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A progressive approach to sealing juvenile records**Two bills would help juveniles get clean slates**

A juvenile record can haunt an individual for life, regardless of how minor the crime or how law-abiding the individual as an adult. In California, the records can be sealed, but it is an onerous, complex, and often costly process that fails many justice-involved youth — and is further complicated by the fact that each of the 58 counties has a different process.

California is taking steps in the right direction. As of January 2015, California courts and probation departments will be required to offer information on the sealing process. And this year, [two bills](#) offer further hope for a clean slate: SB 1038 (Leno) creates a pathway for automatic sealing of a juvenile's record, and AB 1756 (Skinner) would eliminate the sealing fee — which runs as high as \$150 — for people under 26.

In [an Op-Ed for](#) the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange, CJCJ's Antonia Cartwright argues that "the automatic sealing of juvenile records is a crucial step towards achieving successful reform and safer societies."

[Read about other key juvenile justice legislation >>](#)

Cameo House gets a makeover for its littlest residents**Home for formerly incarcerated mothers and their children renovated**

Among the many hurdles people face when reentering society after a period of incarceration, one of the most important to overcome is family reunification.

[Cameo House](#), CJCJ's transitional housing program for single justice-involved mothers and their children, supports women facing these challenges by providing counseling,



employment readiness training, and other services.

To [break the intergenerational cycle of trauma](#) and justice involvement, Cameo House focuses its programming on the children as well. And now, a beautiful new playroom offers a space where children can learn, play, and engage with toys that foster healthy development.

"We're not just teaching moms how to nurture their kids, we're modeling that by engaging the kids in developmentally-appropriate ways," says Danielle Evans, CJCJ's director of women's services. "We want a safe, nurturing, and structured environment where everyone, moms and kids, can grow."

Along with a new playroom, Cameo House has a new family garden, including 11 potted flowering plants — one for each family.

[Donate today to help break the cycle of incarceration>>](#)

CJCJ offers expertise at symposium on race and policy

Annual symposium addresses policy implications for people of color



On April 21, Gerald Miller, CJCJ's director of adult community corrections services, addressed UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy at their 4th Annual Race and Policy Symposium, "[Policy in Action: The Unintended Consequences](#)."

Miller, speaking on the panel "Race and reentry: How race and class shape opportunities for reentry and rehabilitation," emphasized the importance of policymakers having first-hand experience with the populations they seek to serve. He also pointed out that many people leaving prison and jail do not just struggle with society during reentry — their involvement with the justice system is, in part, a consequence of not being integrated into law abiding society in the first place.

The symposium also featured talks on wealth inequality and school finance reform, and included keynotes by Eva Paterson, founder and president of the Equal Justice Society, and San Francisco Supervisor London Breed.

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