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FORUM TO ENDURE THROUGH POLITICAL TRANSITIONS

Nearly everyone knows the saying about the two things certain in life: death and taxes. This brief list of inevitabilities could include a third item: political transition.

The changes in government from one mayor's administration to the next can be an uncertain time for those engaged in public policy planning and implementation. As power changes hands and priorities are restructured, what was popular yesterday rapidly becomes irrelevant.

How do we deal with this inevitability? "How" can best be answered by deciding "when." And when is as soon as possible.

BOSTON YOUTHS MAKE CITY'S ENDS MEET

Before we are old enough to vote, we're taught about civic responsibility. Making choices to select our nation's leaders, build better budgets, and improve our schools and communities—we learn early that many fought hard for this right.

But casting a ballot means different things to different people. For some, it is an empowering expression of personal voice. For others, it means little more than fulfilling an obligation.

What it symbolizes to young people is especially significant. When a promise prevails that things can and will change for the better—it just might inspire a lifetime of political engagement.

Participatory Budgeting Fosters Civic Pride

At 26, Shari Davis is one of the youngest city department heads in Boston, Mass., and a fierce supporter of involving young people in local government. She helped Boston lead its first Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP) dedicated entirely to youth, where teens and young adults decided how to spend \$1 million of the city's capital funds. From its initiation, the program was youth driven, coordinated, and facilitated.



Boston youths meet to brainstorm city improvements.

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NEWS & VIEWS

Reports



Minneapolis City Hall and Hennepin County Courthouse has been the site of 24 mayoral transitions since construction finished in 1906.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Funding Opportunities

Webinar to Help Law Enforcement Agencies Bid for Justice and Mental Health Collaboration

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is inviting criminal justice agencies to partner with mental health providers to form collaborative programs/partnerships to address justice-involved individuals with mental disorders or co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. View BJA's Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program [grant solicitation here](#). Applications are due April 14, 2015.

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Training Opportunities

Course Offered to Indian Country Professionals on Understanding Drug-Endangered Children

The National Alliance for Drug-Endangered Children and Lamar Associates are offering an online course, "Drug-Endangered Children: Understanding the Risk," designed to help Indian Country service professionals a) identify the risk to children created by illegal drug activities, b) understand and be able to explain why the problems of

U.S. School Campuses Tend to Use Sworn, Armed Officers

[Campus Law Enforcement, 2011–12](#), by Brian Reaves, presents findings from a Bureau of Justice Statistics survey of campus law enforcement agencies in the United States covering the 2011–12 academic year. Among them:

- About 75 percent of the campuses were using armed officers, compared with 68 percent during 2004–05.
- About 92 percent of public campuses used sworn police officers, compared with 38 percent of private campuses.
- The large majority of sworn campus officers were authorized to use a sidearm (94 percent), chemical or pepper spray (94 percent), and a baton (93 percent).

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News

Fourth National Summit Approaches

The Fourth National Summit on Youth Violence Prevention will be held May 11–13, 2015, in Washington, D.C. The site has not yet been determined. The Summit will provide opportunities for representatives from National Forum, Defending Childhood Initiative, and Community-Based Violence Prevention program cities to learn about new strategies for youth violence prevention, to share their experiences of what works in their communities, and to recommit themselves to the task of creating safe communities where youth and families can thrive. Attendance to the Summit is by invitation only. Invitations will be sent out soon. *{Editor's note: We repeat ourselves. But the Summit comes only once a year.}*

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Other Resources

Juvenile Justice Office to issue *Model Programs Guide Implementation Guides*

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), in conjunction with its contractor Development Services Group, Inc. (DSG), is developing the *Model Program Guide's* (the *MPG's*) first Implementation Guide, on school-based bullying prevention programs.

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drug-endangered children are often overlooked, and c) describe the roles that practitioners can play in identifying, intervening with, and preventing drug use in children.

[Register here.](#)

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