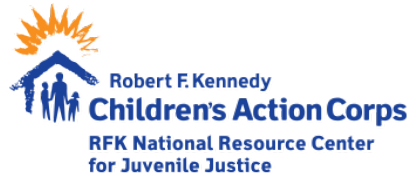


Probation System Reform Symposium: *Advancing Practice, Changing Lives*



Omni Parker House Hotel | Boston, MA

Thursday, April 7 (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 Probation System Review 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.*

ALCOTT A ROOM **Clark County, Washington**

Facilitator:

- Jodi Martin, Program Coordinator, Clark County Juvenile Court

ALCOTT B ROOM **Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Facilitators:

- John Millett, State Supervisor, Juvenile Court Department, Office of the Commissioner of Probation
- Edward "Ed" Dolan, Commissioner, Massachusetts Probation Service

**LOWELL &
HUTCHINSON**

DuPage and Ogle Counties & 2nd Judicial Circuit, Illinois

Facilitators:

- Honorable George Timberlake, Chairman, Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission
- Kathy McNamara, Community Placement Manager, Senior Probation Officer, DuPage County Department of Probation and Court Services
- Peg Robertson, Consultant, Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice, Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps

KING ROOM

Fairfax County, Virginia

Facilitators:

- Robert "Bob" Bermingham, Director, Fairfax County Court Service Unit
- Honorable Thomas Sotelo, Judge, Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court

STOWE ROOM

Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

Facilitators:

- Roy Junker, Jr., Director, Jefferson Parish Department of Juvenile Services
- Dr. John Ryals, Jr., Evaluation/Treatment Supervisor, Jefferson Parish Department of Juvenile Services

GARDNER ROOM

Rock County, Wisconsin

Facilitators:

- Lance Horozewski, Children, Youth & Families Division Administrator, Rock County Human Services

Clark County, Washington

Facilitator: *Jodi Martin*

Through its work with *Models for Change*, Clark County focused reform efforts on enhancing the truancy process through a more coordinated and collaborative approach while diverting status offenders from formal court processing. Clark County first initiated reforms to its truancy process in the mid-1990s. After Washington's truancy law (known as the Becca Bill) was passed in 1995, requiring schools to take court action against habitually truant students, Clark County Juvenile Court (CCJC) began to change its post-court referral process to divert youth from secure confinement.

In Clark County, instead of youth appearing in court for truancy after the initial truancy petition is filed, all youth and their parent attend a truancy workshop where they are provided information about the attendance laws, school district attendance policies, community resources, and the importance of an education. At the end of the workshop, each family meets with their school district representative to develop a plan to address the barriers to school attendance. Currently, we are engaged in efforts to create and sustain detention alternatives in the community for status and low-risk offenders.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Facilitators: *John Millett & Ed Dolan*

The Massachusetts Probation Service is a state-wide agency that oversees probation cases in the District Court, Superior Court, Probate Court and Juvenile Court. Our focus areas for reform are Services, IT, Probation Practices and Workforce Development, and our primary goals are to reduce recidivism, reduce the inappropriate use of detention, and make certain that the kids get the right services and tools they need to succeed.

Over the past two and a half years, Massachusetts Probation Service has trained and certified all Juvenile Probation Officers in the use of an evidence-based risk assessment tool. This tool, used in conjunction with standards of supervision that tie risk to supervision level, is at the forefront of the latest research on desistance. The Department is also piloting behavioral health initiatives using the latest technology.

DuPage and Ogle Counties & 2nd Judicial Circuit, Illinois

Facilitators: *Hon. George Timberlake, Kathy McNamara, & Peg Robertson*

Funded by the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center's Probation System Review in Illinois included three separate probation departments that reflect the diversity of the state in geography and demographics: DuPage County, Ogle County, & Illinois' 2nd Judicial Circuit. The three jurisdictions have in common experienced and motivated administrators and judiciary who are open to the opportunity for improvement in their organizations.

In each department, critical areas of concern were identified, some of which weren't clear prior to the review. Each department has made progress in addressing issues. Progress has included system agreement on definitions of recidivism, training and technical assistance on assessment and case planning, clearer definition of roles and responsibilities for some positions, and ongoing work related to policy and procedure development and use of data for decision-making.

Descriptions continued on next page...**Fairfax County, Virginia****Facilitator:** *Robert "Bob" Bermingham*

Fairfax County, VA is an extremely diverse, suburban/urban community with over 1.1 million residents. Fairfax County is committed to the implementation of evidence-based practices and best practices within its juvenile justice system. To date the Court Service Unit (CSU) has made great strides in the utilization of validated assessment tools and decreasing the use of detention while creating alternative community supervision programs.

The CSU has also enhanced its diversion efforts, doubling its diversion rate. All staff have been trained on Motivational Interviewing and in the usage of validated assessment tools during the decision making process. The CSU has also increased its commitment to reducing disparities that exist for children of color involved in the system.

Jefferson Parish, Louisiana**Facilitators:** *Roy Junker, Jr. & John Ryals, Jr.*

Adjacent to the city of New Orleans, the Jefferson Parish Department of Juvenile Services operates probation, detention, and treatment services for youth in the juvenile justice system. In collaboration with a collective of child and youth-serving agencies, known as the Jefferson Parish Children & Youth Planning Board, the Department of Juvenile Services has been at the forefront of juvenile justice reform initiatives since 2007. Simultaneously, stakeholders engaged in several targeted areas of improvement under the MacArthur Foundation's *Models for Change* initiative and the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative.

Reform efforts culminated in improvements to probation practices under the RFK National Resource Center's Probation System Review (PSR) framework. The primary goal was to improve probation practices using national best practices and a focus on improving client outcomes. The main accomplishment of the PSR was the restructuring of the probation department practices, policies, and personnel to meet the needs of internal and external customers. In more concrete terms, the PSR resulted in fewer youth in detention, improved officer retention, decreased treatment costs, increased officer salaries, improved data collection, and improved probation outcomes, among several other outcomes.

Rock County, Wisconsin**Facilitator:** *Lance Horozewski*

Rock County Wisconsin is a semi urban – rural jurisdiction of approximately 170,000. The primary goal of juvenile justice reform in Rock County was to address racial and ethnic disparities and implement evidence-based programs and practices. Rock County was selected as a *Models for Change* DMC site and undertook intensive data analysis to better understand racial disparities at each decision-making point. Based on the data a strategic plan was developed to reform selected decision points.

Examples of reforms that were implemented include the implementation of a detention assessment instrument, an evidence-based risk/needs assessment tool, response grid, report center for alternative community-based sanctions, development of a residential care program as an alternative to juvenile corrections, and implementation of three evidence based practices (ART, FFT, FFCM). These reforms have helped to reduce the significance of racial disparities at each decision-making point, ensure consistent decision-making among probation officers, reduce the overall number of youth who required out of home placement, and reduce recidivism.

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