



In-Service Resources



July 2022

www.ctchildadvocates.org

Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration

Book by Reuben Miller

[CLICK HERE](#)

Each year, more than half a million Americans are released from prison and join a population of twenty million people who live with a felony record. Reuben Miller, a chaplain at the Cook County Jail in Chicago and now a sociologist studying mass incarceration, spent years alongside prisoners, ex-prisoners, their friends, and their families to understand the lifelong burden that even a single arrest can entail. What his work revealed is a simple, if overlooked truth: life after incarceration is its own form of prison.

Related: [listen to an interview](#) hosted by Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research as Professor Miller discusses his book and the impact of incarceration on individuals, families and communities.



How Two Middle School ‘Desperadoes’ Ended Up in a Police Shootout

New York Times article 5/12/22

[CLICK HERE](#)

A 14-year-old girl and a 12-year-old boy took up weapons after a torturous journey through Florida’s juvenile mental health system.

Since the mid-20th century, community-based counseling, therapy and in some cases medication have been preferred over lengthy inpatient treatment for children with serious behavior disorders. Some of those who worked with Nicole said she was sometimes pulled out of programs that might have helped her as a result of her own bad behavior.

“People say the system has failed on me,” Nicole said in a telephone interview from Volusia County jail. “I don’t think I should go to prison. Obviously, I don’t. Little kids like me, 14-year-olds, make mistakes.”



The Lighthouse Effect: How Ordinary People Can Have an Extraordinary Impact in the World

Book by Steve Pemberton

[CLICK HERE](#)

Steve Pemberton found a lighthouse in an ordinary man named John Sykes, his former high school counselor. John gave Steve a safe harbor after Steve escaped an abusive foster home and together they navigated a new path that led to personal and professional success.

In this stirring follow-up to his memoir, Steve Pemberton gives practical encouragement for how you can be a "human lighthouse" for others and through these inspiring stories will renew your hope for humanity.



Sabrina's Parents Love Her. But the Meltdowns Are Too Much.

6/1/22 New York Times article

[CLICK HERE](#)



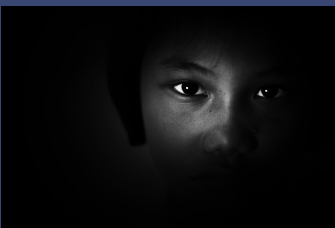
Unpredictable violence, chaotic outbursts and countless trips to the emergency room. What happens when an autistic teenager becomes unmanageable at home?

In New York State, there are around 50 residential schools, mostly private and expensive, that specialize in working with children with disabilities ranging from autism to traumatic brain injuries. But the demand for spots is great, and these institutions are generally able to pick and choose whom to accept.

Materials from CAC's In-service on Human Trafficking with Tom Dutcher from Love 146

[CLICK HERE](#)

LOVE146



Love 146 is a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) non-profit international human rights organization journeying alongside children impacted by trafficking today, and preventing the trafficking of children tomorrow. Tom Dutcher, the LOVE 146 Prevention Advisory Specialist and Navigator in charge of Education, discussed Human Trafficking 101. The program was comprehensive and interactive, focusing on: What is human trafficking, Who is vulnerable, Who does the exploiting, What services does LOVE 146 provide, and What can we do?

Other sites and materials referenced during in-service:

- [General Hotline & Red Flags Poster](#)
- Polaris Project: [Recognizing Sex Trafficking](#)
- Polaris Project: [Recognizing Labor Trafficking](#)
- [Thorn.org](#): Builds technology to defend children from sexual abuse

I Have Studied Child Protective Services for Decades. It Needs to Be Abolished. It's shockingly easy for CPS to destroy poor, Black families.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Mother Jones article by Dorothy E. Roberts

With the threat of child removal at its core, the child welfare system regulates a massive number of families. In 2019 alone, CPS agencies investigated the families of 3.5 million children, ultimately finding abuse or neglect only in one-fifth of cases, or for the families of 656,000 children. Yet the families of these children are put through an indefinite period of intensive scrutiny by CPS workers and judges who have the power to keep children apart from their parents for years or even to sever their family ties forever.

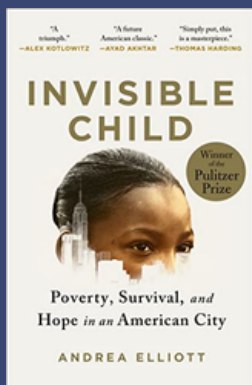


But after 25 years of studying family separation as a legal scholar and author, I'm convinced that the mission of CPS agencies is not to care for children or protect their welfare. Rather, they respond inadequately and inhumanely to our society's abysmal failures. Far from promoting the well-being of children, the state weaponizes children as a way to threaten families, to scapegoat parents for societal harms to their children, and to buttress the racist status quo. "Policing" is the word that captures best what the system does to America's most disfranchised families. It subjects them to surveillance, coercion, and punishment. It is a family-policing system. And the only way to stop the destruction caused by family policing is to stop policing families—to abolish the system that tears families apart.

Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival & Hope in an American City

Book by Andrea Elliott, Winner of the 2022 Pulitzer Prize in General Nonfiction

[CLICK HERE](#)



Invisible Child follows eight dramatic years in the life of Dasani Coates, a child with an imagination as soaring as the skyscrapers near her Brooklyn homeless shelter. Born at the turn of a new century, Dasani is named for the bottled water that comes to symbolize Brooklyn's gentrification and the shared aspirations of a divided city. As Dasani grows up, moving with her tight-knit family from shelter to shelter, this story goes back to trace the passage of Dasani's ancestors from slavery to the Great Migration north. By the time Dasani comes of age, New York City's homeless crisis is exploding as the chasm deepens between rich and poor.

Tow Youth Justice Institute Issue Brief: The Importance of Summer Youth Employment

[CLICK HERE](#)



Summer is a critical time for engaging youth as schools are closed. Without structure, youth can become disconnected. Disconnection has been identified as a major driving factor among youth getting involved in criminal activities. A lack of vocational opportunities enhances the vulnerability of at-risk youth to engage in criminal behavior.

Collaboratively, coordinated employment and training programs designed for summer have been recognized to have a positive long-term impact on youth by providing them with positive social and emotional engagements in pursuing potential career paths and achieving their personal aspirations.

Summer Youth Employment Programs (SYEP) aim to create resources and opportunities for them by collaborating with employers of various disciplines -- financial institutions, not-for-profit organizations, and public and private sectors -- to further help youth in gaining experience, networking, and securing employment.

New as of July 16, 2022

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is now 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

[**CLICK HERE**](#)

988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (now known as the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline), and is now active across the United States.

When people call, text, or chat 988, they will be connected to trained counselors that are part of the existing Lifeline network. These trained counselors will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support, and connect them to resources if necessary.

The previous Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will always remain available to people in emotional distress or suicidal crisis.



Most missing foster kids in four major states weren't screened to see whether they'd been sex trafficked, says watchdog

NBC News article 7/7/22

[**CLICK HERE**](#)

More than three-quarters of foster children who went missing in four populous states were not screened after they were found to identify whether they had been victims of sex trafficking, in violation of federal law, according to a newly released federal audit.

The report by the inspector general for the Department of Health and Human Services found that in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Illinois, the vast majority of recovered foster children were not screened, despite evidence that missing children are often sexually exploited.



Webinar: 2022 Connecticut Legislative Wrap-Up Education, Mental Health, and Juvenile Justice

[CLICK HERE](#)

June 23, 2022

Hosted by: Center for Children's Advocacy & the Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services

This webinar included legislators and experts in the field who provided a background on legislation that was passed and/or proposed during the 2022 Connecticut legislative session. Particular attention was paid toward proposals which impact children, including bills related to education, children's mental health, and juvenile justice.



The State of Early Childhood: Equity of Access for Immigrant and Refugee Families

June 2022

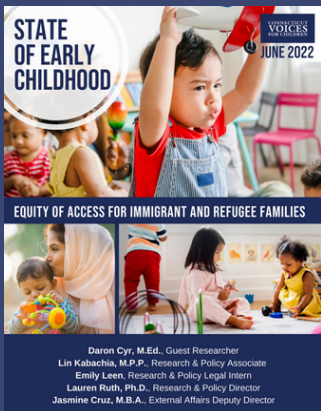
[CLICK HERE](#)

Connecticut Voices for Children released a new report, "The State of Early Childhood: Equity of Access for Immigrant and Refugee Families."

Early Care and Education (ECE) is a critical service for children and families. Approximately one in 3.6 children was part of an immigrant family.

The report, which examines the experiences of immigrant and refugee families in accessing ECE, outlines 12 policy recommendations to extend and expand access, increase funding, and reduce barriers to early care for both immigrant and refugee families.

Also available is the [2022 SOEC Just Facts](#) summary.



Psychosis, Addiction, Chronic Vomiting: As Weed Becomes More Potent, Teens Are Getting Sick

[CLICK HERE](#)

June 23, 2022

New York Times article by Christina Caron



Although recreational cannabis is illegal in the United States for those under 21, it has become more accessible as many states have legalized it. But experts say today's high-THC cannabis products — vastly different than the joints smoked decades ago — are poisoning some heavy users, including teenagers.



Marijuana is not as dangerous as a drug like fentanyl, but it can have potentially harmful effects — especially for young people, whose brains are still developing. In addition to uncontrollable vomiting and addiction, adolescents who frequently use high doses of cannabis may also experience psychosis that could possibly lead to a lifelong psychiatric disorder, an increased likelihood of developing depression and suicidal ideation, changes in brain anatomy and connectivity and poor memory.