



Quarterly Report to Steering Committee / Co-Chairs March through May 2005

The implementation of the Active Balanced Community grant for Fiscal Year 2004-2005 began December 1, 2004, following approval from the State Bureau of Juvenile Justice. Monthly reports are being submitted to the State; this quarterly report is provided as a formal avenue for keeping the Steering Committee informed of activities, as well as to present challenges that may need to be addressed.

I. Committee Updates

- B. **Civic Engagement and BARJ Awareness Sub-Committee.** [April Corie, Facilitator] There were two meetings of this Sub-Committee during the quarter: March 18 and April 13, 2005 (plus June 3, 2005).

On March 12, 2005 the Co-Coordinator of the ABC Initiative attended the Bedford Trade Fair to administer awareness surveys regarding Balanced and Restorative Justice. Seventy-three surveys were completed and revealed the following information:

- 12% reported that they had heard of restorative justice before.
- 61% reported that they felt offenders should always be required to restore the harm they've done & 32% reported that it should be required most of the time.
- 15% of those surveyed reported that they had been victims of a crime in the last five years, however none of those 15% reported that they received a Victim's Rights packet from the Prosecutor's Office.
- None of the victims reported that they received adequate support through the court process.

A BARJ presentation was developed by this Sub-Committee to use during community presentations to increase awareness about restorative practices. The presentation can be tailored to reach a variety of groups, including law enforcement, youth, professionals, and the community at large. An assortment of presentations has been made available to the community, ranging from short, 15-minute presentations, to three-hour presentations that include victims and youth.

- A three-hour BARJ awareness training was offered at the Monroe County Intermediate School District on April 4, 2005.
- A 30-minute BARJ presentation was provided at the Domestic Violence Roundtable at Family Counseling and Shelter Services on May 25, 2005.
- BARJ Awareness pamphlets have been developed and distributed throughout the community, including 240 at Summerfield High School on April 13, 2005.

The Sub-Committee continues to pursue meaningful volunteer opportunities for youth in the community. Members of this group are coordinating the establishment of a County Youth Volunteer Council. Two to three representatives from the Student Government or Honor Society groups from each of the nine school districts in Monroe County will be asked to sit on the council. With the support of volunteers from the Sub-Committee and the Volunteer Action Center at the United Way of

Monroe County, these youth will work to not only develop volunteer opportunities in their individual communities, but also to engage youth volunteers in their district's elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools. It is planned to have this project underway for the 2005-2006 school year.