



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

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. The second year of the grant began December 1, 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 January 13, 2006. Representatives from each of the BARJ Sub-Committees provided updates. The next full Committee meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2006.

The Monroe County Mentors mentoring project has grown from the Give a Hand Take a Hand program. Planning and development meetings were held on 1/17/06, 1/26/06, 2/23/06, 2/28/06, 3/13/06, 3/24/06, and 3/30/06. The United Way of Monroe County will hire a part time coordinator with the Visteon grant funds. The coordinator will work out of the Arthur Lesow Community Center and report to the ABC Steering Committee. Additionally, a federal grant was written and submitted to support the enhancement of mentoring to serve system involved youth. The grant has a four-year / \$400,000 award beginning in fiscal year 06/07.

The Monroe County Re-Entry team met on January 23, 2006, February 13, 2006, and March 13, 2006. A Re-Entry Coordinator was hired at the Monroe County Youth Center in March.

Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) pamphlets were distributed at the Bedford Trade Fair on March 11 and 12, 2006. The BARJ Speakers Bureau continues to offer individualized presentations to community agencies, organizations, and groups. In February, a presentation was made to the Stephen Ministries group at Trinity Lutheran. A presentation on Balanced and Restorative Justice and Community Conferencing was made at the Making Connections Conference at the Monroe County Community College on February 15, 2006.

The Active Balanced Community Initiative, The Michigan State Police, The Monroe Masons, and youth from the Monroe County Youth Center are coordinating to provide child identification kits at the Celebrate Children Festival in April.

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

The Victim Support Sub-Committee met three times during the quarter: January 19, February 23, and March 23, 2006. Discussion is occurring regarding strategies to recruit victims to serve on the Committee and on victim impact panels. The preliminary plan is

to schedule victim impact panels on a quarterly basis, utilizing victims who were involved in a variety of crimes.

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

Additional promotion of mediation is needed in encouraging use of mediation.

- C. **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.

- 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 meetings of this Committee were held January 13, 2006, and April 21, 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% (4,600) unemployment rate. The rate for 2005 was 6.1%, with 4,156 people unemployed at the end of December.

Free and Reduced Lunches: According to the MCISD business office in 2003 and 2004, 22% of Monroe county children (5,519) 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 2004, Monroe County had 608 FIP recipients. In 2005, Monroe County had 633 FIP recipients, and as of March 2006, there were 645 recipients.

Food Stamp Recipients: According to the DHS website in 2004, Monroe County had 4,198 families receiving food stamps. In 2005, Monroe County had 4,303 families receiving food stamps, and as of March 2006, the number was 4,850.

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. The divorce rate for 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 were 9.1%, 7.8%, 8.5% and 8.0% respectively.

- 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 January 17, February 21, and March 29, 2006.

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

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>		<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
January	102	77	July	85	
February	91	83	August	60	
March	89	84	September	64	
April	105		October	74	
May	95		November	63	
June	125		December	68	
			Total	1,021	

The Communications Committee discussed the need to increase the awareness of Active Balanced Community and restorative justice. The community stakeholder awareness survey was distributed to 190 elected officials in Monroe County to obtain baseline data among these stakeholders. Surveys also continue to be distributed at other events. Two presentations are planned as a result of the mailing – Township Officials in June and Monroe City Council in July.

The Communications Committee submitted press releases to the Monroe Evening News and area media regarding the January Steering Committee meeting, and Girls Circle training on May 4, 2006.

“I Pledged” events are being planned at the graduation events for all nine public high schools and St. Mary Catholic Central. Seniors are being asked to pledge to drive responsibly. Those pledging will be entered into a drawing for gas cards.

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

Final approval of the re-application for Fiscal-Year 2005-2006 for the second year grant of \$90,000 was received in early April. During the second year, 1,820 hours of staff time are budgeted (35 hours per week); however, a budget revision / contract amendment request is requested to reduce the number of hours to 32 hours per week and to move those dollars in meeting support and program support, as follows:

	<u>Original</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Change</u>
Personnel	\$ 69,815	\$ 65,675	- \$ 4,140
Supplies / Operating	6,015	10,155	+ 4,140
Equipment	500	500	0
Travel	1,510	1,510	0
Contractual	12,610	12,610	0
Total	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	

III. Evaluation

Mark Creekmore continues to serve as the evaluator consultant for Fiscal Year 2005-2006

The final evaluation report for the first fiscal year was submitted at the end of January 2006. The results of the community awareness stakeholder survey were included, along with the logic models developed by the Committees. 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.

IV. Training

April Corie and Sandie Pierce attended the application training for the Drug Free Communities grant on March 3. April Corie attended the Title V training on February 21, 2006, and Sandie Pierce attended the Adolescent Brain training on February 7, 2006.

V. Title V Application

A grant application for \$30,000 was submitted for developing a three-year community plan for delinquency prevention. Funding awards will be made for October 1, 2006 start-up.

VI. Re-Application

During the third year of the grant, we will be required to have a 40% match - either in-kind or cash. The grant application is due May 5, 2006. Discussion is needed regarding the match, as well as the feasibility of generating \$10,000 cash match for the third year to cover the cost of the evaluation contract.

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