

DMC / Juvenile Justice

ActionNetwork

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DMC Action Network

The DMC Action Network is a project of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's [Models for Change](#) initiative.

The Network aims to share knowledge and accelerate progress in the reduction of racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.

The Center for Children's Law and Policy, manages the DMC Action Network. For more information on the DMC Action Network, [visit our website](#).

Mark Masterson of Sedgwick County, Kansas, Named DMC Action Network Champion for Change

Sedgwick County Department of Corrections Director Mark Masterson is no stranger to work to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. Before joining the DMC Action Network in 2007, officials in his jurisdiction were already hard at work on improving data capacity and developing community based-alternatives to detention.



However, Mark wanted Sedgwick County to do more. As a DMC Action Network site, Sedgwick County seized the opportunities available through the Network to reduce school-based arrests and arrests for low-level offenses, create alternatives to detention for youth of color, and leverage funding to explore the needs of youth involved in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

It may come as no surprise, then, that the MacArthur Foundation named Mark as its 2011 DMC Action Network Champion for Change. Mark received the award at the Sixth Annual Models for Change Working Conference in Washington, DC on December 6, 2011.

"Sedgwick County is doing remarkable work with a very impressive team," said Bob Lamkey, Director of the Sedgwick County Division of Public Safety. "Strong local partnerships focused on solving problems using sound data and evidence based practices have laid a foundation for effective collaboration. Mark's leadership in forming and cultivating trusting partnerships among a diverse group of stakeholders has been key to Sedgwick County's success in effectively addressing juvenile justice issues ranging from shoplifting to disproportionate minority contact with law enforcement in schools and the community."

The results speak for themselves. After Sedgwick County hired a juvenile justice education liaison to address referrals to the juvenile justice system from schools, school-based arrests for disorderly conduct fell by 37 percent from 2009 to 2010, and arrests at Wichita public schools dropped by more than 50 percent over the same period. After implementing creative

Core States

Pennsylvania
Berks County
Philadelphia
Lancaster County

Illinois
Peoria

Louisiana
Jefferson Parish
Rapides Parish

Washington
Benton/Franklin Counties

Partner States

Maryland
Baltimore City
Montgomery County
Prince George's County

Wisconsin
Rock County
Outagamie County
Kenosha County

Kansas
Sedgwick County
Lyon-Chase County

North Carolina
Union County
Cabarrus County

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strategies to address shoplifting using existing in-school programming and outreach at shopping malls where many arrests occurred, the arrest rate for property offenses dropped almost 20 percent for African American youth and 26 percent for Latino youth between 2009 and 2010. ([Click here to read more about Sedgwick's strategies to reduce arrests](#)).

Further data analysis showed a need for a weekend alternative to detention for low-risk youth who had violated the terms of their probation. Sedgwick County found an alternative to detention in Tacoma, Washington that could meet the county's needs, then identified freed-up state, county, and federal funding to pay for it. The county opened the program's doors within six months. The alternative to detention served 123 youth in its first two quarters, 33 percent of whom were African American and 25 percent of whom were Latino. ([Click here to read more about Sedgwick's weekend alternative to detention program.](#))

"Mark has also been a catalyst for replication of Sedgwick's successes in other counties in Kansas," said Mark Soler, Executive Director of the Center for Children's Law and Policy. "Sedgwick has been a team effort, but Mark's leadership has guided the creation of a more equitable juvenile justice system for all children. His dedication to racial and ethnic fairness has made Sedgwick County a model for smart and sustainable juvenile justice reform."

You can read more about Sedgwick's work in previous issues of the DMC eNews, available at <http://cclp.org/DMC.php#Publications>. Congratulations to Mark Masterson and his team in Sedgwick County!



Kansas State Representative Melody McCray-Miller, who has led efforts to create a more effective juvenile justice system in the state, celebrates with Mark Masterson after the award ceremony.

Photo credits: DT Kindler Photography

We Want Your Feedback!

We want to hear from you about how we can improve the DMC Action Network eNews.

Help us ensure that the eNews is a valuable resource for your work by [clicking here and completing a short online survey](#).

You can also contact us anytime with comments or suggestions at jszanyi@cclp.org or 202-637-0377 x108.

Models for Change Sixth Annual Working Conference Highlights Effective Juvenile Justice Reforms

Hundreds of leaders and experts in the field of juvenile justice gathered in Washington, DC for the Sixth Annual Models for Change National Working Conference on December 5th and 6th, 2011. The conference brought together judges, prosecutors, defenders, policy makers and juvenile justice officials from sixteen states. They have been working through the Models for Change initiative to develop and institutionalize reforms that improve outcomes for youth who come in contact with the juvenile justice system.



According to Laurie Garduque (photo left), Director of the MacArthur Foundation's Justice Reform Program, "We are excited to share data and outcomes on models that hold young people accountable for their actions, provide for their rehabilitation, protect them from harm, increase their life chances and manage the risk they pose to themselves and the public." In addition to bringing together top juvenile justice experts in the country, the conference provided a platform for peers to exchange ideas on best practices in juvenile justice reform.

Several DMC Action Network sites shared innovations developed through their work with the Network. Philadelphia officials presented the DMC Youth/Law Enforcement Curriculum, which is a one-day training for law enforcement officials designed to promote positive interactions with youth. YouthToday, reporting on the conference, [featured Outagamie County, Wisconsin's "great session" on building collaborations with officials to reduce arrests for low-level offenses](#). Additionally, officials from Sedgwick County, Kansas, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and Rock County, Wisconsin, shared highlights from the DMC Action Network during a panel facilitated by former CCLP DMC Policy Director Lisa Garry.

CCLP staff members Mark Soler and Dana Shoenberg, along with co-presenters Dane Bolin and Dana Kaplan, discussed their work with Louisiana officials to help create Louisiana's first set of juvenile detention facility standards.

To learn more about the conference and download resources from the meeting, [follow this link](#).

Bob Williams, Berks County Probation Chief, Named Chief Probation Officer of the Year in Pennsylvania

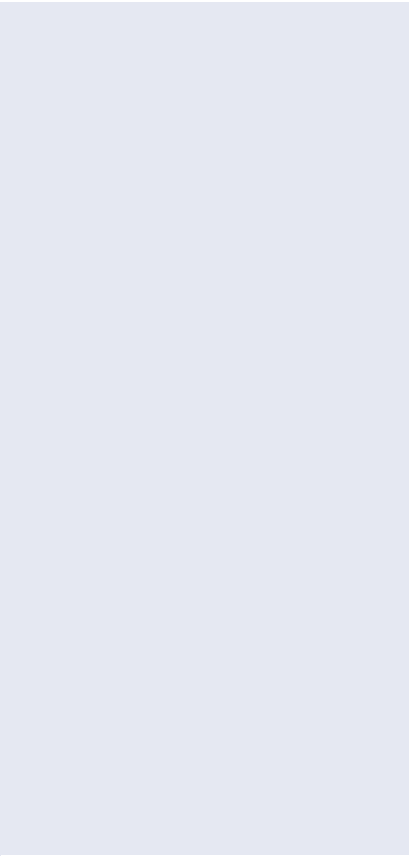
On November 3rd, 2011, the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) recognized Berks County's leadership in promoting fair and effective probation programs and policies throughout the Commonwealth. JCJC named Bob Williams, Berks County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, as its 2011 Chief Probation Officer of the Year.

Berks County, a DMC Action Network site, was the first Pennsylvania county to adopt a pre-adjudication evening reporting center (ERC) and a structured detention assessment instrument (DAI) to help ensure that youth are sent to detention only when necessary for public safety reasons. Because of the ERC's and DAI's success, five counties throughout Pennsylvania have now adopted ERCs and DAIs of their own. Berks County officials have also worked to reduce out of home placements of youth, increase use of evidence-based practices in their communities, improve cultural and linguistic competence of services for youth and families who come into contact with the juvenile justice system, and engaged in several other reforms as part of their work with the DMC Action Network and Models for Change.

[Click here to learn more](#) about the JCJC award.

The Newest DMC and Juvenile Justice Resources

- This month, the National Council of La Raza released a report on the importance of accurate data collection for Latino youth. The publication, [Counting Latino Youth in the Illinois Juvenile Justice System](#), details the inadequacy of information on Hispanic youth, one of the fastest-growing segments of the population. It highlights this lack of data as a major barrier to developing strategies and policies that can effectively prevent young Latinos from entering the justice system.
- In November, the Justice Policy Institute released a new report on trends in school-based arrests in the United States. The publication, *Education Under Arrest: The Case Against Police in Schools*, reviews research on school resource officers, presents data on school-based arrests, and identifies recommendations for policy and practice. [Click here to read the report](#).
- The federal Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs has created an online tool that allows users to search for federal grant opportunities by topic or federal agency on [Grants.gov](#). The tool uses a filter to search for grants that are likely to fund youth programs. To use the resource, [click here](#).
- The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) released four fact sheets on delinquency cases in juvenile and criminal court. [Juvenile Delinquency Probation Caseload, 2008](#) presents statistics on delinquency cases resulting in probation between 1985 and 2008. [Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Court, 2008](#) presents statistics on delinquency cases processed between 1985 and 2008 by U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction for public order, person, and property offenses and drug law violations. [Person Offense Cases in Juvenile Court, 2008](#) presents statistics on person offenses (including assault, robbery, rape, homicide, and other crimes involving force or threat of force against persons) handled by juvenile courts between 1985 and 2008. Finally, [Delinquency Cases Waived to Criminal Court, 2008](#) presents statistics on petitioned delinquency cases waived to criminal court between 1985 and 2009.
- This month, Bernalillo County, New Mexico, a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Model Site, released a new report highlighting juvenile justice reforms in its county over the past



decade. The publication, [Smaller, Smarter and More Strategic: Juvenile Justice Reform in Bernalillo County](#), shares strategies underlying a number of improved outcomes, including a 30% decrease in misdemeanor offenses referred to juvenile probation, a 45% reduction in daily detention populations, and a 48% decrease in bench warrants.

- The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention have launched the [Youth Focused Policing Resource Center](#). The website provides a directory of law enforcement programs and services for youth, training and technical assistance in juvenile justice, information on IACP resources, searchable resource library, secure discussion forum for law enforcement officials, and comprehensive information and resources relating to youth crime, delinquency, and victimization. To learn more, visit www.iacpyouth.org.
- Through a partnership with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the National Conference of State Legislators has published a juvenile justice guidebook addressing a range of policy issues relevant to legislators. The primer highlights research, programs, and sample state legislation in eight areas. To view the guidebook, [follow this link](#).

The *DMC eNews* reports on efforts to reduce disproportionate minority contact in juvenile justice systems in the [DMC Action Network](#). The Center for Children's Law and Policy manages the DMC Action Network. For a PDF version of this newsletter, [click here](#). You can also contact us anytime with comments or suggestions at jszanyi@cclp.org or 202-637-0377 x108.