



2020 VIRTUAL YOUTH SUMMIT

EXECUTING OUR POWER INTO ACTION

SESSION 2: Intersections of Child Welfare & the Juvenile Justice System

AUGUST 26, 3:30 - 5:00 PM EST

Intersections of Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice: Through the lens of Young Leaders with lived experience

By: Kristen Powell and Joseph Huntley



Kristen Powell -
ELC Member

- Kristen spent ages 13-18 in and out of systems of care such as Foster care, Juvenile Detention, Juvenile Probation and placements. At the age of 17 Kristen faced level one Felony charges, this was a life changing experience for her.
- Kristen began her work at the Center for Combating Human Trafficking (CCHT) in March of 2016 Since then, Kristen has worked to create survivor informed, survivor led services. In partnership with other staff, Kristen was integral in developing Pathway to Prosperity™ programming for victims and survivors of human trafficking.
- Additionally, Kristen serves as a member of the Emerging Leaders Committee (ELC) with the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ).
- Kristen also serves on the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) State Policy Team for the state of Kansas. This team focuses on policy change for youth who have been served by multiple systems such as Juvenile Offender (JO) youth and Foster Youth (CINC).
- Kristen is currently a Full-time student at Wichita State University and is working to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Kristen plans on focusing her career walking alongside and advocating for young people who have been incarcerated, experienced various forms of trauma, and or have entered different systems of care.



Joseph Huntley –
ELC Member

- Between the ages of two and three, Joseph spent time in six separate foster homes. After spending some time in the sixth home, the family adopted him at seven. However, as much as a blessing as it was Joe, his future led to him committing a Felony. As a result he spent time in Green Hill School, a med/max security juvenile rehabilitation facility in Washington State.
- While a resident at Green Hill, he joined the Youth Council. The committee focused on the internal issue of the facility. Along with this committee, there was also a subcommittee for the Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice, which spoke on issues for Washington State's justice system. Eventually the two committees merged.
- Through this opportunity, Joe found purpose and a way that would allow him to give back to the community. A year later in 2018 he was accepted to the Coalition for Juvenile Justice Emerging Leaders Committee and again in 2020.
- Since Green Hill, Joe has put forth effort to change the juvenile justice system to make things better for the youth and the community.

To the Foster System



Research has noted family factors predictive of delinquency are similar to characteristics present in neglectful and abusive families; most notably domestic violence and parental history of mental illness, substance abuse, or prior incarceration (Howell 1995; Dannerbeck and Yan 2011; Wiebush et al. 2001). Recently, the cumulative stressor ACE score concept has entered the criminological discourse (Baglivio et al. 2015). Adverse childhood experiences refer to ten types of experience:

- Emotional abuse
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional neglect
- Physical neglect
- Domestic Violence toward the youth's mother
- Household substance abuse
- Household mental illness,
- Parental separation/divorce, and
- Jail/imprisonment history of a household member

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2015)

Long- term effects of trauma in adolescents

Attachment and Relationships

Physical Health: Body and Brain

Emotional Responses

Dissociation

Behavior

Cognition: Thinking and Learning

Self-Concept and Future
Orientation

All traumatic experiences can affect an adolescent's way of thinking, their emotional responses, relationships and behavior. We tend to use these experiences for survival and to meet our everyday needs.



Child Welfare System



- More than 250,000 children are placed in the foster system each year
- It is estimated that over 400,000 youth currently reside in foster care today
- Youth placed in group homes are 2.5x more likely to enter the justice system.
- 90% of youth with 5+ foster placements will enter the justice system

Juvenile “Justice” system



What leads to youth entering this system ?

- Lack of stability
- Bad home environment
- Negative influence from peers
- Unhealthy relationships
- Unaddressed and unidentified trauma and barriers

What can be done to improve these barriers?

- Stop sending youth to multiple placements and homes
- Identify hobbies youth would like to engage in so youth does not feel so institutionalized
- Allow youth to be a part of their case plans and setting their own goals
- Train foster parents on trauma and equip them with the knowledge and skills they need
- Incorporate youths religion, culture, and traditions as part of their case plan or match youth with foster parents who have similar backgrounds.
- Identify ways youth can process their trauma (mentor, art, music, journaling, sports, etc.)
- Provide proper counselling and treatment



What is stripped from youth when placed in systems?

- Identity
- Culture
- Family traditions
- Religion
- Their Routine, their normal



What are the long term outcomes of youth entering the Juvenile justice system?

More months in confinement as adolescents and young adults correlates with worse adult health outcomes. (American Academy of Pediatrics).

Detention has a profoundly negative impact on young people's mental and physical well-being, their education, and their employment. (Justice Policy Institute).

Detention can increase recidivism - pulling youth deeper into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. (Justice Policy Institute).



Healing & Moving past these experiences

- What does this look like?
- How do you work through trauma?
- How do you put an end to generational trauma?



Resources:

<https://www.nctsn.org/what-is-child-trauma/trauma-types/complex-trauma/effects>

[https://online.csp.edu/blog/forensic-scholars-today/trauma-children-foster-care-overview#:~:text=Children%20exposed%20to%20traumatic%20events,Bartlett%20%26%20Rushovich%2C%202018\).](https://online.csp.edu/blog/forensic-scholars-today/trauma-children-foster-care-overview#:~:text=Children%20exposed%20to%20traumatic%20events,Bartlett%20%26%20Rushovich%2C%202018).)

<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/juvenile-justice/risk-and-protective-factors>

<https://jlc.org/news/what-foster-care-prison-pipeline>

Barnert, E. S., Dudovitz, R., Nelson, B. B., Coker, T. R., Biely, C., Li, N., & Chung, P. J. (2017). How Does Incarcerating Young People Affect Their Adult Health Outcomes?. *Pediatrics*, 139(2), e20162624. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2016-2624>.

The Justice Policy Institute.(2006). The Dangers of Detention:The Impact of Incarcerating Youth in Detention and Other Secure Facilities. Online. http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/06-11_rep_dangersofdetention_jj.pdf.

Questions?



UPCOMING SESSIONS

SESSION 3: SENTENCING REFORM

SEPTEMBER 2, 3:30 - 5:00 PM EST

SESSION 4: MENTORING & REENTRY

SEPTEMBER 9, 3:30 - 5:00 PM EST





THANK YOU!



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