



Quarterly Report to Steering Committee / Co-Chairs
January – March 2006

- A. **Special Needs Sub-Committee.** [April Corie, Facilitator] . This Sub-Committee met three times during the quarter: February 17, 2006. The next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2006. The group continues to address disproportionate minority contacts, gender relevant programming, truancy, sex offenders, diversion, and special needs youth in the justice system.

A Girls Circle Facilitation training was offered on December 14th and 15th at the Monroe County Intermediate School District. Over forty volunteers from the community have been trained to facilitate circles as a result, and several are occurring throughout the county including groups at Arthur Lesow, the Youth Center, and with Juvenile Probation. An additional training addressing gender relevant issues, “Helping You to Help Girls” is scheduled for May 4th from 9:00 to 12:00 at the Monroe County Intermediate School District.

The workgroup is working on developing a community report outlining the current services and supports available in Monroe County for sexually offending youth. The report will also identify the annual cost to the County to treat kids out of the community and make recommendations for needed community-based services and supports.

The workgroup is coordinating with the Monroe Public Schools and the Monroe County Prosecutors Office to address truancy. Currently the group is identifying and evaluating best practice programs that have been successful at reducing/ eliminating truancy in other communities.

Judge Moskwa coordinated a meeting on March 14, 2006 of key members of the court, prosecutor’s office, law enforcement, and the community to discuss current diversion practices. This meeting served to clarify individual agency practices and to enhance communication and collaboration between the courts and the various local law enforcement agencies.

The Michigan State Police and SEMCA presented to the ABC Steering Committee on March 2, 2006 regarding methamphetamine use. An additional presentation will be made to the Human Services Collaborative in April. The plan is to coordinate a Substance Abuse Coalition to address the need for community awareness regarding methamphetamine production and use, as well as other local substance abuse issues.

Representatives from the Youth Center, Juvenile Court, Intermediate School District and Community Mental Health continue to meet on a quarterly basis to enhance coordination of services for special needs youth in the justice system.