

Models for Change WASHINGTON

Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice

For Immediate Release

Contact: Noel Frame (206-792-0453)

TeamChild's Anne Lee Honored as Champion for Change in Juvenile Justice Reform

Recognized at National Meeting of MacArthur-Supported Models for Change Juvenile Justice Reform Initiative

SEATTLE – TeamChild's Anne Lee was honored by the MacArthur Foundation-supported Models for Change juvenile justice systems reform initiative as a Champion for Change in juvenile justice reform for her determination to improve the lives of court-involved kids, their families, and communities.

Lee was recognized at the 4th annual Models for Change national conference in Washington, D.C., for

her leadership of TeamChild, which tackles the root causes of

delinquency by helping youth to address their education, health care and housing needs. Models for Change is the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's \$140 million national initiative to reform juvenile justice across the country. Sixteen states are now involved – four working on a range of state and local reforms, and 12 as part of three action networks focusing on disproportionate minority contact, mental health, and juvenile indigent defense.

“It was natural for Anne to combine her formidable talents and ongoing efforts with the work of Models for Change to continue to improve outcomes for youth involved in the juvenile justice system,” says Justice Bobbe J. Bridge, ret., Founding President/CEO, Center for Children & Youth Justice. “Her contributions have been vital to the success of our initiative.”

“Anne expects excellence in all aspects of advocacy for youth. Each of us can probably think of a time that her dedication inspired us to strive for and obtain a result to improve an outcome for a youth that we thought was unattainable,” Justice Bridge continued. “Her ability to inspire others can



Laurie Garduque, Anne Lee and Justice Bobbe Bridge (ret)

Models for Change WASHINGTON

Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice

be clearly seen by the number of former colleagues currently playing prominent roles as youth advocates in agencies throughout the state.”

Lee understands the workings of the juvenile justice and public education systems and their impact on young lives. Her experience as a civil legal aid attorney allows her to evaluate critically juvenile justice and civil rights issues. She recognizes the effect of injustices on an individual client, motivating her to pursue systemic change affecting all youth.

Lee is a contributor to King County’s Models for Change work through her participation on several subcommittees of Uniting for Youth, King County’s systems integration initiative. Her understanding of how the gaps and collisions of youth-serving systems affect the lives of youth brings tremendous value to the work of these groups. Lee also contributes to these groups through her willingness to invest her time and the time of her knowledgeable colleagues from TeamChild to research and develop ideas.

Lee and TeamChild developed a plan that included creation in 2008 of a Special Counsel for Enhancing Juvenile Indigent Defense position. The Special Counsel is responsible for engaging the juvenile indigent defense bar in Washington, developing training, mentoring and technical assistance resources, coordinating national and local indigent defense partners around system reform efforts, and supporting litigation, appellate work, and policy initiatives in Washington.

TeamChild collaborated with the Washington Defender Association, the Washington State Bar Association/Juvenile Law Section, the Washington State Office of Public Defense, along with Center for Children & Youth Justice and Models for Change NRB partner National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC). Together this group was able to double the amount of free training offered to juvenile defenders and create a framework for a comprehensive training curriculum for juvenile public defense.

TeamChild’s work plan also provides for developing leadership and advocacy within the defense community. Through the Special Counsel, TeamChild has taken on a visible leadership role in activities aimed towards promoting leadership development and system reform advocacy, and facilitating opportunities for others to step into leadership and advocacy roles.

“Lee not only brings a keen understanding of youth-serving systems to any work group setting, but also is an effective partner,” says Patti Puritz, Executive Director, National Juvenile Defender Center “With her insights about systems and their effect on youth, she helps working groups stay focused; with her willingness to contribute, she makes them more productive; and with a constructive spirit, she pushes them to take on difficult issues that will make a real difference in the lives of youth.”

“We see every day the difference it makes for children to have caring and effective advocates standing with them as they navigate the obstacles and challenges in their lives.” Lee said. “The

Models for Change WASHINGTON

Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice

Models for Change Initiative pushes us as professionals working within systems of care to ensure that we are creating, not closing off, opportunities for young people to succeed. It's an honor to be working with so many others towards achieving the Foundation's vision of a juvenile justice system that recognizes the potential for all youth."

Prior to becoming TeamChild's executive director, Lee served for six years as a staff attorney with Evergreen Legal Services, where she represented indigent clients in administrative appeals of public benefits and other general poverty law matters. She also has experience as a staff attorney with Northwest Justice Project where she was focused on statewide advocacy for youth and special education advocacy practice.

Since inception in 1995, TeamChild has gained a national reputation among juvenile justice experts as an effective and uniquely holistic approach to child advocacy. Advocates build community partnerships to help youth with housing, health care and education needs. Last year, TeamChild served over 700 kids statewide.

Lee is a graduate of New York University School of Law and has a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Princeton University.

###

About Washington Models for Change

In the area of juvenile indigent defense, Washington Models for Change overarching goal is to improve the quality of, and access, to juvenile indigent defense services for every young person who enters the juvenile justice system in Washington. The initiative intends to reform Washington's juvenile justice system by enacting best practices and eliminating barriers for systems-involved youth and families.

About Models for Change

[The Models for Change](#) initiative is an effort to create successful and replicable models of juvenile justice system reform through targeted investments in key states. With long-term funding and support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Models for Change seeks to accelerate progress toward a more rational, fair, effective, and developmentally appropriate juvenile justice system. www.modelsforchange.net