



## **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Juvenile Justice Initiative:**

**Project Goal:** Identify and support youth in juvenile justice facilities who have a traumatic brain injury. The project centers around education and training of staff and other professionals who are likely to come into contact with youth identified with brain injury the juvenile justice system. The training is utilized to impact overall recognition and management of TBI, as well as enable identified staff to continue screening for TBI and enhance one's ability to link the youth to appropriate brain injury services and supports.

### **Overview:**

The focus of our project is to screen and assess for brain injury, and provide NeuroResource Facilitation (NRF) to those youth. The Ohio State University, TBI Identification Form (OSU TBI-ID) and the Abbreviated CNS Supplement are the tools used to screen youth for lifetime exposure to brain injury. Neurocognitive assessments were then administered to youth who screened positive for brain injury. The following battery was used, primarily focusing on impairments of memory for new information and executive functioning:

- Delis-Kaplan Executive Functioning System (D-KEFS)
- Wide Range Assessment of Memory and Learning- Second Edition (WRAML-2)
- Wechsler Individual Achievement Test-Third Edition (WIAT-III) - Reading Comprehension and Math Problem-Solving
- Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function-Self-Report Version (BRIEF-SR)

For those youth who showed significant impairment upon neurocognitive assessment, NRF was initiated. The focus of this intervention was brain injury education, counseling and making connections to available brain injury resources for school re-entry, vocational rehabilitation, medical care and rehabilitation as needed. The project began in juvenile detention and subsequently expanded to other parts of the Juvenile Justice setting. These include: the juvenile court system, probation, residential placements for adjudicated youth, and outpatient treatment settings.

The project has focused on educating and training staff in each of these settings about the disproportionate prevalence of youth with brain injury in their settings. The project has assisted these setting to embed the OSU TBI-ID screening process into their existing screening procedures. In addition, in some settings, we have been able to train others to do the neurocognitive assessments to further validate the impairments of youth with brain injury. Armed with this information, the next step is to make recommendations and connect youth with brain injury services and supports to ensure their chance of success. In addition, the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania have been working with the National Partnership on Justice Services to create a national policy on brain injury.

## Outcome Data:

### **Juvenile Detention Centers:**

Youth Screened	419
Screened Positive	215 (51%)
Youth Tested (Neurocognitive Assessment)	139
Demonstrated Impairments	80 (58%)

### **Residential Juvenile Placement:**

Youth Screened	277
Screened Positive	69 (25%)
Youth Tested (Neurocognitive Assessment)	13
Demonstrated Impairments	12 (92%)

### **Juvenile Court/Probation:**

Youth Screened	21
Screened Positive	10 (48%)

The work has been funded by a Traumatic Brain Injury State Implementation Partnership Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living obtained by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. This funding ends on May 31, 2018. While a lot of progress has been made, there is a need to continue this work. Further goals to build on what has been accomplished include:

- Provide further education and training on brain injury, brain injury screening, and related resources to juvenile justice professionals.
- Link juvenile justice professionals with local brain injury service providers and resources.
- Implement of key elements of the project (screening, neurocognitive assessment and connections to brain injury resources and supports) more widely at various points of entry in the juvenile justice system.

For additional information, please contact:

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