



**Juvenile Justice  
Professional  
Development  
Program  
Fall 2019!**

## **Re-Imagining Juvenile Justice**

**A Positive Youth Development (PYD) Mindset  
A Cross-Systems Approach**

**A unique professional development program.**

Collaborate with fellow juvenile justice system professionals and work with and learn from 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

PYD sessions developed and led by Karla Dush, OYS and Mark Le Flore, Douglas County Youth Center, Omaha, NE

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**When:** Classes will be held September 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>; October 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>; November 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

**Where:** Location to be determined. Breakfast/Lunch will be provided

**Time:** 8:30am-2:30pm

**How to Apply:** An application form and selection criteria located at:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Pima2018app>

## Re-Imagining Juvenile Justice - A Workforce Development Strategy

The ability for today's juvenile justice workforce to see and engage with youth as assets is critical for transforming our national approach to juvenile justice from a punitive framework that creates a revolving door into progressively deeper levels of system involvement, towards one through which we more effectively address the multifaceted needs of young people and their families, helping them minimize or avoid deeper system-involvement. Re-Imagining Juvenile Justice (RJJ) is a unique workforce development initiative designed to help juvenile justice agencies and systems embed a positive youth development mindset that works across systems to achieve results.

### RJJ Program Overview

RJJ is developing leaders who are trained to support, divert and redirect youth to appropriate and fair justice options, including options that require a high degree of cross-system collaboration and coordination. It was piloted in Massachusetts in 2016-2017 with a cohort of 21 professionals from several juvenile justice agencies. RJJ's goals, structure and course work were designed by professionals representing youth probation, corrections and juvenile courts, community-based organizations serving youth involved in the MA juvenile justice system and the Wheelock College Juvenile Justice & Youth Advocacy program of study.

Courses are delivered locally and are targeted to cohorts of up to 30 juvenile justice professionals. While RJJ can be implemented for professionals from one juvenile justice agency (e.g. probation), it is maximized when participants reflect a mix of system stakeholders, agencies and/or departments. It is intended for people who are and will remain working in the field while they are in the program. As a cohort, participants learn about each other's roles and the organizations they represent while building new muscles to work across institutional lines. Participants develop an ongoing peer learning network.

### The Six Course Modules

#### 1. Introduction to Positive Youth Development Fundamentals

This session focuses on developing the basic understanding of positive youth development principles with an overview of the critical importance of PYD in today's youth work. The emphasis is on how to enable students to understand and integrate the concepts of PYD and adolescent brain development into daily practice and shift perceptions to see and believe in youth as assets.

#### 2. Utilizing a Cross-Systems Approach

Participants look at the essential nature of partnership development and collaboration and its role in fostering cross-system work between and across agencies, departmental units and other juvenile justice service professionals.

#### 3. Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System

Through in-depth discussions and activities, participants explore the nature and extent of implicit bias and racial and ethnic disparities as they exist in the juvenile justice system. Focus is on gaining a better understanding of how to be aware, responsive and equipped to employ strategies to address disparities.

#### 4. Utilizing Authentic Youth Voice / Youth Leadership with a PYD Mindset, Cross-Systems Approach

Participants learn more about what youth voice is and how it can be better used in the juvenile justice environment. Focus is on specific strategies for the JJ system to empower youth.

#### 5. Fostering Positive Family Relationships in the Juvenile Justice System

Establishing positive, authentic and trusting relationships with the parents and families of justice-involved youth is essential to helping youth participate in and transition successfully from placements into positive community life. Professionals learn to recognize and promote family and community ties that contribute to a youth's successful transition plan.

#### 6. Final Presentations, Reflections & Recommendations

In the final session, participants discuss the impact of this training on their mindset and practice and present specific recommendations to their agency and system leadership, who are invited to attend.

*For additional background on the RJJ initiative, go to*  
<http://www.schoolandmain.org/re-imagining-juvenile-justice/>