

# THE PARTNERSHIP

## National Partnership for Juvenile Services

*Promoting Quality Practices and Programs  
for Youth and Families that  
Result in Positive Change  
and Restore Community*

### PARTNERS

*Council for Educators of At-Risk and Delinquent Youth*

*Juvenile Justice Trainers Association*

*National Association of Juvenile Correctional Agencies*

*National Juvenile Detention Association*

### EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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### LEADERSHIP

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
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Education Council Representative*

#### Anne M. Nelsen

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Corrections Council Representative*

#### Michael A. Jones

*Managing Director  
Commonwealth of Kentucky*

### RESOLUTION SUPPORTING

#### THE USE OF POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL TRAINING IN JUVENILE JUSTICE AGENCIES

**WHEREAS** the role of the juvenile court system is to rehabilitate and treat young offenders while holding them accountable and maintaining public safety; and

**WHEREAS** there is a growing interest in increasing the impact of investments in justice interventions; and

**WHEREAS** it is important to promote decision frameworks or statutes that consider cumulative risk and needs, and target services to the highest risk offenders; and

**WHEREAS** the development of temperance (self-regulation) is especially important for positive outcomes for juvenile offenders; and

**WHEREAS** adolescent cognitive abilities are associated with biological immaturity of the brain and an imbalance among developing brain systems;

**WHEREAS** access to appropriate support services (mental health, substance abuse, etc.), in both institutions and the community that are of adequate intensity and involve family members promotes positive long-term outcomes;

**WHEREAS** infusing youth and adolescent development theories and practices into daily operations and behavior management strategies improves outcomes; and

**WHEREAS** services and re-entry planning significantly reduce the chances of repeated systems involvement; and

**WHEREAS** in general, programs that offer interventions with a cognitive or cognitive-behavioral emphasis, “do work” to reduce recidivism of serious institutionalized juvenile offenders; and

**WHEREAS** the monetary value of saving a high-risk youth from a life of crime is estimated to range between \$2.6 and \$4.4 million for each child and moving youth from the adult criminal justice system to the juvenile justice system is cost-effective;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Partnership for Juvenile Services supports the use of evidence informed practices with a specific emphasis on the use of positive youth development strategies and cognitive behavioral interventions that;

- Involve a parent or parent figure,
- Increase exposure to positive peers,
- Provide opportunities for decision making/critical thinking,
- Hold youth accountable for wrongdoing and increases acceptance of responsibility in a process perceived as fair, promotes healthy moral development and legal socialization, and
- Are supported with increased provision of services (mental health, substance abuse, etc.) to adolescent offenders in both institutions and in the community, ensuring that the services are of adequate intensity.