



Franklin County's

# JPO Times

Volume 23 Issue 2

## Youth Aid Panel Expands

Chambersburg's Youth Aid Panel has expanded and is now holding meetings on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Nine volunteers were trained in May and June of 2023 on the duties of panel monitors, and have started to meet with youth and their families. This diversionary program has worked with over 500 youth in Franklin County since its inception in 2004.

Volunteers are an integral part of the Youth Aid Panel. They meet with non-violent, first time offenders and their families to determine what a youth needs to do in order to hold the youth

accountable and build the skills needed to become a productive citizen. A volunteer is assigned to each case to monitor the youth's progress and assist them if they do not understand any of the requirements. The volunteers serve as mentors to the youth as they complete their requirements, and encourage them to strive for their future goals. Upon successful completion of the program, the youth's record is expunged.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact a Youth Aid Panel Coordinator at 717-261-3122.



Display at Commissioner's Office.

## Survivor Voices: Elevate. Engage. Effect Change

National Crime Victims' Rights Week sought to do just that. The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs wanted communities to hear the voices of those who survived crime and create an environment in which survivors of crime have confidence they will be heard, believed, and supported. National Crime Victims' Rights Week was commemorated April 23-29, 2023.

The Franklin County Commissioners proclaimed April 23-29, 2023 to be Crime Victims' Rights Week in Franklin County at their public board meeting on April 19, 2023. This year's theme was viewed as an opportunity to recommit to listening to survivors of crime in every space that decisions are made which can impact them. A display, including word and thought bubbles with messages from Victim Impact Statements, was placed in the lobby of the Commissioner's Office for the week.

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*Brought to you by Franklin County Juvenile Probation  
425 Franklin Farm Lane  
Chambersburg, PA 17202  
(717) 261-3122*

## Juvenile Probation Officers Become Members of Crisis Intervention Team

Franklin County's Juvenile Probation Officers and Supervisors participated in the South Central Region Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. CIT Officers participate in intensive training to help them deal more humanely and effectively with persons that have a mental illness and may be in crisis. CIT forms a partnership with officers, behavioral health and human services professionals, consumers, and their families.

There are many benefits and

goals to CIT. CIT increases safety for officers and citizens through education on mental health issues and specialized communications training. CIT can be a catalyst for improved access to treatment, with officers being able to take a person in crisis to a hospital for emergency psychiatric care after de-escalating them. The utilization of CIT may assist in diverting individuals with a mental illness from the criminal justice system and into the behavioral health

system to receive treatment. The collaborative relationships established by CIT can allow for further collaborations to address concerns/problems within the community.

This intensive training gives juvenile probation officers and supervisors another tool to utilize when a situation needs to be de-escalated and tools to use to keep situations from escalating. With the ultimate goal that everyone goes home safely, the more skills to accomplish this goal the better.



Chief Ackerman, Deputy Chief Mackley, Victim Advocate Heather Evans, and the Franklin County Commissioners with the Proclamation for Crime Victims' Rights Week.

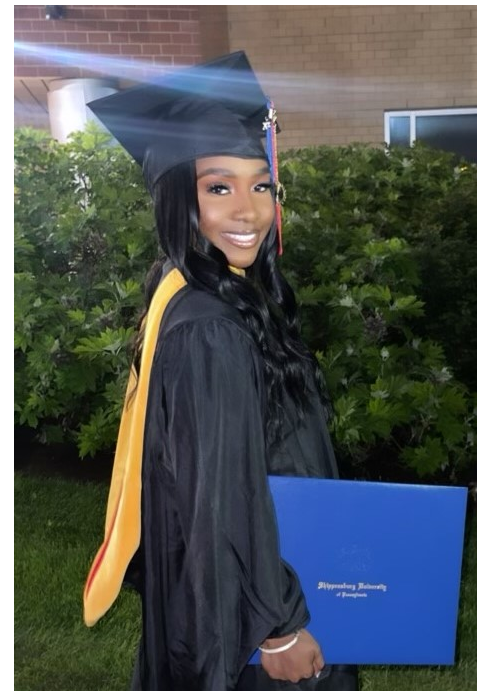
## JJSES Spotlight: Childhood Trauma Screen

The Child Trauma Screen (CTS) is utilized to determine exposure to traumatic events and potential reactions to that exposure. There are youth and caregiver versions of this screening tool. The tool may be completed in a short time with non-clinical staff and is scored based on standardized procedures. It does not replace a comprehensive assessment or make a diagnosis. However, it does indicate the potential need for a comprehensive assessment.

The CTS is composed of four exposure items and six response symptoms. While exposure to multiple exposure items raises the concern for poly-victimization, a youth not acknowledging an

exposure item does not mean they have not experienced a traumatic event. When looking at response symptoms, a score of six or more on the youth version has an 88% likelihood of scoring for clinically significant PTSD.

Children may be exposed to trauma in different ways. They may directly experience trauma, witness trauma, or may be traumatized by learning about a traumatic event that happened to a family member or friend. Trauma does not excuse criminal behavior, but may help to explain the delinquent behavior. Therefore it is important to address trauma when working with youth.



Congratulations to PO Ciara Brown! She obtained her Master of Science in Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University in May 2023.

## PO Spotlight: Jenna Richards

**Where are you from?**  
McConnellsburg, PA

**What degrees do you hold and where from?**

I have a Bachelor's degree in Criminology from the University of Lynchburg.

**Why did you choose to work in juvenile justice?**

I didn't necessarily plan to work in juvenile justice when I first graduated. When I saw this opportunity online and researched more about it, I thought it may be a good fit. I have enjoyed every moment of working with juveniles thus far!

**What do you enjoy the most about your job?**

I love how every day can be

different. Every person is different therefore the way they need to be treated, supervised, or rehabilitated varies. I love how this job gives me the opportunity to learn about each juvenile individually and help them based on their specific needs.

**Which attribute of yours do you think helps you the most working with youth?**

At the moment, I would say my best attribute for this position is my age. When I was younger, I always felt that I could be more vulnerable with those closer to my age, and I think a lot of the youth we work with may feel that way as well. I am also a very open and honest person which I think helps when communicating with youth.

**What goals would you like to accomplish in the next five years?**

Within the next five years, I would like to have earned my Master's Degree or at least be in the process of earning it.

**What do you like to do for fun?**

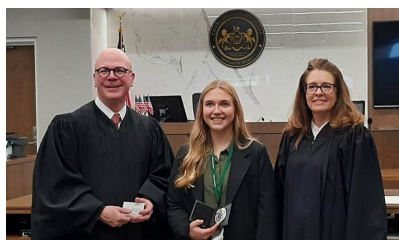
I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, going golfing, and exploring new places.

**Do you have any pets?**

I have 3 dogs, 1 cat, and a lot of cows.

**What is something your coworkers would be surprised to learn about you?**

I originally went to school to be a Physical Therapist.



Left: PO Jenna Richards with President Judge Myers and Judge Krom. Right: PO Princess Gaye, her parents, President Judge Myers, Judge Krom, Judge Shank, and the Franklin County Juvenile Probation Office

## PO Spotlight: Princess Gaye

**Where are you from?**  
Carlisle, Pennsylvania

**What degrees do you hold and where from?**

I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Central Penn College.

**Why did you choose to work in juvenile justice?**

I get to use my degree, and help youth be accountable for their actions so that they can change his or her behavior and to not re-enter the court system. I support their rehabilitation and help them

make a positive developmental outcome.

**What do you enjoy the most about your job?**

The juveniles and my coworkers

**Which attribute of yours do you think helps you the most working with youth?**

Personality and communication

**What goals would you like to accomplish in the next five years?**

I want to become a homicide detective.

**What do you like to do for fun?**  
Running, reading, and hiking

**Do you have any pets?**

I have a Yorkie named Poppy and a bunny name Cookie.

**What is something your coworkers would be surprised to learn about you?**

I have a twin and his name is Prince. I lost my sense of smell when I was little can only smell bleach.