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Summary  
Disproportionate Minority Confinement Meeting  
Wednesday, March 12, 2003  
Human Services Planning Council Building  
1111 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, Iowa

The Disproportionate Minority Confinement Committee of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council met Wednesday, March 12, 2003 in Des Moines, Iowa. Members present: Michael Leiber, presiding; Natalie Anderson, Barry Bennett, Devon Binion, Michael Blackwell, Ray Blasé, John-Paul Chaisson-Cardenas, Bob Greenlee, Denise Hotopp, Judy Morrison, Brad Richardson, Elizabeth Salinas-Newby, Carl Smith, Marvin Spencer, Miguel Trevino, John Wauters, Ruth White. Staff present: Amy Croll, Dave Kuker, Scott Musel, Laura Roeder-Grubb, Eric Sage, Janet Clayton. Guests: Candice Bennett, Vicky Troester, Marilyn Lantz, Sarah Nash, Kile Scharf.

The members introduced themselves. Summary of the January meeting was approved.

## ICIS

Mike Leiber prefaced the ICIS presentation by remarking on the need for current data, as well as other information, on juveniles being held in detention and other out-of-home placements in order to provide accurate assessments, prevention, intervention and strategies to reduce disproportionate minority confinement. Laura Roeder-Grubb of the Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning staff presented the process the state used to establish its Justice Data Warehouse and how the information from it will be used by the juvenile court services offices. She indicated the data provided was for the period after and including January 2002. The statistics presented in the meeting did not include the third and fifth districts as that information is still being reconciled. Candice Bennett, Chief Juvenile Court Officer from the Sixth Judicial District in Cedar Rapids and Vickie Troester explained how they use the data. An assessment tool will be developed on each child. Access to the data warehouse is free until July 1, 2003. After that a user fee will be in place. Leiber reported that an assessment of the minority overpopulation in Iowa must be done for the federal government. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

## Polk County Diversion Effort

Kile Scharf from the Polk County Decat presented a quarterly report on the DMC Diversion Effort. This grant will end on June 30, 2003. She also presented an outline of the FY 2004 Plan Outline which included the Polk County DMC Advisory Group's focus areas for year two. A formal proposal with a budget will be submitted to the DMC Committee by the end of May so it may be presented to the full Juvenile Justice Advisory Council at its meeting in Des Moines on June 11, 2003.

## **News Articles**

Richardson made contact with several newspaper editors. Some editors did contact Committee members for discussions on the subject. Richardson reported editors felt that the subject matter might make a good series of articles at a time other than Black History Month. Leiber called for volunteers to serve on a public information subcommittee. Bob Greenlee and Michael Blackwell volunteered. Allison Fleming, John Paul Chaisson-Cardenas will be asked to serve. The committee may ask Tom Gilsenan to compose future offerings to print media. Leiber suggested the subcommittee choose a chairperson among its members. Carl Smith offered his meeting room at the Drake Resource Center if the committee needs a place to meet.

## **Other announcements**

Dates of interest: March 26, Polk County DMC Committee luncheon. All state DMC members invited. April 25, 2003. Woodbury County is holding a DMC Conference in Sioux City.

OJJDP announces that new DMC legislation will place more emphasis on "first contact" with the juvenile. Previous emphasis has been on prevention and the system. OJJDP is working on guidelines for states to follow.

Scott County: Felicia Jackson, Scott County Decat Coordinator, will be invited to serve on this committee.

Leiber asked the committee to share issues that they wish this committee to address. Several listed were: educating the public, data issues, system issues. Richardson suggested increased diversity among decision makers in communities.

Richardson brought to the attention of the committee that Woodbury County has asked for assistance from the U of I Resource Center to conduct its conference at Morningside College on April 25th. The more they put into this conference, the less there is available from the grant to provide technical assistance to Woodbury County. John-Paul will be one of the presenters. He suggests that there be discussion of an amendment in the proposal to Woodbury County on meeting the same outcomes to the committee overall. Kuker suggested that each county may have different needs that may be met, but that funds will be limited in other areas. The Committee gave its permission for The U of I Resource Center to proceed as it outlined today.

Data issue: Leiber will meet with Scott Musel and Laura Roeder to a followup on the data issue as discussed today.

John Wauters was asked and did consent to report to this committee on the Juvenile Court Officers year-end report that are relevant to this committee.

Sara Nash suggested several dates for the Fall DMC Conference. 1) October 30 and 31 in Iowa City to coincide with the Latino Conference; 2) November 6 and 7; 3) November 13 and 14. Since most of the members had left the meeting, this will be a discussion item at the next meeting. The conference subcommittee will be resurrected to meet before the May meeting.

## **Next meeting**

Next meeting is Wednesday, May 14.