



On Balance

A publication of Dane County's Department of Human Services
and the Dane County Juvenile Court Program

October 2010
Volume IV, Number 3

GANG PREVENTION CRIME UNIT (GPCU) INTERVENES WITH GANGS

By Amy Schwartz

In the spring of 2010, a year of ongoing intelligence collection and documentation at the Madison Police Department revealed that there were approximately 1100 confirmed gang members in Dane County. –Most live in the City of Madison, with over 3000 suspected members and associates and over 50 different gangs. The police department uses the national definition of a gang which is: *A group of three or more people who have a common identifying sign, symbol, or name and whose members individually or collectively engage in criminal activity.*

In order to be identified as a gang member, you have to fit the following criteria which is defined by the National Crime and



Intelligence Center (NCIC) as: *Self-admission at time of arrest or incarceration. This is a stand-alone criterion and will immediately confirm someone as a gang member. Or any two of the following:*

- a. *Identified as a gang member by a reliable informant*
- b. *Identified as a gang member by an informant whose information has been corroborated*
- c. *Frequents a known gang area, associates with known members, displays gang tattoos or uses gang hand signs*
- d. *Has been arrested multiple times with known gang*

members for offenses consistent with gang activity
e. *Self-admission at any time other than an arrest*

Due to growing concerns of rising gang membership and gang violence in the city, the Madison Police Department announced the expansion of the Crime Prevention Gang Unit (CPGU). In June of 2010, the department added four additional officers, totaling five and a sergeant, in an effort to expand their efforts in areas of prevention, intervention, and suppression of gang crime and involvement in the City. Each officer is assigned to one of Madison's five district stations with the intent to expand relationships and improve communication efforts within the community, schools, faith based organizations, and with other partners such as juvenile and adult corrections, and other law enforcement agencies within Dane County.

Intervention efforts have been underway in each of the four Madison high school districts where a team of school administrators,

See Gang Prevention, Page 8

In this issue:

- P 2 Ethan Allen/SPRITE
- P 3 Juv Corr 2002-09 Report
- P 4 Spotlight on Staff - Veronica Hereford
- P 5 AADAIP Assessments
- P 7 Michael Johnson/Boys & GirlsClub
- P 10 Where are They Now:
Charlene Sweeney
- P 11 DMC Solutions
- P 12 DCNIP School Success - Zach Mays
- P 13 Subculture Corner

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On Balance

Is Ethan Allen School Closing & What About SPRITE?

By Rhonda Voigt

As many are aware, this year Governor Doyle appointed a commission to study the issue of consolidating the secure juvenile boys institutions in WI, Ethan Allen and Lincoln Hills Schools. This report went to Governor Doyle and DOC Secretary Raemisich with the following final recommendations (the full report can be found at www.wi-doc.com/JuvCorrsReview.htm):

- 1) Consolidation of Lincoln Hills and Ethan Allen Schools. (Ethan Allen is recommended for closure by 5/11 with the 3 judges abstaining)
- 2) Appointment of an advisory group to assist with transition/consolidation efforts.
- 3) Following the above transition/consolidation, DOC collaborates with counties re: continued improvements in the juvenile justice system, including improvements in the Youth Aids funding system.
- 4) Additional fiscal measures be taken to lower or slow the rate of growth in the daily rate (i.e. general school aids, federally

supported school breakfast/lunch program, appropriate fixed operational costs be supported by general program revenue rather than being included in the daily rate).

- 5) Margaret Carpenter be retained as DJC Administrator in the next administration.

It is yet to be determined whether Governor Doyle will act on these recommendations this year or pass the information on to our next Governor. Should there be no action in 2010 and both facilities remain open in 2011, the daily rate for secure juvenile corrections placements is expected to rise to \$375, a 38.9% increase! Clearly this increase would have significant impact on most WI county budgets.

Should our male juveniles be consolidated into one location, the remaining facility is expected to be converted to an adult correctional institution, possibly one that will provide AODA treatment. The decision regarding which facility would continue to work with our

male juveniles has significant impact on many levels: families' ability to visit their child in person, Type 2 sanctions options, county Sheriff transportation of youth to/from court, diversity of institution staff, physical separation of youth in different facilities (i.e. gang rivals, co-defendants, victims) to name a few. This important decision will likely require a great deal of deliberation.

I am told that SPRITE is not dead! Although there have been no summer sessions in 2010, the program still exists. I have requested specific information including any dates that programming may be offered for the balance of the year but it appears this question has no firm answer as of this writing. Updates will be forwarded when received.

On Balance is a publication of Dane County Department of Human Services and Juvenile Court Program.

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Juvenile Corrections 2002-2009 Database Report

By Rhonda Voigt

Anyone who knew me in college would probably not believe me if I told them I have created an extensive database. In fact, my statistics professor would likely be having a good laugh if he knew that I find this task most intriguing! So let me tell you about the Dane County Human Services Juvenile Corrections Database. It now spans more than 8 years and for the period 2002-2009, it includes 352 youth sent to Juvenile Corrections by the Dane County courts. This database captures a significant amount of information about each youth, including the following: age at commitment, place of birth, race, committing offense(s), prior offenses, prior services, assessments, and evaluations, out of home placements, mental health/AODA diagnoses, special education status, gang involvement and family information (mother's age at youth's birth, parents' marital status, family AODA/mental health history, parents' incarceration history, Child Protective Services (CPS) history and family zip code at time of youth's commitment). I am putting the finishing touches on an extensive report that identifies patterns and trends observed for the period 2002-2009. And yes, it even has colorful graphs and charts! Below is an edited summary of my findings:

- The number of youth sent by Dane County Courts to juvenile corrections has declined overall during the period 2002-2009. Teens of color continue to be over-represented, with African American males being the largest group. Teens of color are further over-represented among those whom

Dane County commits directly to the shorter-term programs offered by the Division of Juvenile Corrections (71-89%).

- Overall trends for committing offenses suggest that Dane County courts are sending youth with more violent offenses as well as youth with histories of more violent prior offenses. The corresponding overall trend is that fewer teens with property crimes only are being sent by Dane County to juvenile corrections. Despite this overall trend, more white males and other males of color are sent to juvenile corrections with property only committing offenses and property only prior histories than other groups.
- More than half of the Dane County teens sent to corrections receive intensive supervision services via NIP or CAP (or both) prior to their correctional commitments.
- The number of teens receiving services from CCF prior to their corrections commitments has increased, remaining at over 60% for the last three years. For most of the 2002-2009 time period, teens of color are significantly overrepresented in the group that receives CCF wrap around services prior to commitment to juvenile corrections.
- The number of Dane County youth identified as belonging to gangs has been increasing, remaining over 50% for the last two years. Males of color are the majority in this category.
- The number of Dane County teens participating in direct commitments to short-term correctional programs has been decreasing over the last four years, suggesting that

we may be under-utilizing these options. Teen girls appear to be more successful in the Short-term Re-Entry program than teen boys. Successful CAP males were all males of color, born out side of Madison but living in Madison at the time of commitment. Successful Youth Corrective Sanctions Program direct commitments were mostly males of color.

This extensive database is beginning to identify significant overall trends for youth sent to corrections by Dane County courts. Trends are beginning to emerge for youth involved in direct commitment short-term programs offered by corrections, although total numbers participating have been small to date. As this database continues to grow, new trends will be identified. It is anticipated that this data will be used to improve and streamline our use of the various programs offered by juvenile corrections. The following recommendations are offered:

- Increase utilization of direct commitment, short-term juvenile corrections programs.
- Continue to study Dane County Juvenile Corrections database trends.
- Explore additional ways to utilize the extensive information contained in this database.

When finalized, the full report will be available for review at the Dane County website: www.danecountyhumanservices.org, under Human Services, Budget & Publications, Other Reports.



Spotlight on Staff – Veronica Hereford

By David Thorson

The Neighborhood Intervention Program has always prided itself on hiring a wide range of eclectic and inspiring staff to work with the high-risk youth who come through their doors. Veronica Hereford is just such a person. She is currently the Program Leader who leads the ADDSII program at NIP. ADDSII, which stands for Assessment, Deflection, Deferment, and Stabilization was developed to provide an alternative option for youth who commit delinquencies. Rather than file formal delinquency petitions that bring these kids into the court process, ADDSII provides a 16-week program through deferred prosecution that enhances their competencies while also holding them accountable for what they did.

Veronica grew up in Chicago and pretty much always knew she wanted to work with kids – except of course for the period of time when she wanted to be an engineer (and probably a doctor, fire fighter, and astronaut too). Her first experience helping others was as a counselor in training for her church when she was in high school. Little did she know then what was coming down the road. She then took a rather roundabout route before arriving in Dane County. Veronica lived in Rochester, MN and worked at a Women's Shelter. She then moved to Mt. Horeb in 1999 and claims to have actually enjoyed the solitude of the country life. She married in 2003, and for a while now has lived in Janesville, commuting to NIP. Veronica is passionately com-

mitted to her family, especially her three boys and her grandson of 7 months. Not to mention her 16-month-old puppy! I have a feeling she will be spoiling both of the young'uns more than anyone can imagine because when asked to describe her ideal play day, she said it would include taking her grandson to the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. And you know she won't stay out of the gift shop while they are there.



*Veronica Hereford,
Damiyan (son) & Jehki (grandson)*

In February 2005 Veronica finally found her way to NIP. But that was only after Human Services stole her from Juvenile Court, where she began as a Juvenile Court Worker at the Shelter Home in 2002. Along the way she also found time to be a foster parent to four boys, ages 9-12. Veronica is truly a life long learner as she is currently at Upper

Iowa studying Human Services and Psychology. She should graduate next August and then is hoping to get her teacher certification, although she also hasn't completely ruled out law school as a way to work on human rights issues.

Veronica is liked and respected by both the kids at NIP and by her co-workers. She is pretty even keeled, and doesn't get riled too easily. She assures me that because she believes in dealing with things directly, she only has a couple meltdowns per year – and nothing too spectacular at that. And to decompress, Veronica is a great deal finder who would be a handy person to have along on any shopping trip. Just be prepared to be listening to Gospel compilations or Prince CD's along the way.

Some day, Veronica would like to start up a Charter School and Transitional Group Home for younger kids in Janesville. Until then, look for her at NIP on Sherman Avenue. She will be the one shepherding groups of teens and working hard to foster the relationships that will allow her to impact their lives - a skill that truly makes her a special staff person at NIP. The hardest part of the job for Veronica is seeing youth with complex issues that you just can't seem to find a way to connect with them, or whose needs are so great that no one can possibly meet them. Luckily for us, it's a rarity for Veronica to not find common ground with her kids. She makes a difference, and her commitment sets a high standard for the rest of us.

On Balance

AADAIP Assessments

by Cynthia Green, Manager

University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics

Adolescent Alcohol/Drug Assessment Intervention Program

The University of Wisconsin Hospital & Clinics – Adolescent Alcohol/Drug Assessment Intervention Program (AADAIP) provides alcohol and drug (AOD) screening and comprehensive assessment for over 500 youth across Dane County annually. The screening/ assessment process identifies a teen’s current and past AOD involvement, the presence of psychological and behavioral problems, and risk and protective factors. Our assessment findings highlight a diversity of teen AOD experiences, ranging from one-time experimental use to substance dependence. About half of the teens who complete an assessment meet diagnostic criteria for having a substance use disorder and a referral to appropriate treatment services is initiated. Often these are teens who would not have otherwise been detected as needing treatment. Our outcome studies have consistently shown that a benefit of participation in an AADAIP assessment significantly decreases alcohol and marijuana use frequency.

AADAIP applied for an Office of Justice Assistance grant because we were concerned that about 30% of youth whom we assess each year do not meet criteria for referral to AODA treatment service, but represents an at-risk population (Winters, 2001). Our data for assessments completed in 2008 showed that as AOD use severity increases, the prevalence of delinquency, mental health, and school attendance problems increases. For those teens who show subclinical or mild-to-moderate substance abuse symptoms (over half the teens assessed in 2008), we were missing an important opportunity for intervention.

Table 1. Prevalence (%) of teens with co-occurring problems along continuum of severity.

	AOD Continuum of Use Severity			
	Experimental	Subclinical	Abuse	Dependence
Mental health diagnosis	20%	33%	45%	68%
School attendance problems	10%	26%	46%	60%
Involvement in delinquency services	11%	14%	28%	31%

Brief Intervention

Brief Intervention (BI) is a single session or multiple sessions of motivational discussion focused on increasing insight and awareness regarding substance use and motivation toward behavioral change. Brief intervention can be tailored for specific populations or settings and can be used as a stand-alone treatment for those “at-risk,” as well as those in need of more extensive levels of care (http://sbirt.samhsa.gov/core_comp/brief_int.htm). There are several benefits to using BI with AOD involved adolescents. First, BI is developmentally-relevant for adolescents; it enhances a teen’s motivation and skills for AOD behavior change. Clinicians delivering BI typically use Motivational Interviewing (MI), a client-centered and empathetic yet directive method (Miller & Rollnick, 2002). Second, the use of MI in BI increases the cultural relevance of the intervention. Likely due to the collaborative and empathetic counseling style, a meta-analysis of 72 studies showed that the MI treatment effect for people of color was twice the size compared to white participants (Hettema, Steele, Miller, 2005). Third, BI is readily adaptable for delivery in “opportunistic” settings such as juvenile justice (Stein et al., 2006) and alternative school settings (Winters, Leitten, Wagner, & O’Leary Tevyaw, 2007) where a high prevalence of at-risk youth exist. Fourth, BI has been shown to successfully engage AOD involved teens in services, who would otherwise not be seeking intervention services (Martin, Copeland, & Swift, 2005; Walker et al., 2006). That is, teens do not have to identify

See AADAIP, Page 6

On Balance

AADAIP

Continued from Page 5

problem AOD use to benefit from BI services. For the large and at-risk population of subclinical users (i.e., teens who regularly use alcohol/ marijuana but who do not meet clinical criteria for treatment), BI seems particularly relevant (Winters, 2005).

The Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) awarded UWHC-AADAIP a three year grant, which began in January of 2010, to provide BI to adolescents and their families. The primary purpose of the grant is to promote AOD use behavior change and to decrease subsequent rates of crime/violence among a large and diverse population of Dane County adolescents aged 14 to 20, while increasing youth access to and engagement in AOD services. The grant allows for us to implement Teen Intervene (TI), an evidence-based Brief Intervention (BI) model, in conjunction with our AOD screening/assessment process. TI is listed in SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices and has been shown to reduce AOD use frequency, quantity, and problem symptoms among adolescents while also promoting engagement in further services (Winters, 2005; Winters & Leitten, 2007). The addition of the OJA-funded BI is allowing us to achieve the following goals through the delivery of evidence-based and culturally-relevant services:

- Reduce youth AOD involvement and crime/violence
- Increase youth access to AOD services

- Maximize youth retention in BI services
- Reduce youth co-occurring problems

During the first 6 months of the grant we focused on integrating the TI program into our clinic-based assessment process. In addition to on-site service, we will offer TI off-site within selected juvenile justice settings, the Dane County Jail (with youth under age 18), and alternative schools. There is a high prevalence of at-risk youth in these settings who could greatly benefit from this project.

AADAIP has been providing a screening service on a voluntary basis to adolescents at Dane County Juvenile Detention, with funding from the Juvenile Justice Pilot Program. AADAIP staff administers the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs- Short Screen (GAIN-SS) and secures a release of information to notify the parent/guardian and Dane County social worker if assessment is recommended. In addition to recommending assessments, the OJA grant allows us to provide BI services to teens in Detention. In July we began providing TI services, on a voluntary basis, to teens at Juvenile Detention who are identified for the service based on a positive GAIN-SS. As of the end of August we have provided TI services to 20 adolescents in Juvenile Detention. Our initial impression is that the youth who have participated in TI at detention have been engaged in the process; willing to discuss how their AOD use has contributed to their current situation; interested in exploring the pros and cons of continued use; and

eager to set goals for positive change. This new service does not replace the need for an assessment, but provides an opportunity for the change process to begin.

In the next quarter we will be expanding the intervention service to other Juvenile Justice settings. We are very excited about providing BI that focuses adolescents' choices about drug and alcohol use as well as criminal behavior.

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On Balance

Michael Johnson, New CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County, is Making Positive Changes for the Community

By Sheri Gatts

The new Chief Executive Officer of the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County is a busy man. Michael Johnson moved his family to Madison to begin his new career with the Boys & Girls Club in February 2010. Mr. Johnson is committed to providing positive opportunities for the youth in Madison. He is also working toward making the facilities of his organization available to everyone in the community.

When asked what he would especially like for the community to know, he replied, "The Boys & Girls Club is looking for partners to work for kids in Dane County." Since his first day on the job, he has been headed in that direction, and the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County is all the better for it.

His journey to Madison began many years ago. It was nudged along about 7 years ago when he visited his old middle school to talk to the students. He noticed a picture of his 8th grade class hanging in the hallway. "I counted 24 boys in that picture. Only four of them are still alive today." He grew up in Chicago public housing, including Cabrini Green, during the 1980's. It was a challenging life. Michael and the other three surviving males from his class identified four things they all had in common that contributed to their success in moving out of that environment and into a better life:

- Mentors in the neighborhood
- Participation in after school programs at the YMCA and a Boys & Girls Club
- Belonging to a community of faith
- Growing up with a strong and caring single parent



Michael Johnson

Many of the youth who participate in activities at the Boys & Girls Club also have these four elements in their life. Michael wants the Boys & Girls Club to be there for them in the strongest way possible.

His road to Madison included attending college in Minnesota and Chicago. He has earned a BS and MS in Business Administration. His focus has been on non-profit management and human resource management. Before coming to Madison

he held administrative positions in Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Chicago. They were high level and rewarding positions, but he missed the more direct and personal connections to a community.

When the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County did a national search for a new Chief Executive Officer, he applied. He was impressed when he visited Madison for the interview and he was pleased to accept the position when it was offered. Michael's enthusiasm is evident when he talks about his goals and dreams for the agency. His first actions as the new CEO were to get out into the community and visit with about 400 community leaders, and to expand partnerships.

The Boys & Girls Club recently hired certified teachers to work with the Dane County Transitional School, which has started meeting at the facility on Jenewein Road. A total of 55 organizations use that facility for an average of 497 hours per month. A new tech lab is expected to open in October to give local residents access to computers. During the summer of 2010, they offered a Summer Camp that was attended by about 300 seven- to thirteen-year-olds, and over 100 older teens. There will be live the-

See Boys & Girls Club, Page 9

On Balance

Gang Prevention

Continued from Page 1

neighborhood officers, education resource officers (ERO's) and a gang officer are working together to go out into the community and contact identified juveniles who either had trouble in school last year, or who perhaps had a difficult summer. These visits include conversations with the juvenile and their parents to discuss ways in which the school year could more successful and productive in the upcoming year. This program was piloted at Lafollette high school, but has grown to include all four high schools in Madison.

In past years, the high schools have seen a decrease in school violence early in the year as a result of the visits and thus setting the tone and expectations from students for the rest of the school year.



Lt. Sherrie Strand

Another intervention program that the CPGU is organizing is a tattoo removal program. Candidates are referred by word of mouth and range from gang members looking to get out of gangs and to remove their tattoos, to subjects who wish to be more employable by removing visible tattoos on hands or arms. The tattoo

removal program runs every few months and is free of charge due to a local business that donates

their equipment and services for the day. The only requirement of the recipient is that they complete 100 hours of community service, which is overseen by the program making the referral.

The Madison Police Department recognizes that they will never simply arrest their way out of the gang problem in the City, so the CPGU has taken the approach of prevention and intervention strategies to decrease the amount of juveniles getting into gangs to begin with. The team looks forward to continuing their work within the community to make Madison a safe place to live, work, and play.



Capt. James Wheeler

On Balance

Boys & Girls Club

Continued from Page 7

ater at the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County – Allied Family Center on December 4th, coordinated by the new Allied Community Theater.

In order to offer expanded programming for the community, Michael, the Board, and staff have been looking at costs and setting priorities. They are investing in staff and going through a reorganization process with a consultant. Change takes time and planning, but it is happening under the skilled and energetic leadership of Michael Johnson.

When he isn't rolling up his sleeves for a project at the Boys & Girls Club, or networking with other community leaders, Michael enjoys spending time with his family. His wife, Toya, is a chemical engineer, and he has one child, 5-year-old Michael, with a daughter on the way. His extended family lives in North Chicago and Milwaukee.



Benita Burruss, Ron Buford, Delisha Smith



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ON BALANCE catches up with Charlene Sweeney

How many of you remember Charlene Sweeney? If you've been around a while, you remember her as a Dane County Social Worker who first came to Dane County as a financial aid worker in 1975. Charlene's first social work job with the county was as a childcare certifier. Later she provided child welfare services, first in Sun Prairie and then at the county's Northport office.

During the 70's and 80's, when money was more abundant, workers were encouraged and reimbursed for enrolling in graduate social work courses. Charlene was one of the first Dane County social workers to complete her Master of Social Work degree while working full-time for the County in 1984. It didn't take long before Madison Metropolitan School District contacted her and offered her a school social work position in the fall of 1985.

From 1985 to her retirement from MMSD in 2006, Charlene was the school social worker at Lafollette High School. After 21 years at Lafollette and 9 years with Dane County, she views the problems students encounter today as being very similar to what they were when she began her social work career. Those problems still are poverty, homelessness, teen pregnancy and family issues. Charlene says, "All of these problems are magnified by the increased numbers of students experiencing these difficulties with fewer and fewer resources to help them."

Although Charlene "officially" retired from MMSD in 2006, she has accepted opportunities to fill school social work vacancies each year since. Currently she is in a long-term social work position at Cherokee Middle School.



In her free time Charlene enjoys travel, gardening and staying involved with friends. As a board member of Friends of Chernobyl Centers, US (FOCCUS), Charlene has traveled to the Ukraine where she visited the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. She has also traveled in Europe, China, and she just returned from South America where she visited the Galapagos Islands, Peru and Machu Picchu. Charlene is thoroughly enjoying retirement and staying connected with schools and the community.

On Balance

It's Been A Long Time Coming - Dane County DMC Solutions

By Dave Thorson

The Disproportionate Minority Contact and Confinement (DMC) initiative in Dane County reached a touchstone on September 15, when each of the DMC Solutions Workgroups presented Logic Models to the DMC Oversight Committee. These Logic Models outlined specific plans to address a variety of DMC issues.

Wisconsin has consistently ranked among the worst states when comparing arrest and incarceration data for minorities. And unfortunately, the Dane County rate is among the worst in Wisconsin. This is true for juveniles as well as adults. Upon close examination, it became clear that there was no obvious single solution that would reverse this distressing situation. Thus there was a need to evaluate the entire continuum of influencing factors, interventions and services – from issues of poverty and societal deficits, to community assets and supports, to point of arrest, to charging decisions, to placement.

The original DMC Report was completed in May 2009 and included over 50 recommendations. An executive committee then prioritized 2-3 recommendations from each of the workgroups for potential implementation in 2010. The workgroups met several more times in 2010, culminating in the presentation in September. These workgroups were comprised of stakeholders from throughout the community. Participants included school officials, law enforcement,

the court system, Human Services, the faith community, consumers/private citizens, government officials, and service providers. The six workgroups were, 1) Family and Community Supports, 2) Positive Community Alternatives, 3) Schools, 4) Law Enforcement, 5) Custody, Screening, and Petitioning, and 6) Disposition and Placement.

Family and Community Supports – This workgroup looked to utilize Joining Forces for Families (JFF) staff to assist with case management for high-risk youth just entering the delinquency system with deferred prosecution referrals. The goal is to pilot this initiative in two targeted neighborhoods and then potentially expand from there.

Positive Community Alternatives – The goals of this workgroup were to identify a culturally competent, evidence-based curriculum that would serve multiple youth populations, and to come up with standardized assessment tools for all system partners to use. They are recommending use of the Posit, CBITS, and Trauma Screening by service providers. Evidence based practice training occurred on several dates in 2010. They have identified the process necessary to enhance collaboration and communication with our community's key funders and service providers, especially as it relates to school issues and confidentiality concerns.

Schools – With so many different districts involved, it has been

difficult to develop comprehensive strategies that every one of them not only buys into, but is able to commit resources to accomplishing. There was agreement that all districts should review their disciplinary codes and suspension/expulsion processes to determine whether they were missing other alternatives. They recommended holding a meeting of all districts to address how to share information more seamlessly, increase the cultural competence of their staff, enhance flexibility in instruction and behavior interventions, as well as implementing modification of disciplinary codes within the context of DMC.

Law Enforcement – Law enforcement focused on addressing the point of arrest problem, which is evident both at the level of municipal citation as well as formal arrest and prosecution. They recommended expanded training for their staff, and providing joint training with school staff to share information and strategies for dealing with mental health, teen development/behaviors, DMC, cultural competence, and brain development. This workgroup also advocates for the expansion of youth courts and the time bank.

Custody, Screening, and Petitioning – Two logic models emerged from this group. The first dealt with modifying the intake case assignment process of DCDHS when youth are arrested and held in

See DMC, Page 12

On Balance

On A Mission - DCNIP School Success Club

By Barb Lulack

My role at N.I.P as a LTE Program Leader has been as an educator. I have tutored students with their school assignments and worked with others on increasing their academic skills. At the end of last school year, I was asked to tutor Zach Mays, a FOCUS participant. He was motivated to finish East High School on a high note last spring but needed academic help in two subjects - English and Limnology.



Zach Mays

For English, we worked on a project for the novel, The Crucible. Zach chose to make a handmade doll with hair that was dressed in period clothes. Everything had to be made from cotton or felt, the fiber of the times. The doll had to have a shirt, pants, belt, shoes and a coat. I taught Zach how to make patterns and he cut them out, hand sewed the pieces together and dressed the little boy. Zach got an "A" on the project and he had the satisfaction of knowing he had done a great job and had learned to sew in the process.

Limnology, the study of lakes and water was a class that Zach needed to review for his final exam. Zach was motivated to study the review sheets and I quizzed him on the material. In the process, I learned about the subject matter. Zach raised his grade in this class also. He truly ended the school year on a high note and I sing him praises for his motivation to do well and accomplish the mission he started.

DMC

Continued from Page 11

secure custody that have never been in the system before. An on-call system is recommended so that human services workers always attend initial custody hearings, and with greater information than they typically have had. The second logic model looked at increasing the utilization of deferred prosecution by revising the screening process when new law enforcement referrals are received. The revision recommended would give initial screening responsibility to DCDHS. Although the District Attorney by statute retains the final decision making authority, it is hoped that by doing more in depth assessment of youth before this decision is made, family strengths and services will be identified, so that there will be greater willingness to support deferred prosecution agreements rather than proceeding with formal court supervision and findings of delinquency.

Disposition and Placement – The goal of this workgroup was to decrease out of home placements for youth of color, and increase placement stability wherever youth are placed. Strategies include revision of the Juvenile Delinquency Assessment tool utilized by DCDHS to more effectively reflect minority family strengths, and increase cross training opportunities for all system partners.

Make no mistake; this has been a huge undertaking. It asks all of the players who make decisions that impact DMC to make significant changes, and challenges systems to look at dramatically altering how they have traditionally done business. The next step will be for final logic models to be submitted in October 2010. At that point, the Juvenile Justice – DMC Co-chairs (Judge John Albert and CYF Division Administrator Bob Lee) along with Stephen Blue (CYF Delinquency Services Manager) and John Bauman (Juvenile Court Administrator) will evaluate all of the logic models and determine an overall implementation strategy. The first step – recognizing and admitting there is a problem – has been completed. The second step – collecting data, setting goals, and devising strategies – has been done. Some of the third step – implementing the plan – has been accomplished – but there is much still to do.

This is an exciting time to be working in this field in Dane County. We have an opportunity to dramatically and permanently improve the system we work in, and in turn, the lives of youth in our community. The problems may be bigger and sooner, but so are the solutions. There is little doubt that we have the skills. If we have the desire, change will certainly come!

Subculture Corner

Stephen Blue – Co-Chair

Dane County Youth Gang Prevention Task Force



Stephen Blue

Murder continues to be the leading cause of death among urban- African American males. One out of every thirty African- American men will be murdered, six times the risk when compared to White – American men.

Why do I raise such an unpleasant statistic? Because our community is showing a pattern of concern related to the number of deaths involving young men of color.

We know from a statistical view, that most crimes occur within race and economic categories, i.e., Black on Black and Brown on Brown. The other well-known statistical correlate is that gang presence equals guns. Research and statistics have shown that guns intensify crime situations and increase the likelihood of a more violent or lethal outcome.

Among juveniles (minors under the age of 16, 17, or 18, depending on legal jurisdiction) serving in correctional facilities, 86% owned a gun at some point, with 66% acquiring their first gun by age 14. There is also a tendency for juvenile offenders to own many firearms, with 65% owning three or more. Juveniles most often acquire guns from family, friends, drug dealers, and street contacts. Inner-city youths cite “self-protection from enemies” as the top reason for carrying a gun. In Rochester, New York, 22% of young males have carried a firearm illegally, though most for only a short period of time. There is little overlap between legal gun ownership and illegal gun carrying among youth. *Source: Gun Violence in the USA-Wikipedia*

Sociologist James D. Wright suggests that to convince inner-city youths not to carry guns “requires convincing them that they can survive in their neighborhood without being armed, that they can come and go in peace, that being unarmed will not cause them to be victimized, intimidated, or slain.”

Therefore, adults in our communities of color must come together and work towards reclaiming our kids, helping them understand the value of life and the individual human respect needed and required to provide community safety. We need to demand that our youth programs and schools provide true pro-social engagement of our youth and speak out against the negative community elements that thrive in our collective silence, as gang do. Speak to your kids about “bullying”. Ask them if they are feeling safe. If not, why? Do you or your friends have access to a gun? Parents...speak out, be present and get involved. Your child’s life may depend on it.

Fall Thoughts

Sometimes we neglect to praise those who are truly deserving. Madison Police Chief Noble Wray is one of those. The chief has provided this city with a vision and an agenda of action on crime and violence. He has stood firm in his belief of what is right and listened to detractors and individuals who are stuck in beliefs that divide us. His decisive leadership, focus on public safety, and a strong dose of social development have been his foundation. Way to go chief!

Sometimes crisis is the measure by which we can determine the effectiveness of a response or the grit and determination of the individuals who deliver the response.

See Subculture Corner, Page 14

On Balance

Subculture Corner

Continued from Page 13

In both cases the CYF Delinquency Services Team rose to the occasion, doing whatever it took to accomplish the goal, late hours, sharing information, disregarding personnel safety, making sure our kids were safe, providing a solutions to complex situations.

I saw professionals cry at the deaths of young men. I saw the concern for those youth who inflicted the senseless acts. What a staff of caring professionals. What a Team!

Aaron Perry and Frank Rodriquez, Youth Program Leaders, Social Worker Bobby Moore in the Dane County Neighborhood Intervention Program Unit, deserve special recognition for their roles in community safety this past spring and summer. What an impact!!

I would like to acknowledge the seventy-five plus concerned individuals who make up the Dane County Juvenile Justice DMC Solutions Workgroup. The group has been working since 2007, studying the complex issue of disproportionate minority contact. They have recently concluded their work by producing quantifiable logic models in six key areas to impact our Dane County DMC problem. Their contributions have been significant and will change the face of our system for years to come. Thank you.

Gang Quiz

1. The LBC is associated with what current recording artist?
A. Lil Wayne
B. TI
C. Snoop Dog
D. The Game
2. Who is the founder of the Latin Kings?
A. Geraldo Rivera
B. Alex Figueroa
C. Luis Felipe
D. Juan Lopez
3. Which USA city in 2009 had the most murders:
A. Memphis
B. Houston
C. Chicago
D. New York

See P. 15 for answers.

Catch-up Bin



Wesley Matthews - On Sunday August 22, NBA star Wesley Matthews returned home to share his talent and time with the younger generation. He held the first Wesley Matthews skills and training academy for more than 350 youth free of

charge. Many of you might remember Wesley as star high school player at Madison Memorial High school where he won All Conference and All State honors to go along with the State Division 1 championship. He was named "Mr. Basketball." He then went on to a distinguished career at Marquette University and to the NBA as a non-drafted free agent. By the end of his first season with the Utah Jazz, he was a starter averaging 13 points a game. Fast Forward to a new team - the Portland Trailblazers - and a huge five-year contract. Not bad for a kid who played and got his start with the DCNIP- Madison Spartans.



Madison South Rotary Stephen Blue Honored with Bill Thompson Award by Steve Busalacchi

Community service to South Madison does not just come out of the blue, it comes from Blue himself... Stephen Blue. That's why Stephen was just recognized with the Bill Thompson Award, named after a Rotary South founding member who died while volunteering on a Rotary project in El Salvador.

"Stephen has the ability to recruit volunteers...without arm-twisting,"

See Subculture Corner, Page 15

On Balance

Subculture Corner

Continued from Page 14

says Randy Sproule, who became a south-side youth basketball coach at Stephen's prompting. Randy says Blue is able to recruit volunteers because he's able to show how necessary the work is and how much good it will do. "No one gets awards by themselves," states Blue. "Awards follow when you surround yourself with dedicated people who help you grow as a person." Blue made that statement with his wife Susan, two sons and a granddaughter at his side. Jim Moeser, Deputy Director of the Wisconsin Children Council and long-time mentor and friend paid a surprise visit to the event.

John Schraufnagel, Public Works, retired this past July after thirty plus years of service to Dane County. John guided DCNIP through two key building moves and renovations. If you did not get the chance to work with John, you have missed a true life enhancing moment. Jobs were always completed on time, with high levels of detail. Many times we got the feeling DCNIP was a secondary priority in the overall County project schedule. (After all, it's just kids.) John never made us feel that way and in fact, he looked out for us. Well done, John. We shall miss you.

State and Local Trainings

October 14 & 15 – WI Juvenile Detention Association – Sheboygan, WI.

October 20 – Effective Case management in a Cross Cultural Context – Lussier Heritage Center – Madison, WI.

November 5 - Juvenile Delinquency Summit – Madison, WI.

November 8 & 9 Children Come First Conference – Wisconsin Dells

Dane County Youth Gang Prevention Task Force 2011 Meeting schedule

February - 4

June -3

October -7

All meetings are held at 1227 N. Sherman Ave. at the DCNIP Bldg. 9AM to 11AM.

This Month's Gang Prevention Fact:

Dane County Youth Gang Prevention Task Force Co-Chair shared the following at the October 1, 2010 Task Force meeting. The information source is the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. Based on the National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse XV: Teens and Parents – August 2010.

- Forty-five percent of high school students say there are gangs or students who consider themselves to be part of a gang in their school. Thirty-five percent

of middle school student report the same.

- Forty-six percent of public school students say that there are gangs in their school, compared to two percent of private and religious school students.
- Compared to teens in schools without gangs, those in schools that have gangs are nearly twice as likely to report that their school is drug infested, meaning drugs are used, kept or sold on school grounds (30 percent vs. 58 percent).
- Teens in schools with Drugs and Gangs are more likely to abuse substances. They are five times likelier to have used marijuana and almost 12 times likelier to have used tobacco.

Gang Quiz Answers

1. C. Snoop Dog (Long Beach Crips)
2. C. Luis Felipe (King Blood)
3. D. New York (461); Chicago (453); Houston (281); Memphis (142)