



Quarterly Report to Steering Committee / Co-Chairs December 2006 through March 2007

The implementation of the Active Balanced Community grant began December 1, 2004, following approval from the State Bureau of Juvenile Justice. Michigan Department of Human Services. The second year of the grant began December 1, 2005, and the third and final year of the grant began December 1, 2006. 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 Committee quarterly meeting was held on February 23, 2007. Representatives from the BARJ Sub-Committees provided updates. This Sub-Committee is chaired by Cheryl Beck.

The Monroe County Mentors is coordinated under the direction of Lynda Nickelson, Coordinator. Following a recruitment event that was held at the Arthur Lesow Community Center, four men and five women applied to be Mentors. Background checks were conducted, and the formal training was held on January 24, 2007. Matching mentors with youth is currently being accomplished.

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] Barbara McKenzie has resigned as chair of this Sub-Committee.

The Victim Support Sub-Committee has been discontinued. The group concluded that there would be a more effective way to instill empathy among the youth involved in the justice system than to expend the on-going time and effort in attempting to recruit victims to serve on impact panels. Various types of empathy training are being explored.

Mediation continues to be an effective process. In 2006, there were ten mediations conducted, and year-to-date in 2007, there have been four cases. The Southeast Michigan Dispute Resolution Center is attempting to have training for new facilitators in Monroe County this Spring.

- C. **Special Needs Sub-Committee.** [April Corie, Facilitator] This Sub-Committee met on December 15, 2006 and March 23, 2007. 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.

A Girls Circle is being planning this Spring for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The Coordinator for the Monroe County Mentors will begin serving as the coordinator for Girls Circles. 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 on July 21, 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.

A workgroup has formed and is meeting to discuss the need for community based treatment options for juvenile sex offenders. Four members of the community, including two juvenile probation officers, the therapist from the youth center, and a therapist from Community Mental Health attended training in Colorado for the assessment and treatment of 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 January 25 and March 8, 2007 to address the need for community awareness regarding local substance abuse issues. Additionally, the Assessment Sub-Committee met on December 11, 2006, January 18, 2007, and March 8, 2007.

In preparation for submitting a federal Drug Free Communities' grant application, the Coalition completed a comprehensive community needs and resource assessment in regards to substance use and abuse in Monroe County, established a vision and mission, and developed problem statements from which logic models and a five year strategic plan were developed.

The Coalition utilized the process obtained by April Corie from attending a week-long training sponsored by CADCA in August 2006. April Corie also attended the grant training in February 2007.

- 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 met in January 2007. 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%					

Number of Suspensions – Drugs – High S.						16	55
Suspensions – Violence – Elementary						9	9
Suspensions – Violence – Middle School						81	85
Suspensions – Violence – High School						101	100
Number of Expulsions – Drugs – Elementary						0	0
Number of Expulsions – Drugs – Middle						0	15
Number of Expulsions – Drugs – High School						11	14
Expulsions – Violence– Elementary						0	0
Expulsions – Violence– Middle School						0	7
Expulsions – Violence – High School						0	11
Number of Truancy Incident – Elementary						5	37
Number of Truancy Incidents – Middle S						9	78
Number of Truancy Incidents – High School						67	230

Early Onset of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
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 & Anger Mgmt.	150	134	174	209	153	138	
Past month use of marijuana-seniors	27.7%	NA	23.5%	NA	21.5%	NA	26%
Past month use of alcohol -srs	45.2%	NA	57.3%	NA	51.4%	NA	50%

F. **Communications and Civic Engagement Committee.** [Sandie Pierce, Facilitator] This Committee is chaired by Connie Carroll, United Way of Monroe County. Meetings were held on December 12, 2006 January 5, 2007, and February 23, 2007.

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 unique visitors to the website are tracked monthly:

Number of Unique Website Visitors Per Month

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>		<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
January	102	77	141	July	85	84
February	91	83	63	August	60	89
March	89	103		September	64	79
April	105	107		October	74	83
May	95	68		November	63	114
June	125	61		December	68	104
YTD Total	607	499		Total	1,021	1,052

A presentation to Monroe County Township Supervisors' Association was given on February 22, 2007 as a result of the stakeholder awareness survey mailing last year. Judge Pam Moskwa discussed the work of the Active Balanced Community. Sandie Pierce and Connie Carroll were also present to answer questions.

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

The Communications and Civic Engagement Committee will again be conducting the "I Pledged" campaign among graduating seniors. This year, lanyards have been ordered to give to all seniors who pledge to drive responsibly.

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

The signed contract for Fiscal-Year 2006-2007 for the third year grant of \$60,000 was received in January 2007. Expenditures through March 2007 are as follows:

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u> (33%)
Personnel	\$ 47,460	\$ 15,663.81
Supplies / Operating	8,370	858.12
Equipment	500	0
Travel	1,510	19.68
Contractual	2,610	430.00
Total	\$ 60,000	\$ 16,971.61 (28%)

III. Evaluation

Mark Creekmore continues to serve as the evaluator consultant for Fiscal-Year 2006-2007.

Sue Yeres from IBD (Integration By Design) conducted a site review of the work of the Initiative on December 6, 2006. Another site visit is planned for May 17, 2007. Discussion will be held about the plans for the future for sustaining the work of the Initiative once the funding ends on November 30, 2007.

IV. Training

April Corie attended the Drug Free Communities grant application training sponsored by CADCA in February 2007.

April Corie also attended the Family Treatment Court training in February 2007.

Information about Active Balanced Community was provided at the Making Connections in-service training on March 21, 2007.

Sandie Pierce attended the Youth System of Care training provided by the Michigan Department of Community Health on March 29, 2007. An overview of braided funding was provided.

V. **Grant Applications**

A grant application for a five-year, \$600,000 is being submitted for a Drug Free Communities project – \$100,000 during year one, and \$125,000 for years two through five.

Notification has been received that Title V funding will not be available this year and that only renewal applications will be considered.

Through the Monroe County Court, a grant application was submitted in February 2007 for funding to establish a Family Treatment Drug Court in Monroe County.

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