

Champions for Change Award

December 2008



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**

Models for Change: Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice will be measured by how well it improves the lives of young people involved with the justice system, their families, and their communities.

Models for Change is striving to create pathways away from delinquency and offending, and to increase young people's potential for leading successful lives. With work underway in 16 states, it also aims to provide models, tools, and guidance to leaders who wish to accomplish the same in their own communities and states.

Creating and fostering "models for change" requires both **inspiration and implementation**. These four inaugural Champions for Change have shown that they can do both – create effective approaches to improving the lives of young people, while inspiring us all with their determination to succeed.

These champions were chosen by colleagues in their own states for national recognition at the annual meeting of *Models for Change* leaders. They stand out among the many who are working hard to bring about the kind of reform that is reflected in better lives for so many young people in this country.

I congratulate each honoree and encourage them and all of you to continue the essential work of securing our children's future.

Jonathan F. Fanton

President

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation



Models for Change Pennsylvania

James E. Anderson

Executive Director

Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Jim Anderson is not a lawyer, and yet others depend on his knowledge of the law. He leads an organization of judges, though he has never served on the bench. And while he does not hold an elected office, his work has been central to some of the most important legislative actions affecting juveniles in Pennsylvania's justice system. Jim Anderson is a problem solver who applies his considerable talents to bettering the lives of dependent and delinquent children and youth.

"As the executive director of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), Jim Anderson has been an invaluable leader of the *Models for Change* initiative in Pennsylvania," says Robert Schwartz, director, *Models for Change* Pennsylvania. "With Jim's leadership and commitment, JCJC's contributions to the *Models for Change* effort have gone well beyond anyone's expectations."

JCJC has actively participated in all *Models for Change* activities and has lent public and staff support above and beyond what was expected of them." Jim and JCJC have made a vital impact in the policy and legislative arena," adds Schwartz. "Because of him, we have access to legislators on both sides of the aisle. He solves problems in a remarkably effective way, with unerring instincts, and unmatched decency."

The most recent victory occurred in October 2008 when Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell signed a bill promoting mental health services for delinquent youth by protecting them from self incrimination for comments made during screening, assessment, and evaluation. Anderson and JCJC shepherded the bill through a tortuous legislative path until it became law. Delinquent youth will now be able to take advantage of critical mental health services without undue fear of punishment.

Other successes include Jim's work with the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. JCJC and the Chief's Council engaged all 67 Pennsylvania counties in the aftercare reform effort which will result in a closer alignment between juvenile probation and residential program providers leading to better planning and outcomes for youth returning home after placement. Jim has been an active and wise participant in every *Models for Change* leadership group, and he has repeatedly given *Models for Change* a prominent place at Pennsylvania's annual juvenile justice conference.



Models for Change Illinois

Elizabeth Clarke
Founder and President
Juvenile Justice Initiative

Converting research and good intentions into law takes more than making a few phone calls. It requires dogged determination, a clear-eyed focus on long-term results, and the artful skills of a coalition builder. Betsy Clarke brings all of that and more to her efforts advocating on behalf of youth in Illinois through the organization she founded, the Juvenile Justice Initiative (JJI).

“Betsy has shown vision, creativity, and committed leadership in advancing the goals of *Models for Change*,” comments Diane Geraghty, director, *Models for Change* Illinois. “Betsy has focused on using the legislative process to bring about systems reform in juvenile justice. She developed a novel approach for achieving policy reform, and then built the infrastructure needed to put it into action.”

Clarke has helped *Models for Change* Illinois leverage MacArthur research to educate Illinois lawmakers about the latest findings around adolescent development and public attitudes about youth, race, and crime. Simultaneously, she has actively built a statewide coalition and enhanced public awareness of juvenile justice issues.

As a result, Illinois has posted some impressive legislative victories tied to *Models for Change* efforts. In 2005, JJI spearheaded legislation representing the first rollback of automatic transfer laws in the nation. In the first two years after its enactment, automatic transfers to adult court declined by almost two-thirds. Over two years, nearly 500 youth of color were afforded individualized assessment and treatment in juvenile court rather than being tried as adults.

JJI leadership helped persuade the Illinois General Assembly to fund a pilot program called Redeploy Illinois, aimed at increasing the use of community-based alternatives to secure confinement. Since 2005, four pilot sites have sent 226 fewer youth to state corrections, representing \$11 million in potential savings.

Of no less significance was Clarke and JJI’s role in the creation of a new Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice and the passage in August of 2008 of legislation requiring the early appointment of counsel, thus enhancing the quality of legal representation and the likelihood of receiving community-based services.

Most recently, the Illinois General Assembly passed legislation raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction for all misdemeanors to age 18 following extensive educational efforts on the issue by JJI. Not only is this reform in line with solid research on adolescent development, but also increases the likelihood that youth can receive the individualized interventions and community-based rehabilitative services necessary to improve outcomes and preserve community safety.



Models for Change Louisiana

Paul Joseph Frick, PhD
Research Professor of Psychology
Chair of Department of Psychology
University of New Orleans

Fair, rational, and effective are words that describe Paul Frick. His diligent efforts are facilitating the spread of these same attributes throughout the juvenile justice system in his home state of Louisiana.

As a professor at the University of New Orleans and part of the *Models for Change Louisiana* team, Dr. Frick has demonstrated that data is a powerful tool for change. "Paul's data is giving us concrete information about how youths are entering the system, what interventions are being provided and the outcomes. This gives us a rock-solid foundation for reform," says Debra DePrato, Director of *Models for Change Louisiana*.

Dr. Frick has also motivated and organized his colleagues. In a state that has recently embraced community-based reforms, he exemplifies the desire of committed professionals across the state - from local sites to state government - to work toward a common goal of achieving improvements in the juvenile justice system.

To that end, he has developed a comprehensive mapping process of the juvenile justice system in each parish; formed and coordinated a state data group involving local universities, members of the National Resource Bank, and Lead Entity; created more than 35 data reports to aid National Resource Bank and local sites in selecting goals for their work; and developed an Outcome Evaluation Plan to help evaluate effectiveness in reaching those goals. He has also developed a proposal for a multi-site database, expected to become a statewide standard by 2009. He has completed all of these complex tasks in just two years.

"Paul's great accomplishment is integrating his understanding of child and adolescent psychology and immense data collection expertise with an understanding of politics and policy," continues DePrato. "He knows how important data collection and research are in developing effective interventions that lead to lasting reforms and better lives for kids."



Models for Change Washington

Jacqueline van Wormer

Benton and Franklin Counties Superior Court

Adjunct Faculty Member, Washington State University

Jacqueline van Wormer is a problem solver and connector. When anyone is working on juvenile justice issues, it won't be long before they are working with her. While her love of research and years working in adult and juvenile courts provide expertise, it is her knack for organizing groups to get things done that makes her invaluable.

"Jacqueline is the perfect *Models for Change* site coordinator," offers Justice Bobbe Bridge, director of *Models for Change* Washington. "She exercises her leadership in a way that makes everything and everyone around her more effective. She is a one-woman clinic on bringing people together to take action."

Van Wormer has recruited two universities, dozens of faculty, and countless graduate students into the juvenile justice reform arena. When *Models for Change* needed to address the conflicting viewpoints of schools and juvenile courts on how best to deal with court-involved youth, she hired a former school administrator to start talking to principals.

"Truancy reform is a great example of her talents," adds Bridge. "Jacqueline identified educators as important partners and coordinated outreach to all school districts in Benton and Franklin Counties. She and her team took the time to understand school practices and listen to what administrators needed. As a result, they were able to bridge the gap between schools and the juvenile court, creating the potential for more effective and evidence-based interventions to keep kids in school and out of jail."

Van Wormer knows that when you are dealing with issues as difficult to get your arms around as DMC, you need more than goodwill, you need good data. She is developing an integrated longitudinal database that will not only match all referral, probation violation, and detention information on youth, but also their completed risk assessment information. Findings from the new database will be available early next year, creating for the first time in Washington State a factual basis for making DMC intervention and policy decisions.

"Jacque somehow unites the brain of a research wonk, the heart of an advocate, and the personal touch of a skilled team-builder," concludes Bridge. "The kids of Benton and Franklin are lucky to have her in their corner."

ModelsforChange

Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice

www.modelsforchange.net

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