



2021 CJJ Annual Conference & Council of SAGs Meeting

Wednesday, June 9

Conference Opening, Workshops

9:00 am – 11:00 am

General Session and Conference Welcome

Welcoming Remarks: *Pastor Edward L. Palmer*, National Chair, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Federal Updates: *Chyrl Jones*, Acting Administrator, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

“From Surviving to Thriving”: Learning From Massachusetts Department of Youth Services (DYS) Strategic Plan for Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention

“From Surviving to Thriving” is the first published plan released by a statewide juvenile justice agency that specifically focuses on homelessness and housing instability, adding key qualitative data to the national and local statistics that connect juvenile justice involvement with housing instability and homelessness. Participants will hear about the development of the plan, including youth input and review, the core recommendations, and how COVID has shaped and prioritized implementation of the plan.

Speakers:

Cameron, youth expert

Kathrine-Rose, youth expert

Becki Moore, Director of Community of Operations and ICJ Deputy Compact Administrator, Massachusetts Department of Youth Services

Ayala Livny, M.Ed, homelessness services

Dr. Alice Colegrove, public health expert

Schools as Welcoming Spaces: Ending the Pipeline to Prison

Our education systems and our youth legal system both play an important role in helping reduce racial and ethnic disparities and improving equity in our justice system. Join members of CJJ’s Emerging Leaders Committee for

a conversation about ways we can make schools safer spaces for the students who attend them, and end the over criminalization of youth.

Speakers:

Jordyn Wilson, CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee Member, Connecticut
Roxette Burgos, CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee Member, New York
Keeve Wilson, CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee Member, Oregon
Myraina DeHaven, CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee Member, Colorado
Aaron Toleafoa, Moderator, CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee Chair, Washington

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Concurrent Workshop Session #1

Using Data to Improve Reentry Services

OJJDP-funded national training and technical assistance providers Kim Godfrey Lovett of Performance-based Standards and Melissa Sickmund of the National Center for Juvenile Justice will join representatives from a successful site to share tools that successful juvenile reentry programs are using to collect, analyze, and report reliable and valid data to inform decision-making and monitor program outcomes and efficacy.

Speakers:

Kim Godfrey Lovett, Executive Director, PbS Learning Institute, Inc.
Melissa Sickmund, Ph.D., Director, National Center for Juvenile Justice
Steve Michael, Administrator, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) Division, Iowa Department of Human Rights

The Juvenile Justice System: A Damaging Response to Youth Behavior

This interactive, high energy presentation and discussion will focus on the importance of diverting youth away from formal system involvement at all decision points, especially at the earliest contacts (police and school response) with strong emphasis on implicit bias, eliminating racial and ethnic disparities and racism within the system, adolescent brain development, and the impact of trauma on youth behavior.

Speakers:

Jill Ruggiero, Co-founder, We Are the GateKeepers, Inc.
Andre Parker, Co-Founder, We Are the GateKeepers, Inc.

Utilizing Sensory Regulation at Orleans Parish Juvenile Court

Calming Studios are therapeutic environments for children to learn coping skills and to diminish stress associated with participation in court proceedings. The Calming Studio is designed to provide an area of low stimulus, mindfulness, and de-stressing activities. This session will discuss the planning and implementation of The Calming Studio at Orleans Parish

Juvenile Court, increasing stakeholder buy in, and addressing barriers. This training will also discuss sensory techniques used to help young people.

Speaker:

Brianna Rock, Program Director, RISE

Learning and Leading Together: Youth Voice in the Anne Arundel County Police Department

Recognizing that youth voices—especially the voices of minority youth—are vital to conversations regarding race and the justice system, the Anne Arundel County Police Department created a Minority Youth Advisory Council. This Council invited underrepresented youth, ages 14-18, to meet with members of law enforcement monthly to improve police-community relationships. In this presentation, the Council facilitators and a youth representative seek to explain how the program came about and what we've learned along the way.

Speakers:

Timmeka Perkins, Director Juvenile and Victim Assistance, Anne Arundel County Police Department

Michelle LeVere, Police Corporal, Anne Arundel County Police Department

1:30 pm – 1:40 pm

Break

1:40 pm – 3:10 pm

Concurrent Workshop Session #2

Fostering Tribal, State, and Federal Collaborations

This session will provide guidance and share strategies and resources that promote relationships between Tribal Nations, designated state agencies, and state advisory groups. Presenters will share the growing body of work that has been created through the partnership between OJJDP's Center for Coordinated Assistance to States and OJJDP's Tribal Youth Resource Center. This session will highlight Tribal-State Partnerships in South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Minnesota, and share best practices for working collaboratively and effectively with Tribal Nations.

Speakers:

Heather Valdez-Freeman, Deputy Director, Tribal Law and Policy Institute

Patti Vowell, System Improvement Coordinator, New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department

Kara McDonagh, Moderator, Grants Management Specialist and Tribal Team Lead, Intervention Division, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

How Can Schools End Their Reliance On Punitive Systems?

In this moment of a global pandemic and a national reckoning with racism and police brutality, this session will give interested leaders and advocates

the data, strategies, and tools to welcome students back to a school experience rooted in positive supports and not punitive systems. Implementing this information will help leaders and advocates better support all students with healthy transitions to adulthood.

Speakers:

Hailly T. N. Korman, Senior Associate Partner, Bellwether Education Partners

Brandon Lewis, Senior Analyst, Bellwether Education Partners

The Pedagogy of Social Emotional Learning: Transforming our Systems and Supporting the Wellness of Youth and Staff

Meeting the needs of the whole child or the whole person has always been essential. That is only more evident as we deal with both a social justice and a health pandemic. Brain science reveals why a focus on social and emotional learning (SEL) is essential. Using evolving science on how we understand the brain, recent research on the importance of connection as a protective factor and Whole Learner Pedagogy, including SEL competencies, this session will look at what SEL is. We will also look at how SEL can help create a healthy culture for youth and staff and increase school engagement. Attendees will leave with some strategies for integrating SEL into daily practice.

Speakers:

Jennifer Perry, Social Emotional Learning Designer, Edmentum

Laura Porter-Jones, Educational Programs Consultant, Edmentum

A Different Kind of Advocacy: Stop-Valves in the School-to-Prison Pipeline

The aftermath of COVID-19 has the potential to exacerbate the impact of the school-to-prison pipeline. This workshop explores specific avenues of advocacy for professionals who work within the juvenile justice system. The workshop will examine how professionals can examine the quality of interventions in schools and the juvenile justice system in order to suspend the school-to-prison pipeline.

Speakers:

Desmond Williams, President/CEO, Nylinka School Solutions

Shannon McFadden, Streamline Consulting Services

3:10 pm – 3:20 pm

Break

3:20 pm - 4:50 pm

Concurrent Workshop Session #3

Reducing and Reimagining Responses for Native Youth In Confinement Through Prevention, Intervention, and Alternatives to Detention

The disparities in Native youth confinement have long plagued juvenile justice systems across the United States. This session will examine system gaps and disparities that contribute to the disproportionate contact of Native Youth in the justice system. The session will highlight the Tribal Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, as well as effective programs that utilize prevention and intervention, and Tribal best practices to promote healing and resiliency. It will also discuss effective Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court models.

Speakers:

Dr. Lisa Hutchinson, Center for Coordinated Assistance to States (CCAS) Project Director, American Institutes for Research

Laura Guay, MSW, Training and Technical Assistance Manager, National Native Children's Trauma Center

Stephanie Autumn, (Hopi, Irish) Director, Tribal Youth Resource Center, Tribal Law and Policy Institute

Keisha Kersey, Moderator, Grants Management Specialist with the State Relations and Assistance Division, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

The Kentucky Model for Identifying and Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System

Kentucky's juvenile justice system experienced sweeping reforms in 2014 that successfully accomplished its intended outcomes, but unintentionally exasperated the disproportionate and disparate outcomes for youth of color. This reality launched Kentucky's pre-court diversion program on a mission to strategically identify and address racial and ethnic disparities for youth who come into contact with the program, a journey that eventually evolved into a four-pronged, replicable model that will be outlined in this session.

Speakers:

Rachel Bingham, Executive Officer, Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, Department of Family and Juvenile Services

Pastor Edward L. Palmer, National Chair, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Pathways to Success: Ensuring That Young Women Have Power in a Just and Equitable Society

This presentation will introduce Pace Center for Girls, Inc., gender-responsive, trauma-informed, and strength-based approach to working with girls during COVID-19. This presentation will explore how the pandemic illuminated the existing social inequities in youth who experience risk factors for justice involvement. Lessons learned during COVID-19 will be presented, as well as key components of Gender Pathways Theory paired with strategies to ensure that young women have power in a just and equitable society.

Speakers:

Emily Foltz-Holland, Reach Regional Director, Pace Center for Girls

Abby Everingham, Reach Regional Director, Pace Center for Girls

The Call to Justice: Using Racial Impact Statements as a Legislative Tool to Combat Racial and Ethnic Disparities

In the wake of community protests calling for reform to the legal system and policing across the country, this workshop will focus on the use of racial impact statements to decrease racial disparities in the youth justice system. Discussion will center on applying lessons learned from the research on the impact of Iowa's legislation, and examining the challenges faced by states that have attempted and failed to adopt this legislative tool.

Speakers:

Tracey Tucker, Youth Justice Leadership Institute Coordinator, National Juvenile Justice Network

Wayne Ford, Former Member, Iowa House of Representatives

Thursday, June 10

Conference Plenary, Workshops, Awards Luncheon

9:00 am - 11:30 am

CJJ Conference Welcome and Plenary Session

Welcoming Remarks: *Pastor Edward L. Palmer*, National Chair, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Youth Leadership in Policy Reform: Effective and Supportive Collaborative Partnerships

Young leaders bring important insights to the work of improving the youth legal system and have advanced successful reforms in many jurisdictions. Long-time advocates and system professionals can play important roles in opening seats at the table and supporting advocacy by young people with lived experience. Learn from representatives of Virginia and Washington about how they created spaces for young people and seasoned professionals to partner with one another in their reform efforts. Join us to hear more about what it means to partner authentically and share leadership with youth, and the impact this can have on efforts to reform the justice system.

States continue to push forward new policies to improve justice systems and keep young people and their communities safe. This session will explore how states are implementing data-driven changes that reduce incarceration and connect young people with services.

Speakers:

Aaron Toleafoa, CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee Chair, Washington

Vazaskia Crockrell, Equity and Social Justice Director, King County, Washington

Robert Allen, Youth Leader, RISE for Youth

Valerie Slater, Executive Director, RISE for Youth

Kristen Powell, Moderator, CJJ Youth Partnership Assistant

Tools to Transform Justice for LGBTQ+ Youth

LGBTQ+ youth are overrepresented in the justice system, with trans and gender-nonconforming youth in juvenile facilities experiencing high levels of sexual abuse, harassment, and mistreatment without enforceable guidance to protect their safety and well-being. The Michigan Center for Youth Justice is building a foundation, via a replicable model focused on training and policy change, to transform justice for LGBTQ+ youth by affirming their diverse S.O.G.I.E., reducing facility placements, and preventing harm.

Speakers:

Mary King, Contractor, Former Executive Director, Michigan Center for Youth Justice

Alisha R. Lyte, BS, MS, Chief Executive Officer, CCMO- Center For Youth & Families

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Concurrent Workshop Session #4

Truancy: What has COVID taught us about school attendance?

The story of Grace, the girl from Michigan, who was incarcerated for not doing her online school work grabbed national headlines but for those of us in juvenile justice, the issue of truancy has loomed large for years. Historically, more children have been placed in detention for truancy than any other "crime" in the nation. This workshop will examine the history and laws related to truancy, whether court involvement is effective as a remedy, and explore successful programs that have helped children and families avoid court action and its long term consequences.

Speaker:

Vicki Reed, Executive Director, Kentucky Juvenile Justice Initiative

Charles Appelstein, President, Appelstein Training Resources

Ending Girls' Incarceration in New York City and Santa Clara County (CA)

Vera's Initiative to End Girls' Incarceration team and government system-partners in Santa Clara County (CA) and New York City will share national and local data on the overlapping pathways bringing girls and gender expansive youth into the juvenile justice system. Presenters will discuss promising practices and pilots being implemented to disrupt these pathways and end incarceration, as well as concrete next steps for anyone interested in bringing this work to their jurisdictions.

Speakers:

Hannah Green, Senior Program Associate, Vera Institute of Justice
Aylese Kanze, Director of Anti-Trafficking and Anti-CSEC Initiatives and Outcomes, Family Court Division, New York City Law Department
Katherine Lucero, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division, Santa Clara County Superior Court

Law Enforcement Data Can Advance Community-Based Diversion For Youth of Color: New Tools to Help Use It

More jurisdictions are focusing on expanding early diversion opportunities for youth with a focus on equity and community partnership. Data on law enforcement contacts with youth can accelerate those conversations, but the data is often difficult to access, analyze, and use. Learn about two new tools developed through a partnership between the Center for Children's Law and Policy and Empact Solutions that can advance your work on equitable pre-arrest and pre-referral diversion.

Speakers:

Tiana Davis, Policy Director for Equity and Justice, Center for Children's Law and Policy
Jason Melchi, Chief Data Dude, Empact Solutions
TBD

Strengthening Multi-System Collaborations Through Covid-19 to Improve System Functioning for Crossover Youth

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed many challenges to agency leaders, especially amidst the rising visibility of racial injustices. In spite of such a novel confluence of challenges, a multi-system collaborative formed in Alexandria, Virginia to support crossover youth (those involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems). This collaboration expanded partnerships with families and youth and strengthened leadership connections to assist one another while continuing to embrace change during this unprecedented time.

Speakers:

Tricia Bassing, Chief of Child Behavioral Health, Child Behavioral Health, Department of Community and Human Services, Center for Children and Families
Greta Rosenzweig, Chief of Child Welfare Services, Child Welfare & Child Protective Services, Department of Community and Human Services, Center for Children and Families
Sonnja Brown, Family Support Partner, Department of Community and Human Services
Mike Mackey, Director, Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

12:30 pm - 12:40 pm

Break

12:40 pm – 2:00 pm

CJJ 2021 Awards Luncheon

CJJ Welcome and Moderator: *Michelle Diaz*, National Vice Chair, Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Each year CJJ recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of its national award recipients. Nominated and selected by CJJ members, each recipient has made significant and inspiring contributions to the juvenile justice field.

Awardees:

- A.L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Award, *Marcy Mistrett*
- Tony Gobar Outstanding National Juvenile Justice Specialist Award, *Callie Hargett*
- National Spirit of Youth Award, *Kyla Woods*

For a copy of the awards program, click [here](#).

2:10 pm – 3:10 pm

Concurrent Workshop Session #5

Expunging Juvenile Records: Misconceptions, Collateral Consequences, and Emerging Practices

This session will highlight OJJDP's recently published bulletin that includes defining various terms used to describe expungement and misconceptions about juvenile records. The primary misconception is the automatic expungement of juvenile records when youth turn 18. This session will also discuss collateral consequences of juvenile records, such as youth's inability to maintain employment and housing and emerging federal, state, and local records expungement and sealing practices.

Speaker:

Andrea R. Coleman, Ph.D.

Debt Free Justice: Abolishing Fees and Fines in the Justice System

This presentation will introduce attendees to the newly launched Debt Free Justice Campaign, a national campaign to end fees and fines imposed on youth in the justice system. Presenters will share the devastating financial and justice system consequences of fines and fees and provide legislative and litigation strategies for advocates working to abolish them.

Speakers:

Nadia Mozaffar, Senior Attorney, Juvenile Law Center

Maiya Zwerlingi, Teaching Fellow, Policy Advocacy Clinic, Berkeley Law

*Michael Harris, Senior Director, Legal Advocacy & Juvenile Justice
National Center for Youth Law*

Creating and Maintaining a Participant Leadership Council

Participant leadership councils have tremendous benefits for programs serving justice-involved youth and young adults. Yet, they also come with unique challenges not found in other youth-serving fields. This workshop will focus on the lessons learned from the first two years of the Young Adult Leadership Council through FHI 360's Compass Rose Collaborative, a project funded by the U.S. Department of Labor to improve education and employment outcomes for young adults ages 18 through 24, after involvement in the U.S. criminal or juvenile justice systems. It will also provide the opportunity for program staff to begin the process of developing their youth engagement and leadership opportunities.

Speakers:

Heidi Cooper Comenetz, Technical Officer II, FHI 360

Caitlin Dawkins, Director of Justice Programs, FHI 360

Lukee Forbes, Young Adult Leadership Council Founding Member, FHI 360

Creating Trauma-Informed Systems to Better Support Crossover Youth

Youth who cross between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems have often been exposed to a myriad of traumatic experiences. Subsequent to crossing over, youth may face additional adversities resulting from system failures to adequately identify and respond to their needs. This session will introduce a compendium framework to the Crossover Youth Practice Model that guides practitioners toward becoming more trauma responsive in their interactions with crossover youth.

Speakers:

Macon Stewart, Deputy Director for Multi-System Operations, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, Georgetown University

Alexandra Miller, Ph.D, Program Manager, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, Georgetown University

Tracy Fehrenbach, Ph.D, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Northwestern Medicine, Stone Psychiatric Outpatient and Transitional Care Clinics

3:10 pm – 3:15 pm

Break

3:15 pm – 4:45pm

Concurrent Workshop Session #6

Children and Adolescents with Problematic or Illegal Sexual Behavior: Developing and Implementing Services to Create a Statewide Impact

This workshop will highlight community efforts funded by OJJDP to develop and implement intervention models to address youth with

sexual behavior problems as well as address research and field experience collected by the National Center for the Sexual Behavior of Youth from local project sites implementing intervention and supervision services for these youth and treatment services for victims and families/caregivers. A panel discussion will provide the opportunity for participants to engage with experts and practitioners for practical guidance in working with local programs and services and will feature a discussion around engaging local partner agencies to expand services and programming.

Speakers:

Darian Hanrahan, Grants Management Specialist, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Dr. Jane F. Silovsky, Professor and the Director of the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, Department of Pediatrics, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Jill R. Beck, Director of Youth Services Institute, School of Social Work, University of Alabama

Dr. Mandi R. Fowler, Program Director of Youth Services Institute, School of Social Work, University of Alabama

Emergency Response: The Role of SAGs and Title II in Supporting Families in Times of Crisis and Beyond

State Advisory Group (SAG) leaders from Maine and Vermont will discuss how they were able to effectively use their federal allocation in response to the COVID crisis, leveraging on-going reform efforts in their states, and how what they have learned is being built into their 3-year plan. They will also speak to how they are continuing to use some of the Title II funds going forward for similar purposes, particularly any roll over funds at the end of the year.

Speakers:

Jill Ward, Regional Care Team co-facilitator (Maine SAG Chair), Maine Center for Juvenile Justice Policy & Law

Kreig Pinkham, Vermont SAG Chair, Washington County Youth Service Bureau

Russell Bradbury-Carlin, Executive Director, Youth Services, Brattleboro, VT

Hailey Virusso, Director of Youth Services, The Opportunity Alliance, Portland, Maine

Disrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline: Educational Reentry for System-Involved Youth

A multi-disciplinary team will present on their research into obstacles that students in Pennsylvania face when reentering public schools from a congregate setting, and their recommendations for improvement. The project included interviews of youth and families, staff, and administrators at school districts and congregate care facilities, and

other related professionals. A pilot project was also created to deliver direct transition services to students leaving juvenile justice facilities in Pennsylvania.

Speakers:

Renny Osuna, Policy Associate, Support Center for Child Advocates
Parris Boyd, Project Coordinator, Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

Blanca Castro, Child Advocate Social Worker, Support Center for Child Advocates

Better Relationships, Better Data: Why you Should be Collecting Information on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression (SOGIE) and How to Do It

This session will cover the “why” and “how” of collecting data on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression (SOGIE) with youth involved in systems of care. Participants will review the importance of providing systems-involved youth with the opportunity to discuss SOGIE, emerging practice on how to respectfully ask youth about this topic, sample SOGIE questionnaires, and common challenges to implementation. Prior basic LGBTQ+ competency training is recommended.

Speaker:

Nicolas Oakley, J.D., Director of Programs & Policy Counsel, Center for Children & Youth Justice

Lily Cory, Program Coordinator, Center for Children & Youth Justice

Friday, June 11

Workshops, Council of SAGs, Conference Closing

10:00 am - 11:30 am

Concurrent Workshop Session #7

Prosecutors as Leaders Beyond the Courtroom: Strategies for Developing and Maintaining Meaningful Community Partnerships

This session will focus on innovative strategies used by the Ocean County, New Jersey Office of the Prosecutor to build effective partnerships to support our nation’s youth, to include supporting youth service commissions, school justice partnerships, and law enforcement training in support of community safety, accountability and empowering youth. The presentation will feature a discussion around engaging local partner agencies to support prevention and intervention strategies with the support of the local prosecutor. The notion of creating focused training supports and localized youth commissions are unique to the model and fundamental to its success.

Speakers:

Anthony V. Pierro, Chief Juvenile/Domestic Violence Attorney, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office.

Shelby Voorhees, Ocean County Youth Services Commission Administrator, Ocean County Department of Juvenile Services Moderator, *Scott Pestrige*, Senior Grants Program Specialist, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Marginalized Youth: Using a new Tool to Identify Sources of Systemic Racism in the Child Welfare System

Research shows that individuals who are not white receive worse behavioral health and health care outcomes than their white counterparts. This is often linked to service professionals' or systems level bias. In response to these issues, Pressley Ridge developed a "tracer" tool to assist in uncovering systemic bias within the child welfare system. We will share results of a pilot study using the tracer and discuss potential next steps.

Speakers:

April Wall-Parker, Research Coordinator, Pressley Ridge

Michael Valenti, Senior Research Coordinator, Pressley Ridge

Laurah Currey, Chief Operating Officer, Pressley Ridge

Post-Pandemic Education: Key Questions to Ask About Educational Programs in JJ Facilities as We Come Out of the Pandemic

Restrictions on movement, staffing challenges, and very real health risks of COVID-19 took a toll on the education that many young people held in confinement received over the last year. In this workshop we will assess where we are, and where we should be heading, with education for students held in confinement. The workshop will encourage policy-makers and practitioners to take bold, innovative steps forward and to refuse to return to past practices that didn't serve our students well both during and prior to the pandemic.

Speakers:

David Domenici, Executive Director, BreakFree Education

Roy Middleton, Education and Juvenile Justice Reform Fellow, BreakFree Education

Designing Games with Youth Experts to Dismantle Unjust Systems

In our game design studio program, youth experts in the justice system use game design to give voice to their lived experience and identify changes they want to see, while also building their social-emotional skills. The Run Around is a game designed by youth experts and represents their lived experiences of the cradle-to-prison pipeline and invites players to develop compassion for youth of color at the intersection of its oppressive policies and practices.

Speakers:

Susan Rivers, iThrive Games Foundation

Janelle Ridley, Founder, Transition HOPE

Bernardo S, Youth Designer, iThrive Games

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Lunch on your own

12:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Council of State Advisory Groups

All conference attendees are welcome to attend the annual meeting of CJJ's policymaking body, comprising member-State Advisory Group Chairs/Chair-designees.

Facilitated by: *Pastor Edward Palmer*, CJJ National Chair

4:30 pm

Passing of the gavel and conference closing.