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**July 31, 2013**

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## **CJCJ's Youth Justice Mentoring Program**

### **Our latest program expands our continuum of services to youth in detention**

CJCJ assumed operation of the Youth Justice Institute's mentoring services, following its closure last month. CJCJ's Youth Justice Mentoring Program (YJM) serves youth in San Francisco's Youth Guidance Center and in the community upon release.

Our gender-responsive, culturally competent services are built upon the Youth Justice Institute's model of care to stabilize youth in crisis by providing positive relationships with adult mentors who promote personal growth and development.

[Interested in being a mentor? We're always looking for diverse, intelligent, and passionate individuals to volunteer.](#)

CJCJ is honored to continue the legacy and invaluable contribution the Youth Justice Institute made to San Francisco's continuum of care for our most vulnerable youth.

[Read more about our new mentoring program>>](#)

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## **Post-Realignment Spotlight: San Francisco leaders forge partnerships**

**SF Sheriff, Probation Chief, and District Attorney develop creative public safety programs**



Photo by Vimal Bhalodia | @VimalBhalodia.

This month CJCJ staff participated in several local innovative projects to reduce recidivism led by the county's criminal justice leadership. Read about their experiences on CJCJ's blog:

### **The Reentry Pod**

"Earlier this year, San Francisco's Sheriff Mirkarimi teamed up with Adult Probation Chief Still to operate a unique reentry pod in Jail #2 that provides community connections and resources to people about to be released. Last week, I visited the reentry pod and gained a glimpse into its progress." [Read more >>](#)

### **The Sentencing Commission**

"Drug policy was the topic of discussion at the most recent quarterly San Francisco Sentencing Commission meeting. Key justice leaders such as the District Attorney, Sheriff, Police Department, and Chief Adult Probation Officer engaged with and learned from a diverse list of guest speakers who presented on out-of-state, national and international innovations in the field. As a Commissioner myself, I pondered how this wealth of information could be utilized to promote public safety in our community." [Read more >>](#)

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## **SB 260 emphasizes compassion for young people**

### **CJCJ's Lizzie Buchen writes opinion editorial outlining the need for SB 260**

More than 2,500 Californians are serving life sentences in prison for crimes they committed when they were under 18 years old. Lizzie Buchen writes,

"Across the criminal justice system, punishment, in the form of severe prison

sentences, has become more important than rehabilitating offenders, protecting the public, helping crime victims, and supporting children with traumatic and abusive upbringings."

Senate Bill 260, which would require the parole board to evaluate these sentences after 15 and 25 years in prison, would ensure that young offenders are given a true opportunity to prove their rehabilitation, remorse, and potential for success.

[Read \*Troubled Young People Deserve Compassion, Not Punishment\* >>](#)

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