



pennsylvania

COMMISSION ON CRIME
AND DELINQUENCY



FISCAL YEAR 2017/18

ANNUAL REPORT

TOM WOLF, GOVERNOR

CHARLES H. RAMSEY, CHAIRMAN

PCCD was created by the Act of Nov. 22, 1978 (P.L.1166, No.274)

The General Assembly finds and declares that:

- (a) crime and delinquency are essentially State and local problems;
- (b) crime and delinquency are complex social phenomena requiring the attention and efforts of the criminal justice system, State and local governments, and private citizens alike;
- (c) the establishment of appropriate goals, objectives and standards for the reduction of crime and delinquency and for the administration of justice must be a priority concern;
- (d) the functions of the criminal justice system must be coordinated more efficiently and effectively; the full and effective use of resources affecting State and local criminal justice systems requires the complete cooperation of State and local government agencies; and
- (e) training, research, evaluation, technical assistance and public education activities must be encouraged and focused on the improvement of the criminal justice system and the generation of new methods for the prevention and reduction of crime and delinquency.

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PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

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CHARLES H. RAMSEY
PCCD Chairman

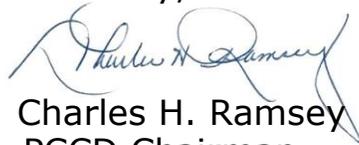
TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS:

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's mission is to enhance the quality, coordination, and planning within the criminal and juvenile justice systems, to facilitate the delivery of services to victims of crime, and to increase the safety of our communities.

The Fiscal Year 2017-18 Annual Report provides an overview of our efforts to meet our mission and achieve our goals. It is organized to highlight the main tenets of our mission: juvenile justice and delinquency prevention; criminal justice system improvements; victim's services and child advocacy; and school safety. By focusing on these areas, we collectively increase the safety of the communities of our great Commonwealth.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this report, please contact Derin Myers, PCCD's Acting Executive Director, at (717) 265-8077.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles H. Ramsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being particularly prominent.

Charles H. Ramsey
PCCD Chairman

COMMISSION MEMBERS

CHARLES H. RAMSEY, PCCD CHAIRMAN

Honorable John T. Adams	District Attorney, Berks County
Mr. James Anderson	Chairman, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee
Ms. Karen Baker	Chief Executive Officer, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape
Mr. Mark H. Bergstrom	Executive Director, Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing
Honorable Mary Jane Bowes	Judge, Superior Court of Pennsylvania
Honorable Patrick Browne	Senate of Pennsylvania, Appropriations Committee Chairman
Mr. Philip Damiani	Executive Director (Retired), Delaware County Court of Common Pleas
Mr. Thomas Darr	Court Administrator, Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts
John P. Delaney, Jr., Esq.	Director, Office of Investigations, Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Honorable Sheryl Delozier	Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Honorable Elizabeth Doyle	Judge, Blair County Court of Common Pleas
Honorable Leo Dunn	Chairman, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole
Lt. Colonel Robert Evanchick	Acting Commissioner, Pennsylvania State Police
Honorable James J. Fitzgerald III	Senior Judge, Superior Court of Pennsylvania
Mr. Jeffrey D. Gally	Chief (Retired), Shaler Township Police Department
Matthew H. Haverstick, Esq.	Partner, Kleinbard LLC
Honorable David W. Heckler	District Attorney (Retired), Bucks County
Honorable Vincent Hughes	Senate of Pennsylvania
Honorable Curtis Jones, Jr.	Councilman, City of Philadelphia
Mr. Thomas R. King	Chief (Retired), State College Police Department
Jeffrey M. Kolansky, Esq.	Partner, Archer & Greiner, P.C.
Ms. Carol L. Lavery	Lavery Consulting

Honorable Rachel L. Levine	Secretary and Physician General, PA Department of Health
Honorable Edward M. Marsico, Jr.	Judge, Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas
Honorable Matthew B. McConnell	Commissioner, Mercer County
Dr. Edward B. Michalik, Jr.	MH/DD Program Administrator, Berks County
Honorable Teresa D. Miller	Secretary, PA Department of Human Services
Edward P. Mulvey, Ph.D.	Professor of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh
Ms. Mary Onama	Executive Director, Victim Services Center of Montgomery County, Inc.
Honorable Joseph A. Petrarca	Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Christine Wechsler Rayer, Esq.	Attorney, Elliott Greenleaf & Siedzikowski, P.C.
Honorable Pedro Rivera	Secretary, PA Department of Education
Mr. Sean R. Ryan	Chief, Bucks County Adult Probation and Parole Department
Honorable Josh Shapiro	Attorney General, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Honorable Jennifer Smith	Secretary, PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs
Mr. Richard D. Steele	Executive Director, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
Honorable Jennifer R. Storm	Victim Advocate, Office of the Victim Advocate
Mr. James E. Turner	Chester Weed and Seed
Honorable Mike Vereb	Chairman, Criminal Justice Advisory Committee
Honorable Randy Vulakovich	Senate of Pennsylvania
William F. Ward, Esq.	Attorney, Rothman Gordon, P.C.
Honorable John Wetzel	Secretary, PA Department of Corrections
Ms. Michele Minor Wolf	Executive Director, Victims' Intervention Program
Honorable John A. Zottola	Judge, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas

COMMISSION OVERVIEW

Established by law in 1978, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) serves as the justice planning and policymaking agency for the Commonwealth. PCCD's mission is to enhance the quality, coordination, and planning within the criminal and juvenile justice systems, to facilitate the delivery of services to victims of crime, and to increase the safety of our communities. By bringing together a wide range of experts in these fields, PCCD coordinates the collective examination of problems, proposes solutions, and evaluates the impact of those solutions.

PCCD facilitates partnerships among federal, state, and local policymakers; fosters interagency coordination and cooperation; develops and coordinates policy issues; provides statewide criminal statistical and analytical services; fosters community-based initiatives in the areas of delinquency prevention and offender reintegration; promotes the use of information technology and information sharing to enhance operational effectiveness in criminal justice agencies; and grants federal and state funds to provide monies to support best practices and innovation. The agency is also specifically tasked with providing services to the victims of crime (e.g., administration of the state's Crime Victims' Compensation Fund; Children's Advocacy Centers; etc.), implementing the County Intermediate Punishment Act (42 Pa.C.S. Chapter 98), and coordinating training for sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and constables per their respective statutes.

Advisory Committees and Boards

To better inform the Commission in its work, PCCD is comprised of six Advisory Committees and two Training Boards:

Children's Advocacy Center Advisory Committee (CACAC)

CACAC was established by Act 28 of 2014 to advise the Commission on the development and promotion of programs and projects related to Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC's) and Multidisciplinary Investigative Teams (MDITs). CACAC was also directed by the Act to advise the Commission in the distribution of grants to support both existing and developing CACs and MDITs throughout the Commonwealth.

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC)

CJAC is a collaborative forum for our county criminal justice partners throughout the Commonwealth to share and discuss their collective issues and solutions. CJAC focuses on the development of long-range strategies and plans, and sets priorities for justice projects supported by PCCD's various funding streams.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJJPC)

JJJPC was established by Act 30 of 2001, and is the official juvenile justice planning, coordination, and policy-setting body for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The committee develops a comprehensive, long-range plan and related policies for the Commonwealth's juvenile justice system. Additionally, the group sets priorities for juvenile justice projects supported by PCCD's various funding streams.

Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee (MHJAC)

MHJAC provides guidance and structure to ensure statewide coordination and effectiveness of Pennsylvania's criminal justice and mental health systems, enabling PCCD to continue supporting statewide strategies that direct technical assistance to evidence-based practices; guide the operation and sustainability of jail diversion and reentry programs; and provide a clearinghouse for resources related to criminal justice, mental health, and substance abuse.

Research, Evaluation, and Data Analysis Advisory Committee (REDAAC)

REDAAC promotes the effectiveness of justice programs in Pennsylvania by providing quality research, evaluation, data collection, and analysis to policymakers, program managers, and practitioners.

Victims' Services Advisory Committee (VSAC)

Established by Act 111 of 1998, VSAC advises PCCD on policies, priorities, and performance standards for victims' services and compensation.

Constables' Education and Training Board (CETB)

The Constables' Education and Training Board, which was established by Act 102 of 1992, advises PCCD in the development, implementation, and operation of legislatively mandated basic training, continuing education, and firearms qualification that serve as the basis for certification of constables and deputy constables within the Commonwealth.

Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board (SDSETB)

The Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board, which was established by Act 2 of 1984, advises PCCD in the development, implementation, and operation of legislatively mandated basic training and continuing education that serve as the basis for certification of sheriffs and deputy sheriffs within the Commonwealth's 67 counties.

Internal Offices

In addition to the Advisory Committees and Boards, PCCD is staffed by six Offices that facilitate Advisory Committee work and implement the actions taken by the Commission. The Offices are as follows:

Criminal Justice System Improvements

The Office of Criminal Justice System Improvements (OCJSI) advances the criminal justice system by coordinating with all levels of criminal justice agencies in identifying their issues, developing policies and programs, and implementing innovative justice improvement solutions that enhance public safety.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) develops policy recommendations and administers federal and state funds to support programs designed to improve the Commonwealth's juvenile justice system and to prevent children and youth violence, delinquency, substance abuse, school dropout, and related problem behaviors.

Victims' Services

The Office of Victims' Services (OVS) works to help crime victims transcend their trauma by funding victim service agencies that work directly with victims, offering financial help to victims through the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP), and collaborating with criminal justice and allied professionals that advocate and respond to the needs of victims.

Safe Schools Advocate

The Office of the Safe Schools Advocate (OSSA), which is located within the School District of Philadelphia, provides support and advocacy for students and staff who are victims of school-based violence and/or crimes committed on school property.

Research, Evaluation and Strategic Policy Development / Child Advocacy

The Office of Research and Child Advocacy (ORCA) provides research support and data analysis to the other Offices and analyzes policies and legislation that impact the juvenile and criminal justice system and victims. This Office also supports the network of Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) and Multidisciplinary Investigative Teams (MDITs) throughout Pennsylvania and administers funding through the Endowment Act (NCAA/PSU Penalty) to support child victims and adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

Financial Management and Administration

The Office of Financial Management and Administration (OFMA) administers and monitors the distribution of grants, ensuring accountability of all grant recipients and serving as a watch-dog for taxpayer dollars. PCCD administers all its grants through Egrants, which is a web-based grants management system developed internally in 2004. Since 2006, all state and federal funds have been managed through Egrants, and all grant recipients use the Egrants application to submit their application electronically, as well as to submit all required periodic reporting information for both program and fiscal staff.



JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

KEY INITIATIVES

FISCAL YEAR
2017/18

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

Since 1978, the PCCD has served as the Commonwealth’s designated state planning agency for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, pursuant to the requirements of the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJDFC), comprised of representatives from the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC), juvenile court judges, law enforcement, juvenile justice agency probation personnel, non-profit prevention and treatment service providers, special education specialists, and other relevant stakeholders, is tasked by law to:

- develop a comprehensive plan relating to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention for the Commonwealth;
- serve in an advisory capacity to the Commission on awards, standards, and programs;
- collaborate with all state agencies on planning and programming related to juvenile delinquency prevention and the reduction and prevention of violence by and against children; and
- advise and assist the Commission in designing and promoting comprehensive research-based initiatives to assist communities and community-based organizations in reducing risk to and promoting the positive development of children and in preventing juvenile delinquency and youth violence.

KEY INITIATIVES

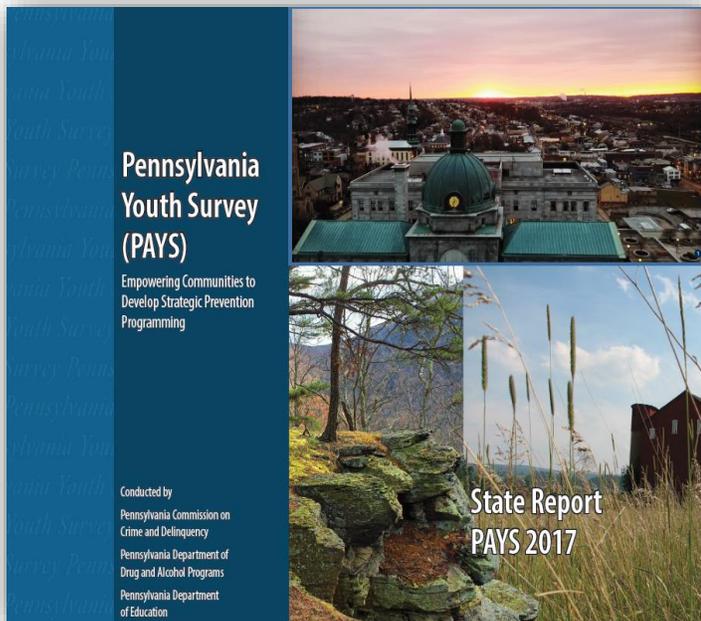
Delinquency Prevention Efforts

Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS)

Since 1989, the Commonwealth has conducted a survey of school students in the 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grades to learn about their behavior, attitudes and knowledge concerning alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and violence. The Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) is sponsored and conducted every two years by PCCD, in partnership with the Departments of Education and Drug and Alcohol Programs, to gather critical information concerning risk factors and changes in patterns of substance abuse.

Over 250,000 Pennsylvania students participated in the 2017 administration of the PAYS. Some key findings included:

- 12th grade lifetime narcotic use decreased from 12% in 2015 to 9% in 2017, though this remains higher than the national average of 6.8%.



- The overall percentage of students reporting it would be easy for them to obtain prescription drugs decreased from 28% in 2015 to 25% in 2017. The sharpest decrease was among 12th graders whose rate dropped from 43% to 38%.
- Heroin use remains low for 12th graders – lifetime: 0.5%, 30-day: 0.1%.
- 62% of students, with a rate of 67% for 10th and 12th graders, reported being emotionally abused through insults or name-calling.
- 38% of students reported feeling sad or depressed most days, including 44% of 10th and 41% of 12th graders.
- 20% of 10th and 12th graders reported considering suicide and 12% attempted to commit suicide.
- 14% of students, with a rate of 15% for 8th graders and 17% for 10th graders, reported self-harm (e.g., cutting, scraping, burning themselves) over the past year.

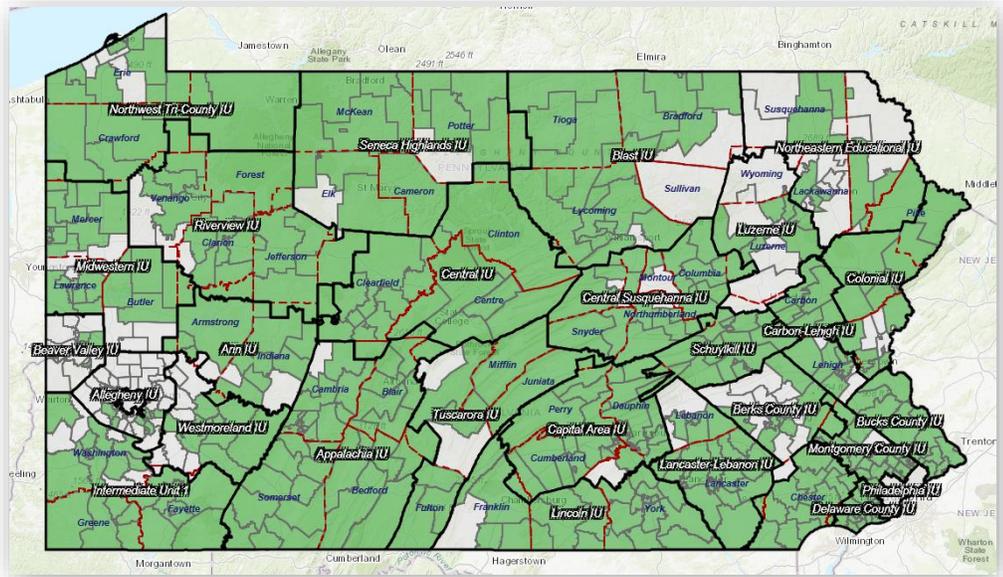
PAYS also provides information about Risk Factors – conditions that increase the likelihood of youth engaging in problem behaviors. Some of the most prevalent risks include:

- Perceived Risk of Drug Use: 49% of youth do not view using some drugs as risky.
- Parental Attitudes Favorable to Anti-Social Behaviors: 46% are apt to model negative behaviors exhibited by their parents.
- Low Commitment to School: 45% of youth do not feel attached to their school and academic success.

PAYS also provides information about Protective Factors – those people and conditions in a child’s life that can buffer them from the risks they face:

- The highest levels of protection are in the Family Domain – Positive attachment to their family (63%); Opportunities for prosocial involvement through family activities (62%); and Rewards for engaging in prosocial activities with their family (61%).
- In the School Domain, 50% of students reported having opportunities for prosocial activities and 52% reported feeling rewarded by engaging in these activities.

Pennsylvania has the opportunity to help our students, their families and their communities by cultivating the protections provided to students in ALL domains through increasing partnerships between parents and their schools, as well as implementing early, upstream prevention programs. PCCD’s approach to prevention by using data to choose effective programming can be an essential factor in providing help to our youth so they can succeed in school and in life.



The areas in green indicate the schools that participated in the 2017 PAYS.

All of the [State PAYS Reports](#) are available on PCCD’s website, as well as County Reports for every county that had a minimum of two participating school districts.

First Chance Trust Fund

Act 44 of 2017 became law on October 30, 2017 and established the First Chance Trust Fund within PCCD. Act 44 authorized PCCD to allocate revenues from the Fund for the following purposes:

- 1) to establish and operate a scholarship program for students in those regions of this Commonwealth which have statistically higher high school dropout rates, incarceration rates or high crime rates as determined by the Commission; and
- 2) to provide grants to programs that benefit children in those regions of this Commonwealth which have statistically higher high school dropout rates, incarceration rates or high crime rates as determined by the Commission.

Although no dollars were designated or deposited into the Fund during FY 17/18, PCCD did meet its statutory requirement to adopt a statement of policy regarding the potential distribution of monies. PCCD also formed a workgroup that met throughout the year to determine which geographic regions of the state meet the data requirements of the Act.

Violence and Delinquency Prevention Programs (VDPP)

Since 1998, PCCD has used VDPP funds to assist communities in developing an extensively researched, data driven method to select and implement high quality programs. These “evidence-based” programs have undergone rigorous scientific evaluation to determine if they are effective in producing lasting, positive outcomes in youth. Programs supported by VDPP span pre-K through high school, reaching a broad range of ages, and have demonstrated the ability to prevent violence, substance use, delinquency, and trauma.

For FY 17/18, PCCD invested a total of \$1,751,758 in state VDPP dollars in 13 evidence-based programs serving youth and families in 27 counties throughout Pennsylvania. These supported projects seek to prevent or reduce unhealthy problem behaviors in youth, such as violence, delinquency, substance use, and school failure and dropout. The number of programs eligible to be funded each year fluctuates with the amount of funding available.

PCCD also collaborates with the Department of Human Services, the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission, the Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, the Department of Education, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, and other youth-serving agencies to improve inter-agency planning and use of evidence-based programs.

Communities That Care (CTC)

Communities That Care (CTC) is an “operating system” that takes communities through a well-defined and structured process to prevent adolescent problem behaviors and promote positive youth development. CTC communities form a broad-based coalition and then collect local data on risk and protective factors shown by research to be associated with delinquency, violence, substance use, and school failure and dropout. After collecting this data, communities identify three to five specific risk and protective factors on which to focus, and then seek evidence-based programs and strategies to address those priorities. After two to three years of implementing these strategies, communities re-assesses their risk and protective factors to measure impact and identify new trends as priorities.

For over a decade, PCCD has supported CTC and trained more than 100 communities in the model. In FY 17/18, there were 65 active CTC coalitions across the Commonwealth. Research studies both in Pennsylvania and nationally have demonstrated that CTC is effectively creating population-level public health improvement, reducing delinquency and youth drug use, and improving academic achievement for youth in these communities.

Outcomes and Return on CTC Investment

- 11% less delinquency in CTC service areas.
- 33% improvement in academic achievement in schools using CTC.
- For every \$1 invested in the CTC model, \$4.17 is projected in benefits.

Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support Center (EPISCenter)

PCCD partners with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to support Penn State's EPISCenter (www.episcenter.psu.edu), which provides technical assistance to Pennsylvania's schools and communities as they plan and implement evidence-based prevention and intervention programs for at-risk youth. The EPISCenter:

17 Evidence-Based Programs Supported by the EPISCenter:

- [Aggression Replacement Training](#)
- [Big Brothers Big Sisters](#)
- [Familias Fuertes](#)
- [Family Bereavement Program](#)
- [Functional Family Therapy](#)
- [LifeSkills Training Program](#)
- [Multisystemic Therapy](#)
- [Olweus Bullying Prevention Program](#)
- [Positive Action](#)
- [Positive Parenting Program](#)
- [Project Towards No Drug Abuse](#)
- [Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies](#)
- [Strengthening Families Program: For Parents & Youth 10-14](#)
- [Strong African American Families](#)
- [Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy](#)
- [The Incredible Years](#)
- [Treatment Foster Care Oregon \(formerly Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care\)](#)

- directs outreach and advocacy efforts to foster recognition, at the federal, state, and community levels, of the value and impact of proven prevention and intervention programs;
- provides technical assistance to communities to improve implementation quality and fidelity, promote the collection and use of program impact data, and foster proactive planning for long-term program sustainability;
- develops and provides educational opportunities and resources to disseminate current prevention science research and facilitate peer networking; and
- conducts original research to inform more effective prevention practice and the successful dissemination of evidence-based programs.

During FY 2017/18, the EPISCenter provided technical assistance and training to CTC coalitions across the Commonwealth. They also actively supported the implementation of 35 evidence-based programs serving over 1000 youth and 900 parents, and organized quarterly networking meetings for five programs.

In addition, the EPISCenter works with the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Leadership Team, the Standardized Program Evaluation

Protocol (SPEP) Advisory Group and PCCD on the SPEP initiative. The SPEP is a tool developed to gauge the effectiveness of each type of program offered to delinquent youth by a residential or community service provider. The EPISCenter's work on the SPEP continued to grow in 2017/18, with six additional counties being trained on the model, totaling 17 counties currently participating in the initiative. Four regional SPEP staff were added during the fiscal year to increase the capacity to SPEP community-based and residential programs. To date, 245 juvenile justice program services have gone through the SPEP (97 community-based and 148 residential programs); with the additional staff, this number is expected to grow substantially during FY 2018/19.

In FY 17/18, the EPISCenter continued to partner with PCCD and the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) to improve the Needs Assessment process used by Single County Authorities (SCAs) to select programs and measure their impact/effectiveness. This process will increase the use of data to choose programs and will improve the collection of outcomes to measure what value is being provided. During this fiscal year, six counties participated in a pilot of the process to fine-tune the tools and identify needed data elements. It is anticipated that all 67 counties will participate in this process over the next several years.

Finally, PCCD and EPISCenter updated their three-part webinar series to help the field better understand what is meant by "evidence-based" compared to programs that have lesser amounts of research into their effectiveness. These webinars aim to help potential applicants understand how to enhance their case for funding by better defining the problem they want to address and showing why the requested program is appropriate to meet those needs. More information on the webinars and the EPISCenter in general is available at www.episcenter.psu.edu.

Pew Foundation “Results First” Project

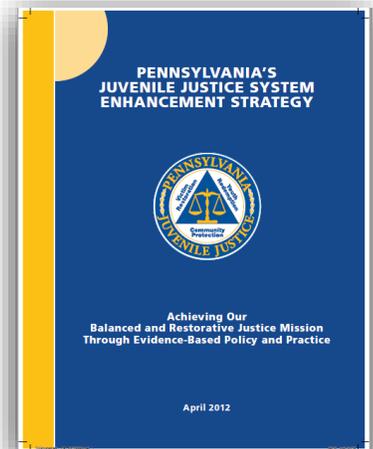
During FY 17/18, PCCD’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the EPISCenter continued to work with the Pew Foundation’s “Results First” Project, which aims to improve the budget decision-making process by using outcomes to decide where funding should be directed. The OJJDP project looked at the costs and benefits from 15 evidence-based programs supported by the Violence and Delinquency Prevention Program (VDPP) state budget line item. In partnership with the Department of Corrections, the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC), and the Pennsylvania Sentencing Commission, PCCD staff updated the Pew model using Pennsylvania-specific information on the rate of offenses committed in the state, the costs for detention and placement of juveniles, the incarceration of adults, and the costs of probation and parole. This information will help determine the cost savings to the Commonwealth from prevention programming that keep youth from engaging in delinquent behavior that can lead to system involvement. A summary report of the findings of this project will be released in early 2019.

Improving the Juvenile Justice System

Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES)

The goal of the JJSES is to build the capacity of practitioners within the juvenile justice system to better achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission through quality implementation of evidence-based practices and programs and data-driven decision making. PCCD provides funding to support the ongoing efforts of the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (Chiefs’ Council) and the JCJC to implement the JJSES. Representatives from each of these entities, and from PCCD, serve on the JJSES Leadership Team to provide immediate oversight and guidance to this project.

The Chiefs’ Council receives funding from PCCD to support the work related to the JJSES. Decisions on future planning to move this initiative forward are made annually through a strategic planning process conducted by the Chiefs’ Council with the participation of PCCD and the JCJC. Recent trends documenting reductions in juvenile violent crime arrest rates, juvenile delinquency dispositions, placements, detention center admissions, and placement costs all serve to confirm the efficacy of the evidence-based practices that now form the foundation of Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system. More information on JJSES can be found in the [JJSES Monograph](#) on PCCD’s website or at www.jcjc.pa.gov.



JJSES Monograph (April 2012)

Juveniles Held (JHELD)

In FY 15/16, PCCD’s OJJDP implemented an automated data collection and storage system which monitors youth held by police departments and other facilities. This reporting tool is designed to automate much of the compliance monitoring process, which is mandated by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). The electronic system simplifies and streamlines a time-consuming and cumbersome process, eliminates backlogs in gathering information, and improves the ability to generate state and federal compliance reports. As of FY 17/18, 91% of all municipal police departments are registered and entering monthly data on the JHELD System, an increase from 70% in FY 16/17.

In 2018, PCCD’s OJJDP was invited to present the JHELD System at the National OJJDP Training and Conference for Compliance Monitors and DMC Coordinators. Attendance at the training was required by federal OJJDP of any state or territory participating in the Title II Formula Grants Program. Therefore, PCCD’s presentation at this event amounted to our training representatives from each state and territory on our policies and procedures for monitoring and data collection in compliance with the mandates of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

PCCD is utilizing Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funds to specifically address DMC, which refers to the unequal number of minority youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. Reducing DMC is a core requirement of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002, which mandates that states identify, assess and implement intervention strategies to mitigate this issue.

During FY 17/18, PCCD funded a statewide DMC initiative through the DMC Corporation and seven local DMC projects. PCCD also began work on revising its existing DMC plan by targeting decision points made during the arrest process, and identifying and developing resources for law enforcement to access to divert appropriate youth from further penetration into the formal juvenile justice system.

Second Chance Act Reentry Program

In 2016, PCCD was one of three states selected to receive federal US Department of Justice (DOJ) funding for the Second Chance Act Reentry Program for Juveniles in Placement. The purpose of the Second Chance Act is to improve outcomes for youth involved with the juvenile justice system, as well as decrease recidivism among a reentry population of offenders. The DOJ award enables PCCD to launch a pilot project and, based on its success, implement a comprehensive statewide plan for juvenile offender reentry that aligns with the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy.

This \$1 million, 24-month project officially began on January 1, 2017. It is designed as a pilot with the juvenile probation departments in Allegheny, Berks, Lehigh and Philadelphia Counties, plus an outcomes evaluation component through the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine. Counties will use the funds to enhance their existing reentry services for youth returning to their communities from residential placement facilities in such areas as educational advancement, vocational training, family engagement, and acquiring and retaining employment. PCCD requested and received an extension of the federal award to September 30, 2019; extensions have also been approved for all five funded projects. This will allow sufficient time both for the youth participating in the pilot projects to engage in the new aftercare/reentry programs that each pilot has devised, and to track some of their outcomes upon case closure.

In addition to these projects, PCCD is using its Second Chance Act funding to delve deeper into the reentry process as it exists in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system by building upon the work that has occurred since the 2005 culmination of the MacArthur Foundation's *Models for Change* Initiative. A provider workgroup under the Chiefs' Council and the Second Chance Act Steering Committee have been working closely with PCCD staff to examine the current state of reentry. Among their activities to date is a 16-point plan that identifies specific areas slated for improvement with working drafts of those improvements as action steps, and a re-dedicated vision statement for reentry efforts in the future that is based on the *2005 Joint Policy Statement on Aftercare*.



The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee recognized retiring member Dan Elby at the August 2017 meeting.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

KEY INITIATIVES

FISCAL YEAR
2017/18



CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

PCCD is tasked by statute with coordinating the functions of the criminal justice system so that it runs more efficiently and effectively and makes full and effectual use of the resources affecting State and local criminal justice systems. To that end, PCCD provides planning assistance, promotes digital technology, funds innovative projects, supports the development and implementation of best practices, coordinates information sharing, and facilitates collaboration between and among key criminal justice stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth.

There are multiple advisory committees responsible for addressing criminal justice initiatives within PCCD. The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) focuses on the development of long-range strategies and plans for the system as a whole, and sets priorities for justice projects supported by PCCD's various funding streams. The Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee (MHJAC) coordinates statewide strategies that direct technical assistance to evidence-based practices; guides the operation and sustainability of jail diversion and reentry programs; and provides a clearinghouse for resources related to criminal justice, mental health, and substance abuse. Finally, the Research, Evaluation, and Data Analysis Advisory Committee (REDAAC) promotes the effectiveness of justice programs in Pennsylvania by providing quality research, evaluation, data collection, and analysis to policymakers, program managers, and practitioners.

In terms of training, the Constables' Education and Training Board, which was established by Act 102 of 1992, advises PCCD in the development, implementation, and operation of legislatively mandated basic training, continuing education, and firearms qualification that serve as the basis for certification of constables and deputy constables within the Commonwealth. The Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board, which was established by Act 2 of 1984, advises PCCD in the development, implementation, and operation of legislatively mandated basic training and continuing education that serve as the basis for certification of sheriffs and deputy sheriffs within the Commonwealth's 67 counties.

KEY INITIATIVES

Collaboration and Planning Assistance

Criminal Justice Advisory Boards (CJABs)

CJABs, which are boards comprised of criminal justice stakeholders from various disciplines within a county, are the primary means of achieving PCCD's goal of improving county justice systems. CJABs use a collaborative approach to formulate justice planning and innovative problem solving. PCCD assists CJABs in every phase of development, including providing start-up grants, strategic planning assistance, and project implementation support. Currently, all 67 counties in Pennsylvania have an active CJAB that meets PCCD's minimum operating standards. A [map identifying those counties](#), their CJAB contact information, and copies of publicly available county strategic and reentry plans can be found on PCCD's website.

To promote CJABs and their use, PCCD hosts an annual conference to provide information on timely issues that all counties are experiencing. The 2018 CJAB Conference "Collaboration and Innovation: The Keystone of Success" was held on April 3-4, 2018 at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College, and attracted over 400 participants.

Reentry Programs

In 2011, PCCD established the Community Revitalization through Reentry Unit under OCJSI. The work of the Unit's Reentry Coordinator is to ensure linkages and collaboration around reentry efforts among community and faith-based service providers and county planners.

To expand upon their comprehensive strategic plans, CJABs are now using the data provided by federal, state, and local jails to create reentry plans as a component. CJABs task a reentry subcommittee to assess local offender reentry services and providers, identify gaps, and create strategies (complete with objectives/goals that address housing, drug, alcohol and other drug treatment, mental health treatment, education needs, unemployment and skill building needs) and other social/behavioral issues for returning citizens. To date, 28 counties – a 22% increase over FY 16/17 – have reentry sub-committees or coalitions. The [CJAB Contact map](#) of county CJABs with established Reentry Plans can be found on PCCD's website.

PCCD also continues to be a key participant in the Pennsylvania Reentry Council, which was convened in early 2017 by Governor Tom Wolf and Attorney General Josh Shapiro with the sole purpose of exploring all the issues related to offender reentry and making recommendations to improve the system.

Sheriff Senior Check-In Service Pilot Project

In April 2018, PCCD announced the launch of the Sheriff Senior Check-In Service, a three-county pilot reassurance program for older Pennsylvanians conducted in partnership with the Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association. An initiative of the Wolf Administration, the Check-In Service was designed to provide independently-living Pennsylvania residents over the age of 65 with a simple, regular check-in process to ensure their safety.

The Sheriff Offices of Centre, Venango and Warren Counties are participating in the pilot, which is anticipated to run throughout 2018. Individuals opting to participate must enroll in program, which features a daily or regular check-in phone call from their county sheriff's office. If the enrollee is in distress or does not answer the phone after several tries, the sheriff's office will coordinate an appropriate safety check, including calling other emergency contacts provided by the enrollee or dispatching a deputy to the address.

Participating counties received no more than \$15,000 to purchase a telephone reassurance system and cover initial staff time as well as marketing and enrollment costs. PCCD intends to collect outcome data on the pilot to review the effectiveness of the program. If successful, the pilot will be expanded to other counties.

SENIOR CHECK-IN PROGRAM

A REASSURANCE PROGRAM FOR OLDER PENNSYLVANIANS BY PA SHERIFFS



**Over 65? | Live by yourself?
Sign up for a FREE Check-In Program!**

Enrollees will receive regular check-in calls from the County's Sheriffs Office. If we can't get you, we will coordinate a response to your address – either by alerting your emergency contacts or dispatching a deputy sheriff – to ensure your safety and wellbeing.

SIGN UP TODAY AT THE SHERIFFS' OFFICE!

Addressing Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Efforts to Combat the Heroin Epidemic

Over the past few years, the level of heroin and opioid prescription drug abuse has skyrocketed throughout Pennsylvania. As a public health crisis and a public safety threat, PCCD has partnered with the PA Departments of Human Services (DHS), Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP), and Health (DOH) to address this epidemic.

Previously, PCCD has worked with the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association (PCPA) and the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association (PDAA) to make medication collection boxes available throughout the state, and to support Naloxone training through the PA Virtual Training Network (PAVTN).



For FY 17/18, PCCD's role in the fight against opioid abuse was further expanded to include the responsibility of delivering \$5 million in state funding to counties for the distribution of naloxone to all first responders. To facilitate this process, PCCD required each county or region to select a single Centralized Coordinating Entity (CCE) to serve as the point of distribution of the naloxone throughout the county (see the CCE contacts [map](#)). There are 49 CCEs serving all 67 counties in Pennsylvania. Through this program, naloxone has been distributed to 1,323 first responder agencies, including 560 law enforcement departments, resulting in the reversal of more than 4,500 overdoses.

In addition, throughout FY 17/18 PCCD continued to support its contract with the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy's Program Evaluation Research Unit (PERU) for the development of an Opioid Overdose Reduction Technical Assistance Center (TAC). The TAC helps counties develop strategies to reduce opioid addiction and overdoses in their communities. During FY 17/18, the TAC at PERU assisted 48 counties in establishing and/or supporting their own overdose prevention coalitions, a 37% increase over the number of counties they aided in FY 16/17. The EPISCenter (see Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention section) is also coordinating efforts with PERU on planning and prevention strategies. The TAC actively seeks to assist more counties throughout the Commonwealth and will continue to provide current counties with services and guidance that help them move toward their ideal visions of eliminating stigma and overdose death in their communities. More information about PERU can be found on their website, www.overdosefreepa.org.

In late 2015, PCCD was awarded \$1.75 million in federal Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) funds to support a Pretrial Drug and Alcohol Treatment pilot project. This project seeks to reduce the front-end movement of individuals into the prison population, thereby lessening the recidivism rate, decreasing the cost of corrections, and increasing access to drug/alcohol treatment and mental health services, while simultaneously promoting public safety. Using \$1.63 million of this money, PCCD selected seven counties during FY 16/17 to participate in the pilot project. Funding was used throughout FY 17/18 to support pretrial drug and alcohol treatment programs for individuals charged with certain crimes prior to their trial and sentencing. PCCD researchers will track these offenders' recidivism rates throughout the process, with the expectation that starting treatment earlier in the criminal justice process yields more successful outcomes.

County Intermediate Punishment (CIP)

Established by 42 Pa.C.S. Chapter 98, County Intermediate Punishment (CIP) is a diversionary sentencing program specifically for certain non-violent offenders as an alternative to incarceration. For FY 17/18, PCCD received \$18.1 million in state appropriations for the CIP program, which was distributed to 56 applicants representing 60 counties throughout the state for a two-year grant award.

Offenders must undergo a diagnostic drug and alcohol dependency assessment to be eligible for the program. Beginning in FY 16/17, PCCD expanded the use of the funds to include individuals who would otherwise be sentenced to a period of incarceration under Level 2 of the Pennsylvania Sentencing Guidelines. To ensure that these monies will support the target population, funds are made available to counties

currently using a risk and needs assessment tool. In FY 17/18, the use of CIP funds was also expanded to include individuals in need of mental health treatment services who are eligible to receive an intermediate punishment (IP) sentence and would otherwise have been sentenced to incarceration under Levels 2, 3 or 4 of the Pennsylvania Sentencing Guidelines.

As part of PCCD’s commitment to monitoring the effectiveness of state programming, PCCD tracks the outcomes of CIP funding through the County Intermediate Punishment Program (CIPP) system, which is a web-based application used by the counties receiving CIP grants to track participant intake and outcome information. PCCD staff utilize the data provided to produce annual reports on the effectiveness and cost savings achieved with the program and to track offender recidivism outcomes. In FY 17/18, 16,881 offenders – an increase of 12% over FY 16/17 – were served through PCCD funding, which supported drug and alcohol treatment, assessment, evaluation, case management, and supervision services related

to CIP activities. Ultimately, the program resulted in participants averting 205,715 of jail days (calculation is based on the minimum sentence range of the sentencing guidelines), and 82% of all offenders successfully completing program requirements.

Using this data, PCCD researchers also developed a 7-year data analysis (see insert) and a [Diversions v. Incarceration Study](#), which indicates that individuals that undergo CIP with a D&A Restrictive Intermediate Punishment (RIP) component have better outcomes, long-term, than individuals sentenced solely to incarceration.



INTERMEDIATE PUNISHMENT

7 YEAR DATA ANALYSIS

ABOUT THE PROJECT

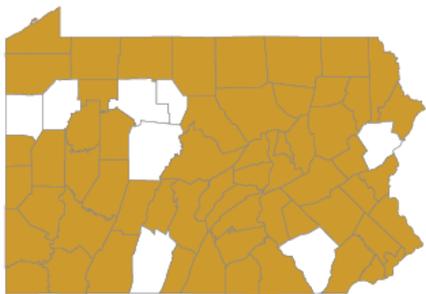
State-funded Intermediate Punishment (IP) data from FY 2010/11 through FY 2016/17 was analyzed to inform decision-making, and also provide insights into the offender population. Key metrics analyzed included sentence completion/termination rates, an indicator of prior offender mental illness, IP funds expended, the number of jail days saved as a result of diversion into IP, and an offender's self-reported drug of choice (if assessed to be substance-dependent). In total, almost 23,000 offenders were analyzed, and the data was cleaned, coded, and primed for future research projects.

QUICK STATISTICS

Offenders Served	Counties Served	County Expenditures	Mental Illness Indicator
22,797	59	\$117,904,254	13.6%

Completion Rate	Termination Rate	Jail Days Averted (JDA)	Average JDA/Offender
78.2%	16.4%	3,352,662	147

COUNTIES RECEIVING FUNDING



THREE-YEAR REARREST RECIDIVISM

RIP OFFENDER SAMPLE	STATE PRISONER SAMPLE
25.7%	34.9%

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

A 2017 study matched a sample of 229 RIP offenders to 585 similar characteristic state prisoners to identify a three-year rearrest recidivism rate.

Substance Abuse Education and Demand Reduction (SAEDR)

The Substance Abuse Education and Demand Reduction Act (Act 198 of 2002) requires PCCD to annually administer grants to support interventions, planning, public media awareness, and education campaigns that seek to prevent substance abuse.



In FY 17/18, \$2.4 million was allocated to 20 applicants through multiple competitive solicitations released throughout the fiscal year. Eight projects totaling over \$2 million were awarded to educate employers, unions, and employees about the dangers about substance use in the workplace and provide comprehensive drug-free workplace programs and technical resources for businesses, including, but not limited to, training for working parents to keep their children drug-free.

Twelve projects totaling over \$1.5 million were also awarded to support implementation activities identified through a strategic planning process by a

collaborative body, such as a County Overdose Coalition or Task Force, and to provide research-based approaches to prevention, intervention, training, treatment and education services to reduce substance abuse or to provide resources to assist families in accessing these services.

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)

PCCD received \$405,000 in Federal FY 17/18 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) funds to support county jail-based and jail work release centers' Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs. MAT provides treatment and services to reduce opioid abuse by incorporating evidence-based programs that develop an inmate's cognitive, behavioral, social, vocational, and other skills to resolve the substance use and other related problems. More information on MAT can be found on the [PA Department of Corrections' website](#).

Problem Solving Court Initiatives

According to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), the first problem-solving court (PSC) in Pennsylvania was an adult drug court program that opened in Philadelphia in 1997. The success of those first PSCs prompted significant expansion over the past 20 years. Pennsylvania now has over 100 PSCs, including those focused on specific types of behaviors or conditions, such as substance abuse/DUI and mental health/illness, as well as juvenile drug and veteran's courts. Instead of incarceration, defendants in these courts are given counseling, treatment, emotional assistance and healthcare support. More information on PSCs and their locations can be found on [AOPC's website](#).

In FY 17/18, PCCD was the recipient of \$2 million in state appropriations for the creation of new PSCs in PA or the expansion of existing PSCs. In addition, these funds were to support the extension of support services to drug court participants and/or opioid related treatment services to problem solving court participants. As a result of a competitive solicitation and review process, over \$1 million was awarded to nine counties.

Mental Health and Justice Housing Initiatives

From 2009 to 2016, the PA Department of Human Services (DHS) and PCCD co-funded the Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence (CoE), a collaborative effort of Drexel University and the University of Pittsburgh that worked with Pennsylvania communities to identify points of interception at which an

intervention could be made to prevent individuals with mental illness from entering or penetrating deeper into the criminal justice system. The CoE offered Cross-Systems Mapping workshops to assist county teams in identifying areas where individuals could avoid moving deeper into the system while also exploring the challenges/resources existing in their respective county systems. Additionally, the CoE provided technical assistance to housing grantees to ensure the successful implementation of local housing initiatives and long-term sustainability planning. Although the CoE was discontinued due to a lack of funding in 2016, PCCD continues to support similar activities, including Cross-Systems Mapping, through the Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee (MHJAC).

In FY 17/18, PCCD and DHS' Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) monitored five awards totaling \$750,000 in Mental Health Enhancement Funds to support Pennsylvania's initiative to expand the successful implementation of Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs), promising practices or innovative pretrial diversion strategies for justice-involved individuals with Mental Illness/Co-Occurring Disabilities (MI/COD), Intellectual Disabilities (ID) and/or Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training

Since 2014, PCCD has supported Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), CIT-Youth, CIT-Veterans, and Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for law enforcement and justice practitioners. The goal of this training is to educate law enforcement and justice practitioners on how to effectively identify and respond to a crisis involving an individual diagnosed with a mental illness or an intellectual disorder and de-escalate a potentially dangerous situation. PCCD has supported CIT and MHFA training for law enforcement, and MHFA training for all 15,000 Department of Corrections employees.



May 2018 Crisis Intervention Training Class

During FY 17/18, CIT training included a two-day Verbal De-escalation Train-the-Trainer Workshop, which was held May 7-8, 2018 in Pittsburgh. CIT Verbal De-escalation Training serves to enhance crisis first responder skills (CIT Officers). Lead by the University of Memphis CIT Center trainers Major Sam Cochran (Ret), Dr. Randolph DuPont and Dr. Thomas Kirchberg, the full cohort of 25 individuals successfully completed this 16-hour workshop and were certified as trainers.

Stepping Up Initiative

Stepping Up was launched in May 2015 as a partnership of the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, National Association of Counties, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation. This initiative is designed to rally national, state, and local leaders around the goal of achieving an actual reduction in the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. At the local level, Stepping Up works with county elected officials to establish a firm commitment to develop plans consistent with best practices and galvanize local action toward achieving positive outcomes.

There are currently 31 Pennsylvania counties committed to the Stepping Up Initiative. In partnership with OMHSAS, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), and the PA Department of Corrections (DOC), PCCD's April 2017 CJAB Conference was used as a kick-off for the Stepping-Up Initiative, which is strongly supported by the MHJAC.



The Honorable John Zottola, Chair of MHJAC

In an effort to advance the Stepping Up Initiative across Pennsylvania, PCCD and its partners hosted the Stepping Up Summit in State College on December 4-5, 2017. PCCD also funded the Dauphin County Stepping Up Pilot Project in FY 17/18. Dauphin County was designated as one of the pilot sites for the County Justice and Behavioral Health Improvements Project through the Council of State Governments. This initiative is a part of a multi-agency collaboration between PCCD, DHS and DOC.

Supporting the Use of Technology and Evidence-Based Programs

Body Camera Policy

In July 2017, Act 22 was signed into law, which required PCCD to develop policy recommendations regarding the use of body-worn cameras (BWC). According to the Act, any recipient of PCCD grant funds for the purchase of BWCs must have a written, publicly-available policy in place that meets or exceeds the standards set by the Commission.

Over FY 17/18, Office of Criminal Justice System Improvements (OCJSI) staff formed a workgroup with a wide variety of stakeholders to research best practices in BWC policy and discuss the development of a model framework. In March 2018, the Commission formally adopted the policy recommendations, which outlines the use, maintenance and storage of BWCs. Moving forward, PCCD strongly encourages agencies to develop their BWC policies and protocols in accordance with best practices with input from their local CJAB and community stakeholders, such as local victim service providers, community police review boards, and other interested parties. A copy of the [adopted BWC standards](#) can be found on PCCD's website.



Addressing Gun Violence with Evidence-Based Programs

In response to the increased concern for public safety and the rate of violence by firearms in Pennsylvania, the Governor's Office designated \$1.5 million in FY 17/18 to support the 2018 Gun Violence Reduction Initiative. In June 2018, PCCD released the solicitation to all municipalities in the Commonwealth demonstrating collaboration with key stakeholders and a commitment to the implementation of evidence-based programming, such as *Operation Ceasefire*, *Cure Violence Health Model*, *Positive Action*, or other strategies that have been proven to be effective in reducing gun violence. Eight awards were made, and PCCD intends to track outcomes during FY 18/19 to determine the efficacy of the approach.



Better Automation and Sharing by Law Enforcement (BASLE)

With the implementation of the PCCD-supported Law Enforcement Justice Information System (LEJIS), over 400 police departments throughout the Commonwealth are currently submitting their incident data in near-real time. More importantly, ALL police officers with JNET (PA Justice Network) criminal justice credentials are now able to access that data via the LEJIS Web Interface (LWI) on JNET.

The 400+ submitting agencies represent one-third of all the municipal departments, 45 of the 67 counties, and cover more than half of the Commonwealth's population. PCCD is currently providing funding to the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association to maintain LEJIS until a long-term, sustainable funding source is identified.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Information Sharing (MARIS)

Since 2012, PCCD has partnered with Maryland, Delaware and Washington D.C. to establish an interstate information exchange which provides alerts to probation/parole officers if their probationers/parolees are re-arrested in any of the participating states. Previously, these notifications often took days or weeks to obtain, and the offender may have been released during the processing of the notification.

Additionally, MARIS partners are engaged in connecting their integrated justice information systems (IJIS, which is JNET in Pennsylvania) through a hub hosted by Maryland. The hub will allow users to submit queries within their respective IJIS system and obtain results from both their IJIS system and from each of the MARIS stakeholders' IJIS Systems.

In FY 17/18, over 10,415 confirmed arrest messages were sent through MARIS for offenders under supervision in Pennsylvania and arrested in Maryland, Delaware, or the District of Columbia on new charges. This was a 599% increase over the total number of confirmed arrest messages sent in FY 16/17, which was the first year of the improved automated sharing program.

National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)

In FY 17/18, PCCD received \$1,371,330 in competitive 2017 Federal NCHIP funds to support fingerprint record expansion to include the submission of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence (MCDV). The capture and reporting of MCDV is critical to keeping firearms out of the hands of prohibited persons as well as improving information available to enhance officer safety. PCCD also received funds to support electronic Livescan/Commonwealth Photo Imaging System (CPIN) submission and to increase the quantity and quality of arrest submissions to the criminal history system. A targeted funding announcement was released to the Pennsylvania State Police and the PA Chiefs of Police Association for these efforts.

Training, Certification and Accreditation

Sheriffs' and Deputy Sheriffs' Training

Nearly 35 years ago, Act 2 of 1984 created the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board to train and certify deputies employed by the Commonwealth's 67 county sheriffs' offices. Twenty years later, Act 114 of 2014 renamed it as the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board (SDSETB). The new law enhanced the original Act by including requirements for the training of sheriffs and provisions for certification revocation.



Under the oversight and staff support of PCCD, SDSETB continues to implement and improve training and certification processes as delineated by the Act. The current program consists of 760 hours of basic training provided by Pennsylvania State University followed by biennial continuing education through 20 hours of instruction provided by Temple University. The SDSETB also offers additional training in Basic and Advanced Supervision, Firearms Instruction, and Patrol Riflery as well as optional subjects on-line.

The Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Information System (SDSIS) is used to track both individual training and certification history and current training needs and requirements. During the 2018 calendar year, 1,272 active sheriffs and deputy sheriffs out of 2,276 in the Commonwealth were trained and certified/re-certified by the Board. For more information and Annual Reports, please see the [SDSETB web page](#).

Constables Training

In Pennsylvania, constables are elected for a six-year term and are required to undergo training every year to perform their services. Although historically considered peace officers, today constables are mainly relied upon to aid the judicial process (e.g., serving writs and notices).

Act 44 of 1994 established the Constables' Education and Training Board (CETB) within PCCD, which is responsible for the training and certification of the Commonwealth's approximately 1,200 elected and appointed constables and deputy constables. The CETB fulfills this charge by providing state-of-the-art curriculum development and delivery, ensuring timely and accurate constable certification and recertification, and coordinating the services of three regional training delivery contractors and one curriculum development contractor. Certifications and individual trainings are tracked through the Constables' Certification Education and Training System (CCETS).



During the 2018 calendar year, the following certifications were achieved:

- 80 newly-elected or appointed constables and deputy constables completed the 80-hour Basic Training course
- 1,220 constables attended the 20-hour Continuing Education course
- 59 constables completed the 40-hour Basic Firearms Training and attained their firearms certification
- 1,005 constables successfully completed the 20-hour Annual or Advanced Firearms Training to carry firearms while performing judicial duties

For more information and the Constables' Annual Reports, please visit the [CETB web page](#).

Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Virtual Training Network (PAVTN)

PCCD and the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association (PCPA) developed a Virtual Training Network (PAVTN) in 2012. When PAVTN was launched, there were five courses and 2,000 registered users. As of FY 17/18, PAVTN has registered over 21,605 users, has 74 training courses, and is on track to provide over 95,546 hours of training annually.



This web-based training has saved thousands of dollars for law enforcement departments and municipalities by reducing trainer costs, travel expenses, and overtime costs. It has also reduced the amount of time officers are off-duty while attending training.

During FY 17/18, PAVTN offered new modules on the Booking Process (including the compelling reasons why officers need to fingerprint), Mobile ID devices, and Death Notifications. The Responding to Trauma Victims course won a silver Davey award in the category of Websites and Training. The Davey Awards honor the best in Web, Design, Video, Advertising, Mobile and Social from small agencies worldwide.

Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program

PCCD supports the PA Law Enforcement Accreditation Program, which provides a blueprint for the professionalization of law enforcement agencies within the Commonwealth. The cornerstone of this strategy consists of the promulgation of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. During FY 17/18, there were 17,310 police officers in the Commonwealth working in one of the 116 accredited agencies. In 2016, PCCD partnered with PCPA to develop a map identifying accredited police departments throughout the state. The current map can be found on the [PA Accreditation page](#) on PCCD's website.

Forensic Science Improvements in Accreditation and Certification

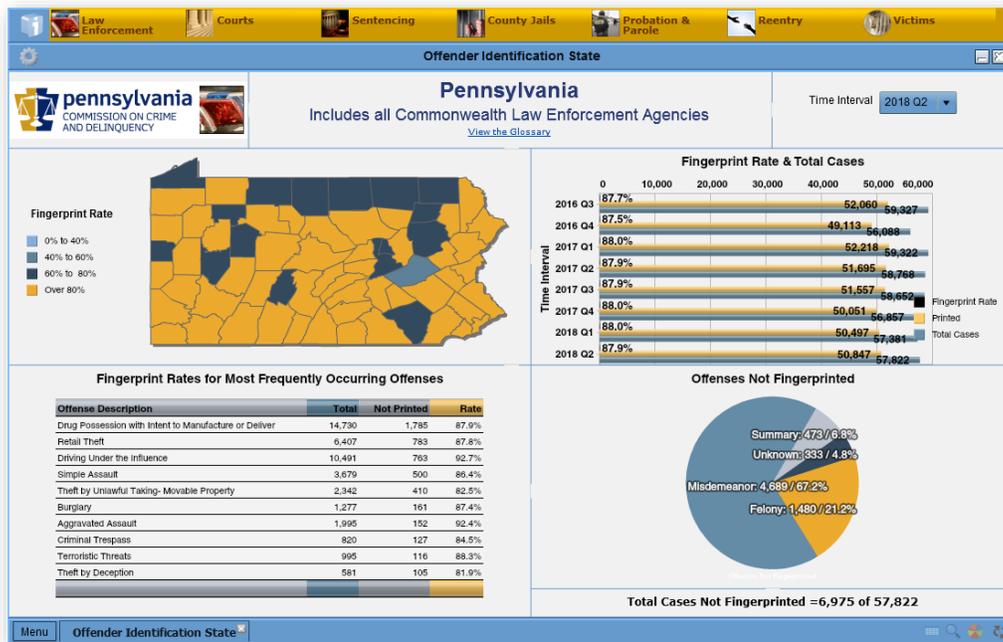
PCCD received \$305,789 in federal FY 2017 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement funds and announced the availability of these dollars to support crime laboratory accreditation or the certification of forensic specialists within a forensic discipline. Three awards were made during this fiscal year to support projects intended to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic services and to assist Pennsylvania Forensic Science Services Providers (FSSP) with obtaining and maintaining accreditation.

Information Sharing

PaCrimeStats and Digital Dashboards

In 2009, PCCD created a web-based criminal justice clearinghouse with data from each of Pennsylvania's core justice entities, including law enforcement, courts, prisons, and parole. The clearinghouse, known as [PaCrimeStats](#), provides raw data for researchers to utilize, as well as detailed reports showing criminal justice trends since the early 1980s. Every year since, additional funds have been invested to support and enhance this initiative. Finalized 2015 Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data is now available online for researchers' usage.

In FY 11/12, PCCD’s Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) began to develop [digital dashboards](#) to improve decision-making for state and local justice officials. These [CJAB dashboards](#) present a one-page, one-stop shop for relevant criminal justice data across the criminal justice system, from arrests to sentencing to victim’s services, providing nearly real-time information to professionals in the field. The dashboards also include information on [Justice Reinvestment Initiative](#) reform outcomes.



For example, PCCD has developed an Offender Identification Dashboard (see insert) that assists county district attorneys, public defenders, and local law enforcement in assessing their fingerprint compliance rates at the jurisdictional level. The goal

of this system is to improve public safety by increasing the number of offenders that get fingerprinted and entered into criminal history databases. As of June 30, 2018, Pennsylvania’s statewide compliance rate was 87.9%.

During FY 17/18, the Digital Dashboard Steering Committee continued its efforts to improve the county jail data feed and worked on revisions to the victims’ dashboard.

GIS-Mapping

PCCD began utilizing GIS-mapping in 2015 as a way to assist policy-makers to easily identify gaps in service and strategically develop solutions to meet those needs. GIS-mapping has also become a valuable tool for both detailed data analysis and presenting information to the general public. A [gallery of maps](#) was uploaded to the PCCD website in FY 17/18 to ensure quick access to the array of resources available, including Endowment Act Annual Reports, Naloxone distribution, CJAB contact information, police accreditation, and victim service provider locations.

In particular, [PCCD’s comprehensive agency-wide grants allocation map](#) provides detailed information on the wide variety of grant awards supported by PCCD over the past five years. Updated on a quarterly basis, this map has proved very useful to legislative offices and the media alike in locating grants and understanding PCCD’s role and responsibilities in grants administration. Data for the map comes from PCCD’s Egrants system, a web-based grants management system used for all state and federal funds administered by PCCD.

Criminal Justice Data Dictionary (CJDD)

Developed in 2014 and coordinated by PCCD, CJDD is a collaborative product of several Commonwealth adult criminal justice agencies, including the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), Department of Corrections (DOC), Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP), PCCD, and Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing (PCS). By identifying, cataloging, and defining the various data elements, the CJDD provides a common language, enabling enhanced sharing, understanding, and communication of the array of data available across the Commonwealth adult criminal justice community and supporting the ability of both the Commonwealth and academic partners to conduct meaningful research. CJDD can be found at <https://cjdd.pccd.pa.gov>.



Press conference in the Governor's Reception Room on naloxone in May 2018.



**VICTIM
SERVICES &
CHILD
ADVOCACY**

KEY INITIATIVES

FISCAL YEAR
2017/18

VICTIM SERVICES & CHILD ADVOCACY

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PCCD's Victims' Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) and the Children's Advocacy Center Advisory Committee (CACAC) are each responsible for addressing the needs of crime victims and survivors throughout the Commonwealth.

VSAC was established through Act 27 of 1995 Special Session #1 and reauthorized in the Crime Victims Act (Act 111 of 1998) with the purpose of developing services, setting standards for those services, creating policies, and setting funding priorities to support the state's network of victim service providers – which include providers that address sexual assault, domestic violence, or comprehensive centers that address all crime. VSAC members include Cabinet secretaries from related agencies, including Corrections, Human Services, State Police, and Aging; the Victim Advocate; a district attorney; representation from statewide victim coalitions; victim-witness programs; victim service providers; the courts; and a direct victim of crime.

Established by Act 28 of 2014, CACAC was created to advise the Commission on the development and promotion of programs and projects related to children's advocacy centers (CACs) and multidisciplinary investigative teams (MDITs). CACs are used by MDITs to provide state-of-the-art treatment for the victims of child sexual abuse, child abuse, and neglect. The CACAC is comprised of a variety of experts representing children and youth services, prosecution, child advocacy centers, state and municipal police, victim services, physicians, nurses, mental health professionals and hospital administrators.

KEY INITIATIVES

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Victim Services Initiatives

Supporting Victim Services

PCCD's Office of Victims' Services (OVS) administers and provides oversight to federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), federal STOP Violence Against Women Grant, state Rights and Services Act (RASA) and state Victims of Juvenile Offenders (VOJO) funds. VOCA monies are utilized to provide direct services to victims of crime to help them cope with the physical, emotional, and criminal justice issues associated with crime. STOP Violence Against Women federal grants help improve the criminal justice system's response to violence against women⁵ and enhance the services available to women who have been victims of violent crime. Counties use state RASA monies to provide services that fulfill mandated victims' rights, as established by the Crime Victim's Act, and state VOJO dollars to assist crime victims whose offenders were under the age of 18. Collectively, these funding streams amount to over \$89.3 million in state and federal funds for victim services programs for FY 17/18, and typically serve approximately 350,000 victims each year.

Of major importance in FY 17/18 was the continued unprecedented increase in the federal VOCA allocation. During the five-years prior to FY 15/16, annual VOCA allocations to PCCD hovered in the \$14-17 million range. Beginning in FY 15/16, that figure moved to \$77 million; then to \$86 million in FY 16/17; and in FY 17/18, the allocation was \$72 million.

As a result, VSAC launched several intensive strategic planning sessions to address how funding should be distributed in Pennsylvania. For FY 17/18, VSAC adopted the new federal guidelines on VOCA services and significantly expanded the scope of eligible services to crime victims. To facilitate the provision of these

newly authorized services, VSAC issued a competitive solicitation of \$38 million for 30-month projects, with a focus on:

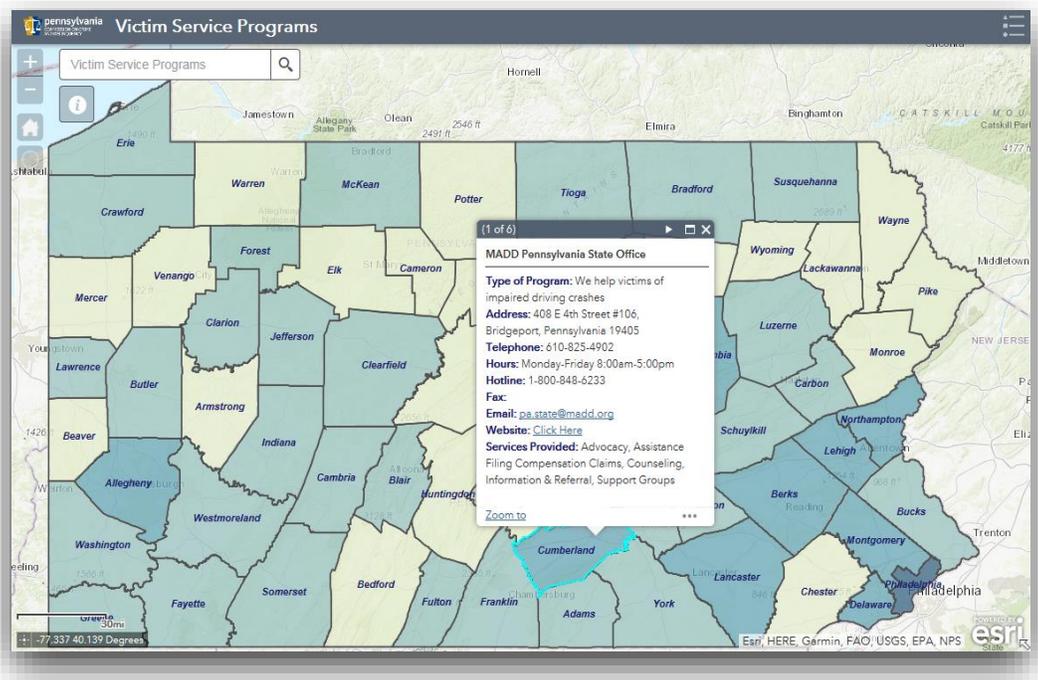
- maintaining a statewide ability to provide core direct services;
- allowing programs to implement a broader range of services, including the newly authorized services;
- expanding or enhancing service provision to previously unserved victim populations; and
- filling gaps in service delivery to underserved/unserved victim populations.

Due to the overwhelming number of applications received for this solicitation, an additional \$10 million was released, resulting in a total of 125 awards being made.

In FY 17/18, \$48 million in VOCA funding was distributed throughout Pennsylvania to support direct services to victims, including 27 new victim services programs. Notably, among those new services were hospital, government and community based anti-violence initiatives designed to address the needs of survivors and co-survivors of gun violence and homicides. A new District Attorney-based program in Philadelphia now provides 24/7 crisis response services to homicide co-survivors and has the potential for developing into a national model.

More details on these grant awards can be found on PCCD's [grants map webpage](#), while information on individual victim services providers can be found on the [OVS service provider map](#).

To track the outcomes of these grants, PCCD uses Efforts To Outcomes (ETO) software to collect program measurement data resulting from victim services rendered. As part of the Data Collection, Reporting and Outcomes Project (DCROP), which focuses on reporting program measurement data, the ETO data is used to help generate data reports for the federal government, as well as help PCCD and victim services providers better assess the effectiveness of their programs.



Organization and Capacity Building

PCCD is in its seventh year implementing a statewide training project focused on improving the long-term effectiveness of Pennsylvania's network of community and government-based victim services agencies as part of a larger statewide undertaking to provide training and technical assistance to the Commonwealth's victim services network. To facilitate that goal, the project has established a statewide learning management system, called the "[Pennsylvania Victim Services Training \(PVST\)](#)". The PVST offers easily accessible, quality, free PCCD-approved training for victim advocates at PCCD-funded programs and for allied professionals whose work brings them into contact with crime victim populations. It is PCCD's intention to utilize the web-based modules as one means of providing victim advocates with the knowledge they need to expand the type of crime victims they are qualified to serve.

As of June 2018, the PVST contained 14 interactive modules for Pennsylvania victim advocates, and PCCD expected having up to 20 posted by the end of December 2018. The PVST website also contains a variety

of webinars and electronic resource materials on organizational capacity-building for victim services programs.

In addition, PCCD is moving towards a model of in-person regional training for new victim advocates. In 2017, PCCD expanded the number of sessions of Foundational Academy (a three-day training program for new advocates) from two sessions per year to three, and moved one of the sessions to Harrisburg to provide easier access for eastern Pennsylvania attendees. In FY 18/19, PCCD will host four regional sessions of Foundational Academy in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and State College.

Pennsylvania Crime Victims' Mobile App (PCV)



In March 2017, PCCD created and launched the free PCV Mobile App to serve Pennsylvania's crime victims and supporters who rely on their smart phones for information and assistance. The app provides basic information on available services, including nearby victim services providers, the option to text or call victims' organizations, and the ability to check the status of a victims' compensation claim. In

October 2017, the app was expanded further to allow victims and their families to file compensation claims directly. During FY 17/18, nearly 1500 individuals downloaded the app for use. Additionally, 92 VCAP claims were filed online and 95 claims were accessed for a status update a total of 1,748 times.

In December 2017, the mobile app's development team was awarded a PA Excellence in Technology Award at the PA Digital Government Summit. Students from Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) were initially involved in the design and build of the original app, which was then further enhanced and deployed by PCCD. The PCCD



system development team of Jeremy Martin, Dan Oneufer and Abhishek Kumar accepted the award on behalf of PCCD at the Summit's recognition ceremony at the Harrisburg Hilton. The app was also recognized as a Governor's Office of Transformation, Innovation, Management and Efficiency (GO-TIME) initiative.

Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP)

Under the Crime Victims Act, certain victims are eligible for compensation to offset the cost of the crime committed against them. PCCD is charged with administering VCAP and, on average, receives over 13,000 new claims and pays \$13 million per year on behalf of crime victims. In FY 17/18, PCCD made payments on 8,418 claims and paid in excess of \$12.1 million on behalf of crime victims.

According to the law, VCAP claimants must file no later than two years after the discovery of the occurrence of the crime, and the crime must have been reported to the proper authorities within 72 hours. Victims are expected to cooperate with law enforcement, VCAP, and the prosecution of the offender. Medical expenses, counseling, loss of earning, loss of support, funeral costs, travel costs, child-care, stolen cash, relocation, and crime scene cleanup are some of the costs supported by VCAP. The overall maximum award is \$35,000.

During FY 17/18, PCCD continued to enhance the VCAP automated claims processing system, Dependable Access for Victims' Expenses (DAVE). DAVE tracks the status of any claim through the entire process from

claim entry to the release of payments. Before DAVE was implemented, the average time to process a claim was 26 weeks; at the end of FY 17/18, it was 11.85 weeks.

PA Statewide Automated Victims Information and Notification (SAVIN)

The Pennsylvania SAVIN system is a free service that provides real-time, round-the-clock access to the custody status of offenders in county jails, state prison, or under state supervision in the Commonwealth.



PCCD partners with the Office of the Victim Advocate to offer this service to all concerned individuals who wish to sign up for the notices generated by the system. During FY 17/18, PA SAVIN had 152,554 new user registrations in county facilities and 464,478 successful notifications. For more information or to sign up for notices, please visit the [SAVIN website](#).

Human Trafficking

OVS currently provides support to over 30 different projects that indicate they are engaged in efforts to address the crime of human trafficking. This is in addition to those anti-trafficking efforts in Pennsylvania that are occurring independent of PCCD's funding. PCCD identified the need for better coordination and standardization of response to human trafficking in the Commonwealth. As a starting place, PCCD has an objective in the 2018-2024 STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Strategy to fund one jurisdiction to assist in the development of a model statewide response to sex trafficking. In April 2018, OVS released a competitive solicitation for \$300,000 for 24 months to select one community/jurisdiction to create a model collaborative community response model to sex trafficking for youth (ages 11-17) and adults. A successful applicant was chosen, and a multi-disciplinary advisory workgroup composed of state, federal and national experts will provide guidance in establishing the model protocols and procedures in conjunction with the selected program.

Child Advocacy Initiatives

Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC)

PCCD's Office of Research and Child Advocacy (ORCA) has been working with law enforcement, prosecutors, children and youth providers, medical professionals and victim service providers to establish a network of accredited CACs throughout the Commonwealth. CACs are utilized by Multidisciplinary Investigative Teams (MDITs) to provide state-of-the-art treatment for the victims of child sexual abuse, child abuse, and neglect. They coordinate medical care, treatment and other social services for victims while gathering evidence, through age-appropriate forensic interviewing and other methods employed by MDITs, to build effective cases against alleged perpetrators. Research demonstrates that child abuse investigations handled through a CAC have a shorter length of time to disposition, better prosecution outcomes, higher rates of caregiver and child satisfaction, more referrals to mental health services, and better access to medical care.

During FY 17/18, PCCD supported 39 accredited, accredited satellite, associate, and affiliate National Children's Alliance (NCA, the national association and accrediting body for CACs and MDITs) member CACs, as well as the PA State Chapter of CACs and MDITs, through \$2.2 million in state Act 28 funds. In FY 16/17, only 31 NCA members were supported; thus FY 17/18 shows a 26% increase in NCA-member CAC services throughout Pennsylvania. PCCD also supports four developing MDITs and CACs throughout the Commonwealth. A map of [CAC locations](#) is available on PCCD's website, and information on the individual grants awarded can be found on the [Grants](#) map.

Addressing Child Sexual Abuse through Endowment Act Funds

The Endowment Act (Act 1 of 2013) directs PCCD to expend the \$48 million in monetary penalties imposed on the Pennsylvania State University (PSU) by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to aid the

victims of child sexual abuse in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The CACAC assists in advising the Commission in dispersing these funds.

Per the statute, funds must be distributed for the following purposes and for the benefit of the residents of the Commonwealth:

- 1) Programs or projects preventing child sexual abuse and/or assisting the victims of child sexual abuse;
- 2) Multidisciplinary Investigative Teams established under 23 Pa.C.S.;
- 3) Children's Advocacy Centers;
- 4) Victim Service Organizations providing services to children subjected to sexual abuse; and
- 5) Training of persons mandated by law to report child sexual abuse or to treat victims of child sexual abuse.

In FY 17/18, PCCD awarded a total of 54 grants amounting to \$3,460,111. Grants were released to support programs assisting child abuse victims and adult survivors of child sexual abuse, CACs, victim service organizations, and the training of mental health therapists in evidence-based therapeutic modalities. For further detailed information on the grants distributed under the Act, Annual Reports, and outcomes, please see PCCD's website on the [Endowment Act](#).

2017 FAQ Sheet on Endowment Act Funding Outcomes

In 2017, a total of 14,291 child victims and adult survivors of child sexual abuse were supported through \$2.5 million in funding provided by Act 1 of 2013 (Endowment Act).

Out of 14,193 child sexual abuse victims:

- 6,435 received a forensic interview at a Child Advocacy Center (CAC).
- 3,147 were referred for a medical examination.
- 2,091 received a medical examination (51% of all referrals).
- 5,854 were referred to counseling or therapy.
- 217 reported improvement in their Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms suffered as a result of their victimization.

Out of 98 adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse:

- 73 were referred to counseling or therapy.
- 29 reported improvement in their PTSD symptoms.

In addition to helping victims through direct services, Endowment Act funds were also used to provide several trainings to assist professionals in the child abuse field. These trainings included the development of the county's multi-disciplinary investigative teams who investigate child abuse, certification trainings for certain mental health treatments, including Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), and others.

- 173 trainings were conducted, and a total of 4,883 people were trained.

For more information, please contact Kirsten Kenyon at 717-265-8505 or kkenyon@pa.gov.

For more information, please see our Annual Report online at www.pccd.state.pa.gov.

Notes in this sheet was extracted from Endowment Act (EA) - CAC and EA-Direct Victim Service Organization grants that started in January 2017, EA-Treatment Training grants that started in October 2016, and EA-Programs Assisting Victims grants that started in April 2017.

pennsylvania
COMMISSION ON CRIME
AND DELINQUENCY

SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY

KEY INITIATIVES

**FISCAL YEAR
2017/18**



SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY

During FY 17/18, PCCD's role in school safety and security expanded as a result of the Wolf Administration's and General Assembly's reaction to several incidents of school violence that occurred nationally during early 2018. Historically, PCCD's involvement in school safety was limited to supporting the Office of Safe Schools Advocate (OSSA) in the School District of Philadelphia and offering prevention programming support through grants and technical assistance provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

However, in early 2018, PCCD Chairman Charles Ramsey and Acting Executive Director Derin Myers were both asked to participate in Governor Wolf's and Auditor General DePasquale's School Safety Task Force, which held six listening forums across the state on school safety. Furthermore, in June, Act 44 of 2018 was passed, creating the new School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC) within PCCD that was tasked with distributing \$60 million in funding to support school safety and community violence prevention efforts.

KEY INITIATIVES

Office of Safe Schools Advocate (OSSA)

Located in the School District of Philadelphia (District), the Office of Safe Schools Advocate (OSSA) supports students and staff who are victims of school-based violence and/or crimes committed on school property. Originally created by Act 91 of 2000, OSSA is a shared venture between PCCD and the PA Department of Education (PDE). In addition to offering advocacy, OSSA is responsible for ensuring the school district's compliance with all laws, regulations and reporting requirements pertaining to school safety and discipline; as well as reviewing and advising on legislation and policy.

Since re-opening in December 2011, OSSA has become a resource for parents/guardians, students, teachers, support staff, law enforcement, the courts, and community organizations in Philadelphia that are focused on safety, violence reduction, positive youth development, and school outcomes. Located in the District's Education Center, OSSA is staffed by a legal assistant and an administrative assistant, in addition to the Advocate. In FY 16/17, Roi A. Ligon was appointed as the Advocate by Governor Tom Wolf, and is the fourth Safe Schools Advocate to serve since it was first formed in 2001.

By statute, the Advocate is charged with making an Annual Report to the General Assembly, as well as making recommendations for remedial legislation or other reforms which would promote school safety and facilitate effective and expedient disciplinary action. For the 2017-18 school year, the major findings of his report were:

- **Actively Refer Victims to OSSA** – There is still a prevalent underserved victim population that exists at the District. The primary focus of OSSA is to ensure that the rights of all victims of school violence are protected. Currently, there are no existing District departments that serve this purpose, which underscores the importance of connecting victims to OSSA.
- **Victim Advocacy** – Despite the statutory mandate for District administrators to cooperate with OSSA, District personnel have repeatedly stated to OSSA staff that they received a directive from high-level central office administrators not to communicate with OSSA. That message is both confusing and inconsistent with statutory requirements, and significantly impacts the quality of assistance that OSSA can provide. School building administrators need to be properly trained on the role and responsibility of OSSA and directed to fully cooperate with OSSA staff.

- **Improve Communication with Parents and Guardians** – The District needs to provide clear and consistent communication to its stakeholders.
- **Enforce Accurate and Consistent Reporting by School Building Administrators** – The central District administration needs to take a proactive approach in ensuring that all schools are accurately reporting incidents on a consistent basis.
- **Bullying Policy and Accountability** – Implementation of the District’s school bullying policy is inconsistently applied by school-based administrators. Assistant Superintendents that supervise principals have shown limited interest in resolving climate and policy issues raised by OSSA. In addition, when contacting OSSA, many parents report not being aware that a District policy existed for investigating bullying allegations. Thorough and effective training needs to be provided to each building’s administration regarding the District’s policy and proper protocol for investigating bullying. Each matter should be taken serious and policies enforced with fidelity.
- **Standardize the District Coding of Incidents** – Data collection functions, such as coding incidents of violence, need to be standardized and instituted uniformly throughout the District. Discrepancies in how certain crimes are coded is affecting the overall accuracy of the District’s reporting.

More detailed information on OSSA and the Office’s Annual Report can be found on [PCCD’s OSSA website](#).



Pennsylvania School Safety Task Force

In March 2018, Governor Tom Wolf and Auditor General Eugene DePasquale announced the creation of the Pennsylvania School Safety Task Force to identify strategies to improve school safety, security, and preparedness. During six regional meetings held from April through June 2018, Task Force members – including PCCD Chairman Ramsey and Acting Executive Director Myers – heard from government officials, statewide education organizations, law enforcement officials, community leaders, school officials, teachers, parents, and students. In each conversation, participants made it clear: promoting a healthy and safe learning environment for all students is imperative and possible only through coordination among the state, schools, law enforcement, communities, and local government.



As a follow-up to the forums, the [School Safety Task Force Report](#) was released in August 2018. This document addresses the ways that the state, schools, and communities can create secure environments where learning can be prioritized. Based on feedback from more than 200 meeting participants – as well as from the more than 788 Pennsylvanians who shared their suggestions through an online survey – the Report identified 31 targeted and actionable recommendations to improve school safety and student wellbeing, including strategies for:

- Improving communication and information sharing;
- Enhancing social and emotional learning for students;
- Increasing the number of physical and mental health professionals in schools;
- Increasing access to mental health services;
- Strengthening school security;
- Building connections to the community;
- Effectively integrating law enforcement and school resource officers;
- Providing actionable guidance and information to schools to determine priorities;
- Increasing funding; and
- Utilizing training and evidence-based practices.

Act 44 of 2018 School Safety and Security Initiatives

Enacted on June 22, 2018, [Act 44](#) established the School Safety and Security Grant Program within PCCD . Amending the Public School Code of 1949, the Act contains multiple provisions for school safety and security preparedness, including:

- Mandating the appointment of School Safety and Security Coordinators by school entities;
- Expanding the PA State Police’s Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Team (RVAT) unit;
- Establishing mandatory school safety training for school entity employees;
- Establishing standards for school police, school resource officers, and school security guards;
- Establishing the Safe2Say Program within the PA Attorney General’s Office;
- Creating a School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC) within PCCD tasked with:

- Developing criteria to be used to assess school safety and security;
- Establishing a registry for vendors who may conduct school safety assessments;
- Issuing a survey to school entities to review school safety and security preparedness; and
- Administering \$60 million in funding via grants to school entities and community violence prevention/reduction programs.

More information about Act 44, the SSSC, and PCCD's current implementation of the Act can be found on PCCD's [School Safety and Security](#) website.



One of the six regional school safety and security forums held by the Pennsylvania's School Safety Task Force, which PCCD helped chair. This meeting was held at Central Mountain High School in Mill Hall.