



Quarterly Report to Steering Committee / Co-Chairs June through September 2005

The implementation of the Active Balanced Community grant for Fiscal Year 2004-2005 began December 1, 2004, following approval from the State Bureau of Juvenile Justice. A grant extension was granted during the current quarter - extending the contract through November 30, 2005. Monthly reports are being submitted to the State; this quarterly report is provided as a formal avenue for keeping the Steering Committee informed of activities, as well as to present challenges that may need to be addressed.

I. Committee Updates

- A. **Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ).** [April Corie, Facilitator]. The BARJ full Committee quarterly meeting was held on July 22, 2005. Representatives from each of the BARJ Sub-Committees provided updates. The next full Committee meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2005.

The BARJ Sub-Committee sponsored a three-day Community Conferencing Facilitation training September 6 - 8, 2005. The sixteen individuals who attended the training included juvenile justice professionals, mental health professionals, educators, and faith-based and senior volunteers. Community Conferencing provides innovative and effective community justice and conflict transformation services. The first conference is anticipated to occur in October of 2005. Initially conferencing will be targeted to serve juvenile justice youth and youth experiencing on-going conflict from select schools.

A youth civic engagement presentation is scheduled for November 17, 2005 at the Youth Leadership Day at the Monroe County Intermediate School District. This event hosts 260-300 youth who have been identified as leaders from all nine county school districts. Volunteers from the Civic Engagement Sub-Committee will present to the entire group, and then offer four workshops regarding the development and implementation of a countywide youth volunteerism council. This council will be driven by youth, and supported by ABC volunteers and the Volunteer Action Center at the United Way of Monroe County. The end result will be that youth will develop opportunities for volunteerism in their own communities throughout the county.

- B. **Civic Engagement and BARJ Awareness Sub-Committee.** [April Corie, Facilitator] The Civic Engagement Committee merged with the Communications Committee. The first joint meeting was held on July 19, 2005.

Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) pamphlets were printed and have been distributed throughout the community. The BARJ Speakers Bureau continues to offer individualized presentations to community agencies, organizations, and groups.

- C. **Victim Support Sub-Committee.** [Sandie Pierce, Facilitator] This Sub-Committee is chaired by Barbara McKenzie.

The Victim Support Sub-Committee met twice times during the quarter: June 22 and July 20, 2005. The Victim Services Listing was finalized and copies were ordered in September. Both the Monroe County Sheriff Department and City of Monroe Police

Department have agreed to distribute them through their law officers at the scenes. The order is expected back from the printer (American Speedy Print) by the end of next week. Follow-up is occurring regarding the Century Council grant to produce the Woy-lott story.

A Retail Fraud Impact Panel was held on Friday, July 15, 2005. Eight youth and one parent attended. They heard a message from Prosecutor Bill Nichols regarding the court process and impact on their lives and future. (Through some miscommunication, the retailers who were to present did not attend.) The next step is to meet with the Retailers' Association to request their assistance in collaborating with us to accomplish regularly scheduled panels.

Six people attended the 40-hour mediation training conducted by Ron Brooks and from the Southeast Michigan Dispute Resolution Center on August 11-12, 18-19, and 24 and 26, 2005. The trainees are in the process of completing 10 hours each of observation and will then be able to serve as mediators for the County. The goal is for increased use of mediation in Monroe County. Our goal is for the trainees to participate in victim-offender mediation training.

On September 9, 2005, Cheryl Beck and Sandie Pierce attended the State Victim Services Advisory Committee meeting in Lansing. Information was shared among those present regarding what services are being provided. A challenge for all of the groups is the recruitment / involvement of victims. This has been a challenge for us, as well, and brainstorming will occur over the next several meetings to see how we can get victims involved.

- D. **Minority Over-Representation / Gender-Specific / Special Needs Sub-Committee.** [April Corie, Facilitator] . This Sub-Committee met three times during the quarter on June 3, 2005, July 29, 2005, and September 1, 2005. The next meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2005.

One of the goals of the Community Conferencing training held in September is to use Community Conferencing to help address the issue of minority over-representation. This community-based-approach to dealing with accountability and resolution has been proven to reduce minority over-representation in the criminal justice system.

The Sub-Committee applied and was awarded a technical assistance grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to train up to 50 community volunteers and professionals on the gender relevant issues for juveniles in the justice system, as well as in the facilitation of Girls Circles. This training will be held in December of 2005.

The Sub-Committee plans to address the issues of truancy and the specialized needs of sexual offenders during the next quarter.

- E. **Data Collection and Resource Assessment Committee.** [April Corie and Sandie Pierce, Co-Facilitators] This Committee is chaired by Laura Schultz from the American Red Cross. The quarterly meeting of this Committee was July 22, 2005. The next meeting is October 7, 2005. Review of statistics gathered:

- Economic Deprivation

Unemployment Rates: According to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth in 2004 there was a 6.2% (4600) unemployment rate. This will be gathered again in January of 2006.

Free and Reduced Lunches: According to the MCISD business office in 2003 and 2004 22% of Monroe county children (5519) received free and reduced lunches.

Homelessness: According to the Homeless Network on January 25, 2005, there were 162 homeless individuals in Monroe County.

FIP Recipients: According to the DHS website in 2005 Monroe County had 633 FIP recipients.

Food Stamp Recipients: According to the DHS website in 2005 Monroe County had 4303 families receiving food stamps. (gather January 2006)

Female Head of Household: According to the 2000 Census 10.1% (5426) of households in Monroe County were headed by females. (gather January 2006)

- Family Conflict

Domestic Violence Victims: According to the MSP Uniform Crime Report in 2003 there were 694 domestic violence victims in Monroe County.

Domestic Violence ER Visits: This information is unavailable and will not be gathered.

Divorces: According to the Michigan DCH website in 2001 0.93% (676) of Monroe County residents had marriages end in divorce.

- Early Onset of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Alcohol and Drug Related Emergency Room Visits: In 2004 Mercy Memorial Hospital saw approximately 150 individuals for alcohol and drug related reasons.

Juvenile Justice contacts (tickets/complaints) At the last meeting, 1,172 authorized and received charges were reported, of which 989 actual petitions (charges) were pursued.

F. **Communications and Civic Engagement Committee.** [Sandie Pierce, Facilitator] This Committee is co-chaired by Kate Ebli, 4M Consultant, and Connie Carroll, United Way of Monroe County. The Civic Engagement Committee merged with the Communications Committee. Meetings were held on July 19, August 30, and September 27, 2005.

The ABC web site (activebalancedcommunity.org) has been regularly updated to include current events, training opportunities, a Victims Services page, and press releases, and community links. The number of visits to the website are tracked monthly:

Number of Unique Visitors Per Month

January 2005	102	June 2005	125
February 2005	91	July 2005	85
March 2005	89	August 2005	60
April 2005	105	September 2005	43
May 2005	95		

Events during the quarter included:

- "I Pledged" forms were distributed at the End-of-the-Year Graduation Events at Jefferson High School (May 31), Monroe High School (June 3), and Bedford High School (June 5) - a total of 484 pledges were received. Follow up on the graduates' pledges to commit to three hours of community service over the summer occurred. We received completed service forms from one student from Jefferson High School. She received a \$20 gas card in appreciation.

- A youth engagement project was conducted at the United Way of Monroe County on July 8, 2005. Six youth from the Youth Center revitalized the landscaping - planting bushes, spreading stone, and general cleanup. The youth joined the United Way of Monroe County staff for lunch and reported satisfaction with the opportunity to be involved. One youth indicated that he had never dug a hole before.
- Several youth from the Monroe County Youth Center joined the Michigan State Police at the Monroe County Fair on August 2, 2005 to distribute BARJ awareness materials and Active Balanced Community Initiative balloons. The youth who participated reported that they believed volunteerism to be important for themselves and their community.

During the quarter, the Committee revised its logic model that specifically outlines all of the goals and objectives for the year, as well as the outcome processes and measures. During the next meeting, the goals will be reviewed to determine accomplishments and changes to be made for next year.

II. Year-to-Date Expenditures / Budget Revision / Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Budget

The revised budget and budget extension through November 30, 2005 were approved. A copy of the expenditure report through September 30, 2005 is attached that reflects expenditures of \$80,104.17 of the \$100,000 grant award.

The re-application for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 was submitted on May 6, 2005. We received approval of the application on August 18, 2005, subject to the submission on revised program descriptions that included a budget breakdown by area. This documentation was submitted on August 31, 2005. We are awaiting final approval.

III. Evaluation

The contracted technical assistance provider, Integration By Design (IBD) conducted a six-month monitoring visit on October 4, 2005. At this time, it appears that the Initiative is on track; a formal report is expected within 30 days. At the site visit, Sue Yeres, Contract Monitor from IBD, provided technical assistance in implementing community conferencing, mediation, and impact panels and offered suggestions for grant resources for re-entry and other initiatives.

April Corie and Sandie Pierce attended a Performance Measures meeting in Lansing on July 21, 2005, that was sponsored by the Bureau of Juvenile Justice. The new software (MAGIC) developed nationally for reporting on the grant activities was activated in mid September, 2005. The application and contact information has been submitted, we have begun inputting the monthly reports (both programmatic and financial) via the Internet.

The evaluation plan for the next fiscal year was submitted on June 28, 2005, containing the goals and objectives outlined in the re-application - which are primarily a continuation of this year's goals and objectives, but with the addition of expanded programming objectives. We are awaiting approval from the State as to whether or not the plan was accepted or if changes need to be made.

During the next six weeks, questionnaires regarding awareness and perceived community needs will be distributed to obtain stakeholder and community input. The data collected will provide a baseline for measuring improvements and trends over the years. The target number of surveys to be collected is 500. A press release has been submitted to the Monroe Evening News announcing the survey and encouraging participation. Mark Creekmore will include the results of the data in the year-end evaluation plan that is due 60 days after the contract end (January 31, 2006).

IV. Training

April Corie and Sandie Pierce attended the BARJ Conference in Rothbury, Michigan on September 29 and 30, 2005. Information was obtained on conferencing, bullying prevention, victim impact panels, re-entry planning, and enhanced community service. Dr. Gordon Bazemore, Director of the Community Justice Institute at Florida Atlantic University was the keynote speaker who talked about the philosophy of restorative justice and asserted that the reason communities are moving toward this effort is a desire / need to restore a sense of community among all of us. The Conference proved to be a valuable networking and learning opportunity.

April Corie attended the National Institute of Correction's training on the Critical Elements of Re-entry in Longmont Colorado from August 21 to 26, 2005 with a team of four other juvenile justice professionals. This training has resulted in the development and implementation of a county re-entry plan. The collaboration and partnerships of the Active Balanced Community Initiative play an integral role in the ongoing success of this effort.

V. Challenges / Questions for the Steering Committee

During the third year of the grant, we will be required to have a 40% match - either in-kind or cash. Discussion needs to occur over this next year regarding ways to generate additional funds for the ABC initiative.

VI. Is It Working?

This question applies to the sharing of the coordination duties for the Active Balanced Community initiative and is one that we (as Co-Coordinators) indicated that we would answer during the year. The division of work and availability of two staff to cover the various meetings has continued to prove to be very beneficial. We are especially pleased with the progress and commend all of those involved for their commitment to an Active Balanced Community.

Respectfully submitted,

April and Sandie

April Corie and Sandie Pierce
ABC Co-Coordinators