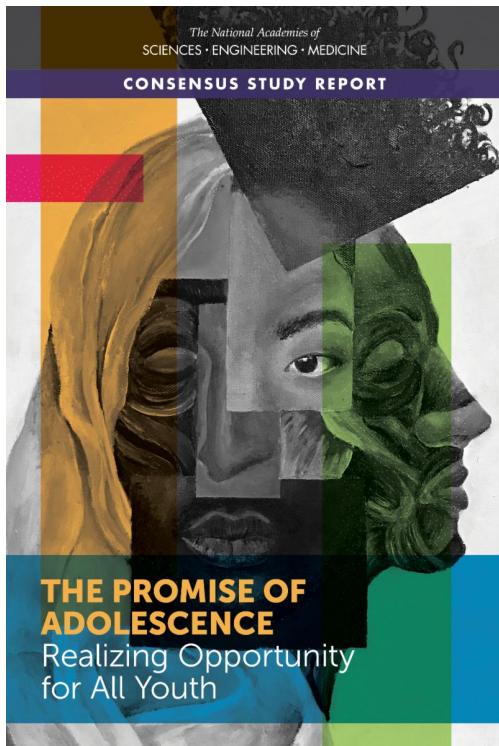
Website & Trailer:
<https://www.hbo.com/documentaries/foster>

Meet Our Peer Mentors!

The RFK National Resource Center is delighted to offer **Peer Mentorship**, a valuable opportunity for leaders, practitioners, and collaborative teams

Recommended Resources

The Promise of Adolescence: Realizing Opportunity for All Youth



Adolescence - beginning with the onset of puberty and ending in the mid-20s - is a critical period of development during which key areas of the brain mature and develop. These changes in brain structure, function, and connectivity mark adolescence as a period of opportunity to discover new vistas, to form relationships with peers and adults, and to explore one's developing identity. It is also a period of resilience that can ameliorate childhood setbacks and set the stage for a thriving trajectory over the life course. Because adolescents comprise nearly one-fourth of the entire U.S. population, the nation

needs policies and practices that will better leverage these developmental opportunities to harness the promise of adolescence, rather than focusing myopically on containing its risks. [This report](#), released by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, examines the neurobiological and socio-behavioral science of adolescent development and outlines how this knowledge can be applied, both to promote adolescent well-being, resilience, and development, and to rectify structural barriers and inequalities in opportunity, enabling all adolescents to flourish.

To access *The Promise of Adolescence: Realizing Opportunity for All Youth* please visit: <https://doi.org/10.17226/25388>.

Stages of Implementation Analysis: Where Are We?

"Implementation Science is the study of factors that influence the full and effective use of innovations in practice. The goal is not to answer factual questions about what is, but rather to determine what is required." All implementation stage assessments are now merged into one tool. This planning resource provides an implementation team in a state or local jurisdiction the opportunity to assess, plan and track stage-based activities and improve the success of implementation efforts, evidence based programs, and approaches across all stages of juvenile justice and probation system transformation efforts. The National Implementation Research Network (accessible at: <https://nirn.fpg.unc.edu/>) provides excellent guidance and publication resources to support the use of Implementation Science in transformational reforms for state and local jurisdictions engaged in juvenile justice and probation practice improvements.

To access *Stages of Implementation Analysis: Where Are We?* (including a 15-minute tutorial about the tool), please [click here](#).

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 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!

Quick Links

[Who We Are](#)
[Our Work](#)
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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.