

41st Annual InterCourt Conference



Session 1B:
Innovative Practices:
The Parent Project

March 13, 2025
10:45 a.m.—12:15 p.m.

Hilton Columbus at
Easton Town Center
Columbus, OH

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FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

NOAH ATKINSON joined Belmont County Juvenile Court in 2012 as the courts Bailiff. Since 2012, he has held many positions with the court such as CCAP Probation Officer-GPS Coordinator, CCAP Program Coordinator and in 2016 was promoted to the position of Director of CCAP. Prior to working for Belmont County Juvenile Court, Mr. Atkinson started his career in juvenile justice at the Belmont Harrison Juvenile District; where he served as the Deputy Director before joining the Belmont County Juvenile Court.

Mr. Atkinson received a Bachelor of Arts in Business from Muskingum University and completed the required coursework for teaching certification from West Liberty University. Noah is also a graduate of the National Association of Counties (NaCo) High Performance Leadership Academy. Noah currently serves as President of the Intercourt Conference Committee, serves on Ohio University Eastern's Coordinating Council, the Maternal and Child Health Advisory Group, Belmont County Coordination of Services Group and the Belmont County Multi Agency Planning Group.

KAREN GUERRIERI has worked in the human services and juvenile justice fields for over 20 years, serving as a corrections officer, programming specialist, case manager, counselor, and, currently, Clinical Supervisor in Mahoning County Juvenile Court's Clinical Services Department and Co-Chair of Stand Grow Thrive: Mahoning Resiliency Movement. As part of her therapeutic responsibilities, Karen provides individual, family, and group treatment services. She is an Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) trained therapist, a specialization for the treatment of trauma and related mental health diagnoses. Karen supervises and facilitates parenting education and support programming for parents of at-risk and justice involved youth. In addition to her service at Mahoning County Juvenile Court, Karen is an adjunct faculty member at Kent State University, with over 15 years of experience teaching in both the Human Services and Human Development and Family Studies programs. She has presented at numerous conferences/venues on topics of trauma and resiliency, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), suicide prevention and response, motivational interviewing, conflict resolution/de-escalation, parenting skills, parent-child relationships, assessment, advocacy, bullying prevention, diversity, gender-specific programming, and classroom management. Karen is particularly interested in the effects of trauma and adversity exposure on individual development and parenting, as well as the generational implications of adversity exposure.

TIFFANY WILSON is the Manager of the Fairfield County Family and Children First Council, where she oversees governance, fiscal and grant compliance, and the management of all council programs and initiatives. With a background in human services and extensive experience in program development and administration, Tiffany has dedicated her career to supporting families and children in her community.

Since joining the council in 2015, she has served as the Triple P parent education facilitator, Early Intervention contract manager, and Perinatal Cluster Coordinator. In these roles, she provided direct support to families, facilitated evidence-based parenting programs, conducted assessments, and ensured compliance with state and federal

guidelines. Her expertise extends to coordinating services for at-risk perinatal women and developing Plans of Safe Care to promote healthy pregnancies and early childhood development.

A skilled trainer and facilitator, Tiffany has taught a variety of parenting curricula, including Parent Project, Active Parenting, and Triple P. She is committed to strengthening community partnerships and improving service coordination to meet the needs of children and families.

Tiffany holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Services from Kaplan University and continues to advocate for family-centered services and effective multi-system collaboration.

Parent Project

Noah Atkinson

Director of CCAP

Belmont County Probate/Juvenile Court

Karen Guerrieri, LPCC/S, LICDC, SWA

Clinical Supervisor

Mahoning County Juvenile Court

Tiffany Wilson

Family and Children First Manager

Fairfield County Family and Children First Counsel



Innovative Practices: The Parent Project

Noah Atkinson
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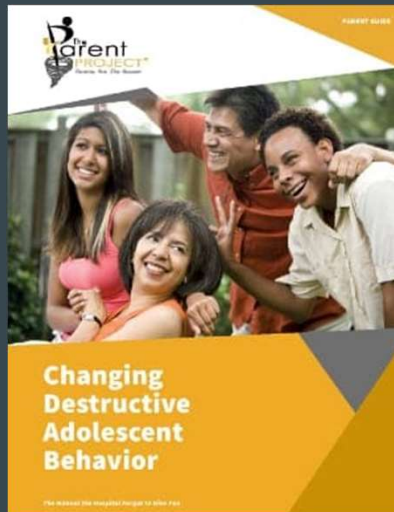
Karen E. Guerrieri, LPCC-S, LICDC, SWA
Clinical Supervisor
Mahoning County Juvenile Court

Tiffany Wilson
Manager
Fairfield County Family and Children First Council



The Parent Project®

A training program for parents of difficult or out-of-control children



History of the Parent Project®

- Started in 1987 in Southern California
- Authored by law enforcement, educators and mental health professionals.
- Served over half a million parents raising difficult children.
- Implemented in states across the US and in Barbados, Canada & Mexico.
- Implementing organizations include schools, law enforcement & probation, juvenile courts, mental health agencies, churches, and community based organizations at city, county and state levels.

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Parent Project®

- Offers strategies for prevention and intervention, with a focus on difficult child and adolescent behaviors.
- Utilizes a behavioral approach incorporating **lots of love and affection**, clear rules, appropriate structure, active supervision, and consistent use of positive and negative consequences.
- Incorporates skill building practice w/ added emotional and practical support for parents.

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Think back to when you were a teen?

- Who were your best friends?
- How did you like to spend your time?
- What music did you listen to?
- What household rules did you break?
- Did you break any laws?



If you weren't perfect....

Was it because you were bad???

Or, was it because you were young?

Parent Project Sr.

3 Parts: presented in 10 -16 week series

- Part I: Skill Building: *love and affection, influence vs. control, increasing positive behavior (school attendance & performance), decreasing negative behavior, increasing active supervision, decreasing risk factors*
- Part II: UCLA Self Help Support Group + Skill Refinement: *Finding help, communicating values/ standards, family unity, building positive self-concepts*
- Part III: Parent Led Support Groups: *On-going, parent led support groups*

Program Structure and Design

- Solution-focused
- Deals with even the most difficult acting-out adolescent behaviors
- Activity-based
- Community collaborative approach
- Provides parents: information, skill training, encouragement & practical/emotional support

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Solution focused

- Helps parents prioritize misbehavior: let it go; negotiable; no way (*Zero Tolerance Behavior*)
- Targets highest-risk behaviors first
- Brainstorm possible reactions from their child
- Develop a plan: sharing the rule, supervising the rule, providing positive & negative consequences consistently, supporting success
- Strengthens protective factors & reduces the impact of negative factors (*change environment*)

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Deals with the MOST difficult acting-out behavior

- Family Conflict
- Poor School Attendance & Performance
- Early Teen Sexuality
- Alcohol & Other Drug Use
- Gang Involvement
- Run Away (threats and action)
- Violent Behavior
- Suicide (threats and attempts)

Activity-based

- Designed using current adult learning methodology (cooperative learning).
- Takes parents from reviewing new ideas, through skill practice, to practical application.
- Encourages home practice of new skills (In parenting, learning means nothing without application!)

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Community Collaborative

- Players include: Schools, Law Enforcement, Juvenile Justice, Mental Health, Public & Community-Based Youth & Family Organizations, Spiritual-Based, Businesses & Families
- Successful implementation invites other professionals to share their expertise.
- Works best with a “go to person”.

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Provides Information, Skill Training, Encouragement, & Practical & Emotional Support

- Explores the impact of trauma exposure on development and behavior.
- Discusses risks related to technology and social media, providing practical strategies for monitoring and reducing risks.
- Identifies three stages of drug use (abstinence, experimentation, addiction) and appropriate intervention strategies.
- Helps parents design & practice a conversation with their child about drug use and other high risk behaviors.
- Encourages parents to think about their child's response and to develop a plan including: active supervision, positive and negative consequences and follow through
- Asks parents to do it! (Home Practice)

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What you can expect?

- Parents generally aren't thrilled about the order/referral.
- But when quality information is combined with supportive delivery, they're typically sad when the group ends.

Law Enforcement

The four factors that lead a child to a life of crime:

1. Lack of discipline,
2. lack of supervision,
3. negative peer influence, &
4. lack of demonstrated love & affection.

~ James Q. Wilson

Crime and Human Nature

Collaborations Strengthen Programming Delivery



Belmont County

By improving parenting through the use of established teaching methods and interventions we are able to increase the possibility of a child's success in their home, in their schools and in their lives. The Parent Project program provides the Court with that opportunity and we have seen many successful results through the use of the program.

The Parent Project program is an excellent way to provide that assistance and help to the parents and we will continue to utilize the program and certainly recognize the benefits of the same. Proving parenting through the use of established teaching methods and interventions we are able to increase the possibility of a child's success in their home, in their schools and in their lives. The Parent Project program provides the Court with that opportunity and we have seen many successful results through the use of the program.

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Judge Al Davies

Belmont County, Ohio, Probate/Juvenile Division

Parent Project in Belmont County

- 10-week program held every Spring and Fall virtually via Zoom
- Total of 184 parents served since starting in 2019
- 92% successfully completed
- 33% child recidivism rate after parents complete the class
- Parents are court ordered
 - Referrals can be made by schools, counseling agencies, etc.
 - Includes neighboring county - Harrison County

Belmont/Harrison County Parent Testimonials

- I really appreciate everything that was done in all these classes. This has helped me and I will be using everything I can from this book.
- I recommend this to any and all parents. There's something in there for everyone and a lot of things are covered about families going through hard times with their teenagers.
- I found out I'm not alone...

Parent Project in Mahoning County

- Initially part of a pilot program bringing Parent Project to Ohio.
 - 19 professionals representing various levels of multiple sectors were trained and groups were offered in four locations across the county.
- Funded through ODYS RECLAIM grant.
- 10-week program held in 4 cycles per year (winter, spring, summer, fall).
- Hybrid delivery allowing parents to join virtually via Zoom or participate in person.

Parent Project in Mahoning County

- Referrals may be court ordered, court recommended, community agency recommended, or self-referred.
- Majority of referrals come from outside of the Court.
- Data since 2019:
 - 148 youth served. (ODYS tracks youth outcome data even though the parent receives the service.)
 - 70 % of parents/caregivers successfully complete.
 - 92 % of youth achieve 6 month outcome objective of incurring no new charges within 6 months of parent/ caregiver participation.

Mahoning County Parent Testimonials

- “This was a very eye opening experience and it provide some very useful resources & tools to help make a different in my grandson’s life.”
- “I am so glad and encouraged that I took this class. It truly made me feel that I’m not alone.”
- “Parent project is a great program. I learned more strategies to deal with my ODD daughter. Thank you all.”

Parent Project in Fairfield County

- 10-week program held in-person every Spring and Fall
- The Parent Project program is offered alongside Mentor Academy, allowing parents to attend parenting sessions while their children participate in a values-based youth program at the same time and location.
- Includes dinner for both parents and youth
- Includes transportation assistance if needed.
- Funded by the Fairfield County ADAMH

Parent Project in Fairfield County

- Started in 2007, supporting parents in Fairfield County for over 15 years
- Referrals are a mixture of court ordered, court or protective services recommended, community agency recommended, or self-referred
- Data since 2007
 - Total of 481 parents/guardians served
 - 90% of parents Increased in Family Functioning and Knowledge of Parenting

Fairfield County Parent Testimonials

- “I would recommend this class to every parent. The tools and resources we were given have worked wonders with my boys. Thank you Parent Project!!”
- “I’ve learned to listen and prepare myself for tough conversations that used to be too emotional. I feel much stronger in my parenting skills.”
- “Knowing that I wasn’t alone with my problems was very helpful. Every chapter in this program has taught me something and I am very grateful for having this experience.”
- “I have learned to listen and ways to respond to my son that don’t result in a yelling match. Thank you for all the time and effort you put into this program.”

Parent Project® Facilitator Training

- Training required to teach the course
- Training offered virtually
- 5 days, for 4 hours each day; with optional 6th day offered.
 - Optional 6th day delves into fostering collaboration and securing funding
- Cost is \$695 and includes: teacher guide, access to Parent Project Facilitator Portal (PowerPoints and videos), additional technical and supportive resources and assistance

Who makes the best facilitators?

- Heart for families, (more important than credentials)
- Both genders
- Inter Agency (work off strengths)
- Passion for kids!

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