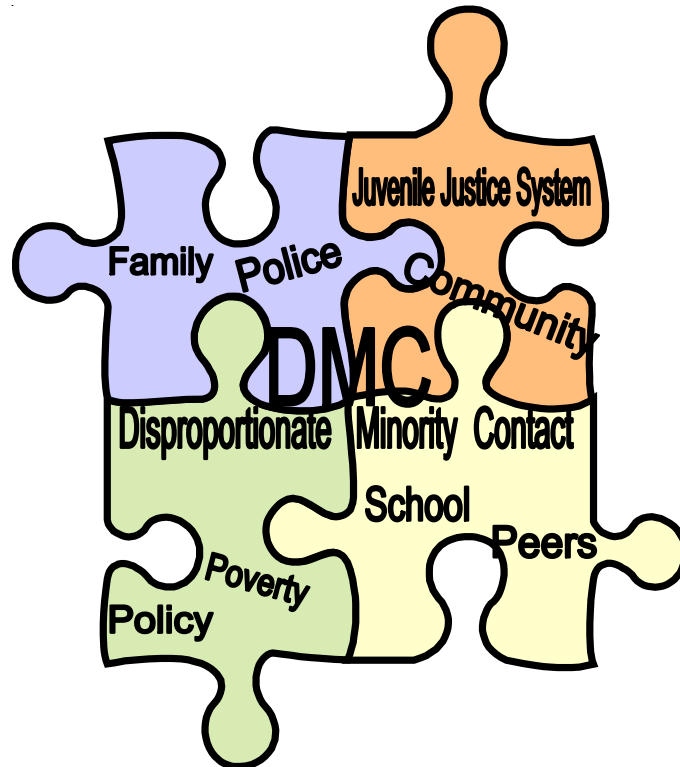


“Bringing Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice & Education Together to Reduce Racial Disparities”

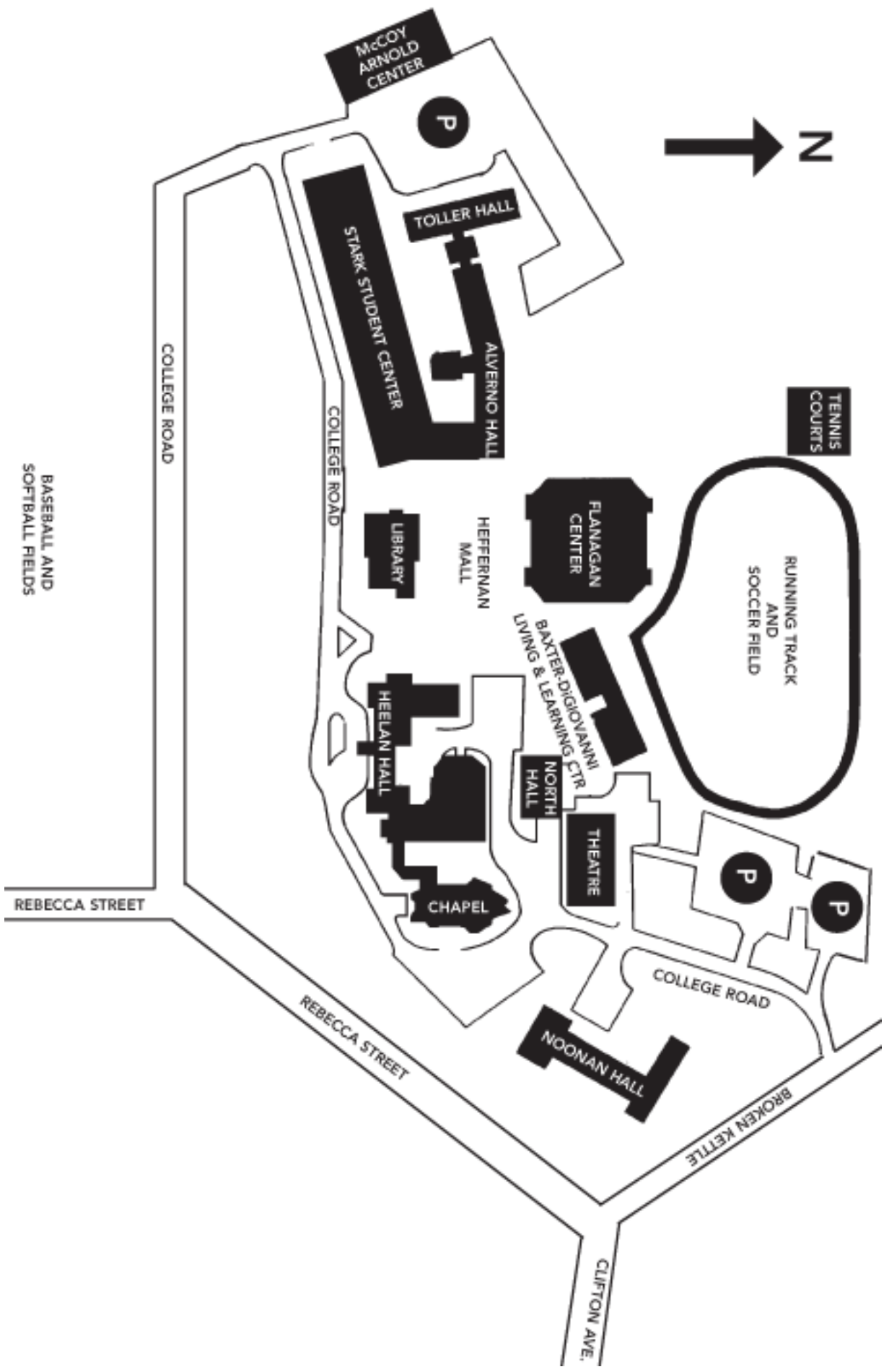
**5th Annual Siouxland
DMC Conference**

**June 15, 2007
Sioux City, Iowa**



Woodbury County DMC Committee
DMC Resource Center
National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice
University of Iowa School of Social Work
in collaboration with

Iowa Department of Human Services
State of Iowa Department of Human Rights
Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP)
Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC)



McCOY
ARNOLD
CENTER

P

TOLLER HALL

STARK STUDENT CENTER

ALVERNO HALL

LIBRARY

HEFFERNAN MALL

FLANAGAN CENTER

TENNIS COURTS

RUNNING TRACK AND SOCCER FIELD

BAXTER-DIGIOVANNI LIVING & LEARNING CTR

NORTH HALL

THEATRE

HEELAN HALL

CHAPEL

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NOONAN HALL

COLLEGE ROAD

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REBECCA STREET

REBECCA STREET

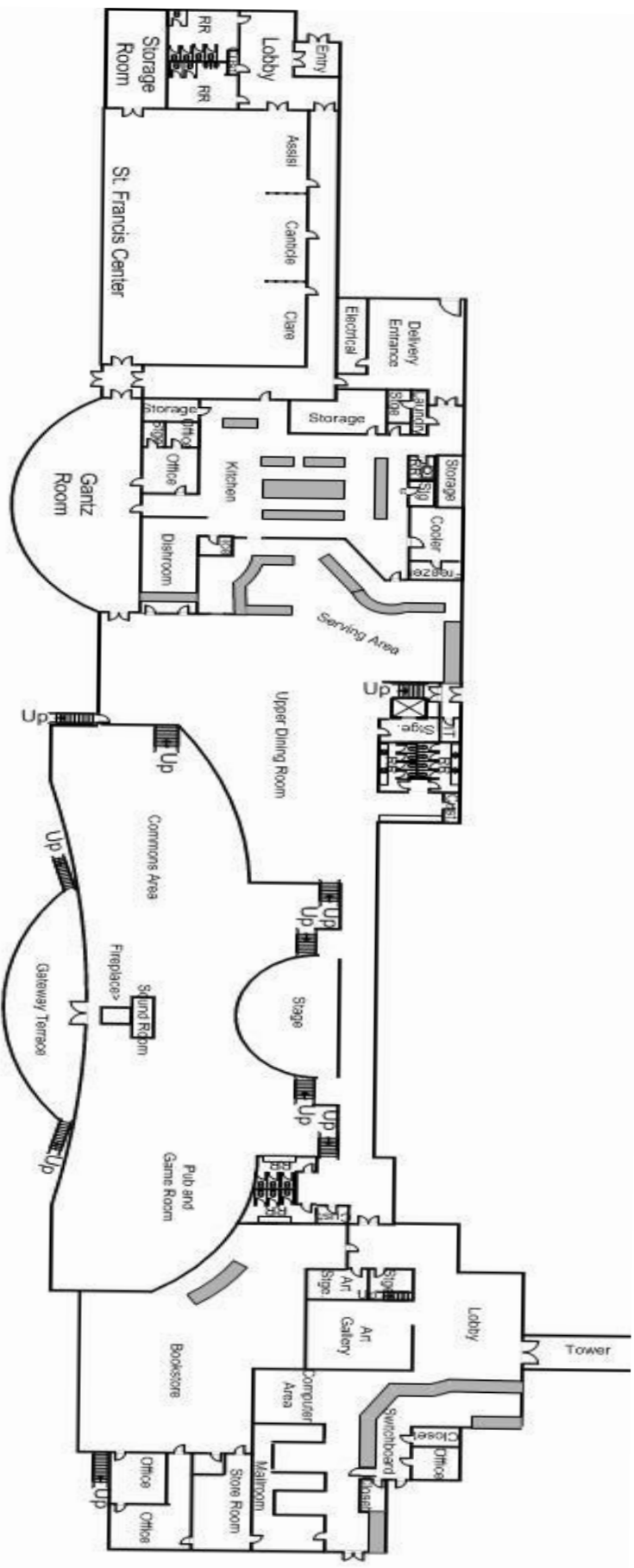
CLIFTON AVE.

BROKEN KETTLE

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL FIELDS



STARK STUDENT CENTER



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2007

7:30 AM – 1:00 PM

REGISTRATION

*Stark Student Center
Lobby Area*

8:30 AM – 8:45 AM

Welcome Address/Opening Remarks

Stage Stark

Beverly Wharton, President, Briar Cliff University
Stephan Pearson & Marchelle Denker, Woodbury County
DMC Committee
Dave Kuker, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning
Syeta Glanton, Office of the Governor

8:45 AM - 10:30 AM

Keynote: Reducing Disparities: A Practice Approach

Stage Stark

Connie Burgess, with special youth guest Julia Charles,
SAYSO Inc., Durham, NC

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Concurrent Sessions

**Growing Up “in the System:” Linkages Among Child
Welfare, Education & Juvenile Justice**

Stage Stark

Connie Burgess, C. Burgess Consulting & Associates
Julia Charles, SAYSO, Inc., Durham, NC

Legal Perspectives on Overrepresentation

Clare

District Court Judge Mary Jane Sokolovske, District 3B
District Associate Judge Todd Hensley, District 3B
Leesa McNeil, District Court Admin., Third Judicial District

Community Collaboration to Reduce Disparities: MYFI

Assisi

Khatib Waheed, Center for the Study of Social Policy
Pat Penning, Iowa Department of Human Services
Dennette Derezotes, Woodbury County DMC Committee
Frank LaMere, CINCF/ MYFI/Casey Programs
Julia Rembert, University of Iowa, School of Social Work

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Lunch

1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Follow-up and Next Steps

Stage Stark

Gary Niles, Stephan Pearson, Marchelle Denker
Woodbury County DMC Committee

Closing

Frank LaMere, CINCF/ MYFI/Casey Programs

**PLENARY/KEYNOTE DESCRIPTION:
Friday: 8:30 am to 10:30 am**

Keynote: Reducing Disparities: A Practice Approach

Constance Burgess has worked in the area of systems change for children and families in need of services for many years as an expert in the field with personal experience as a former family member involved with the system. She works with girls of color whose crimes are most often status offenses (running away, curfew violation, truancy) and other non-violent offenses such as prostitution and substance abuse related crimes. She has an understanding of the emotional and psychological challenges of young people who are working to establish their own identity, redefine their relationships with adults in their lives, explore their sexuality, and develop their own belief systems. Ms. Burgess gained her skills as an activist parent raising a child with severe emotional challenges and special education needs. Involved in family advocacy issues and policy at the state and national levels, she has given legislative testimony, serves on federal peer grant review committees, serves as a member of the national advisory committee on the National Wraparound Initiative, and developed a small, state family advocacy group into a multi-faceted, respected family-run organization with broad reach. Recently she was accepted to the national advisory committee on National Wraparound Initiative (NWI), a project of the Portland Research and Training Center to develop national standards for Wraparound. She has also participated in SAMHSA community site visits to evaluate the progress of system of care project implementation. While demonstrating a high knowledge and regard for the unique needs presented by rural, urban, and small and large city communities, Connie exhibits a firm grasp of systems of care development.

Presenter: Connie Burgess with special youth guest Julia Charles

**WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS:
Friday: 10:45 am to 12:00 pm**

Growing up "in the System:" Linkages Among Child Welfare, Education and Juvenile Justice

In-depth discussion of the experiences of youth growing up in the foster care system.

Presenters: Julia Charles & Connie Burgess

Legal Perspectives on Over-Representation

"Racial disparity in the justice system undermines the very notion of fairness in our society, costs lives and the health of communities, and makes none of us safer. It is past time for major reform of a justice system that is separate and unequal for young people of color" Barry Krisberg, National Council on Crime and Delinquency Executive Director (National Catholic Reporter, Feb 2, 2007, Vol. 43: Issue 14).

Presenters: Judge Mary Jane Sokolovske, Judge Todd Hensley & Leesa McNeil

Community Collaboration to Reduce Disparities: MYFI

DHS is conducting a demonstration project to address the disproportionate number of Native American children involved in the child welfare system. The DHS Minority Youth and Families Initiative has put in place a specialized unit to serve Native American Families in Woodbury County. This project is part of the DHS Child Welfare Redesign and is testing a combination of culturally responsive services which can lead to better outcomes for children and families involved with the child welfare system. This session will describe the initiative, findings and lessons learned to date.

Presenters: Khatib Waheed, Pat Penning, Dennette Derezotes, Frank LaMere & Julia Rembert

**SPECIAL SESSION & CLOSING:
Friday: 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm**

Follow-Up and Next Steps

Presenters: Gary Niles, Stephan Pearson & Marchelle Denker, Woodbury County DMC Committee

Closing: Painting With A Broad Brush—Art or Science?

This session will provide a follow-up on issues raised at the 2006 Woodbury County DMC Conference and will highlight current activities underway by Juvenile Court Services and in the community which are aimed at reducing over-representation in the Woodbury County area.

Presenter: Frank LaMere

Presenter Biographies:

Constance Burgess is a seasoned trainer, facilitator, and keynote speaker focusing on multicultural competence, leadership, parent-professional teaming, and Wraparound systems change for children and families in need of services. She works with girls of color whose crimes are most often status offenses (running away, curfew violation, truancy) and other non-violent offenses such as prostitution and substance abuse related crimes. The girls experience many emotional and psychological challenges, and are working to establish their own identity, redefine their relationships with adults in their lives, explore their sexuality, and develop their own belief systems. Ms. Burgess gained her skills as an activist parent raising a child with severe emotional challenges and special education needs. As a highly sought-after consultant, she provides training and technical assistance nationwide focusing on: leadership, systems change, cultural competence, disproportionate minority confinement, and provided consultation to the design and implementation of Caring for California Initiative, an agency-academic consortium improving the quality of care for California's children with serious emotional and behavioral issues. Involved in family advocacy issues and policy at the state and national levels, she has given legislative testimony, serves on federal peer grant review committees, is a member of the national advisory committee on the National Wraparound Initiative, and developed a small state family advocacy group into a multi-faceted, respected family-run organization with broad reach. Connie is also a family member, consultant, keynote speaker, and provider of training and technical assistance in the area of Wraparound systems change nationwide. Recently she was accepted to the national advisory committee on National Wraparound Initiative (NWI), a project of the Portland Research and Training Center to develop national standards for Wraparound. Across the country Connie's talents and skills are often contracted by private service providers and other governmental agencies, including the Administration for Children Youth and Families (ACYF), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) where she participates as a seasoned reviewer in grant peer review committees and as chairperson. She has participated on more than 40 grant review committees ranging from homeless persons with co-occurring disor-

der/dual diagnosis programs to targeted capacity expansion to Systems of Care initiatives. She has also participated in SAMHSA community site visits to evaluate the progress of System of Care project implementation. While demonstrating a high knowledge and regard for the unique needs presented by rural, urban, and small and large city communities, Connie exhibits a firm grasp of System of Care development. This level of understanding helps her to provide a constructive community voice, family perspective, balance, and meaningful discussion to the grant review process.

Julia Charles is a twenty-three year old student at Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina. She had a happy childhood until age nine when her Grandmother passed away. At that time Julia moved in with her biological mother only to be removed from the home a couple of years later as a result of abuse and neglect. She and her siblings were separated in foster care, experiencing a more painful existence than living at the hands of her abusive mother. Ten years, ten foster homes, two or three group homes and numerous social workers later, Julia stands happy and whole, having worked through her anger at the foster care system. Although her transition into foster care was not ideal, she is grateful to the few people who believed in her. Julia now offers a message of hope to young people in foster care, "while the race may be a challenge, it is not given to the swift nor is any battle given to the strong, but rather to those that will endure." Her goal is to finish school, travel the world, and become a published author providing a viewpoint on how to survive foster care.

Marchelle Denker is currently serving as the First Assistant in the Sioux City Juvenile Public Defender's Office a/k/a Juvenile Law Center. She has held that position since August 2000 and worked at the Juvenile Law Center since July 1995. Prior to that she was in private practice. Marchelle received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Morningside College in May 1990. She continued her education at the University of Iowa College of Law receiving her Juris Doctorate degree in May 1993. Marchelle is an active member of many committees and organizations. She is the Juvenile Law Consultant for the State Public Defender.

She has served on numerous task forces with the Court Improvement Project. She is currently the co-chairperson of the Woodbury County DMC committee along with being a member of the state-wide DMC Committee. She has also volunteered for and provided training for the CASA Program, Family to Family Biological Parents Support Group, Family to Family Foster Parent Support Group, Foster Parents Support Group, the Iowa Public Defenders' Conference, Juvenile Justice for Foster Parents, Law Day, and Woodbury County Foster Care Council. She has also been involved with the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and other community and civic organizations. She is a member of the Iowa Public Defenders' Association, the Woodbury County Bar Association, and a past member of the Iowa State Bar Association.

Dennette M. Derezotes, MSW, LCSW has over 20 years of child welfare experience working with children and families in direct care; therapeutic services; administration; training; program development and evaluation; community advocacy and collaboration; and agency consultation. She is the founding Executive Director of the Race Matters Consortium @ Westat, a national multi-system initiative that promotes strategies that prevent, intervene, and eliminate adverse racial disproportionality and disparities in the child welfare system. Its members comprise a national think tank of concerned experts in research, social work practice, public policy, and philanthropy who critically examine the issues related to racial and ethnic disparities and influence policy and practice through education and consultation. Ms. Derezotes currently travels the country addressing issues of racial disproportionality to numerous audiences. She is an author of and first editor of the book, *Race Matters in Child Welfare: Examining the Overrepresentation of African Americans in the Child Welfare System*, published through the Child Welfare League of America in March, 2005.

Syeta N. Glanton is a native of Franklin, New Jersey. She is a proud graduate of Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. After graduating from college with a degree in Political Science, she went to Drake University Law School. While in Law School Syeta served as the Chapter President and Midwest Regional Director for the National Black Law Student Association. After graduating from Law School she was offered a job with the Iowa

Secretary of State's Office as the Assistant Director of Business Services, managing the overall duties of the Business Services Department. Syeta currently works as the Policy Liaison for the Governor's Office regarding Criminal Justice, Higher Education and Human Rights issues.

District Associate Judge, Todd Hensley: District 3B, Judge Hensley of Sioux City was appointed to the bench in September, 2000. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Morningside College in 1984, his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1988. Judge Hensley is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, Woodbury County Bar Association and the Iowa State Bar Association and serves on the Board of Directors and co-chair of the District Associate Judges Committee of the Iowa Judges Association. Judge Hensley serves on the State DMC Committee.

Julia Kleinschmit Rembert, M.S.W. is a Clinical Assistant Professor for the University of Iowa's School of Social Work. She teaches and coordinates the School's Sioux City Part-Time MSW Program located at Briar Cliff University. Ms. Kleinschmit Rembert's background includes community organizing with students, farmers, and faith-based organizations. She has also directed a homeless shelter in Iowa City and has coordinated political organizing in the western US. She has served as the media director for the Nebraska Farmers Union. Ms. Kleinschmit Rembert consults with organizations on grant writing, program development and evaluation. She facilitated the Woodbury County DHS planning to address the overrepresentation of Native American children in the child welfare system and is provides technical assistance and evaluation for the project. Other interests include sustainable agriculture, enhancing rural communities, and the diversion of people with co-occurring disorders from rural justice systems.

Dave Kuker, B.A., is a Program Planner for the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, Department of Human Rights. He has been involved in various capacities in DMC issues for the past 14 years. He is a staff person for Iowa's Disproportionate Minority Confinement Committee, which is a Committee of Iowa's Juvenile Justice Advisory Council. His other responsibilities include administration of Juvenile Justice and De-

linquency Prevention Act formula grant funding. Dave is an active member in Iowa's Gender Specific Services Task Force for Girls. His career has been focused primarily in Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice issues. Dave has a BA from the University of Northern Iowa.

Frank LaMere is a noted social and political activist from the Siouxland region who was instrumental in the passage of the Iowa Indian Child Welfare Act in 2003 and a member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. Mr. LaMere serves as Native Family Advocate with the Casey Programs and Center for the Study of Social Policy sponsored work to reduce over-representation among Native families in the child welfare system. He also works in collaboration with the community and serves as liaison to the Woodbury County DHS, Minority Youth and Families Initiative; Community Initiative for Native Children and Families and variety of other community organizations. He is committed to empowering Native people and serves on the Democratic National Committee. He is an acclaimed motivational speaker who remains dedicated to Indian children and families. Frank also manages and coaches the North Americans, a world-class fast pitch softball team that mentors youth about alcohol and drug abuse prevention.

Leesa A. McNeil, District Court Administrator-Third Judicial District; Leesa earned her BS degree in criminal justice and political science from the University of South Dakota and her Master of Science in Judicial Administration from the University of Denver College of Law. She has spent time working for the court system in Baltimore, Maryland and Saginaw, Michigan before accepting a position within the Third Judicial District Court of Iowa in 1983. Leesa serves on the Woodbury County DMC Committee, the Board of Directors for the Third Judicial District Department of Correctional Services and on the State of Iowa Criminal Justice Information Systems Committee.

Gary Niles, a lifelong Sioux City resident, is a graduate of Morningside College with degrees in Psychology and Business Administration. Gary is the chief juvenile court officer for the Third Judicial District. Gary has over 31 years of juvenile justice experience in both the urban and rural settings; has written, developed and implemented

several programs such as "Hands Off" a shoplifting diversion program; "Adapt" a substance abuse diversion program and "Family Empowerment" an intensive supervision program. He has chaired numerous community committees, developed several partnerships, and is a member of several boards. At the state level, Mr. Niles has served several committees including the statewide Risk and Needs Assessment, JSORATT II Validation Study, the RFP Committee for Shelter Care, the Predisposition Report Committee and work on several DMC efforts. In 1999, Mr. Niles developed and implemented the "Woodbury County Community Drug Court" which serves both adults and juveniles. The Woodbury County Community Drug Court is arguably one of the most unique drug courts in the country as it uses trained community leaders to serve as "Community Judges" for the Court. The Community Court Panels have held over 10,000 hearings since 1999. This Court has received both statewide and national attention for its community involvement and innovation. Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack recognized this Court for "Service Above and Beyond" on December 6, 2004. Over 500 adults and juveniles have graduated from this rigorous drug treatment program. The Iowa Judicial Branch recognized Mr. Niles on July 5, 2000 by awarding him the coveted "Meritorious Service Award."

Stephan Pearson, B.A., is Juvenile Court Officer for the Third Judicial District in Sioux City, Iowa. Mr. Pearson is a graduate of Morningside College. Prior to his current position he worked with Youth Services International in Baltimore, Maryland. He serves on the statewide and county Minority Health Coalition and on the state and county DMC Committee. Mr. Pearson is the local technical assistance coordinator in Woodbury County for the DMC Resource Center located at the University of Iowa School of Social Work, National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice. He also serves on the statewide DMC Committee.

Pat Penning, L.M.S.W., is a graduate of Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa. She is a Licensed Master Social Worker in the state of Iowa. Pat is a member of the Mental Health/Mental Retardation/Developmental Disability/Brain Injury Commission for the state of Iowa. Her career in the human services field began 26 years ago. She

has worked in all areas of this field including cash and food assistance, services for adults, and child welfare. Currently she is the Iowa Department of Human Services administrator for a 14 county area in northwest Iowa and oversees all program areas of the Department of Human Services.

Brad Richardson, Ph.D., is Iowa's DMC Coordinator and Research Scientist and Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Iowa School of Social Work, National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice. Dr. Richardson coordinates statewide efforts through the DMC Resource Center and its Minority Youth and Families Initiative. Dr. Richardson earned his doctorate in applied sociology with specialization in social psychology, methodology and law, deviance and control from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

District Court Judge, Mary Sokolovske: District 3B, Judge Sokolovske, Sioux City, was appointed to the bench in 1992. She earned her bachelor's degree from Regis College in Colorado and her law degree from Creighton University. Judge Sokolovske serves on the Woodbury County DMC Committee and works extensively in juvenile court. She is a member of the Juvenile Court Committee for the Third Judicial District.

Khatib Waheed is a Senior Fellow, at the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP), in Washington, DC. He joined the staff in October 2003 to head up the CSSP's involvement with the Casey-CSSP Alliance for Racial Equity in Child Welfare, which is a new effort to raise national awareness about the disproportionate number of African American and other children of color that are in foster care and to identify and promote better child welfare policies, programs and services that will help reduce the number of unnecessary placements into foster care; improve upon the services once they are placed and ensure that they have a better quality of life after they leave. Prior to his work at CSSP, Khatib was a Senior Associate at the Aspen Institute Roundtable on Comprehensive Community Initiatives, where he helped to further develop "frameworks" or approaches for defining, analyzing and explaining how the combined effects of structural racism, poverty, inadequate community resources and family behavior work to perpetuate long term disadvantage for African American and other children, families and

communities of color. The framework has since been published and distributed nationally, and is currently being tested in communities. During this same period he also served as the Special Assistant to the Director, Missouri Department of Social Services, where he established and led a multi-agency coalition to reduce youth violence, drug trafficking and teen pregnancy in the St. Louis area called the Regional Response Coalition (RRC). In 1989, Khatib started the Walbridge Caring Communities Program in Walnut Park, and expanded it to twenty schools in St. Louis over the next seven years, where it received statewide, national and international renown as an innovative approach to providing mental health, educational, health and social services and programs to families whose children were at-risk of failing in school and being placed in foster care or juvenile detention. The Caring Communities model has been studied and written about in numerous publications and books and has been replicated both nationally and internationally. He has received numerous awards for his service to children, families and communities and holds a M. Ed. from the University of Missouri – St. Louis and a B.A. in History and Political Science from Webster University, with a Missouri Secondary Education Teaching Certificate in Social Studies. Khatib participated in policy briefings at the White House during the Clinton Administration and testified during several National Governor's Association Conferences about the needs of children and families. He is also a past participant in the International Initiative for Children, Youth and Families, which allowed him to visit both the Netherlands and Israel to network with policy makers, field experts and researchers representing fifteen countries about developing policy aimed at strengthening families and neighborhoods.

Beverly Wharton, M.B.A., is the current President of Briar Cliff University, a Franciscan and Catholic University. Prior to starting at Briar Cliff, Wharton was employed by MidAmerican Energy Company from 1976 to 1999. Her executive experience at MidAmerican included serving as senior vice president for regulatory and legislative activities, senior vice president for energy delivery, president of the Midwest gas business unit and senior vice president of support services. Wharton holds a B.S. from Southern Illinois University and a M.B.A. from the University of South Dakota.

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**5th Annual Siouxland
DMC Conference**

**Sioux City, Iowa
June 15, 2007**

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CLEs for the Fifth Annual Woodbury County DMC Conference

Activity Number: 43708

Total CLE Hours Approved: 5.5
Ethic Hours Approved: 0.0

Notes

Notes