



BRIDGES FOR BETTER FUTURES

**THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP
IN ADVANCING YOUTH JUSTICE**

MAY 27TH - MAY 30TH
GRAND HYATT WASHINGTON





CJJ'S EMERGING LEADERS COMMITTEE YOUTH SUMMIT

The 2026 Youth Summit Track theme is–

**FROM CONFLICT
TO CARE:**



**CREATING JUSTICE
FOR YOUTH, BY YOUTH**

This year's Youth Summit Track, facilitated by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice's Emerging Leaders Committee, empowers young individuals to share their insights with established juvenile justice professionals. The Youth Summit will explore how we move beyond systems that ask young people to merely survive and instead create pathways for them to truly thrive.

By uplifting the voices of young people who have experienced the system firsthand and positioning young people as co-creators – not just recipients – of justice, we reimagine what justice can mean when it is shaped by youth, for youth. Together, we will explore innovative approaches that prioritize people over titles, center culture in care, and create meaningful access to action and advocacy at every stage of youth development.

While some sessions are primarily reserved for youth attendees, more experienced professionals are strongly encouraged to attend open sessions to gain insights into youthful perspectives and take part in intergenerational collaboration.

Wednesday, May 27th

CJJ Hill Day, ELC Mixer, and Networking Event

Attendees are encouraged to visit their members of Congress to inform them of state and local needs, interests, and accomplishments in juvenile justice and to urge them to support reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP). Participants are expected to schedule/arrange their own meetings in advance of the conference.

Hill Day Packets available for pick-up

7:00 am – 1:00 pm Location: Renwick

Skill Building: Hill Day Training (Session 1)

7:00 am – 7:30 am Location: Renwick

Discuss talking points on current state/federal issues, juvenile justice funding, and JJDP reauthorization with CJJ Staff and Act4JJ representatives prior to your Hill Day visits. This training is being offered twice.

Facilitated by:

Lisette Burton, *D.C. Juvenile Justice Advisory Council Member and Co-Chair, Act4JJ Coalition*

Brock Landwehr, *Associate Director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice*

Skill Building: Hill Day Training (Session 2)

10:00 am – 10:30 am Location: Renwick

Discuss talking points on current state/federal issues, juvenile justice funding, and JJDP reauthorization with CJJ Staff and Act4JJ representatives prior to your Hill Day visits. This training is being offered twice.

Facilitated by:

Lisette Burton, *D.C. Juvenile Justice Advisory Council Member and Co-Chair, Act4JJ Coalition*

Brock Landwehr, *Associate Director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice*

Early Registration

12:30pm – 3:30 pm Location: Grand Foyer

Youth Summit Kick-Off:

YOUTH ONLY

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Location: Latrobe/Bulfinch/Renwick

The Youth Summit begins with a youth-only meet and greet session, which includes: introductions, icebreakers and games, casual freeform networking, and a preface of what's to come during the conference.

Facilitated by:

Ja'Miyah Levy, *Emerging Leaders Committee Member, CJJ*

Stephanie Lorenzo, *Emerging Leaders Committee Member, CJJ*

Rebekah Arnold, *Emerging Leaders Committee Chair, CJJ*

Welcome and Networking Mixer

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Location: Cabinet

Please join us at our welcome mixer to network with partners and experts from around the country. Small snacks and beverages will be provided.

Thursday, May 28th

Opening Plenary, Exhibit Hall, Workshops, Awards Luncheon, Meetings

Registration

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Location: 3B Registration Desk

After checking in at the registration table, be sure to check out our **Exhibit Hall** located in the **Bridge Rooms**.

Breakfast

8:00 am – 9:00 am Location: Constitution Foyer

Youth Networking and Breakfast

YOUTH ONLY

8:00 am – 9:00 am Location: Penn Quarter AB

A time for all young people, youth members, and students to introduce themselves and network before the conference kicks off. Featuring a short guided meditation from Kim Mettler from the Association on American Indian Affairs.

Juvenile Justice Specialists' Meeting (Closed Meeting)

8:00 am – 9:00 am Location: Declaration A

A forum for state Juvenile Justice Specialists to network, share resources, and discuss emerging issues.

Facilitated by:

Kiley Komro, *National Juvenile Justice Specialist, CJJ*

R/ED Coordinator/Ethnic & Cultural Diversity Committee Meeting and Breakfast (Closed Meeting)

8:00 am – 9:00 am Location: Declaration B

A forum for state R/ED Coordinators and Ethnic and Cultural Committee members to network, share resources, and discuss emerging issues.

Facilitated by:

Victoria Key-Walker, *National R/D Coordinator, CJJ*

Barbara Wallace, *National Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Chair, CJJ*

Conference Welcome & General Session
9:00 am – 10:30 am Location: Constitution Foyer

CJJ Welcome by: Jack Martin, *National Chair, CJJ*

ELC Welcome by: Rebekah Arnold, *Emerging Leaders Committee Chair, CJJ*

Keynote: The Continuum in Action: Advancing Youth Justice Through Partnership

Presenter:

Liz Ryan, Doris Duke Distinguished Visiting Fellow, McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University

Keynote: Colorado State Advisory Group (SAG)

Presenters:

Gianina Horton, *Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator, Office of Adult and Juvenile Justice Assistance (OAJJA)*

Hanna Mackintosh, *Statewide Juvenile Diversion Coordinator for the Office of Adult and Juvenile Justice Assistance (OAJJA) at the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice.*

Shelly Myskiw, *Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Compliance Monitor, Office of Adult and Juvenile Justice Assistance (OAJJA)*

SESSION CATEGORIES

 **YOUTH AND/OR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

 **MODEL PROGRAM**

 **MODEL POLICY OR SYSTEM-LEVEL BEST PRACTICES**

 **STORYTELLING, DATA, AND EVALUATION**

 **EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND TECHNOLOGY**

10:30 am – 10:40 am BREAK

Concurrent Workshop Session #1

10:40 am – 11:45 am

TBD

YOUTH SUMMIT TRACK

Location: Penn Quarter AB

Presenters:

TBD

First Contact, Last Chance for True Diversion: Police as Community Partners in Prevention

Location: Declaration A

The first contact between youth and the justice system is a too often overlooked opportunity for problem resolution and true diversion. This session presents a trauma-informed, relationship-based training model for police – grounded in research and informed by conversations with youth about their experiences – that improves youth encounters and reduces the likelihood of arrest. Participants will explore the evidence, examine the model, and leave with practical tools to replicate this approach in their own jurisdictions.

Presenter:

Jeffrey Aaron, *Juvenile Justice & Behavioral Health Program Manager, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services*

Kim Simon, *Founder, S2C LLC | Safe Schools & Communities*

Bridges to Services: Connecting Court Referrals to the Community's Continuum of Care

Location: Declaration B

When families miss work to follow court orders but are referred to closed or unavailable programs, it creates a fractured “ghost network.” After a 2023 gap analysis, our Juvenile Court replaced outdated, siloed provider lists with a unified digital system—a Stakeholder Site with vetted Provider Levels (1–5)—to ensure accessible, active, and safe care. But technology alone isn’t enough. Following rollout challenges, the Court launched a strategic “relaunch.” This workshop challenges the field to stop viewing referral systems as bureaucratic outputs and start viewing them as the essential “bridge” that translates a judge's order into real help, real healing, and real rehabilitation for children and families. The presenters will facilitate a series of situational scenarios and a “ghost service audit” discussion. Participants will be challenged to identify where their own jurisdiction's data might be leading families to dead ends, ensuring no child falls through the gap between the courtrooms and the community.

Presenters:

Jessie Dryden, *Administrator, Research & Data Visualization, Memphis & Shelby County Juvenile Court*

Hari Priya Veeradimma, *Evaluation Coordinator – Referral Process, Memphis & Shelby County Juvenile Court*

Kimbrell Owens, *Interagency Manager, Memphis & Shelby County Juvenile Court*

Seeding the Ecosystem: Partnership Lessons from Building a Healing-Centered Youth Justice Vision

Location: Burnham

What does it take to build a youth justice ecosystem rooted in healing, liberation, and lived experience — and what gets in the way? In partnership with Catalyze Justice, this workshop draws on The Hive's journey developing a transformative, healing-centered campus in Richmond, VA. Through honest reflection and facilitated dialogue, participants will explore the structural barriers community organizations face and leave with actionable recommendations for funders, practitioners, and system partners.

Presenters:

Trey Hartt, *Director of Collective Visioning, The Hive*

Vidhya Ananthkrishnan, *Co-Founder and Managing Director, Catalyze Justice*

Vincent Lau, *Senior Manager of Advising and Learning, Catalyze Justice*

11:45 am – 12:00 pm BREAK

CJJ 2026 Awards Luncheon

12:00 pm – 1:15 pm Location: Constitution Foyer

CJJ recognizes the accomplishments of its national award recipients who have been nominated and selected by CJJ members.

Awards Moderator: Jack Martin, National Chair, CJJ

Tony Gobar Outstanding National Juvenile Justice Specialist Award

- Recipient: **Leahann Romero (ID)**
- Presented by: **Honorable Judge Mark Ingram**

Spirit of Youth Award

- Recipient: **Pray'Eon Jackson (OK)**
- Presented by: **Les Thomas**

A.L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Award

- Recipient: **Maximilian R. Mendoza (KS)**
- Presented by: **Tyler Williams**

Marion Mattingly Lifetime Achievement Award

- Recipient: **Carol Miller (OK)**
- Presented by: **Shel Millington**

Sponsorship Presentation: Katie Hatley, Graduate Arkansas, Inc.

1:15 pm – 1:25 pm BREAK (coffee available in TBD)

Concurrent Workshop Session #2

1:25 pm – 2:30 pm

TBD

YOUTH SUMMIT TRACK

Location: Penn Quarter AB

Presenters:

From Custody to Community: Advancing Youth Reentry Through Evidence-Informed Partnerships

Location: Declaration A

Youth reentering communities face stigma, disrupted education, mental health needs, and limited support, increasing recidivism risk. This interactive workshop presents a comprehensive, evidence-informed reentry model grounded in trauma-responsive practice and cross-system collaboration. Participants will explore practical tools and partnership strategies to enhance youth outcomes, strengthen systems, and support long-term, community-based reintegration success.

Presenters:

Barbara Walters, *Professor, School of Social Work, Eastern Michigan University*

Jennifer Fritz, *Dean of the College of Health and Human Services, Eastern Michigan University*

Bonnie Miller, *Lecturer, School of Social Work, Eastern Michigan University*

Youth Voice, Youth Justice: Youth Participatory Action Research in Detention Centers and Beyond

Location: Declaration B

Members of the Youth Voice Commission will share insights from their conversations with youth in Wisconsin's secure detention centers about the impacts of mentoring, the need for services inside the facilities and in their communities, and policy changes needed to improve outcomes for youth in the system. The Commissioners will lead participants in a demonstration of the Talking Wall method they used to conduct participatory action surveys of youth in the facilities to turn quotes and notes into actionable recommendations for positive reforms. The content will be presented as a hybrid between a presentation by multiple youth voice commissioners and an interactive demonstration of the Talking Wall method of participatory action surveys.

Presenters:

Trevor Strickler, *Commissioner, Youth Voice Commission*

Ella Bostwick, *Commissioner, Youth Voice Commission*

Maurice Newton Jr., *Commissioner, Youth Voice Commission*

Juvenile Fine and Fee Reform: Effective Strategies for SAG Engagement and Partnership

Location: Burnham

State Advisory Groups (SAGs) have tremendous power to influence juvenile fine and fee reform in their states. This session will explore why fine and fee reform should be a priority for every SAG, ideas that may be championed by SAGs, partnerships that can advance work in this area, and ways any SAG can leverage its role for real change that improves lives of youth and families.

Presenters:

Tim Curry, *Policy & Research Director, Fines & Fees Justice Center*

Cameron D. Clark, *Attorney and Co-coordinator, Debt Free Justice*

Andi Sabanal, *Youth Committee Chair, Hawai'i Juvenile Justice State Advisory Committee, EPIC 'Ohana*

2:30 pm – 2:40 pm BREAK

Concurrent Workshop Session #3

2:40 pm – 3:45 pm

TBD

YOUTH SUMMIT TRACK

Location: Penn Quarter AB

Presenters:

TBD

Deflection by Design: How Colorado Built a Blueprint for Sustainable Youth Investment

Location: Declaration A

In 2025, Colorado lawmakers created the Deflection and Community Investment Grant Program — a first-of-its-kind statewide funding mechanism for trauma-informed, pre-arrest juvenile deflection services. This workshop walks participants through the legislative development process, from evidence-building to bipartisan coalition assembly, to final passage and implementation. Attendees will leave with a replicable strategy for establishing dedicated deflection funding structures in their own states.

Presenters:

Jacob "Coby" Madison, *Founder, Bridge the Gap*

Logan Seacrest, *Resident Fellow, R Street Institute*

Phillip Roybal, *Director of Policy and Advocacy, Fully Liberated Youth (FLY)*

Back to Basics: Advancing Youth Justice Through Evidence-Driven Research and Healing-Centered Practice

Location: Declaration B

This session introduces a new brief series from the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, guiding practitioners in implementing the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) through research-informed practices. Presenters will discuss the series' foundational paper emphasizing youth's developmental differences and evidence-based care, in addition to discussing a new paper, Addressing Childhood Adversity with Strategies for Healing and System Improvement, which examines how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) influence youth behavior and system involvement. The paper emphasizes that ACEs reflect unmet needs and environmental stressors rather than individual deficits. The session will also preview briefs on additional key focus areas, including Trauma-Informed Care, Protective Factors, Alternatives to Arrest, and Community-Based Alternatives to Incarceration.

Presenters:

Melissa Milchman, *Executive Director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice*

Edward L. Palmer Sr., *Co-Pastor, The Sign of the Dove Church*

Ashley Anderson, *Director of Behavior Analytic Services, Auburn University, Alabama Department of Youth Services*

Transforming Compliance into Actionable Systems Change: Using SMART Goals and Logic Models to Build R/ED Workplans

Location: Burnham

This interactive workshop empowers multidisciplinary teams to move beyond reporting and toward measurable impact. Participants will learn to bridge the gap between high-level requirements and daily practice by using practical system-design tools. By the end of the session, attendees will have the framework for a coordinated, data-driven workplan that drives equitable outcomes and strengthens local cross-sector partnerships

Presenter:

Amber Farn, *Deputy Director for Certificate Programs, Center for Youth Justice*

Michael Umpierre, *Director, Center for Youth Justice*

CJJ Regional Meetings

3:50 pm – 5:00 pm

The challenges states and territories face can vary greatly based on geographical region. This meeting time is dedicated to information sharing, problem-solving, and networking for those looking to share concerns, recent innovations, and successes with juvenile justice professionals confronting similar issues. All are invited to attend. A list of states by region can be found on page 14 of this agenda.

Midwest

Location: Declaration A

Facilitated by:

Callie Hargett, *Midwest Regional Chair*

Northeast

Location: Declaration B

Facilitated by:

Larome Myrick, *Northeast Regional Chair*

Southern

Location: Burnham

Facilitated by:

Raymond Vincent, *Southern Regional Chair*

Western

Location: Latrobe/Bulfinch/Renwick

Facilitated by:

Max Mendoza, *Western Regional Chair*

CJJ Executive Board Meeting (Closed Meeting)

5:15 pm – 9:00 pm

Location: Banneker

Friday, May 29th

Conference Plenary, Workshops, CJJ Business Meetings

Registration

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Location: 3B Registration Desk

After checking in at the registration table, be sure to check out our **Exhibit Hall** located in the **Bridge Rooms**.

Breakfast

8:00 am – 9:00 am Location: Constitution Foyer

SAG Chair/SAG Member Networking and Breakfast

8:00 am – 9:00 am Location: Declaration A

A forum for SAG Chairs to network, share resources, and discuss emerging issues.

Facilitated by:

Brock Landwehr, *Associate Director, CJJ*

Compliance Monitor Meeting and Breakfast (Closed Meeting)

8:00 am – 9:00 am Location: Declaration B

A forum for state Compliance Monitors to network, share resources, and discuss emerging issues.

Facilitated by:

Samantha Armendariz, *National Compliance Monitor, CJJ*

Concurrent Workshop Session #4

9:00 am – 10:05 am

TBD

YOUTH SUMMIT TRACK

Location: Penn Quarter AB

Presenters:

TBD

Coach or Referee? Shifting the Role of Juvenile Justice Providers

Location: Declaration A

Over the past 50 years, the juvenile justice system has seen the pendulum swing from *parens patriae* doctrine to adopting tough on crime strategies to curb delinquency. Regardless of the philosophical approach adopted, we often find that staff working throughout the justice system are designed more like referees than coaches. Referees are trained to be impartial, monitor for fouls, throw flags, and issue penalties. On the other hand, coaches are designed to see a player's potential, invest in the success of their players, set expectations, and hold players accountable. In transforming those working in the field to coaches, the youth we serve have the greatest opportunity to be successful.

Presenter:

Brian Lovins, *President, Justice System Partners*

Restoring the Circle: Indigenous Tradition in Youth Justice

Location: Declaration B

This interactive session, Restoring the Circle: Indigenous Tradition in Youth Justice, highlights the work of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Prosecutor's Office in blending traditional restorative practices with modern legal education. Drawing from the Tribe's Youth Justice Academy, participants will learn how community-based accountability, hands-on learning, and interagency collaboration can engage youth and reduce involvement in the juvenile justice system. The session will highlight the development of a Youth Court model rooted in tradition, responsibility, and relationship-building, while modeling interactive strategies such as discussion, debate, and game-based learning.

Presenters:

Raenna De Jesus, *Legal Administrative Specialist, Pascua Yaqui Tribe Prosecutor's Office*

Malena Acosta, *Chief Prosecutor, Pascua Yaqui Tribe Prosecutor's Office*

TBD

Location: Burnham

Presenter:

TBD

10:05 am – 10:15 am BREAK

Concurrent Workshop Session #5

10:15 am – 11:20 am

TBD

YOUTH SUMMIT TRACK

Location: Penn Quarter AB

Presenters:

TBD

The Stage of Justice: Using the Listen-Act-Change Theater Curriculum for Systems Reform

Location: Declaration A

This interactive workshop explores Advot's "Listen-Act-Change" (LAC) curriculum—a theater-based intervention that transforms justice-impacted youth into powerful self-advocates. Rather than traditional mentoring, LAC uses expressive arts to help youth navigate "split-second choices" and communicate their needs to system stakeholders. Attendees will experience the Five Streams of Communication firsthand and see how these theatrical tools were used to bridge the gap between incarcerated youth and the LA County Board of Supervisors.

Presenter:

Jarvis Griggs, Program Manager, Advot

The Court's in the Game: How Judges Drive Juvenile Justice Reforms

Location: Declaration B

In this session, we explore how judges move from the sidelines to the center of change, using their unique position to guide reform and improve outcomes for youth. Judges aren't just referees; they can be coaches, strategists, and playmakers, driving meaningful change in individual cases and the system as a whole. Attendees will hear practical strategies for leading reform from the bench: promoting alternatives to incarceration, implementing trauma-informed approaches, and fostering collaboration with families, agencies, and community organizations. Real-world examples will show how judicial leadership can create momentum, streamline court processes, and help youth achieve positive, lasting outcomes. This session also addresses the balance judges must maintain – staying impartial while stepping into a proactive role – and the ways courts can model collaboration and accountability. Participants will leave with a new perspective on how judges can influence both the system and the lives of the youth they serve, demonstrating that leadership from the bench can transform not only cases, but entire communities.

Presenter:

Karen Braxton, Judge, 3rd Judicial Circuit of Michigan

Bridging Systems and Youth Voice: A Replicable Model for Addressing Root Causes of Delinquency

Location: Burnham

This interactive workshop explores how systems can move beyond traditional intervention models by partnering directly with youth, families, and communities to address the root causes of delinquency. Participants will be introduced to a replicable co-creation framework that bridges schools, community-based organizations, and juvenile justice stakeholders. Through guided activities and real-world examples, attendees will gain practical strategies to integrate youth voice into policy and program design to strengthen prevention efforts and reduce system involvement.

Presenters:

Dennis Ibude, *Founder & Executive Director, Teach Emotions Inc.*

Abdul Lowrey, *Co-Founder, Teach Emotions Inc.*

11:20 am – 11:30 am BREAK

Concurrent Workshop Session #6

11:30 am – 12:35 pm

TBD

YOUTH SUMMIT TRACK

Location: Penn Quarter AB

Presenters:

TBD

Designing Healthier Transitions: A Hands-On Lab for Youth Reentry

Location: Declaration A

This interactive session bridges policy and real-world practice. After a rapid primer on new Medicaid reentry reforms (CAA 2023, 1115 waivers), participants work in teams to solve a fictional youth reentry case, identify implementation barriers, and design practical micro-solutions in a fun, creative environment. Using a mini-design sprint and group “pitch,” attendees leave with actionable strategies and a visual roadmap to strengthen coverage, coordination, and continuity of care for justice-involved youth.

Presenters:

Elizabeth Laferriere, *Research Specialist and Human-Centered Service Designer, George Washington University*

Destiny Davis, *Youth Advocate, Aged-Out Foster Child*

Bringing Together a Youth Household

Location: Declaration B

This session presents a community-based diversion and reentry framework that moves beyond individual youth interventions to strengthen the entire household. Grounded in juvenile justice reform, the approach recognizes that outcomes improve when caregivers, siblings, and support networks are stabilized alongside the young person. Participants will explore how housing instability, caregiver stress, workforce barriers, and trauma directly impact youth behavior and long-term success. Through practical strategies, this session reimagines traditional case planning into a “household-centered model” that promotes shared accountability, prevention, and sustainable reintegration. Attendees will gain insight into aligning services, partnerships, and supports to build stronger, more resilient youth ecosystems.

Presenters:

Janette Gonzalez-Graham, *Founder & Executive Director, No Struggle No Success, Inc.*

Tiffany Page-Cooper, *Educator & Program Evaluator, No Struggle No Success, Inc.*

Shannon McFadden, *Owner & Founder, McFadden Educational Center*

Student Conflict Resolution Toolkit: Youth-Led Strategies for Building Safer and More Accountable School Communities

Location: Burnham

Participants will examine core goals and principles of the Student Conflict Resolution Toolkit and explore how implementing core principles effectively can shift patterns of student conflicts that impact school climate and juvenile outcomes.

Presenters:

Jamal Jones, *Executive Director, Baltimore Algebra Project*

12:35 pm – 2:00 pm LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:40 pm – 1:55 pm Guided Meditation presented by Kim Mettler in Latrobe/Bulfinch/Renwick

CJJ Government Relations Committee Meeting (Closed Meeting; Lunch Provided- Please pick up at Registration desk)

12:35 pm – 1:45 pm Location: Declaration A

Facilitated by:

Monica Celli, *Government Relations Committee Chair, CJJ*

CJJ Finance Committee Meeting (Closed Meeting; Lunch Provided- Please pick up at Registration desk)

12:35 pm – 1:45 pm Location: Declaration B

Facilitated by:

James Hollywood III, *Treasurer, CJJ*

Concurrent Workshop Session #7

2:00 pm – 3:05 pm

TBD

YOUTH ONLY

Location: Penn Quarter AB

Presenters:

TBD

Bridge 2 Brilliance: A Partnership Blueprint for Youth-Led Diversion

Location: Declaration A

This interactive session highlights a replicable partnership model that brings together juvenile justice agencies, schools, community providers, families, and youth with lived experience to strengthen diversion, intervention, and reentry outcomes. Attendees will explore practical tools for cross-system collaboration, youth and family co-design, and JJDP A-aligned strategies that can be adapted in state and local communities.

Presenter:

Randy Curtis Jr, *Lead & Restorative Mentor, West County Community of Hop*

Reframing Juvenile Detention: The TRUE Alabama Solution (ADYS)

Location: Declaration B

This session analyzes pressing challenges and opportunities within Alabama's juvenile justice system, with an emphasis on achieving equitable outcomes for vulnerable youth. It examines the impact of the COVID cohort, highlighting systemic failures that disproportionately harmed Black children and other marginalized populations during the pandemic. The discussion explores avenues for transforming the lives of juvenile offenders, assessing how ADYS can deploy its resources to promote rehabilitation, accountability, and restorative practices. Policy and privatization receive critical scrutiny, with attention to strategies that reduce reliance on private detention facilities and protect low-income, disenfranchised communities from adverse effects. Finally, the session outlines collaborative actions—practical steps for coordination among government agencies, school districts, and community stakeholders—to sustain and scale reforms within ADYS. The session's goal is a coherent, equity-centered agenda that advances meaningful, evidence-informed change for youth, families, and communities across Alabama.

Presenters:

Michelle Summers, *Educational Strategist, The Department of Youth Services*

Leroy Barrow, *Educational Juvenile Guru, The Department of Youth Services*

30 Years of Creative Solutions for Justice Involved Youth

Location: Burnham

Big Thought's Creative Solutions program is entering its 33rd year in partnership with Dallas County Juvenile Department. What started out as getting art access into the hands of justice-involved youth has evolved into an annual arts-as-workforce intervention program that has one of the lowest recidivism rates in non-residential services partnered with DCJD. Participants will learn the history of the Creative Solutions success and experience a hands-on song writing workshop.

Presenter:

Vincent Coronado, Sr. Manager, Creative Voices, Big Thought

Plenary and Conference Closing

3:05 pm – 5:00 pm Location: Constitution Foyer

Introduction:

Jack Martin, National Chair, CJJ

Closing Plenary – Knowledge is Power, Decreasing Delinquency by Empowering Youth

Discover proven strategies to engage youth and empower informed decision-making through insights on brain development and motivation. Learn how research-backed approaches support the concept that when youth are well informed, they make more confident, deliberate, and effective decisions. Learn how to use Title II funds to fuel a prevention-focused scope of work that meets objectives embedded within a 3-year plan. Explore lessons learned from New Hampshire's implementation of an informational education tool.

Presenters:

Jennifer Archer, Juvenile Justice Specialist, New Hampshire Division for Children Youth and Families

Kristen Wheeler, Director, Strategies for Youth

Katherine Muzzy, Juvenile Prosecutor, Londonderry Police Department

Youth Call-to-Action:

During the Youth Call-to-Action Planning Session, emerging leaders worked to address the issues and collaborate innovative solutions discussed at this year's Annual Conference. At this time, members of CJJ's Emerging Leaders Committee will share findings from their collaborative discussion.

Presenters:

Chanelle Grosbard, Emerging Leaders Committee Member, ELC

Audi Wodrazka Espinoza, Emerging Leaders Committee Member, ELC

Conference Closing Remarks:

Melissa Milchman, Executive Director, CJJ

Saturday, May 30th

CJJ Council of SAGs Meeting

Continental Breakfast

7:45 am – 8:15 am Location: Constitution Foyer

Council of SAGs Meeting & Executive Board Elections

8:15 am – 11:00 am Location: Constitution Ballroom

All conference attendees are welcome to attend the annual meeting of CJJ's policy-setting body, comprising member-State Advisory Group Chairs/Chair-designees.

Facilitated by:

Jack Martin, *National Chair, CJJ*

COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE (CJJ)
REGIONS OF STATE ADVISORY GROUPS

The composition of the JJDPAs State Advisory Groups (SAGs) regions is defined in the CJJ Bylaws. Each region’s members are represented on the CJJ Executive Board by a Regional Chair and 1-to-2 Regional Representatives. Memberships in CJJ are granted to all SAG members, as well as the state staff that work on JJDPAs matters with the SAG (including the state Juvenile Justice Specialists, DMC Coordinators, and Compliance Monitors).

The Chair/Chair-designee of each CJJ member-SAG has a vote in all proceedings of the CJJ Council of SAGs. The Council is responsible for Bylaws, electing Officers to the Board, and approving major policy positions. The Council of SAGs shall meet at least once annually. The CJJ Executive Board convenes at least 4 times per year to act as the governing body for legal, fiscal and strategic decisions, reflecting the views of CJJ members and stakeholders.

<u>Midwest</u>	<u>Northeast</u>	<u>Southern</u>	<u>Western</u>
Illinois*	Connecticut*	Alabama	Alaska*
Indiana*	Delaware*	Arkansas*	American Samoa
Iowa*	Maine*	Florida	Arizona
Michigan*	Maryland*	Georgia*	California
Minnesota*	Massachusetts*	Kentucky*	Colorado*
Missouri*	New Hampshire*	Louisiana	Comm. No. Marianas
North Dakota*	New Jersey*	Mississippi*	Guam
Ohio*	New York*	North Carolina*	Hawaii
South Dakota*	Pennsylvania*	Puerto Rico	Idaho*
Wisconsin	Rhode Island*	South Carolina*	Kansas*
	Vermont*	Tennessee*	Montana
	Virgin Islands	Virginia*	Nevada*
	Washington, DC*	West Virginia	New Mexico*
			Oklahoma*
			Oregon*
			Texas
			Utah*
			Washington*
			Wyoming

*CJJ member states (List last updated on March, 2026 and is subject to change.)

Questions? If you have any questions about the CJJ Council of SAGs, Executive Board, CJJ Regions, or CJJ Membership, please contact Melissa Milchman CJJ Executive Director, at milchman@juvjustice.org.

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Bridges of Colorado

Connecting Colorado's Criminal Justice and Mental Health Systems

We Are The Gatekeepers
A Youth Justice Training and Technical Assistance
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