YOUTH MANUAL

A resource for new and continuing youth State Advisory Group Members

COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

2021

WELCOME FROM AARON TOLEAFOA: CJJ EMERGING LEADERS COMMITTEE CHAIR (2019-2021)

Congratulations on being appointed as a youth member of your State Advisory Group (SAG). This position offers you not only the chance to make your voice heard on improving the youth justice system, but also allows many opportunities for personal growth and leadership. I hope you will find this experience rewarding.

Youth members offer a unique perspective to SAGs and are often the members who best understand which policies, programs, and changes will be most effective to the youth justice system. Lived experience can be valuable to this process, but even if you do not have experience with the system, you can still understand how you would want to be treated if you ever made a mistake while you are young.

Be prepared to work hard during your time as a Youth SAG Member. Don't be afraid to speak up; you have an unparalleled opportunity to make your voice heard. Speaking in a new group can be difficult, but this manual is designed to help you out and make the transition easier.

Youth SAG members are equal to every other member and have equal voting power. You have a chance to make a real difference in the field of youth justice.

On behalf of the Emerging Leaders Committee of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, we hope that this manual can be of great value to you as you continue working on your State Advisory Group. Please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or any of the CJJ members if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to help you and wish you the best of luck in your role as a Youth SAG Member. You can visit CJJ's website for more information, www.juvjustice.org, or contact CJJ's office at info@juvjustice.org

AARON TOLEAFOA
2019-2021 EMERGING LEADERS COMMITTEE CHAIR

COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

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Four Core Protections:

1. Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders
2. Sight and Sound Separation
3. Jail Removal
4. Reduction of Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Since 1974, the JJDPA has received bipartisan support in Congress. The JJDPA was reauthorized again in 2018 with bipartisan support for the first time in nearly sixteen years. It is the most influential legislation in the field of youth justice, offering the four core protections to help youth involved in the system.

THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT

Originally enacted in 1974 and reauthorized in 2018, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) is a federal law that provides delinquency prevention grants to states and localities to improve systems and practices. The JJDPA establishes basic safeguards, known as core protections, for states and localities to follow regarding the care and custody of youth who come into contact with the justice system.

In addition, the JJDPA establishes a structure for citizen input and oversight of state implementation of the law's mandates and programs through the work of a State Advisory Group (SAG) appointed by the Governor or Chief Executive in each jurisdiction.

Importantly, the JJDPA requires involvement of youth in all SAGs, including youth who are, or have been, involved in the juvenile justice system (see State Advisory Groups, page 3).

The JJDPA creates a space for youth to serve as equal members of their SAGs.

OJJDP at the U.S. Department of Justice:

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is the federal agency within the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice, which holds responsibility for examining, preventing, and reducing juvenile delinquency, and ensuring effective implementation of the JJDPA. OJJDP works closely with the states and the SAGs to provide guidance, training, research, and grant programs.

STATE ADVISORY GROUPS (SAGS)

What is a SAG?

SAG stands for "State Advisory Group," although states may refer to their groups by a variety of names, such as JJAG (Juvenile Justice Advisory Group) or JJAC (Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee). SAGs are established by federal law under the JJDPA. Under the JJDPA, all states, territories, and the District of Columbia are required to have specific individuals who are knowledgeable about juvenile justice and delinquency prevention appointed by the Governor/Chief Executive to serve on the SAG. The members of the SAG provide input into their state's use of funds provided under the JJDPA to address local youth justice needs. The SAG is also responsible for supporting JJDPA compliance and providing information about the JJDPA's core protections to state and local policy makers.

Who must be on a SAG?

Required members include:

- At least one elected official;
- Representatives of law enforcement;
- Juvenile and family court judges;
- Prosecutors and defense attorneys;
- Probation workers;
- Representatives of public agencies concerned with delinquency prevention (welfare, social services, mental health, education, etc.);
- Representatives of private, non-profit organizations (advocacy organizations with a focus on delinquency prevention);
- Volunteers who work with youth charged with delinquent offenses;
- Youth workers in detention-alternative programs;
- Persons with experience in school violence, learning disabilities, and child abuse and neglect;

STATE ADVISORY GROUPS (SAG)

Who must be on a SAG? (continued)

- Persons, licensed or certified by the applicable state, with expertise and competence in preventing and addressing mental health and substance abuse needs of youth in the justice system and youth at risk of delinquency;
- Representatives of victim or witness advocacy groups, including at least one individual with expertise in addressing the challenges of sexual abuse and exploitation and trauma, particularly the needs of youth who experience disproportionate levels of sexual abuse, exploitation, and trauma before entering the juvenile justice system;
- For a state in which one or more Native American tribes are located, a Native American tribal representative, if available, or other individual with significant expertise in tribal law enforcement and juvenile justice in Native American tribal communities;
- **At least one of every five members must be under the age of 28 at the time of appointment, and;**
- **At least three members must have previous or current juvenile justice system involvement.**

By requiring a diverse membership, the JJDPA signals the importance of each person's perspective. As a youth member, you have a unique perspective and a vital role on your SAG.

If you have been, or are currently, in the juvenile justice system, you have valuable perspectives on the inner-workings of the juvenile justice system that other members may lack. You know what it's like to be detained, and are able to identify gaps that exist in the services offered and what youth need to succeed. Your contributions are immeasurable to other SAG members who do not have your experience and expertise.

If you have never been involved in the system, it is important to be respectful of those who have lived experience and be mindful of their trauma. As a youth SAG member, you still have a special understanding of what it is like to be a young person in your community and state. You can offer your insights on the pressure and struggles youths face today that older adult members may not be aware of. Share your insights and innovative ideas.

If you need ideas to help make your perspectives heard, turn to page 6.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SAG MEMBER

As a SAG member, you have several key functions, including:

- Developing and reviewing the state's three-year JJDPA Plan (see page 13);
- Submitting recommendations to the Governor/Chief Executive and state legislature for improving your state's juvenile justice system;
- Seeking regular input from youth currently involved in the system and their families;
- Reviewing and commenting on grant applications for JJDPA and related federal funding awards;
- Awarding money to juvenile justice programs; and
- Most important of all, ensuring compliance with the JJDPA.

PROVIDING SUPPORT TO SAGS

States and territories have one or more staff members who help support the SAG and carry out the JJDPA. These include:

Juvenile Justice Specialists
Juvenile justice specialists (often referred to as "JJ specialists"). JJ specialist helps with the SAG and ensures that the JJDPA's protections are adhered to. They oversee creation of the state's three-year plan (see p. 13) and manage the state's Title II grant program.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Coordinators
R/ED coordinators assist states in collecting data about disparities in the justice system. They create plans to reduce disparities and work toward achieving equity for youth of color involved in the system. They keep their SAGs informed on what disparities exist in their state and can help advise on policies that will reduce these disparities.

Compliance Monitors
Compliance monitors ensure that their state is complying with the JJDPA and its four core protections (see page 9) in order to ensure that the young people are being protected and that the state receives full funding permitted under the JJDPA.

TIPS ON BEING AN EFFECTIVE SAG MEMBER

As a youth SAG member, your thoughts, ideas, and opinions are of the utmost importance. Here are a few ways you can make the most of your role as a youth member and leader.

Be Familiar With and Understand the JJDPA's Core Protections

Each SAG is responsible for ensuring that its state/territory and all local jurisdictions comply with the JJDPA's four core protections.

The Four Core Protections:*

Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders
Sight and Sound Separation
Adult Jail and Lock-Up Removal
Racial and Ethnic Disparities

*additional information about each protection is on pages 9-11

Join or Establish a Youth Subcommittee

At least one in five members on each SAG must be under the age of 28 at the time of appointment to the SAG. Additionally, at least three SAG members (youth or adult) must have past or current involvement with the juvenile justice system.

By joining youth members together as a subcommittee, you can undertake specific projects and initiatives and create additional leadership opportunities. Be sure to ask for a regular spot on the SAG's meeting agenda for youth subcommittee updates.

In addition to joining or establishing a youth subcommittee, it is also important for youth voices and expertise to be at the table of every subcommittee. This provides opportunities to learn from, educate, and engage with other SAG members. Your SAG will likely have subcommittees dedicated to topics like R/ED and compliance monitoring, among others.

Key Example: Colorado's Emerging Leaders Committee

Colorado's SAG has a thriving Emerging Leaders (Youth) Committee, which is allocated $20,000 of the state's Title II program budget to use to meet their goals. With this budget, youth members have planned and held youth-specific events and other community engagement initiatives, supported training of law enforcement, funded evaluation projects, and overall helped Colorado to better serve its youth. Emerging Leaders also receive stipends to attend SAG meetings and events.

Colorado's SAG has developed effective strategies to accommodate the challenges young people experience in attending meetings, including:

- Further aid with transportation by offering rides to younger members who cannot get to and from meetings themselves,
- Assistance with finding felony-friendly housing, employment, and other resources,
- Addressing the needs of young advocates, both of those with and without lived experience in the JJ system, and
- Being open to helping address and remove outside barriers in the lives of youth members so they can remain on the council.

Key Example: Washington's Emerging Leaders Committee

Washington State ensures that all young people, including those who are currently incarcerated, are welcome to join its Emerging Leaders Committee (ELC). Members are able to join SAG meetings either in person or via video chat, so no one is excluded due to a lack of transportation or travel limitations.

Additionally, Washington's ELC has a thriving Youth Subcommittee. Members are able to ensure that their voices are heard at meetings so young peoples' perspectives are always taken into consideration. The subcommittee meets at a youth detention facility in order to make sure meetings are accessible for members who are not able to leave the facility.

Getting approval to host meetings via webcam can be a way to improve the accessibility of meetings and ensure that no young people are left out due to where they live or limitations on travel.

EMPOWER AND MOBILIZE YOUTH

Youth members are on SAGs for a reason; it is important for the other members of the group to hear directly from young people about the concerns of their peers.

By reaching out to young people who have current or previous system involvement, their families, and other community members, you will be able to ensure that you are best representing their needs during SAG meetings and incorporating their goals and ideas into your work.

Key Example: Idaho's Youth Facility Surveys

Idaho works to ensure that the voices of incarcerated youth do not go unheard by its SAG.

Idaho routinely asks their youth SAG members to join in on compliance visits. Youth SAG members have the opportunity to build connections with youth who are currently involved in the system. This peer-to-peer interaction typically provides a more open and trusting dialogue, resulting in more honest feedback about the greatest needs and challenges of young people in detention. The feedback is captured in a survey at the end of the visit.

These survey results are analyzed by a researcher from a local university and compared to survey data from previous years. The survey asks about the young person's family, mentorship, and greatest concerns upon exiting. The results help inform Idaho's SAG about what youths' most pressing needs are.

Idaho is a great example of youth SAG members learning from incarcerated youth. Even if you do not have lived experience, you can use your position on your SAG to amplify the voices of those who do.

Cultivating Relationships

In a 2016 survey sent by CJJ to youth SAG members, a majority indicated that they became involved with their SAG because they knew someone who recommended they join the group. This may have been a current SAG member, family member, or friend. If you know someone interested in youth justice, bring that person to a SAG meeting to see if they might be interested in joining.

Maintaining relationships with local organizations that work with system-involved youth can help spread the word about the SAG and also help ensure that youth in the system know they can be a part of the group.

Relationships within the SAG are just as important. As explained on page 6, youth subcommittees can help elevate young peoples' voices and ensure that youth members are not being put aside at meetings.

Partnering incoming youth members with an adult member or longer-serving youth member can foster a helpful and strategic relationship. The mentor can help guide and be a resource for the young person joining the SAG.

Spread the Word

Many SAGs have difficulty finding youth members simply because youth in the area are not aware of the opportunity to join.

Social media can get information out to a huge audience. Making Facebook groups, posting pictures on Instagram, and sending Tweets can help the group become better-known and people may be more excited to join.

THE JJDPA'S CORE PROTECTIONS

The JJDPA sets forth four core protections with which states must comply in order to be eligible to receive federal funding under the Act. The purpose of each core protection is to safeguard young people who come into contact with a state's juvenile justice system and to ensure appropriate, safe, and rehabilitative treatment. Individually, the core protections target different outcomes. Collectively, they create a framework for states' duties of care regarding young people.

When a state is found to be out of compliance with one or more of the protections, OJJDP is authorized to reduce the state's funding allocation under the JJDPA by 20% per core protection that is violated. [1]

In addition, the JJDPA currently provides that when a portion of a state's JJDPA funds are withheld for non-compliance, the state must use 50% of its remaining allocation to restore full compliance with the JJDPA. [2] This "penalty" urges states not to cherry-pick among the core protections, but instead to achieve and maintain compliance with all of them.

Core Protection: Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders

Under the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) protection, young people charged with a status offense may not be held in secure detention or confinement. [3] This provision seeks to ensure that young people who have not committed a delinquent or criminal offense are not incarcerated, and instead receive the family- and community-based services needed to address and remedy root causes of their behavior.

The JJDPA was updated in 1980 to include the Valid Court Order (VCO) exception. This allows judges to place young people who have engaged in status offense behaviors in a locked facility if they violated a Valid Court Order. An example of this could be a young person running away from home after being ordered by a judge to stay at home. This exception can be dangerous to non-delinquent youth and does not divert them from the justice system. In 2019, 30 states reported never using the Valid Court Order exception. Eight states reported using the exception over 100 times in 2019.

Facts Related to DSO:

- Young people who engage in status offense behaviors often come from difficult family and community circumstances. [4] Instead of addressing the underlying issues, detention has been shown to have a profound negative impact on young people's mental and physical health, as well as jeopardizing their education and future employment. [5]
- Detention is "the most expensive but least effective way to achieve public safety goals"; [6] and
- Detention costs vary from place to place, but it can cost as much as $134,000 annually to detain one individual youth. [7] Results from Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) sites show that proven community-based alternatives to detention save public dollars while keeping young people who do not pose a threat to public safety, such as young people charged with status offenses, in the community. [8]

Core Protection: Sight and Sound Separation

Under this protection, when young people are placed in an adult jail or lock-up, "sight and sound" contact with adult inmates is prohibited. This means that young people cannot be housed next to adult cells; share dining halls, recreation areas, or other common spaces with adult inmates; or be placed in any circumstance that may result in verbal or non-verbal communication with adult inmates. As with the Jail Removal core protection (below), this provision seeks to protect young people from threats, intimidation, and other forms of psychological abuse and physical assault.

Core Protection: Jail Removal

Under this protection, young people may not be detained in adult jails and/or lock-ups except for: during limited periods of time before or after a county hearing (six hours only to allow for processing); in rural areas that have been granted an exception (24 hours maximum, plus weekends and holidays); or during unsafe travel conditions. This provision is designed to protect youth from the dangers they may face when incarcerated with adult inmates, such as psychological abuse, physical assault, and isolation. As of December 2021, the protection will also apply to young people awaiting trial in criminal court unless it is found to be in the interest of justice.

Facts Related to Sight and Sound Separation and Jail Removal:

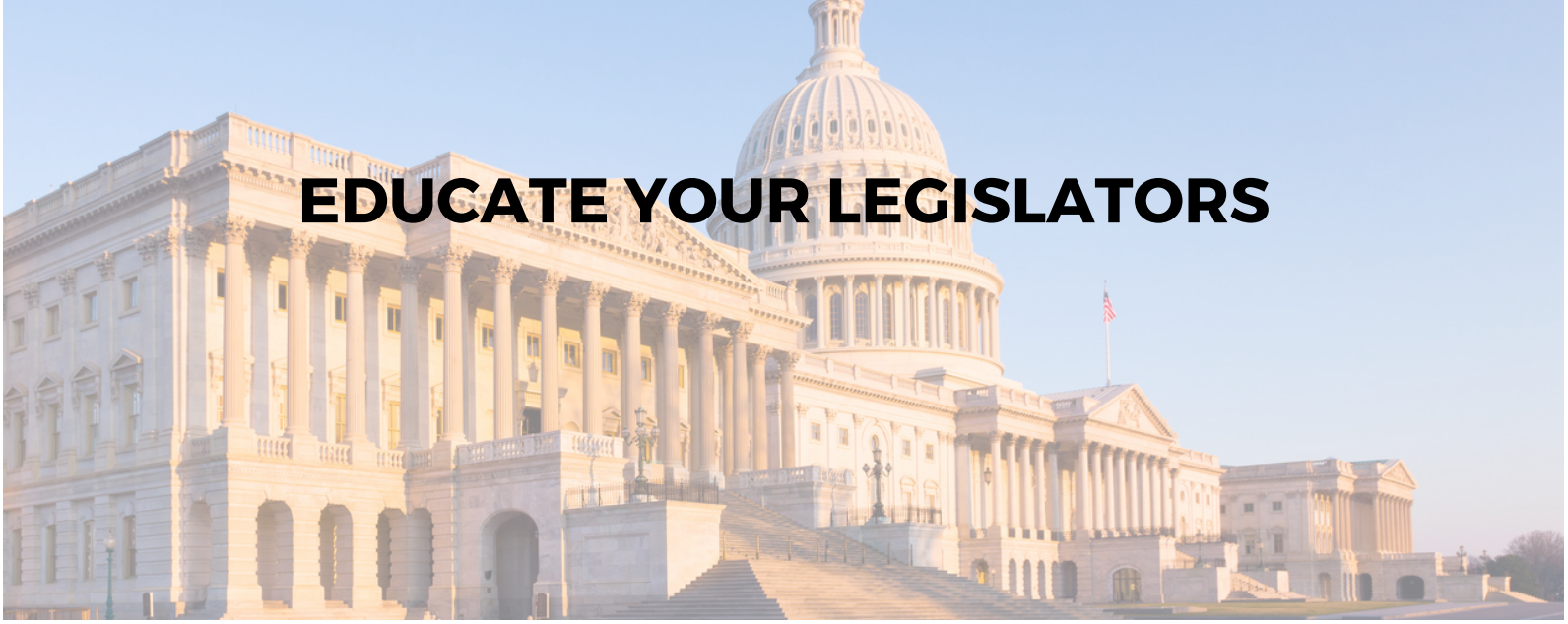
- Young people placed in adult jails and lock-ups are especially vulnerable to sexual and physical assault by adult inmates; [9]
- Young people are 36 times more likely to commit suicide in adult jails than in juvenile facilities; [10] and
- Young people placed in adult jails are more likely to re-offend and commit more serious crimes upon release than youth held in youth detention facilities. [11]

Core Protection: Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Under this protection, states are required to monitor and create plans to address the racial and ethnic disparities within the juvenile justice system. Such disparities have been shown to exist at key contact points, from arrest to detention to confinement. Given that youth of color comprise one-third of the youth population nationwide, but two-thirds of youth in contact with the juvenile justice system, [12] this provision seeks to make the system more equitable.

Facts Related to Racial and Ethnic Disparities:

- Young people of color are significantly over-represented in the juvenile justice system. African American young people make up 16% of youth nationwide, yet they are 40% of incarcerated youth; [13]
- Young people of color are sentenced more harshly than white youth, even when similarly situated, with the same court histories, and when charged with the same offense; [14] and
- Tribal youth make up 60% of the federal youth prison population and are 50% more likely than their white peers to receive the most-punitive option when entering the system, such as out-of-home placement. [15]



EDUCATE YOUR LEGISLATORS

As a SAG member, and someone who is knowledgeable about the juvenile justice system, you are well-positioned to educate your legislators about juvenile justice and delinquency prevention issues of importance to you, your family, your community, and your state.

You and your colleagues on the SAG serve a very important function to ensure that your legislators and public agency representatives understand critical juvenile justice concerns and the most effective responses to prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency.

Key things to remember during your meeting:

- Federal law prohibits the detention of youth charged with status offenses.
- If the underlying problem is at school or home, locked detention will not help resolve it. Family counseling and re-engagement in school are much more effective approaches.
- Detention will expose youth who skip school to youth who are committing more serious, delinquent, and criminal offenses.
- Detention causes students who are already disengaged from school to miss valuable time that could be spent on their education.
- You are never required to share your lived experience. It is perfectly fine to keep your experiences to yourself. Share only what you feel comfortable telling others; data and other sources can serve as other powerful ways to prove your points.

Preparing for a Legislative Meeting:

Think about the one thing you want to make sure the legislator hears and remembers, and make sure that you say it more than once.

Write a few notes to yourself. Feel free to use a list of simple key words or points that you want to be sure to make.
If you are talking about a bill, bring it with you. Highlight the parts you like or dislike. Bring an extra copy with notes for the law maker highlighting what you like or dislike.

Example: You are preparing for a meeting with a legislator and want to share your concerns about a bill that would allow weekend detention of young people who skip school. You would like the legislator to know that this is a counter-productive approach. You can ensure that this message comes across to the legislator by presenting powerful research and statistics showing that it is harmful to detain non-delinquent youth charged with status offenses.

THREE-YEAR PLANS

Your state's three-year JJDPA plan documents information about delinquency-prevention and juvenile-justice needs throughout your state and its local jurisdictions, and identifies your state's goals and strategies to address these needs. The process of developing the state's three-year JJDPA plan helps SAG members make positive changes in their states and use federal JJDPA funds and other resources wisely to complement the wide range of state- and locally-funded services and activities in juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. The Three-Year Plan covers information on each of the four core protections, and other issues your SAG thinks are most important, including:

- Data about the system and any problem points in the system;
- A plan to address any areas where your state is not following federal laws or guidelines, or fully meeting the core protections (this is sometimes called noncompliance); and
- Detailed information about your SAG's priorities and why these priorities were chosen.

Although it is called a three-year plan, *the plan is updated annually*. One of the jobs of the SAG is to make sure its three-year plan and annual plan updates are current.

In addition to complying with the JJDPA's core protections, states may also want to focus on services they can provide to young people that will keep them in school and away from the justice system, or plans to prevent young people from re-entering the system. These can be important things to address with your SAG and add to three-year and annual plans.

Read or skim your state's Three-Year Plan and highlight the areas of greatest importance to you. If you have questions, note them in the margins. You will review this document at SAG meetings, so the more you know about it in advance, the more you can participate and contribute.

COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE (CJJ)

About CJJ

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) is a nationwide coalition of SAGs and allies dedicated to preventing children and youth from becoming involved in the courts and upholding the highest standards of care when young people are charged with wrongdoing and enter the justice system. CJJ envisions a nation where fewer children are at risk of delinquency and if they are at risk or involved with the justice system, they and their families receive every possible opportunity to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives.

The CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee (ELC)

The Emerging Leaders Committee is a partnership between CJJ and young people in the field of juvenile justice, many of whom bring lived experience to their work. This group consists of 10 young people aged 16 to 24 from across the country. ELC Members serve on their state's SAGs, have previous or current juvenile justice involvement, and/or are interested in juvenile justice reform. Each member serves for one calendar year with an option to reapply. CJJ supports the ELC to ensure that youth perspectives are represented in all aspects and functions of CJJ's work, as well as CJJ's communications with state and federal policymakers. Members help to shape the overall program and policy agenda for CJJ and perform several other important duties, including:

- organizing the Youth Summit, an event that allows young people to come together to explore how they can collaborate and lead in juvenile justice reform;
- coordinating, reviewing, and selecting the recipient of the annual CJJ Spirit of Youth Award (see below); and
- developing and implementing educational training programs for both youth and adult SAG members.

The Spirit of Youth Award

The Spirit of Youth Award is given annually by CJJ to recognize and celebrate a young adult under the age of 28 who has made great strides despite involvement with the juvenile justice system, overcome personal obstacles, and is today making significant contributions to society. The Spirit of Youth Award also provides CJJ and the public with an important opportunity to learn from a young person's direct experience about the hard work and dedication it takes to build a better life, and how juvenile justice professionals and systems can most-effectively help.

The 2020 Spirit of Youth Award was given to Ezequiel Vasquez of Oregon, who has gone above and beyond to use his lived experience to help others who are involved with the justice system. He has participated in the Lewis and Clark Law School Legal Studies program in which he worked with lawyers, law students. state representatives, judges, and district attorneys to discuss issues such as the school-to-prison-pipeline. Ezequiel is recognized for his advocacy and support of incarcerated youth, through mentorship and dedicated leadership.

Other Opportunities to get involved with CJJ

Standing or Ad-Hoc Committee Involvement
CJJ's leadership committees help support the organization and its work. Committees typically meet monthly by conference call.

Standing committees are permanently established committees, while ad-hoc committees are formed to complete a specific task or objective based on the organization's current needs.

Write for the Newsletter
You can submit articles for the Juvenile Justice Monitor, CJJ's monthly e-newsletter. For example, if your SAG testifies at a legislative hearing, offer to write a paragraph for the CJJ monthly newsletter. Subscribe to the newsletter and/or write to the editor at info@juvjustice.org.

Write for our Blog
CJJ's blog, CJJ Today, is always accepting submissions. Submit your 400-750 word post to info@juvjustice.org. Blogging guidelines can be found at juvjustice.org/resources/1136.

Council of SAGs' Meetings, Conferences, and Trainings
Watch the calendar and request to attend CJJ's national and regional training conferences and events. Even if you are not your state Chair or Chair-designee, you can watch the Council of SAGs (the Chair/designee from each state) in action. At the Council's annual meeting, SAG chairs and SAG Chair-designees vote on issues important to all SAGs. You can observe how the meeting is run and understand more about how CJJ works. Furthermore, CJJ's conferences provide informational and training opportunities of value to you and your state, uniquely crafted for SAG members.

Hill Day and Hill Day Training
Want to meet with your members of Congress? Although it can seem like an intimidating process, CJJ is here to make it easier. CJJ offers training and supportive resources about how to educate your members of Congress on juvenile justice issues at each Annual National Conference. Email info@juvjustice.org for more information.

Join CJJ's Youth SAG Listserv
CJJ has a listserv to connect youth SAG members and meets quarterly via telephone to discuss ideas and share resources. Email info@juvjustice.org to be added to the list.

YOUTH SAG MEMBERS' FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How can I find out if any members of my SAG are from the same area of the state as I am?
A: Speak with your SAG Chair or Juvenile Justice Specialist to obtain a list of current members' contact information.

Q: My SAG's meetings take place hours away from where I live. Is there a possibility I could stay overnight in a hotel?
A: Each SAG has funds allocated for travel, meals, and mileage reimbursement for those members who travel long distances to meetings. Talk with your SAG Chair or JJ Specialist about whether these expenses can be covered in advance. Otherwise, ask how your SAG's reimbursement process works. If you prefer to join remotely, see if this is an option in your state.

Q: How often does my SAG meet?
A: Each state's SAG is different. Some meet monthly while others meet quarterly. Your SAG can inform you how often it meets once you are appointed.

Q: How can I become more involved with my SAG when I do not know anyone?
A: At each meeting, sit by a SAG member you have not yet met and introduce yourself. This way, you can learn more about what the person does and how they contribute to your SAG. Another way to get to know a smaller group of people within your SAG is to join a SAG subcommittee.

Q: I am not really following the conversation. I don't know what people are talking about. What should I do?
A: Start by either looking up the acronyms or reminding people politely to say the full names of the entities to which they are referring. Look up any confusing words in this manual's glossary (see page 17). During a break, you can pull aside the SAG Chair or another trusted person to ask about what is being discussed. Be sure to read any materials that are sent in advance of the meeting and prepare questions about topics that are confusing or need more clarity. Consider scheduling a call before or after the meeting with a mentor on the SAG or your state's JJ specialist.

Q: When does my appointment to my SAG end?
A: Each SAG is different. In some states, members are appointed without term limits, while in other states, you have to reapply for your position. Speak with your SAG Chair or Juvenile Justice Specialist to find out what your state does.

Q: What do I wear to SAG meetings?
A: Speak with your SAG Chair to get more information on the dress code. Generally, it is a good idea to dress more formally for your first meeting and see what everyone else is wearing. You should not need to buy new clothes to participate.

JUVENILE JUSTICE GLOSSARY

Adjudication: Judicial determination (judgment) that a youth is responsible for the delinquency or status offense that is charged in a petition or other charging document.

Adult Jail: A locked facility, administered by state, county, or local law enforcement and correctional agencies, designed to detain adults charged with violating criminal law, pending trial. Also, this term refers to facilities used to hold adults convicted of a crime who are sentenced for less than one year.

Adult Lockup: Generally, a municipal or police facility similar to an adult jail to temporarily hold persons before they have been formally charged.

Aftercare: A cohesive set of support services designed to provide assistance to youths returning to their communities or a new living situation following their release from a secure or non-secure program, residential placement, or treatment program. Services are designed to assist youth in making successful transitions into the community.

Arrest: Hold time in legal custody, either at the scene of a crime or as result of investigations. Arrest also can be the result of a complaint filed by a third party, an outstanding warrant, or a revocation of probation or parole.

Best Practices: Strategies and programs demonstrated through research and evaluation to be effective at preventing or intervening in juvenile justice system involvement. Best practice models include program models that have been shown, through rigorous evaluation and replication, to achieve target outcomes. Model programs can come from many valid sources [e.g., OJJDP's Model Programs Guide, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) Model Programs, state model program resources, etc.].

Case Management: A system of services that include referral, assessment, intervention, problem solving, evaluation, and follow-up.

Community-based: A facility, program, or service located near the young person or their family, usually a group home or other appropriate setting. Also, the term refers to programs of community supervision and services that maintain community and consumer participation in program planning, operation, and evaluation.

Commitment: A court order giving guardianship of a youth to the state department of juvenile justice or corrections. The facility in which a young person is placed may be publicly or privately operated and may range from a secure correctional placement to a non-secure or staff secure facility, group home, foster care, or day treatment setting.

Compliance: In order to receive its full fiscal year allocation of Formula Grants program funds under the JJDPA, a state must first demonstrate compliance with the deinstitutionalization of status offenders, jail removal, sight and sound, separation, and racial and ethnic disparities core protections.

JUVENILE JUSTICE GLOSSARY

Compliance Monitoring Report: OJJDP's Formula Grant Regulation requires states to submit information regarding compliance with the four core protections annually. This information is submitted through the Compliance Monitoring (CM) report.

Delinquency: An act committed by a youth that would be criminal if committed by an adult. The juvenile court has jurisdiction over delinquent acts. Delinquent acts include crimes against persons, crimes against property, drug offenses, and crimes against public order.

Designated State Agency: The organization tasked with ensuring a state's compliance with the JJDPA.

Detention: The placement of a youth in a secure facility under court authority at some point between the time of referral to court intake and case disposition. Detention prior to case disposition is known as pre-dispositional detention. The reasons for post-dispositional detention generally include awaiting placement, short-term sentencing to detention, or being a danger to oneself or others.

Discretionary funds: Grants other than the JJDPA Formula Grants that OJJDP makes directly to individuals or agencies to provide specific youth services.

Disposition: Sanction ordered or treatment plan decided upon or initiated in a particular case by a juvenile court. The range of options available to a court typically includes commitment to an institution; placement in a group or foster home or other residential facility; probation (either regular or intensive supervision); referral to an outside agency, day treatment, or mental health program; or imposition of a fine, community service, or restitution.

Diversion: A mechanism designed to hold youths accountable for their actions by sanctioning behavior and in some cases securing services, but at the same time generally avoiding formal court processing in the juvenile justice system.

Formal Petition filed: A case that is being forwarded for judicial resolution. These types of cases account for a small number of the total cases coming though the intake process.

Formula Grants: The Formula Grants Program, funded by OJJDP, which provides grant monies to states and territories that support state and local delinquency prevention and intervention efforts and juvenile justice system improvements. Juvenile Justice Specialists in each state administer the funding through sub-grants to units of local government, local private agencies, and tribal governments for programs in accordance with legislative requirements.

Gender-specific services: Services designed to promote healthy attitudes, behaviors and lifestyles, and promote social competence among youth who identify with a specified gender. Key program elements generally address issues in the context of relationships to peers, family, school, and community.

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Goals: Broad statements (i.e., written in general terms) that convey a program's overall intent to change, reduce, or eliminate the problem described. Goals identify the program's intended short- and long-term results.

Graduated Sanctions: A set of integrated intervention strategies designed to operate in unison to enhance accountability, ensure public safety, and reduce recidivism by preventing future delinquent behavior. The term "graduated sanctions" implies that the penalties for delinquent activity should move from limited interventions to more restrictive (i.e., graduated) penalties according to the severity and nature of the crime. In other words, youth who commit serious and violent offenses should receive more restrictive sentences than youth who commit less serious offenses.

Grants: Awards of financial assistance, the principal purposes of which are to transfer a thing of value from a federal or state agency to a recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States [see 31 U.S.C. 6101(3)]. A grant is distinguished from a contract, which is used to acquire property or services for the federal government's direct benefit or use.

Intake: The point at which a case is sent to the juvenile court for consideration. At this point, a case could either be forwarded for formal processing and a hearing by the judge, or it could be sent through less-formal channels such as diversion or informal processing.

Juvenile Courts: These are courts that have jurisdiction over children who are younger than the maximum age of juvenile jurisdiction who violate the law (that is, children charged with delinquent acts or status offenses). The maximum age of juvenile court jurisdiction varies by state, but in most states, young people age out of juvenile court jurisdiction when they turn 18. States also have the discretion to transfer children under juvenile court jurisdiction to adult court jurisdiction under certain circumstances. Juvenile courts also have jurisdiction over non-delinquent but neglected or abused children.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act: Congress enacted the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) (P.L. No. 93-415, 42 U.S.C. & 5601 et seg.) in 1974 and reauthorized it in 2018. The JJDPA mandates that states comply with four core protections (see pages 9-11) to participate in the JJDPA's Formula Grants programs. This landmark legislation established OJJDP to support local and state efforts to prevent delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system.

Non-offender: A youth who is subject to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court usually under abuse, dependency, or neglect statutes for reasons other than legally prohibited conduct.

Objectives: Derived from the program goals and explain how the program goals will be accomplished. Objectives are well-defined, specific, quantifiable statements of the program's desired results and they should include the target level of accomplishment, thereby further defining goals and providing the means to measure program performance.

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Parole: A conditional release from imprisonment that entitles the formerly-imprisoned person to serve the remainder of their sentence outside the correctional institution as long as the terms of the release are not violated.

Post-disposition: The period following the imposition of a sanction ordered or treatment plan decided upon or initiated in a particular case by a juvenile court.

Pre-disposition: The period after the filing of a charge and prior to a sanction ordered or treatment plan decided upon or initiated in a particular case by juvenile court.

Probation: Cases in which youth are placed on informal/voluntary or formal/court-ordered supervision. A violation occurs when a youth violates the terms of the probation.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED): Refers to the differences in treatment and experience of youths of color and white youths while interacting with the juvenile justice system. Youth of color are more-often arrested than their white peers, more likely to be detained (and more likely to be detained in adult facilities), more likely to be formally charged, more likely to be waived to adult courts, and on average, receive harsher sentences and fewer services, than their white peers for similar behaviors.

Risk Assessment Instruments: Tools that are used in jurisdictions to determine a young person's previous behaviors in an attempt to determine the likelihood that the person will engage in similar behaviors again in the future. These instruments are administered through an interview with the person during intake or prior to a detention hearing.

Secure: As used to define a detention or correctional facility, this term includes residential and non-residential facilities that include fixtures, such as locked rooms and buildings, fences, or other physical structures designed to physically restrict the movements and activities of persons in custody. It does not include facilities where physical restriction of movement or activities is achieved solely through facility staff.

State Advisory Group (SAG): A governor-appointed body that determines what projects will receive federal funds in its home state, and what the system's juvenile justice goals should be. These boards were created under the JJDPA and at least 20 percent of their membership most be youth.

Status Offense: Conduct that would not, under the law of the jurisdiction in which the behavior occurred, be a crime if committed by an adult. Status offenses include truancy, curfew violations, failure to follow a parent's rules, running away, and underage possession and/or consumption of alcohol or tobacco.

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Title V: The Title V Youth PROMISE program is a federal grants program to fund collaborative, community-based delinquency prevention efforts. The program provides local communities with funding and a guiding framework for developing and implementing comprehensive juvenile delinquency prevention plans.

Truancy: Skipping or missing school without a good reason for a specified number of days. This number can typically be found in a state's status offense laws.

Type 1 crimes: Classification used by the FBI, traditionally used as a measure of serious crimes, including murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Also referred to as index crimes.

Valid Court Order: An order given by a juvenile court judge to a youth who was brought before the court and made subject to an order, typically for a status offense behavior. An example of such an order would be a case in which a young person was brought before the court on charges of truancy and was ordered by the court to attend classes. There is currently an exception within the JJDPA that permits the secure/locked detention of a youth for violation of a court order under certain circumstances (see below).

Valid Court Order Exception: Permits the secure/locked detention of a youth for violation of a court order prohibiting behaviors such as running away from home or skipping school. This exception was no longer in use in more than half of all states as of July 2020.

Waived to Criminal Court: Cases that originated in juvenile court but are transferred to adult criminal court as the result of a judicial waiver hearing in juvenile court.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABA	American Bar Association
BARJ	Balanced and Restorative Justice
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior
BJA	Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice
BJS	Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice
CCAS	Center for Coordinated Assistance to the States
CJJ	Coalition for Juvenile Justice
CWLA	Child Welfare League of America
DOJ	U.S. Department of Justice
DSA	Designated State Agency
DSO	Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders
ELC	Emerging Leaders Committee
HHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
JABG	Juvenile Accountability Block Grant
JJAC	Juvenile Justice Advisory Council
JJAG	Juvenile Justice Advisory Group
JJDPA	Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act
JJS	Juvenile Justice Specialist
NACO	National Association of Counties
NCJFCJ	National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
NCCD	National Council on Crime and Delinquency
NCJA	National Criminal Justice Association
NGA	National Governor's Association

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

NTTAC	National Training and Technical Assistance Center
OGC	Office of General Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice
OJJDP	Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
OJP	Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice
R/ED	Racial and Ethnic Disparities
RFP	Request for Proposals
SAC	Statistical Analysis Center
SAG	State Advisory Group
TA	Technical Assistance
T&TA	Training and Technical Assistance
VCO	Valid Court Order

ENDNOTES

1 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act § 223(c)(1).
2 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act § 223(c)(2)(A).
3 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act § 223(a)(11).
4 Juvenile Status Offenses Fact Sheet, Act4JJ, available at http://www.act4jj.org/media/factsheets/factsheet_ 17.pdf.
5 Holman, B. & Ziedenberg, J. (2006). The Dangers of Detention: The Impact of Incarcerating Youth in Detention and Other Secure Facilities, Justice Policy Institute, November , p.2., as cited in Fact Sheet: Community- Based and Home-Based Alternatives to Incarceration, Act4JJ Campaign, available at http://www. act4jj.org/media/factsheets/factsheet_59.pdf.
6 Detention Reform: A Cost Saving Approach, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), The Annie E. Casey Foundation, available at http://www.aecf.org/~/media/Pubs/Other/D/DetentionReformACostSavingApproach/JDAI_facts_1.pdf.
7 Calculating the Full Price Tag for Youth Incarceration, Justice Policy Institute, available at http://www.justicepolicy.org/uploads/justicepolicy/documents/sticker_shock_final_v2.pdf
8 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act § 223(a)(12).
9 Fact Sheet: Jail Removal and Sight and Sound Core Protections, Act4JJ, available at http://www.act4jj.org/ media/factsheets/factsheet_60.pdf.
10 Jailing Juveniles: The Dangers of Incarcerating Youth in Adult Jails in America, Campaign for Youth Justice, p. 4, available at http://www.campaign4youthjustice.com/Downloads/NationalReportsArticles/CFYJ-Jailing_Juveniles_Report_2007-11-15.pdf, as cited in Fact Sheet: Jail Removal and Sight and Sound Core Protections, Act4JJ, available at http://www.act4jj.org/media/factsheets/factsheet_60.pdf.
11 Effects on Violence of Laws and Policies Facilitating the Transfer of Youth from the Juvenile to the Adult Justice System, A Report on Recommendations of the Task Force on Community Preventive Services, available at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5609.pdf, and Juvenile Transfer Laws: An Effective Deterrent to Delinquency?, Richard Redding, Office of Justice Programs, OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin, available at http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/220595.pdf (August 2008), as cited in Fact Sheet: Jail Removal and Sight and Sound Core Protections, available at http://www.act4jj.org/media/ factsheets/factsheet_60.pdf.
12 The W Haywood Burns Institute, National Map of Unbalanced Youth Justice. Available at http://data.burnsinstitute.org/#comparison=3&placement=3&races=1,2,3,4,5,6&offenses=5,2,8,1,9,11,10&year=2015&view=graph.
13 Id.
14 The Sentencing Project, Racial Disparities in Youth Committments and Arrests, available at https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/racial-disparities-in-youth-commitments-and-arrests/.
15 Tribal Youth in the Juvenile Justice System, Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention, available at https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/Tribal-youth-in-the-Juvenile-Justice-System.pdf.

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