



Media Release

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Registration Open for Statewide Juvenile Justice Conference

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is now taking registrations for the statewide Juvenile Justice Conference to be held October 28-30th at the Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs, Ark. This is the first time the conference has been held since 2010.

The theme this year is “Strong Families, Strong Communities, Bright Futures: Prevention, Pass it on.” The conference is expected to attract law enforcement officers, teachers, social workers, juvenile justice workers, counselors, and attorneys.

The conference will feature speakers who are well-known in the world of juvenile justice, including Chief Judge Steven Teske, President of the Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges, and James Bell, Founder and Director of the W. Haywood Burns Institute. Judge Teske will host a roundtable discussion where youth who have been involved with the juvenile justice system share their experiences and perspectives. Original youth artwork will be displayed as part of the Voices of Youth Art Collection.

“The timing could not be more perfect for the return of this important conference,” said Tracy Steele, DHS Division of Youth Services. “Having these experts come together with those working on the front lines will have a meaningful impact for all involved, especially while Arkansas is in the midst of a statewide effort to improve the juvenile justice system and as we prepare for the upcoming legislative session.”

Pre-approval is being requested for up to 11 hours of professional development credit for educators, attorneys, and law enforcement officials, plus an additional 8 hours’ credit for law enforcement officials who attend the OJJDP-sponsored training called “Effective Police Interactions with Youth.” Conference attendees from the mental health fields – including licensed professional counselors, social workers, substance abuse therapists, and others – will receive documentation to certify continuing education hours in their areas.

Registration is \$100 and includes limited meals and one ticket to the ACJJ Awards Banquet, held on Wednesday, October 29, at 5:30 p.m. Additional tickets to the awards banquet may be purchased for \$25. Space is limited, so register soon! Registration is online at www.regonline.com/arjjconf2014. A limited block of rooms is available at the conference rate at the Arlington Hotel, 800-643-1502.