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Summary
Disproportionate Minority Confinement Committee meeting
October 1, 2003
Human Services Alliance Building
Des Moines, Iowa

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Marvin Spencer, presiding in the absence of Michael Leiber. Members present : Natalie Anderson, Kimberly Baxter, Barry Bennett, Michael Blackwell, Ray Blase John-Paul Chaisson-Cardenas, Kim Cheeks, Marchelle Denker, Bob Greenlee, Charles Gribsby, Denise Hotopp, Sara Petersen, Brad Richardson, Lori Rinehart, Marvin Spencer (presiding), John Spinks, Kittie Weston-Knauer. Members absent: Michael Leiber, Devon Binion, Allison Fleming, Felicia Jackson, Miguel Trevino, Rith White, Rick Williams. Staff present: Dave Kuker, Scott Musel, Janet Clayton. Guests: Broderick Day, from Polk County; Julie Spears from the NRC-FCP, Janice Edmunds-Wells from the Iowa Department of Public Health. Summary of the July 30, 2003 meeting was approved as mailed.

National Conference

Ray Blase and Michael Blackwell reported on the National Conference on Disproportionate Minority Confinement. Blackwell came away from the meeting with a feeling that not much had been accomplished in the last ten years. Further, the initiative may not be funded given the uncertainty at the federal level. A letter writing campaign to Congress was encouraged. Blase reported on a discussion of measuring rates by ratios.

Technical Assistance for Black Hawk County

Spencer outlined the technical assistance visitation to Waterloo by Randy Thomas from OJJDP. The participants included JCOs, decat coordinators, an administrative judge, the county attorney, city and state representatives, community activists on the first day; the second day, law enforcement, corrections, court officials, detention directors, and private service providers -- Four Oaks, Quakerdale. Media was contacted and responded with radio spots and an African American radio show interviewed Thomas. Some local officials were concerned that funds were not going to children at risk and minority children. There were specific local discussions on how the county can impact DMC is numbers and involve the community. Spencer will ask the JJAC and DMC Committee for next steps advice. One promising activity is that the JCS office is now talking more about DMC. Other promising activities include David Gibson's early-out-of-detention-with-assistance program and Cedar Valley's Promise potential support for that effort. There is a section in the redesign process that includes DMC.

Blase reported on a program of mediation with the schools as a result of a Des Moines incident. Attorneys are mediators for the juvenile court or detention center. As a result, fewer are coming to detention from high schools. The JCOs now get cases by school.

Second Annual DMC Conference

Richardson announced the conference will be held at the Holiday Inn downtown Des Moines November 13 and 14. He asked for volunteers to be greeters as well as a host for each breakout session. Ten scholarships will be available in those six sites that are receiving technical assistance.

Budget Discussion

Dave Kuker brought to the committee's attention the budget concerns the staff and Juvenile Justice Advisory Council are realizing with the possibility that JAIBG funding may be cut. Should these cuts take place that are under advisement in the U.S. Senate at this time, as passed by the House, this would impact funding for DMC and all projects funded by the JJAC.

NRC-FCP DMC Resource Center funding

The DMC Resource Center funding runs by a calendar year January-December. The Resource Center will be asked for a proposal for a third year of funding. This Committee will meet again in December to review that third-year funding request. The proposal may include information from querying the sites as to what they need from the Resource Center in the line of technical assistance or data. If this committee wants something different, contact Dave Kuker. Bennett asked if Richardson could address DMC as it relates to redesign. The proposal will be sent to the Committee as an e-mail attachment.

Next meeting is December 3 at the Human Services Alliance Building, Des Moines from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Update of Statistics from 1991 Study.

Spencer reported on the updated DMC studies in Black Hawk and Linn County being conducted by Dr. Michael Leiber. The statistics date from 1991. This is a continuation of a study done in early 1990 on Polk, Scott, Linn Counties. This time Leiber is using the state's ICIS system. Johnson County will be studied too.

Law Enforcement Conference

Richardson reported on his presentation to the Iowa Association of Sheriffs and Peace Officers. The reception is received was polite but not very responsive. He reported that the general feeling was why would they want to attend a conference where they were not brought to the table to plan and that was about "cop-bashing". Richardson was hopeful some law enforcement will attend but expects it to be a small number.

Meeting adjourned.