

Kinship Care in Lauderdale Lakes: An Option to Detention

Lessep Duncan MA, MSW

ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the City of Lauderdale Lakes identifying its large African American and significant Caribbean population as faced with Disproportionate Minority Contact and high juvenile detention rates. Statistics indicate the City has a high rate of poverty and crime in comparison with state and national averages with a high county rate of racially disproportionate arrests, convictions, and detentions. Ameliorating these concerns requires culturally aware approaches that include community involvement, and reducing alienation in an attempt to serve an at-risk population. An underutilized service – kinship care - is proposed to address disproportionate detention rates. Evidence points to kinship care, a traditional form of support and potential source of community strength, as providing better developmental outcomes for youth. Revised assessment instruments employed by culturally competent staff comprise the necessary requirements for a relevant kinship care service. Recognizing the character of the community and traditional black families as a source of strength enhances the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (FDJJ) and local agencies ability to provide more culturally appropriate approaches including kinship care to prevent delinquency and reduce detention of youth.

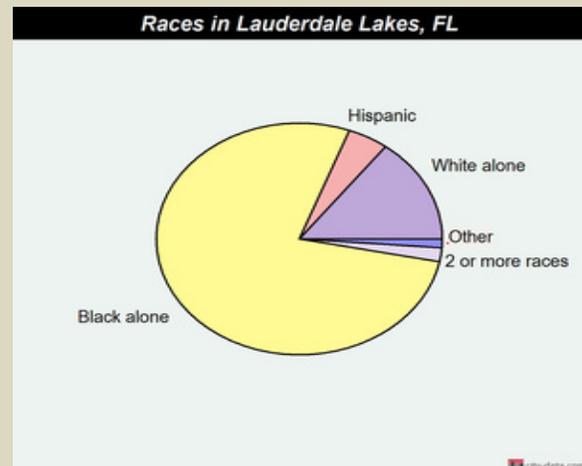
Florida Public Health Review, 2016; 13, 108-120.

BACKGROUND

Evidence points to an increasing concern with disproportionate minority contact (DMC) and its impact on the future of black youth. The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (FDJJ) (2008) indicates that local courts and the legal system are incarcerating more youth of color at much higher rates than white youth which has led to severe DMC in Florida. According to the FDJJ, black youth were referred to, arrested, and processed within the juvenile justice system 2.5 times more than white youth. Black youth were disproportionately overrepresented at the referral stage of the juvenile justice system in approximately 91% of Florida counties in 2006 (FDJJ, 2011).

In this light, a focus on the African-American/Caribbean population in the city of Lauderdale Lakes, Florida brings to attention several risk factors related to DMC, delinquent behavior, and detention in the juvenile justice system. The city has 78% black or African-American residents. The average for the United States (U.S.) is 12.3%. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009). The West Indian-born population represents 36.3%, with one of the highest concentrations of Jamaicans in the U.S. (Figure 1). The poverty level in Lauderdale Lakes is

Figure 1. City of Lauderdale Lakes Statistics



Source: <http://www.city-data.com/city/Lauderdale-Lakes-Florida.html> City-data.com 2003-2011 Advameg, Inc.

71.6% greater than the Florida average and 83.1% greater than the national average (Figure 2). The Lauderdale Lakes violent crime rate is 108% greater than the Florida average and 283% greater than the national average. Overall, the Lauderdale Lakes

crime index is 41% greater than the Florida average and 103% greater than the national average (AreaVibes Inc., 2010) (Table 1).

Taking the community crime rate, the problem of DMC, and detention rates into account, a re-evaluation of ongoing assessment instruments determining detention and kinship placement is proposed. Lauderdale Lakes would benefit from a program designed to eradicate the conditions leading to DMC and incidences of delinquency. The program would reinforce the use of kinship care in strengthening families and relationships aimed at preventing detention. Diverting youth from detention reduces a financial burden on the state, county and municipal governments. Linking the FDJJ with community programs is a necessary step. Accessing community, city, county, and state sources including reports, policies, recommendations, and websites, in this paper I present evidence indicating a need for culturally-sensitive programs to bridge gaps between community and service providers is required. This initiative is called FRENDD (Family Response through Extended Networks to prevent Delinquency and Detention).

The City of Lauderdale Lakes

Formed in 1961 the city of Lauderdale Lakes measures four square miles in Broward County, with the crossroads of State Road 7 and Oakland Park Boulevard at its center. Initiated by six founders who comprised the city's first city council after its formation, their first resolution established city officers, the major positions being the City Clerk and the Chief of Police. The city grew during the 1960s and 1970s into a diverse community with consistent economic growth, developing businesses, and attractive and open spaces.

The city has a population of approximately 32,000. With 133 full-time, 43 part-time and 65 Broward Sheriff Office employees (though reduced at the time of this writing), the city has grown in line with the social, security, financial, and recreational needs of its community. In 1998, the city voted to change its Mayor/City Council to a Mayor/City Commission/City Manager form of government (City of Lauderdale Lakes, Florida, n.d.).

Between 2005 and 2009, Lauderdale Lakes was comprised of 53% females and 47% males. The median age was 35.8 years. Twenty-five percent of the population was under 18 years, and 13% was 65 years and older. The city is predominately a working class and black community that includes a large West Indian-born population. According to the Bureau of the Census (U.S. Census 2005-2009) 17% were white (U.S. average is 75.10%), 78% black or African-American; less than 0.5% American Indian and Alaska Native; 1% Asian; less than 0.5% Native

Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, and 2% some other race. About 2% were of mixed races; about 5% of the population was Hispanic. Of households in Lauderdale Lakes, 65% are families: 36% two-parent families, 29% other, and 35% are non-family households (U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009).

The city commissioners including Mayor Barrington Russell and Deputy Vice Mayor, previously Patricia Hawkins-Williams, and subsequently, Eileen Rathery, have been attempting to instill community pride and responsibility including youth programs aimed at involving youth in community decision-making processes. This is a positive sign and a potential resource to further kinship care (City of Lauderdale Lake, FL).

Lauderdale Lakes, however, has been undergoing a financial crisis due to declining income primarily caused by decreasing property values and tax revenue. This has caused severe cuts in social services including police officers. The Broward Sheriff Office (BSO) was owed approximately 9 million dollars. The City Commission had to request a loan from Broward County to pay the BSO debt.

Faced with the possibility of a cut in police officers, residents do not feel any less safe. An article in the *Miami Herald* (July 2, 2011) cited a barber shop owner who spoke about feeling okay leaving his shop at night and coming back in the morning even with fewer police officers patrolling the city.

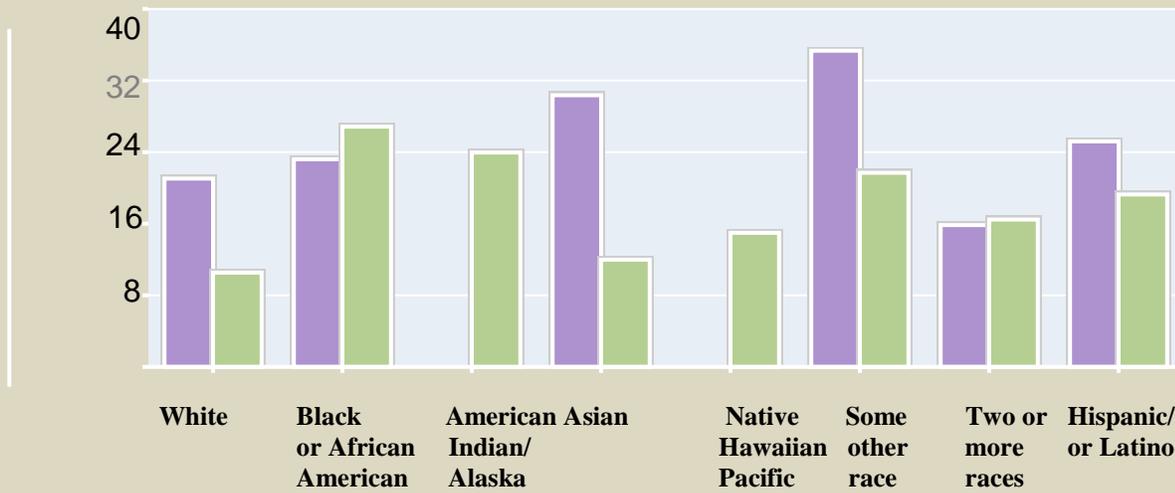
Juvenile Detention

With no specific data on the detention rates of Lauderdale Lakes youth I have cited county and statewide statistics to give an indication of the severity of the problem.

Figures from the Children's Services Council of Broward County indicate that in Broward 2009/10 7,013 juveniles under age 18 were arrested; 4,998 of these were minorities; 3,532 of youth under 18 were diverted from court; 2,271 of those diverted were minorities.

According to the Blueprint Commission (Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, 2008) the State's \$704-million department handled 91,497 youth in 2007. The report points to a growing population of young people in Florida, and, consequently, a potentially growing source of juvenile offenders. Yet detention is not the best solution to delinquency (Reduce Juvenile Detention, Policy for Results.org). The Blueprint report cites figures indicating 20,690 youth placed in home and 54,369 placed in secure detention. Noting the racial disproportion of detained youth the Blueprint report shows that in Florida, there are 1.9 million young people, aged 10-17 of which: 53% are white; 21% are black; 22% are Hispanic. However, in detention: 36% are white; 51% black;

Figure 2. Percentages of Poor Residents (Income below Poverty Level) in Lauderdale Lakes



Key: Purple - Lauderdale Lakes Green - Florida average

Source: <http://www.city-data.com/poverty/poverty-Lauderdale-Lakes-Florida.html#ixzz1TB9Ln3o4>

Table 1. Lauderdale Lakes Crime Information

| Crime | Lauderdale Lakes Total | Lauderdale Lakes /100K | Florida /100K | National /100K |
|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Violent crimes | 403 | 1,256 | 605 | 328 |
| Property crimes | 1,750 | 5,454 | 4,148 | 2,974 |
| Total crime index | 2,153 | 6,710 | 4,753 | 3,302 |

Note.

The Lauderdale Lakes violent crime rate is 108% greater than the Florida average and 283% greater than the national average. The Lauderdale Lakes property crime rate is 31% greater than the Florida average and 83% greater than the national average. Overall, the Lauderdale Lakes, FL crime index is 41% greater than the Florida average and 103% greater than the national average.

Source: <http://www.areavibes.com/lauderdale+lakes-fl/crime/> 2010 AreaVibes Inc.

10% Hispanic. This disproportionate representation is evidenced throughout and increasingly within the juvenile justice system. Concerns to be addressed include: the disproportionate rate of minorities within the system, recognition that detention does not provide optimum conditions for rehabilitation; resources for prevention and interventions to keep the youth out of the system, considerations which are pertinent and risk factors for Lauderdale Lakes.

Options to Detention

The risk factors indicated above raises several flags when focusing on Lauderdale Lakes. Facilitating kinship referrals and services is one option to prevent detention.

This requires revision of Florida's current assessment instruments and initiation of culturally competent case workers. Expanded linkage between the Juvenile Justice Department and community based services – including Kids Central, the Florida Kinship Center, Florida Respite Coalition, DCF, Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida – is necessary to address concerns via preventative and culturally appropriate measures.

In spite of the numerous risk factors present in the community, the Miami Herald Report (2011) indicated residents appear to go about their daily lives in awareness of these problems and possible hazards. This indicates a sense of resilience and/or limited choice in their living environment. In a community lacking public funds new resources and solutions must be found and used. The kinship care option is considered an effective though underused resource. In Lauderdale Lakes current condition, extension and relevant application of kinship care (with supporting services) provides one possible solution (Florida Department of Juvenile Justice 2008).

A report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation (Hoytt, Schiraldi, Smith, & Ziedenberg, 2001) cites Multnomah County, Oregon as a national model for reducing disparate treatment of minorities in the juvenile justice system. Employing collaborative efforts with local agencies to facilitate increased options to detention led to a decline in the number of African Americans, and Latinos detained in 2000. The average daily population in detention dropped from 92 in 1993 to 33 in 2000 (Table 2). The report indicated three factors as contributing to Multnomah County's success in reducing racial disparity detention rates: (1) development of alternatives to detention; (2) training to raise awareness about overrepresentation; and (3) a revised risk assessment instrument.

Key Points

- A requirement for the Juvenile Justice Department to link with local agencies to

ensure provision of kinship services to children and families while taking account of their socioenvironmental situation.

- Enhancing culturally sensitive practices benefits both clients and agencies.
- With budget and limited financial restraints diverse use of options including kinship care become cost effective as well as culturally appropriate.

Whereas retention within the family is viewed as a priority detention is invariably the option used. Considering the socioenvironmental situation of youths is essential. The youth in Lauderdale Lakes live in disadvantaged at-risk conditions. The cultural and economic character aligned with the high crime rates of the city present features that require support. Evidence indicates that the development of children and youth are enhanced in a family setting. This entails possibilities for the promotion of kinship care.

Summary

Whereas an integrated and multifaceted system of services is required, accurate assessment of the at-risk population situation is necessary. Current family intervention, youth development and community based services do exist, however they operate in a racially biased environment fostering DMC. In face of high rates of poverty and other socioeconomic disadvantage it is likely that there is a limited focus on particular concerns and needs including DMC and kinship care in the city of Lauderdale Lakes. Thus, culturally based solutions and integrated interventions that bring the community and families into the planning and implementation of services relevant to their life experiences are required. This is perhaps Kirst-Ashman and Hull, Jr, (2012) major contribution referring to collaborative efforts in the macro change process and use of their PREPARE and IMAGINE models.

Purpose - Kinship Care: An option to Detention

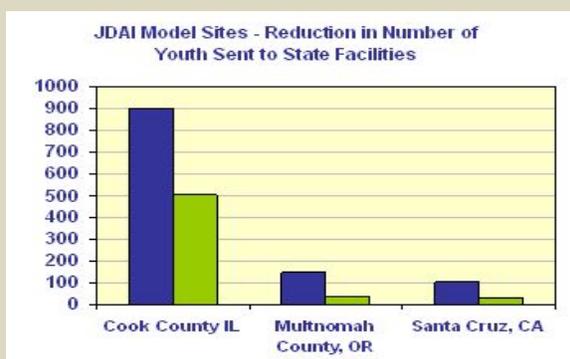
Kinship care traditionally used in maintaining families can be utilized with necessary support to limit and prevent detention (Scannapieco & Jackson, 1996). Studies including Ryan, Hong, Herz, and Hernandez (2010) point to kinship care as producing better outcomes: reduction in behavioral problems and positive self-perceptions of children and youth. Hill (1998) outlines strengths and resilience of black families. Kinship care reinforces goals of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems to retain youth in the family setting. Application of kinship care that fosters family inclusion in decision making and culturally sensitive assessments may be increasingly effective in reducing the number of black youth in detention.

Table 2. Evidence Based Practice Statistics – The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
Results of Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiatives in 3 Counties

| Decline in Average Daily Detention Population | | | |
|---|------|------|-----------|
| | 1997 | 2003 | Reduction |
| Cook County | 623 | 454 | 27% |
| Multnomah County | 96 | 33 | 66% |
| Santa Cruz County | 47 | 27 | 43% |

Rates of DMC, arrest and detention by the criminal justice system is a problem (Figure 3 and Figure 4). Inadequacy of existing programs exacerbates the situation. This is especially evidenced in a lack of kinship care services within Lauderdale Lakes – a predominately Black population - and surrounding districts. Use of a Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) focusing on culturally competent assessments and expanded community services are aimed at increasing options to detention. Employed in several regions JDAI initiatives, evaluated by the Annie E. Casey Foundation (Hoytt, Schiraldi, Smith, and Ziedenberg 2001) have successfully reduced detention rates particularly in minorities. The most successful programs implemented were in Cook County IL., Multnomah County, Oregon and Santa Cruz, CA. Lauderdale Lakes youth face DMC thus kinship care is framed as an option for reducing detention.

Figure 3. JDAI Model Sites – Reduction in Number of Youth Sent to State Facilities



The Program

Enhancing the State of Florida’s mission to reduce delinquency and detention levels particularly the

disproportionate rate of black youth, I propose a kinship care program called Family Response through Extended Networks to prevent Delinquency and Detention (FRENDD). Kinship care entails placement of a youth with any eligible family member when the court or family decide that a return to the home of the parent(s) is not possible.

Assessment and Implementation of FRENDD

Several steps are required. These include approaching local agencies to gauge the existing level of kinship care services and ability to provide support for delinquent youth and families. Secondly to foster support for kinship care and determine which agencies and community representatives will join in collaborative initiatives to promote kinship care and supportive services. Coordination of educational campaigns and surveys within Lauderdale Lakes to assess favorability towards kinship care is the next step. This is followed by a collaborative approach to the County Juvenile Justice Department advocating kinship care as a response and solution to disproportionate rates of Black youth in the Juvenile and Criminal Justice system. After soliciting support (18 months), implementation (including links with 4 local agencies) is expected to take 6 months with subsequent feedback on program outcomes (Figure 5).

Assessing for kinship care must recognize cultural values and familial attachments to facilitate the youth’s growth and development. To be effective the program requires re-education of Juvenile Assessment Center case managers with cultural sensitivity training and acknowledgement of the sociocultural orientations of youth and families within their community. Through the use of revised Risk assessment instruments –RAI - (existing) community and family agencies should receive referrals with an emphasis on supporting kinship care

to divert youth from detention. In line with the Annie E. Casey Foundation-Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiatives recommendations services include two phases: (1) objective screening instruments; and (2) increased – alternatives-to-detention – programs emphasizing kinship placement.

(1) Assessments – RAI: Conducted by (re)trained culturally competent Case Workers who will recognize the impact of DMC.

Initial Assessments: consider current allegation, youth's history of delinquency and seriousness of offence.

Follow-up Assessment (14 days from referral to Juvenile Justice System) must include (available and willing) extended family members provided with program expectations, procedures and sanctions while they are able to input their perspectives and expectations.

Above considerations, risk score and family circumstances determine whether youth is placed with his/her kinship group

(2) Case worker provides at-risk and delinquent minority youth greater access to alternatives and interventions, such as: prevention; early intervention programs; diversion programs; and alternatives to detention and confinement. Working with the family the case worker develops a service plan that places the family with appropriate agencies. This facilitates a smooth transition of integrated and agreed on services and goals (Disproportionate Minority Contact Benchmark Reports – FDJJ). Re-evaluation of the youth-client is to be conducted at six month intervals with monthly monitoring of youth with a history of delinquency. The case is closed after 18 months if there are no further incidents.

Literature Review

Considered a type of family preservation kinship care refers to placements of children with relatives or, in some jurisdictions, close family friends (often referred to as fictive kin). This kind of placement maintains the children's connections with their families (Cohen, 2008).

A strength of African-American and other minority families, relatives and fictive kin (unrelated persons with whom family has a close relationship) who act as caregivers for children is an important measure for increasing permanency for minority children while also maintaining ties to their family system.

Studies including Ryan, Hong, Herz and Hernandez (2010) and Scannapieco and Jackson (1996) point to kinship care as producing better outcomes: reduction in behavioral problems and positive self-perceptions of children and youth. Hill (1998) outlines kinship care as a source of strength and resilience among black families. Raising questions as to the efficacy of kinship care, Green (2003), points to the inconsistencies in application of

kinship services leading to negative conceptions and limited assistance. However further research argues that kinship care remains a strength in the black/African-American community and, through increased assistance and more relevant assessments can become a highly effective and successful resource and solution to several social concerns. Considered a traditional source of support and community strength, kinship care is viewed by the US GAO (2007) as providing better developmental outcomes for youth. Discussing the ways that kinship care can provide optimal assistance, Little (n.d.) argues that social workers, agencies and the social welfare system need to become better versed in the benefits of kinship care. This includes being able to negotiate with agencies and families in implementing appropriate placement and support services to facilitate and assist families who are unaware or distrustful of existing government services and programs aimed at preserving children in their (extended) family and maintaining care.

Taking up this requirement for collaborative programs Corrigan and Bishop (1998) argue for revised collaborative and integrated services that derive from and represent the sociocultural environment of families and children being served. Research advocating change in agency procedures to emphasize kinship care includes Chipman, Wells, and Johnson (2002). Programs must enhance extended family perspectives and strengths. Focused on children's mental health needs Kilmer, Cook, and Munsell (2010) argue for application of 'Systems of Care' using the 'Wraparound' approach emphasizing family centered policies. Kilmer, Cook, and Munsell (2010) advocate placing the family as the primary focus, though note that this has not been achieved in practice. Pennell, Edwards, and Burford (2010) argue that kinship care is a means of maintaining family structure and a sense of belonging necessary for appropriate child development. Pennell, Edwards, and Burford (2010) cite evidence indicating an increased inclusion of family in child welfare planning and decision making leads to increased retention or placement of youth with extended family. This provides a means of reorienting assessment and evaluation to account for cultural distinctions and to focus on family and community strengths. They argue that use of Family Team Meeting's (FTM's) can be applied prior to hearings for delinquency cases (or as soon as possible after hearings) enabling better family preparation and representation.

Use of Family Group Decision-Making (FGDM) (post detention) in contrast to Family Team Meetings (pre-removal/detention) is aimed at empowering families (Sheets, Wittenstrom, Fong, James, Tecci, Baumann, & Rodriguez, 2009). Recognizing an extended network character of black and Hispanic

families FGDM can be aimed toward reducing the disproportionate rate of black children in detention. Meetings are conducted in the realization that the family is the best option for protecting and providing for the child.

Whereas FGDM provides a useful option in family focused solutions to delinquency it has not realized its potential. Because FGDM requires a shift in thinking requiring actions and input of the family and consideration of family-environment dynamics there are adjustment difficulties. Sheets, Wittenstrom, Fong, James, Tecci, Baumann, and Rodriguez (2009) point to resistance in applying FGDM due to a risk-averse nature of social and case workers viewing a possible retention of youths in at-risk environments. Indeed case worker attitude was noted as a major obstacle to implementation of FGDM (Rauktis, McCarthy, Krackhardt, & Cahalane, 2010)

Expected Results: The Program Aims

(1) Increase referrals of delinquents to Kinship Care by diverting the rate of youth placed in detention by 20 percent over 2 years.

(2) Provide at least 4 major community agencies providing family strengthening services.

Further goals include:

- Facilitate minority inclusion into decision making processes.
- Reduce/Reallocate public expenditure for cost productive services.
- Reduce differential treatment and disproportionate detention rates.

Primarily aimed at addressing the black youth in Lauderdale Lakes, the program may become applicable at a wider level for all youth within Florida's juvenile justice system. Of all juveniles in Florida 16% are black, of those arrested: 28% are black, of those adjudicated: 30% are black, those incarcerated: 38% are black. It is expected that revising assessment and services that emphasize cultural strengths and orientations will better represent the character of Lauderdale Lakes and a broader diversity of Florida. In 2003, 77% of drug offense cases involving African Americans were formally processed compared with 54% of those involving white youth.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

Kinship care is considered an effective option to detention: maintaining the child with the family while reducing government burden of funding detention centers.

Several agencies including the Florida State Foster Adoptive Parents Association, The Children's Home Inc, Kids Inc., and the Children's Services Council of Broward County funded kinship programs have indicated the benefits and success in preventing

children from entering the child welfare and juvenile justice systems as well as pointing to a significantly lower cost than foster care (Empire Justice Center, 2011). Children in kinship care have less trauma staying with kin. Kinship care preserves familiar and cultural traditions and has greater placement stability. Kinship care is the safest and most stable form of care for children removed from parental custody.

Florida Juvenile Justice Department Responsibilities

Aimed at fairness and equity for the youth and families, biases in assessment instruments must be eradicated to establish appropriate goals and effective interventions (Blueprint Commission Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, 2008). This includes:

- The Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) Collaborative project of Broward County conducts assessment of youth's risk to the community. Decisions must include concerns and conditions of families and their cultural orientations.
- The Florida DJJ shall facilitate contact with and make referrals to community-based programs comprising a series of care options that support and provide programs and interventions that address the experiences, conditions and socioeconomic environment of families and the youth. Community partnerships to facilitate access to services include:

Supportive programs statewide include Florida Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Florida Kinship Center, Florida Legal Services, Inc., and Relative Caregiver Foundation, Inc.

Financial assistance programs include Florida's Temporary Cash Assistance Program and Food Stamps.

Supportive health programs include Florida's KidCare program.

Other Benefits: Children's Defense Fund benefit guides for grandparents and other relatives for information about state and federal benefits.

Broward County Agencies: Support Group (Relatives as Parents), Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Broward; Lutheran services Florida; Kinship Caregivers of Broward County Churches include: Unitarian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Saint Helen Catholic Church.

Measurement Categories

Is the program in line with state/county/city mission(s), concerns and meet stated goals?

Effectiveness is assessed through periodic case file reviews and quality assurance checks.

Indicators of effectiveness:

- Has DMC and detention declined?
- Has kinship care increased?

- Is the community happy with intervention or service?

Further collection methods include pre- and post-intervention client satisfaction surveys, pre- and post-police records, and current Juvenile Justice Department records.

Information gathered is to be input into juvenile justice databases. Use of a tracking system to assess the current amount of kinship placements and referrals for community based family support services. Results of kinship placements: permanent or return to Juvenile Justice Department.

Assessments and collected information are forwarded to or accessed by (via database) a county referral placement coordinator. By seeking the perspectives and recommendations of caregivers and other partners, program performance can be documented and improved. Similarly, by tracking the outcomes of participating youth, the program's impact on families and detention rates can be gauged for further recommendations.

Budget

To facilitate funding a redirection of existing resources is recommended. Savings achieved from reduced detention can be applied to kinship care and supporting programs. Current Staff retrained means no new staff required. Grants are available from the Department of Juvenile Justice Department that focus on community based services. Via constructive reallocation of existing resources – better preparation and use of existing staff, instruments and local agencies funding requirements (below) can be reduced and acquired through the current budget.

4 Cultural Competency Trainers for 6 months at \$3000 per month = \$96,000.

Rewriting Risk Assessment Instrument = \$24,000

Establishing or facilitating access to Family Intervention, Strengthening, Planning, Mentoring, Tutoring, Childcare, Afterschool and Youth club programs = \$150,000.

Renting or use of Conference rooms, classrooms, Email, telephone contacts = \$30,000.

Total Cost = \$200, 000.

Conclusion

Diversionary programs have proven to be successful in reducing detention and disproportionate minority contact. The program in Multnomah County, Oregon, lowered the daily detention population by 65%. This included a reduction in minority youth rates from 70 youth before JDAI to 16 youth in 2003 (Annie E. Casey Foundation). By reducing detention they were able to reallocate over \$12 million to other programs.

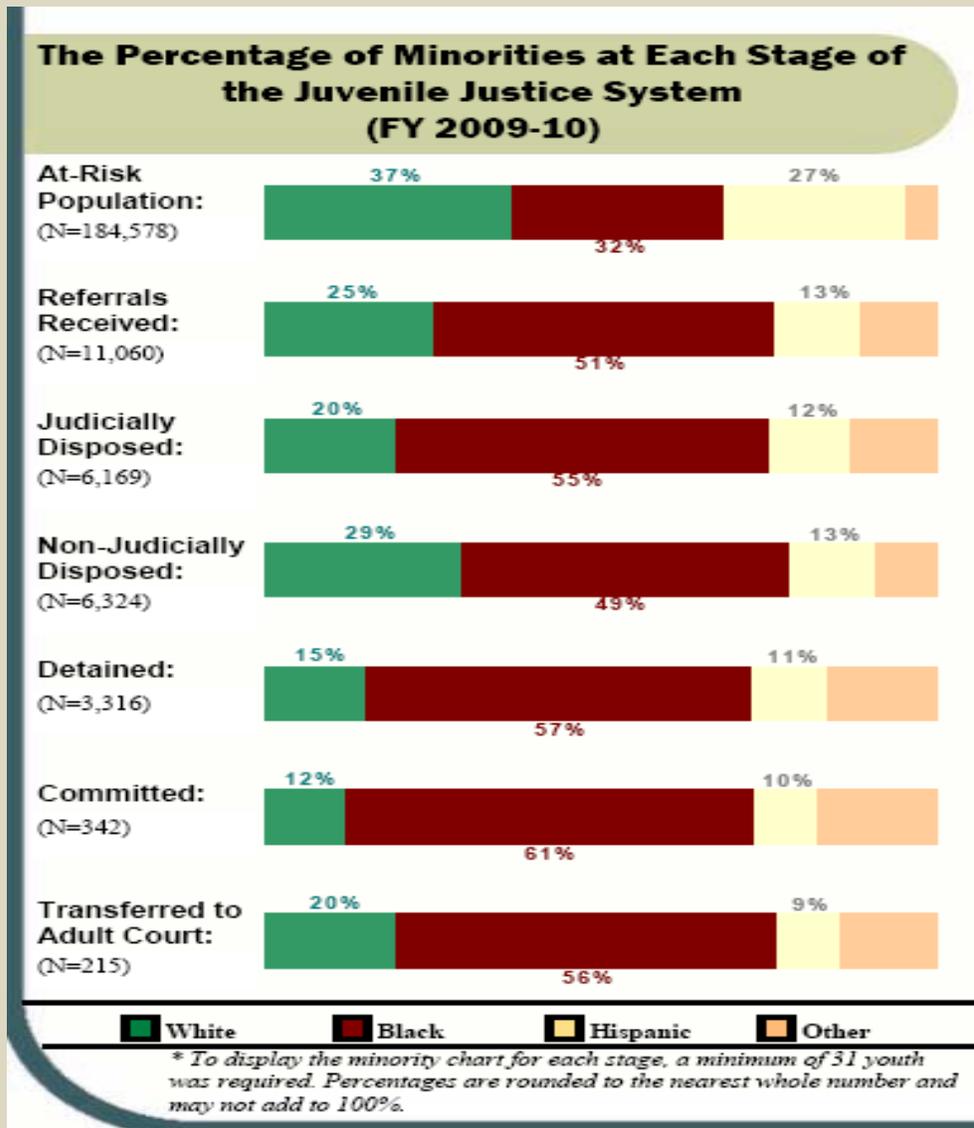
Emphasized as a cultural trait, kinship care can be applied to divert referrals made to the Juvenile Justice Department before the case is sent for trial. Refocusing assessments from detention to prevention includes increased collaboration with community agencies to facilitate further options for diversion. Supportive services should be aimed at strengthening family and kinship to provide care for at-risk youth. Two specific goals:

(1) Kinship care retains youth in a stable environment and reduces behavioral problems.

(2) Strengthen the family's ability to ameliorate risk factors such as delinquent behavior.

Through administration of a culturally relevant instrument the Juvenile Justice department and Staff can facilitate appropriate community based services aimed at reducing (particularly racially disproportionate) detention rates.

Figure 4. Broward County Statistics for Minorities in the Juvenile Justice System

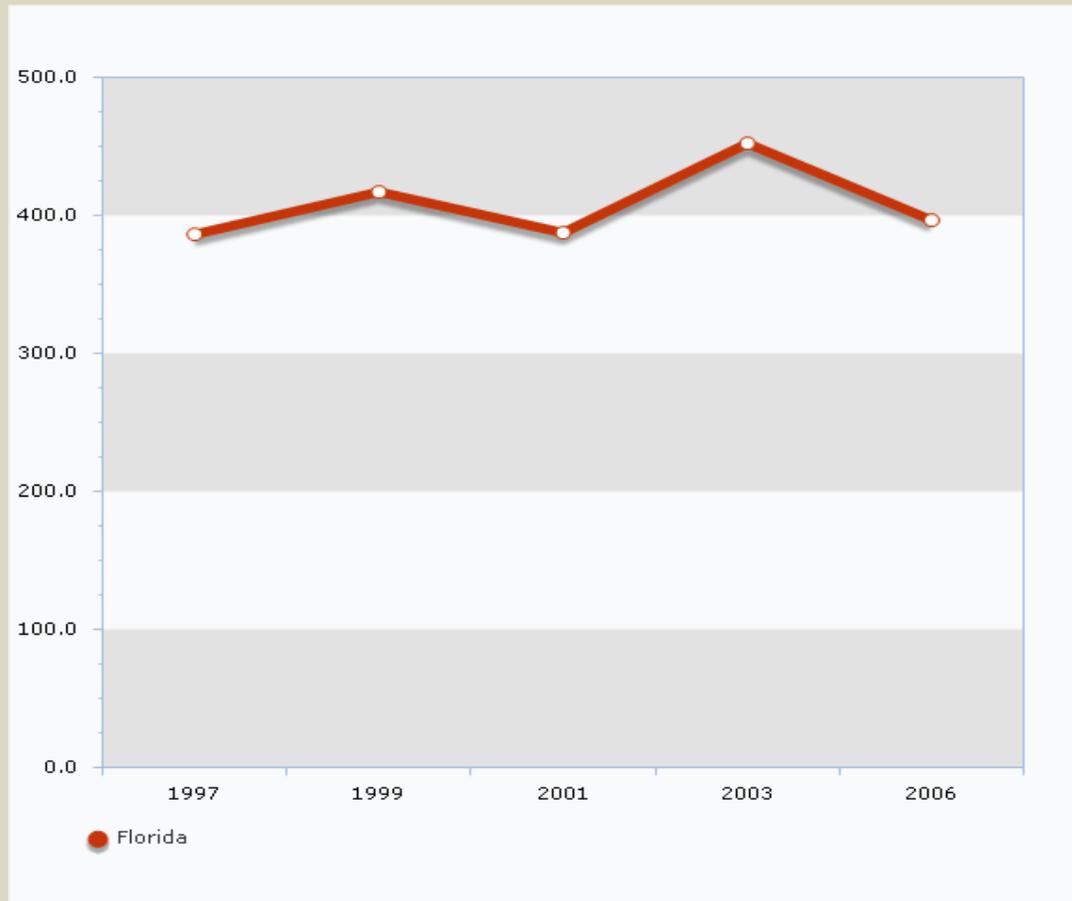


Note.

Compared to the statewide averages of FY 2009-10, black youth in Broward County were more likely to be judicially disposed, more likely to be detained, more likely to be committed, and less likely to be trialed as adults.

Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (2011), The disproportionate minority contact benchmark report (DMC)

Figure 5. Florida Statistics for Detention Rates 1997-2006



Note.

Detention Rates in Florida: 12.5% decrease between 2003 and 2006;
2.5% increase between 1997 and 2006/

| | |
|------|-------|
| 1997 | 386.0 |
| 1999 | 417.0 |
| 2001 | 388.0 |
| 2003 | 452.0 |
| 2006 | 397.0 |

Table 3. Action Plan

| Action Step | Responsible Person(s) | Timeframe | Resources used | Comments |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Social Worker Proposes FRENDD program | Social Worker | Initial Idea | Initial Observations | Considering community impact |
| Social Worker contacts local agencies and FDJJ | Social Worker | 1 month | Telephone, Email | Gauge interest |
| Arrange Meeting between local agencies and FDJJ | Social Worker | 3 months | Telephone, Email, book conference room (at County JJ Department) | Determine who is ready to take project forward – arrange committee of agency and DJJ members |
| Form a Task force to determine goals: e.g., new RAI, range of services and agencies included. | Committee | 1 month | Volunteers or appointed during prior | Taskforce to provide feedback to committee |
| Subsequent Task force meeting to discuss proposals and implementation of RAI and cultural competency training | Task force | 1 month (up to 4 meetings during this period) | Telephone, Email, Conference room | Taskforce to provide feedback and recommendations to the committee |
| Revision of RAI and Training conducted. Contracts established between DJJ and local agencies to provide Kinship Care under FRENDD program | Committee including contract administrators | 6 months | Telephone, Email, Conference room meetings | Cultural diversity and sensitivity trainers hired, Referral Coordinator appointed |
| Implementation Assessment | | | | |
| Feedback from agencies | Received by Referral Coordinator | 6 months | Excel worksheets indicating amount of Kinship referrals received and families served | Data collection indicating ongoing and closed cases |
| Further Feedback/collection of data | Received by Referral Coordinator and Referral Team | Ongoing monthly intervals for 1 year | Referral or service plans receipts returned | Program evaluation: Amount of Youth retained in Kinship, successful termination or ongoing cases, amount returned to DJJ |

REFERENCES

- Administration for Children and Families. (2003). Children of Color in the Child Welfare System: Perspectives from the Child Welfare Community. Retrieved October 5, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/child_of_color.pdf.
- AreaVibes Inc. (2010). Lauderdale Lakes, FL. Retrieved October 5, 2016 from <http://www.areavibes.com/lauderdale+lakes-fl/crime/>
- Cohen, V. (2008). *Information Packet: Relative placements*. National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning. Retrieved from http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/information_packets/relative-placements.pdf
- Chipman, R., Wells, S., & Johnson, M., (2002). The meaning of quality in kinship foster care: caregiver, child and worker perspectives: Families in Society. *The Journal of Contemporary Human Services* 508–520.
- City of Lauderdale Lakes, Florida. Retrieved from <http://www.lauderdalelakes.org/243/City-History>
- Corrigan, D., & Bishop, K., K. (1998). Creating family-centered integrated service systems and interprofessional educational programs to implement them. In P.L. Ewalt, E.M. Freeman, & D.L. Poole (Eds.), *Community building: renewal, well-being, and shared responsibility* (316-330). Washington DC: NASW Press.
- Empire Justice Center. (2011). Private Kinship Care: An Underutilized Child Welfare Resource. Retrieved from <http://www.empirejustice.org/assets/pdf/policy-advocacy/testimony/private-kinship-care.pdf>
- Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. (2008). *Getting smart about juvenile justice in Florida. Report of the Blueprint Commission*. Retrieved from http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/Report_of_the_Blueprint_Commission.pdf
- Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. (2011) The disproportionate minority contact benchmark report (DMC): Racial and ethnic minority representation at various stages of the Florida juvenile justice system (Benchmark Reports). Retrieved from <http://www.djj.state.fl.us/docs/services/2011-dmc-benchmark-report.pdf?sfvrsn=0>
- Green, R. (2003). Series A, No. A-60. *Finding Permanent Placement for Foster Children: Issues Raised by Kinship Care*. Retrieved from http://webarchive.urban.org/UploadedPDF/310773_A-60.pdf.
- Hill, R.B. (1998). Enhancing the resilience of African American families. *Journal of Social Behavior in the Human Environment*, 1(2-3), 40-61.
- Hoytt, E.H., Schiraldi, V., Smith, B.V., & Ziedenberg, J. (2001). *Reducing racial disparities in juvenile detention: A project of the Annie E. Casey foundation*. (Research Report No. 8) Retrieved from <http://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-Pathways8reducingracialdisparities-2001.pdf>
- Kilmer, R.P., Cook, J.R., & Munsell, E.P. (2010). Moving from Principles to Practice: Recommended Policy Changes to Promote Family-Centered Care. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 46 332–341.
- Little, R. (n.d.) Kinship Care Hitting Close to Home. A family tragedy makes the issues surrounding kinship care more personal. *Child Welfare League of America. Practice areas*. Retrieved from <http://brothermalcolm.net/archivedsites/family-siblings-robertlittle.htm>
- Maine Office of Child and Family Services. (2000). Child Welfare Kinship Care Policy. Retrieved from <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/cw/kinship.shtml>
- Pennell, J., Edwards, M., & Burford G. (2010) Expedited family group engagement and child permanency. *Children and Youth Services Review* 32 1012–1019.
- Policy for Results.org. Reduce Juvenile Detention. Retrieved from <http://www.policyforresults.org/youth/reduce-juvenile-detention>
- Rauktis, M.E., McCarthy, S., Krackhardt, D., & Cahalane, H. (2010). Innovation in child welfare: The adoption and implementation of Family Group Decision Making in Pennsylvania. *Children and Youth Services Review* 32 732–739.
- Ryan, J.P., Hong, J.S., Herz, D., & Hernandez, P.M. (2010). Kinship foster care and the risk of juvenile delinquency. *Children and Youth Services Review* (32), 1823–1830.
- Scannapieco, M., & Jackson, S. (1996). Kinship care: The African American response to family preservation. *Social Work* 41 190-196
- Sheets, J., Wittenstrom, K., Fong, R., James, J., Tecci, M., Baumann, D. J., & Rodriguez, C. (2009). Evidence-based practice in family group decision-making for Anglo, African American and Hispanic families. *Children and Youth Services Review* 31 1187–1191 doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2009.08.003
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Results from the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. Retrieved from <http://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/AECF->

[JuvenileDetentionAlternativesInitiativeResultsReport-2009-Full.pdf](#).

U.S. Census Bureau. (2005-2009). *American Community Survey*. Retrieved October 5, 2016 from <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>.

U.S. Government Accountability Office 07-816. 2007. Report to the Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives. African American Children in Foster Care: Additional HHS Assistance needed to help States to reduce Proportion in Care. Retrieved October 5, 2016 from <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07816.pdf>.

Lessep Duncan is a Registered Clinical Social Worker Intern and Case Manager/Counselor at Broward County Elderly and Veterans Services Division, Oakland Park, FL. He is enrolled concurrently in the DSW program at Florida Atlantic University. Email contact is duncanl2002@yahoo.com. Copyright 2016 by the *Florida Public Health Review*.