



Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps

RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice

RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice E-Newsletter

In the Media & On the Ground

Addressing Youth Justice Transformation in Seattle, Minneapolis, and Beyond

The Juvenile Justice Information Exchange (JJIE) recently featured an Op-Ed, [Partnership Work by RFK National Resource Center Ramps Up in Seattle and Minneapolis](#), by our Executive Director John A. Tuell.

This featured article highlights our collaborative partnerships in King County, Washington (Seattle) and Hennepin County, Minnesota (Minneapolis), addressing youth justice transformation on behalf of the youth and communities in those jurisdictions. We are honored to guide the collaborative partnerships within Seattle and Minneapolis to address youth justice transformation on behalf of their children, families, and communities. Among other positive outcomes, these partnerships will provide excellent opportunities to measurably impact the overrepresentation of minority children and youth through real policy and practice change.

During the pandemic, we have initiated or continued our dynamic system transformation partnerships with 15 additional state or county jurisdictions across the United States and the Territory of Guam - and we are making a real difference on behalf of youth, families, and the communities in which they live. These include: Milwaukee County, Wisconsin; Cobb County, Georgia; Dutchess County, New York; Clark County, Nevada (Las Vegas); and Lancaster County, Nebraska, among others. Our community partners have been critical to that success and include law enforcement, schools, treatment providers and positive pro-social supports.



Save the NEW Dates!

Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium and Training Institutes

March 24 - 26, 2021
Nashville,
Tennessee

After thoughtful consideration of the Covid-19 pandemic, the RFK National Resource Center has decided to reschedule its **Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium & Training Institutes** to the dates of **March 24-26, 2021** (originally scheduled for December 2020). We are extremely excited that we will now be able to welcome you to our Symposium and Training Institutes at the Doubletree Hotel in the heart of Downtown Nashville during its stunning spring season:

March 24-25, 2021
Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium:
Expanding Knowledge, Changing Practice, Achieving Outcomes

The RFK National Resource Center uses proven frameworks to bring these communities together to create locally driven, impactful solutions - based on research, evidence, data, and local experience - to produce fair, equitable, sustainable, and measurable solutions. We welcome new partners in our passionate quest to ensure a positive future for all youth and the wellbeing and safety of our nation's communities. To learn more about our work and how we can serve your community, please [visit our website](#).

Spotlight on...

Alternative Response Initiative & Workbook

The [Alternative Response Initiative \(ARI\)](#) supports state and local jurisdictions in their efforts to develop or enhance their system of alternative responses to formal prosecution. The [Alternative Response Initiative Workbook \(ARI Workbook\)](#) complements the ARI by guiding 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 to produce positive youth outcomes.

During a six- to nine-month time period, an RFK Consultant Team conducts four on-site technical assistance visits to support the examination, analysis, findings and recommendations that shape actions steps and implementation strategies to achieve the unique goals, objectives, and outcomes established by a state or local jurisdiction. Jurisdictional leaders and key stakeholders 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)
- minimize entry into the juvenile justice system for youth who may be held accountable more effectively through evidence-informed alternative services and community-based interventions
- maximize opportunities to produce, sustain, and effectively measure positive outcomes for low- and moderate-risk youth

Consistent with the RFK National Resource Center's 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

March 26, 2021 Transformation of Youth Justice Training Institutes

To learn more about the Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium and Training Institutes, please [visit our website](#).

Special Mention - *Safety is Our Priority!*

In collaboration with the Doubletree Hotel in Downtown Nashville, we are committed to creating a safe and conducive learning environment. We will incorporate practices to promote safety for all attendees and the support staff who make these events possible, while still providing a dynamic networking and learning experience. Please continue to look for updates on what we are doing, both in front of and behind the scenes, to maintain wellness - together.

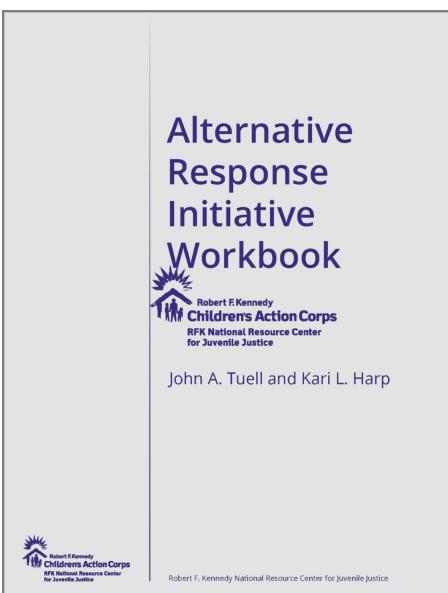
Support the RFK National Resource Center!

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!

The ARI Workbook, authored by John A. Tuell and Kari L. Harp, presents a detailed set of tasks, activities, and timelines that adheres to the principles of effective technical assistance, with emphasis on the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration and the tenets of Implementation Science. The ARI's "Five Steps to Success" are explained in detail to help jurisdictions navigate through the preparation and formation of a collaborative leadership

team, completion of an assessment and analytic process, formation of a detailed action strategy, implementation, and additional activities that lead to positive opportunities for enhanced practice within youth-serving systems.

The RFK National Resource Center is excited to offer the ARI to state and local jurisdictions across the nation. Please contact **John A. Tuell**, Executive Director (ituell@rfkchildren.org) or **Kari L. Harp**, Associate Executive Director (kharp@rfkchildren.org) to learn more or discuss your interest in benefiting from this important initiative. We also encourage you to visit our **Online Resource Library** to access the ARI Workbook and other useful publications and tools: <https://rfknrcjj.org/resources/>.



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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.