

Champions for **Change** Award

December 2009



ModelsforChange

Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice

Models for Change is an effort to create successful and replicable models of juvenile justice reform, through targeted investments in key states, with core support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Models for Change seeks to accelerate progress toward a more effective, fair, and developmentally sound juvenile justice system that holds young people accountable for their actions, provides for their rehabilitation, protects them from harm, increases their life chances, and manages the risk they pose to themselves and to the public.

The initiative is underway in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Louisiana and Washington and, through action networks focusing on key issues, in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Champions for **Change**



Robert Gallucci

President
MacArthur Foundation

Congratulations to the recipients of the second annual Champions for Change award. Each of you has been singled out by your peers for outstanding work exemplifying our highest expectations of how “reformed” juvenile justice systems should operate.

I have been impressed to learn how Models for Change has grown to include outstanding juvenile justice leaders in sixteen states. By testing new ideas, sharing successes and developing models for reforms, this initiative is leading the way toward a brighter future for court-involved youth, their families, and communities. Each of our 2009 Champions for Change has advanced that agenda by helping to provide pathways away from delinquency and by increasing the potential for all young people to succeed.

Your successes are an inspiration to those around you. We applaud your commitment to achieving our shared goal of creating juvenile justice systems that embrace fundamental fairness; recognize developmental differences; identify each young person’s strengths, needs, and potential; hold youth accountable; and provide for greater public safety.

You live these values and have been recognized by your peers for your outstanding contributions to juvenile justice reform. We wish you continued success in your tireless efforts on behalf of children and families in your states.

MacArthur
Foundation



Hon. Patricia E. Koch

Judge
Division "E"
Ninth Judicial District Court
Rapides Parish
Louisiana

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From the bench, or across the conference table, District Court Judge Patricia E. Koch uses her leadership and willingness to roll up her sleeves to improve all the systems affecting the well-being of young people in the communities she serves.

Judge Koch is highly regarded not only among her fellow judges in the Ninth District of Louisiana, but also among leaders in the education, medical, religious, and legal communities. District Attorneys, juvenile defenders, providers, religious leaders, and advocates admire Judge Koch for her willingness to consider varied approaches, engage actively with the community, and contribute to discussions.

Judge Koch was elected to represent Division "E" of the Ninth Judicial District Court in October 2005 and has been served as the Juvenile Judge since January 2006. In this capacity, she led the development and subsequent work in Rapides Parish for two consecutive Louisiana Models for Change grants. Judge Koch agreed to remain on the juvenile court bench for the duration of the MacArthur grant to ensure continuity of the grant's progress and long-term sustainability.

Rapides Parish's Models for Change grant includes Louisiana's three Targeted Areas of Improvement: evidence-based community services, alternatives to formal processing and out of home placements, and disproportionate minority contact. Judge Koch has delivered in all three areas.

Judge Koch led the development of the Rapides Parish Children and Youth Planning Board through recruitment of members, participation in meetings, ongoing consultation, and board development initiatives. Her leadership contributed to the formalization of an interagency service committee and the integration of juvenile mental health issues into crisis intervention team trainings. Judge Koch now provides training and consultation to other planning boards around the state.

She has supported training and expanded awareness of the necessity of increasing the use of evidence-based assessments and interventions to produce better outcomes for juveniles and their families along with greater accountability among providers. She has worked with authorities to identify funding streams and has led the Children and Youth Planning Board in efforts to facilitate evidence-based programs and services.

As a component of the local work, "Judge Koch completely endorsed the development of the Detention Screening Instrument (DSI) that aids arresting officers and detention center staff in determining whether or not a juvenile should be placed in detention for their offense," said Paul Frick, a University of New Orleans Research Professor of Psychology. "She fully recognized the importance of establishing an objective screener, as well as the need for concentrated development and testing for this effective screening tool."

Because of this instrument, coupled with the overall education and awareness among local juvenile officers, the number of area youth in detention has decreased significantly. Rapides Parish has also seen a decrease in the number of days juveniles remain in detention. Judge Koch has also been supportive in the establishment of data collection and analysis tools that have aided in the reduction of Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) in Rapides Parish. In the future, data collection efforts will continue to be monitored and refined to ensure that DMC strategies are data driven.

Through the second Models for Change grant in the Ninth JDC just now underway, Judge Koch is taking the lead in developing a best practice model for informal status offenders. This model will be tested in a local jurisdiction in partnership with state agencies in order to ensure its success and viability.

"Judge Koch's dedication, expertise, and reputation are having a tremendous impact on Models for Change in Rapides Parish and Louisiana," said Models for Change Louisiana Director Debra K. DePrato, M.D. "She is a shining example to all of us because through her leadership and her ability to bring different groups to the table, she is actually changing practice on the ground. Her level of commitment, enthusiasm, and constant willingness to give of herself is what makes her a Champion and a leading voice for change."



Keith Snyder

Deputy Director
Juvenile Court Judges'
Commission
Pennsylvania

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Simply calling Keith Snyder a “team leader” is a vast understatement. He repeatedly takes on difficult assignments that require bringing disparate groups together to identify common goals and find common solutions. Mr. Snyder has been especially skilled in the area of improving the mental health and juvenile justice systems’ response to youth with mental health needs.

Under Mr. Snyder’s leadership, Pennsylvania’s Mental Health / Juvenile Justice Work Group has made major strides in improving the coordination between the juvenile justice and mental health systems. Mr. Snyder used his leadership skills and knowledge of Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system to organize and mobilize critical stakeholders, including judges, probation staff, and advocates in supporting the state’s Models for Change efforts.

“Keith’s formidable leadership has helped Pennsylvania to institute reforms that will impact the lives of youth and their families for years to come,” said Lourdes Rosado, Associate Director of Juvenile Law Center. “He tackles thorny policy issues by galvanizing a team effort from all the key players, helping them find their common goals.”

Mr. Snyder’s leadership was particularly important in the State Work Group’s effort to create legislation that would increase access to mental health services by protecting youth from self-incrimination during screening, assessment, and evaluation. He was instrumental in introducing the proposed legislation to a wide array of stakeholders and in shepherding the bill through the legislative process. Signed into law by Governor Rendell in December 2008, Act 109 allows county probation departments to screen youth for mental health issues early in their involvement with the juvenile justice system, while at the same time protecting their due process rights. The need for this type of legislation to protect the legal rights of youth in the justice system was identified in the Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Policy Statement. The importance of Mr. Snyder’s leadership in the creation and implementation of this policy statement cannot be understated. The policy statement has provided a roadmap for reform in Pennsylvania by giving state and local policy makers, practitioners, and advocates a crystal clear understanding of the state’s stance with respect to mental health and juvenile justice.

“The Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Policy Statement has given localities a framework against which to compare their system and identify priorities for improvement,” continues Rosado. “The principles laid out in the policy statement come straight from Models for Change core values. There is perfect alignment.”

Mr. Snyder also helped create momentum for the creation of an evidence-based practice center. The goal of the center is to expand the state’s reliance on evidence-based programs and provide evaluation assistance to other communities with promising program models. Clearly, the growth of evidence-based practices across Pennsylvania will result in positive youth outcomes, including improved family and youth functioning, decreased recidivism, and reduced mental health symptoms.

Mr. Snyder plays an important role in sharing the lessons and advancements from Pennsylvania’s Models for Change initiative. He has skillfully presented Pennsylvania’s joint policy statement, the Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support Center, and other juvenile justice reform work at national and state conferences, including the National GAINS Center’s 2008 conference. Mr. Snyder has become a wise and ardent champion of Models for Change in Pennsylvania, and across the country.



John B. Roe IV

Ogle County
State's Attorney
Oregon, Illinois

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People in Illinois are standing up and taking notice of Ben Roe for his strong leadership and commitment to the cause of juvenile justice reform. He helped transform the Ogle County Juvenile Justice Council into one of the most diverse and active councils in the state. He is spending significant amounts of time sharing Ogle County's story with other counties and rural jurisdictions in an effort to help them make similar advances.

As Chair of the Ogle County Juvenile Justice Council, Roe's vision and guidance is a large part of the success of juvenile justice reform in Ogle, a county of 55,167 residents in the rolling terrain of Northwestern Illinois. However, his own narrative of the advances in Ogle begin and end with acknowledgement of the commitment of his partners on the council, including the judiciary, probation department, public defenders, law enforcement and many others.

"Strong community and judicial involvement is not an end in itself. State's Attorney Roe has used it to change systems," said Diane Geraghty, founder and director of the Loyola Civitas ChildLaw Center in Chicago, which is the lead entity for Models for Change in Illinois. "He has reached out to every stakeholder group and worked with the Juvenile Justice Council to develop and implement strategies to address fundamental fairness, mental health services, and alternatives to schools suspension. He has brought people together to create the best solutions for Ogle County youth."

A diverse case processing team including the Juvenile Court Judge, a member of the Public Defender's Office, the Director of Court Services, and representatives from local law enforcement agencies was assembled to create a better system for evaluating cases. As a result, a police contact form, a case processing protocol, a memorandum of understanding, and MAYSI mental health testing have all been implemented.

All Ogle County law enforcement agencies use the police contact form with every juvenile police contact. Out of 218 juvenile police reports received in 2009, 125 were diverted from court through Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) efforts. BARJ programs have been dramatically expanded, and Ogle County now currently diverts the majority of all juvenile police arrest reports while holding the youth accountable and keeping the community safe. Cases that do result in a petition being filed are now screened at the earliest point of entry. A social history and mental health screening (MAYSI-2) is completed pre-adjudication and provided to the assigned Public Defender and the family, so that needed services can be started immediately.

Mr. Roe has acted on his concern for fundamental fairness by beginning a juvenile expungement program. Youth are now informed of their rights to expungement at the point of arrest via the Police Contact Forms and upon successful completion of court supervision or probation. If an eligible youth wants to pursue expungement, materials are available to guide them through the process.

His work to improve juvenile justice is founded on two closely related goals as state's attorney: (1) to improve public safety through quick identification of youth needing services before they commit the kinds of crimes that could lead to more victims and years of incarceration and (2) to involve many justice system and community leaders in a coordinated effort to improve the lives of children so they can become healthy, contributing members of the community as adults.

"Due to Ben Roe's dedication and commitment, Ogle County's Juvenile Justice Council is becoming a state and national model," commented Lisa Jacobs, Program Manager, Illinois Models for Change. "Thanks to his work the number of juvenile petitions filed are decreasing; the number of youth diverted from courts is increasing with less re-offending, and dropping probation caseloads allow probation officers to concentrate on high risk offenders. Ben Roe is making juvenile justice reform happen."



Anne Lee

Executive Director
TeamChild
Seattle, Washington

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It is next to impossible to name a committee or task force addressing juvenile justice issues in King County that does not include Annie Lee. She has been involved in almost every aspect of the Models for Change Initiative in Washington. Even before Models for Change came to Washington, Ms. Lee was addressing juvenile justice reform issues.

"It was natural for Annie to combine her formidable talents with the work of Models for Change to continue to improve outcomes for youth involved in the juvenile justice system," says Justice Bobbe J. Bridge, ret., Founding President/CEO, Center for Children & Youth Justice, the lead entity for Washington Models for Change. "Her contributions have been vital to the success of our initiative."

Ms. Lee understands the workings of the juvenile justice and public education systems and their impact on young lives. Her experience as a civil legal aid attorney allows her to evaluate critically juvenile justice and civil rights issues. She recognizes the effect of injustices on an individual client, motivating her to pursue systemic change affecting all youth.

"Annie not only brings a keen understanding of youth-serving systems to any work group setting, but also is an effective partner," says Patti Puritz, Executive Director, National Juvenile Defender Center. "With her insights about systems and their effect on youth, she helps working groups stay focused; with her willingness to contribute, she makes them more productive; and with a constructive spirit, she pushes them to take on difficult issues that will make a real difference in the lives of youth."

Ms. Lee is a contributor to King County's Models for Change work through her participation on several subcommittees of Uniting for Youth, King County's systems integration initiative. Her understanding of how the gaps and collisions of youth-serving systems affect the lives of youth brings tremendous value to the work of these groups. Ms. Lee also contributes to these groups through her willingness to invest her time and the time of her knowledgeable colleagues from TeamChild to research and develop ideas.

In the area of juvenile indigent defense, Washington Models for Change overarching goal is to improve the quality of, and access, to juvenile indigent defense services for every young person who enters the juvenile justice system in Washington. Ms. Lee and TeamChild developed a plan that included the creation of a Special Counsel position for Enhancing Juvenile Indigent Defense. The Special Counsel is responsible for engaging the juvenile indigent defense bar in Washington, developing training, mentoring and technical assistance resources, coordinating national and local indigent defense partners around system reform efforts, and supporting litigation, appellate work, and policy initiatives in Washington.

TeamChild collaborated with the Washington Defender Center, the Washington State Bar Association/Juvenile Law Section, the Washington State Office of Public Defense, along with Center for Children & Youth Justice and Models for Change NRB partner National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC). Together this group was able to double the amount of free training offered to juvenile defenders and create a framework for a comprehensive training curriculum for juvenile public defense.

TeamChild's work plan also provides for developing leadership and advocacy within the defense community. Through the Special Counsel, TeamChild has taken on a visible leadership role in activities aimed towards promoting leadership development and system reform advocacy, and facilitating opportunities for others to step into leadership and advocacy roles.

"Annie expects excellence in all aspects of advocacy for youth. Each of us can probably think of a time that her dedication inspired us to strive for and obtain a result to improve an outcome for a youth that we thought was unattainable," concludes Justice Bridge. "Her ability to inspire others can be clearly seen by the number of former colleagues currently playing prominent roles as youth advocates in agencies throughout the state."

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