



**Press Release**  
**June 8, 2020**

The Arkansas Commission on Children, Youth & Families' work over the last five years has focused on reforming the juvenile justice system. The Commission made an intentional decision to focus reform efforts on the primary goal of shifting decision making in juvenile-delinquency cases away from methods susceptible to implicit or explicit bias and towards use of a validated assessment tool specific to each juvenile's actual risks and needs. As of this summer, all juvenile officers in the state will have completed this training. As Commissioners, we believe this practice is effective in reducing structural racism, and we will monitor its application. We are already seeing historically low levels of juvenile incarceration.

Please know that the Commission is committed to finding additional methods of removing bias and ensuring that justice and equality are achieved. The Commission has resources available for the public on its website at <https://www.arcourts.gov/administration/boards-committees/committee-children-youth-and-families/children-youth-families/resources>.