



www.juvjustice.org

The CJJ e-Monitor

Monthly state and national juvenile justice news from
the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) -- April 2006 --

1710 Rhode Island Ave., NW, 10th Fl., Washington, DC 20036
202-467-0864

In this issue:

- 1) Announcements of upcoming CJJ conferences, May & Sept.
- 2) Government relations alert
- 3) CJJ headlines & key activities
- 4) State Advisory Group (SAG) news
- 5) National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN) news
- 6) More resources & information of note

1) ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING CJJ CONFERENCES—

CJJ 2006 Spring Conference Fast Approaching , May 4-7

CJJ's conference, "What Are the Implications of Adolescent Brain Development for Juvenile Justice?" will convene from May 4-7, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, Maryland—just outside of Washington, DC. All SAG Members, Specialists, DMC Coordinators, Compliance Monitors, NJJN Members, and associates are urged to join us.

The schedule will include pre-conference training for SAG members, committee meetings, regional meetings, the JJ Specialists' meeting, the CJJ Youth Leadership Training, and the Board of Directors' Meeting. Please also use your time in the DC area to make appointments to see your members of Congress.

Speakers include: Simmi Baer, Marilyn Benoit, Meg Bostrom, J. Robert Flores, Thomas Grisso, Marsha Levick, Rebecca McNamee, Laurence Steinberg, Aaron White, and Jennifer Wilgocki, and many others of note.

Highlights:

- Thursday May 4, 8:15 am, Federal Policy Update
- Friday, May 5, 5:15 pm, National Chair's Reception
- Sunday, May 7, 9:00 am to Noon, the CJJ Board of Directors' Meeting

Go to 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 including overflow hotel accommodations, please contact Lindsay Wood at (202) 467-0864, ext. 124 or wood@juvjustice.org

CJJ 2006 Fall Conference to be held September 7-10 in New Orleans

Registration will open soon for the CJJ Fall Conference: "Law Enforcement Solutions for Reducing Racial Disparities & Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) in Juvenile Justice."

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice is planning this conference to expand the interface among law enforcement leaders, state juvenile justice advisory groups and juvenile justice practitioners, seeking solutions to reduce racial disparities and disproportionately high rates of juvenile justice system

contact for minority youth, as compared with their non-minority youth counterparts. Special attention will be given to the first points of contact that law enforcement officers have with at-risk and offending youth, exploring opportunities for positive outcomes. The format of the conference will allow for small group discussions and information sharing.

September 8-9, 2006, in New Orleans, Louisiana
Omni Royal Orleans
Hotel Reservations accepted as of May 1
Conference Registration opens June 1

On September 7 and 10, CJJ's full schedule will include:

- The CJJ Board of Directors' Meeting on Friday, Sept. 8, 8:00 am - Noon;
- CJJ Regional Coalition Meetings;
- DMC Coordinators' Meeting;
- Juvenile Justice Specialists' Meeting;
- National CJJ Committee Meetings;
- Pre- and Post-conference sessions addressing Government Relations, Youth Leadership Development and SAG Member Training.

Service opportunities to help restore New Orleans will also be available to interested conference attendees.

CJJ is pleased to conduct both of these member conferences with support from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. For more information, please contact Leslie Linn at linn@juvjustice.org and 202-467-0864, ext. 120

2) GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ALERT--

U.S. Senate Acts to Ensure Juvenile Justice Funds--Your Voices are Heard! Now, on to the House

On March 16, the U.S. Senate, passed by unanimous consent an amendment (Kohl/Biden) to restore the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) funding cuts assumed in the Fiscal Year 2007 (FY07) Federal Budget. The voices of state representatives and national allies made a big difference in bringing this amendment forward--in particular Senator Kohl pointed to JABG and Title V programs having important positive impact in his home state of Wisconsin.

It should be noted that this amendment does not add "real money" for use in FY07. Rather, it is a "Function 920 offset" or an across-the-board cut to get the money to fund the amendment.

Nevertheless, the Senate voted unanimously to restore federal juvenile justice cuts that had been proposed in the FY07 budget.

Take Action ASAP:

Right now--without delay, it is critical to maintain the momentum for positive federal juvenile justice funding outcomes in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Reach out to your congressional representatives in the House to highlight the importance of the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program, which was entirely eliminated in the President's proposed FY07 budget, as well as other key JJDP programs in your state's efforts to reduce and prevent juvenile delinquency.

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.

YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU:

U.S. CAPITOL SWITCHBOARD: 202-224-3121

SEE WWW.HOUSE.GOV FOR NATIONAL AND LOCAL OFFICE CONTACTS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES.

CJJ and other national youth-serving organizations advise the following specific messages to educate Congress:

1. Pls. acknowledge the Senate's positive action in support of requests to restore JABG and federal juvenile justice funds for FY07, and ask that the House does the same;
2. Provide specific examples of programs and outcomes in your state that have depended on federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act funds to answer urgent juvenile justice needs and keep juvenile offending low;
3. 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)

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).

**** Please note we are also seeking restoration of the Accountability Based Sanctions (ABS) Supplement (see special focus below)**

Delinquency Prevention Block Grant:

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

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

\$ 3.6 million (restore budget following deep cut to .7 million in FY06)

**** Special Focus on the Accountability Based Sanctions (ABS) Supplement:**

As has been true in past year, the CJJ Government Relations Committee is again seeking to restore the Accountability Based Sanctions (ABS) Supplement to the Formula Funds (Title II) in the federal appropriations for FY07.

What can you do?

Please, contact members of the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Subcommittee to the Senate Appropriations Committee to urge them to restore the ABS Supplement language (similar to that below) in the Formula Funds/Title II appropriation:

Accountability Based Sanctions for Juveniles - The purpose of accountability based sanctions is to ensure that juvenile offenders face uniform and consistent consequences that correspond to the seriousness of each offender's current offense, history and special treatment or training needs. Within Part B of Title II of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, which includes training and technical assistance to help small, nonprofit organizations with the Federal grants process, it is recommended that \$26 million be directed to the purpose of providing additional formula grants under Part B, to States that provide assurances to the Administrator that the State has in effect policies and programs that ensure that juveniles are subject to accountability-based sanctions for every act for which they are adjudicated delinquent.

CJS Members include - see www.senate.gov for contact info:

Chairman, Senator Richard Shelby (AL)
Senator Judd Gregg (NH)
Senator Ted Stevens (AK)
Senator Pete Domenici (NM)
Senator Mitch McConnell (KY)
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX)
Senator Sam Brownback (KS)
Senator Christopher Bond (MO)

Senator Mikulski (Ranking Member) (MD)
Senator Daniel Inouye (HI)
Senator Patrick Leahy (VT)
Senator Herb Kohl (WI)
Senator Patty Murray (WA)
Senator Tom Harkin (IA)
Senator Byron Dorgan (ND)

Here's why:

State Juvenile Justice Specialists, Reg Graff and Richard Lindahl, report on the vital needs fulfilled by using the ABS Supplement, from Utah and New Mexico respectively.

FY 2002 was the last year that Congress included the ABS Supplement language in the Title II Formula Grant appropriations, to provide additional funding to states implementing accountability-based sanctions. From FY04-FY06, Congress did not include the ABS Supplement language, which has resulted in a nearly 15% reduction in funding for 34 states and territories. Fortunately, OJJDP recognized the strain on these states and was able to provide supplemental funding to replace lost dollars in FY04-FY05. However, no supplemental funding was provided for FY06, resulting in a substantial loss of important juvenile justice funding for many states.

For example, Utah's FY06 Formula Grant (Title II) allocation is only \$600,000—a \$255,000 loss compared to FY05 (supplemental funding included). As a result, Utah will need to make nearly \$100,000 in cuts to ongoing projects. No new allocations will be made to assist youth with mental health and developmental disabilities in the juvenile justice system or to develop new drug or alcohol prevention/intervention projects.

In another example, New Mexico also receives the small state annual amount of \$600,000 through Title II, but in the past the ABS Supplement has added about \$182,000. New Mexico has used ABS Supplement funds to support a continuum of graduated sanctions and services in ten counties, to maintain compliance with federal core requirements under the JJDP Act, including De-institutionalization of Status Offenders, Jail Removal, and Sight and Sound Separation, as well as to support the state's detention reform initiative.

The loss of the ABS funds for FY 06, and potentially into the future, significantly reduces the state's support for the 10 county-based continuum initiatives. The New Mexico SAG will have to make unreasonable choices—to eliminate support for three counties beginning in the new state fiscal year (July 1, 2006) or to apply a reduction across the board to all ten counties, such that they will have to terminate some of their sanctions programs and/or programs that serve as detention alternatives. The state had also previously allocated some JABG funds to help support the continuum of local graduated sanctions in these ten communities. The huge decrease in JABG, coupled with the elimination of the ABS funds, makes the problem even more acute.

It is too early to tell the longer-term effects in New Mexico, but loss of the ABS funds could lead to increased use of secure detention in several of counties, as well as more low-level juvenile offenders (e.g., shoplifting, minor in possession) and status offenders being formally processed through the justice system rather than citation/early diversion into alternatives such as community service, restorative justice and tutoring programs. Clearly these are enormous concerns for youth, for compliance efforts, and for the state's progress with detention reform.

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

3) STATE ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) NEWS—

Kansas Moves Forward with DMC-Reduction Legislation: Representative Melody McCray-Miller, a Kansas SAG member, succeeded in passing legislation through the state House of Representatives that aims to reduce racial and other disparities in the juvenile justice system. The bill (H Sub for SB47), which passed by a vote of 125-0, would require a study of the effectiveness of juvenile justice programs in reducing racial, geographic and other biases that may exist.

Miller's bill has not yet received a hearing in the Senate. And, the Kansas legislature adjourned its 2006 session last week. The 3-day wrap up session calendar is packed, so it is unclear if the bill will make it to the Senate. For a copy of the bill and summary, please contact Brock Landwehr, DMC Coordinator, Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority: 785-296-4213 and blandwehr@ksjja.org

Maryland Hosts Summit on Detention Reform and DMC: The Maryland SAG recently hosted a summit focused on advancing detention reform in five sites throughout the state—with a special emphasis on DMC reduction. Bart Lubow, who directs the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative for the Annie E. Casey Foundation, was a key presenter. For more information, please contact Rev. James Kirk, Maryland SAG Chair at kirkjgk@comcast.net and 410-766-7543.

New Hampshire Legislation Addresses the Age of Majority: New Hampshire legislator, David Bickford, and Joe Diament, of the New Hampshire SAG, and colleagues, report that the Senate Judiciary Committee is presently considering legislation to bring the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to back up to 18 years. New Hampshire is one of 10 states that automatically tries and sentences 17-year olds in the adult criminal justice system—no matter how severe or minor the offense.

The Judiciary Committee has heard testimony and is preparing to vote. Its vote follows the successful passage of the bill (HB627) in the New Hampshire House by a 2 to 1 margin. To obtain a copy, visit: http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2006/hb_0627.html For more information, please contact Rep. David Bickford at 603-859-7899 and david1@worldpath.net and/or Joe Diament at 603-225-9540 and jdiament@new-futures.org

4) CJJ HEADLINES & ACTIVITIES

The CJJ 2006 A.L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Award Goes to Judge B. Thomas Leahy

On Friday, May 5, 2006, at the CJJ national spring conference, Judge B. Thomas Leahy of New Jersey will be honored with the 2006 CJJ A. L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Award. Judge Leahy will be recognized for his many years of service to youth and families. He has served a juvenile and family court judge for more than 30 years and has chaired the New Jersey SAG for nearly 20 years. He has significantly shaped the work of CJJ, helping to get the national coalition off the ground and contributing to many annual reports to the President, Congress and OJJDP Administrator. As CJJ National Chair in 2001, Judge Leahy brought to the forefront issues related to education and delinquency prevention. 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. We look forward to giving this national recognition to Judge Leahy.

National Youth Committee Hosts Charity Drawing to Support CJJ - Your Help Needed

The National Youth Committee of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice invites you to support its annual Charity Drawing.

Ticket sales for the National Youth Committee Charity Drawing will take place during CJJ's spring conference and winners drawn at the closing session on Saturday, May 6. To be successful, the Youth Committee needs your help and support! Please consider providing an item for the drawing. The price range for the items to be entered in the drawing starts at a minimum value of \$15, but may be valued as high as hundreds of dollars. Past items have included recipe books, state baskets, golf clubs, caps, tee-shirts, and vacation packages. Your name and product will be displayed at the conference. In addition, you will receive an acknowledgement letter recognizing your fully tax-deductible gift. Items may be shipped to the conference in advance.

The money raised from the drawing will be contributed to the CJJ Circle of Leaders Fund for the future of CJJ, on behalf of the National Youth Committee.

Seth Church, National Youth Representative, also reminds all states to bring youth members to the conference!

For more information, please contact Seth Church at seth_church@hotmail.com or Lindsay Wood at 202-467-0864, ext. 124 and wood@juvjustice.org

CJJ's Detention Reform Project:

CJJ's "Detention Reform Resource Guide for SAGs" is close to completion and will be published for distribution to all CJJ members and collaborating agencies in the early summer. We are especially pleased to have included in the resource guide profiles of the work underway to advance detention reforms, from SAGs in New Jersey, New Mexico and Washington State.

It is very heartening to learn that many of the State 3-Year Plans completed in the past few weeks contain objectives to advance detention reform. If your State Plan mentions detention reform or alternatives to detention, please contact Eve Munson—who is in an ideal position to bring forward many resources from CJJ and to connect you with the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) of the Annie E. Casey Foundation (see contacts below).

The Casey Foundation's March JDAI newsletter is also available through Eve Munson or by contacting Julie Pope and requesting to be added to the newsletter listserv at jpoppe@aecf.org. This month, the national JDAI conference held in late 2005 is highlighted along with news from Illinois, New Jersey, Washington, DC, and Minnesota.

CJJ is available to work with SAGs that are already engaged in detention reform efforts as well as SAGs that are interested in bringing detention reform to their states. Please contact Eve Munson, 202-467-0864, ext. 109, or munson@juvjustice.org, for further information.

5) 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 25 states, in partnership with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The following are news items from NJJN in the field:

Mississippi Passes Juvenile Justice Reform Legislation: Due to the efforts of the Mississippi Youth Justice Project and the Mississippi Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Coalition, the Mississippi legislature passed

the conference version of HB 199: the Mississippi Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act. As enacted, the bill contains: a training requirement for youth court defenders; comprehensive standards for detention centers; language prohibiting the detention of status offenders; language requiring that community based alternatives to incarceration “must incorporate evidence-based practices and positive behavioral intervention;” transitional planning for youth leaving the training schools and detention centers; and a \$5 million grant program for community-based alternatives designed to reduce training school and detention placement.

The Mississippi legislature also passed HB 298, which expands the mission of the state Office of Indigent Appeals to include appeals in juvenile cases. As originally created, the Office of Indigent Appeals was limited to adult, non-capital felonies.

Wisconsin Launches New Statewide Youth Justice Coalition: Justice for Wisconsin Youth (JWY) was launched in Madison, Wisconsin, at the “Open Minds: Implications of Adolescent Brain Research on Juvenile Justice” conference. The conference, supported by the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance, was attended by hundreds of youth advocates, attorneys, juvenile and adult corrections professionals, and human service professionals from all over the state. Justice for Wisconsin Youth is a project of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. The main goal of JWY is to mobilize people who care about fair treatment of juveniles in the justice system. By joining forces with families, youth and community partners, JWY will send a clear message to lawmakers: juveniles are not adults and should not be treated like adults.

The launch follows on the heels of the release of a ground breaking report, “Rethinking the Juvenile in Juvenile Justice.” For additional information, contact: Wendy Paget Henderson, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, tel: (608) 284-0580, Email: whenderson@wccf.org Web: www.wccf.org.

“Rethinking Juvenile Justice” is a new report issued by the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families that gives an overview of adolescent brain development and its implications for juvenile justice reform. Recent findings in adolescent brain development confirm that adolescents are more likely to engage in risk-taking behavior and are less able to consider the long-term consequences of risky behavior than adults. This report links these findings to current practices in Wisconsin’s juvenile justice system and recommends that 17 year-olds be returned to the juvenile system, that juvenile court judges should decide which children get waived to adult court, and that children under 18 not be placed in adult prisons or jails. To access the report go to www.wccf.org or http://www.wccf.org/pdf/rethinkingjuv_jjsrpt.pdf.

The Ohio Juvenile Justice Coalition’s conference, “Rethinking Juvenile Justice: Leading Change in Ohio,” was held on March 13, 2006: The conference, a collaborative project between, the Ohio Juvenile Justice Coalition, Voices for Children of Greater Cleveland and the Children’s Law Center, was attended by close to 150 people and engaged a broad cross section of youth-serving organizations and individuals in a concrete discussion of pressing juvenile justice issues in Ohio. Shay Bilchik, CEO of the Child Welfare League of America, the keynote speaker, framed the work of juvenile justice in the context of helping vulnerable youth and families across all systems. As the work of the Coalition moves forward from the conference, it is now involving professionals and families across several systems - child welfare, mental health, behavioral health and others – in order to develop a juvenile justice reform agenda that embraces a collective vision of a model juvenile justice system.

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

6) MORE RESOURCES & INFORMATION OF NOTE--

Youth Law Center (DC) Launches a New Organization - The Center for Children's Law & Policy

On April 1, 2006, the Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP), a new public interest law and policy organization, opened in Washington, DC. CCLP's staff -- Executive Director, Mark Soler; Senior Staff Attorney, Dana Shoenberg; Staff Attorney, Neelum Arya, and Operations Manager, Valerie McDowell - all formerly worked at the Youth Law Center's Washington office, which has now closed. CCLP focuses on reform of juvenile justice and other systems that affect troubled and at-risk children, and protecting the rights of children in such systems. Its work covers a range of activities including research, writing, public education, media advocacy, training, technical assistance, administrative and legislative advocacy, and litigation.

CCLP capitalizes on its Washington, DC location by working on juvenile justice and education reform efforts in DC, Maryland, and Virginia; partnering with other Washington-based system reform and advocacy organizations; engaging in legislative advocacy with Congress; and collaborating with major Washington law firms which provide assistance on a pro bono basis. CCLP also continues work on the projects of YLC's DC office, including participation in national projects such as the MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change initiative and the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative.

Center for Children's Law and Policy, 1701 K St., NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006
Phone: (202) 637-0377, Fax: (202) 379-1600, Email: info@cclp.org

"Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report" is Out:

Since 1995, the reports in OJJDP's Juvenile Offenders and Victims series have been among the most referenced documents in the juvenile justice field. Co-authors, Howard Snyder and Melissa Sickmund, of the National Center for Juvenile Justice, have again teamed together. "Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report" presents comprehensive information on juvenile crime, violence, and victimization and on the juvenile justice system.

"Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report" is available online at
<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=234394>

A limited number of printed copies are available. Copies can be ordered online at
<http://www.ncjrs.gov/app/publications/alphalist.aspx>
Please search by document number 212906.

"Cost Effective Corrections: Rationalizing the Fiscal Architecture of Juvenile Justice Systems"

In "Cost-Effective Youth Corrections: Rationalizing the Fiscal Architecture of Juvenile Justice Systems," the Justice Policy Institute profiles several states that have altered the fiscal architecture of their juvenile justice systems to reduce the inefficient, ineffective and sometimes damaging effects of fiscal incentives that make it cheaper to send youth to state secure care rather than to treat them at home. Pennsylvania, California, Wisconsin, Ohio and Illinois have demonstrated that, by redirecting funds and fiscal incentives, localities can succeed in keeping more youth at home, reducing the number of youth incarcerated, and promoting better outcomes. See www.justicepolicy.org

"Integrating Systems of Care: Improving Quality of Care for the Most Vulnerable Children and Families"

Vulnerable families are often the most in need of multiple services and community supports to address their behavioral health needs. Many are in and out of contact with the child welfare/child protection, juvenile justice and mental health systems. Their needs are often exacerbated by larger social conditions such as poverty, racism, violence and untreated trauma. This publication suggests that the

solution lies in an integrated response, because no one child- or family-serving system has the resources to address person-specific issues and the larger social conditions that affect them.

In 2003-2004, the Child Welfare League of America and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation convened a series of summits to bring together the experience and expertise of a diverse range of stakeholders, including federal, state, and local officials; public and private service agencies; researchers and academics; practitioners in child welfare, juvenile justice and mental health; and service consumers, including youth involved with the different systems and their families. CJJ, and some of its members, were among the summit participants and advisors.

“Integrating Systems of Care: Improving Quality of Care for the Most Vulnerable Children and Families” supports the development of a consensus agenda for systems-culture change and outlines a plan for an integrated systems approach. See <http://www.cwla.org/programs/bhd/mhpubintegrating.htm>

The CJJ e-Monitor is brought to you by 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*

-- *Nancy Gannon Hornberger, Editor (gannon@juvjustice.org)*

Please contact info@juvjustice.org -- to submit items, or if you wish to subscribe/unsubscribe.