

Update on Planned DMC Activities in 2009

1) While Chippewa County was initially identified as a potential DMC site, it was not prioritized above Wayne, Washtenaw, Oakland and Kalamazoo. Therefore, it remains a site to engage within the next 2-3 years due to resource limitations.

2) A plan to deliver several DMC outreach and educational awareness sessions across the state has taken priority over a statewide conference. The strategy is to hold four sessions (the first one, in Wayne County) in different regions of the state. The session in Wayne County engaged prosecutors, judges, court officials, and community-based leaders to discuss the importance of data collection in the identification of DMC. Presentations were made by project directors of currently funded initiatives in Kent and Macomb Counties regarding the lessons learned in an effort to reduce minority involvement in the juvenile justice system.

3) The Department of Human Services (DHS) has collaborated with the State Courts Administrators Office for a full day DMC Conference in Lansing on October 6. The intent of the conference is to address the effects of the decisions made in the Child Welfare and juvenile justice systems on DMC. The agenda is currently in the development stages but includes plans to invite James Bell of the Burns Institute to open the second day conference session on DMC in the juvenile justice system.

4) A DMC and Compliance Monitoring website will be hosted by DHS.

5) The goal to produce a DMC report card for each county last fall was met with certain obstacles. Data collection of DMC data remains a problem statewide. Counties have various systems of collecting data. Few of these systems are applicable to state governmental systems. Progress is being made to establish an MOU between DHS, BJJ and SCAO to gain access to state-wide information and then produce the report cards. The expectation is that a seamless system should be in place by 2012.