

# Alternative Program and Diversion Services

DMC/Juvenile Justice Action Network  
Inaugural Meeting  
October 24 & 25, 2007

# Panelists

- Maceo Hallmon, Director, East Baltimore Youth & Family Services
- Larry Dawson, Youth Development Director, Family League of Baltimore City

# Baltimore City Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

- DMC Community Advisory Board serves as the JDAI DMC Committee
- Intentional DMC infusion in all other committee work to ensure DMC is part of every agenda
- Developed a series of recommendations for reducing DMC designed to guide the efforts of all JDAI committees

## Alternatives to Detention Committee

- Detention Utilization Study data showed that in period 10/1/05 – 12/31/05:
- 26 of the 31 discretionary holds of release-eligible admissions (84%) were for parent-related issues (unavailable, unwilling, refusal).
- 25 of the 70 discretionary holds of ATD-eligible youth (36%) were due to parent-related issues (unavailable, unwilling, refusal).

# Parental Refusals

- **Recommendation:** Strengthen/increase services that will assist and enable parents to safely maintain their child at home rather than admitting him to secure detention
- **Response:** Strengthening the services of the Community & Family Resource Center that assist parents of youth who are unwilling to take their children home

# Community & Family Resource Center



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# Community & Family Resource Center

## OBJECTIVES:

1. To assist families of youth detained at the Juvenile Justice Center to access community resources that will make their child's re-entry to the community more successful.
  - Provide short-term family support activities and services.
  - Provide long-term referral and family support services.
  - Reduce the number of youth held in detention due to parental refusal or unavailability.
  - To conduct follow-up on referrals made to community based services.



# Community & Family Resource Center

## OBJECTIVES:

2. To prevent further delinquency, detention or confinement of Baltimore City Youth by:
  - Providing educational, referral and support services.
  - Strengthening the capacity of families to advocate for their child.
  - Referring families to community based services.



# Community & Family Resource Center

## CURRENT OUTCOMES

DJS Intake Referrals July 1, 2006 - Present

Category:	Referred to CFRC	Reconnected to Parent	Connected to Resources
Parental Refusals/ Unavailability	1177	954 (81%)	1022 (87%)
Special Hearings (Started January 2007)			
Parental Refusals / Unavailability	39	36 (92%)	32 (82%)
<b>Grand Totals:</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>990 (81%)</b>	<b>1,054 (87%)</b>

## Alternatives to Detention Committee (cont.)

- The Detention Utilization Study data also showed that in period 10/1/05 – 12/31/05:
- **173 of 287 (60%)** admissions of Black youth to BCJJC secure detention have a RAI score that would indicate either a "Straight Release" or an "Alternative to Detention."
- **Recommendation:** The continuum of detention alternatives be enhanced and expanded in order to serve appropriate juveniles in the least restrictive setting, and to reduce the overrepresentation of African-American juveniles in secure confinement.

# Increasing Community Alternatives

- **Response:** Creation and funding of the Pre-Adjudication Coordination and Transition (PACT) Center
- **Response:** Create community programs matrix and conduct education to Judges, Masters, State's Attorney's Office, Public Defenders Office, etc.
- **Response:** Hire a Court Liaison to advocate for all system agencies to utilize PACT Center and the continuum of community-based services

# Pre-Adjudication Coordination & Transition Center

- Evening Reporting Center
- Daily Pick-up & Dinner
- Comprehensive Skills Assessments
- Career exploration, life skills and job readiness skills
- Learning Lab
- Fitness Center with professional trainer
- Recording Studio

# Increasing Community Alternatives

- Community Services Matrix developed and distributed
- Court Liaison Position
  - Attend daily detention special hearings
  - Attend daily detention reviews
  - Attend pending placement reviews
  - Education to JJ system agencies on use of community alternatives