

# 2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

Policy Research Associates, Inc.

1/6/2016

# *In Memory of Beth Fox Carpenter*

We dedicate this Year in Review to our dear friend and colleague, Beth Fox Carpenter. For 22 years, Beth was our Meeting and Logistics Coordinator, ensuring that our meetings were a success and that all staff travel was smooth and comfortable. Her love and pride for her work was evident in everything she did, from negotiating hotel contacts (all of which were perfectly organized in her large binders – a Beth trademark), to warmly introducing herself to every single meeting attendee and hotel staff person she encountered. She was an incredible colleague, friend, and mother. We miss her every day.



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# TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## SOAR TA Center

- Completed a 1-year pilot with the VA HUD-VASH and H-PACT programs in 4 states and helped develop a VA Caseworker's Guide for using SOAR
- Provided a BJA-supported SOAR Leadership Academy for Second Chance Act and Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program grantees to use SOAR with justice-involved persons
- Completed 1,984 practice case reviews, went on 20 TA trips, facilitated 8 webinars, and wrote 5 issue briefs

## HUD-VASH TA

- Drafted two training manuals
- Completed 12 onsite TA visits, two regional seminars, and five Critical Time Intervention trainings

## SMVF TA Center

- Designed and delivered 2 Virtual Implementation Academies, which were attended by 14 states with 281 participants overall
- Held 41 TA needs assessment calls with 21 states
- Planned, organized, and conducted 3 webinars to 1,514 participants, and 3 learning communities to 84 people representing 28 states

## Criminal Justice

- Provided training and technical assistance to over 30 states and communities on areas including criminal justice, behavioral health, trauma, and the Sequential Intercept Model

## Juvenile Justice

- Released the Adolescent Mental Health Training Curriculum for School Resource Officers - a training for School Resource Officers and other school-based staff that provides information on adolescent mental health and development, crisis intervention, and de-escalation techniques
- Launched the Defending Childhood State Policy Initiative to enhance trauma services for children
- Convened expert panel on financing behavioral healthcare services for youth diverted from the juvenile justice system

# 2015 AWARDS – A SELECTION

## Recovery Supports

- Program to Achieve Wellness
- TA to Michigan's SOAR Project
- SOAR TA and Training for Second Chance Act and Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program Grantees (Subcontract)
- Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (Subcontract)

## Juvenile Justice

- Addressing Children's Exposure to Violence: A National Policy Academy on Juvenile Justice, Behavioral Health, and Trauma
- Integrated TA and Training Subcontract
- National Training and TA Center for Child, Youth, and Family Mental Health (Subcontract)
- MacArthur Foundation - Diversion, Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice-Involved Youth: An Integrated Policy Academy/Action Network Initiative (Subcontract)
- School Justice Partnership Program: Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Project (Subcontract)

## Criminal Justice

- Behavioral Health and Justice Leadership Academies
- Centers of Excellence in Jail Diversion
- National Association of County Behavioral Health and Development Disability Directors TA
- Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services' Training Program and Curriculum Development on New and Emerging Mental Health Services, Concepts, and Initiatives (Subcontract)





# 19 PUBLICATIONS

## Topic Samples

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- Risk need responsiveness
- Gun Violence & victimization
- Veterans Treatment Courts
- Trauma interventions in the criminal justice system
- Motivational interviewing
- Supported employment
- Youth homelessness
- Front-end diversion intake
- Implementation Academy model
- Trauma-informed juvenile justice diversion

# BIG NEWS IN 2015

- Award of the Program to Achieve Wellness Contract
- Employment of new senior staff person, Jacquelyn Greene
- Release of the School Resource Officer Training
- Development of the Virtual Implementation Academy model
- Redesign and launch of the PRA and PRI websites
- Rebrand of PRA and PRI logo identities
- Installation of standing desks for staff
- Delivery of six Fee for Service Trainings in six states (OH, MA, NY, GA, TX & CO)

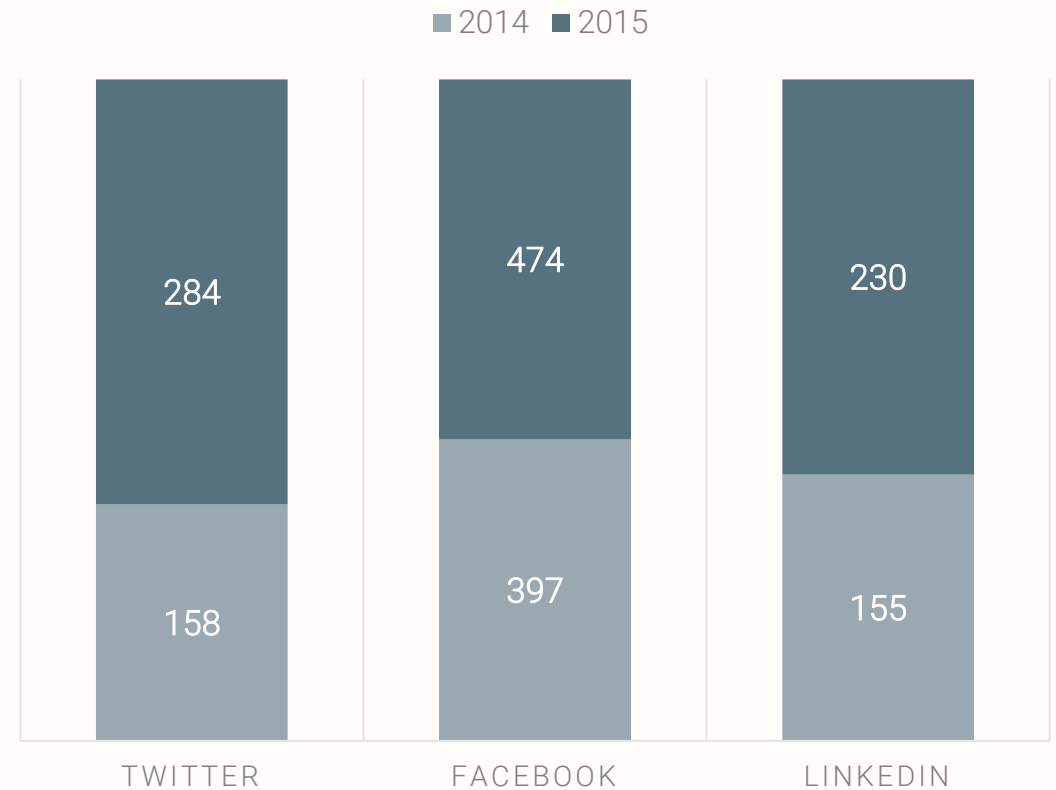
# PRA IN THE NEWS – A SELECTION

- Advocates for Mentally-ill Offenders Advise LA DA Lacey and Sheriff's Dept. on Fixing Jails - [KPCC](#)
- Drop-off Crisis Center Seen as Priority for Fighting Drug Addiction – [The Recorder](#)
- The Use and Effectiveness of Mental Health Courts – [PsychiatryAdvisor](#)
- Workshop Looks at Criminal Justice – [Albuquerque Journal](#)
- Changing Juvenile Justice Trajectories: Redirecting the School-to-Prison Pipeline – [Juvenile Justice Information Exchange](#)
- Proposed Jail Program Seeks to Aid Homeless, Mentally Ill in Jacksonville – [Jacksonville.com](#)

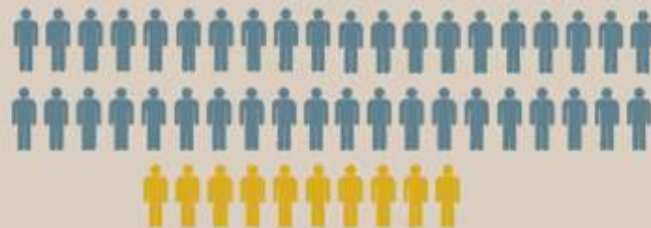


# PRA SOCIAL MEDIA GROWTH

- Twitter
  - 79.75% increase
- Facebook
  - 19.40% increase
- LinkedIn
  - 48.39% increase



# OUR STAFF



# STAFF EVENTS

- Division & Senior Staff Retreats
- Interfaith Shelter Breakfasts
- Whole Health Month
- CDPHP Workforce Challenge
- Take Your Daughters & Sons to Work Day
- Staff Luncheons
- PRA Olympics
- Track Day
- Recovery Month
- Dutch Apple Cruise
- Bowling at Del Lanes
- Month of Giving
- Poverty Discussion
- Holiday Party
- Cultural Competence Seminars









**12 meals & 40 toiletry kits**  
donated to Interfaith Partnership  
for the Homeless



**62 items & \$221**  
donated to the Veterans  
Miracle Center



**128 items & \$130**  
donated to the Mohawk  
Hudson Humane Society

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# COMMUNITY SERVICE

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**148 items, \$300, & 36 hours**  
donated to Unity House



**44 items & \$290**  
donated to Parsons Child and  
Family Center



**\$365**  
donated to the Bethlehem  
Community Fund

# ON THE HORIZON

- SOAR TA Center
  - Revamp the outcome tracking program
  - Expand work with rural communities, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and Medicaid-funded organizations
- SMVF TA Center
  - Design the Policy Academy Phase III: Interagency Leadership model to reestablish governors' buy-in to the partnership with SAMHSA and its SMVF TA Center through virtual TA and learning communities
- Criminal Justice
  - Deliver trauma trainings; workshops; technical assistance site visits; and Academies
- Juvenile Justice
  - Partner with the National League of Cities to deliver the Adolescent Mental Health Training Curriculum for School Resource Officers training to two cities involved with a juvenile justice reform project
  - Collaborate with the National Association of School Resource Officers and the National Association of Counties to bring the Adolescent Mental Health Training Curriculum for School Resource Officers training to more School Resource Officers across the country
  - Begin pilot implementation of Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment for Juvenile Justice in nine jurisdictions around the country



A photograph of a wooden rowing boat on a body of water, viewed from the stern looking forward. Two wooden oars are visible, resting on the boat's floor. The water is calm with gentle ripples. The entire image has a blue-grey color overlay. A white rectangular box is centered over the boat's interior.

2015 WORD OF THE YEAR

**STEADY**

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*Creating positive social change for people who are disadvantaged  
through technical assistance, research and training.*