Press Release

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     **COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE TO HOST ANNUAL CONFERENCE: “ACCESS, ACCOUNTABILITY & ADVOCACY: ADDRESSING EDUCATIONAL, PHYSICAL, AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM.”**

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) will host its annual conference over a span of three days, July 14-16. This year’s conference will focus on the intersection of juvenile justice issues with education and health, specifically for those youth who are at risk of being in contact with the juvenile justice system or are already involved with the system. Stakeholders from across the United States will be holding panels on how to address the needs of children who are at risk or part of the system and how to provide quality care. An emphasis will be placed on ensuring educational, physical health, and mental health services for some of our most vulnerable youth.

“We look forward to once again hosting our members and allies from across the country. CJJ’s Annual Conference presents an excellent opportunity for leaders in the juvenile justice field to come together, share ideas, and learn about proven ways to help protect our children and communities,” said Executive Director Naomi Smoot.

This year’s conference will feature several highlights. Eileen Garry, the acting administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), will provide an update about OJJDP and the offices’ continued support for state’s as they seek to address and implement  juvenile justice policies and programs.  The Pew Charitable Trusts will share information on how states can implement juvenile justice reform while also saving financial resources.

The Pew Charitable Trusts, OJJDP, and the Justice Resource Institute (JRI) are helping to support this year’s conference. Other contributors include MST Services, Environmental Management Services, Polaris’ National Human Trafficking Hotline, John Dewese, and Caprice Hover. More than three hundred people have signed up to attend the July conference.

As part of the conference, CJJ will also highlight the new “Principles for Change” a report CJJ released in February that includes policy recommendations relating to youth experiencing homelessness and the intersections with juvenile justice.

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The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) envisions a nation where fewer children are at risk of delinquency; and if they are at risk or involved with the justice system, they and their families receive every possible opportunity to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives. CJJ is a nationwide coalition of State Advisory Groups (SAGs) and allies dedicated to preventing children and youth from becoming involved in the courts and upholding the highest standards of care when youth are charged with wrongdoing and enter the justice system.