THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY TEAM - REDUCING RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES CAPSTONE PROJECT
Team that went to DC

- Carmen Rubio, Executive Director of Latino Network
- Joe McFerrin, CEO/President, Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC)
- Charlene Woods, Chief Deputy District Attorney, Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office
- Christina McMahan, Director, Multnomah County Juvenile Services Division
- Lorena Campbell, Intergovernmental Liaison for East Multnomah County School Districts
- Commissioner Judy Shiprack, Multnomah County District 3, and LPSCC Executive Committee Co-Chair
- Judge Maureen McKnight, Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge
- Tashia Hager, Lieutenant, Portland Police Bureau
- Brian Detman, Policy Advisor/DMC Coordinator, Multnomah County Department of Community Justice
How we got here

- LPSCC DMC Subcommittee
- Movement toward a more family-focused approach: Community Healing Initiative (CHI), Functional Family Probation, Youth Villages Intercept Program
- Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
- Coalition of Communities of Color report: An Unsettling Profile
- Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University and Center for Children’s Law and Policy – racial and ethnic disparities certificate program
Why now

- Children of color are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system.
- They are arrested, charged, and incarcerated more than their white counterparts, even for the same behaviors.
- Involvement in the juvenile justice system = educational disruptions, reduced employment rates, and increased likelihood of criminal justice involvement.
- Disproportionality in the juvenile justice system is connected to disparate treatment in other child serving systems (child welfare and education).
- Disparate treatment contributes to an intergenerational cycle of justice system involvement and poor outcomes.
All youth in the juvenile justice system should be treated **fairly** and as individuals.

Adolescents should **not be expected to have the maturity and judgment of adults**.

Incarceration should be **reserved for those youth who represent a significant danger** to themselves or others.

Reform efforts should **include families and communities**, which can provide critical supports and resources for youth in the juvenile justice system.

Reform efforts should be **culturally and linguistically responsive** to the needs and backgrounds of youth in the juvenile justice system.

We have the power to make changes that will lead to improved and positive outcomes of youth of color.
Key strategies

- Collaboration that includes all stakeholders
- Regular collection, analysis, and use of data
  - REGGO (race, ethnicity, gender, geography, and offense)
- Focus on local efforts
- Use of objective criteria and decision making tools
- A range of diversion and alternative-to-incarceration programs and services
- Involvement of other systems (e.g., education, child welfare, workforce, etc.)
- Regular monitoring of programs and outcomes
From DMC to RED

- Demographic shifts
- Broad definition:
  - Over-representation of youth of color
  - Disparate treatment of youth of color
  - Unnecessary entry and moving deeper into the juvenile justice system
Key decision points and pathways out

**Arrest:**
- Law enforcement
- Schools
- Probation
- Child welfare

**Referral:**
- Intake staff

**Detention:**
- Judge

**Petition:**
- Prosecutor

**Adjudication:**
- Judge

**Disposition:**
- Judge

**Transfer to adult court**

**Diversion**
- Community service
- Youth court

**Informal process**
- Consent decree

**Release home**
- Alternative to detention

**Post-adjud alternatives**
- Dismissal

**Probation**
- Non-secure placement
- Non-residential treatment
RED capstone project assignment

- Team members are responsible for the development of a capstone project—an effort to initiate or continue work to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in an organization or community:
  - Apply what was learned and develop a plan of action
  - Advance reform efforts based on needs in Multnomah County
  - Use data to identify the most promising areas for achieving measurable reductions
Relative rate index

- RRI: is a measurement that compares the rates of activity for minority youth with majority youth at selected key decision points. This information provides a starting baseline for future monitoring and provides initial guidance for the assessment phase.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Oregon (all counties)</th>
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<th>Multnomah Only</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Hispanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of Population At Risk (10-17 yoa)</td>
<td>389,067</td>
<td>273,283</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cases Diverted</td>
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<td>10,718</td>
<td>1,401</td>
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<td>Cases Involving Secure Detention</td>
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<td>Cases Resulting in Secure Juv. Correctional Facility</td>
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<td>Cases Resulting in Delinquent Finding</td>
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<td>2,515</td>
<td>286</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Dismiss, Plea Bargain or Alternative Process</td>
<td>1,352</td>
<td>794</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>289</td>
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<tr>
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Disparity at the referral decision point

<table>
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<th></th>
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<th>African American</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Native American</th>
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<td>Population ages 10-17</td>
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<td>38,017</td>
<td>6,190</td>
<td>12,253</td>
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<td>Referrals to juvenile services division</td>
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<td>1,428</td>
<td>1,087</td>
<td>551</td>
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Problem: The current response to youth encountering the juvenile justice system unfairly and disproportionately affects youth of color.

Goal: Reduce both the number of law enforcement referrals to the Multnomah County Juvenile Services Division (JSD) and further penetration into the juvenile justice system

- Be proactive with first-time offenders
- Pilot a pre-referral, early intervention and police diversion program
- Use Community Healing Initiative model of family-focused services for eligible youth
Current steps for first-time, low-level offenses

- JSD reviews referrals from law enforcement using a list of agreed upon eligible offenses (JSD and DA’s Office).
- Close the matter, send a “warning letter” or proceed to intake/probable cause review.
- Warnings letters sent to those referred for low-level criminal and non-criminal status offenses (misdemeanors and violations for minor in possession of alcohol and less than one once of marijuana).
- No further action taken.
**RED capstone project continued**

- **Warning letters**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Letters</th>
<th>White</th>
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<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Native American</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multnomah County</td>
<td>421 (13 other/unknown)</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
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- **50% of youth committed a secure facility had a warning letter**
Pilot

- Identify a specific geographic area/neighborhood and assess public school, police precinct and community partnership possibilities
- Determine funding source for pilot and obtain commitment
- Determine process (police and JSD) for sorting and tracking eligible youth
- Refer youth to directly to providers on contract to follow-up and engage youths and their families
- Conduct a risk assessment to determine the right pathway and services
- Measure success by monitoring referrals for new offenses for the eligible youth at regular time intervals, track referrals to JSD and other system decision points and compare results to a warning letter cohort
Timeline

- Finalize pilot proposal: September to October 2014
- Plan and refine pilot (location, funding/budget, logistics, training, etc.): October 11 to December 31, 2014
- Implement pilot: January 1 to June 30, 2015
- Evaluate: August 1, 2015