



On May 25, 2022, the Biden Administration [announced](#) the release of a landmark Executive Order on Policing. In 2021, the National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition sent recommendations to the Administration entitled [The Future of Youth Justice 2021](#), and we are pleased to see a number of those recommendations and philosophies towards policing and justice reflected in this new Executive Order, including the following:

1. Addressing racial and ethnic disparities is one of the four core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Disparities begin at the first point of police contact. The Executive Order "requires development of an evidence-informed training module for law enforcement on implicit bias and avoiding improper profiling based on the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, limited English proficiency, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), or disability of individuals." This measure could help states comply with the requirement to reduce racial and ethnic disparities for youth by creating model federal tools and resources to improve fairness and equity in the interactions police have with all community members, including young people.
2. COVID-19 continues to be a concern in youth detention and correctional facilities, and inconsistent, or sometimes non-existent, data reporting makes it difficult to properly support the needs of youth and staff. The Executive Order specifically calls for improved conditions of confinement, including for juveniles. We hope this administrative action will lead to improved data, reduced admissions to, and increased release rates from facilities, elimination of reliance on restrictive housing and solitary confinement as a means of infection prevention and control, and an increase in trauma-informed training for staff.
3. The Executive Order's call to "reimagine crisis response" is in line with pending implementation of a national three-digit crisis line and the work happening by states and localities to ensure each community has an array of mobile response, crisis stabilization, and other mental health services that can best meet community needs. Inappropriate police response can have life and death consequences, as happened recently in the case of [Cedric Lofton](#), a Kansas teen in acute mental health crisis who was taken by police to a correctional facility instead of a hospital in response to a 911 call. Cedric was killed during a prone restraint by personnel in the juvenile intake facility, and his death was ruled a homicide. Leadership at the highest levels, reflected in this Executive Order, buoys local efforts at systems transformation to create safe and effective responses when someone faces a mental health challenge.
4. The broader criminal justice reforms referenced in the Executive Order appropriately reflect a focus on "front-end diversion, alternatives to incarceration, rehabilitation, and reentry." This approach reinforces the priorities of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Act, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) should be among the federal agencies leading the newly formed committee that will produce a strategic plan for reform. Cross-agency collaboration will be key to this committee's success. Inclusion of the Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Housing will strengthen the impact and ensure the strategic plan takes a holistic approach to reforms.

With the newly appointed OJJDP Administrator, Liz Ryan, in place, we look forward to leadership from the office in this effort to "advance effective, accountable policing and criminal justice practices that will build public trust and strengthen public safety." We know, however, that public safety is best accomplished through deep community investments in the well-being of their residents, especially in marginalized communities that have been hit hardest by the pandemic. Our Coalition encourages the Administration to keep the holistic needs of youth, young adults, and their families at the forefront of its work.