



On Balance

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

May 2008
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Neighborhood Intervention Program Celebrates 20 Years

By Bridget Rogers

Dane County Neighborhood Intervention Program (D.C.N.I.P.) began in July 1987 in response to continuing concerns related to minority youth in Dane County. On March 27 - 29,

2008, D.C.N.I.P. proudly celebrated 20 years of work within the Madison and Dane County community, highlighted by a weekend of events that included the Right Track banquet, Madison Spartans banquet and Alumni game, youth dance, and a basketball tournament.



Kathleen Falk interacts with youth



Held on March 27th at the Lussier Family Heritage Center, the Right Track banquet was attended by approximately 200 youth, parents, former and current staff, and

community members. D.C.N.I.P. youth group participants received awards, and the following prestigious awards were presented to community members:

*** Betty Franklin-Hammonds
Community Service Award:
Milt McPike**

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DCNIP Right Track Banquet

On the web @ www.co.dane.wi.us/juvenilecourt
www.co.dane.wi.us/humanservices

On Balance

“They Try To Make Us Go To Reorg, We Say Yeah, Yeah, Yeah”

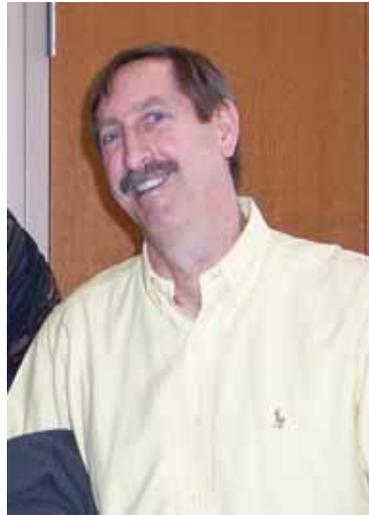
By David Thorson

With profound apologies to Amy Winehouse, Dane County Department of Human Services is going through an agency reorganization that will ultimately impact our staff, system partners, and the families we serve. The impetus for reexamining our service delivery system was initiated by the closure of the Cross Plains Office. This closure, which became effective at the end of April, was precipitated by the need to cut expenditures in order to meet 2008 budget requirements. A committee comprised of line staff and managers was formed to make recommendations.

Initially the three issues that the reorganization committee addressed were: 1) what to do with the displaced Cross Plains office workers and how to continue serving that area of the county, 2) consider whether to consolidate all child protection intake for the entire county into one office, and 3) reconfigure the supervisory situation in the Sun Prairie and Stoughton offices so that supervisors could become specialized and no longer be required to be experts across the board in child protection intake and ongoing, as well as delinquency intake and ongoing.

After several meetings where demographic information was examined, a plan began to coalesce around the concept of dividing the county into three service area

“pods.” The pod concept is an attempt to take advantage of better communication between specialties (i.e. CPS intake, CPS ongoing, Del intake, Del ongoing, Public Health, Economic Support) arising from co-location. There are also plans to integrate both



Dave Thorson, DCDHS Social Work Supervisor

Substitute Care and JFF staff into the three pods.

This change is being implemented in two steps. The initial phase was the transfer of the Cross Plains Office workers to other offices, with the three delinquency positions going to SMO-B. An additional delinquency

intake worker will be added at SMO-B bringing the total up to 6. These workers will cover the current Metro service area, and add the Cross Plains area (Middleton, Wisconsin Heights, Belleville, and Mt. Horeb) as well as Waunakee (which they will pick up from the Sun Prairie Office). In the meantime, Monona Grove/Cottage Grove will move from the Metro coverage area to the Stoughton/Sun Prairie child protection pod.

For the STO/SPO area, Debbie Vieaux is now supervising all delinquency workers, with her main office being in Stoughton. Also based in Stoughton is Lisa Martin who supervises all CPS intake workers in the STO/SPO pod. Kim Vagueiro now supervises all CPS ongoing social workers with her main office being in Sun Prairie. The downside to this plan is the necessity for these three supervisors to travel between SPO and STO in order to supervise and support all their workers.

The second phase of the reorganization will entail two units moving from the South Madison Office to Northport. The ongoing Delinquency

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

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Editor:

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Comments? Call Dawn

MacFarlane 242-6267 or email to macfarlane@co.dane.wi.us

Reorg

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unit and half of the current CPS intake workers will move from SMO to form a NPO pod with the CPS ongoing unit already at NPO. The timing of this move is predicated on space at Northport becoming available. It is hoped that this will take place before the next school year starts in the fall of 2008. Coverage areas will begin conforming to the new pod design beginning this month.

The three pods will cover the following areas:

Northport (North Pod): Madison East, Madison West, Waunakee, Middleton, Wisconsin Heights

South Madison (West Pod): Madison Memorial, Verona, Madison LaFollette, Belleville, Mt Horeb

Sun Prairie/Stoughton (East Pod): Sun Prairie, DeForest, Marshall, Deerfield, Cambridge, Stoughton, McFarland, Monona Grove, Oregon

Many logistics and details remain to be resolved. There is undeniably and not surprisingly some anxiety among staff as we move forward on the redesign. Although efforts have been made to keep staff disruptions and movements to a minimum, they could not be totally avoided. It is the intention that the outcome will be better, more efficient service to families. As this process moves forward there will undoubtedly be modifications. Stay tuned, be patient, and by all means give us feedback. Hopefully we won't all wind up in rehab with Ms. Winehouse before it's all over.

Dane County Addresses Disproportionate Minority Contact

By Bridget Rogers

For over two decades, disproportionate minority confinement has been a focal issue for both state and federal governments. In 1988, the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJPDA) was amended, requiring states to address the over representation of minorities in the juvenile justice system. Each state was required to determine whether minority groups were detained or confined in secure detention facilities, secure correctional facilities, jails, or lockups at a rate that exceeded their proportion in the general population. States were also required to identify efforts being made to address this disproportionate representation. In 2002, the current definition of Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) was established by expanding the issue to consider all decision points of the juvenile justice system: juvenile arrests, court referrals, diversions, secure detention placements, cases petitioned to courts, delinquency findings, placements on supervision, placements in secured correctional facilities, and transfers to adult court. Based on state-wide data, Dane and 5 other counties were identified to receive funding to address the DMC issue in their area and devise solutions. For the full report of *Disproportionate Minority Contact: An Analysis of Brown, Dane, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, and Rock Counties, 2002 – 2005*, visit the Office of Justice Assistance web site at www.oja.wi.gov.

Data for Dane County illustrates a significant need to address DMC at multiple points throughout our juvenile justice system. Minority youth in Dane County were less likely to be diverted than those in any other county. Dane County also had the most disproportionate levels for cases involving secure detention, with minority youth more than twice as likely to be held than their white counterparts. Perhaps most troubling is that in 2005, African-American youth in Dane County were 6 ½ times more likely to be arrested than their white counterparts, a disparity that has increased yearly from 2002 through 2005. Dane County's rates of juvenile arrests were the most disproportionate of all 6 counties in 2005.

The Dane County Disproportionate Minority Contact Oversight Board has been focusing strategies and programs to address DMC for several years. Other local DMC efforts include work by Meme Kintner with YWCA/Girl Neighborhood Power and Jerry Overstreet with MYCRIB.

In a new effort to address DMC issues in Dane County, Department of Human Services Neighborhood Intervention Program has developed the ADDS-II program. Launched in January of 2008, ADDS-II is designed to reduce formal referrals to juvenile court for middle school youth arrested for misdemeanor battery, disorderly conduct, theft, criminal damage to property, carrying a concealed weapon, or resisting/obstructing an

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Minority

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officer, or other related charges. Youth referred to the DA's Office for a charging decision may be diverted to ADDS-II in lieu of facing formal charges. Other criteria used to prioritize youth involvement in ADDS-II include prior family (sibling) system involvement, one or more absent parents, truancy, gang involvement, economically challenged, and residing in targeted communities or schools.

Youth identified for participation sign a Deferred Prosecution Agreement and participate in a 16-week program focusing on anger management, conflict resolution, decision-making, alcohol and drugs, sexual responsibility and gang prevention. In addition to youth involvement, parents participate in four sessions focusing on the juvenile justice system, adolescent development, the educational system, and community resources. Throughout their participation, youth are monitored on grades, school attendance and behavior. Violation of ADDS II rules and expectations result in the case being returned to juvenile court.

For more information on ADDS-II, contact Neighborhood Intervention Program at (608) 288-2400.

Competency Development Conference Kicks Off Initiative for Youth

An all day program on *COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT: Helping Youth Realize Their Potential* brought together more than 100 community service providers, county social workers, school personnel, law enforcement and other professionals who work with youth in Dane County. Held on April 1st at the American Family Conference Center, this event was the first step in framing the issue and creating momentum for a county-wide initiative.



After a morning presentation by Scott Larson—from *Straight Ahead Ministries* in Massachusetts—on programming for resilience in troubled youth, participants attended afternoon workshops a variety of topics: reaching unmotivated boys; strategies and issues in working with girls; supporting

competency among culturally diverse youth in schools; and resolving conflicts in ways that transform character.

The overall goal of Dane County's Competency Development initiative is for the youth we serve to be better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of adulthood when they leave the juvenile justice system than when they first entered. If community partners work together to successfully implement this initiative, we can all look forward to positive changes for Dane County's youth.

Dennis McClain - The Rock of Detention A True Story

By David Thorson

Despite having been a presence at the Dane County Juvenile Detention for the past 34 years, Dennis McClain prefers to work behind the scene and fly well below the radar. He has never sought the limelight or any accolades, letting the stability and success of the facility form his legacy.

Dennis began as an LTE in April 1974 and has been the Detention Superintendent since 1987. He went to high school at North Division in

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On Balance

McClain

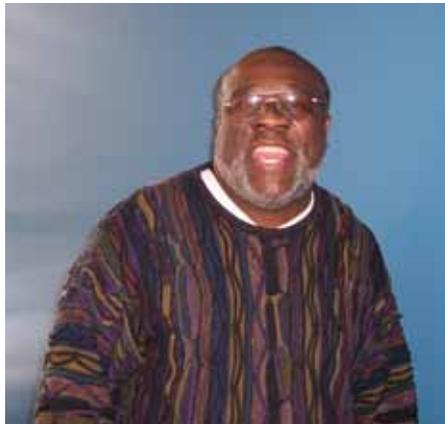
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Milwaukee, where he played three sports and then went to UW-Madison, graduating in 1975 with degrees in sociology and corrective administration.

Three and a half decades afford one great perspective in assessing how the philosophy, the youth, and Dane County's program have evolved. Dennis recalls that early on it wasn't uncommon for runaway, status offenders to find themselves in detention. That sort of response for an uncontrollable teen is now perceived as an inappropriate use of our juvenile jail, where the focus is on incarcerating only those youth who pose a real risk to the community. That said, according to Dennis, the kids have not changed that much over the years. They still have basically the same need for someone to take care of them and to listen. Despite public perception, they aren't necessarily any more dangerous than in the past. What has changed though is the steady increase in the percentage of minority youth. Starting in the mid-1980's with a big jump in African-American males, this trend has continued over the years. Detention staff are now certified. Their use of the "direct supervision" concept has led to more positive relationships with youth, and in turn fewer incident reports.

Last year Dane County opened a new juvenile detention facility in the City-County Building, moving from the 3rd to the 2nd floor, and expanding both in size and capacity. With the increased space and cutting edge technology has come an ability to of-

fer wider programming opportunities while still maintaining security. The toilets thankfully don't overflow and flood the floors below like they did in the old detention, but like any new building, there's always something unexpected to deal with. It's also harder to have those spontaneous, informal interactions with other system partners now that detention is in



Dennis McClain, Detention Superintendent

a separate building from the courts and attorneys.

Dennis is extremely enthusiastic about Character Counts, a reflective program that is currently being implemented. Instead of becoming jaded after years in the business and seeing so many kids struggle to get turned around, it was refreshing to observe just how engaged and positive Dennis continues to be. He understands that it may take years for lessons learned to take hold and make a difference.

If you look around his office, it appears Dennis has barely unpacked. His energy is clearly with the job and the kids, and not his own crea-

ture comforts. The only sign of his longevity or the career recognitions he's received is the Peter Rubin Award, which he received in 1998. Peter was a beloved long time Public Defender. Both he and Dennis coached Spartan basketball, something Dennis continued for 18 years, only giving it up in 2005.

A lover of "the blues," dancing, concerts, plays and his 15-year-old daughter, Dennis obviously has many interests outside work. When the time comes, Dennis won't be one of those sedentary retirees, and in fact is already contemplating what his "next career" might be. Meanwhile, Dennis still feels like he can connect with and engage with any kid. He has never been hit or ever really felt threatened, despite having interacted with literally thousands of youth, many of whom did very dangerous things. So, what keeps him coming back you ask? He is still interested in and inspired by the kids, families, parents, staff, judges, human services, and all the other players he comes in contact with. Dennis understands that good outcomes aren't always obvious and don't always happen right away. He is a believer that change is natural and always happening, so nothing fazes him much.

Dane County is truly fortunate to have such a steady hand guiding our youth at this critical juncture in their lives. We probably can't expect another 34 years, but it doesn't hurt to hope.

New Director of Student Services and Alternative Programs for MMSD

By Dennis Whitish

Nancy Yoder is the new Director of Student Services for Madison Metropolitan School District following the retirement of Mary Gulbrandson in June 2007. Nancy has more than 30 years experience in education. She began her career as a classroom teacher for students with emotional disabilities in self-contained classrooms. Ms. Yoder also spent several years in Germany as a general education teacher for the Department of Defense. At the secondary level, Ms. Yoder was a vocational coordinator in the Sun Prairie School District for students in grades 7-12.

Her first experience as a principal was in Beloit where she was responsible for students in Early Childhood through 2nd grade. Enjoying that experience but wanting to work with a wider age range, Ms. Yoder took a kindergarten through 6th grade principal position with the Sun Prairie school district for three years before coming to Madison as the principal at Emerson Elementary School. It was an interest in working with a more diverse student population that drew her to Madison. She eventually took a year off to write her dissertation. During this time period she received a call from then Assist. Superintendent Shirley Baum asking her to become an Assistant Principal at Sennett Middle School.

She accepted the position as a job share in order to finish her dissertation.



*Nancy Yoder, MMSD,
Director of Student Services &
Alternative Programs*

Principal at Glenn Stephens Elementary School became Ms. Yoder's next assignment for the next 8 years, a position that equipped her well for becoming MMSD's Lead Principal before taking the role of Director of Student Services. In addition to being the student services director, she is also responsible for all alternative programs for MMSD. As Director of Student Services, Ms. Yoder is responsible for school psychologists, social workers, nurses and guidance counselors. MMSD alternative pro-

grams cover a wide-range of programs from hospitalized students, homeless students to incarcerated students. As Ms. Yoder observes, "We're all responsible for the children in our district, to provide them an education and guide them."

Ms. Yoder's experience has given her a keen sense of the work support staff provides to students and their families. She highly values support staff and sees their role as important to the education of many students who may have barriers to education. She notes: "A huge piece of the work provided by support staff is to remove barriers to education and to level the playing field. It isn't something extra we provide. It's what kids need. The work of support staff is about equity."

Ms. Yoder is energetic and excited about her new position and welcomes feedback from staff. During the past summer, after becoming Director, she held weekly informal sessions for any staff to come by, have a cup of coffee and talk about anything important to them and their work. Collectively support staff was thrilled with the appointment of Nancy Yoder to the position of Director of Student Services and Alternative Programs.

Allied Community Youth Court Uses Restorative Approach

By Sheri Gatts

Circle sentencing, based in restorative justice principles, is used to process all cases in the Allied Community Youth Court. With circle sentencing the emphasis is on determining who has been harmed and how to repair that harm. Sentences encourage youth development and are geared toward engaging the defendant in meaningful interaction with their community.

A variety of people are invited to participate in the circle process. Most significantly, the juvenile defendant and their parent(s) stay in the circle with everyone else to discuss the offending behavior, and to determine an appropriate disposition. The circle also includes youth and adult volunteers from the neighborhood, the victim (when appropriate), and staff from Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin, Inc. (YSOSW). The defendants help decide the terms of their sentence, which must be completed within 90 days. If successfully completed within the timeframe, the defendant will not have to pay the municipal fine, and the ticket will be dismissed by the Municipal Court Judge.

Circle sentencing in Youth Courts is a fairly unique model. Community leaders from the Allied Dunns Marsh area met for several months to plan and launch a new, restorative approach to address juvenile crime in their neighborhood. The Allied Youth Court Steering Committee decided to use circle sentencing to make the program restorative and inclusive. Federal Weed and Seed money covers the cost of the Youth Court in the Allied Dunns Marsh area by the City of Madison and the Madison Police Department during 2005.

Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin, a nonprofit organization in Dane County with well over 30 years of experience

working with youth and their families, was asked to coordinate the new program. At that time, Youth Services was already coordinating successful Peer Courts in Sun Prairie, DeForest, and Cottage Grove. Since the Allied Youth Court was launched, Youth Services has also added Peer Courts in Middleton and Oregon, making a total of six youth or peer courts operating in Dane County.

Volunteer youth are recruited from the neighborhood and by adults on the Steering Committee. Adult and youth volunteers participated in informational meetings and training for about three months before the Allied Youth Court heard its first case. Since June 2006, Youth Court has met monthly at the Boys and Girls Club at 4705 Jenewein Road. Youth volunteers between the ages of 13 to 18 often come to the program as defendants doing jury duty. They enjoy the experience and decide to continue as a volunteer.

Judge Daniel Koval with the Madison Municipal Court makes referrals to the Allied Youth Court from cases he hears in his courtroom. "Not every juvenile case is appropriate for Youth Court, but I offer it as option whenever possible." Youth who agree to participate in the Allied Youth Court are either residents of the Allied Dunns Marsh area, or they live elsewhere

but committed an offense in the neighborhood.

Since February 2008, Judge Koval has held juvenile court at the Boys and Girls Club once each month. This has been very effective in making it possible for youthful defendants and their parents to show up for court. Families often do not have transportation or cannot afford public transportation to get to the downtown courthouse.

The Allied Youth Court was invited to present a workshop at the 2nd Annual Restorative Justice Conference in May 2008 at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells. The workshop was well attended and the volunteers enjoyed some fun down time at the indoor water park.

For more information about the Allied Youth Court, contact Sheri Gatts, Program Coordinator, at Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin, Inc. 245-2550, ext. 213 or by email at sheri.gatts@youthSOS.org.



On Balance

Street Outreach Program at Youth Services Provides Much Needed Services to the Under-Served Among Us

By Sheri Gatts

The Street Outreach Program at Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin, Inc. is doing some really incredible work with young people in the community who are under-served and living in very challenging and often dangerous situations. These young people have managed to stay below the radar of law enforcement or the human services network while they struggle with life's many challenges.

That is where Erika Schneider and Tyler Schueffner, staff with the Street Outreach Program come into the picture, along with work Aiesha Golden, an AmeriCorps worker with the program. They work diligently every day helping these vulnerable young people access life's necessities; things that many of us take for granted — such as housing, food, transportation, finances, medical and dental care, and employment. They never have a “typical” day and things are usually far from boring.

“We try to meet people where they are,” explains Erika Schneider. This means both physically as well as emotionally. She went on to say that they practice “harm reduction” every day. An example of harm reduction is to do whatever makes things safer for the client. It might

not result in the perfect solution, but it will be less harmful, or will be moving the client in the right direction.

Erika case managed about 20 individuals. The caseload is mixed with about 75% females and 25% males. One seemingly simple but important service she can provide is to keep



Tyler Schueffner offers assistance

personal records for them. If people don't have an address they can't receive mail, and they have nowhere to store things like birth certificates or social security cards. “Some people need a ride to the Department of Motor Vehicles to get an ID card, or they need to know where to go to get a birth certificate,” Erika explains. Helping them develop a budget and learn to live with it is a critical skill that Erika can also help with.

“I spend a lot of time making initial contacts with kids,” explained Tyler Schueffner. He is often out and about

in the county, connecting with youth who are struggling. Many of these kids have run away from difficult home situations, are often “couch surfing” from one place to another, and are in a constant survival mode. Tyler connects with them in schools or just hanging around town or in the parks. Youth are provided with personal care items; STD/HIV prevention information and supplies; informal counseling; referrals to meal sites; referrals to shelter services; and referrals for counseling and medical care as appropriate. During 2007, Street Outreach staff and volunteers provided services to 2,975 unduplicated youth nearly five times as many as 2006.

Tyler does a lot of presentations for high schools, community centers, police departments, school officials, Joining Forces for Families offices, and just about anywhere else he can find an audience. His job is to spread the word about the Street Outreach Program throughout the county. When asked what he wishes he had more time for, Tyler noted that he “would like to have a regular presence at the bus transfer points.”

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Superintendent Art Rainwater Retires

By Dennis Whitish

After 14 years as Superintendent of Madison Metropolitan School District, Art Rainwater will retire at the end of the 2007-08 school year. Mr. Rainwater came to Madison as Deputy Superintendent in September 1994 and became Superintendent in April 1998.

Reflecting on his tenure as Superintendent, Mr. Rainwater observed that his most pressing challenge has been to maintain the high quality of education for all Madison's students, but especially for the increasingly diverse population, in relation to declining resources over the past several years. District demographics have changed since 1994 when the low-income and minority population for MMSD was around 20-23%. The current estimate for low-income and minority population is around 45-46%, with our Latino population making up the most dramatic increase according to Mr. Rainwater. Delivering resources to this population, where Spanish is the primary language, has required a major shift in service delivery. In the 95-96 school year there were no bilingual classes in Madison schools. Now there are 40—50 classes where children receive support from ELL teachers.

Also of concern to Mr. Rainwater are those students with mental health issues. "Our ability to leverage all community resources, so we are

eliminating barriers so all students can be successful, is something that continues to be important." Mr. Rainwater recalled that in his early years as Superintendent agencies weren't talking to each other, but now they are. He believes that "collaboration with community agencies is extremely important for the success of our students."

Mr. Rainwater came to Madison from the Kansas City School District, which did not employ school social workers or psychologists. He sees these support staff as critical to the success of some of our most difficult students. "It is difficult for a child to learn when they're not feeling emotionally or physically safe and it is critical that our student services staff deal with these kids to provide them with resources and support in order for them to be successful".

Mr. Rainwater feels especially proud of the Educational Framework developed several years ago by the District. This is based on three fundamental concepts: student engagement, learning and relationships. Mr. Rainwater believes the relationship piece is critical for all children and believes support staff play a critical role in establishing a positive rela-



*Art Rainwater, Retired
Superintendent of MMSD*

tionship that is trusting, reciprocal and supportive. Also new to the district under Superintendent Rainwater, has been a shift to Positive Behavior Interventions and Support, an approach based on a problem-solving model that aims to prevent inappropriate behavior through teaching and reinforcing appropriate behavior.

Retirement for Art Rainwater will involve spending more time with his two daughters and three grandchildren. He and his wife, a teacher in the Verona School District who also plans to retire, will remain in Madison. The Rainwaters plan to travel more and have two cruises planned.

On Balance

Street Outreach

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An increasing number of youth live or spend a substantial amount of time on the streets where they are at risk for drug/alcohol abuse and sexual exploitation. These youth may also engage in illegal behaviors or become the victims of violent crime. Each year in the United States, approximately 5,000 runaway/homeless youth die from murder, suicide, or untreated illnesses.

Goals of the Program are to:

"Provide access to emergency shelter and assist youth in moving to appropriate alternative living arrangements.

"Connect youth with the support services they need to promote health and wellness and develop positive lifestyles.

"Provide youth with access to culturally competent HIV/STD information, prevention, and treatment.

For more information about the Street Outreach Program at Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin, contact Erika Schneider, Street Outreach Specialist, by phone at 608-245-2550, ext. 196, or by email at erika.schneider@youthsos.org

What is the Serious Juvenile Offender Program?

By Rhonda Voigt

The Serious Juvenile Offender Program (SJO) is really more of a juvenile correctional status than one particular program. Eligibility for this special status is defined by WI §938.34 (4h). There are two eligibility categories, often referred to as SJO-A or SJO-B. These are defined by the age of the youth and the charging offense (see box below). The length of the SJO court order is longer than the typical juvenile correctional order with SJO youth remaining in secure care usually about 18 months before being considered for their first release to a community placement.

SJO youth are assessed upon intake to the secure juvenile facilities in the same ways as all other youth and are eligible to participate in most of the same programming. A few specific programs such as those requiring off-grounds participation (i.e. sports) may not be available to SJO youth, depending on their security status. Programming is determined by each individual's treatment needs. Treatment goals are identified at the initial planning conference and may be modified as needed in subsequent planning conferences. Release planning begins at the initial planning conference and modified as needed through the course of the youth's secure stay.

SJO youth may be released to all types of resources including parental/relative homes, foster homes, group homes and residential care centers. SJO youth may be adults upon release and therefore independent living and other adult services placements may be utilized. Should violations of after-care supervision occur, SJO youth may be returned to secure care for additional programming (SJO-B youth must not have already been in secure care for more than 1095 days). Funding for SJO cases comes from the State of WI --not out of county Youth Aids budgets.

SJO – A Age: 10

Offenses: 1st Degree Intentional Homicide, Attempted 1st Degree Intentional Homicide, 1st Degree Reckless Homicide and 2nd Degree Intentional Homicide. Court Order Timeframe: Until age 25.

SJO – B Age: 14

Offenses: Felony Murder, 2nd Degree Reckless Homicide, Mayhem, 1st Degree Sexual Assault, Taking Hostages, Kidnapping, Tampering with Household Products Causing Death, Arson, Burglary While Armed, OMVWOC While Armed, Robbery with Use of Weapon or Threat of Use of Weapon, Attempted Robbery with Use of Weapon or Threat of Use of Weapon, Sexual Assault of a Child, Repeated Sexual Assault of the Same Child, Abduction of a Child by Force or Threat of Force. Court Order Timeframe: 5 years, maximum of 3 years total in secure care (Type 1).

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Subculture Corner

*Stephen Blue, Chair
Dane County Youth Gang Prevention Task Force*

The Dane County area continues to be plagued by the presence of gang activity. The level of gang graffiti citywide is at levels unseen in my lifetime. At our April 14, 2008, Dane County Youth Gang Prevention Task Force meeting, discussion focused on the increased levels of gang activity in the area and our collective concerns about the growing tensions between groups. Black vs. Latino posturing has been on the rise. The discussion was designed to get our community mobilized for the summer months ahead. Within two days of the Task Force meeting, we had an incident at the South Transfer Point involving Latin Kings and Gangster Disciples. One young man's injuries were severe enough to require hospitalization.



South Park Street

Those of us in the know, who can read the graffiti posted around the city, can see it is becoming increasingly aggressive in its tone, challenges, and message. A majority of the most recent postings came from CPAs, SSL, C14 and MS-13.



Park Street

As a community, we must continue to provide safe, structured, prevention alternatives for youth, intervention/outreach service for the truly disenfranchised youth who see no other opportunities, and maintain a solid suppression strategy) to reduce violence and ensure community safety.

The entire Madison community, at this important time, must demonstrate a collective sense of racial tolerance and the Black and Latino communities must come together to educate our children on our common struggles, that should unify, rather than divide. Then we must quickly act to bring to light and justice those who continue to spread divisive messages and acts.



Aberg Avenue

Efforts by the County Executive's office in supporting the Enhanced Youth Gang Task Force recommendation are steps in the right direction. Efforts include related employment skills, competency development and a new youth and young adult employment initiative.

The recent Madison Urban League State of Black Madison Report 2000 states and reaffirms what many of us have been saying for some time: Madison and Dane County are struggling to meet the challenges of its growing diversity. The youth gang situation is just one alarm in a potential five-alarm situation.

Recent Local Youth Gang Trends

- The choking game is back. (Kids play choking games to get high).
- Gang related burglary rings have been in action.
- Increased gun play in disputes.
- Vice Lords are displaying a higher profile.
- Recruitment is very active.



Pflaum Road



Spotlight on Youth

Juvenile Offender

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For either of the previous categories to apply, the judge must make the standard correctional findings (offense is punishable by incarceration of 6 months or more as an adult; youth represents a danger to self/others and is in need of restrictive custodial care; less restrictive alternatives have been considered; reasonable efforts were made to prevent removal or were not possible due to the seriousness of the offense). The judge must also find that SJO status is appropriate for the particular youth.

Currently, Dane County has 19 SJO-B youth in corrections. The seventeen males range in age from 16 to 21. Their committing offenses include: Robbery (13), Sexual Assault of a Child (2), 1st Degree Sexual Assault (1) and Mayhem (1). The two females, ages 19 and 20, were both committed for Robbery.

Tyler Miller Wins Youth Excellence Award

Eighteen year old Tyler Miller recently won the Tony Maggiore Youth Excellence Award. He was nominated by Operation Fresh Start... the following is an excerpt from their letter:

Tyler has already faced and overcome a variety of obstacles to become a responsible and productive young adult with a bright future ahead of him. When Tyler came to Operation Fresh Start at the age of 16, he was living in a group home, involved in the juvenile justice system, and not attending school. In the course of the 1 ½ years that Tyler participated in the OFS program, he successfully completed two AmeriCorps terms of service, working on crews to help build several affordable homes for families in his community, and earned his HSED (High School Equivalency Diploma). During his time at OFS, Tyler began to focus on his future, becoming a positive leader on his crew and a good role model for his peers. He is now employed full time at a local lumber yard and will shortly be earning his driver's license.

Tyler made the transition from being a young person running the streets with his friends and making poor choices, to becoming a responsible and contributing member of society that he—and those around him—can be proud of.



Tyler Miller receives Youth Excellence Award



Spotlight on Youth

Introducing Nathena Smith

By Sheri Gatts

Nathena Smith is a delightful young woman who volunteers each month when the Allied Community Youth Court meets to hear juvenile cases referred from Madison Municipal Court. Nathena has been an exceptional volunteer with the Youth Court for the past two years, since she was in the 8th grade. "I like to help with Youth Court so kids get another chance," she explains. "It feels good to help the community."

This remarkable young lady also helps Allied Youth Court in other ways. She has recruited two of her siblings and her boyfriend, who now volunteer with Youth Court, too. She was part of a team presenting a workshop at a Restorative Justice Conference in Wisconsin Dells in May 2008 about how the Youth Court uses circle sentencing. She has also spoken with the media (newspaper and video) about her involvement with Youth Court on multiple occasions. She is an outstanding ambassador for the Allied Community Youth Court, which is administered by Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin, Inc.

Nathena is the fourth child in a family with 9 children – five boys and four girls. She is also the proud aunt of a beauti-

ful, 18 month old niece named Diamond. She loves children and thinks she would enjoy being an elementary school teacher some day. In the meantime, she also enjoys doing hair – her own, her sisters and her mother's. Nathena is in the choir at West High School and loves to sing. She has been known to invite a few special people to her choir



Nathena Smith

concerts. It is a treat to hear her lovely voice, either as part of the choir, or just when she's feeling happy and singing to herself.

When Nathena was only 12 years old, she tried to take some lip gloss from a grocery store without paying for it. She had never done anything like that before. She hasn't done anything like it since either. She was referred to Youth Court by Judge Daniel Koval in Municipal Court. When she appeared in Youth Court, she was obviously embarrassed about what she had done and was very remorseful. Part of her sentence was to serve three sessions of jury duty. She liked being a part of Youth Court so much that she decided to continue as a

volunteer. Who knew that she would become a star volunteer in just two short years?

The two people she admires the most in her life are her mother, Lisa; and her older sister, Destiny. Nathena gets along well with her siblings and you can see right away that the younger siblings look up to her and want to be like her. She tries hard to set a good example. Family is extremely important to Nathena and she loves spending time with her family and doing special things with them. Some day she would "love to go to Miami, Florida with her family, and stop off in Orlando to visit Disney World." What a great trip that would be!

Life has not always been easy for Nathena. Growing up in a large family can be exciting, but also a challenge. She says that the most difficult thing she ever experienced was watching her parents separate when she was about 10 years old. It was a very difficult time for her. Her father and other extended family live in the Chicago area, so she doesn't get to see them as much as she would like.

Nathena is a delight to work with on the Youth Court. The past two years have been a time of growth for her in many ways. She may not be exactly sure yet where she is headed in life, but once she makes up her mind, she will undoubtedly be headed in the right direction. It will be fun to see where she is 20 years from now.

On Balance

NIP

Continued from Page 1

• **Joe Thomas Positive Image**

Award: Kay DeWaide

• **Gene Weidemann Award:**

Marybeth Wilk and Rhonda Voigt

• **Competency Builder Award:**

Beth Gentilli

• **Community Leadership**

Award: Reverend Rick Jones and

Johnny Winston, Jr.

• **Right Track Teen of the Year:**

Regina McClarn

• **DCNIP Staff of Year:** Tamiko

Dixon and Shelly Gnewikow

The Madison Spartans award banquet, held at O'Keefe Middle School on March 28th, was attended by over 200 players, parents, coaches, staff, and community members. Award recipients for the 2008 Madison Spartans Banquet include:

• **Spartan 4-C Award Recipients:** Malcolm Wilson and Timaira Green

• **Community Support Awards:** Genesis Development Corporation, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County

• **Rubin Award Recipients:**

Over 45 students were presented with a Rubin Award at the Spartan's Banquet in recognition of obtaining a 3.0 GPA or above. The Rubin Award is named in honor of the late Spartan's coach, Peter Rubin, and is presented by Dennis McClain, Barb Rubin (widow) and James Rubin (son).

In addition to the award presentations and dinner, attendees had the pleasure of watching former Madison Spartans players compete in the D.C.N.I.P Alumni basketball game. Alumni game MVP was Louis

Monroe, former Madison West star and Indiana University alumnus who currently plays for the European League. Reggie Gaddis, former West High star who previously played for the Rockford Bobcats won the award for Best Pass, and Most 3-Pointers Award went to Brian Kennedy. Festivities continued into the evening hours, with over 50 youth taking part in the dance following the alumni game. The anniversary weekend was capped off with a basketball tournament that drew teams in from as far as Milwaukee and Beloit.

D.C.N.I.P.'s vision to promote a positive impact on family, community, education, and life by redirecting the behaviors of at-risk youth was the focal point of the 20th Anniversary Celebration weekend. Through its Early Intervention and Community Supervision programs, D.C.N.I.P. has worked to successfully redirect youth by holding them accountable, building youth competencies, and protecting the community. This 20th anniversary marked a milestone for the program and celebrated a legacy of valuable work and service to our community.



DCNIP Director Stephen Blue speaks at the Right Track Banquet



Right Track Teen of the Year Award winner Regina McClarn accepts her award and gifts from Director Stephen Blue



Coach Reggie Gaddis' 7th grade boys Madison Spartans Basketball team receives awards



Madison Spartans Basketball 5th grade boys team receives awards

On Balance

Director Stephen Blue, Dennis McClain and Coach Stacy Williams with the Madison Spartans Basketball Alumni Team



Coaches Melissa Garecht and Laurence Ward with the 4th/5th grade girls Madison Spartans Basketball team



Right Track Second Chance group members receive awards from Program Leader James Rumph and Social Worker Bobby Moore



Sennett Middle School Latina Pride group members receive awards at the DCNIP Right Track Awards Banquet



Coaches Steven Blue and Shelton Kingcade with Spartans Cup Award winner



Coach Meredith Forsterling's 7th grade girls Madison Spartans Basketball team receives awards



Coach Stacy Williams' 8th grade girls Madison Spartans team receives awards



Youth Worker Sharon Hardiman waits patiently in the crowded buffet line at the Right Track Banquet



Coach Stacy Williams poses with Spartans Cup Award winner Timaira Green



Madison Spartans Basketball Warrior Award winners