



# On Balance

A publication of Dane County Department of Human Services  
and the Dane County Juvenile Court Program

December 2017  
Volume XI, Number 3



## Neighborhood Intervention Program Celebrates 30 Years

By Heather Crowley

The Neighborhood Intervention Program celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on October 12<sup>th</sup> with an Awards Banquet at Turner Hall in Madison. The event opened with remarks from Dane County Executive Joe Parisi, Dane County Human Services Director of Children Youth and Families Martha Stacker, Dane County Human Services Juvenile Justice Manager Andre Johnson and former N.I.P. Participant Charles Jackson. Many youth were recognized for their achievements in several categories including Leadership, Group Participation, Most Groups Attended,



School Performance and being on the Right Track. Past N.I.P. participants who continue on their successful paths were given Beacon Awards: Secric Morris, Saady Diallo and Elijah Hill. Adult awards included the Stephen Blue Community Leadership Award given to Justice Castaneda, the Beth Gentilli Competency Builder Award given to Alan Chancellor, the James Rumpf Community Service Award given to Vanessa Statam, the Betty Franklin Hammonds Community Service Award given to Will Green,

the Joe Thomas Positive Image Award given to Dot Crawford-Fischer and the Gene Weidemann Award given to Patricia Sheldon. Two youth entertainment segments including a Praise Dancer and a Spoken Word artist were received with standing ovations. This event was well attended by youth and adults alike, resulting in an inspiring, joyful evening.



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# On Balance

## NIP 30th Anniversary Festivities



**On Balance** is a publication of Dane County  
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## NIP 30th Anniversary Festivities



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## Getting to Know New Deputy District Attorney Krista James

### **Personal info, family, education**

I was born in Detroit, Michigan but raised in Central Wisconsin. I am married and have one son. In my free time I enjoy cooking, camping, reading, and spending time with my family.

I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2011 with my B.A. in Social Work along with Certificates in Educational Policy Studies and Criminal Justice. While an undergrad, I volunteered with CASA, Savory Sunday, and the Teen Life Skills program with Dane County.

I received my Juris Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 2014. While in law school I held internships with the Dane County Corporation Counsel, Integrys Energy Group, the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and the Dane County District Attorney's Office.



*DDA Krista James*

### **How long have you been the Deputy District Attorney in the Juvenile Division?**

Since October 2017.

### **What did you do prior to becoming a DDA?**

I started in the Dane County District Attorney's office in January of 2014 as an intern in the Juvenile Unit. Since then I worked my way from an intern, to volunteer, to Special Prosecutor, and then finally I became an Assistant District Attorney in December of 2014.

### **What is your philosophy on working with juveniles and children?**

It is important that we hold youth accountable for their actions and ensure our victim's voice is being heard.

### **What can people expect when they interact with you in your role as a DDA?**

Regardless of who you are or your position, you will always be treated with respect and fairness.

### **Is there anything else that you would like readers to know?**

One of the things that I love about working in the Juvenile Unit is that everyone (judges, social workers, defense counsel, etc.) has at least one similar end goal: we all want the best for the youth we work with. We want to see them learn from their mistakes and make better choices for themselves and for our community. We may not always agree on how to reach that end goal, but the end goal is the same.

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## Judge's Corner

*By Judge Shelley Gaylord*



The judges on juvenile rotation have set up meetings with each of the following three groups of stakeholders: guardians ad litem, parent representation attorneys, and Martha Stacker with the DCDHS management group. When I first became presiding judge, I met with various stakeholder groups as well. This meeting included all four judges and we will continue this mode of communication. The purpose is to have ongoing, open discussions about areas of practice, policy, what works, what needs to be fixed, and so forth. These meetings have gone really well and people are willing and able to share areas of strength and areas for improvement. I know the judges appreciate the open dialog and mutual education. Each group had some specific ideas for improved practices. This process of meeting with various groups will continue as we set up meetings with defense counsel, district attorneys and corporation counsel. So, kudos to everyone who has been involved thus far.

The Casey JET (Judicial Engagement Team) continues to work on CHIPS cases primarily. Judge Genovese and I testified before the county board committee looking at funding the parent visitation program and the Social Service Specialist (SSS) funding. This is a win-win as the full board is poised to approve an additional SSS for supervised visits to work nights and weekends. The parent visitation program was also given much appreciated additional funding. Congratulations to the JET subcommittee for getting the visitation center started and for the success and increased funding. Congrats to DCDHS and workers for being flexible with the SSS night and weekend proposal.

Some of us recently attended a Casey Family Programs convening in Kansas City, MO and came away with a to-do list. The JET steering committee met November 29, 2017 and should have some recommendations for prioritizing actions. Branch 6 has adjusted practice by now asking youth and families "what good thing have you done recently?" This seems to be garnering positive reviews. This process came about as a result of discussions at the convening. The Casey JET process has already resulted in improvements with data I can share in another newsletter. Requests for data from and to DCDHS and other stakeholders are also among the goals we can easily achieve in 2018.

The recent Juvenile Justice Conference with keynote speaker Judge Teske on the interaction between schools and the court process has led to scheduling planning meetings to improve the school-court understanding and processes. It was a wonderful conference with a youth panel, speakers, and workshops making good use of our time. Much appreciation to the organizers of this conference.

As 2017 winds to a close, the judges are looking forward to continuing the great collaboration with stakeholders in 2018!

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## What Is the Cross Systems Team?

*By Gina Aguglia, MMSD Social Worker*

Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) works closely with our Dane County and community providers through our Cross Systems Team. The purpose of the Cross Systems Team is to maintain streamlined MMSD and county communication, collaboration, and confidentiality of students and families, who are systems involved.

Specific MMSD School Social Workers at the middle and high school levels act as initial points of contact (POCs) to bridge the communication between the county and the school, when a student becomes involved in the Dane County System. In addition to appropriately collaborating with student services staff across the district, we also meet biannually with county social workers, supervisors, community agencies representatives, and community leaders to develop and improve our mutual efforts to provide effective supports and interventions for our shared students and families. Our next Cross Systems Community Meeting is scheduled for January, 2018.

We want people in our community to understand how we communicate and collaborate. Below is a step-by-step description of the process, logistics, and best practice supports for an MMSD student involved in the Dane County system.

**As a County Social Worker or Community Agency Representative working with a MMSD student/family, please follow these steps:**

- Step 1:** Release of information is sent directly to school point of contact ([Current list of Cross Systems POCs per building](#)) at the time of involvement in services or at the start of the new school year, whichever occurs first.
- Step 2:** Once the release of information is received by the Cross Systems POC, they will update their confidential Cross Systems School folder and put the worker in contact with the individual at the school, who works most closely with the student.
- Step 3:** POC and/or individual who works most closely with the student and worker will determine communication preferences (phone, email, meetings, etc.).
- Step 4:** POC and/or individual who works most closely with the student and worker agree to:
  - Adhere to the release of information;
  - Adhere to guidelines around confidentiality;
  - Engage in frequent two-way communication about:
    - Student's progress and updates;
    - Relevant services (to avoid overlaps or gaps in services);
    - Discuss best approaches to working with and partnering with the family;
    - Plan for transitions when services are ending including during the summer months.

Let's continue to work together to achieve our shared goal of supporting children, youth, and families in the Madison community. If you have suggestions we encourage you to let us know what they are.

If you have any additional questions, please reach out to Gina Aguglia, MMSD Lead Social Worker, at 608-442-2719 or 608-571-7009 or via email at [graguglia@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:graguglia@madison.k12.wi.us).

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## Staff Spotlight – Ben Gonring: I Can't Imagine Doing Anything Else With My Law Degree

*By Dean C. Bossenbroek*

When Ben Gonring addresses a court of law on a youth's behalf, he does so with the whole of his heart and mind. He is fully present and focused on accurately, eloquently, doggedly conveying his client's wishes to the court. He stacks up the young person's successes, while honestly acknowledging their challenges. No matter the outcome, when the client walks out of the courtroom, they may be assured they have received the utmost in a strenuous defense.

Barrister Benjamin C. Gonring (Attorney Manager, Juvenile Unit) arrived at the Office of State Public Defenders in Madison, Wisconsin in 1995 as a law student intern and has not left. Asked why he has chosen a career path defending teens embroiled in the juvenile justice system as opposed to occupying an office in a law firm overlooking Lake Mendota, Ben chuckles and replies without hesitation.

"Well, that's easy. To whatever extent god has blessed me to be a decent lawyer, it wasn't to represent nameless, faceless corporations or to move money around. The ability to be the voice of a child in a courtroom is a privilege and an honor. I think it's noble to stand up for somebody in their corner. There is no one in more need of that than a child. I can't imagine doing anything else with my law degree."

Ben has been married to Wendy for 24 years. With two sons (Jake and Zach) already in college and two more (Noah and Seth) preparing to matriculate in the next couple of years, one could hardly blame Ben for opting out of the public defense realm in order to make things financially easier on the home front. He shrugs off this notion, embraces his reality, "I have become more comfortable with a certain degree of debt, than I thought was possible."

Ben's commitment to youth advocacy goes beyond the court room. He has been a member of Briarpatch's Board of Directors since 2002. He says, "I serve, because Briarpatch is the epitome of successful outcomes. Briarpatch staff forge relationships. Having adults, who hold kids to standards, are consistent, and are going to be there, is integral to those kids' overall success."

A memorable, client success story Ben shares happened during a stroll around the Capitol Square. "About five years ago, I was walking near the bus stop in front of the Park Bank, when a Madison Metro bus pulled up. The driver got out, walked up to me and said, 'You're Ben, right? You were my lawyer. I wanted to say thank you, and let you know I'm doing great.' That really impacted me."



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*Gonring*

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## **Ben's Responses to This, That, or the Other:**

- ⇒ Brett Favre or Aaron Rodgers: "That's a no brainer – Favre."
- ⇒ Cassette, LP, CD, or MP3: "I like CDs for their ease of ability to skip tracks."
- ⇒ Last artist listened to on a CD: "Dave Matthews Band."
- ⇒ Willy Street Co-op or Woodmans: "Willy Street Co-op."
- ⇒ Judge Nowakowski or Judge Nichol: "Judge Nowakowski."
- ⇒ Thin crust or thick crust: "Thin crust – it's all about the toppings."
- ⇒ The Clash or Cold Play: "The Clash."
- ⇒ Ryan Braun or Robin Yount: "Another no brainer – Robin Yount."
- ⇒ Mayor Soglin or Mayor Cieslewicz: "Mayor Dave."
- ⇒ Paper, plastic, or cloth: "Paper."
- ⇒ Pale ale or stout: "Pale Ale."
- ⇒ Badger basketball or Badger hockey: "That's a tough one - Badger basketball."
- ⇒ Field House or Kohl Center: "Fieldhouse."

## **Trauma Informed Change Efforts Continue in Dane County CYF**

*By Julie Ahnen, CPS Manager*

The CYF Trauma Informed Change Team continues to meet on a monthly basis. Since we began this process in April of 2016 we have added members to ensure that we are representative of all CYF staff. Many other CYF staff have participated in projects related to our trauma-informed efforts, which we hope to expand in 2018! During 2017 we split into three Subcommittees—Training/Secondary Traumatic Stress, Implementation of Trauma-Informed Practices, and Communication. Here are some updates from each group:

### Training/STS

(facilitated by Melissa Dimpfl)

- ◆ STS Unit Meeting Discussion notes have been compiled and will form the basis of future trainings.
- ◆ Models of staff training around STS are being reviewed.

- ◆ Rock County staff presented information to the CYF Leadership Team (Managers and Supervisors) about their Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT) at the December 6, 2017 meeting.

### Implementation (facilitated by Amy Harsh)

- ◆ Information being gathered about the use of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Tool in practice.
- ◆ Planning to offer training on ACEs to CYF staff in 2018.

### Communication

- ◆ A TIC logo has been developed with a plan to share with all CYF staff in a number of ways.
- ◆ Preparation of a video to share with staff about Trauma and related impacts on staff and the children and families that

we serve.

- ◆ Discussion of various communication strategies to continuously get the word out to staff regarding Trauma, STS, Self-care, and Trauma-informed practices.

The Sunshine Club continues to provide support, encouragement, and an element of fun in our CYF offices. They have played a significant role in moving CYF toward becoming a more trauma-informed workplace. The Leadership Team is engaging in a process of developing a shared vision and mission with trauma-informed care being woven into all of our discussion. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Julie Ahnen or check with your Supervisor to find out who in your Unit or area of specialty is already involved. We need everyone's help to keep these efforts moving forward!



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## Mask Off

*By Veronica Hereford, DCDHS*

I am sitting at my desk reflecting on what was an incredible evening. The pride that shone on the faces of our young people as they walked the halls of NIP was priceless. For 15 weeks, Alan Chancellor and I prodded, encouraged, and watched our young people engage in a large variety of art experiences with some pretty phenomenal community folks. These young people did the work and now NIP reaps the biggest benefit - awesome, colorful, uplifting art work that will remain in our building forever. It will be a reminder that each young person has so much inside to express, even if it is not artistically.

I am so grateful for the trust and energy that each of our young people placed in the process. I am so unbelievably blessed to be able to come to work knowing every day that the young people I work with are among the most talented and gifted people, and it is my work to help them see and realize the absolute best in themselves.

Thank you to all that made it for the exhibit - Awesome time, Amazing food, Phenomenal poets, and Absolute, hands down great people!!!! If you didn't have an opportunity to make it to the exhibit then please come and check it out. In the words of my grandmother, 'These young people put their foot in it.' (That's a good thing!)

Peace!!!!





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The Bubbler in collaboration with the Neighborhood Intervention Program (NIP) and Prof. Faisal Abdu'Allah present an art exhibition by Madison youth. "Mask Off" brings together UW-Madison staff, The Bubbler, and teenagers of greater Madison to celebrate identity, alter egos, and human complexity. Based on 15 weeks of workshops with diverse artists, the project emphasizes the multi-vocality and diversity of the youth who are often at the forefront of the nation's friction. The art made by the teens, tells stories about the multiple facets of self-imagination versus determination by society. The alter egos that the teens developed reflect upon their adaptation to challenges encountered in their every day lives.



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## Judicial Engagement Team (JET) Update

*By John Bauman and Julie Ahnen*

The Casey Family Programs' JET steering committee has been meeting every other month since 2015. It continues to explore initiatives that will help reduce out-of-home placements for youth, minimize the length of placements, when they need to occur, and generally improve any processes for youth in the court system. Members of the committee include Eve Dorman (Corporation Counsel), Kim Zion (Parental Representation Project), Eve Dennison-Pollock (Guardian Ad Litem), Julie Ahnen (DCDHS CPS Manager), Ben Gonring (State Public Defender), Andre Johnson (DCDHS JJ Manager) and chair John Bauman (Juvenile Court Administrator). Several committee members joined Judge Gaylord at the JET National Convening in October, where we renewed our commitment to finding ways to collaborate to improve outcomes for children and families. Smaller JET Subcommittees have been focusing on

increasing opportunities for supervised visitation, trauma informed care in the courthouse, community engagement, parent representation, and parent peer partnering.

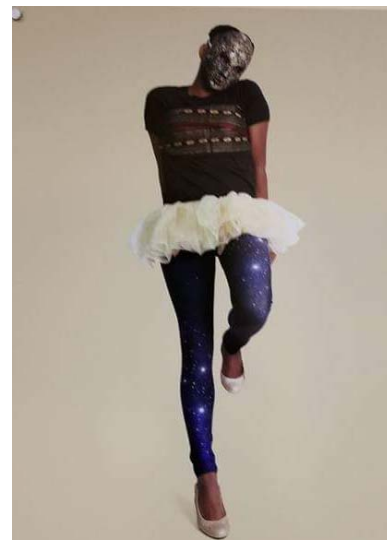
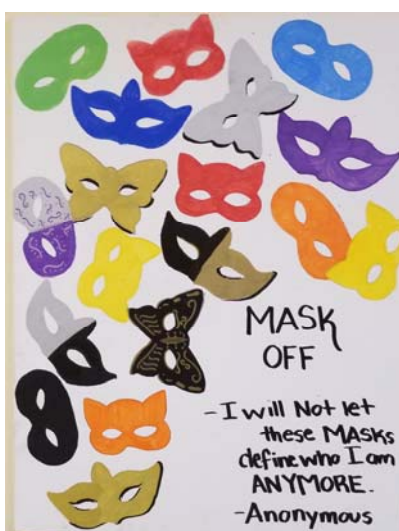
The parent peer partnering idea came from conferences that stakeholders attended in the past two years, meetings with existing programs in the country, and Casey staff. Parent peer partnering consists of an organized matching of parents who have gone through the child welfare system with their children and have agreed to be mentors to new parents, who are entering the system. They help support, encourage and hold parents accountable in ways that "professionals" are unable to do. Parent mentors receive stipends for their time and a coordinator manages the program. The JET committee will be meeting with stakeholders to discuss this idea in the near future.

Eve Dorman, Brenda Blanck, Judge Mitchell, and other CYF staff have been developing a pilot program for CHIPS parents based on the Circle of Support concept for people who are re-entering the community following incarceration. A couple of parents have volunteered to participate in the first Circle of Support opportunities, and we are excited to learn about the experiences of parents and volunteers.

Judge Genovese and her JET Subcommittee members have continued to advocate for increased opportunities for parents and children to have family interactions in the evenings and on weekends. The County Board approved an increase in funding for the Parent2Child Pilot program in 2018. CYF Leadership will be talking with the internal Social Service Specialist Employee Group about revising the work hour guidelines to allow CYF staff to work a more flexible schedule to help meet this critical need.

### *Mask Off*

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## Children, Youth & Families

### Corner

Greetings Everyone,

As we are nearing the end of the year and approaching a new one, I would like to say, “thank you” to each of you in the CYF Division for all of your hard work and commitment. I am writing my first CYF Corner as a humble note of appreciation for the outstanding client services that we consistently provide to the Dane County community. Thank you to the CYF team for coming together during times of crisis, celebration, challenge, and change. I am genuinely impressed that some of you regularly put in extra hours without complaining to get the job done to resolve situations as quickly as possible or to just be supportive of the clients. Plain and simply, thanks for your dedication and support of one another.



On July 3, 2017, I respectfully started in the position as CYF Division Administrator. Since then, I have attended multiple community panels, meetings, and events in an effort to learn more about what the community needs and wants from us – they are our biggest advocates and voices for change. I have been in attendance at significant stakeholder meetings with state, federal, and community partners, as well as, participating on committees as a representative of the CYF Division. I have also been privileged to attend some CYF unit meetings, site visits, and speak at some prominent events such as: The NIP 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Friends of JFF 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, PASS AmeriCorps recognition, Community Restorative Court (CRC) Appreciation Event, and the Bubbler Mask Off! at NIP. The year capped off with an amazing CYF Division Staff Event that was more receptive than I ever imagined (food, friends, fun, and family). The dedication that individuals and teams have for each other is amazing. Once again, I watched you all pitch in and help each other to meet the goals for projects, collaborations, initiatives, and change.

Organizational leaders play a continued important role in setting the tone for the shift toward increased diversity and inclusiveness in any organization that should always reflect the staff and clients being served. In the CYF Division the goal is to have open, effective communication, as well as clear channels for feedback optimizing the opportunity for discussion of issues related to inclusiveness in our work environment. Every organization starts from a different place and in a unique context, but all have room for improvement. Employees need to know that while there are standards and expectations for appropriate behavior in the workplace, a focus on diversity isn't about being perfect. Diversity and inclusion (and inclusiveness) is best addressed, nurtured, and embraced in an open and honest workplace. Equally, we are charged with the responsibilities of professionally addressing community, health and educational racial disparities/inequalities, poverty, child abuse and neglect, youth delinquencies, and other unexpected situations at any given time in all of our roles.

Lastly, it's an incredible feeling to know that when I go out to meet with clients, community partners and volunteers in the community (both existing and potential), there's no way I can oversell or overstate the competency and commitment of the CYF team. I am impressed that you work together to solve problems, and then present them with possible solutions that we can and will move forward as appropriate. I appreciate the efforts of each you in the past year and moving forward. Additionally, I am proud of how you all pulled together as a team during times of reorganization and to embrace me as a new Administrator. You've proven that new team perspectives, existing ones, and changes to come can be successfully integrated quickly while working together with common goals in the best interest of the clients and community that we serve. I am looking forward to the coming year.

Thank you for all you do and keep up the great work! My door is always open to you.....

Martha Stacker, Ph.D.

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## Every Student Succeeds Act

*By Sarah Lawton, DCDHS*

On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed into law a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Previously referred to as No Child Left Behind (NCLB), the newly reauthorized ESEA is being referred to as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The ESSA, in conjunction with the Fostering Connections Act of 2008 and the Uninterrupted Scholars Act of 2013, requires certain actions of state and local educational agencies and child welfare and tribal child welfare agencies. It is designed to increase collaboration among those agencies to support successful educational experiences for children in out-of-home care.

Key provisions of the legislation include the following:

- ◇ School of origin: State plans must include assurances that foster children remain in their school of origin, unless there is a determination that it is not in their best interest to do so. Factors in determining best interest include proximity and appropriateness of the educational setting.
- ◇ Immediate enrollment: When a foster child does not remain in the school of origin, the student must immediately be enrolled in a new school, regardless of whether the student can produce the records typically required for enrollment.
- ◇ Records transfer: When a foster child changes schools, the enrolling school must immediately contact the previous school to obtain academic and other records.
- ◇ State-level point of contact: The Department of Public Instruction must designate a point of contact for child/tribal child welfare agencies; this may not be the same person as the state's McKinney-Vento coordinator.
- ◇ Local level point of contact: Local education agencies (school districts) must identify a point of contact if the child/tribal child welfare agency identifies an agency point of contact to the local education agency.
- ◇ Transportation: The local education agencies must collaborate with state or local child/tribal child welfare agencies to implement clear written procedures regarding transportation and maintaining youth in their school of origin. Such procedures should include how cost-effective transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded in a timely manner to prevent disruption of a child's education.
- ◇ Data disaggregation: States must provide disaggregated data on foster children. Annual state report cards must contain information on student achievement for foster children. The report cards must also contain information on high school graduation rates for foster children, including four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates and, at the state's discretion, extended-year adjusted cohort graduation rates.
- ◇ Homeless definition: Students "awaiting foster care placement" are removed from the definition of homeless youth in McKinney-Vento. For states that have statutory laws that define or describe the phrase "awaiting foster care placement," this change will take effect two years after ESSA enactment.

In practice this means that each of the school districts in Dane County and DCDHS have identified ESSA points of contact. Colleen Alvey is the ESSA point of contact for DCDHS. DCDHS and each school district have signed MOUs detailing the decision process for determining best interests regarding school placement and creating and paying for transportation plans. Under these MOUs the school districts will create the transportation plans for kids, who need transportation to remain in their school of origin, and will then bill DCDHS for half of the cost of these plans.

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## *ESSA*

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When a child enters a court ordered out of home placement, or changes placements in a placement episode, the child's social worker will talk with the child's family, the child depending on age, and the child's school staff to determine if it is in the child's best interests to remain in their school of origin (the school they were attending prior to the new placement or the placement change). It is expected that the child will remain in the school of origin to limit educational interruptions unless there is a strong reason why that would not be in the child's best interests. The decision about school placement will take into account:

- ⇒ The preferences of the child, the family of origin, and the teacher/support staff of the school of origin;
- ⇒ The safety of the student;
- ⇒ Educational needs and strengths of the student (specialized services available, IEPs, AP or specialized classes, etc.);
- ⇒ Expected length of placement and permanency plan;
- ⇒ Past school transitions and how the child has handled these changes academically and socially;
- ⇒ Relationships to school personnel and peers;
- ⇒ Where siblings attend school;
- ⇒ Length of the commute to school and the impact of this on the child;
- ⇒ Time of the school year and if a logical break will be coming (i.e. end of school year);
- ⇒ Continuing in a school that matches the child's ethnic, cultural, and linguistic background.

These provisions and protections apply to all court ordered out of home placements; including, relative placements, foster homes, group homes, and RCCs.

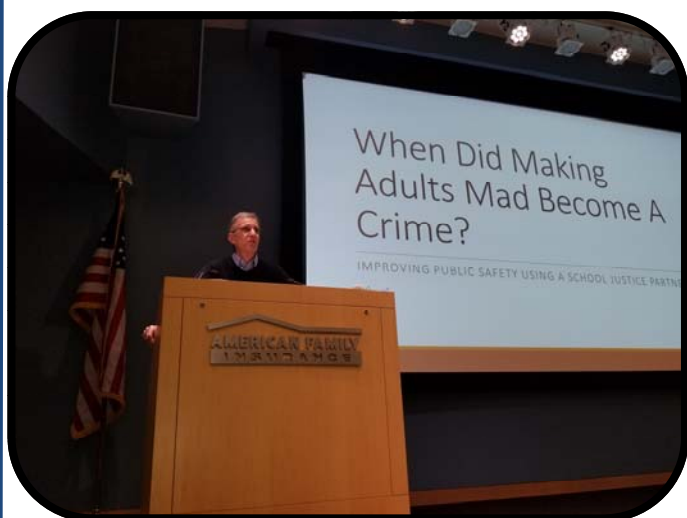
Colleen Alvey, as the DCDHS ESSA point of contact, is able to answer questions, support workers in the best interest decision making process, and assist in mediating disagreements about best interest determinations between DCDHS and school districts.

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## Judge Steven Teske Keynotes Juvenile Justice Conference

By Jackie Hammond, DCDHS

Over 250 participants, speakers, and stakeholders gathered at the American Family Training Center on November 10 for the 2017 Juvenile Justice Conference sponsored by Dane County Department of Human Services and Briarpatch Youth Services. After an



encouraging welcome from leaders representing Dane County's juvenile justice system, Judge Steven Teske began with the morning keynote presentation, *"When Did Making Adults Mad Become a Crime?: How to Dismantle Exclusionary School Discipline Practices Using Restorative Justice."* Teske, Chief Judge of the Clayton County Juvenile Court in Georgia and a leader for juvenile justice reform, spoke to the importance of working with schools and police departments to reduce referrals and effect change in the system. He highlighted the combination of trauma informed school resource officers along with positive behavior support

interventions as having a meaningful and measurable impact on juvenile justice referrals and graduation rates in Clayton County. Breakout sessions rounded out the morning with topics including Teen Homelessness, Street

Drugs, Gangs & Hip Hop, Youth at Risk for Trafficking, and Department of Children and Families Juvenile Justice Updates.

After lunch all attendees reconvened to listen to a panel discussion, which many later said provided the biggest take-away from the conference.

Bryn Martyna, Youth Justice Policy Coordinator for the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, facilitated the conversation which allowed youth from around the state to directly share

their thoughts and ideas from their experiences in the juvenile justice system. Some of the youth are currently involved in juvenile justice, and some are now young adults no longer under court jurisdiction. All of the youth agreed that they wished their workers would be or have been as attentive to their cases when their behavior was positive as they were when there were bumps or problems. They do not want the court, workers, and the community to define them by the mistakes they have made in the past, but also by the changes they are making. In what would be an overwhelming environment for many to speak, the youth panel was articulate, candid, and hopeful.

The afternoon workshops completed the day. Those sessions included presentations on Trauma and Delinquency, Building Bridges, School-Based Violence Risk Assessment, Gangs 101, Digital Generation, and Criminogenic Needs.

When asked about the conference, one social worker noted,



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## *JJ Conference Continued from Page 15*

"I thought this conference was fabulous! It was one of the most relevant and informative conferences I have been to in the last several years." In order to successfully execute this event, the conference planning committee began preparations in July 2016. Many thanks to everyone who presented for the time and energy given to your thoughtful conversations around juvenile justice.

