Voices of Formerly Incarcerated Leaders: A Growing National Movement

Presenters:
• Glenn E. Martin, JustLeadershipUSA
• James Anderson, Anti-Recidivism Coalition
• Charleston White, Hyped about HYPE
• Xavier McElrath-Bey, Campaign for the Fair-Sentencing of Youth

Moderators:
• Jennifer Rose, Consultant, Futures Without Violence

Welcome to the Webinar
We will begin at 11:00am (PT) / 2:00pm (ET).

A recording will be available after the webinar.
Your line will be muted to cut down on background interference so please use the chat box to share your name, your organization, your location and any questions you have for our featured speakers.
Federal Coordination

• US Department of Justice
  – Office of the Attorney General
  – Office of Justice Programs
    • Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
    • Office for Victims of Crime
    • National Institute of Justice
  – Office on Violence Against Women
  – Office of Community Oriented Policing
  – Executive Office of US Attorneys

• US Department of Health and Human Services

• US Department of Education
Goals of the Defending Childhood Initiative

- Prevent children’s exposure to violence.
- Mitigate the negative effects experienced by children exposed to violence.
- Develop knowledge about and spread awareness of this issue.
Over $30 M Invested From FY2010 – FY2012

• Research and Evaluation
• Direct Action in Communities
  – Comprehensive Demonstration Project
  – Safe Start Program (www.safestartcenter.org)
  – OVW Children Exposed to Violence grants
• Training and Technical Assistance
• Attorney General’s Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence
  (www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/cev-rpt-full.pdf)
• Action Partnerships with Professional Organizations
How to use this technology

• You can choose to connect via computer OR via telephone.
  • Should you choose computer, please mute your computer microphone to avoid feedback.
  • Should you choose to dial in, please follow the audio instructions on the screen or in the audio pop up:
    • Dial: 1-888-850-4523
    • Enter the Participant Code: 418086#
    OR
    • Dial: 1-719-234-7800
    • Enter the Participant Code: 418086#
• There will be time for Q & A at the end of the presentation.
• Please enter any questions you have in the Public Text Chat box.
• A recording and PDF slides will be available after the webinar.
IMAGINE A DECARCERATED AMERICA

JustLeadershipUSA is dedicated to cutting the US prison population in half by 2030 while reducing crime. JLUSA empowers people most affected by incarceration to drive policy reform.
ABOUT US

- Advocacy Campaigns
- Leadership Training
- Membership Engagement
LEADERSHIP

The most compelling advocates of change are those who have been directly affected by incarceration.

Our Leadership Program participants receive competency level leadership training in four areas:

- Organizational Management
- Community Building
- Advocacy & Policy Skills
- Communication Skills
ADVOCACY

JLUSA is working to strengthen America – its communities, its values, and its traditions – by elevating the voice of individuals and communities that are most impacted by crime and imprisonment to drive smart reforms that reduce our reliance on incarceration.
MEMBERSHIP

Our ability to achieve the goal of #halfby2030 lies in the strength of our membership.
Our members are organizing campaigns, attending events and taking action.

*Being a member means being an agent for change.*
**How We Work**

**Support Network:**

ARC holds regular support network meetings as an outlet for Coalition Members.

These meetings provide:

- Support and community.
- Help for members to get jobs, enroll in college, counseling and other resources.
- Opportunities for building social networks and connections.
- Support and positive influences for newly released individuals to help keep them away from the negative influence of gangs and other temptations.
Outreach and Engagement of New Members

- Members and staff of ARC visit the juvenile facility in Los Angeles County to engage incarcerated youth.

- New members can be recruited through this outreach and are encouraged to take advantage of educational opportunities while incarcerated.

- Once released, the formerly incarcerated are able to continue to pursue their education through their connection to ARC.
ARC advocates for fair and just policies and laws in the juvenile justice, criminal justice and child welfare arenas.

- ARC’s advocacy seeks to:
  - Reduce crime
  - Decrease the use of incarceration
  - Improve the outcomes of the formerly incarcerated
  - Increase investment in the people and communities most impacted by crime and incarceration.
Hyped about H.Y.P.E
Helping Young People Excel

Founded in 2012 by Charleston White

Founder/CEO Charleston White

Based in Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Waco, San Antonio

Registered with IRS as Nonprofit Organization (501(c)3)

HYPE was formed and created through an experience of Kids who were “Raised By Da State” of Texas Juvenile Justice Department (formerly known as TYC). “We’re the first generation of kids in Texas who began to be sentenced for violent crimes, such as murder,”
Hyped about H.Y.P.E
Youth Outreach

Charleston J. White
Founder/Director
(817)477-7815
cjwhite@txwes.edu

HYPE
Youth Outreach
Helping Young People Excel
Mission:
Help young people excel in all aspects of their life.
Charleston J. White (CEO)
“On Sept. 18, 1991, at the age of 14, Charleston White and three buddies ran out of a shopping mall in Arlington after stealing athletic jackets. During the process, a newlywed good Samaritan intervened and was shot and killed by White’s associate when he attempted to stop them, according to an article in the Star-Telegram written by Bob Ray Sanders.

White was charged with murder and was sentenced to 12 years. While incarcerated, White joined a gang in order to fit in and be a part of something. Even though White was very small in stature, he used his mind to fight his battles; soon, he became the leader of his gang.”

-Santiago Munoz
“My life is dedicated to helping young people excel; in hopes of preventing another young person from falling down the path I chose.” - Charleston White
“I was considered the worst of the worst as a juvenile, based on my behavior while in TYC; but TYC and its staff gave me all the tools necessary in life for me to be productive and succeed in life. I was incarcerated in TYC from 1991 until 1998. Many of my buddies from that era went on to prison on their 18th birthdays and they are just now coming home today.”
Jose Rodriguez (age 14)
30 years/murder served 22 years
After doing time, ex-offenders want to make time for others

Former "hard-core juveniles" are trying to make a difference in young lives
Dallas Councilman Teen Summit
Councilman Dewayne Caraway
2012
Miguel Moll (age 19)
20 years/robbery served 19
Gabriel Delgado (age 16)
20 years/murder served 15 years
Damon Wiltz (age 14)
40 years/murder served 22 years
Anthony Dewberry (age 15)
28 years/murder served 18 years
Derrick “Rashid” Burton (age 14)
22 years/capital murder served 20 years
Lionel Clark (age 15)
20 years/attempted Capital murder served 4 years
Harvey Hughes (age 13)
20 years/murder served 20 years
Maverick Rhone (age 14)
35 years/murder served 5.5 years
Karwin Archie (age 14)
20 years/murder served 20 years
King Satterwhite (age 15)
20 years/ att. Capital murder served 20 years
22 years later these boys grew to be productive men! Rehabilitation and Re-socialization played a critical role in our lives.
I am a member of ICAN (Incarcerated Children Advocacy Network)
CFSY 2014 National Convening Washington D.C.
HYPE is a group of formerly incarcerated men who represents and embody “REDEMPTION”
Joined a Chicago street gang at 11 years old...
Juvenile Arrest Record

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<th>REPORT DATE</th>
<th>OFFENSE</th>
<th>DIST OF OFF.</th>
<th>YOUTH OFFICER/STAR NO.</th>
<th>DISPOSITION</th>
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Graduated from 8th grade in the Juvenile Detention Center, right before....

...they sentenced me to 25 Years in Prison for Murder
Incarcerated Children’s Advocacy Network
A Project of the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth
WHO WE ARE

As a national network of leaders who were formerly incarcerated as youth, we are living proof of the unique capacity for change that resides within every child; humbly recognizing our responsibility to humanity and serving as a source of motivation to others that it is never too late to become a positive force in the community.

VISION AND MISSION

The Incarcerated Children’s Advocacy Network’s vision is to help create a fair and just society which recognizes the developmental differences between adolescents and adults and never loses sight of children’s unique capacity for positive change; a society which nurtures all children and provides them with an equal opportunity for positive development and success.

We believe that a fair justice system would address victim and public safety concerns; hold youth offenders accountable in age-appropriate ways; and utilize restorative approaches that help build children’s competency to not re-offend.

The Incarcerated Children’s Advocacy Network is a national network of formerly incarcerated leaders that are committed to champion the cause for age-appropriate and trauma-informed alternatives to the extreme sentencing of America’s youth, with a focus on abolishing “juvenile life without parole”.


ICAN Members & Supporters

Core Members

1. Men and women who were sentenced to life without parole for a crime committed as a child (under 18) or convicted of homicide as a child

2. Productive member of society advocating for age-appropriate, trauma informed consequences for children

ICAN Facebook Group Members and Supporters

- Include friends, family and other formerly incarcerated leaders that support the initiatives/reform efforts of ICAN
Living Examples of Positive Change
Changing the Narrative

- Participate in specialized trainings of attorneys and judges that emphasize the developmental differences between adolescents and adults, as well children’s unique needs in adult court rooms

- Support local and national initiatives and our coalition partners who endeavor to abolish JLWOP and other inhumane treatments of children in the justice system

- Meet, write letters to and draft testimony for legislators in support of meaningful policy recommendations

- Allow our stories to be used in amicus briefs in support of those serving JLWOP

- Participate in strategic media/public education opportunities that broaden our audience and puts a human face on formerly incarcerated youth
- Share our stories in op-eds and media interviews through various outlets

- Speak to strategic audiences and potential unlikely allies about children’s unique capacity for positive change

- Participate in workshops, webinars, panels discussions and presentations in support of the campaign and its national partners to advance our cause for fair sentencing

- Inform policy recommendations to help create alternatives to the extreme sentencing of America’s youth

- Help organize and participate in community events that raise awareness about our reform efforts and needed support
WE CAN ACHIEVE MORE WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER
To learn more please visit:
http://fairsentencingofyouth.org/
facebook.com/groups/ICAN.NoChildBornBad
or Contact Xavier McElrath-Bey at
xmcelrathbey@fairsentencingofyouth.org
Voices of Formerly Incarcerated Leaders: A Growing National Movement

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

Please take a moment to take this short survey regarding today’s webinar and future webinars.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MT8GJFP