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CJJ Welcomes New Staff

This month CJJ welcomed two new staff members, LaToria Sheppard and Kristen Powell.

LaToria will serve as CJJ's Senior Associate of Training and Communications. With over 10 years working with our youth in and around the justice system, she is skilled and knowledgeable in areas of child development and public relations. Overseeing our social media sites and corresponding with our various members across the country, LaToria exemplifies interpersonal and organizational leadership. LaToria has her Masters degree in Human Services with a concentration in Organizational Leadership and Management. She is currently obtaining her Doctoral degree from Walden University, majoring in Behavioral Health and Public Relations. She previously worked as the Communication Liaison for Palmetto Behavioral Health and collaborated with colleges and universities to enhance prevention awareness strategies, methods, and techniques.



Kristen will serve as CJJ's Administrative and Youth Partnership Assistant. She has served as the Prosperity Coach at the Center for Combating Human Trafficking (CCHT) from May 2016 to September 2020. Kristen is currently a Full-time student at Wichita State University and is working to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. She plans on focusing her career walking alongside and advocating for young people who have been incarcerated, experienced various forms of trauma, and or have entered different systems of care. Her passion comes from personal life experience as well as her love and heart for people who have diverse experiences. Kristen served as a member of the Emerging Leaders Committee (ELC) with the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) in the 2020 term. She was also appointed to serve on the Kansas Advisory Group (KAG) on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP). She will take part in advising on, and advocating for, juvenile justice matters for the state of Kansas.



The Coalition for Juvenile Justice welcomes both LaToria and Kristen to the team. To contact LaToria email sheppard@juvjustice.org. To contact Kristen email powell@juvjustice.org.

Council of State Advisory Groups to vote Nov. 20th on Racial Equity Policy Platform

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 addressing and undoing 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](#) seek to create a policy platform to move lawmakers from the mere conversation about ending racial and ethnic disparities to concrete action at the state and federal levels.

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.

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

Policy recommendations are focusing on school push out, law enforcement in schools, training, and increased investments in communities.

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

Join CJJ's 2020 Virtual Annual Conference

CJJ's 2020 Annual Conference will be entirely virtual this year out of concerns for our members and their safety.

This year's conference will take place November 18-20. This year's theme is "[Dreaming Big Together: Youth Justice Reimagined](#)." It will focus on the latest research, developments, and challenges facing our field today. Specifically, the conference will focus on:

- How can states and communities serve as leaders in shaping a better juvenile justice system for our most vulnerable youth?
- How can we improve collaborations with young people with lived experiences in the systems we work with?
- What can be done to build on successes and continue to improve systems so that they best serve young people, including those touching multiple systems?
- What role do advocacy and public health play as communities seek to improve services and provide for trauma-informed care that addresses and heals multi-generational trauma?



To register for the conference, click [here](#).

To view a draft agenda, click [here](#).

Regular Registration

July 8 - Nov. 16

\$200 / Members
\$250 / Non-Members
\$95 / Students

Late Registration

Nov. 17-20

\$225 / Members
\$275 / Non-Members
\$100 / Students

[Conference Book Clubs and Reading List](#)

Check out the reading list for this year's Annual Conference. During this year's conference, attendees will have the chance to gather for a book club

conversation around selected readings in youth justice and racial equity. Book club picks for the 2020 Virtual Conference include:

- ["Burning Down the House: The End of Juvenile Prison"](#) by Nell Bernstein;
 - ["The New Jim Crow"](#) by Michelle Alexander;
 - ["Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools"](#) by Monique W. Morris;
- and
- ["So You Want to Talk About Race"](#) by Ijeoma Oluo.

For more information, check out our conference [agenda](#) and conference [webpage](#).

[Sponsors and Exhibitors](#)

CJJ invites you to consider sponsoring this year's Annual Conference. Sponsorship dollars help support a broad range of necessary functions, including materials production, speaker and workshop support, youth engagement, and other general functions.

To learn more about sponsoring this event, email evans@juvjustice.org.

Upcoming Webinars

A Healing-Centered Vision for Youth, Families, and Communities

Wednesday, October 28th at 3:00 PM Eastern



Healing ourselves emotionally and mentally is not as easy as it sounds, and at times we neglect to acknowledge the importance of incorporating a healing approach in our everyday lives (school, work, home, etc.). The healing-centered vision, adopted by Healing Ninjas, allows us to come to terms with events and circumstances which have occurred in our lives, and to overcome the barriers of mental illness--one person, one family, and one community at a time.

Healing Ninjas is an online community platform highlighting the stories of individuals who are seeking to master the art of healing. Join us on October 28th at 3 pm to learn more about the healing-centered vision and how, as individuals and professionals, we can influence those we work with to become a person who excels in a particular skill or activity--in other words, to become a HEALING NINJA.

Presenters:

Hernan Carvente-Martinez, Founder & CEO, [Healing Ninjas](#)

Iliana Pujols, Director of Community Connections, Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance

Abdul Ali, Community Organizer, Maine Youth Justice

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

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

Join CJJ as a member today!

Learn More About CJJ
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: South Carolina

The Council of State Governments Justice Center (CSG) released a new report that summarizes key findings from an unprecedented research study on the impact of juvenile justice system involvement—particularly probation—on school attendance in South Carolina and challenges jurisdictions across the country to reconsider whether system involvement is the most appropriate and effective way to promote youth's school success. [Rethinking the Role of the Juvenile Justice System: Improving Youth's School Attendance and Educational Outcomes](#) reveals that kids involved in the juvenile justice system in South Carolina not only didn't experience attendance improvements, but their attendance actually got worse. The CSG Justice Center study also raises concerns about whether some schools' policies and practices make it harder for justice-involved youth to engage and succeed in school. This new research compels policymakers, judges, attorneys, probation directors, and educators to wrestle with an important question: Are juvenile justice system involvement and school disciplinary measures really the most appropriate and effective ways to help kids succeed in school?



Subsequently to this study, SCDJJ has been able to bring further attention in South Carolina to the relationship between juvenile justice and probation and identify potential opportunities for improvement. The study summarizes the key findings of the research study implications for jurisdictions nationwide and the goal of encouraging everyone involved in the juvenile justice system to rethink the roles and responsibilities that the system has taken as it is related to young people's education. The study furthers SCDJJ's efforts to transform the lives of justice involved youth and empower them for the future. Through expanded evidence-based rehabilitative and restorative programs and services, SCDJJ is creating an environment that builds competencies and fosters pro-social behaviors, while mitigating the criminogenic needs associated with delinquency.

At present, SCDJJ operates one long-term facility, the Broad River Road Complex (BRRC) and three regional evaluation centers. BRRC and one of the evaluation centers are located in Columbia. The two other evaluation centers are in Union

and Ridgeville, SC. Because distance is a proven barrier to family engagement, BRRRC, though centrally located, is not conducive to visitation or familial participation in treatment or education programming for most of its residents. A recent survey revealed that most of families of the BRRRC residents live at least 75 miles away from the facility. With Regionalization, secure evaluation services will be centralized and located at the Midlands Evaluation Center in Columbia leaving BRRRC and the two remaining evaluation centers to be repurposed as regional long-term facilities. This will dramatically decrease the distance between the long-term facilities and families making it easier for most families to participate in their child's rehabilitation.

In addition to the fundamental change to the agency footprint, Juvenile Justice System Reform is also an integral component of the Director's 2020 Vision. System reform will improve public safety and reduce recidivism resulting in better outcomes for youth by focusing costly out-of-home secure confinement on the most serious/highest risk offenders and by strengthening community supervision and resources to hold youth accountable. Additionally, the agency submitted a proposed reform bill to Senate and House leaders for consideration in early 2019. This proposed legislation was designed to increase public safety and contain costs by enhancing community-based programs and supervision for youth with lower-level offenses and reserving costly residential services for serious and higher risk youth. Savings from reduced reliance on residential facilities would then be reinvested to serve youth with evidence-based supervision and community programs that are proven to reduce recidivism.

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice is a state cabinet agency committed to serving South Carolina's youth offenders. SCDJJ is responsible for providing custodial care and rehabilitation for the state's children who are committed on probation or parole, or in community placement for a delinquent or status offense. DJJ also provides a variety of prevention and intervention programs for at-risk youth. The agency has nearly 1,300 employees serving almost 600 youth in out-of-home placement and more than 3,000 in the community; and encompasses five secure facilities, ten alternative placement locations, 16 youth empowerment sites and 43 county offices.

Federal Updates

On October 1st, the House of Representatives passed an updated version of the Heroes Act which would provide key funding for youth justice programs, including:

- \$75 million to reduce the impact of Covid-19 on youth in the justice system in Fiscal year 2020 and 2021;
- \$50 million for Title II of the JJDP Act to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Covid-19; and
- \$50 million for the Victims of Child Abuse Prevention Act which be available for youth in the justice system and young people who have been trafficked.

Other News and Announcements

Events and Trainings

The National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) is hosting the [National Family Engagement Summit](#) (Virtual event) October 13-16th, 2020/ 10:30am-5:30pm EDT

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](#)

Kentucky Court of Justice released [A Guide for Identifying, Addressing, and Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities](#).

The Sentencing Project's new report has been released: [Youth Justice Under the Coronavirus: Linking Public Health Protections to the Movement for Youth Decarceration](#).

The Council on Criminal Justice released the [National Commission on Covid-19 and Criminal Justice](#) report

The Urban Institute released a research report: [Assessing Juvenile Diversion Reforms in Kentucky](#).

The Council of State Governments Justice Center released a new report: [Rethinking the Role of the Juvenile Justice System: Improving Youth's School Attendance and Educational Outcomes](#).

CJJ invites you to share news from your SAG, organization, state, or region! Inclusion and editing of submissions are subject to CJJ editorial guidelines.

[Contact the Editor](#)

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

