



Greetings to All from Canton, Ohio. My name is Joe Mongold. I have the honor and privilege to serve you, and the youth of the State of Ohio, as President of The Ohio Police Juvenile Officers' Association. It is a responsibility that I do not take lightly and I promise you that I will serve to the best of my ability. I have worked in Law Enforcement for 24 years and I am currently assigned to the City of Canton Juvenile Detective Bureau. I am responsible for investigating physical and sexual abuse cases involving children. It is my hope and prayer that this newsletter finds you and yours doing well.

The OPJOA was established in 1961 with the purpose of fostering the best practices and procedures for those who serve the juveniles of our State and investigate those who commit offenses against them. I can ensure you that the OPJOA and its Board of Directors are committed to this vision. The OPJOA is comprised of Officers and Associate Members from across the State. We realize that providing care and services for our State's youth requires a holistic, team approach from dedicated individuals serving in multiple disciplines. It is our objective to serve the youth of our State by providing our members with the most up to date and relevant training available.

In early May of 2016, we gathered in Worthington, Ohio for our 55th annual training conference. I would like to thank Officers L.A. Kelly and Ryan Southers of the New Albany Police Department for hosting an outstanding conference. Their dedication and commitment to the OPJOA and its mission led to another successful event. The 2016 conference brought us training on topics such as social media, the opiate epidemic, and graffiti as well as more technical issues such as interstate juvenile compacts, fraud and drug and alcohol enforcement issues. We were challenged by presentations on diversity in the Muslim culture and youth and police interactions. I hope that all in attendance have had the opportunity to utilize new skills learned while at the conference.

All of us have made the choice to dedicate our careers to the youth of our communities and State. With this choice comes a heavy burden and responsibility. Whether you work directly in juvenile law enforcement or in another one of our partner disciplines, you are charged with protecting, developing and shaping the future of our Country. Every contact and interaction we have with a young person shapes the way they look at and perceive those of us in positions of "authority". What we may perceive as just another day at work, may in fact be a pivotal moment in the life of a child. It is our goal as an organization to equip you with the tools and skills you need to make each one of those interactions a success.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2017, 56th annual, training conference May 2-5 at The Radisson Hotel located in Eastlake, Ohio. This year's host agency is the Eastlake Police Department, more details and a training schedule to follow soon. Till then, remember it is our responsibility to stand for those who cannot stand for themselves, and to be the voice for those who have none.

Be Safe and God bless,
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A WORD FROM OUR PAST PRESIDENT



Dear Colleagues,

During the OPJOA Training Conference that took place in May, in Columbus, my term as President of the association ended. I would like to warmly thank you for your support and trust over the past couple of years. I do believe we achieved a great deal together.

We have established a much broader membership and increased the amount of participation in our training conferences. In addition we have established training partnerships with the Ohio Attorney General's Office and the Ohio Department of Youth Services continuing our success in being the top member on the Board of Directors as Past President contributing my effort to carry on the vision of the OPJOA. I am a firm believer that we play a pivotal role in influencing delinquent juveniles to becoming law abiding members of society. I will continue to be a participating member of the OPJOA and am proud to stand together as we guide these youth.

I pass on the presidency to the capable hands of Detective Joe Mongold of the Canton Police Department and wish him well with every possible success for the future.

Last but not least I would like to thank the OPJOA Board of Directors that worked with me tirelessly during my tenure. Without their support and dedication, all these achievements would not be possible.

Best Wishes,

Jason Marvin

OPJOA Past President

HELPING KIDS DEAL:

Published results confirm that symptoms of anxiety and depression have increased for teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimate that in 2014, over 12 percent of teens in the United States experienced at least one major depressive episode, as compared to 5 percent of teens in 2006. Depression, anxiety and other mental health symptoms such as psychosis can interfere with a juvenile's ability to think logically, concentrate, make clear decisions or communicate feelings directly. Any one of the mental health symptoms can be exhausting, causing agitation and frustration throughout the day or night.

Symptoms can interfere with academic, social and family life as well as basic functions such as eating and sleeping. Severe symptoms, if left untreated, can cause chronic negative thinking, hopelessness and irritability. Irritability can build up, causing the teen to lash out aggressively toward others (face-to-face or online), or engage in self-harming behaviors. A recent Seattle Children's Hospital study quantified an increase in self-harm searches by collecting data from Instagram related to searches for the hashtag, #selfharmmm. Findings indicate that searches for this hashtag increased from 1.7 million in 2014 to over 2.4 million in 2015.

Given the prevalence of mental illness of teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17, it is likely that police officers will encounter such individuals during a traffic stop or a domestic dispute. In addition, officers may interact with these individuals when they are deemed possible witnesses to or suspects of a crime. Individuals suffering with symptoms of mental illness pose a complex challenge to police because their symptoms often prevent them from understanding or responding rationally to questions or directions. Irrational thinking may result in criminal behavior, self-harm or a threat to the police officer and others. Crisis de-escalation techniques can be helpful when engaging with juveniles experiencing symptoms of mental illness. Techniques used to "calm down," "slow down" or "disengage" can be effective.

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Youth Suicide Teen Statistics

Thousands of teens commit suicide each year in the United States. In fact, **suicide is the third leading cause of death** for 15- to 24-year-olds.

Suicide does not just happen. Studies show that at least 90% of teens who kill themselves have some type of mental health problem, such as depression, anxiety, drug or alcohol abuse, or a behavior problem. They may also have problems at school or with friends or family, or a combination of all these things. Some teens may have been victims of sexual or physical abuse. Others may be struggling with issues related to sexual identity. Usually they have had problems for some time.

Most teens do not spend a long time planning to kill themselves. They may have thought about it or tried it in the past but only decide to do it after an event that produces feelings of failure or loss, such as getting in trouble, having an argument, breaking up with a partner, or receiving a bad grade on a test.

Most teens who kill themselves have a mood disorder (bipolar disorder or depression). A mood disorder is an illness of the brain. A mood disorder can come on suddenly or can be present on and off for most of a teen's life. A teen with a mood disorder may be in one mood for weeks or months or may flip rapidly from one feeling to another.

Teens with bipolar disorder, also called manic depression, may change between mania (angry or very happy), depression (sad or crabby), and euthymic (normal mood). Some teens have more mania, some have more depression, and some seem normal much of the time. Mania and depression can happen at the same time. This is called a mixed state.

Teens in a manic or a mixed state may:

- Strongly overreact when things do not go their way
- Become hyper, agitated, or aggressive
- Be overwhelmed with thoughts or feelings
- Sleep less
- Talk a lot more
- Act in impulsive or dangerous ways
- Feel they can do things they really can't
- Spend money they do not have or give things away

Insist on unrealistic plans for themselves or others

Teens with depression may:

- Feel sad, down, or irritable, or not feel like doing things
- Have a change in sleeping or eating habits
- Feel guilty, worthless, or hopeless
- Have less energy, or have more difficulty paying attention
- Feel lonely, get easily upset, or talk about wanting to be dead. Lose interest in things they used to enjoy.

Mood disorders can be treated. Ask your teen's doctor about treatment resources. Recent declines in teen suicide may be due to an increase in early detection, evaluation, and effective treatment of mood disorders.

Last Updated

10/18/2016

Time to Take the Survey!!!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z3LNPCT>

Copy and paste the link into your browser to cast your vote!! Do we keep the Conference in the first week of May..... or do we change it???

OUR 2017 TRAINING HOST

I attended my first OPJOA conference five years ago and I was so impressed by the guest speakers and staff, that I have returned every year since and will continue to attend throughout my career. It was surprising to me how much planning and co-ordination that the OPJOA go through to put on these conferences.

As time changes, so do the needs, tendencies, and behaviors of juveniles. OPJOA staff recognizes these changes and recruits speakers who are experts on these current, diverse topics. The city of Eastlake manages six schools with two full time school resource officers and three DARE officers. OPJOA provides crucial information not only to the SRO, but to all officers who deal with juveniles throughout their career.

Its an honor for Eastlake to be the host of this years conference in North East Ohio. I'm looking forward to seeing all the great people I've met at past conferences and making new contacts with future attendees. This is an exceptional training conference that I would recommend to all law enforcement officers, social workers, and school staff--Its Well Worth It!!
Thanks again and see everyone in May.

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OPJOA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Each year the OPJOA awards the “Memorial Scholarship”. Any active member of the OPJOA whose child is a graduating senior who will be attending an accredited college or university may apply to receive the scholarship. The applicant must fill out the application along with a 100 word essay that describes his/her goals in life and reasons for choosing their intended field of study.

The 2016 Scholarship award winner was:

Abby E. Vinson of Bellville. The proud O.P.J.O.A. parent is Anne Strouth who is an active member of the O.P.J.O.A. and a current board member. Abby will be attending North Central State College to attain her Associate Degree in Social Work and will then transfer to The Ohio State University to finish her Bachelor’s degree in Social Work.

Congratulations Abby for receiving our Scholarship Award!



2016 OPJOA Banquet Speaker

Every year we try to bring in a speaker that is entertaining, inspirational and ends our dinner banquet with a bang!. Bob Welsh did just that. He combined a true sense of humor that Law Enforcement and Social Workers can relate. He is a retired Ohio State Trooper with 29 years of service and has brought his message to hundreds of people. He relates stories of his life as a man, husband, father, trooper into poems that will leave you with a tear followed by a belly laugh.



**NO AMOUNT OF LAW
ENFORCEMENT CAN
SOLVE A PROBLEM
THAT GOES BACK TO
FAMILY.**

J. Edgar Hoover

The 2016 Phillip B. Huss Memorial Friendship Award

Phil Huss was a member of the Fremont Police Department for 30 years (1948-1978). A majority of those years were devoted to working with the youth in his community. He spent the last seventeen years of his career as the department's juvenile officer. He was a dedicated member of the OPJOA and each day of his life exemplified the objectives of our association. Phil Huss died August 27th, 1993, and in memory to all he meant to this association and the youth of Ohio, the memorial is named in his honor.

The 2016 Phillip Huss Award recipient was Laura Wade (Martin) Laura Martin graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice in 1989. Since graduating, Laura has accumulated over 20 years of experience working with children in a variety of careers. She started her career as a Juvenile Probation Officer for Cuyahoga County where she became a gang specialist. After 5 years she left to start her own family and has three children. In 2001, she then moved on to become a Youth Worker for the Police Department in Hudson, Ohio. While working for Hudson, Laura became acquainted with OPJOA and has been a member since. After relocating from the Kent area in 2004 and marrying Sam, Laura began working for North Central State College teaching in the Human Services field as an Adjunct Professor. In 2005 Laura then moved to Richland County Children Services and began her career as a Social Worker full time. Laura then spent 8 years in Knox County as a full time Social Worker in their ongoing unit, working with children in permanent custody and assisting in adoptions. After meeting Chris, remarrying and relocating, Laura is now working at Licking County Children Services as an Investigator in their Intake unit. Laura and Chris currently live in Hebron, Ohio and enjoy a variety of activities together including travelling, riding their Harley and four-wheeling.

**THE FUNCTION OF
EDUCATION IS TO
TEACH ONE TO THINK
INTENSIVELY AND TO
THINK CRITICALLY.
INTELLIGENCE PLUS
CHARACTER - THAT
IS THE GOAL OF TRUE
EDUCATION.**

Martin Luther King, Jr.



“Calming Down”

Tempering emotions is more difficult in a crisis than intensifying the emotions of those involved in a crisis situation. *After scene safety has been established and all involved are physically controlled*, approach calmly. Approaching the situation with a calm and controlled tone (as opposed to yelling or taking a commanding stance) may help calm the angry, agitated and emotionally charged juvenile. Remaining calm enables the officer to ask questions, give simple directions and observe how the juvenile responds to the officer, assessing how well the teen can communicate, follow directions and comprehend the situation.

Verbal cues can calm an agitated individual experiencing a mental health crisis. Here are two examples:

1. A juvenile who is kicking or hitting something

(Officer): “There is no reason to kick the wall, because I’m here to listen.”

Active listening can slowly help the juvenile calm down, gain some control and realize the officer is willing to listen. Often this individual just wants to be heard. Let the juvenile vent and keep in mind that what they say is not a personal attack against you.

2. A juvenile who is experiencing auditory hallucinations (hearing voices)

(Officer): “It’s OK ... I’m here to help. I need you to listen to *my* voice.”

Asking the juvenile to focus on your voice instead of the ones the juvenile is hearing in his or her head may help the young person focus, concentrate and see that you are real. Focusing on one voice often diminishes fear, while alleviating confusion created by psychotic episodes, until medical help arrives at the scene. Keep your radio at a low volume so the sounds and additional voices heard over the speaker does not add to the confusion.

“Slowing Down”

Crisis situations are intense and can become dangerous. Slowing down buys time. Time helps officers evaluate the situation rather than box themselves into a highly charged incident with only seconds to make a critical judgment. Slowing an incident down increases the safety of all officers involved, even if hands-on-tactics are utilized. Calling for backup within the first 15 minutes of a crisis helps to avoid the tendency to think that immediate action must be taken to resolve a situation. Time allows officers to observe mental health symptoms such as thought confusion, self-harming behaviors, tremors and/or repetitive physical behaviors such as rocking, hand-flapping and eye-blinking, all commonly related to autism or other developmental disorders.

“Tactical Disengagement”

Not all situations require police action. When there are no signs of hostility or aggressiveness, a situation can be resolved without making an arrest. Using his or her discretion, the officer can decide whether the juvenile has calmed down and cooperated. Upon determining that the individual is safe and the situation is under control, the officer can complete the de-escalation process by reassuring the juvenile and then simply walking away.

Utilizing de-escalation techniques in a mental-health crisis situation (when possible) can help to avoid officer injuries, or injuries to the juvenile and others involved.

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