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CJJ's 2020 Virtual Youth Summit Was A Success!

This year's Virtual Youth Summit, "Executing Our Power Into Action" took place on Wednesday afternoons from Aug 19 -Sept 9th. The event was 100% youth-led by CJJ's Emerging Leaders Committee and included 462 registered participants. This marks an increase of more than 300 participants as compared to CJJ's 2017 Virtual Youth Summit.



Join CJJ's Emerging Leaders Committee for a four-part series dedicated to youth voice and youth justice reform
Free for anyone under the age of 28

CJJ [Emerging Leaders Committee \(ELC\)](#) members Aaron Toleafoa, Kristen Powell, Guillermo Padilla, Edgar Calixto, Evan Quaintance, Dennis Beard-Hammond, Essence Blakemore, and Joseph Huntley led workshops to educate participants about the juvenile justice system from the perspective of those who are currently and previously involved with the system. Session one, focused on youth voice being heard and how speaking out is a form of advocacy. Session two, discussed the child welfare and youth justice system from the ELC's first-hand experiences. Session three, engaged the audience in how sentencing reform should be redefined and what solutions are more beneficial to the youth population. Session four, highlighted the importance and impact mentoring has on youth who are currently incarcerated and those being released from a secure and/or non-secure facility (re-entry).

If you would like to obtain any or all of the session's PowerPoints and/or recordings please email us at info@juvjustice.org.

CJJ Creating Policy Platform for 2021 & Beyond

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.

The project partners aim to bring together youth, families, and law enforcement to create a policy platform to address and end racial and ethnic disparities at the front end of the youth justice system.

The resulting product will be a tool to help establish concrete actions that can be taken at the federal and state levels to address and end racial inequities within our youth justice systems. This platform will be reviewed and voted upon on

Join CJJ's 2020 Virtual 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?

If you have already registered, your existing registration will continue to be honored. However, because this is a virtual event and does not cover the cost of meals, we are reducing registration costs, as noted below. Please click [here](#) to let us know whether you would like to use the additional funds to register a second person, make a tax deductible donation to CJJ, or for a conference registration in 2021. Please feel free to email our Executive Director, Naomi Smoot Evans, at evans@juvjustice.org if you have any questions or concerns.

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

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

Regular Registration	Late Registration
July 8 - Nov. 16	Nov. 17-20
\$200 / Members \$250 / Non-Members \$95 / Students	\$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

Authentic Youth-Adult Partnership in Juvenile Justice TODAY at 3:00 PM Eastern

Many SAGs, along with juvenile justice agencies and other collaborative bodies, continue to strive toward unmet goals for building an authentic, sustainable youth-adult partnership. This webinar is for you. Laura Furr will share principles, models, and concrete best practices of youth-adult partnership for the juvenile justice field, as well as opportunities for further learning. Through her business, Laura supports adult-led organizations or collaborative bodies that make decisions affecting young people to plan and implement youth-adult partnership in their decision-making.

Presenter:

Laura Furr, Owner, Laura Furr Consulting
Aaron Toleafoa, CJJ ELC Chair

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 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
- Remedying Racial and Ethnic Disparities
- Adolescent Brain Development
- Evidence-Based Practices
- Status Offenses
- Family and Youth Involvement
- Promising Practices or Program Spotlights

Member Spotlight: Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) is making dramatic progress in implementing its strategic plans to reduce the number of youth removed from homes and communities, reducing beds available to securely detained youth in facilities, and implementing better policies and practices to ensure all youth are served in the least restrictive environment.



During the past 18 months, the vision of making OJA a trauma-informed, youth-responsive organization resulted in a 40% decrease in the usage of juvenile detention. OJA's governing board recently updated its State Plan for the Establishment of Juvenile Detention Services. The plan determines the number of juvenile detention beds necessary for the state's current needs and the locations of those needed beds. It reduces the number of contracted beds statewide from a starting point of 296 to 229.

OJA staff worked with lawmakers and the governor's office in securing passage of a key piece of legislation that will impact the detention of youth. During this year's legislative session, the House of Representatives and the Senate unanimously approved House Bill 1282, which was signed into law by Gov. Kevin Stitt. It takes effect Nov. 1.

The measure establishes limits on placing children 12 years of age and under into juvenile detention centers. It also sets limits for 13- and 14-year-olds admitted to detention.

"The passing of House Bill 1282 will also help our state to 'right-size' detention," said OJA interim Executive Director Rachel Holt. "The decision to lower the number of contracted detention beds was a very tough one. But we cannot spend money on excess empty beds, especially with the strain the Coronavirus pandemic is placing on our state budget. Our use is down and should continue to be down post COVID-19. In addition, our youth service agency partners are committed to providing quality services to children in their communities. This will also help our state shift focus from detaining kids we are mad at, to focusing on prevention and the needs of the children and their families within their community."

"With this new decrease of contracted beds in the 2021 fiscal year, setting limits in detaining 12- to 14-year-olds will allow Oklahoma to have enough available beds in our statewide juvenile detention system for those children who need it. Oklahoma's children have the highest rates of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in the nation. One night in secure detention contributes to a child's ACEs score and can have lifelong consequences. As Oklahoma continues its momentum as a Top Ten state for juvenile justice, these limits on young children in detention displays powerful juvenile justice reform," Holt added.

OJA's placement wait list has been historically low this past year as the agency worked with courts to move children through the adjudication process faster, allow children to receive services in their community, and lower the length of stay in placements by making it treatment and goal-orientated instead of based on artificial timelines.

OJA staff also is collaborating across departments to better assess youth needs and connect youth to needed resources, be they programmatic or basic need supports, in order to intervene earlier and more effectively in preventing circumstances that may result in out-of-home placement or detention.

In addition, juvenile services staff in the field advocate on behalf of youth, and have direct contact with OJA's state office to find the most helpful methods of assisting youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

Federal Updates

Stimulus updates: A slimmed down stimulus package released in early September by Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) leaves out earlier emergency funding that would have helped young people in the justice system during Covid-19. The House proposal, known as the HEROES Act, would have provided nearly \$90 million in additional funding for youth justice.

"Justice for Juveniles" Act: The House Judiciary Committee last week marked up [H.R. 5053, the "Justice for Juveniles" Act](#). This legislation, was introduced by Rep. Scanlon (D-PA) and would exempt individuals younger than 22 years old from the requirements of the Prison Litigation Reform Act.

Other News and Announcements

Events and Trainings

Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs (IWGYP) is hosting a free webinar on September 21, 2020 @ 2:00-3:30 PM EDT. ["The Benefits and Importance of Using Youth Participatory Action Research with Populations such as Youth with Incarcerated Parents"](#).

[Gwen's Girls](#) and The Black Girls Equity Alliance are hosting the 5th annual equity summit, ["She Matters: Protecting and Uplifting the Well-Being of Black Girls."](#) The summit will take place September 24-26, 2020 at the Wyndham Grand in Downtown Pittsburgh. The summit features Keynote speaker Cyntoia Brown Long.

[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

Alliance for Safety and Justice (ASJ) and The National Coalition for Shared Safety (NCSS) released the [Toward Shared Safety: The First-Ever National Survey of America's Safety Gaps](#).

The Campaign for Youth Justice has released [Youth Justice & the Family First Prevention Service Act](#).

Chapin Hall has released their monthly newsletter highlighting steps for ["Making the Most of the Family First Act"](#).

The Juvenile Law Center has released ["Rethinking Justice for Emerging Adults"](#).

Justice Policy Institute has released [Sticker Shock 2020: The Cost of Youth Incarceration](#).

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

