

FLASH FAX/E-NEWS AUG 16, 2013

Key Links to Reentry Council Materials.

Recently, the National Reentry Resource Center sent an e-newsletter to 13,000 stakeholders, highlighting the Reentry Council and its new Snapshots (see link below). The Reentry Council, established by Attorney General Holder in January 2011, represents a significant executive branch commitment to coordinating reentry efforts and advancing effective reentry policies.

Reentry Council website

[http://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/projects/firc/Reentry_Council_Overview_\(One-pager_front/back\)](http://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/projects/firc/Reentry_Council_Overview_(One-pager_front/back))

http://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Reentry_Council_One_Pager_June_2013_mbc_dit_a.pdf

Reentry Snapshots

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/projects/firc/snapshots/>

Reentry MythBusters

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/projects/mythbusters/>

Learning About Juvenile Justice

A new online “Hub” provides an authoritative guide to juvenile justice issues, lessons and best practices. The Juvenile Justice Resource Hub, which was created by the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange and funded by the MacArthur Foundation, is in the process of a phased roll-out with resources examining six areas of juvenile justice reform: mental health and substance abuse, community-based alternatives, evidence-based practices, juvenile indigent defense, aftercare, racial-ethnic fairness.

The most recent update, on community-based alternatives, reviews “approaches to minimize youth contact with the juvenile justice system, the frequency with which they are detained and incarcerated, and cost-effective ways to improve outcomes for them while keeping communities safe.” Visit: <http://www.thecrimereport.org/news/inside-criminal-justice/2013-08-learning-about-juvenile-justice>

Too Many Women? Hidden Overcrowding in California Prisons



California’s 2011 justice realignment plan, established in response to a Supreme Court ruling that the state’s prison overcrowding violated the Eighth Amendment’s ban on “cruel and unusual punishment,” re-routed thousands of inmates into county jails.

No group benefited more from the new policies than women in the system. California’s female inmate population dropped from 9,038 to 6,142 in 2012—while the number of inmates in female prisons, compared with the design capacity of those facilities, plummeted from 170% to 116.9%. But after the gains of 2012, California women’s correctional facilities are once again the most crowded in the state’s 33-prison system. Overall numbers in women’s facilities shot up 153.5%—now even higher than the infamously crowded men’s facilities.

What happened? An investigation by WitnessLA.com suggests some reasons—including the conversion of one of the main women’s facilities into a men’s prison, in order to ease overcrowding elsewhere. According to some prisoner’s advocates, such measures have effectively meant that women are now shouldering the brunt of California’s population reduction efforts. Visit: <http://www.thecrimereport.org/news/inside-criminal-justice/2013-08-explaining-the-us-crime-decline>

Applications Being Accepted for Juvenile Drug Courts Learning Collaborative

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges is seeking juvenile drug courts to participate in its Juvenile Drug Court Learning Collaborative. Successful applicant courts will participate in a multi-year project to test and evaluate best practices for building capacity, assessing needs, initiating strategic planning, implementing program improvements, evaluating program performance, and sustaining programs. Selected sites will serve as models for system change and be expected to share their experiences with other courts across the nation. Visit: <http://www.ncjfcj.org/>

Invest in Our Youth Now: Why 16 to 24-year-olds Matter to All of Us

In the United States today, 6.7 million young adults ages 16 to 24 are not in school and are not working -- a tragic loss to them personally and to our country's economic competitiveness. The costs are also high to U.S. taxpayers. Disconnected youth cost \$93 billion annually and \$1.6 trillion over their lifetimes in lost revenues and increased social services.

Even more startling is the impact these disconnected youth have on the economic, educational and civic health of their communities. According to the Opportunity Index, a unique tool that measures 16 factors that advance or obstruct opportunity, the percentage of a community's disconnected youth is the single most powerful indicator of economic and social mobility. The higher the proportion of youth not in school and not working, the smaller the chance a region has to expand opportunity to its residents.

Bank of America's Student Leaders® program develops the next generation by providing community-minded high school students with leadership training and paid summer jobs at local nonprofits. The students' summer jobs provide more than a paycheck. Follow-up interviews with alumni reveal that they learn how to operate in an office environment, discover what it takes to have a career rather than just a job, understand and address local community challenges, and find inspiration to go on to post-secondary education. Opportunity Nation trains 160 Opportunity Leaders and Scholars across the country on how to use the Opportunity Index in communities and on college campuses. From Des Moines, Iowa to Seattle, Washington to Quincy, Massachusetts, Opportunity Nation's Leaders and Scholars are convening cross-sector groups to work collaboratively across program areas, engage local media to tell the opportunity story of the region, and make policy recommendations that support more robust education and career pathways for 16-24 year olds.

Discussion of the Opportunity Index helped frame the week's challenge to these motivated young citizens -- to explore issues in their own cities -- and, through education and community engagement, help to improve their hometowns. Visit: http://search.huffingtonpost.com/search?q=Invest+in+Our+Youth+Now%3A+Why+16-24-year-olds+Matter+to+All+of+Us+&s_it=header_for_m_vl



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