

Models for Change is working in Pennsylvania to accelerate the pace of the Commonwealth's progress towards a more fair, effective, rational and developmentally friendly juvenile justice system. The initiative in Pennsylvania is working in three Targeted Areas of Improvement: aftercare, disproportionate minority contact, and mental health and juvenile justice system coordination. For more information on Models for Change, go to www.modelsforchange.net.

This is the first monthly newsletter about Pennsylvania's Models for Change activities. The purpose of this newsletter is to increase communication across and within the targeted areas of improvement in Pennsylvania; disseminate reports and other products created through this initiative; and increase awareness of upcoming events and training opportunities

We welcome your feedback (see end of newsletter for contact information).

Targeted Areas of Improvement (TAI) Updates

Aftercare

Five counties began work in 2004 to enhance aftercare: Allegheny, Cambria, Lycoming, Philadelphia, and York. Four are funded by PCCD (Allegheny, Cambria, Lycoming, and York), while MacArthur is providing support to Philadelphia's effort. There is also an aftercare policy group, working to identify and change state policies that are important for aftercare to succeed in the counties. For more information on this TAI in general, go to <http://www.modelsforchange.net/issues/aftercare/>.

- *Training on Educational and Reintegration Toolkit for Juvenile Justice Professionals.* Beginning in 2006 and continuing through 2007 the Education Law Center (ELC) has been conducting trainings around the state on the *Educational and Reintegration Toolkit for Juvenile Justice Professionals*. This toolkit lays out the education related legal rights of youth in Pennsylvania.
 - One such training took place on January 17 in Lehigh County. There were about 50 attendees, representing several probation departments, as well as the children and youth system.
 - As noted below in *Upcoming Events and Meetings*, the next training is scheduled in Berks County for February 6.

If you have an education related problem, or are interested in attending or hosting a training session in your region, please contact Rick Steele (c-rsteele@state.pa.us), or Kelly Franklin (kfranklin@epix.net).

- *Focus on aftercare expanding to fifteen additional counties*
Twenty counties, including the five aftercare pilot counties (Allegheny, Cambria, Lycoming, Philadelphia, and York) have volunteered to implement the *Joint Position Statement on Aftercare for Delinquent Youth* in their jurisdictions by the year 2010. These counties will be working closely with the aftercare specialists Rick Steele (JCJC) and Kelly Franklin (Chiefs' Council) as they undergo a rigorous self assessment process and identify priority areas on which to focus their change efforts. To download a copy of the Joint Position Statement, go to www.modelsforchange.net/resources/, click on "aftercare."

- A meeting of the team leaders from the 20 counties took place in State College on January 26.
- *Survey of Residential Treatment Facilities*
To date, most of the attention of the Models for Change initiative has been focused on county probation and juvenile court practices and procedures. We are now turning attention to providers of residential programs, who are an obvious and integral part of a system that addresses aftercare as a process that starts at disposition, continues throughout a youth's placement, anticipates release, and continues throughout the period following discharge.

In an effort to gather more detailed information than is currently available about the variety of programs that youths are sent to, a web-based survey of residential facilities has been created as a joint effort between the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. It is available through the following link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=538462802706>

The survey is targeted at all licensed programs that provide residential services to delinquent youth in Pennsylvania. The survey is program specific (providers will be asked to fill out a survey for each program they run) and is intended to reflect current practices.

Contact one of the Aftercare Specialists listed below with any questions:

- Rick Steele, Aftercare Specialist, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research, c-rsteele@state.pa.us; 570-672-1165 (o).
- Kelly Franklin, Aftercare Specialist, Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, kfranklin@epix.net; 570-447-1187 (c)

If you have specific questions, or would like additional information about the work of the aftercare TAI, contact Autumn Dickman at Juvenile Law Center, 215-625-0551, adickman@jlc.org.

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

The initial reform goals in this targeted area are to move Pennsylvania toward becoming a model of DMC data collection and to use the data collected to bring about needed change. The DMC work is focused in three counties: Allegheny, Berks, and Philadelphia. The policy work is coordinated at the state level with the DMC Subcommittee of PCCD's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee, chaired by Dan Elby. For additional information about the work of this TAI, go to <http://www.modelsforchange.net/issues/>, look under the "racial fairness" section.

- At the county level the work has been focused first on data collection and analysis. A second feature of the county work is the Latino Juvenile Justice Network (LJJN), a multi-state initiative of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR). In Pennsylvania, LJJN chapters have been created in Berks and Philadelphia counties. LJJN allows NCLR Affiliates and other local Latino community-based organizations to collectively identify issues and approaches for reform through advocacy, media outreach, community education and mobilization, and research and policy analysis. The LJJN is a strategic approach for Latino advocates to influence and shape a brighter future for Hispanic youth, their families, and communities. For additional information: <http://www.nclr.org/section/ljjn/>

- Berks County with active community engagement and strong leadership by Judge Arthur Grim is well on the way to becoming a national exemplar in how to effectively and comprehensively address issues of DMC. Projects currently underway in the county, include:
 - Refining a detention risk assessment instrument. Prior to Models for Change involvement, Berks County was already working to implement a detention risk assessment instrument and recently completed a pilot of the instrument. Through funding from Models for Change, the county is working with David Steinhart to revise the instrument and further test its effectiveness. A revised instrument will be in use and studied over a six-month period, after which the consultant will analyze and report on the data and make any additional recommendations to which the data may point.
 - Translating court documents into Spanish. This process is beginning with probation forms, and will expand from there.
 - Developing cultural competency standards for service providers. The Language Capability and Cultural Diversity Task Force, one of four task forces of the DMC Reduction Steering Committee, is doing this work.
 - Seeking, through the Latino Juvenile Justice Network (LJJN) of Berks County, a Contract Consultant to lead the LJJN public education and advocacy efforts for juvenile justice reform. Any questions should be directed to Cassandra Villanueva, Coordinator at 202.776.1810 or cvillanueva@nclr.org. In 2007, the LJJN will conduct a “Juvenile Justice Reform Day,” other educational events, and advocacy trainings for service providers and community members interested in Models for Change and civic engagement efforts.

- Philadelphia County
 - The Philadelphia chapter of the State DMC Sub-Committee is spearheading an effort to develop a curriculum for police on how to effectively deal with teenagers. It will be a required 6-hour component of police officers’ annual training. This project is being supported in part by Models for Change.
 - The lead convener of the Latino Juvenile Justice Network (LJJN) in Philadelphia is Congreso de Latinos Unidos, a nationally recognized, community based non-profit organization that primarily serves the neighborhoods of Eastern North Philadelphia where the majority of the city's Latino population resides. This organization has hosted several community gatherings and is continuing to identify educational opportunities and advocacy issues. In 2007, the LJJN will conduct a “Juvenile Justice Reform Day,” other educational events, and advocacy trainings for service providers and community members interested in Models for Change and civic engagement efforts. For more information, please contact Sybille Damas, LJJN Lead Convener at (215) 763-8870.

- Allegheny County
 - The DMC work in Allegheny is focused on the data gathering and analysis phase of the project. Understanding at what decision points DMC arises is a critical first step in identifying how to address the issues.
 - The Allegheny County Juvenile Probation Department is working with the Center for Children’s Law and Policy on three issues that will have a significant impact on DMC. First, as a beginning step in addressing issues facing youths who have failed in program placements (FTA’s), they will design a research study to try to identify why youths fail in

commitment programs. Second, they are working to develop an objective risk assessment instrument for detention. Third, they will take a closer look at pending placement issues. This will involve conducting research to see who has been successful in moving youths into programs, what protocols have been established, and to ensure that successful programs are in place at the local detention facility.

If you have specific questions, or would like additional information about the work of the DMC TAI, contact Dana Shoenberg (dshoenberg@cclp.org) or Ruby Sherrod (rjsherrod@cclp.org), 202-637-0377 at the Center for Children's Law and Policy.

For additional information about the Latino Juvenile Justice Network, contact Cassandra Villanueva, cvillanueva@nclr.org, 202-776-1810 at the National Council of La Raza.

Mental Health & Juvenile Justice System Coordination (MH/JJ)

Three counties (Allegheny, Chester, and Erie) began work in 2005 to enhance mental health and juvenile justice system coordination. At the policy level, the Mental Health/Juvenile Justice State Group is working to identify and change state policies that are important for mental health/juvenile justice system coordination to succeed in the counties. For more information on this TAI in general, go to <http://www.modelsforchange.net/issues/mental/>

- ***Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Policy Statement Endorsed by State Agencies***
In December 2006, a Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Policy Statement was endorsed by the Department of Public Welfare, the Department of Education, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, and the Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program Administrators Association. This statement sets forth a vision of a model system that prevents the unnecessary involvement of youth with mental health problems in the juvenile justice system and allows for the early identification of youth with mental health needs. To download a copy of the Joint Position Statement, go to www.modelsforchange.net/resources/, click on "mental health."

There is an article describing the Joint Position Statement in the December 2006 *Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice* newsletter:
<http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us/jcjc/lib/jcjc/publications/newsletters/2006/december.pdf>.

- ***MH/JJ State Group seeking to expand participation on sub-committees***
The Mental Health/Juvenile Justice State Group is currently seeking volunteers to participate on the sub-committees listed below. If you are interested in participating, or would like additional information, please contact the chair of the committee in which you are interested. The goal is to have a range of viewpoints on each of the sub-committees.
 - ***Diversion***—Chair, Lourdes Rosado, lrosado@jlc.org
 - ◆ ***Goal:*** Develop and implement strategies that encourage counties to identify youth who need behavioral health treatment and, when appropriate and consistent with the goals of accountability and community protection, divert them out of the juvenile justice system and into appropriate treatment.
 - ◆ Responsible for points 8-12 from the MH/JJ Policy Statement.

- *Detention/Shelter Care Sub-Committee*—Chair, Nicole Remsburg, nremsburg@pacounties.org
 - ◆ Goal: Ensure that youth admitted to juvenile detention or shelter facilities who experience behavioral health difficulties have access to adequate assessment and/or crisis intervention services.
 - ◆ Responsible for point 13 from the MH/JJ Policy Statement.
- *Screening & Assessment*—Chair, Keith Snyder, ksnyder@state.pa.us
 - ◆ Goal: Pilot implementation of screening process in Juvenile Probation Departments utilizing the MAYSI-2.
 - ◆ Responsible for points 1-7 from the MH/JJ Policy Statement.
- *Legal Protections*—Chair, Lourdes Rosado, lrosado@jlc.org
 - ◆ Goal: Legislation will be introduced to provide children with self-incrimination protections from statements made during screening, assessment, evaluation, and treatment.
 - ◆ Responsible for point 24 from the MH/JJ Policy Statement.
- *Family Involvement*—Chair, Wendy Luckenbill, wluck@comcast.net
 - ◆ Goal: Convene a working conference of individuals involved with initiatives serving the behavioral health needs of youth involved in, or at risk of involvement in, the juvenile justice system.
 - ◆ Responsible for ensuring family involvement is considered in implementation of all bullet points of the MH/JJ Policy Statement.

If you would like information about the work of the MH/JJ State Group, contact Keith Snyder (ksnyder@state.pa.us) or Alan Tezak, (alantezak@comcast.net).

For additional information about the work of the MH/JJ TAI, and the Comprehensive Systems of Care Initiative (CSCI) that is being implemented in the model counties, contact Kim Godfrey (kim.godfrey@cjca.net) or Jennie Shufelt (jshufelt@prainc.com) from the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice (NCMHJJ).

Information Exchange: Resources, MfC Publications, and MfC-PA in the News

Protecting Youth from Self-Incrimination when Undergoing Screening, Assessment and Treatment within the Juvenile Justice System

Authors Lourdes Rosado and Riya Shah review state statutes to determine what protections currently exist in these situations. They conclude that the vast majority of states currently do not have protections that prevent statements made by youth from being used against them at the guilt and punishment phases of delinquency cases and criminal trials. The monograph is available for free download on JLC's website at: www.jlc.org/index.php/clicks/295. Hardcopies of the monograph are available for \$20. They can be purchased by printing an order form (<http://jlc.org/index.php/publications/orderform>) and mailing it to JLC.

Pennsylvania Progress: Aftercare Reality and Reform

The most recent issue of PCCD's *Pennsylvania Progress* series lays out the findings of the state aftercare specialists' 67-county aftercare assessment, discusses what it will take to bring aftercare practice into line with the goals of the *Joint Position Statement on Aftercare for Delinquent Youth*, and describes the work being done to make "comprehensive aftercare" a reality in Pennsylvania. It is downloadable at

http://modelsforchange.net/pdfs/Aftercare_Reality_and_Reform_07.pdf

Guidelines for Recording the Race and Ethnicity of Juveniles in Conjunction with Juvenile Delinquency Disposition Reporting to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

This booklet provides instruction and guidance to local juvenile courts and probation departments on racial coding of juveniles involved in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system in conjunction with reporting juvenile delinquency dispositions to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. There are compelling reasons for accurate coding, not the least of which is to ensure the fundamental fairness principle outlined in the mission of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. The report was authored by Mark Soler, Center for Children's Law and Policy; and Patricia Torbet and Hunter Hurst, Jr., National Center for Juvenile Justice. It can be accessed online at: http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us/jcjc/lib/jcjc/publications/cc1p001-race_booklet.pdf

Models for Change: Building Momentum for Juvenile Justice Reform

This policy brief describes the overall vision of Models for Change and discusses the issues being addressed in the four states. The report was authored by Jason Ziedenberg, Justice Policy Institute. The report can be downloaded at: http://www.modelsforchange.net/pdfs/JPI012-MFC_Report.pdf

Educational Aftercare & Reintegration Toolkit for Juvenile Justice Professionals

Youth who are adjudicated delinquent frequently encounter problems in obtaining appropriate education and special education services in placement as well as when they are released and reintegrated into their communities. This Toolkit provides the basic information and resources needed to help juvenile probation officers (JPOs) and other juvenile justice professionals overcome (or at least minimize) these problems. The toolkit was authored by Shari Mamas, Education Law Center. The report can be downloaded from: <http://www.elc-pa.org/pubs/downloads/english/juv-JPO%20Toolkit%2010-11-06.pdf>

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Please note: Many of the meetings listed in this section may be for an already identified cohort of participants. They are noted here so that stakeholders have a sense of what discussions are taking place. We will make a note of any meetings or trainings that are open to additional participants. If you would like to know more about these meetings or events, contact Autumn Dickman (adickman@jlc.org).

- February 6—Training on the *Educational Aftercare & Reintegration Toolkit for Juvenile Justice Professionals* in Berks County.
- February 7—Mental Health Coordinators Forum (Pittsburgh, PA)
 - Purpose: To provide additional support and information to the Mental Health Coordinators in the three mental health counties (Allegheny, Chester, and Erie).
- February 8-9—Aftercare All-Sites Meeting (Pittsburgh, PA)
 - Quarterly meeting of the teams from the model aftercare counties. The focus of this meeting will be to continue fleshing out the concept of a “single plan,” as discussed in the *Aftercare Joint Policy Statement*.
- February 15—Meeting of the Probation and Planning Sub-Committee of the Aftercare Working Group (Harrisburg, PA)
 - Purpose: To identify systemic barriers and make policy recommendations on assigned bullet points from the *Aftercare Joint Policy Statement*.
- February 23—First meeting of the Diversion Sub-Committee of the MH/JJ State Group (Harrisburg, PA)
 - Purpose: Identify additional members to invite to join the group, and work priorities for 2007. Contact Lourdes Rosado (Lrosado@jlc.org) for additional information if you are interested in participating on this sub-committee.
- Upcoming trainings on the *Educational Aftercare & Reintegration Toolkit for Juvenile Justice Professionals*
 - March 22 in Allentown, Lehigh County
 - April 4 in Monroeville, Allegheny County

Both of these trainings are through the Center for Juvenile Justice, Training & Research (CJJT&R). These trainings are open to anyone involved with juvenile justice or a related field. To access the Spring 2007 calendar, and for information on training locations, directions, and lodging, go to: www.jcjc.state.pa.us. Click on the "Training" tab on the left side, and then on "Spring 2007."

Models for Change: National News

- *The 1st Annual Models for Change Working Conference was held in Washington, DC on December 4-5, 2006*
Hosted by the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, this conference brought together grantees and other stakeholders from the four states that are part of the *Models for Change* initiative to share experiences and strategies for juvenile justice reform. For additional information and to view webcasts of the keynote speakers, check out: http://www.macfound.org/site/c.lkLXJ8MQKrH/b.2280837/k.C421/Models_for_Change_Conference.htm
- *Models for Change website launched!*
Check out www.modelsforchange.net for information on Models for Change in all four states.

Learn to Speak the Same Language!: Acronyms, Lingo, & Other System Unique References

It has become apparent that system stakeholders often use industry specific jargon and acronyms, and make references that are not always known to stakeholders from other systems. This is particularly true as the juvenile justice system tries to increase engagement with non-traditional partners (e.g. education). The lack of a common language makes cross-system collaboration even more difficult than it is already. To begin to bridge some of the language and system structure barriers, this section will be used to define system specific lingo. If there are terms that you are unclear about, or think someone in a different system may be confused by, please let Autumn Dickman know!

In the policy groups in all three targeted areas of improvement, stakeholders have been tasked with identifying systemic barriers to improving outcomes for delinquent youth and to recommend policy changes. Policy change has been broadly defined to include: legislative change, regulatory change, administrative change, and fiscal change. One way in which state agencies affect policy is through non-regulatory bulletins and circulars that provide interpretations of regulations and implementation guidance to localities. Each agency has different names for these documents, and they have different levels of authority. A description of one of the Department of Education's non-regulatory publications is below. Next month we will define non-regulatory publications from other state agencies.

- **Basic Education Circular (BEC)**—issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. A BEC is a non regulatory policy statement. The purpose is to set forth the department's policy or interpretation of a statute or regulation.

What Do You Think?

Each month we will ask a question. In the next months issue we will share some of the responses we receive to the question. If you have questions you would feedback on from other Models for Change stakeholders in Pennsylvania, or questions for us, please let us know!

Question 1: What is the biggest obstacle to diverting youths from the juvenile justice system, and what is your suggestion for overcoming it?

Please send questions, comments, and contributions to mfc-pa@jlc.org.