



center for
CHILDREN & YOUTH
JUSTICE | *Better systems. Better lives.®*

April 2009

Better Systems. Better Lives. The CCYJ E-Newsletter



Dear Friend,

The Center for Children & Youth Justice published its first-ever progress report this month, reviewing the Center's achievements since our inception in 2006. You can read the report [online](#), or contact us and we'll mail the publication to you. I am enormously proud of all the work that our staff, leadership and partners have done over the past three years. Still, so much more remains to be accomplished. Together, we can make it happen.

Sincerely,

Justice Bobbe J. Bridge (ret.)
Founding President/CEO

Don't miss it! There's still time to register for our breakfast event.

7:30 - 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 13 Washington Athletic Club

A few seats remain for the 2nd annual Norm Maleng Advocate for Youth Award Breakfast, a fundraiser for CCYJ. In addition to honoring international law firm Perkins Coie, LLP, for its exemplary contributions to children and youth, the event features keynote speaker Shay Bilchik (left), founder and director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute and former President and CEO of the Child Welfare League of America. In addition, guest speaker Ruvyn Munden will talk about his experiences in the foster care and juvenile justice systems.



Your minimum requested donation of \$150 at the breakfast will support CCYJ's work to reform our state's juvenile justice and child welfare systems. [Register](#) for the event today.

Can't attend? You can still support CCYJ by [donating](#) securely online.

Become a sponsor! You, your company or law firm can support our reform efforts through a corporate sponsorship. [Ask us](#) about breakfast sponsorships today.

Stuart Foundation grant to expand infant mental health program

Supporting Early Connections will engage more families

The Stuart Foundation, which funds the Center's Supporting Early Connections program, has provided additional funding that will allow us to increase the number of children and families served by 50 percent. The program serves infants and their biological parents who have been referred to court for child abuse or neglect. Working with an infant mental health therapist and family support specialist, families learn to address the unique mental health and relationship needs of their young children.

The program expansion also will engage additional King County child welfare and legal professionals in this collaborative project, and provide them with training by experts in the field of early childhood mental health.



New funding will help other states replicate CCYJ program

A 'how-to' guide for starting Lawyers Fostering Independence



A grant from the American Bar Association will allow the Center to develop a step-by-step guide to help other states and organizations create their own Lawyers Fostering Independence program. CCYJ launched the program last year to provide youth aging out of foster care with civil legal representation in matters such as housing, education, domestic relations and benefits. Today, nearly 50 attorneys are volunteering to provide civil legal help to former foster youth in King County.

Database of child welfare recommendations available online

Meta-analysis catalogues and details 10 years of data

CCYJ's categorized, searchable database of nearly 2,000 child welfare system recommendations is now available online, by application, for research or policy review. Our [Child Welfare Meta-Analysis](#) project identified the recommendations from more than 250 reports issued over the decade spanning 1997 to 2007 by government panels, nonprofit organizations and advocacy groups. Virtually no aspect of the system - from families to courts to social services and beyond - is exempt from examination.

In the next phase of the project, the Center will concentrate on recommended reforms in four of the categories of recommendations- adolescents, court processes, funding and organization - to identify those reforms not yet fully implemented. Later this year, we plan to convene a series of summit meetings and invite key decision makers to join us to secure commitments for the implementation of viable recommendations, plan collaborative next steps, and agree on accountability for follow-through to ensure an effective, sound and responsive child welfare system. To apply for access to the database, email [Gina Cumbo](#) or call 206- 696-7503 ext. 18.

Learn more about CCYJ

The Center for Children & Youth Justice is shaping better lives for youth involved in Washington's foster care and juvenile justice systems. In partnership with parents, advocates and policymakers, the Center develops and advances innovative approaches to systemic changes that will support kids, stabilize families and strengthen communities.

Visit our Web site at www.ccyj.org
Or, call us at 206-696-7503

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