

Reform Through Leadership



Mission

The mission of CJCA is to connect, develop and strengthen youth corrections leaders so that they may implement and sustain reforms in their systems to improve outcomes for youth, families and communities.

We believe every youth should leave a correctional program in a better place than when he or she came in.

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The Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) is a national non-profit organization formed in 1994 to improve juvenile correctional services, programs and practices and to provide national leadership and leadership development for the individuals responsible for the systems. CJCA represents the youth correctional chief executive officers in 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and major metropolitan counties.

CJCA convenes its members for two Annual Meetings, the Leadership Institute and the New Directors Seminar for newly appointed youth corrections chief executive officers. The New Directors Seminar is a proven training vehicle for new administrators which uses a peer-to-peer training forum that connects veteran administrators with the newly appointed administrators. An average of ten new directors have attended each year since 1994.

CJCA is a National Resource Bank member and represents youth corrections leaders in the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Models for Change (MfC) reform initiative. In conjunction with the MfC initiative, CJCA annually conducts the Leadership Institute for all directors.

CJCA developed Performance-based Standards (PbS) for youth correction and detention facilities to address safety, health and quality of life issues found to be problematic in the 1994 Condition of Confinement Study. PbS now operates as its own non-profit organization.

For more information about CJCA, please visit http://www.cjca.net or see our profile on the Giving Library at www.givinglibrary.org/ organizations/Council-of-Juvenile-Correctional-Administrators

Areas of Involvement

New Directors Seminar

CJCA's signature program is our New Directors Seminar. This is the only program of its kind, which uses a peer-to-peer training forum that connects veteran directors with newly appointed administrators in a mentoring program. At the seminar, we facilitate group discussions which include segments on contemporary issues facing youth corrections and personal experience case studies. Many relationships formed at the New Directors Seminar continue long into a directors tenure, helping to build a sense of camaraderie among the CJCA members.

MacArthur Foundation Models for Change

CJCA has participated in the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Models for Change (MfC) reform initiative from its conception through implementation and is currently working with MfC in its legacy phase. CJCA is conducting a Resource Network for Youth Corrections Leaders and Professionals to transfer knowledge, innovations and practical reform strategies produced in the ten-year MfC reform initiative. The CJCA Resource Network is employing a three -pronged approach to transfer knowledge and expand expertise: Creation of a web-based National Hub: Online Center for Information, Activities and Communications; conducting an annual Leadership Institute for training CJCA members in MfC principles, products and tools and administering technical assistance grants to help jurisdictions implement the learning from MfC.

CSG

CJCA is assisting The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center develop and implement its comprehensive Juvenile Justice Project. CJCA's executive director and CEOs from the Texas Juvenile Justice Department and Utah Division of Juvenile Justice serve on the Justice Center's Juvenile Justice Advisory Board. CJCA is participating in the development of a Juvenile Planning and Implementation Guide for technical assistance projects with Justice Center grantees. CJCA also consults with Second Chance Act grantees through conference calls and monitoring site visits to grantees. CJCA's executive director also serves on the National Reentry Resource Center's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, which is administered by CSG.

Pew Charitable Trusts

CJCA is assisting Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew) in the educational work of their state centered Public Safety Performance Project (PSPP). PSPP works with states to advance data-driven, fiscally sound policies and practices in the criminal and juvenile justice systems that protect public safety, hold offenders accountable, and control corrections costs.

Performance-based Standards (PbS)

Developed in by CJCA in 1994 to address dangerous conditions in America's juvenile facilities, Performance-based Standards (PbS) is a data-driven improvement model grounded in research that holds juvenile justice facilities and programs to the highest standards of operations, programs and services. PbS won the 2004 Innovations in American Government Award for effectively and uniquely addressing conditions of confinement. PbS supports integration if its model through training, technical assistance, expert coaching and resources. For more information please visit: www.pbstandards.org.