

**Committee and Regional Reports**  
**Coalition for Juvenile Justice 2020 Updates**

**I. Regional Reports:**

**Midwestern**

States were contacted to see if they had any news or information they wanted to share with the rest of the Region. As we all know.....the business of juvenile justice must go on...pandemic or no pandemic. It appears from the responses generated that while all of our states are facing unprecedented challenges, we are all making do and, in fact, perhaps being forced to work harder and think even more “outside the box” to get things done. It truly is an honor and a privilege to be able to work with and represent such a dedicated group of professionals.

Indiana- The state of Indiana has started a preliminary assessment of the juvenile justice system. They are being assisted by the Council of State Governments Justice Center. There was a task force created within the state to oversee the project. It is expected to last approximately 6-8 months and virtually every player and justice partner in the system will participate in the project. Indiana is hoping to walk away from the project with a set of consensus-based recommendations for system improvement. Like all of us, they are hoping to come away with a framework for a more data driven approach to outcomes that work for youth.

Ohio- The state of Ohio is keeping things on track despite some very difficult restrictions that have been imposed on state workers. They have a travel ban....both within and out of state. All programming and site visits are being conducted remotely and state agencies are not expected to be back in the office until January 4, 2021 at the earliest. All state employees were required to take 10 days unpaid in order to help address the budget shortfall they are experiencing. The Courts are slowly reopening. Some agencies are looking into pilot projects to see if working from home can become a permanent way of conducting business.

Michigan- Michigan has been busy. Raise the age legislation was passed and signed into law by the Governor....it has not taken effect yet since they are giving jurisdictions time to figure out the impact to their process. Like Minnesota, Michigan has had significant turnover on the SAG. Six members were removed and nine new ones added. Also like MN the group is going through the SAG 101 training and a strategic planning process. The juvenile system was encouraged on all fronts to release detained youth as much as possible to help deal with Covid. Finally....Michigan would love suggestions on recruiting and retaining youth members.

North Dakota- North Dakota is also working with the Council of State Governments Justice Center to conduct a deep dive data driven assessment with the goal of coming up with a research based approach to improving the state’s juvenile justice system. They got a \$500,000 grant from OJJDP to enhance their system. The rural nature of the state is causing gaps in service delivery and service delivery to minority kids.

Minnesota- The Minnesota SAG has been continuing a long tradition of keeping the nose to the grindstone. Our longtime leader and Chair, Richard Gardell, has moved on to greener pastures. His dedication and leadership were nothing short of amazing.....we wish him the very best he will be missed. We are now, to the best of our knowledge, the first SAG to be chaired by a representative of a tribal nation. Gary Charwood is a lifetime advocate for youth and his kindness and willingness to lead is much appreciated. We look forward to a long tenure with Gary. We have expanded to 21 members and we are more diverse than ever. All of our

compliance visits were done remotely with the facilities sending all documentation ahead of time. We are finally stealing away one of Callie's hats and have funded an ERD Coordinator position. Minnesota has received an \$800,000 OJJDP grant to focus on expanding mental health services for system involved youth. The SAG has formed a Youth and Community Outreach subcommittee which will focus on soliciting input from youth to assist in developing our priorities. COVID has, of course, been taking its toll. Racial and rural disparities have been brought closer to the surface and our Racial Equity Specialist, Alfonso Mayfield, has been working hard to help ensure that youth in facilities are being protected. Our court system and our facilities have worked together to limit the number of youth in facilities and to protect the ones who are detained. Our grantees have been able to adjust service delivery to deal with the COVID restrictions. Ramsey County, which includes St. Paul has Dr. Ray Moss working as a JDAI Coordinator who is working on creating a Youth Advisory Council to assure that youth have an opportunity to express their thoughts and ideas on the recent civil unrest and have input into developing policies addressing an appropriate response in the future.

That is about it from the Midwest Region. Covid restrictions have hampered other non responding states and have made the work of those SAGs even more difficult to accomplish.

Wishing all of you across the nation and territories the best of luck moving forward in these trying times. Keep your spirits up and always remember our mission.- Judge Michael Mayer, Regional Chair

### **Northeastern**

- CoVid19 is impacting the Northeast as it has throughout the country. States are still staying busy working with our community stakeholders to assist where we can for our youth in our states.
- Connecticut-They partnered with the Council of State Governments on youth justice to come up with numerous reforms that would benefit the youth from their state.
- Maine-They are working on hosting summits in the near future, which include SRO's Summit, and Tribal Youth Summit.
- Massachusetts- Struggling through the pandemic but they are working on a race and equity plan for their state.
- New Hampshire-After the anti-police protest started in the summer the governor formed a commission to look at NH L/E. At the conclusion state laws were enacted to make SAG/ERD training mandatory for all NH Police SRO's before being assigned to schools in their communities.
- New Jersey-The States Council of Juvenile Systems Improvement are now working together with NJ SAG for the betterment of the youth in their state.
- New York-They are building a strategic plan in response to the pandemic and racism.
- Pennsylvania-Chief Juvenile Justice Probation Officers created R/ED subcommittee to look diversion and out of home placement.
- Vermont-As of July 1<sup>st</sup> they raised the age to 18 in the Juvenile Justice system and in two years the age will be raised to 19.
- Washington DC-They are focusing on strengthening their youth committee and bring in some youth leadership to their SAG. They are also establishing SAG mentoring chairs for new members.

## Southern

- State report outs:
  - North Carolina
    - State Advisory Committee has been very active
    - Updating next 3 year plan to remain compliant with the JJDP Act
  - Kentucky
    - Panel - From Protest to Policy, conversations with different agency heads, senators, people in the justice system and how it is affecting kids and communities
    - Legislation to address R/ED - has opportunity to pass this year, data reports
    - Has been looking into information about youthful offenders
    - AOC/Cabinet group, health and family services - meets quarterly to discuss issues between social services and the court systems
    - AOC/Department of Juv Justice...etc - about 40 people meet quarterly to discuss how their agencies are working together and policy issues to work together on
  - Tennessee
    - Working on tracking COVID numbers- rates, testing at youth facilities
    - Juvenile Justice Reform Act passed, \$4.5 million extra to be given to mental health providers across the state
    - Implementation Council - ~30 members involved, work to fund and create a data management system
    - State budget cuts - 12% reduction needed, conversing with Department of Children Services to work with them
    - About 600 people attended their recent trainings on Racial and Ethnic Disparities led by CJJ National Chair, Edward Palmer.
    - Going through data they need to enact policies and practices to reform youth justice system
    - Latinx community being hit the hard by COVID
  - Louisiana
    - 3 year plan being discussed
      - Have it done by the end of this month/near October to be approved by the board
    - Met with Louisiana Supreme Court to mandate courts turn in data they need
      - Will be concentrating heavily on this
  - South Carolina
    - Working on compliance monitoring
      - Do this annually
      - Have met the requirements, still taking note whether they will do virtual or hybrid for compliance visits
        - Have some technological issues to work out if do things virtually
    - General Assembly working to pass a bill to reform juvenile justice system
  - Puerto Rico
    - COVID-19 work: plan to visit the facilities (there are restrictions on personnel entering them), working with Department of Corrections to get the data/visits they need
    - Working on 3 year plan

- Florida
  - Encouraging public safety with COVID-19
  - Civil Citations have been heavily used during this time.
    - Police have to note why the officers did not give the youth a civil citation if they opt to do an arrest instead.
    - Before a child is taken to a facility, supervisor must come in and approve the course of action
  - State budget
    - \$2 billion deficit
    - Figuring out how this will affect juvenile justice and the state
  - Working to improve police and youth relations
    - Entered a contract with NOBLE- went into several counties and did sessions with Youth
      - Promising results
    - With COVID - those activities have been stalled
      - Data reports being done on how effective the programs were, waiting on go ahead to continue
- Georgia
  - Implicit bias training - 3 regions across the state
    - 400 participants in each of those
  - State Advisory Group meeting - committee voted to create a subcommittee
    - Impact on state budget
  - Youth sub committee has not been able to met since COVID has began
  - Still operating evidence based programing, several grant programs operating
- Virginia
  - Maintaining grant programs
    - 17 jurisdiction getting funded for juvenile programs
  - 2 day restorative justice seminar
    - ~76 participants
  - Next two weeks
    - Race and equity seminars (1 pm - 3 pm)
  - Next meeting at the end of the month

### Western

#### **I. State Updates:**

- A. Kansas hired a new Compliance Monitor and sent out survey for facility information. Have not received any guidance from OJJDP in regards to conducting visits. They are doing virtual visits right now but unsure if it will be counted.
- B. Kansas updated Compliance Monitor manual to add in virtual visits. The documents obtained from facility are the detention log, layout of facility, and the facility's policies and procedures.

- C. New Mexico have facilities that do not have equipment to conduct the visits appropriately and there are travel restrictions. Some facilities are open; however, the facility does not feel comfortable allowing inspection to take place for safety reasons.
- D. Arizona is going to the agencies that are trusted most with safety and have the most report with to conduct the visits.
- E. Washington conducted online surveys to get information on facilities' site preferences and access. There is quite a distance to travel from one facility to the other. High priority are in the rural areas but there is usually no access to the internet platforms for a virtual visit.
- F. Kansas asks facility to identify on layouts where juveniles are kept and to mark the sound and sight inspection guidelines.
- G. Oregon proposes making a collective statement with the OJJDP intent to vote on the challenges. OJJDP have given guidance for FY20 previously and the upcoming deadlines but nothing for the years ahead because of the uncertainty with Covid-19.
- H. California has public pressure and have started visits on a case to case bases. Alos, have reached out to the state and public health departments to get information for areas and facilities. Attempt to keep visits 15 minutes of less.

## **II. Tribal Engagement:**

- A. Have been put on pause due to Covid-19; however, looking into obtaining tribe representatives that are to be considered federal employees.

## **II. Peer Resource Group Reports:**

### **Juvenile Justice Specialists**

The Juvenile Justice Specialists have worked on a variety of initiatives over the past year, including: (1) providing support and best practices to their peers as they navigate Covid-19; (2) providing feedback and input into CJJ's policy statements; (3) supporting the establishment of a new Peer Resource Group for Compliance Monitors; and (4) assisting one another with three year planning and JJRA implementation.

### **Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinators**

In 2020, the Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinators supported one another in identifying ways to continue their important work in the midst of Covid-19 and travel restrictions. The group also worked on a new Peer Resource Guide, which CJJ plans to release in early 2021. They provided feedback and held several rounds of discussion on CJJ's policy proposals related to racial and ethnic disparities at the front end of the justice system.

### **Compliance Monitors**

This group is recently formed. The focus of conversations among the Compliance Monitors has been on ways to continue site visits and compliance monitoring during

Covid-19, particularly in states where travel restrictions are either still in place, or are being reinstated.

### **III. Committee Reports:**

#### **Emerging Leaders Committee**

This year's Emerging Leaders Committee hosted a Virtual Youth Summit, which focused on ways that young people can advocate for change in the youth justice system. The summit was widely attended by youth and older adults from across the country, and received resounding positive feedback from those who joined in. A total of 273 attendees registered for the event, the largest registration to date for a CJJ Youth Summit.

CJJ will begin recruiting shortly for our 2021 ELC cohort.

#### **Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee**

CJJ's Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee created a new Equity Statement to help guide CJJ's work. They also worked in partnership with the Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinators to develop a new Peer Resource Guide, which CJJ plans to release in early 2021. They provided feedback and held several rounds of discussion on CJJ's policy proposals related to racial and ethnic disparities at the front end of the justice system.

#### **Finance Committee**

CJJ's Finance Committee has worked closely with the Executive Board and CJJ's Executive Director over the past year to ensure that CJJ remains financially sound in the midst of the ongoing pandemic. The committee has helped identify new revenue sources, and cost saving measures, and overseen a financial review of CJJ's financial health, and the preparation of CJJ's annual 990.

#### **Government Relations Committee**

CJJ's Government Relations Committee was instrumental in the creation of a new policy platform on ways that Congress and the Administration can support states in their continued participation in the JJDP. The committee also assisted in development of the racial equity policy platforms, and hosted a Virtual Hill Day in June to ensure that CJJ members had a chance to inform Congress about the importance of investments in youth justice.