

News Release

Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform
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State Officials Launch System Improvement Efforts to Help At-Risk Youth in Coconino, Mohave, and Yavapai Counties

The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform's Practice Model Expands Statewide to 3 Sites in Arizona

Washington, D.C. – Key stakeholders from Arizona and Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) will convene on Thursday, April 24 to begin plans to launch the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) in Coconino, Mohave, and Yavapai Counties. The CYPM aims to improve outcomes for “crossover youth” – youth who have experienced maltreatment, engaged in delinquency and are known to both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Research shows that youth who have been abused or neglected are at higher risk of entering the juvenile justice system, therefore becoming crossover youth.

With funding from Arizona's Supreme Court and Administrative Office of the Courts, CJJR will implement the CYPM with each county's juvenile justice, child welfare, and family court systems. “Our goal is to support the youth by providing juvenile justice and child welfare services that improve their outcomes,” says Mohave County's Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Richard Weiss. “Working with Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform will allow us to better identify and serve the needs of young people while developing a set of best practices.”

The CYPM provides specific methods to help reduce the number of youth placed in out-of-home care, the use of congregate care, the disproportionate number of youth of color in the crossover population, and the number of youth who cross over between systems.

CJJR, a Center within Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy, will train and provide onsite technical assistance for one year to each county's staff and stakeholders, thereby supporting the implementation of the CYPM. Since 2010, the CYPM has improved the lives of crossover youth in more than 60 counties in 19 states, including Maricopa County, Arizona.

The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy educates and supports leaders in the juvenile justice and related systems of care. The Center seeks to complement the juvenile justice reform work being done across the country by providing a multi-systems perspective and set of resources in support of

this work.

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Note to editors: For an interview with Shay Bilchik, CJJR Founder and Director, please contact Edith McCaskill at egs29@georgetown.edu, 202-687-2796.

For more information:

Center for Juvenile Justice Reform

www.cjrr.georgetown.edu

Crossover Youth Practice Model

www.cjrr.georgetown.edu/practicemodel

Juvenile Justice Services Division of the Arizona Supreme Court/AOC

<http://www.azcourts.gov/jjsd/Home.aspx>