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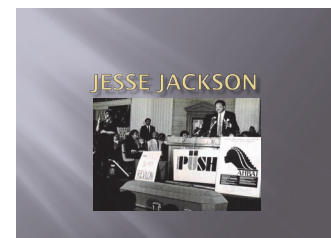
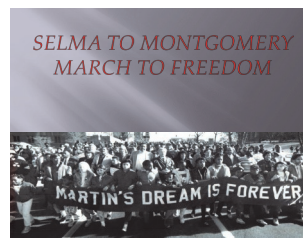
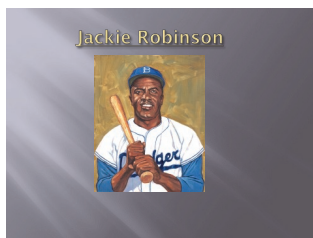
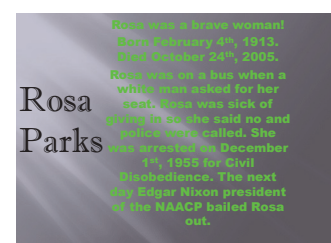
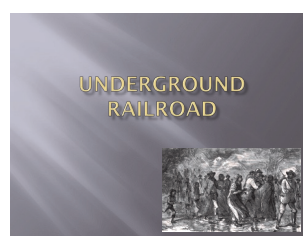
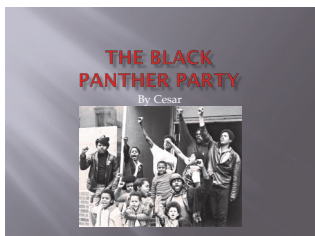
JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE — JDAI COUNTY

# New Chance Celebrates Black History Month

The New Chance Day Treatment Program’s 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Month celebration began with participants attending the SteppingStone Theater for Youth Development’s production of *Ruby*. The play honored Ruby Bridges, a young African American girl who, in 1960, was one of the first black students to integrate into New Orleans’ all-white William Frantz Elementary School. It wasn’t easy. Ruby first had to pass an exam said to be written specifically to keep black students out of New Orleans schools, then endured uncounted threats and taunts, and isolation from other students. Later, one of the federal marshals who accompanied her to and from school remarked on her courage, saying, “she just marched along like a little soldier.”

During the question and answer session after the play, the New Chance youth had an opportunity to talk about what they learned. One stated, “I admired her for her bravery and I look at my education in a much different light now.” Said another, “She made sacrifices for us to get a better education. I better get my act together.”

The New Chance Program concluded the month with its annual luncheon honoring and celebrating the many African-Americans who have made great contribution to our nation and to the African-American communities across the United States. The juveniles worked with Riverside School staff and Dakota County staff to create presentations of significant African-American contributions. The youth want to recognize in particular A.J. Boehmer, a Riverside teacher, and Tamara Weiser, a County staff member, for their assistance with developing PowerPoint presentations to go along with their speeches. The youths’ topics and examples from their PowerPoint presentations are represented here:

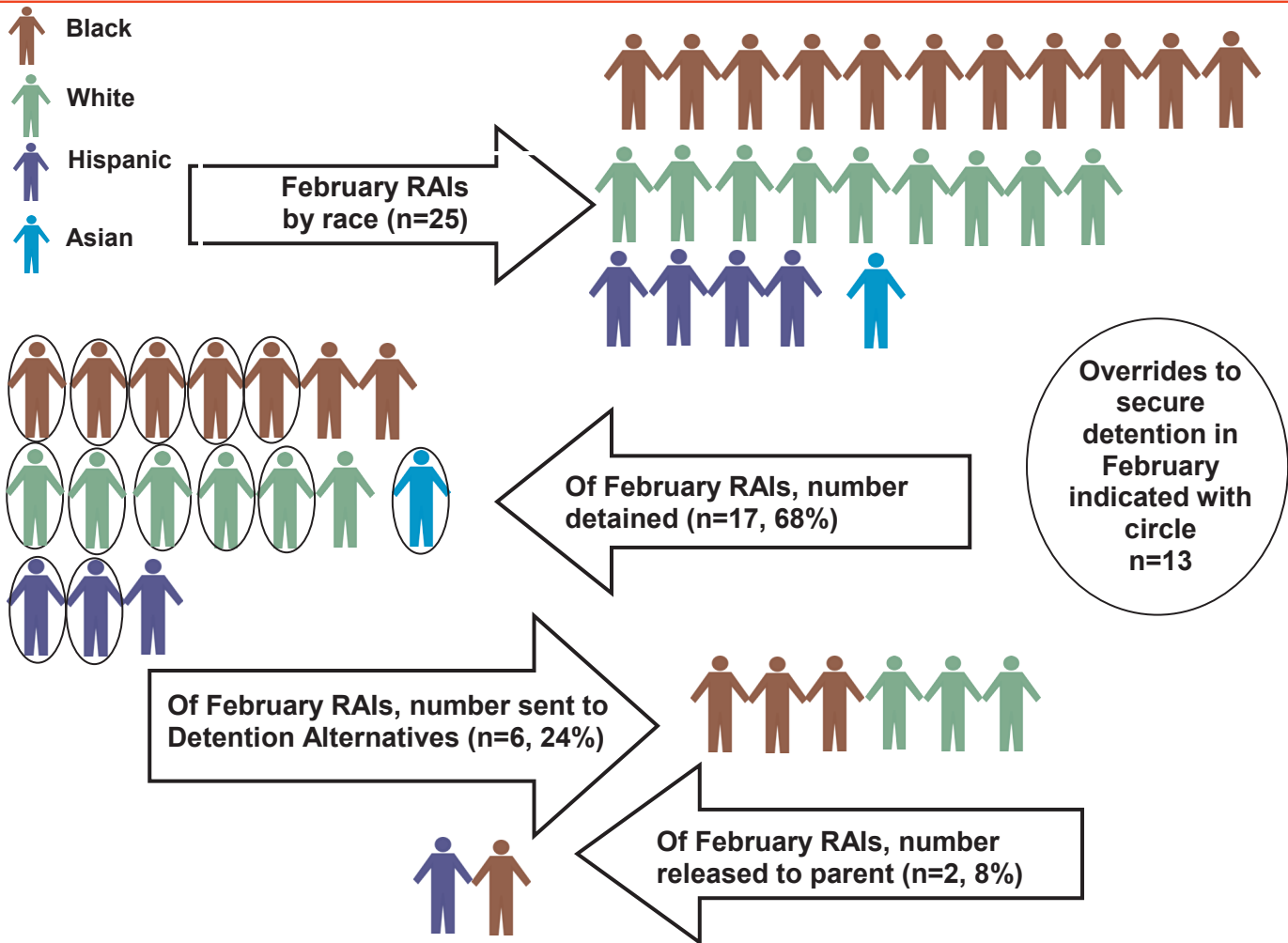


Once the presentations were completed, the New Chance youth, their families, and staff took in a traditional “Soul Food” lunch, which included fried chicken, greens with ham hocks, corn bread, macaroni and cheese, and Kool-Aid. The response from the families was very affirming, and it was nice to see our juvenile offenders working hard and taking healthy risks to present in front of a larger audience.

- Tony Hunter, New Chance Assistant Probation Officer

# Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI): February Screening Results

Dakota County's Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) is the product of collaboration of Community Corrections, local law enforcement, the County Attorney's Office, and public defenders. According to Minnesota state law, secure detention can only be used between the time of arrest and first court appearance if a juvenile is a risk to public safety, and/or at risk of failing to appear for his/her first court hearing. The RAI uses objective criteria to determine a juvenile's risk level. Juveniles who pose low levels of risk are released to their families. Those who pose moderate risks may be sent to detention alternatives such as a shelter or foster care, while juveniles who pose the highest risks are held in secure detention at the JSC. RAI results may be overridden under certain circumstances by a judge or a JSC supervisor.



## PLACEMENT DECISIONS BY RACE: 2016 YEAR-TO-DATE

Outcome	White	Black	Hispanic	Am. Indian	Asian	Total
Released to ATD*	6	4	1	0	0	11
- Shelter	6	4	0	0	0	10
- GPS	0	0	0	0	0	0
- House Arrest	0	0	1	0	0	1
Released to Parent/Guardian	3	1	1	0	0	5
Held in Secure Detention	14	16	3	0	2	35
Total	23	21	5	0	2	51

\* Alternative to Detention

# 2015 JDAI Workplan Update

## ELIMINATING RACIAL DISPARITIES (ERD) COMMITTEE

The ERD Committee reviewed the 2015 Juvenile Services Center data on admissions, lengths of stay, and average daily populations for each of its programs. The data showed that while overall admissions continue to decrease (389 in 2015, down from 404 in 2014), the number and proportion of admissions for youth of color climbed slightly (n=200, 51% in 2015 compared to n=198, 49% in 2014). Committee members asked for additional breakdowns of these figures to see, for example, whether juveniles with repeated admissions account for some of the increase, and what options would be available instead of secure placement.

The Committee also examined the 2015 Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) information. It appears that 60% of those detained in 2015 had scored either for a detention alternative or for release. Among the reasons for detention for these groups: no space in detention alternatives, and parents being unable/unwilling to bring them home. Harbor Shelter accounted for the majority of detention alternatives that were used. Committee members discussed the need for more aggressive use of existing alternatives such as GPS, and for development of additional options.

The next ERD Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 24, 2016, noon—1:30 pm, Juvenile Services Center (JSC) Training Room. The JSC is located at 1600 Highway 55, Hastings, MN.

## NEW CHANCE VISITS CAREER FAIR

On Thursday, March 3, New Chance Day Treatment Program youth attended the 2016 Career/College Fair at Hastings High School. More than 100 businesses, post secondary education institutions, and the military were represented at the event which was co-sponsored by local school districts. Among the employers represented were Allina Health, Canterbury Park, and Southview Designs Landscape. College and trade schools present included Dakota

County Technical College, Inver Hills Community College, the University of Minnesota, and North Dakota State College of Science.

The youth got the opportunity to visit with potential employers and schools. For some, it was one of the few times they had ever spoken with adults about visualizing their futures. The youth enjoyed the hands-on experiences from employers who do construction work, landscaping, tiling, carpentry, and computer drafting. At least one youth, after trying out Dakota County land surveying equipment, reported he wants to pursue that kind of work. Some of the youth met with Dakota County Probation and Sheriff's Department staff.

- Gina Ngungu, New Chance Assistant Probation Officer



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