

## **CJJ Regional and Committee Reports**

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Emerging Leaders Committee**

CJJ's Emerging Leaders Committee is in the process of planning for the 2023 Youth Summit. This event will take place in Tacoma, Washington on July 31- Aug. 1. The theme of this year's summit is "Empowering, Enriching, and Inspiring Youth: Making Policy Personal." Through a partnership with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 70 youth from across the country will be eligible to receive travel and accommodations to attend this year's Youth Summit! Scholarships cover airfare, hotel accommodations, per diem, and ground transportation to and from the Summit. Applications are due June 9th. To apply, click [here](#).

In October 2022, the ELC, in partnership with young people from the National Juvenile Justice Network, presented policy recommendations to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This event will serve as a model for other similar policy roundtables during Youth Justice Action Month this year.

#### **CJJ Government Relations Committee**

The Government Relations Committee (GRC) continues to focus on federal legislation and appropriations, as well as supporting the CJJ Board in monitoring and influencing congressional priorities around juvenile justice. Most recently, the GRC supported the following initiatives: (1) development of a "wish list" for JJDPa Reauthorization, (2) development of recommendations on juvenile justice priorities to the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, and (3) monitoring congressional appropriations and related juvenile justice bills that impact juvenile justice programs that keep our kids and communities safe. The GRC also supports Hill Day and actively engages State Advisory Group members and Designated State Agency staff in scheduling meetings, preparing talking points, and successfully engaging with their Congress members.

#### **Compliance Monitors**

This group is new this year. Our focus has been to provide best practices to compliance monitors across the country and be a place to discuss barriers and strategies with ensuring compliance with the JJDPa core requirements. There was a need for this committee as 75% of the compliance monitors in the field are new – less than 18 months on the job. The committee also serves as a safe place where colleagues can discuss barriers, strategies and solicit resources from their peers in helping make the compliance job a little easier. The compliance monitors committee were able to present questions and ideas to the Office of Juvenile Justice to better relationships with the field. A few items addressed over the year were:

1. Assisting compliance monitors with their state's compliance manuals
2. Assisting compliance monitors with completing site visits and/or documenting the lack of no site visits due to Covid-19 lockdown
3. Assisting compliance monitors with documenting compliance with 223a(11)(b)

4. Secured a grant between CJJ and the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency & Prevention to develop a compliance monitors resource guide of how to complete the basic tasks of doing the day-to-day work of a compliance monitor. A sort of “how to guide”. The work group consists of seasoned and new compliance monitors covering regions throughout the U.S. This guide will also have resources from the field, and CCAS.

### **Organizational Advisory Committee**

Established in 2022, the Organizational Advisory Committee has been meeting quarterly and working on the development of their mission statement to guide their work. The committee is made up of a diverse group of youth justice experts from across the nation that have provided feedback on the federal data collection revisions and the implementation of the Bi-Partisan Safer Communities Act. The committee members are also considering the development of a tool for judiciary members of the SAGs to further advise and guide their efforts in improving outcomes for our youth.

### **R/ED Coordinators and ECD Committee**

The R/ED Coordinators and ECD Committee meet monthly to discuss ways to ensure that equity is central to CJJ's work and to the work of the states and territories. The group was recently joined by NCJFCJ for a presentation on a new project that will help states address the needs of LGBTQ and Two-Spirit Youth. The group has also been monitoring and discussing potential changes to federal guidance related to the collection of race and ethnicity data.

### **JJ Specialists**

The JJ Specialists calls serve as a way for Juvenile Justice Specialists from across the country to network with one another, share challenges and successes, and seek out solutions to shared concerns. This group meets monthly and will be joined in June by John Tuell or RFK to discuss training and technical assistance opportunities with his organization.

## **Regional Reports**

### **Midwest Regional Updates:**

- **Illinois-** Last year focused on youth engagement, compliance, R/ED. A Youth Committee was started in December and consists of representatives from all over the state. The goals are to learn together, identify what issues young people face, and how it affects them personally, and incorporate youth voice into the committees including the Executive Committee. Illinois is wanting youth to be at the decision-making table. R/ED: technical assistance and support team looked at data, as well as what counties have disparity rates out of five decision points and then looked at county-level data. Currently, Illinois is working with the Deputy Sheriff on arrests and diversion. The SAG has almost full membership, new members include a police officer, a mental health professional from probation, and a youth member
- **Michigan -** Michigan has been out of compliance since last year with Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenses. The areas mostly impacted are from two of 83 counties. The SAG wrote a letter to the Governor and proposed a task force on Juvenile

Justice reform and the Governor's office has created a group and is in the implementation stage. The state court administrative office is going to create an office on Juvenile Justice issues, a legislative package of bills to change juvenile justice laws, and the governor's office is actively supporting these things.

- **Minnesota** - Within the last two months, the Department of Public Safety, Youth Justice Office has hired an ERD Coordinator and Compliance Coordinator who have already hit the ground running. They are currently participating in training from CCAS. The position posting closed this week for a Health & Resiliency Coordinator position. The Minnesota SAG is looking forward to reviewing candidates and getting someone hired ASAP. This position will utilize a public health approach at mitigating the role of ACES in the lives of youth, also, to reduce the harmful impact of parental/caregiver incarceration. The Minnesota SAG has completed two, seven hour facilitated restorative sessions, another scheduled in March, to help the SAG gain a common vision. As a SAG there are six active subcommittees, which all meet monthly. The Minnesota SAG meets monthly for four hours and hopes to be moving back to in-person meetings.
- **Missouri** - The R/ED subcommittee is focusing on education and recruiting jurisdictions to become R/ED sites. The SAG is bringing in OJJDP and CCAS for an action plan training and those who attend will be learning to write a well thought out actionable plan.
- **Nebraska** - Patrick Taylor is covering for Rodney Evans the R/ED Co-chair, the Racial and Ethnic Disparities Subcommittee is trying to put together a pilot project to figure out what to do with teenagers who have violent charges related to shootings or other violent offenses and what to do with that population. Rodney and Ladona are in the process of putting that together.
- **North Dakota** - North Dakota is in its second year of a major overhaul of the Juvenile Court Act (which hasn't been done since the '70s). There is a lot of intense work on dual status youth and working with deprived, neglected, and abused kids. As a result juvenile court is using the same language for juvenile court that issued in family court. The SAG is working on divorcing the juvenile court in dealing with anything besides delinquent kids and as a result the courts are no longer supervising status offenders, and have moved kids down the system into the Department of Health and Human Services, and service level there to keep them out of the system. This has noticeably affected juvenile justice sites. Service providers and other care teams are struggling to get services built up for higher end unruly type kids. Overall, state officials reported that this overhaul has been a major success.
- **Wisconsin** - The SAG is just starting up a new Youth Voice Commission recognizing that having meetings from 9-12 AM on Tuesday conflicts with school and other things. Wisconsin has started a work group space just for youth. It's one hour in the evening and has had a small turn out, but hoping to grow and provide that space for young people to learn leadership, learn topics, and weigh in on the SAG. The Governor is trying to return all 17-year-olds to the juvenile justice system. This is the third budget proposed and submitted in the last two years that has been rejected. There is an intentional effort to have a lot of communication and ways to collaborate changes for this population of

young people. The Governor is wanting to see different changes to the youth justice system waiting to see if the legislative measures pass. Currently, Wisconsin is having issues with marijuana due to decriminalization of marijuana and being surrounded by states that have recreational or medicinal uses. The department is hoping to hire more people in the states to help do compliance visits. General issues like other states are having such as placement of kids with mental health needs, capacity issues where the department cannot hire people, and struggling to find people to fill spots for children in county services, and understaffed juvenile detention centers.

#### **Northeast Region Updates:**

- **Connecticut** – recently wrapped up legislative session.
- **Delaware** - Title II funds are being distributed. After reviewing applications, it looks like there will be two awards going out. There were less applications submitted this year than last. Compliance issues exist with the jail removal requirements. Looking to expand civil citation.
- **D.C.** - JJAC continues to be very active and is putting out great work. Youth Leaders in Action will be having their first in-person meeting next week. SAG focusing on communications and community engagement. Call to action → asking for funding and intention to build the capacity of young people on SAGS, allow for cross-regional interaction and peer support. Two meetings have been held on this so far.
- **Maryland** - State also struggling with transition and change. Focusing on capacity building and strategic planning. There is an all-day retreat scheduled for July 17th in Annapolis, MD. ◉ SAG's first in-person meeting in a very long time.
- **New York** - Budget process coming to a close - waiting to see what funding can be used to boost initiatives. Main issues: gun violence reduction, partnerships with schools, equity. SAG working on preparation for next 3-year plan. There will be a retreat this summer.
- **Pennsylvania** - Awarded 8 sites Youth Justice Advisory Boards. Two learning community sessions held so far with those 8 awardees. Several of those sites are getting ready to meet. Hoping to gather more information on this project by the summer. Created infographic to recruit youth interested in being on SAG.

#### **Southern Region Updates:**

- **Arkansas**- Working with TTA providers to get training from CCAS, Cassy was on site April 24-26 to conduct board training and R/ED sight trainings.
- **Georgia**- Raise the age bill passed out of the House this legislative session. Similar legislation has been put forward for the past 10 years, but farthest it's gone is to Senate Judiciary once before. Comes with an implementation committee. Raises the jurisdiction from 17-18. Request for appropriations to be attached, and delayed implementation. Agencies did not oppose and testified that they were okay with timeline and method of going about it. SAG meeting this week.
- **Kentucky**- Bill passed out of the senate this session to reform entire juvenile detention system. To provide more training for people who work there

- **South Carolina**- Bills this session that would affect the DSO requirement. The state is hiring a Compliance Monitor. Recent JJAC meeting went well.
- **Tennessee**- Bills put forward this session that would impact youth justice system. Doing some restructuring of grant review committees.
- **Virginia**- Hired new Compliance Monitor recently.
- **Puerto Rico**- Having bi-monthly meetings to work towards the three-year plan.

### **Western Region Updates**

- **California** - 4-10 in California from the California Department of Social Services FFPSA Part I announcing that California's 5-Year Prevention Plan has been approved
- **Colorado** -
  - raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction from 10 to 13 (with a current carveout for homicides)
  - prohibiting law enforcement from lying to kids during custodial interrogation
  - increased sentencing alternatives and diversion opportunities for pregnant and post-partum kids (and adults)
  - changes to the juvenile competency statute to facilitate information sharing, allow reassessments when a child is in the competency restoration process, and provide a timeline for termination of cases after the child has been found incompetent and not restorable for a certain amount of time
  - aligning timelines for hearings when a child is held in an adult facility to those in the JJDP
- **Oregon** - Multnomah County and Washington County have new Juvenile Directors. Myself and Ray Cameron. Oregon does not currently have a minimum age requirement for prosecution; however, there is a legislative proposal to have a minimum age set to 12. Oregon Department of Human Services just released a report examining the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the child- serving system (agency and provider/program levels). Although specific to child welfare, there are interesting points that impact the broader system.
- **Nevada** -
  - Assembly Bill 145 -A child must not be adjudicated as delinquent or in need of supervision for engaging in prostitution or solicitation for prostitution pursuant to NRS 201.353 or 201.354
  - Assembly Bill 183-  
ACT relating to child welfare; requiring certain entities in the juvenile justice system and the child welfare system to screen certain children for commercial sexual exploitation
  - Assembly Bill 285-  
ACT relating to education; removing requirements for the use of restorative disciplinary practices in public schools;  
revising provisions governing the development of a plan of discipline by the board of trustees of a school district;  
revising provisions governing age requirements for the

suspension, expulsion and permanent expulsion of pupils; and providing other matters properly relating thereto

- Senate Bill 359- relating to juvenile justice; revising provisions relating to community service ordered for a child who is subject to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court; authorizing a juvenile court to order a child who is subject to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court to attend or participate in counseling or psychological treatment under certain circumstances.
- **New Mexico** - Senate Bill 388 – increases the age limit for juvenile detention to twelve years of age.
- **Kansas** -
  - Kansas has a new KAG chair, Max Mendoza.
  - Kansas has a new KAG Juvenile chair, Isidro Marino
  - Kansas has written and published its new Compliance Monitor manual to the DOC website at: [://www.doc.ks.gov/publications/KDOC Juvenile Services Publications](http://www.doc.ks.gov/publications/KDOC_Juvenile_Services_Publications)
  - Kansas has a new compliance monitor, Sabra Loebel
  - Kansas is hiring for a JJ Specialist at this time
  - Unfortunately, while HB 2073 was passed out of the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice committee, the House did not take any action on it before 'turnaround day' and it was stricken from the calendar on Feb. 23. [HB 2073 | Bills and Resolutions | Kansas State Legislature](#) It will have to be reintroduced next year.
- **Washington** -The WA Juvenile Justice Data Dashboard Initiative aims to fill an important gap in our knowledge of the juvenile justice system and help us with the larger work of comparing decision point data in order to understand where disparities increase and decrease. We anticipate this will include linked dashboards on: arrests, court filed diversions, court processing stages (e.g., referrals, cases, and adjudications), detention admissions, and recidivism. There will likely be additional dashboards that cover related topics, such as victimization and non-offender matters. The Juvenile Justice Data Dashboard Initiative is a collaborative partnership between the Washington SAG (known as the Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice), the Office of Juvenile Justice, and the Washington Center for Court Research. Arrest data dashboard is now accessible at <https://dcyf.wa.gov/practice/practice-improvement/ojj/data-dashboard>.