



Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Donald W. DeVore
Secretary

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News Release

CONTACT: Tammy M. Brown, PIO
(O) 410-230-3348 (C) 443-415-6792

MARYLAND IS ONE OF SEVEN STATES CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY PROGRAM ON JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

Washington, D.C. (July 17, 2008) – The Georgetown Public Policy Institute’s Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR), in partnership with Casey Family Programs, kicked off of its five-day 2008 Certificate Program for Teams tonight. The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) and the Department of Human Resources (DHR) are representing Maryland in one out of seven teams from across the country to focus on leading child welfare and juvenile justice systems reform efforts. This is the start of a yearlong engagement with the center through a quality improvement method called the Breakthrough Series Collaborative (BSC).

“This is an extraordinary opportunity for both DJS and DHR, as well as for the State of Maryland to engage in a process that will help build strong collaborations to serve youth seamlessly. We understand that working together is essential in order to build meaningful services for our youth and families,” stated Donald DeVore, Secretary of DJS.

“The Department of Human Resources is honored to be chosen to participate with our sister agency (DJS) in this endeavor,” said DHR Secretary Brenda Donald. “This effort is in line with our ongoing commitment to best serve children and families.”

The certificate program includes training modules led by national experts in multi-systems approaches, communication strategies, and effective engagement of system-involved youth and families. The modules are designed to prepare leaders to direct systems change by having juvenile justice, child welfare and other youth serving systems work together.

The certificate program also will introduce participating agency leaders and their team members to the BSC methodology. BSC is a year-long process allowing agency officials from targeted sites in participating jurisdictions to try a variety of small system changes, study their effects, and make adjustments before spreading successful strategies throughout their agency and beyond.

“We are committed to aiding jurisdictions in integrating child welfare and juvenile justice systems to better serve youth in both systems,” says Shay Bilchik, the center’s director. “This program provides the opportunity to engage child welfare leaders, juvenile justice leaders and

judicial representatives and help them focus on cross-system reform efforts that will improve the outcomes for children and families in their jurisdictions.”

The program takes place at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. The additional six jurisdictions chosen were Denver, Colorado, Georgetown County, South Carolina, King County, Washington, Los Angeles County, California, Miami-Dade, Florida and Sioux City, Iowa.

For more information about the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and its programs, please visit <http://cjjr.georgetown.edu>

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