

Creating Pathways to Justice® for People with I/DD in 2018 and Beyond

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The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice &
Disability® (NCCJD)*

*The Arc of New Jersey's Webinar Series
Sept. 20, 2018*



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Learning Objectives

- Background on both NCCJD and Pathways to Justice training
- Accomplishments/resources available
- Current projects
- Looking to the future



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Overrepresentation as both Victims and Suspects/Defendants

- Represent 4-10% of prison population
- 2 in 10 prisoners and 3 in 10 jail inmates report having a **cognitive disability*** (BJS, 2015)
- They also experience highest rate of victimization compared to other types of disabilities (NCVS, 2015)
- 65-70 percent of justice-involved youth have a disability (3x higher the rate)



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** Cognitive disability: Because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem, do you have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?*

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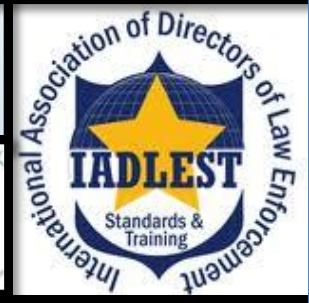
About NCCJD

- Created in 2013 – grant from Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
- \$800K from Nov 2013-Nov 2017
- Create NCCJD and Pathways to Justice
- Advocate at the intersection of criminal justice reform and the advancement of disability rights
 - Work on both victim/witness issues and on issues facing those who are charged with crimes



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NCCJD: What We Do

- Training and technical assistance
 - For criminal justice professionals (Pathways to Justice)
- Information and referral (800+ calls)
 - For both disability and criminal justice communities
- Resource collection and creation
 - White papers, fact sheets, articles
- Education
 - Social media, archived webinars, and conferences



I&R, TA, Consultation

- White House Domestic Policy Council
- Policing Post-Ferguson Conference, Yale Law School
- DOJ's COPS program – article for online newsletter and current MOU
- IACP - revise model policy and issues paper
- Vera Institute of Justice – male victims with disabilities, judicial curriculum
- US Dept. of State, International Disability Rights
- DOJ's Community Relations Services – hate crimes panel
- Georgia Dept of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- The Arc of Calhoun and Cleburne Counties & VA agency (AL)
- ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives)
- Numerous individual requests re: death penalty, suspects of sex crimes, assistance with IJPs, etc.



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Training: NCCJD Webinars

- Conducted 23 webinars with 4,500 attendees
- Archived webinars available
- Broad range of topics covering:
 - Intersection of race and disability
 - Disability awareness and CIT training
 - Crime victims with disabilities
 - Supporting victims re: sexual violence
 - Alternatives to incarceration
 - People with FASD in the CJ system
 - Services/supports for sex offenders with I/DD



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NCCJD White Paper Series

- Violence, Abuse and Bullying Affecting People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (April 2015)
- Sex Offenders with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (July 2015)
- Justice Involved Youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (Sept 2015)
- Competency of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System: A Call to Action for the Criminal Justice Community (Sept 2016)

<http://www.thearc.org/NCCJD/publications>



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NCCJD Web Site

- Pathways to Justice video & conversation guide
- State-by-state map; list of resources searchable by target audience and location
- Revamping site to make more user friendly overall and accessible
- Social media presence via Facebook page
- Pathways to Justice page

[Follow us!](https://www.facebook.com/NCCJD)

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Pathways to Justice®

- Community-based program
 - Includes self-advocates and other key stakeholders
- Multi-disciplinary approach
 - Training for law enforcement, legal professionals, and victim services providers
- Disability Response Teams (DRTs)



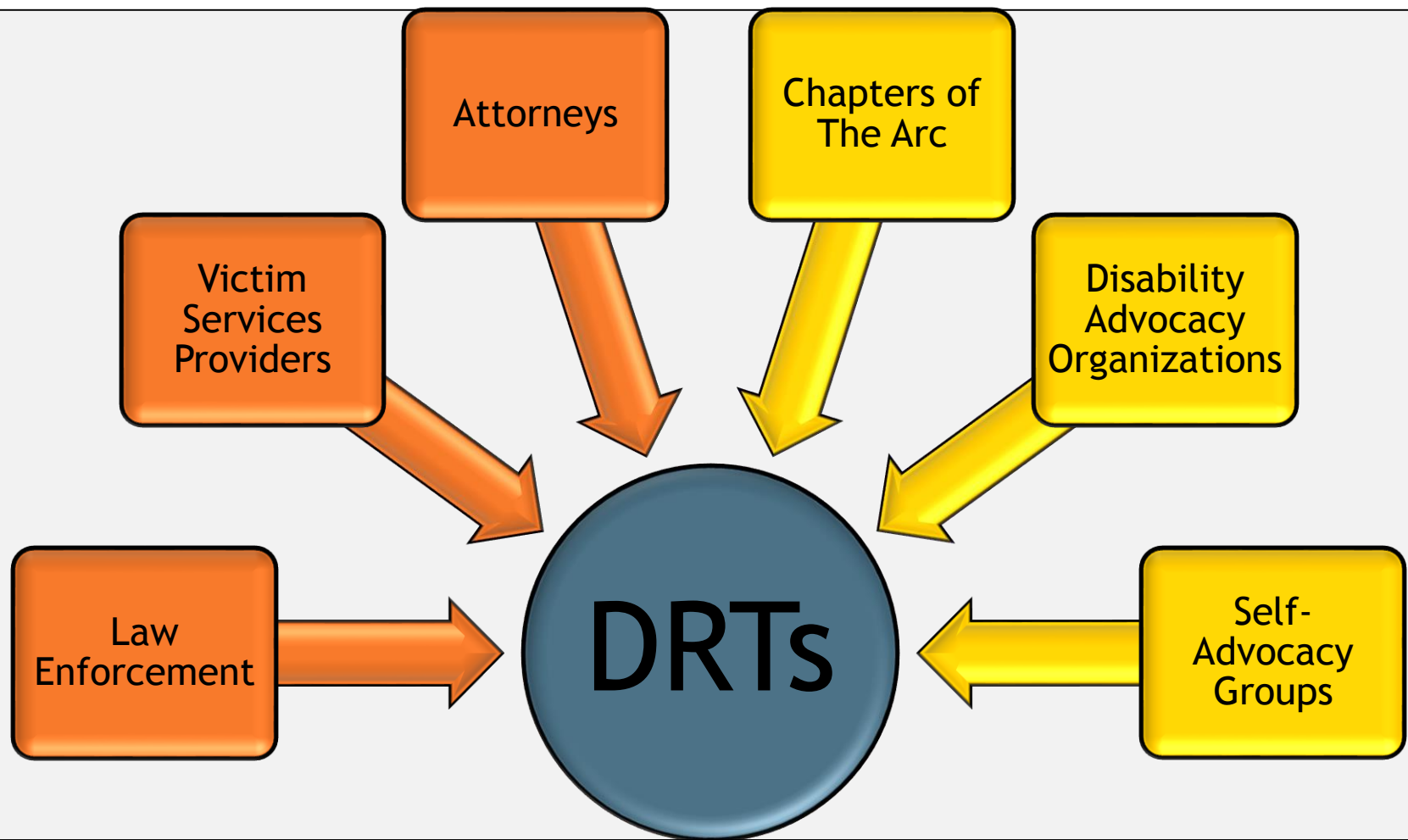
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www.NCCJDpathwaystojustice.org

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Disability Response Teams (DRTs)

- Multidisciplinary teams of criminal justice professionals and disability advocates.



Pathways to Justice[®] Overview

- One day, 8 hour training
- Core Components
 - Increasing awareness, debunking myths
 - Identifying disabilities (with disability rights focus)
 - Providing supports/accommodations
 - Knowing/using vital resources
 - Sustaining training efforts



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Pathways to Justice Modules

Module 1: *Introduction to DRTs and the Pathways to Justice Training Program*

Module 2: *Disability Basics*

Module 3: *Law Enforcement*

Module 4: *Victim Service Providers*

Module 5: *Legal Professionals*

Module 6: *Developing a Pathways to Justice Plan*



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Pathways to Justice®

Profession Specific Tip Sheets



- [10 Facts Law Enforcement Needs to Know When Serving & Protecting People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities \(I/DD\)](#)
- [5 Facts Attorneys Need to Know When Representing or Working With Citizens with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities \(I/DD\)](#)
- [10 Facts Victim Service Providers Need to Know When Serving & Protecting People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities \(I/DD\)](#)



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Available at: <http://www.thearc.org/NCCJD/publications>

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Pathways to Justice[®]

- Piloted PTJ at 5 chapters in 2015 (including The Arc of New Jersey)
- Conducted PTJ trainings at 6 chapters in 2017
- First Train-the-Trainer in Ohio in 2018
- Over 500 participants to date
- Findings (from pilot sites)
 - 49% of participants filled out pre/post test
 - 92% indicated knowledge level increased and intent to use new strategies learned



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NCCJD's Projects



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New Projects (2018-2020)

Serving Safely: The National Initiative to Enhance Policing for Persons with Mental Illnesses and Developmental Disabilities

Funder: Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

Dates: April 30, 2018 - April 30, 2019

Amount: \$330,000 for 1 year

Description: Provide training and TA on the topic of people with I/DD in the criminal justice system

NCCJD's Role: Partner with Vera Institute



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<https://www.vera.org/projects/serving-safely/overview>

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What “Serving Safely” Offers

- No cost trainings with police officers, emergency dispatchers, law enforcement leaders, legal professionals, victim service professionals, peers, and family members
- Assistance with the development, review, evaluation, and implementation of policies and protocols that aim to improve police responses to persons with mental illnesses and developmental disabilities
- Support after crisis incidents—and tailored solutions to promote long-term safety improvements in police departments and the communities they serve.

Apply for FREE training and TA here:

<https://www.vera.org/projects/serving-safely/training-and-technical-assistance>



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New Projects (2018-2020)

Supporting Crime Victims with Disabilities

Funder: Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)

Dates: March 30, 2018 - Sept 30, 2020

Amount: \$320,000 for 3 years

Description: Ensure the voices of people with I/DD are key in the process of revising two OVC publications

NCCJD's Role: Partner with Vera Institute



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Other Projects/Contracts

- Ohio UCCEDD Pathways to Justice[®] Train the Trainer (piloted)
- Vera Institute of Justice National Center on Underserved Victims
- Council of State Governments (CSG)
- Speaking and consultation fees
 - ATF request to review training
 - Growing number of requests for speaking engagements (many from NPR series)



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Unfunded Projects/Partnerships

- Vera Project: Ending Violence of People with Disabilities (NoVo Foundation)
- National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges
- COPS Office, U.S. Department of Justice
 - Creating videos with supplemental information
- Legal Reform for People with I/DD (LRIDD)
 - <https://lridd.org/>
- National Coalition for Sexual Health
- 1in6; No More Steering Committee



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Looking to the Future

- Applying the lens of intersectionality
- Supporting self-advocates as leaders in the #MeToo movement and criminal justice reform
- Create and support innovative ways to educate officers and others about I/DD (ie, procedural justice, CIT advanced course)



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2018 Priorities

- Addressing police misunderstandings of and misconduct toward people with disabilities
- Healing victims with disabilities, especially survivors of sexual assault
- Increasing attention on the plight of people with I/DD accused of sex offenses
- Increasing professional competence
 - Using Pathways to Justice as a primary tool
 - Targeted outreach to the legal community



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Intersectionality



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Improving NCCJD's Diversity & Cultural Competence

- Nature of criminal justice advocacy is intersectional
- NCCJD's Strategies:
 - Information and resources (e.g., current white paper)
 - Strategic planning
 - Staffing



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NPR's Abused & Betrayed Series

The rate of rape and sexual assault against people with intellectual disability is more than seven times the rate for people without disabilities.

Image: Three pictures of people with disabilities whose stories were shared in NPR's Abused and Betrayed series.



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The Arc of New Jersey's Blueprint to Address Sexual Violence



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Photos available at: <https://www.npr.org/2018/06/25/623189167/states-aim-to-halt-sexual-abuse-of-people-with-intellectual-disabilities>

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- At least 1 in 6 men have been sexually assaulted
- PSA - first time included a man with disabilities
- Over 4 million views to date
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2p06x-yumc0>

Image: Picture of man (James Meadours) shaking hands with woman who just read his story about surviving sexual assault for the first time. Both are sitting on stools and smiling.



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Future Activities

- Pathways to Justice®
 - Focus on outreach to chapters in 2018-9
 - The Arc of Georgia, The Arc of NM, The Arc of Texas, The Arc of Oregon, The Arc of Philadelphia, The Arc of Kent County (MI)
- Kessler Foundation
 - Innovative project combining employment with police training
- WITH Foundation
 - Talk About Sexual Violence project
- People with Disabilities Foundation
 - Support Pathways to Justice training
- Open Society Foundation
 - International hub project



NCCJD's 5-Year Strategic Plan

- NCCJD's advocacy is growing; time and resources can become strained
- Questions:
 - How do we meet the demand with limited resources?
 - What's most important to those we serve?
 - Where do we have the most expertise to offer?
 - How can we expand our impact?
- The solution & the challenge: *goal-directed advocacy, with measurable impacts overtime*



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NCCJD Policy Priorities

- Require training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and public defenders
 - So that individuals with I/DD are supported throughout their experience in the criminal justice system (whether as defendant, suspect, witness, victim, or incarcerated person)
- Create opportunities for alternatives to sentencing and pre-trial diversion for suspects/defendants with I/DD
- Ensure individuals with I/DD have access to sentencing reduction programs with needed accommodations and support
- Ensure individuals with I/DD obtain needed support and accommodations while incarcerated
- Create effective systems for identifying individuals who have I/DD in all stages of the criminal justice system



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NEW Chapter Community of Practice

- Online community to support chapters providing criminal justice advocacy:
 - Share practice resources
 - Identify and discuss common practice issues
 - Jointly problem-solve and discuss solutions
 - Celebrate good practice and good ideas
 - Promote a culture of shared learning and continuous improvement
 - Disseminate valuable information and transfer of best practices



Take Action!

- Learn more about the intersection of disability and criminal justice
- Support organizations like The Arc's NCCJD
 - Sign up for emails and follow us on Facebook
 - View webinars, download white papers
 - Use NCCJD's request assistance online form
- Support/collaborate with The Arc of New Jersey's Criminal Justice Advocacy Program
- Offer Pathways to Justice training to raise awareness



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<https://www.thearc.org/NCCJD/about/request-assistance>

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Questions?

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