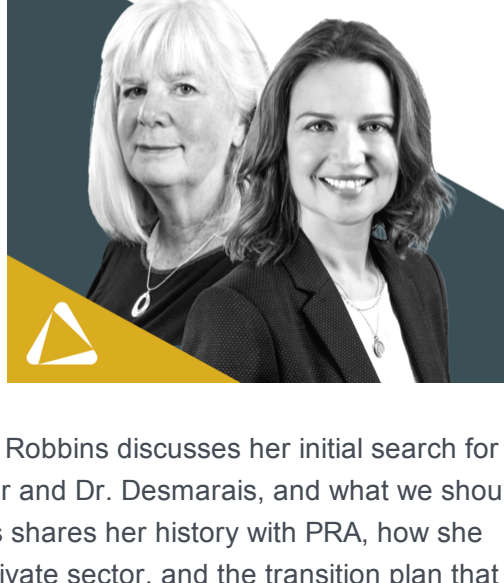




## New Podcast Mini-Series! Conversations on Leadership

A new podcast mini-series produced by Policy Research, titled *Conversations on Leadership*, explores the firm's upcoming leadership transition. In May 2022, Senior Vice President Sarah Desmarais, PhD, will become the firm's President; current President Pamela Clark Robbins will retire in December 2022. In three episodes, *Conversations on Leadership* explores the upcoming transition, the evolution of PRA over the past 35 years, and what the future holds for the two leaders and the organization.



In "Episode 1: The Leadership Transition," Ms. Robbins discusses her initial search for a successor, the early conversations between her and Dr. Desmarais, and what we should expect over the coming months. Dr. Desmarais shares her history with PRA, how she felt about transitioning from academia to the private sector, and the transition plan that the two have worked hand-in-hand to develop.

This 20-minute episode is available for streaming on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Stitcher](#), and [SoundCloud](#). The two additional episodes in this series, which cover the future of PRA and Ms. Robbin's reflections on PRA's 35-year history, will be released every other week for the next month.

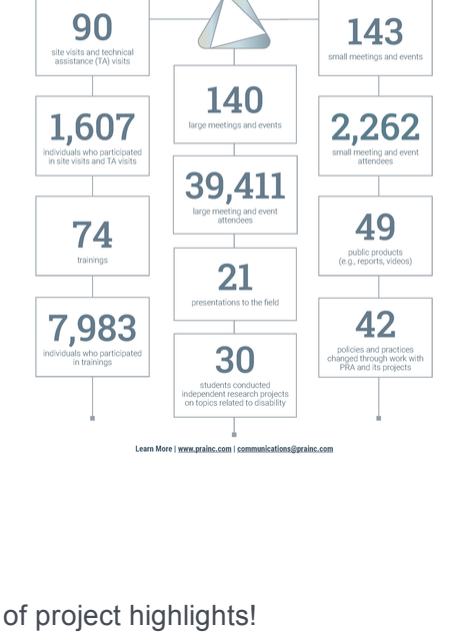
[Listen to Episode One](#)

[Read the Transcript](#)

## PRA Impact Report: 2021

Policy Research is pleased to release its 2021 annual impact report to the field. This annual impact report provides a quantitative look at the events, trainings, meetings, presentations, and products Policy Research delivered throughout 2021. Highlights of the past year include the following:

- Influenced 42 policy and practice changes among state, county, and local agencies
- Held 74 trainings, which trained 7,983 people
- Delivered 21 presentations to the field
- Hosted 283 meetings and events with 41,673 attendees
- Facilitated 90 site visits and technical assistance visits with 1,607 attendees



Read the 2021 annual impact report for our full list of project highlights!

[Download the Impact Report](#)

## New Article Co-authored by Sarah Desmarais Explores Methods to Shift Public Attitudes About Incarceration

Changing public perception of people involved in the criminal legal system is necessary to address mass incarceration throughout the United States. A new article co-authored by Policy Research Senior Vice President Sarah Desmarais, PhD, examines whether public opinion can be shifted through brief, online education.

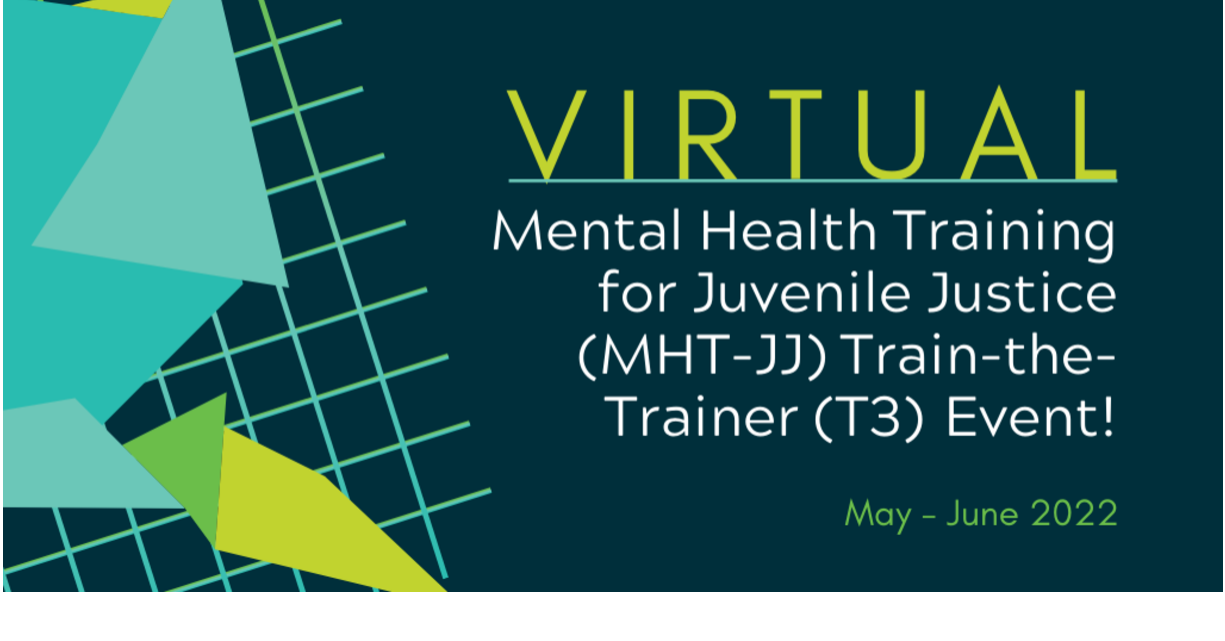


The researchers studied whether educating participants about the effects of traumatic events changed their opinions on incarceration and sentencing alternatives. They also examined the amplification potential of growth-mindset messaging. Through their analyses, the researchers found that trauma education caused participants to exhibit greater support for alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent crimes. Further, trauma education enhanced with growth-mindset messaging caused participants to exhibit greater support for sentencing alternatives in violent crimes.

The researchers conclude that growth mindset-enhanced trauma education could be a viable strategy for changing public opinion, though further research is needed. The article, "Impact of trauma education and growth mindset messaging on public attitudes about the criminal legal system," was authored by Eva McKinsey; Dr. Desmarais; Jeni L. Burnette, PhD; and Brandon L. Garrett, JD. It was published in the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*.

[Read the Article](#)

## NCYOJ Announces Virtual Mental Health Training for Juvenile Justice Train-the-Trainer Event



Application deadline: May 10, 2022

The National Center for Youth Opportunity and Justice is pleased to offer a virtual Mental Health Training for Juvenile Justice (MHT-JJ) Train-the-Trainer event, starting May 2022!

Developed for juvenile probation, detention, and corrections professionals, the MHT-JJ provides critical information and practical strategies for interacting with youth who are experiencing mental health, substance use, and traumatic stress conditions. Over 7 weeks, participants will learn to administer the MHT-JJ's modules, including information on common behavioral health conditions among justice-involved youth, strategies for supporting youth with behavioral health needs, evidence-based treatment strategies, techniques for ensuring the well-being of juvenile justice staff, and more!

Participants will engage with the curriculum through presentations, discussions, and skill-building exercises facilitated by NCYOJ Master Trainers Jeannie Von Stultz, PhD, and Mark E. Osenbach.

Please note that this will be the final trainer network event (events in which individuals can register) offered by NCYOJ. Moving forward, the MHT-JJ Train-the-Trainer will be offered exclusively as a fee-for-service contracted event. If you want to become certified as an MHT-JJ trainer, now is the time!

[Learn More and Register](#)

## Policy Research in the News

Nashville, Tennessee, is using its participation in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) GAINS Center's [Integrating Civilian-Led, Co-response, and Specialized Police Response Models](#) Learning Collaborative to develop a new public safety unit to respond to people experiencing homelessness who are in crisis. WPLN, Nashville's local news and NPR station, recently covered the city's efforts:

**"Nashville really deserves a non-law enforcement model of response that reflects who the city is," [Senior Policy Advisor Dia Cirillo] says. 'I'm excited that we will have a third-party support to help us develop this program.'**

**That support will include webinars, advice from experts and opportunities to connect with other cities who are forming similar teams. Meanwhile, the mayor's office will put together a committee of community members to help draft the blueprint for the program, similar to the Policing Policy Commission.**

**'Receiving this kind of specialized support from SAMHSA's GAINS Center does highlight Nashville as an emerging national model in crisis response,' Cirillo says.'**

[Read the Article](#)

## Policy Research at an Event Near You

### [Minnesota 2022 Mental Health Court Conference](#)

May 24-26, 2022; Virtual Conference

Join SAMHSA's GAINS Center Director **Chan Noether, MA**, on May 24 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. CT for the session "Building in the Magic of Peer Support." This presentation will discuss the research and best practices on the use of peer support specialists in treatment courts, with a focus on mental health courts.

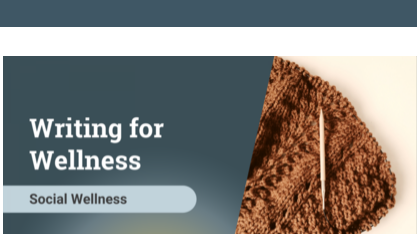
### [Law & Mental Health Conference on Alternatives to Police](#)

In February 2022, Senior Project Associate **Ashley Krider, MS**, presented at the Law & Mental Health Conference on Alternatives to Police. The recording of her presentation, "[Unbundling Police Funding and Building the Right Response](#)," is now available for on-demand viewing. Ms. Krider's presentation explores the dual role of police and tracks changes in funding for police from 2020-2022.

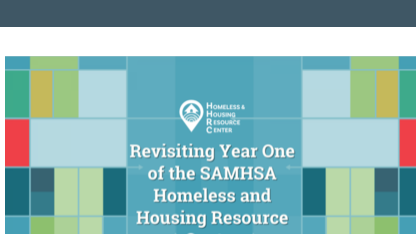
### [Summit on Improving the Court and Community Response to Those With Mental Illness in Minnesota](#)

In March 2022, **Chan Noether, MA**, presented at the *Summit on Improving the Court and Community Response to Those With Mental Illness in Minnesota*. The slides and supplementary materials from his presentation, "Using the *Magical Intercept Model (SIM): Challenges, Approaches, and Strategies*" are now available for download. Mr. Noether's presentation explained how the SIM could be used in Minnesota to assess gaps and opportunities, identify common issues, and determine where critical interventions are most needed.

## Recent Stories From the PRA Blog



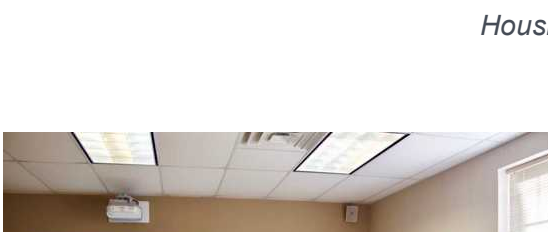
[Writing for Wellness: Fiber Arts Tuesdays](#)



[Revisiting Year One of the SAMHSA Homeless and Housing Resource Center](#)



[February Shmeburary No More!](#)



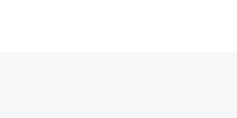
[What to Expect in a Trauma Training for Criminal Justice Professionals Train-the-Trainer \(TTT\) Event](#)



[Behind the Lens: Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshop Facilitator Training](#)



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