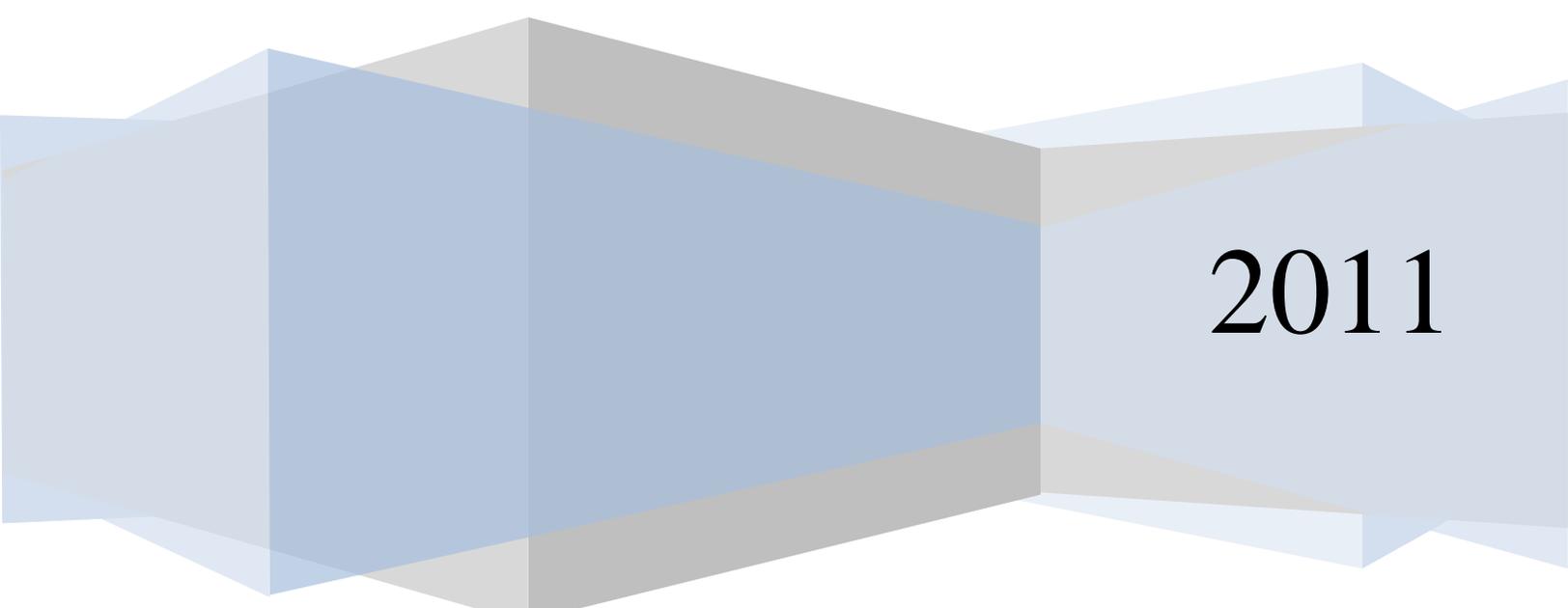


Ohio Department of Youth Services

Disproportionate Minority Contact Report
Ohio's Efforts to Reduce Disparity in the
Juvenile Justice System



2011

Ohio's Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Initiative

Background

This year marks the fourth anniversary of the Department of Youth Services (DYS) facilitation of a statewide initiative to reduce the disproportionate number of minority youth who have contact with the justice system. Since August 2007, DYS has worked with juvenile courts in Ohio's 14 counties with the largest minority populations to develop strategies to reduce the number of minority youth who have contact with the system. The counties participating in the DMC Initiative include Allen, Butler, Clark, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, Richland, Stark, Summit and Trumbull. Officials from each juvenile court committed to be a part of the process and have continued to partner in the process.

In the first two years of the DMC Initiative, DYS contracted with The Ohio State University, Center for Learning Excellence (CLEX) to provide training and technical assistance to county participants. DYS provided county partners with state funding to conduct local assessments to help identify causes of disparity. On January 1, 2009, programs funded as part of a DMC reduction strategy began working in targeted communities to reduce DMC. Initially, 21 programs were selected to provide services for African-American youth. In 2010, three additional programs were funded through the use of discretionary funding, which increased the number of community partners participating in the DMC Initiative.

DMC Reduction Strategies and Program Implementation

Since 2003, DYS has measured disparity in the state and has tracked the 14 counties specifically since 2006. Data has consistently shown the greatest disparity to be at the "Arrest, Referral, Commitment and Transferred" decision points. In FY 2011, DYS funded programs for a third year to address disparity in the 14 counties. Juvenile courts and community programs all targeted African-American youth involved in the system or at greatest risk of becoming involved in the system. The following summarizes the programs that were funded and accomplishments in FY 2011.

Allen County Big Brothers Big Sisters DMC 45804 Initiative

Allen County Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) served 78 African-American youth in its school-based mentoring program. These youth were ages 6 to 14, in grades 1st through 8th and were either performing academically below grade level, habitually truant or habitually disobedient (as defined by school policy). Of those 78 students, 71 were matched in mentoring relationships. At the end of the 2010/2011 academic year, 51 of the 71 matched youth were still active in the program. Outcome data shows that 64.1 percent of these youth improved their academic performance.

Allen County Juvenile Court 2nd Chance Intervention

The Allen County DMC Committee supported the Safe Neighborhood Coordinator's position within the city schools to provide guidance and technical assistance to the *OLWEUS Bullying Prevention* program. The goal of the program was to reduce the number of referrals to juvenile court by reducing incidences of bullying and other disruptive behaviors in the schools. In addition, the juvenile court contracted with Crossroads Crisis Center to provide the *Get Real About Violence* program at a middle school. The curriculum provided young people with alternatives to violence as a means of resolving conflicts. Longitudinal data is being gathered to determine the impact of the program.

Butler County Big Brothers Big Sisters One-to-One Mentoring

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America implemented an evidence-based mentoring model for youth referred by the juvenile court and from two urban schools. Youth referred from the juvenile court were typically first-time offenders who were diverted rather than prosecuted by the court. Youth were placed in the *Juvenile Court Mentoring Program*, and services were also provided to their younger siblings. Youth who had 10 or more absences or suspensions were also mentored in the program. In calendar year 2010, 40 minority youth were in mentoring relationships. Fifty-five percent of these youth showed improved grades and 76 percent had an increased sense of future.

Clark State Community College STARS

The *STARS* program targeted minority fifth graders who were at-risk of becoming involved with the juvenile court. Students were introduced to real-world engineering challenges and competed in the 2010 Body Forward™ Challenge. *STARS* teams explored the world of biomedical engineering as a means of discovering innovative ways to repair injuries, overcome genetic predispositions and maximize the body's potential. Participants also attended TechFest and participated in exhibits that included life sciences, chemistry, physics, aviation, electricity, weather, space, environmental science, computer technology, computer simulation, computer games, optics, math, civil engineering, project management and safety.

Cuyahoga County Golden Ciphers DMC Program

The Golden Cipher *DMC Program* served 127 youth referred from the juvenile detention center, the juvenile court, schools and parents in need of assistance with an unruly youth. Seventy-two youth successfully completed program requirements, and 32 youth remained in the program after completion. Youth participated in the Ohio Youth For Justice, *Young Men Emerge* program and won one of four "Outstanding Project" awards. Participants also joined the program's drum orchestra and performed at the International House of Blues, the Mum Festival in Barberton, Ohio, Harvard Community Center and at the Ritz Carlton.

Cuyahoga County Bellefaire JCB School Based Services

Bellefaire's *School Based Services* program worked to reduce disparity by providing prevention programming to students from the Cleveland metropolitan area and East Cleveland school districts. In 2010, the program served 340 youth between the ages of 11 and 17 and identified as high-risk by the school. Facilitators used the Girls Circle/Boys Council as the basis for their sessions. The *School Based Program* recorded that 209 students successfully completed program requirements, and 72 students exhibited a change in targeted behavior, specifically demonstrating an increase in self-efficacy as identified from the Schwarzer Self-Efficacy Scale. These numbers represent a 250 percent increase in the amount of youth served in 2009. The *School Based Program* has been effective in that only 36 youth offended or reoffended while in the program.

Cuyahoga County Godsson Finish First

The *Finish First* program conducted weekly classes for 50 African-American youth, ages 16 and 17, on topics such as the law and how to avoid negative behaviors that lead to contact with the juvenile justice system. Video presentations were used to support classroom work. Students were engaged in discussions and completed homework assignments. *Finish First* has been embraced by the community, which has expressed the desire for the program to be expanded to other schools.

YMCA of Greater Cleveland Teen Court and Leadership Program

The *Teen Court and Leadership Program* served 33 minority youth, ages 12-17, who were first-time and repeat offenders, and youth who were truant, unruly or were suspended /expelled from school. The program offered classes that included monthly topical seminars (the judicial system, drugs, alcohol, etc.) facilitated by outside speakers. The *Leaders Club* focused on goal setting, achievement, character development, leadership, tutoring and academic support and career/college exploration. In addition, the program was expanded in 2010 to provide services to youth at a second high school.

Franklin County Directions for Youth Anger Management Options

The *Anger Management Options* program provided 2106 hours of anger management services to 137 minority youth. Referrals were received from schools, parents/guardians, protective services, Net-Care and juvenile court. Services included comprehensive psycho-social mental health assessments and individual, family and group interventions. Thirty-seven percent of youth served were currently involved with the juvenile court and 28 percent had previous juvenile court involvement due to abuse, neglect or dependency. Of the 137 youth, 86 exited the program with 65 completing program requirements. In addition, 57 of the 86 youth who exited

the program showed improved skills and the ability to better manage their behaviors and anger. For all youth, 88.8 percent did not have contact with the juvenile court.

Hamilton County Crossroads Center Strengthening Families

The *Strengthening Families* program focused on strengthening the emotional intelligence of youth and improving family dynamics and communication. The 20 week program provided youth with lessons including the protective family environment, social and emotional growth, effective communications and parental involvement. The program served 41 at-risk youth and 53 siblings in 21 families. Of the total youth served, 90 percent completed all program requirements and 85 percent did not offend while in the program. Youth and families reported improved family interactions and expressed satisfaction with the program.

Hamilton County Big Brother Big Sisters Mentoring Impact

The *Mentoring Impact* program matched 67 new participants with mentors for a total of 178 youth since the onset of the DMC program. The program served at-risk youth, ages 10 and above, from the highest risk inner city neighborhoods of Cincinnati. Youth received both community-based and school-based services. In the community-based component, volunteers engaged youth in activities in the community. In the school-based component, volunteers met with youth once per week at school and remained in contact with youth during summer break. Each quarter, program youth were tracked for involvement with the juvenile court, and less than five percent became involved with the juvenile court or were arrested.

Hamilton County Juvenile Court Community Control as an Alternative to Secure Detention

The *Community Control as an Alternative to Secure Detention* program diverted urban minority youth to community programming rather than holding them in secure detention. Youth charged with domestic violence were referred to the juvenile court's intervention unit where resources were provide to the family so the youth could return to a parent or guardian instead of being held in detention. The program worked with the University of Cincinnati to establish a partnership between the juvenile court, parents and the youth to achieve program goals. Additionally, the juvenile court created a DMC action plan for addressing "Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities" and "Cases Transferred to Adult Court." The plan includes quality assurance of those services provided to youth committed to DYS or transferred to the jurisdiction of the adult system.

Lucas County Paraclete Social Outreach Rise Up Program

The *Rise Up Program* served a total of nine minority youth in the fourth and fifth grades who were identified by teachers and principals as in need of programming to address school related issues such as suspensions, demerits and poor classroom behaviors. Of the nine youth, six successfully completed program requirements, and three were unsuccessfully terminated from the program. Successful youth increased post-test scores by 33 percent compared with the pre-test scores as measured by the classroom teacher. The program provided services in small groups so the individual needs of each youth could be met.

Lucas County Family Services of Northwest Ohio Police Probation Team

The *Police Probation Team* worked with school resource officers in two high schools to establish positive relationships and to obtain referrals from the school. Minority youth who committed an offense in violation of a Safe School Ordinance were diverted to the program and assigned to complete community service as part of the program. Staff monitored and mentored youth in their home, school and community settings for up to a year. On January 1, 2010, the program implemented a new Overall Functioning Scale to measure youth functioning in all settings before, during and at the end of their participation in the program.

Montgomery County Juvenile Court DMC Diversion Program

The *Disproportionate Minority Contact/Diversion Program* was used by the juvenile court to divert minority youth, ages 11-17, away from the juvenile justice system. Youth with little or no prior contact and youth referred for unruly offenses were assessed and linked to services appropriate to their needs. In cases where there was a victim, a mediator met with both parties to resolve issues. Thus far, 151 cases were successfully diverted into the program with 110 youth successfully completing all program requirements.

Richland County Family Life Counseling DMC Reduction Program

In partnership with the North End Community Improvement Collaborative, Family Life Counseling implemented a restorative practices program and a mentoring program for minority youth. The restorative practices program worked to reduce the number of minority youth referred to juvenile court and reduced the recidivism rate of youth who successfully completed the program. The 2010 success rate was 100 percent for youth that agreed to participate in the program. The mentoring program served 12 males and four females and provided additional services such as job seeking assistance, GED preparation and college readiness courses. Mentees volunteered for community development projects and demonstrated marked improvement in social interaction and leadership skills.

Richland County North End Community Improvement Youth Media Project

The *North End Mentoring Program* assisted minority youth by supporting young people in developing self-esteem and personal skills. Mentors helped youth develop and reach positive academic, career and personal goals and improve in areas such as decision-making, life planning and leadership. The program coordinated several activities that included one-to-one mentoring, community outreach events, college tours, a visit to the African American Museum and a media project. Youth improved in social interactions, leadership abilities, and community volunteerism. The female mentees continued participating in activities with mentees. Three mentees have successfully graduated high school and are currently considering colleges and vocational schools.

Stark County Family Court Community Support and Diversion

The *Community Support and Diversion* program continued to use established criteria for selecting appropriate cases for diversion and completing the referral process. The program employed a full time Wraparound Coordinator/mentor/case manager to ensure that youth were administered a risk assessment and received services using a high fidelity wraparound model. Outcomes included increased school attendance, meaningful relationships established between school and parents, abstinence from substance abuse and increased vocational opportunities.

Summit County East Akron Community House Youth Outreach Center

East Akron Community House addressed disparity by developing and implementing a minority youth work program for youth ages 14-17. This program served youth on probation and parole predominately from the eastside of Akron. In 2010, 18 youth were employed. Their job duties included, but were not limited to, landscaping, building maintenance and revitalizing green spaces for the community. Youth attended classes on work readiness, work ethics, life skills, banking and personal hygiene. Positive outcomes for youth included clean urinalysis, perfect school attendance and no further involvement in the court system. Youth who maintained employment had the opportunity to go on various educational and recreational trips. Several youth completed the program and continued to be successfully employed outside the agency.

Summit County Juvenile Court Juvenile Court Diversion

The juvenile court continued to address issues around DMC and disparity, focusing primarily on referrals to court and diversion. The “Takin it to the Streets” program provided public education and outreach to community stakeholders interested in reducing DMC. Activities were held at churches and community centers where participants learned about ways to avoid involvement in the juvenile justice system. The outreach program continues to be popular in the community.

Summit County Juvenile Court Police Officer Training

The juvenile court hosted training for 28 police officers from 14 different agencies on *Effective Police Interaction with Youth*, a curriculum developed by the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. Participants were trained as trainers so that they can teach the curriculum to other officers within their jurisdictions. In addition, the juvenile court sponsored a number of police/youth meetings, engaging officers and youth to discuss street interactions and shared perceptions. These activities facilitated a greater understanding between youth and officers. Initial data indicates fewer arrests, but it is too early to determine whether arrests are trending down.

Trumbull County United Methodist Community Center Truancy Intervention Program

The *Truancy Intervention Program* conducted visits in the home, school, community and the juvenile court to assess the needs of youth participating in the program. Staff conducted needs assessments, developed individual success plans and linked youth and families to additional services. School visits involved attendance monitoring and school board hearings. Visits to the juvenile court included court hearings and case reviews. Community visits provided an opportunity to build relationships with students and families outside of the normal program environment. During the year, the program served 50 African-American youth between the ages of 15-17 with an emphasis on targeting specific zip code areas.

DMC Systems Improvement Activities

In addition to community and court programs seeking to reduce DMC, most county teams have undertaken system changes/and improvement activities to help reduce disparity. The following is an overview of the activities occurring at the system-level as reported by DMC teams:

Allen County

The DMC Committee's independent evaluator released qualitative data gathered from focus groups of community stakeholders and parents of youth who participated in the program. The Committee gathered quantitative data from the largest public school district, police department, prosecutor's office and juvenile court. This data was compared to data collected during the first year of the DMC process. In 2006, there were 150 formal charges related to a local school ordinance. In 2008, there were 111, and in 2010, there were only 44 complaints against youth.

Butler County

In addition to programming, members of the Butler County DMC steering committee worked with the Alcohol and Chemical Abuse Council to create a mediation program that addressed truancy and assaults occurring at school. Recognizing that truancy and school offenses often lead to delinquent behavior, the team focused on addressing issues early to avoid juvenile court involvement. As part of the program, the DMC Coordinator trained mediators in the areas of

DMC and cultural awareness. In addition, the DMC initiative led to the creation of a Juvenile Court Law Enforcement Committee whereby the court communicates with representatives from all of the local law enforcement agencies.

Cuyahoga County

The juvenile court has continued the practice of diverting youth referred by their parents for misdemeanor offenses. In 2010, 85 youth were diverted. To date, 78 of the youth have completed services as part of the DMC program, with 49 youth completing successfully, five youth referred to other programs, and 24 unsuccessful terminations, mostly as a result of a new delinquent charge. In addition, the juvenile court is considering services, at arraignment, for youth charged with a domestic violence offense through the *Tapestry-System of Care* which includes high-fidelity wraparound services, mentoring, family preservation and parenting skills.

Franklin County

Based on the significant number of juveniles referred to the juvenile detention center for assaults and disorderly conduct arrests, the Juvenile Justice Community Planning Initiative Planning Team developed recommendations to strengthen the relationship between the police and schools and provided alternative consequences for fights that occur at school. As a result, the number of referrals to juvenile court has decreased by more than 50 percent. To address the large number of youth admitted to the detention center for probation violations, the juvenile court provided intensive cognitive behavioral training to probation officers and supervisors. Franklin County also began participating in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative and Targeted RECLAIM with DYS.

Hamilton County

DMC reduction activities included community monitoring of youth in lieu of detention and performance measurement. Other milestones and accomplishments included the incorporation of DMC reduction strategies in detention's population control procedures and youth identified as "crossover" or jointly involved in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Minority youth were specifically sought for diversion, where appropriate, and provided specialized services. The juvenile court has also provided agency-wide training on diversity and cultural competency to be presented by nationally acclaimed presenters.

Lorain County

The juvenile court is addressing disparity through the use of *In-Home Detention and Electronic Monitoring Program* in an effort to reduce the number of minority youth unnecessarily detained in detention. Appropriate screening tools, inclusive of the OYAS, were used to ensure that bias is eliminated in developing a case plan and when referring youth and families to appropriate services. The juvenile court implemented changes to its computer system so that consistent data regarding race and other demographic information about youth can be tracked to assist in the DMC process.

Lucas County

As a result of the data collection and community roll-out of the DMC Initiative, the Toledo school system worked with the juvenile court to divert youth who would typically be arrested to a school-based diversion/mentoring program. Thus far, the total number of filings has decreased by 31 percent since the 2008/2009 school year. In FY 2011, the juvenile court reduced minority admissions to DYS from 90.6 percent to 82 percent. As part of its 2012 plan, the juvenile court will build on reductions and hire staff whose primary responsibility will be to assure that culturally sensitive and appropriate services are being delivered to minority youth and that there is equal access to all community based programs. Further, the juvenile court is participating in Annie E. Casey's JDAI , which includes DMC as a core strategy.

Mahoning County

Mahoning County's DMC program focused on arrests in an effort to assist law enforcement with youth who have committed a non-violent misdemeanor offense. A DMC diversion officer was hired to work with youth who were referred by the schools, magistrates and intake officers. The diversion officer works with youth to improve school performance and increase attendance for a period of four months. If a review of a student's performance shows that the youth needed additional assistance, the youth receive an additional two months of programming to increase the likelihood of success.

Montgomery County

The DMC Coalition established a pre-court intervention approach which resulted in the *DMC Diversion Program*. In addition, the juvenile court instituted a *Reduce Commitments Program*, using Targeted RECLAIM funding, to provide services in the community to youth and families who became deeply involved in the juvenile justice. The juvenile court's charter school assisted youth with issues related to education such as school performance, truancy and drop-out. In addition, a probation officer was assigned to work with youth at the detention center and being reintegrated back into the community.

Summit County

A cognitive based treatment program was implemented in the detention center and *Thinking for a Change* programming was provided to youth with 90 day dispositions. Youth in this program were given opportunities to earn weekend passes and other rewards for positive change in addition to the programming already available to high-risk youth in the community. The police department agreed to accept youth into their diversion program twice instead of "one time only" as stated in their previous policy. Disparity is especially high at the arrest decision point so this policy change should reduce the number of minority arrests.

The juvenile court incorporated the DMC subcommittee into the JDAI Executive Board which has increased the number of stakeholders discussing juvenile justice issues and solutions. The work of the JDAI committees should have a positive impact on the DMC decision points, particularly the Cases Involving Secure Detention point.

Trumbull County

Trumbull County Family Court focused on coordinating probation officers, local police departments and schools to plan and implement the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument, 2nd version, to help identify youth with behavioral health issues and immediately link them with services. The court is also evaluating its current programming in an effort to improve services to all youth, with an emphasis on addressing issues affecting DMC.

DYS Systems Improvement Activities

DMC Institutes

DYS continued to provide county DMC teams and projects with support and technical assistance through funding and DMC Institutes. Community and juvenile court programs provided services to minority youth to reduce the contact and divert youth away from the juvenile justice system. DYS also contracted with the University of Toledo (UT) to facilitate five DMC Institutes around topics that may contribute to disparity. The following information provides an overview of the DMC Institutes held during the year.

On October 27, 2010, the University of Toledo (UT) hosted the first of five DMC Institutes. The topic of the Institute was “Restorative Justice Practices and Cultural Issues” and implications for minority youth. Presenters included Dr. Gordon Bazemore, Director of the Balanced and Restorative Justice Project and Chair of the Criminal Justice Department at Florida Atlantic University; Ms. Jean Handley, Founder and Director of Turning Point Partners, restorative justice (RJ) trainer, facilitator and victim outreach specialist; and, Mr. Saleem Hylton, president and CEO of Youth and Families in Crisis, RJ trainer, program developer, and motivational speaker. The institute included several presentations and a breakout session to provide attendees with a better understanding of the restorative justice process.

On January 19, 2011, DYS and UT held a DMC Institute on “Mental Health Issues and DMC.” Presenters included Dr. Pam Gulley of DYS, Dr. Janet Hoy, Ph.D, LISW and Assistant Professor; Sherry Moyer, MSW, Department of Pediatrics, University of Toledo; Dr. Nicholas Gallo, Ph.D, Psychologist of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction; Robert Kaspyzak, OCPSI Manager of Prevention and Early Intervention Services, Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County; Marilyn Wood, Ph.D, RN, College of Nursing at the University of Toledo; Mr. Ray Gonzalez, ACSW, Executive Director, Center for Cognition and Recovery, LLC; Ms. Celeste Smith, MC, PC, Program Coordinator and Counselor, Mercy St. Vincent Family Care Center; and, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. The workshop addressed the correlation between mental health and juvenile justice and its link to disparity and minority youth.

On March 10, 2011, “School Resource Officers: Their Role in DMC” was the theme of the Institute with Lisa Thureau, Esq. and Dr. Jeff Bostic as speakers. Ms. Thureau is the founder of Strategies for Youth, an organization that provides training to law enforcement and youth to improve interactions. Dr. Bostic is an Adolescent Psychiatrist at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Director of the School Psychiatry Program. The goal of the DMC Institute was to share

information that will help school resources officers, school personnel and community providers in improving relations to ultimately reduce disparity.

On May 4, 2011, Sgt. Andre Parker of the Waterford Connecticut Police Department and Detective Michael Murray of the Norwalk Connecticut Police Department provided training on effective tactics in reducing the likelihood that interaction between police officers and youth will result in negative outcomes for youth, particularly minority youth. The training included videos, discussions, group activities and role play to demonstrate positive and negative approaches in interacting with youth. This training is supported by OJJDP and is used by law enforcement and stakeholders across the nation.

On June 29, 2011, the fifth DMC Institute was held with “Families as Stakeholders” as the topic. The workshop recognized the importance of communities in addressing DMC and explored ways that families and communities can reduce racial disparity and impact the lives of youth. Presenters included Richard and Charisse Montgomery, M.A., and Co-Founders of CultureLoveFamily; Lashanna Alfred, M.S.W., Author, Social Worker; Marcus Goodwin, Co-Founder of The House of Emmanuel Youth Facility; and Pamela Redden, M.D. who practices at the Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Center at the Northeast Pre-Release Center.

JDAI

In August 2010, Ohio became a Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) site with five of Ohio’s largest counties participating in the initiative. JDAI seeks to eliminate inappropriate or unnecessary use of secure detention, minimize failures to appear, reduce incidences of delinquent behavior, improve conditions in secure detention facilities and redirect public finances toward successful reform strategies. Although JDAI does not solely target minority youth, addressing DMC and reducing disparity is one of its core strategies. The Annie E. Casey Foundation provided Ohio \$150,000 to support the initiative, and DYS provided each county with \$200,000 to assist with implementation at the local level.

2010 DMC Evaluation

The Ohio State University, Center for Learning Excellence has completed its evaluation of the DMC projects funded as part of Ohio’s strategy to reduce DMC. The report provides information on the programs and the impact on DMC. According to the report, 2010 data indicates that 21 programs served 2,017 youth and only a small percentage of youth offended or reoffended while participating in these programs. Evaluators also noted that less disparity existed at decision points targeted by programs from 2007 to 2009, although data was insufficient to determine the degree DMC changed.

2011 Statewide DMC Data Collection

In January 2011, DYS began collecting DMC data for calendar year 2010, marking the ninth year of measuring the relative rate index in Ohio. In 2011, DYS will compile available data for both 2009 and 2010 data for juvenile court and law enforcement agencies for all 88 counties, contingent on data availability. For 2009, not all juvenile courts or law enforcement agencies

collected data by race. DYS is working to improve data collection. Also as part of DYS' responsibility to address DMC and disparity in the juvenile justice system, the agency will conduct a statewide DMC assessment to be completed and submitted to the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) prior to the March 31, 2013 deadline. OJJDP allows that a statewide assessment can include as few as three counties, but DYS will solicit each of the 14 counties participating in the DMC Initiative and will consider additional counties for participation in the assessment.

Next Steps

For Fiscal Year 2012, DYS has contracted with the University of Toledo (UT) to provide a second year of DMC Institutes and technical assistance to DMC county teams and community providers. The first DMC Institute is set for October 2011 and will focus on working in the community and with families. It will also provide stakeholders with creative strategies for sustainability once programs are no longer funded. DYS and UT are currently preparing a full schedule of DMC Institutes for the fiscal year. In addition DYS will:

- Select a contractor to conduct the statewide assessment.
- Fund DMC programs in the 14 counties.
- Collect DMC data from all juvenile courts and law enforcement agencies
- Continue to identify and track disparity.

For more information on the DMC Initiative, please visit the following link on the DYS website:

<http://www.dys.ohio.gov/dnn/Community/DisproportionateMinorityContact/tabid/111/Default.aspx>