

## June 2011 Newsletter

The Campaign for Youth Justice is a national organization dedicated to ending the practice of trying, sentencing, and incarcerating youth under the age of 18 in the adult criminal justice system.

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**North Carolina Update** from Action for Children North Carolina

A bill to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction from 16- to 18-years-old will be considered during the short session of the General Assembly in 2012. A bipartisan coalition including former North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Bob Orr successfully urged legislators to keep the bill in play.

"We are losing an untold number of young people in North Carolina due to our treatment of 16 - and 17- year-olds as adults when they commit low-level crimes," said Representative Marilyn Avila (R-Wake). "Raising the age is a win-win for our communities, our young people and our economy, and we look forward to working on the bill in 2012."

The legislation would raise the age at which North Carolina sends young people accused of minor crimes to the adult correctional system from 16 to 18. North Carolina is one of only two states that pushes all 16- and 17-year-olds into the adult system, where they are more likely to wind up repeat offenders.

Orr and former President of the N.C. Association of Chiefs of Police Frank Palombo joined the bipartisan team of legislators led by Representative Avila urging lawmakers to raise the age. The two highly respected North Carolina leaders recently penned op-eds in the state's leading newspapers in support of Raise the Age, Orr in [The News & Observer](#) and Palombo in [The Charlotte Observer](#). To view highlights of their conference, visit <http://www.ncchild.org/event/raise-age-press-conference-june-2011>.

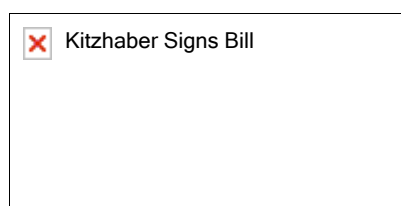
CFYJ congratulates Brandy Bynum and North Carolina Action for Children for their tremendous leadership on this effort!

To learn more, visit: <http://www.ncchild.org/>.

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### **Oregon Update** from the Partnership for Safety and Justice



On March 28th, the Oregon House voted unanimously in favor of HB 2707, the " Safe Kids, Safer Communities" bill, to keep youth out of adult jails. The Oregon Senate subsequently approved the bill on May 9th by a vote of 24-1.

On June 6th, Governor John Kitzhaber signed the bill into law (pictured to the left). Oregon's Measure 11 creates mandatory minimum sentences for certain violent crimes and requires youth accused of Measure 11 crimes to be tried as adults. Prior to the passage of HB 2707, these youth were also held in adult jails pre-trial.

CFYJ sends congratulations to Shannon Wight and Partnership for Safety and Justice for their work on this important issue!

To learn more, visit: <http://www.safetyandjustice.org/>

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### **Connecticut Update** from the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance

This Connecticut legislative session, which ended this month, took important strides toward reform. In early 2007, Connecticut was one of only three states to set the age of adulthood at 16 for criminal prosecution - even for minor, non-violent crimes. In 2007, a coalition of advocates, stakeholders and parents instituted a successful campaign to "Raise the Age," leading the legislature to pass Public Act 04-7 which returned 16- and 17-year-olds to juvenile jurisdiction. The law was implemented on January 1, 2010 for 16-year-olds and will be applied to 17-year-olds in 2012.

This session, the legislature instituted many of the technical changes utilized while moving 16-year-olds back to the juvenile justice system to prepare for the move of 17-year-olds next year.

Congratulations to Abby Anderson and the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance for their amazing work on this campaign!

To learn more, visit: <http://www.ctjja.org/>

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### **Texas Update** from Michele Deitch

Texas passed two important pieces of legislation on youth prosecuted in adult court this session. SB 1209, which allows for the confinement of certified juveniles in local juvenile detention facilities rather than in adult jails during the pre-trial period, was co-sponsored by the entire House Corrections Committee, a bipartisan effort. The second bill raises the age of determinate sentence probation from 18 to 19 years old, same as the age at which a youth may be kept in the Texas Youth Commission. Governor Rick Perry signed these bills into law.

Kudos to Michele Deitch for her work in leading these efforts!

To learn more, visit: <http://standdown.typepad.com/weblog/2009/07/from-michele-deitch.html>

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### **New York Update** from the New York Center for Juvenile Justice

On June 10, 2011, Judge Corriero, the Honorable Monica Drinane, and Kathleen R. DeCataldo, Esq., Executive Director of the New York State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children appeared before the New York State Permanent Sentencing Commission. Judge Corriero testified that as a result of New York's lower age of criminal responsibility, set at 16,

and New York's Juvenile Offender Law, which permits children as young as 13 to be prosecuted as adults, New York unnecessarily criminalizes many adolescents who could benefit from appropriate interventions and become productive members of the community.

To learn more, visit <http://www.nycji.org>.

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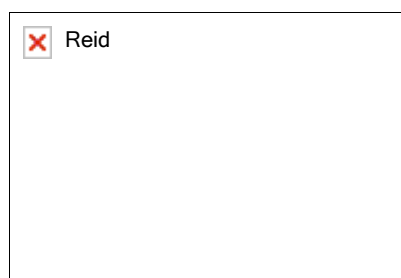
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### **State Trends:** Legislative Victories from 2005 to 2010 Removing Youth from the Adult Criminal Justice System

To read more about state policy reforms which remove youth from the adult criminal justice system in individual states, visit <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/advocacy-resource-center/state-legislative-options.html>

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## **FEDERAL UPDATE**



### **Congressional Briefing Calls for the Removal of Youth from Adult Jails and Prisons**

On Tuesday, June 14, the National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition sponsored a congressional briefing on children in adult jails and prisons. As the U.S. Department of Justice is considering final regulations to implement the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), the briefing focused on educating legislators, congressional staff, and advocates on the importance of removing children from adult jails and prisons. A panel of experts who have been directly impacted discussed why it is crucial for the U.S. Department of Justice to adopt a complete ban on placing youth in adult jails and prisons and asked Members of Congress to urge DOJ to quickly promulgate this rule.

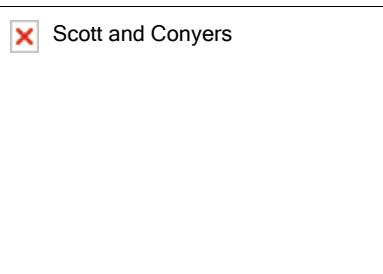
Grace Bauer, CFYJ's Field Organizer, opened the briefing with remarks on her own experience as the mother of a child in the system and then introduced the panel, which was moderated by Neelum Arya, Research and Policy Director for CFYJ. The panel included Grace Warren from Illinois, Mike Lawson from Nevada, Mike McIntosh from Mississippi, Pete Shevlin from South Carolina, and Vicky Gunderson from Wisconsin. These panelists have witnessed first-hand the impact that placing youth in adult jails and prisons can have on families and communities, and they presented their stories and their recommendations for improving the juvenile justice system.

The panel began with introductions and a brief synopsis of each panelist's interaction with the adult justice system: Grace Warren spoke of the worry she deals with daily, going to bed and waking up wondering whether her incarcerated son has been victimized yet; Pete Shevlin related the story of his son, then 16 years old, lying in his cell as he heard another inmate being

brutally raped in a nearby cell; Mike Lawson detailed his incarceration in an adult facility at age 16, and spoke movingly of what it does to a teenager to try to grow up behind bars; Mike McIntosh described the frustrations he encountered trying to track down his son, who was beaten so severely that he now has permanent mental and physical disabilities and was then moved from hospital to hospital to prevent his father from finding him; and Vicky Gunderson memorialized her son, who killed himself in prison at the age of 17 out of fear that he would be sexually assaulted.

After the introductions, Arya moderated a question and answer session during which the panelists spoke in greater depth about their experiences and their recommendations for reform. All agreed that holding children under 18 in adult facilities was cruel, unfair, and unproductive. Suggestions for improvement also included a greater emphasis on rehabilitation and programs to provide alternatives to incarceration.

Over 100 people, including numerous congressional staffers and one Member of Congress, Representative Todd Russell Platts (R PA-19), attended the briefing. Afterward, a delegation including the panelists, additional families, and CFYJ staff conducted a series of visits to congressional offices. The group met with staff representing Senators Herb Kohl (D-WI), Dick Durbin (D-IL), and Patrick Leahy (D-VT), as well as Representative Bennie Thompson (D MS-2). In addition to these staff-level meetings, the group also had a meeting with Representatives Bobby Scott (D VA-3) and John Conyers (D MI-14) (pictured to the right) and another with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (pictured above).



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## Call on the U.S. Department of Justice to Ban the Placement of Youth in Adult Jails and Prisons

On April 4, over 1,300 individuals and organizations signed a letter asking the U.S. Department of Justice to remove youth from adult jails and prisons as part of the implementing regulations for the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) [ [http://www.cfyj.org/documents/PREA\\_sign-on\\_letter.pdf](http://www.cfyj.org/documents/PREA_sign-on_letter.pdf) ]. PREA was signed into law by President Bush in 2003 to address sexual violence behind bars. The creation of the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission (NPREC), a bipartisan federal commission charged with developing national standards to address prisoner rape to be later ratified by the Attorney General, was a key component of PREA. From 2004 to 2009, the NPREC held public hearings and had expert committees draft the standards. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) released the NPREC standards for public comment in 2010 and developed their proposed rules in 2011. Unfortunately, the proposed rules do not protect youth in adult facilities.

We urge you to take action and spread the word on this important issue! Here are two things you can do that will take five minutes each:

1. Contact your two U.S. Senators. Since Congress has oversight responsibility on the implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act which they unanimously approved in 2003, it is helpful to remind your Senators about the importance of the regulations in banning the placement of children in adult jails and prisons. To reach your Senators, call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121. If you'd prefer to email, here's the link to the action alert: <http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-the-congress-to-end-rape-of-youth-in-adult-jails-and-prisons>
2. Contact the editorial board of a newspaper your community and/or state and urge the board to editorialize on this issue. As background, email them a copy of the April 4<sup>th</sup> letter which is available online at: [http://www.cfyj.org/documents/PREA\\_sign-on\\_letter.pdf](http://www.cfyj.org/documents/PREA_sign-on_letter.pdf).

Thank you for your efforts!

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### **CFYJ, OJJDP and Congressional Offices Visit DC Juvenile Facilities**

On Friday, June 10, the Campaign for Youth Justice and its allies in the Act 4 Juvenile Justice campaign (<http://www.act4jj.org/>) organized a visit to the New Beginnings Youth Development Center. Attendees included staff from congressional offices, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and allied juvenile justice advocacy groups. DYRS staffers were on hand to lead the group through the now-closed Oak Hill facility and the recently-opened New Beginnings YDC, and to provide history and background on the transition to the new facility.

Oak Hill is a troubled facility with a troubled past. Opened in 1967, Oak Hill was the primary secure detention facility for juveniles in the custody of the District of Columbia Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services (formerly Youth Services Administration). In 1985, the District of Columbia's Public Defender Services, in collaboration with the American Civil Liberties Union, filed a class action lawsuit, "Jerry M.", against the District government over the inhumane conditions at Oak Hill highlighting the troubling violence, lack of professional training and certification of staff members, violations of the due process rights of confined youth, and a dearth of programs to meet the needs of youth under the supervision of the Youth Services Administration (YSA), the Executive Branch's juvenile justice agency at the time.

Conditions at Oak Hill were nothing short of shameful. The school was so bad that a judge placed it under court receivership. An Inspector General report found that youth in Oak Hill who had tested clean when they came into the facility were testing positive for drugs after a month in custody. A court expert found that rats and cockroaches regularly crawled onto and bit youth while they were sleeping at the facility. There were frequent escapes, and so many Oak Hill youth were victims of homicide that an entire wall in one of the living units was covered with their obituary pictures, dubbed a "wall of death" by youth living there and the staff.

As the Jerry M. Consent Decree continued to drag on with the District failing to comply and being fined millions of dollars, in 2000, then Mayor Williams established the District of Columbia Blue Ribbon Commission on Youth Safety and Juvenile Justice Reform ("BRC"), chaired by the Honorable Eugene Hamilton, Senior Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to examine the strengths and weaknesses of the juvenile justice system with a focus on changes at Oak Hill. At the same time, the plaintiffs in the "Jerry M" lawsuit moved to place the entire agency into Court Receivership and Congress began serious oversight hearings.

Advocates began organizing in 2000 when the BRC appeared to be going off track as it was poised to recommend punitive and misguided policies (such as making it easier to transfer youth to the adult system). A combination of local and national advocates collaborated to positively impact the Commission's recommendations, which ultimately included closure of the Oak Hill facility and replacement with a Missouri style program, expansion of community based programs, and making it more difficult to transfer youth into the adult system. The advocates ran a "campaign" style effort to "Close Oak Hill Now" and created a coalition (the Justice for DC Youth Coalition) to lead ongoing advocacy efforts.

The DC Council did not, however, immediately adopt the BRC recommendations. Punitive legislation to try more youth in adult criminal court, fine parents money or give them jail time if their child was delinquent, suspend parent drivers licenses if their child was delinquent, and allow juvenile delinquency records to be used to deny eligibility for public housing. The Justice for DC Youth Coalition was able to soundly defeat this punitive legislation, and instead advance the recommendations of the BRC in legislation. As a result, the DC Council unanimously passed comprehensive reform legislation in 2003 based on the "Blue Ribbon Act" to close the Oak Hill facility by 2009.

Oak Hill hasn't been operational in two years, and tour groups are usually not provided access. However, with the cooperation of the DYRS, the group was allowed to take a brief tour. The dominating feature of Oak Hill is two high fences, each covered in loops of razor wire, which surround the campus. Access to the facility is gained through a cramped intake office. Inside the walls of the compound, numerous squat buildings dot the campus. The layout provides no clear vantage points from which to observe the entirety of the space, making it impossible to effectively monitor the campus.

This problem of design is echoed in the housing units, which are stark and forbidding. The common areas, where detained youth spent much of their recreational time, feature obstructing walls and cannot be monitored from the staff offices. The rooms themselves are located along long, dark hallways and contain metal furniture welded to the floors, bare toilets, and no amenities. The overwhelming impression conveyed by the facility is that this is a prison.

New Beginnings Youth Development Center provides a welcome contrast. The facility was designed from the ground up to emphasize a different theory of juvenile justice. Modeled after the Missouri approach, the New Beginnings philosophy emphasizes rehabilitation rather than punishment and focuses on developmentally-appropriate responses. The architecture and layout reflect this philosophy. Abundant natural light provides a welcome contrast to the dim corridors of Oak Hill, and the central campus is laid out to allow an adult to observe any point in the yard from any other point. The housing units themselves are more similar to a college dormitory than to a prison, with modern fixtures and comfortable furniture.

The contrast between the schools at the two facilities is the most striking distinction between them. The Oak Hill School was surrounded by barbed wire and run by the DC Public School system, which considered it a low-staffing priority. Kids often did not go to school before the reform. By contrast, the New Beginnings educational institute is run by the Maya Angelou Public Charter School. Upon entering the facility, you are immediately immersed in a welcoming and warm environment dedicated to educating youth. Classrooms are decorated with drawings, inspirational quotes, awards won by the students, and cutting-edge technology. Most importantly, classes are led by passionate and energetic teachers who are dedicated to their students and the mission of DYRS.

Outside the classroom, youth at New Beginnings are offered various enrichment activities that teach team work, discipline and problem solving. The activities include sports, acting classes, welding lessons and professional skills that can help youth gain employment after leaving the facility and provide the opportunity to continue learning and growing while in DYRS custody.

The transition to a better model of juvenile justice is not complete in the District of Columbia; retraining staff and reimaging the mission and goals of DYRS is an ongoing project, and advocates must continue to combat injustices in the system. Still, New Beginnings represents a promising step in a positive direction for juvenile justice reform efforts in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States.

For more information on alternative approaches and the Missouri Model, visit:

[http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Initiatives/Juvenile%20Detention%20Alternatives%20Initiative/MOModel/MO\\_Fullreport\\_webfinal.pdf](http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Initiatives/Juvenile%20Detention%20Alternatives%20Initiative/MOModel/MO_Fullreport_webfinal.pdf)

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### **Urge the Obama Administration to Appoint a Permanent OJJDP Administrator**

It has been nearly two and a half years since President Obama was inaugurated, and no permanent Administrator for the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has been appointed. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is the federal agency responsible for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention issues, and it is tasked with assisting state and local governments in addressing juvenile delinquency.

Over the past decade, OJJDP has suffered a drastic depletion of funding and support, and the agency's commitment to the most important issues confronting youth has diminished. It is crucial that the Administration provide leadership, clear direction, and resources.

What happens if the Administration doesn't appoint a permanent OJJDP Administrator? Here are a few of the repercussions:

- Children at risk of or involved in the justice system will continue to be a low priority within the Administration. There will be no one to bring a sense of urgency to addressing the pressing issues in juvenile justice such as racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system; over-reliance on detention and incarceration; lack of investments in youth violence and delinquency prevention programs; unsafe conditions of confinement for children in state and local custody;

and overwhelming numbers of youth prosecuted in adult criminal court and placed in adult jails and prisons.

- The federal "role" in juvenile delinquency prevention and juvenile justice will continue to diminish, creating a vacuum of leadership, support, and guidance to the juvenile justice field and a loss of the national "clearinghouse" and "go to" organization on key matters pertaining to these issues.
- We will lose opportunities to galvanize juvenile justice stakeholders in order to accelerate the progress of successful juvenile justice reforms around the country that are informed by the latest research on what works and what doesn't.
- There will continue to be no "voice" within the Administration for children and youth in the justice system to ensure adequate funding, programming and supports are in place in states and localities.
- There will be no visible "point person" on juvenile justice and delinquency prevention issues from the Administration on Capitol Hill. The budgetary and legislative consequences are no surprise:
  - The JJDP A Reauthorizations will continue to flounder in Congress and proposed efforts to strengthen protections for juveniles through that Act will not make headway;
  - As budget priorities are set, with no leadership in place and only a caretaker head, there will be no credible and empowered voice to ensure that adequate federal funding, programming and supports are in place to help support states struggling with how to address these issues in particularly challenging times.

We urge you to take action and spread the word on this important issue! Here are three things you can do that will take five minutes each:

1. Contact your two U.S. Senators. It is helpful for your Senators to know that this appointment has not yet been made and that you'd like for them to weigh in with the Administration. To reach your Senators, call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121. If you'd prefer to email, here's the link to the action alert: <http://www.change.org/petitions/make-juvenile-justice-a-priority-appoint-an-ojjdp-administrator>
2. Call the White House at (202) 456-1414 and ask for the person who is handling appointments for the U.S. Department of Justice. You will most likely get a voice mail. If you do speak with someone, be sure to say how crucial this appointment is and what happens if the Administration doesn't appoint this person. Keep the call brief, but be sure to give your name, phone number and address.
3. Contact the editorial board of a newspaper in your community and/or state and urge the board to editorialize on this issue. As background, give them a copy of the letter that House Members sent to the White House on May 13<sup>th</sup> which is available online at: [http://www.cfyj.org/documents/ojjdp\\_2.pdf](http://www.cfyj.org/documents/ojjdp_2.pdf)
4. Add your own voice to the chorus by authoring an op-ed for your local paper. We are happy to assist you with that effort.

Thank you for your efforts! Together we can bring attention to juvenile justice issues at the federal level.

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## **Support the Reauthorization of the JJDPDA**

The long-overdue reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act is a top priority of stakeholders and advocates throughout the juvenile justice field.

This month, we'd like our supporters to call or write their Members of Congress and ask them to consider reauthorization of JJDPDA consistent with the Act 4 JJ Statement of Principles. The four principles in the Statement are: keeping children and youth out of the justice system, ensuring equity and competence, ensuring age- and development-appropriate responses, and strengthening the partnership between the federal government and state and local governments. Below is a sample email:

### Sample Email

Dear Senator,

I am writing to urge you to support the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPDA) this year.

The JJDPDA has, for more than 35 years, provided direction and support for juvenile justice system improvements and significantly contributed to the reduction of juvenile crime and delinquency. The JJDPDA sets out federal standards for the custody and care of youth in the juvenile justice system.

Reauthorizing the JJDPDA this year will protect children from the dangers of adult jails, improve safety for youth in custody, provide funds for effective delinquency prevention programs, and increase fairness by requiring states to take steps to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system. The continuing success of effective juvenile crime prevention and deterrence depends on Congress strengthening both the provisions of the JJDPDA, as well as the funding resources needed for states and localities to implement the law.

It is urgent that the JJDPDA be reauthorized this year so that young people can continue to be protected by the JJDPDA. Please support the JJDPDA and oppose any harmful amendments that would undermine the goals of the JJDPDA such as an amendment to transfer more youth to adult court.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
[Your name]

To find contact information for your Members of Congress, visit [www.contactingthecongress.org](http://www.contactingthecongress.org).

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## NATIONAL MOMENTUM

### National Sheriffs' Association's Annual Conference Addresses Removal of Youth from Adult Facilities

On Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, the Campaign for Youth Justice presented at the National Sheriffs' Association's Annual Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. Panelists included Liz Ryan, President and CEO of CFYJ; Sheriff Gabriel Morgan, Sr., of Newport News, VA; Liane Rozzell, Executive Director of Families & Allies of Virginia's Youth (FAVY); and Tracy McClard, Founder of Families and Friends Organizing for Reform of Juvenile Justice (FORJ-MO). The presentation encouraged sheriffs who attended to support the removal of youth from adult facilities in their districts.

Liane Rozzell, Executive Director of FAVY, discussed her role as a parent advocate in the jail removal campaign in Virginia, where a new law was passed in 2010. She outlined the steps the state took to overcome obstacles and implement the law. Her presentation highlighted the current status of youth in adult jails, including the routine way in which many states try youth as young as 14 as adults and place them in adult jails pre-trial. For more information, visit: <http://www.cfyj.org/documents/final%20unlocking%20the%20truth%20report.pdf>.

Tracy McClard, a parent advocate who founded FORJ-MO, spoke about her son's experience in the adult criminal justice system. Her emphasis on the denial of education and medication to youth in many of these facilities was of particular interest to the sheriffs. [To learn more about Tracy's story, read her testimony before Congress at: <http://www.cfyj.org/parent-testimony.html#mclard>.]

Sheriff Gabriel Morgan explained how removing youth from adult facilities would contribute to public safety and how this policy change was an example of being "smart on crime." He encouraged his fellow sheriffs to carry out the proposed change in their states, citing his own background as a sheriff who once housed youth in adult facilities but now actively fights to reverse this policy and return youth to juvenile facilities.

Liz Ryan provided the audience with key statistics and facts on kids in adult jails and prisons. She noted that the combination of quantitative information and personal stories was very powerful: "Tracy gave very concrete details that illustrated the challenges families and kids face. Her story had a really strong impact on participants."

Following their presentations, the panelists hosted a question-and-answer session. The sheriffs discussed what they viewed as barriers such as budget cuts to overhauling the systems currently in place in their states. Despite apprehension about these obstacles, they also voiced their concerns with housing youth in adult jails.

The participants were particularly receptive to the recommendations of the workshop and expressed their belief that they could utilize this information in their states. At the beginning of the workshop, when asked how many supported the policy change that this workshop addressed, only one sheriff raised his hand; by the end, support appeared unanimous.

You can find further information about youth in adult jails here:

[http://www.cfyj.org/documents/CFYJES\\_JailingJuveniles.pdf](http://www.cfyj.org/documents/CFYJES_JailingJuveniles.pdf).

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## Young Elected Officials Hear State Trends in Prosecution of Youth in Adult Court

On Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, CFYJ's President and CEO, Liz Ryan, along with Tracy Velazquez, Executive Director of the Justice Policy Institute, presented at the Young Elected Officials (YEO) Network national convening, "Unite, Rebuild, Inspire," in Washington, D.C. on issues in juvenile and criminal justice reform, including trends to reduce the prosecution of youth in adult court.

Liz shared the results of the newly released "[State Trends](#)" report with nearly three dozen state and local elected officials who attended the session. Liz told the group, "The good news is that there is strong public support for these reforms to reduce the prosecution of youth in adult criminal court. They make fiscal sense, will increase public safety, and will improve positive outcomes for youth and their communities."

The mission of the Young Elected Officials (YEO) Network is to unite and support progressive elected leaders who share a passion for building communities that reflect values of freedom, fairness and opportunity. The YEO Network supports elected leaders ages 35 and under as they define issues, develop solutions, and respond to the needs of their communities. By exchanging ideas, developing leadership skills and connecting with policy development organizations, YEO Network members will be empowered to transform their political vision into progressive action.

For additional information on the Young Elected Officials Network, visit:

<http://www.yeonetwork.org/>.

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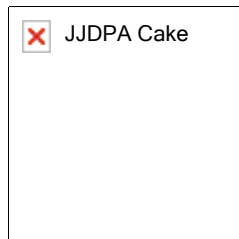
## MEDIA WRAP

### Media Resources

Are you looking for media resources on youth justice? Do you want to learn more about breaking news, latest articles and press releases on the latest research and happenings in the field? The Campaign has the latest information and media on youth justice and transfer issues. To learn more about what is going on in the media,

visit: <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/breaking-news.html>

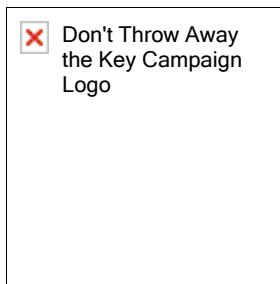
Are you interested in learning how to use the media to spread your message? This Media Guide explains how you can cooperate with news agencies to get your message into the spotlight. Planning media hits, writing media materials, pitching stories, and more are all covered in this



comprehensive yet easy to understand manual. For the full manual, visit: <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/advocacy-resource-center/campaign-tools.html#mediaguide>

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## RESEARCH



### Research Resources

Are you looking for the latest research on youth justice? The Campaign has a vast store of research on its website. These pages are updated daily and have the most up-to-date information.

For Facts and Research, visit: <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/facts-a-research.html>.

To learn more about how to navigate through the complicated and all-too-often confusing system, visit: <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/navigate-the-system.html>.

For resources and guides on how to change the system, visit: <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/about-change-the-system.html>

For testimonies from those who have been personally affected by the system, visit: <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/about-real-life.html>

To stay informed with the latest news on youth justice, visit: <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/breaking-news.html>

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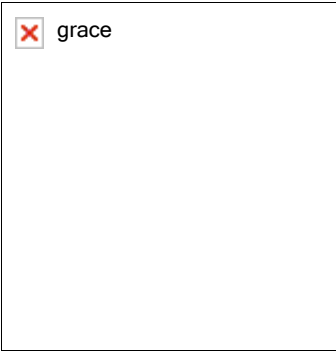
## GET ORGANIZED

### Organizing Ourselves: Cooperation is the Key to Success

By Grace Bauer

*Grace Bauer, a field organizer and Co-Director of the National Parent Caucus, joined the Campaign for Youth Justice in 2008. She has worked to unite the parents and allies of children to change laws and practices that result in children being prosecuted and confined as adults.*

### Speaking Truth to Power

 grace

On June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, an extraordinary group of parents and a young person came to Washington, D.C. to hold a congressional briefing on Capitol Hill and a focus group with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. These families and the young person came all the way from Nevada, South Carolina, Wisconsin, Missouri and Mississippi with a story to tell, and their truths left people in D.C. with tears in their eyes and their mouths hanging open in shock. Most importantly, these amazing people put a face and a heart to the hundreds of thousands of statistics that wind their way through this country's broken justice system each year.

After a decade of organizing the families and communities of young people involved in the justice system, sometimes I think I have heard all there is to hear. Once again, I was proven wrong. Two mothers shared the agonizing pain they felt when they were told their sons would never return home after they took their own lives out of fear and desperation. Fathers-strong men-cried as they described the unimaginable circumstances of their son's lives inside adult prison facilities. The room felt too small and airless as the truth about children confined in adult prison facilities came to life. Throughout the brief, three-hour timeframe, tears flowed freely, not only from the eyes of the families who relived their pain, isolation, and desperation of their children's lives behind bars, but also from nearly every person who heard these shocking and sickening truths.

Through the experiences of these families and the hundreds of thousands of voices of they represent, listeners were left with a crystal clear understanding that our children do not belong in cages. The realities of these courageous families should signal to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and to the U.S. Department of Justice that the system of justice in this country can't provide for children who by all accounts belong in systems of care. The adult criminal justice system has never been - nor will it ever be - a place for our children. The very idea that children are just small versions of adults is an outrageous fallacy spurred by decades of "tough on crime" rhetoric that seems to flow endlessly from the mouth of politicians at election time.

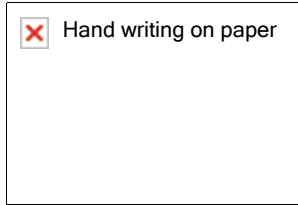
Countless lives have been lost and destroyed under the current laws and policies, and each day that passes another family will experience the terror of an irrevocably broken justice system. More children will die, and more children will live in poverty because of the lack of access to a second chance. Their tears, and our tears, will continue to flow. The Department of Justice and its leadership under Attorney General Eric Holder has the opportunity today to remedy this misguided wrong by removing children from adult jails and prisons through the Prison Rape Elimination Act. If these kids were the kids of Mr. Holder or Members of Congress, there would be no need for action; children of privilege in this country never come face to face with the brutality that poor children and/or children of color are forced to endure in a system that many have rightly deemed "a system of injustice." If this Administration hopes to win the support of many who supported it in the last election because of a notion of hope and change, they need to make it their business to bring some of that hope back into the lives of those who have become the "invisible Americans," the families of the nearly 2.4 million in cages.

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## VOICES

*Billy was prosecuted as an adult age 17 and is serving a life-plus-10-years sentence in Wisconsin.*

*This is his story...*



When I was in a supermax prison, I was housed between two young men that were only 16 and 17 years old and [another one] below [who was] only 15...Many times they talked of killing themselves. It broke my heart to hear them cry out every night from the loneliness of having no one to talk to [as they served their time in segregation]. I'd sing songs for them from sun up to sun down to try and cheer them up."

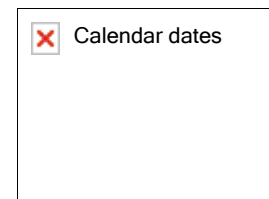
To read Billy's story and the stories of so many others, visit:  
<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/e-newsletter.html>

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## ON THE CALENDAR

### Mark Your Calendars for Some Upcoming Events!

On July 1, 2011, the Campaign for Youth Justice will celebrate its sixth year dedicated to ending the practice of trying, sentencing, and incarcerating youth within the adult criminal justice system. To celebrate, we have launched the "Sixes in the Sixth" campaign.



Over the past six years, your donations and outreach efforts have helped to:

- End automatic prosecution as adults for thousands of youth;
- Limit the placement of youth in adult jails and prisons;
- Ensure parents and families know who to turn to for help; and
- Elevate the voices of youth, parents and families in the public debate.

There are several ways you can help support CFYJ efforts:

- Host a party in your community;
- Make a donation to support our grassroots campaigns in the states; and/or
- Sign a friend up to get the CFYJ newsletter.

Thank you for supporting the Campaign for Youth Justice for six years!

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### October is Youth Justice Awareness Month!

October is Youth Justice Awareness Month. Throughout the month of October, the Campaign will be supporting parents, organizations and allies as they plan several events in almost half the states in the country to bring attention to this important issue. These events will incorporate a

diversity of interests and talents and include 5K races, poetry slams, concerts, film screenings and panel discussions and many more.

Youth Justice Awareness Month began three years ago when Mother Tracy McClard, whose son died in an adult prison a few days after his 17th birthday, put together a 5K in Jackson, Missouri to bring awareness to the fact that we sentence children as adults and that this practice does not lead to improved public safety. The race has spread enormously over the past three years, and we are so close to accomplishing Tracy's dream of seeing the race spread throughout all 50 states.

The Campaign will highlight a different state every month through October. For all up-to-date information between now and October, visit: <http://www.cfyj.org/change-the-system/5k-walk-run-for-youth-justice.html>

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## TAKE ACTION, SPREAD THE WORD

### Independence Day

We celebrate the independence of our nation on July 4<sup>th</sup>. However, there are countless youth incarcerated in adult jails and prisons who are waiting for their independence from this unjust system. As an alternative to fireworks, light up the night with candles and hold a vigil for juveniles incarcerated in adult jails and prisons.

<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/Downloads/ParentTools/VigilGuidewebversion.doc>

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## HOW YOU CAN HELP



### How You Can Help

#### Join us for National Youth Justice Month: October 2011!

National Youth Justice Awareness Month (October, 2011) is just around the corner! Please consider making a donation to support the 5k Run/Walk and other events in the states to help raise awareness about the status of youth in the justice system!

Please consider donating \$25 to support events planned to date in 25 jurisdictions around the country.

To donate, click here: <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/donate.html>.

Please tell 10 friends about the campaign by forwarding this email.

Let's work together to stop the inhumane, unjust, and ineffective policies affecting youth across the country!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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## **CAMPAIGN STRATEGIES AT A GLANCE**

### **Growing Your Campaign Network: A Campaign Approach to Ending the Practice of Prosecuting Youth as Adults**

Liz Ryan

*We are asked regularly why we take a campaign approach to ending the practice of prosecuting youth in adult courts and thought we'd start a series of conversations in our newsletter to discuss all the various aspects of a "campaign."*

To build your campaign, you will need a strong network of volunteers across your state to manage, support and expand your efforts. It is crucial that your campaign network thrives and grows. Here are a few key steps:

#### **1) Articulate and advertise campaign roles**

To draw in volunteers to work with your campaign, you will need to clearly articulate the campaign "roles" that you are looking for volunteers to fulfill. Some roles might be: Outreach Coordinator, Media Assistant, Social Media Coordinator, Direct Action Organizer and Phonebank Captain. Your descriptions of each role should include the number of hours per week you'd like your volunteers to support the campaign, the qualities you are looking for in a volunteer and some background on your campaign goals. Consider advertising your campaign "roles" on your website, facebook, Idealist ([www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org)) and any list-serves in your area. You might put together an outreach flyer inviting volunteers to join your campaign. Think about hosting an initial volunteer orientation session to provide basic information on the campaign, answer questions, and invite volunteers to sign up for various roles. Once you have a core group of volunteers, work with these volunteers to host regular volunteer orientation sessions (e.g. once a week or every other week) so that new volunteers can continually join the campaign.

#### **2) Empower Your Volunteers**

Your campaign volunteers will need to feel that they are making a real contribution to the effort. If not, they won't stick around long. Be sure to create space to hear their ideas and feedback. Give them choices in how they might contribute to the campaign, and be flexible in creating new opportunities for them to contribute. Volunteers want to feel a sense of purpose and accomplishment, sentiments that are crucial to your campaign. Here's a great "tip sheet" online, "What Do Your Volunteers Want: 10 Ways to Make Your Volunteers Happy" at: <http://nonprofit.about.com/od/volunteers/tp/whatvolunteerswant.htm>.

#### **3) Communicate, Communicate, Communicate**

Regular, in-person conversations and meetings with volunteers will keep your volunteers coming back. People want to feel "connected" to the cause through the people they work with. Be sure to build in time and space to engage volunteers in discussion about why they want to support this cause, what makes them want to contribute, and what ways can the campaign create new opportunities to expand the base of volunteers.

#### **4) Provide Training & Support**

Volunteers may not have all the tools and skills to carry out all of the tasks needed in the campaign. Build in regular training sessions on key tasks. Be sure that every volunteer has a 'go to' person on the campaign with whom they consult and provide feedback on how it's going. Volunteers will need more support at the beginning of their time with the campaign and when roles change. Volunteers who have been around longer can be tasked with recruiting and managing other volunteers.

### **5) Recognize & Thank Your Volunteers!**

It is very important to recognize and thank your campaign volunteers for their contributions. Praise them at a campaign meeting and in your newsletter. When you've accomplished a major campaign goal or benchmark, consider hosting a volunteer recognition event.

*Please share your feedback, comments and ideas on this article! We'd also like to know what questions you have about campaigns and what topics you'd like to see in future articles.*

For previous articles, visit the campaign resource center at:

<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/advocacy-resource-center.html>.

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## **EXTRAS**

### **Introducing New CFYJ Summer Fellows**

#### **Kristen Arn - Fellow**

A native of Las Vegas, Nevada, Kristen comes to CFYJ from Harvard University, where she will be a senior this fall and majors in psychology and religion. In her spare time, Kristen plays volleyball and enjoys running. Kristen was a Presidential Scholar and currently is training for this fall's New Jersey Tough Mudder, which is considered one of the most challenging endurance races in the country. Kristen became interested in CFYJ after tutoring inner-city Boston students whose families were affected by having a family member in the juvenile justice system. In addition, she wants to learn more about public advocacy law. Following graduation, Kristen plans to work for a few years before starting law school.

#### **Michael Lynch - Fellow**

Originally from Sacramento, California, Michael is a recent graduate of Humboldt State University, where he majored in business management. During his undergrad, he played linebacker for his school's football team and served as team captain his senior year. Today, Michael enjoys playing basketball and lifting weights. During his time here, Michael hopes to learn more about the juvenile justice system and assist in the campaign's goal of educating the public about the issues involved with trying youth as adults. Following this fellowship, Michael will begin a fellowship with the California State Senate. He then plans to join Teach for America for two years before attending law school.

#### **Jennifer Parry - Fellow**

Jennifer joins CFYJ from Silver Spring, Maryland. She is a rising junior at Connecticut College, where she majors in European history. She also is a scholar in the school's Holleran Center in Public Policy and Community Action, where she focuses on juvenile justice policy, which led to

her interest in CFYJ. Jennifer enjoys writing and playing piano, and is deeply interested in British history and culture. This fall she will study in Canterbury, England, where, in addition to studying British history, she will learn about juvenile justice policy in a more global context. Following graduation in 2013, Jennifer hopes both to attend law school and earn a Master of Public Policy, and then continue working towards reform of the juvenile justice system.

### **Alyssa Pehmoeller - Fellow**

Alyssa hails from Poughquag, New York, and is a rising senior at Princeton University. A scholar at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, she concentrates in East Asian studies. In high school, Alyssa was All-American in track and field in the weight throw, and today she enjoys, yoga, baking, and running. She is currently training for a half marathon in August. She also is passionate about Chinese culture and has spent time in China for both study abroad and an internship. While working with the campaign, Alyssa wants to learn more about public interest law and the best methods for advocating issues as well as advancing juvenile justice issues central to the campaign's mission. After graduating from Princeton, Alyssa hopes to have a one-year fellowship before attending law school. She is considering a career as a human rights or immigration lawyer.

### **Peter Shadzik - Fellow**

This fall, Peter will begin his second year of law school at the University of Pennsylvania. Originally from Richboro, Pennsylvania, he graduated from The George Washington University with a degree in political science. In his spare time, Peter enjoys playing basketball and performing stand-up comedy. His interest in CFYJ stems from his passion for criminal law as well as his work with several other advocacy organizations. Through CFYJ, Peter hopes to understand the legal issues facing juvenile offenders. After earning his law degree, Peter hopes eventually to continue working in juvenile justice law.

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