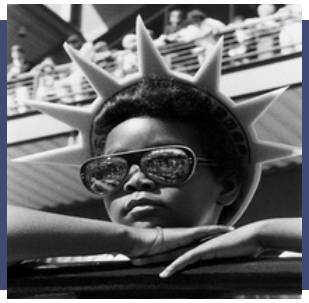
CFCC SYMPOSIUM 2024

KEEPING YOUTH IN COMMUNITY: POLICIES, PRACTICES, AND PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE YOUTH JUSTICE



October 1, 2024 | 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

The Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts

University of Baltimore School of Law

Byron L. Warnken Moot Court Room
John and Frances Angelos Law Center
1401 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

Maryland's latest legislative session ended with the enactment of laws that will criminalize and surveil more youth. Prior advances for youth justice gave way to the narrative that accountability requires punishment and isolation from community. The CFCC 2024 Symposium will include keynote presentation and panel discussions to help attendees understand how investments in non-punitive, community-based programming are the keys to unlock better outcomes for youth, families, and communities. Community providers, youth, family members of impacted youth, and state leaders will leave the CFCC 2024 Symposium with a plan to take steps towards creating, supporting, and enhancing efficacious youth and family-serving community-based programs that are restorative, inclusive, evidenced-based, anti-racist, developmentally-appropriate, and culturally competent.



Nate Balis, Director of the Juvenile Justice Strategy Group at the Anne E. Casey Foundation

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Registration/Coffee & Mingle

9:00 - 9:30 AM

Welcome: Lavonda Reed, Dean of the University of Baltimore School of Law and Aubrey Edwards-Luce, CFCC Executive Director

9:30 - 10:15 AM

Keynote by Nate Balis

10:25 - 11:25 AM

Panel One: The Community is the Key to Preventing Youth Legal System Involvement

11:25 - 11:40 AM

Reflection and Evaluations

11:45 - 1:00 PM

Lunch on your own

1:00 - 2:10 PM

Panel Two: Promoting Community Bonds During Legal Proceedings

2:10 - 2:20 PM

Reflection and Evaluations

2:20- 3:20 PM

Panel Three: Fostering Youth Connection to Community During Re-Entry

3:20 - 3:30 PM

Reflection and Evaluations

3:30 - 4:30 PM

Closing: Shanta Trivedi, CFCC Faculty Director

Panel One: The Community is the Key to Preventing Youth Legal System Involvement

Youth legal system involvement carries heavy burdens for children, families, and communities. The governmental costs are weighty as well. The Justice Policy Institute reported that the average state spent $214,620 to incarcerate one young person in 2020- a 44% increase from just six years earlier. Fueled by evidence, various efforts have successfully culminated in a steady 20-year decline in youth arrests, adjudications, detentions, and commitments - reducing the number of youth who experience the trauma of system involvement and saving taxpayers and the government significant amounts of money. Despite this progress, youth with disabilities and youth of color continue to be disproportionately pushed into the court system. How do we continue the trend of shrinking the youth legal system's footprint in the face of bias, misinformation, and fear? How do we transform our efforts so that Black, Hispanic, and Native American children and children with disabilities are not disproportionately punished by the legal system? Panel One will highlight the programs, policies, and practices that can help prevent children–especially children of color and those with disabilities– from being pulled into the legal system. Speakers will share how grantmaking, legislative advocacy, and community-based programs can support youth in their communities while still enhancing public safety.



Kimberly J. Martin
Moderator



Robert Bizzell



Robin Campbell



Elyzah Johnson



Marcy Mistrett

Panel Two: Promoting Community Bonds During Legal Proceedings

Kids don't stop being kids when they are involved with the court system. Youth in the legal system need healthy and supportive connections to their families and communities during legal proceedings. Isolation from their communities can lead to deterioration of their mental and physical well-being, which can lead to numerous negative consequences. Since the early 2000's, many courts that serve youth have piloted diversion programs and community-based accountability programs to foster community connection during legal proceedings. Panel Two will explore some of these alternative court models, identify the policies and practices that hinder more community connections, and identify the gaps in community-based program offerings that need to be filled.



Alice Wilkerson
Moderator



Judge Charles Blomquist



Michelle Kim



Jennifer Rallo



Josh Rovner

Panel Three: Fostering Youth Connection to Community During Re-entry

Re-entry is a crucial time for ensuring that youth are connected to their communities. Our society's pathologization of adolescence leads us to believe that the majority of youth returning from court ordered placements need intensive support in isolation from their communities. However, evidence indicates that returning youth need access to community-based mentorship, academic supports, health care, and employment opportunities in order to reach their fullest social, academic, and behavioral potential. The final panel will explore the practices, policies, and programs that can help communities address the real needs of youth upon re-entry.



Eduardo Ferrer
Moderator



James Dold



Lisa Garry



Kelly Quinn



Heather Warnken

Scan to visit the event website for more information on the event, speaker bios, parking and lunch locations.

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