



Quarterly Report to Steering Committee / Co-Chairs
July – September 2006

- A. **Special Needs Sub-Committee.** [April Corie, Facilitator] This Sub-Committee met on September 8, 2006. This Sub-Committee is chaired by Brian Rochowiak. The group continues to address disproportionate minority contacts, gender relevant programming, truancy, sex offenders, diversion, and special needs youth in the justice system.

Several Girls Circles were conducted this quarter for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The Coordinator for the Monroe County Mentors will begin serving as the coordinator for Girls Circles beginning in November. This will help to support the linking of volunteer facilitators to girls who are interested in participating.

The Active Balanced Community Initiative is collaborating with Girls on the Run of Southeast Michigan to sponsor a 5K race in Monroe County in the Spring of 2007. Girls on the Run is a non-profit prevention program that encourages preteen girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through running. The curriculum addresses all aspects of girls' development - their physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual well-being.

The Active Balanced Community Initiative is sponsoring a training, Teenagers: A Brain of Their Own on November 28, 2006 from 3:00 to 6:15 p.m. Julie Ross, a presenter on adolescent brain development will explain to parents and professionals the new research on teenage brain development.

A workgroup is meeting to discuss truancy in Monroe County. Currently the group is identifying and evaluating best practice programs that have been successful at reducing/eliminating truancy in other communities. A pilot project is in the development for 2007.

A workgroup has formed and is meeting to discuss the need for community based treatment options for juvenile sex offenders.

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.