



Quarterly Report to Steering Committee / Co-Chairs April – June 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 provided updates and contributed to planning at the June 5, 2007 ABC sustainability planning meeting. The BARJ Committee is chaired by Cheryl Beck.

The Monroe County Mentors has been coordinated under the direction of Lynda Nickelson, Coordinator. During this reporting period, Monroe County Mentors joined Big Brothers Big Sisters in an effort to strengthen programming for the community and to avoid duplication of services. Ms. Nickelson has been hired as the Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The Monroe County Re-Entry Team, now known as the Juvenile Services Oversight Committee, continues to meet on a regular basis to monitor the implementation of the Juvenile Re-Entry planning. Jeff Dusseau has been hired to coordinate re-entry for the Monroe County Youth Center. April Corie has been contracted through the Court to oversee the individual transition outcome plans for ACT 150 youth.

April Corie and Mary Kapp from the Michigan State Police attended the Police Chief's meeting on June 6, 2007 to provide an overview of the Initiative and to ask their support.

- B. **Victim Support Sub-Committee.** [Sandie Pierce, Facilitator] Barbara McKenzie had been the 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.

An initiative that began in June 2007 that is designed to improve self-awareness within youth is an eight-week yoga class at the Monroe County Youth Center. Kimberly Orr is volunteering her time to conduct classes on Monday and Wednesday with the girls and on Tuesday and Thursdays with the boys. While flexibility and conditioning are important aspects of the program, an emphasis on self-awareness and self-control is included. Pre and post-tests will provide an overall measurement of the effectiveness; however, one mother of one of the boys has already noticed improvement and called the Youth Center staff to express appreciation for trying something different – and not giving up. The youth has participated in several anger management programs; however, the yoga classes seem to be making an impact.

Mediation continues to be an effective process. In 2006, there were ten mediations conducted, and year-to-date in 2007, there have been seven cases. The Southeast Michigan Dispute Resolution Center coordinates the mediations.

Two individuals from Monroe County are planning to attend the Facilitating Restorative Conferences training that is sponsored by the Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan on August 9 and 10, 2007 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Active Balanced Community Initiative is partially covering the cost.

- C. **Special Needs Sub-Committee.** [April Corie, Facilitator] This Sub-Committee met on April 27, 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.

Girls Circles continue to be planned by individual facilitators. The Coordinator for the Monroe County Mentors, now Executive Director for Big Brothers Big Sisters, 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 collaborated 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 pre-teen girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through running. The curriculum addresses all aspects of girls' development, including their physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual well-being. With 65 race participants and multiple community sponsors, the event raised \$2,500 to provide program support for the Dundee site. This allows all participants to receive a 50% discounted rate and to offer full scholarships to those in need.

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 Monroe Community Mental Health attended training in Colorado for the assessment and treatment of juvenile sex offenders. The workgroup continues to plan for improving community-based services for juvenile sex offenders.

Representatives from the Youth Center, Juvenile Court, Intermediate School District and Monroe 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 April 26, May 15, June 19, and July 24, 2007 to develop a short-term action plan for the Coalition, while awaiting word on the award of the federal Drug Free Communities' grant application. The Coalition will provide awareness material at the Monroe County Fair, July 29 to August 4, 2007. The coalition will host a substance abuse and recovery community awareness event in the Fall of 2007 with funds received through an HBO grant. Also in the Fall, April Corie will provide training on Substance Abuse in the Workplace to the Business for Business group hosted by SEMCA.

- E. **Data Collection and Resource Assessment Committee.** [Sandie Pierce, Facilitator] This Committee is chaired by Laura Schultz, Director of the American Red Cross. The Data Collection Committee met on May 8 and July 23, 2007. Review of statistics gathered:

Economic Deprivation

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Unemployment Rates (MI Department 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%	21.6%	22.8%
Homelessness (Homeless Network)	NOT AVAILABLE			320	288	157	162	142
FIP Recipients (Department of Human Services)	561	543	527	580	585	612	699	
Food Stamp Recipients (Dept. of Human Services)	2,146	1,896	2,013	2,731	3,182	3,560	5,170	
Female Head of Household (2000 CENSUS)	10.1%	12.7%						
Number of Children in Single Parent Households	5,048 12.6%					4,213 22%		

Family Conflict

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Domestic Violence / Seeking Shelter (FCSS)	77	162	167	178	168	154	136	
Divorces (MI Dept. of Community Health)	560	676	581	641	601	566	Available In Sept.	
Marriages (MI Dept. of Comm. Health)	873	894	827	820	847	858	Available In Sept	
Domestic Violence Authorized Charges – Adult (Monroe Co. Prosecutor)	612	665	746	609	443	535	471	
Domestic Violence Authorized Charges – Juvenile	53	63	61	51	56	70	41	
Children in investigated families	1,418	1,426	1,430	1,317	1,731	1,340	1,393	
Confirmed victims of abuse or neglect	224	223	216	150	223	222	257	
Children in out of home care for abuse or neglect	137	106	79	63	97	118	95	
Children in out of home placement for delinquency	416	453	435	405	374	384	340	

Academic Failure Beginning in Late Elementary

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Drop Out Rate / Kids Count Data Book	6.5%	4.1%	3.7%		4.1%	(No longer included in Kids Count data)		
MEAP Scores – Math – 3 rd grade	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	88.8%		
MEAP Scores – Math – 4 th grade	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
MEAP Scores – Reading – 3 rd grade	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	87.7%		

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Expulsions – Violence / Weapons – Elem.						9	9	
Expulsions – Violence / Weapons – Middle						81	85	
Expulsions – Violence / Weapons – High						101	100	
Number of Expulsions – Other – Elem.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Number of Expulsions – Other – Middle	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	

Truancy							345	
Truancy – Elementary Incidents						5	37	
Truancy – Middle School Incidents						9	78	
Truancy – High School Incidents						67	230	

Early Onset of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Alcohol and Drug Related ER Visits (Mercy Memorial Hospital)					1,500	1,200	307	109
Persons 65+							7	
Persons Under 18							19	
All Others							281	
Juvenile Justice Contacts (tickets / complaints)	1,523F 724A	1,425F 665A	1,439F 746A	1,395F 652A	1,356F 623A	1,230F 623A	1,257F 553A	
Authorizations/ Petitions	47.5%	46.7%	51.8%	46.7%	45.9%	50.1%	43.9%	
SAP / ATOD & Anger Management	NA	150	134	174	209	153	138	
Past month use of marijuana-seniors	NA	27.7%	NA	23.5%	NA	21.5%	26%	
Past month use of alcohol -- seniors	NA	45.2%	NA	57.3%	NA	51.4%	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 May 16 and June 12, 2007.

The Communications Committee is in the process of administering the awareness survey regarding the Initiative in order to measure changes against the baseline data collected in the first two years of the Initiative. If feasible, the survey will be available at the Monroe County Fair in an attempt to gather opinions from the general public. The details of this are being worked on.

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	85	August	60	89
March	89	103	127	September	64	79
April	105	107	126	October	74	83
May	95	68	45	November	63	114
June	125	61		December	68	104
YTD Total	607	499	524	Total	1,021	1,052

The Communications and Civic Engagement Committee conducted the “I Pledged” campaign among graduating seniors. This year, lanyards were distributed to give to all seniors who pledge to drive responsibly. Of the 1,893 graduating seniors, 1,219 (or 64.4%) pledged to drive responsibly. Participants were entered into a drawing at each school to receive a \$10 gas card. In 2006, 65% seniors participated – 1,196 of the 1,829 graduating seniors.

Date	School	Number of Graduates	Number of Pledges	Percentage Pledged
06/01/07	Airport	211	137	65%
06/03/07	Bedford	433	190	44%
05/31/07	Dundee	122	87	72%
05/30/07	Ida	117	112	96%
05/29/07	Jefferson	185	155	84%
05/17/07	Mason	128	124	97%
06/01/07	Monroe	421	236	56%
05/29/07	Orchard	50	24	48%
05/08/07	SMCC	108	101	94%
05/25/07	Summerfield	61	53	87%
	Whiteford	57	(Last minute cancellation)	
	Totals	1,893	1,219	64.4%

- G. **Sustainability Committee.** A Sub-Committee of the Steering Committee met on June 5, 2007 to discuss the sustainability of the Active Balanced Community Initiative. Several areas will be sustained as a result of the programming implemented through the County – Re-Entry, Civic Engagement opportunities through the Youth Center. Monroe County Mentors will be sustained through the partnership with Big Brothers ./ Big Sisters. Discussion is needed on Girls’ Circles as to how to sustain the Circles and referral process. Mediation will continue through the Southeast Michigan Dispute Resolution Center. The Communications Committee is discussing ways to maintain the work. The Data Committee is proposing to meet twice per year – and would like to discuss what data is needed for collaborative work in addition to the above. The Steering Committee will also need to decide on an on-going meeting schedule and its oversight role in coordination with the Human Services Collaborative Network.

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 June 2007 are as follows:

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	(58%)
Personnel	\$ 47,460	\$ 26,514.93	
Supplies / Operating	8,370	4,265.66	
Equipment	500	500.00	
Travel	1,510	579.28	
Contractual	2,610	690.00	
Total	\$ 60,000	\$ 32,549.87	(54%)

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 May 17, 2007. Discussion was held about the plans for sustaining the work of the Initiative once the funding ends on November 30, 2007.

IV. Training

Sandie Pierce attended the Drug Endangered Children training on May 18, 2007 at the Monroe ISD. The topic included information on methamphetamine use.

Lynda Nickelson, Monroe County Mentors, attended a Mentoring Conference in June 2007.

Sandie Pierce attended the Foster Care Youth in Transition training in Lansing on July 10, 2007. The training was co-sponsored by the Michigan Department of Human Services and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

V. Grant Applications

A proposal for youth volunteerism is being developed. This proposal outlines a coordinator to facilitate youth volunteerism in Monroe County. The program will be known as M.Y. Community Volunteers! (Monroe county Youth Community Volunteers), and will serve to develop opportunities and link youth volunteers to the opportunities. Once the proposal is complete, possible grant/ funding sources will be identified and applications will be submitted.

A grant for Safe Schools / Healthy Students was reviewed by several committee members; however, it was determined that we needed additional time to fully develop the application and to be able to involve all nine school districts.

A grant from HBO television network was received to provide a substance abuse and recovery public presentation in the Fall of 2007.

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-Coordiators) 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-Coordiators