**Juvenile Justice Services Best Practices Award**

**Honoring Best Practices of Juvenile Justice Programs**

**BACKGROUND**

The County Criminal Justice Systems for the 21st Century, a subcommittee of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) Courts and Corrections Committee has been charged by the CCAP Board with developing programs to promote best practices in criminal justice, including programs that benefit youth and families. In 2011, the committee presented its first ever best practices awards to county juvenile detention facilities, honoring their efforts at improving the lives of Pennsylvania’s youth. The committee strongly believes in the overall strength of the system, and further believes that the youth and families served and the communities counties strive to protect will be enriched through increased public awareness of the role that detention and alternative agencies play.

The Committee also believes that education regarding the role of juvenile services is critical – the role of detention has changed significantly over the past decade and fewer out of home placements have resulted in the development of an array of alternative programs that play a significant part in strengthening positive family interactions, preparing our youth for future independence, and assuring public safety.

Outcomes of cases referred to the juvenile justice system are a key preventive component of the overall criminal justice system. National attention has been directed toward overcrowded adult jails and prisons, which has led to recognition that diversion of juveniles away from the adult justice system serves the public interest, as well as the needs of the individuals. The award has evolved over time to recognize and honor the best practices of juvenile detention centers, shelters and alternative programs for the positive impact they have on the lives of our youth and their contribution to assure balanced and restorative justice through Community Protection, Competency Development and Victim Restoration. The men and women who work every day in these settings deserve our thanks and commitment in supporting the positive outcomes they produce in the lives of families in every area of our state.

**AWARD PROGRAM GOAL**

The focus of the award is to recognize PPJS member agencies for implementation of best practices that improve outcomes for justice-involved youth. Practices may address conditions of confinement using successful re-entry initiatives, prevention or early intervention programs, development of effective linkages with community behavioral health services, family involvement, school communication and efforts to make communities safer. Initiatives that may be considered include:

* Use of creative aftercare programs
* Behavioral health service delivery collaborative efforts
* Family engagement activities
* Successful collaborative efforts between juvenile justice partners
* Involvement in the development and use of appropriate alternatives to detention
* Interagency collaborations to address system efficiencies
* Supports or enhances continuity of basic education
* Improvement of data quality, adoption of assessment methodologies which identify areas for effective change
* Use of technology to enhance system efficiencies, security and population control
* Management of physical plant resources effectively in the midst of policy redirection
* Engagement with community partners, both public and private partnerships
* Use of balanced and restorative justice principles
* System wide prevention collaborations that impact both juvenile and jail populations
* Adoption of organizational change models, or Involvement in the development of a county child welfare planning process
* Involvement of youth in agency improvement efforts
* Initiatives to address the increasing number of youth experiencing mental health and substance abuse identified at the time of admission

Winners will be announced to the media and will have the option of selecting the time and location for the award presentation. Award winners will also receive a free registration to the PPJS Annual Conference to be held September 2020.

**Preparing and Submitting Your Entry**

Use the official award form in this brochure or available online at [http://www.pacounties.org/ProgramServices/Pages/Criminal-Justice.aspx](https://www.pacounties.org/ProgramServices/Pages/Criminal-Justice.aspx) click on “Juvenile Detention and Alternative Programs Best Practices Awards”

**Eligibility**

Juvenile justice programs are eligible to enter if they meet the following criteria:

• The agency is a member of the PPJS

• The agency plays a significant leadership role in the development and implementation of the activities

• The chair of the board of county commissioners, the county chief executive officer, the agency chief executive officer, or the chair of an executive board with oversight for an agency serving more than one county has approved the submission (all forms must be submitted with at least one signature)

• The project exhibits substantive or quantifiable program impact or performance measures

• The project took place in and was operating during calendar year 2019

• The county has applied for this award in the past, but can show an ongoing benefit to the project

projects previously but not selected for an award are urged to resubmit.

**Deadline**

Entries must be submitted using the electronic form no later than close of business February 14, 2020.

**Selection Criteria**

Entries will be judged on the following categories:

Description of the problem (10 points)

Provide background on programs in place prior to the project (10 points)

Description of Program (20 points)

Describe the specific project outcomes (20 points)

Program Evaluation (15 points)

Community Involvement (10 points)

Project Future (5 points)

**Acknowledgment**

By applying the applicant agrees that items submitted for the program narrative will be posted on the CCAP and PPJS websites and made available to counties who wish to establish similar best practices. The signatures on the submission indicate agreement with the public posting, and the award recipient may be asked to share additional information with other counties. The Committee on County Criminal Justice Systems Best Practices reserves the right to disqualify and entry if all of the required elements are not included. Further, entries not receiving a minimum score may be disqualified. Further, entries that fail to achieve a minimum score may be disqualified.

***OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM***

Entrants must complete all sections for the entry to be considered complete. A copy of this official entry is available at [www.pacounties.org](https://www.pacounties.org/)

Applicant must select the type of facility or program Choose an item.

Agency/Contracting County Click here to enter text.

Address Click here to enter text.

City, State, Zip Code Click here to enter text.

Primary Contact, Title Click here to enter text.

Contact Phone Click here to enter text.

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project Title Click here to enter text.

Start Date Click here to enter a date.

**PROGRAM NARRATIVE**

**Enter program narrative that addresses each of the following subject areas, and does so in the order presented below. Entries must be submitting using this form. All sections must be complete. Entries submitted without the required information may be disqualified.**

**Problem Discussion** - Enter comments on the identified need and the background including what programs were in place before the current project, if any, and how it led to this effort. This section is worth 10 points.

Click here to enter text.

**Background** – Enter history of the project, including any evidenced-based approaches to address criminogenic risk factors (risks, needs or responsivity) of the youth population served, community involvement strategies, formation of stakeholder groups, county- wide planning strategies, etc. This section is worth 10 points.

Click here to enter text.

**Project Description** – Enter a description of expectations and measurable goals, including supporting data. This section is worth 20 points

Click here to enter text.

**Program Evaluation** – Enter a description of how the project was evaluated and any lessons learned. This section is worth 15 points.

Click here to enter text.

**Community Involvement** – Enter a description of the community, including a description of key stakeholders, organizations, and/or county departments that were involved in the project. This section is worth 10 points.

Click here to enter text.

**Future of the Project** – Enter details describing how the activities included in the project started in the past were altered or will be continued based on experience, including plans for leveraging additional resources. This section is worth 5 points.

Click here to enter text.

**Funding** – Enter a description of any costs associated with the project and how it was funded; cost savings, if any, and any change in community acceptance, reductions in insurance costs, or inspection improvements that resulted from the program. This section is worth 10 points.

Click here to enter text.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Please include any supporting documentation to demonstrate the impact of the project in cost or population outcomes, or other data to demonstrate the considerations utilized in determining the scope or design of the project. Scoring will be based on factors including the entrant’s description of the problem, the soundness of the approach, and success in meeting goals and objectives. Award submissions will receive consideration for outcomes or best practices supported by data. **SUPPORTING INFORMATION SHOULD BE COPIED AND PASTED DIRECTLY INTO THE FORM USING THE BOX BELOW.**

Click here to enter text.

**Each application must be submitted with at least one signatures.** Signatures can be entered electronically, or submitted via fax using a separate form. To sign, right-click on the signature line, select “Signature Setup” from the drop down, and follow the prompts. If submitting signatures on a separate form, enter “FAXING” on the signature line.

**SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY – To submit the entry, save a copy of this completed form after all information, including signatures and supporting materials have been added. When saving the form, please assure that the document name includes the county name, the type of project and the year – (i.e. FranklinAlternativeAward2020). Address an email to** **bpenyak@pacounties.org** **and attach the award submission.**