



Quarterly Report to United Way of Monroe County and Steering Committee
April 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). Mediation continues to be offered; however, only two mediations were held in Monroe County during the quarter; another is scheduled for April 23. MDRS has met with the Friend of the Court to see if any assistance could be provided with their caseload.

Monroe County Mentors is operating through Big Brothers Big Sisters. Currently, there are three mentors working with three youth referred through the court system. Big Brothers Big Sisters is also establishing a Lunch Buddy Program at Lincoln Elementary School that will be held through the current school year, and then again in the Fall.

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 coordinates re-entry for the Monroe County Youth Center.

Substance Abuse Coalition. Funding to support the Coalition through 2008 has been received through the Prosecutor's Office from the Drug Forfeiture Funds (\$10,000) and from OMNI (\$12,000). The work plan will be monitored by the Coalition, and the United Way of Monroe County serves as the fiduciary agency.

The Substance Abuse Coalition has developed a monthly meeting schedule – first Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m. April Corie continues to serve as the Co-Chair, and Robert Kasprzak was recently elected to Co-Chair, replacing Michigan State Police Trooper Jim Jarrett, who has been transferred to an afternoon shift and other duties.

Three sub-committees have been created to work on educational programs: Parenting, Youth, and Awareness. The Parenting group met with the Superintendents to discuss the need for programs and will be working with the area PTOs to provide material at conferences and other events. The 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).

The Drug Free Communities' grant application for \$125,000 was submitted on March 19, 2008. The mission, goals, and strategies outlined in the grant include:

Mission: "The Coalition will ensure a 'HIP' Community through collaborative planning, program development, community action, and public education that results in decreased substance use and abuse among youth."

Goals:

1. Strengthen the collaboration within Monroe County in support of the Coalition and its goals in reducing substance abuse among youth.
2. Develop an environment and prevention programs that will decrease substance use and

- abuse among youth.
- 3. Increase the protective factors in our community that will result in decreased substance abuse among youth.
- 4. Positively impact the community norms in Monroe County so that both youth and adults believe that substance abuse is unacceptable.

Strategies:

- 1. Recruit additional members to strengthen the base of the Coalition.
- 2. Collaborate with local law enforcement to strengthen enforcement efforts.
- 3. Increase awareness and education among youth regarding substance abuse risks and impacts on health and well being.
- 4. Increase youth opportunities for civic engagement as added protective factors.
- 5. Increase community awareness about the liability issues and legal consequences Regarding substance abuse.

These goals and objectives were develop based on a review of data obtained through the Western Survey Data administered in Monroe County schools, as well as through a community survey. Drug abuse is a serious problem for youth in Monroe County. The five most frequently used drugs were alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana, stimulants, and inhalants. These five were also the “favorites” nationally, however, it should be noted that the rates of use in all drug categories for Grade 12 students were higher in Monroe County than national averages (except for lifetime use of alcohol). It should be noted, however that the rates of past 30 day use were significantly higher than the national averages. Rates of usage among Grade 8 students are also alarming.

Lifetime Use of Various Drugs —						
	2005			2007		
	Monroe County		Nationally	Monroe County		Nationally
	Grade 8	Grade 12	Grade 12	Grade 8	Grade 12	Grade 12
Alcohol	47.7%	79.2 %	76.6 %	46.6%	75.5%	76.8%
Cigarettes	33.8%	57.4 %	53.7 %	30.0%	57.2%	52.8%
Marijuana	20.3%	47.6 %	46.1 %	18.9%	50.8%	45.7%
Stimulants	11.7%	20.3 %	14.4 %	10.6%	18.9%	15.0%
Inhalants	22.9%	10.3%	14.4 %	20.4%	17.7%	10.9%

Past 30 Day Use of Various Drugs						
	2005			2007		
	Monroe County		Nationally	Monroe County		Nationally
	Grade 8	Grade 12	Grade 12	Grade 8	Grade 12	Grade 12
Alcohol	23.4%	51.4 %	47.5 %	23.8%	50.5%	48.0%
Cigarettes	14.7%	28.0 %	24.4 %	12.4%	32.7%	25.0%
Marijuana	11.2%	21.5 %	21.2 %	9.0%	26.8%	19.9%
Stimulants (Amphetamines)	5.9%	10.2 %	5.0 %	4.5%	9.1%	4.6%
Inhalants	9.8%	3.5%	1.5%	8.7%	3.4%	1.5%