

# Equal Justice Journal

## October 2024



*"Advocating for equal justice for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities"*

### Spotlight: Youth Justice Action Month (YJAM)

#YOUTH  
ARE  
WORTH IT.

YJAM 2024  
YOUTH JUSTICE  
ACTION MONTH

October is recognized as Youth Justice Action Month (YJAM) in the United States. It's a time to raise awareness about the issues surrounding the juvenile justice system, advocate for reforms, and support youth who have been affected by the system. YJAM focuses on dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline, promoting restorative justice practices, and ensuring fair treatment for youth involved in the criminal justice system..

## Previous Events

### [Disability Connections: Information & Resource Fair 10:00am to 1:00pm](#)

**Wednesday, October 9th, 2024 at Middlesex College, West Hall, Parkview Room, located at 2600 Woodbridge Ave, Edison, NJ 08837, for the Disability Connections Information & Resource Fair.** This event is designed for individuals with disabilities and their caregivers, offering access to a wide range of benefits and services available throughout the county.

CJAP Director **Robyn Holt**, discussed *Programs, Trends, and Research Information on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and the Criminal Justice System.*





## NJ Reentry Corporation Cultural Festival: The Journey of Reentry Services



Case coordinators Jennifer Catalano and Karlee Salus attended New Jersey's reentry's Cultural Festival. This was an event commemorating the 10-year anniversary serving the Reentry Community.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our table for resources!

For more information about NJRC click [here](#).



Pictured above is our winner Andrew Jennings of The Arc of New Jersey's swag basket at the Cultural Festival!



## Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)

On October 4th, 2024, CJAP Director Robyn Holt and Case Coordinators Hannah Noel, and Karlee Salus conducted a training for law enforcement in Warren County, focusing on intellectual disabilities and evidence-based de-escalation practices.

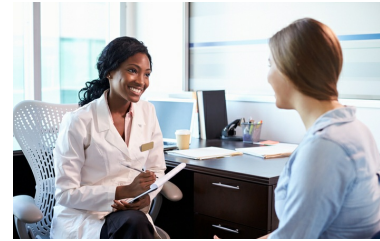
On October 22nd, 2024, CJAP Director Robyn Holt and Case Coordinators Hannah Noel, and Karlee Salus conducted a training for law enforcement in Middlesex County, focusing on intellectual disabilities and evidence-based de-escalation practices.

If you are law enforcement staff or court personnel interested in coordinating a presentation in your county, please contact [rholt@arcnj.org](mailto:rholt@arcnj.org).





On October 24th, Robyn Holt delivered a presentation to Social Work hospital directors and administrators across New Jersey, highlighting IDD and the program's services.



## Upcoming Events

- On November 1st, Director Robyn Holt will serve as the key presenter at Burlington County's Annual Municipal Division Conference Meeting, taking place at the Burlington County Emergency Services Building. This session will focus on educating newly appointed Municipal Court Judges and Municipal Court Administrators about individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). The goal is to equip attendees with vital knowledge and resources to effectively support and serve this community.
- Additionally, on November 19th, the CJAP team will conduct training for the Division of Developmental Disabilities. This training, titled "Supports for Persons with Criminal Justice Involvement," will also address education on individuals with IDD and the prevalence of human trafficking, in recognition of Walkaway Runway Month. You can register for this event [here](#).

## Equal Justice Talks Webinar Series



***From Classroom to Cell: Understanding and Addressing the School-to-Prison Pipeline for Individuals with IDD***

**Upcoming Webinar:**

**"Effects of Trauma on People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities"**

**Webinar Description:**



Join us for an insightful webinar, “Effects of Trauma on People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities,” where we will explore the unique ways trauma impacts individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This webinar will dive into the psychological, emotional, and behavioral effects of trauma on this population and discuss strategies for trauma-informed care.

[Register Here.](#)



### Past Webinar: October 17, 2024

If you missed our latest Equal Justice Talks webinar, "New Opportunities under Medicaid to Support Young People in Correctional Systems" [click here to watch.](#)

An insightful webinar that explores emerging opportunities within Medicaid to better support young individuals involved in the correctional system, with a particular focus on individuals with disabilities. As recent policy changes and innovations create new pathways for healthcare access and rehabilitative services, this webinar will delve into how Medicaid can be utilized to address the unique healthcare needs of incarcerated youth, including those with IDD.

We want to hear from you! If there are specific topics you're interested in or if you'd like us to dive deeper into please reach out to: [Rholt@arcnj.org](mailto:Rholt@arcnj.org).

Visit our Webinar Archive

### A Special Happy Birthday!

Help us wish our case coordinator, Jennifer Catalano, a very Happy Birthday on October 28th! Jen has been with CJAP for about a year and a half and has been an incredible asset. She has contributed to numerous trainings, including CIT, and has assisted with various meetings. Jen even participated in a panel at Stockton University! All of this while she's pursuing her doctorate degree! Thank you for everything you do, Jen, and enjoy your special day!



## Stay Connected

The Arc of New Jersey Criminal Justice Advocacy  
Program

732-246-2525

[cjap@arcnj.org](mailto:cjap@arcnj.org)

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