

Juvenile Justice Updates

On February 20, PPAL attended an event in Haverhill regarding the **School to Prison Pipeline and Mass Incarceration**. The featured speaker was Reverend George Walters-Sleyon, a Ph.D student at the University of Edinburg in Scotland and a graduate of Boston University. Reverend Walters is the author of the book "Locked Up and Locked Down: Multitude Lingers in Limbo," and is the found and executive director of [The Center for Church and Prison, Inc.](#) PPAL was able to make great connections at this event, and is excited to give a voice to the problem of putting more youth in jail.

PPAL continues its work in training professionals, parents and schools on parental rights in the schools. Our most recent training took place in Boston and focused on Mental Health and the IEP. At this training, we discussed how to support youth in schools and the importance of using community resources rather than allowing youth to enter the juvenile system. Participants were pleased with the training, telling us that "the training gave me the 'buzz' words and one liners to understand my rights," and that "the presenters were very informative and we would love to have spent more time with them."

In Springfield, the community continues to do wonderful work on the Alternatives to Detention plans. PPAL participated in multiple meetings on this subject, bringing the voice of parents to the table. The Alternative to Detention group encourages collaboration to make sure that its plans work. We appreciate the work of the Department of Youth Services to make this happen.

In May, look for our collaboration in the Southeast for the Police Pocket Guide! We will announce this great new resource next month, in collaboration with PIN and DYS!