



Welcome!

End Mass Incarceration Georgia Network

General Meeting

Monday, November 22, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

Agenda



- **Welcome / Introductions**
- **Overview of EMI Georgia Network**
- **Legislative Platform Planning**
 - Preschool to Prison Pipeline
 - Raise the Age
 - Juvenile voting rights
 - Juvenile Life without Parole
 - Misdemeanor Reform
 - Accountability in Corrections Act (LC 48 - 0383)
 - Research - Alternative Policing Programs by City

- **Roadmap to Advocacy**
 - Finding your legislators
 - Issues and Committees mapping
 - Identifying allies (elected, community, etc.)

- **Announcements and Wrap Up**
 - Next meeting date – January 24, 2022



MISSION | BELIEF | ACTION STATEMENTS

MISSION

The End Mass Incarceration Georgia Network is an intentional association of faith communities, organizations and individuals formed to effect positive change in the areas of juvenile and criminal justice.

BELIEF

All children and families are of infinite value and potential--giving and deserving care, justice and support. This belief ensures an understanding that all strengthen the mosaic of life.

ACTION

In order to break the cycle of generational criminal and juvenile justice involvement, there must be an intentional, collective investment in schools, communities and appropriate supportive services for children and adults to ensure that all children and families can succeed.



What does EMI Georgia Network do?

EDUCATE

COMMUNICATE

FACILITATE

ADVOCATE

PARTICIPATE

Connect with us!



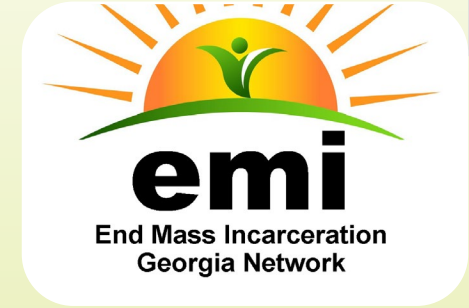
Join us on the fourth Monday at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom for our general meeting!



Drop us an email at emiganetwork@gmail.com and become part of our Google Group!



Like us on Facebook!
facebook.com/emiganetwork



Visit our website for more information at emiganetwork.org

Next EMI Georgia Network Meeting – Jan. 24, 2022

Legislative Platform Planning

- **Preschool to Prison Pipeline**
 - **State Legislation: Study committee for “Too Young to Suspend”**
 - **Federal Legislation: Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act (H.R.4011/S.2125)**
 - ✓ **Action: GA US Reps and Senators -- Sign on as co-sponsors of the bill**
 - **Assigned to: House Education and Labor / House Judiciary**
 - E&L: Rep. McBath (202) 225-4501 / Rep. Allen (202) 225-2823
 - Judiciary: Rep. Hank Johnson (signed) / Rep. McBath (202) 225-4501

 - **Assigned to: Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**
 - US Senate: Sen. Osoff (202) 224-3521 / Sen. Warnock (202) 224-3643
 - **Federal Legislation: Ending PUSHOUT Act (H.R.2248)**
 - ✓ **Action: GA US Reps and Senators -- Sign on as co-sponsors of the bill**
 - **Assigned to: House Education and Labor**
 - E&L: Rep. McBath (202) 225-4501 / Rep. Allen (202) 225-2823

Legislative Platform Planning

- **Raise the Age: HB 272 – Rep. M. Ballinger (Senate Sponsor - Sen. E. Parent)**
 - Raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to age 18, to include 17-year-old youth
 - Georgia is one of three states left in the nation that has not raised the age to include 17-year-olds.
 - In 2020, more than 10,000 17-year-old youth in Georgia were arrested and placed in adult jails.
 - Update on legislative effort HB 272 - Although HB 272 passed the House and was passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee during the 2021 legislative session, it was never sent to the full Senate for a vote;
 - Data collection on arrests and detainment/jailing of 17-year-olds, including fines and fees assessed from courts and sheriffs'

Legislative Platform Planning

Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act (H.R.4011/S.2125)

Establishes federal funds prohibition

- prohibits the use of federal funds to hire, maintain, or train law enforcement officers in elementary or secondary schools
- prohibits the use of public safety and community policing grants for law enforcement officers in schools
- prohibits the use of grant funds for
 - (1) establishing or enforcing zero-tolerance school discipline policies,
 - (2) purchasing or installing surveillance equipment (e.g., metal detectors), or
 - (3) arming teachers or other school personnel.

Establishes grant program for public schools to transition away from use of law enforcement

- establishes a grant program to replace law enforcement officers in schools with personnel and services that support mental health and trauma-informed services
- directs the Department of Education to award grants to local educational agencies to
 - (1) replace law enforcement officers in elementary and secondary schools with personnel and services that support mental health and trauma-informed services, and
 - (2) reform school safety and disciplinary policies to reflect evidence-based practices that do not rely on the criminal justice system.
- recipient must use grants funds to hire or train specified staff
- amount of grant funds received based on the number of students enrolled
- authorizes an appropriation of \$5,000,000,000.

Legislative Platform Planning

Ending PUSHOUT Act 2021 (H.R. 2248)

1. Ending PUSHOUT Act of 2021 establishes \$2.5 billion in new federal grants to support states and schools that commit to ban unfair and discriminatory school discipline practices and improve school climates.
2. Black girls are seven times more likely to be suspended from school and four times more likely to be arrested at school, compared to white girls. Even as early as preschool, where Black girls make up only 20% of all girls, they make up more than half of all out of school suspensions. [National Black Women’s Justice Institute, “End School Pushout for Black Girls and Other Girls of Color,” (Sept. 2019) https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/0c71ee_7d6b6469aa144b0397a4d7cd5d0f8051.pdf and Center for American Progress, “From Preschool to Prison: The Criminalization of Black Girls,” (Dec. 2017) <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/news/2017/12/08/443972/preschool-prison-criminalizationblack-girls/>]
3. Increased policing in schools has been shown to increase surveillance and criminalization of students—especially students of color. [National Black Women’s Justice Institute, Center on Poverty and Inequality, Georgetown Law, “Be Her Resource: A Toolkit About School Resource Officers and Girls of Color” (May, 2018) https://www.law.georgetown.edu/poverty-inequality-center/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2018/05/17_SRO-final-_Acc.pdf.]
4. Ending school pushout means keeping our youngest learners in the learning environment. Most suspensions and expulsions for our youngest learners in pre-k through 5th grade would be and should be eliminated.
5. The Ending PUSHOUT Act of 2021 calls for transparency and accountability by making data about pushout and other harmful discipline practices publicly available while protecting student privacy.

Legislative Platform Planning

- **Juvenile voting rights**
 - Letters to county elections boards on behalf of our youth of voting age in DJJ facilities to inform our elections boards that the voices of our youth must be heard and to curb any disenfranchisement that might be taking place across our state.
 - Calling upon county election officials to ensure that the youth of Georgia, who are under the supervision of a Department of Juvenile Justice facility and who are of eligible age, be afforded all opportunities to (1) register to vote and to (2) cast their ballots in all applicable elections held in the state of Georgia.

Legislative Platform Planning

- **Research - Alternative Policing Programs by City**

GUN VIOLENCE ARCHIVE 2021 - GEORGIA

January 1, 2021 through August 2, 2021

(Number killed)

Atlanta Total	98	Columbus Total	36
Macon Total	35	Decatur Total	20
Augusta Total	16	Savannah Total	16
Lawrenceville Total	14	Albany Total	10
Gainesville Total	10	Douglasville Total	6
Stone Mountain Total	8	Norcross Total	6
Lithonia Total	6	Athens Total	5
South Fulton Total	6	College Park Total	5
Austell Total	5	Lagrange Total	5
Jonesboro Total	5	Valdosta Total	5
Milledgeville Total	5		
Warner Robins Total	5		

Legislative Platform Planning

- **Juvenile Life without Parole**

Approximately 2,570 children are sentenced to juvenile life without parole or "JLWOP" in the United States. (ACLU)

- Overview as it pertains to Georgia youth ([source: GDC](#))
 - Current age, broken out in ten-year age groups
 - Teens ages 1 to 19 = 2 (all identified as male / 0 identified as female)
 - Age at admission (all identified as male: 11 under the age of 18; 34 ages 18 and 19 / 0 identified as female)
 - Age 15 = 2
 - Age 16 = 1
 - Age 17 = 8
 - Age 18 = 9
 - Age 19 = 25
 - Report did not have information for age at time of offense, which could provide for a more accurate account of total number of JLWOP persons—for example, persons who were sentenced in their youth and are now in the older adult population.

Legislative Platform Planning

- **Juvenile Life without Parole**

- Georgia Supreme Court decision (2020) - a trial judge (no need for a jury) can impose a life sentence without parole for a juvenile
 - <https://www.gasupreme.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/s20a0181.pdf>
 - <https://www.ajc.com/news/local/judges-can-sentence-juveniles-life-without-parole-court-says/dhzeCuQaT2LyVmc42pMchP/>
- US Supreme Court decision (2021) - a judge need not make a finding of "permanent incorrigibility" before sentencing a juvenile offender to life without parole
 - https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/18-1259_8njq.pdf
 - <https://www.gpb.org/news/2021/04/23/supreme-court-rejects-restrictions-on-life-without-parole-for-juveniles>
- “Officials have released the inmate who was central to a Supreme Court case that extended the possibility of freedom to hundreds of people sentenced to life without parole as juveniles.” (AP), Nov. 17, 2021
 - <https://www.usnews.com/news/us/articles/2021-11-17/inmate-who-was-key-to-juvenile-life-debate-is-up-for-parole>

Legislative Platform Planning

- **Misdemeanor Reform**

- Waiver for Driver's License Reinstatement Fee - HB 330, introduced February 9, 2021, will help returning citizens and low-income Georgians get their driver's license reinstated so they can drive to work and support themselves and their families.
 - [House Bill 330](#)
 - <https://www.gjp.org/take-action/#/2>

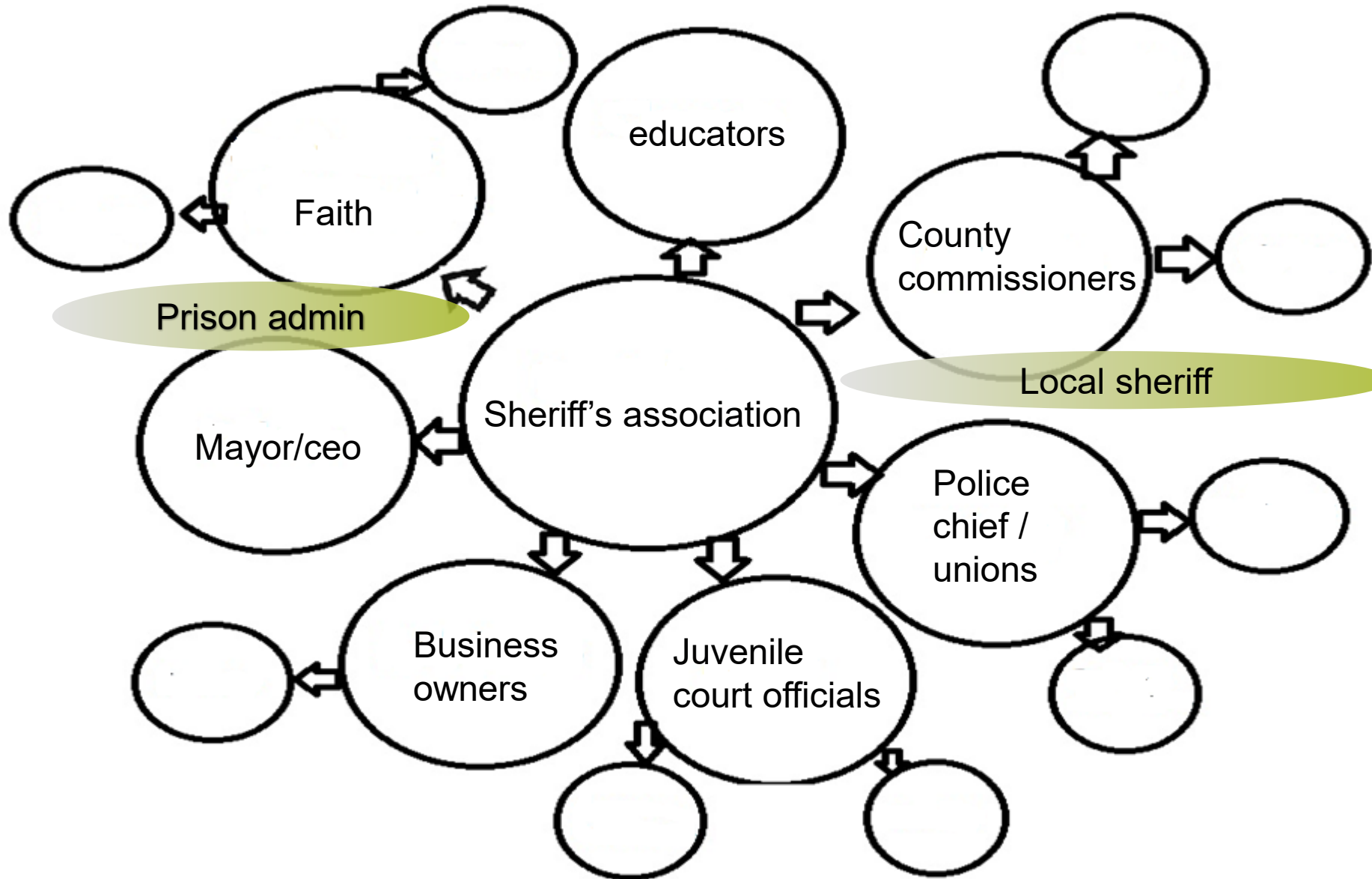
- **Corrections System Reform**

- *Representative Kim Schofield has authored the Accountability in Corrections Act (LC 48 - 0383) which will remove the Georgia Board of Corrections' and its penal institutions' exemption from the Administrative Procedure Act. Passage of this bill will allow staff and offenders to challenge Georgia Department of Corrections actions before the Office of Administrative Hearings.*
 - CONTEXT: <https://www.gpb.org/news/2021/11/17/mothers-son-died-in-georgia-prison-the-department-of-justice-wonders-if>.

Roadmap to Advocacy

- **Finding your legislators (pending redistricting)**
 - My Voter Page – Georgia Secretary of State
 - <https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do>
- **Issues and Committees mapping (GA House and Senate)**
 - Georgia General Assembly: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/committees/all>
 - Education Committee
 - Juvenile Justice Committee
 - Judiciary Committee
 - Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
 - Public Safety Committee
- **Identifying Allies – sphere of influence exercise**

Roadmap to Advocacy



- Child protective agencies
- Medical community
- Community service agencies
- Youth-centric agencies
- Fire department
- Elected legislators who are allies
- Traditional and nontraditional allies (barbershop, realtors assocs)

Announcements and Wrap-up

Next EMI GA Network general meeting:

Date: January 24, 1:00 p.m.

Interested in helping us plan for 2022? Drop us a note: emiganetwork@gmail.com

GNETS Project

If anyone has children currently attending the following GNETS: Elam Alexander in Bibb County, Woodall Center, Muskogee County or Oak Tree in Albany, the Georgia Coalition for Equity in Education (GCEE <https://bit.ly/GCEEsignup>) is actively seeking folks to talk with the Department of Justice about their current experience.

Contact Michelle Tucker at GNETS.Feedback@usdoj.gov or Ph: 1-833-305-0150 or Leslie Lipson at leslie@lipsonadvocacy.com or (678) 971-9667.

This is related to the current lawsuit the United States DOJ system alleging that the state discriminated against thousands of public school students with disabilities by providing them a separate and unequal education via the Georgia Networks for Educational and Therapeutic Supports Program (GNETS) See <https://bit.ly/3D1OaN9>