

Lawndale Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC) Forum on Youth

Background

In April of 2002, the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, Sub-Committee on DMC under the Chairmanship of Rev. Charles Collins, identified and selected four (4) jurisdiction in Illinois. In Cook County, confinement data indicates that the Lawndale community has one of the highest rates of minority confinement statewide. The Commission goal is to work in partnership with community/institutional stakeholders in developing a community based/data driven pilot project to reduce over-representation of minorities in the system. The Commission contracted with the Chicago Area Project (CAP) to identify, recruit and convene community, institutional and provider stakeholders serving the Lawndale community areas.

CAP recruited several Lawndale Partners including Ernest Jenkins, WACA, Carlos Heredia, Por Un Barrio Mejor and Willie Bobict, St Agatha Family Empowerment (SAFE) to inform them on the IJJC plans for Lawndale and solicit assistance with identifying, recruiting and promoting this effort with local and institutional stakeholders. On May 30, 2002, CAP and the Lawndale Partners hosted the initial Stakeholders Forum held at the West Side Technical Institute. Approximately 50-60 stakeholders representing Juvenile Judges, Chicago Police Department, Probation, State Attorney, Public Defenders, Chicago Public Schools, Community-Based Organizations, Parents, Youth, Politicians and Juvenile Justice Providers were in attendance. This Informational/Exploratory meeting featured the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission/Sub Committee on DMC Chairman, Illinois Department of Human Services, Juvenile Justice Administrator and Mr. James Bell, Executive Director of the W. Haywood Burns Institute.

The Commission in partnership with IDHS proposed funding a three (3) year pilot project that incorporates the Burns Institute model of reducing minority confinement. James Bell provided a power-point presentation outlining the Burns Institute Model and its success on the west coast and other jurisdictions.

The model seeks to facilitate reduction in the numbers of young people of color involved in the juvenile justice system and in confinement. The pilot project goals may include:

- Guiding a detailed analysis of crime and detention data for the community
- Identifying and facilitate necessary changes in policy
- Raising awareness of DMC and juvenile justice issues in the community
- Reducing arrests, court referrals and detention of youth of color
- Changing community and public attitudes regarding youth

After the presentations, the stakeholders posed questions to ascertain their commitment and agreed to further explore implementing a pilot project in Lawndale. The stakeholder scheduled a follow-up meeting for July 31, 2002. CAP provided on-going contact with stakeholders to maintain their interest, mailing meeting notices and identification additional stakeholders.

The July 31, 2002 convened at the Juvenile Court Complex and hosted by Presiding Judge Curtis Heaston, provided the Lawndale Stakeholders with role clarification of the Commission, IDHS and the Burns Institute Model in partnership with the Lawndale Stakeholders. After a lengthy deliberation on the merit and the community/institutions commitment in addressing Lawndale youth over-represented in detention and confinement, the body agreed to proceed with developing

The General Meeting was held on October 16, 2002 at the Juvenile Court Complex to review and approve job description and announcement to be distributed by stakeholders within their respective community networks through Lawndale. It was recommended that stakeholders would identify community newspaper to post the job announcement. In addition, stakeholders review lines of authority flow charts to determine responsibilities from the state level, stakeholder policy/decision making level, contractor level, Burns Institute consultant level and project coordinator level.

Several members stressed the need for an organizational/functional chart to determine how tasks of the project will get accomplished. CAP facilitated drafts of the chart requested by the group. The group agreed to have project coordinator in place possibly by November 19, 2002, but no later than December 1, 2002. The Work Group would reconvene to interview candidates on receipt of resumes. Next meeting scheduled for November 19, 2002.

Lawndale Disproportionate Minority Confinement Parent Group

The Lawndale Disproportionate Minority Confinement Parent Group was formulated in mid-February 2005.

Initial meetings involved the formation of the Planning Committee. Focus Groups were held from May 31, 2005 thru June 2005 at Dvorak School. Focus Groups consisted of at least 6 parents per meetings. The Planning Committee met on several occasions prior to the start of our Focus Groups.

The Parent Advisory Board consists of the following members:

Sharol Unger Deputy Chief Probation Officer Near North Division (Lawndale)	Coordinator
Ms. Kim Lee Mrs. Moshella Stuart	Facilitators
Mr. Robert Stuart Mr. J. D. Virgen	Support Members

The Purpose of the Focus Groups

- Community Empowerment
- Identify Parental Concerns
- Identify Solutions

Goals and Benefits

- Work to identify issues that impact the Lawndale Community youth
- Identify assets and deficits within the Lawndale Community
- Develop Focus Groups

Future Plans

- Seek additional parents
- Define the structure of the Parent Group
- Identify community support, i.e. police, CAPS
- Contact administrators at William Penn and Herzog Grammar Schools to form a collaborative with existing parental groups
- Group has made contact with Lawndale Community Church to seek additional parents to
- Continued meetings with parents
- Develop budget

Parent Advisory Group reconvened in September 2005 and will begin to seek a core group of parents within the Lawndale Community to support our parent group. We will also reach out to parents of minors on probation in the Lawndale Community.

Parent Focus Groups

A total of five Focus Groups were held from May 31, 2005 thru June 2005. The following topics were discussed.

- Police Arrest
- Fears – police harassment and school truancy
- Chicago Public Schools
- Parents expressed a concern for discipline in the school system. Police should assist in providing safety in schools.
- CAPS Program – Parents feel CAPS Program needs to be more sensitive to the concerns of parents in the community.

Question: “What Would You like to see in the Community”?

- Safer Schools
- Parent Advocates
- Family Counseling
- Parent Volunteers
- Parent Skills/Workshops for Parents
- Group Meetings with Parents and School Officials
- Accountability in School System
- Curfew Monitoring
- Drug Usage among Youth
- Gang Activity

Question: “What types of activities are needed in your community to keep minors out of the Detention Center”?

- Youth centers are needed in the community.
- Sports activities for youth
- Employment
- Mentoring - minors need positive young African-American male mentors
- Churches - should become more involved in assisting youth through Sunday School Programs and recreational activities.

Detention Alternatives are in place at Cook County Juvenile Court.

- Evening Reporting Centers
- Home Confinement
- Electronic Monitoring

Sharol Unger
Deputy Chief Probation officer

CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE DIVISION

JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS DIVISION

PRE-EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP

FACILITATOR'S HANDBOOK

This Facilitator's Handbook is a curriculum aimed at developing skills sets for the adjudicated youth for employment. This Handbook was developed to work in conjunction with the Court's Job Development Program.

This Facilitator's Handbook was further designed to assist community members and agencies to prepare youths for success when referred for employment.

The curriculum used within this Facilitator's Handbook, was piloted for youths between the ages of 14 through 18 years of age.

These youths were first given an orientation with a survey, to ascertain their awareness of and their attitude regarding employment.

This Facilitator's Handbook curriculum can be expanded depending upon length or depth of the program.

This Facilitator's Handbook is composed of five weeks of workshops covering everything from filing out applications, role playing, interviewing skill development, reading your pay stub and attire for the interview.

The youths are given a pre-test at the beginning of the workshops and they are given a post-test assessment and the end of the workshops.

These youths upon successful completion of the workshops are given certificates of completions and they are referred to the court's job program or to other employment opportunities within the community.

This Facilitator's Handbook and its curriculum was designed and tested by a dedicated group of Probation Officers, who without their input this initiatives would not have it's consistency.

Irvin Ashford, DCPO
Clinical Intervention Division

Circuit Court of Cook County

Juvenile Justice Division

Juvenile Probation Department Bridges to Manhood Program

History of the **Bridges to manhood program** (BTM) would begin with discussions and meetings during late 2003 and early 2004 regarding a fatherhood program for young men involved in the court who had become fathers or who were awaiting the birth of a child.

In February 2004 probation officers were surveyed and the findings were that 120 young men involved with the court were fathers.

A March 2004 Focus Group with young fathers was facilitated and the needs of these young men were documented. A curriculum was developed to deal with the most common needs stated by the focus group.

A dedicated committee worked to develop a program of at least 10 weeks of group therapy and exercises, a mentorship piece to follow the young men through the program, and events were developed which included the mother and child. Connections were also made to other services offered at the court. The initial curriculum was reviewed during this period.

In August 2004 Dr. John Kahler at Pediatric Ambulatory Services Fantus Health Center, Ambulatory and Community Health Network, offered ongoing services to the young fathers, mothers, and children.

In August 2004 the Young Fathers Group began to meet with first few clients. Since the start we have had approximately 20 successful referrals and we have serviced approximately half of the referrals.

Currently we are working with Annie E. Casey Foundation and a few Fatherhood Consultants to improve our efforts. As a result of the cooperative effort we have developed a new model for the program. The program is now named the **Bridges to Manhood Program (BTM)**. We now have an updated and more user friendly curriculum. **The new program will be rolled out Late January 2006.**


We have scheduled a train the trainer for December 5th and 6th for all committee members and new volunteers who wish to take part in the group meetings. We will also incorporate two young fathers from our current group into the new program model as peer group leaders. We also hope to offer a stipend to these young men from the budget being developed for the program.

Dwayne Johnson, SPO
North Austin Unit

MEMORANDUM

November 15, 2005

To: Fatherhood Committee Members

From: Irvin Ashford, DCPO 
Clinical Interventions Division

Re: Fatherhood Training

I am pleased to inform you, that SPO Dwayne Johnson, Ms. Dani Riestler, intern and I met with Mr. Cozell Harris, a consultant with the Annie E. Casey Foundation on October 24, 2005 and October 25, 2005. During these meetings; we reviewed our curriculum and took a look at the curriculum he presented (Fatherhood Development --Partners for Fragile Families).

We looked at the strength and weaknesses of our curriculum. We also looked at the similarities of our curriculum to the curriculum of the consultant (Mr. Harris). We discussed many items ranging from intake to graduation from the group. Since the meeting with Mr. Harris we have developed a budget and measurement using the Logic Model for our Program. We have also renamed the Fatherhood Program to **Bridges to Manhood Program**. Beginning in late January or early February of 2006 the new Bridges to Manhood program will begin to run groups. We are finishing up the current Fatherhood group. We hope to keep a couple of these young fathers as group leaders.

The new curriculum is almost available and our hope is that recent efforts will result in more consistent and higher intake. We have now scheduled a time for Mr. Harris to conduct a Train the Trainers on the Fatherhood Curriculum on December 5th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and a full days on December 6th from 10 – 4:30 p.m.

We are looking for committee members and other volunteers to become full or part time group leaders. Our hope is that more than one group will be offered to the young fathers of our county. So if your schedule permits, please confirm your attendance by calling either Dwayne Johnson at ext. 4864 or me at 6512.

Thank you for your continual support and I wish you and your family a happy and joyous Holiday Seasons.

*Merry Christmas*

cc: Michael Rohan
Charles Young
Thomas Morgan

Lawndale Disproportionate Minority Confinement Youth Group

The Lawndale Disproportionate Minority Confinement Youth Group was established as an offshoot of the main D.M.C. board in October of 2004. After initial planning as to the scope and purpose of the group the youth began to meet in February of 2005.

The youth board decided to name itself the Lawndale Youth Community Action Network. (L.Y.C.A.N) for short. The purpose of this group is to determine ways that would help reduce the detention rate as well as the probation rate of African-Americans and other minorities in the Lawndale Community.

The group consist of 10 – 12 Lawndale youth who reside in the community. The group is basically evenly divided between probation and non-probation youth. The youth have developed guidelines for their organization and have chosen leaders to run the group. The youth group, although autonomous, is supervised by adults who reside in the community and are employed by the Juvenile Court or social work agency.

The Purpose of the Youth Group is as follows

- To decrease the number of African-American and minority youth who are involved in the Juvenile Justice System.
- To develop relationships with court, community, academic, and law enforcement agencies to determine strategies to combat D.M.C.
- To work closely with the adult residents of LYCAN, as well as the general D.M.C. Board to develop programs that can empower the LYCAN group.

Achievements to Date

- Participated in a Katrina Hurricane Relief Effort at Operation Push.

- Participated in a job development program. Some youth were able to obtain summer employment.
- Met with a 10th District C.A.P.S. officer to discuss how to establish/improve on law enforcement and community relationships.
- The youth were informed about substance abuse prevention through the Reclaiming Futures Initiative.
- Developed a budget to assist with the operations of the youth group.

Future Plans

- To expand and strengthen relationships with the various agencies in the Lawndale Community.
- To develop a plan for measurable outcomes that can show that the D.M.C. Initiative is making a positive impact.
- To continue to develop youth and adult leadership to assist with the L.Y.C.A.N. Group.
- To meet with political leaders such as Cook County Commissioner Bobby Steele and Senator Barack Obama.

Lawndale DMC

Short-Term Project Objectives

- Analyze and enhance baseline data – community mapping
- Identify system/community service gaps/assesses
- Establish short term ad-hoc committees
- Establish consensus re: action steps/timetables
- Promote parent/youth advisory groups
- Develop a focused communication strategy

Lawndale DMC Initiative

Mission Statement

In partnership with the community, the project will expand systemic reform initiatives within the juvenile justice system that promote strategies designed to enhance timely access to culturally responsive pro-social resources, and reduce court referrals from the Lawndale Community

Lawndale DMC Initiative

Partner Roles

Governance Board

- Key Stakeholders
- Develop DMC Organizational Structure
- Establish Priorities/Benchmarks
- Mobilize Resources – Financial/Program
- Promote Initiative Accountability/Communication

Executive Board

Agency and Program Consultants

- Develop Strategies to Assess and Promote Leadership to Support Project
- Assess/Enhance Baseline Data for Planning
- Promote Multi-Disciplinary Training
- Identify Service Gaps/Strategies/Barriers
- Promote Youth and Family Input
- Develop Communication Strategies

Advisory Board

Community Representatives

- Provide Critical Input/Recommendations
- Develop Plans to Address System Obstacles
- Youth/Parent Advisory Groups
- Short-term Ad Hoc Committees
- Direct Service Delivery

Cook County Juvenile Court Probation Department
Secure Detention Report

Report period: July 1, 2005 through July 31, 2005

Admissions to Secure Detention by Age

Total Detainees N = 69

	Ages						Total
	14	15	16	17	18	19	
60623	7	9	9	3	3	0	31
60624	2	7	13	5	0	0	27
60608	0	2	4	4	0	1	11
Total	9	18	26	12	3	1	69

Admissions to Secure Detention by Offense

Total Offenses N = 69

	Zip Code			Total
	60623	60624	60608	
PCS	6	13	0	19
PCAN	2	0	0	2
Violent	10	6	0	16
Property	1	1	1	3
JAW	11	7	5	23
Other	1	0	5	6
Total	31	27	11	69

Percentage of Offenses Committed

N = 69

Offenses	Percentages	
PCS	27.5%	#2
PCAN	2.9%	
Violent	23.2%	#3
Property	4.3%	
JAW	33.3%	#1
OTHER	8.7%	
Total	100.0%	

Source: Juvenile Detention Intake Sheet

Date: August 15, 2005

Cook County Juvenile Court Probation Department
Secure Detention Report

Report period: June 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005

Admissions to Secure Detention by Age

Total Detainees N = 75

	Ages						Total
	13	14	15	16	17	18	
60623	0	5	6	8	6	2	27
60624	1	3	11	18	7	1	41
60608	1	0	2	2	1	1	7
Total	2	8	19	28	14	4	75

Admissions to Secure Detention by Offense

Total Offenses N = 75

	Zip Code			Total
	60623	60624	60608	
PCS	7	18	0	25
PCAN	2	2	0	4
Violent	7	10	5	22
Property	2	2	1	5
JAW	8	5	1	14
Other	1	4	0	5
Total	27	41	7	75

Percentage of Offenses Committed

Offenses N = 75

	Percentages	
PCS	33.3%	#1
PCAN	5.3%	
Violent	29.3%	#2
Property	6.7%	
JAW	18.7%	#3
OTHER	6.7%	
Total	100.0%	

Source: Juvenile Detention Intake Sheet

Date: July 17, 2005

Cook County Juvenile Court Probation Department
Secure Detention Report

Report period: May 1, 2005 through May 31, 2005

Admissions to Secure Detention by Age

Total Detainees N = 60

	Ages						Total
	13	14	15	16	17	18	
60623	0	4	5	8	1	1	19
60624	1	6	8	10	4	1	30
60608	1	0	3	3	3	1	11
Total	2	10	16	21	8	3	60

Admissions to Secure Detention by Offense

Total Offenses N = 60

	Zip Code			
	60623	60624	60608	Total
PCS	4	12	2	18
PCAN	0	3	1	4
Violent	8	7	2	17
Property	3	4	1	8
JAW	4	2	4	10
Other	0	2	1	3
Total	19	30	11	60

Percentage of Offenses Committed

N = 60

Offenses	Percentages	
PCS	30.0%	#1
PCAN	6.7%	
Violent	28.3%	#2
Property	13.3%	
JAW	16.7%	#3
OTHER	5.0%	
Total	100.0%	

Source: Juvenile Detention Intake Sheet
Date: June 15, 2005

Cook County Juvenile Court Probation Department
Secure Detention Report

Report period: April 1, 2005 through April 30, 2005

Admissions to Secure Detention by Age

Total Detainees N = 62

	Ages						Total
	13	14	15	16	17	18	
60623	0	3	8	16	6	0	33
60624	0	4	6	9	6	0	25
60608	2	0	0	1	0	1	4
Total	2	7	14	26	12	1	62

Admissions to Secure Detention by Offense

Total Offenses N = 62

	Zip Code			Total
	60623	60624	60608	
PCS	8	9	0	17
PCAN	3	2	0	5
Violent	8	5	3	16
Property	4	4	0	8
JAW	7	3	0	10
Other	3	2	1	6
Total	33	25	4	62

Percentage of Offenses Committed

N = 62

Offenses

Percentages

PCS	27.4%	#1
PCAN	8.1%	
Violent	25.8%	#2
Property	12.9%	
JAW	16.1%	#3
OTHER	9.7%	
Total	100.0%	

Source: Juvenile Detention Intake Sheet

Date: May 15, 2005

Cook County Juvenile Court Probation Department
Secure Detention Report

Report period: March 1, 2005 through March 31, 2005

Admissions to Secure Detention by Age

Total Detainees N = 61

	Ages						Total
	13	14	15	16	17	18	
60623	1	5	6	9	5	1	27
60624	0	6	9	12	3	0	30
60608	0	0	1	3	0	0	4
Total	1	11	16	24	8	1	61

Admissions to Secure Detention by Offense

Total Offenses N = 61

	Zip Code			Total
	60623	60624	60608	
PCS	9	12	2	23
PCAN	1	2	1	4
Violent	7	5	0	12
Property	3	3	0	6
JAW	4	5	1	10
Other	3	3	0	6
Total	27	30	4	61

Percentage of Offenses Committed

N = 61

Offenses	Percentages	
PCS	37.7%	#1
PCAN	6.6%	
Violent	19.7%	#2
Property	9.8%	
JAW	16.4%	#3
OTHER	9.8%	
Total	100.0%	

Source: Juvenile Detention Intake Sheet

Date: April 15, 2005

Cook County Juvenile Court Probation Department
Secure Detention Report

Report period: February 1, 2005 through February 28, 2005

Admissions to Secure Detention by Age

Total Detainees N = 57

	Ages							Total
	Unknown	7	13	14	15	16	17	
60623	0	1	0	0	5	13	2	21
60624	1	0	4	6	6	12	3	32
60608	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	4
Total		1	6	6	11	27	5	57

Admissions to Secure Detention by Offense

Total Offenses N = 57

	Zip Code			
	60623	60624	60608	Total
PCS	6	12	1	19
PCAN	4	4	1	9
Violent	4	8	1	13
Property	2	2	1	5
JAW	4	6	0	10
Other	1	0	0	1
Total	21	32	4	57

Percentage of Offenses Committed

N = 57

Offenses	Percentages	
PCS	33.3%	#1
PCAN	15.8%	
Violent	22.8%	#2
Property	8.8%	
JAW	17.5%	#3
OTHER	1.8%	
Total	100.0%	

Source: Juvenile Detention Intake Sheet

Date: March 10, 2005

Cook County Juvenile Court Probation Department
Secure Detention Report

Report period: January 1, 2005 through January 31, 2005

Admissions to Secure Detention by Age

Total Detainees N = 57

	Ages							Total
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
60623	0	0	6	4	9	2	0	21
60624	2	2	3	4	15	3	1	30
60608	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	6
Total		2	10	11	26	5	1	57

Admissions to Secure Detention by Offense

Total Offenses N = 57

	Zip Code			
	60623	60624	60608	Total
PCS	8	10	1	19
PCAN	2	4	1	7
Violent	3	4	1	8
Property	2	4	0	6
JAW	5	4	2	11
Weapons	1	3	1	5
Other	0	1	0	1
Total	21	30	6	57

Percentage of Offenses Committed

N = 57

Offenses	Percentages
PCS	33.3%
PCAN	12.3%
Violent	14.0%
Property	10.5%
JAW	19.3%
Weapons	8.8%
OTHER	1.8%
Total	100.0%

Source: Juvenile Detention Intake Sheet

Date: February 15, 2005

Cook County Juvenile Court Probation Department
Secure Detention Report

Report period: December 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004

Admissions to Secure Detention by Age

Total Detainees N = 52

	Ages						Total
	13	14	15	16	17	18	
60623	1	6	3	8	5	1	24
60624	2	1	6	11	1	0	21
60608	0	0	4	3	0	0	7
Total	3	7	13	22	6	1	52

Admissions to Secure Detention by Offense

Total Offenses N = 52

	Zip Code			Total
	60623	60624	60608	
PCS	4	8	0	12
Theft	3	0	0	3
Violent	8	6	4	18
Property	4	2	2	8
JAW	6	4	1	11
Unknown	1	0	0	1
Total	26	20	7	53

Percentage of Offenses Committed

N = 53

Offenses	Percentages	
PCS	23.1%	#2
PCAN	3.8%	
Violent	34.6%	#1
Property	15.4%	
JAW	21.2%	#3
OTHER	1.9%	
Total	100.0%	

Cook County Juvenile Court Probation Department
Secure Detention Report

Report period: November 1, 2004 through November 30, 2004

Admissions to Secure Detention by Age

Total Detainees N = 43

	Ages					Total
	12	13	14	15	16	
60623	0	3	1	6	2	12
60624	1	2	7	6	5	21
60608	5	1	4	0	0	10
Total	6	6	12	12	7	43

Admissions to Secure Detention by Offense

Total Offenses N = 43

	Zip Code			Total
	60623	60624	60608	
PCS	2	11	1	14
PCAN	0	0	0	0
Violent	3	4	8	15
Property	4	2	1	7
JAW	3	4	0	7
OTHER	0	0	0	0
Total	12	21	10	43

Percentage of Offenses Committed

N = 43

Offenses	Percentages	
PCS	32.5%	#2
PCAN	0.0%	
Violent	34.9%	#1
Property	16.3%	#3
JAW	16.3%	#3
Other	0.0%	
Total	100.0%	

Cook County Juvenile Court Probation Department
Secure Detention Report

Report period: October 1, 2004 through October 31, 2004

Admissions to Secure Detention by Age

Total Detainees N = 50

	Ages							Total
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
60623	0	0	1	4	4	1	1	11
60624	0	7	1	11	9	3	0	31
60608	1	0	0	3	3	0	1	8
Total	1	7	2	18	16	4	2	50

Admissions to Secure Detention by Offense

Total Offenses N = 50

	Zip Code			
	60623	60624	60608	Total
PCS	1	14	1	16
PCAN	1	4	0	5
Violent	3	3	3	9
Property	1	1	1	3
JAW	5	8	2	15
Other	0	1	1	2
TOTAL	11	31	8	50

Percentage of Offenses Committed

N = 50

Offenses	Percentages	
PCS	32.0%	#1
PCAN	10.0%	
Violent	20.0%	#3
Property	6.0%	
JAW	30.0%	#2
Other	2.0%	
Total	100.0%	

Source: Juvenile Detention Intake Sheet
 Date: November 8, 2004