

Child Advocacy Program Art of Social Change: Child Welfare, Education, & Juvenile Justice

Professor Elizabeth Bartholet
Child Advocacy Program Faculty Director

Crisanne Hazen, Lecturer on Law
Child Advocacy Program Assistant Director

READING PACKET for Session #12
April 19, 2018

Juvenile Justice: Working from the Inside to Achieve Reform

Tim Decker, Director, Missouri Children's Division and former
Director of Missouri's Department of Youth Services

Vincent Schiraldi, Senior Research Scientist,
Columbia School of Social Work

Session #12 April 19, 2018

Speaker Biographies

Session Description

Readings:

Pages

Tim Decker:

- Carla Gilzow and Katya Fels Smyth, "Wellbeing, the Missing Piece of the Safety and Permanency Puzzle: A Different Approach from Missouri Children's Division, NCJFCJ, Synergy, Vol. 19, No.1, Winter 2016 1-8
- Tim Decker, "Starting from a Different Place, The Missouri Model," The Oxford Press, 2018 9-30
- Please watch a 6-minute video on the Missouri Model entitled "Spare the Rod," at <https://vimeo.com/14394131>

Vincent Schiraldi:

- Candice Jones, Patrick McCarthy, and Vincent Schiraldi, "Florida Should Shut Down Youth-Detention Centers Where 'Fight Clubs' Thrive," Miami Herald, Oct. 18, 2017 31-33
- Liz Ryan and Marc Schindler, "Notorious to Notable: The Crucial Role of the Philanthropic Community in Transforming the Juvenile Justice System in Washington, D.C.," Moriah Fund, Carter and Melissa Cafritz Charitable Trust, Meyer Foundation, and Public Welfare Foundation, 2011 34-71
- Patrick McCarthy, Vincent Schiraldi, and Miriam Shark, "The Future of Youth Justice: A Community-Based Alternative to the Youth Prison Model," New Thinking in Community Corrections, Oct. 2016, No. 2 72-99
- Please watch a 13-minute video featuring a TED Talk with Patrick McCarthy, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Acm41p89lsY>

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Speaker Biographies

Tim Decker was appointed as the Director of the Missouri Division of Youth Services in January 2007 and transitioned to the role of Director of the Missouri Children's Division in November 2013. Tim has served for over 32 years in a variety of leadership positions with the Missouri Department of Social Services and the Greater Kansas City Local Investment Commission (LINC); one of Missouri's innovative public/private community partnerships focused on citizen engagement, local governance, natural helping networks, and neighborhood-based services.

During his tenure as Director of the Missouri Division of Youth Services, the agency won the 2008 Harvard Innovations in American Government Award for Child and Family System Reform and Missouri hosted site visits from over 20 states. Under his leadership, the agency increased educational completion rates by over 87%, reduced recidivism and increased productive involvement rates, and safely reduced the number of young people in state custody. Community partnerships and services were expanded and family engagement increased.

Tim was elected national president of the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (2010 – 2012). He served on the Georgetown Public Policy Institute CJJR Juvenile Justice Leadership Network since its inception in March 2010. The network is composed of 12 reform-minded leaders selected from state and local jurisdictions around the country.

He led Missouri's development of a Crossover Youth Policy Team composed of leaders from child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, health education, and the court system. The team launched Crossover Youth Practice Model sites in four court circuits, along with conducting extensive research and implementing policy and practice reforms.

Tim Decker is one of the co-founders of a Youth in Custody Certificate Program launched at Georgetown University in August 2013. He currently serves as an instructor for the Youth in Custody and Multi-System Integration Certificate Program's leadership and culture change modules.

He earned his degree in Social Work and Psychology in 1982 from Park University in Parkville, Missouri. Tim completed the Institute for Education Leadership Education Policy Fellowship Program in 2007 and currently serves as a guest lecturer for the program. He completed the Georgetown Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare: Multi-System Integration Certificate Program in October 2013 and currently serves as a member of the Policy Fellows Network.

Vincent Schiraldi has extensive experience in public life, founding the policy think tank, the Justice Policy Institute, then moving to government as director of the juvenile corrections in Washington DC, and then as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Probation. Most recently Schiraldi served as Senior Advisor to the New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. Schiraldi gained a national reputation as a fearless reformer who emphasized the humane and decent treatment of the men, women, and children under his correctional supervision. He pioneered efforts at community-based alternatives to incarceration in NYC and Washington DC. Schiraldi received a MSW from New York University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Binghamton University.

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Tim Decker is responsible for creating what became known as "The Missouri Model," a truly rehabilitative institution for juvenile offenders. He did this in his former capacity as Director of Missouri's Youth Services, and worked also to help spread the word throughout the nation, inspiring and educating others to create similar models. He has in recent years served as Director of Missouri's Children's Division, in charge of child welfare as well as adoption services, intensive in-home supportive services, and child care/early childhood education. He will discuss his work in both capacities over several decades of working inside these systems to promote reform.

Vincent Schiraldi is a nationally recognized criminal justice policy expert who has worked for reform primarily from inside the system in a number of different positions including as the Director of Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services in Washington, D.C. and the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Probation. He is now the founder and Senior Research Scientist of the policy think tank Justice Policy Institute, working from the outside toward reform of our nation's mass incarceration policies. He will share his experience and thinking about strategies for achieving juvenile justice reform.