



Welcome!

End Mass Incarceration Georgia Network

General Meeting

Monday November 27, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

Agenda



- WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS
- OVERVIEW OF EMI GEORGIA NETWORK
- EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY
 - Elevating Youth Justice: The Council of Juvenile Court Judges and Its Role in Georgia's Youth Justice System
 - Guest Presenter – Anne Kirkhope, CJCJ
 - Call to Action: Extending kindness and goodwill to families affected by crime and incarceration
 - Advocacy Outlook for 2024
- ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WRAP UP
 - Next meeting date – January 22, 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.



MISSION | BELIEF | ACTION STATEMENTS

MISSION

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

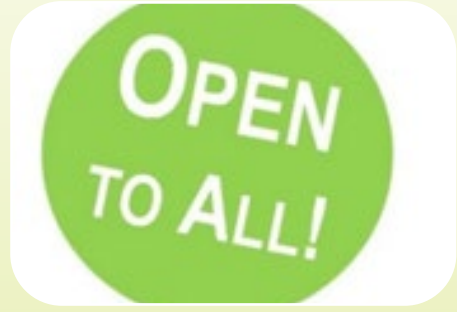
COMMUNICATE

FACILITATE

ADVOCATE

PARTICIPATE

Connect with us!



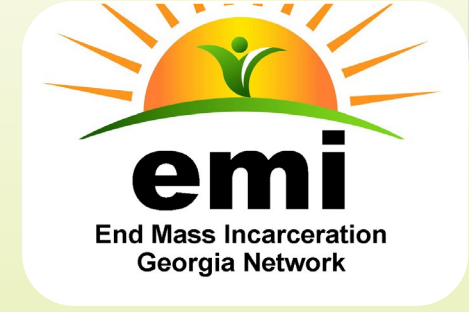
Join us on the fourth Monday at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom for our general meeting!



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 – January 22, 2024



End Mass Incarceration GA Network General Meeting

Protecting the best interests of Georgia's children in our juvenile courts.

Guest Presenter:



Council of Juvenile Court
Judges of Georgia

Anne Kirkhope, J.D., Staff Attorney
Council of Juvenile Court Judges





CALL TO ACTION

Extending kindness and goodwill to families affected by crime and incarceration

PARENTAL INCARCERATION - ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

- The latest data indicate that **nearly 5 million children across America have had a parent incarcerated at some point in their lives.**
- **Parental incarceration breaks up families** – the building blocks of our communities and nation – and **creates an unstable environment for kids that can have lasting effects on their development and well-being.**
- **Children with a parent who is incarcerated are typically younger and living in low-income families of color**, usually with a young single mother who has limited education. **Most are younger than 10.**
- **More than 15% of kids** with parents in federal prison – and **more than 20%** with parents in state prison – are **age 4 or younger.**



CALL TO ACTION

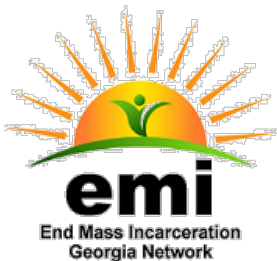
Does your agency or organization provide any of these services?

SUPPORT SERVICE PROVIDERS

- **Support family-centered services:** Communities can support services that focus on the family, such as counseling, education, and job training programs. These services can help families stay connected and provide them with the resources they need to succeed.
- **Support organizations that help families impacted by incarceration:** Communities can support organizations that help families impacted by incarceration. These organizations provide a range of services, including counseling, support groups, and financial assistance.
- **Volunteer for programs that help persons who are incarcerated:** Communities can volunteer for programs that help persons who are incarcerated stay connected with their families and provide them with the resources they need to succeed after release.

BE AN ADVOCATE

- **Advocate for family-friendly criminal justice interventions:** Communities can advocate for criminal justice interventions that focus on diversion in combination with high-quality services, broaden the scope of services for families when prison or jail incarceration occurs, and consider alternatives to incarceration and eliminate mandatory sentencing laws.
- **Establish less restrictive visitation rules:** Communities can advocate for less restrictive visitation rules or incarcerating people geographically closer to home. This can help families stay connected and maintain relationships with their loved ones.



ADVOCACY OUTLOOK FOR 2024

Elevating Youth Justice & Breaking the Preschool to Prison Pipeline

- CHINS (Child in Need of Services)
- JLWOP (Juvenile Life without Parole)
- RAISE THE AGE (to include 17-year-olds)
- REENTRY

-----OTHER ISSUES-----

- VOTING RIGHTS
- PRISON AND JAIL CONDITIONS
- PRISON LABOR
- CHILD LABOR LAWS (any rollback attempts)

Continue to monitor legislative session for any rollbacks on existing reforms.

ADVOCACY OUTLOOK FOR 2024



Elevating Youth Justice & Breaking the Preschool to Prison Pipeline

CHINS (Child in Need of Services)

The legislative history and purpose statement tell us that the CHINS framework is intended to:

- **Move children** who commit status offenses **away from the delinquency model**
- **Reduce the use of secure detention and increase community-based services**, particularly for children who are designated as “low-risk offenders”
- **Understand the child’s behavior in the context of the family and respond through a multi-agency approach.**

ADVOCACY OUTLOOK FOR 2024

Elevating Youth Justice & Breaking the Preschool to Prison Pipeline



Some of the challenges that have been noted for the full implementation of CHINS:

- **Lack of Oversight - No Designated State Agency**
- **Lack of Adequate Funding - Unfunded in the State Budget**
- **Lack of Uniformity in Implementation and Administration**
- **Some judges feel the need for a "compliance mechanism" or "consequences"**

ADVOCACY OUTLOOK FOR 2024



Elevating Youth Justice & Breaking the Preschool to Prison Pipeline

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>
- "[Georgia Leads Nation in Juvenile 'Lifers'](#)," published in a recent edition of the [Atlanta Journal Constitution](#).

“Changing the Narrative” - EMI GA Network JLWOP Story Corps Storytelling Project



Children whose stories
were never heard.

There is some question as to the last version of this bill.



ADVOCACY OUTLOOK FOR 2024

Elevating Youth Justice & Breaking the Preschool to Prison Pipeline

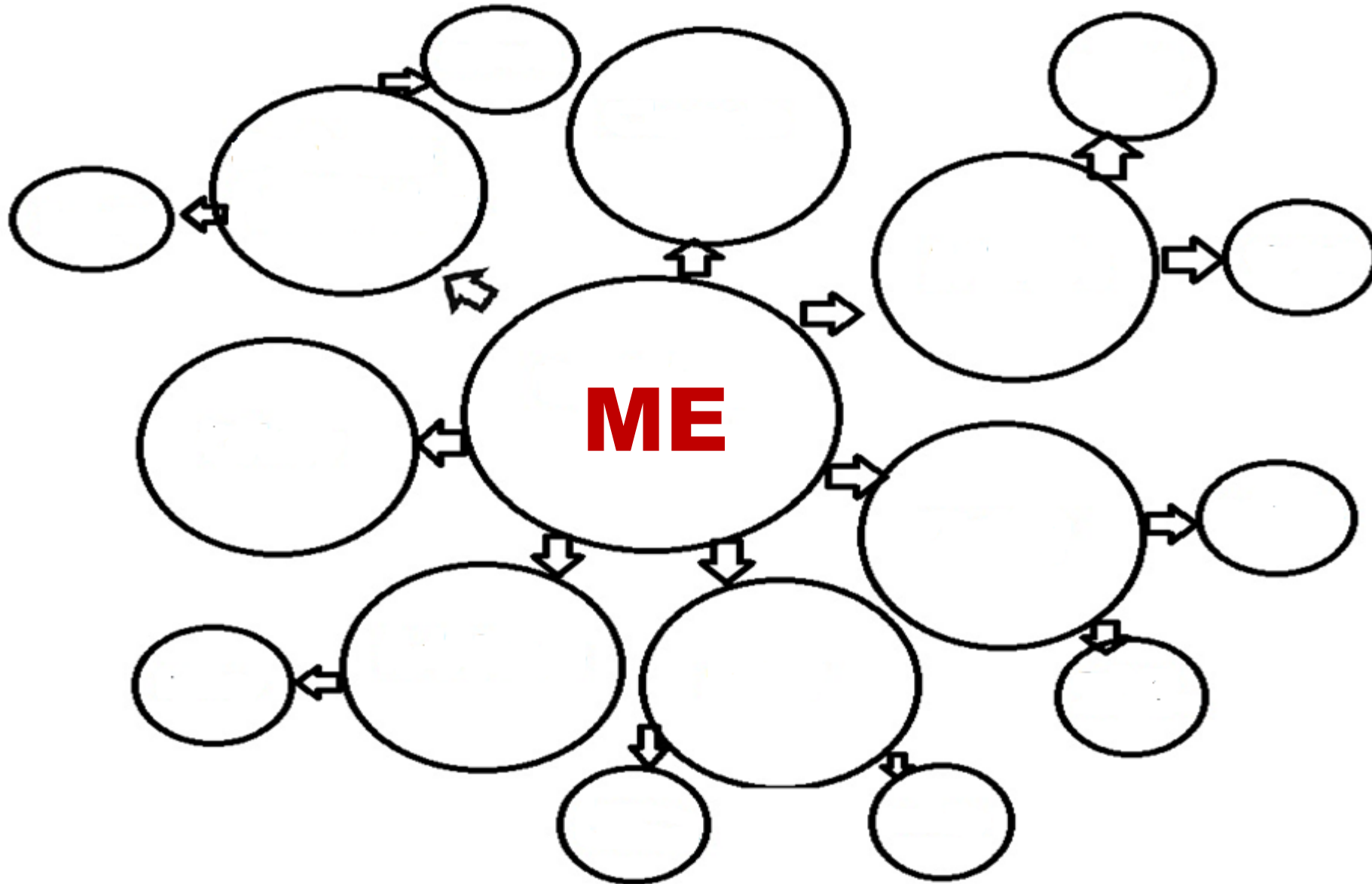
- **HB 462 Raise the Age** (raises the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to 18, to include 17-year-olds; introduced a gang clause as a category of children who automatically would be sent to superior court) - Passed the House; Did not receive a hearing by Senate Judiciary Committee --
NOTE: While we do not agree with the addition of the gang clause, we continue to support raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to include 17-year-olds.

You and Your Legislators



- **Finding your legislators (pending redistricting)**
 - My Voter Page – Georgia Secretary of State
 - <https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do>
- **Find your legislators (State Representative, State Senator)**
 - <https://www.legis.ga.gov/find-my-legislator>
 - <https://www.legis.ga.gov/members/house>
 - <https://www.legis.ga.gov/members/senate>
- **Legislative Committees of Interest**
 - Who are the committee chairs and members of juvenile justice, judiciary, education, health, public safety in the House and the Senate?
 - Are your representative and senator on any of these committees?
 - If so, what positions do they hold (e.g., chair, secretary, member, etc.)

Roadmap to Advocacy for Our Children



What's on your advocacy platform?



Shared Advocacy Shared Progress

Google doc response form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdNC_rZ0-eDNKWiU5ldRweRM9VyBRxGBNonUqptgnTSvOgOAAQ/viewform

Google doc spreadsheet:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Gv--U07XyOpPZ0p1R8uteAyre79GqhRw4LnrE2yVG6Y/edit#gid=1790801195>

Announcements and Wrap-up

Interested in helping us plan for 2024? Drop us a note: emiganetwork@gmail.com



- **Next meeting date - January 22, 2024, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**
- **Submit announcements by the 10th of the month to go out before the next general meeting. Send your announcements to <https://forms.gle/8kDsnaRGd5xCUD6A8>.**
- **Like our EMI GA Network Facebook page so that you can tag us on your social media postings <https://www.facebook.com/emiganetwork/>.**
- **What's on your advocacy platform? Shared Advocacy = Shared Progress**