

“Our training collaborative with the Juvenile Justice Center played a major role in this agency winning two prestigious awards. We have seen a drop in the number of confrontations with our officers, a vast increase of support from the community for our work, and a reduction in the number of arrests.”

Chief Joseph Carter, MBTA Transit Police, APTA Winner, Innovation Award 2005, IACP Webber-Seavey Award Semi-Finalist 2005, Commonwealth Citation for Outstanding Performance 2005

“This training has made us understand some kids’ behaviors a lot better, and it showed us how to get through to some kids we just couldn’t figure out.”

We also learned a lot from each other, and remembered what we were like as kids, and thought twice about just how different kids are today, or aren’t.”

MBTA Transit Police Officer

“All of the individuals with whom I spoke believe that the training program was an important step in fostering better relationships between MBTA police and the community.”

Dr. Ed Snajdr, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 2005

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New Approaches to Police and Youth Interactions

*A training program offered by
The Juvenile Justice Center of
Suffolk University Law School*

SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL'S JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

works to provide excellence in juvenile justice, public advocacy and training initiatives for professionals working with youth.

At a time where there is a nationwide emphasis on the importance of communication, and a dedication to excellence in law enforcement, Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney's 2004 Criminal Justice Innovations Final Report confirms,

"New training and professional development programs need to prepare all criminal justice personnel to be more analytic and to solve complex problems, to be effective communicators and aware of cultural differences ..."

The JJC's collaborative training program provides direct support to police departments in their commitment to positive police and youth partnerships.

The Program

The JJC training strengthens relations among law enforcement peers, and promotes departmental integrity and commitment to the community. It offers insight into how cultural differences may unintentionally create conflict between youth and officers.

The JJC's training collaborative with the MBTA Transit Police in conjunction with the Department's "Stop Watch" program, resulted in a significant drop in the number of youth and police confrontations.



New Approaches to Police and Youth Interactions Training

- improves interactions between police and youth;
- provides strategies and hands-on training to assert police authority while reducing conflicts with youth;
- increases public trust and confidence; and
- provides a forum for officers to learn from highly skilled colleagues and adolescent development experts.

The JJC training package includes

- a customized assessment of police and youth issues facing your department;
- intensive training sessions focused on departmental regulations and juvenile justice case law;
- an analysis of the cultural and psychological factors affecting youth; and
- demonstrations of effective techniques for positive interactions with youth.

Police Department Benefits

The program

- delivers a customized assessment of police and youth issues facing your department;
- provides intensive training sessions covering departmental regulations and juvenile justice case law;
- provides a cultural and psychological analysis of the youth your department serves; and
- demonstrates approaches to handling school-based conflicts.

Police Officers Benefits

The program

- provides skills, language, and insights that help reduce officers' stress in approaching youth;
- shows officers ways of developing respectful relationships with youths;
- allows officers to learn conflict resolution designed for teens from skilled colleagues and adolescent development experts; and
- teaches "ice-breaking" techniques for hard-to-reach youth.

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