



60th Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016

**“Promoting Public Safety Through Effective
Prevention and Treatment”**

2015-2016 Accomplishments

This year marks the 60th year of justice advocacy for the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency (MCCD). MCCD was initially created by citizens concerned about the 1952 Jackson Prison riots, when over 2,600 inmates rebelled against poor, crowded, and inhumane conditions. During our earliest years, MCCD made strides to expand the use of probation and parole – at one point cutting state prison rates by half. Throughout the following six decades, we successfully advocated to keep the death penalty out of Michigan, redesigned the state’s sentencing guidelines, developed standards for Michigan’s criminal public defense system, and expanded reentry services across the state, resulting in a 36% reduction in return to prison rates and closure of 21 prisons. On the youth side, MCCD was one of the first juvenile justice advocacy organizations in the country, spearheading efforts to expand juvenile diversion programs, improve legal representation for kids, protect children in detention and placement, and limit confinement of youth in adult jails and prisons. Our work today builds directly on these accomplishments and reflects a tireless commitment to a fair, effective and affordable justice practices in Michigan!

This year, MCCD capitalized on the national positive momentum around justice reform efforts as well as strengthened our organizational sustainability. New funding partners, as well as dedicated supporters, allowed MCCD to add new projects, bolster existing efforts, and more effectively raise the voice of those most impacted by the justice system. We are particularly grateful for partnerships with the Public Welfare Foundation, Open Society Foundations, the Ruth Mott Foundation, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the Gerald Beckwith Constitutional Fund as well as the generous support of individual, non-profit and corporate partners.

Organizational Accomplishments

Over the past year, MCCD’s Board of Directors spent time exploring strategies to strengthen its role in organizational oversight and fundraising. Building off of recommendations from Grand Valley State University’s Johnson Center for Philanthropy, the Board of Directors embarked on an intentional restructuring to support these goals.

In January, Dennis Schrantz retired as executive director of MCCD. He remains a member of MCCD’s staff as the Director of the Center for Justice Innovation, continuing our national work implementing prisoner reentry programs in other states. The board commended his work as executive director and purchased a star in his honor!

MCCD’s Board enthusiastically hired Mary King as our new executive director. Mary has been a long-time partner with MCCD, beginning in 1990 when she became the first Coordinator for MCCD’s Children’s Visitation Program, which brought children from all over Michigan for structured visits with their incarcerated mothers. In 2006, Mary began serving as the Community Coordinator for the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI) in Washtenaw and later added

Livingston County. For eight years, she engaged key stakeholders in a unified effort to provide evidence-based services for returning citizens.

MCCD took this opportunity to reorganize its staff leadership. Kristen Staley became MCCD's Deputy Director, responsible for project leadership of MCCD's justice initiatives and Michelle Weemhoff transitioned to a newly created role of Senior Policy Advisor, advising MCCD on justice policy advocacy and implementation of best practices. Jason Smith continues to serve as the Youth Justice Policy Associate, specializing in youth justice advocacy and coalition-building, and Elena Brennan was hired as Program Associate, responsible for administrative support and member management.

Through the hard work and dedication of staff, the strength of our partnerships, and the generosity of our supporters, the agency continues to advance our mission to improve the effectiveness of policies and systems aimed at the prevention and reduction of crime and delinquency.

Criminal Justice Accomplishments

Michigan Coalition to End Mass Incarceration

MCCD continues to be one of the key leaders of the newly formed Michigan Collaborative to End Mass Incarceration (MI-CEMI), as a member of the group's Steering Team. MI-CEMI is a broad-based, statewide, non-partisan collaboration representing non-profit, faith-based, advocacy, and service organizations united to end mass incarceration in Michigan. MI-CEMI urges the expanded use of restorative justice and other alternative and diversionary programs; increased mental health services; reform of the indigent defense system; greater focus on addressing social problems that are at the root of many crimes; reform of sentencing guidelines; elimination of racial profiling, racially targeted enforcement and other police practices that cause racial and economic disproportionality in prison populations, as well as additional reforms outlined in this document.

MI-CEMI assembled work groups to focus on specific strategies to end mass incarceration: Diversion from Incarceration; Reducing Length of Stay (Incarceration); Improving Conditions of Confinement; Prisoner Reentry; and Public Education. Dennis Schrantz continues to represent MCCD as the Convener for the Prisoner Reentry work group and Jason Smith represents MCCD as a member of the Diversion work group.

Nation Outside: The Voice of the Formerly Incarcerated

MCCD continues to act as host for Nation Outside: The Voice of Formerly Incarcerated People, a statewide association comprised of returned citizens and their allies. Nation Outside empowers its members to use their collective voice to reform criminal justice policies that fuel mass incarceration and create barriers to successful prisoner reentry. In the last year, Nation Outside has focused on two primary tasks - recruitment and voter rights education.

Unexpectedly, the vast majority of formerly incarcerated people in Michigan, as well as many allies, are unaware that all citizens with a felony conviction can register and vote in this state. Nation Outside partnered with the ACLU of Michigan to spread the word. This work is financially supported by the Gerald Beckwith Constitutional Fund, allowing MCCD to contract with a formerly incarcerated person, Aaron Suganuma, MSW, to coordinate the work.

Center for Justice Innovation

MCCD's Center for Justice Innovation continues to thrive under the leadership of Director Dennis Schrantz. The Center offers national consulting to states and local jurisdictions seeking to implement evidence-based practice within corrections and justice policies. Based on the Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative (MPRI) Model, the National Institute of Corrections Transition from Prison to Community (TPC) Model, and the report of National Prisoner Reentry Council, the Center developed a prisoner reentry framework that helps guide states in the improvement of policies, practices and programs resulting in reduced crime and return to prison of returning citizens. Tested and improved in over a dozen states, the Strategic Planning for Prisoner Reentry Framework (SPPR) provides the centerpiece of the Center's prisoner reentry consultation work.

In 2016, with guidance from the Center, the SPPR was adapted into state-specific models in Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Montana and Louisiana. In addition, the Center provided workshops on prisoner reentry to the Mississippi Reentry Task Force in Jackson, Mississippi and at the American Corrections Association conference in New Orleans.

The North Flint Neighborhood Former Prisoner Project

Based on the latest data available from the Michigan Department of Corrections, Genesee County state prisoners – about half of which return to North Flint - have higher risk scores than the state as a whole. MCCD was awarded a one-year grant from the Ruth Mott Foundation to improve success rates for a pilot cohort of returning prisoners.

The goal of the project is to cut the 26% failure rate of North Flint former state prisoners by 50% in three years. To do so, we are working collaboratively in the North Flint community with the M.A.D.E. (Money, Attitude, Direction, Education) Institute to improve pre and post release case planning and management, with additional services to support North Flint's returning citizens with sustainable housing and employment.

The Project focuses on a small number of high risk North Flint prisoners to identify their most important criminogenic needs, and use local resources and expertise to address those needs. The Project utilizes the untapped expertise of previously incarcerated community members who have been trained as mentors or 'Community Consultants' with the M.A.D.E. Institute.

In the first year, the Project is working with ten of the approximately 240 state prisoners returning to Flint in 2016, toward the ultimate goal of engaging with 100% of Flint's returning citizens.

Youth Justice Accomplishments

Raise the Age Campaign: Ending the Practice of Trying Youth as Adults

MCCD's groundbreaking report, Youth Behind Bars report from 2014 elevated the issue of youth incarcerated as adults to a top priority among Michigan lawmakers. Throughout 2015, MCCD was integrally involved in the Michigan Legislature's 'Youth in Prison' Working Group, which resulted in a bipartisan package of 20 youth justice bills to reduce youth incarceration, including:

1. Raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction from 17 to 18 years old.
2. Increase the County Child Care Fund reimbursement rate for qualifying community-based services for youth by 25 percent.
3. Prohibit the placement of youth under 18 in adult jails and prisons and provide access to age-appropriate rehabilitation.
4. Omit offenses that do not require adult sentencing from the list of Specified Juvenile Offenses.
5. Require equal consideration of all mitigating factors prior to waiving jurisdiction in traditional juvenile waiver cases.
6. Require public monitoring and oversight of youth under the jurisdiction of the MDOC who entered for an offense committed prior to turning 18 years old.
7. Restrict the use of administrative segregation for youth under 18 in prison.
8. Establish a family advisory board within the MDOC to ensure effective partnerships with families and victims.

The bill package passed the Michigan State House 92 to 16 in April 2016 with overwhelming bipartisan support and is now being considered by the State Senate. This legislative success would not have been possible without the partnership and advocacy of the 80 partner organizations and nearly 600 individual supporters who endorsed and promoted the Raise the Age Statement of Principles, available at www.RaiseTheAgeMI.org.

Because (as of the time of this report) Michigan remains one of only seven states that automatically prosecute 17-year-olds as adults, many national partners are looking to help move our state forward. Throughout the year MCCD hosted national experts from Right on Crime, R Street Institute, and the Campaign for Youth Justice for various educational events on the issue of youth in Michigan's adult system.

MCCD was also fortunate to work with journalists from Al-Jazeera America's Faultlines in their September 2015 film "Forgotten Youth: Inside America's Prisons." The documentary examines the struggles of youth in Michigan's prison system and highlights the pending "Youth in Prison" legislation as a welcome solution. With Al-Jazeera's permission, MCCD held three community film events across the state in Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Flint.

Juvenile Justice Reinvestment, *In-Home Community Care Grant*

MCCD continues to advocate to expand the use of community-based programs for justice-involved youth. Beginning in 2013, MCCD helped create the In-Home Community Care Grant which, thus far, has launched ten new community-based programs in thirteen rural counties that otherwise relied heavily upon detention and placement, including Cass, Lake, Shiawassee, Gratiot/Isabella/Montcalm, Presque Isle, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Marquette, Benzie/Manistee, and Van Buren Counties. Evaluation of the first cohort of six sites revealed a savings of \$1.76 million and, among the 189 families served, an 83% reduction in recidivism and improved school attendance, parenting skills and overall well-being. In partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), MCCD serves as the technical assistance provider to these counties to support their goals of utilizing evidence-based approaches to youth justice.

Advancing Restorative Communities

MCCD's newest youth justice initiative, Advancing Restorative Communities is a collaborative effort with the Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice and the Washtenaw Circuit Court that seeks to transform Michigan's approach to youth justice into holistic community-led models founded on principles of youth well-being, diversion and restorative justice. Over the course of this year, MCCD interviewed court representatives, law enforcement and community partners in almost all of Michigan's 83 counties to better understand their diversion and restorative justice practices. MCCD is in the process of developing a report that discusses the findings as well as highlight best practices to avoid justice system involvement and empower young people.

Another key feature of this project is for successful diversion, restorative justice, and peacemaking models to be replicated in pilot sites across the state. To accomplish this, three technical assistance teams from model jurisdictions have paired with pilot site teams to provide peer-to-peer mentoring on the best practice models. The pilots include:

- ❖ **Peacemaking Model:** The 19th Judicial Circuit Court (Manistee/Benzie counties) is developing new policies and practices, and training court, school and law enforcement staff on the peacemaking model, with technical assistance from the Dispute Resolution Center and the Washtenaw County Trial Court.
- ❖ **Youth-Led Restorative Community Action Agenda:** The Boys and Girls Club of Benton Harbor is facilitating a process to identify youths' concerns about their community and develop actionable solutions to making Benton Harbor a better and safer place to live, with technical assistance from the Family Division of the Berrien County Trial Court.
- ❖ **Shelby Juvenile Diversion Program:** The Shelby Police Department is establishing a new, police-led program to hold youth accountable and address their needs, while diverting them away from juvenile court involvement, with technical assistance from Mediation & Restorative Services in Muskegon.

Defending Childhood: Promoting Trauma-Informed Youth Justice

In April, Michelle Weemhoff represented MCCD as one of five Michigan attendees at the Defending Childhood State Policy Meeting in Washington, D.C., hosted by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The meeting highlighted the progress of expanding trauma-informed practices in Michigan, California, and Massachusetts, as well as assisted these states in setting priorities for the remainder of the grant and beyond.

My Brother's Keeper: Addressing Overrepresentation of Youth of Color

In November 2015, MCCD's Jason Smith was invited to serve on the MBK Statewide Policy Committee, along with university professors, local government leaders, community organizers and other advocacy organizations. MCCD serves as a resource to the local initiatives and helps to inform the discussion around local and statewide changes in policy and practice. In December 2015, the Michigan Community Service Commission - statewide coordinator for My Brother's Keeper - announced that it would no longer be able to participate in the initiative. Despite this setback, MCCD and the other partners have continued to meet, strategize, and highlight effective solutions that can be formatted into an actionable policy agenda.

School Justice Partnership

As a member of the statewide School Justice Policy Work Group, MCCD and its partners helped inform and advocate for legislation to address truancy, school exclusion and zero tolerance policies this year. As a result, the Michigan House of Representatives unanimously voted in support of House Bill 5618. It is now being considered by the Senate. The bill requires that before suspending or expelling a student, schools must consider a number of factors, including the student's age, disability status, seriousness of the violation, and the possibility of using restorative practices to address the situation. It also ensures that local school boards have discretion when deciding whether to suspend or expel students.

In early 2016, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced that it would be hosting the third School Justice Partnership Statewide Forum in the fall of 2016. Kristen Staley represents MCCD on the SJP Forum Planning Committee.

Michigan Juvenile Justice Collaborative

MCCD continues to host bimonthly meetings of the Collaborative to provide a space for advocates to explore cross-cutting issues, share strategies, and collaborate on projects. This year, the Collaborative explored in-depth solutions on the following topics:

- ❖ A multi-month discussion on the Flint Water Crisis and the impact that lead poisoning has on youth behavior. This included a presentation from Tina Reynolds from the Michigan Environmental Council;
- ❖ The Youth in Prison bill package, with a focus on the dangers of incarcerating youth as adults;
- ❖ School justice reforms, including bills to address school truancy, restraint and seclusion and zero tolerance reform.

Future Direction

In the upcoming year, MCCD will continue to advance current reform efforts, capitalize on the expertise of board members, staff and partners, expand and engage our membership, and broaden fundraising opportunities to support our mission. The Center for Justice Innovation will focus its work in Louisiana, which has the highest incarceration rate in the world.

MCCD's criminal justice division will continue to focus on eliminating mass incarceration and reducing crime by strengthening MI-CEMI and Nation Outside. In collaboration with our partners, we will engage policymakers to address 1) prevention and diversion; 2) sentencing and parole reform; 3) conditions of confinement; 4) reentry services; 4) public education; and, 5) community reinvestment. MCCD's top goals for FY 2017 also include implementing a peer-mentoring program in Flint, MI, uncovering the impact of privatization in Michigan's prison system, and rejuvenating prisoner reentry programming and funding.

MCCD's youth justice division will continue to build momentum for policy changes that prioritize the safety, development and well-being of youth, including raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction, removing all youth from adult jails and prisons, and increasing funding and availability of community-based alternatives to detention and incarceration. MCCD also plans to release a report addressing juvenile diversion practices across Michigan, as well as provide ongoing technical assistance to local courts as they seek to expand the use of restorative justice, diversion and community-based programs. Additionally, MCCD will continue to convene the Michigan Juvenile Justice Collaborative and serve on work groups to promote cross-systems approaches to serving young people.

For more information about our current projects, please visit our website at www.miccd.org.

Current Board of Directors

Current MCCD Staff

Jay Cummings, President	Mary King, Executive Director
Hazelette Crosby-Robinson, Vice-President	Dennis Schrantz, Director, Center for Justice Innovation
Ann Marston, Treasurer	Kristen Staley, Deputy Director
William (Buzz) Alexander	Michelle Weemhoff, Senior Policy Advisor
Kathleen Schaeffer	Jason Smith, Youth Justice Policy Associate
Francisco Villarruel	Elena Brennan, Policy Associate
Ruth Zweifler	
Newly Elected:	
Paul Elam, Ph.D	
Eric Sturk, CPA	

Contribution Form

Established in 1956, MCCD is the only statewide organization dedicated to improving the effectiveness of policies and systems aimed at preventing and controlling crime and delinquency.

MCCD relies heavily upon donations in order to maintain an organized, effective voice in public policy on issues important to our supporters. Your contribution will help MCCD accomplish significant reform, including:

- Ensuring that all young people involved in the justice system have access to diversion and developmentally-appropriate community-based options, rather than incarceration;
- Expanding cross-systems approaches to addressing children's needs through work of the Michigan Juvenile Justice Collaborative;
- Ending the era of mass incarceration by adopting evidence-based approaches to policing, sentencing and parole;
- Embracing second chances by working to ensure that people exiting prison are supported while re-entering the community and given equal opportunities to lead productive lives; and
- Elevating the voices of youth, adults, families and communities most impacted by crime and incarceration.

Please support MCCD's mission by using this form to send a tax-deductible contribution today: MCCD 1000 W. St. Joseph St. Ste. 400 Lansing, MI 48915

Name:		Title:	
Organization:			
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Phone:		Fax:	
County:		Email Address:	

_____ \$25 _____ \$75 _____ \$125 _____ \$500 \$_____ Other