



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

## RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice E-Newsletter

### Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



On behalf of our entire staff at the RFK National Resource Center, we want to express our hope that you and your families enjoy a wonderful Christmas and holiday season!

We are celebrating the 5th anniversary of our RFK National Resource Center this month. This history has afforded us the cherished opportunity to partner with so many dedicated and passionate professionals in communities large and small all across the United States - and beyond our borders too. Because of you and your innovative leadership over the past five years, we are able to celebrate the season with the knowledge that thousands of troubled and vulnerable youth are looking at the holiday season with a greater opportunity for a bright future ahead.

We face the challenge to accelerate the positive pace of reform within our juvenile justice systems as we look forward to 2019. But let us take a brief respite during this special season to focus exclusively on our families and friends. We are convinced that we can do so with the knowledge that together we are making a positive difference for youth across all regions of the United States. We are grateful for our partnership with you and extend to you and your families our most sincere and warmest holiday wishes.

*John A. Tuell, Kari Harp, Sorrel Lewis and the RFK National Resource Center Team*

### Upcoming Event

### We're on Twitter!

RFK Children's Action Corps and RFK National Resource Center are on Twitter! [@RFKChildren](https://twitter.com/RFKChildren)

Follow us on [twitter](https://twitter.com/RFKChildren)

### Have You Scheduled an On-Site Training in Your Community?

[Contact us now](#) to ensure your jurisdiction has the opportunity to learn how to best address critical topics in juvenile justice.

The [Training Institute](#) brings experts and experienced facilitators into local jurisdictions, ensuring that all vital leaders, staff, and stakeholders have the opportunity to benefit from the experience. Our curriculum utilizes well-established frameworks for reform that have been applied in numerous jurisdictions throughout the nation, while also incorporating current research and emerging best practices. The training approach balances traditional presentation with dynamic discussions and facilitated activities aimed at applying the information to each individual jurisdiction. As a result, participants

## Register now for the Child Welfare League of America's National Conference!

During the 2019 Child Welfare League of America National Conference, the RFK National Resource Center will provide an extended learning opportunity as part of CWLA's Special Sessions, titled *Proven Effective Methods and Practices that Create Futures of Opportunity for Youth Involved in both Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems*. In this session (scheduled on April 12th), John A. Tuell and RFK National Resource Center partners from Douglas County, Nebraska (Nicholas Juliano) and Hampden County, Massachusetts (Patrick Sparks) will provide dynamic guidance on the tools, approaches, recommended and evaluated practices that improve outcomes for dual status youth, thereby strengthening the systems and agencies serving these important young people. This session will also focus on key aspects of the Family First Prevention Services Act 2018.

For more information, and to register for this exciting opportunity, please visit: <https://www.cwla.org/cwla2019/>.

## New Resource

### Coming Soon - Probation System Review Guidebook, 3rd Edition

The RFK National Resource Center is working on the 3rd edition of the Probation System Review Guidebook which will include updates, lessons learned from the diverse array of state and local jurisdictions with whom we have partnered over the past three years, and new resources to support jurisdictions who undertake the Probation System Review process. Please be looking for this important new contribution to the field as we enter the 2019 calendar year.

The [\*\*Probation System Review Guidebook, 2nd Edition\*\*](#) is currently available on our website.

## From the Field

### New Resource on Successfully Implementing Risk and Needs Assessments Released by OJJDP

A new bulletin, entitled [\*Studying Drivers of Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument Implementation in Juvenile Justice\*](#), describes Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention supported research findings on factors that promote effective implementation of risk and needs assessment instruments in the juvenile justice system. This valuable publication provides guidance on effectively implementing risk and needs assessments and highlights intentional steps and considerations that contribute to long-term, high quality sustainability of this best practice.

Quality implementation has been shown to reduce reliance on formal system involvement and decrease recidivism. Using a framework based in implementation science, the authors analyzed qualitative and quantitative data to identify the following drivers of successful implementation:

- Positive staff perceptions about the reliability, credibility, and applicability of the instrument to the needs of their local jurisdictions.
- Engagement of staff and other stakeholders in the initial strategic planning, goal setting, and problem solving to ensure early buy-in.
- A pilot period that focuses on training of staff and other

leave both well-informed and poised to begin taking action immediately.

*The Training Institute includes the following programs:*

**Dual Status Youth: Improving Outcomes for Youth Involved in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice** ([Learn More](#))

**Dual Status Youth: Implementing and Sustaining Reforms** ([Learn More](#))

**Advancing Best Practices in Youth Justice Seminar** ([Learn More](#))

**Probation System Review Training** ([Learn More](#))

**Multi-System Information & Data Sharing** ([Learn More](#))

Our training staff and consultants look forward to talking with you to discuss how we can meet your jurisdiction's unique training needs!

To learn more about the Training Institute, please visit our website: [rfknrcjj.org/training-institute/](http://rfknrcjj.org/training-institute/)

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## How Can We Serve Your Community?

To find out how the RFK National Resource Center can support reform in your community using proven frameworks for technical assistance, please [\*\*Contact Us!\*\*](#)

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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, with

stakeholders.

- Ongoing supervisory support and training.
- Standardized operating procedures and written policies in state and local agencies and the ability to share information across multiple stakeholders.
- A strong data infrastructure, including both user-friendly technological systems to support data collection and staff data expertise.

To access this resource, please [click here](#).

### Support the RFK National Resource Center!

Your valued contribution directly supports the sustainability and expansion of the RFK National Resource Center's positive impact on children and families nationally. To make a donation, please [click here](#) and type in "RFK National Resource Center" in the "My donation is for a specific program" box. **Thank you!**

[Donate Now!](#)

or without technical assistance. 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.

To access all of our Resources, please visit: [rfknrcjj.org/resources](http://rfknrcjj.org/resources)

### Quick Links

[Who We Are](#)  
[Our Work](#)  
[Contact Us](#)



### About Us

Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice, led by Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, 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).

### Every Child Deserves a Childhood

Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps is a private, non-profit licensed child welfare agency providing community-based services, education, foster care and adoption, residential treatment, and juvenile justice programming to individuals and families in crisis. Our programs are focused on helping children and adolescents deal with past hurts, develop self-esteem, and have a chance for a brighter future as contributing members of society. All that we do at RFK Children's Action Corps is based on the belief that every child deserves the chance to lead a happy, healthy, and productive life. For more information and to get involved, visit [www.rfkchildren.org](http://www.rfkchildren.org).