



**Justice Center**

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS



**Center for Juvenile Justice Reform**

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# Developing and Partnering with Youth Advisory Councils to Inspire and Enhance Youth Justice Policy and Practice

April 12, 2023

# Webinar Series and Partners

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This webinar is hosted by the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy in partnership with The Council of State Governments Justice Center and with the support of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The webinar is the second part of a series focused on youth and family partnership in youth justice efforts. For more info, visit:

**<https://csgjusticecenter.org/events/youth-and-family-partnership-in-juvenile-justice-systems-reform-series/>**

# Today's Speakers

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- Amiyah Davis, CJJR Project Coordinator and Former Member of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Justice Youth Advisory Council
- Angel Ramos, Youth Advisory Council Manager, Fresh Lifelines for Youth, Santa Clara County, CA
- Aydeth Ramirez, Youth Advisory Council Member, Santa Clara County, CA

# What is the Youth Advisory Council (YAC)?

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# YAC Background

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## Youth Voice

- The goal of the YAC is to elevate the voice of youth, equipping young people to lead the way in creating more effective, humane local juvenile justice systems.

## Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY)

- The Youth Advisory Council was created in 2017 in partnership with the Santa Clara County Probation Department and FLY.

# YAC Mission and Vision

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**Mission:** To improve our communities for young people by

- Creating a space that honors diversity and lived experiences of young people and harnesses that power to improve systems;
- Elevating youth voices throughout the community to ensure their input impacts the juvenile justice system from every angle; and
- Using lived experiences and research-based approaches to positively change young people directly.

**Vision:** We envision a Santa Clara County where young people's voices are utilized to create equitable, accountable, and responsive systems of education and justice for a stronger community.

# Youth Advisory Council Core Values

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The members of the Youth Advisory Council are committed to upholding the following core values:

- Open-mindedness
- Respect
- Honesty
- Support
- Optimism
- Integrity
- Perseverance
- Self-realization
- Leadership
- Vision
- Empathy
- Compassion

# Youth Advisory Council Services

REP Orientation  
(REDEMPTION,  
EDUCATION,  
PURPOSE)





# YAC at the James Ranch



# YAC Accomplishments

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**Since the launch of YAC, the members have made vital changes to the Santa Clara County Probation Department and have gained national attention:**

- YAC developed an **orientation** for youth newly on probation and their families to share information and perspectives that they need to be successful on probation. YAC is now hosting regular orientations for these youth.
- The Probation Department has incorporated a **YAC presentation and panel** into trainings.
- A YAC representative was an **active member of the City of San Jose's Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force** in 2018.
- The YAC Justice Consultants facilitated a **workshop** at San Jose's Gang and Crime Prevention Summit on the risks for system involvement related to social media.

# YAC Accomplishments (cont.)

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- FLY's YAC Past President, Miracle Te'o, was invited to join the Annie E. Casey Foundation's national **Juvenile Justice Youth Advisory Council** and represents youth across the nation in this important role.
- YAC has **influenced other counties** that FLY serves (Alameda and San Mateo) to begin YACs and have shared their insights in other states.
- Youth Justice Consultant **spoke in Tennessee** about the impacts of immigration laws.
- Youth Justice Consultants Aydeth and Estefani helped develop the **MOU and board resolution** focused on "disrupting the school to prison pipeline," which announced January as the month of "disrupting the school to prison pipeline."

# Contact Information

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