



Quarterly Report to Steering Committee / Co-Chairs
April – June 2007

- A. **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.