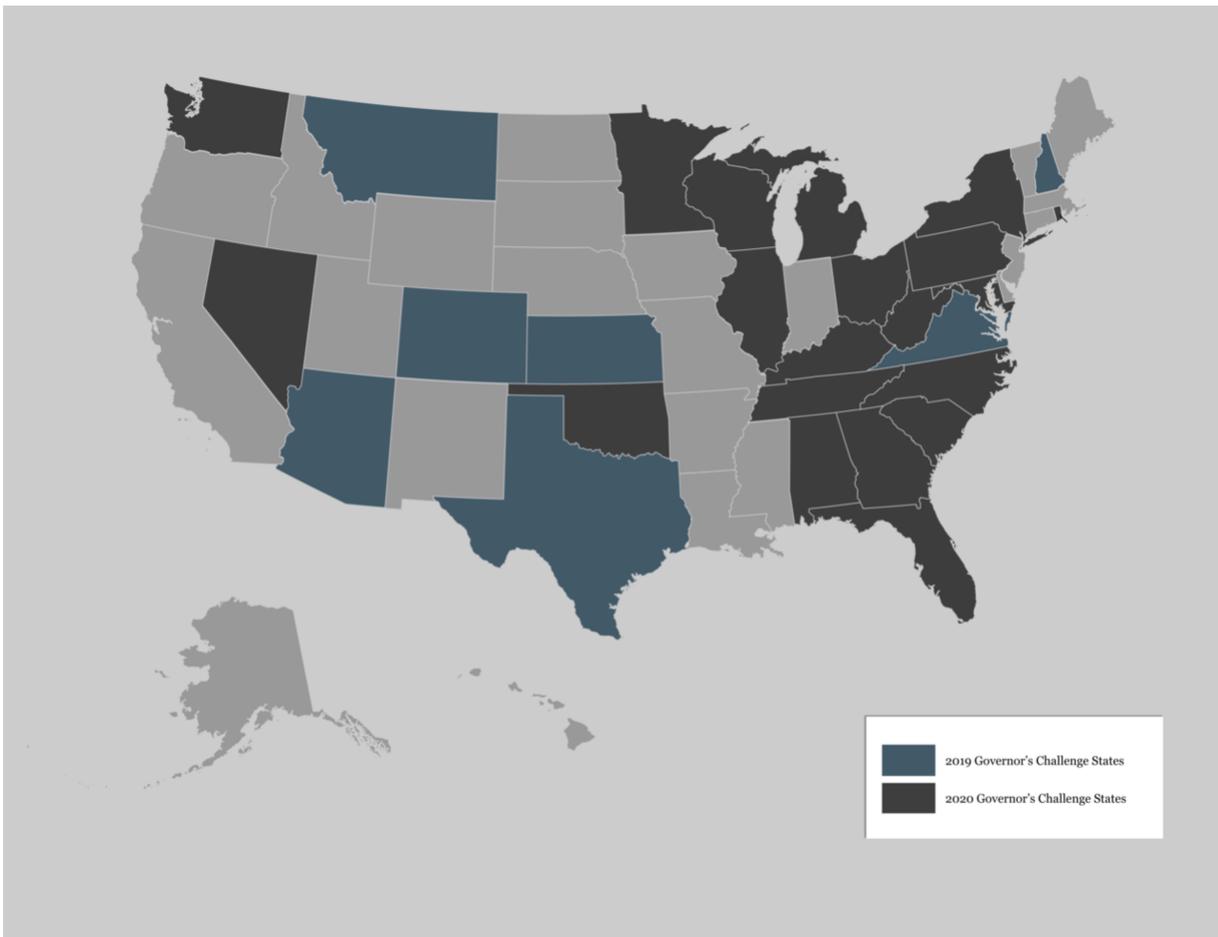




Spotlighting the Work of the Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Technical Assistance Center

November is National Veterans and Military Families Month, a time to honor the service and sacrifice of our service members, Veterans, and their families (SMVF). In recognition of Veterans and Military Families Month, PRA is honored to spotlight the SMVF Technical Assistance (TA) Center's impactful work in reducing suicide among SMVF.

In 2018, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), launched the [*Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among SMVF \(Governor's Challenge\)*](#), a national effort engaging states to implement suicide prevention policies and best practices for SMVF using a public-health approach. The SMVF TA Center was tasked with coordinating all TA components of the Governor's Challenge, to great success.



Participating Governor's Challenge States

As of September 2020, the SMVF TA Center has engaged 27 states in the Governor's Challenge through a four-phase Policy Academy process (preparation, planning, implementation, and follow-up and collaboration). As part of this process, engaged states develop strategic plans that advance VA's *National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide* and incorporate evidence-based strategies from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Preventing Suicide: A Technical Package of Policy, Programs, and Practices*. Participating states have centered their strategic plans around three priorities:

1. Identify SMVF and screen for suicide risk
2. Promote connectedness and improve care transitions
3. Increase lethal means safety and safety planning

Carrying out their mission, participating states have established robust, military and civilian cross-system teams committed to reducing suicide among SMVF. Key accomplishments from participating teams include implementing universal screening standards for military connection and suicide risk, identifying critical data elements to measure the outcomes of their efforts, and strengthening the crisis continuum of care.

In Fiscal Year 2020, 4 Governor's Challenge states piloted a community expansion model in 6 communities, localizing the statewide strategic plan for maximum community

efficacy. In Fiscal Year 2021, the SMVF TA Center hopes to engage 8 new states in the Governor's Challenge to continue to advance the goals of reducing suicide among SMVF.

Join us in celebrating the accomplishments of the SMVF TA Center and the participating states and communities in helping to save the lives of those who have served.

Dr. Lisa Callahan Wins American Psychiatric Association's Guttmacher Award

PRA Senior Research Associate Lisa Callahan, Ph.D., has been named a co-awardee of the American Psychiatric Association's (APA's) [2021 Manfred S. Guttmacher Award](#). The Manfred S. Guttmacher Award annually recognizes outstanding contributions to the literature of forensic psychiatry. The award is shared between Dr. Callahan and her co-author Debra Pinals, M.D., on two recently published articles addressing competence to stand trial:



Dr. Lisa Callahan, co-awardee of the 2021 Manfred S. Guttmacher award

- [Challenges to Reforming the Competence to Stand Trial and Competence Restoration System](#), which reviews the problems affecting the current competence to stand trial/competence restoration system and offers preliminary solutions.
- [Evaluation and Restoration of Competence to Stand Trial: Intercepting the Forensic System Using the Sequential Intercept Model](#), which explores how criminal justice and behavioral health stakeholders can use the Sequential Intercept Model to reduce jail stays and increase connections to community-based services for individuals with serious behavioral health conditions and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Drs. Callahan and Pinals will be publicly recognized during the [May 2021 APA Annual Meeting](#), where they will deliver an award lecture on their articles, the state of competence to stand trial/competence restoration, and notable advances.

Upon winning the award, Dr. Callahan remarked, "Winning the Guttmacher Award for our work on competence to stand trial underscores the importance of this issue and PRA's leadership in promoting the improvement of responses to people with serious mental illness in the criminal justice system, starting with Dr. Hank Steadman's ground-breaking work. Partnering with Dr. Deb Pinals has accelerated the implementation of solutions vexing many states and has been an enriching partnership that continues."

About the Manfred S. Guttmacher Award

The Manfred S. Guttmacher Award was established in 1975. It recognizes an outstanding contribution to the literature of forensic psychiatry in the form of a book, monograph, paper, or other work published or presented at a professional meeting between May 1 and April 30 of the award year cycle. The award is administered by the APA and co-sponsored by the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law.

Mentally Healthy Workplaces Podcast Series: Achieving Wellness Goals

PRA Well-Being is pleased to announce the final podcast in its four-part Mentally Healthy Workplaces series, developed in partnership with the Wellness Council of America (WELCOA). In this episode, *Achieving Wellness Goals*, WELCOA President Ryan Picarella gets down to wellness basics in a conversation with PRA's Dr. Crystal L. Brandow. Defining wellness and presenting WELCOA's definition of wellness, the two talk about the importance of employees' wellness goals and how organizations can support staff in achieving their wellness goals.



Employers are uniquely positioned to help their staff overcome several barriers to wellness, and those opportunities are discussed in this podcast.

This episode is now available on [iTunes](#), [Stitcher](#), and [SoundCloud](#)! To learn more about WELCOA, visit www.welcoa.org. For access to PRA's workplace wellness resources, visit www.prainc.com.

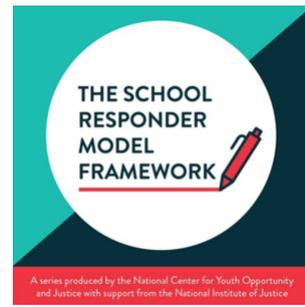
[Access the Episode and Transcript](#)

School Responder Model Podcast Series: The Framework and Positive Youth Development

The National Center for Youth Opportunity and Justice (NCYOJ) at Policy Research has released a podcast series designed to support schools and communities with the implementation of the School Responder Model Framework. This seven-episode series provides a holistic view of what is needed to implement a successful and robust school responder model. Highlighted this month are three episodes from the podcast—one on the framework and two on positive youth development.

The School Responder Model Framework

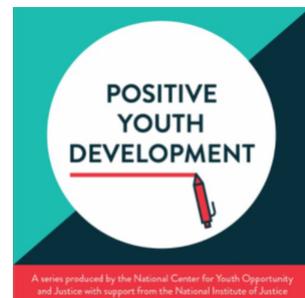
In this episode, Jacqui Greene, NCYOJ senior advisor, describes what a school responder model is. She shares some of the framework's history, details the benefits of this framework, and discusses what it means to transform school culture to support students with behavioral health conditions, address disproportionality and bias, and keep students in school and out of the juvenile system.



[Listen to the Framework Episode](#)

Positive Youth Development

Positive Youth Development (PYD) is a strengths-based framework that emphasizes building on the abilities, skills, and interests that a young person has and supporting youth in discovering and cultivating their identity. NCYOJ's Darren Cosgrove and Catherine Kramer describe the PYD framework and how it intersects with school responder model implementation in a two-part discussion. Part one explores strategies for enhancing opportunities for youth and for building collaborative relationships among youth and adults. Part two explores challenges and barriers related to implementing PYD, elements in schools and communities that can facilitate a strong PYD framework, and key principles of PYD.



[Listen to Part 1](#)

[Listen to Part 2](#)

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Upcoming Webinars

[Reporting From the Field on Competence to Stand Trial and
Competence Restoration: National Trends and Local Implementation
Strategies for Reducing Restoration Wait Times](#)

November 24, 2020, 2:00 p.m. ET
SAMHSA's GAINS Center

This webinar, hosted by SAMHSA's GAINS Center, will provide key information for participants to understand the current national landscape of competence to stand trial systems, including commonly experienced challenges to providing timely restoration and various models and settings to consider in providing restoration. Lessons learned from SAMHSA's GAINS Center's recent multistate collaborative learning project will be presented, including recommended implementation strategies across intercepts of the Sequential Intercept Model.

[N.O.T. J.A.I.L.—Exploring Alternatives to Incarceration](#)

December 4, 2020, 1:00 p.m. ET
Policy Research, Inc.

With support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's (MacArthur Foundation's) Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC), Policy Research, Inc. will host a webinar highlighting the Misdemeanor Mental Health Court (MMHC) in Georgia. It is the longest-running mental health court of its kind in Georgia and is now recognized as 1 of 43 certified adult mental health accountability courts in the state. This webinar will highlight how the MMHC incorporates fairness, equity, and inclusion for its participant base.

[Post-Webinar Discussion on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)

[Throughout the Intersection of Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health](#)

December 15, 2020, 1:00 p.m. ET
Policy Research, Inc.

With support from the MacArthur Foundation's SJC, Policy Research, Inc. will host a panel discussion to explore how criminal justice and behavioral health systems can advance diversity, equity, and inclusion. Menelik R. Alleyne, Esq., Georgia Department of Transportation's Equal Employment Opportunity Office; Jacqueline Bunn, Esq., Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles; and Michael Finley, W. Haywood Burns Institute, will serve as panelists.

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