



NPJS **supports and advocates for juvenile services practitioners**, including direct care staff, teachers, staff trainers, and administrators in secure and non-secure programs.

These are not just words on the NPJS website, a tagline on the letterhead, or a mission statement created as part of some strategic plan. **If** we are serious, these are words that define who we are and how we choose to spend our people, time and monetary capital.

There are three important concepts in the bolded phrase: juvenile services practitioners, support and advocate. NPJS is the only organization committed solely to **juvenile services practitioners** in secure and non-secure programs.

This commitment to direct care staff and juvenile agencies has been our proud distinction since the inception of our individual organizations – the National Juvenile Detention Association (1968), National Association for Juvenile Correctional Agencies (1903), the Juvenile Justice Trainers Association (1984), and the Council for Educators of At-Risk and Delinquent Youth (1999) – and in 2004 when we merged these membership organizations under one operational structure. This merger allowed us to minimize duplication, maximize limited resources, and ensure sustainability while staying true to our mission of serving the staff who serves youth in custody.

It is important to understand that staying true to this commitment does not preclude NPJS from developing key partnerships and affiliations with sister organizations that might have a different mission. In 2012, NPJS, after years of relationship building between Randy Farmer, President of CEARDY (now the NPJS Education Council) and Rhea Bowman, from the Correctional Education Association (CEA), welcomed CEA as an affiliate member of NPJS. As an Affiliate Member in good standing, CEA is afforded one vote on the NPJS Board of Directors. Based on discussions with Ms. Bowman, NPJS will have a reciprocal agreement with CEA. In 2013, NPJS will develop similar affiliations with organizations whose primary focus may not be the juvenile justice field, but may have a strong interest in the welfare of our youth and staff. As we broaden our circle of affiliations, we also strengthen our vision of being the voice for juvenile justice services practitioners in a bigger world.

The Partnership seeks to **support** its membership by striving to advocate for the highest standards in care, management and programming for detained youth, strengthening training and professional development opportunities for practitioners, and leading systemic reform efforts. In our role to strengthen training and professional development opportunities, NPJS focused its efforts in 2012 on “bringing back” the Symposium. Despite the economy, restrictions on travel, an election battle, and a reduction in federal grants, we were determined to provide juvenile justice practitioners with a robust and expanded training agenda and top-quality trainers, at an affordable venue. Thanks to our partnerships with OJJDP, the National PREA Resource Center, our many volunteer trainers, vendors and NPJS staff and volunteers, the 2012 Symposium was very successful. We continue to view this event as a priority.

Plans for the 2013 Symposium in Louisville, KY are moving forward with many new partnerships including Clarence Williams and the Louisville/Jefferson Metro Juvenile Detention Center (KY), Hasan Davis, and the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice, Stephanie Reynolds, the KY Juvenile Justice Specialist, and Nancy Pfaadt, Chair of the KY Juvenile Justice Advisory Board. With a team like this, in addition to our usual partners, you will not want to miss this event. Details are already available on the **new** NPJS website ([www.npjs.org](http://www.npjs.org)).

**UNITED IN VOICE... UNITED IN SERVICE...**

*A Network for Professionals in Juvenile Confinement; At-Risk Education; Juvenile Services Staff Training; and Community-Based Services*

An important outcome from the 2012 Symposium was the recreation of the NPJS Membership and Marketing (M&M) Committee. Under the leadership of Debra O'Neal (DE) and Randy Farmer (NE), this committee has three important areas of focus:

1. Increasing membership by spreading the word about who we are, what we do and what we offer.
2. Making the annual Symposium the premier conference for juvenile justice by creating awareness and promoting the Symposium to increasing member and non-member participation as well as vendor support and sponsorship.
3. Creating a marketing plan for our current and new eLearning courses to generate revenue for the Partnership.

Currently the M&M Committee is "Small but Mighty". Debra and Randy are looking for new members, especially as the committee diversifies its portfolio into the three focus areas. Please contact the NPJS office at [npjs@me.com](mailto:npjs@me.com) if you have the time and energy to help out.

In addition to plans for the Symposium, a primary goal for NPJS in 2013 is to expand its offerings of eLearning modules for the field. Based on recommendations from our Training Council, we will identify the most appropriate platform and set goals for the development of modules in all of the discipline areas. Each Council President is responsible for recruiting e-module writers. The Council Presidents are listed at the end of this article. Please contact your Council President if you are interested in being an e-learning module writer or on the e-learning promotion committee.

**Advocating** for juvenile services practitioners and the field of juvenile justice is our biggest challenge. It is a challenge that we take seriously, and one that we should embrace in 2013. In the name of reform, our staff and programs, even in the best facilities have taken a beating. As Carol Cramer-Brooks said in Las Vegas, we can no longer, as individuals working in this field or as an organization committed to the support and advocacy for staff working in facilities, stand by and allow people to portray **all** detention as bad and **all** corrections as no place for kids. There are many individuals, facilities, and organizations truly committed to the concepts of safe and responsive care, helpful and therapeutic detention, trauma informed care, positive youth development and family engagement, and meaningful re-entry and transition services. We are not a perfect field. When we see bad detention, we have to step up to stop the harm being done. But when we see youth benefitting from the hard work of committed individuals, we want NPJS to be the first to say, "Well done, how can we help you?"

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### **NPJS Executive Committee**

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***Youth Development in Juvenile Justice: Promising Approaches,  
Positive Conditions, and Safe and Protective Environments***

October 20-24, 2013

The Galt House Hotel and Suites

Louisville, Kentucky

Registration material at [www.npjs.org](http://www.npjs.org) or call 859.333.2584

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