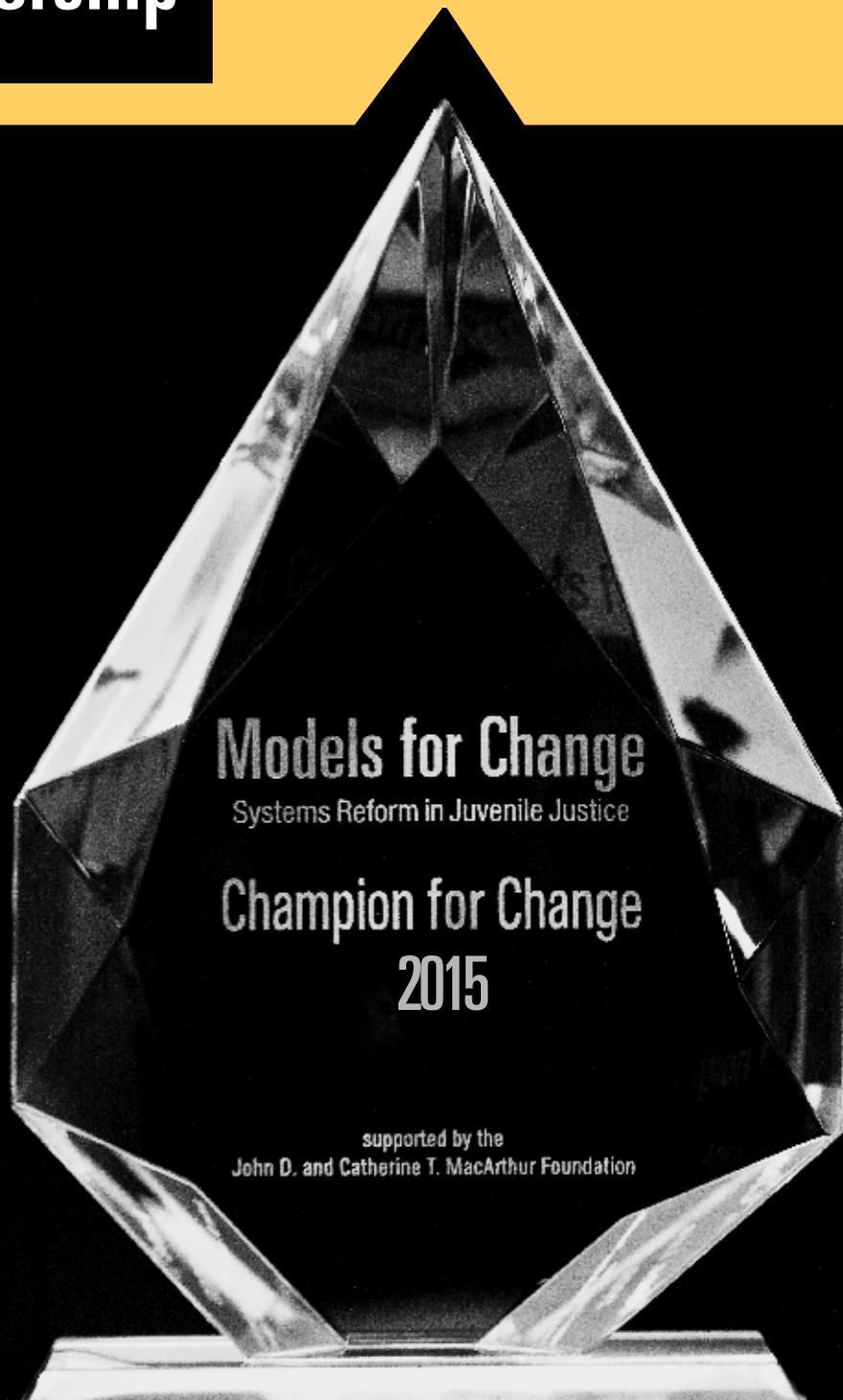


ModelsforChange

Resource
Center
Partnership

Eighth Annual
Champions for Change Awards
December 14, 2015



Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice



Julia Stasch
President

MacArthur
Foundation

This year we celebrate our final group of Champion for Change honorees. Since we began recognizing Champions for Change in 2008, a truly diverse and distinguished group of juvenile justice reformers—judges, prosecutors, defenders, administrators, researchers, advocates, and youth leaders—have been selected for the honor.

As diverse as they have been, they've had a few things in common. They have been true leaders, struggling against the odds, often to see only incremental changes. Yet they persevered, and brought others along in their efforts. The Champion for Change award was created to recognize and encourage this type of outstanding leadership, the kind that not only moves issues forward, but inspires others to take up the charge.

This year's honorees again represent that ideal. One is spreading knowledge of how to deal with mental health challenges in her system, another is showing cities that creating opportunities for young people is an effective crime reduction strategy, and this year's Next Generation Champion is as committed to mentoring those around him as he is to the issues that they address together.

We are also honoring a colleague who has died, but whose legacy of excellence and dedication to young people continues to resonate across his state and the juvenile justice field. And finally, we recognize the members of our National Resource Bank, a group of dedicated professionals whose partnership with *Models for Change* has been an essential element in our collective success.

Over the years, the Champion for Change award has taught us that champions come from all professions and backgrounds. Some have been drawn to the work, others have had the work thrust upon them. What they have in common is the determination to take on the hard challenges and the desire to provide absolutely the best outcomes possible for our youth.

We thank each and every one of them for leading the way and inspiring us all.

ModelsforChange

Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice

Models for Change: Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice

Launched in 2004, *Models for Change* is a multi-state initiative working to guide and accelerate advances in juvenile justice, to make systems more fair, effective, rational and developmentally appropriate.

The Resource Center Partnership (RCP) is expanding the reach of the *Models for Change* initiative—its lessons, best practices, and knowledge built over a decade of work—to more local communities and states. RCP provides practitioners and policymakers with technical assistance, trainings, tools, and resources for juvenile justice reform.

CHAMPION FOR CHANGE: NEXT GENERATION

Jason Szanyi

Director of Institutional Reform,
Center for Children's Law and Policy



We Want Another Jason

When he graduated from Harvard Law School in 2009, Jason Szanyi did not use the prestige of his new degree to pursue a position at a high-flying law firm. Instead, he took a fellowship working to address racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system. Public interest took precedence over personal gain. Fortunately, all around him have gained enormously from his talent and hard work.

"While his classmates are no doubt making three times his salary in corporate law, Jason is supremely happy working with public officials, agency administrators, judges, probation officers, prosecutors, and public defenders to make the justice system better for kids in trouble," said Mark Soler, Executive Director of the Children's Law and Policy Center (CCLP) where Szanyi works. "When we recently undertook a hiring process for new staff members, all the rest of us at CCLP knew exactly what we wanted: another Jason."

Szanyi joined CCLP in September, 2009, as a Skadden Public Interest Fellow. He immediately began working with the DMC (Disproportionate Minority Contact) Action Network as both the editor of the DMC eNewsletter and as direct staff support. He assisted Berks County, Pennsylvania to develop interventions to address truancy, based on best practices in the field, and helped several other sites to significantly reduce incarceration for probation violations.

Szanyi demonstrated exceptional leadership in carrying the lessons of the DMC Action Network to Connecticut. In early 2011, Jason and CCLP Policy Director for Equity Tiana Davis began applying the Action Network model of DMC reduction in Hartford and Bridgeport, Connecticut. The state had previously made little progress in reducing DMC in local jurisdictions. Szanyi and Davis focused on front-end issues and by November of the following year, school-based referrals were down 78% in Hartford, contributing to a 28% decline in overall delinquency referrals compared with the previous year. In Bridgeport,

school-based arrests were down almost 40 percent. Moreover, the city's community-based diversion program, the Juvenile Review Board, received almost five times as many referrals from law enforcement as it had the year before. The work has been ongoing with steady improvements and reductions in charges for youth of color.

"Jason has brought passion, energy, and commitment to his juvenile justice reform work. Reductions in the involvement of youth of color in the juvenile justice system in Hartford and Bridgeport would not have happened without his leadership," said Martha Stone, Founder and Executive Director of Connecticut's Center for Children's Advocacy. "He led key efforts to introduce the *Models for Change* approach to DMC reduction to leaders of state agencies, chief state administrative judges, local officials, and advocates and worked with the police chiefs in these cities, who both became champions of reform."

Along the way, he became an expert on the Prison Rape Elimination Act and LGBTQ issues. He has worked with state and local officials in New Mexico and New York to train their staffs on how to protect vulnerable youth in secure facilities and non-secure programs from sexual maltreatment, in accordance with federal law. He has also been also a faculty member in the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Reduction Certificate Program sponsored by the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University and leads JDAI efforts in several states.

"I have been a lawyer for 42 years, and have run public interest law offices for 35 of those years," said Soler. "I have worked with hundreds of young lawyers and taught at four law schools. Jason is the best young lawyer I have ever worked with. At 31, he has skills, judgment, and maturity far beyond his years. He will unquestionably be a leader in our field for the next thirty years."

CHAMPION FOR CHANGE: LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Honorable Michael A. Nutter

Mayor,
City of Philadelphia



Leadership for Breaking the Cycle

Mayor Michael Nutter has the rare quality of seeing how law enforcement and the juvenile justice system can actively contribute to positive changes in the lives of young people. Even as his second—and final—term as Mayor of Philadelphia winds down, Mayor Nutter is not slowing his efforts to ensure “that every single child has the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty, crime, and violence.”

Nutter began his tenure as mayor with a focus on building more trust between police and citizens. He appointed a former public defender, Everett Gillison, as the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Charles Ramsey to serve as Police Commissioner. These three, along with a strengthened Criminal Justice Advisory Board, launched a community-based strategy to effectively address youth violence, with community involvement as a key feature.

Nutter’s new approach was a good fit with the juvenile justice reform work of *Models for Change* in Pennsylvania. Deputy Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel embraced the vision of Nutter and the values of *Models for Change* and was pivotal in developing the Philadelphia Minority Youth/Law Enforcement Curriculum. The curriculum was created through close collaboration between youth, law enforcement, the Office of the District Attorney, the Office of the Public Defender, faith-based institutions, and community organizations. It was piloted in the Philadelphia Police Department’s Cadet Academy, demonstrating areas in which law enforcement should use more discretion in arresting youth. This pilot led to the Pennsylvania DMC Youth-Law Enforcement Curriculum, which is still used with every Philadelphia cadet class and other departments across the state.

Nutter’s leadership not only inspired his own police department, but extends to other cities through Cities United, a partnership of the National League of Cities (NLC) he founded with New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu in 2011. With 62 mayors engaged, Cities United is a national partnership to eliminate violence-related injuries and deaths of African American men and boys.

“Mayor Nutter’s passion and personal commitment to this issue have spurred others to join and pledge to target their highest-risk neighborhoods and engage African American males in finding solutions to end the violence,” said NLC Executive Director Clarence Anthony. “He has put Philadelphia at the forefront of a growing movement as city leaders take on juvenile justice reform.”

Philadelphia is currently involved with five other cities in a NLC-led reform effort supported by *Models for Change*. Through it, the city is reducing arrests and detention of youth by developing and implementing a policy to routinely clear old or minor bench warrants.

Mayor Nutter’s work is beginning to pay off. In 2013, Philadelphia had the lowest homicide rate in the City since 1967. Violent offenses—including murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft and vehicle theft—have declined by 15 percent since 2007 and are at their lowest level since 1971. Also in 2013, there was nearly a 30 percent decline in the number of shooting victims since 2007.

Mayor Nutter shows that breaking the cycle of poverty, crime, and violence takes leaders willing to take chances, try new approaches, and bring others along with them.

CHAMPION FOR CHANGE: STATE LEADERSHIP

Lisa J. Bjergaard

Director,
North Dakota Division of Juvenile Services



Training for Compassion and Understanding

Changing a juvenile justice system for the better involves policies, programs, and practices. Lisa Bjergaard understands that it can also involve a change of heart. She has been making sure that the staff in the North Dakota juvenile justice system have the training they need to adopt proven new approaches to dealing with the mental health challenges of the youth in her care.

Bjergaard joined the North Dakota Division of Juvenile Services as a Case Manager in 1989 and moved through the ranks until promoted to Director in 2006. In 2014, her department applied to receive mental health training from the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice (NCMHJJ) as part of a program funded by *Models for Change* and organized by the Council on Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) to support training and technical assistance to state juvenile correctional agencies.

NCMHJJ convened a Mental Health Training Curriculum for Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ) Train-the-Trainer session in North Dakota in August 2014 for 30 trainers including correctional staff, mental health clinicians, administration, supervisors, and training staff. As of September 2015, North Dakota had delivered the MHTC-JJ to all of their juvenile corrections staff; all of their detention, juvenile probation and non-secure holdover staff; and half of their intensive in-home staff, with plans to train the other half before the end of the year. Going forward, they intend to include the MHTC-JJ training as part of the annual mandatory training for all staff.

"Since the first training, Bjergaard has worked tirelessly to ensure that all staff within the North Dakota juvenile correctional system be trained

on the Mental Health Training Curriculum for Juvenile Justice," said Joe Cocozza, Director, NCMHJJ. "Her leadership has helped the Department to fully embrace the training so that hundreds of staff working with youth young people across the state can better understand adolescent development and common mental health issues that many youth experience. This understanding leads to markedly better care and better outcomes."

"Lisa is an example to agency leaders in North Dakota of someone committed to treating the youths with mental health issues," said Al Lick, the former director North Dakota Division of Juvenile Services. "She started to increase services for the youth and quickly recognized that if the less secure facilities were not held to higher treatment standards, juvenile corrections would become the only provider for this population."

Bjergaard exercises national leadership by serving on the Board of Directors as Treasurer of the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators. At CJCA, she has been one the most ardent and vocal supporters of the MHTC-JJ and has presented at the annual meetings of Commissioners on the value of providing mental health training to staff who work with young people.

"Lisa has led the Department of Juvenile Services with a compassionate and progressive vision," said Ned Loughran, CJCA Executive Director. "She fully endorses a developmental approach to juvenile justice, and has enthusiastically continued to push this issue and this training forward. Under her leadership, North Dakota has become a leader in mental health training."

Dr. John Chapman

Juvenile Court Clinic
Connecticut Judicial Branch

Dedicated to Improving the Outcomes of Vulnerable Youth

John Chapman made an enormous impact when he dedicated the latter part of his life to the field of juvenile justice. His passing on March 29, 2015 at the age of 52 was a big loss for his colleagues and the juvenile justice field. But, as one of his colleagues noted, that while “there may be no monuments to him or large buildings bearing his name, his work is etched in our hearts and in the lives of so many kids whom he guided to a better life.”

Chapman was a clinical psychologist, a critical member of the Connecticut Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Action Network Team, and valued contributor to *Models for Change*. He directed Connecticut’s involvement in creating, piloting, and evaluating the Mental Health-Juvenile Justice Training Curriculum. He advocated for the inclusion of more information on suicide risk and trauma and organized Connecticut’s effort to pilot the curriculum at the Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS).

“John was a selfless person who dedicated his life to the ideals of *Models for Change* and his spirit lives as a Champion of Change,” said Catherine Foley Geib, Manager of Clinical and Educational Services, Connecticut Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division. “The qualities that best express his character and that will be most remembered are kindness, a driven passion for his work, and humility. John felt incredibly strongly about providing the best for children in child welfare and juvenile justice programs and gave everything his highest level of commitment.”

From 1999 to 2014, Chapman held numerous positions with the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch. From 1990 to 1999, he worked at the New Haven Juvenile Detention Center, including serving as its superintendent. From 1999 to 2007, he served as the first Responsible Health Authority at the Judicial Branch. He assisted in the negotiation

and implementation of the *Emily J.* Settlement Agreement. He led three state centers to receive accreditation from the National Commission of Correctional Health Care, guiding the detention system from federal oversight into a national model. From 2007 until his retirement, he directed the development and implementation of the Juvenile Court Clinic; introduced the Juvenile Court Clinical Coordinator position; developed a peer-review quality assurance system for court evaluations; and provided clinical guidance to the Juvenile Court and the Judicial Branch’s Court Support Services Division. The Judicial Branch awarded him the *Dedication to Public Service Award* in 2008.

“Always one to better the system, John took his involvement in *Models for Change* as an opportunity to further research in the field,” said Tom Grisso, Professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. “He was most interested in the intersection of mental health and juvenile justice; the development of high quality, comprehensive, and effective delivery of healthcare services in the juvenile detention setting; and judicial decision making.”

“He vastly improved our collaborations with other state agencies, including the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services and the Department of Children and Families. He will be greatly missed as a colleague. John was a kind, gentle man with a passion for improving the delivery of mental health services to children,” said Judge Christine Keller, Connecticut Appellate Court.

“The world has lost one of those bright souls who made a difference for the better. I valued his gentleness, common sense, and ability to achieve the goals he set. I admired the courage with which he faced hardship. I will miss him as an advocate for children,” said Judge Cara Eschuk, Connecticut Superior Court.

CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE

National Resource Bank

Our National Resource Bank members have been invaluable partners in shaping and expanding the *Models for Change* initiative. Their expertise has enriched all *Models for Change* activities and been critical to the success of our state and local partners. We wish to recognize each of the following National Resource Bank members as Champions for Change.

Campaign for Youth Justice

**Center for Juvenile Justice Reform,
Georgetown University Public Policy Institute**

The Justice Management Institute

Justice Policy Institute

National Center for Juvenile Justice

National Conference of State Legislatures

National Juvenile Justice Network

National Youth Screening & Assessment Partners

Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps

The Annapolis Coalition

Vera Institute of Justice

W. Haywood Burns Institute

Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators

Champions for Change

2014 Award Recipients

Next Generation Champion for Change

Hernan Carvente
Vera Institute of Justice

Champion for Change in Local Leadership

John S. Ryals, Jr.
Jefferson Parish Department of
Juvenile Services

Champion for Change in State Leadership

Hon. George William
Timberlake
Illinois Juvenile Justice
Commission

Lucy Louisa Flower Champion for Change

Hon. Sheri Capes Roberts
Newton County Court

2013 Award Recipients

Next Generation Champion for Change

Sarah Cusworth Walker
University of Washington

Champion for Change in Local Leadership

Denna Murray McGrew
Children's Coalition of
Northeast Louisiana

Champion for Change in State Leadership

Senator Karen E. Spilka
Senator of Massachusetts

Models for Change Core State Coordinators

Models for Change Action Networks

2012 Award Recipients

Disproportionate Minority Contact

Action Network

Lisa M. Garry
Maryland Department of
Juvenile Services

Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network

Laura Cohen
Rutgers University

Mental Health and Juvenile Justice

Action Network

Gene Griffin
Northwestern University
Feinberg School of Medicine

Washington

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
Northshore Technical
Community College, Florida
Parishes Campus

Illinois

Arthur D. Bishop
Illinois Department of Juvenile
Justices

Pennsylvania

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

2011 Award Recipients

Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network

Joshua Dohan
Youth Advocacy Department—
Committee for Public Counsel
Services

Mental Health and Juvenile Justice

Action Network

Catherine Foley Geib
Court Support Services Division,
Connecticut Judicial Branch

Disproportionate Minority Contact

Action Network

Mark Masterson
Sedgwick County Department
of Corrections

Washington

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

Louisiana

Dane R. Bolin
Calcasieu Parish Office of
Juvenile Justice Services

Illinois

Toni Irving
State of Illinois, Office of the
Governor

Pennsylvania

Robert L. Listenbee
Defender Association of
Philadelphia

2010 Award Recipients

Disproportionate Minority Contact

Action Network

Jason Witt
Rock County, Wisconsin Human
Services Department

Mental Health and Juvenile Justice

Action Network

Honorable Linda Tucci Teodosio
Summit County, Ohio Juvenile
Court

Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network

Robert W. Mason
Fourth Judicial Circuit Public
Defender Office, Florida

Washington

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

Louisiana

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

Illinois

Rick Velasquez
Youth Outreach Services

Pennsylvania

Patricia Torbet
National Center for Juvenile
Justice

2009 Award Recipients

Washington

Anne Lee
TeamChild

Louisiana

Hon. Patricia E. Koch
Ninth Judicial District Court

Illinois

John B. Roe IV
Ogle County

Pennsylvania

Keith Snyder
Juvenile Court Judges'
Commission

2008 Award Recipients

Washington

Jacqueline van Wormer
Benton and Franklin Counties
Superior Court

Louisiana

Paul Joseph Frick
University of New Orleans

Illinois

Elizabeth Clarke
Juvenile Justice Initiative

Pennsylvania

James E. Anderson
Pennsylvania Juvenile Court
Judges' Commission

Models for Change

Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice

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