

DMC Committee Report thru March 2018-

Douglas County efforts to reduce disproportionate minority contact (DMC) are being coordinated through the Full-time DMC Coordinator and through the work the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) and Operation Youth Success (OYS). These two reform initiatives share in the work to reduce DMC through their respective workgroups—the DMC/Equity. The DMC Committee is made up of a very diverse, inclusive and engaged group of individuals representing juvenile justice system points, and community providers and is Co-chaired by Mark LeFlore and LaVon Stennis Williams.

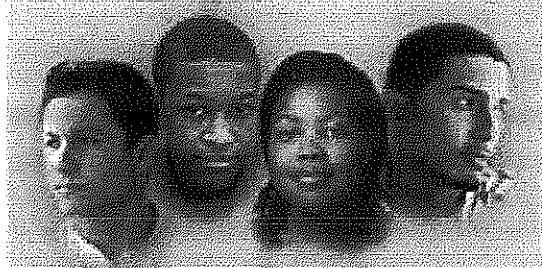
Realizing that more training was needed on factors which influence DMC, In 2016, the DMC committee sought and received permission to sponsor an Implicit Bias training conducted by the Center for Children Law and Polices (CCLP) through the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The training by CCLP was provided over three phases: Phase I targeted high level administrators. Phase II was developed for day to day line workers and community providers, and the final Phase targeted families and community stakeholders.

In 2017, DMC Committee engaged in more targeted direct conversations and actions to reduce DMC. Much of the current progress in addressing DMC resulted from the shift in direction the DMC Committee took in efforts to ‘move the dial’ on reducing DMC. In April 2017, the DMC Committee made two recommendations to the Douglas County Commissioners to reduce DMC. One recommendation was that the efforts to reduce DMC be elevated from just the work of the DMC Committee to a full time DMC Coordinator. The second recommendation was for a study of the Douglas County juvenile justice system which would not only help in identifying the extent of DMC within all juvenile justice system points since some points have never provided such data, but may also help in identify factors which may be contributing to DMC.

Both recommendations were accepted by the Douglas County Board. The County sought funding for the position and audit from Title II funding. The County was notified it had received the Title II grant, and Mr. Ajamal Byndon, a full time DMC Coordinator, was hired and began work on February 16, 2018. Plans are underway to get the study conducted and to get training for DMC stakeholders through the Georgetown Capstone and CCLP. With the hiring of the DMC Coordinator, much of the work performed by the DMC Committee will now be coordinated through Mr. Byndon.

Ongoing efforts to reduce DMC in Douglas include improved communication among JDAI and OYS leadership regarding factors which contributed to DMC, and the need for greater cooperation in gathering data to help determine the DMC impact at relevant system points; greater emphasis on best practice training for DMC Committee members and stakeholders on DMC, and greater efforts to engage families and communities in efforts to reduce DMC. More information on the ongoing efforts is contained in the DMC Committee work plan.

Moving the Dial



Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Fact Sheet.

What is Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

DMC is overrepresentation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system at all system points in proportion to their population in the community. Initially DMC referred to the *disproportionate minority confinement* and originated in a report prepared by the Coalition of Juvenile Justice in 1988. The report brought the matter to the attention of Congress of the gross disproportionality of youth of color in detention. In 2002, the definition was expanded to include all contact not just detention

History of DMC

For over 182 years, America has struggled with what to do with minority youth who break the law. While initially youth of color were once denied access to rehabilitation programs, today our problem is their over representation and disparate treatment throughout all juvenile justice system points. The first known youth rehabilitation center was built in 1834 and prohibited the inclusion of youth of color believing it was useless to try to rehabilitate Negroes and Native Americans. Later years States such as California required Hispanic/Latino youth to take and pass an English test to determine their eligibility to participate in rehabilitative services. Repairing the Breach- W. Haywood Burns Institute.

State of DMC Today

Nearly three decades later since DMC was first brought to the attention of Congress, we still struggle with DMC. In Omaha Douglas County, Nebraska DMC remains a problem. In spite of juvenile justice reform efforts (JDAI 2011 and Operation Youth Success 2014) we can see progress in efforts to improve all system points except reducing the over representation of minority youth.

Why We Must End DMC

DMC weakens the credibility of a justice system that purports to treat everyone equitably. Across the country, juvenile justice systems are marked by disparate racial outcomes at every stage of the process, starting with more frequent arrests for youth of color and ending with more frequent secure placement. DMC threatens the future success of youth impacted. An adolescent who has spent time in secure detention is far less likely to attain a high school diploma or consistently participate in the labor force in the future.