



RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice E-Newsletter

Special Announcement

Introducing the Alternative Response Initiative

The RFK National Resource Center is proud to announce a **NEW** initiative to support state and local jurisdictions in their efforts to develop or enhance their system of alternative responses to formal prosecution. The [**Alternative Response Initiative \(ARI\)**](#) supports the creation of a comprehensive system of diversionary practices and collaborative system approaches to fully realize community and agency partnerships that protect public safety, ensure accountability, and take advantage of restorative justice principles through a robust system of alternatives to formal prosecution to produce positive youth outcomes. Jurisdictional leaders and key stakeholders will engage in collaborative planning and use the tenets of implementation science to ensure:

- sustainable opportunities to preserve limited probation and court resources for the population of youth who do require ongoing oversight (right-sizing caseloads)
- minimizing entry into the juvenile justice system for youth who may be held accountable more effectively through evidence-informed alternative services and community-based interventions
- maximizing of opportunities to produce, sustain and effectively measure positive outcomes for low and moderate risk youth

Consistent with our rich history of field-based training and technical assistance partnerships that have been guided by the seminal frameworks in the areas of Probation System Transformation and Dual Status Youth, the ARI involves a five step process:

- Step 1:** Preparation and Mobilization
- Step 2:** Introduction and Analysis
- Step 3:** Ongoing Analysis and Findings
- Step 4:** Action Planning
- Step 5:** Implementation

During a six to nine month time period, an RFK Consultant Team would conduct four on-site technical assistance visits to support the examination, analysis, findings and recommendations that will shape actions steps and implementation strategies to achieve the unique goals, objectives, and outcomes established by the state or local jurisdiction.

Please contact John A. Tuell, Executive Director (jtuell@rfkchildren.org) or Kari L. Harp, Associate Executive

Upcoming Webinar - Register Now!

Promoting Better Outcomes and Safer Communities: New Resources for Juvenile Probation Administrators and Officers

Probation officers and agencies play a critical role in the justice process and have a unique opportunity to intervene in a youth's life and help them get on track to successful adulthood. Research-informed juvenile probation practices implemented well can improve probation agency outcomes, promote public safety, improve youth outcomes, and support improved family cohesion.

Join us for this [free webinar \(November 7 at 1:15 p.m. ET\)](#) to learn how your juvenile probation agency can build individual and agency capacity to create safer communities by using five key supervision strategies that support long-term behavior change in youth. This webinar is for state and local

Director (kharp@rfkchildren.org) to learn more or discuss your interest in benefiting from this important initiative.

You may also learn more by visiting our website:
<https://rfknrcjj.org/our-work/alternative-response-initiative/>

Coming Soon! Alternative Response Initiative Workbook
Stay tuned for the release of our newest publication!

juvenile probation agencies providing community supervision, and the technical assistance and training providers who support those agencies.

To register, please [click here](#).

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 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](#)

On the Ground

Northern Virginia Symposium (McLean, Virginia)

The 2nd Northern Virginia Regional Juvenile Justice Transformation Symposium, hosted by the Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court, was convened on Tuesday, October 29th in McLean, Virginia. The event featured keynote remarks by the distinguished Dr. Gina Vincent, National Youth Screening Assessment Partners on the topic of using risk assessment to improve youth outcomes. Additionally, the event featured remarks and session presentations by the RFK National Resource Center's John A. Tuell and Kari L. Harp on the topics of dual status youth and family engagement, respectively. The event was attended by over 170 participants and included comments from the Director of the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice. We applaud the commitment of the multi-disciplinary participants to continuing examination of how to effectively transform their local juvenile justice systems. We also recognize the dynamic leadership of Judge Thomas Sotelo and Court Service Unit Director Bob Bermingham (Fairfax County) for their support of this exciting symposium.

Arkansas Juvenile Officer Best-Practice Training Manual

On Tuesday, October 22nd in Little Rock, Arkansas the RFK National Resource Center met with members of the Statewide Committee formed to develop training curricula (17 segments) that will comprise the soon to be published research-based, evidence informed training manual for Arkansas juvenile officers and juvenile justice stakeholders. The expertise provided by committee members from multiple disciplines over the past six months has contributed to the development of the curricula and manual, which will prepare certified juvenile officers to impact youth using the best possible intervention strategies, case planning, and case management practices. The RFK National Resource Center is proud to be facilitating this development and encourages all states to ensure state-of-the-art training is informed by the current research on adolescence. Congrats to this group for their outstanding commitment to their state's youth!

Pacific Judicial Conference - Convened in the Territory of Guam

Our Executive Director, John A. Tuell, was privileged to speak to the participants at the 2019 Pacific Judicial Conference in the Territory of Guam on September 18th. The presentation continued to extend the field-based reach of the RFK National Resource Center as the remarks and session featured the topic of Advancing Best Practices in Youth Justice. The session was framed around the topics of adolescent development, alternatives to formal prosecution, risk-needs screening and assessment, trauma practice, graduated responses, positive youth development, family engagement, and effective measurement and analysis of system performance and youth outcomes. Representation included the Federated States of Micronesia, Saipan, Chuuk, Northern Marianas, American Samoa and the Territory of Guam. It was quite a privilege to address chief justice leadership, presiding juvenile judges, prosecutors and public defenders.

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!**

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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.