



Quarterly Report to Steering Committee / Co-Chairs March through May 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. 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 April 8, 2005. The three BARJ Sub-Committees provided the Committee with updates on accomplishments and plans for future work. This larger meeting format provides an opportunity to bring the smaller, more specific Sub-Committees together to exchange information and collaborate towards the overall goals of the BARJ Committee.
- B. **Civic Engagement and BARJ Awareness Sub-Committee.** [April Corie, Facilitator] There were two meetings of this Sub-Committee during the quarter: March 18 and April 13, 2005 (plus June 3, 2005).

On March 12, 2005 the Co-Coordinator of the ABC Initiative attended the Bedford Trade Fair to administer awareness surveys regarding Balanced and Restorative Justice. Seventy-three surveys were completed and revealed the following information:

- 12% reported that they had heard of restorative justice before.
- 61% reported that they felt offenders should always be required to restore the harm they've done & 32% reported that it should be required most of the time.
- 15% of those surveyed reported that they had been victims of a crime in the last five years, however none of those 15% reported that they received a Victim's Rights packet from the Prosecutor's Office.
- None of the victims reported that they received adequate support through the court process.

A BARJ presentation was developed by this Sub-Committee to use during community presentations to increase awareness about restorative practices. The presentation can be tailored to reach a variety of groups, including law enforcement, youth, professionals, and the community at large. An assortment of presentations has been made available to the community, ranging from short, 15-minute presentations, to three-hour presentations that include victims and youth.

- A three-hour BARJ awareness training was offered at the Monroe County Intermediate School District on April 4, 2005.
- A 30-minute BARJ presentation was provided at the Domestic Violence Roundtable at Family Counseling and Shelter Services on May 25, 2005.
- BARJ Awareness pamphlets have been developed and distributed throughout the community, including 240 at Summerfield High School on April 13, 2005.

The Sub-Committee continues to pursue meaningful volunteer opportunities for youth in the community. Members of this group are coordinating the establishment of a County Youth Volunteer Council. Two to three representatives from the Student Government or Honor Society groups from each of the nine school districts in Monroe County will be asked to sit on the council. With the support of volunteers from the Sub-Committee and the Volunteer Action Center at the United Way of Monroe County, these youth will work to not only develop volunteer opportunities in their individual communities, but also to engage youth volunteers in their district's elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools. It is planned to have this project underway for the 2005-2006 school year.

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

The Victim Support Sub-Committee met three times during the quarter: March 24, April 15, and May 20, 2005. The Sub-Committee is in the process of developing a listing of appropriate contact numbers for law enforcement to use when talking with victims of crime. These numbers will include the Prosecutor's Office, health services, grief support, rape crisis line, and other agencies.

The Sub-Committee discussed awareness activities for Victims Right Week - April 10 through 16, 2005. Flyers were created and distributed. The Prosecutor's Office also promoted the week through the media. Pennie Iott and Melanie Woy addressed 240 students at Summerfield High School on April 13, 2005. Victims Rights Week was highlighted, along with BARJ principles, and the healing process. The Sub-Committee is pursuing grant / foundation funds to produce a documentary of Pennie and Melanie's message. A proposal was submitted on May 23, 2005 to The Century Council, an organization that promotes safe driving. Plans are to use the documentary at drivers' education programs, public television, etc.

Six people attended the 40-hour mediation training conducted by Ron Brooks and Marc Stanley from the Southeast Michigan Dispute Resolution Center on April 20-21-22 and May 4-5-6. 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. A second (repeat) training is planned for the summer (July 28-29, August 11-12, and August 18-19). The next step is for the trainees to participate in victim-offender mediation training.

D. **Minority Over-Representation / Gender-Specific / Special Needs Sub-Committee.** [April Corie, Facilitator] . This Sub-Committee met twice during the quarter: March 4, 2005 and April 29, 2005 (as well as on June 3, 2005).

This Sub-Committee has spent time reviewing recent community needs assessments for Monroe County to determine what has been identified as needs for minority youth, female youth, and special needs youth. The group has also reviewed best practice and evidence based programming that has worked in other communities.

DMC information on the eleven identified contact points for youth in the justice system was gathered and reviewed by the group. Discussions were held regarding the apparent disproportion of minority contacts in the juvenile justice system in Monroe County. Some of the disproportion may be attributed to the information gathering system, which is largely based on self-report. Another explanation may be that the disproportion is attributed to the correlation between poverty and minorities in Monroe County.

The Sub-Committee explored possible ways to address crime in high poverty areas. It was suggested that the Sub-Committee look into Community Conferencing, a community based approach to dealing with accountability and resolution which has been proven to reduce minority over-representation in the criminal justice system. A plan to establish a community based conferencing center is in the initial stages of planning and will involve specialized training and consultation from Dr. Lauren Abramson, a pioneer in community conferencing and transformative justice.

Judy Thomas, a member of the Sub-Committee attended a three-day conference on Gender-Specific Programming in April 2005. This training provided information regarding best practice programming that could be implemented in the Monroe Community. The Sub-Committee plans to offer a local training in September 2005 for volunteers to become facilitators of Girls' Circles. The goal is to train a diverse group of facilitators in order to reach youth throughout the community. The training can accommodate up to fifty volunteers; the Sub-Committee established five target sectors to train:

- Youth Center Staff / Probation Staff
- Mental Health Providers
- School Social Workers
- Faith-based Community Volunteers
- Community Volunteers

The Sub-Committee has identified the need to enhance collaboration among the Juvenile Court, Mental Health, and the Intermediate School District to better meet the needs of youth with specialized needs who are in the Justice System. The Sub-Committee has expanded its membership to include supervisors from these three agencies and plans to develop a forum for information sharing and problem solving.

- 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 newly-merged Committee met on April 8, 2005. The Committee meets again on July 22, 2005.

Baseline indicator data is being collected in January and July of each year. It was noted that the substance abuse data (Western Survey) that is collected through the school system is an essential component to our evaluation. Drop-out data and MEAP scores from 2003-2004 (and 2004-2005) are needed. Follow up is also needed with the emergency room to determine if violence-related visits are tracked.

- Number of domestic violence victims for 2003 totaled 694.
- Number of divorces for 2001 totaled 676. (Years 2002, 2003, 2004 are needed.)
- Number of juvenile justice contacts for 2004 totaled 1,172 (1,016 authorized).

The implementation of 2-1-1 is continuing which will include the feature of having access to the resource directory through a web site. It is hopeful that this availability will be in the very near future, with the entire 2-1-1 system up and running by the end of the summer. Software for the web-based system has been purchased.

- F. **Communications Committee.** [Sandie Pierce, Facilitator] This Committee is co-chaired by Kate Ebli, 4M Consultant, and Connie Carroll, United Way of Monroe County.

The ABC web site (activebalancedcommunity.org) has been updated to include a page that has the planning year separated from current activities. These changes went live on March 8, 2005. Updates to the web site have been on-going and have included pictures from the various events, as well as the quarterly report and other information.

Events during the quarter included:

- Bedford Trade Fair - March 12 and 13, 2005.
- Celebrate Children Festival on April 9, 2005 - children were asked to place their handprints on an "I am my community" wall that was displayed at the Frenchtown Square Mall through the month of April. "I am my community" bracelets were given to all of the children who participated.
- Law Day Koffee Klub on April 29, 2005 was sponsored in partnership with the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce and Monroe ISD. Chick Moorman, author of *Parent Talk* discussed ways of promoting accountability and responsibility among children (and adults).
- End-of-the-Year Graduation Events were attended at Jefferson High School (May 31), Monroe High School (June 3), and Bedford High School (June 5). The graduates were asked to pledge to drive responsibly and to commit to three hours of community service over the summer. There were 484 graduates who pledged - 112 at Jefferson, 203 at Monroe, and 169 at Bedford. As incentives to participate, drawings were held for \$10 gas cards at each of the events. Graduates also received "I pledged" bracelets. Students who complete the community service will also be entered in a drawing. Participation in these events was seen as a way to increase awareness about ABC and to develop community involvement among youth.

The Committee is in the process of finalizing its logic model that specifically outlines all of the goals and objectives for the year, as well as the outcome processes and measures.

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

A copy of the expenditure report through May 31, 2005 is attached that reflects expenditures of \$40,277.98 of the \$100,000 grant award. Approval of several revisions to the line items is being requested.

	<u>Approved Budget</u>	<u>Revision</u>
Computer / Software	\$ 4,000	\$ 7,950
Cell Phones	1,000	550
Logic / Civic Engagement Training	3,500	-0-
Special Projects	11,025	9,025
Office Equipment /Furniture	-0-	2,000

The revision is requested for the purchase of a lap-top computer, printer, and software. The logic and civic engagement training originally proposed has not been required.

Planned expenditures for the remaining line-item balances include the purchase of bracelets, brochures, and other materials to increase awareness; conducting of a community event / civic engagement opportunities during the summer; participation in the BARJ Conference at the end of September; resource directory addition to the web site; mediation training, and community conferencing training.

The re-application for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 was submitted on May 6, 2005. The proposed budget (with comparisons with this year) includes:

	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>2005-2006</u>
Personnel - Co-Coordinator (Increase from 20 to 35 hours week)	\$41,300	\$69,815
Supplies / Operating	\$17,860	6,015
Equipment	5,000	500
Travel	2,715	1,510
Contractual - Evaluator	10,000	10,000
Logic / Civic Engagement Training	3,500	-0-
Resource Directory	5,000	-0-
Web Master (from 10 to six hours month)	3,600	2,160
Special Projects	<u>11,025</u>	<u>-0-</u>
	\$ 100,000	\$ 90,000

3. Evaluation

The contracted technical assistance provider, Integration By Design (IBD) conducted a six-month monitoring visit on April 26, 2005. The draft report was received and reviewed; the final report is expected in by June 30, 2005. The report reflects that our grant implementation is on track.

Julie Staples, evaluator, and Sandie Pierce attended a Performance Measures meeting in Whitmore Lake on May 13, 2005, that was sponsored by the Bureau of Juvenile Justice. A new software (MAGIC) that is being developed nationally for reporting on the grant activities was introduced. We expect to receive the software in the next month or two.

The evaluation plan for the next fiscal year is due June 30, 2005. It will contain the goals and objectives outlined in the re-application - which are primarily a continuation of this year's goals and objectives.

4. Challenges / Questions for the Steering Committee

- The Steering Committee is being asked to review the proposed budget revisions, after which a request will be submitted to the State.
- Discussion has been held with the Civic Engagement Sub-Committee regarding the duplicative nature of their goals and objectives with those of the Communications Committee. A recommendation is being made to merge those two Committees.
- 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.

5. 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-Coordinator) indicated that we would answer during the year. The division of work and availability of two staff to cover the various meetings has been 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, Co-Coordinator