

Summary
Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee Meeting
March 29, 2005
1111 – 9th Street, Des Moines

The Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee met Tuesday, March 29, 2005 at the United Way Building. Members present: Ray Blase, John-Paul Chaisson-Cardenas, Charles Clayton, Allison Fleming, Bob Greenlee, Denise Hotopp, Mike Leiber, Kathy Nesteby, Sara Petersen, Walter Reed, Jr., Brad Richardson, Lori Rinehart, John Spinks, Marvin Spencer, John Wauters. Guests: Natalie Lee. Staff: Dave Kuker, Scott Musel, Eric Sage, Kathy Nesteby.

Leiber called the meeting to order and asked for introductions. The summary of the January 5th ICN meeting was approved.

DMC Section of the Three-Year Plan

This section is part of the three-year plan that every state JJAC must submit when applying for JJDPA funds. Kuker reviewed the processes and resources for acquiring the statistics on the extent to which minority kids come into contact with the juvenile justice system. The Committee asked for a summary page of activities in each of the six counties studied. Chaisson-Cardenas noted while the data is important to the system, the use of the RRI figures are too complex of an index for people to understand. Using old figures were more meaningful. Kuker reviewed the activities listed in this updated information including Iowa's DMC Resource Center, the annual conference, technical assistance and the Polk County diversion effort. He also noted the assessment update being conducted by Mike Leiber in Johnson, Linn and Black Hawk counties. The data collection for Black Hawk has been completed. The gender task force produced some planning data for communities to use. Juvenile Court Officers are preparing an assessment tool to be reviewed by judges and others. Youth of Color initiative came about as a result of the DHS redesign effort, specifically addressing child abuse. Two pilot sites are Woodbury County and Polk County. He then reviewed the way the matrices work. The committee recommended the section as presented with corrections as discussed.

DMC Conference

Richardson reported the conference evaluations were excellent. Next year the conference will be for only one day as there will be no juvenile court involvement. Content of the conference will be an agenda item at the next meeting. Chaisson-Cardenas suggested the DMC Conference combine with the Latino Conference. The Latino Conference is scheduled for October 28 and 29. The Committee will meet within a month to make a decision whether or not to combine with the Latino Conference. See John-Paul or Kuker for suggestions.

Update on the DMC Technical Support sites

Muscatine – is the only one that has a 1.0 for secured detention on the matrices.

Scott County (see website)

Hamilton/Humboldt/Wright County – Very small numbers

Black Hawk County has interviewed candidates for its DMC Coordinator. An intern will be hired too. They will keep improving their existing programs and processes and being involved in the community. The task force has offered two agencies specific programming. 1) Efforts to keep children deep into the system out of detention, and 2) front end kids services, young youthful offenders programming. Decat dollars have been designated for children of color. Data has been collected and violations will be studied in an effort to find alternatives to detention. Police officers in the Waterloo area carry a detention card to determine when a child is to be sent to detention. There have also been training opportunities geared around detention criteria. The Resource Center will be asked to help provide assistance to the new coordinator.

The Woodbury County Conference will be May 25, 2005. A DMC coordinator will be hired by virtue of a grant from Urban Dreams. The process for hiring is underway.

Polk County – They have two sets of data -- detention review data, and central intake data. They are looking at disproportionality vs. racial bias to see, in the detention pie, how much is attributable to one vs. the other. They are doing an analysis with race and severity of offense.

Polk County Diversion Project – Will focus on those kids who did not have prior involvement in law enforcement, or not in the system previously. The task force will function until the end of July. The Detention Review Team has had a great impact. Reduced numbers and awareness are a success. Fate of the detention review team is unknown. The schools are asking for help too as there is overrepresentation of minority children in suspension. The Resource Center will assist in writing their fourth quarterly summary.

Lee reviewed the items to be included in the Polk County final report. It will be a comparison of the grant summary for the last three years as well as a chronological and statistical review for the last three years. Leiber asked for an oral presentation after the final report was made on paper.

Recruitment

Leiber called for names of individuals who might serve on this committee and indicated that a review of the current roster will be forthcoming at the next meeting.

Next meeting

Monday, April 25, 2005. 10 a.m. to 12 noon on the ICN. A July meeting will follow.

Budget

The Resource Center has asked for and received \$70,000 for its activities next year. The federal level budget looks bleak and, as yet, unknown for 2006 budgeting.

Risk Assessment

Robert Barnoski from the Washington Institute for Public Policy drafted a risk assessment tool in response to requests from the six sites represented at the first DMC Conference. Suggestions for the tool were sought from JCOs. It has been reviewed by detention center directors, and is to be presented to PATC and judges. The Chiefs are working on their own tool -- a needs assessment tool at intake. Woodbury and Black Hawk Counties may be interested. Polk and Buena Vista may be interested.

The Judges with Gary Niles and Keith Pick will review the risk assessment tool on the 12th of April.

Other

Wauters asked what alternatives to detention are out there and discussion on detention alternatives concluded the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.