

# OHIO

## CRIMINAL SENTENCING COMMISSION

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**TO:** Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission  
**FROM:** Juvenile Justice Committee  
**DATE:** August 24, 2017  
**RE:** Juvenile Probation – RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice

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In late 2016, the Juvenile Justice committee identified community control (probation) as a topic area for further investigation and research for the committee. Committee members asked initial questions about the statutory language and about the existence or lack of data regarding juveniles currently on probation in Ohio. Some of the issues identified by the committee were:

- Indefinite v. definite terms of probation
- Probation officer training
- Impact of diversion on probation data
- Violation of court order exception to prohibition on detention for status offenses
- Driver's license suspension

The committee decided to investigate data further and, at the same time, investigate best practices in juvenile probation. This investigation led the committee to the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice. John Tuell, Executive Director of the National Resource Center, attended the committee's meeting on August 17, 2017 to talk about the National Resource Center, its current work in Summit County, Ohio on dual status youth and its work in other jurisdictions on juvenile probation. After his presentation and committee discussion the Juvenile Justice committee unanimously voted to bring the following to the full Commission:

1. The committee believes there are issues in the statutory construct and provision of probation services that should be addressed in Ohio.
2. The committee believes that bringing a third party objective group into Ohio to engage in an objective, comprehensive review of the juvenile probation system would be beneficial.
3. The RFK National Resource Center is poised to be the outside entity to do the review and the committee is comfortable in discussing that possibility further.

Based upon these early determinations, the committee would like the approval of the full Commission to move forward with this project.

# Juvenile Justice Committee

## OH Criminal Justice Sentencing Commission



*John A. Tuell, Executive Director*

Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice

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

# Dual Status Youth Initiative – History

2003 King Co., WA

2004 Los Angeles Co., CA

2004 Connecticut (CSSD)

2004-08 Illinois (4 sites)

2009 Arizona

2012 Hampden Co., MA

2012 Outagamie Co., WI

2012 Santa Clara Co., CA

2012 Newton Co., GA

2013 Middlesex Co., NJ

2013 Beltrami Co., MN

2014 El Dorado Co., CA

2014 Marion Co., IN

2014 Fulton Co., GA

2014 Alaska

2017 North Dakota

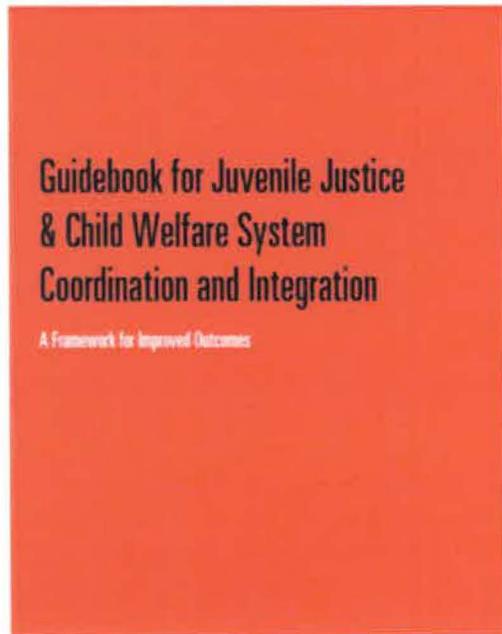
2017 Summit Co., OH



2016-17 – Dual Status Youth Training Initiative (9 sites)

FL, GA, IA, MN, OH, OK, SD, VA, and WI

# Juvenile Justice Reform: Practical Guidance

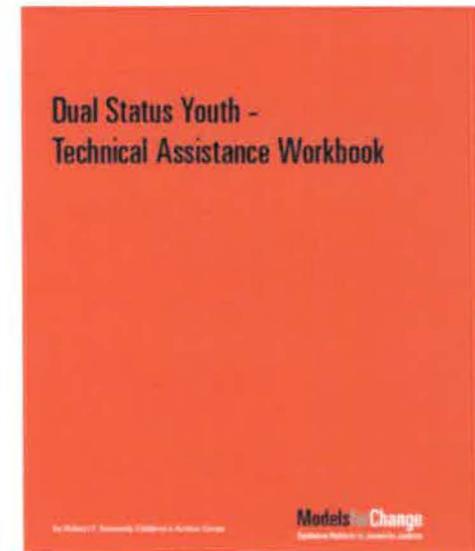


**Guidebook for Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare System Coordination and Integration: Framework for Improved Outcomes.**

**Tuell, Wiig and Heldman. 2013. [www.rfknrcjj.org](http://www.rfknrcjj.org)**

**Dual Status Youth – Technical Assistance Workbook**

**Tuell, Heldman and Wiig. 2013. [www.rfknrcjj.org](http://www.rfknrcjj.org)**



# Probation System Review – History

- 2005 Los Angeles Co., CA
- 2010 Newton Co., GA
- 2010 Jefferson Parish, LA
- 2012 New Hampshire
- 2014 Hammond Region, LA
- 2015 Territory of Guam
- 2015 Illinois (3 sites)
- 2016 Idaho (2 sites)
- 2016 Arkansas (3 sites)
- 2017 Milwaukee Co., WI
- 2017 El Paso Co., TX
- 2017 Clark Co., NV
- 2017 Fairfax Co., VA**
- 2017 Davidson Co., TN
- 2017 Lancaster Co., NE



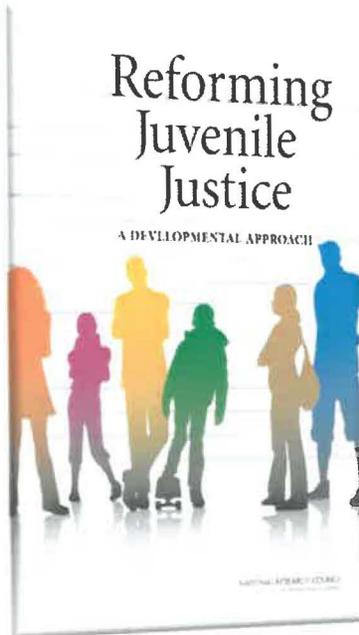
2015 - 2017 – Juvenile Probation Reform Academy

2015-18 - OJJDP Community Supervision TA – CT, Guam, GA, MA & NY

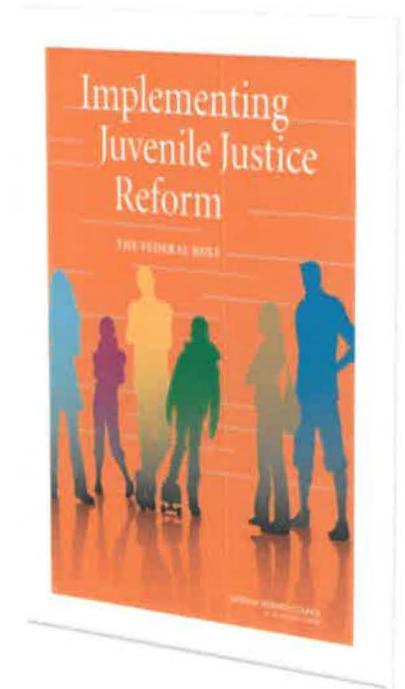
# Research Foundation - Adolescent Development & Behavior

## Adolescents differ from adults and children:

- **Less capacity for self-regulation in emotionally charged contexts**
- **Heightened sensitivity to proximal external influences (e.g., peer pressure and immediate incentives)**
- **Less ability than adults to make judgments and decisions that require future orientation**



National Research Council. 2013. *Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.



National Research Council. 2014. *Implementing Juvenile Justice Reform: The Federal Role*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press



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## Juvenile Justice / Probation System Best Practices Alignment

Adolescent Development

Collaborative Leadership

Risks-Needs-Responsivity (Structured Professional Judgement)

Trauma Screening & Treatment

Case Processing Timeline Standards

Graduated Response/Sanctions and Dispositional Matrix

Positive Youth Development

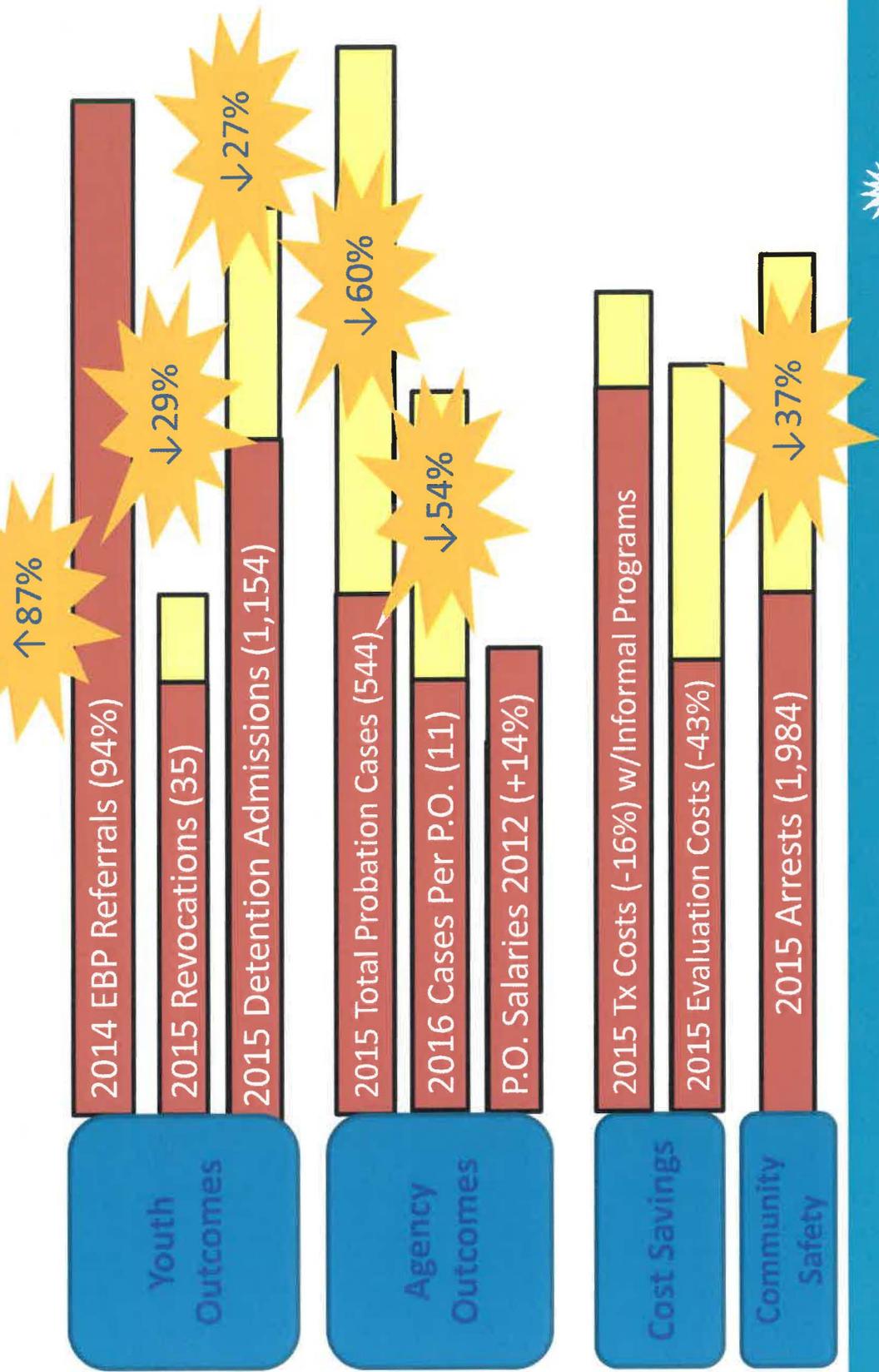
Family Engagement

Quality Assurance – Youth Outcomes *and* System Performance

# Purpose of a Review



# Jefferson Parish, LA



# Probation System Review Guidebook, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition



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



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# Elements of the Probation System Review

## A. Administration

Mission  
Vision  
Policies  
Procedures  
Youth Outcomes  
Managerial Oversight  
Training  
Communication

## B. Probation Supervision

Probation Officer Approach to Supervision  
Role of Probation Officer  
Assignment of Cases  
Day-to-Day Tasks  
Expected Products and Outcomes  
Decision Making Procedures / Criteria  
Case Plan Development  
Matching Services

## C. Intra- and Interagency Work Processes

Identification of Stakeholders  
Relationship with the Court  
Effective Court Processes  
Roles and Responsibilities  
Interchanges of Information  
Communication  
Linkages  
Service/Treatment Referral Protocols

## D. Quality Assurance

Recidivism Measures  
Measurement of Other Youth Outcomes  
System Performance & Evaluation  
Worker Performance & Evaluation  
Fidelity to Risk Screening Tools / Risk-Needs-  
Assessment Tools  
Fidelity to Best Practice Models  
Effective Data Collection System  
Reports & Analysis

Probation  
System Review  
Management  
Team (PSRT)



# Implementation & Sustainability

- Report of findings and recommendations
- Development of an Implementation Plan
  - Endorsement
  - Prioritization
  - Sequencing
  - Accountability / responsibility
  - Timelines



## **RFK National Resource Center – Training Institute**

**Dual Status Youth Technical Assistance (Guidebook, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition and Workbook)**

**DSY Training (2 days; curriculum)**

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**Probation System Review Technical Assistance (Guidebook, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition)**

**PSR Training (1.5 days; curriculum)**

**Advancing Best Practices in Youth Justice Interactive Seminar (1.5 days; curriculum)**