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CJJ's 2020 Virtual Annual Conference is Underway

CJJ's 2020 Virtual Annual Conference, "[Dreaming Big Together: Youth Justice Reimagined](#)" kicked off Wednesday November 18th with opening remarks from CJJ's Board Chair, Pastor Edward Palmer.



Wednesday, participants discussed the impacts of Covid-19 on youth justice, and ways to build on earlier reforms. They also learned about changes within our juvenile justice system across various states.

One of our sponsors, the Annie E. Casey Foundation hosted a workshop on Probation Transformation which highlighted ways jurisdictions can and are fundamentally shifting their approach to juvenile probation. The Optional Lunch and Learn Book Club provided feedback on various topics around race, ethnicity, criminalization, and juvenile prisons.

Today, we open with a panel of professionals on pre-court diversion and look further into how youth leaders are building change by shaping reform. CJJ will also recognize our 2020 awardees: Ken Schatz, winner of the A.L Carlisle Child Advocacy Award; Jessica Wheeler, winner of the Tony Gobar Outstanding National Juvenile Justice Specialist Award; Ezequiel Vasquez, winner of the National Spirit of Youth Award; and Anna Lopez, winner of the Andrew Smith Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator Award.

To view the awards booklet [click here](#).

Council of State Advisory Groups to vote tomorrow on Racial Equity Policy Platforms

Racism has been prevalent in America's youth justice systems since their first creation. We find ourselves, however, in a moment where our country appears to have a new will and commitment to address and end the racial and ethnic disparities that exist within these systems. The [Coalition for Juvenile Justice \(CJJ\)](#), in partnership with the [Center for Children's Law and Policy](#), [Dr. Cherie Dawson-Edwards](#) of the University of Louisville, and the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#) have developed the policy platforms to move lawmakers from mere conversation about ending racial and ethnic disparities to concrete action at the state and federal levels. The focus for the policy platforms are: training, schools, community investments, and ending the over policing communities of color.

To inform this work, five focus groups were brought together including: youth and young adults, families, law enforcement, community-based diversion providers,

and policy advocates. Feedback on the policies were also given by SAG Chairs, Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinators, and JJ Specialists from across the country.

Members of CJJ's Council of State Advisory Groups will vote Nov. 20th on the resulting policy platforms. These platforms will include actions at the federal, state, and local levels to address and end racial inequities within our youth justice system.

To learn more, contact CJJ's Executive Director, Naomi Smoot Evans at evans@juvjustice.org.

Upcoming Webinars

Girls of Color and the Abuse to Prison Pipeline
Wednesday, December 9, 2020 3pm-4pm ET



Events this year have led to an increased focus on the impact of the legal system on communities of color. However, not enough of this discourse addresses the unique experiences of girls of color. In this webinar, Cherice Hopkins and Rebecca Burney from Rights4Girls will examine (1) racial and ethnic disparities of girls in the system, (2) how social attitudes towards girls, especially girls of color, contribute to their being criminalized for their own abuse, and (3) effective strategies and promising practices to prevent girls of color from experiencing the abuse to prison pipeline.

Presenters:

Cherice Hopkins, Attorney, [Rights4Girls](#)

Rebecca Burney, Attorney and Youth Advocate Coordinator, Rights4Girls

This webinar is free for CJJ members. To become a member [click here](#). To register for this webinar [click here](#).

Want to see news that's important to you in the CJJ Members and Partners section?

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Membership

Would You Like to Blog for CJJ?

CJJ is looking for bloggers for [CJJ Today](#) to author stories and posts about juvenile justice. We're particularly interested in stories from [State Advisory Group members](#) or staff, CJJ [individual](#) or [youth members](#), and CJJ [organizational members](#), about issues at the state or local level, interesting programs or approaches, and perspectives about the course of juvenile justice reform at the local or state level. We also welcome blog posts from other juvenile justice system stakeholders. Blog posts can be between 400-750 words in length. Click [here](#) to see our other guidelines for blogs.



Suggested topics could include:

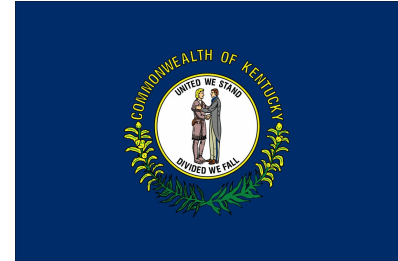
- School to Prison Pipeline
- Girls in the Juvenile Justice System
- Remediating Racial and Ethnic Disparities
- Adolescent Brain Development

- Evidence-Based Practices
- Status Offenses
- Family and Youth Involvement
- Promising Practices or Program Spotlights

If interested please email info@juvjustice.org for more details.

Member Spotlight: Kentucky

Kentucky continues its focus on the juvenile justice reforms of SB 200 (2014), which sought to improve outcomes in the juvenile justice system in the commonwealth by expanding access to timely, quality treatment and supervision in the community, focusing the most intensive resources on serious offenders, and enhancing data collection and oversight mechanisms to ensure the policies are working.



Recently, Westat collaborated with the American Probation and Parole Association and several Kentucky agencies to examine SB 200, specifically, the implementation process, perceived challenges, successes and areas for continuing improvement. The evaluation reports can be accessed here:

- [Kentucky Juvenile Justice Reform Evaluation: Implementation Evaluation Report.](#)
- [Kentucky Juvenile Justice Reform Evaluation: Assessment of Community-Based Services for Justice-Involved Youth.](#)

One area identified in the Weststat report is the presence of racial and ethnic disparities within the court system. The Kentucky Court of Justice through the Department of Family & Juvenile Services developed "[A Guide for Identifying, Addressing and Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities.](#)" which documents the 4-step model Kentucky is using to reduce disparities within the court system. The guide explains how a court jurisdiction and/or organization can identify disparities, construct strategies to address them, institutionalize effective changes and reevaluate progress for continuous quality improvement.

Kentucky has increased its usage of pre-court diversion, which was a major focus of SB 200. The Urban Institute spent the last year examining how Kentucky's diversion reforms have affected case decision-making and outcomes for youth referred to intake on less serious offenses. The findings indicate that, post-reform, more youth are being diverted from formal court involvement. The study also shows that Kentucky maintained its high diversion success rate, with nearly nine out of 10 young people completing diversion, and that there was no statistically significant change in recidivism in any eligible complaint category. The research from validates the great work that has been accomplished and the reform efforts associated with SB 200 to keep youth out of the system when possible by relying upon community-based interventions. The Urban Institute's Sept. 17, 2020, report titled [Assessing Juvenile Diversion Reforms in Kentucky.](#)

The Department of Juvenile Justice ("DJJ") remains committed to the keeping youth in the community to not expose youth to the trauma of detention and allow youth to remain with their communal support systems to receive services. As evidence of this commitment, Kentucky has experienced a significant decrease in out-of-home placements since the passage of SB 200. Since 2014, there has been a 29% decrease in detention bookings and an increase of 238% in DJJ's usage of alternatives to detention. DJJ reports a decrease of 31% in commitments to the agency during the same timeframe. Annie E. Casey recently conducted a survey on the impact of COVID on the Kentucky detention population. The survey revealed detention populations fell by 28% from March 1 to September 1, 2020. The [survey](#) is reflective of the impact COVID has had on the juvenile justice

system.

DJJ remains diligent in its approach to the COVID pandemic and is committed to the safety of the youth and staff in its facilities. DJJ recently restructured its delivery of medical in tune with this commitment by forging a [partnership](#) with a nationally recognized pediatric healthcare system.

Federal Updates

On November 11th, the Senate Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Committee released their [budget proposal](#) for Fiscal year 2021. The proposal would provide another round of modest increases to youth justice programs. It includes:

- \$70 million for Title II, as compared to \$63 in FY'20;
- \$100 million for mentoring (\$97 in FY'20); and
- \$50 million for Title V split as follows - \$2,000,000 to prevent trafficking of girls; \$10,000,000 for Tribal Youth Program; \$500,000 for an Internet site providing information and resources on children of incarcerated parents; \$3,000,000 for competitive grants focusing on girls in the juvenile justice system; \$10,000,000 shall be for an opioid-affected youth initiative; and \$8,000,000 for an initiative relating to children exposed to violence; \$16,500,000 for Title V's Youth Promise Grants.

Before a final budget for FY'21 can be approved, the House and Senate will need to reach an agreement on final numbers for the year.

Other News and Announcements

[Events and Trainings](#)

Georgetown's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, in partnership with Ceres Policy Research and the National Center for Lesbian Rights, are offering a ["Supporting the Well-Being of System-Involved LGBTQ Youth"](#) certificate program online from November 16-20, 2020.

[The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#) (NCJFCJ) will be holding two national conferences in 2021, the National Conference on Juvenile Justice in Dallas, TX, March 21- 24, 2021, and the 84th Annual Conference in St. Louis, MO, July 18 - 21, 2021.

[New Publications and Resources](#)

Juveniles for Justice and Youth Fostering Change, Juvenile Law Center advocacy programs for youth, released their annual projects: [Juveniles for Justice's project](#) and [Youth Fostering Change's project](#).

The Youth First Team released the [No Kids In Prison](#) report with data on Racial Disparities of Incarcerated Youth.

The National Juvenile Justice Network released a report on [The Promise of Racial Impact Statements: Findings from a Case Study of Minority Impact Statements In Iowa](#).

Chapin Hill released a new report: [Developing a Direct Cash Transfer Program for Youth Experiencing Homelessness: Results of a Mixed Methods, Multi-stakeholder Design Process](#).

Chapin Hill released two major reports regarding [Addressing Rural Youth Homelessness](#) and the [Comprehensive Study of the Impact of Extended Foster Care](#).

The Juvenile Justice Monitor is brought to you by staff and volunteer leaders of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, and supported by membership fees paid by CJJ's State Advisory Group Members, Members at Large, Organizational Members, and allies. We are grateful to all for their ongoing support.

Coalition for Juvenile Justice

1629 K Street NW, Suite 300

Washington, DC 20006-1631

(202) 827-9751

info@juvjustice.org

