

# **FRANKLIN COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

## **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

### **I. PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE**

The development of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) is a sign of the dedication of juvenile justice professionals to ensure that the youth of Pennsylvania who are involved in the juvenile justice system receive the best services available. These services will address their criminogenic needs with a continued focus on the victim and the community.

The JJSES monograph clearly outlines the integration of JJSES and Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) principles and describes how these principles advance the Commonwealth's goals towards reducing recidivism, holding youth accountable, developing competencies and protecting the community. An important step in assuring our continued growth towards this mission is the involvement of identified stakeholders in this process. To collaboratively achieve these goals, Franklin County Juvenile Probation and our court and community partners, will work together to share research and data that supports evidence-based practices, provide information and training opportunities on the juvenile justice system and problem solve and exchange ideas to improve the quality of service provided to youth.

The objective is to provide identified stakeholders with a review of BARJ and JJSES principles, educate on EBP initiatives, share relevant data, and emerging research pertinent to the juvenile justice system. This will be achieved through a collaborative process to include training, stakeholder participation in identified committees, the sharing of relevant research and data, open dialogue with stakeholders and engagement in continuous quality improvement.

### **II. DEFINITION/IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS**

Stakeholders include anyone who has a vested interest in the juvenile justice system. This includes, but is not limited to; Court of Common Pleas Judges, Magisterial District Judges, juvenile probation staff, district attorneys, public defenders/conflict counsel attorneys, police departments, schools, drug and alcohol providers, mental health providers, children and youth services, victims, victim advocates, religious and community organizations, service providers and anyone else who works with juveniles in our system.

### **III. MEANS OF ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS**

In order to ensure that all parties are provided with the most current and up to date information on a regular basis, Franklin County Juvenile Probation will make an on-going and consistent effort to share information in the following ways.

- The Franklin County Juvenile Probation Office may offer trainings periodically to keep all parties informed and updated. This training may include current research and trends in the field, county and department specific data related to juvenile delinquency and juvenile justice, and presentations by outside trainers on topics pertinent to the field
- Key community workgroups/committees will be identified for participation by juvenile probation department members to increase collaboration, information sharing, and department representation, this could include, but is not limited to; Children's Roundtable, Criminal Justice Advisory Board, Communities that Care, quarterly drug and alcohol meetings, and Threat Assessment Team Meetings.
- The Chief Juvenile Probation Officer/or designee will chair the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board and continue to increase representation of stakeholders.
- The Franklin County Juvenile Probation Office will compile articles relating to juvenile justice into a newsletter and send out that newsletter to stakeholders quarterly.
- Victim Feedback Forms will be sent out to all victims of juvenile crime to ensure that the best possible service is being given to this population.
- The Chief Juvenile Probation Officer will meet with the Court of Common Pleas Judges at least quarterly to discuss trends, and data.
- *This list is not exhaustive and can be updated at any time.*

#### **IV. CONTINUED QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

The information gathered from meetings, surveys, and JCMS will be used to improve stakeholder engagement. Data that is collected from JCMS, victim surveys, state organizations (JCJC, CJJT&R, etc.), and key stakeholders will be used to examine how JJSES is being effective in the community we serve. The data collected will help guide the juvenile probation department to highlight the successes as well as address areas of deficiency that need further attention. Booster trainings will be data driven to ensure that areas that may have deficiencies can be addressed. This data will also be shared with stakeholders through the annual report.