



RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice E-Newsletter

Special Announcements

New Leadership at RFK Children's Action Corps

Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps has recently announced several leadership changes. In February 2020, the organization's Board of Directors appointed **Jim Geraghty** as its Chairman. Mr. Geraghty has served on the Board in various roles since 2013 and previously chaired or co-chaired several of its subcommittees.

In March 2020, after 35 years at the helm of RFK Children's Action Corps, CEO **Edward Kelley** announced his retirement. It was Ed's passion and interest that drew the attention of our dual status youth and probation system reform work at the outset of the MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change initiative to RFK Children's Action Corps. This eventually led to the launch of the RFK National Resource Center in January 2014. We congratulate Ed on a lifetime of achievement on behalf of children, youth and families.

Our new CEO, **Robert (Bob) Watson**, assumed his role immediately following Ed Kelley's retirement announcement and has subsequently made several changes to the leadership team, including naming **Leigh Mahoney** as the agency's Chief Operating Officer. Both will serve a key role in shaping the successful future of RFK Children's Action Corps - and our RFK National Resource Center.

We enthusiastically look forward to new and dynamic growth opportunities to serve our continuing commitment to the children, youth and families across the country under this extraordinary new leadership.

Marcus Graves Joins Our Team of Expert Consultants

In the Field

The RFK National Resource Center is pleased to announce that its Associate Executive Director, Kari Harp, has been appointed to the National Assessment Center Association's Board of Directors.

The newly launched National Assessment Center Association (NAC) meets an important need in the juvenile justice field, supporting the 60+ assessment centers across the nation by providing education, training and technical assistance, and advocacy. The association will also coordinate and facilitate networking and information sharing amongst assessment centers throughout the country, as well as provide training and technical assistance to communities on policies, operations, and best practices for assessment centers nationwide.

Please join us in applauding the launch of the NAC and congratulating Kari for her appointment to its Board of Directors! The

We are once again delighted to welcome a new partner to our family of passionate and experienced consultants. Marcus Graves currently works for the Fulton County Juvenile Court in Georgia and serves as a Juvenile Probation Officer. In this role, he is responsible for implementing best practices on behalf of youth under supervision of the juvenile court, administering and using validated assessments and utilizing evidence-based approaches to sustain and promote positive outcomes. He has "come back" to direct service to the youth in Fulton County given his devotion to improving the lives of youth and families while still embracing the opportunity to impact system improvement for youth in Fulton County, in Georgia, and across the United States.



Mr. Graves began his career with the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in 2010 where he served in multiple roles, including juvenile corrections, counselor in an education setting, certified trainer for evidence-based practices (Effective Practices in Community Supervision [EPICS]), grant manager for statewide implementation of an evidence-driven program approach, and membership as assigned to subcommittees serving DJJ interests.

Mr. Graves is passionate about effectively transforming the juvenile justice system and sustaining positive juvenile justice reforms by advocating for data-driven decision making practices and implementing best practices for the children and communities that we serve. Mr. Graves graduated from Georgia Southwestern State University and received a B.S. in History with a minor in Psychology. We enthusiastically welcome Marcus to our team at the RFK National Resource Center and believe his experience will bring a valued perspective to the field.

To learn more about the RFK National Resource Center's staff and consulting team, please [visit our website!](#)

On the Ground

Competitive Technical Assistance Scholarship Awarded to Three Additional Counties in Ohio

We are pleased to announce, in coordination with the Ohio Supreme Court Office of Court Services, that **Hancock, Ottawa, and Champaign** counties have been selected to receive a competitive scholarship for intensive Dual Status Youth technical assistance from the RFK National Resource Center. These three new sites are added to the ongoing work in Clark and Knox counties that was launched last summer in Ohio. This training and technical assistance initiative, originating with four regional training events convened across the state in April 2019 and using the guidance provided in the [Dual Status Youth - Technical Assistance Workbook](#), now boasts an impressive cohort of five

RFK National Resource Center looks forward to partnering with the NAC in the future. To learn more about the National Assessment Center Association visit www.nacassociation.org.

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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jurisdictions that ultimately will realize tremendous benefit for their dual status target population of youth and families and contribute to a broad range of invaluable lessons, policies, and practices that can be replicated in other counties throughout Ohio. We congratulate our newest technical assistance partners from Hancock, Ottawa, and Champaign counties. We also want to recognize the Ohio Supreme Court and their leadership for supporting this innovative approach for training and technical assistance on behalf of dual status youth across the state.

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.rfknrcj.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.