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Sierra Health Foundation launches Positive Youth Justice Initiative (PYJI) with four counties

CJCJ is providing technical assistance to selected PYJI counties, focusing on wraparound services and strengthening community partnerships



The Positive Youth Justice Initiative (PYJI) is set to cause a stir of innovation in California's juvenile justice system. The initiative is focusing its efforts on "crossover youth"; young people involved in both the child welfare and justice systems.

Alameda, San Joaquin, San Diego, and Solano counties are all receiving two-year grants to transform the way they provide services for this vulnerable population. The model will focus on investing in youth, treating trauma, changing systems, and wraparound services. According to [Chet Hewitt, Sierra Health Foundation's President and CEO](#):

"[PYJI] represents a fundamental shift in the way we approach juvenile justice, rooted in the strong belief that all children are valuable assets and deserve to receive the support they need to grow into healthy and successful adults."

[California's nationally-recognized experts](#) are providing assistance to the selected counties, strengthening counties' ability to provide comprehensive and holistic care to their young people. CJCJ's Deputy Director Dinky Manek Enty (pictured above, left), attended the PYJI launch event and provided guidance to county stakeholders on increasing access to comprehensive therapeutic and family services for high-risk justice-involved youth, in their communities.

CJCJ is proud to be one of PYJI's partners, providing our experience implementing [wraparound services in San Francisco](#) and developing strong community, nonprofit, and government [partnerships](#), and knowledge of model community-based practices when serving justice-involved youth.

[Read the most recent PYJI fact sheet >>](#)

San Francisco supports residents with employment barriers get back to work

Join CJCJ at Project Homeless Connect on March 5 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, in the Bill Graham Auditorium, SF

Earlier this month the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance to improve fairness in the hiring practices of both public and private employers. The Fair Chance Ordinance removes the box on initial job applications that inquires about an applicant's criminal history. Instead the employer would first consider the applicant on the merits of their qualifications.

[Read more about San Francisco's landmark reform >>](#)

Further, on March 5, 2014, [Project Homeless Connect](#) will be hosting its regular services event at the Bill Graham Auditorium in San Francisco from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. The event brings together a plethora of service providers so that a person experiencing homelessness can obtain critical health care, food, hygiene products, pet vaccinations, identification cards, wheelchair repairs, housing, and employment counseling.

CJCJ's [San Francisco Training Partnership](#) and [Homeless Employment Collaborative](#) staff (pictured right) attend the event to provide information on our monthly employment readiness training and placement services.



Released today: Realignment and crime update

CJCJ released a fact sheet today using new FBI crime data for the first six months of 2013

The new fact sheet provides a brief update to CJCJ's January 2013 research brief, [California's Urban Crime Increase: Is Realignment to Blame?](#) which used FBI crime reported data for California's 69 largest cities, from 1992 to 2012.

The latest update shows a continuing trend of decreasing urban violent and overall crime rates, with only motor vehicle theft showing an increase.

[Read the update for the first six months of 2013 >>](#)

This short update also follows a larger [January report](#) that investigated Realignment's potential impact on crime trends throughout all of California and found that there were no conclusive trends linking Realignment to crime. In fact, California counties demonstrate radically varied Realignment experiences, indicating that local reforms of policies and practices are more likely to yield positive public safety outcomes than broader statewide AB 109 legislation.

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