



Quarterly Report to Steering Committee / Co-Chairs October through December 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, extending the contract through November 30, 2005. Monthly reports are being submitted to the State; the quarterly reports are 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 October 7, 2005. Representatives from each of the BARJ Sub-Committees provided updates. The next full Committee meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2006.

A youth civic engagement presentation was conducted on November 17, 2005 at the Youth Leadership Day sponsored by the Monroe County Intermediate School District. The event hosted approximately 250 youth who have been identified as leaders from all nine county school districts. Volunteers from the Civic Engagement Sub-Committee presented to the entire group, and then offered two workshops regarding the development and implementation of a countywide youth volunteerism council. Youth brainstormed strategies and provided feedback as to what they would need to make volunteerism a part of their lives. The hope is that with the support of ABC volunteers and the Volunteer Action Center at the United Way, youth will develop opportunities for volunteerism in their own communities throughout the county.

A team has been formed and is meeting regularly to develop and implement a community plan for Re-Entry for Juvenile Offenders.

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

Active Balance Community ordered youth volunteer "BARJ" t-shirts that have "VOLUNTEER- I'm giving back!" on the back.

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

The Victim Support Sub-Committee met twice during the quarter: November 18 and December 9, 2005. Discussion is occurring regarding strategies to recruit victims to serve on the Committee and in other ways – victim panels, support.

The Victim Services Listings were made available to the Monroe County Sheriff Department, City of Monroe Police Department, and School Liaison officers.

Follow-up is occurring regarding the possibility of producing the Woy-lott story on a video documentary to be used with drivers' education programs throughout the County.

The next step for continuing the Retail Fraud Panels is to meet with the Retailers' Association to request their assistance in collaborating with us to accomplish regularly scheduled panels.

Mediation has occurred with seven cases following the training provided in the Spring and Summer. Additional work is needed in encouraging use of mediation.

A grant application was submitted to the Office of Victims of Crime for \$5,000 for awareness and an educational program during Victims Rights Awareness Week in April of 2006.

- C. **Minority Over-Representation / Gender-Specific / Special Needs Sub-Committee.** [April Corie, Facilitator] . This Sub-Committee met three times during the quarter: on September 1, 2005, October 3, 2005, and December 9, 2005.

The 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 group plans to begin offering conferencing to the community by the end of January 2006. Initially conferencing will be targeted to serve juvenile justice youth and youth experiencing on-going conflict from select schools. The group is looking for funding opportunities to support implementation.

The Sub-Committee applied and was awarded a technical assistance grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to train 42 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 was held December 14th and 15th at the Monroe County Intermediate School District.

Efforts are underway to address truancy issues beginning in early elementary. Brian Rochowiak, Chairperson, is working with representatives from the court, prosecutor's office, school principals, and the Superintendent of Monroe Public Schools to create a plan.

The Sub-Committee is addressing the need for community services and supports for sexual offending youth, and for the professionals that work with them. Recent community assessments show that approximately two-thirds of the money that the County spends for State placements for youth are for sexual offenders.

- D. **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 October 7, 2005. The next meeting is January 13, 2006. 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. These numbers will again be available at the end of January 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. In 2005, 23.9% (6,168) received free and reduced lunch.

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 September 2004, Monroe County had 594 FIP recipients. In September 2005, Monroe County had 609 FIP recipients (+2.5%).

Food Stamp Recipients: According to the DHS website in September 2004, Monroe County had 4,088 families receiving food stamps. In September 2005, Monroe County had 4,583 families receiving food stamps (+12%).

Female Head of Household: According to the 2000 Census 10.1% (5426) of households in Monroe County were headed by females. In 2001, Census reports reflect that 12.7% (5,119) of the households were headed by females.

- Family Conflict

Domestic Violence Seeking Shelter: According to Family Counseling and Shelter Services, there were 67 families in 2004 and 74 families in 2005 who were provided shelter from domestic related issues.

Domestic Violence Victims: According to the MSP Uniform Crime Report in 2003 there were 694 domestic violence victims in Monroe County. In 2004, there were 789 domestic violence victims.

Divorces: According to the Michigan DCH website in 2001, 0.93% (676) of Monroe County residents had marriages end in divorce. In 2002, there were 581 and in 2003, there were 641.

- Early Onset of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Alcohol and Drug Related Emergency Room Visits: In 2004 Mercy Memorial Hospital saw approximately 1,500 individuals for alcohol and drug related reasons. In 2005, there were approximately 1,200 individuals treated for alcohol and drug related reasons.

Juvenile Justice contacts (tickets/complaints): In 2005, 833 authorized and received charges were reported, of which, 556 actual petitions (charges) were pursued.

E. **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 November 1, and December 9, 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 Website Visitors Per Month

January 2005	102	July 2005	85
February 2005	91	August 2005	60
March 2005	89	September 2005	64
April 2005	105	October 2005	74
May 2005	95	November 2005	63
June 2005	125	December 2005	68
			Total 1.021

The Communications Committee members piloted the community stakeholder awareness survey to ensure that the questions were appropriate and easy to understand. The survey form was revised slightly based on their input and distributed to over 500 individuals.

The Communications Committee submitted press releases to the Monroe Evening News and area media regarding the October Steering Committee meeting, completion of the community awareness stakeholder survey and Girls Circle training.

The Active Balanced Community initiative was included in a panel presentation during the County-Wide School in-service on November 9, 2005. Discussion included the importance of building strong communities and helping youth become involved in their communities through volunteer and other opportunities. The session was attended by 30 people – school counselors and teachers.

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 final expenditure report is attached that reflects expenditures of \$99,743.44 of the \$100,000 grant award. The total included \$44,980 in salaries – 1,285 hours (25 hours week). Actual hours worked totaled 1,405 for the year.

We are still awaiting final approval of the re-application for Fiscal-Year 2005-2006 for the second year grant of \$90,000. Preliminary approval was received in August 2005. During the second year, 1,820 hours of staff time are budgeted (35 hours per week). During December, \$8,298.59 of the \$90,000 was expended.

III. Evaluation

The evaluation plan for the next fiscal year was submitted on June 28, 2005. The final evaluation report is due at the end of January 2006 for the first fiscal year.

The results of the community awareness stakeholder survey will be included, along with the logic models developed by the Committees. Preliminary data reflect that 173 surveys were returned. 22% reported that they had heard about ABC; 24% reported having heard about victim services, and 24% reported that they have heard of BARJ. It appears that more effort is needed in creating awareness of the Initiative. Also, 65% reported that services are needed for children and youth. Additionally, awareness may be needed regarding disproportionate minority contacts within the justice system, and with gender specific and special needs issues.

Mark Creekmore will continue to serve as the evaluator consultant for Fiscal Year 2005-2006.

IV. Training

April Corie and Sandie Pierce attended the “Clever Ways to Design and Re-Design Government Funded Programs” training on November 8, 2005 in Flint. The training was sponsored by Integrations by Design and included strategies for improving programs and services to in order to increase their effectiveness and sustainability.

April Corie and Sandie Pierce attended the second annual Successful Children and Families conference on November 3 and 4, 2005 in Lansing. Workshops attended in Re-Entry, Life Space Crisis Intervention, Succeeding with Girls, Empowered Community, and Shared Solutions between Parents and Professionals.

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