

THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY  
TEAM - REDUCING RACIAL  
AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES  
CAPSTONE PROJECT

October 2014 LPSCC Presentation

# Team that went to DC

- Carmen Rubio, Executive Director of Latino Network
- Joe McFerrin, CEO/President, Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC)
- Charlene Woods, Chief Deputy District Attorney, Multnomah County District Attorney's Office
- Christina McMahan, Director, Multnomah County Juvenile Services Division
- Lorena Campbell, Intergovernmental Liaison for East Multnomah County School Districts
- Commissioner Judy Shiprack, Multnomah County District 3, and LPSCC Executive Committee Co-Chair
- Judge Maureen McKnight, Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge
- Tashia Hager, Lieutenant, Portland Police Bureau
- Brian Detman, Policy Advisor/DMC Coordinator, Multnomah County Department of Community Justice

# How we got here

- LPSCC DMC Subcommittee
- Movement toward a more family-focused approach: Community Healing Initiative (CHI), Functional Family Probation, Youth Villages Intercept Program
- Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
- Coalition of Communities of Color report: *An Unsettling Profile*
- Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University and Center for Children's Law and Policy – racial and ethnic disparities certificate program

# Why now

- Children of color are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system.
- They are arrested, charged, and incarcerated more than their white counterparts, even for the same behaviors.
- Involvement in the juvenile justice = educational disruptions, reduced employment rates, and increased likelihood of criminal justice involvement.
- Disproportionality in the juvenile justice system is connected to disparate treatment in other child serving systems (child welfare and education).
- Disparate treatment contributes to an intergenerational cycle of justice system involvement and poor outcomes.

# Key values and principles

- All youth in the juvenile justice system should be treated **fairly** and as individuals.
- Adolescents should **not be expected to have the maturity and judgment of adults**.
- Incarceration should be **reserved for those youth who represent a significant danger** to themselves or others.
- Reform efforts should **include families and communities**, which can provide critical supports and resources for youth in the juvenile justice system.
- Reform efforts should be **culturally and linguistically responsive** to the needs and backgrounds of youth in the juvenile justice system.
- *We have the power to make changes that will lead to improved and positive outcomes of youth of color.*

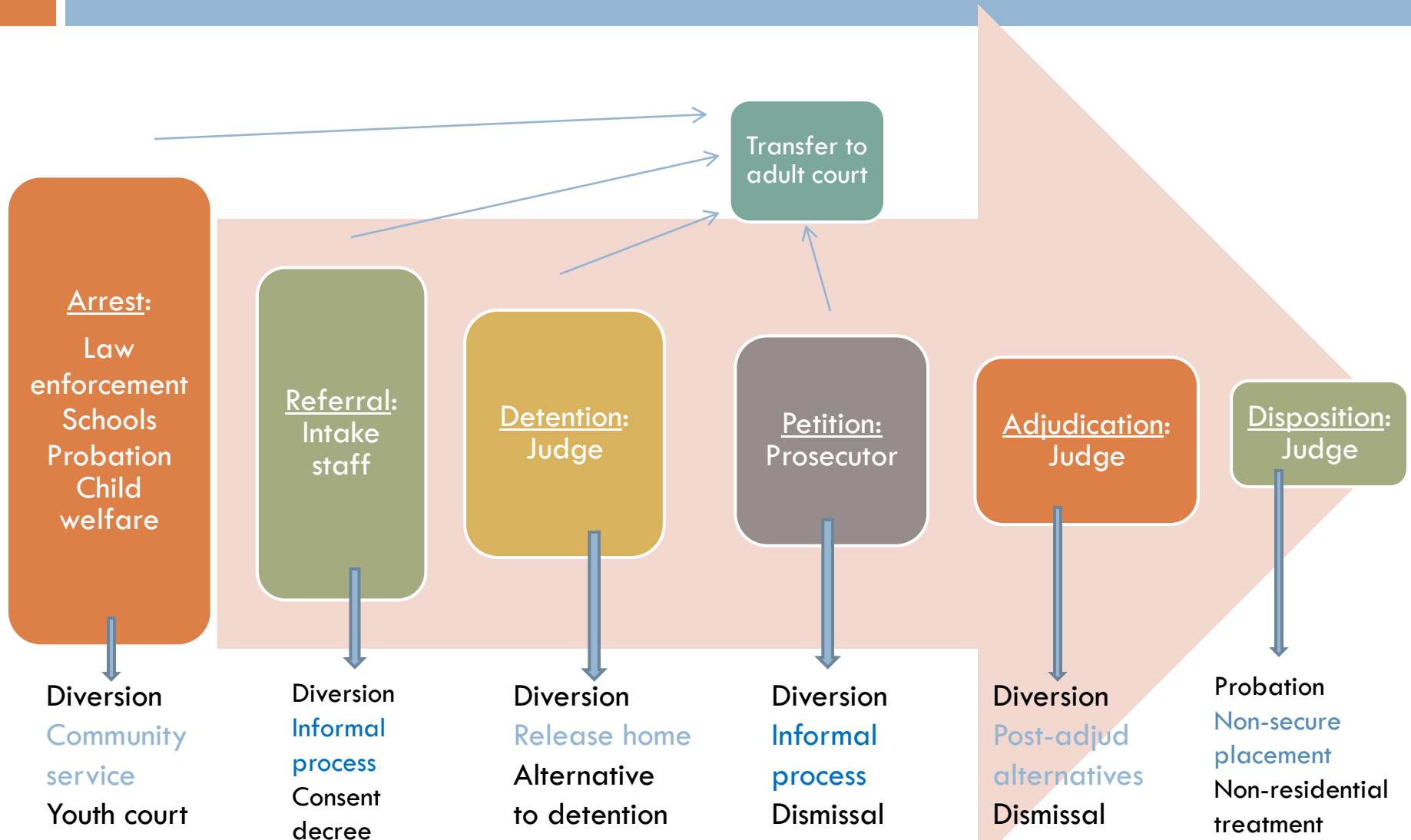
# Key strategies

- **Collaboration** that includes all stakeholders
- Regular collection, analysis, and use of **data**
  - REGGO (race, ethnicity, gender, geography, and offense)
- Focus on local efforts
- Use of **objective criteria** and decision making tools
- A range of **diversion and alternative-to-incarceration programs** and services
- Involvement of **other systems** (e.g., education, child welfare, workforce, etc.)
- Regular **monitoring** of programs and outcomes

# From DMC to RED

- Demographic shifts
- Broad definition:
  - ▣ Over-representation of youth of color
  - ▣ Disparate treatment of youth of color
  - ▣ Unnecessary entry and moving deeper into the juvenile justice system

# Key decision points and pathways out





# RED capstone project assignment

- Team members are responsible for the development of a capstone project—an effort to initiate or continue work to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in an organization or community:
  - ▣ Apply what was learned and develop a plan of action
  - ▣ Advance reform efforts based on needs in Multnomah County
  - ▣ Use data to identify the most promising areas for achieving measurable reductions

# Relative rate index

- RRI: is a measurement that compares the rates of activity for minority youth with majority youth at selected key decision points. This information provides a starting baseline for future monitoring and provides initial guidance for the assessment phase.

1/1/13 - 12/31/13	Oregon (all counties)				Multnomah Only			
	All	White	Black	Hispanic	All	White	Black	Hispanic
Size of Population At Risk (10-17 yoa)	389,067	273,283	12,583	76,853	63,383	38,017	6,190	12,253
Referred to Juvenile Court	22,449	14,157	1,805	3,925	3,288	1,428	1,087	551
<b>RRI</b>			<b>2.77</b>	<b>.99</b>			<b>4.68</b>	<b>1.20</b>
Cases Diverted	16,831	10,718	1,401	2,918	2,725	1,199	888	442
<b>RRI</b>			<b>1.03</b>	<b>.98</b>			<b>.97</b>	<b>.96</b>
Cases Involving Secure Detention	6,392	3,851	566	1,313	566	190	233	108
<b>RRI</b>			<b>1.15</b>	<b>1.23</b>			<b>1.61</b>	<b>1.47</b>
Cases Petitioned (Charges Filed)	5,730	3,375	458	1,192	497	161	234	81
<b>RRI</b>			<b>1.06</b>	<b>1.27</b>			<b>1.91</b>	<b>1.30</b>
Cases Resulting in Secure Juv. Correctional Facility	325	181	40	79	33	6	16	10
<b>RRI</b>			<b>1.94</b>	<b>1.26</b>			<b>1.79</b>	<b>3.12</b>
Cases Resulting in Delinquent Finding	4,237	2,515	286	874	279	88	131	47
<b>RRI</b>			<b>.84</b>	<b>.98</b>			<b>1.02</b>	<b>1.06</b>
Cases Transferred to Adult Court	141	66	34	29	69	16	31	17
<b>RRI</b>			<b>3.79</b>	<b>1.24</b>			<b>1.33</b>	<b>2.11</b>
Dismiss, Plea Bargain or Alternative Process	1,352	794	138	289	149	57	72	17
<b>RRI</b>			<b>1.28</b>	<b>1.03</b>			<b>.87</b>	<b>.59</b>

# Capstone project continued

## □ Disparity at the referral decision point

<i>2013</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>African American</i>	<i>Hispanic</i>	<i>Native American</i>
Population ages 10-17	38,017	6,190	12,253	744
Referrals to juvenile services division	1,428	1,087	551	77
<b>RRI</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4.68</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2.76</b>

# RED capstone project overview

- Problem: The current response to youth encountering the juvenile justice system unfairly and disproportionately affects youth of color.
- Goal: Reduce both the number of law enforcement referrals to the Multnomah County Juvenile Services Division (JSD) and further penetration into the juvenile justice system
- Be proactive with first-time offenders
- Pilot a pre-referral, early intervention and police diversion program
- Use Community Healing Initiative model of family-focused services for eligible youth

# Overview continued

- Current steps for first-time, low-level offenses
  - JSD reviews referrals from law enforcement using a list of agreed upon eligible offenses (JSD and DA's Office).
  - Close the matter, send a “warning letter” or proceed to intake/probable cause review.
  - Warnings letters sent to those referred for low-level criminal and non-criminal status offenses (misdemeanors and violations for minor in possession of alcohol and less than one ounce of marijuana).
  - No further action taken.

# RED capstone project continued

## □ Warning letters

	<i>Total Letters</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>African American</i>	<i>Hispanic</i>	<i>Asian</i>	<i>Native American</i>
Multnomah County	421 (13 other/unknown)	214	99	66	18	11

- *50% of youth committed a secure facility had a warning letter*

# RED capstone project continued

## □ Pilot

- Identify a specific geographic area/neighborhood and assess public school, police precinct and community partnership possibilities
- Determine funding source for pilot and obtain commitment
- Determine process (police and JSD) for sorting and tracking eligible youth
- Refer youth to directly to providers on contract to follow-up and engage youths and their families
- Conduct a risk assessment to determine the right pathway and services
- Measure success by monitoring referrals for new offenses for the eligible youth at regular time intervals, track referrals to JSD and other system decision points and compare results to a warning letter cohort



# RED capstone project continued

## □ Timeline

- Finalize pilot proposal: September to October 2014
- Plan and refine pilot (location, funding/budget, logistics, training, etc.): October 11 to December 31, 2014
- Implement pilot: January 1 to June 30, 2015
- Evaluate: August 1, 2015