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CJJ Welcomes New Policy and Field Relation Associate

This month, CJJ welcomed new staff member Ridha Kapoor.

Ridha will serve as CJJ's Policy and Field Relations Associate. Ridha has spent four years working with youth inside a juvenile correctional facility in Southern California, where she aided in completing middle and high school coursework, and led workshops in creative writing, music, and more. Ridha's areas of expertise focus on dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline through race and ethnic studies, public policy, education work, and community organizing.



Ridha's participation in grassroots and community organizing efforts led her to tackle many issues and their intersections, with racial justice and youth being the root focus. With Ridha's work having taken place throughout San Bernardino County, working with CJJ allows her to gain different perspectives and link juvenile justice work to federal policy in D.C. Ridha hopes to use this work to reform and create spaces where marginalized youth not only feel safe, but empowered.

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice welcomes Ridha to the team. To contact Ridha email kapoor@juvjustice.org

COVID-19: One Year Later

On March 11th, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic. After one year of working from home, travel restrictions, business shutdowns, and schools closing, a hope for normalcy is finally underway.

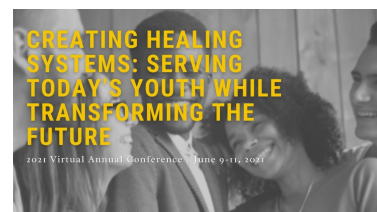
Ensuring that our young people are safe remains a top priority though. Early in the pandemic, dramatic reductions were seen in the number of young people incarcerated and referred to courts. As we return to normalcy, it is important to think through how positive changes such as these can be implemented long term and how we can center equity in their implementation.

As we continue to address the issues at the intersection of youth justice and Covid, CJJ would like to remind you of the top 10 self-care tips provided by Tracey Wells-Huggins (CJJ's Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Chair and a member of New Jersey's State Advisory Group):

1. Listen to your body! As a Somatics Practitioner, it is important that I have you understand that we are holding things within our soma/bodies that can lead to an immuno-compromised state. Rest and disengage when you need to! Breathe deeply, often, and intentionally.
2. Do something for your peace of mind and increased positive energy. Pray, meditate, do yoga, do calisthenics, take a walk. Data indicates that 10-15 minutes of dedicated activities like these daily are incredible effective for stress relief.
3. Limit social media, especially in the first hour of your waking day.
4. Get enough sleep! Disconnect! Again, I say, BREATHE!
5. Declutter and clean your key areas: Desks, closets, those "junk" drawers almost everyone has somewhere in the house. It's cleansing!
6. Read some great books. As the uber geek that I have always been, there is absolutely NOTHING like turning pages to soothe my nerves. However, I have found that audiobooks can be a great asset, too. Whichever you prefer, do it.
7. Make room for simple fun. You determine what that looks like for you and rock out!
8. Love on one another! Cuddle when you can! Observe social distancing practices with common sense, please. When safely at home, love heartily to help sustain one another.
9. Re-assess the things YOU value in life.
10. Celebrate each day! While there are so many things seemingly beyond our control, let's control the things we can: our thought life and the things we speak over our lives, loved ones, and circumstances. As any anxiety attempts to creep in, hold fast to your faith. Speak life, abundance, and health over yourselves and your loved ones often.

Register for 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.**



All content will be recorded and available for participants to view at their leisure for up to one year after the event.

Register Today!

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

Early Bird Registration
Jan 15 - May 31

\$200/ Member
\$250/ Non-Member
\$95/ Student

Regular Registration
June 1 - June 8

\$250/ Member
\$300/ Non-Member
\$100/ Student

SAVE THE DATE: Racial and Ethnic Disparities Conference

CJJ's 2021 R/ED Conference: "[A Call for Justice: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities](#)" will take place at the [Omni Louisville Hotel](#) in Louisville, Ky. **Monday, November 1st through Thursday, November 4th.**



Registration is Now Open:

To make your hotel reservations click [here](#). To register for the conference click [here](#). **Registration is limited.** To view a draft of the agenda click [here](#).

CJJ Releases New Youth Manual

Young people play an important role on their State Advisory Group. They offer a unique perspective to SAGs on which policies, programs, and changes will be most effective to the youth justice system. The Coalition for Juvenile Justice is excited to release a new [Youth Manual](#) for new and continuing youth [State Advisory Group](#) (SAG) members.

To view the Youth Manual in its entirety [click here](#).

Join CJJ!

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

A Call For Participants

The University of Nevada, Reno is conducting a research project entitled **Parents' Experiences with their Child in Detention.**

The intention is to distribute a survey link to parents of children who have been committed to a juvenile detention facility, to learn more about how their child's incarceration has affected them as a parent. While there is an abundance of literature on the effects of adult incarceration on families and children, and the importance of parental involvement for juvenile justice outcomes, there is very little research on how juvenile incarceration affects parents.

With your help, the University can reach more potential participants than they could alone. The results from this study may be informative for juvenile justice reform efforts, judges, and advocacy groups, as well as the general public. A better understanding of the effects of juvenile incarceration on parents and families is imperative to improving the juvenile justice system and reducing harm to families, while improving prospects for system-involved youth.

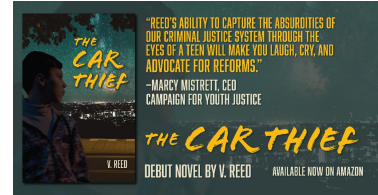
The survey linked [here](#) should take less than 10 minutes to complete. The surveys are confidential, and include an option for participants to sign up for a virtual focus group discussion. Survey participants will be entered into a drawing for one of 10 Amazon gift cards worth \$5 - \$20. All focus group participants will receive an Amazon or Visa gift card (their choice) worth \$25.

If you'd like more information, please email the University of Nevada's research team at ksnider@unr.edu.

Join CJJ's Book Club Program Today!

CJJ's Book Clubs are free to everyone.

JOIN US TODAY at 3pm Eastern for our first book club. 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.

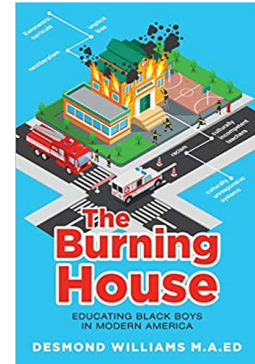


Whether you have read the book or want to know more about it, the discussion is open for dialogue. To purchase [click here](#). To register [click here](#).

Second Quarter:

Join us **Thursday, June 24, 2021 3pm-4pm Eastern** for a conversation with Desmond Williams about his book, which confronts issues pertaining to Black boys from the perspective of a teacher, principal, parent, and concerned citizen.

To purchase the book [click here](#). To register to join click [here](#).



Upcoming Webinars

From Prison Walls to College Halls: Achieving Success in the Face of Adversity

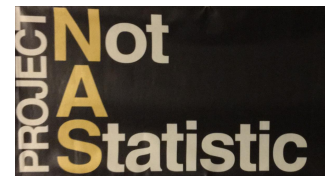
Friday, April 9, 2021 at 3pm-4pm ET

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 disentangle 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](#).



Engaging Policymakers: How Youth Advocates Are Leading State Juvenile Justice Reform

Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 4pm-5pm ET

Engaging policymakers, advocating for legislative changes, and reforming systems can be difficult, especially when there are significant barriers including incarceration. While at Green Hill School, a state-run detention facility in Washington, a group of young men have played an integral role in state juvenile justice reform. Since March 2018, this group of young men has helped pass bills that extend juvenile court jurisdiction to age 25, remove the auto-decline requirement, phase out the placement of youth charged with status offenses in detention facilities, and increase the use of community-based alternatives and



enrichment opportunities in place of confinement.

This legislative season they are focusing on a bill that will extend the age of Juvenile Jurisdiction to 26.

During this webinar, Green Hill School will present their impressive story of engagement with policymakers in Washington State and how they were able to effect change. Attendees will learn about the importance of advocacy within the juvenile justice system and how State Advisory Groups and adult partners can support youth advocates, especially those currently involved in the system.

Presenter:

Aaron Toleafoa, Emerging Leaders Committee (ELC) Chair, Coalition for Juvenile Justice; Member, Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice

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
- Remediating 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: R Street

The R Street Institute is a free-market think tank advancing real solutions to complex public policy problems. R Street Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public policy research organization. Their mission is to engage in policy research and outreach to promote free markets and limited, effective government. R Street works extensively on both state and national policy, and focus on issues that other groups tend to neglect.



A comprehensive juvenile justice reform package that's under consideration in

Maryland would address several of the points raised by R Street policy experts.

The Maryland Youth Justice Coalition (MYJC) is a group of advocates and policy experts dedicated to creating a more fair and equitable criminal justice system in Maryland where youth are not only given opportunities and options, but public safety is uplifted. The coalition is dedicated to supporting evidence-based, culturally competent, and gender-responsive solutions that are vetted by directly impacted individuals and promote positive youth development and public safety. Formerly known as the informal Maryland Juvenile Justice Working Group, members of MYJC advocated for the founding of Maryland's Juvenile Justice Reform Council, successfully passing legislation to establish the council in 2019. Following community listening sessions, in-depth data analysis by The Vera Institute of Justice, and bipartisan debate and agreement among policymakers, practitioners and scholars, the Council released their recommendations for reform in January 2021. Those recommendations resulted in a legislative package (HB 1187/SB 853) that is now moving through the legislature. HB 1187 passed out of committee just last week.

The legislative package aims to: 1) establish a minimum age of juvenile court jurisdiction at 13 years, except in very serious circumstances in which jurisdiction begins at 10 years; 2) remove traditional school misbehavior from the definition of a delinquent act; 3) expand opportunities for early diversion and mandate it in some instances; 4) institute limits on the length of youth probation; and 5) prevent youth charged with a misdemeanor or technical violation of probation as their most serious offenses from being incarcerated, among other things. Many of these recommendations follow in the footsteps of successful reforms implemented in places like Kansas, Utah and Kentucky. As an ally of the MYJC, the R Street Institute also recently published the first ever statewide scan of youth diversion programs used or run by law enforcement agencies in Maryland, successfully connecting with over 50 county and municipal law enforcement agencies. R Street staff found that if you are a young person in Maryland, whether or not you have an opportunity for diversion prior to a referral to the Department of Juvenile Services depends almost entirely on the county you live in. And while several existing law enforcement-driven youth diversion programs in Maryland were able to produce and report positive outcomes, outcome data is not publicly tracked or analyzed in a standardized manner. Likewise, program eligibility and program components vary from one place to another, although most programs focus on youth alleged to have committed first-time misdemeanors.

Fortunately, some law enforcement agencies without diversion programs have expressed interest in starting or restarting them, and the successful expansion of law enforcement-driven diversion and program efficacy can be supported across the entire state with just a bit of action from Annapolis.

Events and Trainings

Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Justice Youth Advisory Council will host "Young Adult Perspectives on Federal and State Youth Justice Development and Opportunities" March 23rd at 2pm Eastern. [Click here](#) to register.

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

Partnership for Strong Communities will host the March 2021 IForum Tuesday, March 30th at 10am Eastern. [Click here](#) to register.

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

[The Council of State Governments Justice Center](#) will host a live virtual event April 21st at 1pm-2pm Eastern on the new toolkit released. [Click here](#) 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 of State Governments Justice Center released a new toolkit: "[Reducing Structural Barriers to School and Work for People with Juvenile Records](#)".

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](#)";
- "[Legal Professional Roles: Implementing the Family First Prevention Service Act](#)".

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

The National Juvenile Justice Network released a toolkit entitled "[NJJN Policy 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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