



## News from the RFK National Resource Center

December 2021

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### Growth-Focused Case Management and RFK National Resource Center: A New Partnership

We are excited to announce our exclusive partnership with Jonathan Cloud, creator and author of the Growth-Focused Case Management (GFCM) approach and practice. This new partnership will enhance and strengthen our training, technical assistance, and consultation outreach and expand the innovative GFCM framework and approach to positively impact more youth and families across the country.



The GFCM approach prioritizes Risk-Needs-Responsivity and Positive Youth Development in a complementary manner that protects community safety and fosters positive identity. The purpose of GFCM is to develop and manage case plans with youth that facilitates forming a positive identity with which offending is no longer compatible.

We are in the process of developing a GFCM workbook which will be made available in our [Online Resource Library](#) in early 2022. The workbook will provide supporting research, tools, and a step-by-step process for implementing a GFCM approach.

Implementation of GFCM is currently underway in Milwaukee County (Wisconsin), Clark County (Nevada), Washoe County (Nevada), Hancock County (Ohio), and Hennepin County (Minnesota), and will feature a two-day training for case managers and probation personnel in North Dakota in April 2022. We encourage you to contact us to learn more about bringing a GFCM approach to your jurisdiction.

[Photo: Jonathan Cloud presenting at the Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium in Nashville, Tennessee (September 2021). Photo Credit: Thomas Martin.]

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## On the Ground

### Ohio: Forensic Training

In November, the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services Department of Forensic Services held their annual professional education conference, focusing on the changes in the Ohio statute language for competency restoration, and the populations that this will most likely impact. RFK National Resource Center's Executive Director John Tuell presented a session titled "Dual Status Youth: Innovative Solutions and Positive Outcomes" highlighting the approach, the practice, and the innovative solutions and positive results from our partnership with more than 30 state and local jurisdictions, highlighting the current reform in six counties in the state of Ohio. The session included a discussion of case law and a roadmap for jurisdictions to achieve the same positive results.

### Clark County, Nevada: Dual Status Youth & Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth Technical Assistance (TA) Initiative

With plans to begin in early 2022, this two-year initiative will focus primarily on dual status youth reform with a special emphasis on the development of multi-system policies, practices, and institutionalized system coordination to positively impact the sexually exploited and human trafficked youth in Clark County, Nevada. RFK National Resource Center will use the Dual Status Youth TA Workbook (2021 Updated Edition) to guide the activities. The project will include the expertise of Dr. Robin Jenkins and his colleagues from the Frank Porter Graham Impact Center at the University of North Carolina, Hunter Hurst from the National Center for Juvenile Justice, and the University of San Diego Law School's Children's Advocacy Institute (CAI). This project builds upon the RFK National Resource Center's body of work in this area of focus that includes statewide projects ongoing in Delaware and Illinois.

### Washington County, Minnesota: Probation System Review Implementation Project

In a continuing effort to enhance policy, practice, and service provision for youth and families, we are pleased to partner with Washington County on the implementation of two key recommendations from their 2018 probation system review. After the review, leadership created an intake unit which has allowed them to significantly reduce the number of low-risk youth entering formal probation supervision. With this endeavor firmly in place, Washington County leadership is working with relevant stakeholders to integrate a new risk-screening process at the prosecutorial decision point. They are also renewing their effort to examine their data collection and data management to identify key benchmarks. This commitment toward integrating these practices will allow them to serve youth at the earliest possible decision point in a manner consistent with a youth's risk, and to establish regular review criteria supported by local data to assure the process is producing results that are in the best interest of the youth served.

## Updates from our Practice Networks – *Change is Constant*



Mark Mertens, Administrator for Milwaukee County DYFS and RFK Dual Status Youth (DSY) Practice Network is resigning his position effective December 10th. Mark will continue his long commitment to youth and families in Wisconsin as he has accepted the position of Director for Norris Adolescent Group Home. Mark will remain a member of our DSY Practice Network.



Bob Bermingham has retired after 34 years of service in the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in Virginia. Bob spent the last 10+ years as the Director of the Court Service Unit in the largest court in the state. Bob will continue to serve as a consultant for the RFK National Resource Center and remain a part of the Probation System Reform Practice Network.

## Introducing the RFK Community Alliance

We are delighted to share that, together, Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps and Doctor Franklin Perkins School announced their new name: RFK Community Alliance. The RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice, now a program of the RFK Community Alliance, will continue to partner with you, and serve state and local jurisdictions throughout the country, to guide and inform youth justice system improvement. As our delivery of services continues to expand, so does our opportunity to help you improve outcomes for children and families in your community.

To ensure that our work with you continues without any interruption, please be sure to

add our new email addresses to your trusted contacts list:

**John Tuell:** [jtuell@rfkcommunity.org](mailto:jtuell@rfkcommunity.org)

**Michelle Darling:** [mdarling@rfkcommunity.org](mailto:mdarling@rfkcommunity.org)

**Jodi Martin:** [jmartin@rfkcommunity.org](mailto:jmartin@rfkcommunity.org)

**Sorrel Lewis:** [solewis@rfkcommunity.org](mailto:solewis@rfkcommunity.org)

**General:** [rfknrcjj@rfkcommunity.org](mailto:rfknrcjj@rfkcommunity.org)

Our website, [www.rfknrcjj.org](http://www.rfknrcjj.org), will continue to be the virtual hub for all of our work, including our array of publications and tools, made available on our Online Resource Library. Over the next few weeks, you'll begin to see some changes to our website's appearance reflecting our new brand. You will still have access to the same information and resources, just with a different look!

As always, we thank you for your partnership and look forward to continuing our work with you.

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## Visit Our Online Resource Library!

All of our publications and tools are made available on our website to support jurisdictions undertaking reform. Our Online Resource Library is designed to provide a user-friendly experience for accessing our practical and informative resources, as well as presentations and materials from our events.

[rfknrcjj.org/resources](http://rfknrcjj.org/resources)



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Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice 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](http://www.rfknrcjj.org).