

CLBB News

A newsletter from the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior

June 9, 2020

Invitation to Action

To our CLBB Community:

As we individually and collectively mourn the tragic loss of George Floyd, and reflect upon ways in which we can improve our efforts to fight racial injustice, I invite you to [join us](#) and our partners today and throughout the summer for a new online learning series: ***Justice and the Developing Brain***. The program (see image below) contributes to improving our justice system's response to juveniles and emerging adults.

The lead organizer for this program is [More Than Words](#), a nonprofit social enterprise that empowers young adults who are in the foster care system, court-involved, homeless, or out of school to take charge of their lives by taking charge of a business. *More Than Words* offered a [powerful statement on Black Lives Matter](#), closing with the line: **"We can't tell you how to act, but ask that you do."**

The program, with presentations by CLBB Assoc. Managing Director [Dr. Robert Kinscherff, JD, PhD](#), is unique because it is co-sponsored both by the [Committee for Public Counsel Services](#) (the Public Defender Agency of Massachusetts) and by the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, through the leadership of [Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins](#). DA Rollins is a national leader in criminal justice reform, and I encourage you to see [her passionate reflection](#) last week on racism and George Floyd's killing. She challenged all of us: **"I hope you take a moment to reflect what a terrible, terrible situation we are experiencing right now."**

At the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior, I am proud of our partnerships with these pathbreaking organizations and leaders. At the same time, I know that our Center needs to do more to combat racism in the justice system. I look forward to sharing more about our efforts over the course of the summer, and I hope that you will be able to join us for our summer series.

Best,
Francis X. Shen
Executive Director



JUSTICE AND THE DEVELOPING BRAIN

A LEARNING SERIES WITH
LEAD TRAINER ROBERT KINSCHERFF,
PHD, JD

May 26 through July 21, 1:00-2:00 PM



REGISTER NOW

Emerging adults are more likely to be arrested, be incarcerated, and to recidivate after release. Join the Juvenile Unit/Juvenile Alternative Resolution Program (JAR) at the Office of Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins, the Committee for Public Counsel Services, the brain-science experts at the MGH Center for Law, Brain & Behavior, and the staff and youth at More Than Words to learn why and discuss how we can reverse this trend.

- MAY 26** Framing the Issue and Overview of Adolescent Neurodevelopment
- JUNE 9** The Developing Brain in Social Environments: Adverse Childhood Experience and Positive Youth Development Assets
- JUNE 23** Behavioral Health in Delinquency: Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders
- JULY 7** Implications for Juvenile Justice Practices: Research-Based Responses Along the Sequential Intercept
- JULY 21** The "Heuristic Brain:" Implicit Bias in Responding To Challenging Youth

PRESENTED BY

More Than Words is a nonprofit social enterprise that empowers youth who are in the foster care system, court-involved, homeless, or out of school to take charge of their lives by taking charge of a business.

The Office of Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins supports the communities of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop and handles approximately 35,000 new cases each year.

The MGH Center for Law, Brain & Behavior draws on faculty expertise at Harvard Medical School, Harvard Law School, and affiliated institutions to develop accurate and actionable neuroscience for judges, attorneys and policymakers in the criminal justice system.

The Committee for Public Counsel Services provides lawyers and social workers to indigent children and youth accused of crimes in Massachusetts. These advocates assist clients in achieving legal and life success.

This series is made possible by support from the Massachusetts Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative.

CENTER FOR LAW, BRAIN & BEHAVIOR



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