

CJJ Planning and Strategic Goals

Vision: The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) envisions a nation where fewer children are at risk of delinquency and if they are at risk or involved with the youth justice system, they and their families receive every possible opportunity to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives.

Mission: CJJ is a nationwide coalition of State Advisory Groups (SAGs) and allies dedicated to preventing children and youth from becoming involved in the courts and upholding the highest standards of care when youth are charged with wrongdoing and enter the justice system.

How do we achieve our above-stated vision and mission?

CJJ's members are our most important tool in reducing contact with the justice system and improving outcomes for justice system-involved youth. In using the term justice system, CJJ is focused on the youth justice system which includes youth and their families who are involved at any stage of the juvenile justice or other child serving systems, or who are transferred to the adult system. CJJ relies on its diverse and engaged members who include but are not limited to State Advisory Groups, system involved youth, and key youth justice allies, including those who work within state and local youth justice systems and those who work on federal policy related to youth justice, to carry out its mission. Unlike other organizations that represent a single stakeholder, the SAGs include judges, public defenders, prosecutors, governmental officials, families, system-involved children and youth, mental health providers, non-profits, and a myriad of other key players that can drive change both in policy and practice. CJJ's membership also includes an equally diverse set of system partners outside of the SAGs.

CJJ's members, executive board, staff, and other key partners in the field have expressed time and time again that there are four critical ways that CJJ serves as a leader in the youth justice field:

1. **Serving as a key partner** for the SAGs and the youth and practitioners who work alongside the SAGs, CJJ leverages the leadership opportunities and power that SAGs are afforded, while ensuring space for the voices of young people with lived expertise.
2. **Serving as a primary voice** for the states before key policymakers about federal issues that impact the states. This includes working with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and Members of Congress.
3. **Serving as a lead trainer** to help members explore key topics and gain additional insights through learning networks, direct training and technical assistance, conferences and special learning events.
4. **Serving as a national network** on youth justice issues that distributes best practices, helps the field explore emerging issues, and provides opportunities to think through solutions to ongoing challenges.

Goals and action steps to help us more fully carry out our work in each of these areas are discussed further below.

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Current activities	Ways to strengthen over the next 3-9 months	Ways to strengthen over the next 9-18 months
1. CJJ supports SAG capacity building through in-person training in the states to help SAGs better understand their role and leadership opportunities. 2. CJJ creates a variety of materials such as toolkits and fact sheets to help support SAGs and DSA staff in their roles. 3. CJJ hosts monthly affinity group calls for SAG Chairs and DSA staff to discuss successes and challenges that they are having in organizational structure and operation. 4. CJJ manages and maintains listservs where DSA staff can discuss approaches that they have used to successfully engage SAG members in the three-year planning process, and build on existing leadership.	1. In partnership with OJDP and CCAS, CJJ will update the existing SAG toolkit. 2. CJJ will develop quarterly "Conversations with the Field," informal, members-only conversations with presenters that focus on a particular topic of interest to the field. 3. CJJ will promote our existing and previous TA services so that states are better aware of the availability of these services. 4. CJJ will develop a new fact sheet/infographic series that highlights SAG-specific opportunities to institute changes in specific issue areas through funding, the three-year plan, and recommendations to the Governor. 5. CJJ will reach out to NGA, NCSL and other partners to help identify ways we can highlight the SAGs' work to Governors and Legislators so they are viewed as partners and important stakeholders in their states.	1. Create welcome packets for new JJ Specialists, R/ED Coordinators, Compliance Monitors, SAG Chairs, Youth Members etc. These can serve as key overviews of CJJ, our work, and the work of the SAG and be shared any time we are notified of a new person taking on these roles. 2. Update and redesign the website to be more user friendly, including a members only portal with key tools and resources. 3. CJJ will create resources that SAGs and DSA staff can share with Governors and state Legislators to help further their work and ensure that the SAG is consulted on key juvenile justice issues.

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Serving as a primary voice for the states before key policymakers about federal issues that impact the states. This includes working with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and Members of Congress.

Current activities	Ways to strengthen over the next 3-9 months	Ways to strengthen over the next 9-18 months
1. CJJ represents the states as a voice at the federal level, sharing their interests with key Administration officials. 2. CJJ serves as our members' voices before Congress - weighing in on legislation, recommending speakers for hearings, and helping to shape the conversation about youth justice on the Hill. 3. CJJ drafts proposed legislative language through our Government Relations Committee and serves as a key voice in reauthorization of JJDP. 4. CJJ works with lawmakers to ensure robust appropriations for Title II and Title V of the JJDP. 5. CJJ co-chairs the Act4JJ Coalition, a group of more than 100 national advocacy organizations focused on reauthorizing the JJDP.	1. Ensure that state concerns are shared with OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan. 2. Encourage states to participate in upcoming listening sessions with OJJDP. 3. Encourage members to participate in In-District Advocacy and share our In-District Advocacy Toolkit. 4. Work with members of Congress on introduction of important marker bills to phase out the Valid Court Order exception and to ensure Title II dollars can be used for Racial and Ethnic Disparities work.	1. Secure champions and introduction of legislation to reauthorize the JJDP. 2. Target educational outreach to new Congressional Members, particularly those serving on Senate Judiciary and House Education and Workforce.

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Serving as a lead trainer to help members explore key topics and gain additional insights through learning networks, direct training and technical assistance, conferences and special learning events.

Current activities	Ways to strengthen over the next 3-9 months	Ways to strengthen over the next 9-18 months
1. CJJ hosts monthly webinars to help members learn about new and emerging topics in the field. 2. CJJ hosts three yearly conferences: our Annual Conference each Spring; our Youth Summit each Summer; and our R/ED Conference each Fall. 3. CJJ has three existing Learning Networks on youth homelessness, probation, and youth partnership. 4. CJJ provides training and technical assistance to support communities in their work to improve the youth justice system. 5. CJJ provides quarterly book clubs to enable members to learn together about key issues in our field.	1. CJJ will develop quarterly "Conversations with the Field," informal, members-only conversations with presenters that focus on a particular topic of interest to the field. 2. CJJ will promote our existing and previous TA services so that states are better aware of the availability of these services. 3. CJJ will work with funders and other partners in the field to identify resources and opportunities for additional training programs.	1. CJJ will launch a new Academy focused on addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the youth justice system. 2. CJJ will provide training and technical assistance opportunities related to trauma and special populations, including through the development of Learning Networks. 3. CJJ will add a track at our Annual Conference where more experienced SAG members can workshop with one another to create solutions to key challenges they help to identify, such as youth engagement and SAG onboarding.

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Serving as a national network on youth justice issues that distributes best practices, helps the field explore emerging issues, and provides opportunities to think through solutions to ongoing challenges

Current activities	Ways to strengthen over the next 3-9 months	Ways to strengthen over the next 9-18 months
1. CJJ maintains listservs for JJ Specialists, R/ED Coordinators, Compliance Monitors, SAG Chairs, Youth SAG members, and regional groups to share ideas and exchange information. 2. CJJ hosts monthly calls for JJ Specialists, R/ED Coordinators, Compliance Monitors, SAG Chairs, and Youth SAG members to discuss their successes and challenges. 3. CJJ hosts quarterly regional meetings where all CJJ members are able to discuss challenges and successes that they are seeing in their state with neighboring states. 4. CJJ highlights state policy and practice developments through our newsletter, the Juvenile Justice Monitor, which is distributed to more than 11,000 people each month.	1. Confirm that existing listservs are updated and as current as possible so that all current members have the opportunity to engage. 2. Bolster our quarterly Youth SAG calls with an eye to better engagement. 3. Target states with an eye at promoting best practices through the member spotlight in the JJ Monitor. 4. Use our social media to elevate best practices and foster conversation within our network. 5. Record 2-5 minute messages from key staff, Board members, SAG members, and DSA staff to discuss our work, who we are and what we do. These can be rolled out through social media and/or a website redesign. 6. Quarterly "Conversations with the Field": informal, members-only conversations with presenters that focus on a particular topic of interest to the field.	1. Create welcome packets for new JJ Specialists, R/ED Coordinators, Compliance Monitors, SAG Chairs, Youth Members etc. These can serve as key overviews of CJJ, our work, and the work of the SAG and be shared any time we are notified of a new person taking on these roles. 2. Update and redesign the website to be more user friendly, including a members only portal with key tools and resources.

