

# MISSOURI JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION



## PLAN FOR REDUCING DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONFINEMENT (DMC) IN MISSOURI:

### 1. IDENTIFICATION - PHASE I

According to "Juvenile Offenders and Victims", a 1996 publication of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), minorities make up about one-third of the juvenile population nationwide, but nearly two-thirds of the juveniles held in public detention and long-term facilities are minority youth.

In Missouri, in 1998, examples of this disparity were seen over and over, and similar results found after a series of assessments were completed by Washington University (Minority Youth Category Title II Grant) in and around the St. Louis area. In one suburb, where the ratio of African-American to White youth is 50-50, 425 African-American youth had been detained as opposed to 12 white youth. And, in yet another suburb with a significantly higher proportion of Whites to African-American (22% African-American), a random sampling of files were selected from the juvenile court consisting of 50 male youth. Twenty-two files turned up belonging to African-American youth, and 28 files belonged to White youth.

While this was good information gathered for that area of the state of Missouri, the desire was to have a more statewide analysis and understanding of DMC throughout Missouri. Missouri's juvenile justice system is comprised of 45 juvenile divisions working in conjunction with State and Local agencies, school districts, law enforcement and numerous public and private youth serving agencies. The system of services provided within the 45 circuits varies greatly depending upon the effectiveness with which these agencies interact.

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association, with the assistance of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Funds, has established itself as the coordinating agency for services through the juvenile justice system in Missouri. MJJA has become the central source of information and development for the juvenile courts, and has been an outspoken and effective advocate for quality juvenile justice services. It has the ability to play a key role, through collaboration, in developing future improvements to the quality of services to the juvenile justice system including developing the base for a "colorblind justice" system by updating and disseminating statistics on this issue, providing training, disseminating information, promoting policy development and serving as a coordinating agency for services to delinquent, status offenders and abused/neglected youth. Therefore, through a Challenge Grant submitted by and awarded to the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) in the year 2000, the Department of Public Safety/State Juvenile

Justice Advisory Group found the vehicle through which a strong and concerted commitment to DMC on a statewide basis could be achieved.

- The first year of this grant a full time DMC Coordinator was hired by MJJA to research, obtain and compile statewide statistics on DMC, by county - at the point of entry, juveniles confined in secure juvenile detention facilities, juveniles confined in secure juvenile correctional facilities, juveniles confined in adult jails, and juveniles confined in adult lockups.

The final report of this research *Missouri's Disproportionate Minority Confinement Preliminary Report, 2001*, provided important first step statewide statistical information (from the year 1999) on DMC. It was presented by providing a matrix of *each* county (115), which reflect where DMC exists within the state of Missouri, and, as well, at which point in the system. Statistics reveal that racial and ethnic differences occur at various decision points within the juvenile justice system.

Missouri's population estimates for 1999 revealed that the juvenile population (10-16) was 83% white, 14% African American, 2% Hispanic, 1% Asian Pacific and .4% Native American. The total juvenile population was estimated at 578,442, and of that number, 100,346 were minorities. African Americans represented 80% of the minority population with 80,052 juveniles. Therefore, in Missouri, minorities represent 17% of juveniles in the general population, and yet represented 39% of the juveniles held in secure facilities. This means that the minority presence in Missouri's juvenile justice system is more than two times their representation in the general population.

Missouri's minority overrepresentation severely impacted the African American community because they accounted for 97% of the minorities securely confined for the research year. Statistics reveal disproportionate minority confinement in 41 Missouri counties (36%), and minority overrepresentation was found at the referral stage in 19 (17%) Missouri counties. The total number of referrals to Missouri's juvenile justice system in 1999 was 88,424. Minority youth were referred 24,594, or 28% which is almost twice their percentage in the general juvenile population. Further, African Americans represented 27%, or 23,636 of the minority referrals, which is one point below being twice their percentage in the general juvenile population.

Why, when and where are this disparities occurring? This overrepresentation most likely is a result of a multitude of factors that bid our attention. Despite Missouri's efforts to address and resolve this issue, questions still remained unanswered, and MJJA was committed to finding the answers.

## 2. ASSESSMENT - PHASE II; PHASE III - INTERVENTION

During this same year a statewide DMC Governing Board was established to provide guidance for and make recommendations for implementation of solutions to challenges found through this Initiative. Members included

representative from the Office of the Governor, the Missouri Supreme Court, the legislature, juvenile and family courts, state agencies, law enforcement, not for profit youth focused organizations, community leaders, faith based organizations, and private citizens from throughout the state. The first meetings held in the year 2000, were informational in scope, where the DMC issue and factors surrounding it was presented to the Board.

- In 2001, technical assistance was requested and received from James Bell, Director of the W. Haywood Burns Institute in San Francisco. Mr. Bell is one of the leading authorities in the area of addressing DMC. The Burns Institute is a voice in juvenile justice that addresses the needs of poor youth and young people of color, their families, and communities. The Burns Institute engages in powerful advocacy and activism to nurture the potential of young people of color for a positive future. It provides local jurisdictions with ongoing, direct technical assistance to reduce the over-representation of people of color in child serving systems. This includes services that target the over-representation of young people of color in the juvenile justice system by: outlining a unique approach toward reducing disproportionality; providing analysis, review and implementation strategies; cultivating collaborative alliances between prosecutors, public defenders, judges, juvenile courts, judges, police, probation and community groups; and recommending culturally appropriate, effective methods for dealing with adolescents in trouble with the law.

The Governing Board heard from James Bell, and voted to adopt the Burns Institute Model as a guide to actively address DMC in Missouri. It was then determined that Missouri's DMC efforts will first be focused on St. Louis City, St. Louis County and Jackson County because of their high minority juvenile population as well as high minority juvenile confinement rates. Each of these jurisdictions committed themselves to actively address DMC and began the process of obtaining letters of support for their DMC efforts from key juvenile justice stakeholders. This was an essential step because The Burns Institute requires that a jurisdiction's key juvenile justice stakeholders attend a presentation concerning how this model works. This would be a prerequisite for receiving technical assistance (TA). The first jurisdiction to receive Technical Assistance was Jackson County. The Burns Institute Model was presented to their community stakeholders in January 2002.

- By the end of 2002, each of the three sites had hired a DMC Coordinator to work on reducing DMC in their local jurisdiction and communities. Beginning October, 2002, MJJA offered to *volunteer* its services regarding DMC efforts (freeing up Challenge grant funds to be utilized by local Missouri sites working on the issue.) MJJA continues serving as the coordinator of facilitating meetings of the DMC coordinators and others with an interest in the issue, and serving as the vehicle through which information regarding the ongoing DMC efforts in Missouri would flow through a variety of venues. The year 2002 saw a

great deal of work accomplished by each of the three targeted DMC sites  
- Jackson County, St. Louis County and St. Louis City.

**JACKSON COUNTY:  
FORESTAL LAWTON, DMC COORDINATOR**

- The Jackson County DMC Project celebrated its one year anniversary in January. It was January, 2002 that Family Court Director David Kierst invited James Bell of the Burns Institute to address a group of some 200 Court, City and County Officials, Service Providers, Schools and Community Groups. An Advisory Board was formed and held its first meeting in May, 2002.
- This initiative began with an invitation to James Bell, Director of the W. Hayward Burns Institute, to address an audience of over 200 persons, including Family Court staff, police, civic and governmental officials and students in January 2002. In February 2002 a group of seven persons visited Seattle to observe their efforts at DMC reduction. In March 2002 a local DMC Coordinator was hired on a part time basis to facilitate the effort. The Family Court also contracted with James Bell as a Consultant for the Project. In April 2002 the Advisory Board was developed and their first meeting was held in May 2002. A federal OJJDP Challenge grant was submitted and received in October 2002 to assist in the effort. The goal of the effort is to have a double-digit reduction in DMC by 2005 while maintaining public safety.
- Three committees have been established:
  1. Data Gathering Committee: This Committee focused attention on the year 2000 referrals to the Family Court. Both zip codes and census tracts were studied to determine where the highest concentration of referrals was being received. It was then determined that there was an overrepresentation of African American youth in the system. African American youth represent 31% of the youth population (ages 10-17), but were represented by 61% of youth in residential services. Other minority groups represented 7% of the population, but only 4% of Court referrals. The Committee recommended to the Advisory Board to use as a target the 15 census tracts that represented 40% of the referrals to the Family Court.
  2. Mapping Committee: This Committee has developed a data gathering information sheet to utilize in mapping the 15 identified census tracts. Four youth groups were selected to perform the actual mapping. Training and Orientation was held and the mapping began March, 2003. May 1, 2003 is the target date for the mapping to be completed. Data will then be compiled and entered into a database to produce a GIS map of each census tract. The mapping will enable Jackson County to visually see where resources are and where they are needed.

3. Marketing Committee: This Committee is also working to develop collaborative partnerships with community stakeholders and existing youth groups.

- Funding was secured from MJJA (via extended OJJDP Federal Funds awarded to MJJA) to allow one Advisory member to attend an International Conference on Mapping held in Denver, Colorado. This conference was very useful in helping Jackson County identify specific mapping strategies and designing its finished product.
- Four youth groups have been identified to conduct the actual mapping data gathering. An orientation was held March 6 and the mapping began that week-end. Tentatively our completion date has been set for May 1st. The mapping committee identified 18 elements to include in the process including: types of housing, vacant lots, churches, schools, recreation or community centers, parks, service agencies, grocery stores, liquor stores, pawn shops, drug houses and other hot spots. This information will be compiled into a spreadsheet and transposed to a GIS map of the census tract.
- Jackson County is also planning to conduct several focus groups in at least two schools and one community center.
- The DMC Coordinator attended a Burns Institute Staff meeting in December. Site Coordinators from those jurisdictions using the Burns Institute Model participated. Areas included Phoenix, Santa Clara County, Seattle, Chicago, Peoria and San Francisco.
- Jackson County's DMC Project was included in an article appearing on the Corrections Today Website in December. They have also had several inquiries from other jurisdictions wanting to know more about the program.
- Jackson County DMC Advisory Board members, and Coordinator, are currently planning to make a site visit to the Multnomah County Detention Center in April. Multnomah County was one of the Annie E. Casey Foundation Sites on Detention Initiatives. Their average daily population was reduced from the 90's to mid 20's based on their detention reforms. As a result they also reduced the overrepresentation of minorities in their System.
- The DMC Coordinator also maintains communication with the other statewide Coordinators, and those within Missouri, as well as the Juvenile Justice Specialist with the Department of Public Safety, and the Executive Director of the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association.

**ST. LOUIS COUNTY:  
JOHN THOMAS, DMC COORDINATOR**

- MJJA held statewide training in October 2001 where James Bell presented The Haywood Burns Institute Model to address minority overrepresentation featuring Seattle Building Blocks project. Representatives of the St. Louis County Family Court attended that program.
- In March 2002, James Bell was invited to present the model to St. Louis County citizens and court staff.
- Initially, St. Louis county gathered statistics from juvenile court, police, and census
- St. Louis County court representatives met with County Planning Representatives
- They then met several times and began to establish a working relationship with the St. Louis County Police
- St. Louis County submitted a grant to DPS for its Juvenile Minority Overrepresentation Project - funding to begin October 1, 2002
- In August of 2002, Juvenile and Family Court representatives, police officer, probation officer, and a County Youth Programs Manager visited Seattle Building Blocks project to see how a community advisory board functions.
- In that same month, through a flow-through grant through MJJA via DPS federal OJJDP funding, these same persons attended a national conference in Atlanta on Disproportionate Minority Confinement (which was broadened to include Disproportionate Minority Contact with the entire juvenile justice system)
- It was determined that the project needed a two-pronged, targeted, data driven approach to be successful - either alone is not enough:
  1. Community based project(s) involving local involvement and leadership in small, targeted geographic areas that refer a high number/proportion of minority youth to the juvenile justice system
  2. An on going internal system reform with Court/police/prosecutor/detention beginning with a detention risk assessment to help assure youth being admitted/confined in detention meet appropriate criteria to be there. Then, several additional decision items need consideration.
- John Thomas, Jr. started as the Juvenile Minority Overrepresentation Project Coordinator on December 2, 2002 for 25 hours per week

- Oriented John Thomas to project and Family Court; reviewed DMC literature; researched best practice models, ie., Haywood Burns Institute for community involvement and prevention, and Multnomah County for detention reform, DMC reduction, broader court-police decision making points, and policy/procedural changes to address minority overrepresentation throughout the juvenile justice system.
- Attended a meeting in Jefferson City coordinated by MJJA, to include the other two DMC Coordinators: Jackson County (Forestal Lawton), St. Louis City (Kimberly Karone Cole); Julie Cole Agee, MJJA, Gary Wait-OSCA; Sandy Rempe- DPS Juvenile Justice Specialist and a statistics specialist from OSCA to share information, learn from each other's experiences, discuss possible technical assistance, and consult with one another on DMC project issues. This group will meet periodically in the future, as coordinated by MJJA, and did set dates for meeting quarterly.
- Continued gathering data from Court and police for evaluation and COGIS determination to help define a targeted area for community project(s); COGIS areas are small geographic areas that the County police use to organize/track their work in unincorporated St. Louis County; with the COGIS association, the County police can map data of interest
- Continued to meet with St. Louis County PD
- Began to identify possible community advisory group members
- Began to develop overall action plan

#### *JANUARY 2003 EFFORTS*

- Interviewed and accepted graduate George Warren Brown practicum student 20 hours per week for two semesters; possible practicum student activities may include and not be limited to: prepare orientation packets for community advisory Board; offer ongoing board and board committee support; help with youth doing community mapping; obtain the research survey tool from Seattle Building Blocks project to use with youth in the juvenile justice system; organize and conduct focus groups with youth in targeted area(s)
- Began contacting potential advisory group members
  - \* The following individuals have committed to being on the advisory group: Lottie Wade-United Way; Rose Terranova-Dept. of Human Services; Rita Heard Days-Senator-Missouri; Charmaine Smith-IAMCARES; Jill Thompson-Vision for Children at Risk; Sgt. Troy Doyle and P.O. Jeff Warner, St Louis County Police;
  - \* St. Louis County is in the process of contacting Charles Dooley, County Council; Alan Green-County Executive Office; Judge and others yet to be identified.

- \* They are in the process of reviewing feedback from individuals who attended the Burns Institute Model training to identify other community stakeholders;
  - \* Once the local community is identified, it is anticipated that youth, youth service agencies, leaders, business people, educators, etc., from the neighborhood will join us
  - \* For data analysis and mapping, it was determined that there may be a need for technical staff from the Family Court, the Planning Department and the County Police to work with the project
- Contacted Julie Cole Agee of MJJA and received flow-through funding (from DPS OJJDP funds) for John Thomas to visit Jackson County Advisory Group
  - Contacted Sandy Rempe of DPS about how to request technical assistance for statistical analysis and strategic planning
  - John Thomas visited Jackson County Advisory Group on January 9, 2002 to observe James Bell, and the work of the community advisory board; noted the following:
    - \* Importance of defined/tasks/time to structure meeting agenda
    - \* Development of working subcommittees (data, mapping, communication)
    - \* Importance of getting/keeping key stakeholders engaged
    - \* Broad, active board membership
    - \* Focused, data deliberation
    - \* KC group has been in place 7 months and still continues to work on identifying their target community (down to 2-3 communities)
    - \* Pick a community with enough resources so that you'll succeed in the pilot
    - \* Long term process/project, at least 3 years, that can't be rushed
  - Targeted early March, for first advisory group meeting
  - Contacted Multnomah County, Oregon about Detention Risk Assessment Instrument and their ongoing system reforms which have impacted minority overrepresentation at every step and decision point; learned Multnomah County has worked on this system reform since 1993 and received national recognition; see website [www.co.multnomah.or.us/djc/jcdetreform/html](http://www.co.multnomah.or.us/djc/jcdetreform/html); Multnomah County sponsors 2 day training once a month for juvenile justice related personnel from across the country in best practices regarding disproportionate minority confinement, detention reforms, decision making analysis, developing alternatives to secure detention, police relations, etc.

### *EFFORTS SINCE JANUARY 2003*

- Established a Project Working name (JMOP) - Juvenile Minority Overrepresented Populations



- Working Slogan: "JMOP Must Drop"
- Recruitment for broad based JMOP Advisory Board - 90% complete
- First Advisory Board meeting held March 7, 2003
- Conducted court youth discussion group on JMOP to solicit comments and possible board members. We are planning to select 2-3 Youth Board members from this group
- Developed project overview Powerpoint presentation
- Developing board orientation package
- Evaluating visiting Multnomah County with Court staff and Board members in April, 2003
- The DMC Coordinator also maintains communication with the other statewide Coordinators, and those within Missouri, as well as the Juvenile Justice Specialist with the Department of Public Safety, and the Executive Director of the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association.

#### **ST. LOUIS CITY:**

##### **KIMBERLY KARONE COLE, DMC COORDINATOR**

- The Family Court - Juvenile Division in the City of St. Louis began to implement strategies to reduce the overrepresentation of minorities in March 2002 by introducing the concept of DMC to community stakeholders. In June 2002, a DMC Coordinator was hired to manage the implementation efforts in the reduction of minority overrepresentation. An advisory board was convened which is comprised of key community stakeholders. Efforts to educate and training the stakeholders as well as the community on the issues related to DMC are underway. The DMC Coordinator regularly participates in community organizations presenting the circuit's DMC efforts. In addition, the DMC Coordinator and other staff have been participating in community forums throughout the community bringing the subject of DMC to the forefront.
- The City of St. Louis' Family Court - Juvenile Division applied for and was awarded a federal OJJDP Challenge Grant for the purpose of addressing DMC. These funds are earmarked for training, expert consultation, statistical analysis and equipment.
- This project has obtained statistical analysis assistance from Dr. Scott Decker, Curator Professor of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Missouri - St. Louis in the form of gathering Court statistics from the various decision-making points; collect data on arrest; detainment; filing of petitions; court adjudications, and; court dispositions. The information was compiled and a statistical report was created. In addition to the report, three

maps were created which distinguished the breakdown of the problem geographically. The maps reflect: Delinquency Referrals, 2001; Juvenile Detention - 2001; and Juvenile Arrest - 2000.

- Throughout the months of December 2002 and January 2003, the DMC Coordinator was in regular contact with representatives from Portland, Oregon (Multnomah County) in an effort to coordinate a site visit.
- December found the DMC Coordinator attending a meeting of Missouri's three DMC Coordinators, Office of State Courts Administrator representatives, DPS Juvenile Justice Specialist, MJJA Director, coordinated by the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association.
- On December 14, 2002, the DMC Coordinator participated in a community forum where the issue of DMC was one of the topics being addressed.
- On December 17, 2002, the DMC Coordinator presented DMC information to the Regional Response Coalition. The DMC information presented was presented in conjunction with a restorative justice presentation.
- In January 2003, DMC information was presented in conjunction with restorative justice presentations.
- On January 6, 2003, the DMC Coordinator participated in a restorative justice presentation to a neighborhood association. The purpose of the presentation was to introduce the restorative justice model to the community and its effect on DMC.
- On January 11, 2003, the DMC Coordinator participated in a community forum where the issue of DMC was one of the topics being addressed.
- In January 2003 a request for a DMC consultant- Technical Assistance through OJJDP was made to DPS.
- On February 3, 2003 the DMC Coordinator participated in a statewide Missouri Juvenile Justice Symposium for Missouri legislators, where over 500 participants attended.
- On February 5, 2003 St. Louis City held their first DMC Advisory Board meeting of the year. The majority of the meeting was spent discussing the Portland site visit and developing questions to present during the visit.
- The site visit to Portland was conducted February 12-13, 2003. Dr. James Herbert Williams, Advisory Board co-chair, Allen Irving - Detention Center Superintendent and Board member along with DMC Coordinator participated in the site visit.

- A meeting of the Board's "Strategic Planning" ad hoc committee will be meeting to process the information obtained from the site visit and present it to the court for implementation.
- St. Louis City is consulting with other jurisdictions across the country where there has been a reduction in minority overrepresentation to ascertain the strategies used. Site visits to Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon have been conducted.
- A Strategic Planning ad hoc committee has been established. The purpose of this Committee will be to meet to process the information obtained from the site visits, develop recommendations and present them to the Advisory Board for implementation.

#### STATEWIDE:

- MJJA continues its DMC efforts in facilitating meetings of the three DMC Coordinators, and serves as the vehicle through which information regarding these efforts flow throughout the state and the nation. A meeting of the Coordinators was held March 25, 2003. MJJA's Compliance Monitor will also be attending these meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for June 10th.
- MJJA established a SPECIAL REPORT section on the home page of its website ([www.mjja.org](http://www.mjja.org)) highlighting the work of DMC efforts in Missouri. The three DMC Coordinators are invited to submit information for inclusion in the website. It is planned that this will be expanded in the future coinciding with the increased attention, focus and funding being brought to DMC through several venues.
- In 2002 MJJA's DMC Coordinator updated the matrixes for the counties of Missouri to the year 2000 (updated those gathered from 1999 statistics.) From this analysis, it was determined that 40 counties (of Missouri's 115 total counties) were found to have disproportionate minority numbers of juveniles securely held at an index of above 1.0. Below please find a graph detailing these findings. From the statistics gathered, the corresponding Indexes were determined and reflected in the graph (Figure 1) below. Description of the five columns from the left are: (1)The County where DMC was found to exist; (2) The Index reflecting DMC for African Americans in that County (any Index above 1.0 is unacceptable); (3) The number of African American juveniles securely held that need to be reduced in order to assure that DMC did not exist in that County (that would result in an Index below 1.0); (4) The Index reflecting DMC for Hispanics in that County; (5) The number of those held securely that need to be reduced in order to assure that DMC for Hispanics did not exist in that County. These are reflected on the statistical analysis and findings in the Figure 1.

FIGURE 1.

COUNTY	AFRICAN AMERICAN	# TO BE REDUCED	HISPANIC	# TO BE REDUCED
Audrain	4.29	-16		
Barry			1.83	-1
Boone	5.17	-71		
Buchanan	4.0	-24		
Callaway	4.80	-9		
Cape Gir	6.38	-65		
Carroll	7.0	-2		
Cass	2.50	-2	2.33	-4
Clay	2.67	-11		
Clinton	2.0	-3		
Cole	2.50	-2		
Cooper	2.80	-2		
Dunklin	2.14	-17	1.33	-1
Franklin	5.0	-8		
Greene	4.67	-27		
Howard	5.71	-2		
Jackson	2.38	-218		
Jasper	2.50	-18		
Johnson	3.25	-4	2.67	-3
Lafayette			12.50	-1
Lincoln	2.50	-2	2.0	-1
Macon	19.0	-6		
Marion	9.80	-18		
Mississippi	1.38	-13		
Monroe	4.25	-1		
New Mad.	1.59	-5		
Pemiscot	1.29	-8		
Pettis	1.5	-5		
Phelps			1.5	-1
Pike	2.80	-4		
Platte	5.0	-6	4.67	-4
Pulaski	1.15	-1		
Randolph	6.0	-7		
St. Charles	5.0	-89		
STL City	1.35	-329		
STL County	2.88	-877		
Saline			1.40	
Shelby	2.0	-1		
Stoddard	4.0	-2		
Warren			3.0	-1

- Pursuant to the Juvenile Crime and Crime Prevention Bill of 1995, as advocated for by the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association, the Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) developed a comprehensive juvenile offender classification that included a risk assessment, a needs

assessment, and a classification matrix. Training has been provided to the majority of Missouri's 45 judicial circuits, and most of the trained circuits have implemented the classification system. Nine circuits are currently using J-TRAC, a system that automates the basic functions of the classification system. Implementation of this system has proceeded through several phases of development, including a recent revalidation of the risk assessment tool.

Another phase of this effort relates to the Missouri legislative mandate to study disposition inequities and the existence of any racial disparity in the juvenile justice system. Specifically, the legislation states that juvenile court records shall at least biennially review a random sample of assessments of children and the disposition of each child's case to recommend assessment and disposition equity throughout the state" (211.141.5 RSMo, Supp. 1995). Another section of the legislation states that "Standards, training and assessment forms....shall be developed considering racial disparities in the juvenile justice system." (211.326.6 RSMo., Supp 1995)

The Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator, working with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) is planning a study that will assist juvenile court in addressing the Missouri statutory requirement to biennially review court data as it pertains to potential racial disparity in juvenile justice processing (211.141 RSMo). Consistent with the legislation, the study will examine representation by race and gender at various decision points in the juvenile justice system.

OSCA has contracted with the NCCD to collaborate with its Juvenile and Adult Court Programs Division and approximately twenty Missouri circuits to conduct the necessary study. Specifically, NCCD will work with circuits to collect and examine J-TRAC (court automated tracking system of court statistics) and other juvenile court data, relative to disparity issues. The results of the analysis will be used to produce a standardized method for individual juvenile courts to periodically examine their own delinquency case process to assess issues pertaining to disposition equity.

The data collection process will begin in June 2003, and will last for approximately three months. The entire project should be completed within 12 months. NCCD staff will be conducting an orientation and training session for circuit staff in April 2003 at OSCA. MJJA will participate in this process as it may relate to its responsibilities on DMC, and compliance monitoring.

MJJA's Project Coordinator for OJJDP Compliance for Missouri, James Reed, attended the 15th Annual Meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts sponsored by the National Center for State Courts, along with the Director of Juvenile and Adult Court Programs -OSCA, and a Judge and Director of Court Services for Jackson County. The purpose of attending this program was to gain additional information regarding this important issue, and how that may

be applied upon return to Missouri in the pilot projects chosen by the Office of State Courts Administrator.

James Reed will also be attending the OSCA orientation training being conducted by NCCD and will continue to keep abreast of these efforts, in addition to his compliance monitoring and coordination with the three existing DMC Coordinators in Missouri.

### *3.PHASE IV: Evaluation, and Phase V: Ongoing Monitoring*

Each community working to address DMC is continuing to evaluate their efforts as they continue their work through the process they are pursuing to reduce DMC in ways that are most effective for their individual community.

Since Missouri is in the beginning stages of this long term process, a total evaluation of the efforts will be able to be accomplished when the communities now working on DMC, and those who may soon begin working on it, assess their accomplishments and evaluate their performance with the goals they have set to achieve.

The state of Missouri continues its monitoring of the state's compliance with the JD Act which includes gathering DMC information to assure Missouri remains in compliance with all the Act's requirements. A plan for updated statistic gathering (like that done for 1999 and 2000) will be achieved within the three years recommended, in time for the next three year plan scheduled for 2006-2009. In the meantime, the communities working on DMC reduction continue to monitor their efforts as they pursue them. Once some additional time has passed, the communities will be able to compare their updated data with that obtained in earlier years, and will also have statewide statistics to compare as well.

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