

**REPORT OF THE 2008-2009 EVALUATION
OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS:
IMPLEMENTING THE REDUCTION OF
DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT
IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA
JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM PROJECT
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER**

**PROJECT FUNDED BY FEDERAL FORMULA FUND GRANT 1J08004
FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Evaluation Conducted By
System Wide Solutions, Inc.
Columbia, SC**

**Sarah Meadows, MSW
Malia Nelson
Kayce Huffstetler
George W. Appenzeller, MSW**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This evaluation covers Federal Fiscal Year 2008-2009 activities of the *Community Programs: Implementing the Reduction of Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) in the South Carolina Juvenile Justice System Project* funded by a Federal Formula Fund Grant from the SC Department of Public Safety to the University of South Carolina Children's Law Center (CLC). The report addresses Year 1 of the three-year project, including a three-month extension through December 31, 2009. DMC is a continuing problem in South Carolina requiring continuing attention.

The current project was established to build on the foundation of a previously funded three-year DMC grant. The current project, referred to informally as Phase II, will build on the initial endeavors of the first project to address reduction in DMC rates. In the current effort, the DMC Program Facilitator will directly assist communities in the development of specific DMC strategies based on local initiatives and programs that have demonstrated an ability to affect DMC. These aims are consistent with recommendations made by the evaluators at the end of the prior grant cycle

The current project will build on the initial efforts of the first project to address reduction in DMC rates. In the current effort, the DMC Program Facilitator will directly assist communities in the development of specific DMC strategies based on local initiatives and programs that have demonstrated an ability to affect DMC. These aims are consistent with recommendations made by the evaluators at the end of the prior grant cycle.

During Year One, the DMC Project proposal states the following tasks to carry out the goals of the program:

- Research and identify at least three model programs or initiatives that have demonstrated the ability to positively impact DMC and reduce unnecessary detention of nonviolent minority offenders
- Establish a working group within at least three geographical areas to strategize and develop a plan to support the model program to further focus on DMC and detention reduction and to replicate the program in other parts of the region
- Host at least three regional DMC and detention summits. The DMC Program Facilitator will develop an agenda for the summits that will provide an interactive strategizing and planning session and training on DMC and detention issues. The DMC Program Facilitator will consider participant evaluations and determine what modifications and improvement, if any, should be made to the DMC summits. These local summits will then be offered again in years two and three of the grant cycle. A statewide DMC conference will be offered in year three as a collaborative measure to showcase DMC successes and share strategies.
- Throughout the three-year cycle, the DMC Program Facilitator will serve as a central resource and contact person for professionals and community leaders across the state on DMC issues.

Full implementation of the Project was somewhat delayed due to negotiations with the funder, although some planning took place. As soon as the award was finalized, the Project went forward as described in the grant proposal. A no-cost extension was granted through December 31, 2009.

The Project has been successful in meeting all of its objectives, at least two in an exemplary fashion. During the past year, the Project has matured and has taken a multi-faceted approach to DMC reduction, including tailoring the approach used in different geographic areas and with different stakeholders. Through these efforts, additional individuals and groups have joined in activities to reduce DMC. Project staff have become increasingly skilled at gathering data and documenting grant activities. Progress toward identifying model programs was undertaken through the development of a county-by-county Resource Database of programs that have been shown to be effective at reducing DMC or that show promise to do so. This data will be expanded and refined during Year Two. Regional working groups were involved in the planning and implementation of three regional summits involving 795 participants from 19 counties. Seventy-nine individuals were involved in the planning for these summits. In addition to the regional summit events, the Program Facilitator and other CLC staff conducted 34 training events or conference presentations, with a total attendance of 976. All trainings and consultations were tracked on a database maintained by the Project Facilitator. The CLC has continued to revise the Risk Assessment Instrument, which is used to help law enforcement officers determine what actions should be taken with juveniles, and to work with Law Enforcement to promote its use.

It is recommended that

- additional regional summits be conducted, with an emphasis on involving participants in follow up activities in their own communities;
- communities be encouraged to use a combination of data analysis (such as the Relative Rate Index), strategic thinking and system restructuring to reduce DMC rates;
- in furtherance of community initiatives, the CLC develop detailed geographic DMC data to be furnished to interested communities;
- the Resource Database and model program criteria be further developed, refined and disseminated;
- consultation and assistance be provided to local organizations and communities on DMC reduction strategies and negotiating agreements; and;
- the efforts of CLC staff and the volunteer Regional Representatives be augmented by the use of small stipends to pay other interested individuals to do follow up and support for DMC reduction initiatives within local communities.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|------------|
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | ii |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS | iv |
| INTRODUCTION..... | 2 |
| Description of the Project | 2 |
| METHODOLOGY | 5 |
| Philosophy of the Approach | 5 |
| Phases of the Evaluation..... | 5 |
| Phase 1 – Preparation for Data Gathering at Children’s Law Center..... | 5 |
| Phase 2 – Gathering, Reviewing and Analyzing Information from the Children’s Law Center | 5 |
| Phase 3 – Develop Databases and Instruments | 6 |
| Phase 4 – Collect Data | 6 |
| Phase 5 – Analysis of Data and Development of the Report..... | 6 |
| FINDINGS PART I: IMPLEMENTATION | 8 |
| FINDINGS PART II: PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING THE OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS | 11 |
| Progress Toward Meeting Objective 1..... | 11 |
| Progress Toward Meeting Objective 2..... | 12 |
| Progress Toward Meeting Objective 3..... | 12 |
| Progress Toward Meeting Objective 4..... | 13 |
| Progress Toward Meeting Objective 5..... | 23 |
| DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS | 24 |
| RECOMMENDATIONS..... | 25 |
| APPENDIX A PROJECT DATABASE..... | 26 |
| APPENDIX B REGIONAL SUMMIT MATERIALS | 34 |
| APPENDIX C RAI INSTRUMENT..... | 82 |
| APPENDIX D..... | 85 |
| REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES..... | 85 |
| APPENDIX E | 89 |
| LIST OF SCHOOLS REPRESENTED..... | 89 |
| APPENDIX F | 92 |
| ON LINE SURVEY | 92 |
| APPENDIX G PROJECT DATABASE REPORT EXAMPLE..... | 96 |
| APPENDIX H COMMUNITY RESOURCES DATABASE EXAMPLE | 109 |

INTRODUCTION

This evaluation covers Federal Fiscal Year 2008-2009 activities of the *Community Programs: Implementing the Reduction of Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) in the South Carolina Juvenile Justice System Project*. The project is commonly referred to as “Phase II” of the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) effort undertaken by the University of South Carolina Children’s Law Center (CLC). This document is a final evaluation for the first year of a three-year grant, intended to help the resource person and other Project workers review the progress made during this year. The evaluation of the grant examines grant activities to determine if the implementation of the grant is being carried out as planned and if the anticipated benefits of the Project are occurring. This final report consists of six parts: a description of the Project, methodology for the report, findings for the implementation process, findings for the outcome measurements, conclusions, and recommendations.

Description of the Project

This evaluation covers Federal Fiscal Year 2008-2009 activities of the *Community Programs: Implementing the Reduction of Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) in the South Carolina Juvenile Justice System Project* funded by a Federal Formula Fund Grant from the SC Department of Public Safety. The project received a no-cost extension through December 2009. The report addresses Year 1 of the three-year project.

The current project, informally called Phase II, was established to build on the foundation of a previously funded three-year DMC grant, wherein the Children’s Law Center hired a DMC Resource Person whose primary role was to promote public awareness and interest in DMC issues and to disseminate accurate information regarding DMC. That project used data, training and education to inform individuals across the state of DMC issues in an effort to stimulate them to take action in their own communities. During Year Three, 1,861 individuals received training or technical assistance regarding DMC. Expanding upon an increased awareness of the issues, the present project will emphasize support to regions and communities in the development of specific DMC reduction approaches. The current project continues to provide training and awareness, but with more focus on identification and implementation of successful strategies.

The project uses the Relative Rate Index (RRI) as a primary measure to compare the ratio of non-minority youth to minority youth at different points in the juvenile justice system. If the RRI is over 1.0, it reflects an overrepresentation of minority youth. The state Department of Public Safety reports that the state’s RRI for 2005-06 shows statistically significantly higher rates of minorities occurring at arrest (2.44), detention (1.30 – an increase from 1.15 in the prior year) and commitment to the custody of DJJ (1.14). In addition, there is a disproportionately low number of minority youth diverted from formal case processing into alternative programs. The state clearly has a high rate of DMC.

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice Report Card for 2007 describes the state’s detention rate as a problem. As described in the 2006-2007 DMC grant report, between FY 1991/1992 and FY 2001/2002, the average percentage of people of color committed to the

custody of DJJ in South Carolina dropped one percentage point per year. Since 2001/2002, the reduction has reversed, with the average rising one percentage point per year. Of the five through 17 year olds in the state, 40% are non-white, yet they constitute 62% of the children referred to the solicitor and 65% of the children who are in suspended and final commitments to DJJ custody. Of the 2,619 DJJ Detention admissions in FY 2008, non-white youth constituted 65%, continuing the high rate of minority detention. At current rates of change, within five years, non-white five through 17 year olds will comprise 70% of those children in suspended and final commitments to DJJ custody, back to the rates of the early 1990's. In a word, the state is going backwards with DMC after ten years of progress. Despite the increased efforts to reduce DMC, there is still much work to be done.

The current project will build on the initial efforts of the first project to address reduction in DMC rates. In the current effort, the DMC Program Facilitator will directly assist communities in the development of specific DMC strategies based on local initiatives and programs that have demonstrated an ability to affect DMC. These aims are consistent with recommendations made by the evaluators at the end of the prior grant cycle.

During Year One, the DMC Project proposal states the following tasks to carry out the goals of the program:

- Research and identify at least three model programs or initiatives that have demonstrated the ability to positively impact DMC and reduce unnecessary detention of nonviolent minority offenders
- Establish a working group within at least three geographical areas to strategize and develop a plan to support the model program to further focus on DMC and detention reduction and to replicate the program in other parts of the region
- Host at least three regional DMC and detention summits. The DMC Program Facilitator will develop an agenda for the summits that will provide an interactive strategizing and planning session and training on DMC and detention issues. The DMC Program Facilitator will consider participant evaluations and determine what modifications and improvement, if any, should be made to the DMC summits. These local summits will then be offered again in years two and three of the grant cycle, A statewide DMC conference will be offered in year three as a collaborative measure to showcase DMC successes and share strategies.
- Throughout the three-year cycle, the DMC Program Facilitator will serve as a central resource and contact person for professionals and community leaders across the state on DMC issues.

The Performance Indicators stated in the proposal by the Children's Law Center to measure the objectives are:

1. The DMC Program Facilitator will provide a bi-annual report on the local DMC programs and initiatives considered and the basis for selection of model programs. Program and initiative selection changes/updates may be required based on existing status of local program and initiatives.

2. The DMC Program Facilitator will provide a bi-annual report identifying regional DMC representatives along with supporting information about their areas of expertise, community involvement, professional affiliation and educational background.
3. The DMC Program Facilitator will provide a bi-annual report on the activities of working groups within each region and identify the names, occupations and contact information of each of the members. The DMC person will also provide a report on all meetings and minutes of working group sessions.
4. The DMC Program Facilitator will provide a report following each regional DMC summit documenting the summit agendas, number of attendees and results from participant evaluations.
5. The DMC Program Facilitator will document all phone calls, site visits and offerings of training and technical assistance. A bi-annual report will be produced.

METHODOLOGY

Philosophy of the Approach

SWS used an action research approach to conduct this evaluation. As described by Greenwood and Levin in *Introduction to Action Research: Social Research for Social Change* (1998), action research involves the professional researcher working with the members of an organization and community to improve a situation. Action research (or, in this case, evaluation) means that information developed by the evaluator is used by the organization and community to change their activities and objectives as they go along to make it more likely that the goals of the project will be achieved. In action research, the evaluator is part of the process, whereas in traditional evaluation, the evaluator stands outside of the process. In the current project, the CLC has incorporated conclusions and many of the recommendations made by evaluators in the prior project to develop and focus the aims of the current project for Phase II.

Phases of the Evaluation

There are five Phases to the SWS methodology for the evaluation.

Phase 1 – Preparation for Data Gathering at Children’s Law Center

Phase 1 was conducted through a series of interviews with the Children’s Law Center staff. During these interviews, SWS evaluators learned about the focus of the new grant and what the activities were to be for FFY 2008-2009, any modification needed for the project database that was designed by SWS, information on additional databases developed at the CLC, additional data sources, specific measures for goals, objectives and performance indicators and any other information that needed to be shared. A schedule for the evaluation report was also developed.

Phase 2 – Gathering, Reviewing and Analyzing Information from the Children’s Law Center

Phase 2 consisted of gathering information about the following activities:

- Ascertain the progress made regarding “Research and identify at least three model programs or initiatives that have demonstrated the ability to positively impact DMC and reduce unnecessary detention of nonviolent minority offenders.” Methods: Interviews with CLC staff and verification of information gathered thus far in the Programs and Initiatives database.
- Determine the documentation about “...Establish(ing) a working group within at least three geographical areas to strategize and develop a plan to support the model program to further focus on DMC and detention reduction and to replicate the program in other parts of the region.” Methods: Interviews with CLC staff and examination of working group documents provided by Project Facilitator.

- Clarify data regarding ... “Host at least three regional DMC and detention summits. The DMC Program Facilitator will develop an agenda for the summits that will provide an interactive strategizing and planning session and training on DMC and detention issues. The DMC Program Facilitator will consider participant evaluations and determine what modifications and improvement, if any, should be made to the DMC summits. These local summits will then be offered again in years two and three of the grant cycle, A statewide DMC conference will be offered in year three as a collaborative measure to showcase DMC successes and share strategies.” Methods: Interviews with CLC staff, review of Summit fliers and agendas, examination of registration databases, review of summit evaluation summaries.
- Establish the role of the Project Facilitator regarding...”Throughout the three-year cycle, the DMC Program Facilitator will serve as a central resource and contact person for professionals and community leaders across the state on DMC issues.” Methods: Interviews with CLC staff, analysis of the Training and Outreach database.

Phase 3 – Develop Databases and Instruments

During the first year of the project, SWS developed a Microsoft Access database into which the activities of the project staff could be entered. This Training and Outreach database has continued to be used to record activities of Project staff during Phase II. It includes where, when and what type of training or presentation was made. The number and type of participants is documented, as well as the particular staff involved and specifics of the meeting or presentation. Registrants at each of the three regional summits were entered in an Access database, which was transmitted to SWS on October 29, 2009. The CLC also developed an additional database to document programs and initiatives in each county. SWS evaluators developed an on line follow up survey for participants who attended the regional summit meetings and a database for analysis of survey responses. An entry page and tables for the training database may be found in Appendix A. and a copy of the on line survey instrument may be found in Appendix F.

Phase 4 – Collect Data

Phase 4 of the methodology involved the collection of the necessary data. The completed Training and Outreach database and the Programs and Initiatives database were transmitted to SWS on October 29, 2009, with an update sent on December 8, 2009. The three regional summit registration databases were transmitted on October 29, 2009. Summit evaluation data was transmitted to evaluators on December 14 and December 16, 2009. An invitation letter and email to participants about completing the on line follow up survey was sent by SWS on November 23, 2009 with reminder emails sent on December 7 and December 16, 2009.

Phase 5 – Analysis of Data and Development of the Report

The information from the conference and DMC databases was exported from Microsoft Access into the Statistical Packages for the Social Sciences (SPSS) for analysis. Tables and Graphs describing the outcomes were developed in Microsoft Excel and exported to Microsoft Word.

In developing the report, the following steps were conducted:

1. The evaluation team achieved consensus on:
 - *What Happened?* (Findings of the Study) What activities and actions took place during the grant period from the point of view of the Children's Law Center and the recipients of the DMC services provided by the Children's Law Center.
 - *So What?* (Conclusions of the Study) What meanings do the activities and the actions have in terms of DMC issues within local communities in South Carolina from the point of view of the Children's Law Center and the recipients of the DMC services provided by the Children's Law Center? To what extent have the aims of the Project been achieved, particularly in regard to engaging more people at the regional and local level? Which activities were not successful?
 - *Now What?* (Recommendations of the Study) What changes and additions does the evaluation team believe might be useful in advancing the goals of the Project.
2. The sections of the report were assigned to different team members for drafting and the report was edited by all other team members.
3. The final report includes a description of the grant and its goals and objectives; implementation findings; findings of progress toward the Project goals and objectives; a discussion of the findings of the evaluation, including trends and themes; the conclusions; and the recommendations. This resulted in a detailed, written documentation of the progress of the grant and possible mid-course corrections that will add to the impact of the grant on South Carolina communities.

FINDINGS PART I: IMPLEMENTATION

The grant year began on October 1, 2008. However, due to contract and funding delays, full implementation of project activities did not begin until January 2009. The CLC received a three-month no-cost extension through December 30, 2009. The current report includes activities covering the 15-month period from October 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009.

Grant activities for Phase II began in October 2008 and continued throughout the grant period, with emphasis on training and technical assistance to local communities about strategies for reducing DMC. Training and Outreach activities affected 976 individuals who participated in 34 separate events held in 24 different communities. Content consisted of Conference Presentations (3), Basic Training (14), DMC meetings or Overviews (8) and Other Specialized Training or Outreach (9) delivered by the Project Facilitator and other CLC staff.

Planning for the three regional summit events began in December 2008, with several planning meetings taking place in each region during the spring of 2009. The Project Facilitator worked with regional representatives from each region, who were instrumental in the activities of the committees. In all, 79 individuals participated in 26 planning meetings for the summit events, shaping their agendas to meet local needs. All summit agendas included time for planning sessions.

The first summit occurred in Charleston at Burke High School on August 1, 2009. The theme was “This World Will Not Consume Me” and 450 youth and adults participated. The Justice Academy USA and the SC Department of Juvenile Justice partnered with the Children’s Law Center to sponsor the event. In addition, twelve local and state organizations were listed as co-sponsors. Numerous churches and youth organizations brought groups of youth to the one-day conference.

The second summit took place in Orangeburg at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College on September 18, 2009. The theme was “Choosing the Right Road - The Choices Is Yours,” aimed at preventing gang participation. In addition to the Children’s Law Center, sponsors were the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety and the Orangeburg County Gang Intervention Project. Three hundred youth and adults attended, including local educators and college students who served as mentors to participating youth. In addition to individuals and organizational groups attending, three area schools brought groups of students, accompanied by teachers and staff.

The third summit occurred in McCormick at John de la Howe School on October 14, 2009. The theme of “DMC A Call to Action” was targeted to adult decision-makers and service providers in the region. The meeting was sponsored by the McCormick Treatment Advisory Team, which is comprised of various human and family service agencies. The 45 adult community leaders who attended began to develop coordinated plans for their multi-county area to address DMC. Copies of the conference publicity materials and agendas for all three summits may be found in Appendix B. More details from all three summit evaluations are found under Objective 4 and Performance Indicator 4.

Participant evaluations for the summits indicated a high level of interest in the issues and participant willingness to get more involved with DMC and youth initiatives in their own communities. Conference evaluations revealed very strong ratings from those who attended (Overall average of 4.5 on a 5 point scale) and the average reported change in knowledge of DMC issues before and after the summits was 38.1%, which is statistically significant, indicating that participants felt that they were much more knowledgeable about DMC issues after attending the conferences. In addition, a sub-group of 48 participants in the Midlands and Charleston areas said they were willing to get more involved with reducing DMC at the community level. (This question was not asked at the McCormick event). The Program Facilitator continued to communicate with interested participants, but no local staff were available to do community follow up. Constraints on CLC staff time and travel limited the effectiveness of mobilizing these local volunteers.

The Project aims to stimulate local action and volunteerism to address DMC issues. In order to gauge intermediate outcomes, evaluators conducted an on line follow up survey of adult summit participants. Responses from the 70 attendees who completed the survey indicated strong positive reactions to the information provided at the summits and willingness to continue to be involved with DMC issues at the local level. Details about survey results are described under Objective 4 below.

Building upon the foundation of the prior grant, the Project CLC staff developed a database that catalogs SC-specific strategies in each county that have potential or have been shown to reduce DMC rates. This is an expansion of the Resource Manual that was developed under the prior grant. The current approach is more dynamic than a hard copy manual and continues to grow as more data and input becomes available. A report of this community resource information may be found in Appendix H. There is a plan to expand the content and to put the database on line. In addition, links to SC-specific DMC information is also made available via Internet through links on the Children's Law Center's DMC website (<http://childlaw.sc.edu/dmc.asp>).

Another strategy undertaken by the Project to reduce DMC is development of the "Juvenile Pre-Trial Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI)." This assessment tool continues to be tested in a limited number of jurisdictions. It is designed to help officers make objective decisions about whether or not to detain a juvenile, regardless of minority status. The RAI has been piloted by the following law enforcement agencies:

- Orangeburg City Police
- Aiken City Police
- Aiken Sheriff's Department
- Greenville Sheriff's Department

Of the more than 25 law enforcement agencies that were approached regarding the RAI project, only those listed above chose to participate. The RAI instrument has also been piloted within the Berkeley and Laurens county DJJ offices via their detention alternative case managers. During the grant year, the instrument has continued to be used in the six original counties. More than 2,000 RAI instrument have been completed thus far, but analysis has not been completed.

The RAI specialist and other staff at the Children’s Law Center have continued to work with local law enforcement entities on revisions to the RAI instrument to make it more user-friendly, including development of a one-page format (See Appendix C.) However, there is considerable resistance to the use of the RAI instrument except in areas that have specialized juvenile officers. Other law enforcement officers may not always regard juvenile cases as a high priority. Efforts by the CLC have continued to promote acceptance with law enforcement in additional areas of the state through training and local consultations, but there has been limited support. Apparently, the perception of many law enforcement officers is that the RAI instrument will impair their discretion in making detention decisions. In addition, law enforcement officers in some SC jurisdictions express a more “punishment oriented” attitude toward juvenile offenders, so reduction in use of secure detention is not consistent with their views. Thus far, CLC has not developed a successful strategy to implement wider use of the RAI instrument. Nevertheless, they continue to provide education and training and to dialogue with law enforcement entities toward that goal.

FINDINGS PART II: PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING THE OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The findings toward meeting the objectives are divided according to the objectives and performance indicators stated in the project proposal. Data for all objectives and performance indicators are presented and discussed.

Objective 1: Models or Initiatives

Objective 1 states *“Research initiatives and programs in various geographical areas throughout South Carolina and identify three model programs or initiatives that have demonstrated the ability to positively impact DMC and to help reduce the unnecessary detention of non-violent minority youth.”*

Performance Indicator 1

The DMC Program Facilitator will provide a bi-annual report on the local DMC programs and initiatives considered and the basis for selection of model programs. Program and initiative selection changes/updates may be required based on existing status of local programs and initiatives.

Progress Toward Meeting Objective 1

DMC Program Facilitator and other CLC staff have established a Programs and Initiatives database into which descriptive information about promising youth programs in each county is entered. The database includes the program name and location, a brief description, contact name and phone number, DJJ region and county. Thus far, the database contains 87 programs distributed in 12 counties in the Pee Dee, Midlands and Piedmont regions. During Year Two, there are plans to catalog similar resources in all counties and to classify program by type, such as Primary Prevention, Intervention or Treatment. The evaluators will work closely with the Program Facilitator in the refinement of the database. The Programs and Initiative information will be made widely available, possibly through the Children’s Law Center web site, and criteria for selection of “model programs’ will be established.

The CLC has made substantial progress toward this objective.

Objective 2: Regional Representatives to Serve as Catalyst

Objective 2 states *“Identify and select regional representatives to serve as catalyst in the DMC reduction effort. The regional representatives will assist in identifying jurisdictions with DMC related issues and work with evaluators to ensure that the identified programs and initiatives are collecting the necessary data needed for reduction analysis of minority youth in one or more key decision points”*

Performance Indicator 2

The DMC Program Facilitator will provide a bi-annual report identifying regional DMC representatives along with supporting informative about their area expertise, community involvement, professional affiliation, and educational background. Regional DMC representatives changes may be needed based on individual representative issues or extenuating circumstances.

Progress Toward Meeting Objective 2

A regional representative was identified from each region. These three volunteers worked actively with the Program Facilitator to bring key local individual into the planning process for the summits and into discussion of related DMC reduction issues. In addition to telephone and email communication, the Program Facilitator met with regional representative and planning groups as follows: 14 meetings in the Midlands, seven in the Lowcountry and five in the Piedmont. A list of Regional Representatives and their affiliations may be found in Appendix D.

Despite the leadership and efforts contributed by the Regional Representatives, due to demands of their full time jobs, they were unable to provide follow up support to summit participants who wanted to become more actively involved in their own communities. Requests to pay expenses or small stipends to local DMC organizers were not approved. The Program Facilitator has traveled widely to provide support and technical assistance, but one person cannot provide sufficient local staff coverage. The lack of a consistent local or regional presence under the sponsorship of the Children's Law Center has limited the opportunity to build on the successes generated by the regional summits. In spite of this limitation, the CLC has met the objective.

Objective 3: Engage Local Community Leaders and Experts

Objective 3 states *“In collaboration with the regional representatives, engage local community leaders and experts through at least three local working groups established to enhance local programs to better serve youth by reducing DMC and the unnecessary detention of non-violent minority youth.”*

Performance Indicator 3

The DMC Program Facilitator will provide a bi-annual report on the activities of working with groups within each region and identify names, occupations, and contact information of each of the members. The DMC person will also provide a report on all meetings and minutes of working group sessions.

Progress Toward Meeting Objective 3

Regional Representatives were actively engaged throughout Phase II, particularly in the planning and implementation of the regional summit meetings The DMC Program Facilitator worked closely with these individuals. Each of them provided leadership for the planning groups and mobilized

their own contacts to recruit participants. Within each region, experts and individuals interested in DMC issues came together to discuss summit events and other strategies. This wide base of participants in the planning process allowed for local input, which created three different agendas attuned to regional needs. A list of Regional Representatives and other individuals participating in the planning meetings may be found in Appendix D. The CLC has met this objective.

Objective 4: Regional Summits

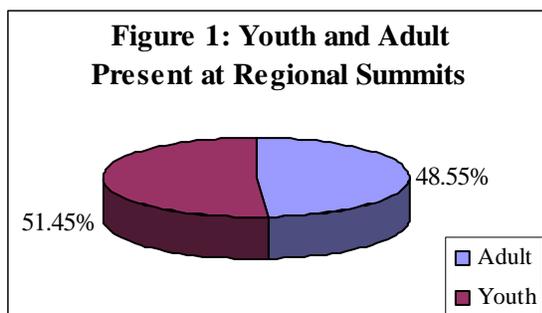
Objective 4 states “Provide at least three regional summits for interactive training and strategic planning for reducing DMC and detention in local communities. Increase the knowledge and awareness of community members and leaders regarding innovative approaches and practices found to be effective within South Carolina through the regional summits.”

Performance Indicator 4

The DMC Program Facilitator will provide a report following each regional DMC summit documenting the summit agendas, number of attendees, and results from participant evaluations.

Progress Toward Meeting Objective 4

The project utilized several methods to provide at least three regional summits for interactive training and strategic planning for reducing DMC and detention in local communities. The Children’s Law Center held one summit in the three major regions of South Carolina: The Midlands, The Upstate, and The Lowcountry. The Midlands summit occurred in Orangeburg on September 18, 2009; the Upstate summit occurred in McCormick on October 14, 2009, and the Lowcountry summit occurred in Charleston on August 1, 2009. Detailed agendas and publicity materials for each of the summits may be found in Appendix B.

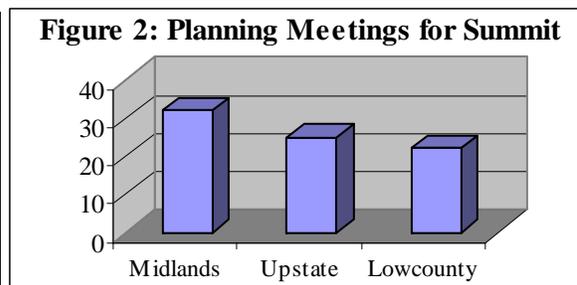


The three regional summits, Midlands, Upstate, Lowcountry, had a total of 347 adults and 354 youth attend. Overall, participants were almost evenly divided between youth and adults. (See Figure 1.) The Summit events in Orangeburg and Charleston were aimed at both youth and adults, while the Summit in McCormick was targeted at an adult audience. In the Charleston and Orangeburg events the adults served several roles, such as mentor,

chaperone, and volunteer. Some adults identified themselves as “parent,” indicating that families may have attended together.

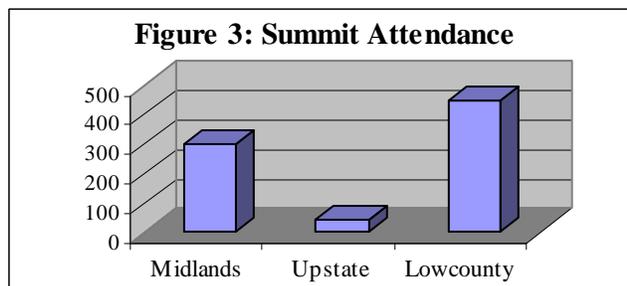
Seventy nine individuals participated in the planning of the three regional summits. Thirty-two individuals attended 14 planning meetings leading up to the Midlands summit. The Upstate region conducted five meetings to plan the summit events and 25 total individuals attended. Twenty-two individuals attended seven planning meetings for the Lowcountry region. (See Table 2 and Figure 2.)

| | # of Meetings | # Attended |
|--------------|---------------|------------|
| Midlands | 14 | 32 |
| Upstate | 5 | 25 |
| Lowcountry | 7 | 22 |
| Total | 26 | 79 |



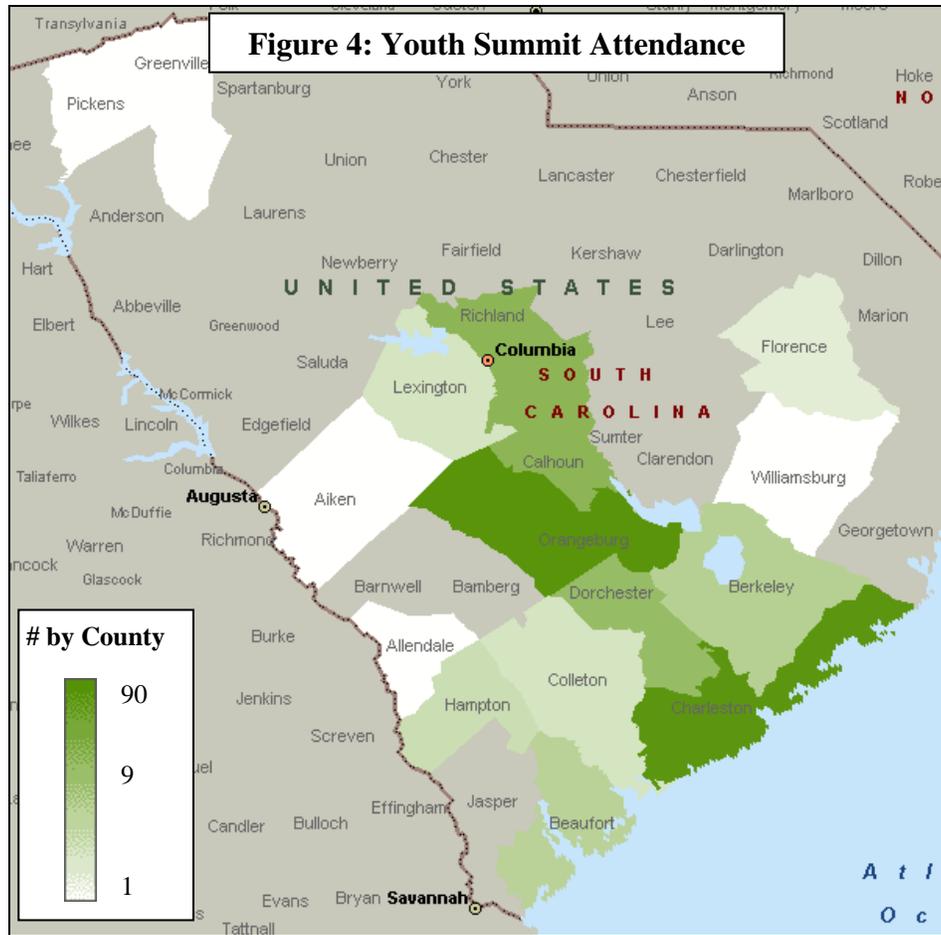
Nearly 800 people attended the three regional summits. The Midlands region summit in Orangeburg had three hundred people attend; the Upstate region summit in McCormick had 45 individuals attend; and the Lowcountry region summit in Charleston had 450 people attend. (See Table 3 and Figure 3.) The CLC reached out to community organizations, youth organizations, faith-based organizations and schools to cultivate interest and active participation. Many of these institutions brought entire groups to the summit events, accompanied by adult chaperones. The McCormick event targeted adult service providers and leaders in the region, so no youth were invited or attended.

| | # Attended |
|--------------|------------|
| Midlands | 300 |
| Upstate | 45 |
| Lowcountry | 450 |
| Total | 795 |



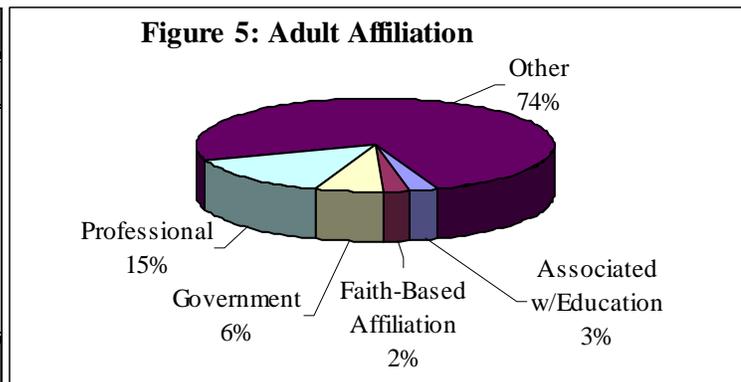
Youth: The Children’s Law Center recruited a broad audience of 354 youth from more than seventy different schools or locations throughout South Carolina to participate in the regional summits. A wide variety of schools and geographic regions were represented. (See Figure 4.) This figure shows only the 252 youth and their schools for whom registration data was recorded. School information was not recorded for 102 youth who attended summits in Charleston and Orangeburg; therefore, the figure may under represent the actual impact.

On the map, a shaded area represents the number of students who attended from a particular county. The color white represents one student in attendance from a particular county, light green represents nine students attended from that county, and darker green represents that approximately ninety students attended from a county. The schools that had the highest number of attendees were Calhoun County High School, Lake Marion High School, Holly Hill-Roberts Middle School, WJ Clark Middle School, Elloree Elementary School, and the Department of Juvenile Justice, located in the Orangeburg area and Wando High School, West Ashley High School and Garrett Academy of Technology located in the Charleston area. (See Appendix E for a list of all schools represented.) The substantial number of schools represented and the geographic spread of attendees indicates that the project was successful at taking their message to a wide adult and youth audience.



Adults: The Adults who attended the three summit events represented several spheres. (See Table 5 and Figure 5.) Eight adults attending the summit meetings were associated with education, nineteen were with government organizations, seven had a faith-based affiliation, forty-six identified themselves as professionals, and two hundred and thirty-three represented other occupations or affiliations. The data shown in these figures is based upon the registration database and on-site lists. Based on the high number of adults who did not identify their organization and interviews with CLC staff, evaluators believe that that the education and faith-based representatives may be under-counted.

| | # |
|------------------|------------|
| Education | 8 |
| Government | 19 |
| Faith-Based | 7 |
| Professional | 46 |
| Other or unknown | 233 |
| Total | 313 |

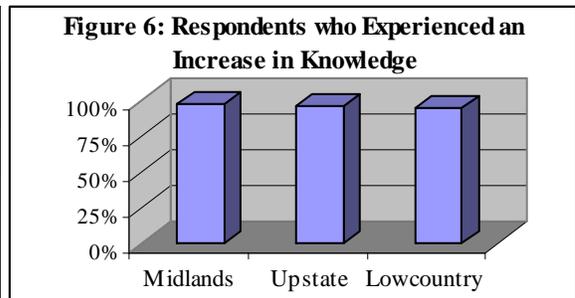


Participant evaluations from each of the summits all indicated positive responses to the program and to the information provided. However, there were some variations of responses among the events, as described below.

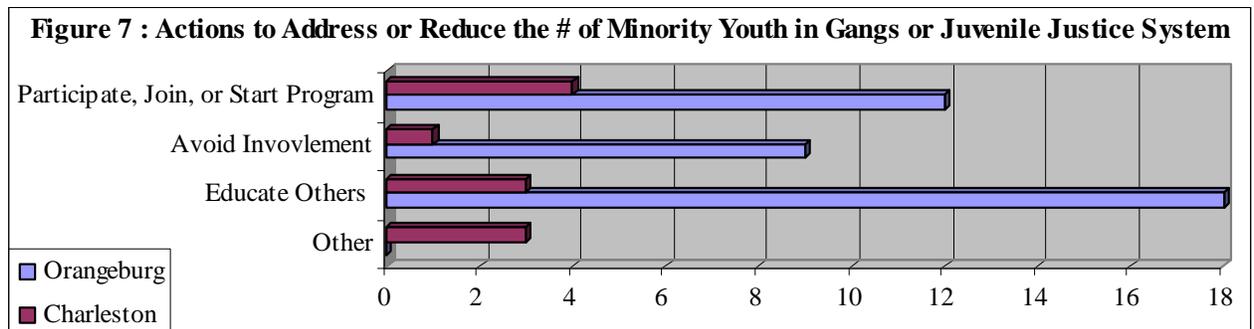
Each summit evaluation asked the participants what was the “overall value of the DMC Summit?” Based on a 5-point scale, the average score for Midlands Summit participant response was between very good and excellent (4.5), the Upstate Summit was between very good and excellent (4.6), and the Lowcountry Summit was between very good and excellent (4.43).

The participants were also asked if their “Knowledge of DMC and related factors increased as a result of the summit”? Of those that completed evaluations at the Midlands Summit, 97.5% responded that they felt that their knowledge increased. Of those that completed evaluations at the Upstate Summit, 96% stated that their knowledge increased. Of those that completed evaluations at the Lowcountry Summit, 94.6% stated that their knowledge increased. (See Table 6 and Figure 6.)

| | Overall Value of the Summit | | Knowledge Increase |
|------------|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| | Avg. | Representation | |
| Midlands | 4.5 | Very Good | 97.5% |
| Upstate | 4.6 | Very Good | 96.0% |
| Lowcountry | 4.43 | Very Good | 94.6% |



The Orangeburg and Charleston Summit Participants were asked, “What will you do as a result of attending this summit to help address/reduce the number of minority youth getting involved in the juvenile justice system?” Thirty-nine Orangeburg participants responded. Twelve stated they would participate, join or start a program, nine participants stated they would avoid becoming involved with gang activity, and 18 stated they would educate others on gang activities and prevention. Nine Charleston participants responded. Four stated they would participate, join, or start a program, two stated they would educate others, and three stated they would use another method to address the issues. (See Figure 7.)

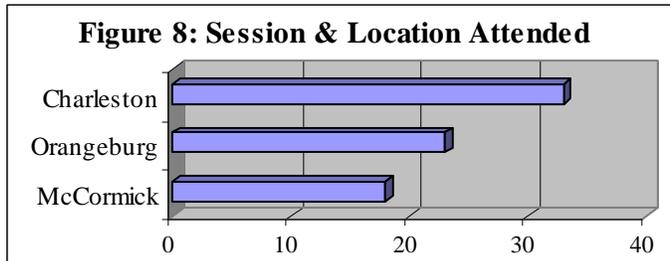


Evaluators conducted a follow up survey of participants through the Internet between November 23, 2009 and December 31, 2009. An initial survey invitation letter or email message was sent to 296 adult participants on November 23, 2009, with reminder emails sent on December 7 and December 16, 2009. Letters and email invitations were sent to all adults for whom addresses had been recorded

during registration. Seventy individuals out of the 296 responded to the online survey, a response rate of 24%. The letter invited attendees to fill out an on-line survey. (See Appendix F for a sample letter and copy of the survey) The purpose of the survey was to ascertain the intermediate term impact of the summit event. Of particular interest was the extent to which participants had continued to be active on the community level with activities to reduce DMC. Some of the respondents had attended two or more of the summit events, so the number of responses indicated below may exceed 70.

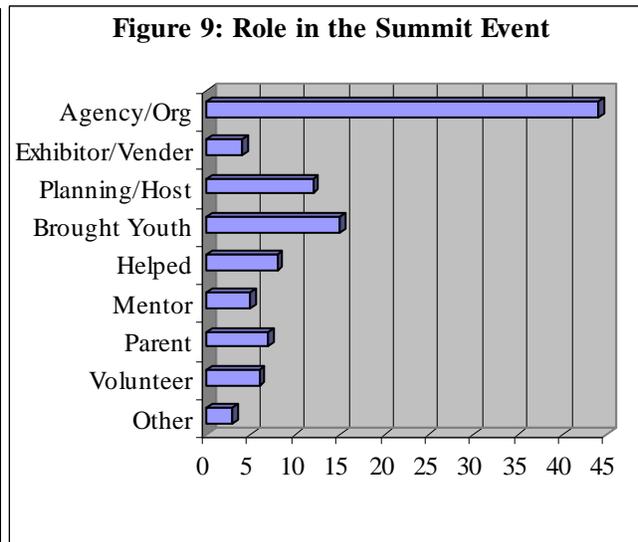
Participants were asked “Which session and location did you attend?” Thirty-three (47.8%) of individuals attended the Charleston – *This World Will Not Consume Me* at Burke High School on August 1, 2009. Twenty-three (33.3%) individuals attended Orangeburg *Choosing the Right Road – The Choice is Yours* at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College on September 18, 2009. Eighteen (26.1%) individuals attended McCormick *DMC – A Call to Action* at John de la Howe School on October 14, 2009. There were a total of 70 individuals who responded to the survey; however, some participants attended more than one session. (See Table 8 and Figure 8.)

| Table 8: Session and Location Attended | | |
|--|----|-------|
| n=70 | # | % |
| Charleston | 33 | 47.8% |
| Orangeburg | 23 | 33.3% |
| McCormick | 18 | 26.1% |



Participants were asked, “What was your role in the summit event?” Respondents could select more than one option. Forty-four (63.8%) responded that they were representing a community agency or organization, four (5.8%) responded they were an exhibitor or vendor, 12 (17.4%) said they were on the planning or host committee, 15 (21.7%) responded they brought a group of youth from their school or organization, eight (11.6%) responded that they helped with the program, five (7.2%) responded they were a mentor for youth who attended the event, seven (10.1%) said they were a parent, six (8.7%) responded they were a community volunteer, and three (4.3%) responded Other. (See Table 9 and Figure 9.)

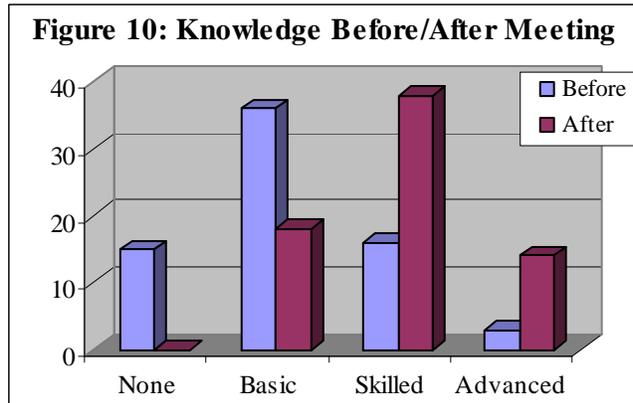
| Table 9: Role in the Summit Event | | |
|---|----|-------|
| n=70 | # | % |
| Represent Agency or Organization | 44 | 63.8% |
| Exhibitor/Vender | 4 | 5.8% |
| Planning or host committee | 12 | 17.4% |
| Brought Youth from School or Organization | 15 | 21.7% |
| Helped w/ Program | 8 | 11.6% |
| Mentor | 5 | 7.2% |
| Parent | 7 | 10.1% |
| Community Volunteer | 6 | 8.7% |
| Other | 3 | 4.3% |



Participants were asked, “How would you rate your Knowledge of DMC issues BEFORE you attended the meeting checked above?” Fifteen (21.4%) responded None, 36 (51.4%) responded Basic, 16 (22.9%) responded Skilled, and three (4.3%) responded Advanced. Participants were also asked, “How Would you rate your Knowledge of DMC issues AFTER you attended the meeting?” Eighteen (25.7%) responded Basic, 38 (54.3%) responded Skilled, and 14 (20%) responded Advanced. (See Table 10 and Figure 10.)

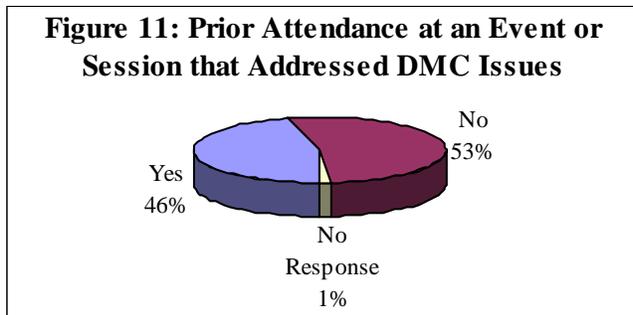
The average response to “Knowledge of DMC Issues Before” was 2.1 (SD=0.78). The average response to “Knowledge of DMC Issues After” was 2.9 (SD=0.68). This is an average change of 38.1%. This change is statistically significant ($t=-12.7$, $df=69$, $p=0.000$). Therefore, participants reported that they experienced an increase in knowledge of DMC issues as a result of the conference.

| | Before | | After | |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| | # | % | # | % |
| None | 15 | 21.4% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Basic | 36 | 51.4% | 18 | 25.7% |
| Skilled | 16 | 22.9% | 38 | 54.3% |
| Advanced | 3 | 4.3% | 14 | 20.0% |
| Total | 70 | 100% | 70 | 100% |



Participants were asked, “Before the 2009 meeting checked above, had you ever attended an event or session that specifically addressed issues of DMC?” Of the 70 individuals who responded, 32 (45.7%) responded Yes, 37 (52.9%) responded No, and one (1.4%) did not respond. (See Table 11 and Figure 11.)

| | # | % |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| Yes | 32 | 45.7% |
| No | 37 | 52.9% |
| No Response | 1 | 1.4% |
| Total | 70 | 100% |



Survey participants were asked, “What actions, if any, did you take AFTER your attendance at the event?” Respondents could select more than one option. Out of the seventy who answered, fourteen (20.3%) individuals responded None, ten (14.5%) sought information through the Children’s Law Center (CLC) website, four (5.8%) requested local training or technical assistance from CLC to address DMC issues, ten (14.5%) attended additional trainings that addressed issues relating to DMC (sponsored by any source), three (4.3%) improved local data collection system to capture DMC data, one (1.4%) responded piloting use of the Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment Instrument, 20 (29%) volunteered to work with youth in their

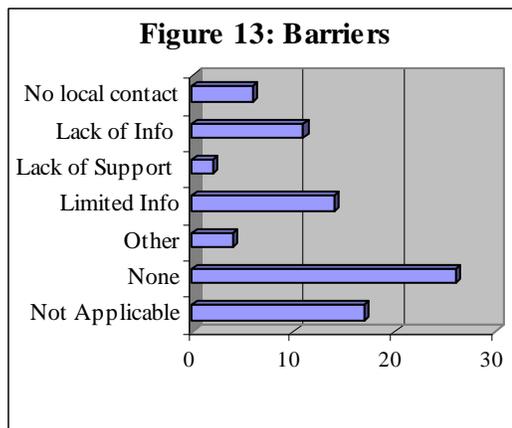
community, 23 (33.3%) got involved with community organizations, and six (8.7%) responded with other. (See Table 12 and Figure 12.)

| Table 12: Actions Taken After Attendance at the Event | | |
|---|----|-------|
| n=70 | # | % |
| None | 14 | 20.3% |
| Sought info through CLC website | 10 | 14.5% |
| Requested local training or tech assist. from CLC | 4 | 5.8% |
| Attended additional trainings | 10 | 14.5% |
| Improved local data collection system | 3 | 4.3% |
| Piloting Use of the Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment Instrument | 1 | 1.4% |
| Volunteered to work with youth | 20 | 29.0% |
| Got involved with community organizations | 23 | 33.3% |
| Other | 6 | 8.7% |



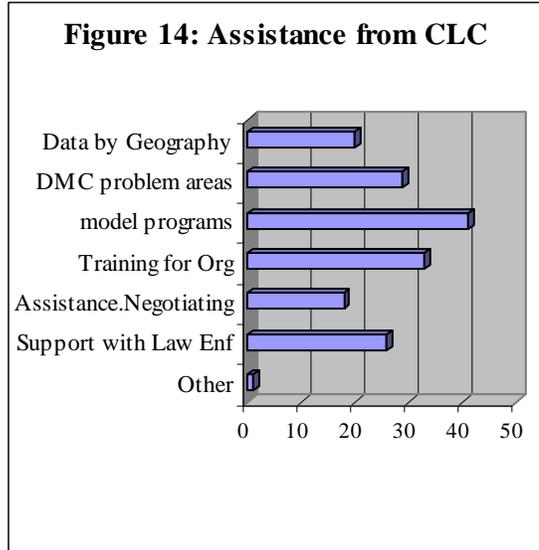
Participants were asked, “If you want to get more involved in addressing DMC, what barriers, if any, have you encountered?” Respondents could select more than one option. Six (8.7%) responded no local contact person or organization, eleven (15.9%) responded lack of information on potential volunteer opportunities, two (2.9%) responded lack of support from my employing organization, fourteen (20.3) responded limited information about model programs, four (5.8%) responded other, 26 (37.7%) responded none, and 17 (24.6%) responded not applicable. (See Table 13 and Figure 13.)

| Table 13: Barriers Encountered If You Wanted to Get More Involved Addressing DMC Issues | | |
|---|----|-------|
| n=70 | # | % |
| No local contact | 6 | 8.7% |
| Lack of info on volunteer opportunities | 11 | 15.9% |
| Lack of support from employing org | 2 | 2.9% |
| Limited info about model programs | 14 | 20.3% |
| Other | 4 | 5.8% |
| None | 26 | 37.7% |
| Not Applicable | 17 | 24.6% |



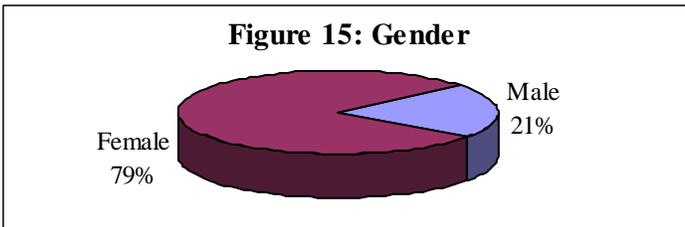
Survey participants were asked, “What assistance would you like the Children’s Law Center to provide to your community to help reduce DMC?” Respondents could select more than one option. Twenty (29.0%) would like DMC data for geographic areas within counties, 29 (42%) would like information about DMC problem areas, 41 (59.4%) would like information about model programs, 33 (47.8%) would like training for their organization on how to get involved, 18 (26.1%) would like assistance in negotiating interagency agreements, 26 (37.7%) would like support in working with law enforcement, and one (1.4%) noted other. (See Table 14 and Figure 14.)

| Table 14: Assistance You Would Like the CLC to Provide to Your Community to Help Reduce DMC | | |
|--|----|-------|
| n=70 | # | % |
| DMC data for geographic areas within counties | 20 | 29.0% |
| Info about DMC problem areas | 29 | 42.0% |
| Info about model programs | 41 | 59.4% |
| Training for my organization on getting involved | 33 | 47.8% |
| Assistance in negotiating interagency agreements | 18 | 26.1% |
| Support in working with law enforcement | 26 | 37.7% |
| Other | 1 | 1.4% |



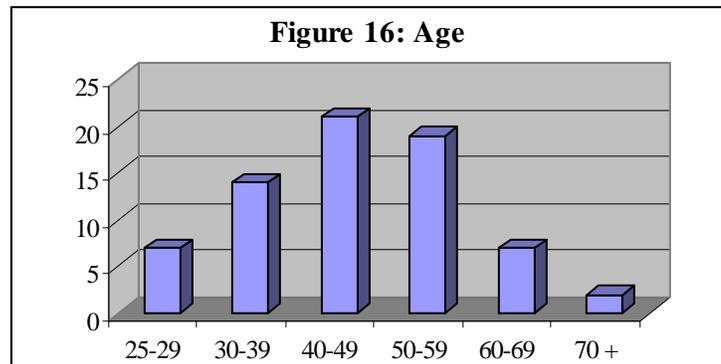
Survey participants were asked to specify their gender. Of the 70 individuals who responded, 15 (21.4%) were male and 55 (78.6%) were female. (See Table 15 and Figure 15.)

| Table 15: Gender | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| | # | % |
| Male | 15 | 21.4% |
| Female | 55 | 78.6% |
| Total | 70 | 100% |



Participants were asked to denote their age range. Seven (10%) were 25 to 29 years old, 14 (20%) were 30 to 39 years old, 21 (30%) were 40 to 49, 19 (27.1%) were 50 to 59 years old, seven (10%) were 60 to 69 years old, and two (2.9%) were 70 or older (See Table 16 and Figure 16).

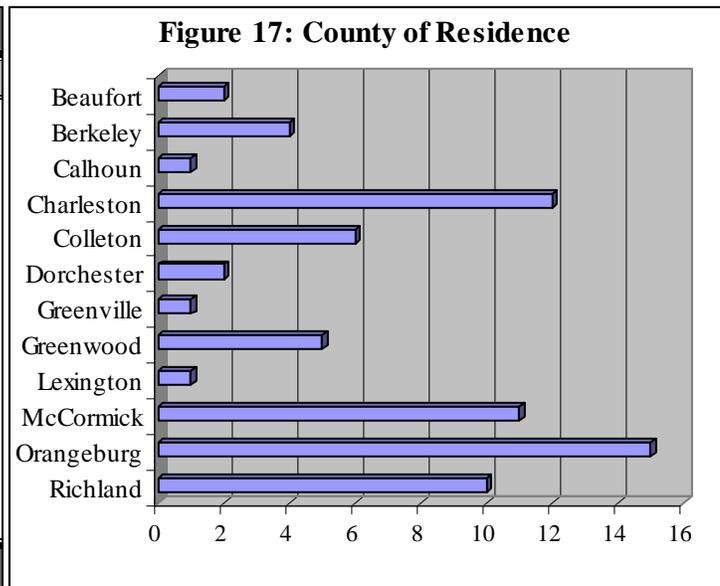
| Table 16: Age | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------|
| | # | % |
| 25-29 | 7 | 10.0% |
| 30-39 | 14 | 20.0% |
| 40-49 | 21 | 30.0% |
| 50-59 | 19 | 27.1% |
| 60-69 | 7 | 10.0% |
| 70 + | 2 | 2.9% |
| Total | 70 | 100% |



Participants were asked to denote their county of residence. Two (2.9%) were from Beaufort County, four (5.7%) were from Berkeley County, one (1.4%) was from Calhoun County, 12 (17.1%) were from Charleston County, six (8.6%) were from Colleton County, two (2.9%) were from Dorchester County, one (1.4%) was from Greenville County, five (7.1%) were from Greenwood County, one (1.4%) was from Lexington County, 11 (15.7%) were from McCormick County, 15 (21.4%) were from Orangeburg County, and ten (14.3%) were from Richland County. (See Table 17 and Figure 17.)

Table 17: County of Residence

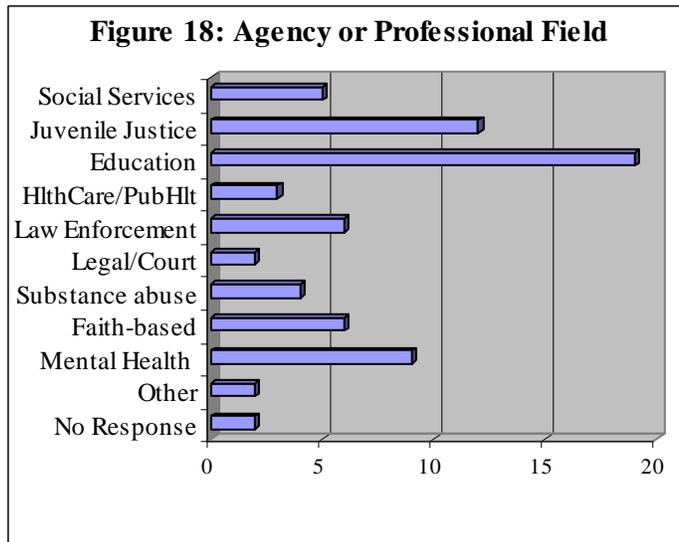
| | # | % |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| Beaufort | 2 | 2.9% |
| Berkeley | 4 | 5.7% |
| Calhoun | 1 | 1.4% |
| Charleston | 12 | 17.1% |
| Colleton | 6 | 8.6% |
| Dorchester | 2 | 2.9% |
| Greenville | 1 | 1.4% |
| Greenwood | 5 | 7.1% |
| Lexington | 1 | 1.4% |
| McCormick | 11 | 15.7% |
| Orangeburg | 15 | 21.4% |
| Richland | 10 | 14.3% |
| Total | 70 | 100% |



Participants were asked to select the agency or professional field they represented. Five (7.1%) selected Social Services, 12 (17.1%) selected Juvenile Justice, 19 (27.1%) chose Education, three (4.3%) selected Health Care/Public Health, six (8.6%) selected Law Enforcement, two (2.9%) picked Legal/Court, four (5.7%) selected Substance Abuse, six (8.6%) selected Faith-based, nine (12.9%) selected Mental Health, two (2.9%) selected Other, and two (2.9%) did not respond (See Table 18 and Figure 18).

Table 18: Agency or Professional Field

| | # | % |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Social Services | 5 | 7.1% |
| Juvenile Justice | 12 | 17.1% |
| Education | 19 | 27.1% |
| Health Care / Public Health | 3 | 4.3% |
| Law Enforcement | 6 | 8.6% |
| Legal / Court | 2 | 2.9% |
| Substance abuse | 4 | 5.7% |
| Faith-based | 6 | 8.6% |
| Mental Health | 9 | 12.9% |
| Other | 2 | 2.9% |
| No Response | 2 | 2.9% |
| Total | 70 | 100% |



The participants of the online survey were asked to make “Additional comments about the summit you attended or about the Children’s Law Center” All of the comments were positive. Of the 19 people who made comments, 14 responses can be classified as “high quality of presenters or information given,” five can be classified as “event increased or renewed my motivation to take action,” two can be classified as “event gave a chance for input and planning,” two can be classified as “policy and cultural change are needed to affect DMC,” two can be classified as “not enough time, too short,” and two can be classified as “request another summit.” The category “High Quality of Presenter or Information Given” is defined by a participant responding with a positive comment about the conference or about particular presenters. The category “Event Increased/Renewed My Motivation to Take Action” is defined by a participant responding that the conference motivated them to become more involved with DMC issues. The category “Event Gave a Chance for Input and Planning” can be defined as a participant stating that they felt that the conference allowed them to discuss their thoughts, ideas, and opinions on the topic and allowed them to assist in planning for the conference or actions to be taken to improve DMC. The category “Policy and Cultural Change are Needed to Affect DMC” is defined as a participant stating that laws and regulations need to be changed or addressed to positively impact DMC. The category “Not Enough Time, too short” means that a participant felt the conference should have been longer in order to provide for the needs of the participants. The category “Request Another Summit” denotes that participants felt that another conference is needed. (See Table 19.)

| | # | % |
|--|----|-------|
| High Quality of Presenters or Information Given | 14 | 20.0% |
| Event Increased/Renewed My Motivation to Take Action | 5 | 7.1% |
| Event Gave a Chance for Input and Planning | 2 | 2.9% |
| Policy and Cultural Change are Needed to Affect DMC | 2 | 2.9% |
| Not Enough Time, too Short | 2 | 2.9% |
| Request Another Summit | 2 | 2.9% |

A few representative comments were “It was dynamic.” “...exceptional. Presenters well prepared and provided in-depth information to increase my knowledge.” “It was very well planned and organized. We need more summits like this.” “The youth enjoyed the sessions and the adult sessions were well thought out and planned.” “After reading the article [about the summit in a local paper] I was compelled to share some of the information with the other students from my school.” “Limited time opportunity to analyze data of local problems and develop action plans and monitor these plans”

The CLC has fully met this objective.

Objective 5: Central Resource and Contact Person

Objective 5 states “Serve as a central resource and contact person for professionals and community leaders across the state on DMC issues.”

Performance Indicator 5

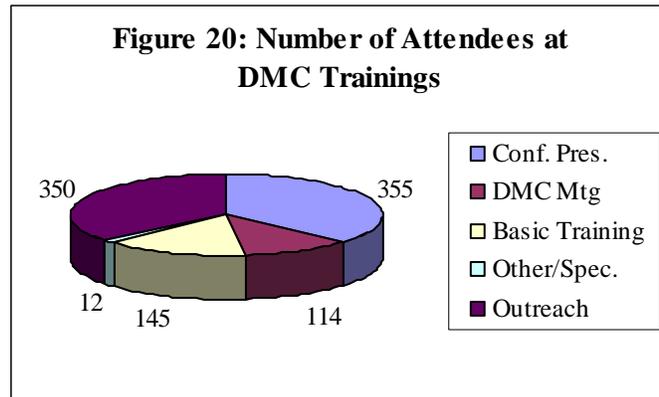
The DMC Program Facilitator will document all phone calls, site visits, and offerings of training and technical assistance. A bi-annual report will be produced.

Progress Toward Meeting Objective 5

The DMC Project Facilitator used several methods to document phone calls, site visits, and trainings and technical assistance offered to further the aims of the project. The CLC documented activities in a custom database developed for their use by System Wide Solutions during the previous grant cycle. The Program Facilitator has produced queries and reports that summarize activities during various time periods. The database can produce reports by type of event and varying time frames. (See report example in Appendix G).

Throughout the grant period, the Children’s law Center offered a variety of training sessions, including Conference Presentations, DMC Meetings and Overviews, Basic Trainings, Other/Specialized, and Outreach. Three Conference Presentations were given with 355 people attending. There were eight DMC meetings and overviews with 114 people attending. Fourteen Basic Trainings were offered with 145 attending. Eight other or specialized training sessions were offered with 12 individuals attending. There was one outreach event offered with 350 people attending. Altogether, the project provided training, information and technical assistance to a total of 976 individuals during the grant year. These community training contacts are in addition to the individuals described in Objective 4 above who participated in the regional summit meetings. (See Table 20 and Figure 20).

| | # Trngs | # Attendees |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Conference Presentation | 3 | 355 |
| DMC Mtg/ Overview | 8 | 114 |
| Basic Training | 14 | 145 |
| Other/ Specialized | 8 | 12 |
| Outreach | 1 | 350 |
| Total | 34 | 976 |



The CLC has fully met this objective.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The Project has been successful in meeting all of its objectives.

During the past year, the Project has matured and has taken a multi-faceted approach to DMC reduction, including tailoring the approach used in different geographic areas and with different stakeholders. Through these efforts, additional individuals and groups have joined in activities to reduce DMC. Project staff have become increasingly skilled at gathering data and documenting grant activities. Progress toward identifying model programs was undertaken through the development of a county-by-county Resource Database of programs that have been shown to be effective at reducing DMC or that show promise. This data will be expanded and refined during Year Two. Regional Representatives and working groups were involved in the planning and implementation of three regional summits involving 795 participants from 19 counties. Of note is the broad representation of youth from more than 70 different elementary, middle and high schools who participated in the summits and the more than 300 adults who invested their time as presenters, chaperones, mentors and other volunteers. These numbers indicate a high level of interest in the issue. Moreover, seventy-nine individuals were involved in the planning for these events. In addition to the regional summit meetings, the Program Facilitator and other CLC staff conducted 34 training events or conference presentations, with a total attendance of 976. The Project Facilitator is regarded as a knowledgeable statewide resource. All trainings and consultations were tracked on a database maintained by the Project Facilitator. The CLC has continued to revise the Risk Assessment Instrument and to work with Law Enforcement to promote its use.

The Project continues to seek input from stakeholders about their needs and interests. Participants completing evaluations at the summits were asked, "What assistance would you like the Children's Law Center to provide to your community to help reduce DMC?" Twenty (29.0%) would like DMC data for geographic areas within counties, 29 (42.0%) would like information about DMC problem areas, 41 (59.4%) would like information about model programs, 33 (47.8%) would like training for their organization on how to get involved, 18 (26.1%) would like assistance in negotiating interagency agreements, 26 (37.7%) would like support in working with law enforcement, and one (1.4%) noted Other. These findings and other data found in this report may provide further focus for the project agenda during Year Two.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that

- additional regional summits be conducted, with an emphasis on involving participants in follow up activities in their own communities;
- communities be encouraged to use a combination of data analysis (such as the Relative Rate Index), strategic thinking and system restructuring to reduce DMC rates;
- in furtherance of community initiatives, the CLC develop detailed geographic DMC data to be furnished to interested communities;
- the Resource Database and model program criteria be further developed, refined and disseminated;
- consultation and assistance be provided to local organizations and communities on DMC reduction strategies and negotiating agreements; and;
- the efforts of CLC staff and the volunteer Regional Representatives be augmented by the use of small stipends to pay other interested individuals to do follow up and support for DMC reduction initiatives within local communities.

**APPENDIX A
PROJECT DATABASE**

APPENDIX B
REGIONAL SUMMIT MATERIALS

APPENDIX C
RAI INSTRUMENT

APPENDIX D
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

APPENDIX E
LIST OF SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

**APPENDIX F
ON LINE SURVEY**

APPENDIX G
PROJECT DATABASE REPORT EXAMPLE

APPENDIX H
COMMUNITY RESOURCES DATABASE EXAMPLE