



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

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.