

2025 Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) Conference
From Crisis to Collaboration: Building Resilient Justice Systems
AGENDA
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025

8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
Presidents Hall

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- *James Turner, Chairman, Criminal Justice Advisory Committee*

Keynote
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Presidents Hall

The LEAF Concept: Cultivating Growth and Fulfillment

- *Col. Brenda Dietzman (ret.)*

To truly thrive, we must invest in our employees' growth and well-being. Introducing the LEAF Concept—what do you want to *Learn, Experience, Accomplish, and Feel* in both your life and career? This innovative approach encourages employees to think long-term, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and personal fulfillment. By focusing on these key areas, we can inspire our teams to achieve greater heights and build a more resilient, motivated workforce.

Join us to discover how the LEAF Concept can revolutionize your organization's approach to personal and employee development, leading to sustained success and a workplace that thrives.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

First Set of Breakout Sessions

Enhancing Emotional Intelligence: A Key to Successful Leadership

- *Col. Brenda Dietzman (ret.)*

In today's demanding workplace, emotional intelligence (EQ) is considered one of the most crucial skills. EQ not only benefits your professional and personal life but also deepens your self-awareness. For those helping professions, a high level of emotional intelligence is particularly vital. Emotional intelligence is also a cornerstone of resilience. Without it, employees might ignore, escape from, or numb their emotions, leading to long-term medical and mental health issues, as well as problems both at work and home.

In this evidence-based session, participants will:

- Understand the nature of emotions and how to identify them
- Learn strategies for managing and harnessing emotions effectively
- Explore the impact of emotional intelligence on professional success

By working through Daniel Goleman's Five Components of Emotional Intelligence, we will build and utilize EQ skills to foster better relationships and interactions. Participants will leave with tools to effectively understand and navigate the emotions of themselves and others, enhancing their interactions and resilience.

Huntingdon County Endangered and At-Risk Youth Response Team

- *Kelvin Forrest Abrashoff, Administrator, Huntingdon County Children's Services*
- *Chief Charles T. Streightiff, Huntingdon Borough Police Department*

The mission of the Huntingdon County Endangered and At-Risk Youth Response Team (HEART) is to create an early warning "handle with care" alert between Law Enforcement, Children and Youth Services, and local school districts to provide timely and valuable information about concerned youth that otherwise would go undetected and unreported. HEART works to collaboratively combine the expertise and resources of multiple professionals, agencies, and communities to improve interventions for children and families.

Informed Decision-Making Through Behavioral Health Screening and Risk Assessment in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System

- *William Keim, Policy & Program Development Specialist, The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission*
- *Jay Leamy, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Chester County Juvenile Probation*

In Pennsylvania, juvenile probation departments use screens to identify youth in need of behavioral health assessments and/or services at the intake conference. Data shows youth who screen in for trauma reactions and score high in clinically significant ranges for broader behavioral health concerns tend to score higher in a risk domain that is highly correlated with reoffending. Our hypothesis is youth charged with school-related offenses will follow this trend.

Better Together: When Social Workers and Police Join Forces for a Stronger Community

- *Cara Gadzinski, Human Service Co-Responder/Training Coordinator, Bucks County*
- *Ivone Kovalsky, Community Engagement Officer, Bucks County*
- *Chief Nelson E. Whitney, II, Falls Township Police Department*

In 2020, Bucks County launched its first Co-Responder Program at the Bensalem PD. Since then, it has expanded to 24 PDs. This presentation will focus on the implementation/expansion of the CR program in Bucks County and feature a case study from Falls Township PD (who adopted the model in its early stages) in hopes of inspiring attendees to explore CR initiatives to improve public safety, enhance MH outcomes, and better navigate complex social issues.

Examining the Intersection of Crisis Response and the Justice System in Pennsylvania: Lessons Learned from Listening Sessions with Key Stakeholders

- *Kate Reed, Project Manager, Behavioral Health, Council of State Governments Justice Center*
- *Paul Houston, Policy Analyst, Behavioral Health, Council of State Governments Justice Center*

Supported by Pennsylvania's Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP), the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), in partnership with The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, launched a project in 2024 to assess the current landscape of crisis response services and Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) programs for people experiencing behavioral health issues who encounter the justice system. As a key component of the project, the CSG Justice Center facilitated several listening sessions to gather feedback and insights from state and county level leaders, behavioral health stakeholders, justice organizations, local practitioners, and subject matter experts with the goals of understanding the gaps within the state's current crisis infrastructure, assessing the implementation of CIT programming, and developing recommendations for enhancements, including sustainable funding mechanisms and better data collection and analysis.

This session will outline key findings and lessons learned from the information gleaned from the listening sessions and will feature a facilitated discussion with attendees to gather additional feedback and insights. Attendees will learn about successful practices and partnerships in CIT programming & crisis response in Pennsylvania; the most pressing needs for CIT and crisis infrastructure; and how state agencies and county leaders can best support successes, overcome barriers, and fill in service gaps.

Harnessing the Power of Treatment Courts: A Collaborative Approach to Justice and Rehabilitation

- *Hon. Nancy Butts, President Judge and CJAB Chair, Lycoming County and PATCP President*
- *Abbey Geffken, Executive Director, PA Association of Treatment Court Professionals*
- *Jessica Miraglia, Assistant District Attorney, Wyoming County*
- *Nevin Warner, Problem-Solving Courts Analyst, Problem-Solving Courts Analyst*

Treatment Courts offer a unique and effective approach to addressing criminal offenses with a root cause of substance use disorders and/or behavioral health disorders. This session will delve into the fundamental principles of treatment courts, exploring structure, operations, their critical role in promoting long term recovery and reducing recidivism, and collaboration with criminal justice advisory boards to create a seamless system of justice and treatment.

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Presidents Hall

Lunch

1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Second Set of Breakout Sessions

Expanding the S.C.O.P.E. of Law Enforcement-Community Partnerships

- *Corporal Todd Kessler, Bucks County Sheriff's Office*
- *Deputy Salvatore Lamantia, Bucks County Sheriff's Office*
- *Dr. Christi M. Smith, Resident Senior Fellow, Criminal Justice and Civil Liberties, R Street Institute*
- *Deputy Justin Sturkey, Bucks County Sheriff's Office*

Police spend a disproportionate amount of time addressing issues related to substance use, mental health, and poverty. Despite the long history of police working with social workers to address community problems, the shift toward co-responder programs, diversion and police-led deflection models have been slow to progress. The purpose of this session is to provide an overview of an innovative approach being used in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The Sheriff's Community Outreach and Public Engagement - S.C.O.P.E. - initiative is designed to assist the citizens of Bucks County that may be experiencing a mental health crisis, need help with addiction, need assistance connecting to treatment, are experiencing homelessness, and may need assistance with handling court matters.

Collaborative Solutions for Behavioral Health in Rural Pennsylvania: Addressing Needs Before, During and After Jail

- *Scott Berry, Metal Health Director of Crisis, Emergency and Disaster Services, Behavioral Health, and Developmental Services*
- *Gretchen Frank, Senior Policy Analyst, Behavioral Health Division, Council of State Governments Justice Center*
- *Audra Goldsmith, Project Manager, Behavioral Health Division, Council of State Governments Justice Center*
- *Jennifer Scott, Administrator and Human Services Care Management Director, Behavioral Health and Development Services*
- *Jared Soto, Social Worker, Carbon County Public Defender's Office*

Rural counties in Pennsylvania (PA) face unique challenges in meeting the behavioral health needs of individuals who encounter the justice system. This session will explore innovative approaches taken by communities in rural PA to improve care coordination and support for people with serious behavioral health issues throughout their involvement in the justice system. Representatives from The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center will discuss common barriers and evidence-based best practices, and featured county representatives will share strategies they have utilized to enhance connections to care and streamline service accessibility. Attendees will hear how these counties have leveraged cross-system collaborations to sustain these programs and advance their efforts to better serve this population.

Courts Leading Change: A Behavioral Health Initiative

- *Michael Harper, AOPC Behavioral Health Administrator*

In June 2024, AOPC created the Office of Behavioral Health to improve court and community responses to behavioral health challenges. This breakout session provides highlights about the initiative including the October 2024 statewide Judicial Summit and a regional plan for judicially led councils to engage legislators, county leaders, and other stakeholders. This interactive session will also share county success stories and invite audience suggestions for courts leading change to help improve outcomes for individuals and families facing behavioral health challenges.

From START to LeCSI: Improved Outcomes for Those with Intellectual Disability and Autism

- *Brenda Bulkoski, Director, Allegheny County Office of Developmental Supports*
- *Tamara Siegert, Legal & Regulatory Compliance Manager, Allegheny County Office of Developmental Supports*

With an overview of Allegheny County's START and LeCSI Programs, innovative interventions for individuals with Intellectual Disability and Autism in the legal system, the presenters will share strategies for implementing immediate accommodation and change applicable to any jurisdiction, increasing access to justice while limiting the overuse of services, for both children and adults.

Translating Research into Practice: How Pennsylvania's Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment Instrument Revalidation Study Advanced Solutions to Pennsylvania's Juvenile Detention Crisis

- *Melanie King, Research Analyst, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission*
- *Dr. Carrie Maloney, Professor and Criminal Justice Program Director, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania*
- *Cheri Modene, Director, Lancaster County Juvenile Probation*
- *Adrienne Robbins, Juvenile Court Consultant, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission*
- *Alan Tezak, Project Consultant, Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers*

Through this panel presentation, attendees will gain a better understanding of how a unique partnership between researchers and practitioners was used to inform solutions to Pennsylvania's juvenile detention crisis. The featured example will be the recent collaboration supporting Pennsylvania's revalidation of its juvenile detention risk assessment. Partnership, data, technical assistance, and continuous quality improvement strengthened policies and practices during a detention crisis and allowed State and County stakeholders to work together on data-driven solutions.

Beyond the Public Meeting Notice: Meaningful Engagement of Community Partners in Criminal Justice Planning Boards

- *Allison Badger, Director, NCJA Center for Justice Planning*
- *Simone Greene, Deputy Director, NCJA Center for Justice Planning*
- *Anica Stieve, Program Manager, NCJA Center for Justice Planning*

Collaborative stakeholder engagement is a critical component of any criminal justice planning effort. Building meaningful relationships can lead to better solutions, avoid duplication of efforts, and help comprehensively leverage resources in your community. This session will discuss the key benefits of convening stakeholders and community members, that include breaking down silos, improving processes, and increasing access.

Building and sustaining relationships is hard, ongoing work – but you can't do it alone! Partnering across systems through collaborative stakeholder engagement creates collective ownership and increased buy-in. This session will discuss practical strategies for fostering partnerships to advance meaningful engagement and relationship building.

Keynote

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Presidents Hall

Thriving After Resiliency

- *Jeff Wallace*

Jeff Wallace explores the critical journey of moving beyond resilience to true thriving; not just for the youth you serve but for yourself. Drawing from his personal transformation - from struggles with juvenile incarceration to becoming an advocate and educator - Jeff illustrates that resilience is the foundation, but thriving is the potential that follows. This session goes beyond just improving how professionals serve youth; it's about empowering individuals to become their best selves, maintaining a full "well" each day, both at work and in life.

Jeff will explore how clear, empathetic communication, inclusive environments, and Trauma-Informed Care principles can foster personal growth and sustained well-being for both youth and professionals. By integrating evidence-based strategies, this session will show how professionals can nurture their own resilience while fostering it in others. Through his unique blend of lived experience and professional expertise, Jeff offers a roadmap to create environments where both youth and professionals feel empowered, valued, and supported. The session will also introduce four life-changing, transferable lessons from chess that enhance communication, collaboration, and resilience.

4:30 p.m.

End of Day One

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025

8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Presidents Hall

Welcome and Opening Remarks/Awards Ceremony

- *Jennifer Lopez-Cerrato, Chairperson, Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee*

Keynote
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Presidents Hall

More Than a Feeling

- *Sgt. Mark DiBona (ret.)*

In this session, Sgt. Mark DiBona will speak about how his childhood trauma, his mental health issues and how his suicide attempt affected his career and marriage. He will also speak about how mental health illness is *More Than a Feeling*. In reference to how it affects you physically and the stigma of mental health illness. Mark will share his "road to recovery."

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

Mental Health Meets Law Enforcement: Collaboration for Resilient Policing

- *Jared T. Davis, Corporal and Field Training Officer, Coatesville City Police Department*
- *Julie Knudsen, Director of Development, The Lincoln Center for Family & Youth*
- *Nicole Martin, Trauma Training Manager, The Lincoln Center for Family & Youth*

This presentation demonstrates the impact of mental health and law enforcement collaboration in training on trauma, resilience, and connection within teams. By blending expertise, this approach equips officers with tools to navigate trauma, build resilience, and foster a work culture that supports officer retention and wellness. Attendees will explore how these partnerships promote trauma-informed justice practices that benefit both officers and the communities they serve.

Community Empowerment through COSSUP: Innovative Initiatives to Combat the Opioid Epidemic in Pennsylvania

- *Hallie Allen, Associate, Justice System Partners*
- *Lauren Henderson, Associate, Justice System Partners*
- *Sarah Jensen, Research Associate, Justice System Partners*
- *Jennifer Lerch, Senior Associate, Justice System Partners*

Discover Pennsylvania's COSSUP program's innovative strategies to combat the opioid epidemic among justice-involved populations. This workshop will showcase effective, culturally relevant partnerships—such as those with barbershops and beauty salons—along with impactful initiatives such as crisis SIM Mapping, reentry simulations, and community-driven solutions. Participants will gain actionable insights and leave the session equipped with practical insights and tools to create strong local support networks and reduce overdose deaths in their own communities.

Improving Behavioral Health Treatment in the Criminal Justice System: Understanding the State of Addiction Treatment in Pennsylvania

- *Chris McKenzie, Community Relations Coordinator, Pinnacle Treatment Centers*
- *Florence Paige, MHS, Executive Director of Pennsylvania Region, Gaudenzia*
- *Ariane Scheller, PhD, LPC, Chief Executive Officer, Endless Mountains Extended Care*
- *Jason Snyder, Policy Director, SUD Treatment Services, Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA)*

Addiction treatment and recovery have undergone historic changes in the past decade. This workshop will detail some of the most significant changes – from treatment assessment and planning to integration of peers into the system, to name a few – to help the criminal justice system better understand prevailing practices and philosophies so that it can improve collaboration with the treatment system. Those on the frontlines of treatment will also highlight recommendations for better collaboration with the justice system.

Implementation of EBP in County Probation: Where Are We Now?

- *Jeff Angradi, Chief Probation Officer, Pike County Probation Department*
- *April J. Billet, Deputy District Court Administrator – Chief Probation Officer, York County Department of Probation Services*
- *Douglas J. Wilburne, Chief Probation Officer, Franklin County Adult Probation*

In 2016, the County Chief Adult Probation and Parole Officers Association of Pennsylvania collaboratively developed a strategic plan with key stakeholders with the goal of implementing evidence-based practices in county probation. The workshop will present an overview of evidence-based practices through the framework of stages of implementation, highlighting successes and reduction in costs. The workshop will conclude with a panel discussion of the primary barriers to implementation and how success can be achieved.

Trauma Informed Debriefs: What, Why and How?

- *Melanie G. Snyder, Consultant & Trainer: Reentry, Trauma, Resilience & Trauma Informed Care, Sole Proprietor*

Talking with trusted others about the disturbing things we've seen, heard, and experienced on the job can be a helpful way to process the traumatic aspects of our work. Unfortunately, the ad hoc, "gory story" sharing that often occurs in many workplaces spreads vicarious trauma, creating a "trauma contagion" effect that can negatively impact staff morale and productivity, and result in burnout, absenteeism, and turnover. This workshop will examine various purposes for informal debriefing conversations, key considerations for having these conversations in a trauma-informed way, and will teach a simple, readily implementable four-step process that anyone can use to have these important day-to-day conversations about the realities of the job in a way that protects both the speaker and the listener from unnecessary additional trauma exposure. (NOTE: This workshop will not cover formal debriefing strategies such as CISM/CISD or formal staff supervision debriefs.)

Building Your CJAB's Resiliency

- *Hon. Nancy Butts, President Judge and CJAB Chair, Lycoming County and PATCP President*
- *Bobby Juip, CCAP Criminal Justice Advisory Board Specialist, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency*
- *Kimberly Mackey, CCAP Criminal Justice Advisory Board Specialist, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency*
- *Christopher Murphy, CCAP Criminal Justice Advisory Board Specialist, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency*
- *Megan Ruffaner, Deputy Court Administrator and CJAB Director, Butler County Court of Common Pleas*

This interactive session, designed for County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) leaders, coordinators, and members, will highlight best practices for building CJAB resiliency. CJAB stakeholders will discuss their roles and efforts to support the vitality and sustainability of their local CJAB. The session will also include examples from counties that have found success in keeping their CJAB strong in a changing world.

12:00 p.m.
Presidents Hall

End of Conference / Boxed Lunch Available