

DMC eNews

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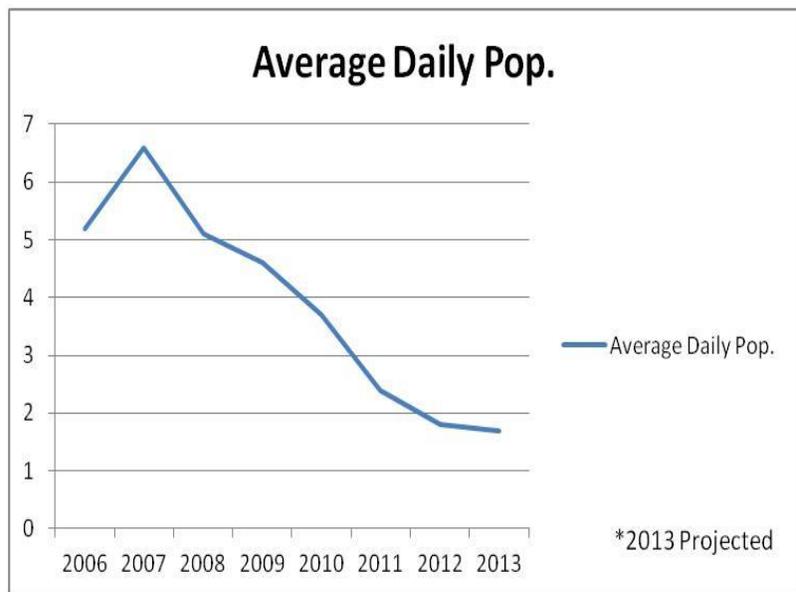
ModelsforChange
Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice
NETWORK PARTNER 2013

DMC Action Network

The DMC Action Network is a project of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's [Models for Change](#) initiative.

Outagamie County Closes Its Juvenile Detention Center

Outagamie County, Wisconsin puts children first by keeping most young people out of secure detention. On December 31, 2013, the county closed the doors at the Outagamie County Juvenile Detention Center for the last time. With a projected average daily population (ADP) of fewer than two youth in 2013, the Sheriff's Department decided that it was not cost-efficient to maintain the facility as a juvenile detention center.



The Youth and Family Services Division (YFS) of the Health and Human Services Department in Outagamie County spearheaded many reforms that led to the decline in the ADP and the closure of the detention center. “In general, our strength is in assessing kids’ needs and connecting them with appropriate resources within the community.”

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](#).

Want to know what's going on in the other Action Networks? Read the latest newsletters on [Indigent Defense](#) and [Mental Health](#).

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said Mark Mertens, Manager of the Youth and Family Services Division.

YFS embarked on a multiyear strategy to revamp the way it serves young people and their families. YFS trained probation staff in Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavioral Interventions and Aggression Replacement Training.

Outagamie County spent approximately \$532,000 on its juvenile detention center for 2013. Costs were expected to rise to over \$900,000 to operate the facility in 2014, but with the closure of the juvenile detention center YFS anticipates spending about \$91,000 for secure detention beds in nearby Brown County. YFS proposes spending the extra funds on counseling and placement in residential care centers for youth that need the services.

Outagamie County has contracted with nearby Brown County for any secure detention beds that it may need in the future. However, the county is hopeful that piloting a detention risk assessment tool may lower the ADP even more. Additionally, a new policy that places young people in shelter care instead of detention for violations of court orders may also lead to a further decline in the ADP.

The next stage in Outagamie's child- and family- focused juvenile justice system includes targeting interventions for cross-systems youth, training parents about trauma-informed care, and expanding the use of crisis intervention techniques in shelter care. All of these projects focus on one goal – providing young people the services they need as close to home as possible.

Great work Outagamie County!

A Call for Action: Models for Change Eighth Annual Working Conference

Over three hundred people attended the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's 2013 *Models for Change* Annual Working Conference in Washington, D.C., on December 16-17, 2013. There were twenty-four workshops that discussed strategies to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system, address the mental health needs of youth, strengthen juvenile defense services, develop a systems approach to status offender reform, and improve outcomes for dual status youth. Additionally, the plenary sessions provided

information about reform efforts in Washington state, neuroscience and adolescent development, and new allies in the juvenile justice system reform movement.

Laurie Garduque, Director of Justice Reform for the MacArthur Foundation, opened the conference by discussing this year's theme – A Call for Action. She acknowledged the work done in *Models for Change* sites all over the country as well as the development of the Resource Center Partnerships. She also discussed the importance of taking the innovations developed in *Models for Change* sites and disseminating them to new jurisdictions and audiences.

During a plenary session, Robert L. Listenbee, Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), was the focus of a session facilitated by Robert Schwartz, Executive Director of the Juvenile Law Center. Mr. Listenbee shared OJJDP's vision of ensuring young people's contact with the juvenile justice system is rare, fair and beneficial to them. He talked about the importance of trauma-informed, culturally competent care for young people in the system. He also discussed exploring ways to disseminate the strategies developed by juvenile justice advocates and practitioners.

Additional plenary speakers included Pat Nolan, Vice President of the Prison Fellowship, and Scott Budnick, Film Producer and California's 2012 Volunteer of the Year. During his session, Pat Nolan shared his experience working with people across political party lines to reform juvenile justice systems. He emphasized the importance of advocates partnering with untraditional allies to reduce recidivism and produce better outcomes for children. Scott Budnick described helping young people earn their GED and college credits while incarcerated. He talked about their accomplishments such as becoming lawyers, doctors and other professionals. He also shared how the former offenders organized to advocate for restoring funding to higher education programs for incarcerated young people in Los Angeles.

For the last six years, the MacArthur Foundation has acknowledged the optimism, passion and dedication of people who work on behalf of children with its "Champions for Change" awards. For 2013, the Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP) was a recipient of the Champions for Change award for effectively managing the collaborative work of the Disproportionate Minority Contact Action Network.



The MacArthur Foundation also awarded the Champion for Change award to the National Juvenile Defender Center for its work managing the Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network and to the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice for coordinating the Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Action Network. The *Models for Change* Core State Coordinators also received Champion for Change awards.

Three individuals also received awards from the MacArthur Foundation for their outstanding work reforming juvenile justice systems. Sarah Cusworth, Assistant Professor at the University of Washington received the Next Generation Champion of Change Award for her research examining how cultural and gender differences affect how interventions are delivered and received. Her research led to the creation of a cultural engagement training model for mental health providers. Denna Murray McGrew received the Champion for Change in Local Leadership Award for her advocacy on behalf of children in Northeast Louisiana. She assumed a leadership role in working with the REACH Institute, the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, and the Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Action Network to develop, pilot, and

implement the Parent Empowerment Program. Senator Karen E. Spilka, Majority Whip for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, received the Champion for Change in State Leadership award. She played a central role in several legislative actions in Massachusetts to advance the rights of children and families. In 2013, she sponsored Senate Bill 26, An Act to Expand Juvenile Jurisdiction, Increase Public Safety, and Protect Children from Harm. SB 26 raised the age of juvenile court jurisdiction from 17 to 18 years of age and passed unanimously in the Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives.

Attendees also received copies of sixteen newly released Innovation Briefs from the MacArthur Foundation. Mark Soler, Executive Director of CCLP, was a coauthor of, *Providing and Receiving Technical Assistance: Lessons from Models for Change*. The brief describes how technical assistance is more than transferring information for major juvenile justice system reform initiatives like *Models for Change*. Technical assistance providers engage in hands-on support for reform, including training stakeholders and staff, providing guidance on data collection and analysis, and encouraging family and community engagement. Based on the experience of participants in *Models for Change*, the brief describes twelve lessons learned in providing and receiving technical assistance. The other briefs explore issues in juvenile indigent defense, mental health, and culturally responsive evidence-based programs. All of the Innovation Briefs are available for download on the *Models for Change* website.

The 2013 *Models for Change* Annual Working Conference was an excellent opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the hard work of advocates from all over the country. Additionally, the rich array of resources made available will aid everyone as they push for reforms in their jurisdictions.

Congratulations to all of the Champions for Change awardees!

SAMHSA and the MacArthur Foundation Renew Partnership to Help Justice-Involved Youth with Behavioral Health Needs

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (MacArthur Foundation) are collaborating on the *Improving Diversion Policies and Programs for Justice Involved Youth with Behavioral Health Disorders: An Integrated Policy Academy/Action Network*

Initiative (Policy Academy). The Policy Academy will focus on enhancing diversion policies and programs for young people with behavioral health disorders who have contact with the juvenile justice system. One area of focus for the Policy Academy is the overrepresentation of youth of color among this population. This collaboration builds on the success of a previous two-year project between SAMHSA and the MacArthur Foundation aimed at diverting youth with behavioral health conditions away from the juvenile justice system.

Studies have found that between 60-70 percent of youth in contact with the juvenile justice system have diagnosable mental health or substance abuse disorders. Additionally, nearly 30 percent of these young people experience symptoms so severe that their ability to function is highly impaired. These youth have complex needs that are often left untreated once they are in the custody of juvenile justice system. This special population requires a treatment approach that integrates a wide array of evidence-based services.

Up to five states will be competitively selected to participate in the Policy Academy, which will specifically target the implementation of school-based and probation intake diversion programs. States participating in the Policy Academy will receive a \$10,000 stipend to offset the costs associated with coordinating and implementing the initiative. Additionally, one state will receive an additional \$5,000 stipend to focus on reducing racial and ethnic disparities within the context of juvenile diversion programs for youth with behavioral health disorders.

The Policy Academy will emphasize:

- Diverting youth with co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders;
- Incorporating screening and assessment practices throughout the juvenile justice system;
- Recognizing the important role of evidence-based practice, treatment, and trauma-informed care;
- Increasing collaboration among stakeholders to facilitate access to evidence-based community treatment and services; and
- Reducing the overrepresentation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system.

States selected to participate in the Policy Academy will convene a core of eight senior level officials from the state and from local jurisdictions

to implement and disseminate strategies to divert youth with behavioral health disorders away from the juvenile justice system.

The Policy Academy will be coordinated by the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice at Policy Research Associates, Inc. and the National Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc. The deadline to apply is **Friday, February 28, 2014**. [Click here to read the press release announcing the initiative](#) or contact Karli Keator at kkeator@prainc.com or 1 (866) 962-6455 for more information or an application.

Resources About Girls in the Juvenile Justice System

- The Coalition for Juvenile Justice recently released, [Girls, Status Offenses and the Need for a Less Punitive and More Empowering Approach](#). According to this report, in 2009 girls accounted for nearly 50% of all status offenses petitioned to the courts even though they represented only 28% of all delinquency cases. Additionally, the report notes that girls of color receive disparate treatment when they are petitioned for status offenses. [Click here to read this report](#).
- The Georgetown Center on Poverty, Inequality and Public Policy issued the report [Improving the Juvenile Justice System for Girls: Lessons From the States](#), which provides a framework for states and local jurisdictions to use to participate in girl-focused juvenile justice system reform efforts. According to the report, the building blocks of reform includes: research, public education campaigns, strategic planning, engagement of key stakeholders, legislation, staff training, community-based diversion and prevention programs, pilot and demonstration projects, outcome measures and evaluation, technical assistance, and funding sustainability. [Click here to download the report](#).
- The Future of Children released the facts sheet [Girls and Boys in the Juvenile Justice System: Are There Differences that Warrant Policy Changes in the Juvenile Justice System?](#), which discusses how girls often receive harsher treatment than boys once they become involved with the juvenile justice system. For example, girls are less likely than boys to be arrested and charged for most offenses. However, once charged, girls are more likely to receive secure confinement than boys. [Click here to learn more](#).

- Jyoti Nanda's law review article, [Blind Discretion: Girls of Color & Delinquency in the Juvenile Justice System](#), examines the different causes of overrepresentation of girls of color in the system. The article argues that one reason for the differential, and often harsher treatment of girls of color, is the perception that girls of color have inherent, negative attributes that may outweigh concerns about prior criminality, seriousness of offense and the possibility for rehabilitation. [Click here to read this article.](#)
- Francis T. Sherman wrote, [Justice for Girls: Are We Making Progress?](#), a law review article that discusses the history of federal policy on girls in the juvenile justice system. The article also provides several explanations for the excessive use of secure detention for girls including paternalism, an effort to use the juvenile justice system to obtain services for high-need girls, and intolerance of girls who are not readily cooperative and compliant. [Click here to read this article.](#)
- [Voices From the Field: Findings From the NGI Listening Session](#), compiles the results of 64 listening sessions with 607 participants, including girls, stakeholders in the juvenile justice system, and parents and caregivers. Themes that emerged from across all groups were the need for better communication skills, opportunities for peer learning, and more gender responsive programming. [Click here to download the report.](#)

The Latest Information on Juvenile Justice and Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities

- The Vera Institute of Justice has just released [From Courts to Communities: The Right Response to Truancy, Running Away, and Other Status Offenses](#). This report discusses why courts are poorly suited to handle status offense cases. Additionally, the report describes the five hallmarks of an effective community-based system: diversion from court, an immediate response, a triage process, services that are accessible and effective, and internal assessment. [Click here to download the report.](#)
- [Prisoners of Profit: Private Prison Empire Rises Despite Startling Record of Juvenile Abuse](#) is an investigative report written by Chris Kirkham about youth housed in juvenile facilities owned by James F. Slattery. The report describes the

circumstances that led to youth dying from lack of medical treatment, facilities that lack sufficient food, and numerous examples of excessive force used against children. [To read part 1 of the report click here](#) and [to read part 2 of the report click here](#). Also, [click here](#) to listen to an interview with Chris Kirkham on Democracy Now!

- The Coalition for Juvenile Justice recently released its [National Standards for Youth Charged with Status Offenses](#). This report provides 39 standards to assist stakeholders in responding to the needs of youth at risk of, or charged with status offenses. The standards are organized into four sections: Principles for Responding to Status Offenses, Efforts to Avoid Court Involvement, Efforts to Limit Court Involvement, and Recommendations for Policy and Legislative Implementation. [Click here to access the National Standards](#).
- The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention recently released the Juvenile Justice Bulletin [Children's Exposure to Violence and the Intersection Between Delinquency and Victimization](#). One finding in the report is that children who are both delinquent and victims have lower levels of social support and higher rates of mental health symptoms. [Click here to access the bulletin](#).
- The Advancement Project recently released a video, [Push Out: Let's Return to Common Sense Discipline](#), which uses scenes from popular shows like The Cosby Show, The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air and Saved By the Bell to illustrate the absurd nature of school-based zero tolerance policies. The video highlights how schools push students out for infractions like violating school dress codes, disrupting class and schoolyard fights. [Click here to watch the video](#).
- The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention released several publications to support juvenile justice system professionals. [Preventing Suicide Working with Youth Who Are Justice Involved: Executive Summary](#) summarizes what is known about suicide risks among justice system involved youth. [Need to Know: A Fact Series on Juvenile Suicide - Juvenile Court Judges and Staff](#) recommends that all judges, clerks and staff receive suicide prevention training. [Need to Know: A Fact Series on Juvenile Suicide - Juvenile Detention and Secure Care Staff](#) recommends the creation of a comprehensive written suicide prevention policy. [Need to Know: A Fact Series on Juvenile Suicide - Juvenile Probation](#)

[Staff](#) recommends that probation, detention and facility staff develop protocols to share information about a youth's suicide warning signs. The publication [Suicidal Ideation and Behavior Among Youth in the Juvenile Justice System: A Review of the Literature](#) provides an overview of what is known about suicide ideation and suicide attempts. [Screening and Assessment for Suicide Prevention: Tools and Procedures for Risk Identification Among Juvenile Justice Youth](#) describes the differences between risk screening tools and risk assessment instruments for youth entering juvenile justice facilities.

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 knash@cclp.org or 202-637-0377 x106.