

Council of State Advisory Groups

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2022

Welcome

Michelle Diaz, CJJ National Chair (NY)

The 2022 Council of State Advisory Groups was called to order at 8:36 a.m.

Roll Call of Member SAGs & Confirmation of a Quorum

Mark Hutchinson, CJJ Treasurer (MA)

States Present: CA, CO, DC, FL, IA, ID, KS, KY, MD, ME, MI, MN, NJ, OK, OR, PA, SC, TN, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, CT, ME, MD, NY, PA, VT, WA, DC, LA, MS, SC, TN, VA, AL

Introductions of Executive Board Members, Staff, and Guests

Mark Hutchinson, CJJ Treasurer/ Secretary (MA)

All members of CJJ Executive Board and staff were introduced to the Council of SAGs.

Executive Board Members Present: Michelle Diaz, Tracey L. Wells-Huggins, Pastor Edward L Palmer, Barbara Wallace, Hon. Michael Mayer, Rachel Bingham, Shay Bilchick, Alice Coil, Cecely Reardon, Janelle Ridley, Jill Ruggiero, Anya Sekino, Brock Landwehr

CJJ Staff Present: Naomi Evans (Executive Director), Aide Samantha Moore (Youth Partnership and Training Associate), and Ridha Kapoor (Policy and Field Relations Associate)

Approval of Consent Items:

Michelle Diaz, CJJ National Chair (NY)

The Council of SAGs unanimously approved the following consent items:

- CJJ Executive Board Roster
- CJJ Staff List
- SAGs by Region
- Member Leadership Committee Roster
- 2021 Council of SAGs Meeting Minutes
- Reports from Juvenile Justice Specialists, ECD/ R/ED Committee, and other CJJ Committees.
- CJJ Budget and Financials

CJJ Progress Report

Michelle Diaz, CJJ National Chair (NY), and Naomi Smoot, CJJ Executive Director

- Naomi welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the 2022 Annual Conference and Council of SAGs meeting and shared the following update:
 - CJJ shared the struggles of many facilities during the pandemic. Despite a full staff turnover CJJ has been able to find highly qualified candidates and continue with technical assistance, support, and continuation of projects
 - Introduction of staff:
 - Aide Sam Moore, Youth Partnership and Training Associate, assists with technical support and training to the SAGs. She has first-hand knowledge of ways to engage with young people as a member of the Idaho SAG.
 - Ridha Kapoor is our Policy and Field Relations Associate. She is a phenomenal asset to the team. She is helping with our federal policy work, racial and ethnic disparities work, and Collaborating for Change, our youth homelessness project.
 - Jazz Murray is our Communications and Administrative Assistant and helps with communications and administrative work. She oversees social media, writes our monthly JJ Monitor, and handles conference invoicing. To build off of what Michelle, National Chair CJJ, said, our relationship is a two-way street, and if you have news that you would like to share in the JJ monitor, share it with Jazz because we would love to do a spotlight and share your successes.
- SAGs: CJJ is partnering with some of the states such as Washington DC and their Chair Laura Furr to support Iowa in building a new Youth Justice Council.
- Technical Assistance: CJJ is also working in conjunction with states on a Youth Learning Network and a Probation Learning Network. These projects are funded by Annie E. Casey Foundation.
 - A probation toolkit and youth partnership resource will both be released later this year.
- Youth Homelessness & Juvenile Justice: Assisting stakeholders in ensuring state policies and practices do not criminalize those experiencing housing instability. We have to be thoughtful about reentry planning as well and ensure that reentry is a tool to avoid housing instability instead of yet another obstacle for young people.
- OJJDP: We have a working relationship with Administrator Ryan and are excited to work with her. OJJDP staff met with JJ Specialists and Compliance Monitors. CJJ is hopeful that we can partner in a responsible way while still holding meaningful autonomy. The goal is to be a voice for the SAGs while collaborating with OJJDP. We are currently working in partnership with OJJDP on a toolkit on how to be an effective SAG.

- 2018 JJDPa reauthorization will come to an end in 2022. CJJ's Government Relations Committee is discussing legislative recommendations and identifying champions for the bill so we can begin the process for reauthorization.

CJJ Budget Overview and Finance Committee Update

Mark Hutchinson, CJJ Treasurer (MA)

- CJJ is in solid financial health despite pandemic and accompanying struggles.
 - CJJ is projecting \$602,800 in revenues this year and \$594,552 in expenses, for a net income of \$8,248.

Highlights:

- SAG individual memberships remain strong
- Increased interest in training
- Good financial results for a conference
- New and continued grant partnerships
- Individual and organizational memberships are on the rise
- 2021 closed with a \$10,854 shortfall. The Financial Committee deemed 2021 a financially successful year for CJJ considering all of the challenges that the year presented.
- Tow Foundation Grant - This grant is general operating, and supports part of our SAG engagement work.
- Andrus Foundation - supports federal education around JJDPa and our work with the ACT4JJ (composed of 100 national organizations) ensures that JJDPa gets reauthorized and funded). Andrus also provides general operating support for CJJ's Emerging Leaders Committee.
- Member Funded JJDPa training and technical assistance - goals include operating reserve and continuing to support the expansion of membership outside of SAG while providing service and support to current core SAG members. Mark Hutchinson is asking for people to join the Finance Committee
- Nord Family Foundation and Sisters of Charity - provides support for technical assistance in Ohio related to the Valid Court Order (VCO) exemption and how the order plays into the criminalization of young people who have run away from home.
- Discussion: NONE

Regional Chair Reports

I. Southern Region:

CJJ Immediate Past Chair, Pastor Palmer (KY) filling in for Southern Regional Chair, Chief Tony Jones (FL)

States present at conference: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Mississippi

- Great meeting great work going on not without challenges:
 - Confinements challenges
 - Inhumane conditions
 - Youth subject to solitary confinement for long periods of the day

II. **Midwestern Region:**

Midwestern Chair, Hon. Michael Mayer (MN)

The Midwestern Region had 7 of 11 states present

- Learned people struggling with hiring, training and retention of staff in detention facilities.
- A strong feeling of positivity and desire to move forward and do what's best for kids.
- Looking forward to a couple of years as chair.

III. **Western Region:**

Midwestern Representative, Alice Coil (WA) on behalf of Stacie Nelson Colling (CO)

States present at conference: Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Texas, Idaho, Kansas, California, Utah, Alaska, Colorado, Nevada

- During the meeting, states shared a lot of information related to race and age.
- Developing more diversion opportunities.
- Increase funding
- Looking at victim compensation.
- Create shared documents through Google so each state can share what they are doing throughout the year, as well as information about legislation and other projects.

IV. **Northeastern Region**

Current Northeastern Regional Chair, Janelle Ridley (MA)

States present at conference: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, DC

- Positive things youth-led youth-driven training and program developments
- Great work is being done in the research area
- Laura Furr (Chair of DC SAG) spoke about participatory research on monitoring led by youth
- New York mentioned a lot of great policy initiatives and strategic policies for that.
- Maryland had a lot with R/ED and ACES

- Comments on members being low and figuring out what spacing looks like in facilities for those numbers

JJDPA UPDATE & REVISION

Brock Landwehr, Government Relations Committee Chair (KS)

Government Relations Committee looking forward to the reauthorization of the JJDPA and looking further down the road to find flexibility in spending dollars and use of funding under Title II. The greatest need identified by members has been funding and acknowledging the roadblocks that have existed. We hope that with Liz Ryan as the new OJJDP Administrator and with Congressman Bobby Scott's support, we can find a pathway to flexible spending with success.

Discussion:

- *Naomi Smoot Evans, Executive Director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice*

Referencing a list of suggested changes to the JJDPA that was included in the Board Book, Naomi requested that if anyone hadn't yet read the list to please do so. We are soliciting suggestions and comments from the Council of SAGs. The previous interpretation of Title II requirements limited states' ability to spend money on R/ED projects despite the fact that it is one of the core protections. We believe that removing restrictive language is a key goal because under the current

We recognize that SAGs are struggling with compliance manuals and we are hoping to make updates to ensure that we are never in this situation again where everyone's money is being withheld. We do not plan to request rollbacks, we do not want to jeopardize kids, and we will be doing what we can to make sure we have the funding we need to keep our youth safe. The current interpretation of the reauthorization gets in the way of that.

- *Laura Furr, Juvenile Justice Advisory Group Chair (DC)*

Asking about a recommendation to enable state employees to hold leadership positions on the SAG: is that in reference to both vice chair and chair?

- *Cecely Reardon, Representative at Large, Coalition for Juvenile Justice (MA)*

The interpretation has been to apply this to all state government employees,, not just the agency that houses the SAG (e.g. state public defender or state prosecutor). As a result, state employees cannot be chair or vice-chair in some places because the current

interpretation would effectively mean if those members ever had to stand in place of the chair, they would be state employees.

- *Laura Furr, Juvenile Justice Advisory Group Chair (DC)*
I believe the limitation should exist; that the chair should not be a state agency employee. I know it's tough to fill those community spots with community members. Oftentimes it's not a part of our job, but it is adjacent and community members are not paid. This avoids creating situations where the state agency has too much power over the SAG. When our judges, prosecutors, and police speak, everyone else defers. I do not want a situation where there is a space where government or state employees take over and there is no room for community voice.
- *Brock Landwehr, Representative at Large, Coalition for Juvenile Justice (KS)*
That is good feedback and if anyone is interested in talking more about topics like this we are looking for people to have these conversations with.
- *Jenise "Jo" Patterson, Juvenile Justice Advisory Group Member (DC)*
Echoing Laura's interpretation of the original statute's flexibility regarding the vice-chair. The same thing happens in our SAG because the state has the knowledge that it's intimidating to young people and community members. Open to flexibility for a vice-chair stand-in in order to avoid a state agency employee as chair.
- *Cecely Reardon, Representative At Large, Coalition for Juvenile Justice (MA)*
The challenge that some SAGs face is that chairs can be figurehead roles and as a result are not effective. This may lead to state agencies doing work to push whatever agenda they have and that carries risks and dangers; another piece to highlight in a chair role is being a strong advocate and effective leader. There should be flexibility to go to Hill days and have a state agency in a way that state employees are exempt from.
- *Anya Sekino, National Juvenile Justice Specialist, Coalition for Juvenile Justice (OR)*
The regulations are not being interpreted correctly by anyone. Whoever works for the governor, even the tribal government cannot be chair. You don't have to appoint a state agency person even if it's allowed. The challenge here is that this doesn't just apply to state agency people, but anyone who works for funding by a governor: state university professors, tribal members because they work for tribal government - it is important to have a division or a person who has some connection with the government, etc.
- *Naomi Smoot Evans, Executive Director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice*

I am seeking clarity - would prohibiting employment explicitly with the designated state agency resolve your issues?

- *Judge Dawson, 2nd District, Florida SAG Vice-Chair (FL)*

I was vice-chair for many years and when this rule was strictly enforced I was removed from the vice-chair position. Flexibility is a major issue in Florida, as a lot of government work is done by private agencies. The loss of private members vs our long-term juvenile justice professionals causes instability within our SAG. A SAG government member is usually someone who dedicates their life to juvenile justice and the private sector moves from organization to organization. Now we are very stable, but I do think the key issue is flexibility. Every state is set up differently and should have flexible options. I have never seen the issue of government employees dominating meetings.

- *Jill Ward, Director, Maine Center for Juvenile Policy and Law (ME)*

In response to your question, Naomi, I think that a limitation of partner agencies being chairs is necessary. I do think there should be more flexibility for government folks and the same thing can happen and might preclude gubernatorial control you are talking about. The Department of Education or DHS has personnel that have had the same thing happen; it's not the juvenile or correctional facility. Flexibility for leadership with judges, prosecution is necessary for the SAG to work.

- *Alice Coil, Western Region Representative, Coalition of Juvenile Justice, (WA)*

I want to support the sentiment that each state is different, often community voices are not being uplifted to much larger constituents. We must create pathways for community members to be in that leadership role and it is important to uplift community voices in this work.

- *Naomi Smoot Evans, Executive Director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice*

Noted plan to recirculate list with sample language to the SAG Chairs, Compliance Monitors, and Juvenile Justice Specialists.

- *Cecely Reardon, Representative at Large, Coalition for Juvenile Justice (MA)*

Language in the reauthorization should elevate the SAG and how it must be consulted around various topic areas. SAG is an unknown entity in many states and doesn't have the recognition of the quality of investment and knowledge that sits at the table. I'd love to see some way to increase that visibility by spending time on this topic.

- *Ruban Roberts (FL)*

We are not clear on our role. Sometimes there are issues that come before us, things that are happening in our state that we would like to speak to in order to have some voice and influence, and then we get reminded that we are an entity that oversees the budget. So what are we doing if that is our primary responsibility when we have professionals that have information about programming and services that can really benefit our community? So when we see an uptick in violence are we supposed to be mute in those issues when people don't apply for those dollars? Do we have a broader scope to see? The problem is that if the government entity is different, then we are reminded quickly and swiftly that this is a separate role.

- *Naomi Smoot Evans, Executive Director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice*
There is a technical assistance piece to this so that SAG members understand their advisory role and that members understand they have a role to play and a governor recommendation plan to push legislation.
- *Pastor Palmer, Immediate Past Chair, Coalition for Juvenile Justice*
Governors and state administrators need to understand the role of the SAG.
- *Shay Bilchik, Representative At Large, Coalition for Juvenile Justice (MD)*
SAGs are an incredibly important entity to the function, composition, and usage of federal monies. SAGs are an important entity to change state legislation. As an organization we have to ask ourselves "What are the state's priorities and are we illuminating those things on the federal level?" The truth is that states spend more state dollars on juvenile justice services than federal dollars. We need to brief the governors about the Act and SAGs. If they still feel like they do not need to connect with the SAGs or be a part of the Act in order to secure the same amount of funding, that creates a dangerous mentality and it prevents us from keeping youth safe. If this continues, we won't have anything left to protect children.
- *Naomi Smoot Evans, Executive Director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice*
One of the other things that we have been talking about, not on this list, is the Valid-Court Order (VCO) exception. We are going to keep fighting for this. Senator Cotton is likely to oppose it, which makes Arkansas incredibly important, and particularly judges, so we can finally get over this hurdle. One other policy piece that we haven't shared is looking at the non-participating state clause so that those who are doing the work to keep our youth safe are getting a benefit for that and protection for folks to stay in the Act. The Act is the way to get good work done and there are very few pieces of federal legislation that require states to take action to create racial equity.

- *Tracey Wells-Huggins, National Vice-Chair, Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NJ)*
Disproportionality still exists beyond the Act. We must emphasize a racial equity lens. OJJDP will be relooking at the language through a racial equity lens and our four core protections need to support that.
- *Naomi Smoot Evans, Executive Director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice*
Next steps: incorporate your feedback and feedback from the Government Relations Committee.

Strategic Planning

Shay Bilchik, Representative At Large; Naomi Evans, Executive Director

Shay Bilchick, Representative At Large, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

This originally began as a fundraising committee. The company has been through iterations and we are tackling how we want to work through this next iteration. We want to emphasize the importance of strengthening SAGs across states.

Naomi Smoot Evans, Executive Director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

We would like to get a better sense of what each state needs and how we can give support.

Shay Bilchick, Representative At Large, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

We discussed where our revenue comes from in order to create a goal in terms of fundraising. There are three revenue streams.

- Grants, which often come with restrictions on how you can use them and limited purpose area.
- The membership bucket is the most important revenue section.
 - We need to ask ourselves what draws people to become members. We connect to R/ED, public policy, technical assistance, etc., and yet not all states want to join - how do we address this?
 - We've done some informal outreach in order to learn individual states' priorities to figure out what support we should provide.

Three most important modalities:

- Resources and Tools,
- Federal Advocacy,
- Technical Assistance.

Topic areas that were identified as key interest areas:

- 'Special Populations' (crossover youth, girls, LGBTQIA+ youth, tribal youth, youth with disabilities, and more).
- Assessing and addressing trauma.
- Addressing racial and ethnic disparities within the youth justice system.

CJJ hopes to create two new learning networks and an institute within CJJ to bring together R/ED Coordinators, Juvenile Justice Specialists, R/ED Coordinators, and key SAG members. We plan to talk with potential partners during the summer of 2022 in order to hopefully secure funds and begin working in these areas by early 2023. The aim is to strengthen membership and grants. (Shay Bilchik)

Ruban Roberts, Florida

I think we need to be focused on rebranding/branding the SAGs and getting our message out there first.

- Message: youth support and preventative measures.
- Afterward, we get info from our supporters about what is needed.
- There are entities out there in terms of public/private partnership, which from a fundraising perspective could be beneficial to SAGs. I think we need to think about how we can receive funding from the private sector. I think it would be stronger and more beneficial, plus it would get more buy-in.

Shay Bilchik, Representative At Large, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

If I am inviting someone to join, what I want is for them to be at the table as part of the decision making process. We would like to see if you would like to be on the committee to formulate those ideas on rebranding and getting folks in from the private sector.

Priorities based on our membership:

- draft proposals
- reach out to partners with vested interests to see if they would like to partner
- recruit funders who have an interest in our collective work

How do we make sure that the juvenile justice field knows who CJJ is and the SAG and the importance of that work nationally and within the state? It wasn't until I moved to the Department of Justice (DOJ) that I learned that the SAG in Florida existed. We can do this concurrently, not mutually exclusive.

Naomi Smoot Evans, Executive Director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

One thing I have been cautious about is growing just for the sake of growth. We are hoping to continue that, and are trying to identify ways that we could grow, while being true to our mission. Around Racial and Ethnic Disparities we are thinking about doing an academy around what states can do to address R/ED implementation. How does that look? How do you bring the local folks to the table? How do you bring those collaborations going? Part of that is similar to what I am hearing you say.

Ruban Roberts (FL)

I think we should pay attention to what happens to the private industry. One or two entities approached us about ankle monitoring in a way that invited us to be engaged and give input. This is a great way to reduce rates in corrections. The mayor and other key folks promoted this and got buy-in from all the stakeholders.

Shay Bilchick, Representative At Large, Coalition for Juvenile Justice
Rebranding and development could be done simultaneously.

Judge Dawson, Florida SAG Vice-Chair, 2nd Circuit

Every state is different and every year Florida changes our DJJ secretary once every 18 months and we flip flop on the political spectrum. You have to know to whom you are selling your products. A lot of people from Florida who would go to these conferences think CJJ is viewed as an extremely liberal group that pushes a 'my way or the highway' atmosphere. There are barriers to branding as a training organization because of the perception that exists in some states of CJJ.

Shay Bilchick, Representative At Large, Coalition for Juvenile Justice
40 states participate in CJJ and value our organization.

Judge Dawson, Florida SAG Vice-Chair, 2nd Circuit

I am not 100% sure how to interpret membership and buying what you are selling here. I don't agree with all the presentations, but I come here to hear that side of the argument. A lot of people came here for that. The key to growing is hearing both sides of the story and factoring in membership from states is not equal to buying in from other stakeholders.

Amanda Whittle, State Child Advocate (SC)

As a State Child Advocate, I found a group of people doing work similar to me, and joined. I feel like CJJ could be that for the SAG. I love research, but I also need someone who assists with access to public defenders or solicitors or other solutions to the problems at hand. I love sitting beside Pennsylvania and hearing what they have done about gun violence in their state. We

need something today, not a year from now. We need the ability to have a Google document to share with all of us in the room so our states can know what other states have done and done well in order to share solutions.

Shay Bilchick, Representative At Large, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

There are different ways membership looks to us to find support. Part of this is a learning network concept, in that it's not about a journal researcher, but rather it's about talking to each other and what our challenges have been. We'd like to be able to see what other states are doing and foster relationships with each state.

Michelle Diaz, National Chair, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

I believe I only attended one fundraising meeting and the first question that Shay asked is "What are we good at and how do we expand it and how do we reach more people?" I believe that we need more funds to do the work, whether that looks like updating or outreach. I do hear a lot about being a collective and revisiting branding and creating a look for our website, but that is what we are trying to build by working together. We are trying to put something into the beginning of 2023. We don't want to rush and we want to do things right.

Ava Palmer, Youth Chair, Iowa Young Justice Council, (IA)

I am a youth with lived experience and I represent Iowa as the chair of YJC. I have a few thoughts after listening to people speak: I know that we have to work together and there are a lot of different approaches state by state. As an organization with morals, I ask you "is all money good money? We would be selling ourselves short at that point. When it comes to branding it shouldn't be fancy or expensive. We have done a lot of talks and not enough action and I want to see action for youth in these placements.

Jenise (Jo) Patterson, (DC)

How do people feel when they come into these rooms? What is our effective role in our community, and how is this affected by our decisions and systemic changes? We have our own conversation with lawyers and judges and wherever you sit, you can implement system change. In the room, there was no one that looked like the children affected by system confinement and youth going through struggles with diversity and reflection. What are we going to do as a group here within our communities? If we could just make a commitment, what does branding matter when we need to make better judges and better lawyers? Whatever we are going to do we need to transform our communities. We need to help our communities.

Brynn Morse, Alaska Youth Court Executive Board President (AK)

A couple of thoughts on CJJ and whom it serves. I feel like it serves two groups: those who are routinely involved for members on the ground and SAG members that need to be caught up in a short amount of time. Two groups need entirely different support. Examples of how those programs work and how to implement them in the state would be helpful. How we were able to bring them to Alaska was by sending people directly to those states. They were able to understand what they could be doing by learning about what other SAGs are doing. The Coalition for Juvenile Justice is providing a network. It would be more effective to look at those two groups and create a clear website as a new SAG member. This can include what other SAGs are doing and an easily accessible compilation of their resources/programs they are implementing. Resulting in a lot more change than starting a new program. Concerned that a new program might be in the way of things. Coming from a state where we wondered if we wanted to be a part of CJJ, it's not just a problem to uplift, but one that other states are going through.

Presentation: Diversion: Diversion as a Hidden Driver of Persistent Disparities in Juvenile Justice

Richard Mendel, The Sentencing Project

Richard Mendel has written about incarceration, studies R/ED, and has learned that mass incarceration of youth is counterproductive. Looking at diversion and the front end of the system as more data comes in, we are looking at and again and again surprised at how powerful diversion is.

5 Lessons Learned:

1. The justice system is toxic for youth.
2. Diversion is vastly underutilized in the US.
3. Diversion is a point of deep, pervasive, and limited diversion opportunities generally.
4. Common practice unnecessarily exacerbates disparities and limits diversions opportunity generally.
5. Many constructive options are available to reform problematic practices, expand the use of diversion, and reduce disparities.

Diversion of pre-arrests avoids arrests entirely or the informal process is not a particular program, but rather an alleged lawbreaker that is addressed outside the law system.

- What would you want if your child got into trouble? Whether it's getting caught smoking weed on the school campus or hanging out with the wrong crowd that

steals cars. Would you want your child to be incarcerated, enrolled in a court-ordered treatment program involuntarily, or in a youth group home or prison?

- When we reflect on what young people need versus what the justice system offers, we see how youth needs are poorly addressed within our facilities.
- Communities and organizations are not connected with the court to help get youth back on track.

Questions were studied exhaustively and carefully controlled in last year's crossroad study, our analysis found that:

- Every year from 2005-to 2019, there was a 43-47% diversion rate.
- We lag other countries in diversion around the vast world. It ranges from 70-83% percent and has learned that the juvenile justice system is toxic for youth.

Discussion:

- *Jamie McCarville, Wisconsin Department of Health Services*
When will there be a more formal report that we could access? No pressure, but do you know when you will have the full report?
- *Richard Mendel, Sentencing Project*
The report will be out later this summer and we will have a webinar series available.
- *Brynn Morse, Alaska Youth Court Executive Board President*
Do you have numbers on outcomes with no follow-through of diversions vs outcome of court?
- *Richard Mendel, Sentencing Project*
Outcomes of court are bad. Most youth in the study don't come back. 17% to 60% refer to community partners and 6% of youth are adjudicated within a year compared to formal court placement where it is much higher.
- *Pastor Palmer, Immediate Past Chair, Coalition for Juvenile Justice*
In Kentucky, 80% of youth who complete diversion are successful; 40% who fail diversion will have a few interactions with the law within 3 years. Having a community-based touch is more effective than referrals and intersections with the courts. Kentucky has what's called Fair Teams, which intervenes when youth are not doing well with

compliance. They see what is wrong with the youth and the first recourse is to find out what is going on and what we can do to address it.

- *Rachel Bingham, Organizational Representative, Coalition for Juvenile Justice*
There is an intentionality in Kentucky to look at where kids' needs are on an individual case by case basis. We need to meet kids where they are.
- *Pastor Palmer, Immediate Past Chair, Coalition for Juvenile Justice*
Barriers to African American kids being successful have to do with location and lack of equitable resources for diversion programs. Community partners create opportunities to serve youth in the county with diversion efforts. 95% of those youth successfully complete the program. There was a 6-week program and the youth asked for a 12-week program and started inviting friends to diversion. Diversion can work, especially if you tap into the community.
- *Alice Coil, Western Regional Representative, Coalition for Juvenile Justice*
I am excited about your research and would like information to include the implementation of services and support for the family.
- *Jill Ruggiero, Northeast Regional Representative, Coalition for Juvenile Justice*
Really certain this room is for diversion, which is rare because unfortunately a lot of this population today is in crime control and tough on crime philosophy. What is your response to "what do you mean that we aren't sending them to court?" What do you say to tough on crime folks?
- *Richard Mendel, Sentencing Project*
Accountability cannot be doing something that is going to damage their future. We know now that we are harming our kids. Try to build empathy.
- *Pastor Palmer, Immediate Past Chair, Coalition for Juvenile Justice*
Another layer of accountability is a Fair Teams multidisciplinary approach (schools, prosecutors, court designated workers, community partners, behavioral health workers, etc.). Multidisciplinary teams are trying to find out the best fit for this kid. 70% success rate through some completed attempts. Think about being successful in keeping youth from the courts more than 70% of the time.
- *Tracey L. Wells-Huggins, National Vice-Chair, Coalition for Juvenile Justice*

Let's compare successful youth vs unsuccessful youth who do not have access. Building that humanitarian piece will help us to see a young person is just that. Considering these families that they come from and don't have resources and they have this amazing resilience. When you have those naysayers, yes what would you have for your child. Verbalize and see it for themselves.

- *Molly Rogers, Oregon SAG Chair*

Accountability conversation that we have heard at the local level is around active accountability and having an agreement prior to a family meeting. Engagement, but there is accountability on both sides along with services offered and how they are being offered. Passive accountability versus active - working with the adult that is working with them to have the same level of accountability. This lays those foundations for diversion.

The most impressive diversion program was in LA when a pre-arrest project made an agreement with the police department - they don't arrest youth and instead defer them to this organization. The organization uses risk assessments (behavioral health, mental health, substance abuse disorders) to determine the harm caused to the youth and implements the restorative process if victims are involved. If they find that a month later the kid is on track, the charges are dropped.

- *Cecely Reardon, Representative At Large, Coalition for Juvenile Justice*

Accountability has already happened with the placement of diversion programs, but just the mere fact of identification has an accountability factor and that is potentially why even young people who don't complete diversion don't recidivate. Recognition alone has accountability and is an intervention in and out of itself.

Election of National officers:

Pastor Palmer, Immediate Past Chair, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Pastor Palmer recognized Stacie Nelson Colling who will be stepping down from her position as Western Regional Chair. Elections were held earlier this week in the Regional meetings and in the JJ Specialist meeting.

The Election Results are as follows:

- National Juvenile Justice Specialist: Anya Sekino, (OR)
- Midwest Regional Chair: Judge Michael Mayer (MN)
- Western Regional Chair: Jack Martin (NV)
- Northeastern Regional Chair: Janelle Ridley (MA)
- Southern Regional Chair: Chief Tony Jones (FL)

Michelle Diaz, National Chair Woman, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

- Swore in new and returning Board members.

Closing:

Michelle Diaz, National Chair, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Michelle called for a motion to close the meeting. The motion was made and seconded without objection, and the meeting was adjourned.

