

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Eliminating the Achievement Gap

The session will cover the use of classroom, school and district data to learn more about the achievement gap. Board, district and school responsibilities to address the gap will be discussed. Community resources and the role of parents will also be discussed in examining issues, needs and strategies both inside the classroom and outside the classroom. Information will be provided on resources available at the national level to assist districts and learn more about the achievement gap and some exemplary districts having success will be reviewed.

Presenter: Linda Lane

Lost in Translation: Providing Equal Access

Workshop will use hands-on exercises in combination with touching personal experiences and current research in order to introduce participants to issues affecting translation and interpretation in Iowa. Special emphasis will be placed on using interdisciplinary models and interventions that promote linguistically and culturally appropriate services for Latino persons. A second area of emphasis will be HF2441: The Interpreters Law and other current initiatives which are being sponsored by the Iowa Division of Latino Affairs.

Presenter: John-Paul Chaisson-Cardenas

Effective Use of the Washington Risk Assessment Instrument

This session is designed to provide practical experience with the incorporation of a risk assessment tool in the decision making process related to detention holds.

Presenter: Robert Barnoski

Understanding the Relative Rate Calculations of DMC

Calculation of over-representation has undergone recent revision. New calculations include relative rates for comparing minority youth over-representation with White youth rates at each point of contact in the juvenile justice system. This session will provide an understanding of the calculations at the national, state and local level and the implications for practice.

Presenter: Howard Snyder

Equal Justice for All: Use of Interpreters in the Field

Policing in a diverse community - Storm Lake, Story County. This session will provide a brief history of Storm Lake's recent evolution into a rich, diverse community and how the community, via trial and error, learned to provide services in an extremely diverse setting where language barriers created some of the biggest challenges.

Presenter: Mark Prosser

Redo the Do: Why Traditional Juvenile Justice Programs Fail African American Youth

The intent of the presentation is 1) promote cultural competency as the way to understanding African American youth and 2) to bring professionals up to speed on alternative ways to positively reach African-American youth and reduce their involvement in the system by embracing their culture. Many problems that exist in current juvenile justice programs lie in facing the challenge of understanding the complexity of the African-American youth culture. One consequence is that the design and implementation of programs often prohibits the successful navigation through the juvenile justice system and transition back into the community.

Presenter: Terry Stevens

DMC Research: Intensive Case Analysis

Results and findings from extensive DMC research in several counties in Iowa will be presented. Dr. Lieber will provide historical background on research on over-representation in Iowa and will review research conducted to date along with his most recent studies in three counties in Eastern Iowa.

Presenter: Michael Leiber

Research on Resiliency in African-American Families

African American youth and families have many strengths that enable them to deal effectively with the stresses of poverty, racial discrimination, and other stressors. Iowa State University is conducting a long-term study of over 800 African American families, half in Iowa and half in Georgia. Results of this study will be presented regarding factors that promote good outcomes for youth and adults, including involvement in church activities, family cohesion, and commitment to education.

Presenter: Carolyn Cutrona

Families and Schools Together (FAST)

Families and Schools Together (FAST) is a multifamily group intervention designed to build protective factors for children (4 to 12 years old) and empower parents to be the primary prevention agents for their own children. [Dr. Lynn McDonald](#) developed FAST in 1988 to serve teacher-identified, at-risk 5- to 12-year-old elementary school youth and their families; however, universal recruitment is now the recommended strategy. A collaborative team of parents, trained professionals and school personnel recruit then deliver [FAST program components](#) to 5 to 25 families at a time. *Team members do not lecture at FAST, but structure highly*

participatory, research-based activities with turn taking, experiential learning, and parent support. Since its beginnings in Madison, Wisconsin, the FAST program is now implemented regularly [nationally in 45 U.S. states](#) and internationally in five countries (Canada, Germany, Australia, Austria, and Russia). FAST has been identified as a science-based [SAMHSA model program](#) to prevent substance abuse and mental health problem (Schincke, 2003) and [best practice family strengthening model program](#) to prevent juvenile delinquency. *Presenter: Lynn McDonald*

Over-Representation Among Native American Children/Youth

This presentation will examine the link between child maltreatment, delinquency and the disproportionate representation of Native Americans in both child welfare and juvenile justice. Current available data will be reviewed and the need for access to reliable data will be discussed. Participants will examine strategies to reduce maltreatment and unnecessary out of home placement both of which are strongly associated with future delinquency. The presenter will outline research and advocacy agendas that are developing or underway nationally to stimulate a national public policy dialog among tribal leaders and policy makers. An explanation of the key provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA) in non-legal language and recommended performance steps for state, county, and tribal child welfare workers will be provided. In addition, general information about Native American and Alaskan Native cultures will be discussed. Both the act and handling of ICWA cases will be discussed.

Presenter: Terry Cross

Turning the Corner Together: Community Partnerships for a Stronger and More Inclusive Iowa

Indicators of “disproportionate over-representation” of youth of color in child welfare and juvenile justice, “achievement gaps” in educational environments, and health disparities present a challenging picture. This workshop will discuss a model for a statewide effort, coordinated by Urban Dreams, Inc., to bring together community organizations, public and private universities, business and education in collaboration to meet the challenges and opportunities in making this transition.

Presenters: Wayne Ford & Diane Finnerty

Community Initiated Prevention-Intervention Efforts

This workshop will provide a brief history of H.O.N.R.A. (Hispanic Outreach Neighborhood Resource Advocate), an outreach program working in neighborhoods in the City of Des Moines. Descriptions of work with newly arrived immigrants will be provided such as work with the Latino Community Orientation at Visitation Church and suggestions for what other agencies can do to better serve new immigrants will be discussed. The gang prevention and intervention programs the presenters provide address issues of violence and high drop out rates and work with Project Safe Neighborhood which includes churches, schools and intervention agencies such as Employee and Family Resources, Inc. The need to take into account language and cultural differences will be specifically addressed in the context of the population served.

Presenters: Joe Gonzalez and Vince Valdez

Avoiding Systematic Delinquency

Delinquent youth are driven by circumstances, life conditions, and beliefs that compromise their ability to make effective decisions. In many circumstances, these same conditions and beliefs result in delinquent strategies by organization and agency in their efforts to address the problems of high risk youth. Dr. McCaine will address delinquency as a "mindset" that emerges in the presence of desperation and impulsivity. Whether it is a single youth or a collective system, the mindset of delinquency produces a common result: the erosion of known principles of what is right and wrong and attempts to justify violations of accepted standards of conduct.

Presenter: Jon McCaine

Working with African American Males

Years of working with African American youth have provided insight into how to most effectively provide interventions. This session will discuss model interventions for substance abuse and mental health issues specifically designed for work with African American male youth.

Presenter: Uriah McGee

Multiple Initiatives to Reduce DMC

The Iowa counties of Polk and Woodbury have engaged in multiple initiatives to reduce the over-representation of minorities in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. This session will describe those efforts and some of their successes to date. Lessons learned will also be discussed for other communities considering engaging in the implementation of similar initiatives.

Presenters: Judge Todd Hensley, Pat Penning, Vernon Johnson, Denise Hotopp

DMC Coordinators & Child Welfare Administrators

DMC Coordinators from the midwest region (e.g., Wisconsin, Iowa, Colorado) and Child Welfare administrators from Colorado and Iowa, along with the federal program specialist from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention will discuss over-representation and the current state of DMC reduction efforts, joint child welfare and juvenile justice initiatives, and the future for efforts to eliminate disparity in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. *Facilitator: Heidi Hsia*