



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!



#### Expressing our Appreciation and Hope for the New Year

On behalf of our entire staff and devoted consultants 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 our 6th year of tremendous growth and cherished opportunities to partner with you and your dedicated youth- and family-serving colleagues in state and local jurisdictions across the country. Together, through our work in the field and directly with you, we are making a difference in the lives of some of the nation's most challenged and vulnerable youth. Our emphasis remains focused on partnerships where the everyday commitment, unique experiences, and expertise from professionals like you drive the transformation of youth justice practice to ensure that every youth realizes a future that we would want for own children. It is your innovative and devoted leadership that permits us to approach the holiday season with hope, optimism, and dreams of positively impacting tens of thousands more youth in the coming years. We at the RFK National Resource Center all consider it a privilege and a blessing to engage in these rewarding and challenging efforts with you as partners in the field.

We know we may face professional and personal challenges in 2020, but we will continue to accelerate the positive pace of reform so that fewer youth are impacted negatively by their involvement in the juvenile justice system, and a greater number of youth are truly afforded the chance to see a brighter future ahead. We look forward

### 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!](#)

### Meet Our Peer Mentors!

The RFK National Resource Center is delighted to offer [Peer Mentorship](#), a valuable opportunity for leaders, practitioners, and collaborative teams from sites embarking on reform efforts to learn from the experience and expertise of the RFK National Resource Center's Practice Networks. Members of the Dual Status Youth (DSY) and Probation System Reform (PSR) Practice Networks represent communities

to facing that challenge with you in 2020 and beyond.

Nonetheless, let us once again take a brief respite during this special season to focus exclusively on our own families and friends. As we enjoy this time, 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 offer to you and your families our most sincere and warmest holiday wishes.

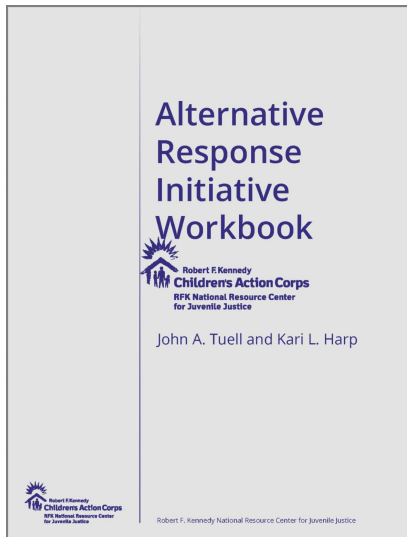
**Wishing you the best this Holiday Season and in the New Year,**

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

## New Resource

### Alternative Response Initiative Workbook

The RFK National Resource Center is proud to announce the release of its new [Alternative Response Initiative Workbook](#). This publication, authored by John A. Tuell and Kari L. Harp, complements the RFK National Resource Center's Alternative Response Initiative ([ARI](#)), which supports state and local jurisdictions in their efforts to develop or enhance their system of alternative responses to formal prosecution.



The ARI Workbook presents a detailed set of tasks, activities, and timelines that adheres to the principles of effective technical assistance, with emphasis on the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration and the tenets of Implementation Science. The ARI's "Five Steps to Success" are explained in detail to help jurisdictions navigate through the preparation and formation of a collaborative leadership team, completion of an assessment and analytic process, formation of a detailed action strategy, implementation, and additional activities that lead to positive opportunities for enhanced practice within youth serving systems. This Workbook was thoughtfully developed for jurisdictions to use either independently or in partnership with external technical assistance.

**To access the Alternative Response Initiative Workbook (including "printer-friendly" PDF), please visit our website: <https://rfknrcjj.org/resources/alternative-response-initiative/>.**

If you wish to learn more about the Alternative Response Initiative, please contact John A. Tuell, Executive Director, at [jtuell@rfkchildren.org](mailto:jtuell@rfkchildren.org).

## On the Ground

### State of Delaware Family Court Partnership to Impact Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)

We are pleased to announce that, through a grant awarded to the Family Court for the State of Delaware by the Juvenile Justice

from across the nation that have championed change, leading to enhanced system performance and improved outcomes for children and families. Practice Network Members have a deep understanding of the processes, challenges, barriers, and benefits of juvenile justice and child welfare reform efforts. With their on-the-ground experience, members of our Practice Networks are uniquely qualified to offer peer-to-peer mentorship, guidance, and support to other communities.

[Click here](#) to meet our **Dual Status Youth Peer Mentors!**

[Click here](#) to meet our **Probation System Reform Peer Mentors!**

## Visit Our Online Resource Library!

All of our publications and tools are made available on our website to support jurisdictions undertaking reform, with 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](https://rfknrcjj.org/resources)**

## Quick Links

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

Reform and State Courts Initiative, the RFK National Resource Center we will use its seminal four-phase Dual Status Youth (DSY) framework to provide training, technical assistance, and consultation in Delaware and among the family court, juvenile justice, child welfare, law enforcement, Attorney General's office (Family Division), and other relevant youth-serving organizations and agencies. This initiative will seek to positively impact outcomes for dual status youth, featuring a special emphasis on those youth who are at-risk of, or are the victims of, commercial sexual exploitation. Building on our prior experience, the enhancements and improvements in policy and routine practice realized through the work of this DSY-CSEC Initiative will focus on strengthening practices, programs, protocols, and services for a wide range of systems of care for these vulnerable and exploited youth. Following 60 days of intense preparation, our initial technical assistance site visit is scheduled for February 25-26, 2020.

### **Dual Status Youth Technical Assistance Initiative in Ohio**

In July, we shared our announcement of the competitive selection of Ohio's Clark and Knox Counties to receive funding to support intensive Dual Status Youth technical assistance. The on-site partnership was launched this fall in both counties. Both jurisdictions have developed their respective Executive Multi-Disciplinary Committees and established additional subcommittees to provide tailored expertise and analysis on priority subject matters. These subcommittees are well on their way to informing the solutions that will establish sustainable, evidence-based policies and practices that positively impact dually-involved youth and their families. There has been significant early momentum and progress in both sites to define their target population, create methods to routinely identify the youth that will benefit from enhanced multi-system responses, innovatively propose coordinated practices across agencies and within the court, and begin construction of methods to collect, manage, and report the system performance and youth outcomes sought by this endeavor. These dedicated professionals are on the path to create unique and sustainable solutions for their youth and families - which may carve out a pathway of replicable practices that could impact all counties in Ohio. We applaud the commitment of, and progress in, both jurisdictions!

[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).