**Youth Court Sessions Agenda**

**Session One**

**10-11:30 a.m. (one hour ethics, 1/2 hour substantive)**

**Schedule for Session 1**

**10:00 a.m to 10:40 a.m. Youth Court, Co-production, Systems Change.** *Gregg Volz (on zoom)*

Gregg Voltz will share the work of Edgar Cahn on co-production and systems change and connect youth court to these larger ideas.   
 **10:40 to 10:45 Q & A**

**10:45 a.m. to 11:25 a.m. Benefits, Training, Costs, Barriers, Trauma, Research.** *Ashish Badjatia (by zoom)* *Gregg Volz (by zoom)* and Mary Hall, Walt Hales

This panel will talk about their own involvement with youth court and then address:

* Planning
* Obstacles
* Barriers
* Training

Background Information for this session: Youth courts are used in both juvenile justice settings and schools but most in the region are school based. Youth Courts reduced suspension by 1/3 in one PA school and prevented 250 suspensions over 3 years in another. (There are more than 50 youth courts across Pennsylvania and more are planned.) Youth Court can be embedded in existing social studies or language arts classes or run as electives or clubs.

Ignoring trauma, neuroscience/adolescent brain coupled with zero tolerance leads to punitive School to Prison Pipeline. Youth court blocks and reverses STPP. It trains youth, proves them with life skills and can place them in a school to career pipeline. It empowers “youth as resources” in resource-poor schools. It uses positive peer pressure to achieve restorative justice and is a platform for youth development: civic engagement, academic and socialization skills. Cost is less than other restorative practices -students don’t get paid!

**11:25 to 11:30 Q & A**

**Session Two 11:45 to 1:15 p.m**

**Schedule for Session Two**

**11:45 to 11:55 Introduction and Video**

This session will begin with a brief video of the Chester High School Youth Court [Chester High School Youth Court Mock Trial](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQpgxMt35OE) followed by a mock youth court hearing

**11:55 a.m. - 12:30 Mock Youth Court Hearing**

**Mock Scenario:**

Bea Goode, a fourteen year old girl has been referred to Youth Court for throwing a book at her social studies teacher. The teacher asked her for your homework several times, but she hadn’t done it. Her parents are getting divorced and she has always been a good student in the past, but her parents are yelling at each other every night and she can’t concentrate.

**12:30 p.m. Debriefing with team of youth court educators**

**1:10 - 1:15 p.m. end Q&A**

**Session Three**

**1:30- 3:00 p.m. (one and 1/2 hour substantive)**

**Schedule for Session 3**

**1:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Perspectives, Voices, and Roles.** Kathy Smith moderates with panelists (*Rob Reed by zoom* *Gregg Volz* (zoom), David Trevaskis, Walt Hales and Mary Hall

Trainer perspectives (lawyers, law students, college students, teachers) will be shared and roles for the legal profession explored. Various program models will be discussed.

**2:15 to 2:30 Q & A**

**2:30 p.m. A Strategy for Moving Forward**

Gregg Volz, Walt Hales, David Trevaskis   
Potential legislation (highlighting best practices, costs, and benefits) will inform a youth court plan for Pennsylvania. Securing political and juvenile justice support locally and beyond. Untapped use of law schools, lawyers and law firms. Role for Statewide Advocacy. Act 35 Civics Assessment and youth courts.

**2:45 to 3:00 Q & A**  
  
 **3:00 PM Adjournment**