

## DMC eNews

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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](#).

## MacArthur Foundation, OJJDP Support Data-Driven DMC Reduction in Two New Jurisdictions

What do Alachua County, Florida, and Arapahoe County, Colorado, have in common? They're the next two jurisdictions to benefit from a new effort to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.

With funding from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, both counties will participate in the newly launched Racial and Ethnic Disparities Reduction Project. Through the project, the Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP) will provide intensive site-based technical assistance to both counties. The jurisdictions can also receive up to \$25,000 per year for up to two years to support their work, plus \$5,000 per year for travel to other jurisdictions that have successfully reduced DMC.

According to DMC Policy Director Tiana Davis, the collaboration represents a unique opportunity to extend successful strategies from the DMC Action Network and other successful efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. "Thanks to the jurisdictions that have pioneered reform, we now know more about how to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. Through the public and private investments in this new project, two counties now have an opportunity to translate that knowledge into measurable outcomes for youth of color."

### **Quick Facts:** **Arapahoe County, CO**

**Stakeholder Group**  
Minority Overrepresentation  
Committee  
**Lead Agency**  
Department of Corrections  
**Youth Population**  
147,000 (45% youth of color)

CCLP selected Alachua County and Arapahoe County after a nationwide search and competitive application process. Both jurisdictions show the commitment and potential to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. Arapahoe County first convened its Minority Overrepresentation Committee in 2003. Officials there have been working to address DMC in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems since then. Like many places around the country, though, inconsistent access to data has limited the committee's efforts. Through the project, stakeholders are hoping to overcome those barriers and develop a set of focused strategies based on that information.

## Core States

**Pennsylvania**  
Berks County  
Philadelphia  
Lancaster County

**Illinois**  
Peoria County

**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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Kelly Abbott serves as the Alternatives to Incarceration Coordinator for Colorado's 18th Judicial District, which contains Arapahoe County. She sees promise in her jurisdiction's history of strong collaboration. "Having gone to other districts around the state, I know that we do a very good job of working together toward a common goal. I see this project as an opportunity to give us the direction to use data to really make a difference."

In Alachua County, the Gainesville Police Department has galvanized efforts to improve how the justice system responds to youth of color. Recent statistics show that African American youth are referred to the juvenile justice system at more than four times the rate of the county's white youth. As part of the DMC Reduction Project, officials plan to draw upon partnerships with an array of community-based organizations to identify ways of reducing that disproportionality and addressing other areas of concern.

For Gainesville Chief of Police Tony Jones, this means taking a close look at the front end of the juvenile justice system. "We're not just going to stick our heads in the sand and keep doing business as usual. By collaborating, we know that we can devise strategies to keep youth of color from entering the system while also preserving public safety."

Through the Models for Change initiative, DMC Action Network sites demonstrated that data-driven efforts can translate concerns about racial and ethnic disparities into results. The pressure is on, but we know that both Alachua County and Arapahoe County are up to the challenge of creating more equitable and effective juvenile justice systems.

To learn more about the Racial and Ethnic Disparities Reduction Project, contact CCLP's DMC Policy Director, Tiana Davis, at [tdavis@cclp.org](mailto:tdavis@cclp.org) or 202-637-0377 x103.

### Quick Facts: Alachua County, FL

#### Stakeholder Group

Alachua County Juvenile  
Justice Council

#### Lead Agency

Gainesville Police Department

#### Youth Population

44,520 (28% youth of color)

## CCLP to Share Effective DMC Reduction Strategies with American Probation and Parole Association

Planning on attending the American Probation and Parole Association's (APPA) 37th Annual Training Institute in Indianapolis this summer? Be sure to join DMC Policy Director Tiana Davis and Staff Attorney Jason Szanyi for a session on effective approaches to reducing racial and ethnic disparities. The workshop will cover the DMC Action Network approach, successes and measurable results from the Network, and ways of overcoming common challenges to DMC reduction. CCLP staff will also share policies and practices from Bridgeport and Hartford, Connecticut, which are currently replicating the DMC Action Network approach with the support of the Tow Foundation.

[Click here for more information](#) about APPA's upcoming conference.

## 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](mailto:jszanyi@cclp.org) or 202-637-0377 x108.

## National Juvenile Justice Network Seeks Fiscal Policy Center Director

The National Juvenile Justice Network is accepting applications for the next director of its Fiscal Policy Center. The Center provides technical assistance and training to juvenile justice reformers in the areas of state budget structure and analysis, review of federal money flows, examination of state-county fiscal relationships, compilations of no-cost legislation, cost-benefit research, and examples of and lessons learned from fiscal realignment strategies.

For more information about the position, [follow this link](#).

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## The Newest DMC and Juvenile Justice Information

- The Research and Evaluation Center at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice released two new research briefs on trends in juvenile justice. [The first publication](#) notes that that less serious offenses such as obstruction of justice, simple assault, drug law violations, vandalism, and disorderly conduct accounted for more than 90 percent of the growth in out-of-home placements between 1985 and 2008. [The second publication](#) analyzed juvenile crime trends in six states, determining that the number of youth transferred to criminal court is not correlated with reductions in violent crime rates in those states.
- New research from the Department of Psychology at Stanford University found that race can have an impact on individuals' willingness to support harsher punishments for youth. Study participants read a fact pattern involving a youth charged with a serious offense. The fact patterns were identical, except that half of participants were told that the youth was white and the other half were told that the youth was African American. Participants who read the fact pattern involving an African American youth were significantly more likely than other participants to support sentences of life without parole for non-homicide crimes, and significantly less likely to believe that youth are less culpable than adults who commit similar crimes. You can read the study, [Race and the Fragility of the Legal Distinction between Juveniles and Adults](#), by clicking this link.
- A new report by the Justice Policy Institute describes the positive role that employment plays in reducing offending and increasing lifelong earnings for youth. The publication, [Working for a Better Future](#), finds that investments in youth employment, which research characterizes as a "protective factor" against crime, would improve public safety.
- A new toolkit from the National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN) outlines how jurisdictions can identify federal funding to support programs that benefit youth. The NJJN toolkit, [How to Find and Use Byrne Justice Assistance Grant \(JAG\) Information for Juvenile Justice Reform](#), explains the purpose of the funding and outlines strategies to redirect resources to local prevention and intervention programs.

- The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) recently hosted its 2012 inter-site conference in Houston, Texas. The gathering of approximately 700 professionals featured a range of presentations on best practices and promising approaches to juvenile justice reform. [You can view materials from the conference by clicking this link.](#)
- On May 17, 2012, The U.S. Department of Justice released its final rule for the implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). The rule sets national standards for prevention, detection, and response to sexual misconduct in four categories of facilities: juvenile facilities, adult prisons and jails, lockups, and community confinement facilities. [To view the rule and the Justice Department commentary, follow this link.](#) The National Juvenile Justice Network and the National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition will host a joint webinar on the PREA standards and their impact on juvenile justice systems on Tuesday, June 19th at 2pm EST. RSVP to [info@njjn.org](mailto:info@njjn.org) for call-in information.
- Juvenile facility administrators have a fundamental responsibility to keep youth and staff safe. Most fulfill that responsibility without using pepper spray and tear gas. However, some continue to rely on painful and dangerous chemical agents as a substitute for more effective and humane ways of managing youth behavior. [A new fact sheet from the Center for Children's Law and Policy](#) highlights concerns associated with chemical agents and offers strategies to reduce and eliminate reliance on them.
- This month, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry's Juvenile Justice Reform Committee released [a new policy statement on the dangers of isolating youth in secure facilities.](#) The Policy statement "opposes the use of solitary confinement in correctional facilities for juveniles," noting that youth are "at a particular risk of ... adverse reactions" to solitary confinement, including depression, anxiety, psychosis, and suicide.
- The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute, in partnership with Juvenile Law Center, announced its inaugural Information Sharing Certificate Program. Supported by the MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change initiative, the program enables leaders in juvenile justice, child welfare, education, behavioral health and other child serving fields to overcome information sharing challenges. For additional information and application instructions, [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](mailto:jszanyi@cclp.org) or 202-637-0377 x108.