



POLICY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, INC.  
**IMPACT REPORT**

2020

QUARTER 1 (JANUARY TO MARCH)



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# 2020 Quarter 1 Highlights



## NCYOJ Releases Brief on Caring for Youth with Behavioral Health Needs in the Juvenile Justice System

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The National Center for Youth Opportunity and Justice has released the Research to Practice Brief, ***Caring for Youth with Behavioral Health Needs in the Juvenile Justice System: Improving Knowledge and Skills of the Professionals Who Supervise Them***. This brief highlights the need for juvenile justice staff to receive training on how to interact with youth with behavioral health conditions effectively. The brief offers the Mental Health Training for Juvenile Justice (MHT-JJ) as a potential training solution. The MHT-JJ is an eight-hour, interactive training that covers adolescent development, childhood trauma, mental and substance use disorders, effective interventions, practical strategies for working with youth and their families, and self-care approaches.



## Policy Academy to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Hosted

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On February 25-27, 2020, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) hosted the inaugural 2020 Governor's Challenge Policy Academy meeting in Washington, DC. SAMHSA's Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) Technical Assistance Center facilitated the meeting for six state teams—Florida, Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania. The goal of the Policy Academy process is to strengthen statewide behavioral healthcare systems and suicide prevention services for SMVF through collaboration at the federal, state, and local levels. The Policy Academy meeting facilitated the development of state action plans and logic models informed by plenary sessions, concurrent workshops, and multiple facilitated team work sessions.



## Publication and Webinar Explore SOAR Integration in Criminal Justice Reentry Programs

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The SAMHSA Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance Center released a new **issue brief** and hosted a **webinar** outlining how SOAR can be integrated into criminal justice settings to promote post-release success. The issue brief, *SOAR Works for Individuals Involved in the Criminal Justice System*, and the webinar provide local corrections and community transition staff with methods to integrate benefit options into community reentry strategies for people with serious mental illness and co-occurring disorders. Using the SOAR model as a reentry tool can result in increased access to income, housing, and treatment for people with serious mental illness and co-occurring disorders.