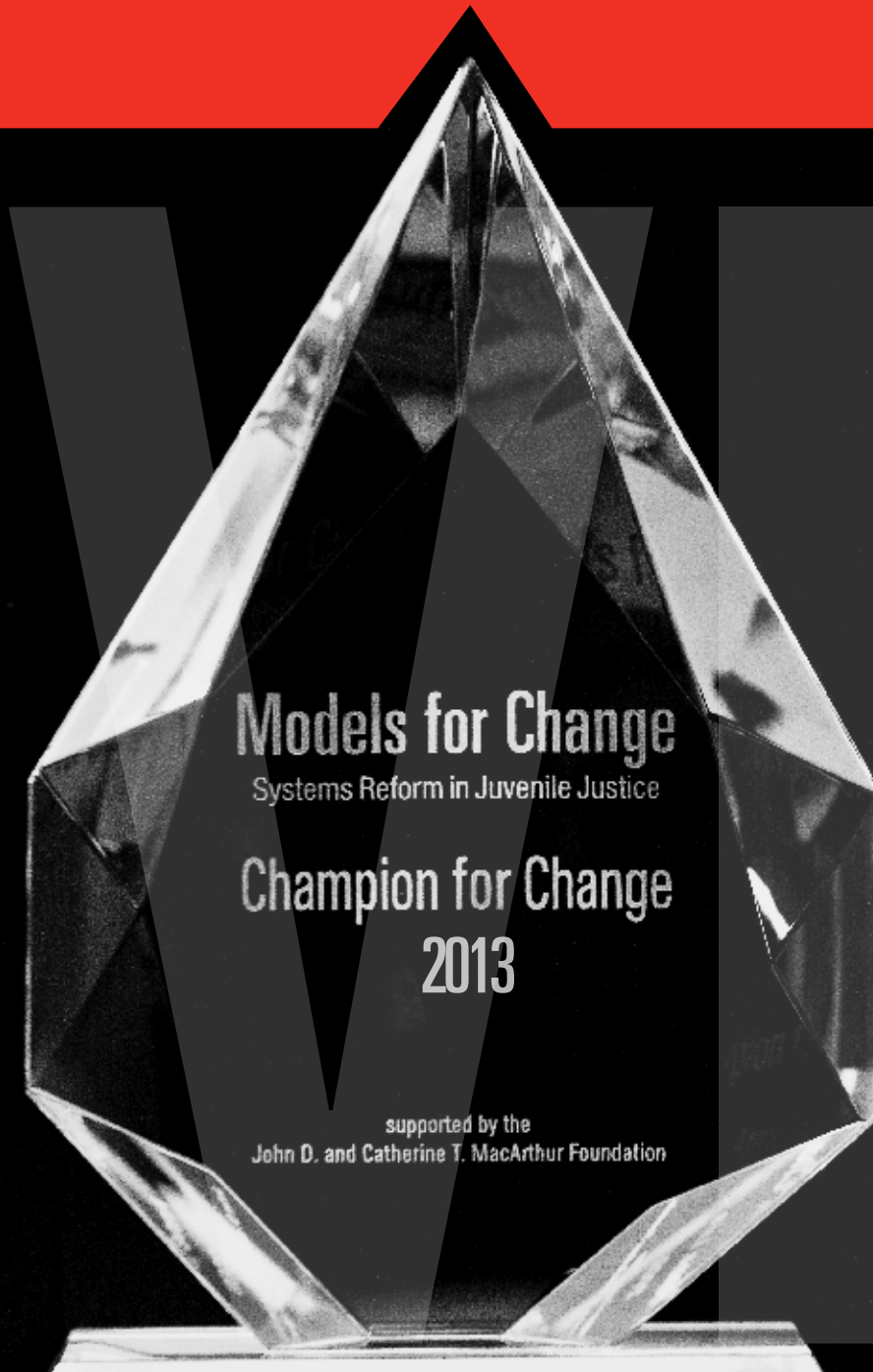


# ModelsforChange

Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice

Sixth Annual  
Champions for Change Awards  
December 16, 2013



# ModelsforChange

## Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice

All young people should have the opportunity to grow up with a good education, get a job and participate in their communities. Creating more fair and effective juvenile justice systems that support learning and growth and promote accountability can ensure that every young person grows up to be a healthy, productive member of society.

*Models for Change: Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice*, a MacArthur Foundation initiative, began by working comprehensively on juvenile justice reform in four states, and then by concentrating on issues of mental health, juvenile indigent defense, and racial and ethnic disparities in 16 states. Through collaboration with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), *Models for Change* expanded its reach and is now working to replicate and disseminate successful models of juvenile justice reform in 31 states.



**Robert Gallucci**  
President  
MacArthur Foundation

Progress toward a fairer, more compassionate, more effective system of juvenile justice is a good thing to celebrate.

Today, MacArthur is privileged to pay tribute to some of those who have led the way — our Champions for Change for 2013.

We know that the hard work of enduring reform is done close to home, where the justice system is shaped and put into practice. So, for the first time, we honor Champions for Change in the categories of State Leadership and Local Leadership.

It is vital that our movement look to sustaining all we have gained. To welcome fresh energy and commitment, we have instituted a Next Generation Champion for Change award that recognizes the outstanding contributions of one of our younger colleagues.

As we work toward a national groundswell for reform, the work we have done together will continue to support the field. The Core States and Action Networks brought together in *Models for Change* have given us proven models and firm direction. Our Resource Hub, Strategic Allies, and new Resource Centers will provide the expertise, technical assistance, and ongoing support needed to equip those who are adding their efforts to ours.

We have come a long way together, and we have great hope for the future. Your optimism, passion, and untiring dedication have made our vision for change a reality.

Thank you for all you continue to do — and my warmest congratulations to the Champions of 2013.

**MacArthur**  
**Foundation**



NEXT GENERATION CHAMPION FOR CHANGE

# Sarah Cusworth Walker

University of Washington  
Seattle, WA

## Deep Respect for Cultural Values

Juvenile justice leaders frequently talk about the individual developmental differences of youth in the juvenile justice system. Sarah Walker, a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Washington, digs even deeper, examining cultural and gender differences that affect not only how interventions are received, but how they are delivered as well. Her extensive involvement with the *Models for Change* Initiative has demonstrated her leadership and unwavering commitment to improving outcomes for youth through juvenile justice reform.

“She brings to her work a unique blend of serious scientific knowledge, the capacity to communicate clearly and a truly inclusive approach to engaging people in decision-making,” said Justice Bobbe J. Bridge (ret.), Founding President/CEO, Center for Children & Youth Justice. “She uses her creativity to integrate data and research with a respect for the cultural and local context in which reform takes place.”

A major theme of Walker’s work is adapting a research-based intervention to meet the specific needs of those who will deliver it, and those who will benefit from it. As a result, the tools, policies, projects and training that she develops are user-friendly and meaningful to youth and families, as well as justice and mental health professionals.

“It’s rarely the case that you have someone with Sarah’s empirical, scientific talent who is so willing to listen to input and able to use it to develop programs that effectively meet the needs of diverse youth, communities and professionals,” says Dr. Eric Trupin, Director of the University of Washington Division of Public Behavioral Health and Justice Policy.

Walker has been a driving force in Washington’s *Models for Change* mental health-related work as a partner with local sites in their mental health projects, the Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Action Network, and as the leader of a statewide mental health policy reform effort to divert youth with mental health needs from the juvenile justice system to community-based treatment.

Walker conducted the Community Needs Assessment survey of Benton and Franklin Counties that became an important tool, frequently used by local agencies and non-profits to inform and prioritize efforts to better serve at-risk youth, particularly Latinos. She found that a large number of Latino youth in Benton and Franklin Counties were not accessing critical mental health services. Working with local stakeholders, she built a cultural engagement training model for mental health providers and identified Latino trainers to deliver the program, resulting in more Latino youth enrolling in and completing treatment.

“I don’t know how our *Models for Change* program could’ve done everything we’ve done without Dr. Walker’s community needs assessment. It captured the interests, needs and concerns of the people we serve. It informs all of the work we do now — and in the future,” says Dr. Jacqueline Van Wormer, *Models for Change* Coordinator in Benton and Franklin Counties.

Walker’s work embodies the recognition of developmental and individual differences and of youth potential. Her projects improve the engagement and effectiveness of research-based mental health interventions for different cultural groups. Doing so makes it more likely that youth in the juvenile justice system will get the help they need because their providers better recognize and respect their cultural values and engage their families.



## CHAMPION FOR CHANGE IN LOCAL LEADERSHIP

# Denna Murray McGrew

Children's Coalition of Northeast Louisiana  
Monroe, Louisiana

## Assertiveness and Grace

Denna McGrew is an advocate at the Children's Coalition of Northeast Louisiana for children in the 4th Judicial District. Not only does she possess an in-depth understanding of the local youth and the organizations and systems serving them, she also operates with the perfect balance of assertiveness and grace.

"Her core strength is recognizing that the juvenile justice system does not operate in isolation," said Lynda Gavioli, Executive Director, Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana. "Denna is married to a police officer and is keenly aware of how other needs like mental health, education, health care and family support must be addressed to produce effective interventions for youth. As a result, she is passionate about her heroic work of trying to stem the tide of youth coming into the system."

McGrew was first introduced to Louisiana *Models for Change* in 2008 when the 4th Judicial District was becoming a *Models for Change* local site. Throughout the process, she proved invaluable in bringing prosecutors, judges and service providers together. As a result, she was designated the Co-Project Director focusing on developing a strategic plan for implementing evidence-based practices and a parenting program through the Children's Coalition.

McGrew also became a member of the Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Action Network, which led to a strategic innovation grant to implement the Parent Empowerment Program for juvenile justice system involved youth and their families. She continues to work as Coordinator for *Models for Change* for Northeast Louisiana.

"Denna's efforts facilitating the local Children and Youth Planning Board were integral to the success of *Models for Change* in her community," said Stephen Phillippi, Associate Professor, Institute for Public Health and Justice, LSU School of Public Health. "Without her coalition building efforts and project leadership, many youth and families of the 4th Judicial District may find themselves lost in a system without a champion."

In her role as Coordinator for the *Models for Change* initiative, McGrew led efforts of the Children and Youth Planning Board to analyze a substantial body of local data. She coordinated with national experts to facilitate strategic planning that will guide and sustain the efforts begun by *Models for Change* long after the grant ends. At the same time, she took on a local, state, and national leadership role in working with the REACH Institute, the NCMHJJ, and the MH/JJ Action Network to develop, pilot, and implement the Parent Empowerment Program-JJ.

"Denna's passion and commitment to working on behalf of children and youth comes from her personal faith and hardships of her own," said Gavioli. "She knows firsthand how difficult it is to find the services needed, to navigate the systems, and to persevere in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. Her positive attitude, optimism and passion permeate everything she does and encourages others."

As a person, professional, mother, and co-worker, Denna McGrew stands out as a true champion. It only takes a few minutes to be drawn into the passion of her life's work, be it her own family or the families she helps in her community each and every day.



CHAMPION FOR CHANGE IN STATE LEADERSHIP

# Senator Karen E. Spilka

Senator, Majority Whip  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Building Consensus to Better Kids' Lives

State Senator Karen Spilka is quick to credit her colleagues in the Legislature whenever others praise her leadership on behalf of the children and families of Massachusetts. This attitude is the foundation of her team building approach and critical to winning legislative victories for the state's most powerless and vulnerable residents.

Senator Spilka stands out for both her approach and her effectiveness in advocating for issues that most directly affect lower income families and especially children of color, issues not always at the top of other elected officials' agendas. "She has become an astoundingly effective champion for children and families in need, and has taken us from dreaming about a better juvenile justice system in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to experiencing massive, life changing improvements," said Anthony Benedetti, Chief Counsel, Committee for Public Counsel Services.

Senator Spilka has played a central role in several major recent legislative actions. This year, she sponsored the Senate bill to raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction from 17 to 18 years of age. In September, the issue passed unanimously in both branches of the legislature and was signed into law by Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick.

"It was a true bipartisan outcome, one at which Senator Spilka has been at the forefront for a number of years," said Naoka Carey, Executive Director, Citizens for Juvenile Justice. "Through her effort and persistence, not only were members of the Legislature united, but also families, advocates, law enforcement, corrections, and the judiciary. As a result, thousands of young people across our state will no longer face automatic prosecution as adults or incarceration in adult facilities. Instead, they will enter a system that is designed to deal with high school aged kids."

Senator Spilka is also one of the primary authors and sponsors of the most progressive JLWOP sentencing bills currently before any Legislature in the nation. "We are confident that Senator Spilka's stalwart support for the fair sentencing of children will help to ensure that the discussion in Massachusetts on these issues includes serious consideration of the developmental differences between youth and adults, as well as young people's unique capacity for change and growth," said Gail Garinger, Child Advocate for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Senator Spilka has also been directly involved in Massachusetts' work with *Models for Change* as a critical member of the Massachusetts Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network (JIDAN) team. She and her staff invested many hours helping the public defender agency and the other JIDAN members develop a model statewide juvenile defender division.

"Senator Spilka has accomplished what hundreds of legislators, government officials, and advocates failed to do for almost 40 years, overhaul the Child in Need of Services system," said Edward Kelley, President and CEO, Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps. "Over a period of approximately eight years Senator Spilka and her tireless staff convened one meeting after another. After the most inclusive legislative planning process that any of us had ever seen, Senator Spilka literally ran the bill through the halls of the State House to ensure that Massachusetts youth and families would not have to wait another year for reform."

"Senator Spilka's extraordinary leadership on a broad array of progressive juvenile justice reforms in Massachusetts has resulted in demonstrable and meaningful impact," said Joshua Dohan, Director, Youth Advocacy Division, Committee for Public Counsel Services. "The expression a true friend to children and families is probably overused, yet in Senator Spilka's case it is a fitting and apt description."

We want to acknowledge the dedicated work of the  
*Models for Change* Core State Coordinators:

**Pennsylvania Models for Change —  
Juvenile Law Center**

**Illinois Models for Change —  
Civitas ChildLaw Center at Loyola University Chicago**

**Louisiana Models for Change —  
Institute for Public Health and Justice at Louisiana State University**

**Washington Models for Change —  
Center for Children & Youth Justice**

We also want to recognize the effective and collaborative work of our  
*Models for Change* Action Networks:

**Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network —  
National Juvenile Defender Center**

**Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Action Network —  
National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice**

**Disproportionate Minority Contact Action Network —  
Center for Children's Law and Policy**

# Champions for Change

## 2012 Award Recipients

### Disproportionate Minority Contact Action Network

Lisa M. Garry  
JDAI/DMC Director  
Maryland Department of  
Juvenile Services

### Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network

Laura Cohen  
Clinical Professor of Law  
& Co-Director of the Eric  
R. Neisser Public Interest  
Program  
Rutgers University

### Washington

Gene Griffin  
Northwestern University  
Feinberg School of Medicine

Starcia Marie Ague  
University of Washington/  
School of Medicine  
Department of Psychiatry &  
Behavioral Sciences, Division  
of Public Behavioral Health  
and Justice Policy

### Louisiana

Sharon Guy Hornsby  
Dean  
Northshore Technical  
Community College, Florida  
Parishes Campus

### Illinois

Arthur D. Bishop  
Director  
Illinois Department of Juvenile  
Justices

### Pennsylvania

George D. Mosee, Jr.  
Deputy District Attorney  
Philadelphia District Attorney's  
Office, Juvenile Division

## 2011 Award Recipients

### Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network

Joshua Dohan  
Director  
Youth Advocacy Department—  
Committee for Public Counsel  
Services

### Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Action Network

Catherine Foley Geib  
Manager of Clinical &  
Educational Services  
Court Support Services Division,  
Connecticut Judicial Branch

### Disproportionate Minority Contact Action Network

Mark Masterson  
Director  
Sedgwick County Department  
of Corrections

### Washington

Carl McCurley  
Director  
Administrative Office of the  
Courts/Washington State  
Center for Court Research

### Louisiana

Dane R. Bolin  
Director  
Calcasieu Parish Office of  
Juvenile Justice Services

### Illinois

Toni Irving  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
State of Illinois, Office of the  
Governor

### Pennsylvania

Robert L. Listenbee  
Chief of the Juvenile Unit  
Defender Association of  
Philadelphia

## 2010 Award Recipients

### Disproportionate Minority Contact Action Network

Jason Witt  
Deputy Director  
Rock County, Wisconsin Human  
Services Department

### Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Action Network

Honorable Linda Tucci Teodosio  
Judge  
Summit County, Ohio Juvenile  
Court

### Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network

Robert W. Mason  
Director of Juvenile Court  
Fourth Judicial Circuit Public  
Defender Office, Florida

### Washington

Susan N. Dreyfus  
Secretary  
State of Washington  
Department of Social  
and Health Services

### Louisiana

Roy L. Juncker, Jr.  
Director  
Jefferson Parish, Louisiana  
Department  
of Juvenile Services

### Illinois

Rick Velasquez  
Director  
Youth Outreach Services

### Pennsylvania

Patricia Torbet  
Senior Research Associate  
National Center for Juvenile  
Justice

## 2009 Award Recipients

### Washington

Anne Lee  
Executive Director  
TeamChild

### Louisiana

Hon. Patricia E. Koch  
Judge  
Ninth Judicial District Court

### Illinois

John B. Roe IV  
Ogle County  
State's Attorney

### Pennsylvania

Keith Snyder  
Deputy Director  
Juvenile Court Judges'  
Commission

## 2008 Award Recipients

### Washington

Jacqueline van Wormer  
Benton and Franklin Counties  
Superior Court

### Louisiana

Paul Joseph Frick  
Research Professor of  
Psychology  
University of New Orleans

### Illinois

Elizabeth Clarke  
Founder and President  
Juvenile Justice Initiative

### Pennsylvania

James E. Anderson  
Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Juvenile Court  
Judges' Commission

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[www.modelsforchange.net](http://www.modelsforchange.net)