FROM TRA TO RACIAL DISPROPORTIONALITY:  
MORE THINGS CHANGE, MORE THEY STAY THE SAME

Today topic: RD: but underlying issues very much the same as in the TRA debate

Fundamental Child Welfare Debate:
- Kids belong where came from: for their sake, for community’s sake
- Kids belong to themselves, full rights-bearing, often better off moving on, as is community

TRA debate: Keep kids in f-care or bio homes for their sake and Blk Community’s, as vs move into TRA

Fam Pres debate: Keep kids at home, don’t move into f-care or adoption

RD debate: Keep black kids at home… Don’t move to f-care or adoption

- Same issues
- Same old fights incorporated: RD Mvmt says no to Removal, but also anti-MEPA and anti-ASFA

RD Mvmt is what should focus on: The Fight of the Day

- TRA debate is over; MEPA will not be revised; is being enforced by HHS finally
- RD Mvmt the Hot Issue of the Day as experts like Fred Wulczyn of Chapin Hall say
RD today: Will discuss:

- Nature of the Mvmt
- Power of the Movemt
- What’s wrong with their theory & policy proposals
- What’s right & what to do – yes RD is a problem, but different problem with different policy implications

NATURE OF RD MOVEMENT

- Group of Foundations, non-profits & academics
- Claim is Discrimination: RD equates with Child Welfare System Discrimination
- Policy Solution: Stop RD by stopping Removal and increasing Reunification of Black Kids

POWER OF RD MOVEMENT

- Leaders: the Casey Foundations and Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) (very influential in Alternative Track / Community Partnership Movement
- Organizations indicating support include
  - also almost half the states already responsive by issuing Reports mimicking Movement position
  - Federal Gov targeted and already responsive: Mvmt goal is to get Congress to make RD reduction marker for success; Rangel hearings 2008; GAO Report 2007; federal agencies like HHS Admin on Children & Families
- Time to stop it now: Before power & momentum translated into Policy Change
WHY STOP IT: WHAT’S WRONG WITH RD THEORY & POLICY PROPOSALS; WHAT’S RIGHT & WHAT TO DO

Theory:

- RD Theory: RD in foster care, therefore discrimination:
  Presume equal maltreatment rates: Problem is that if Maltreatment Rates Not Equal: And if Black Kids maltreated at higher rates. Then should remove at higher rates to protect

- Are Maltreatment Rates Same or Higher in Blk Community? Almost certainly Higher:
  - Risk factors that predict CAN higher
  - Self-Reports higher
  - Death Rates higher

  - RD Movement relies mainly on NIS 1-3: but now NIS-4 (2010) reverses and agrees Blk Maltreatment rate 2x White rate

Policy:

- RD Policy: Stop removing Black Kids at these rates: Puts Kids at risk: see/quote Contra Costa Times AZ at 886 for the dangers.

- Instead Policy should be: (1) Stop the Disproportionate CAN, Upfront Prevention Programs, Substance Abuse programs designed to protect Blk & Wt kidss or (2) More radical social reform.
CONCLUSION:

I do agree RD a problem: kids subject to CAN, removed to f-care, are at risk… bad for them and the Black Community… Continues/exacerbates the Racial Inequality problems in nation But not a solution to keep Blk kids victimized by CAN at home: not for them or the Community

RD Conference: Have just gotten funding for Conference Jan 2011, designed to bring Facts to bear on Policy.