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DJS'S LISA GARRY WINS CHAMPION FOR CHANGE AWARD

Baltimore, MD (December 3, 2012) – Today, the Department of Juvenile Services' (DJS) Coordinator for juvenile justice reforms, Lisa Garry, won the Champion for Change Award from the MacArthur Foundation. Ms. Garry is one of only seven national winners of this prestigious annual award that recognizes outstanding juvenile justice reform work.

Before she started with DJS, Garry served as the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Policy Director with the Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP) in Washington, DC. There, she was responsible for developing and managing the MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change DMC Action Network. The Network served as a national platform to help expand the national discourse and knowledge base about what works to effectively and sustainably reduce the number of minority youth who have contact with the juvenile justice system. Her system reforms portfolio also includes the role of DMC Coordinator in Baltimore City, and work as a consultant for the W. Hayward Burns Institute and the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Justice Strategy Group.

In August 2011, Garry took her skills to DJS where she was named the Coordinator of Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) and DMC programs. She currently manages the agency's implementation and expansion of system reforms, such as the Annie E. Casey Foundation's JDAI and DMC reduction activities.

The MacArthur Foundation is one of the largest independent foundations in the U.S. In 2011, the MacArthur Foundation provided \$230 million in grants to address a variety of issues both in the U.S. and abroad. Through the Models for Change Initiative, the MacArthur Foundation supports reforms in juvenile justice in 16 states. Every year, the MacArthur Foundation gives Champion for Change awards to various individuals for creating effective approaches to improving the lives of young people.

Garry was selected to be a 2012 recipient of the Champions for Change award for her previous work on the MacArthur Foundation's DMC Action Network and continuing work to reduce racial and ethnic disparities and promote juvenile justice reform in Baltimore and throughout Maryland with DJS.

"This Champions for Change award is reflective of Ms. Garry's tireless efforts to ensure that youth who have contact with the juvenile justice system are treated with fairness and equality," said DJS Secretary Sam Abed. "I am honored to have Ms. Garry as part of the DJS team."

Garry received her award today at the National Meeting of MacArthur Foundation Models for Change Juvenile Justice Reform Initiative in Washington, D.C.

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