

*REIMAGINING  
JUVENILE  
JUSTICE (RJJ)  
INITIATIVE*

*Juvenile Justice Strategic Executive Planning Workgroup*

*June 6, 2019*


- RJJ is a staff development/workforce investment initiative, sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and facilitated by School and Main Institute.
  - Based on positive youth development (PYD) curriculum developed in the state of Massachusetts and piloted in Pima County, Arizona.
  - Collaborative learning opportunity.
  - The goal is to transform juvenile justice systems and strengthen cross-systems collaboration.
  - Pinal County is one of 15 sites selected nationwide to be trained on how to deliver this curriculum.
-

# *A working definition of Positive Youth Development (PYD)*

---


Positive Youth Development (PYD) is an *intentional* strategy or framework for *helping young people meet their basic developmental needs* (moral, social, cognitive, emotional & physical) by focusing on the *whole child*, not just a single problem that needs to be 'fixed'. It builds off of young people's *strengths (assets)* and is *age/developmentally appropriate*.

PYD is grounded in the desire to help young people be/become resilient and views three key things as protective factors to help build resiliency:

1. Positive relationships
  2. Clear, fair & high expectations and
  3. Opportunities to connect, navigate and be productive
- 

# *What is Positive Youth Development (PYD)?*

---

- Strength-based approach to working with youth.
  - Ensuring youth have the necessary resources, skills and competencies to achieve desired outcomes.
  - Moves away from punitive compliance-based “accountability”.
  - Youth make or influence decisions about their lives and set their own goals, then act on those decisions.
- 

# Changing The Narrative


	Traditional Juvenile Justice	Positive Youth Development
Role of youth in the community	Target of change	Agent of change
Role of youth in the justice system	Client	Participant
Mission of juvenile justice	Public Safety	Wellness
Key strategy of juvenile justice	Control youth behavior, gain compliance	Connect youth with social and developmental resources
Target of juvenile services	Youth problems and deficits	Youth strengths and assets
Purpose of service delivery	Supervision and control	Attachment and engagement
Intervention methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Probation supervision to ensure youth compliance with court orders</li> <li>• Individual and family counseling, group therapy (insight-based)</li> <li>• Job counseling, community service as punishment</li> <li>• Outdoor challenge programs</li> <li>• Mentoring, Big Brother/Big Sister</li> <li>• Remedial education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case management to ensure youth access to range of social resources</li> <li>• Peer counseling, leadership development, family living skills</li> <li>• Work experience, community service as job preparation, career exploration</li> <li>• Conservation projects, community development projects, recycling and community beautification projects</li> <li>• Youth/adult mentors work together on community service projects, intergenerational projects with elderly, etc.</li> <li>• Cross-age tutoring (youth teach younger peers), educational action teams, decision-making skills training</li> </ul>

# *The RJJ Curriculum*

---


- Six classes (9:30 am - 3:30 pm) held at the Florence Community Library, beginning July 30, 2019 and concluding December 17, 2019.
- A cohort of attendees will begin and end together; the curriculum builds on previous classes.

## Modules:

1. Fundamentals of Positive Youth Development
  2. Using a Cross-Systems Approach
  3. Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System
  4. Authentic Youth Voice and Youth Leadership
  5. Fostering Positive Family Relationships in the Juvenile Justice System
  6. Transforming Policies and Practice – Final Presentations, Reflections and Recommendations
- 


# *Transforming Our Shared Systems*

---

- RJJ concludes with a presentation to the Juvenile Justice Strategic Executive Planning Workgroup.
  - The team will present ideas, goals and potential changes to Pinal County Juvenile Court Services policies and practices to help break down barriers and build more trusting and collaborative relationships between and across agencies.
  - This will enhance success of youth across our systems.
- 

# *Shared Goals*


---

- Introduce the principles of positive youth development and strengths-based case management.
  - Create a system where we engage youth and families with a collaborative approach.
  - Continue to change the narrative around juvenile justice.
- 




# *Why is this needed?*

---

- Coordination → Cooperation → Collaboration
  - Bridging gaps
  - Sharing resources from a joint decision-making perspective
  - Thinking differently about how we do what we do, and what our defined roles are
  - Youth voice and family engagement
  - Tackle the elephants in the room – implicit bias, Racial & Ethnic Disparities, and the natural tension between public safety and youth wellness
- 

# *How do we get there from here?*

---

- County cohort of Juvenile Court Services staff and collaborative partner organizations who participate in the Juvenile Justice Strategic Stakeholders Workgroup.
  - We will reach out to partners in June 2019.
  - Diverse participation – across gender, racial, ethnic spectrum, as well as line officer/staff perspective and supervisors/middle managers.
  - The cohort will train together and work together toward the primary goal: examining current practices and strengthening collaboration.
- 

# Questions?

## **Celena Angstead**

Division Manager | Youth Justice Center

Pinal County Juvenile Court Services

1410 E. Diversion Dam Rd. Florence, AZ 85132

T: (520)866-4010 | Email: [CAngstea@courts.az.gov](mailto:CAngstea@courts.az.gov)

## **Michelle Lunn**

Division Manager | Juvenile Probation

Pinal County Juvenile Court Services

971 N. Jason Lopez Circle, Building D - Ste. 500 Florence,  
AZ 85132

T: (520)866-7075 | Email: [MLunn@courts.az.gov](mailto:MLunn@courts.az.gov)

---