



# Michigan Race Equity Coalition

Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice



# Michigan Race Equity Coalition Background

- Voluntary group of dedicated child welfare and juvenile justice stakeholders.
- The Michigan Race Equity Coalition initially convened in September 2011 and met through November 2013.
- Funding support from Casey Family Programs (a national foundation) and the Michigan Court Improvement Program.

# Race Equity Coalition Mission

To safely reduce racial disproportionality and disparities in Michigan's child welfare and juvenile justice systems through a data-driven approach.

# Race Equity Coalition Structure

## Co-chairs:

- Michigan Supreme Court Justice Mary Beth Kelly
- Hon. Lynn Jondahl

Approximately 60 members representing child advocacy organizations, courts, the Department of Human Services, private agencies, the Department of Community Health, law enforcement, prosecutors, tribes, academia, and private foundations.

## Work Groups:

1. Data and Assessment
2. Funding
3. Policy
4. Training

# Race Equity Coalition Charge

- Establish a statewide coordinating group.
- Participate in race equity training.
- Review previously issued Michigan specific reports on racial disproportionality.
- Identify key decision points in the child welfare system that contribute to disparities and learn about the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's contact points for juvenile justice.

# Race Equity Coalition

## Charge (cont.)

- Create new, and improve existing, child welfare and juvenile justice data collection.
- Use data to develop and implement plans to identify and address racial disparities in these systems.
- Review results to determine the impact of implemented actions.
- Monitor findings and progress on efforts to reduce disparities.
- Identify funding sources to create sustainable efforts.

# Michigan is a leader in these efforts

- Michigan stakeholders convened without a legislative mandate because we care about this issue and want to achieve systems improvement.
- The child welfare data decision points and data collection/analysis is cutting edge for the U.S.
- A Community Based Toolkit will soon be released based on REC work in Saginaw that will assist local Michigan initiatives and other states.