

Good morning,

Please see below for information and resources related to your work with older youth:

- YAB Website Resources Highlight <https://www.payab.pitt.edu/Resources-Money.htm>
- The 412 Youth Zone Podcast
- Youth Opportunity to Share Talents Through Digital Art
- Strong Minds Advocacy Council
- Youth Move PA
- SOGIE Resource Guide

YAB Website Resources Highlight <https://www.payab.pitt.edu/Resources-Money.htm>



As the school year comes to a close in May, **Playspent** serves as a timely and meaningful resource for young people preparing for adulthood, graduation, college, and increased financial independence. This interactive game places players in realistic financial scenarios, mirroring the everyday decisions many youth are beginning to face.

Featuring **Spent** on the YAB website encourages young people to explore real world budgeting, understand financial tradeoffs, and reflect on economic challenges during a critical period of transition. Engaging, accessible, and highly relevant, it is a strong educational tool that supports financial awareness and decision-making for youth at this important stage.

The 412 Youth Zone Podcast

Auberle's 412 Youth Zone was developed in partnership with the Allegheny County Department of Human Services and provides Independent Living resources to young adults ages 16-23 who are transitioning out of the foster care system or are facing unstable housing in their transition to adulthood.

<https://412youthzonepodcast.libsyn.com/>

Youth Opportunity to Share Talents Through Digital Art

VOCE

Lights, Camera, Action! Do you know of a creative foster/adoptive youth willing to share their talent through digital art. A photo or file submitted can showcase a variety of creations: visual arts and photography, pottery, sculpture, and jewelry design, can be shared with the attendees of the 34th Annual Pennsylvania Permanency Conference at the Kalahari!

The SWAN Conference planning committee is looking to showcase youth talents during the opening session. The session is meant to inspire professionals, families, and advocates who work with children and families across Pennsylvania.

If interested, please complete the attached form <https://cvent.me/e93zYz> and submit along with digital art by **May 22, 2026**.

We look forward to showcasing our talented youth.



Strong Minds Advocacy Council:

STRONG MINDS ADVOCACY COUNCIL

FOR YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS 14-25

**ADVOCATE.
LEAD.
INFLUENCE.**

**USE YOUR LIVED EXPERIENCE
AND SHAPE REAL CHANGE IN
THE YOUTH-SERVING SYSTEM**



REGISTER FOR THE
STRONG MINDS
ADVISORY COUNCIL BY
TAPPING THIS LINK OR
SCANNING THE QR
CODE



www.strongsminds.org

Strong Minds,
Bright Futures

A Partnership for Child
Mental Wellbeing



**APPLICATIONS DUE BY
MAY 29TH**



The Strong Minds Bright Futures Youth Advocacy Council is a chance for young people to use lived experience to shape real change in Pennsylvania's youth mental health system. Council members will advocate, lead, and influence policies and programs that affect young people's mental health and wellbeing. Applications are due May 29th. Please share this opportunity with student advocates, youth leaders, and young people in your networks who might be interested. You can learn more and [apply here](#).

Questions - Contact [Kate Fox](#)

Youth MOVE PA



6th Annual Wellness Days REGISTER TODAY



Events

From music and speakers to balloon art, face painting, food trucks, a bouncy house, arts & crafts, and even first responders—Wellness Days has something for everyone!



For All Ages

From kids to caregivers, Wellness Days offers fun and meaningful events for all ages and community members!



Partners & Sponsors

Wellness Days will be hosted in collaboration with Luzerne-Wyoming Counties MH-DS, Youth MOVE Revolution, AMI Inc., Carelon BH, CABHC, The Bradley Center, Nice Ink Tattoo Shop, and White Deer Run. CCBH, Lincoln Manufacturing Inc.



Sponsorship & Tabling

Interested in becoming an official event sponsor or tabling at Wellness Days this year? Please [CLICK THIS LINK](#) or scan the QR code below.



Strength Sparks Wellness

Every spark of strength creates a brighter journey toward wellness

Registration

This summer, Wellness Days is coming to two exciting locations! Register online by scanning the QR code or [TAPPING THIS LINK](#) to secure your spot.



Stone Pavillion
Washington Park,
Washington, PA

July 11, 2026

11am-3pm

Kirby Park,
Wilkes-Barre, PA

July 25, 2026

11am-3pm

Got questions about Wellness Days? Reach out anytime at ympa@youthmovepa.org—we're here to help!

717-221-1022
 ympa@youthmovepa.org
 https://linktr.ee/youth_movepa
 <https://www.pmhca.org/>

Youth MOVE PA is proud to present [Wellness Days 2026](#), marking the sixth year of this powerful annual celebration designed to uplift youth voices, expand access to resources, and strengthen community partnerships across Pennsylvania.

Hosted under the theme **“Strength Sparks Wellness,”** this free summer event series brings together youth, families, and service providers in welcoming spaces focused on joy, resilience, and mental health connection.

SOGIE Resource Guide

Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth in Juvenile Justice

Why This Matters?

LGBTQ+ youth in the juvenile justice system often face unique responsibility factors and challenges. Some experience family rejection, bullying, harassment, and higher rates of trauma. These experiences can affect behavior, compliance, and overall well-being. When juvenile probation officers are equipped with best practices, education, and training, they can build trust, reduce harm, and promote positive outcomes.



Youth with one accepting adult decreases their risk of suicide by 40%.¹

Among LGBTQ young people who disclosed their sexual orientation to an adult, almost 9 in 10 (88%) reported that at least one adult was accepting of their sexual orientation.

Of those without an accepting adult, nearly 19% reported a suicide attempt in the past year, compared to 14% with at least one accepting adult.²

Keys to SUCCESS

- Use the youth's chosen **name and pronouns**.
- Keep identity-related information **confidential** unless the youth gives permission to disclose.
- Use **Motivational Interviewing**, ask **open-ended, respectful questions about support and needs**.
- Connect youth with **affirming services** (counselors, mentors, community programs).
- Address behaviors**, not identity and focus on strengths and protective factors.
- Document gender identity information in PaJCMS to **capture data to improve best practices**.
- Check in regularly about the youth's **safety at home, school, and community placements**.
- When in **doubt, respectfully ask**.

Barriers to SUCCESS

- Assume** or assign gender, pronouns, or sexual orientation.
- Share SOGIE information** with parents, peers, or courts **without the youth's consent**.
- Use language that **minimizes or dismisses identity-related concerns**.
- Ignore harassment, bullying, or rejection** that could impact probation compliance.
- Treat LGBTQ+ youth as **“special cases”** rather than **youth with unique responsibility factors**.

¹ The Trevor Project. (2019). National Survey on LGBTQ Mental Health. New York, New York: The Trevor Project.

² The Trevor Project. (2023). Acceptance from adults is associated with lower rates of suicide attempts among LGBTQ young people. <https://trevorproject.org/10.7326/2023.09.02>



The SOGIE (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression) Committee, an ad hoc committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, is pleased to present the SOGIE Resource Guide and Infographic, developed to support juvenile probation officers in their daily work with LGBTQ+ youth and their families. The goal of both of these documents is simple: to provide juvenile probation officers with knowledge and education on all things SOGIE, increase rapport-building, foster professional alliances, and ensure juvenile probation officers are better informed and prepared when working with LGBTQ+ youth.

Additionally, these documents will equip juvenile probation officers with practical skills and resources related to gender identity and inclusion within the juvenile justice system. In doing so, the hope is that this increased knowledge of the LGBTQ+ population will enable better decision-making regarding interventions and placements to best serve the needs of LGBTQ+ youth. Moreover, this guide is aligned with key components of Balanced and

Restorative Justice (BARJ) and the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES), risk-need-responsivity (RNR) principles, and trauma-informed care.

Please take a moment to review the [attached resources](#). The documents are also listed on the PCCJPO website, under the "JJSES Resources" navigational item.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the SOGIE committee's regional representatives (listed within the SOGIE Resource Guide and infographic) or the SOGIE Committee Chair, Barbara D. Dancy, at bdancy@berkspa.gov.

Have a great weekend.

Thanks,