

2021 Criminal Justice Advisory Board Conference
The Changing Face of Criminal Justice
Virtual Conference
April 20-22, 2021

Session Descriptions Day One
Tuesday, April 20, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Morning Plenary Session

9:15 a.m. – 10:30a.m.

Shared Humanity as a Catalyst for Innovation, Integration, and Motivation

The criminal justice reform making increasing headway throughout the U.S. has a clear trailblazer in the state of Pennsylvania. It has become a beacon in this regard but must remain so if the dual promise of protecting our communities while respecting the civil liberties and acknowledging the humanity of every Pennsylvanian, including those under corrective supervision, is to be achieved. Moving towards client-based approaches and evidence-based practices are predicated upon a fundamental principle: the belief that no human being can be reduced to the worst thing they have done and that each of us is capable of redemption. In this plenary address, Dr. Joel Nunez asserts that what drives our innovation, integration and indispensable motivation as practitioners must be an ever-present acknowledgement of and commitment to our shared humanity through proximity to the most affected, coupled with a recognition that trauma distorts normative life trajectories yet can heal through therapeutic interaction at the micro and macro levels. Through a commitment to conducting continuous and systematic self-analyses of our assumptions and authorizing trusted others to assess and correct us as needed, we increase the probability that those under corrective supervision re-orient the direction of their lives and that our communities become safe havens for all.

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

First Set of Breakout Sessions

Self-Care for the Criminal Justice Practitioner

Self-care for the criminal justice professional must be the cornerstone of the industry. Attendees of this session with Dr. Joel Nunez will have the opportunity to reflect on resonant themes introduced in the plenary presentation. The Four Essential Questions for maximizing our retention and ensuring application of life-lessons will be revealed. Reflection is crucial for self-care!

First Set of Breakout Sessions (Continued)

Understanding and Addressing Gun Violence in Pennsylvania

In 2017, more than 1,600 Pennsylvanians died as a result of firearm-related injuries, with many more surviving their wounds but sustaining life-changing physical, mental, emotional, and financial impacts. Last year, the Governor signed an Executive Order tasked PCCD with exploring data, engaging stakeholders, and identifying recommendations to better understand and take effective measures to prevent and reduce gun violence across the Commonwealth. This session will highlight recently published recommendations from the Governor's Special Council on Gun Violence and share how local leaders are taking steps to address gun violence in their communities through partnerships and evidence-informed practices.

There is More to Evidence-Based Practice than Curricula and CBT

As community corrections continues to move toward evidence-based practices, we must take stock in what we know and what the future holds. We understand the risk, needs, and responsibility principles. We understand that assessment is important. We understand that we must train staff and ensure fidelity to the training, but we have often missed a critical piece of implementing evidence-based practices: the context and culture. Organizational and management structure is a key component, and often overlooked, in successfully adopting evidence-based practices. This presentation will provide participants with a clear understanding of what characteristics must be present within the organization and strategies to effectively implement any evidence-based practice. Specifically, participants will be challenged to consider a new identity for community corrections - one of coach. For too long, our system has been built on a mastery model, expecting both staff and client to be perfect at what they do or else be considered a failure. This new model suggests that as we implement EBP we need to consider the agency infrastructure, review supervision practices, and grow staff much like a coach instead of a referee. Participants will:

- Examine inconsistencies between policies and practice and overall mission and discuss strategies to make them more congruent.
- Learn how to determine if their agency and staff operate from more of a coach or referee model.
- Develop interventions to help shift their agency/staff if appropriate.

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Lunch

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Second Set of Breakout Sessions

Trauma, Gender & Community Supervisor of Justice-Involved Women

As the number of justice-involved women rises, we must direct our attention to providing this growing population with the supervision and services they need. Until recently, there has been little focus on how women become involved in the justice system, the correlation of trauma on their pathway into the system and the impact on their supervision, why they remain trapped, what their treatment needs are when they get there and the impact crime and justice has on their children. In order to improve criminal justice, social and health outcomes for women and their families, we must develop a balanced, accountable and compassionate justice system that recognizes the complex problems that form the context for women's involvement in the system.

Much of the gender-informed work with women has focused on institutional populations and community supervision provides challenges not experienced in incarcerated settings. Agencies have adopted practices to enhance supervision services with women including single-gender caseloads, use of validated risk and need assessment tools, gender-specific cognitive behavioral programs and programs focusing on parenting and family issues.

National and Regional Drug Trends

A nationwide and regional drug trends briefing, highlighting trends in the opiate epidemic, to include focusing on the increase in fentanyl, methamphetamine and cocaine in the region.

Why Should Probation EBPs Matter to Me? Implications for CJABs and Other Stakeholders

For jurisdictions to effectively implement risk reduction practices, justice system stakeholders (the court, prosecution, defense, law enforcement, victim representatives) and the community must understand, support, and apply evidence-based practices (EBP). This workshop will highlight specific ways stakeholders in the justice system can align their day-to-day practice with research findings. It describes specific dos and don'ts that contribute to improved lives for justice-involved individuals and their families, increased community well-being, and reduced costs. Participants will come to understand the components that must be implemented for the justice system in partnership with the community to effect positive change.