



Evaluation Plan - Monroe County - 2005

Active Balanced Community Monroe County, Michigan

Short Summary Describing Program and It's History

Beginning in 2000, the 38th Judicial Circuit Court, Family Division, lead a community wide effort by volunteers to develop a juvenile justice strategic plan. The Forum included more than eighty members of the community, representing over thirty local, state and national agencies, businesses and community organizations. The project's purpose was to identify, develop and coordinate an effective, community-based continuum of services to prevent or appropriately respond to juvenile delinquency. The Forum created a preliminary Vision, conducted some initial research and began the process of coordinating and developing programming. The mission was to assure that juveniles and their families had access to and be better served by an array of prevention and treatment programs in the community to address individual's issues needs while providing personal responsibility and accountability. In doing so, a long term strategic plan was being developed to address not only juvenile justice issues and public safety, but confront existing problems of children and families and affect public policy by controlling costs via an effective and efficient community based treatment strategy.

In 2001, the Forum became part of the overall community planning when the the Monroe County Human Services Collaborative Network (HSCN) formally accepted the Juvenile Justice Strategic Planning Forum as an organizational initiative and pledged on-going support for the Forum's work and the development of a long-term juvenile justice strategic plan for the community.

In November 2002, the Monroe County Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) became operational under federal grant funding. The JDC is an intervention program for delinquent court wards, under the jurisdiction of the 38th Judicial Circuit Court, Family Division, who have substance abuse problems. It is a collaborative effort of the Juvenile Court, the Monroe County Prosecutor's Office, local law enforcement, the Monroe County Intermediate School District, the local defense Bar and contracted adolescent substance abuse treatment providers. The project has also received support and financial assistance from the Monroe County Board of Commissioners and the Monroe County Administrator's Office. Intervention consists of intensive substance abuse treatment and probation supervision, frequent court appearances, random and regular drug testing and individual, group and family counseling and education. Incentives and progressive sanctions are used by the JDC to encourage compliant behavior and accomplishment.

In 2003, the 38th Judicial Circuit Court, received a Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block grant (JAIBG) BARJ Initiative. This financial assistance assisted in providing on-going support and resources to the various committees and workgroups of the Forum. These groups began providing analysis for needs for future strategic planning. In addition, it allowed the Court to increase BARJ training opportunities for Monroe County participation at the State BARJ Conference and assisted in providing community-wide BARJ training and education. Over 100 community members (private citizens and members of the human service, educational, and legal community) participated in local BARJ training programs. To further enhance local training, a speakers bureau was developed, which trained local volunteers in the BARJ philosophy. These volunteers in turn made presentations to local service clubs and interested groups. In 2003, the Forum applied for and received a BRC Planning grant to continue and expand their prevention activities and to create a five year strategic plan.

In 2004, an implementation grant of \$100K was awarded and the record of progress is detailed below.

List of Program Goals

- **Build and Enhance Collaborative Systems and Approaches to Programs and Services that Strengthen Youth and Families**
 - Increase Services to Victims
 - Increase Restorative Programs
 - Increase Civic Engagement
 - Reduce Minority Over-Representation in the Justice System
 - Improve Gender Specific Programming

- **Empower Organizations / Systems to Support the Development of an Active Balanced Community**
 - Enhance Service Delivery to Special Needs Youth in the Justice System
 - Continue to Develop and Empower Systems

- **Build and Maintain Community Awareness and Involvement to Make a Positive Difference in the Lives of Youth and Families**
 - Continue to Implement the Communications Plan

List of Program Objectives

- Continue the Victim's Support Committee
- Continue the Victim Impact Panels
- Implement Victim-Offender Mediation
- Increase Victim Rights Awareness

- Continue BARJ Speakers' Bureau / Training Programs
- Establish Community Conferencing Center

- Continue Monroe County Civic Engagement Youth Panel
- Continue to increase volunteer opportunities / community involvement for youth

- Continue to gather and evaluate community indicators regarding minority over-representation
- Develop and promote restorative practices in minority communities - through use of Community Conference Center and other activities.

- Continue community trainings regarding gender specific programming.
- Continue to expand gender specific groups.

- Explore partnership with Community Mental Health for services and/or staffing.
- Continue the ABC Steering Committee, Sub-Committees, staffing, and evaluation

- Continue web site for Active Balanced Community and webmaster contract.
- Continue to coordinate and participate in community events.
- Continue to develop and distribute educational materials.

Description of Program Activities / Actions / Evaluation Plan

The evaluation researcher, Dr. Mark Creekmore of Community Service Systems, Inc., will continue to provide technical assistance, training, and supervision for various data collection efforts for the Active Balanced Community Initiative. Information collected and reports generated will be submitted to the Steering Committee for their information and use.

The primary focus of the evaluator will be to analyze and report data from the committees regarding their activities, outputs and outcomes, as specified by logic models. Specifically:

- Data will be collected by subcommittees through various techniques: surveys, case records, publicly available information, focus groups, individual interviews, and observations.
- The priority risk factor data indicators will continue to be tracked and analyzed. Evaluation of the risk factors and other goals and objectives identified in the plan will continue to be conducted through on-going collection of data from both program and community-wide indicators.
- Additionally, data from First Call for Help on the number and types of requests for service from Monroe County agencies will continue to be reviewed and analyzed.
- The project is addressing issues of minority over-representation in the system and gender specific issues. Data collection will continue to focus on these two areas. Progress toward completion of specific action steps regarding this area will be tracked, analyzed, reported, and improved, as needed.
- Annually, the Plan Coordinators and Steering Committee will provide a community report card on progress on the baseline indicator data and overall plan implementation.
- Evaluation research will continue to be needed for the implementation of the project plan. Knowledge regarding the identified activities for the project will be obtained from various sources:
 1. Community participants - victims and community members who are currently not involved in the criminal justice system.
 2. Criminal justice participants including youth, family members and agency service providers.
- Knowledge about the project's development will continue to provide feedback that will allow corrections to be made. All project activities will be assessed twice a year, as appropriate, including activities like recruitment and training of participants and attempts to collect better data from agencies about their services.
- During the second and third years, the focus of the evaluation will shift from evaluation of capacity building activities toward knowledge about program development and quality control. Data from community and criminal justice system participants (offenders, victims, and employees) will be obtained to determine if the anticipated outcomes from the project have occurred.
- If it is determined that outside consultants are required for specialized data systems development or training activities, the contract will be established to include accountability measures specific to the project. As much as possible, the evaluator will train committees to plan, implement, and analyze data so that the evaluation will be integrated into project activities and so that evaluation will be sustainable.