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In This Issue

[Outagamie Embraces Family Engagement, Drops Arrest Rates 32%](#)

[Lancaster's Interfaith Community Network Tackles DMC](#)

[Information Sharing Certificate Program at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute](#)

[Legacy Phase: The Next Stage of Models for Change](#)

[Publications About Family Engagement](#)

[New Publications from the Models for Change Sites](#)

[The Newest DMC and Juvenile Justice Information](#)

ModelsforChange
Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice
NETWORK PARTNER 2013

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

Outagamie Embraces Family Engagement, Drops Arrest Rates 32%

Does your jurisdiction want to lower racial and ethnic disparities while increasing family engagement with the juvenile justice system? Look no further than the efforts in Outagamie County, Wisconsin. In the last two years, they lowered the juvenile arrest rate and the relative rate index arrest rate for African-American youth. Additionally, as part of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and Models for Change partnership for child welfare and juvenile justice systems integration, they are implementing reforms that identify and provide care to youth who are involved with the child welfare system and are at risk of entering the juvenile justice system. All of these efforts are grounded in a philosophy that supports family engagement.

Outagamie County's data speaks volumes. Between 2009 and 2011, the juvenile arrest rate decreased by 32% and the relative rate index for arrests of African-Americans went from 9.75 to 6.04. Outagamie County is shutting down its detention center at the end of 2013 because the average daily population was approximately 1.8 over the last year. Much of this success is due to the work done to engage with families.

There are several ways that Outagamie County embraces family engagement. The intake and social work disposition staff work closely with and engage families from the beginning of the case planning process. During supervision, staff and families meet multiple times to revise case plans and address any issues. There is a culture and expectation that families are essential to helping young people successfully transition out from supervision.

One of the best family engagement programs in Outagamie County is the Clean Break Juvenile Diversion (Clean Break) program. It is a 10- to 12-week program that helps first-time youth offenders develop moral reasoning skills. Throughout the course of the program, parents and youth participate in group and individual sessions that are focused on different topics. However, as successful as this program has been, the county is focused on making it an even better program by rolling out a new curriculum, [Active Parenting of Teens: Families in Action](#) in Fall 2013.

The Families in Action curriculum builds on the good work of the Clean Break program. The program includes 2-hour sessions for youth and their families each week. The sessions will focus on a range of skills including parent-child communication, positive behavior management, and ways for families to have fun together. Families in Action is part of the National Register of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Over 100,000 parents and teens

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](#).

Want to know what's going on in the other Action Networks? Read the latest newsletters on [Indigent Defense](#) and [Mental Health](#).

participated in this program nationally and internationally.

When this new curriculum rolls out in Fall 2013, the Clean Break program will be expanded to include young people involved in the child welfare system who are at risk of entering the juvenile justice system. The intent of the revamped, expanded program is to improve family cohesion among a wider array of people while helping more young people develop pro-social skills.

Great work Outagamie County!

Lancaster's Interfaith Community Network Tackles DMC

After two years of meetings, planning, and outreach, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania's DMC Interfaith Community Network (Network) is about to launch the DMC Interfaith Program (Program). The Program is structured to match first-time, low level offenders with mentors connected with several churches in Lancaster City. As planned, there will be five volunteers from ten churches providing a total of fifty volunteers to mentor juvenile justice system involved youth.

The Network and the Program grew out of the networking opportunities created by the DMC Action Network. Several years ago Sherry Lupton of the Lancaster Probation Department attended a DMC Action Network Conference workshop lead by Reverend Romal Tune that focused on how to engage faith-based organizations in the work to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities. After the workshop, Ms. Lupton and Rev. Tune connected and worked together to develop a strategic plan to create the Network in Lancaster.

The Network's mission is to organize people of faith and community partners as strategic allies to improve the lives of young people and decrease disproportionate minority contact with juvenile courts. The Network intends to accomplish its mission in three ways: training volunteers to work with young people and community organizations to lower DMC; conducting workshops to educate people of faith on DMC; and creating volunteer opportunities for young people to build character through service. The Program will help the Network achieve its goals of reducing the number of youth of color in the juvenile justice system.

To develop the Program, the Network held three community forums with clergy, probation officers, and community members. These forums helped the Network educate people about DMC as well as identified some of the barriers to implementing the Program. Attendees shared that they were willing to serve as mentors, but they needed training and a way to conduct background checks. Also, they only wanted to work with first-time, low level offenders.

Recognizing that the Network needed help to coordinate and implement the Program, they reached outreach to Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Lancaster

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County (BB&BS) because it has both the infrastructure and capacity to provide volunteers with training and background checks. BB&BS submitted a grant application to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency to fund a dedicated coordinator for the Program and the grant was awarded in July 2013. For the first time ever, BB&BS will work with adjudicated youth.

Information Sharing Certificate Program

The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute, in partnership with the Juvenile Law Center and the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, has announced that applications are now available for the [Information Sharing Certificate Program](#) being held December 9-12, 2013. [Applications are due September 6.](#)

This program, supported with funding from the MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change Initiative, is designed to enable leaders in the juvenile justice, child welfare, education, behavioral health and other child serving fields to overcome information sharing challenges that prevent the communication and coordination that is necessary to more fully serve youth known across multiple systems of care. Upon completion of the intensive learning experience, participants apply the knowledge they gain through the development and implementation of a [capstone project](#)—an action agenda they undertake in their organization or community to initiate or enhance information sharing efforts. To accelerate these efforts, we strongly encourage those interested in attending to form a team from their jurisdiction to apply to the program.

[Instructors](#) for the program include information sharing, juvenile justice and child welfare subject matter experts from across the country who will deliver a [curriculum](#) designed to increase participants' ability to solve real-life problems when they return home.

Thanks to the MacArthur Foundation, tuition subsidies are available for those with financial need.

Information Sharing Certificate Program

December 9-12, 2013

Washington, DC

Application Deadline: September 6, 2013

For more information and to apply, [please visit us online](#) or email CJJR at jjreform@georgetown.edu.

Legacy Phase: The Next Stage of Models for Change

Initiative

The MacArthur Foundation recently provided funding to continue support for Cross-Action Network activities involving the three Models for Change Action Networks: the Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Action Network, the Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network and the Disproportionate Minority Contact Action Network. CCLP will coordinate the work of the DMC Action Network.

This grant is part of the Foundation's *Legacy Phase* of Models for Change. The *Legacy Phase* is aimed at securing and sustaining progress in jurisdictions that successfully implemented innovations and reforms.

This funding will make it possible to:

- Jointly convene a third Cross-Network meeting in May 2014 for representatives from all three Action Networks;
- Continue our respective efforts to disseminate and share information and learning about the Action Network innovations to stimulate interest and the replication of these models and strategies;
- Provide a limited number of small, competitive grants to Action Network sites to support local efforts to document outcomes and success, develop communication strategies or implement dissemination/expansion plans; and
- Support cross-network projects that address issues that cut across the three Action Networks.

More details about these site-based grants will be released in coming months. The Foundation will formally announce its Models for Change *Legacy Phase* at the National Council of State Legislatures Annual Summit in August and will feature the Action Networks as critical partners in the continuing effort to advance juvenile justice reform in this country.

Publications About Family Engagement

- The Campaign for Youth Justice & the Alliance for Youth Justice recently released the publication, [Family Comes First: A Workbook to Transform the Justice System by Partnering with Families](#). This workbook provides a new framework - the FAMILY Model - to guide and create system-family partnerships that honor and support families before, during, and after their children come into contact with the juvenile justice system. The workbook costs \$18 for practitioners through www.amazon.com. For parents and caregivers, please contact the [Campaign for Youth Justice](#) to secure a copy.
- In 2011, OJJDP, the Campaign for Youth Justice, and the Education Development Center convened four listening sessions with families and youth to explore their experiences with the juvenile justice system. OJJDP just released [OJJDP Family Listening Sessions](#) -

[Executive Summary](#), which describes the questions, responses, themes, and recommendations for reforms identified by families and young people. One theme that emerged from the sessions is a lack of effective reentry planning. Download the report [here](#).

- OJJDP recently published the Spring 2013 issue of the [Journal of Juvenile Justice](#). This issue has several articles that explore and document programs and practices that encourage family engagement with the juvenile justice system. One article explores the relationship between family-focused reentry planning and recidivism. [Download the entire journal here](#).
- Sesame Street released a new toolkit: [Little Children, Big Challenges: Incarceration](#). This toolkit helped launch the introduction of Alex, the first Muppet with an incarcerated parent. The toolkit helps families and children (ages 3 to 8) discuss the impact of a parent's incarceration. There are tools to help ease the social stigma children may face and tips to aid children in coping with their feelings. It also provides suggestions on how incarcerated parents can engage with their children during imprisonment. [Click here to review and download the toolkit](#).
- [Family Involvement in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System](#) is a publication that describes a multi-year process focused on what is needed to encourage family involvement in the system. Four themes emerge as barriers to family engagement: availability and access to effective early prevention and intervention services, communicating respect, opportunities for family involvement in juvenile court policy and practice, and statewide policy and oversight review to eliminate barriers to family involvement. [Click here to read this monograph](#).
- [Families Unlocking Futures: Solutions to the Crisis in Juvenile Justice](#) is a report written by [Justice for Families](#) that shares the family perspective on navigating the juvenile justice system. This report shares the stories of parents and children, discusses the impact of zero tolerance policies and makes recommendations for creating a juvenile justice system that is responsive to the needs of children and their families. The report is available for download [here](#).

New Publications from Models for Change

- The Juvenile Law Center, the lead entity for Models for Change work in Pennsylvania, released the report, [Pennsylvania and MacArthur's Model for Change: The Story of a Successful Public-Private Partnership](#). This report explains how the partnership between Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (Pennsylvania's State Advisory Group) and the MacArthur Foundation aligned their goals to create a more equitable juvenile justice system. Click [here](#) to learn more about how to create public-

private partnerships that result in juvenile justice system reform efforts that are responsive to the needs of youth, families, and communities.

- As part of the Models for Change Initiative, the Vera Institute of Justice recently released the report [Measuring Success: A Guide to Becoming an Evidence-Based Practice](#). An important tool for organizations, this report explains the difference between a process evaluation and an outcome evaluation. The report is available for download [here](#).

The Latest DMC and Juvenile Justice Information

- The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics released the report [America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2013](#). This report provides a summary of national indicators of children's well-being in seven domains: family and social environment, economic circumstances, health care, physical environment and safety, behavior, education, and health. The report recommends collecting information about children involved in the criminal justice system for future publication. [Click here to download the report](#).
- The National Research Council of the National Academies of Sciences released the report [Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach](#). The report assesses the implications of advances in behavioral and neuroscience research for juvenile justice field. Chapter 8 of the report, *Reducing Racial/Ethnic Disparities*, focuses on efforts to reduce disparities at every major decision point in the juvenile justice system. You can read and download the report [here](#).
- The National Juvenile Justice Network and the Texas Public Policy Foundation partnered to issue the report [The Comeback States: Reducing Youth Incarceration in the United States](#). The report highlights nine states that adopted policies that led the way to a nationwide 39% reduction in the numbers of children held in detention between 2000 and 2010. The full report is available for download [here](#).
- [Rev. Romal Tune](#) recently published [God's Graffiti: Inspiring Stories for Teens](#). This book tells bible stories about at-risk youth who later become great leaders. Rev. Tune also shares his personal story of growing up in a poor, violent environment and the obstacles he overcame through faith. The book is available for purchase through www.amazon.com.

[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 knash@cclp.org or 202-637-0377 x106.