



## Quarterly Report to Steering Committee / Co-Chairs July – September 2006

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. The second year of the grant began December 1, 2005. Monthly reports are being submitted to the State; the quarterly reports are 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

- A. **Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ).** [April Corie, Facilitator]. The BARJ full Committee quarterly meeting was held on July 21, 2006. Representatives from each of the BARJ Sub-Committees provided updates. This Sub-Committee is chaired by Cheryl Beck.

A coordinator was hired by the United Way of Monroe County for The Monroe County Mentors, a collaborative mentoring program for at-risk and system-involved youth. With the assistance of the mentoring workgroup, the coordinator developed recruitment, screening, training, and implementation plans for the project. The program has a community rollout breakfast scheduled November 14, 2006 to engage the community in volunteering and making referrals. The breakfast will be at the Arthur Lesow Community Center, where the program is housed. Two grants were awarded during this quarter to support the program; one from the Office of Monroe Narcotics Investigation for \$3000.00, and one from Fifth Third Bank for \$5700.00.

The Monroe County Re-entry Team continues to meet on a regular basis to monitor the implementation of the Juvenile Re-entry plan. Efforts are underway to develop an evaluation plan for the project.

- B. **Victim Support Sub-Committee.** [Sandie Pierce, Facilitator] This Sub-Committee is chaired by Barbara McKenzie.

The Victim Support Sub-Committee met on August 15, 2006. Discussion occurred regarding strategies to recruit victims who were involved in a variety of crimes to serve on the Committee and on quarterly victim impact panels. Sustainability of victim impact panels may prove to be difficult. In general, victims seem to want closure rather than on-going involvement with the court system.

The Southeast Michigan Dispute Resolution Center held a luncheon on July 28, 2006 at the Sawyer Homestead for all court personnel. Mediations this quarter regarded estate settlements, uncollected debt, guardianship, and a neighborhood dispute.

Material is being developed that explains mediation and community conferencing so that availability of these resources are more widely known and utilized.

- C. **Special Needs Sub-Committee.** [April Corie, Facilitator] This Sub-Committee met on September 8, 2006. This Sub-Committee is chaired by Brian Rochowiak. The group

continues to address disproportionate minority contacts, gender relevant programming, truancy, sex offenders, diversion, and special needs youth in the justice system.

Several Girls Circles were conducted this quarter for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The Coordinator for the Monroe County Mentors will begin serving as the coordinator for Girls Circles beginning in November. This will help to support the linking of volunteer facilitators to girls who are interested in participating.

The Active Balanced Community Initiative is collaborating with Girls on the Run of Southeast Michigan to sponsor a 5K race in Monroe County in the Spring of 2007. Girls on the Run is a non-profit prevention program that encourages preteen girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through running. The curriculum addresses all aspects of girls' development - their physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual well-being.

The Active Balanced Community Initiative is sponsoring a training, Teenagers: A Brain of Their Own on November 28, 2006 from 3:00 to 6:15 p.m. Julie Ross, a presenter on adolescent brain development will explain to parents and professionals the new research on teenage brain development.

A workgroup is meeting to discuss truancy in Monroe County. Currently the group is identifying and evaluating best practice programs that have been successful at reducing/eliminating truancy in other communities. A pilot project is in the development for 2007.

A workgroup has formed and is meeting to discuss the need for community based treatment options for juvenile sex offenders.

Representatives from the Youth Center, Juvenile Court, Intermediate School District and Community Mental Health continue to meet on a quarterly basis to enhance coordination of services for special needs youth in the justice system.

- D. **Substance Abuse Coalition.** The Substance Abuse Coalition met on July 12 and September 7, 2006 to address the need for community awareness regarding methamphetamine production and use, as well as other local substance abuse issues. A methamphetamine awareness campaign was launched midsummer – with a Meth 101 workshop on August 9, 2006. Methamphetamine awareness materials were distributed at the Monroe County Fair in August. A retailer awareness plan has been developed to distribute information and materials regarding methamphetamine materials to County retailers. The coalition also sponsored a Trendy Drugs and Paraphernalia training on September 28, 2006 for over 130 professionals and parents in the community. The coalition is currently completing a comprehensive community needs and resource assessment in regards to substance abuse in Monroe County. April Corie attended a week long training sponsored by CADCA in August regarding the development, implementation, and monitoring of effective substance abuse coalitions.
- E. **Data Collection and Resource Assessment Committee.** [April Corie and Sandie Pierce, Co-Facilitators] This Committee is chaired by Laura Schultz, Director of the American Red Cross. The Data Collection Committee meetings were held on July 21 and September 29, 2006. Representatives of the Committee also met with representatives from the Monroe ISD on September 14, 2005 to discuss what information is actually available from the schools. It was noted that the MEAP data, for instance, is not comparable from year to year because the tests have changed each year. Review of statistics gathered:

**Economic Deprivation**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Unemployment (MI Dept. of Labor and Economic Growth)	3.1%	4.4%	5.6%	6.1%	6.2%	6.1%	6.6%
Free and Reduced Lunches (MCISD Business Office)	17.3%	17.3%	18.2%	22%	22%	23.9%	
Homelessness (Monroe County Homeless Network)	Not Available			320	288	157	162
FIP Recipients (Department of Human Services)	561	543	527	580	585	612	
Food Stamp Recipients (Dept. of Human Services)	2,146	1,896	2,013	2,731	3,182	3,560	
Female Head of Household (2000 CENSUS)	10.1%	12.7%					

**Family Conflict**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Domestic Violence / Seeking Shelter (FCSS)	136	65	157	170	67	74	65 ytd
Divorces (MI Department of Community Health)	560	676	581	641	601		
Marriages (MI Department of Community Health)	873	894	827	820	847		
Domestic Violence Authorized Charges – Adult (Monroe Co. Prosecutor)		665	746	609	443	535	
Domestic Violence Authorized Charges – Juvenile		75	71	63	62	86	

**Academic Failure Beginning in Late Elementary**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Drop Out Rate	6.5%	4.1%	3.7%		4.1%		
MEAP Scores/ SAT							
Elementary Absenteeism Rate							
Suspension/ Expulsion Data							
Truancy							345

**Early Onset of Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Alcohol and Drug Related ER Visits (Mercy Memorial Hospital)					1,500	1,200	
Juvenile Justice Contacts (tickets / complaints)						833 A	
Authorizations/ Petitions						556 P	
SAP / ATOD							221

- F. **Communications and Civic Engagement Committee.** [Sandie Pierce, Facilitator] This Committee is co-chaired by Kate Ebli, 4M Consultant, and Connie Carroll, United Way of Monroe County. Meetings were held on August 22 and October 12, 2006.

The ABC web site (activebalancedcommunity.org) has been regularly updated to include current events, training opportunities, and press releases, and community links. The number of visits to the website are tracked monthly:

**Number of Unique Website Visitors Per Month**

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>		<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
January	102	77	July	85	84
February	91	83	August	60	64
March	89	103	September	64	
April	105	107	October	74	
May	95	68	November	63	
June	125	61	December	68	
YTD Total	607	499	Total	1,021	647

Results of the community stakeholder awareness survey distributed to elected officials in Monroe County are being tallied. A presentation to Monroe County Council was held on July 17, 2006 as a result of the mailing. Judge Pam Moskwa discussed the work of the Active Balanced Community through a PowerPoint presentation. April Corie and Connie Carroll were also present to answer questions.

The Committee is in the process of developing an Active Balanced Community folder and inserts that describe the various components – explanation of BARJ (Balanced and Restorative Justice), mediation, community conferencing, Girls Circles, Monroe County Mentors, Re-Entry – tailored to the audience that is being addressed.

**II. Year-to-Date Expenditures / Budget Revision / Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Budget**

Final approval of the re-application for Fiscal-Year 2005-2006 for the second year grant of \$90,000 was received in early April. The line-item transfer request was submitted to the State at the end of April and has been approved. Expenditures through September are as follows:

	<u>Revised</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u> (83%)
Personnel	\$ 65,675	\$55,207.64
Supplies / Operating	10,155	5,609.00
Equipment	500	500.00
Travel	1,510	992.45
Contractual	12,610	7,530.00
Total	\$ 90,000	\$ 69,839.09 (78%)

**III. Evaluation**

Mark Creekmore continues to serve as the evaluator consultant for Fiscal-Year 2005-2006

**IV. Training**

April Corie attended a substance abuse coalition training sponsored by CADCA from August 14 to 18, 2006.

Sue Yeres from IBD (Integration By Design) provided training on the MAGIC Internet reporting software on September 26, 2006. The monthly reports are currently being updated to reflect the revised definitions that were provided at the training.

**V. Grant Applications**

A grant application for \$30,000 was submitted for developing a three-year community plan for delinquency prevention. This application was not funded.

Grant applications were submitted to the Children's Trust Fund, OMNI, and Fifth Third Bank to support the expansion of the mentoring project to serve system involved youth in Monroe County. The applications to OMNI and Fifth Third Bank were granted -- \$3,000 and \$5,700, respectively.

**VI. Re-Application**

The grant application for year three was submitted May 5, 2006. Notice of approval was received on August 10, 2006, contingent on submission of several modifications – detailing line items in the budget, completing trend data, and enhancing the section regarding sustainability of the Initiative. Those modifications to the application were submitted August 24, 2006. Discussion is needed regarding the feasibility of generating \$10,000 cash match for the third year to cover the cost of the evaluation contract.

**VI. Is It Working?**

This question applies to the sharing of the coordination duties for the Active Balanced Community initiative and is one that we (as Co-Coordinators) indicated that we would answer during the year. The division of work and availability of two staff to cover the various meetings has continued to prove to be very beneficial. We are especially pleased with the progress.

Respectfully submitted,

*April and Sandie*

April Corie and Sandie Pierce  
ABC Co-Coordinators