

3RD ANNUAL SIOUXLAND DMC CONFERENCE

“Putting the Pieces Together”

MAY 25, 2005

BRIAR CLIFF UNIVERSITY, SIOUX CITY, IOWA

**SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **Registration**

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. **Welcome Address/Opening Remarks**  
Janice Edmunds-Wells, Iowa Department of Public Health  
Bev Wharton, President, Briar Cliff University

8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. **Plenary: What are the Pieces?**  
Michael Leiber, Professor UNI & DMC Committee Chair  
Jon McCaine, Ph.D. Vice President, Youth Services Int’l.

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Break**

10:10 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. **Concurrent Session 1**

<b>The Prayers of the Children are Powerful</b>	<b>Child Welfare Redesign</b>	<b>Legal Issues Related to Over-Representation</b>
Frank LaMere, Sherri Eveleth	Mary Tope	Dewey Sloan, Sr.

11:10 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. **Break**

11:20 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. **Concurrent Session 2**

<b>Minority Youth and Families Initiative</b>	<b>Local Efforts to Address DMC: Woodbury and Black Hawk Counties</b>	<b>DMC Research Update</b>
Julia Rembert, Barry Bennett	Todd Hensley, Belinda Creighton-Smith	Mike Leiber

12:20 p.m.–1:15 p.m. **Lunch**

1:15 p.m. – 2:25 p.m. **Plenary: Putting the Pieces Together**  
Janice Edmunds-Wells, Iowa Department of Public Health  
Diane Finnerty, University of Iowa School of Social Work,  
National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice

2:25 p.m.–2:35 p.m. **Break**

2:35 p.m.–3:30 p.m. **Conclusion/Closing**  
Stephan Pearson, Woodbury County Juvenile Court Services  
Jon McCaine, Youth Services International

*Please note: The National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice reserves the right to change workshop topics and/or schedule.*

*3rd Annual Siouxland DMC Conference Registration Form*  
**"PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER"**

**May 25, 2005**  
**Briar Cliff University, Sioux City, Iowa**

Please type or print clearly!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Company \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ Ext \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Special requests: (meals, special needs) \_\_\_\_\_

**No Registration fee! Just fax this registration form to (319) 335-4964.**

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**WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS**

**Opening:** Janice Edmunds-Wells

**Welcome:** Beverly Wharton

**Plenary: Identifying the Pieces**

*Presenter: Michael Leiber*

Data driven approaches have been shown to be the most successful approaches for initiatives targeting reduction in juvenile confinement and racial disparity in the juvenile justice system. Examples from local and national efforts to identify areas for intervention and recommendations for interventions that have been effective in reducing disparity will be presented.

**Keynote: Cultural Diversity or Adversity: A Matter of Choice**

*Presenter: Jon McCaine*

Addressing the direct needs of a multi-cultural demographic, justice and fairness can not be derived by imposing the needs and methods successful with the majority on a cross section of diverse minority populations. Such practices are the cause of institutional bias that adversely impact society and especially minority populations even in the absence of any hostile racial bigotry or hostile intention. The presentation will address the stereotypical and destructive impact of a great deal of work done under the guise of "cultural diversity training" and provide a research based concept of understanding cultural identity that has both personal relevance for self examination as well as practical utility for staff training, promoting youth development, and public policy.

**Concurrent Session I: 10:10 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.**

**The Prayers of the Children are Powerful**

Sherri and Frank will speak to the ongoing work of the Community Initiative for Native Children and Families (CINCF) and the passage of the Iowa Indian Children Welfare Act in 2003. How do we ensure compliance of the law and how it relates to the DMC.

*Presenters: Frank LaMere/Sherri Eveleth*

**Child Welfare Redesign**

The Department of Human Services is engaged in the implementation of the Child Welfare Redesign which is intended to provide greater flexibility to ensure safety and permanency for children served in the child welfare system. The Redesign also promotes the use of the Family Team Meeting as a primary method for assessment of need and identification of funding to address those needs.

*Presenter: Mary Tope*

**Legal Issues Related to Over-Representation**

Minority populations are over-represented in state precipitated proceedings that include social services or court systems. Questions present as to whether this over-representation is rooted in laws themselves or the application of laws that discriminate and result in a disparate impact on various discreet minority

populations. The presentation will attempt to identify the sources of various disparate impacts by examining some of the social forces generating statutes, some statutes themselves, enforcement of the law and judicial determinations of legal issues brought to the court for adjudication.

*Presenters: Dewey Sloan, Sr.*

## **Concurrent Session II: 11:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.**

### **Minority Youth and Families Initiative**

DHS is conducting a demonstration project to address the disproportionate number of Native American children involved in the child welfare system. Beginning this year, 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 currently underway.

*Presenters: Julia Rembert/Barry Bennett*

### **Local Efforts to Address DMC in Woodbury and Black Hawk Counties**

Multiple initiatives are underway in Woodbury County and in Black Hawk County to address disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system. These efforts will be described and compared with a focus on what results have been achieved to date, what activities will be undertaken in the coming year, and what the expected outcomes will be for each of these communities.

*Presenters: Todd Hensley/Belinda Creighton-Smith/Woodbury County's DMC Coordinator*

### **DMC Research Update: Race and Juvenile Justice Detention**

This workshop presents legal, extralegal, and processing factors on the case outcomes by race in the juvenile justice system. Data from Black Hawk, Linn and Johnson County courts are used to examine the relationship between race and detention with juvenile court decisions. The study has focused on the extent to which detention is used, the factors that predict the use of detention and detention length, and the extent detention status influences decision making at intake and judicial disposition. The issue of detention will be discussed in the context of nationwide trends and what is occurring in Woodbury County. Strategies and interventions for reducing the reliance on secure detention will conclude the discussion.

*Presenter: Michael Leiber*

## **General Sessions & Conclusion: 1:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

### **General Session: Putting the Pieces Together**

*Moderator: Janice Edmunds-Wells*

*Facilitator: Diane Finnerty*

This session will be an interactive session where information gained from the conference and other experiences will be put to use to identify issues and strategies recommended for implementation in Woodbury County to address the overrepresentation of minority youth and children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

## PRESENTER BIOSKETCHES

**Barry Bennett** is a Program Planner with the Iowa Department of Human Services Division of Behavioral, Developmental, and Protective Services. He is the policy specialist for the Department's family centered services and family preservation programs and is the Department's representative on the CJPJ Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee. Mr. Bennett has a BSW degree from the University of Northern Iowa and has over 30 years of child welfare work experience as a caseworker, supervisor, and policy specialist.

**Belinda Creighton-Smith** is the new DMC Coordinator for Black Hawk County. She is also pastor of Faith Temple Baptist Church, ABC in Waterloo, Iowa, a wife, and mother of five. She was the first female called to an African-American Baptist Church as pastor in Waterloo, Iowa in April 1999. She received her Masters of Divinity Degree from Central Baptist Theological Seminary Kansas City, Kansas in May 2004 receiving two distinguished awards, her undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa, in 1991 and an honorable discharge from the Army Reserve Military Police Company in 1992. She served as program coordinator of the American Red Cross Culturally Specific HIV/AIDS program, developing and implementing culturally competent HIV prevention programming for African-Americans, youth and injection drug users. The success of this program was evident in the work of the coordinator and the advisory committee known as African-Americans Taking Action Against AIDS Council (AATAAAC), which developed a culturally specific AIDS instructor manual, the Teen AIDS Program (TAP) and the Street Outreach Program (STOP) in the 1990s. She served as National Faculty for the implementation of the first national Red Cross Basic HIV/AIDS Training and the Culturally Competent AIDS Course. She is a community activist challenging the racial disparity in the criminal justice system and an advocate for those who feel they have been racially profiled, harassed or discriminated against by the system. She is coordinator of Black Caucus of American Baptist Churches, USA for Area II; serves on the Iowa Multicultural Substance Abuse Advisory Committee; and the Cedar Valley United for Peace and Justice advocating for peace, prison reform at home and abroad, and judicial equity in sentencing. She has served on the Human Rights Commission, African-Americans Taking Action Against AIDS Council, AIDS Coalition of Northeast Iowa, National Red Cross African American AIDS Advisory Committee, Northeast Council on Substance Abuse Minority Advisory Committee, and Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging.

**Janice T. Edmunds-Wells, M.S.W.,** is Minority Health Liaison for the Iowa Department of Public Health, Division of Community Health. Prior to coming to Iowa, Janice served as a social work consultant and program developer for several organizations in Philadelphia. She is on the boards of several Iowa organizations including the University of Northern Iowa Global Health Corp., Project EXPORT, Project Bright Move (Waterloo), Coalition Against Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence and ex-officio board member of the National Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Alliance. Janice received her BS from Pennsylvania State University and MSW from the University of Iowa.

**Sherri Eveleth** is an attorney licensed in the Omaha, Ponca, and Winnebago tribal courts and the in the states of Nebraska and South Dakota. The Nebraska Legal Services Native American Program has employed her for six years to provide advice, brief service and representation to tribes and individuals in the areas of treaties, federal Indian law (including ICWA) and tribal law. Ms. Eveleth was very active in the development of the Iowa ICWA Law. Sherri is the mother of three children and grandmother of three.

**Diane Finnerty, M.S.,** is Director of Training for the National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice. Diane develops, coordinates, and presents educational programs for community organizations and social service agencies and also serves as Adjunct Lecturer for the University of Iowa. Areas of expertise include: leadership in a diverse society, international business, race/class/gender in the U.S., and study seminars on immigration and global economics in England and Mexico. Prior to coming to the National Resource Center, Diane served as Diversity Resources Coordinator in the University of Iowa's Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, reporting to the Office of the President. She was responsible for overseeing the implementation of institution-wide diversity initiatives and civil rights education. Diane has numerous years experience working in administrative and direct service capacities in community-based organizations addressing issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, and women's health. Since 1981, she has consulted with community and business organizations on organizational and individual cultural competence, recruiting/retaining diverse staffs, gender

and sexual harassment, sexual identity development, cross-cultural conflict resolution and mediation, and building alliances across difference.

**Judge Todd Hensley, J.D.**, has been District Associate Judge, Third Judicial District since October of 2000. Before then, he served as Assistant Public Defender for Woodbury County from 1988 to 2000. Currently, Judge Hensley is Co-Chair of the Woodbury County DMC Committee. He received his B.A. from Morningside College in 1984 and his J.D. from the University of Iowa in 1988.

**Julia Kleinschmit Rembert, B.J., M.S.W.**, is a Clinical Assistant Professor for the University of Iowa's School of Social Work. She teaches in the Sioux City part-time program. Kleinschmit Rembert's background includes community organizing with students, farmers, and faith-based organizations. She has also directed a homeless shelter in Iowa City, done political organizing in the western US, and served as the media director for the Nebraska Farmers Union. As well as teaching, Kleinschmit Rembert consults with organizations on program development, grant writing, and program evaluation. She facilitated Woodbury County DHS' plan to address the overrepresentation of Native American children in the fostercare and child protection system.

**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 is employed by E3-NATURE, a non-profit organization headquartered in Rapid City, South Dakota, where he works to develop social and energy policy for tribes and first nations in the United States and Canada. He is committed to empowering Native people and services 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.

**Michael J. Leiber, Ph.D.**, is a professor in the Department of Sociology/Anthropology and Criminology and the director of the Sociology Graduate Program at the University of Northern Iowa. Dr. Leiber has published and presented on issues related to juvenile delinquency, juvenile justice, and race/ethnicity. Dr. Leiber also conducted a study on race and juvenile justice decision-making in Iowa. These results appear in The Contexts of Juvenile Justice Decision Making: When Race Matters, University of New York Press, 2003. He serves on the State of Iowa's Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, Chairs the DMC Committee, and serves as a consultant for OJJDP.

**Jon McCaine, Ph.D.**, currently serves as the Senior Vice President and National Clinical Director for Youth Services International. He is responsible for the design and oversight of developmental programs for high-risk children and adolescents across the country in residential and community based services. Dr. McCaine is also the Clinical Supervisor for a consortium of specialized programs; the Discovery Network for delinquent sexual conduct; the Choices Network for substance abuse and sales; the Futures Network for pre-adolescents; as well as newly formed consortium of programs for high-risk girls, Athena's Circle. Prior to joining YSI Inc., Dr. McCaine served as Clinical Director of the state of Arizona's Department of Juvenile Corrections where he was responsible for statewide development, coordination, and monitoring of the agency's mental health, crisis support, and cognitive-behavioral developmental programs. He was the architect of the state of Arizona's specialized, intensive treatment programs for serious delinquent violence, sexualized behavior, and substance abuse for high-risk youth that gained national recognition as innovative model programs. As a speaker and trainer in much demand, Dr. McCaine has provided ongoing training for city, county, state, and federal agencies and school districts. He continues to present addresses across the country most notably in the areas of Family Violence, Intervention Strategies with High Risk Youth, and Residential Program Design and Operations.

**Stephen Pearson, B.A.**, is Juvenile Court Officer for the Third Judicial District Juvenile Court 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.

**Brad Richardson Ph.D.**, is Associate Research Scientist at the National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice and Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Iowa School of Social Work. Dr. Richardson received his Ph.D. in applied sociology with emphasis in social psychology, research methodology and sociology of law, deviance and control in 1984 from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. He has worked in direct practice in the areas of substance abuse treatment and residential treatment with youth. Dr. Richardson served on the sentencing guidelines research team for the State of Minnesota and has served as project director on numerous quantitative and qualitative research and evaluation projects. At Yale University he served as the director of contract research at the Human Relations Area Files and came to Iowa to serve as Director of Research for the Institute for Social and Economic Development. Since joining the University of Iowa School of Social Work, National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice, he has provided training and technical assistance throughout the U.S. on data management, cultural competence and outcome measures, research and evaluation, performance monitoring of work with families and how to utilize the results of evaluations to demonstrate effectiveness, and how to incorporate results into program improvement strategies and to promote programs. In addition to duties as the Director of Research, he currently serves as Iowa DMC Coordinator at the DMC Resource Center.

**Dewey P. Sloan, Sr., J.D.**, is Assistant County Attorney in the Woodbury County Juvenile Division. His caseload responsibilities include delinquency prosecutions, waivers, modifications and consultations with Juvenile Court Officers, Child In Need of Assistance petitions, removals, modifications and consultations with Iowa Department of Human Services caseworkers, and Termination of Parental Rights petitions. Mr. Sloan earned his J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law (1988), M.A. from University of South Dakota (1972), and B.S. from Morningside College (1964). Previously, Mr. Sloan taught junior high sciences at North Jr. High in the Sioux City Community Schools from 1964-73. Mr. Sloan has provided seminars on Juvenile Law or Juvenile Court for the Sioux City Police Department, Civic Organization, Schools, Foster Parents, and Guardian ad Litem. He served on an Advisory Committee of Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) from 1994 to 2003.

**Mary A. Tope, M.S.W.**, is the Quality Assurance Coordinator for the Sioux City Service Area of the Iowa Department of Human Services. She obtained a BSW from Briar Cliff University in 1983 and a MSW from the University of Iowa in 2002. Ms. Tope has worked for the Department of Human Services for approximately 20 years in a variety of capacities, including Foster Care & Adoption, Permanency Planning Specialist, Child Protection and Foster Care Licensing. Her previous professional employment includes the South Dakota Department of Social Services in Rapid City, South Dakota, Boys & Girls Home & Family Services in Sioux City and The Aide Center in Sioux City. Ms. Tope has served on various committees and workgroups throughout her employment with DHS and has also been active in school, church and other civic committees and projects.

**Beverly A. Wharton, M.B.A.**, became the President of Briar Cliff University, a Franciscan and Catholic University, in February of 2003. Prior to serving as interim president at Briar Cliff University since June 2001, 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 University of South Dakota.