



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
220 NORTH MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 8645  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48107-8645  
(734)222-6850  
FAX (734)222-6715

TO: Barbara Levin Bergman, Chair  
Ways & Means Committee

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel  
County Administrator

FROM: Dan Dwyer  
Trial Court Administrator

Linda Edwards-Brown  
Juvenile Center Administrator

DATE: August 6, 2008

SUBJECT: Disproportionate Minority Contact Reduction Project Grant

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

It is requested that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners ratify the County Administrator's signature on a grant application to the State of Michigan, Department of Human Services to explore and address disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system in the amount of \$122,781 for the period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.

**BACKGROUND:**

Disproportionate minority contact (DMC) with the juvenile justice system is a national concern, and is most pronounced for African-American youth. Nationwide, African-Americans represent 15% of the population, 26% of juvenile arrests, 44% of youth who are detained, 46% of the youth who are judicially waived to criminal court, and 58% of the youth admitted to state prisons (National Academy of Sciences, 2000, as cited in [http://www.cjcj.org/jjic/race\\_jj.php#i](http://www.cjcj.org/jjic/race_jj.php#i)). Recent studies in Michigan mirror this concern as African-American youth were found to be 88% more likely than Caucasian youth to be arrested; 50% more likely to be petitioned to the juvenile court; 2.6 times more likely to be placed in secure detention; and 4.2 times more likely than Caucasian youth to be placed in a correctional/residential treatment facility (Measuring Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System: An Examination of the Michigan Relative Rate Index, 2005).

The significant presence of DMC for African American youth in Washtenaw County is confirmed with local data. In 2007, African-American youth were:

- Petitioned at 2.5 times their presence in the population;

- More likely than Caucasian youth to be ordered into the most restrictive programs (Intensive Probation, Detention, Residential Placements);
- Twice as likely as Caucasian youth to be charged with a new offense while under supervision; and
- Significantly less likely than Caucasian youth to successfully complete probation.

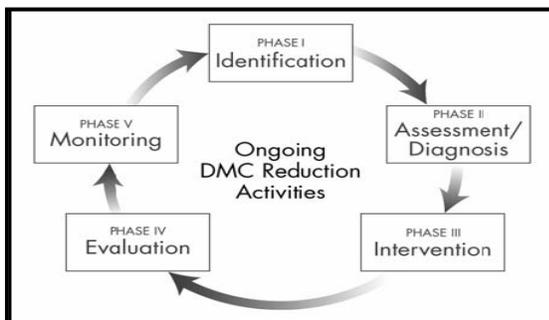
The data above indicate that disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system is a problem in Washtenaw County and is the justification for engaging in a DMC Reduction effort. This data does not, however, fully describe the nature or extent of DMC, explain the reasons for the disparity, or provide data to support the selection of priority decision-points and contributing factors. Additional information is needed to fully understand the problem, its causes, and to design a comprehensive intervention plan to reduce DMC.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The DMC Reduction Project will begin with the formation of a Steering Committee, comprised of traditional and nontraditional juvenile justice system stakeholders. The Steering Committee will be tasked with identifying and coming to consensus on DMC reduction goals; reviewing and analyzing local data; setting priorities for assessment (guided by data); conveying a sense of urgency (and importance) in the community to address DMC; reducing barriers; developing the intervention plan and overseeing the implementation and monitoring of the intervention plan.

DMC is a complex and longstanding problem and efforts to reduce DMC will need to be comprehensive and long-term. Our project will follow the five-phase

### **The DMC Reduction Cycle**



This project will be conducted using a mix of existing staff, community volunteers, unpaid interns, and contractors. Consultants from the Haywood Burns Institute, a leading national organization working to reduce the overrepresentation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system, will provide expert guidance and support throughout this project.

The following objectives will be accomplished during this first year:

- Build an engaged, diverse Steering Committee comprised of traditional and nontraditional juvenile justice system stakeholders.
- Identify the nature and extent of DMC in Washtenaw County at each of nine juvenile justice decision points, desegregated by gender, race, geography, offense-type, and delinquency history.
- Identify the data-supported factors contributing to DMC in Washtenaw County.
- Select three initial strategies to reduce DMC in the areas of training and technical assistance, system change, and/or direct service.
- Design an evaluation plan for each intervention/strategy.
- Design a data collection/monitoring plan that enables quarterly DMC reporting.
- Increase the cultural competency and preparation of Juvenile Justice Personnel to participate in DMC reduction interventions

**IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES:**

None

**IMPACT ON BUDGET:**

The total program budget is \$122,781. The County is not required to provide a cash or in-kind contribution as part of this grant application.

**IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:**

None.

**IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES:**

This program will benefit, and require the participation of, traditional and non-traditional juvenile justice system partners including the Prosecutor, Public Defender, local Law Enforcement, Children's Services Department, and others.

**CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES:**

Conforms to County Policies

**ATTACHMENTS/APPENDICES:**

Grant Application  
Resolution

A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S SIGNATURE ON A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, TO ADDRESS DISPORPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT WITH THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM.

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 6, 2008

WHEREAS, disproportionate minority contact (DMC) with the juvenile justice system is a national concern, and is most pronounced for African-American youth; and

WHEREAS, the significant presence of DMC for African-American youth in Washtenaw County is confirmed with local data; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has developed a five phase model to guide local communities in DMC Reduction efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Judiciary, Prosecuting Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff; and Chiefs of the Ann Arbor, Pittsfield, and Ypsilanti Police Departments have identified DMC as a critical problem and expressed support of this project; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan Department of Human Services has identified DMC reduction as a state-wide goal and set aside funding to support local reduction efforts;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies the signature of the County Administrator DMC Reduction Project grant application to the State of Michigan, Department of Human Services in the amount of \$122,781 for the period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby takes the following actions contingent upon receipt of the grant award in conformity with the application:

1. Authorizing the County Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award;
2. Amending the budget as attached hereto and made a part hereof;
3. Authorizing the County Administrator to sign delegate contracts upon review and approval of Corporation Counsel, to be filed with the County Clerk.

**Washtenaw County Trial Court**  
**DMC Reduction Project**  
**Business Unit: 2991081800**  
**10/01/08 – 9/30/08**

		Original	Revised	Variance
<b>Revenues</b>				
	State Revenue	\$ 0	\$122,781	\$122,781
<b>Expenditures</b>				
80800	Consultants and Contracts	\$0	\$110,025	\$110,025
82000	Travel	\$0	\$2,856	\$2,856
74300	Operating Supplies	\$0	\$9,900	\$9,900