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CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE PLANNING
AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER
PAUL STAGEBERG, PH.D, ADMINISTRATOR

Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee Meeting

Summary

Date: February 28, 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Type: ICN

Members Present: Charles Clayton, Belinda Creighton-Smith, Bob Greenlee, Todd Hensley, Stephanie Hernandez, Vernon Johnson, Marcy Mendenhall, Stephan Pearson, Mark Prosser, Brad Richardson, Marvin Spencer (Presiding), John Spinks, Miguel Trevino, Zachary Wilson, and Nansi Woods

Guests: Natalie Anderson, Brad Buckley, Dave Gleiser, Linda Rosen

Staff: Paul Stageberg, Dave Kuker, Eric Sage, Steve Michael, Julie Rinker-Lind

1. **Site Check In - Introductions** - Marvin Spencer and Dave Kuker

The DMC Committee met via the ICN. Dave Kuker opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed attendees at the various sites. Reception problems rendered the Waterloo ICN site unavailable so Kuker presided over the meeting.

2. **Approval of 10/10/07 Meeting Summary** – Marvin Spencer

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Nansi Woods, second by Bob Greenlee. The minutes were unanimously approved.

At this point, the Waterloo site became available and Spencer chaired the remainder of the meeting.

3. **Remarks** – Linda Rosen, Iowa's Representative from OJJDP

Linda Rosen stated the purpose of her visit was to verify that Iowa is in compliance with the OJJDP Act concerning the use of funds. She stated she was pleased and impressed with what she has been seeing and thanked the members for allowing her to be part of the meeting.

4. **Follow-up Discussion of Budget Request from JJAC – 2008 Funds** – Marvin Spencer and Dave Kuker

Kuker reminded the group of past discussions regarding 2008 funding and budgets for the RFA and DMC Resource Center. He stated the \$80,000 in unspent funds will be utilized for the DMC detention reform RFA. Therefore, \$80,000 from the 2008 JJDP Act Formula Grant remains available to spend. A meeting will be held on March 13, 2008, to discuss how to spend these funds. A mental health initiative has been discussed.

Kuker also reminded the group that the money allocated to Decats for the next grant year has been directed to be allocated to the judicial districts. No other requests have been made from this committee. Spencer stated he would like to hear from members of the committee to determine if additional funds would benefit any new or old initiatives.

Bob Greenlee questioned why the decision was made to move from the Decats to the Juvenile Court Chiefs. Kuker responded that reduced funding and increased performance reporting requirements have prompted some Decats to waive funds to other Decats, resulting in the regionalization of funds.

Charles Clayton asked how the Chiefs will allocate these funds. Kuker responded that money will be allocated based upon child population in each judicial district. He said chiefs will have to submit a plan indicating how the money will be utilized. CJJP will be working with them in the next few months to accomplish this. He expects the Chiefs will look at current programs in their districts before making funding decisions and suggested Decat Coordinators begin discussions with the Chiefs regarding programs they hope to see continued.

5. Update DMC Resource Center – Brad Richardson

- **2008 State DMC Conference**

Brad Richardson reminded everyone that during the last meeting he was asked to look at different venues for hosting the state conference. He has looked at alternatives in West Des Moines, Merle Hay Road, and downtown. Based on the information he has found, he felt total conference costs could increase as much as \$9,000 which would be reflected by raising the cost of registration.

Belinda Creighton-Smith asked if there was a way to keep the registration amount the same in light of the increased costs in lodging. Richardson responded that in the past, we have allowed for some scholarships. Keeping the registration the same would mean fewer scholarships.

Kuker stated he is concerned about access to and costs associated with parking downtown coupled with the increased costs of lodging and registration.

After further discussion, Kuker suggested a group be formed to plan the dates and location, rather than waiting until the April meeting. Richardson agreed. The following individuals volunteered to be part of this group: John Spinks, Zach Wilson, Judge Hensley, Brad Buckley, and Belinda Creighton-Smith. After some discussion, the group agreed to hold a conference call on March 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Zach Wilson asked if it would be possible to use \$10,000 of the \$80,000 toward the conference. Kuker stated that the funds could be used for this type of expense. Wilson made a motion for a budget request of \$10,000 to offset increased costs associated with the conference, second by Creighton-Smith. Each site was polled and the motion passed unanimously. Richardson thanked the group for their support.

- **2008 Sioux City DMC Conference**

Richardson stated the local conference will be held June 5 and 6. Speakers include Ron Clark and Karega Rausch on June 5 at the Sioux City Convention Center. On June 6, at Briar Cliff University, they will have Karega Rausch, then some breakout sessions including NBA star Kenny Anderson and people from the Des Moines and Memphis school districts.

Stephan Pearson encouraged everyone to attend the Sioux City conference—he felt it would be one of the best yet. He thanked his DMC coordinators who have been working hard. Richardson added there is no registration fee.

- **Research in Sites**

Richardson stated he is working to complete the paper on detention and detention alternatives in Black Hawk, Polk, and Woodbury Counties. When finished, it will go to the chiefs for review, then to this committee, the JJAC, and the Governor's Youth Race and Detention Task Force (YRDTF).

Richardson discussed a conference to be held March 14 involving Shay Bilchek, of Georgetown University. About 150 people from across the country will meet to discuss the overlap between child welfare and juvenile justice and disproportionality. They will present a paper written by Jeff Butz, who was instrumental in developing the relative rate indices. One of the presentations will speak specifically about the child welfare/juvenile justice/ disproportionality efforts in Des Moines. A panel of speakers includes Judge Joe Smith, Mary Nelson, and John Spinks.

6. DMC Detention Reform RFA – Dave Kuker

Kuker reported the RFA was released in December and an ICN meeting was held in January. Applications have been received from Polk, Woodbury, and Black Hawk Counties. A committee has been established to review applications and will meet on March 17 to discuss them. Recommendations by the committee will be made at the next Juvenile Justice Advisory Council meeting on March 20, the grants will begin April 1st.

7. Justice Data Warehouse Information – Dave Kuker

Kuker stated during a recent YRDTF meeting there was a request for information regarding the number of youth being referred to juvenile court services from schools. He said some JCS representatives are indicating increases in such referrals. Kuker indicated a panel of Des Moines Public Schools Officials presented at the February 2008 YRDTF meeting. They provided information on school discipline policies, issues regarding increased enrollment, and student demographics – all of which they perceive to be factors in court referrals.

Kuker presented Justice Data Warehouse (JDW) information regarding allegations referred to juvenile court. He noted that it is not easy to discern the source (schools, law enforcement, the community) of court referrals. Data provided to the group reflected aggregate counts of allegations referred to the juvenile court. Primary findings regarding the data reflect:

- The overall number of allegations for which Caucasian youth were referred to juvenile court decreased during the report years. The most significant reductions were in property and public order offenses.
- The overall number of allegations for which minority youth were referred to juvenile court increased in all categories except "other" during the report years. The most significant increases were in property and public order offenses.

There was discussion regarding the difficult issues that schools face regarding youth behavior. Kuker stated that CJJP has been asked to separate this information by judicial district and will share those findings with this group as well. Greenlee questioned the source of the information. Kuker stated the type of data determines the source. In this particular report, information was compiled from census data, the NCJRS, the 2005 Uniform Crime Report, the JDW, and from a detention facility database. Spencer thanked Kuker for the information.

8. Updates From Sites - Reps from Sites

Des Moines – Zach Wilson

Wilson advised they are continuing to work on prevention programming and one of the biggest outcomes from that was a visit by Mark Mauer, Executive Director of the Sentencing Project—the group which compiled the data ranking Iowa worst in the nation regarding the prison incarceration rate for African Americans. During Mauer's visit, he met with groups and leaders and held community

forums. He talked with leaders regarding a racial impact bill in the Legislature. Wilson indicated if this bill passes, a committee would review the effect of certain legislation on minority populations in Iowa—similar to an environmental impact bill.

Sioux City – Dave Gleiser

Gleiser stated they have been trying to create more community awareness and have been working on an internet site: www.sjouxlandship.org, select “Partners”, then “Woodbury DMC”. They have also completed a media kit for anyone wanting more information about DMC. They are networking locally with the AEA and are coordinating a local youth conference in April. He has also been coordinating the local DMC conference and working on the grant application for detention reform.

Black Hawk – Belinda Creighton-Smith

Creighton-Smith reported they have completed study circle groups with the Waterloo Police Department. They have finished their second “Effective Black Parenting” education classes; the third session begins next Monday, March 3. They have been working with the CASA director to recruit African American advocates and with the Foster Care Advisory Board to recruit minority families.

She would like to see some uniformity regarding definitions and is hopeful that the Casey effort can help with this. For instance, the term “diversion” doesn’t have the same meaning in other states. The true definition of diversion suggests that a youth is not charged. She would like to see some uniformity in the terms we traditionally use—diversion, prevention, intervention, etc. Spencer agreed and stated he is looking forward to participating in the Casey effort.

Davenport – Miguel Trevino

Trevino reported they began hosting family team meetings on February 1 through Scott County Kids. They hope to keep kids from going to placement and detention.

Fort Dodge- Charles Clayton

Clayton stated at the beginning of the school year they started a diversion program in both middle schools. The juvenile court liaison is present, but the police do not get called and charges are not filed for disorderly conduct or simple assault. They are contacted and provide programming deemed necessary by all parties involved. Since the beginning of the school year, they have had 20 kids go through the program, 16 were African American.

They also have a “Tipping Point Initiative” involving 40 African American youth—20 females and 20 males. The purpose is to help them set goals (i.e. not being arrested, getting good grades, coming to school, not becoming teenage parents, staying away from drugs and alcohol, etc.). If participants achieve their goals, on a quarterly basis they are awarded cash at a banquet. Some cash is in the form of scholarships. The maximum that can be earned per quarter is \$250.

9. Future Meeting Date – 04/24/08 – Marvin Spencer

The next meeting will be held in Des Moines on April 24, 2008. Kuker predicted it would be warmer then.

10. Adjourn – Marvin Spencer

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Rinker-Lind