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Summary
Disproportionate Minority Confinement Committee
September 15, 2004
Des Moines, Iowa 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Disproportionate Minority Confinement Committee of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council met September 15 in the Auditor's Training Room of the Lucas State Office Building in Des Moines. Members present: Mike Leiber, Chairman; Barry Bennett, Debbie Black (for Brad Richardson), Sam Black, Ray Blase, John Paul Chaisson-Cardenas, Marchelle Denker, Allison Fleming, Bob Greenlee, Charles Grigsby, State Senator Jack Hatch, Denise Hotopp, Kathy Nesteby, Sara Petersen, Marvin Spencer, John Spinks, Miguel Trevino, John Wauters, Kittie Weston-Knauer. Members absent: Natalie Anderson, Steve Representative Deborah Berry, Devon Binion, Janice Edmonds-Wells, Stephan Pearson, Kimberly Baxter, Connie Bear King, Mark Prosser, Boursy Quang, Carl Smith, Felicia Toppert.

Mike Leiber, chairman, called the meeting to order. Each person introduced himself/herself. Leiber reviewed new member and recruitment training procedures. He asked about the possibility of shortening the length of meetings and rotating meeting sites in order to meet outside of Des Moines.

Cultural Competency Initiative

Dr. Ruth White, executive director of the Iowa Department of Human Rights, was invited to address the committee on the Department's cultural competency initiative. Cultural competency is ongoing and constant. It touches everybody in state government as we relate to African Americans, persons with disabilities, women, people living in poverty, and hard-of-hearing persons to name a few.

Approval of Summary

Wauters moved, and the committee approved, acceptance of the summary of the September 15, 2004 meeting.

DMC Conference Update

Debbie Black from the University of Iowa Resource Center presented an update from Brad Richardson on its efforts in the six different communities. Marvin Spencer reported for the Black Hawk County taskforce meeting. Waterloo law enforcement people are carrying laminated cards on detention information for youth who are picked up. A concerted effort has been made to make it known that the community is working together.

Urban Dreams has received its own federal grant and is utilizing a portion of that funding for a DMC Coordinator in Black Hawk County.

Brad Richardson asked for volunteers from this committee to act as hosts at each site. Leiber wants a local flavor of the conference and encouraged us to reach out to law enforcement. Delinquent behavior will be addressed also at this conference.

John-Paul Chaisson Cardenas asked for copies of the flyer for a presentation next week. Leiber asked about media coverage. Barry Bennett commented on DHS initiative on minority detention.

Coalition meeting and DMC Conference in Los Angeles

Kuker announced the Coalition DMC Conference would be in Los Angeles November 4 through 7. If members wish to go they should make it known to him so the JJAC may be queried.

DMC Resource Center

The request for funding for the DMC Resource Center from January 2005 to December 2005 will be an agenda item. A new section on the website is the addition of immigration information. A slot for a speaker for court interpreters at the DMC conference was discussed. The JJAC planning and budget committee will begin meeting again. All committees will be asked to present their budget requests. The DMC Committee will meet again in early November. As part of its redesign DHS wrote in an initiative to focus on minority kids in the child welfare system. Woodbury County and Polk County got some funding for redesign impact on numbers for minority children in the child welfare system. Our focus is on the juvenile justice system. The Resource Center got some funding to provide support for those two sites as well. Some funding will support this conference. John-Paul noted education figures reflect the same statistics with the achievement gap as DMC detention figures. The availability of box lunches at the conference and a listing of available sites to see in Des Moines were of concern to the Committee.

Youth Rights and Responsibilities

Scott Musel announced the Youth Rights and Responsibilities handbook is available. It can also be accessed on the CJJP website. The address is www.icyd.org/new.asp. The booklet is the first item under the heading of "What's New." The Resource Center will be asked to include the address for Youth Rights & Responsibilities on a link on the DMC website. It will be noted that this is not a legal document and if advice is needed, an attorney should be contacted. Leiber asked if the handbook could be available for the DMC conference and the Latino Conference.

Planning and Budget

Kuker reviewed the active JJAC committees. The JJAC Policy and Program committee may be re-activated. All committees may be asked to submit budget requests. This committee will be asked to bring forth budget recommendations. The November meeting will be before the JJAC Committee. No decisions to be made, but be prepared for planning to come. Funding for DMC Resource Center is available for January-December, 2005. We will ask for a proposal from them for that period. This committee will be asked to review and make a decision on that proposal. The DMC Resource Center is working with the six targeted communities. There is funding from the DHS Child Welfare budget to do child welfare review. JJAC funding is available to do site based work for juvenile justice systems. Their proposal will talk about work they are doing for the six sites as well as the conference itself.

Juvenile Court Risk Assessment Tool

Dave Huff of the CJJP office reported on the preparation of a risk assessment tool at juvenile court intake for youth referred from the courts. Robert Barnosky is the technical assistant from Washington State University. The second, a juvenile detention screening instrument has been created and is in a two-week data collection period. The process will be reviewed in order to look for ways to evaluate or gauge effects of it. Ray Blase asked about involving stakeholders in the review especially since they were asked to hold

off on preparing an evaluation tool at county detention centers. Groups will be engaged at the state level to evaluate the process or tool.

Polk County DMC Diversion

Polk County will gather several groups of people together on October 19 to create a community task force to continue the project regardless of funding source. The groups will address racial disparity in our community. Polk County will work with Brad Richardson to analyze data and search for ways to bring detention numbers down. They will continue to look for other funding.

Leiber encourage continued review of detention causes, evaluating and monitoring. Black Hawk, Linn, Johnson counties were included in his study eleven years ago. He is hoping to include Sioux City, Polk County and Scott County. He hopes this data will be available at the conference for the years 1998 to 2003. The data will hopefully indicate trends.

Next meeting

Leiber reviewed several issues to be discussed at the next meeting:
What is planned for the next year;

Goals for Juvenile Court redesign. Wauters indicated many families want help who fit CHINA but do not fit services. Violent youth are getting dumped into the juvenile court system because there is no DHS residence placement or availability of preventive services.

Next meeting is November 3 in Black Hawk County. 10 a.m. to 12 noon.