



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Fresh Lifelines for Youth Staff Named Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform Fellows**

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Alameda County, CA –Fernanda Fonseca, Law & STAY FLY Programs Coordinator, Jamela Joseph, Director of Alameda County, at Fresh Lifelines for Youth; Meredith McGrath, Associate Director of Youth Voice Initiatives, at Fresh Lifelines for Youth; Melissa Poling, Law & Reentry Programs Manager, at Fresh Lifelines for Youth; and Brianna Ramos, Career Pathways Navigator, at Fresh Lifelines for Youth have recently been selected as new members of the Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) Fellows Network based on the approval of their Capstone Project.

The Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY) Team’s Capstone Project, LGBTQ/GNCT policies and practices within FLY to better support our youth in the juvenile justice system . “We are excited to see that the FLY team is taking active steps to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for the LGBTQ youth they serve,” said Michael Umpierre, CJJR Director. “Through formal staff training and development of affirming agency-wide policies and practices, the Capstone Project holds great promise for improving outcomes for LGBTQ youth in California.”

Part of Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy, CJJR advances a balanced, multi-systems approach to serving youth and families that reduces juvenile delinquency and promotes positive child and youth development. The Center works nationwide to promote an evidence-based juvenile justice reform agenda, highlighting the research on policies and practices that work best to achieve better outcomes for children.

Members of the FLY Team attended the Supporting the Well-Being of System-Involved LGBTQ Youth Virtual Certificate Program in November 2020, and were admitted to the CJJR Fellows Network in October 2021.

For more information on CJJR Fellows Network, visit <http://cjr.georgetown.edu/certificate-programs/fellows-network/>.

Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY) is an award-winning nonprofit serving Bay Area youth ages 11-25 impacted by the justice system. Our programs connect young people with positive mentors and role models, promote their understanding of the law and their rights, and support them to become leaders among their peers and in their communities. Together with our young people, we also help our justice systems become more just, humane, and equitable. As a result, FLY increases safety and decreases the costs and consequences of crime.