

Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators

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Mission

To connect, develop and strengthen youth corrections leaders to maximize their capacities to implement and sustain reforms in their systems that will improve outcomes for youth, families and communities.

Vision

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

Core Values

- Continuous Learning
- Collaboration
- Rehabilitation
- Parental Engagement
- Supportive Communities
- Diversity

Executive Director

Michael P. Dempsey

Elected Officers

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OUTCOME-BASED INVESTMENTS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

The juvenile justice system should focus on research-based practices that have proven to reduce reoffending. Public safety requires holding the juvenile justice system and those we serve accountable and this can be done by using data to guide system decisions and funding.

In the past ten years, research on what works to prevent juvenile justice system involvement and improve outcomes has grown. Juvenile justice systems have learned reducing the use of juvenile detention and out-of-home placement, using assessment tools to identify risks and needs, bringing attention to racial and ethnic disparities, looking for ways to engage affected families in the process, and raising the age at which juvenile court jurisdiction ends are principles that will improve outcomes. A developmental approach at every decision point, and by all stakeholders in the juvenile justice system, will strengthen policies and practice with progressing knowledge of adolescent development and research evidence on the effects of juvenile justice interventions. (Lipsey, 2010) (Council, 2013)

This wide body of research has provided a framework for reform, enhancements, or refinement of current systems. Moving research into practice is a challenge for many jurisdictions.

POSITION STATEMENT

- The Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) strongly supports targeted and strategic investments in juvenile crime prevention programs as part of a comprehensive strategy to enhance public safety and reduce youth violence and crime.
- CJCA strongly recommends investment in a systematic approach to translating research into practice for key stakeholders who work directly with system-involved youth.
- CJCA supports the development of relevant, measurable outcomes to demonstrate the value of investments in experimental, innovative and/or promising intervention approaches.