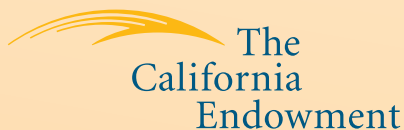


Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Initiative



December 3–4, 2013
Anaheim, California

This initiative is made possible by:



The Walter S. Johnson Foundation

Sponsors:

Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye
Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson
Attorney General Kamala Harris
Diana Dooley, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Judicial Council of California
California Department of Education
California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care
California Child Welfare Council

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, State Dependency Court Improvement Grants

Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Summit, December 3-4
An Overview of How Truancy, School Discipline, and Trauma Affect Children and Youth and What We Can Do About It

SUMMIT CONVENORS

Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of California, co-convened the *Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Summit* with staff and leadership support from the Administrative Office of the Courts and the California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care. Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye was inspired to convene the summit after attending the *National Leadership Summit on School-Justice Partnerships* in New York in March 2012.

Tom Torlakson, California Superintendent of Public Instruction, co-convened the summit with the Chief Justice and provided collaborative leadership and the support of his staff in the planning of the summit. Superintendent Torlakson and Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye have partnered on other educational initiatives, including the Civic Learning Initiative.

SUMMIT ORGANIZERS

Justice Richard D. Huffman, *Chair, California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care*
Judge Stacy Boulware Eurie, *Chair, Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Working Group, California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care*
Gordon Jackson, *Assistant Superintendent, California Department of Education*

SUMMIT SUPPORTERS

The *Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Summit* was made possible by generous funding from **The California Endowment**, the **Zellerbach Family Foundation**, the **Walter S. Johnson Foundation**, and the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, State Dependency Court Improvement Grants**.

SUMMIT CO-SPONSORS

Attorney General Kamala Harris, *California Attorney General*
Diana Dooley, *Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency; Co-Chair, California Child Welfare Council*
Judicial Council of California
California Child Welfare Council

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS**

Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye
*Chief Justice of California
Chair, Judicial Council of California*

Hon. Steven Jahr
Administrative Director of the Courts

Curtis L. Child
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CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN & THE COURTS

Diane Nunn
Director

Charlene Depner
Assistant Director

Donald Will
Manager

Deana Farole
Supervisor

Christine Cleary
Attorney and Summit Co-Lead

Tracy Kenny
Attorney and Summit Co-Lead

Cindy Chen
Administrative Coordinator

Arlene Negapatan
Secretary

Susie Viray
Lead Beyond the Bench Coordination

Stacie Clarke
Logistics and Hotel Coordination

KEEPING KIDS IN SCHOOL AND OUT OF COURT AND BEYOND THE BENCH COORDINATION

Alla Urisman, Brandi Pilapil, Peter Shervanick, Christopher Rey; Center for Judiciary Education and Research. Sheila Ng, Penne Soltysik; Office of Communications. Michael Jaffe, Office of Administrative Services. Pat Haggerty, Eduardo Sanchez, Grant Walker, Michael Quinones and Stephen Saddler; Fiscal Services Office.

The points of view expressed at the summit and in materials are those of the authors and presenters and do not necessarily represent the official positions or policies of the funders or the Judicial Council of California.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2013

OPTIONAL TEAM MEETING: 9:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.

Workshops will not be starting until 10:30 a.m. to allow county teams to get to the summit in the morning. Those teams that have arrived early may use this time for team meetings.

Concurrent Workshops I: 10:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

A1. Youth Courts: Creating Positive Alternatives to the Traditional Juvenile Justice System

Youth courts, also known as peer, teen, or student courts, provide an alternative approach to the traditional juvenile justice system for first-time, non-violent offenders. A youth charged with an offense can choose to forego the hearing and sentencing procedures of the juvenile courts; instead, he or she agrees to a sentencing forum composed of the youth's peers. Juvenile offenders who participate in the youth court program avoid a criminal record while still being held accountable for their actions. In many communities youth courts are a good option for youth who are truant or involved in other school-based offenses. Youth court has emerged as the fastest growing juvenile intervention program in the United States. In 1994, there were 78 youth courts in the U.S.; by 2013, there were approximately 1,100 youth courts in 49 states with hundreds more in various stages of implementation. In California, the number has grown from 2 in 1991 to more than 70 in 2013. During this session you will learn the steps on how to implement a youth court in your county and help make a difference in the lives of youth. Current Youth Court Directors will present information on four styles of youth courts and how each address a community need and youth who participate in these courts will talk about their experiences and the impacts of these courts on their peers.

Ms. Jo Ann Allen, *Director, Santa Cruz County Teen Peer Court*

Ms. Toni Stone, *Executive Director, East Palo Alto Youth Court*

Ms. Sacha Marini, *Director, Humboldt County Teen Court - Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods*

Mr. Mark Reddick, *Coordinator, Riverside Police Department Youth Court*

Ms. Karen Green, *Coordinator, Placer County Peer Court*

Ms. Devon Walker, *Youth Participant, Humboldt County Teen Court*

Mr. Hart Fogel, *Youth Participant, Marin County Youth Court*

Ms. Keisha Como, *Youth Participant, Antelope Valley Community Youth Court*

Ms. Shaundra Esparza, *Youth Participant, Santa Cruz County Teen Peer Court*

Mr. Austin Neri, *Youth Participant, Eden Township Youth Court*

Mr. Andrew Gomez, *Youth Participant, El Rancho Teen Court*

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B1. Attendance Matters: Research-based Models to Address Chronic Absenteeism

Research has demonstrated that students with chronic absenteeism are at far greater risk of academic failure. This workshop will present the key findings of that research as well as models for responding to chronic absenteeism. Key stakeholders from a cross-system initiative in Baltimore, Maryland designed to improve school attendance will describe their efforts to engage children and families with school attendance issues and promote a citywide culture that recognizes the importance of consistent attendance for all students. These initiatives involve the child welfare agency, the courts, the schools, and community based organizations working together to improve school attendance.

Ms. Hedy Chang, *Director, Attendance Works*

Ms. Sue Fothergill, *Director, Baltimore Student Attendance Campaign, Baltimore's Safe and Sound Campaign*

Ms. Molly McGrath, *Director, Baltimore City Department of Social Services*

Hon. David W. Young, *Associate Judge, Baltimore City Circuit Court (retired)*

C1. Interventions to End the School to Prison Pipeline

Funneling of students out of school and into the juvenile delinquency system perpetuates a cycle known as the "School-to-Prison-Pipeline." This is a phenomenon that disproportionately impacts court-involved youth. This presentation explores some of the causes and consequences of this cycle, as well as examining in-depth some of the interventions developed to help break it. First, it will focus on the issue at the school level. It will give tips on identifying indicators of the need for intervention such as poor academic performance and behavior problems resulting from underlying disabilities, abuse and trauma. It will then offer tools for addressing those needs such as special education assessments and services, and substantive and procedural rights for school discipline proceedings. Then, the presentation will offer information and examples of interventions developed by the courts in Los Angeles County to help break this cycle.

Ms. Alaina Moonves-Leb, *Education Attorney, The Alliance for Children's Rights*

Ms. Ruth Cusick, *Staff Attorney, Public Counsel*

Ms. Liza Davis, *Staff Attorney, Public Counsel*

D1. Judging the Teen Brain: What Judges Need to Know About Adolescent Brain Development

Teens have been confounding adults, in every culture, throughout time. Judges are burdened with helping teens become accountable while at the same time trying to be developmentally attuned to what teens are actually capable of understanding. This presentation focuses on cultivating "developmental competence" for judges and other adults working with teens. Dr. Bostic will clarify seismic brain changes that occur during adolescence that drive their behaviors and provide opportunities for intervention as well as clarify why interventions used with adults are not effective with youth.

Dr. Jeff Q. Bostic, *Director, School Psychiatry Program for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Massachusetts General Hospital*

Ms. Lisa H. Thurau, *Executive Director, Strategies for Youth, Inc.*

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LUNCH PLENARY: 12:30 – 2:00 P.M.

Lunch for Summit team members will be held in conjunction with the Beyond the Bench conference and team members will join Beyond the Bench attendees to dine and hear the plenary speakers.

Speaker: Mr. Bryan Stevenson, Executive Director, Equal Justice Initiative

Bryan Stevenson is a public-interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned. He is the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, an Alabama-based group that has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent prisoners on death row, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, and aiding children prosecuted as adults.

Speaker: Mr. Will Lightbourne, Director, California Department of Social Services

Will Lightbourne was appointed Director of the California Department of Social Services by Governor Jerry Brown in April 2011. Having served as the director of three county social services agencies as well as being a member of numerous commissions, councils, boards and nonprofits, over the past three decades, he has been deeply involved in a wide range of social welfare issues in California. He also serves on the California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care and the California Child Welfare Council.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS II: 2:15 – 3:45 P.M.

A2. Juvenile Justice Jeopardy: Engaging Youth in Critical Thinking About School Policies and Interactions with Adults

Many adults assume youth know right from wrong, legal from illegal; many youth assume they know their rights and how to assert them appropriately with authorities. Often both assumptions are incorrect. The Juvenile Justice Jeopardy uses an age-appropriate approach to teaching youth *behaviors* instead of rights. Strategies for Youth will showcase two versions of the game. The first one, used in San Francisco, teaches youth how to navigate interactions with peers and authority and to be aware of short and long-term impacts of arrest and court involvement. The second version is being used in Sacramento schools to teach students how to understand school roles, distinguish between school discipline and criminal offending, and understand that certain offenses may be punishable both by exclusion from school and arrest. The game also warns youth about strongly held but often incorrect beliefs regarding their privacy rights in public schools. Routinely 80% of youth who play the game report that 50 to 75% of the information is new to them and that it will make them change how they act in the future.

Ms. Lisa H. Thurau, *Executive Director, Strategies for Youth, Inc.*

Ms. Devon Walker, *Youth Participant, Humboldt County Teen Court*

Mr. Hart Fogel, *Youth Participant, Marin County Youth Court*

Ms. Keisha Como, *Youth Participant, Antelope Valley Community Youth Court*

Ms. Shaundra Esparza, *Youth Participant, Santa Cruz County Teen Peer Court*

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B2. Transforming Trauma's Effects on the Developing Brain: How Educators, Judges & Other Professionals Can Help to Foster Resilience and Promote School Success

Exposure to adverse and traumatic events in childhood can lead to neurobiological adaptations in a child's developing brain. These adaptations, including a vulnerability to being triggered into survival mode (fight, flight, or freeze) by trauma reminders that are not actual threats, can result in behaviors that interfere with success in school or community settings. As children and youth are punished for being triggered into survival mode, they may eventually become involved in the juvenile justice system. Indeed, research indicates that unaddressed trauma can contribute to the "School to Prison Pipeline." These difficulties can be overcome, however, by creating trauma-informed systems (e.g., educational, judicial, legal, justice, child welfare) that are more safe and supportive of the needs of children and youth exposed to toxic stress. Trauma-informed systems take into account how chronic stress and trauma affect everyone in the system, and promote resilience not only for children, youth, and families, but also for the professionals who work with them. This workshop will explore the neurobiology of trauma, its implications for systems working with children and youth, and effective approaches to mitigating traumatic stress that can be carried out by anyone who interacts with children and youth who have experienced trauma.

Dr. Joyce Dorado, *Director, UCSF Healthy Environments and Response to Trauma in Schools (HEARTS); Associate Clinical Professor; and Director of Clinical Research and Evaluation, Child and Adolescent Services, Department of Psychiatry, University of California San Francisco – San Francisco General Hospital*

C2. Community Collaboration to Support Educational Success: A Successful Model from Santa Cruz

Foster youth are often faced with frequent changes in home and school placement, forcing transitions in teachers, peer groups, and homework routines, along with missed school days. Many are placed in inappropriate classrooms, lose school credits, and do not receive special education services or academic supports when needed. In addition, many children in foster care do not have an adult who is consistently and actively supporting their educational success. The consequences for these youth are devastating, and include higher rates of absenteeism and drop-out, higher rates of school discipline, and very low rates of college matriculation. Later in life, foster youth experience an increased likelihood of homelessness, incarceration, and unemployment. This session will focus on the educational challenges that children in foster care face, and strategies currently being employed in Santa Cruz County to help support the educational success of this population. FosterEd is a collaboration between the presenters' agencies and several community partners focused on improving the educational outcomes of children in care.

Hon. Denine Guy, *Presiding Judge, Juvenile Division, Superior Court of California, County of Santa Cruz*

Mr. Mark Holguin, *Program Manager, Santa Cruz County Family and Children's Services*

Mr. Michael Paynter, *Foster Youth Services Coordinator and Program Manager of Student Services Division, Santa Cruz County Office of Education*

Ms. Kim Corneille, *Foster Youth Education Liaison, National Center for Youth Law – FosterEd Initiative / Santa Cruz County Office of Education*

Ms. Rachel Velcoff Hults (Moderator), *Project Manager, National Center for Youth Law – FosterEd Initiative / Santa Cruz County Office of Education*

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D2. Introduction to Restorative Justice (RJ) and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Models of Intervention

Many school districts across the county are implementing alternative approaches to improve school climate and obviate the need for exclusionary disciplinary practices including suspension and expulsion. Implementation of these alternative approaches has had positive impacts on these schools in terms of reducing the number of behavioral incidents, the need for suspensions and expulsions, and led to improved attendance and academic performance. This workshop will provide an overview of the basic features and benefits of two of the key promising approaches: Restorative Justice (RJ) and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) as well as the findings about the impact of implementation of these interventions.

Ms. Rita Renjitham Alfred, *Co-Founder, Restorative Justice Training Institute*

Ms. sujatha baliga (Moderator), *Director, Restorative Justice Project, and Associate Director, National Council on Crime and Delinquency*

Ms. Barbara Kelley, *State PBIS Coordinator, California Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports*

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CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS III: 4:00 – 5:30 P.M.

A3. It Takes A Community! Research & Action in Washington State

The science of trauma from adverse childhood experiences is resulting in real world changes in how systems work with children and families. Two colleagues from Washington State, one a school principal and the other a university-based intervention model researcher will discuss two related but distinct approaches to practical solutions. In the workshop, we will summarize the science driving this change, discuss the programs, and present early findings and lessons learned.

Dr. Christopher Blodgett, *Director, Area Health Education Center of Eastern Washington, Washington State University*

Mr. Jim Sporleder, *Principal (2008-2013), Lincoln High School, Walla Walla, Washington*

B3. Truancy Court and Model School Attendance Review Board Programs for School Attendance Improvement

California has explored a number of means to effectively address students with chronic attendance problems in a manner that will benefit the child and his or her family. Truancy courts are collaborative courts that seek to intervene with families after other less intrusive interventions have failed. School Attendance Review Boards (SARBs) were created by statute to provide intensive guidance and coordinated community services to meet the special needs of pupils with persistent school attendance problems or school behavior problems. In establishing SARBs, the Legislature intended to develop new ways of coordinating school, community, and home efforts to deal with school attendance or school behavior problems. SARBs were designed to maximize the use of all available resources, including legal resources, and divert students with school-related problems from the juvenile justice system. This session will explore how truancy courts and SARBs in some areas of the state have been successful in collaborative efforts to enforce compulsory education laws and reduce the number of dropouts from the public school system.

Hon. Kimberly Menninger, *Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Orange*

Ms. Teresa Drenick, *Deputy District Attorney, Alameda County District Attorney's Office*

Mr. David Kopperud, *Education Programs Consultant, California Department of Education*

Mr. Dan Sackheim, *Education Programs Consultant, California Department of Education*

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C3. Implicit Bias in Decision Making

A solution-focused training based upon the experiences and reflections of judges, educators and practitioners in education, child welfare and juvenile justice. The training will include discussions on how implicit bias results in the use of racially coded language found in court reports and student records, why terms such as willful-defiance are not race neutral, how stereotypes can distort perceptions of risk, disruptive behavior or delinquency, and how biases can result in ambiguous charges that can affect decisions at each decision point.

The training is organized around the following three learning objectives: 1. To explain how stereotypes and colorblindness work in tandem to preserve and camouflage racism in contemporary society. 2. To help participants identify bias in individual and institutional decision-making. 3. To teach participants how to develop intervention strategies to reduce and eliminate bias.

Dr. Rita Cameron-Wedding, *Chair, Women's Studies and Professor, Women's Studies and Ethnic Studies, California State University Sacramento*

D3. California School Discipline Innovators Panel

Many schools and districts in California have been implementing evidence based and promising practices to improve their school climates and reduce the need for exclusionary discipline measures such as suspension and expulsion. This workshop will include innovators from around California describing the interventions they have used and the positive results for their students and communities. The interventions they have deployed include Positive Behavioral and Interventions and Supports, Social and Emotional Learning, and Restorative Justice/Practices.

Mr. Billy Aydlett, *Principal, Leataata Floyd Elementary School, Sacramento City Unified School District*

Dr. Ramona Bishop, *Superintendent, Vallejo City Unified School District*

Mr. Eric Butler, *Restorative Justice Coordinator, Ralph Bunche High School, Oakland Unified School District*

Mr. Godwin Higa, *Principal, Cherokee Point Elementary School, San Diego Unified School District*

TEAM DEBRIEFING WITH CHIEF JUSTICE: 5:45 – 6:45 P.M.

Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye will greet and welcome teams. Light refreshments will be served.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2013

SUMMIT AGENDA

7:30 – 8:15 A.M.

Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 A.M.

Welcome

Hon. Tani Cantil-Sakauye, *Chief Justice, California Supreme Court*

Mr. Tom Torlakson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction, California Department of Education*

Setting the Tone for the Day

Hon. Richard D. Huffman, *Chair, California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care*

Opening Address

Ms. Sade Daniels, *Former Foster Youth*

Presentation of Legislative Resolution (ACR 80)

Hon. Darrell Steinberg, *President pro Tempore, California State Senate*

Hon. Roger Dickinson, *Assembly Member, California State Assembly*

9:30 – 10:15 A.M.

Talk it Out! A Community Conversation to Fix School Discipline

Cornerstone Theater Company

10:15 – 10:30 A.M.

Break

10:30 – 11:00 A.M.

Federal Perspective on Truancy and School Discipline Problems

Ms. Russlyn H. Ali, *Former Assistant Secretary, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education; Chair, Emerson Education Fund, Emerson Collective*

11:00 – 11:15 A.M.

Truancy & Chronic Absenteeism are Public Health Issues

Ms. Diana Dooley, *Secretary, California Department of Health and Human Services*

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- 11:15 A.M. – 12:45 P.M.** **Hon. Stacy Boulware Eurie**, *Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, Sacramento County, will introduce the county data packets and set the tone for a productive working lunch.*
Working Lunch (at County Tables-Distribution of County Data by CDE – County Teams Draft Blueprint for Change)
- 12:45 – 1:00 P.M.** **Making the Connection: Habitual Chronic Truancy and Crime**
Attorney General Kamala Harris, *Attorney General of California*
- 1:00 – 1:45 P.M.** **Breaking Schools’ Rules Presentation**
Mr. Michael Thompson, *Director, Council on State Governments*
- 1:45 – 2:15 P.M.** **Suspended Education in California**
Ms. Tia Elena Martinez, J.D., M.P.P., *Researcher, Center for Civil Rights Remedies at the UCLA Civil Rights Project*
- 2:15 – 3:00 P.M.** **The Need for Collaborative Leadership for Common-Sense School Discipline Reform**
Dr. Robert K. Ross, M.D., *President & Chief Executive Officer, The California Endowment*
Dr. John E. Deasy, *Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District*
Mr. Gordon Jackson, *Director, Coordinated Student Support & Adult Education Division, California Department of Education*
- 3:00 – 3:30 P.M.** **It Takes a Community! The Walla Walla, Washington Experience**
Mr. James Sporleder, *Principal (2008-2013), Lincoln High School, Walla Walla Washington*
- 3:30 – 3:45 P.M.** **Break**

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3:45 – 4:15 P.M.

Court Leadership and Reforming School-Justice Policies

Hon. Stacy Boulware Eurie, *Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento*

Hon. Donna Groman, *Juvenile Court Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles*

Ms. Laura Faer, *Education Rights Director, Public Counsel Law Center*

Ms. Deborah Escobedo, *Staff Attorney, Youth Law Center*

4:15 – 5:15 P.M.

Youth Perspectives

The California Council on Youth Relations presents a statewide panel of youth and adult experts on school success, focusing on best practices for keeping youth in school and out of the court system.

Ms. Miriam Krinsky (*Moderator*), *Member, California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care; Policy Consultant, The California Endowment*

Mr. Kaz Lek, *Youth Advocate, Fathers and Families, San Joaquin County*

Mr. Michael Muscadine, *Youth Advocate, Center for Restorative Youth Justice (CRYJ), Oakland*

Hon. Michael Nash, *Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, Los Angeles*

Mr. Jose Huerta, *Principal, Garfield High School, Los Angeles (Additional youth to participate on this panel.)*

5:15 – 5:30 P.M.

Closing Remarks

Hon. Richard D. Huffman, *Chair, California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care*