



Quarterly Report to United Way of Monroe County and Steering Committee July 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). Through July 30, 15 cases have been scheduled, 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. Big Brothers Big Sisters held a Lunch Buddy Program at Lincoln Elementary School during the Spring, which will resume again in the Fall.

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 has been 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 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).

Planning is underway for a Town Hall meeting in the Fall regarding Misuse of Prescription and Over the Counter Drugs. Dr. Mark Menestrina will provide an overview of his experience with substance abuse treatment, as well as will provide an overview of the treatment services that are available. Other panel members will include John Basile, Sue Sacks, Renee Shaw, Paula Whitman, Larry Ridner, and an area pharmacist. Country singer Jeff Tuttle has agreed to perform following the meeting.

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

The Coalition is participating in the Back Pack distribution this year and will provide highlighters with the new web site address: MonroeDrugFree.org

The Federal Drug Free Communities' grant application for \$125,000 was submitted on March 19, 2008. Notice of funding awards is expected in August.

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