

AGENDA

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024

Welcome and Opening Remarks

8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
Presidents Hall

- *Michael D. Pennington, Executive Director, PCCD*
- *Lieutenant Governor, Austin A. Davis, PCCD Chairman*
- *James Turner, Chairman, Criminal Justice Advisory Committee*

Breaking the Cycle of Community Violence through Holistic and Effective Evidence-Based Practices

- *Thaddeus L. Johnson, PhD*

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

Despite increased public attention to gun violence since 2020, Black and disadvantaged neighborhoods have historically experienced disproportionate levels of community violence, especially among young Black men. Implementing intelligence-driven policing, community intervention, public-private partnerships, and sensible legislation can address the allure of street life and urban gun culture contributing to felony violence in these neighborhoods. Evidence-based justice system and community interventions offer promising perspectives to reduce gun violence without widening the racial gap in arrests and imprisonment.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

First Set of Breakout Sessions

Racial & Ethnic Disparity in Pretrial

- *Heather Goldsworthy, PhD, Temple University*
- *Robert Orth, PhD, PCCD*
- *Christina Reardon, MSW, LSW, Temple University*

Room 207

Supporting programs and practices that promote justice for all citizens and communities in Pennsylvania is one of PCCD's top strategic priorities. To that end, PCCD is committed to helping identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities that impact fair and equitable treatment in Pennsylvania's Justice System. In April 2023, PCCD contracted with Temple University to evaluate front-end criminal justice system processes to establish an understanding of existing racial/ethnic disparities (R/ED), discern the availability of pretrial services and supports, and develop recommendations that will lead to system-wide improvements. This session will present preliminary analysis of statewide data (using AOPC data from 2017-22) related to racial disparities in the front-end criminal justice system (e.g., number and gravity of charges filed, bail decisions, confinement, case dispositions). The session will conclude with information about next steps in the evaluation process, including a survey of pretrial practices throughout Pennsylvania and focus groups with community stakeholders and justice-impacted individuals.

Leveraging Police Technology, Housing Credits, and Social Services to Reduce Gun Violence and Homicide

- *Thaddeus L. Johnson, PhD*

Room 106

In a more intimate follow-up to the keynote session, we present new data and analysis showing how deploying police technologies, expanding the use of affordable housing credits, and increasing accessibility to social services can help reduce gun violence and homicide.

Mind Matters: Building a Crisis System That is Inclusive and Responsive to Brain Injury

- *Megan Davidson, Program Director, Behavioral Health, CSG Justice Center*
- *Kate Reed, Project Manager, Behavioral Health, CSG Justice Center*

It is estimated that over half of individuals encountering the criminal justice system have experienced a brain injury, making this a highly prevalent issue of concern among persons involved in the criminal justice system and those working within the system. Brain injury advocates have lobbied extensively for legislative and funding support to address this issue. Recently, progress was made on the legislative front with the Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Law Enforcement Training Act (H.R. 2992), which was signed into law in August 2022 and promotes the development of training tools and resources for first responders focused on brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Room 108

Policy experts at the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center reviewed existing literature, best practices, and policies on brain injury and conducted a series of interviews and focus groups with criminal justice professionals, brain injury service providers, advocacy organizations, and subject matter experts. Insights from the literature scan, interviews, and focus groups were integrated into a comprehensive report, which outlines key findings and recommendations to advance the field in addressing the issue of brain injury within the criminal justice system.

This session will outline key findings derived from the CSG Justice Center's report and discuss recommendations for criminal justice professionals to inform policy and practice at the intersection of brain injury and the criminal justice system. During the session, participants will: 1) learn what brain injury is, how it presents itself in the criminal justice system, and the key issues when identifying and addressing brain injury in criminal justice settings; 2) gain an understanding of key recommendations for how to identify and appropriately address brain injury in criminal justice settings; and 3) receive key resources to support the implementation of best practices to improve responses to persons living with brain injury encountering the criminal justice system.

Intensive Community Supervision – A New Model

- *Daja Palmer-Hill, Parole Agent, Pennsylvania Board of Probation*
- *Nate Simon, Deputy District Director, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections*

Room 206

This discussion will describe how the PA Department of Corrections applied for, and received, a federal grant to help design and implement an intensive supervision program. The initiative was conceptualized as a new tool to help meet the needs of individuals with extensive histories of violence, weapons crimes and parole violations. The intent was to use a targeted participant selection process, the utilization of new resources, deployment of highly trained and dedicated staff and a holistic approach to improve the outcomes for the population assigned to the program.

A Trauma Informed Approach... It Starts With YOU!

- *Laura Clary, Program Director/Forensic Nurse Examiner, GBMC Sexual Assault Forensic Examination, Domestic Violence & Child Protection Program*
- *Detective Sekou Hinton, Baltimore County Police Department*

Room 208

This workshop presented by a Forensic Nurse and a Detective will provide information on the importance of neurobiology of trauma and its relationship to a multidisciplinary response to child abuse. By understanding the science of the brain, we can better appreciate the multitudes of responses and behaviors after experiencing a trauma. Utilizing a collaborative, victim-centered approach to sensitive crimes is considered best practice, as it reduces the potential for re-victimization, and begins the process of healing and recovery.

Resolving Long Term Criminal Investigations Through a Collaborative Effort

- *Trooper Jeffrey A. Baney, Bureau of Criminal Investigations, Criminal Investigation Assessment Unit, Missing Persons Unit*
- *Corporal Todd McCurdy, Bureau of Criminal Investigations, Criminal Investigation Assessment Unit Supervisor, Missing Persons Unit*

Room 105

This presentation will discuss the effectiveness of the collaborative efforts between the Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Investigation Assessment Unit and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. The team approach used by each agency has seen various long-term criminal investigation brought to a successful resolution.

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

Lunch

1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Second Set of Breakout Sessions

Navigating Your CJAB Forward: Creating Progress Out of Change

- *Angi Crater, Reentry Coordinator, PCCD*
- *Bobby L. Juip, CCAP CJAB Specialist, Western Region*
- *Michael Leister, Crisis Intervention Program Manager, PCCD*
- *Jennifer Lopez-Cerrato, PCCD Vice-Chairman*
- *Kimberly A. Mackey, CCAP CJAB Specialist, Eastern Region*
- *Christopher J. Murphy, CCAP CJAB Specialist, Central Region*

Room 105

This session will provide a brief overview of the critical role of CJABs throughout the Commonwealth and within their local community. We'll review ways to refresh standards of practice, bylaws, membership, and strategic planning. Attendees will be afforded the opportunity to network and connect with other CJAB Chairs, Coordinators, and stakeholders, discuss challenges, successes, and brainstorm ideas to strengthen partnerships and turn change into progress.

Women's Reentry Services Initiatives: A Three-Step Model

- *Mark Frailey, Founder and Executive Director, Go Reentry Specialists, Inc.*
- *Keith Mernin, PA CareerLink, Tuscarora Intermediate Unit*
- *Elizabeth Siegelman, Program Coordinator, Centre County Community Conferencing*

Room 108

A panel discussion about the new collaboration between the nonprofit organizations: Community Conferencing, PA CareerLink, and Go Reentry to provide enhanced reentry services to women at the Centre County Correctional Facility. These enhanced services were made possible through the PCCD "Women's Reentry Services Initiative." The panel will discuss what the grant enabled us to do, what we learned over the course of the grant, and how we hope to improve our collaboration and services offered in the future.

Trauma Exposure and Trauma Contagion in Criminal Justice Work: Why It Matters How to Address It.

- *Melanie G. Snyder, Consultant & Trainer: Reentry, Trauma, Resilience & Trauma-Informed Care*
- *Lieutenant Glenn Stoltzfus, Lancaster City Bureau of Police*
- *Linda Waller, Recently Retired Probation/Parole Services*

Room 208

Trauma exposure is an unavoidable occupational hazard in criminal justice work, creating vicarious trauma for staff at all levels, at every stage of the justice system. Unfortunately, vicarious trauma is highly contagious and can infect the entire culture with cynicism, communication breakdowns, unresolved conflicts, increased potential for aggression, and other serious risks. This workshop will equip agency leaders with practical, proven and readily-implementable strategies to mitigate negative impacts of trauma exposure, minimize risk of trauma contagion, ensure a safe, healthy organizational culture, and promote staff well-being.

Preliminary Recidivism Rates: What Can the Data Tell Us About EBP and Risk Assessments?

- *April Billet, Deputy District Court Administrator-Director of Probation Services, York County*
- *Robert Orth, PhD, PCCD*

Room 207

This session will highlight the initial findings of a recidivism study funded through a Bureau of Justice SMART Probation grant. The study focuses on three demonstration sites: Berks, Dauphin, and York County adult probation departments. Recidivism rates among low, moderate, high, and very high-risk individuals under supervision were evaluated to validate ORAS outcomes and as a foundational step toward a larger goal of establishing causality between implementation of EBP and recidivism reduction.

The Formation of the Philadelphia Police Departments Behavioral Health Unit and Crisis Intervention Response Teams

- *Lieutenant Victoria Casale, Behavioral Health Unit, Philadelphia Police Department*
- *Audrey Lundy, Director, Crisis Intervention Response Team, Merakey*

Room 106

In November 2022 the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) launched a new Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) to improve police response for individuals actively suffering from various behavioral health and emotional crises. The BHU seeks to provide alternative solutions to individuals in crisis by utilizing co-responder teams, as well as diverting certain low-level arrestees from the court system into treatment programs. BHU response focuses on de-escalation and connecting individuals to supportive services and treatment programs instead of arresting them, allowing Philadelphia citizens to access the help they need to improve their quality of life and prevent them from future encounters with the police and court system. This presentation will focus on the formation of the BHU, the expansion of the Police Assisted Diversion program, and heavily focus on the role of the Crisis Intervention Response Teams in the community now that the program has one year of success and data.

Deflection & Diversion: A Multifaceted Approach to Help Others Struggling with Substance Use Disorder

- *Lauren Diller, Agent, Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General*
- *Leo Doyle, MA, LETI Outreach Coordinator*
- *Ryan Sayers, District Attorney, Clearfield County*
- *Phil Waibel, BA, LETI Coordinator*

Room 206

You will hear how to work with and develop relationships with law enforcement to help divert someone out of the criminal justice system. You will also hear a story of success. A story of an individual who was hopeless. You will hear from a District Attorney who took a step to help this individual instead of incarceration using his Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative (LETI) policy.

What 50 Years Has Taught Me: A Story of Addiction, Death, Redemption and Hope

- *Jason Snyder, Director, Behavioral Health Division & Policy Director, SUD Treatment Services, Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA)*

As a person in long-term recovery who lost both of his brothers – his only siblings – to drug overdose deaths, Jason Snyder will tell his family’s story of addiction, death, redemption and hope through detailed vignettes. Following a timeline that connects those milestone events in his life – interactions with the criminal justice system, addiction treatment system, healthcare system and local and state governments – to the attitudes toward and services available to treat and support those with the disease at those moments in his history, Jason will describe scenes that highlight missed opportunities to better help his brothers, his parents and himself while celebrating the progress we’ve made in capitalizing on those same opportunities and within those same systems today.

Calling on his professional expertise and experiences, Jason will add color and perspective to a history lesson on addiction ignorance, treatment, stigma and progress and make recommendations for where we need to go in the future.

Keynote

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Presidents Hall

4:30 p.m.

End of Day One