



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.