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CJJ Welcomes New Emerging Leaders Committee Members

This month, 10 young leaders from across the country joined the newest cohort of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice's [Emerging Leaders Committee](#) (ELC). Members range in age from 17 to 24 and come from eight different states. Over the next year they will collaborate with CJJ's staff and committees on a variety of projects.



ELC members will have opportunities to develop their skills in public speaking, writing, and advocacy, while pursuing their goal of creating a more just and equitable system for their fellow youth. Their reasons for joining the ELC are varied, but they all share a common [vision](#) with CJJ: to envision a nation where fewer children are at risk of delinquency and if they are at risk or involved with the justice system, they and their families receive every possible opportunity to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives.

CJJ welcomes the new members of the 2021 ELC Cohort:

Hannah Krawczyk, 21, from Alabama: *"I see the ELC as a way to support the efforts of those working day-to-day on the issues surrounding youth justice."*

Myriana DeHaven, 18, from Colorado: *"I'd like to be involved in a system that stands up for what's right and wants to improve the juvenile system to make sure the facilities are safe and corruptness is not taking place."*

Jordyn Wilson, 22, from Connecticut: *"I believe states should all work collaboratively to make sure all of our youth have opportunities and don't fall victim to the system."*

Courtney Maino, 24, from New Jersey: *"I would like to become a member of the ELC to better mold my leadership skills and spread awareness on the topic of juvenile justice reform."*

Roxette Burgos, 21, from New York: *"I want to join ELC to better understand where my place is in this fight. I want to develop the skills needed to help end youth incarceration."*

Keeve Wilson, 20, from Oregon: *"Joining the ELC will not only help my voice be heard, it can also help my voice be heard by the right people who are truly making a difference and doing something about it."*

Nasheera Brown, 17, from Pennsylvania: *"I would like to join the ELC because I have directly worked most of my high school life fighting for change and justice within Allentown schools whether it's bullying or just doing the right thing."*

Edgar Calixto, 21, from Washington: "I want to show society that us youth behind bars are more than a statistic and if anyone can prevail through our struggles we can."

Rodney Strickland, 21, from Washington: "Joining the ELC would be an opportunity for me to learn and grow as a member of my community and as a man."

Ron Ackerson, 19, from Washington, said he joined the ELC because of his personal experiences with the system, and "because of all the things that could be better."

The committee is chaired by Aaron Toleafoa, also of Washington, who is a long-time advocate for youth justice reform.

To support and/or learn more about the Emerging Leaders Committee, [click here](#).

CJJ's 2021 Virtual Annual Conference

CJJ's 2021 Annual Conference: "[Creating Healing Systems: Serving Today's Youth While Transforming the Future](#)" will be held virtually **Wednesday, June 9th through Friday, June 11th**.



Annual Award Nominations:

Each year, the Coalition for Juvenile Justice honors leaders in the field of youth justice during our Annual Conference. Do you know someone who should be recognized in 2021?

- [Spirit of Youth Award](#) honors a young adult, under the age of 28, who has made great strides despite involvement with the juvenile justice system, overcome personal obstacles, and is today making significant contributions to society. **To nominate someone for the Spirit of Youth Award [click here](#).**
- [A.L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Award](#) honors someone who has made outstanding contributions to youth, to the organization, and to the broader arena of juvenile justice. **To nominate someone for the A.L. Carlisle Award [click here](#).**
- [Tony Gobar Outstanding National Juvenile Justice Specialist Award](#) honors a state Juvenile Justice Specialist who has exemplified excellence in service to others; has been dedicated and committed to improving the juvenile justice system; and has demonstrated compassion and concern for youth and advocates. **To nominate someone for the Tony Gobar Award [click here](#).**

All nominations are due by Monday, February 22nd.

Workshop Proposals:

Don't miss your chance to present at CJJ's 2021 Annual Conference! **Workshop proposals are due February 28th** for "Creating Healing Systems: Serving Today's Youth While Transforming the Future".

To submit your proposal directly, [click here](#).

For questions, please contact LaToria Sheppard at sheppard@juvjustice.org.

Executive Board Nominations:

CJJ will hold elections during the conference for the following Executive Board positions. **Nominations are due March 17th** for:

- [National Vice Chair](#)
- [Treasurer](#)
- [Regional Representative](#)
- [Emerging Leaders Committee Chair](#)
- [Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee Chair](#)
- [National Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator](#)

To apply for one of these positions, please click on the links above.

Registration Now Open:

Each year, the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) hosts a national conference uniquely focused on improving juvenile justice and delinquency prevention systems, services, practices and policies. Last year, more than 700 juvenile justice practitioners and advocates from across the U.S. and its territories attended.

This year the conference will focus on the latest research, developments, and challenges facing our field today. Specifically:

- How can we use the lessons learned from Covid-19 to create better, more youth-centered systems?
- What can we do to support youth and those who work with them during these challenging times?
- How can states and communities serve as leaders in shaping a better juvenile justice system?
- How can we improve collaborations with young people with lived experiences in the systems we work with?
- What can be done to leverage partnerships to help improve physical and mental health services, and better address youths' needs for education and housing?
- What role does advocacy play as communities seek to improve services and provide for trauma-informed care for children and youth?

To learn more and/or to register for the conference, [click here](#). A draft of the conference agenda can be viewed [here](#).

Sponsor/Exhibitor Opportunities:

CJJ invites you to consider becoming a sponsor or exhibitor at our 2021 Annual Conference on June 9-11. Sponsoring or exhibiting is an easy and affordable way to promote your program, publication, or institution to a targeted professional audience while supporting CJJ's continuing efforts towards juvenile justice reform and leadership development.

Contact CJJ Executive Director Naomi Smoot at evans@juvjustice.org for more details.

New Toolkit Released

The [National Network for Youth](#) (NN4Y) in partnership with the [Coalition for Juvenile Justice](#) is excited to release a new toolkit for practitioners. This toolkit, entitled "[Transforming Systems: Accelerating Collaboration Between Youth Homelessness Providers and Youth Policing and Incarcerated Systems](#)", highlights the top six steps a community should take to build an effective relationship between youth homelessness services and the youth court system. These steps include:

- Open the lines of communication to begin to build a positive and strong relationship.
- Include court and probation system partners in your collaborative

- community and state work to prevent and end youth homelessness.
- Center youth and young adults with lived experiences of homelessness, placing an emphasis on BIYOC and LGBTQIA young people.
- Identify the top challenges and opportunities for collaboration. Be honest.
- Set clear goals and be persistent in achieving them.
- Evaluate progress towards goals and reaffirm or create new goals at least every six months and young women of color, especially those who have experienced violence or exploitation.

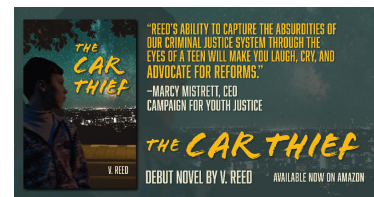
To read the toolkit, [click here](#).

Join CJJ!

[Click here to learn more about CJJ memberships.](#)

NEW: CJJ's Book Club Program

Following the 2020 Annual Conference's Lunch and Learn Book Club, CJJ has implemented a new quarterly book club program to further our discussion around youth justice.



Join us for our first book club, on **March 18th from 3pm to 4pm Eastern**. Vicki Reed, author of "[The Car Thief](#)" will hold a discussion on her book, which is a fictional account examining the criminalization of youth charged with status offenses.

CJJ is looking to continue the book club program each quarter throughout 2021 and additional books are being considered. To recommend a book please email LaToria Sheppard at sheppard@juvjustice.org.

Book clubs are free for everyone. [Click here](#) to register for "The Car Thief" Book Club.

Upcoming Webinars

A Healing-Centered Vision for Youth, Families, and Communities
Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 3pm-4pm ET



Healing ourselves emotionally and mentally is not as easy as it sounds, and at times we neglect to acknowledge the importance of incorporating a healing approach in our everyday lives (school, work, home, etc.). The healing-centered vision, adopted by Healing Ninjas, allows us to come to terms with events and circumstances which have occurred in our lives, and to overcome the barriers of mental illness--one person, one family, and one community at a time.

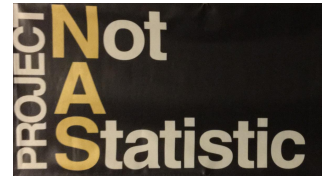
Healing Ninjas is an online community platform highlighting the stories of individuals who are seeking to master the art of healing. Join us on October 28th at 3 pm to learn more about the healing-centered vision and how, as individuals and professionals, we can influence those we work with to become a person who excels in a particular skill or activity--in other words, to become a HEALING NINJA.

Presenters:

Hernan Carvente-Martinez, Founder & CEO, [Healing Ninjas](#)
Iliana Pujols, Director of Community Connections, Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance
Abdul Ali, Community Organizer, Maine Youth Justice

This webinar is free for CJJ members. To become a member [click here](#).
To register for this webinar [click here](#).

From Prison Walls to College Halls: Achieving Success in the Face of Adversity
Friday, April 9, 2021 at 3pm-4pm ET



Join author, Hameen Shabazz on a journey from hopelessness to hopefulness as he bestows a holistic and interpersonal approach to the youth justice system, foster care, and transitioning through America's re-entry programs. The journey, words, trials, and triumphs Hameen Shabazz shares to disentangling professional and personal issues divulges a systemic blue print to a successful life after incarceration.

Presenter:

Hameen Shabazz, Founder, [Project NAS](#)

This webinar is free for CJJ members. To become a member [click here](#).
To register for this webinar [click here](#).

Would You Like to Blog for CJJ?

CJJ is looking for bloggers for [CJJ Today](#) to author stories and posts about juvenile justice. We're particularly interested in stories from [State Advisory Group members](#) or staff, CJJ [individual](#) or [youth members](#), and CJJ [organizational members](#), about issues at the state or local level, interesting programs or approaches, and perspectives about the course of juvenile justice reform at the local or state level. We also welcome blog posts from other juvenile justice system stakeholders. Blog posts can be between 400-750 words in length. Click [here](#) to see our other guidelines for blogs.



Suggested topics could include:

- School to Prison Pipeline
- Girls in the Juvenile Justice System
- Remedying Racial and Ethnic Disparities
- Adolescent Brain Development
- Evidence-Based Practices
- Status Offenses
- Family and Youth Involvement
- Promising Practices or Program Spotlights

If interested please email info@juvjustice.org for more details.

Member Spotlight: Alabama

The CDC estimates that one in five girls and one in 10 boys will be sexually abused by the age of 18. A staggering statistic considering 90% of child sexual abuse victims know their perpetrator. Despite the pandemic and school closures,

Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) in Alabama have continued to serve children and families to offer a place of hope, healing and justice. During 2020, Alabama CACs conducted almost 6,800 Forensic Interviews and provided almost 23,000 counseling sessions with the use of technology. Of these 6,800 initial interviews, 1,780 were referred for prosecution.



Why do we need CACs? Imagine being asked to take center stage and share your last sexual encounter to a room full of strangers without omitting any details. It's an assignment no one would willingly accept. Before CACs were developed, this is exactly what children and adolescents were expected to do when disclosing their horrific stories of sexual abuse. A victim had to tell the worst story of his or her life repeatedly to parents, school counselors, doctors, law enforcement, attorneys, investigators, and judges.

The revictimization of a child was so traumatizing that Robert "Bud" Cramer, Alabama native and former United States Representative, introduced the concept of the CAC on local, state, and national levels in 1984. He helped establish the first CAC in the nation in Huntsville on May 1, 1985. In 1986, the Alabama Legislature passed a bill designating the Huntsville location as a pilot CAC program and this opened the door to Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding for our first center. During the next decade, Alabama would establish ten centers across the state and lead the nation in the development of CACs. The model, developed here in Alabama, has spread to more than 950 sites across the United States and in 34 countries throughout the world.

Children's Advocacy Centers provide a child-friendly, safe and neutral location in which law enforcement, child protective services, and investigators may conduct and observe forensic interviews. If interviewed at home, the child may not feel safe if the abuser is a family member; at a police station they may feel blamed. The non-offending family members also receive support, crisis intervention and referrals for mental health and medical treatment. The multidisciplinary team meets regularly to communicate and make decisions together about how to support the child. Cases are reviewed beginning with the victim's initial outcry through investigation, treatment and prosecution. Communication within the team reduces duplication and mistakes, and keeps victims from falling through the cracks.

In 1996, the Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Inc. (ANCAC or The Network) was recognized as the State Chapter and tasked with promoting the multi-disciplinary process in fostering an abuse free society for Alabama's children and support the development of the CAC model through public awareness, training and collaborative partnerships. The Network achieves this mission through 35 CACs with eight satellite locations serving all 67 counties in Alabama.

Childhood sexual abuse has potentially serious and long-lasting negative mental health impacts, including increased risk of developing Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, suicide attempts, substance abuse, relationship difficulties, and many other problems. Children who experience sexual abuse or assault also develop changes in overall physical health. CAC models for child abuse intervention are proven and effective, bringing together trained professionals to investigate and provide medical and mental health care as well as support to child victims of abuse, while holding offenders accountable through the court system.

It's exciting for Alabama to be the birthplace of CACs but we have more work to do. Reports show that during isolation and social distancing due to the pandemic, there is an increase in occurrences and severity of abuse because children are out of the view of their mandatory reporters and advocates. Now and always, Children's Advocacy Centers are proving that there is a way to prevent violence, victimization and abuse from leaving an indelible mark on

our children. Through the compassion and unflinching dedication of the men and women who serve in these centers, children across the nation are getting the care, treatment and justice that they deserve.

Events and Trainings

The [Vision for Justice](#) will host its Virtual Summit on Friday, February 19th at 12pm Eastern. [Click here](#) to register.

The [American Bar Association](#) (ABA) will host a webinar, Achieving the Family First Act's Goals on March 3rd at 3pm Eastern. [Click here](#) to register.

The [La. Families In Need of Services \(FINS\) Association](#) will host the "2021 Virtual Conference: Breaking Down Barriers and Building Connections" on March 15th through March 16th. [Click here](#) to register.

The [National Network for Youth](#) (NN4Y) will host the Virtual NN4Y Summit on March 24th through March 25th. [Click here](#) to register.

[The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#) (NCJFCJ) will hold two national conferences in 2021, the [National Conference on Juvenile Justice](#) in Dallas, TX, March 21- 24, 2021, and the [84th Annual Conference](#) in St. Louis, MO, July 18 - 21, 2021. Click conference title to register.

The [National Association of Counsel for Children](#) (NACC) will host the 44th National Child Welfare Law Conference virtually and in Denver, CO on August 13th through August 17th. [Click here](#) to learn more and/or to register.

New Publications and Resources

The Council on Criminal Justice (CCJ) released "[Policing by the Numbers](#)".

The American Bar Association (ABA) released three new reports. "[The Family First Prevention Service Act of 2018: A Guide for the Legal Community](#)"; "[Tool for Engaging the Legal Community in Implementing Family First](#)"; and "[Legal Professional Roles: Implementing the Family First Prevention Service Act](#)".

The Sentencing Project released a new report on "[Racial Disparities in Youth Incarceration Persist](#)".

The National Juvenile Justice Network released the "[New Toolkit: Raising the Minimum Age of Juvenile Court Jurisdiction](#)".

CJJ invites you to share news from your SAG, organization, state, or region! Inclusion and editing of submissions are subject to CJJ editorial guidelines.

[Contact the Editor](#)

The Juvenile Justice Monitor is brought to you by staff and volunteer leaders of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, and supported by membership fees paid by CJJ's State Advisory Group Members, Members at Large, Organizational Members, and allies. We are grateful to all for their ongoing support.

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