

BENTON/
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COUNTIES
JUVENILE
JUSTICE
CENTER

Models for Change

A project of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

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NEWSLETTER

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ABOUT MODELS FOR CHANGE

Models for Change is an initiative of the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation seeking juvenile justice systems reform in four key states around the country. In Washington, five counties, including Benton and Franklin Counties, are undertaking this work. Benton/Franklin Counties are focusing on three Targeted Areas of Improvement (TAIs): Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC), Mental Health, and Truancy.

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Models for Change
Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice
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Coordinator's Corner

Hello from Benton/Franklin Counties Models for Change!

We hope this issue of our newsletter finds you well. It looks like summer is finally here and with that comes a chance to breathe a bit and reflect on what we have accomplished.

It is hard to believe that the MacArthur Foundation's support of our local Models for Change project ends in December 2011—not all that far away. With only a year and a half left of our juvenile justice systems reform efforts here in Benton & Franklin Counties, it's worth noting that we have been very busy since the beginning.

Benton/Franklin Counties is the only MfC site in Washington with three Targeted Areas of

Improvement (TAIs). We have met with local leaders (you!) to make strides in the Truancy, Mental Health, and Disproportionate Minority Contact arenas.

This is not to say that our work is by any means finished. We have recently launched an African American Leadership group as well as a Latino Leadership group to help guide our efforts. We are very excited about this new collaboration.

What we have learned since the project began is that nothing lasting can happen without your help. Thanks again for your continuing dedication and support. Have a great summer!

J. van Wormer

Jacqueline van Wormer
MfC Coordinator



Next DMC Workgroup Meeting:

Tuesday, 9/14/10

@ 3:30 p.m.

Union Street Library
in Kennewick

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

With the retirement of Terry Tanneberg this spring, the DMC Workgroup has a new chair—Detention Manager Eric Lipp. The workgroup met in May and reviewed Relative Rate Index (RRI) data. Workgroup members felt the new meeting location at the Kennewick Library on Union was more convenient than previous locations. The next meeting will be held there on September 14th.

Call Reminder System: With the help of a dedicated intern, the good news here is that court reminders continue in both English and Spanish. With a few months of calls completed, we will be evaluating the effectiveness of the program in coming months. Our intent is to gauge whether court reminder calls have truly reduced the number of failure to appear (FTA) warrants as anticipated.

Gang Taskforce: Co-chair Robert Elizondo ran the last Taskforce meeting where a name was decided—TC GIVES. This is short for Tri-City Gang Interventions Valuing Education & Safety. Great input was received from three students who helped us map out current community resources for youth with the goal of identifying where valuable programs may be missing and potentially implemented.

Next Mental Health Workgroup Meeting:
August 2010
@ DHS
Date/Time
TBD

Mental Health

The Mental Health Workgroup welcomes a new co-chair: Kendra Simpson with the Department of Human Services. The workgroup met on June 15th and discussed ongoing projects including the following:

Media Subgroup: The Mental Health Workgroup's Media Subgroup has been working with Daveda Russell from Pyramid Communications to come up with a message framework for a mental health media campaign. Four key messages,

spokespeople, markets, and mediums have been identified. We plan to collaborate further to get this message out.

Engagement Training: A series of culture and engagement trainings, focusing on Latino families and evidence-based engagement principles, were implemented in May and June for mental health and case management staff at four mental health agencies: Catholic Family & Child Services, Nueva Esperanza, Lourdes Counseling,

and Lutheran Community Services. The trainings were well-received and UW is now conducting a follow up evaluation. Many thanks to Dr. Sarah Walker for her tireless efforts on this project!

Parent Support: The Juvenile Court and 3 Rivers Wrap-around are also collaborating on a parent support project to provide juvenile justice-involved families with information about the court process and community resources.



Next Truancy Workgroup Meeting:
TBD by
Meeting Doodle
Fall 2010

Truancy

Out-of-School Youth Initiative: Our work on the Out-of-School Youth Initiative continues. At our April 29th Truancy Workgroup meeting, MfC staff shared the initiative and media campaign information. Becky Gauthier, United Way Director of Community Solutions, shared how the Out-of-School Youth Initiative parallels the United Way's "Babies Can't Wait" and "Alliance for the Second Decade" Community Solutions initiatives. MfC staff continue to meet with area school officials seeking input on the Out-of-School Youth Initiative and the launch of the initiative in the fall of 2010.

Fast Forward Call Center: The Boys & Girls Club of Benton & Franklin Counties has

received a \$65,000 United Way grant to begin the Fast Forward Call Center. The grant will allow for the staffing of the Call Center, which will provide a pathway for out of school youth to return to school.

The Call Center will be housed at the Boys & Girls Club and will work with returning youth ages 16-21. The Call Center staff will work closely with school district personnel to find appropriate educational placements for returning youth and will support their transition back to school with current assessment information, school transcripts, and information about previous barriers to school success. As the program grows, we expect to provide school districts with

current demographic information to develop additional alternative programs as needed.

Pyramid Communications: As part of the MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change initiative, we have enlisted the services of Pyramid Communications. Pyramid is a unique public relations/communications firm that assists with the marketing of messages like the Out-of-School Youth Initiative. MfC and Pyramid Communications staff are currently working to establish a marketing strategy for the launch of the Out-of-School Youth Initiative. Pyramid will assist in the development and ongoing media campaign that will seek to reconnect youth with school.

For more information on the Truancy TAI, contact Education Liaison Dennis Young at (509) 783-2151 ext. 2474 or dennis.young@co.benton.wa.us.



FAST FORWARD CALL CENTER

Supported by The United Way and The Boys & Girls Club

COMING FALL 2010

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We are on-line at
www.modelsforchange.net

Models for Change
Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice

In Other News

Moving On: This month we bid a fond farewell to MfC Project Facilitator Nanette Blackburn. Nanette has accepted a position with Team-Child to provide civil legal advocacy for youth in Benton & Franklin Counties. We are not letting her off that easy and still plan to utilize her in one or more of our workgroups. We wish her the best of luck!

Youth Council: The court process video is finally finished! Youth Council members were instrumental in producing the video entitled "Understanding the Juvenile Criminal Court Process," which will be played on new televisions in the Juvenile Justice Center lobby. Production has begun on a Spanish

language version. Many thanks to Mike Grief at Tri-Tech for his tireless efforts in bringing the video to fruition.



The Youth Council's next project will be designing a survey for youth coming off of probation. The goal is to better

understand how probation services can be strengthened.

Finally, Youth Council has had several recent graduates and is in need of new referrals. Youth with knowledge of the local juvenile justice system are encouraged to contact MfC staff about joining the council. Transportation and incentives are provided.

Leadership Meetings: Two new leadership groups have formed to assist in our juvenile justice systems reform efforts. So far, one African American Leadership meeting and two Latino Leadership meetings have been held. Both groups have a lot of enthusiasm and are exploring where to focus their energies.

**Benton/Franklin
Counties Models
for Change operates
under the auspices
of the Benton/
Franklin Counties
Juvenile Justice
Center**



GETTING INVOLVED:

Models for Change has been operating in Benton/Franklin Counties under a grant of the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation since 2007. The work being done is broad and diverse within three Targeted Areas of Improvement. We welcome community partners and agency representatives to attend one or more of our workgroups. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to a friend or, if forwarded to you, subscribe yourself. Email MacArthur.Coordinator@co.benton.wa.us to be included in a workgroup listserv.