



Quarterly Report to United Way of Monroe County and Steering Committee October 2008

III. Program Development: Enhance the services available to youth involved in the juvenile justice system, victims, those with substance abuse issues, and the general community.

Mediation services continue through Michigan Dispute Resolution Services (MDRS). Year to date, approximately 24 mediations have been held, including guardianships, PPO, local ordinance issues, employment, landlord tenant and school issues.

Monroe County Mentors is operating through Big Brothers Big Sisters. Currently, there are three mentors working with three youth referred through the court system. Lunch Buddy began in the Spring 2008. This Fall, Lunch Buddy is being conducted at Lincoln, Waterloo, and Hollywood Elementary Schools with 30 matches in place.

The Juvenile Services Oversight Committee continues to meet on a regular basis to monitor the implementation of the Juvenile Re-Entry planning, Drug Court, and Diversion. Jeff Dusseau coordinates re-entry for the Monroe County Youth Center.

Substance Abuse Coalition. Funding to support the Coalition through 2008 was received through the Prosecutor's Office from the Drug Forfeiture Funds (\$10,000) and from OMNI (\$12,000). The work plan is monitored by the Coalition, and the United Way of Monroe County serves as the fiduciary agency. The Federal Drug Free Communities' grant application for \$125,000 was awarded, which began October 1, 2008. The grant is for five years – \$625,000.

The Substance Abuse Coalition continues to meet on the first Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m. April Corie and Robert Kasprzak serve as the Co-Chairs.

The Parenting Education and Awareness Committee developed the Town Hall meeting that was held in conjunction with the Making Connections in-service on March 6, 2008. \$500 in funding for the Town Hall meeting was received from SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration).

A Town Hall meeting regarding the Misuse of Prescription and Over the Counter Drugs was held on October 7, 2008 at the River Raisin Centre for the Arts. Dr. Mark Menestrina provided an overview of his experience with substance abuse treatment and provided an overview of the treatment services that are available. Other panel members included John Basile, Sue Sacks, and Renee Shaw. Country singer Jeff Tuttle has agreed to perform following the meeting. It is estimated that 200 people were in attendance. Sponsorships were received from Reckitt Benckiser, Arrow Behavioral Health, Dr. Pompy, and Dr. Gupta.

The Coalition had materials at the Monroe County Fair during the week of July 27, 2008. Members volunteered to staff the booth to distribute material and answer questions.

The Coalition participated in the Back Pack distribution on August 15 and 16, 2008, and provided highlighters with the web site address: MonroeDrugFree.org

The Coalition supported Catholic Charities of Monroe County in writing a \$150,000 prevention grant for funding being made available through SEMCA. \$70,000 was awarded.