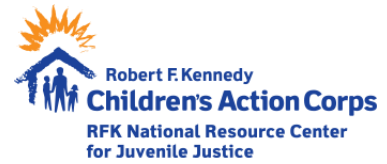


# Dual Status Youth Symposium: *Working Together for Our Children*



Omni Parker House Hotel | Boston, MA

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**Tuesday, April 5 (3:45 – 5:00 PM)**

## Interactive Peer-to-Peer Learning Session

*In this unique interactive session, you are invited to visit and engage in open-ended conversation with practitioners who have led reform efforts in their own jurisdictions. These members of the RFK National Resource Center's Dual Status Youth Practice Network, and their colleagues, have experienced the successes and challenges of this work first-hand and are ready to answer **your** questions. Below are descriptions of each jurisdiction represented, along with the room in which they are stationed. Please select a room in which to begin the session, and there will be an opportunity to move to a second room after 30 minutes.*

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**ALCOTT A ROOM**      **Douglas County, Nebraska**

**Facilitators:**

- Honorable Douglas F. Johnson, Judge, Douglas County Juvenile Court
- Nick Juliano, Senior Director of Community Impact, Boys Town NE/IA

**ALCOTT B ROOM**      **Fulton County, Georgia**

**Facilitator:**

- Honorable Willie J. Lovett, Jr., Judge, Fulton County Juvenile Court

**PRESS ROOM**      **Hampden County, Massachusetts**

**Facilitators:**

- Elorie Stevens, Western Regional Intensive Placement Coordinator, Department of Children and Families
- Bridget Nichols, Program Director, Hampden County Juvenile Court Clinic

**KING ROOM**      **King County, Washington**

**Facilitators:**

- Bruce Knutson, (Retired) Director of Juvenile Court Services, Juvenile Court Services, King County Superior Court
- Marcus Stubblefield, Systems Integration Coordinator, Uniting for Youth: A partnership of youth-serving systems in King County, Office of King County Executive
- John (Mick) Moore, PhD, Independent Education Consultant, Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice

**STOWE ROOM**      **Outagamie County, Wisconsin**

**Facilitators:**

- Melissa Blom, Children Youth & Family Division Manager, Outagamie County Department of Health and Human Services
- Mark Mertens, Administrator, Delinquency and Court Services Division, Milwaukee County Health and Human Services Department

**GARDNER ROOM**      **Santa Clara, California**

**Facilitators:**

- Laura Garnette, Chief Probation Officer, County of Santa Clara
- Honorable Patrick Tondreau, Judicial Officer, Superior Court

## **Douglas County, Nebraska**

**Facilitators:** *Judge Douglas Johnson & Nick Juliano*

Douglas County is Nebraska's most populous county, with Omaha, the state's largest city, as its county seat. Douglas County began reform efforts with the goal of improving the outcomes of a growing population of state wards who were violating the law and being detained or filed in court and ending up in the juvenile justice system. We believed that with better information sharing, including between the youth and family, less youth in the child welfare system would need to enter the juvenile justice system to get services.

Created as a unique public-private partnership, Youth Impact! has directly served over 300 dual status youth through the use of a multi-disciplinary team meeting at the point of referral to the Douglas County Attorney's office. The voice of the youth and family is critical to the process and they are included in the special staffing that provides a recommendation to the County Attorney on how to address the law violation. To date 84% of the youth have been diverted from formal court filing.

## **Fulton County, Georgia**

**Facilitator:** *Judge Willie Lovett*

Fulton County, Georgia is one of the largest and most populated counties in the state of Georgia. The city of Atlanta is the county seat, and 13 other cities exist within the boundaries of the County. In beginning reform efforts, the Fulton County Juvenile Court sought to better utilize collected data to make decisions regarding the adoption of evidence-based practices. As a result, for the first time in Fulton County's history, the child welfare and juvenile justice organizations have developed an integrated collaborative model to address dually involved youth and have developed a way to capture meaningful data about this population.

The results of our dually involved screening pilot showed that 41% of dually involved cases were youth in foster care. 40% of dually involved cases were youth in DFCS' investigation unit, 15% of dually involved cases were youth in DFCS' family preservation unit, and 4% of dually involved cases were youth in DFCS' family support unit. Our implementation schedule was derived based on this data. May 1, 2016 we will begin our program with the dually involved youth in foster care, September 1, 2016 we will add youth in DFCS' investigation unit and on January 1, 2017 we will add youth in DFCS' family preservation and family support units.

## **Hampden County, Massachusetts**

**Facilitators:** *Elorie Stevens & Bridget Nichols*

Hampden County is the most urban community in Western Massachusetts, and its most populated area is concentrated in the greater Springfield area. The Hampden County's reform efforts were aimed at developing a Multi-disciplinary team (MDT) practice that allowed a more coordinated approach to addressing the often complex needs of Dual Status Youth.

Youth and family engagement in this MDT practice has been of paramount importance and efforts in this area have proven to be very well-received. As a result of these reform efforts, Hampden County has fostered a strong culture change around collaboration, reduced recidivism in new offenses and violations of probations, and has increased family participation and investment in the process of addressing these youth's needs - all of which contribute to better outcomes for Dual Status Youth and Families.

## **King County, Washington**

**Facilitators:** *Marcus Stubblefield, Bruce Knutson, and John "Mick" Moore*

Home to more than 1.8 million people, King County is the most populous county in Washington State and the 14th most populous county in the nation. With a thriving technology industry, King County enjoys slightly higher rates of education and slightly lower rates of poverty than other counties in the state and nation. Over the past decade, King County has emerged as a leader in systems reform, at both the state and national levels. King County Systems Integration reform efforts have focused on institutionalizing policies and procedures, supporting a more seamless and coordinated service for our youth and families and preventing further system involvement.

Accomplishments include the development of a charter agreement, the completion of a prevalence study, extensive and ongoing cross-systems training, development of an information sharing guide, development of protocols to guide the work of juvenile probation counselors and child welfare social workers, and the drafting and passing of dropout retrieval legislation.

## **Outagamie County, Wisconsin**

**Facilitators:** *Melissa Blom & Mark Mertens*

Outagamie County is the 6th largest county in Wisconsin with a population of 182,000. At the onset of the dual status youth initiative, both the CPS and juvenile justice managers were keenly aware of the large percentage of youth being served in juvenile justice that had a child maltreatment background (64 %), the increase of children being placed in out of home care and the disruption of youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The guidance of an Executive Committee and the work of supervisors and staff from both divisions resulted in several reforms, the most influential being an information sharing guide, a coordinated response to intra-familial sexual abuse cases, coordinated case planning, dual status court, and trauma informed services.

Along the journey both managers had to address the culture that existed prior, acknowledging the assumptions, values and artifacts that kept the teams stuck on parallel tracks. Both managers' commitment to working things out by role modeling communication over tough subjects, by developing respect for each other's expertise, and involving staff in decision making helped shape the way that dual status youth and their families are treated.

## **Santa Clara, California**

**Facilitator:** *Laura Garnette & Judge Patrick Tondreau*

Santa Clara County, known as "Silicon Valley" is a California jurisdiction with 1.8 million residents. The Santa Clara County Dually Involved Youth (DIY) program provides coordinated services and supervision to youth and families who either have a history of or who are currently experiencing abuse and/or neglect and who are also participating in criminal activities.

Youth and families are served by teams that include a Child Welfare Social Worker, a Probation Officer and a youth advocate who are co-located in a family resource center. One Judicial Officer hears all cases that are court involved and where a report to define jurisdiction is ordered. The inclusion of community leaders to architect this model created a productive dynamic that had not been experienced before and has led to a much more sophisticated understanding of the myriad of unique needs of DIY and their families.