

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## STATE OF MAINE



# JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP Annual Report 2014



(Midcoast Habitat for Humanity in Rockport.)

“The mission of the Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group is to advise and make recommendations to state policy makers and to promote effective system level responses that further the goals of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.”



STATE OF MAINE  
JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP  
111 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

BARTLETT H. STOODLEY  
CHAIR

May 12, 2015

Dear Governor and Members of the 127th Legislature:

The statutorily created Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) of Maine presents to you the 2013-14 Annual Report. We think you will find the information enlightening with regard to the activities of the JJAG. This work in the criminal justice and delinquency prevention arenas impacts Maine's most precious commodity, our children.

Over the years, the JJAG has gone through many changes and made many improvements. You will see from our membership that we are quite diverse. We look at the criminal justice system from a variety of perspectives, always seeking better solutions and methods for dealing with children who become involved with the criminal justice system.

It is truly a great honor for each and every one of us to serve the State of Maine and its children in our appointed capacities.

We hope you find the Annual Report information valuable and useful to you in your coming deliberations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barry Stoodley".

Barry Stoodley



## About the JJAG

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (Act) was enacted in 1974 and authorized creation of state juvenile justice advisory groups. Maine's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group was established by Governor Joseph Brennan Executive Order in FY 81/82 by and was authorized in 1984 by state statute, 34-A MRSA Section 1209, making 2014 the 32<sup>nd</sup> full year of Maine's participation in federal programs supported by the Act.

The JJAG's primary responsibilities include: (1) preparation and development of a statewide three-year juvenile justice and delinquency prevention plan; (2) allocation of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention grant funds provided to the state under the federal Act; (3) monitoring activities and accomplishments of funded state projects; and (4) overseeing Maine's compliance with the core protections of the Act.

- Deinstitutionalization of status offenders (DSO).
- Separation of juveniles from adults in institutions (separation).
- Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups (jail removal).
- Reduction of disproportionate minority contact (DMC), where it exists.

The JJAG's priorities are guided by its **Maine's Comprehensive Three Year Plan for Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention 2012-2014** online at: <http://www.maine.gov/corrections/jjag/ReportsPubs/ProgramNarrative.pdf>

### *Abstract for the 2014 Plan Update*

The Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group is committed to assessing our Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) data as we work to find the most appropriate strategies to address DMC. The JJAG will work to expand the understanding of positive youth development and strength-based principles among the community at large and in the programs it funds and supports. The JJAG will continue support for Restorative Justice Practices in the State. The JJAG will continue to support only evidence-based and evidence-informed practices and program assessments that have solid research backing their efficacy. The JJAG will work to assure the creation of standards of practice for attorneys who represent juveniles. It will continue to provide judges, prosecutors, legislators, juvenile justice professionals and the public with training and reliable information regarding "what works" so that scarce resources are only spent on effective service.

## **Monitoring for Compliance to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002 (JJDP)**

Maine's compliance with the core requirements of the JJDP Core Protections requires that:

1. Status offenders (alcohol, runaway, truant) may not be securely detained.
2. Juveniles may not be detained in adult jails except to process and release.
3. Youth may not be subject to sight or sound contact with adult inmates while in detention.
4. The rate of minority youth contact with the justice system must be monitored to assure an equitable contact level.

In order to receive funding under the Act, participating states must develop and implement a strategy for achieving and maintaining compliance with the core protections as part of its annual Formula Grants Comprehensive Plan for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. A state's level of compliance with each of the core protections determines eligibility for its continued participation in the Formula Grant program.

### **2014 status of Maine Compliance with JJDP Core Protections**

Maine had one violation of the core protection of the Act, Section 223(a)(11), Deinstitutionalization of a Status Offender, in which a juvenile was inappropriately held securely for a status offense (e.g. truancy, running away, possessing alcohol, etc.). Maine is however in compliance with the Act.

### **Effective Police Interactions with Youth Training**

This training helps officers to be better equipped to communicate effectively with the young people they encounter and increases the likelihood that interactions with youth will result in positive outcomes. Participants learn about the problem of disproportionate contact that minority youth have in the juvenile justice system, discuss approaches for collaborating with youth officers, and identify the benefits of taking a more supportive approach when dealing with youth. A total of 78 Law Enforcement Officers were trained in 2014; 65 Police Officers, 10 Sheriffs, 2 State Troopers, and 1 Warden.



## The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act: Three Funding Categories

### Title II, Formula Grant Funds

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. §5781- 5784) provides each state with formula grants that are allocated on the basis of each state’s population under the age of 18. These grant funds support a variety of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs and services as long as the state remains in compliance with the core protections of the Act. Maine’s Title II Formula Grant allocation for 2014 was \$400,000 down from \$856,000 in 2004. Examples of programs funded with this Grant are available on pages 5-8.

### Title V – Delinquency Prevention Funds

Since 1994, the Title V Community Prevention Grants Program has supported the development and implementation of a comprehensive, research-based approach to delinquency prevention that helps communities nationwide foster positive changes in the lives of children and families. The Title V program focuses on helping youth avoid involvement in delinquency through reducing the risk factors and enhancing the protective factors in their schools, communities, and families. This program is authorized by Section 501 through 505 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. §5781- 5784). The Title V grant program has not been funded since 2011 when Maine was awarded \$50,000 and supported Dr. Ross Greene’s Collaborative Problem Solving initiative in 15 Maine schools.

### Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)

The Act provides each state with a Block Grant that provides financial assistance to eligible governmental agencies that develop projects designed to prevent juvenile delinquency. This program is authorized under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. §3796ee et. seq.) Maine received \$127,693 in 2013 and funded a restorative justice project. However the JABG was zeroed out in the federal budget for 2014. In 2001 Maine was awarded \$1,837,800.

### Juvenile Justice Advisory Group Funding 2000 to 2014

Fiscal Year	Title II Formula	Title V Community Delinquency Prevention	Juvenile Accountability Block Grant
2003	\$756,000	unknown	\$1,191,500
2004	*\$856,000	\$100,000	\$392,900
2005	*\$855,000	\$100,000	\$357,000
2006	\$648,000	\$56,250	\$314,700
2007	\$600,000	\$75,250	\$310,400
2008	\$600,000	\$48,360	\$328,900
2009	\$600,000	\$33,486	\$371,800
2010	\$600,000	\$84,945	\$354,800
2011	\$600,000	\$50,000	\$276,279
2012	\$400,000	-0-	\$167,214
2013	\$404,145	-0-	\$127,693
2014	\$400,000	-0-	-0-

\* Supplemental Awards made in addition to Formula

### Maine Juvenile Population

By race, ages 10-17 in 2013 (The latest data available.) Total population 123,996

American Indian	Asian	Black/ African American	White
1,227	2,188	3,755	116,826

Juvenile Populations: 1990-2013. (2014, August 1). Retrieved from [http://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/asp/profile\\_selection.asp](http://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/asp/profile_selection.asp)

## Juvenile Justice Advisory Group Members

Members representing communities, state agencies, ex-officio members, non-profit organizations, and youth are appointed by the Governor for a four-year term and serve in a voluntary capacity providing input and direction to the state on issues concerning juvenile justice.

Name	Address
<b>Berry, Kamden*</b>	Student, The REAL School
<b>Boger, Mark</b>	Director, Juvenile Interstate Compact
<b>Boucher, Rachel*</b>	Student, The REAL School
<b>Brown, Richard</b>	Chief Executive Officer, Charlotte White Center
<b>Vice Chair Chester, Esq., Edwin</b>	Juvenile Defense Attorney
<b>Comee-McCourt, Abby*</b>	Sgt. Maine Army National Guard
<b>DeMerritt, Nickole*</b>	Assistant Clerk, Portland District Court
<b>Dutton, Dalene</b>	Executive Director, Five Town Communities That Care
<b>Fitzpatrick, Joseph</b>	Associate Commissioner, Division of Juvenile Services
<b>Foss, James</b>	Jail Administrator, Retired
<b>Goodwin, Jacinda</b>	Truancy, Dropout, Alternative Education & McKinney Vento Education State Coordinator, Ex-officio
<b>Heikkinen, Amber*</b>	Student
<b>Knapp, Carla</b>	Director of Organizational Development Native American Services
<b>LaVerdiere, Hon. Charles</b>	Chief Judge, Maine District Court, Ex-officio
<b>Liberty, Sheriff Randall A.</b>	Kennebec County Sheriff's Office
<b>Longsworth, Margaret</b>	Director of Clinical Services, OHI
<b>Makin, Pender</b>	Director, The REAL School
<b>Mosher, Tessa</b>	Director, Victim Services
<b>Muhitira, Christian*</b>	Cumberland County Youth Advisory Council
<b>Nichols, Dan</b>	Associate Developer, City of Augusta
<b>O'Neil, Colin</b>	Assistant Director, Treatment Services, Ex-officio
<b>Sandy, Lisa</b>	Director of Admissions, ME Academy of Natural Science
<b>Shapiro, Jonathan J.</b>	Sgt., Maine State Police, Ex-officio
<b>JJAG Chair Stoodley, Bartlett</b>	Associate Commissioner, Retired, Division of Juvenile Services
<b>Thibeault, Esq., Christine</b>	Assistant District Attorney
<b>Tweed, Dr. Lindsey</b>	Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist, DHHS, Ex-officio
<b>Vestal, Paul</b>	Director of Children's Services, Catholic Charities
<b>Walsh, Patrick</b>	Director, Prevention Services, Broadreach Family & Community Services

\*Youth Member





(Five Town Communities That Care)

## 2014 JJAG YEAR IN REVIEW

- ❖ The JJAG moved to a committee structure in 2014 and elected Barry Stoodley, retired Associate Commissioner of Juvenile Services, as Chair.
- ❖ Maine organized a Tri-State Advisory Group Meeting (Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont) to provide an opportunity to share information and learn what the others are working on. We learned that the groups are quite alike struggling with many of the same issues. The best take-away was coming back to Maine with a fresh excitement about our work and the potential of the JJAG.
- ❖ The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant was not funded resulting in a loss of \$127,693. This funding stream had supported the Diversion to Assets program and Restorative Justice Programs.
- ❖ Karen Williams, MSSW, spent a week in Maine sponsored by the JJAG and OJJDP. She provided training on the latest research on adolescent brain development for Corrections, providers and schools.
- ❖ Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee developed a training for the refugee communities on the juvenile justice system.
- ❖ Members worked on the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative.
- ❖ Three *Effective Police Interactions with Youth* trainings were held with eight volunteer police officers as facilitators. The Trainings were held in Portland, Auburn, Brunswick and Augusta with each location serving area departments including Sheriff Departments.
- ❖ JJAG staff attended the OJJDP and CJJ conferences and received many hours of training that have improved the JJAG's work.
- ❖ JJAG members worked with Dr. Ross Greene, Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CPS) in his efforts to make a child's movement through systems seamless.
- ❖ OJJDP conducted an audit of the JJAG and their work. We were commended on the excellent record and data systems.

## Programs funded by JJAG in 2014 served 1,463 youth



### **Broadreach Family & Community Services (Rockland, Thomaston, South Thomaston, Owls Head, Cushing, Rockport, St. George/Tenants Harbor, Union, Warren, Friendship, Port Clyde, and Spruce Head)**

Broadreach Family & Community Services' Youthlinks Program provided year round quality out-of-school services for 220 middle and high school students from 14 Mid-Coast communities from March 2013-March 2014. Youthlinks provided opportunities for youth including: the Student Garden Army (high school) and Student Garden Army Junior (middle school). These programs educate youth about how to plan, plant, tend, harvest, and cook produce grown on-site and in the Youthlinks greenhouse. Director Kris Koerber explained that this outreach is part of Youthlinks' core mission, to connect students to their community. "We're about relationship with kids, with students, and the community." Students also learn marketing and sales skills while operating a weekly Farm Stand. Through sales at the Farm Stand, students earn money for school supplies, higher education and/or to contribute to the needs of their families. The young people involved in the Youthlinks Student Garden Army also donate produce to the local food pantry and donate their time to cook and serve meals at the local soup kitchen. Last year, students donated 100 lbs of food and volunteered over 800 hours in the community. There are no program fees for youth to participate.



### **Penquis CAP (Hampden, Dexter)**

In 2014, Penquis provided Coping and Support Training (CAST) to 48 students attending Dexter Regional High School and Hampden Academy. CAST is an evidence-based, school-based prevention program for youth in grades 9-12 that increases protective factors, increases mood management, improves school performance, and decreases drug involvement. This program has been enormously successful. CAST is fully supported by school staff, popular among youth, and effective in achieving its intended outcomes. Of students surveyed; short-term outcomes, measured after a student completes the program, demonstrate that 59% of youth report increased skills for controlling anger; 50% report increased skills for controlling drug use; 46% report increased skills for controlling mood; 46% report increased healthy decision making; and 25% report improved attitude toward personal accountability. Intermediate outcomes, measured 3 to 6 months after program completion, show that 42% of surveyed youth report an increase in personal control, problem solving and coping skills; 31% report increased accountability for personal behaviors; and 25% report decreased drug control problems. Long-term outcomes, measured 6 to 12 months after program completion, demonstrate that 52% of surveyed youth report improved school performance, 46% report decreased involvement in negative delinquent behaviors; and 44% report decreased emotional distress. The guidance counselor at Hampden Academy has stated, "The CAST program has been an integral component of the support we provide to students demonstrating multiple risk factors."





### **Five Town Communities That Care (Appleton, Camden, Rockport, Hope, and Lincolnville)**

In 2014, Five Town Communities That Care successfully wrapped up its first year of the Math and Literacy Mentors Program provided with funds from the JJAG after a six-year hiatus. In the 2013-2014 school year the Math and Literacy Mentors Program provided high-quality skill-specific instruction and mentoring to 33 students throughout the Five Town community. On the year-end School Attitude Survey, 75% of participants agreed with the statement, "the things I am learning in school will be helpful to me in the future," and 76% agreed with the statement, "I try to do my best in school." This shift in attitude among program participants demonstrates the program's success in combating the risk factor of low commitment to school in middle school students. The increase in school commitment seen among participants was reflected in participants' performance on state standardized tests. Students who participated in the Math and Literacy Mentors Program increased their NWEA math and reading percentile scores from fall to spring by an average of 2.54% over students who did not participate. Research has shown a strong connection between the risk factor, low commitment to school, and problem behaviors such as delinquency and substance use. Increasing a student's commitment to school means they are more likely to remain in school and graduate and less likely to engage in behaviors that could lead to arrest and incarceration.



### **Penobscot Boys & Girls Club Strength-based Diversion Program**

The Penobscot Boys & Girls Club's (PBGC) strength-based diversion program provides supervision and support for low risk, court involved juveniles between the ages of 5-18 who are diverted with a community service obligation. Juveniles are given access to service work opportunities that match their strengths/interests for the betterment of the community, positive learning experiences, while being mentored by a positive role model. The PBGC is dedicated to ensuring that our community's at risk youth have greater access to quality programs and services that will enhance their lives and shape their futures. Through the relationship that has been established with Region 3, our diversion program is embedded as part of Region 3's community service youth referral procedure. Once a juvenile is admitted into the diversion program, the program coordinator will supervise the juvenile to ensure the juvenile is complying with the requirements. This includes monitoring community service, terms and conditions contained in his/her service plan (contract), as well as the juvenile's progress. If the juvenile chooses to voluntarily withdraw from the program, the Juvenile Intake Officer/Case Manager will be notified. The PBGC's strength-based diversion program has a successful completion rate of 85% while 14% volunteered to withdraw and 1% repeated the program. The program coordinator strives to ensure a 100% completion rate for all court involved youth who enter the program by keeping parents/guardians involved in the juveniles' progress.

#### **A parent's message to program coordinator:**

"Hey its [Bobby's] mom. I have to share this with you. The first day we went to meet you my son said to me when we left the meeting was this is "bullshit"; this is not going to change my life in 30 hours. [After the first couple of community service meetings], [Bobby] returned home talking about college, something he swore he would never do, because you said all the right things to him. I had to laugh, and told him so it only took six hours to change your life instead of 30. It's funny how most of the time something good "like finding program" comes out of a bad situation. Thanks for being so great to him, he really likes and respects you."



### **Youth & Family Research & System Contact Data Collection and Analysis (Portland, Gorham, Lewiston, Statewide)**

This project identifies and describes the factors that families and youth perceive as most important in dealing with contacts within the juvenile justice system and broader community in which they reside (police, courts, corrections, providers and community-based agencies, the broader community, family systems). Data shared with the JJAG, the counties and municipal policy makers and practitioners assisted them by providing qualitative and statistical evidence for problem solving and developing local DMC reduction and cultural competence training activities.

The study area for analysis was the Cumberland County catchment area which has been the subject of a pilot DMC reduction initiative led by the JJAG. It also included the Androscoggin County catchment area which has a measurable (statistically significant) youth minority population. The study provided direct contextual and analytical information to a community level coordinating group which is positioned to implement DMC intervention and is also in furtherance of the OJJDP and Maine JJAG goals to assist and strengthen local community efforts in addressing cultural competence and DMC. Maine is in its third phase of an assessment project (qualitative) where we expect to learn why DMC occurs and at which decision point(s). Phase one involved court actors, judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors and JCCOs. Phase two involved police departments. This third phase is with families and communities.

The results revealed that the causes and mechanisms of DMC were multi-faceted and complex. These causes could be classified into six categories: system, social, family/parental, educational, individual, and economic factors. Each one of these categories played a significant role in contributing to the final outcome of DMC. A significant theme that emerged from the results drew attention to the fact that in order to bring about any change and reduce DMC, all sectors of the society—law enforcement, the juvenile justice system, families, neighborhoods, and parents needed to work together and take greater responsibilities in assuring that juveniles stay out of trouble.

The Muskie School collected and analyzed data for juvenile justice decision points contained in in the Corrections Information System and those maintained by the Department of Public Safety. A report was produced that included trend analysis and three year rolling averages. Muskie generated Relative Rate Indices for all counties with a statistically significant minority youth population. The researchers analyzed offense information and presented the findings to the JJAG to direct our work with regard to minority contact with the system, girls in the system and types of offenses..



RSU23

### **Regional School Unit 23 (Old Orchard Beach and Saco)**

This program is a unique combination of implementing and evaluating the effectiveness of Juvenile Community Review Boards (JCRB) while implementing the ideas of Restorative School Practices (RSP), grades six through twelve, in the RSU #23 School District. The guiding vision is that with school district involvement intervention at the correctional level becomes much more effective.

Their work during 2014 has been to implement restorative practices in Old Orchard Beach (OOB) High School in 6 classrooms. At the two middle schools, Loranger in OOB and Saco, all grades 4-8 use a variety of restorative practices. A team in each grade, 6-8, in the Saco Middle School, also use a variety of RSPs. Three alternative programs and Saco Transitional Program are continuing to regularly work from a restorative philosophy and observing a 70% reduction of discipline incidents referred to administration. They provided seven hours of training/planning for 50 staff to enhance their RSP work. In the schools 223 at-risk students were served. The JCRB processed 21 high-risk students referred mainly through law enforcement with 90% success based on non-recidivating. In addition through using RSP in the schools and classes another 285 youth have experienced a restorative approach. The total number of youth served in 2014 was 529.





### **Restorative Justice Institute of Maine (Cumberland, Kennebec, Lincoln, Somerset Counties)**

The Restorative Justice Institute of Maine (RJIM) works to support statewide efforts to implement Restorative Practices. With funding from JJAG, they spent 2014 developing infrastructure in support of a strong, sustainable statewide network. Toward this end, they launched a network of Community Justice Collaboratives (CJCs) in five communities and developed protocols to support local service delivery. CJCs are local groups of 8-12 people from across disciplines (corrections, education, law enforcement, mental health, substance abuse, and community) who advise on the needs, resources and culture of their community and work in partnership with RJIM to develop strong local plans to integrate restorative practices into the fabric of their community. To implement their plans, CJCs engage local people and organizations as practitioners, trainers and CJC chairs. They review “lessons learned” from implementation, and advise on continued development and local sustainability planning.

JJAG funding supported the development CJCS in Augusta, Waterville, Oxford Hills, Lewiston and Boothbay Harbor. As a part of infrastructure building, a replication manual was developed for these groups. This enabled them to garner support for the model from the Department of Corrections to develop additional CJCs. In 2014 over 100 people were engaged as CJC members and 14 youth and 6 victims’ received access to restorative programming.



### **Trekkers, Inc. (Cushing, Thomaston, St. George, Owls Head, Rockland, South Thomaston)**

With JJAG funding Trekkers provided expanded mentoring programs to 502 students from the six communities of Regional School Unit #13; a 67% increase in enrollment compared to the traditional Trekkers model. Trekkers served four expanded grades and celebrated their 20th year of working with local youth. They involved two cohorts of students in expeditionary learning from the expanded 7th-10th grade programs, while building the infrastructure to expand the 11th grade program in 2014-15.

Over 200 volunteers and 100 caring mentors gave more than 10,400 hours of their time to support of students this year. With their support, Trekkers provided a combination of expeditionary learning, mentoring relationships and academic tutoring to increase students’ protective factors, to involve them in community service and to build valuable life skills.

In addition to providing 18 educational programs, they also completed the 1st full year of a 2-year Leadership Program, collaborating with Kieve-Wavus Leadership School. 22 students participated as peer mentors/student leaders. They completed a pilot program called SEED (Success through Employment and Education Development) for 10th & 11th graders that combined Professional Development workshops with a 40-hour paid internship at a local organization. The program has been included as an ongoing adjunct to our 11th grade College/Career Exploration.

Trekkers began a collaboration with the nationally recognized organization PEAR (Program in Education and Afterschool Resiliency), using their Holistic Student Assessment tools to measure and monitor our students’ progress. The feedback will guide our Program Staff with data that provides insight on how to tailor our programs and better align them with the students’ needs and strengths.





## **National Work of the JJAG Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice**

JJAG member, Dalene Dutton, is the Chair of the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (FACJJ) a consultative body established by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (Section 223) and supported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Composed of appointed representatives of the nation's State Advisory Groups, the committee advises the President and Congress on matters related to juvenile justice, evaluates the progress and accomplishments of juvenile justice activities and projects, and advises the OJJDP Administrator on the work of OJJDP.

The FACJJ has the following recommendations that are mirrored in Maine's efforts:

- Advocate for reauthorization of the JJDPA
- ID positive youth development outcomes to be used to assess effectiveness of programs and practices (to supplement reduction of "negative" behaviors).
- Assess and recommend best practice strategies
- Fund studies of programs and practices
- Continue to collaborate with other agencies serving youth (to reduce silo-effects and increase common language and encourage common frameworks for responding to cross-system youth)
- Highlight and support EBPs that reduce DMC
- Create well-supported structures for youth voice and youth engagement to ensure that voices of young people are heard on a regular, ongoing basis by government leaders and the Juvenile Justice System
- Support local jurisdictions to increase youth engagement so that system involved youth are viewed as partners in transforming the Juvenile Justice System.
- Increase opportunities for collaboration between the JJ system and other youth-focused agencies.
- Advocate for an amendment to the JJDPA that strengthens youth voice.
- Highlight school engagement as a key item in JJ reform.
- Create a road map for schools considering revising their school discipline policies.
- Collaborate with other agencies to develop training to address school to prison pipeline and its impact on DMC in the JJ system.
- Study disparities in youth serving systems and their impact on DMC.
- Educate families and communities about DMC, its impact, what is being done, and how they can help it.
- 



## **Coalition for Juvenile Justice**

The JJAG is an active member of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ), a national group of State Advisory Group leaders who work to improve the treatment of young people and their families involved with the juvenile justice system, enhance community safety, and develop and implement innovative strategies that prevent delinquency.

The Coalition seeks to bring about positive policy and practice change in the juvenile justice system by partnering with leading national and state-level organizations and creating tools, training, and publications. CJJ provides our national presence, they educate and inform Members of Congress and the Administration on state-identified needs and concerns in the arena of juvenile justice. Each year, CJJ publishes and disseminates recommendations on the states behalf to the Administration and to Congress. They also create tools and resources to support members' work in the states and territories.





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