

August 1-3, 2018
District of Columbia's David A. Clarke School of Law
Washington, D.C.

2018 Juvenile Justice Youth Summit

Empowering Youth: Resiliency in the Face of Trauma



Wednesday, August 1

3:00 pm — 5:00 pm Registration Table Open

3:00 pm — 4:00 pm Reception hosted by CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee

4:00 pm — 5:00 pm

Juvenile Justice 101

This optional introductory session will help lay the foundation for juvenile justice terminology, processes, and an overview of how the juvenile justice system works from a structural perspective.

Presenter:

Naomi Smoot, Executive Director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

5:00 pm — 6:00 pm

Coalition for Juvenile Justice's Emerging Leaders Committee meeting (closed meeting)

Thursday, August 2

7:30 am — 5:00 pm Registration Table Open

8:00 am — 8:40 am **Summit Opening**

CJJ Youth Committee Welcome

Michelle Diaz, CJJ National Emerging Leaders Committee Chair

CJJ Welcome

Naomi Smoot, Executive Director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Federal Welcome

Caren Harp, Administrator, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

8:40 am — 8:50 am **Spoken Word Poetry**

Aaron Toleafoa, CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee

8:50 am — 9:50 am **Real Life Stories**

What does the system look like from the perspective of those who have lived it? What are we getting right, and where do we still need to improve? This facilitated conversation will discuss what works, and what does not work, to encourage positive outcomes for youth and from youth, offering changes based on those who are close to the problem with the best solutions.

Presenters:

Aaron Toleafoa, CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee

Jacob Carmickle, CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee

9:50 am — 10:00 am Break

10:00 am — 11:00 am **Strategic Sharing 101**

Emerging leaders will examine and develop strategies to successfully share and message their stories with legislators and other policymakers.

Presenters:

Naomi Smoot, Executive Director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Michelle Diaz, CJJ National Emerging Leaders Committee Chair

11:00 am — 12:10 pm **Welcome to the Fishbowl!**
Professional staff and youth from New York City's juvenile justice systems will facilitate this youth/adult partnership in action session, designed to provide a new perspective to juvenile justice reform work by modeling effective youth engagement strategies and providing practical tips for youth on strategic sharing, peer advocacy and being a credible messenger in your community. The session will also help adult allies learn more about: who the young people most impacted by the issues really are; what experiences and circumstances have led to their system involvement; and what we can all do to help young people get to where they want and need to be.

Presenter:

Courtney Ramirez, New York Administration for Children Services
Christopher Jones, CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee

12:10 pm — 12:30 pm Break

12:20 pm — 1:50 pm **Lunch (provided) - Film Screening For Akheem**

1:50 pm — 2:00 pm Break

2:00 pm — 2:30 pm **Film Screening Debriefing**

Facilitator:

Gabriella Nixdorf, Project and Administrative Assistant

2:30 pm — 3:40 pm **Trauma and Healing**
Adversity during childhood is normal and important for healthy development. However, too much adversity can become toxic and overwhelming. The juvenile justice system often criminalizes young people who are dealing with toxic stress - labeling them as "bad" rather than seeking to understand what's going on in their lives. This session will discuss how toxic stress may change young people's behaviors and how these behaviors are often misread as defiant rather than normal. It will end with an interactive exercise to imagine a system that supports the resiliency of young people to heal.

Presenters:

Dr. Shakira Washington, Vice President, National Crittenton
Samantha Lopez, Director, National Crittenton
Sara Kugler, Director, National Crittenton

3:40 pm — 3:50 pm Break

3:50 pm — 4:50 pm **Keynote**
Adam Foss, Juvenile Justice Reformer

4:50 pm — 5:00 pm

Closing Remarks

Michelle Diaz, CJJ National Youth Committee Chair

5:00 pm — Evening

Dinner on your own / free time

5:00 pm — 6:30 pm

Coalition for Juvenile Justice's Emerging Leaders Committee and Annie E. Casey Foundation's Youth Advisory Council Dinner (closed meeting)

Friday, August 3

7:30 am — 3:00 pm Registration Table Open

8:30 am — 9:00 am Breakfast (provided)

9:00 am — 9:20 am **Day Two Opening Remarks**

CJJ Youth Committee Welcome

Michelle Diaz, CJJ National Emerging Leaders Committee Chair

Spoken Word Poetry

Christopher Jones, CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee

9:20 am — 9:50 am

Raise Your Voice

This workshop will talk about the importance of creating your personal and unique brand. This session will provide tips about social media, public speaking, telling your story and drafting your narrative. You will learn how to eliminate threats to your brand and how to promote yourself and your work with authenticity and truth. This workshop will be based on branding, writing and professional speaking for self-growth.

Presenters:

Tiffany V. Williams, Coordinator for the Credible Messenger Justice Center

Jim St. Germain, Author of A Stone of Hope and Tea Ingram Public Speaking Coach

Hernan Carvente Martinez, National Youth Partnership Strategist

9:50 am — 11:10 am

Impacts of Gun Violence: Youth Perspective

"A widespread occurrence of an infectious disease in a community at a certain time." This is the definition of an 'epidemic.' It is also how Harvard's School of Public Health describes gun violence in America. While gun violence is considered, by most, an 'American problem,' it impacts the communities within our country different ways. This workshop will explore the context-dependent relationship between trauma and gun violence, as well as why law enforcement, law makers, and community leaders need to hear from young people how racial biases lead to less patience with communities that have higher levels of trauma. This workshop will conclude with the Jacksonville, Florida based EVAC movement sharing how their classroom of 18 "at-hope" predominantly African-American young men were able to channel their personal tragedies into positive change for their city. They will discuss meeting regularly with officials to present youth concerns and solutions based on their unique blend of personal stories, hard data and knowledge from direct partnerships with local/national juvenile justice leaders.

Presenters:

K Sanchez, CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee
Christopher Jones, CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee
Dequan Franks, EVAC Founding Youth Member
Kemon McCray, EVAC Founding Youth Member
Bernard Thomas, EVAC Founding Youth Member
Alan McCullough, EVAC Founding Youth Member

11:10 am — 12:30 pm **Empowerment through the Arts Workshop**

This interactive workshop will discuss the intersection between art and resilience. Da'Shawn Mosley will impart to poetic language and imagery techniques and lead the group in a writing exercise. By honing in on specific details of their lives and emotions, the group will gain a greater understanding of how to transform hard-to-express feelings and the complexities of their lives into exciting, moving, and powerful poetry. Da'Shawn will also speak and answer questions about his past experiences of converting devastating events of his life into lifesaving art. Aazia-Marie will explore the medium of painting, discussing how it can be used as a tool of intervention, the different styles of painting, and the neurological effects that occur when painting. Aazia-Marie and Da'shawn will then lead an interactive project with the participants.

Presenters:

Aazia-Marie Ross, CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee
Da'Shawn Mosley, YoungArts Alumni and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, 2012

12:30 pm — 12:40 pm Break

12:40 pm — 1:40 pm **Lunch (provided) – Culpability and Brain Development**

Findings at the frontiers of neuroscience indicate that young people are less culpable for their deviant behavior due to the malleable and transient nature of the developing brain. They also suggest that youth behavior can be changed for the better relatively easily. This presentation addresses issues and underpinnings of how trauma affects adolescent prosocial behavior and accountability. It also identifies broad juvenile justice policy and practice which has been proven effective in aiding youth in difficult times of their lives and guiding them out of deviant behavior, covering possible avenues to improve and expand upon these policies and procedures.

Presenter:

Nicholas Turco, CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee

1:40 pm — 2:50 pm

The Growing Movement to Close Youth Prisons

The criminal justice movement has received incredible national attention thanks to the powerful advocacy and organizing of communities and formerly incarcerated leaders all over the country. As a result, we have seen the rise of campaigns looking for the closure of places like Rikers Island and other inhumane adult prisons around the country. Parallel to this movement, and often not as visible, we have also seen state campaigns focused on closing youth prisons and investing in community alternatives for our youngest and most vulnerable citizens. None of these movements' successes would have been possible without the mass mobilization of members of the community and directly-impacted youth. What has been the messaging in these campaigns? Who has been involved? In this workshop, youth leaders from three campaigns will discuss the growing movement to close youth prisons and provide the audience with first hand examples, tools, and opportunities to get involved in the fight to have #NoKidsInPrison.

Presenters:

Iliana Pujols, Justice Advisor, Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance

Lordramel "Logic" Redding, After School/Summer Camp Program Counselor, Salvation Army of Newark

Tyler Williams Youth Advocate, Progeny

Hernan Carvente Martinez, National Youth Partnership Strategist, Youth First Initiative

2:50 pm — 3:30 pm

Youth Organizing

Now, more than ever, youth movements play a critical role in juvenile justice system improvement. Youth-led grassroots advocacy can have a powerful impact on policy, calling attention to issues and areas that directly affect and are most important to young people. Noah Schultz, a youth advocate and public speaker who served seven-and-a-half years in prison is passionate about driving justice reform through humanizing the stories of the incarcerated. Noah will lead this workshop on the power of youth voice, helping participants learn how to harness their own resources and build partnerships alongside other youth to bring about change.

Presenter:

Noah Schultz, Poet, Writer, and TEDx Speaker

3:30 pm — 4:00 pm

Closing Remarks

Michelle Diaz, CJJ National Youth Committee Chair

Naomi Smoot, Executive Director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice