

Juvenile & Probate Court Newsletter



November Birthdays:
 Janet Diamond 12th
 Scott Davis 20th
 Karen Roderick 20th
 Doug Warren Jr. 26th

Special points of interest:

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- > Check us out on twitter [@AshJuvCourt](#) for instant updates.
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- > Just Added: [LinkedIn!](#) Follow us and take a look at the newly updated [County Website](#).

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Inter-Site Conference

Court Administrator, Andrew Misiak and Chief Probation Officer, Stephen Keates were able to attend the JDAI inter-site conference in Seattle Washington. They attended the conference via grant funds. Here are some highlights of the two day conference: When the Annie E. Casey Foundation launched the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) in the tough-on-crime era of the early 1990s, politicians were labeling teenage offenders “super predators” and states were passing laws making it easier to prosecute kids as adults. Rates of juvenile detention were skyrocketing. Nearly 30 years later, JDAI’s radical-for-its-time proposition that locking youth up neither improves their behavior nor protects public safety has been borne out. Average daily juvenile detention populations have been halved in the more than 300 counties across 40 states and Washington, D.C., that have adopted JDAI reforms. Detention admissions are down 57%. In most localities, crime rates have continued to decline. Today, “JDAI no longer devotes all, or even most, of its energy to detention reform,” Nate Balis, director of Casey’s Juvenile Justice Strategy Group, told the 800 attendees at JDAI’s annual conference last week in Seattle. So what’s next for JDAI and juvenile justice reform? Overhauling probation, tackling the persistent overrepresentation of youth of color and increasing diversion are key areas for deeper reform, Balis said. Given the mounting evidence of detention’s harmful impacts on youth, it’s also “time for all JDAI sites to rethink their purpose of detention,” he said. “The onus is now on us to justify why any young person should be locked up.” Transforming juvenile probation in the U.S., “we give probation to everyone,” Balis told the crowd. More than 60% of adjudicated youth receive probation, including many with first-time misdemeanors, according to a 2018 Casey report. Conventional probation doesn’t work, he said, “and it is actually harmful for youth at low risk for rearrests.” For that reason, Casey has begun working with jurisdictions to reduce the number of youth placed on probation and to move away from the traditional compliance-based model. Read it [here](#).

Family Drug Court Receives Specialized Docket Re-Certification

Our FDC was recertified by the Ohio Supreme Court on September 17, 2019. In an accompanying letter, Chief Justice Maureen O’ Connor generously praised our staff for its hard work in achieving recertification. She acknowledged the certification process is intensive and she applauded our efforts to ensure uniform quality and consistency in specialized dockets statewide. The Chief Justice concluded by congratulating our court, staff and the entire treatment team for all we do in service to our community.



To date, FDC has seen eight graduates. We currently have 15 active participants, and are looking to expand capacity. Our next anticipated graduation will be sometime in January 2020. Please look for a formal announcement next month. Graduate, Bridget Running stated that if it wasn't for Family Drug Court she wouldn't have made it. She would not have her children and that this program saved her life. We wish each graduate much success, and look forward to the continued growth of the program.

Studies Show how Juul Exploited Social Media to get Teens to start Vaping.

Juul Labs, the leading e-cigarette maker, says it has long been upfront about its determination to keep young people away from its vaping products. That’s what the San Francisco company says, anyway. But its advertising strategy has assiduously cultivated young consumers, with great success. That’s the finding in a series of studies from Stanford University that have turned a spotlight on how Juul exploited social media and the tastes of young adults to target a youth market. Juul’s “repeated assertion that their product is meant for ‘adult smokers only’ has not been congruent with its

marketing practices over its first three years,” said a study published in January by a Stanford program researching the impact of tobacco advertising. For close to a year after the company’s product launch in mid-2015, its advertising “featured patently youth-oriented imagery and messaging.” The thrust of Juul’s advertising has evolved since then, largely in an attempt to stave off regulatory and legislative attacks, but the impact continues. After the company halted its promotional social media postings in November 2018, according to a Stanford study published in July, online posts us-

ing the hashtag #Juul actually doubled. The posts typically originated within a community of youthful users that had coalesced around the company’s earlier advertising and had taken on momentum of its own. The Stanford papers were based on assiduous collecting of Juul ads and marketing materials. Juul denies that its ads ever were aimed at a young audience. “We have never marketed to youth and we never will,” the company said in an email. The recent outbreak of lung diseases among vaping users has focused public attention on the practice as never before. Read the article [here](#).

Franklin County to Eliminate Current Juvenile Probation Jobs; Employees will have to Reapply for New Roles.

About 64 Franklin County Juvenile Court probation department employees will be affected next year when their jobs are eliminated and they have to seek positions with vastly different, more complex responsibilities as part of a plan to transform the way juveniles are supervised. The new Community Restoration Services Department will operate under the idea that juveniles fare better and the community stays safer when support is emphasized over incarceration. “The job is going to change dramatically,” Juvenile Court Judge Kim Browne said after a

meeting. “We’re moving to a model that is more individual-specific. The responsibilities are different.” Browne, the court’s administrative judge, said the court has been moving toward the shift for several years and has spent more than \$200,000 on training. “Its time to take the next step,” she said. Judges want a department focused less on cookie-cutter probation plans and rigid compliance, and more customized supervision and support. Current approaches make compliance a matter of “either you did or you didn’t,” Browne said, with too many

juveniles sent back to court or detention for violations that could be addressed in other ways. Browne said the positions are so different that employees “deserve a chance” to decide whether they want them. She also said assistance is available if some employees need additional training or instruction. The new department will embrace the latest science and studies, which Judge Browne says clearly conclude that juveniles fare better and the community stays safer when support is emphasized over incarceration. To read the entire article click [here](#).

Preventing mass shootings will take money for school behavioral health support, lawmaker says.

A state lawmaker from Olympia on Monday called on the Legislature in 2020 to revise the state budget to provide more funding for school safety and mental health support for students. Democratic state Rep. Laurie Dolan was the lead sponsor this year of a bill, which Gov. Jay Inslee signed into law, to evaluate potential or actual threatening behavior of students to find “facts or evidence

that the threat is likely to be carried out.” Lawmakers approved \$1.2 million in the two-year state budget and tapped a federal grant to add one position in each of the state’s nine educational service districts. Those employees will train and provide technical support to school officials on how to carry out the threat assessment program. “What we know in studying the literature is that when

mass shootings, God forbid, occur, they tend to happen in white suburban and often rural areas,” Dolan said. “So what we wanted to do was make sure that whatever system we put into place for school safety, it would reach our smallest districts in Washington state as well as our biggest districts.” The measure is the “first and only law that acknowledges and codifies the importance of a

comprehensive school safety support program,” said John P. Welch, superintendent of the Puget Sound ESD. The majority of students are able to cope with stressors with the supports of their families. However, more and more students do not have adequate support systems in their lives. To continue this article in its entirety click [here](#).

Improve public safety: Funding juvenile justice programs

As the head of the Cheshire County Sheriff's Office, I know that voters will always hold me most accountable for public safety. That's a key reason why I'm among more than 1,200 sheriffs, police chiefs and prosecutors who've signed a letter urging Congress to support programs that prevent young people from turning to crime, Eli Rivera said. One measure that's especially important in New Hampshire — which ranks among the top five states for opioid-related deaths — is funding for programs that provide counseling and protection for at-risk juveniles who've been impacted by drug addiction. Other provisions of the act support mentoring and counseling to

foster behavioral changes as an alternative to expensive and often-ineffective detention centers. Two types of counseling in particular — known to the experts as functional family therapy and multisystemic therapy — have demonstrated that recidivism can be reduced by more than 50 percent. Law enforcement leaders throughout the nation know these efforts are far more effective and more fiscally responsible than incarceration, but we're frustrated when our states don't have the resources to implement them. That's why our letter asks the House and Senate to provide enough funding through state formula grants, Youth PROMISE — Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentor-

ing, Intervention, Support and Education — grants and youth mentoring grants to ensure these options are available. Investment now, means not only better outcomes for our young people, but ultimately a savings of taxpayer dollars as well. Simply put, getting "tough on crime" means being "smart on crime." We can do that by ensuring young people develop the skills to combat the negative impacts of the opioid epidemic, and by helping youth who are involved in the criminal justice system get the help they need to avoid re-offending and become successful in life. Eli Rivera is from Keene, New Hampshire, he is the Cheshire County Sheriff and a member of Fight Crime, Invest in Kids.

Resource Center Data Update

The Competitive RECLAIM project through the Department of Youth Services helped us establish a Resource Center to provide intake screening for unruly youth. Since 2017, the Resource Center has served 986 youth, 65.5% have been male and 76.9% Caucasian, 16.5% African American with an average age of 15 years old. Of the referrals handled by the Resource Center, 16.9% were low criminogenic risk, 72.2% were moderate risk, 11.0%

were high risk. Of all the youth referred through the Resource Center, 69.8% were terminated successfully and an additional 24% were neutral terminations. Twelve months after being referred to the Resource Center 253 youth (85.2%) were considered Successful. The Resource Center continues to process a large number of youth since opening in 2017. So far in this calendar year, approximately two youth per day are processed and provided with behavioral health assessments and community

service referrals. A recent change that the Court reported is that all youth who are charged with smoking related offenses are being sent through the Resource Center and diverted. So far, there have been 19 such cases. The Resource Center has been working with several youth to offer a voluntary running group twice a week. A local running group donated shoes to these youth and they will be participating in a 5K race in October. The Court also reports that a new Girls Circle and Boys Council groups have started.



Teenage Vaping Rises Sharply Again This Year

Preliminary figures from a national survey show that the prevalence of e-cigarette use among minors has doubled from 2017 through this year, despite national campaigns warning of the dangers. "It's not good news at all," said Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, which decided to release the new vaping numbers from an annual survey conducted by University of Michigan researchers three months earlier than scheduled. "There has to be a policy that would make it much harder for teenagers to be introduced to vaping." Vaping prevalence

more than doubled in the grades surveyed, eighth, 10th and 12th, from 2017 through this year. One in 4 students in the 12th grade reported that they had vaped within the previous 30 days this year, 1 in 5 in the 10th grade; and 1 in 11 in the 8th grade. The results were issued at a time when the number of mysterious vaping-related illnesses — after patients reporting using e-cigarettes, THC-products or both — has continued to increase. Nearly 400 cases of vaping-related sicknesses have been documented in nearly three dozen states, with some patients suffering acute lung illness-

es. And a seventh death linked to vaping was reported in California this week. The startling popularity of teenage vaping and the sicknesses have alarmed public officials. Dr. Levy said that just about every patient referred to her practice also vapes. Vaping has become normalized for teenagers, she added. "Kids say that these devices have all the pleasures of cigarettes without the harm," said Dr. Levy. "It's like a cup of coffee for them." The Court is interested in partnering and developing pilot projects, To read the article in its entirety click [here](#).

Re-Imagining Juvenile Justice Training: Ashtabula County

The Ashtabula County Juvenile Court is proud to present an upcoming intensive training that is being offered December 2nd-4th and the 9th-11th. All individuals are expected to participate in every class day. You are invited! The courses will be delivered at the Ashtabula County District Library in Ashtabula. You will develop a positive youth development mindset through a cross-systems approach. Collaboration is vital to the success of this program. The last training will focus on trans-

forming policy and practice in Ashtabula County. This is a unique professional development program aimed at collaborating with fellow juvenile justice system professionals, nationally recognized experts and innovators in the field. This training has been completed in Summit, Franklin and Montgomery Counties. This unique training is vital for community members and may not be offered again. For more information and to RSVP please contact Andrew Misiak at 994-6004 or send an email [here](#).

Re-Imagining Juvenile Justice

A Positive Youth Development Mindset
A Cross-Systems Approach

A unique professional development program.

Collaborate with fellow juvenile justice system professionals and work with and learn from nationally recognized experts and innovators in the field. Courses go deep into:

- ✓ Positive Youth Development Fundamentals
- ✓ Utilizing a Cross-Systems Approach — the Essential Nature of Collaboration
- ✓ Engaging Authentic Youth Voice and Leadership
- ✓ Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities
- ✓ Fostering Positive Family Relationships
- ✓ Transforming Policy & Practice

Training sessions developed and led by Wheelock College's Juvenile Justice and Youth Advocacy Department and School & Main Institute, Boston, MA.

✓ A course of study comprised of six (6) unique sessions will be offered beginning in December 2019.

✓ Classes are taught by recognized national and local experts in the field of youth services and juvenile justice.

✓ Stakeholders / Participants will be selected beginning in September of 2019.

When: Classes will be held December 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th, and 11th. All individuals are expected to participate in every class.

Where: All courses will be delivered in a classroom setting at the Ashtabula County District Library, 4335 Park Ave. in Ashtabula. Associated course materials and resources, along with instructor coaching and feedback, will be made available.

Texas Task Force Looks at Youth Involved in Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice Systems

Lisa Jarrett presides over what's known as the crossover docket in Bexar County, Texas, where she handles cases involving youth known to both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Jarrett says that bundling all the cases of a dual-status youth reduces replication of services and helps the child understand what they need to do to comply with the court — after all, with two separate cases come separate judges, court dates and orders. Before the courts instituted a crossover docket, "It was all very messed up, and if I think it was difficult, can you imagine what it is for

a family who doesn't know how to work the system?" Jarrett said. "These kids have more trauma in their lives than most kids. They're used to people leaving them. Case-workers come and go, they don't have any stability. In this program they have stability." The Texas Children's Commission hopes to get the rest of the state in sync on these youths. Earlier this summer, the commission created a statewide task force to address the specific issues related to youth who are involved both with the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system. These "dual status" youth, also sometimes called

"crossover" youth, have particular challenges, many judges and experts agree, and in Texas, there is a pressing obstacle in the way of targeting them for services: No one knows exactly what these terms mean. The primary goal of the task force, is to make a statewide definition for dual-status youth, in order to improve outcomes for these vulnerable kids. Upwards of half of the youth involved in the juvenile justice system may also be involved in the child welfare system. The task force will also look to develop best practices that can be used across the state. Finish reading [here](#).

'Tis the Season for Giving Back

With the holiday season quickly approaching, both Juvenile and Probate Court have even more opportunities to give back this holiday. In November, we will be participating in a Veterans Thanksgiving. Items will be collected in both courts and the contents will be donated to the food bank. Items to be collected include boxes of cereal, oatmeal, boxed potatoes, stuffing, macaroni, canned tomatoes, tuna, sweet potatoes, apple sauce, beans, soups, green

beans, corn, spaghetti, sauce, vegetables and other non perishable items. The last day for donations is November 22nd. For the 5th consecutive year, both Juvenile and Probate Courts are hosting a Toy Drive for the Ashtabula County Children Services Agency. Toys for all ages are being accepted and can be dropped off at either court or the resource center. The drive continues to grow each year. Gift cards are also being accepted. The last day for donations is De-

cember 14th. We would like to thank all of the individuals who participated last year and a special thank you to LEADERSHIP Ashtabula County for their signature class donations. Believe it or not, the holidays are right around the corner. Please consider donating, thank you!



Have information that you would like to share with our partners? Type it up and send it to Andrew Misiak, ajmisiak@ashtabulacounty.us