**Minutes**

**JJWG Meeting**

**October 15, 2007**

**New Mexico**

**Business Meeting**

Laurie Garduque: MacArthur’s grant making. National funder in juvenile justice. Principal initiative is Models for Change (MfC), models of system reform other states can learn from. Four states. Targeted areas for improvements identified by states. State partners coordinate grant making. Working in counties to model best practices. Also national resource bank for technical assistance to states: PA, Ill, LA and Washington. Work for five years, $10million per state over that time. Recently formed action networks. Enlisted other states to focus on a specific topic, four MfC states and four other states, one on DMC and one on mental health. DMC action network: NC, MD, WI, KA. Mental health: OH, CO, CT, TX.

Come to JJWG for networking opportunities. And opportunities to talk about Macarthur work and build critical mass of activity around juvenile justice grant making. As a national funder, like hearing about state and local strategies.

Ellen Walker: Zellerbach Family Foundation does a lot of things. Ellen’s area, intersection of juvenile justice, child welfare and mental health. Main ways translates into grant making – e.g., children of incarcerated parents, special grant to fund juvenile probation dept in SF to make org better. Now planning. Trying to stay hand off. E.g., evidence based mental health practices in juvenile justice system. Want SF to work for Institute of Mental Health. Don’t want to push SF into doing it before ready. Get into juvenile justice thru different directions. Evidenced based practices, gender specific services, working to develop girls court in SF. On child welfare/juvenile justice intersection, bill of rights for young mothers in detention to maintain relationships to children.

Watching and waiting about how to participate in JJWG. Need mechanism to better share papers and reports with each other.

Diane Sierpina: Tow Foundation. Focus on juvenile justice in CT. Founding member of CT JJ alliance. Formed in 2001. Sits at many policy tables. Stimulate conversations and reform. Mission to support community coalitions.

Oldest member of working group. First meeting of May 2002. Networking and can share what’s happening in CT with other funders, national and state-based. Stimulating reform at local levels. Brought JEHT Foundation to fund Alliance, etc. Getting to know national funders help them come to CT. They learn from Tow’s experience. Sharing information. Mission is system reform. Speakers to meetings have value to bring to your state. Get papers and reports from other foundations to share with state partners.

Beatianne Hart: Sapelo Foundation, Reynolds family foundation in Georgia. Conservation interests. Sapelo Island, isolated, Gula tradition. Foundation evolved into a new generation, social justice and environment. Traditionally funded grass roots org outside Atlanta. Social justice area frustrated. Rethought issues how to best help communities. Hearing frustration re juvenile issues, expulsion of children from schools, school to prison pipeline, influx of Hispanic children into juvenile justice and foster care system, Georgia has one of highest incarceration rates in world. Trying to determine where to have impact. CJ system is a hodgepodge, hard to know where to focus. No one looking at children’s juvenile justice issues. Coalition of Georgia Bar Association looking at Children’s Code. Trustees decided to focus on this. Identified lead organizations involved with children. Brought them together to determine how to approach issue. Launched coalition looking at best practices in juvenile justice. Hope to generate a major policy report in two issues identifying major issues facing children.

Come to JJWG because we are new. Learned about group in Chicago. Looking for foundations to partner with, resource networks, to help facilitate and direct group. We are new in this field.

Judy McBride: Harford Community Foundation. When left Justice Department, wanted to bring best practices to a community. Lots of assets, over $700 million. Responsive grant makers. Helping foundation focus on juvenile justice issues. Helping Harford focus on youth violence. Clinton Lacey working with city, developing a data-driven pan.

Why JJWG? Gives her thinking time. All inundated with so much stuff. Helps her step out, learn more. Share information with others. Papers circulated. Has window into national picture.

Alex Carter: Chasdrew Fund. Small portfolio. Use staff to provide capacity building support for nonprofits. Campaign for Youth Justice – TA provider to work with state-based advocacy groups. Capacity-builders. Five plus states: CT. WI, NY, VA, etc. Been major activity for a year or two. Because in DC suburbs, participate in Regional Association of Grantmakers Older Youth Task Force, primarily foster care and juvenile justice. Working closely with Vinny Schiraldi at DYS.

Comes to JJWG because we are small. We can’t get much done on own. Looking for ways to collaborate and leverage good ideas and resources. Commitment to not being in ivory towers.

Jeannie Baulfour: McKnight Foundation in Minneapolis. Children and Families area. JJ not in core. Work in foster care. But board member interest in juvenile justice, came across JJWG, decided to learn more. Fund in a coalition gathering around table to do juvenile justice reform. Only two things doing now. Informing us to figure out if and how to do more in juvenile justice field. Did mapping that coalition incorporated our Blueprint tenets into their work.

Here, learning a lot, networking, time to think, reading stuff on plane, slow down and think, realize what next step might be.

Martha Toll: Butler Family Fund. Two program areas, homelessness and criminal justice, death penalty and juvenile justice reform. Very small. Fund advocacy and systems change. Come because opportunistic funders, looking for enlightened government and foundation efforts. Efficient to come and learn here.

**Gender Responsive Programming**

Nicole Moreland: Status of female population in detention. Reform of juvenile justice detention. Trying to treat juveniles differently in past. Started to release half of detention population before being booked, but it did not apply to girls. Track populations by zip code.

Craig Sparks: work for state. Juvenile justice, child protective services and family services. Nicole works for county detention center. Working on a girls probation unit, to build programming.

Nicole: In a nutshell, found nothing new when surveyed girls population. When did survey, blood boiled. Gross injustice with females. Higher recidivism rate. Come in for lower level crime and stayed longer. Over pathologized females. Longer lengths of stays in detention than males. Number one reason for first contact with juvenile justice, always a fight with someone in relation to them. Try not to bring in our own stuff into our jobs. We treat boys and girls differently. Girls want to tell you what you want to hear on surveys. Boys don’t want to talk about it. Self-fulfilling prophesies. Start behaving in ways that validate the questions that are asked of them. Girls are surveyed seven to 10 times, so know questions and rehearse answers. Top crimes for females: runaways is big issue for girls, especially running from treatment center. Many girls reported being sexually molested. Girls have little attachment to family members, even though report deep love to family members.

Craig: Juvenile crime going down in NM, even though people think it is going up. Important to utilize data-driven approach. Important to have folks who can analyze data. Ten years ago, girls made up 10 percent of juvenile crime. Now 32 percent. Real numbers may not be going up, because overall decrease of juvenile crime. But says doing well by boys and so percentage of girls going up. Male models for treatment and counseling. Girls not responding well to treatment options because they are male models. Don’t get treatment until out of detention, because kids in and out of detention to quickly for treatment. Average length of stay for girls is 15 days unless waiting for residential treatment, then 50 days. Average length of stay for boys is 20 days. Girls: probation violations, warrants, conduct violations, relational type charges, low end misdemeanors. Probation has 20 conditions. Girls mostly violate condition to stay in same place.

Craig: In December 2005, probation office and judge built specialized programming for girls. Collected data. Building a girls probation unit. Started taking cases one and half years later, in April 2007. Frustrated took so long, but wanted to look at data and best practice models. Had to do a lot of work with staff. Probation officers prefer to take boys on caseload than girls. So have a lot of probation officers that don’t want to work with girls. Fear of failing with population because not good tools to work with girls. So asked, how do we need to train staff so have tools. Probation officers worked with boys and girls depending on zip code and case load. Some better at working with girls than others. Asked staff, who wanted to work in girls probation unit. 150 girls on probation in Albuquerque. Cap at about 20 in caseload. Had to reallocate, because no new staff for this. Wanted to know, are you committed to working with girls. Eleven probation officers interested, picked seven. Asked them about willingness to be trained and apply it. Sent two to Baltimore for training. Only one male selected. Six females and one man, one woman supervisor.

Average caseload for regular PO, now in 30’s. Used to be in 60’s. Caseload for girls is 20. Deal with kids on parole as well. Smaller numbers.

Gender responsive programming more appropriate term than gender specific programming. Can have a girls probation department, but is it responsive to needs of girls, are we going to see changes in outcomes. Girls background have more trauma, sexual abuse, fragmentation, early pregnancy. Trauma recognition, motivational interviewing, general cultural awareness training. Have FFT and MST, and working well, but capacity to run them is limited. Communities need to build up this evidence-based treatment infrastructure.

A wide roaming discussion was had.

**Juvenile Justice and Mental Health**

Dr. George Davis: Seem a lot of kids in different systems. Children seeing in detention and incarceration, see in that group an increasingly distilled mental health population in juvenile justice system. May not be more distressed, but more chronic and impaired by those disorders. Also see a number of kids in mental health clinic at detention center, pre and post incarceration and detention, see whole gamut, find same kids that initially pulled into child protective services for abuse and neglect, those are kids with worse mental health problems, in residential treatment centers and subset of group commit delinquent acts and move into juvenile justice systems and a subset of those move into adult justice system. Main difference between kids in residential treatment and delinquent kids is time and chance. Sometime detention and incarceration is best for kids, get services they need, touched by professionals, into case management. Characteristics of kids the same in all systems. Kids have depression at a high rate, 30 to 40 percent, most traumatized, most have substance abuse problems, use marijuana daily, serious psychiatric disorders, bipolar, etc, at a higher rate than population. Above all they have been traumatized. Early childhood deprivation and trauma is leading underlying cause of delinquency. Have to get ahead of this curve. Best model programs are highly articulated, specific for each individual kid.

Tom Swisstack: Fifty percent of problem is with adult in the criminal justice system…also agencies all competing for same dollars. Hard to break silos. 6200 people in adult prison. Out of 6200 people, 5102 have a drug and alcohol/mental health issue. Out of 6200, 75 percent don’t have a GED or high school diploma. Can see next generation of adults when look at juvenile system. When talk to policymakers, government officials, try to get across, this is not Detroit, not California. Small enough that if we work together can become a model state. Leadership comes and goes. System takes a dive unless roots permeated to line staff. Business plan to change whole system. Break it down into small parts. Can’t go from 0 to 60 overnight. Have to build trust slowly. We don’t do well in NM, training academy for people who work in juvenile justice system. Need to retrain staff. Staff receive 176 hours of training a year in personal communication, drugs, de-escalization, etc. train staff to become case managers working with children. Don’t train staff, don’t educate elected officials.

Role for foundations to help government change the way they look at priorities. Talk about alternative programs. Need to train elected officials that they don’t have to campaign on tough on crime. Tom’s responsibility to cover backs of district attorneys, judges, public defenders. Don’t want negative publicity. Take hard core kids. Commitment to judge, district attorney, and public defender that will help kids succeed. Made changes to children’s code. Put in AECF principles. So long after Tom gone, code changed to meet new concepts of diversion and alternative programs. Changed in law the truancy issue. School always last ones to sit at table. But first to use juvenile justice system. Now schools, with third unexcused absences, must work with family and can’t refer to juvenile justice system until 15 unexcused absences. For long time, regional juvenile justice act, 1994, was unfunded, for money for pilot projects. Put $2 million in recently. Goal to get to $6 million. Reoccurring money. Incorporate JDAI principles into law, if play well together for children and family. Now bridging with local governments to address juvenile issues. Localities have lots of money to deal with these issues. Realign funds from feds and localities to better serve these kids. Educating folks about where money is going, reallocating not asking for new monies.

Foundations can leverage political collective agreement. Perception may be you don’t have that power to do this, but Tom leveraged AECF without AECF ever having o speak a word. Politicians must understand that they can pay now or they can pay later.

Uses media to educate elected officials. Tom brings media with him, has nothing to hide. Then lets media communicate and educate. Uses talk shows on public access TV. Put politicians on panels dealing with children’s issues in order to educate them. Methodical approach to getting people who had a somewhat sympathetic ear to become your champion. Also have kids speaking on panels to adult. Get kids involved in decision-making process.

**Native American Talking Circle**

(Sorry no notes. I loved the idea that when a youth comes before a tribal court, he is asked what the system can do for him. Then the court asks the same of the family, “What can we do for you.”)