

# The CJJ e-Monitor

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Monthly state and national juvenile justice news from  
the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) -- March 2006 --  
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## 1) Announcements of upcoming CJJ events—

### CJJ 2006 Spring Conference

CJJ's conference, "What Are the Implications of Adolescent Brain Development for Juvenile Justice?" will convene from May 4-7, 2006 (including pre-conference training, committee meetings and the Board of Directors' meeting).

Please join us for this exciting conference which will explore:

- The many ways emerging neuroscience may have impact on everyday decisions made by youth service and juvenile justice providers.
- How growing knowledge of developmental differences between youth and young adults, as compared with older adults, may affect the court process and the treatment of youth in incarceration settings.
- How the recent Supreme Court ruling that abolished the juvenile death penalty (Roper vs. Simmons) has underscored the importance of understanding adolescent brain development and its implications for making changes in the juvenile justice system.
- The effects of alcohol and trauma on the developing teen brain.

Speakers include: Dr. Marilyn Benoit, Meg Bostrom, J. Robert Flores, Dr. Thomas Grisso, Marsha Levick JD, Dr. Rebecca McNamee, Dr. Lawrence Steinberg, Dr. Aaron White, and Jennifer Wilgocki MS LCSW, among others of note.

Go to [www.Cvent.com](http://www.Cvent.com), click on the "RSVP for Event" tab, and enter event code 7ENX25XDHAW. If you require help with the online registration process or for any other assistance, please contact Lindsay Wood at (202) 467-0864, ext. 124.

### A.L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Award Nominations Now Being Accepted!

The March 17, 2006, deadline is approaching for nominations of CJJ/SAG members for the A.L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Award, given annually in honor of CJJ's founder. Each spring, CJJ bestows the A.L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Award on an individual leader from among its members, to recognize and celebrate dedicated service to the field of juvenile justice and improving the lives of children and youth. The 2005 recipient was Sharon Harrigfeld, Juvenile Justice Specialist for the state of Idaho. For more information, please contact Vicki Blankenship, CJJ's Immediate Past National Chair at [blank@acsalaska.net](mailto:blank@acsalaska.net).

CJJ Equal Justice Conference

Save the dates of Sept. 7-10, 2006, for CJJ's Equal Justice Conference which will focus on reduction of racial/ethnic disparities and disproportionate minority contact in juvenile justice. CJJ's fall Equal Justice Conference will be held in New Orleans (LA), in partnership with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Watch this space in the e-Monitor for registration and program updates.

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## 2) Government relations update—

### JABG Eliminated in President Bush's Proposed FY07 Budget!

As committee hearings begin in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate on President Bush's proposed FY 2007 budget, it is a good time to reach out to your congressional representatives.

Please take action to highlight the importance of the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program, which has been entirely eliminated in the President's proposed FY07 budget, as well as other key JJDPA programs in your state's efforts to reduce and prevent juvenile delinquency.

Over the weeks ahead, your Senators and Representatives need to hear from you:

US Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121

See [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) for national and local office contacts and email addresses.

Juvenile Justice Specialists are in an ideal position to provide specific examples of programs and outcomes produced by JABG, Title II Formula Funds and Title V Community Prevention Grants, all of which meet urgent and locally defined needs to ensure that juvenile offending is effectively addressed and kept at historically low levels.

CJJ and many dozens of other national youth-serving organizations advise the following specific messages to educate Congress about the need for Juvenile Justice funding to ensure that the nation does not turn away from public safety and the needs of vulnerable youth and families—

- Pls. acknowledge Congress' past response in support of state requests that restored JABG and JJDPA funds in FY05 and FY06—when the President proposed elimination;
- Provide specific examples of programs and outcomes in your state that have depended on federal JJDPA funds to answer urgent juvenile justice needs and keep juvenile offending low;
- Clarify why it is important that JABG and JJDPA funds function as they have in the past, appropriated to states and local units of government in response to locally-defined needs, rather than being altered to become federally-defined criminal justice/earmarked programs;
- Make a case for restoration of funds to at least the levels indicated below:

Juvenile Accountability Block Grant:

\$250 million for FY07 (restoring JABG to historic level)

Note: We are also seeking restoration of the Accountability Based Sanctions Supplement.

Community Prevention Grants (Title V):

\$95 million for FY07 (restoring Title V to historic level).

Formula Grants (Title II):

\$93.2 million (as proposed in the President's FY07 budget).

Delinquency Prevention Block Grant:

\$33.5 million (as proposed in the President's FY07 budget).

Because members of Congress will hear from many voices calling for restoration of funds for many purposes, it is vital that voices of State Advisory Group members and state juvenile justice leaders be heard in the coming weeks. In March and April, CJJ's Government Relations Committee will hold regional conference calls to organize targeted outreach.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Gannon Hornberger ([gannon@juvjustice.org](mailto:gannon@juvjustice.org) and 202-467-0864, ext. 111) or Linda Hayes ([lhayes@harnettlaw.com](mailto:lhayes@harnettlaw.com))

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### 3) State Advisory Group (SAG) news—

New Jersey: In February, the New Jersey State Advisory Group (SAG) held an invitational forum on adolescent brain development for more than 100 key stakeholders in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. The forum featured Dr. Lawrence Steinberg from Temple University as keynote speaker and included a responder panel representing the perspectives of public defenders, prosecutors, local law enforcement officials and juvenile justice program administrators. The event also featured the presentation of the 3rd annual Connie Strand Memorial Award to three exemplary programs funded by the SAG. On February 18, 2006, the *Trenton Times* featured an article on the significance of the conference.

State Advisory Group Trainings: If your State Advisory Group (SAG) is interested in receiving “New Member SAG Training” from expert peer leaders and representatives of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), please contact your state Juvenile Justice Specialist. Such trainings provide new and recently returning SAG members with vital information on the roles and responsibilities of the SAG, elements of the states’ 3-year plans, foundational knowledge regarding the core requirements of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) and an overview of performance measures. In addition, trainings are available touching on topics associated with all of the 34 program areas under the JJDP. CJJ is pleased to contribute to the content of these trainings.

For more information, please contact Wandra Simmons, Program Manager at OJJDP, at [wandra.simmons@usdoj.gov](mailto:wandra.simmons@usdoj.gov) or see the Web site for OJJDP’s training provider, Development Services Group (DSG) at [www.dsgonline.com](http://www.dsgonline.com) under the Formula Grants icon.

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### 4) Regional coalition news—

#### New Youth Leaders from the Northeast!

CJJ’s Northeast Regional Coalition is very happy to announce the appointment of Janine Strebel and Jessica Pomerleau, both of New Hampshire, as representatives to the CJJ National Youth Committee. Thank you, Janine and Jessica!

#### Regional Focus at CJJ’s Spring Conference—

Each CJJ regional coalition—Northeast, South, Midwest and West—will have additional time available for discussion and/or presentations at the national spring conference (see above in item #1) this year. Please contact your regional chair with ideas for discussion/presentation topics of special interest to your region:

- Sue Kamp, Northeast region chair: [skamp@sover.net](mailto:skamp@sover.net)
  - Lalita Ashley, Southern region chair: [lashley@aiken.net](mailto:lashley@aiken.net)
  - Mike Mayer, Midwestern region chair: [lnreMayer@aol.com](mailto:lnreMayer@aol.com)
  - David Schmidt, Western region chair: [nmccd@aol.com](mailto:nmccd@aol.com)
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### 5) National Juvenile Justice Specialist report—

Juvenile Justice Specialists from across the nation convened via conference calls held on February 7 and 8, 2006. Specialists from 21 states participated in the calls, which featured state updates on preparation of the new state 3-year plans, a report from OJJDP, discussion of federal juvenile justice funding cuts and the absence in FY06 Juvenile Accountability Block Grant funds of the Accountability-Based Sanctions (ABS) Supplement. The absence or removal of the ABS Supplement adversely affects several states, especially rural jurisdictions.

The calls also included updates on the regional trainings for Juvenile Justice Specialists, slated to be held in August and September, 2006, in Salt Lake City and New Orleans, respectively. Please note that the September meeting will be held immediately following CJJ’s Fall Conference (see item #1).

All Specialists are encouraged to send state updates for inclusion in future editions of the e-Monitor. Please contact Mark Ferrante at [mark.ferrante@njjjc.org](mailto:mark.ferrante@njjjc.org)

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## 6) CJJ headlines & activities

### CJJ's Detention Reform Project:

CJJ is pleased to continue its work to advance the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) throughout the states in partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation. CJJ's detention reform goals in 2006 include:

1. Completing and publishing a Resource Guide on detention reform for State Advisory Groups (SAGs);
2. Developing and pilot-testing training curricula based on the Resource Guide;
3. Increasing use of electronic and Web-based communications;
4. Furthering SAG peer leadership and training activities.

Recently, Eve Munson, CJJ's project director for detention reform, met with the Nevada SAG, as well as the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) team leader and the new chief probation officer from Washoe County (Reno), as well as the JDAI coordinator and new director from Clark County (Las Vegas), to support SAG efforts to implement a statewide detention reform program in Nevada. She also recently welcomed the Washington, DC, JDAI Coordinator, Jennifer Lynn-Whaley.

If your SAG is interested in detention reform, please contact CJJ's project director, Eve Munson, 202-467-0864, ext. 109, or [munson@juvjustice.org](mailto:munson@juvjustice.org), for further information.

### Pennsylvania Reform Effort Highlighted:

In February, CJJ collaborated with the Justice Policy Institute and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to provide all State Advisory Group (SAG) chairs and Juvenile Justice Specialists with copies of a new report, "Keystones for Reform: Promising Juvenile Justice Policies and Practices in Pennsylvania." The report highlights promising policies and practices aimed at juvenile justice system improvements in Pennsylvania. These efforts have been supported by strong partnerships among judges, district attorneys, public defenders, probation departments, community leaders, and city, county and state officials, aimed at bringing about change in three key areas:

1. coordination of mental health and juvenile justice;
2. aftercare services and supports;
3. disproportionate minority contact.

Notably, one of the chapters reflects the wise investments made by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in proven prevention strategies. CJJ applauds the Pennsylvania SAG for its contributions to this body of work.

From here, the MacArthur Foundation will extend its support for state-level juvenile justice reforms in Illinois, Louisiana and Washington. Please see [www.macfound.org](http://www.macfound.org) and follow the link for juvenile justice for more information on the "Models for Change" initiative.

### Washington (DC) Area Grantmakers Focus on Juvenile Justice:

On February 23, 2006, CJJ's Acting Executive Director, Nancy Gannon Hornberger, presented information and moderated a panel discussion on juvenile justice trends and data, which highlighted opportunities for program officers and philanthropists to support juvenile justice advocacy and system improvements through private grant making. She was joined by expert representatives from the Gates Foundation, American Institutes for Research, the Vanguard Group, and the Office of the Mayor for the District of Columbia. For more information, see Washington Grantmakers at [www.washingtongrantmakers.org](http://www.washingtongrantmakers.org)

### The CJJ National Office Staff Now Includes:

- --Nancy Gannon Hornberger, Acting Executive Director (ext. 111)
- --Sarah Bryer, Director, National Juvenile Justice Network (ext. 105)

- --Eve Munson, Project Director, Detention Reform (ext. 109)
- --Leslie Linn, Manager of Training and Member Services (ext. 120)
- --Lindsay Wood, Associate Planner (ext. 124)

This month, we will be joined by a new half-time Office Assistant, Katherine McCarthy.

We also have a current job opening for a part-time permanent position, Program and Policy Associate, working with the National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN). Please see <http://njjn.org/announcements.html>

Please let us know how we may be of service to you: 202-467-0864 (see above for phone extensions).

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## 7) National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN) news—

CJJ is the proud host and sponsor of the National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN), comprising juvenile justice advocacy organizations in 24 states, in partnership with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The following are news items from NJJN in the field:

Colorado: The Pendulum Foundation efforts to end the practice of sentencing youth to life without parole (LWOP) got a big boost this month from the *Denver Post* in a four-part series on the use of juvenile LWOP, see <http://www.denverpost.com/TEENCRIME>. The series highlights the extent to which juvenile LWOP is used, cases where youth may have been wrongfully convicted, and the fact that many youth receive LWOP for felony murder. This investigative series is part of a larger trend of looking more closely at juvenile sentencing policies in the wake of the Supreme Court's juvenile death penalty decision, *Roper v. Simmons*.

Connecticut: The Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance (CTJJA) continued their "Raise the Age CT" Campaign with an educational forum for state legislators on February 21, 2006. CTJJA is working with the national Campaign 4 Youth Justice (see item #8) and a broad range of state partners to return 16 and 17 year-olds to juvenile court. The forum was a wonderful success with 30 legislators and more than 100 community members in attendance. Four national experts, a parent and a youth presented testimony. More information about the campaign can be found at [www.raiseagect.org](http://www.raiseagect.org) or by contacting the CTJJA at 203-579-2727.

Missouri: Congratulations to the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association for bringing the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative to Missouri. The initiative will initially focus on four jurisdictions: Kansas City, St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and Greene County. Lending even greater weight to this initiative and encouraging judicial buy-in to the process is the fact that the Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) will serve as the grant recipient for the work.

Ohio: In collaboration with Voices for Cleveland's Children, the Ohio Juvenile Justice Coalition will host a one day conference, "Rethinking Juvenile Justice: Leading Change" on March 13, 2006. The keynote speaker is Shay Bilchik, president/CEO of the Child Welfare League of America. The conference will help to set a juvenile justice reform agenda for Ohio. See: [www.voicesforclevelandschildren.org](http://www.voicesforclevelandschildren.org).

Wisconsin: On March 14-15, 2006 in Madison (WI), the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) will hold a conference on adolescent brain development. The conference will cover the latest research in adolescent brain development and its implications for changing our approach to juvenile justice. Schedule and registration can be found at: <http://www.wccf.org/>

To augment the conference, WCCF has released a publication on adolescent brain development and juvenile justice, "Rethinking the Juvenile in Juvenile Justice." This publication, co-written by Wendy Henderson and Nan Brien of WCCF, includes an in-depth look at adolescent brain development and juvenile justice and recommends policy changes. Again, see <http://www.wccf.org> for a link to the report.

Federal: A campaign to end disparities in sentencing between crack and powder cocaine was

launched with a Capital Hill briefing, convened by the Open Society Institute, on February 16, 2006. The campaign also included an open letter to Congress, entitled, "Time to Mend the Crack in Justice," signed by over 50 organizations, including NJJN.

For more information on NJJN, please contact Sarah Bryer, Director, at [bryer@juvjustice.org](mailto:bryer@juvjustice.org) or 202-467-0864, ext. 105.

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## 8) Additional resources & information—

### Campaign 4 Youth Justice

The Campaign 4 Youth Justice is a new national initiative to raise awareness about the impact of prosecuting youth in the adult criminal justice system through research, public education, community outreach, policy advocacy and communications strategies. The Campaign is specifically focusing on the states of Connecticut, Virginia and Wisconsin, with the following goals:

1. To lessen the harmful impacts of trying youth in the adult courts and incarcerating them in adult correctional facilities;
2. To reduce the number of youth who are tried and sentenced as adults in states; and
3. To promote developmentally appropriate rehabilitative programs and services for youthful offenders.

For more information, please contact Liz Ryan, Campaign Manager, at 202-558-3580 or

[lizryan@campaign4youthjustice.org](mailto:lizryan@campaign4youthjustice.org).

### Learning from the Youth Opportunity (YO) Experience

The Center for Law and Social Policy has examined how 22 low-income communities that received U.S. Department of Labor Youth Opportunity Grants used the funds to integrate systems and bolster education, work exposure and youth development for under-served young people. Please see

[www.clasp.org/publications/youthopportunity\\_executive\\_summary.pdf](http://www.clasp.org/publications/youthopportunity_executive_summary.pdf). CJJ is pleased to have contributed to this work. In 2001, CJJ received joint support from the U.S. Department of Labor and OJJDP to connect State Advisory Groups (SAGs) with Youth Opportunities programs, nationwide.

### Vulnerable Youth Pushed out of School

A recent policy brief, "Beyond the Tunnel Problem," from the Youth Transition Funders Group and Annie E. Casey Foundation, states that zero tolerance policies, get-tough justice policies, and limited school resources for students struggling to meet high-stakes testing standards, push vulnerable young people out of school and into incarceration. Key problems include inadequate communication and service coordination between systems, lack of clear responsibility for youth, and a "tunnel system" that delivers services based on a young person's point of entry into a public system (mental health, education, justice) rather than based on a young person's need. See:

<http://www.ytfg.org/documents/BeyondtheTunnelProblemBriefingPaper2Nov2005fin.pdf>

### What is Known About Youth Curfews?

The National League of Cities (NLC) reports that juvenile curfew laws—most of which have been in place for a decade or more—are viewed by a majority of urban leaders as an effective strategy for deterring juvenile crime and violence. NLC members continue to implement and enforce such laws, according to the NLC survey of mayors and other officials from 436 central, suburban and rural cities. Conversely, research has demonstrated that youth curfew laws, particularly night-time curfews, are ineffective deterrents to juvenile crime and needlessly push juveniles into confinement/detention. Stay informed, see: [www.nlc.org/newsroom/press\\_room/7831.cfm](http://www.nlc.org/newsroom/press_room/7831.cfm)

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The CJJ e-Monitor is brought to you by the staff and volunteer leaders of CJJ, and supported by dues from our State Advisory Group and At-Large Members. We are grateful to all for their ongoing support.

-- Paul Lawrence, 2006 National Chair

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