



Quarterly Report to Steering Committee / Co-Chairs December 2004 through February 2005

I. Committee Updates

- C. **Victim Support Sub-Committee.** [Sandie Pierce, Facilitator] This Workgroup is chaired by Barbara McKenzie from the Monroe County ISD. Representatives from the Monroe County Prosecutor's office, Probation Department, Monroe Community Mental Health, and victims / community encompass the membership. Follow-up will occur with Family Counseling and Shelter Services and law enforcement to recruit representatives.

The first meeting of the Sub-Committee was held on December 10, 2004. At that time, the goals and objectives were reviewed: Create a Victim Advocate Board, implement victim services, collaboration, evaluation. Members agreed that more information about needed about Victim Advocate Boards; Mike Opsommer from the Crime Victims Advocacy Council was invited to the January 14, 2005 meeting of the BARJ Committee to explain how the Victim Impact Panel was established in Ingham County. Mr. Opsommer volunteered to assist our Sub-Committee in this process.

The second meeting of Victim Support was held on February 11, 2005. Discussion was held about the current process that is followed by the Prosecutor's Office in informing victims of their rights. Discussion was also held about what resources law enforcement provides on the scene for victims. The material will be reviewed at the February 25, 2005 meeting. Discussion was also held about the services provided through dispute resolution. The Committee agreed that it would be helpful to hear from the agencies providing this service. Positive Mediation and SE Michigan Dispute Resolution were invited to the February 25, 2005 meeting.

Discussion was held about the need to get the word out about victims' rights, as well as about the philosophy of BARJ and the Active Balanced Community initiative. Members of the Sub-Committee volunteered to distribute brochures at the Bedford Trade Fair on March 12 and 13, 2005.

On February 25, 2005, Ron Brooks and other representatives from the SE Michigan Dispute Resolution provided an overview of their organization. They suggested that a local training be held regarding the mediation process. The Committee agreed that this would be beneficial. The training is 40 hours. It is recommended that the cost of the training is \$150 per person. For a local training, a minimum of 12 people is needed (maximum 27). The cost of this training would be part of the implementation grant. The target audience is staff at the Prosecutor's office, members of the ABC Committees, and interested community members who are interested in becoming a volunteer mediator. If approved, the training will be scheduled for April or May (Thursday afternoon, and all day Friday and Saturday) during two different weeks.