

2022 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT CENTER ASSOCIATION

THURSDAYS, MARCH 31-APRIL 28, 2022

1:00 – 3:00 CST



	MARCH 31ST	APRIL 7TH	APRIL 14TH	APRIL 21ST	APRIL 28TH
OPENING	Shelby County, TN—The launch of a new Assessment Center in Memphis, TN	Dr. Keith Cruise— Developing, Implementing, and Monitoring Assessment Center Screening Procedures	Beth Fritz—Case Planning: Linking the Assessment to Case Plans	Jack Martin— Personal Account of Resilience and Opportunity	Hernán Carvente Martinez— Building Transformative Partnerships With Youth and Families
BREAKOUT 1	The trials and tribulations of starting an Assessment Center	Behavioral Health Screening	Alternatives to Restitution	Data & Outcomes—How To Utilize Data To Strengthen Programmatic Practices	Kicking Water Up a Hill: Effecting Real World Change in Complex Systems
BREAKOUT 2	How Your Assessment Center Can Partner with Your District Attorney to Effectively Divert Youth	Trauma Screening	Establishing & Creating a Clinical Assessment Program	Does it have to be so complicated? Implementation science simplified.	
BREAKOUT 3	An Innovative Partnership: Kansas Protective Homes Model.	Risk-Need-Responsivity Screening	Gender specific programming: Understanding the specific needs of girls with justice involvement	Highlighting Youth and Family as Partners	Youth Engagement to Achieve Results



JUSTICE BENEFITS, INC.



THURSDAY, MARCH 31ST, 2022

OPENING SESSION

DORCAS YOUNG GRIFFIN, *Director, Shelby County Division of Community Services*
DEPUTY CHIEF SAMUEL HINES, *Memphis Police Department*

Shelby County has been in the planning and development phase of an Assessment Center for the past several years. Hear from the Director of Community Services and the Memphis Police Deputy Chief on their vision for the new Assessment Center and its impact on the youth and families of Shelby County.

BREAKOUT SESSION 1

THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF STARTING AN ASSESSMENT CENTER

DORCAS YOUNG GRIFFIN, *Director, Shelby County Division of Community Services Director*
PAMELA WILLIAMS KELLY, *Administrator, Office of Justice Initiatives Shelby County Division of Community Services*
CEDRICK GRAY, *Director, Office of Education Shelby County Mayor's Office*

Building from the keynote session, the Shelby County Assessment Center team will share some of the barriers and challenges they experienced in their journey of establishing an Assessment Center. Attendees will learn how those barriers were overcome and what challenges the team continues to work through. Community stakeholders looking to establish an Assessment Center are strongly encouraged to attend.

BREAKOUT SESSION 2

HOW YOUR ASSESSMENT CENTER CAN PARTNER WITH YOUR DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO EFFECTIVELY DIVERT YOUTH

KIRA JUKES, *Jefferson County, Colorado Juvenile Assessment Center Executive Director*
SARAH TROY, *18th Judicial District Juvenile Assessment Center, Colorado Executive Director*

The 18th Judicial District and Jefferson County Juvenile Assessment Centers in Colorado

will present their diversionary models, each unique to its own community. Although the two programs have different funding structures, one non-profit and one government, they have been able to create and sustain meaningful partnerships with their local District Attorney Offices. Presentation will include a review of how partnerships were created, processes in place, budgetary needs, data collection methods and outcomes. Session will include a review of the Colorado statutorily required diversion screening tool that will be implemented in 2022 statewide.

BREAKOUT SESSION 3

AN INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP: KANSAS PROTECTIVE HOMES MODEL

MARY ANN PITNICK, *Johnson County, Kansas Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center Programs Coordinator*
SARA DARNELL, *Juvenile Services Intensive Supervision Officer*

In the 10th Judicial District in Kansas, our District Attorney and the Global Orphan Project came together, and subsequently we joined as an Intake and Assessment Center, to bring the faith based communities together to form our Protective Homes Model, which consists of local families, who provides a safe, nurturing environment to place youth(s) who were taken into Police Protective Custody. All the youth are placed here locally, pending further court disposition, which is vital to have them close in our community where they came from during the law enforcement point of contact.

In the 21st Judicial District in Kansas, we initially partnered with the Global Orphan Project, however given the rural nature of our community, start-up was delayed. As a result, we had to partner with our peers in the 10th Judicial District to kick off our Protective Homes Model.

We will discuss our innovative partnership and collaborative effort to bring our Protective Homes Model to other jurisdictions across the nation. We will include a step by step process of qualifying families to serve others in our community most at risk.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7TH, 2022

OPENING SESSION

DEVELOPING, IMPLEMENTING, AND MONITORING ASSESSMENT CENTER SCREENING PROCEDURES: DRAWING ON THE EVIDENCE-BASE AND IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE TO ENHANCE "ON THE GROUND" PRACTICE

DR. KEITH CRUISE, *Associate Director of
Psychology at Fordham University*

Dr. Keith Cruise will draw on the Assessment Center Framework as well as other models to outline best practices in screening implementation that are specific to domains common to Assessment Centers. The presentation will unpack language from the Framework standards on what we mean by "evidence-based", and provide illustrations from the available literature on implementation of specific tools. Attendees will be provided with guidance on how to design an effective screening system to include field-based challenges and potential response to those challenges. This keynote will serve as a precursor to the breakout sessions for the day that will highlight implementation of specific tools; risk-need-responsivity, behavioral health, and trauma.

BREAKOUT SESSION 1

SCREENING FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

SHAWNE JOHNSON, *Douglas County,
Nebraska Juvenile Assessment Center
Director*

ANDREW ALEMAN, *LCSW, Deputy Director of
People Power & National Partnerships
and TerraLuna Facilitator*

This session will serve as a follow-up to the keynote session and will focus specifically on creating a system that screens for behavioral health. The Juvenile Assessment Center of Douglas County, Nebraska will detail their experience in

setting up their own screening system, including the selection of a tool, training, and how they engage in continuous quality improvement.

BREAKOUT SESSION 2

SCREENING FOR RISK NEED RESPONSIVITY

CATHY BURGOS, *Director of Miami-Dade
Juvenile Services Department*

This session will serve as a follow-up to the keynote session and will focus specifically on creating a system that screens for risk-need-responsivity (or the RNR model). The Juvenile Assessment Center of Miami-Dade, Florida will detail their experience in setting up their own screening system, including the selection of a tool, training, and how they engage in continuous quality improvement.

BREAKOUT SESSION 3

SCREENING FOR TRAUMATIC EVENTS AND TRAUMA REACTIONS

DR. KEITH CRUISE, *Associate Director of
Psychology at Fordham University*

This session will serve as a follow-up to the keynote session and will focus specifically on creating a system that screens for traumatic events and trauma reactions. Dr. Keith Cruise will detail his experience setting up screening systems, including the selection of a tool, training, and how recommendations for engaging in continuous quality improvement.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14TH, 2022

OPENING SESSION

CASE PLANNING: LINKING THE ASSESSMENT TO CASE PLANS

ELIZABETH "BETH" FRITZ, *National Youth Screening and Assessment Partners (NYSAP) Director of Case Planning & Quality Assurance*

What is the purpose of a case plan and what do we hope to achieve with it? How do we effectively link a case plan to an assessment, regardless of the type of assessment? What is the benefit to using a service matrix to develop an effective case plan? This presentation will focus on the difference between a case plan and case planning, review some of the best practices around case planning, and outline strategies to incorporate the case plan into everyday practices when working with youth.

BREAKOUT SESSION 1

ALTERNATIVE TO TRADITIONAL RESTITUTION

DENISE COLEMAN, *Director of Youth Justice, Huckleberry Youth Programs, San Francisco, CA*

MICHELLE LAU, *Policy Analyst, Financial Justice Project*

KALINA KING, *Case Manager, Huckleberry Youth Programs*

Young people who owe restitution often cannot pay it, which results in them and their families going into debt. People harmed, through a crime, often need restitution to be made whole, but since families cannot afford to pay it, they rarely receive it. AFTER (Aims to Foster Transformation and Ensure Restitution) is an alternative approach to this system. AFTER provides community-based programming for young people that have a financial restitution obligation to fulfill, while also supporting the person harmed

to meet their financial and other needs following the harm. Young people make amends through participating in restorative justice conferences, workshops, performing community service, or being connected to job opportunities—and are held accountable for their actions. The harmed person is paid the restitution from a community fund and can participate in other services to support them. AFTER is a collaboration with Huckleberry Youth Programs CARC, San Francisco District Attorneys Office, San Francisco Public Defender, San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department, San Francisco Bar Association, and San Francisco Financial Justice Project.”

BREAKOUT SESSION 2

ESTABLISHING & CREATING A CLINICAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

SARAH TROY, *18th Judicial District Juvenile Assessment Center, Colorado Executive Director*

MEREDITH VELASQUEZ, *LCSW, LAC, ACS; 18th Judicial District Juvenile Assessment Center, Colorado Program Director*

This session will cover how an assessment center in Colorado created a clinical assessment program to complement their existing law enforcement focused programming. We will discuss the difference in assessment & screening from a clinical perspective, as well as staffing, funding, community partnerships and referral sources, successes and lessons learned, and ideas for future growth.

BREAKOUT SESSION 3

GENDER SPECIFIC PROGRAMMING: UNDERSTANDING THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GIRLS WITH JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT.

BONNIE SULTAN, *President Sultan Justice
Consulting CORP*

Girls in the justice system have significantly high rates of trauma and behavioral

health needs. The over representation of minority girls in the system is nothing short of staggering. In order to divert these girls from the justice system, it is vital to understand their needs and the needs of those who support them. This presentation offers the audience to learn more about the realities of girls in the justice system and learn steps to take to become gender and trauma informed staff.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21ST, 2022

OPENING SESSION

PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF RESILIENCE AND OPPORTUNITY

JACK MARTIN, *Director of Clark County
Department of Juvenile Justice Services*

BREAKOUT SESSION 1

DATA & OUTCOMES—HOW TO UTILIZE DATA TO STRENGTHEN PROGRAMMATIC PRACTICES

LAURA RISTUCCI, *Project Manager, Jefferson
County, Colorado Juvenile Assessment
Center*

KIRA JUKES, *Jefferson County, Colorado
Juvenile Assessment Center Executive
Director*

Over the course of the last five years, our program—as well as our community stakeholders—changed the lens on how we view programming equity, outcomes, and subsequent improvements. Here at the Jefferson County Juvenile Assessment Center we

implemented a new managed information system that we were able to configure to the individual needs of our community. For the first time, we are able to extrapolate information from an internal database that helps us understand not only where we excel, but also what some of our shortcomings are. By utilizing the data, we can implement meaningful changes that improve the services we provide to the community. Furthermore, we have been able to identify different segments of the population that were being under-served. Through this process, we have been able to expand programming to include two new innovative programs. Data is a critical tool that provides indisputable evidence; while anecdotal evidence, assumptions, or abstract observations might lead to wasted resources due to acting based on an incorrect conclusion. Quality data collection and evaluation has allowed our program to put necessary and meaningful solutions in place.

BREAKOUT SESSION 2

TITLE: DOES IT HAVE TO BE SO COMPLICATED? IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE SIMPLIFIED.

DR. ALEXANDRA WALKER, *Director of Community Relations and Strategy, Alliance for Community and Justice Innovation*

JOHANNA LEAL, *Director of Innovation and Implementation Capacity, Alliance for Community and Justice Innovation*

Evidence Based Practices (EBPs) promise great recidivism reduction results; but only to the degree that they are implemented as designed and as intended. Contemporary organizational and implementation research communities have reported high rates of failure when it comes to the implementation of new practices, programs, and policies. Effective implementation is a direct result of the people doing the work, the organizational culture within which they are working, the data driving the process and the leadership environment

surrounding the EBP itself. Effective implementation of any new practice or innovation requires people and organizations to do new things and change. These four (4) areas make up the Pillars of Effective Implementation and come with a variety of strategies and tools to apply to all aspects of the change process. This workshop is geared toward leaders and emerging leaders of organizations or teams responsible for implementing any new EBP, innovation or change effort. The purpose of this workshop is to demystify implementation science by reviewing the Four Pillars and describe strategies that can improve implementation outcomes. This workshop will provide participants with a user-friendly framework for learning and applying the best practices from the implementation research community.

BREAKOUT SESSION 3

HIGHLIGHTING YOUTH AND FAMILY AS PARTNERS

SHAWNE JOHNSON, *Director, Douglas County, NE Juvenile Assessment Center*

ANDREW ALEMAN, *LCSW, Deputy Director of People Power & National Partnerships and TerraLuna Facilitator*

The Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) in Omaha, Nebraska has been fortunate to work with local researchers, consultants, youth and family advocacy organizations and youth and families to place focus on youth and family as true partners. This session will cover examples of research and evaluation efforts directed toward eliciting perspectives and opinions from youth and families served at the JAC. Additionally, this session will highlight collaborations with family advocacy organizations and consultancies centered on bringing lived experience into all facets of service (individual interactions and relationships, policies and procedures, philosophies and goals). This topic cuts across each of the Core Components. This session will focus primarily on Staff Support and Development.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28TH, 2022

OPENING SESSION

CULTIVATING TRANSFORMATIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH YOUTH AND FAMILIES

HERNÁN CARVENTE MARTINEZ, *National Youth Partnership Strategist and Founder of Healing Ninjas*

In this keynote, you will hear why partnering with youth and families is essential to creating supportive communities of care. Although there is no exact blueprint for the best way to work with youth and families, there are creative and meaningful ways to include them in identifying their needs while also building empowering environments. Impacted youth and families should be more than just recipients of services, instead, they should also be partners and allies that help us determine whether our systems of care are actually working on their behalf. This means including them in governance and identifying the kinds of opportunities that they will most benefit from so that they can remain in the community and not caught up in systems. After this presentation, you will have clear ways of cultivating trust and partnerships with youth and families to ensure their short and long-term success.

BREAKOUT SESSION 1

KICKING WATER UP A HILL: EFFECTING REAL WORLD CHANGE IN COMPLEX SYSTEMS

DR. ALEXANDRA WALKER, *Director of Community Relations and Strategy, Alliance for Community and Justice Innovation*

JOHANNA LEAL, *Director of Innovation and Implementation Capacity, Alliance for Community and Justice Innovation*

In today's justice environments effective leaders are those who not only embrace the sciences of effective risk and recid-

ivism reduction, but also the science of effective implementation. These leaders are driven by the desire to change and improve their organizations, and systems, to authentically implement best practices. Initially, such implementation requires a certain set of leadership attitudes to drive EBP at the system level. However, the commitment to best practice is not enough to overcome the challenges of leading change in real world human systems. In these less than forgiving and complex environments, leaders are faced with critical human and systemic challenges that can often impede effective implementation. This presentation will focus on the "10 Essential Principles of Implementation Leadership" that are necessary to overcome these challenges and significantly impact organizational change. Attendees will be introduced to each of the ten principles, while learning how they directly contribute to successful implementation.

BREAKOUT SESSION 2

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT TO ACHIEVE RESULTS

LAURA FURR, *Founder, Laura Furr Consulting*

Authentic and effective youth engagement can transform organizations and increase their ability to meet their goals. When youth will be impacted by a decision, engaging youth in making that decision will increase your likelihood of success. Assessment centers have opportunities to increase the success of their programming and achieve better outcomes through authentically engaging youth in governance and operations.

Youth-adult partnership is an anti-oppression tool and serves organizational equity goals. Workshop participants will also reflect on how oppression of youth by adults, aka adultism, can intersect with other forms of oppression in their Center operations.

I will share my continuum of youth engagement, including models and practical considerations, and four principles for authentic youth-adult partnership. Each type of youth engagement, from seeking youth input through youth-adult partnership on boards, can be effective in different circumstances. I will also equip Centers to recognize and avoid tokenism and manipulation in their youth engagement.

Centers will complete a self-assessment of their organization's readiness to build youth-adult partnership and identify an opportunity for youth engagement in their center. Workshop participants will complete an initial plan choosing a form of youth engagement from the continuum and identifying how they will share power, accountability, language and resources. Ideally, Centers will complete this initial plan at the conference with youth engaged in their programs, or include steps to engage youth in further developing the plan after the conference.

Depending on opportunities provided by technology and time, participants will share challenges they have faced engaging youth and families in their center's decision-making and will share their initial plans for youth engagement.

