

**Shifting Youth Justice Policy Paradigms: From Incarceration to Collaborative Community Justice** - Ryan Lugalia-Hollon & Dan Cooper (Adler School of Professional Psychology) Youth violence is a large challenge for many disadvantaged urban neighborhoods. The response in cities such as Chicago has been to increase police presence in schools and increase the number of arrests in neighborhoods plagued with violence. Such policies have led to disproportionate minority contact with the criminal justice system, and disproportionate minority confinement in correctional facilities. Youth of color in disadvantaged neighborhoods are faced with a much higher likelihood of entering a correctional facility for even minor offenses, which in turn is severely detrimental to educational and other life outcomes. Further, juvenile recidivism and violence rates remain high in areas where juvenile justice systems are most heavily invested, suggesting that the punishment paradigm is not working. Our project asks: *How can community leaders successfully advocate for a paradigm shift from detention to community justice? And, equally important, can communities develop better, more restorative solutions to youth violence and youth offences in general?* The *Austin Comprehensive Juvenile Justice Demonstration Pilot* is a new effort resulting from months of organizing and advocacy by West Side Chicago organizations. Working in partnership with the presiding Juvenile Court Judge for their target area, a local coalition has developed a model that leverages the capacity of a dozen community-based organizations to enhance the ways that young people in their neighborhood are supported and held accountable. This model involves diverting offending youth away from detention and into youth development, leadership, and restorative justice programs. The SCRA members are serving as evaluators in helping the coalition develop evaluation tools and ways to engage local youth as both researchers and policy advocates in the process. It is hoped that this model can be replicated and expanded throughout the city to decrease youth violence and disproportionate minority confinement.