

# Respecting Differences

A Pennsylvania DMC Youth/ Law Enforcement Corporation Newsletter



Pittsburgh, Allegheny Co., PA—

On October 2, 2015, local youth engaged in a conversation with local police about stereotypes during the Allegheny Co. DMC Working Group’s facilitation of the PA DMC Youth/ Law Enforcement Curriculum© coordinated by Assistant Chief of Juvenile Probation, Kimberly Booth *(Read more on page 4)*

## A Pennsylvania Effort...

To eliminate the overrepresentation of youth of color in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system by advocating strategies for policy changes, education programs, funding and technical assistance at the local and state levels.



Autumn 2015  
www.padmcc.org

Funding for  
The Pennsylvania DMC Youth / Law Enforcement Corporation



## The Time Is Now:

Reauthorizing the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA)

*To protect children and youth in the juvenile and criminal justice system, to effectively address high-risk and delinquent behavior, and to improve community safety...*

### Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA)

Established in 1974, most recently reauthorized in 2002, and expired in 2007, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act is based on a federal-state partnership that children, youth, and families involved with the juvenile and criminal courts should be guarded by federal standards for care and custody,

while also upholding the interests of community safety and the prevention of victimization.

### OJJDP Established By JJJPA

The JJJPA also established the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). In order for the federal government to function as a responsive and responsible partner with all states under the JJJPA...

**It is critical that juvenile justice have a dedicated focus and a “home” within the federal government, distinct from a larger focus on criminal justice.**

## Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

Describes the higher rate of involvement of youth of color at a particular decision point in the juvenile justice system when compared with the previous decision point and when compared to the rate at which non-Hispanic White youth appear at the same decision points.

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## The Time Is Now:

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The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is the agency at the U.S. Department of Justice charged with fulfilling this role.

To be eligible for the funds provided under the JJDP, each state must comply with four core requirements/ protections.

### JJDP's Four Core Protections

1. **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO)**
2. **Adult Jail and Lock-up Removal (Jail Removal)**
3. **Sight and Sound Separation**
4. **Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)**



Above, OJJDP Senior Policy Advisor, Scott Pestrige, talks with Philadelphia youth about DMC

### Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO)

A status offender is a juvenile charged with or adjudicated for conduct that would not, under the law of the jurisdiction in which the offense was committed, be a crime if committed by an adult.

**The most common examples of status offenses are chronic or persistent truancy, running away, violating curfew laws, or possessing alcohol or tobacco.**

This JJDP requirement focuses on alternatives to placing juveniles into detention facilities for status offenses.

### Adult Jail & Lock-up Removal

This requirement focuses on removing juveniles from adult jails & detention facilities.



Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) Annual Conference: Washington D.C.—

Philadelphia Police Deputy Commissioner, Kevin Bethel (center), MIMIC Executive Director, Edwin Desamour, and Philadelphia youth present on the positive impact of the Pennsylvania DMC Youth/ Law Enforcement Curriculum® to ODDJP Administrator, Robert Listenbee, OJJDP Senior Policy Advisor, Scott Pestrige, and other juvenile justice professionals

### Sight and Sound Separation

This requirement ensures that accused and adjudicated delinquents, status offenders, and non-offending juveniles are not detained or confined in any institution where they may have contact with adult inmates.

### Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

This requirement focuses on reducing the higher rate of involvement of youth of color at a particular decision point in the juvenile justice system when compared with the

previous decision point and when compared to the rate at which non-Hispanic white youth appear at the same decision points.

### The Time is Now to Reauthorize the JJDP

**Prevent and Reduce Delinquency: Advances in adolescent brain science demonstrate that children and youth are different from adults and that they should be held accountable in different ways.**

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## A Word from the Board President:

**Be Encouraged!**

By: George D. Mosee, Jr., Esq.

The Pennsylvania DMC Youth/ Law Enforcement Corporation, President

Philadelphia Deputy District Attorney, Juvenile Division

**Dear Readers,**

Sometimes it seems that if there were no bad news there would be no news.

It's worse than the sentiment expressed by saying "the squeaky wheel gets the oil" because we usually only hear about broken wheels. The Daily Downer Newspaper and the Evening Naysayer News...

...can leave us feeling that there is no hope and that our work is in vain. It also makes us susceptible to perceptions birthed by stereotypical portrayals of different groups. I believe that has especially been the case with society's perceptions of young people and the police.

Their portrayal has been pretty discouraging. Often, a single negative act by one member of a group colors or taints the image of the entire group.

When our DMC Forum facilitators ask their audiences to define the word stereotype, the definition often includes this premise.

The reality is that when a single negative act gets all the attention, it overshadows the many positive actions attributable to other members of the same group.

These stereotypical perceptions easily persist when there is little or no interaction with the group and when reports about them emphasize bad news.

Pennsylvanians are learning an important lesson through the efforts of our DMC coalitions.



Philadelphia Police Academy, Philadelphia, PA—

ADA George Mosee, Jr. (on stage), speaks to a class of 75 Philadelphia Police Recruits and 40 youth about improving the relationship between police & young minorities on the street through mutual understanding and respect

People should be understood based on who they are and not what they are.

By bringing young people together with law enforcement, both groups are learning "who" and not just "what" the members of the other group are. The newspaper headline and radio sound bite are no longer the only frame of reference.

Law enforcement officers are learning that the overwhelming majority of young people have tremendous potential- and...

that young people make great decisions and only want to be respected.

Young people learn that law enforcement officers really care about their communities.

In addition to running towards events from which the rest of us are running away, officers want to give back to the neighborhoods they serve.

Wouldn't it be great if these sentiments were deemed newsworthy?

Although our efforts concentrate on youth and law enforcement, taking the time to better understand the "who" over the "what" can help all of us have improved relationships.

It's a simple approach, but it works.

There is plenty of good news so join us and have a good reason to be encouraged.

Best Wishes,

*George*



## Allegheny Co. DMC Working Group

# Respecting Differences:

### Engaging Young People and Officers in a Conversation about DMC

#### **Pittsburgh, Allegheny Co., PA—**

On 02 October, the Allegheny Co. DMC Working Group hosted an intimate, small-scale PA DMC Youth/ Law Curriculum © training between members of the Pittsburgh Police Department, Allegheny Co. Juvenile Probation Dept., and local Pittsburgh youth.

The Youth/ Law Enforcement Panel began with the following words by the panel moderator, Ted Johnson, Chief at U.S. Pretrial and Probation in Pittsburgh, **directed to the young people:**

**“You (young people), learning how to be safe and them (police officers), showing you how to be safe...**

**And you telling them how you’re thinking and other youth are thinking so they can be safe. So really the goal of what we’re doing is that everybody goes home safe.**

**Let’s teach the officers that grew up in Butler and Mercer Counties how to understand and interact with someone that comes from an urban setting. “**

The discussion quickly became impassioned, engaging, and thought-provoking with young people and law enforcement openly and respectfully sharing their points of view. Regardless of the opinions that were shared, Mr. Johnson kept the conversation even-handed and not weighted more for either side.



One young man expressed a desire for officers to show care and restraint when engaging young people on the streets.

**They (officers) don’t treat us equal, for real... just because they have a badge and a gun, it doesn’t make them different.**

For one female officer it was about the fear and frustration of policing certain areas of the city:

**If you’re patrolling the street they (youth) always have something smart to say... I’ll be driving by and young kids will be making gun signs with their hands and pointing them at me... I’m not just a cop, I’m also a person.**



Both groups acknowledged the distrust that exists between law enforcement and communities of color; some of this being the result of the legacy racial discrimination in this country. As one officer pointed out:

**How do we stop that? If there are officers in the car policing my mom’s community, I don’t want them to be making racial jokes; I want them to have more understanding.**

Another law enforcement officer pointed out the **role that media plays:** “In psychology, they call it ‘**overgeneralizing**’ when you have one person mess up and an entire group is judged... I can relate to that as a Black Male because sometimes you get a Black Male that does something and then all Black People are viewed as criminals...”

**I think that is the gist of what we are doing here today... One person does not mess up a whole group- all Black People don’t rob, all Black People aren’t criminals.”**



Both sides acknowledged that these are real issues and not just problems that communities of color are making up. This point was made most clear when a young man stated:

**There are times when someone does get killed for no reason... like my brother. He just got killed for no reason because he was there at the wrong place at the wrong time... And it just happens.**

While the conversation took on a somber and very real turn for many people in the room—youth and adults, alike, collectively the group realized the importance of lifting these issues up in order to try to understand them and to figure out how to make more progress...

So that at the very least, young people and officers can each return home at the end of the day, the same way they left—**safely.**

## Susquehanna Township DMC Working Group

**Creatively Expanding the Scope:****Finding Ways to Engage High School Students with Law Enforcement Officers****Susquehanna Twp., Dauphin Co., PA—**

The Susquehanna Township DMC Working Group has traditionally worked with 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in Dauphin Co., but on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 that scope expanded to include a focus on the relationship between 10<sup>th</sup> grade students and the Susquehanna Township Police Department.

The DMC Working Group and Susquehanna Township Police Department hosted Youth/Law Enforcement Forum at the Carlisle Army War Barracks in Carlisle, PA. Eighty-eight (88) high school students participated in the forum along with ten (10) police officers.



**Above, Susquehanna Twp. Police Dept. Officers** act out a safe stop as 10<sup>th</sup> grade students look on

**“This shows that you guys (police officers) are at least making an effort, I’m glad we were able to come today.”**

**-Susquehanna Township High School Student**

The forum began with a presentation from juvenile justice motivational speaker and Pittsburgh native, Mr. Sean McCaskill, M.A., who is highly involved with youth initiatives in western Pennsylvania. **The presentation theme was: Choices & Decision-Making**

The presentation included personal reflections and explanations on decision-making, positive and negative relationships with police, and how both positive and negative choices in our lives affect our future.



**Carlisle Army War Barracks, Carlisle, PA—**

**YOLO: You Only Live Once. Make It Count.**

Students watch as fellow classmate “drives” with simulator glasses on and experiences what could happen if texting, under the influence, or distracted by friends while driving

**While the spirit of traditional DMC forums was used to plan and prepare for the event, the Susquehanna Township DMC Working Group opted for a unique set-up to engage the students.**

The Working Group decided to focus on the DMC based on current events. The use of a hands-on model allowed the students to interactively see and experience the perspective of an officer. Students were



divided into smaller groups of 20 for the breakout sessions.

**The Sessions Included:**

1. SAAD (PA DUI association) (Felicity Erni) and Sgt. Zuvich, a driving instructor from Dauphin County Technical School, adjunct Professor at Penn State- Harrisburg, and police officer at Lower Paxton Twp. Police
  - This presentation discussed the why the rules of the road & safety are everyone’s responsibility, as well as, the consequences of Driving under the Influence.
  - Students interacted with the facilitators and participated in the scenario.
2. A Driving Simulator from Drive Square was set up with an actual vehicle that had

**“This event wasn’t what I was expecting... I was impressed. The students were really respectful and I learned a lot (about interacting with youth).”**

**-Susquehanna Twp. Police Officer**

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## Susquehanna Twp.

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visual devices (glasses) with an exterior monitor where all students could see an actual driving course.

- Nearly all of the students participated in the simulation as drivers or passengers.
  - Spectators were offered the opportunity to critique and observe; discussions were held about possible scenarios and several real experiences.
3. Officers facilitated status offense scenarios through role play by portraying “officers” and “teen actors” to show circumstances where officers could stop, search, detain, or question a teen for crimes (i.e. curfew, underage drinking, etc)



Susquehanna Township DMC Youth & Law Enforcement Panel moderated by guest speaker, Sean McCaskill

- Students observed scripted scenarios and were then allowed to role play with officers taking turns as “officers” and “teens”

**“The forum experience was very valuable for both officers and our youth- we were pleased with the fact that the students appreciated our efforts while learning more about DMC.**

- Lt. Francia D. Doñe  
Susquehanna Township Police

4. Officers facilitated traffic stop scenarios where two traffic stop examples were explained and demonstrated by officers as “driving actors”

- Officers explained reasons why one could be stopped by the police and a “good stop & bad stop” were demonstrated and explained.
- Officers also explained what to do when you are stopped by the police, do’s and don’ts and safety.

The final portion of the forum was the post-lunch, panel discussion between youth & law enforcement, which was moderated Mr. McCaskill and proved to be interactive and respectful for all participants.

**What can police do to improve relationships with the community?**

**“I wish we could have more of these DMC forums.”**

-Susquehanna Township  
High School Student

## Lancaster Co. Working Group

# Teaching Parents, Community, and Schools about DMC

### Lancaster Co., PA—

On October 15, 2015 members of the Lancaster DMC Working Group presented an overview of DMC at a community enrichment event known as a Parent Academy, hosted by the School District of Lancaster (SDoL).

Parent Academy sessions, held at a local high school, are informational and skill building seminars offered to the public on topics ranging from college prep to locating appropriate social services.

According to Sherry Lupton, a Supervisor at Lancaster County’s Office of Juvenile Probation, the opportunity to present at SDoL’s Parent

Academy was the result of the constant search for ways to include parents in activities of Lancaster’s DMC Working Group

**Lupton says that the Working Group rarely gets the chance to interact with nearly two dozen parents at once like it does in Parent Academy sessions.**

Among the highlights of the session were:

- A focus group discussion was conducted to determine attitudes regarding youth-police interactions and DMC concepts in general.

- The discussion was led by student-facilitators from Millersville University, which has been a partner and major supporter of the Working Group since 2007.

- Recommendations were made by parents to conduct ongoing forums between police and community members in order to reduce DMC problems while supporting law enforcement efforts to reduce crime.

- An overwhelming majority of the approx. 20 parents present expressed a willingness to volunteer for DMC reduction activities such as Youth Aid Panels, Police/ Parent partnerships, amongst other activities.

## T r a u m a I n f o r m e d C a r e :

**When Previously Traumatized Youth and Officers Interact**By: **Rich Baccare, MSS, LSW**

Healing Hurt People Program, Dept. of Emergency Medicine

Drexel University

Community Intervention Specialist

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children

How does the young person know if that officer will use their authority and force in a permanently harmful way, especially when experience teaches them it's a real possibility?

"Man, I hate cops!" said Wade\*, a young-looking, 17 year-old, African American male, who often sparked lively discussions among his peers during S.E.L.F. © Support Group [Safety, cope with Emotions, process Loss and Letting Go, and talk about the Future) session.

He had been attending services for six months with Healing Hurt People (HHP), a hospital-based, violence intervention program where I work. Where we focus on a trauma-informed framework

Wade had emerged as a leader in the support group of peers who had all experienced some form of community violence.

He also was able to help the other boys in group connect their past traumatic experiences to their own emotional triggers that influenced their reactions in the present moment.

A conversation about handling interactions with police naturally emerged. "Been that way since I was 8 years old, man... when that cop came up to my girlfriend, I flipped out."



Wade was speaking about when police were called to help his girlfriend, and yet when they arrived, he described instantly feeling on edge and powerless.

What emerged as he continued talking was not that Wade "hates cops," but that he had a hair trigger and was ready to protect himself even when no actual threats were made towards him.

Couple this with other issues, such as institutional racism and internalized prejudices that have people evaluating children of color as older, more dangerous, or more culpable than their white counterparts (Goff et al, 2014), and it is clear that keeping inner-city communities safe is a complicated issue that must be tackled with diverse and holistic approaches.

An important part of Wade's story is that he was injured in the past, at times by police. However, before learning about trauma he did not connect these experiences with his current feelings and reactions.

Several of the other group members, all adolescent young men of color from inner-city Philadelphia, had been discussing these "fight or flight" responses for weeks.



All of the young men had experienced some type of community violence in the past...

Hearing gunshots frequently in their neighborhood, seeing kids jumped regularly at school, being assaulted themselves walking home, or being shot on a friend's porch.

After these cumulative events, they all were experiencing some form of traumatic response.

"I'm always 'on go' - everyone is," another younger boy added. "I mean, anything can happen anytime. You have to be ready."

"Yeah, when I'm walking I look down at my shoes from my hood. You can see if someone's coming up behind you," Wade added.

They all seemed to agree that hypervigilance, the sense of always being on the look-out for possible danger, was an important survival mechanism.

One by one, they added to the list: feeling tense, "snapping" easily, their heart

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How does the officer know that a routine call won't devolve into gun violence?

At the end of the day, both sides just want to go home to their families safely.

## Trauma Informed...

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pounding perceiving threats in "minor" slights, difficulty sleeping or concentrating due to intrusive thoughts of past violent experiences, waking up middle of the night with nightmares.

They could identify with many of the symptoms listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders...

**But the label "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder" somehow did not fit. For most of them there was nothing "post" about their unsafe conditions.**

What they did agree on was this was a common human response that anyone could experience when persistently feeling in danger.

The police discussion then continued. Eli, an introspective and thoughtful 15 year old, challenged his peers...

**"Yeah, but, don't you think cops get scared sometimes? They don't know what you're doing or what you have on you. They're human too. Maybe they feel the same way."**

In my time with HHP, there have been several opportunities to attend trainings with police regarding trauma. What I have seen is that Eli had a point. During a training at the Police Academy to provide basic trauma education, one of the HHP trainers slammed his hand against a wall loudly. Almost everyone in the room immediately jumped.

"See? That's hyper-arousal. Your body is primed to be ready for danger. That jumpiness can be exaggerated due to witnessing threatening experiences...it's a part of trauma. How many of you may have even started going for your gun?" Several of the officers sheepishly raised their hands.

The training discussed the same responses that the kids talked about in group, and unsurprisingly, some of the officers felt the same way.

**"I never realized it, but yeah I go through that. I feel irritable. I'm on the look-out. I want to keep myself safe, my family safe. No one talks about it, but it affects us. You learn to expect the worst." The officer seemed pensive, as if thinking over past experiences.**

Others discussed feeling disconnected from family, friends, and even colleagues who they fear may not understand.

**Like the youth the officers also did not identify with the label "PTSD", but could resonate with trauma symptoms related to the stress of navigating a persistently dangerous environment.**

**One officer related the discussion to working in the community:**

"I mean, you stop someone. Say they pull a gun on you? That stays with you. The next person you interact with, that last stop stays in your head. You might pull out your weapon more easily - you might be more conservative in your actions. Suppose they do have a gun? It's not right, but what are you supposed to do?"

**When previously traumatized people interact, the risk of situations being perceived as dangerous and escalating is real. One of the pillars of trauma is that it disconnects: it creates a lack of trust. Everything is a potential threat, and mistakes can be fatal.**



**Like the one police officer asked, what are we supposed to do?**

HHP has found that giving people language to identify their traumatic experiences, their responses, and how this affects their safety in the present is a useful tool in understanding how to de-escalate potentially violent situations.

Trauma-informed care shifts the conversation from "what's wrong with you?" (being "bad" or "sick") to "what happened to you?" or being "injured". (Foderaro, J. 1986) Having both individuals and institutions take responsibility while having a safe space to work through this helps to ensure everyone moves forward.

**During DMC Youth/ Law Enforcement Forums, youth and officers ask each other hard questions and role play various scenarios.**

**What often results is an understanding that...**

**Communication and trust are essential to helping children and officers develop strategies to avoid escalating situations out of fear stemming from past adverse experiences.**

Understanding trauma is one of the first steps to understanding how some of these dynamics play out in our communities. And with this understanding of our own emotional triggers, we may be less likely to squeeze the real trigger.

## Philadelphia DMC Working Group

**Why I Became Involved with DMC**

By: SEPTA Police Deputy Chief (ret.), David Scott

*Philadelphia, Philadelphia Co., PA—*

Nearly a decade ago, while serving in the capacity of Deputy Chief of Police for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), the late Philadelphia Police Officer, Ms. Kathryn M. Battle, invited me to the first DMC Minority Youth/ Law Enforcement Forum that was held in July 2003. I accepted the invitation...

...Because disparities in the treatment of minority youth, particularly at the point of first contact with police and during arrest have resulted in a disproportionate number being sent to secure facilities.

Each school day, approximately 55,000 students (mostly youth of color) inundate SEPTA, the fifth largest overall transit system in the U.S. that encompasses 2,200 square miles in parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. The largest ethnicity of SEPTA riders are African-Americans (57%).



Above, SEPTA Police Deputy Chief (ret.) and DMC Corporation Board Member, David Scott

In order to facilitate reducing negative contacts between transit police officers and minority youth, it was important for me to become involved with the Philadelphia DMC Working Group.

**“As an African-American and Transit Police Administrator, this was extremely important and has also impacted me both personally and professionally.”**



Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Kensington section of Philadelphia, PA.—

David Scott (left) and fellow SEPTA police officer, James Johnson, engage in a conversation with a Hispanic young man youth and law enforcement relations on the street

Transit police spend the majority of their time on foot beats resulting in continuous and direct contact with the public.

More importantly, since the SEPTA Police Department is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest in Pennsylvania, it was crucial that transit police officers be a part of this innovative DMC program.

Furthermore, since transit police often patrol in low income, urban neighborhoods, it was critical to avoid using policies and practices that contribute to racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.

It is important to help all police officers, regardless of jurisdiction, to become aware that their own behaviors, stereo-types and implicit biases can result in negative contacts with minority youth, particularly African-American and Latino & Hispanic youth.

Conversely, it is beneficial that minority youth have a better understanding of how their behavior can influence the outcome of an encounter with police.

## Philadelphia DMC Working Group

**Why I Became Involved with DMC**

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It has been a rewarding experience to be part of the Pennsylvania DMC Youth-Law Enforcement Corporation and to collaborate with so many dedicated individuals, organizations and agencies. To witness how this program has evolved and grown has been very gratifying.

**On a personal note, my DMC involvement allowed me to meet my ancestors in Africa.**

In June 2011, George Mosee, Jr., Deputy District Attorney and I gave a presentation with the Mayor's Commission on African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs in collaboration with the Pennsylvania DMC Youth-Law Enforcement Corporation to the African Cultural Alliance of North America (ACANA) in southwest Philadelphia.

**A DNA test revealed I share ancestry with the Kpelle people, the largest ethnic group in Liberia. Southwest Philadelphia has one of the largest Liberian communities in the United States consisting of some 15,000 or more people.**

To my delight, I was able to meet several Liberians at the meeting who convinced me to travel to Liberia. There I met the President, Vice President and other dignitaries. However, I was also able to meet and "communion" with the Kpelle people.

**Since retirement, I've served as a contractor both nationally and internationally regarding racial profiling, the killing of a young unarmed African-American male by a white police officer, and as an instructor for the Department of State, Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program.**



*Above, SEPTA Police Deputy Chief (ret.), David Scott, and son, Joshua Scott, display their Good Neighbor Awards that they respectively received from the Northwest Community Coalition for Youth (NCCY) for their commitments to positively impacting the lives of young people.*

However, one of the highlights of my career was on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 when:

**Robert Listenbee, Rhonda McKitten, and I testified before the Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee regarding Philadelphia's prevention and diversion programs, as well as, the PA DMC Youth/Law Enforcement Curriculum ©, which was recognized as a "best practice".**

Since that time, because of the efforts of many, this initiative has grown tremendously and is recognized in many parts of the country. So as we move forward, our dedication to this problem must be unwavering.

**I'm honored to be a part of this organization again and look forward to working and collaborating with all those who advocate change.**

**Nevertheless, we still have a lot of work to do.**

On 14 July 2015, I attended the NAACP Conference in Philadelphia where President Obama eloquently stated:

**"... By just about every measure, the life chances for black and Hispanic youth still lag far behind those of their white peers.**

**Our kids, America's children, so often are isolated, without hope, less likely to graduate from high school, less likely to earn a college degree, less likely to be employed, less likely to have health insurance, less likely to own a home.**

**Any system that allows us to turn a blind-eye to hopelessness and despair, that's not a justice system, that's an injustice system....The United States is home to 5 percent of the world's population, but 25 percent of the world's prisoners. Think about that.**

**Our incarceration rate is four times higher than China's. We keep more people behind bars than the top 35 European countries combined."**

# The Time Is Now: Reauthorizing the JJDP A

## A History of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

Children, youth, and families involved in juvenile and criminal courts **should be guarded by federal standards** for care and custody

"Placement in locked detention significantly increases the odds that youth will be found delinquent and committed to corrections facilities and can seriously damage their prospects for future success."

The Annie E. Casey Foundation begins a pilot program: Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) 1992

**2013: Adolescent Brain** Juvenile Justice Reform Committee recommends a developmental approach to juvenile justice based on scientific evidence about adolescent development

**1964: Gerald Gault**  
15-year old taken into custody after neighbor's complaint of inappropriate phone call; parents not notified. Gault is found guilty without an attorney, sworn witness, or court transcript; ordered to be confined to the State Industrial School until 21

**1974: JJDP A Created**  
Congress passes the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A)

The federal government recognized that youth of color were treated differently by the justice system.

"Youth facilities are overcrowded and deplorable"

**1992: DMC made Core Requirement**  
Congress amends JJDP A again- DMC is made a "core requirement".

States required to collect/ track data and develop/ implement plans to reduce DMC or government could withhold 25% of state's JJDP A funding

**2015: Overdue for Reauthorization**  
The JJDP A has **not been reauthorized since 2002.**

Despite JJDP A legislation, youth of color continue to be arrested, charged, and incarcerated more than white youth for similar conduct, and are overrepresented at every decision-making point.

1964

1984

2004

1974

1994

2015

**Late 1980's: Tough on Crime**

Public perceive that juvenile crime is on the rise and that the system is too lenient- many states pass punitive laws, including mandatory sentences.

**2001: Two-thirds of States** (studied) demonstrated a race effect at some stage of the process that resulted in poorer outcomes for youth of color.

**1967: In re Gault**  
U.S. Supreme Court landmark decision for children's rights: Juveniles accused of crimes in a delinquency proceeding **must be afforded many of the same due process rights as adults.**

"The issue of differential criminal and juvenile justice rates for minorities is a growing problem... Minority youth are being incarcerated in public correctional facilities at a rate 3 to 4 times that of whites."

**1988: DMC is born**  
Congress amends JJDP A to include Disproportionate Minority **Confinement (DMC)**  
This required states JJDP A funding to collect and track data on DMC.

**2001: W. Haywood Burns Institute** founded sparking the need for data collection & reform

**2002: DMC Expands Purpose**  
Congress amends JJDP A to include Disproportionate Minority **Contact (DMC)**  
States must address the overrepresentation of youth of color **at each key stage of the juvenile justice process.**

**2004: The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation** invest and create **Models for Change**

"Every young person should have the opportunity to grow up with a good education, get a job, and participate in their community."

**2011: Youth of Color**  
-45% of youth in U.S. (under 21)  
-Accounted for 71% of youth held in detention (nationwide)  
-Accounted for 66% of youth committed to juvenile facilities

## The Time Is Now:

(Cont. from Page 2)

### Reauthorizing the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

The U.S. Supreme Court has also affirmed the differences between youth and adults in recent decisions<sup>1</sup>. The JJDA must be strengthened to further encourage states to invest in evidence and research-based programs proven effective.

### The JJDA must be strengthened to reflect contemporary needs and opportunities to assist youth.

#### Strengthen safeguards:

Youth incarcerated in juvenile facilities are at serious risk of physical and emotional injury. Youth of color receive disparate treatment at every point along the juvenile justice continuum.

### Female youth are the fastest growing population in juvenile justice systems that are not designed to effectively respond to their needs. Other special populations, such as LGBTQ<sup>2</sup> youth and youth with mental health needs, are at risk of harm in the juvenile justice system.



#### Build safe communities:

By preventing and reducing delinquency, the JJDA invests in communities. The JJDA plays a critical role in public safety and should reflect the most current knowledge about what works and what does not work to prevent and reduce delinquency and keep communities safe.

### Introduction of a Bipartisan Bill S.B. 1169

April 30 2015, Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) introduced a bipartisan bill, S.B. 1169, renewing their commitment to reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act/ JJDA.

### The bill strengthens the core protections that the JJDA affords to juvenile system-involved youth.

The existing JJDA, for example, prohibits the incarceration of children who engage in non-criminal "status offense" behaviors; however, an exception is granted when a child is found in violation of a valid court order.

In 2012 alone, this exception was used to incarcerate children more than 7,000 times nationwide. S.B. 1169 requires states to phase out their usage of this exception over three years. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention may choose to grant states one-year hardship extensions after that time.

#### References:

1. Roper v. Simmons, 543 U.S. 551 (2005);
2. Graham v. Florida, 130 S.Ct. 2011 (2010); J.D.B. v. North Carolina, 131 S.Ct. 2394 (2011); Miller v. Alabama, 132 S.Ct. 2455 (2012).



### S.B. 1169 also:

- Strengthens the DMC core requirement by requiring that states consider both race and ethnicity when addressing Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC).
- Provides funding for training and technical help to come into compliance with the Act.
- Requires states to invest in evidence-based programming.
- Includes provisions that recognize the special needs of girls.
- Includes provisions promoting trauma-informed care.

The JJDA was last reauthorized in 2002 and expired in 2007.

You can find the following resources related to the reauthorization of the JJDA here:

[http://juvjustice.org/sites/default/files/ckfinder/files/ALB15743-1\(1\).pdf](http://juvjustice.org/sites/default/files/ckfinder/files/ALB15743-1(1).pdf)



## The Pennsylvania Juvenile Collateral Consequences Checklist

Available Now

To provide:

**Attorneys, Judges, Juvenile Justice Professionals, Youth & Their Families**

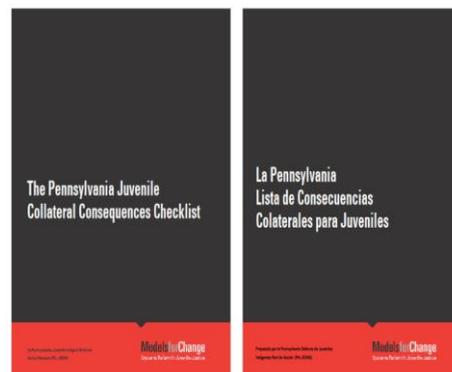
With the most up to date information available on the short term and long term consequences of juvenile adjudications of delinquency.

Please Visit: <http://jdapa.info/resources/training-materials/> for more information

Or

<http://padmc.org/the-pa-juvenile-collateral-consequences-checklist/>

Hard copy booklets in English and Spanish are available by contacting DMC Coordinator, José Loya.



## Montgomery Co. Working Group

## How Our Group Became Part of the DMC Movement

**Montgomery Co., PA—**

In January 2015, Pennsylvania's Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) awarded a two-year grant to the Montgomery Co. Public Defender Office to help develop a county-wide DMC Working Group and create four Youth/Law Enforcement Forums.

**One of the most crucial components of launching this initiative involved information sharing and creating partnerships with key juvenile justice stakeholders.**



We were fortunate to have the District Attorney join as a partner and have received incredible support from the Office of Children and Youth, Juvenile Probation, Youth Center, Judges, and Police Chiefs.

Next, we presented to youth service providers, community organizations, and religious leaders in a series of informational meetings. The Montgomery Co. Children's Roundtable invited us to present this project at their June meeting, after which a number of youth service providers asked to join the working group.

**Our largest community-based informational meeting drew 50 attendees.**

With overwhelming support for our purpose and mission, we developed an incredibly diverse and enthusiastic Working Group consisting of more than 60 juvenile justice stakeholders, community activists, youth service providers, and law enforcement chiefs & officers.

In August 2015, The PA DMC Youth/Law Enforcement Corporation conducted a two-day Train-the-Trainers session on the PA DMC Youth/ Law Enforcement Curriculum® for 30 of our members, which was generously hosted by the Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice Department at Arcadia University.

**The first forum will be held on November 17 at Norristown's PAL Center; we anticipate more than 70 youth and police officers will participate. Our hope is to engage these two groups in dialogue that will potentially lead to less volatile interactions on the street.**



**Here are some small tips that were critical to our early success:**

- Establishing a strong working relationship with The Pennsylvania DMC Youth/ Law Enforcement Corporation in order to receive technical assistance and consultation from the start;
- Early leadership engagement, buy in from high ranking officials, and partnerships;
- Time spent in communities, meeting with concerned citizens, religious leaders, police officers and justice stakeholders; casting a wide net of members to involve throughout the process;
- Not letting more than one month pass without an updated email, or scheduled next meeting;
- The genuine care and concern that Montgomery Co. Working Group members have for both the youth in the community and the safety of law enforcement officers.

## Things to Know About Young People

### Adolescent Development

**Strong Moral Code:**

Their moral code is concrete, based on loyalty and a sense of fairness; no shades of grey

**Act Impulsively:**

They act before they think because their emotional brain is more active and their reasoning is less developed

**Feel Invulnerable:**

This belief can lead young people to take extreme risks

**Need Praise:**

They respond to praise because they are seeking acceptance and recognition; praise can be a powerful tool



## DMC Efforts throughout the Commonwealth

## Upcoming Events

**Allegheny Working Group:****On-Going Activities:**

Training will involve various police departments within Allegheny County and minority adjudicated youth. In addition to the panel discussion, police and youth will breakout into small work groups, ending the day with a role playing exercise.

**December 2015**

Training will involve City of Pittsburgh Police Cadets and minority youth. The day will consist of a panel discussion, small workgroup sessions and role plays.

**Lancaster Working Group:****On-Going Activities:****Mini Youth & Law Enforcement Forum**

-Columbia High School, Columbia, PA:

A DMC forum will be hosted between Columbia High School students, Borough DMC-trained Police Officers, Juvenile Probation Officers in a smaller school setting.

The Working Group will also continue their Faith-Based partnership with Pastor Gerald Simmons of the Faith Tabernacle Church, as they work together to reduce the number of Lancaster City's male youth from entering the juvenile justice system.

**Philadelphia Working Group:****On-Going Activities:****Youth & Law Enforcement Training**

-Philadelphia Police Academy



The Working Group will continue to conduct trainings at the Philadelphia Police Academy with police recruits regarding recognizing the cultural and developmental differences between adolescent and adult behavior and improving relationships between youth and law enforcement on the street.

Local Philadelphia youth will be invited to participate in a Youth-Law Enforcement panel discussion with local law enforcement which will be led by Philadelphia Deputy District Attorney, George Mosee, Jr. Small-group breakout sessions will follow between youth, recruits, and experienced officers to discuss the relationship and challenges that youth and law enforcement face.



The Working Group will sponsor a lunch where recruits, officers, and youth will have the chance to eat together and connect one-on-one.

**Susquehanna Working Group:****On-Going Activities:**

The Susquehanna Township DMC Working Group will continue to provide opportunities for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade middle school students from the Susquehanna Township Middle School to learn more about DMC (Disproportionate Minority Contact) in the juvenile justice system via DMC Youth/ Law Enforcement forums with local law enforcement officers.

**Montgomery Working Group:****17 November 2015****Youth & Law Enforcement Forum**

-Norristown PAL Center:

The Working Group will be hosting their first DMC Youth/ Law Enforcement forum with local law enforcement officers and youth in the Norristown area.

Respecting  
Differences:

A

Pennsylvania  
DMC Youth-Law  
Enforcement  
Newsletter

The Pennsylvania DMC  
Youth/ Law Enforcement  
Corporation  
1441 Sansom Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(267) 765-6347

[www.padmc.org](http://www.padmc.org)

*Creating DMC Resources:*

The  
 Pennsylvania DMC Youth / Law Enforcement  
 Corporation

[www.padmcc.org](http://www.padmcc.org)

Online resources for **youth, families, law enforcement officers,** and **juvenile justice professionals.**

My Site Reader Follow

PENNSYLVANIA DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT DMC YOUTH/LAW ENFORCEMENT CORPORATION

To eliminate the overrepresentation of youth of color in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system by advocating strategies for policy changes, education programs, funding and technical assistance at the local and state levels

HOME / WHAT IS DMC? / WHO WE ARE / SERVICES & TRAINING / RESOURCES / EVENTS / CONTACT

**What is DMC?**

**Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC):**

Describes the higher rate of involvement of youth of color at a particular decision point in the juvenile justice system with the previous decision point.

[padmcc.org/for-youth-and-community-members/](http://padmcc.org/for-youth-and-community-members/)

FOR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

HOW TO REPORT POLICE MISCONDUCT

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU GET ARRESTED?

THE PA JUVENILE COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES CHECKLIST

JUVENILE RECORD EXPUNGEMENT

ACLU-PA SCHOOL RESOURCES

Efforts for **reducing DMC** at the **various points of contact** by creating **resources more responsive** to the **needs of all system involved youth** across the **Commonwealth.**

## The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Disproportionate Minority Contact / DMC State Subcommittee:

### Chair:

Mr. Daniel P. Elby

### Subcommittee Members:

Mr. Lonnie S. Barnes	Mr. Stephen Bishop	Ms. Kimberly Booth	Ms. Linda Hicks
Ms. Sherry Lupton	Ms. Rhonda McKitten, Esq.	Ms. Maritza Robert, Ph.D.	Ms. Arlene Prentice
Mr. James Randolph	Ms. Charla Plaines	Ms. Patricia Russell	Chief Keith Sadler
	Ms. Yvonne Stroman	Ms. Vanessa Williams-Cain	

## The Pennsylvania DMC Youth/Law Enforcement Corporation Board Members:

### Board Members:

Mr. George Mosee, Jr., Esq. (President), Ms. Rhonda McKitten, Esq. (Vice President),  
Staff Inspector, Paris Washington (Treasurer), Ms. Sherry Lupton (Secretary), Deputy Commissioner, Kevin Bethel  
Dr. Damone Jones, Sr. Deputy Chief (ret.), David Scott Mr. Edwin Desamour Ms. Kimberly Booth Ms. Linda Hicks  
Mr. James Randolph Ms. Vanessa Williams-Cain Ms. Patricia Russell Mr. Daniel P. Elby

## For More Information and Details About DMC Involvement Please Contact:

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