



Justice Advisory Council Newsletter

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The Justice Advisory Council newsletter is a communication platform to disseminate information to Cook County stakeholders on efforts being made to reduce the overreliance on incarceration for adolescents and adults.

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

There is no doubt that we are at a pivotal point in our history as a community and a city. I must admit that I often have to brace myself now when turning on the news- knowing that the death toll continues to rise and that whole families and communities are further decimated by the seemingly intractable issues of violence.

Although we've made strides in reforming our criminal justice system, when I hear that 100 people were shot in a week, it makes it hard to see the fruits of that progress. Fortunately, I have had opportunities recently that remind me of why we do the work that we do. Our young people, despite the difficult paths they have to navigate, are still able to express joy and hope. It is with their voices that we begin to understand what's at stake and that we can't afford to fail them, they deserve so much more.

The following poem, written by one of our Mikva Challenge Juvenile Justice Council members Ashton Taylor, is a powerful demonstration of the youth voice. We hope it provides you with a glimpse into a world many of us can never even imagine.

Where Do I End Up?

Even after these cell doors open I remain broken
Hating the unknown
My own existence
I would disown
My own resistance
On this battlefield, I'm alone
Once these cell doors open
Where do I end up?

Upcoming Events

State of LGBT Health Symposium

The Intersection of Research and Policy

This symposium features a keynote lecture along with detailed discussion on LGBT health funding and priorities at the National Institutes of Health. Presentations by the [Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing](#) faculty will follow. Reception to take place afterwards in the courtyard.

Thursday, August 18, 2016
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Northwestern University
School of Law
Aspen Hall
375 E. Chicago Ave, Chicago

More information and registration [here](#)

Strategies for Engaging Minority Young Adults in Healthcare

Making Services and Practices More Accessible

Presented by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Office of Regional Operations, the second half of this 2-part webinar series will showcase innovative ideas to engage and retain minority young adults (ages 18-24) in healthcare.

Wednesday, August 24, 2016

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Online Webinar

How do I get on my feet when nobody taught me how to stand up?
But to man up,
Even though after I was born no man ran up.
I was tired of having my hand out for hands out.
Rather do a stick up than to stand out
When I ran up
I settled for some metal and told them to put their hands up.
Now look at where I end up
I did the crime
Now the time
So after that where do I end up
After you've said goodbye and good luck?
I'm stuck
Between a hope and a dream
A Nope and a scream
I need help from a team.
Education is now my number one priority
Because as a minority
They constantly
Throw the book at me
I'm more than a number, look at me
Here I am in this cold world I call home
All Alone in a reality
That has fueled my insanity
Money equals Vanity
Understandably
Nobody taught how to be a man to me
But I single handedly
Randomly
Made a way for me
To candidly
Speak my truth.
Speak for all the lost souls Speak for the youth
Who have no goals
Who's mental took a toll
To all the Boys and girls both black and brown
Who forgot they were born with a crown
And a smile instead of a frown

Upcoming Events Cont'd

UNCF Walk for Education

The Justice Advisory Council recently accepted the challenge of raising funds in support of the UNCF Walk for Education scheduled for

September 19, 2015 at
Burnham Park Grove 7,
South Lake Shore Drive @
39th Street.

This important event will make education accessible to everyone by eliminating financial barriers for deserving students. You can help by supporting with a generous donation to reach our goal.

Making a secure, safe, tax-deductible donation is faster and easier than you think. By simply clicking the link below, you can go to the Justice Advisory Council page and contribute in less than five minutes.

Whatever you can give will help - it all adds up! I greatly appreciate your support and will keep you posted on our progress.

Also, when you donate join our team, The Justice Advisory Council.

[Click here to view the team page for Justice Advisory Council](#)

Grant Highlights

JAC 1st Annual Lunch and Learn

The Justice Advisory Council hosted their first Lunch & Learn on Tuesday June 28, 2016 at the YMCA Metro Chicago. There were 24 agencies in attendance, which included 35 participants, and 3 JAC Staff. The participants

had the opportunity to partake in a panel discussion regarding “Measuring Impact.” The three panelists included Malik Nevels, Executive Director, Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention, Kathy Lyons, Executive Director, James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy, and Meg Helder, Director of Program Operations, YMCA Chicago. The participants were very excited to be able to meet other current grantees, network, and share their insights on evaluations from various perspectives.



BUILD, Inc.

Founded in 1969 as a pioneering gang intervention program, today BUILD is an established leader in gang intervention, violence prevention, and youth development serving nearly 2,000 high-need youth in five of Chicago's most challenged communities on the West and South Sides. BUILD employs a holistic array of services including violence and gang prevention and

intervention, afterschool and out-of-school enrichment, education support and college/career readiness, youth leadership and civic engagement, health and wellness, and arts enrichment. BUILD's



Upcoming Events Cont'd

Save the Date!

St. Joseph Services' 12th
Annual Fall Festival
Saturday October 22, 2016

Hosted at
Bredeman Lexus and Ford
Glenview, Illinois

Doors open at 7pm

\$50 per person includes live
music, light buffet, drinks,
and an awesome silent
auction

For more information visit:
www.stjosephservices.org



Join Us For CGLA's
"I Am Somebody" Gala

CGLA will unveil it's "I Am Somebody" photo exhibit on September 30th! This exhibit shares a glimpse into the lives of people who will inspire you, enlighten you and show you that every life does matter. In a world where we seem to be growing further and further apart each day, "I Am Somebody" aims to celebrate our sameness as human beings and not dwell in our differences or our judgements of one another.

This event will take place at the Hyatt Regency Chicago in the Crystal Ballroom on Tuesday, October 4, 2016.

For more information visit:
<http://www.cgla.net/>

success has been predicated on a combination of deep ties to the community, culturally relevant practices, and evidence-based programs.

With funding from the Justice Advisory Council, BUILD worked to reduce the recidivism rate and change the life trajectories for 75 young men in the Fuller Park and Grand Boulevard communities, where gang and drug activity is highly concentrated.



BUILD's primary objective is to ensure that every child has a bright future regardless of individual challenges or neighborhood barriers. To transform lives from at-risk to at-hope, BUILD provides comprehensive services across critical developmental milestones, meeting young people where they are and helping them successfully transition in key aspects of their lives. Providing continuity in communities that too often face disruption and isolation, BUILD strives to be a constant and



trusted resource for youth throughout their lives, whether they are struggling to stay in school and out of gangs, or striving to go to college and build a career.

BUILD is proud to have partnered with the JAC to ensure that 95% of the youth in our program did not recidivate. Together we can grow hope, build lives and save futures.

Mikva Challenge Juvenile Justice Council

President Preckwinkle met with the Mikva Challenge Juvenile Justice Council to hear their recommendations to improve system involved youths' transition to community. Each year the Council focuses on a new "framing question" regarding the juvenile justice system.

Past recommendations resulted in the creation of an expungement app for youth (<http://www.expunge.io/>) and changes at the juvenile

Did You Know?

To date, President Obama has granted 562 commutations: more commutations than the previous nine presidents combined and more commutations than any individual president in nearly a century. A majority of those granted a commutation were imprisoned for nonviolent drug crimes.

On July 29, Gov. Bruce Rauner **signed Senate Bill 2228**, which decriminalizes possession of small amounts of marijuana. Effective immediately, the new law makes possession of up to 10 grams of marijuana a civil offense punishable by a fine of between \$100 and \$200.

The bill also provides that law enforcement will automatically expunge the civil citation from the record of anyone charged with possessing 10 or fewer grams of marijuana. This would occur within six months after the resolution of the offense and would reduce the chance that possession of small amounts of marijuana will keep a person from finding employment and supporting himself.

detention center to make spaces more youth friendly. This year the Council's recommendations included expanding restorative justice practices in schools and other systems, workforce development starting in facilities, and access to supportive and caring adults who are not formally connected to the system.



President Preckwinkle with the Mikva Juvenile Justice Council

Criminal Justice Reform Community Triage Center

The Community Triage Center (CTC) is in the final stages of construction and scheduled to open soon in Roseland. A primary goal of the CTC is to reduce the number of detainees in the Cook County Jail who have an identified behavioral health condition by connecting them with care in the community. It is estimated that on any given day, approximately 20% of the detainees at Cook County Jail have a behavioral health issue which may have contributed to their detention.

Lanetta Haynes Turner and Rebecca Janowitz recently participated in a walkthrough of the CTC, which will provide evaluation, crisis stabilization and treatment for patients presenting with psychiatric and/or substance-related crises, and work closely with the local

Did You Know Cont'd

Reimagine Illinois

President Preckwinkle recently spoke about the need for justice reinvestment and a continued push to reform the criminal justice system at the Healing & Justice for Stronger Communities event. Organized by the Reimagine Justice Illinois alliance.

This event included personal testimonies from crime survivors, individuals directly impacted by the justice system, and faith leaders. After the heartfelt words by those in attendance, the President was asked to tour the "Healing Through Art" exhibit, a healing space for crime survivors which incorporates the arts as a foundation for statewide healing and justice work.

Gun Violence in Cook County

To date, For YTD, there have been 422 gun homicides in Cook County, with 370 occurring in Chicago. Of those, 336 are black victims, with 329 black deaths occurring in Chicago. Of the 422, gun homicide victims, 53 were latino victims, with 48 of those deaths occurring in Chicago.

Currently, there have been 2,510 shooting victims in Chicago, as compared to all of 2015 where there were 2,988 shooting victims.

hospitals and outpatient mental health services to best meet patient needs 24 hours a day, 7 days week, 365 days per year. Additionally, Cook County Health and Hospital System intends to work closely with the Chicago Police Department to allow police officers to drop off individuals, as well as provide walk-in services for residents and for those released from the Cook County Jail needing follow-up care.

Better Health Through Housing

The JAC is currently participating in the Better Health through Housing and Employment Initiative, where the goal is to leverage current development opportunities of Cook County Health and Hospital System facilities and need for affordable and supportive housing, along with strengthening employment opportunities for people with criminal backgrounds, and finally to identify and coordinate broader county funding streams to impact vulnerable populations common to those streams (homeless or at-risk, corrections, health/mental health, workforce development and affordable housing).

Cook County Collaborative for High School Completion

Justice involved men and women need opportunities for education. Often they are out of school for long periods of time and have very limited or no opportunity to reenroll. The JAC recognizes that academic achievement is a main predictor of outcomes along the life course and we look to provide support in this area.

Kamil Walton, of Ford Heights Community Services, Inc. (FHCS) is looking for young men and women over the age of seventeen who are motivated to go beyond the GED. FHCS's program offers GED preparation, job training and mentoring. The program helps young people succeed as students and employees. Interested young people can apply at <http://www.fhcsai.org/ged-readiness-program.html>

South Suburban Report

The following is from Dan Kowalski, summer associate for the Justice Advisory Council, and second-year master student at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy.

Updates

As part of an overall effort to revamp Cook County's website, the JAC has revised and added content to our webpage. The new website is now live at:

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/>

The next Justice Advisory Council Meeting will be held September 8, 2016
Location 118 N. Clark
4th Floor Conference Room A, 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

The next Justice Advisory Council Capacity Building workshop will be held in late November. Stay tuned for details

Be on the lookout for the next Justice Advisory Council Newsletter to be released in November 2016.

Growing up in suburban Cook County, I have seen surprising changes in patterns of poverty and criminal justice especially over the past ten years. South Suburban Cook County is home to major transportation and industry centers. However, high poverty, unemployment, and crime rates have stunted development in the region. In fact, the South Suburbs have the highest violent crime rate (at 422 per 100K residents) and the highest property crime rate (at 2,891 per 100K residents) of all suburban Cook County regions. Some municipalities suffer more than others. Harvey and Riverdale, for instance have higher violent crime rates than the City of Chicago or any other suburban municipality. Sauk Village, Chicago Heights, Calumet City, and Hazel Crest also round out the top 10 most violent suburbs.

The additional costs to families and the community in fees and fines, broken ties, and lost human capital from incarceration are staggering. Many agencies and community organizations are working to improve the health of the economic and criminal justice systems in South Suburban Cook County, including the county's Bureau of Economic Development and Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, United Way, and many more. I hope to contribute some new data and strategies to aid in the missions of the JAC to prevent violence, reduce recidivism, and ensure restorative justice in the South Suburbs."

Legislative Reform

The White House Data Driven Initiative

Locally, on August 3, 2016 the Cook County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution introduced as The White House Data Driven Initiative. The initiative encourages communities to implement strategies proven to be effective in reducing unnecessary incarceration in jails such as using data to identify and proactively break the cycle of incarceration, specifically to bring data together from across criminal justice and health systems to identify individuals with the highest number of contacts with police, ambulance, emergency departments, and other services, and link them to health, behavioral health, and social services in the community, with a goal of reducing overreliance on emergency healthcare and encounters with the criminal justice system.
