

2026

YOUTH JUSTICE IN ACTION CONFERENCE



PITTSBURGH, PN

WYNDHAM GRAND PITTSBURGH DOWNTOWN

OCTOBER 13TH - 15TH

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

October 13th – *Early Registration, Networking Mixer*

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
King's Garden Foyer

Early Registration Opens

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
King's Garden Foyer

Exhibitor Set-up

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
King's Garden Ballroom 4 & 5

Networking Mixer and Community YJAM Activity

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

October 14th – *Conference Opening, Plenaries, Workshops, Executive Board Meeting*

7:30 am – 5:00 pm
King's Garden Foyer

Registration and Exhibitor Hall Open

8:00 am – 9:00 am
King's Garden Foyer

Breakfast

9:00 am – 10:40 am
King's Garden Ballroom 4 & 5

Conference Welcome & General Session

Introduction and Opening Remarks

Janelle Ridley, *CJJ National Vice Chair*

Land Acknowledgement

Miguel Sague Jr, *Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center of Pittsburgh, Board of Directors and Community Outreach and Education Representative*

Keynote: "Begin with the End in Mind"

Bruce Edwards, *Juvenile Family Magistrate, Circuit Court for Prince George's County*

Opening Plenary

Pennsylvania State Advisory Group and System Leaders

Kim Berkely Clark, *SAG Chair, Retired, Judge Allegheny County*

Robert Tomassini, *Executive Director, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission*

Russell Carlino, *Retired, Allegheny County Juvenile Probation Chief*

Hunter Hurst, *Director, National Center for Juvenile Justice*

10:40 am – 10:45 am

Break

CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSION #1

SESSION CATEGORIES



Youth and/or Community Partnership



Storytelling, Data, and Evaluation



Model Program



Education, Training, and Technology



Model Policy or System-level Best Practices

10:45 am – 12:00 pm

King's Garden 1



Bridge to Opportunity: Financial Capability, Mentorship, and Pathways to Independence

Presenters

Coby Madison, *Co Founder of Bridge the Gap Foundation/CO Emerging Leader*

Taylor Young, *CO Emerging Leader*

Elizabeth Higgs, *CO Emerging Leaders*

King's Garden 2



School Discipline, Juvenile Justice Involvement, and Academic Attainment: Cross-System Collaboration through Data Sharing

Presenters

Katherine Perry-Lorentz, *Senior Director of Strategic Innovation*

Massachusetts Department of Youth Services

Jonathan Zaff, *Professor and Chair, Department of Applied Psychology Bouvé College of Health Sciences, Northeastern University*

King's Garden 3



Reform, Resistance, and Resilience: Vermont's Raise the Age Experience

Presenters

Ken Schatz, *Commissioner Retired VT Department for Children and Families*

Hunter Hurst, *Director National Center for Juvenile Justice*

Karen Vastine, *Chair Vermont Council for Equitable Youth Justice*

King's Terrace Room



Disrupting the Abuse to Prison Pipeline and Building Gender-Responsive Models for Girls

Presenters

Carolina Bazan, *Senior Program Manager Rights4Girls*

Ayana Abdul-Raheem, *Founder & Head of the Timbuk2Academy*

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Lunch on Your Own

King's Garden Ballroom 4 & 5

R/ED Coordinator Meeting – (Closed Meeting/Lunch Provided)

CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSION #2

2:00 pm – 3:15 pm

King's Garden 1



Together Toward Stability: Co-Designing Pathways Out of Justice Involvement for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Presenters

Cody Jost, *Co-Chair, Bill Wilson Center–Youth Impact Partnership*

King's Garden 2



Learning With, Not About: Reimagining Higher Education Through Shared Classrooms with Justice-Involved Youth

Presenters

Jenn Jacobs, *Co-Founder of Project Flex and Professor of Sport Psychology Northern Illinois University*

Jeremy Charles, *Graduate Student Instructor Project Flex, Northern Illinois University*

Jayse Booker, *Graduate Student Instructor Project Flex, Northern Illinois University*

King's Garden 3



From Conversation to Investment: Building Tribal Partnerships in Youth Justice

Presenters

Alison Humphrey, *Director of Reentry Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs*

Jennifer Francis, *Deputy Chief of Operations Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs*

Les Thomas, Sr., *Oklahoma SAG Chair Oklahoma State Advisory Group*

Brian Wahnee, *SAG Tribal Liaison Bureau of Indian Affairs Victim Services*

King's Terrace Room



Before They Become a Case File: Lessons from a Probation Officer on What Youth Need Before They Enter the Justice System

Presenters

Kim Malone, *Founder & Program Developer Reality Check By Kim*

Payton Malone, *Youth Engagement Specialist Reality Check By Kim*

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Break

CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSION #3

3:30 pm – 4:45 pm

King's Garden 1



From Tokenism to Partnership: Building Authentic Youth Leadership in Juvenile Justice Spaces

Location: King's Garden 1

Presenters

Isaiah Polk, *CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee*

Chanelle Grosbard, *CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee*

Pray'Eon Jackson, *CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee*

Faria Tavacoli, *CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee*

King's Garden 2



Pennsylvania's Youth Justice Advisory Boards: Building Better Futures Through Youth Expertise, Partnership, and System Change

Presenters

Walker Michaels, *Violence Prevention Program Manager Youth Enrichment Services*

Cassandra Green, *Youth Development Leader Philadelphia District Attorney's Office – We Speak*

Cameron Boston, *Amachi Ambassador Coordinator Amachi Pittsburgh*

King's Garden 3



Vibe Check: A Youth-Led, Non-Punitive Tool for Reflection, Accountability, and Upstream Prevention of Peer Sexual Harm

Presenters

Drew Davis, *Director of Strategic Initiatives SafeBAE*

Shael Norris, *Founding Executive Director SafeBAE*

King's Terrace Room



Unexpected Paths: From Fellow to Fully Integrated Team Member – Supporting Young Professionals Through Change, Growth, and Belonging

Presenters

Tina Harris, *Assistant Fellow American Institutes for Research*

Diego Garcia, *Assistant Fellow American Institutes for Research*

Vivie Satorsky, *Technical Assistance Consultant American Institutes for Research*

5:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Sky Lounge

CJJ Executive Board Meeting (Closed)

October 15th – Workshops, Regional Meetings, Workshops, Award Luncheon

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration Opens
King’s Garden Foyer	
7:45 am – 3:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Opens
King’s Garden Foyer	
7:45 am – 10:00 am	Breakfast
King’s Garden Foyer	
8:15 am – 10:00 am	Regional Breakfast Meetings All attendees are invited to participate in a regional breakfast for information sharing, problem-solving, networking, sharing recent innovations, and successes with juvenile justice professionals in your area.
King's Garden 1	Midwest
King's Garden 2	Western
King's Garden 3	Southern
King's Terrace Room	Northeast
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Break

CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSION #4

10:15 am – 11:30 am		Together Toward Opportunity: Revitalizing Indigenous Restorative Justice Through Justice Education and Youth Court Development
King's Garden 1		Presenters Raenna De Jesus , <i>Legal Administrative Specialist Pascua Yaqui Tribe Prosecutor's Office</i> Lisa Valenzuela , <i>Program Coordinator Pascua Yaqui Tribe Prosecutor's Office</i>

King's Garden 2

 How Do I Become Something I Don't See? Reimagining Support for Young Fathers Impacted by the Juvenile Justice System

Presenters

Cole Williams, *Executive Director The Delta Project*

Nicholas Deen, *Y-Fi Young Father Initiative – Young Dad Lead Coach The Delta Project*

Kahlil Richardson, *Y-Fi Young Father Initiative – Young Dad Coach & Media Content Creator The Delta Project*

King's Garden 3

 Beyond Optics, Toward Power: Building Authentic Youth Partnerships in Youth Justice

Location: King's Garden 3

Presenters

Andre Simms, *Founder & Executive Director DayOneNotDayTwo*

Rachel Godfrey, *Program Director DayOneNotDayTwo*

Rahsaan Stanback, *Youth Leader Organizer DayOneNotDayTwo*

King's Terrace Room

 Education Without Interruption: Building Cross-System Partnerships that Keep Youth Connected to Opportunity

Presenters

Erica Mason, *Senior Academic Reentry Navigation Coordinator SUNY Office of Higher Education in Prison*

Kathryn O'Sick, *Dean of Student Affairs SUNY Adirondack*

Thomas Mims, *Regional Supervisor- Capital District & Mid-Hudson CMSO
NYS Office of Children and Family Services*

SESSION CATEGORIES



Youth and/or Community Partnership



Storytelling, Data, and Evaluation



Model Program



Education, Training, and Technology



Model Policy or System-level Best Practices

CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSION #5

11:40 am – 12:55 pm

King's Garden 1



**Reimagining Possibilities for Black Youth with Cross-System Involvement:
Introducing the R-BAE REIMAGINED Framework for Centering Lived Expertise,
Families, and Communities**

Presenters

Rae Arrington-Epperson,

King's Garden 2



Building Your R/ED Strategy: A Practical Roadmap for Systems Change

Presenters

Gianina Horton, *Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Coordinator
Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Adult and Juvenile Justice Assistance*

King's Garden 3



**Practice Makes Perfect: Using Performance Art to Repair Relationship and Learn Life
Skills**

Presenters

Christine Allen, *Teen Court Coordinator Northern Hills Diversion*

King's Terrace Room



**Bridging Research and Reform: Partnerships That Strengthen Youth
Justice**

Presenters

Mitchellie Woodson, *Legal Director Pillars of the Community*
Safiya Warsi, *Racial Justice Act Student Intern Pillars of the Community*

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

King's Garden Ballroom 4 & 5

CJJ Luncheon and Award Ceremony (Lunch Provided)

Hosted by:

Victoria Key-Walker, *National R/ED Coordinator*

Andrew Smith Award Awardee

Tara Kelly, *R/ED Coordinator of Kentucky*

Presented by

Deonte Hollowell

R/ED Spotlight

Youth Star Performer Spotlight

Presented by

Chanelle Grosbard, *Emerging Leaders Committee Member*

Isaiah Polk, *Emerging Leaders Committee Chair*

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

King's Garden Ballroom 4 & 5

Plenary: A Seat at Our Table: Conversation with Café Momentum

Facilitated by

Cheyenne Tyler, *Executive Director Café Momentum*

Pittsburgh

Amanda Timpson, *National Program Manager Café Momentum*

Panelists

Terrance Parham, *Café Momentum Second Year Ambassador Café Momentum Pittsburgh*

Neveah Hollis, *Café Momentum Freshman Ambassador Café Momentum Pittsburgh*

Neiko Wilson, *Café Momentum Second Year Ambassador Café Momentum Pittsburgh*

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

King's Garden Ballroom 4 & 5

Closing Plenary– If Only You Were Brave

dr. christian h. bijoux, *Executive Director of the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health at the Connecticut General Assembly*

Youth Justice Action Month Highlights

Closing Remarks

Isaiah Polk, *Emerging Leaders Committee*

Melissa Milchman, *Executive Director Coalition for Juvenile Justice*

4:15 pm – 5:00 pm

King's Garden Ballroom 4 & 5

ECD Committee Open House

All attendees are invited to stay for an informal conference debrief and ECD Committee open house. The ECD Committee advises CJJ on strategies and partnerships that ensure CJJs policies, programs, and strategic goals remain inclusive, representative, and informed by the different races, genders, ethnicities, ages, geographies, historical and cultural experiences, and lived and professional expertise of our members and partners.

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
Nebraska	New Jersey*	Mississippi*	Guam
North Dakota*	New York	North Carolina*	Hawaii*
Ohio*	Pennsylvania*	Puerto Rico	Idaho*
South Dakota*	Rhode Island*	South Carolina*	Kansas*
Wisconsin	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 August 2026)

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.

CJJ SAG and State Agency membership dues are renewed on annual basis and follow a calendar year schedule (January 1 - December 31). Membership renewal reminders are sent out in early November prior to the start of the year and are due at the end of January.



Due to the varying requirements of different jurisdictions and disciplines, CJJ does not seek prior accreditation of educational programs for CLE/CEUs. Please consult the rules of your jurisdiction regarding procedures for receiving continuing education credits.

Sponsor: Coalition for Juvenile Justice
Activity Level: 2026 CJJ Youth Justice in Action Conference
Dates: October 13-15
Location: Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown, Pittsburgh, PA

This program may qualify for up to:
15 hours CLE/CEUs based on the 60-minute hour

By signing below, I certify that I attended the activity described above and am entitled to claim

_____ CLE/CEU credit hours

(If attending the full conference, write 15 hours in the blank. Otherwise, please note actual number of hours attended).

Name (Please Print or Type) Signature

Membership, Registration, or Supreme Court # Date

State where credits are to be registered

NOTE: If you are required to report to more than one state, complete a separate form for each state.

Acknowledge by:

(Sponsor Representative) Date