

ChildWelfareJimCaseyInitiativeJuvenileJustice

NewsClips&Commentary

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Child Welfare

12 News | Alabama

[Supreme Court reverses Alabama court that denied lesbian woman's adoption](#)

07 Mar

The Supreme Court on Monday unanimously reversed an Alabama court's refusal to recognize a same-sex adoption. The justices upheld a challenge brought by an Alabama woman after her state's highest court refused to recognize the adoption she and her former lesbian partner were granted in Georgia.

Court House News | California

['Scorched-Earth' Battle Continues in NorCal](#)

07 Mar

A judge dismissed federal, but not state, claims against officials in a Northern California county arising from a "scorched-earth" child custody battle and allegations of government corruption. U.S. District Judge Richard Seeborg on Thursday granted Del Norte County officials' motion for summary judgment on a woman's federal claims of deprivation of familial association, but allowed state claims to proceed.

Forsyth News | Georgia

[Foster care support center opens Gainesville site](#)

07 Mar

Fostering more than 11 children, Ashley and Brian Anderson of Forsyth County felt as if they were "on an island alone." "We felt like there was no support for foster and adoptive families," Ashley Anderson said. The Andersons, who founded Cumming-based Supporting Adoption and Foster Families Together in 2008, hope to help Hall County foster families with the recent opening of the Family Life Center in Gainesville.

Spokesman | Idaho

[Foster care reform bill wins unanimous support of House](#)

07 Mar

Foster-care reform legislation passed the House today on a unanimous, 70-0 vote, after House Majority Leader Mike Moyle, R-Star, told of a 14-month-old boy who was removed from a loving foster home, where the foster parents wanted to adopt him, and sent to an out-of-state home where there was no interest in adoption. Instead, Moyle said, the interest was "because with that child comes a paycheck. Think about that. With that child comes a paycheck. I have a problem with that. It's morally wrong."

Bangor Daily News | Maine

[If you want youth to stop acting out, understand them first. Then help them do what they love](#)

07 Mar

"How can we better engage some of our harder-to-reach young people?" This question was posed to me by BDN editor Erin Rhoda who wrote a shocking yet disturbingly familiar story of a young Maine man named Garrett Brown. He made poor choices as an adolescent, developed an addiction to heroin and ultimately died of an overdose.

Associated Press | Nebraska

[Kearney-based transportation service helps foster care kids](#)

07 Mar

Life on the road is what many children in the foster care system experience between home visits, therapy and court dates. According to Child and Family Services Supervisor Byran Allen of the Department of Health and Human Services in

Kearney, transportation services are vital part of helping caseworkers to ensure foster kids are going to the places they need to go such as to home visitations, doctor appointments and court.

Associated Press | Oklahoma

[Oklahoma DHS paying millions to child welfare consultants](#)

06 Mar

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services has paid out more than \$5.6 million over the past four years to a New Jersey-based consulting group to oversee reforms to the state's child welfare system.

Providence Journal | Rhode Island

[R.I. child advocate launches probe into deaths in DCYF care](#)

05 Mar

Child welfare advocates troubled by the number of children dying in state care and the lack of public information about the cases are pushing to expand reporting requirements and to mandate that investigations be made public.

People's World | South Dakota

[Judge rules second time for tribes in South Dakota Indian child welfare case](#)

07 Mar

For a second time, Federal Judge Jeffrey L. Viken ruled against South Dakota's state Department of Social Services (DSS) and attorneys for the state Feb. 19. DSS, along with the state's attorney Mark Vargo, and Judge Jeff Davis had held hearings over the past several years that resulted in the illegal removal of thousands of Indian children from their homes and placing them in white foster homes. This is not about just a legal ruling in the latest round of battling over the state's violation of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). This is about the halting of genocide in America.

Houston Press | Texas

[Head Of State's Beleaguered Foster Care System Abruptly Resigns](#)

07 Mar

Three months after a federal judge ruled that the Texas foster care system has turned a blind eye to the suffering of thousands of children, the head of the Department of Family and Protective Services has stepped down.

Seattle Times | Washington

[Nearly 200 homeless kids waiting for spot in state's preschool program](#)

07 Mar

Nearly 200 homeless children are on the wait list for Washington State's subsidized preschool program for low-income families. It would cost about \$2 million to make space for them, according to a nonprofit organization based in Bellevue that advocates for Head Start providers and families. But time is running out in this Legislative session to fund an expansion.

Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative

Youth Policy Institute of Iowa | Iowa

[Youth Policy Institute of Iowa Surveys 500 Youth on Life in Foster Care](#)

04 Mar

Youth Policy Institute of Iowa (YPII) has released an issue brief on normalcy in foster care, "Foster Care: When Normal Ain't Normal", a result of work done with a grant from the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. The brief highlights the results from a survey of nearly 500 youth about their life while in foster care. It also explains the research behind and importance of providing young people in foster care the opportunity to engage in activities typical of their peers not in a foster care placement and makes policy recommendations.

SYS CON Media | New York

[You Gotta Believe \(YGB\) Expands Board to Support its Growing Organization](#)

07 Mar

You Gotta Believe – the only organization in the NYC Metro area that focuses exclusively on finding permanent families for young adults, teens, and preteens in the foster care system - has announced a major expansion of its Board of Directors that will bring a wealth of experience to its team as its mission grows... YGB, founded in 1995, is strengthening its Board at a time when its services are needed more than ever to help the large numbers of older youth in the foster care system. Each year nearly 25,000 youth age out of care in the United States, including more than 1,000 in the NYC Metro area.

Next Pittsburg | Pennsylvania

[Ward Home provides supervised independent living for foster teens' future success](#)

05 Mar

When Michael Johnson was living at Ward Home, and it was time to attend one of the program's college tours, he went reluctantly. For a teen who had come from a home life so difficult that he was placed in the foster care system, what relevance could college have?

WESA FM | Pennsylvania

[New Facility Helping Former Foster Children Transition Into Adulthood](#)

07 Mar

A new daytime haven for homeless youth and former child welfare recipients in Allegheny County is experiencing its first successes. Since its soft opening on Jan. 26, the 412 Youth Zone has seen about 400 young people ages 16 to 24 come through its doors in the Wood Street Commons building downtown.

Juvenile Justice

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange | National

[Millions of Us Are Affected by Draconian Prison Penalties](#)

07 Mar

A crisis is defined as "a stage in a sequence of events at which the trend of all future events is determined." It is a turning point, a condition of instability or danger that will lead us to a decisive change.

Think Progress | California

[Inside The L.A. Juvenile Detention Center That's Been Compared To A 'Third World Country Prison'](#)

07 Mar

Hundreds of kids in Los Angeles are languishing in a detention center that one probation monitor likens to a "Third World country prison." According to a scathing new report on conditions in L.A. County's main juvenile detention center, Central Juvenile Hall, some 200 kids — most of whom are waiting for their trials to start — are living in squalid units and tossed in solitary confinement for minor infractions.

The Chronicle of Social Change | California

[Truancy, Suspension Rates Drop in Greater Los Angeles Area Schools](#)

07 Mar

As evidence mounts that punitive discipline makes students more likely to go to prison than to college, school districts in greater Los Angeles, including Long Beach Unified and Lynwood Unified, are shifting away from suspending students or citing them for truancy. Instead, they're making greater use of restorative justice programs, as is the juvenile division of the Orange County Superior Court.

Orlando Sentinel | Florida

[Volusia County could hold key to ending fight over juvenile detention costs](#)

05 Mar

A legislative fix for a long-term dispute between counties and the state over who pays to detain juvenile offenders could hinge on whether one county will support the bill. After years of court battles, a proposal (SB 1322) by Sen. Jack Latvala, R-Clearwater, got a boost Friday when Volusia County — the lone holdout on the bill among 22 counties litigating with the state over juvenile detention costs — scheduled an emergency meeting for Monday morning.

The Des Moines Register | Iowa

[Iowa legislators attend criminal justice summit](#)

05 Mar

Iowa legislators gathered Saturday to continue the conversation on criminal justice reform during the Iowa Criminal Justice Summit Program at DMACC Southridge Center. "Today I just really wanted to focus on kind of a legislative perspective," said Rep. Helen Miller, who organized the event. "Everybody needs to be informed ... You have to be able to talk to your constituents about it. And so this helps all of us be able to go back and do an effective job of talking to our constituents. Explaining. Defending is necessary because some people will think perhaps that it's soft on crime. I like the expression 'smart on crime.'"

The Philadelphia Tribune | Pennsylvania

[Revised federal law aims to curb school-to-prison pipeline](#)

04 Mar

A legal expert says a change to the federal law prohibiting discrimination in special education could identify school districts with practices and policies that contribute to the so-called school-to-prison pipeline, where a higher number of students end up in the criminal justice system than graduating.

The Texas Tribune | Texas

[Juvenile Offenders Find Rehabilitation Through Work](#)

05 Mar

Texas juvenile justice officials think they might have found a solution to some of their incarcerated youths' behavior problems: putting them to work. The Texas Juvenile Justice Department has developed a pilot program to place young offenders in jobs if they have already earned a high school diploma or GED. Normally, youths have to keep up a 16-hour day that includes going to classes even if they have completed their required education.

KIRO 7 | Washington

[Activists protest proposed Seattle youth jail](#)

07 Mar

Roughly 200 activists gathered Sunday to fight against King County's plan to tear down a juvenile detention center – and build a new one in its place. The county says the new facility is desperately needed. Activists, however, disagree. They say the community should watch over juvenile offenders instead of a public facility.

The Herald-Independent | Wisconsin

[Students, school benefiting from restorative justice](#)

04 Mar

"Sometimes our standard practices of discipline can ostracize kids who already feel disengaged from the school environment, so we help other students to realize why restorative justice is such an important approach and then we train them to facilitate circles," said Nichole Carlisle, school social worker at Glacial Drumlin School.

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