

Opioid Affected Youth Initiative

April 2023

Newsletter

200 Washington Avenue. Towson, Maryland, 21204

For the 13th time, bill to end auto-charging dies in Annapolis

With the Maryland Legislative session coming to a close, there is a lot to cover regarding developments in bills in the various house and senate committees. Many different topics were voted on, but one piece of legislation stands out as the one that may be the most significant chance for juvenile justice reform in the history of the Maryland legislature. The Youth Equity and Safety (YES) act would start anyone arrested under 18 in juvenile court when charged with a crime. This bill had the support of many different government and non-profit organizations, including the Sentencing Project, Bridge Maryland, Governor Moore's office, and the Office of Public Defender. Unfortunately, neither of the two committees that could vote on this bill (the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate's Judicial Proceedings committee) put the bill on the voting list, which means that this bill effectively died in the house for the 13th time.

Contrary to popular belief, being under 18 does not mean a person will be automatically charged as a juvenile. Offenses such as carjacking, first-degree assault, and nearly 30 other crimes will automatically charge anyone over 13 as an adult in Maryland. Naturally, this policy increases the number of children charged as adults. It ultimately leads to adverse outcomes that often go hand in hand with the lack of resources in the adult justice system. Outcomes such as homelessness, addiction, and recidivism are too common when there is nothing to offer anyone in the adult justice system.

Alcohol Awareness

- In Maryland, over 20% of people ages 18-45 participate in excessive drinking regularly.
- More than any other educational demographic, college graduates have the highest rates of excessive drinking in the state.
- On average, Marylanders have a lower rate of binge drinking than the countrywide average (15%- ~18%).

Second Chance Month

- Informs and highlights the many opportunities for state, local, and tribal governments and community-based service providers to build meaningful second chances for our returning community members.
- Keep families whole, build stronger and safer communities, grow our economy, and reduce recidivism long term.
- Help to close the racial wealth gap, investing in people and communities that have been overlooked for too long. That is what second chances look like, and every American should have an equal shot at one.

- National Autism Awareness Month
- National Child Abuse Prevention Month
- National Minority Health Month
- National Parkinson's Awareness Month
- National Public Health Week (April 1- 7)
- National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (April 10)
- Stress Awareness Month
- Alcohol Awareness Month
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- National Counseling Awareness Month



Community Resources



- Volunteer Hours Grades 3rd-12th
- April 6th - [The Maryland Book Bank/ 5pm-7pm](#)
- April 7th - [Expungement Clinic/ 10am-6pm](#)
- April 7th- [Social Services Outreach/ 10:30am-1pm](#)
- April 8th - [Spring Fun Day/ 10am-1pm](#)
- April 8th - [2023 Easter Egg Hunt/ 10am-1pm](#)
- April 13th - [Expungement Fair/ 10am-1pm](#)
- [Pathways to Government Job & Resource Fair](#)
- [Rental & Utility Assistance](#)
- [Volunteer Service Hours for Grades 3rd-12th](#)

Baby Essentials

- April 18th - [Precious Baby Pantry of Love/ 10am-11am](#)
- April 14th - [CFYS Food & Diaper Hub/ 3pm](#)

Clothing Resources

- [Every Tuesday, Prom Suit Giveaway/ 3:30pm-6:30pm](#)
- [Every Tuesday, Clothing Boutique/ 3:30-6:30pm](#)
- [Every Tuesday & Thursday, Free Food, Clothing and Furniture/ 9am-2pm](#)
- [Every Tuesday - Prom Help with Joy Baltimore/ 3:30pm-6:30pm](#)

Job Resources

- [Hospitality&Customer Service 3-Day Training](#)
- [Full Circle Auto Repair and Training Center](#)
- [Pathways to Government Job & Resource Fair](#)
- [Wed. & Friday's-Professional Resume Writing Services/10am-1pm](#)
- April 11th - [Sagamore Pendry Career Fair/12pm-4pm](#)
- April 13th & 27th - [Career Support 2023/ 11am-1pm](#)
- April 27th.- [Second Chance Month Job & Resource Fair/ 10am-2pm](#)

Food Resources

- [Food Service Training Program](#)
- [Emergency Food Resources](#)
- Every Thursday - [Thankful Thursday's](#)
- Every Thursday- [Fresh Food Boxes](#)
- Every Friday - [Toiletries & Food Giveaway/ 11am-12pm](#)
- April 11th & 25th - [The Comm. Health & Home Pantry/ 11am-2pm](#)
- April 20th - [Groceries, Hygiene Products and Clothing/ 1pm-5pm](#)

April Awareness



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