



On Balance

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

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Will 17-Year-Olds Return to Juvenile Court?

By Rhonda Voigt

In 1995, the WI Legislature passed Act 27, requiring adult criminal court jurisdiction for anyone over the age of 17 who is alleged to have committed a law violation. This change in the law was brought about as a response to the predicted rise in the rates of crimes committed by young people. Beginning in 1996, 17-year-olds who commit law violations are judged in adult court, face adult consequences and receive adult records when found guilty. They had previously be subject to juvenile court findings and the attached protections including confidential proceedings and records.

The predicted rise in crime committed by young people did not occur. Statistics across the nation during this period indicate crime rates for this population decreased or remained static. In response to possibility that

17-year olds may be returned to the juvenile court system in WI, DCDHS supervisor David Thorson researched the Dane County data on 17-year-olds from 1998-2005 via the Office of Justice Assistance – Statistical Analysis Center. He found that although the population of 17-year-olds grew 9% during that period, total arrests for this group decreased by 26%. A closer look reveals that arrests for violent crimes committed by 17-year-olds decreased by 75% and arrests for drug offenses decreased by 23%. Arrest for property offenses remained stable during this period.

Over the last decade there has been a significant amount of brain development research. This body of research indicates that the adolescent brain is undergoing substantial change that impacts cognition and emotion as well as behavior. One researcher, Dr. Jay N. Giedd from the National Institute of Mental Health published an article in the Journal of Adolescent Health (April 2008) that describes these changes: “The Teen Brain: Insights from Neuroimaging”. Dr Geidd reviews the results of a longitudinal study of MRI brain scans. It is noted that this period of brain

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The Inaugural Rising Stars Gang Intervention Program

By Aaron Perry,
Dane County Neighborhood
Intervention Program

This past summer, the Neighborhood Intervention Gang Squad launched the Rising Stars summer program aimed at helping gang involved youth learn ways to make a positive contribution to the community.

The group began with seven youth from NIP and Centro Hispano from rival gangs. Each had extensive law enforcement contact during the school year and served time in Dane County Detention for two or more weeks. Charges included numerous substantial battery and weapon offenses.

With clear expectations set, the goals of the Rising Stars program were achieved with *phenomenal success*. The American Red Cross was the community agency that embraced the young men and brought them into their organization without prejudice. For 8 weeks the young men volunteered with the grounds crew to help improve the grounds and garden.

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

MMSD Initiates Middle School Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports

By
Dennis Whitish, Madison
Metropolitan School District

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) emphasizes a school-wide system of support to include proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors. MMSD launched this new initiative in middle schools during second semester of the 2007-08 school year. Instead of relying on behavior plans unique to each school, PBIS is a behaviorally-based system geared to enhance the ability of schools, families, and communities to design effective environments that improve the link between research-validated practices and the environments in which teaching and learning occurs. The focus of PBIS is to create and support primary (school-wide), secondary (classroom), and tertiary (individual) systems of support that improve student behavior.

Ten MMSD middle schools have either a part-time or full-time school-based PBIS coach. The responsibility of the PBIS coach is to facilitate the use of pro-active, preventive strategies in the schools, collect and interpret patterns and trends of behavioral data and establish and support school-wide systems for en-

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Dane County Focus Program - What's Happening?

By Rhonda Voigt

St. Charles Inc., in collaboration with Dane County Human Services, opened the Dane County Focus Program in January 2007. Located near Lake Mendota on the grounds of Mendota Mental Health Institute, it is the first residential care center program for teen males in Dane County. Director Cathy Franklin was consulted regarding the differences between our Dane County Focus program and the Focus program in Milwaukee.

Ms. Franklin points out that the Dane County Focus program differs from Milwaukee's program in many ways. For school, the Dane County Focus school day is held at the Neighborhood Intervention Program building rather than at the residential facility. The academic approach is one of team teaching (two teachers) in order to more productively address the wide range of educational needs presented by the young men. Fall activities include an increase in school field trips and new recreational options, in addition to the traditional favorite, basketball.

Dane County Focus offers continuum of care services by contracting with Will Green at Mentoring Positives. Will assists Focus youth with learning and displaying positive social skills by looking for jobs, participating in positive recreational activities and working in various community service projects (i.e. Wilmar, Johnnie Winston Basketball Tournament). Mr. Green can continue to work with the young men during and after their transition back to their family homes.

Other differences between the St. Charles Milwaukee program and Focus Dane County include the following: Focus Dane County has an art therapist on the unit on a weekly basis. Focus Dane County residents work on

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Editorial Board:

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Editor:

Stephen Blue, DCDHS

Comments? Call Dawn

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

On Balance

What Goes Around, Comes Around

The Maturation of Competency Development in Dane County

By David Thorson

In 1997 the first Work Group Report on Competency Development was created in response to the county adopting the balanced and restorative justice model for addressing juvenile delinquency. Along with Accountability and Community Protection, Competency Development was seen as one of the three primary areas that need intervention in order to successfully impact and reduce juvenile crime.



*Dave Thorson, DCDHS
Social Work Supervisor*

The ensuing years saw the advent of a number of initiatives, including the development and utilization of a standardized delinquency assessment tool, creation of a Comprehensive Strategy initiative, the initiation of the Juvenile Delinquency Supervision Coordination Team, the Rapid Response team, CASE, the Gang Squad, expansion of NIP supervision services, a report on Disproportionate Minority Contacts, Parent Assisted Supervision, and a variety of other efforts focused primarily on accountability and community protection.

Competency Development was the last to be comprehensively addressed, in large part because it is the most difficult to define and measure. In 2007 the original work group report was revisited and found to be still relevant. A committee spearheaded by Connie Bettin of DCDHS set about revising and refining it with a goal of integrating competency de-

velopment more fully into case planning and service provision to youth and families. The revised tool was rolled out last May. It includes a form to be filled out with all youth at the intake stage where they are asked to rate themselves in a number of areas of their lives, and set goals for what they want to work on during their time on court supervision. Copies of these surveys will be sent to service providers, who will be

expected to file regular Uniform Report Forms to address the competencies identified as needing improvement. Over the course of supervision, the assigned delinquency social worker will review the competency skills form with the youth to assess progress.

As with all new initiatives, there have been bumps along the road toward full implementation. The original survey form was too cumbersome, so it is now in the process of being refined. In the near future the form will be completed on line using a web based program which will make the sharing of information between providers significantly easier. The length of time for completion has been problematic at times and for some youth with cognitive limitations, the form has been difficult to understand. And of course because we are dealing with teens who sometimes have authority problems, some youth have

outright refused to fill it out. Although none of these concerns has the smell of failure for the initiative, they do illustrate the challenge of getting it fully incorporated into the practice of DCDHS staff and providers.

Adolescents who hit juvenile court find themselves at a critical crossroads in their lives. Successful intervention to redirect them to prosocial behaviors rather than a life of crime requires collaboration between parents/families, social workers, the courts, schools, service providers, and the rest of a youth's circle of support. The competency development tool is just that: a means of identifying strengths to be built upon and areas needing skill enhancement. Accountability and community protection are necessary to keep people safe and let kids know there are consequences for their actions. But the old adage about feeding someone a fish and they eat for a day vs teaching them how to fish and they will eat for life holds true. Without teaching youth the skills to make better decisions and instilling in them a belief in their own ability to do better, we are not doing everything necessary to prevent future delinquency.

Dane County has the opportunity to position itself on the cutting edge of juvenile justice programming in the state and the nation. For all the challenges youth encounter and that our system faces, exciting new initiatives such as competency development should serve to inspire, enhance, and give new meaning to what we do. If nothing else, consider it an investment in everyone's future.

On Balance

A Tale of Two Sups

by David Thorson

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.....wait, I think that opening has already been taken. Suffice to say, Dane County Human Services lost two outstanding supervisors this year when Paula Proctor retired and Kristen Ryan left to become director of Family Court Counseling. Those losses were quickly nullified, however, by the hiring of Debbie Vieaux and Sarah Thomas as their replacements. This is the story of their meteoric ascent to the pinnacle of power, hereon to be known as Deb and Sarah's Excellent Adventure.

Debbie Vieaux became supervisor of the Stoughton Office in January 2008. With the subsequent system reorganization into three service pods, she soon morphed into the Delinquency Supervisor for the combined Stoughton-Sun Prairie Offices.

Debbie started with Dane County in 1990 as a social worker at Badger Prairie in the locked psychiatric unit. By 1992, having been thoroughly broken in to the unique ways of Dane County, she moved on to Alternatives to Incarceration where she stayed until 1998 when she became a child protection social worker for Dane County Human Services. Shortly afterward, she became a delinquency specialist when the county specialized its social work staff. Along the way she managed to acquire a Masters Degree in Rehabilitation Psychology and a family which consists of her husband Doug and daughter Grace.

Debbie was raised in Freedom, Wisconsin and attended UW-Madison for her undergrad degree. She was a case manager for Tellurian before joining Dane County. She knows how to throw a great wine tasting party and

her annual summer gala has become legendary among friends and co-workers. Deb enjoys gardening and travel, with a 10 day trip to Greece being a recent highlight.

The greatest challenge to her new position is trying to supervise staff in three different offices. Oh, I guess I failed to mention that in addition to having workers in the Stoughton and Sun Prairie Offices, she also supervises a social worker in the Focus



Debbie Vieaux and Sarah Thomas

program and the agency Corrections liaison, both of whom have offices in the NIP building.

Like Ms. Vieaux, Sarah Thomas also began her association with DCDHS in 1998, in this case as an LTE with the Neighborhood Intervention Program. She also did her undergrad internship there. Sarah's first full time employment resembling a real job was as a Special Education Assistant for Madison schools, which she did for one school year. In 1999 she was hired as an LTE in Dane County's ARTT unit and then was hired full time as an ARTT social worker the following year. Sarah was integral to the development of the Focus program and was the initial ARTT social worker assigned to the program. She became the ARTT

Supervisor a few months ago. In that role she supervises the Kinship program as well as the remaining ARTT social workers.

Sarah found her way to Madison early in life, having moved here at age 4 from Minnesota – and no, she is not a Vikings fan in case any of you are worried about her loyalties. She got her undergraduate degree from UW-Whitewater and her masters from UW-Madison. The twin lights of her life are her daughters, ages 18 and 4. She decompresses by spending quality time with her kids whether that's taking walks, going on picnics, or just hanging out together. She is also a voracious reader, with I'm told an affinity for mysteries.

Sarah hopes to enhance the role of the Kinship social workers by encouraging them to take on a more support/advocacy function with families. As terrific a job as the ARTT workers have done to limit the use of residential care placements, Sarah would like to continue to challenge workers to help reduce these numbers. This will require developing creative resources to maintain community based placements – not an easy goal in this era of tight budgets.

Both Debbie and Sarah hit the ground running. There is no such thing as a slow and easy transition these days, but both have proven up to the task. I know they were probably disappointed not to have received a call from John McCain to be his running mate, but are undoubtedly more satisfied toiling just a tad farther from the limelight. In their relatively short time as supervisor, it has already been an excellent adventure and a far, far better thing they do than they have ever done.....

On Balance

MMSD

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couraging positive behavior. PBIS encourages each school to develop between 3 to 5 universal expectations that are defined and posted. A universal teaching matrix is developed to help students understand what is expected in various school settings, i.e., hallways, lunchroom, playground, bathrooms, etc. Staff develop behavioral lesson plans for universal expectations that explain each expectation and why they are needed. Teachers check for student understanding, staff model expectations as well as examples of unacceptable expectations. Staff buy-in as well as student buy-in is critical. Positive rewards/reinforcement are used heavily during the initial implementation of the program.

This initiative is under the direction of Nancy Yoder, Director of Student Services and Alternatives Programs. Ongoing support and staff development is provided by Rachel Saladis, District Coach. According to Ms. Saladis, preliminary data is showing a decrease in behavioral referrals as well as a decrease in targeted behavioral situations such as tardiness and inappropriate hallway behavior.

Focus - Continued from Page 2

physical fitness by running at least two mornings per week. The young men are developing portfolios that include nightly journaling and work sheets on such topics as self-image and black history. Youth may do extra chores to earn payment of victim witness fees, restitution and fines. Finally, upon return home from Focus, Dane County youth start out on electronic monitoring and intensive supervision with the Neighborhood Intervention Program.

Last June, Focus held their first Recognition Ceremony at the recreation hall on the grounds of MMHI. The young men and staff at Focus planned and executed the entire event. The hall was beautifully decorated. The young men were well-dressed and well-spoken. Young men who have completed Focus programming including the aftercare supervision period, those youth still on community supervision and the young men currently in the residential portion of the program were recognized for their positive achievements.

A few Focus Dane County demographics to date: 28 young men have been accepted into the program (23 African American, 2 Hispanic, 3 White). Five have successfully completed the entire program (3 African American, 1 Hispanic, 1 White). One African American youth had his aftercare supervision terminated early so he could move out of state with his family. Thirteen youth are currently on aftercare supervision or in the residential portion of the Focus program (12 African American, 1 Hispanic). Nine young men have had their stay of juvenile corrections lifted and have been placed in secure care (7 African American, 2 White).

Ms. Franklin reports that overall, Dane County Focus has been able to flex its programming to meet the needs of the youth they have at any one time. As Dane County Focus continues to evolve, On Balance will stay in touch and share updates.

Ethan Allen and Lincoln Hills Schools Have Programs for Boys

The Division of Juvenile Corrections has recently made some changes in their provision of AODA programming to males committed to secure institutions. As always, they screen for AOD treatment needs at intake. Young men who score in the concerns range will be further assessed. Following the AOD assessment, those with dependency diagnoses will receive treatment at Lincoln Hills School in their 12-16 week program. Young men with abuse diagnoses will receive programming at Ethan Allen School in a 7 week program. This change may result in a transfer between institutions. Please direct any questions to Rhonda Voigt, 288-2425.

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Juvenile Court

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development may last into the mid-20's. Impulsivity, high risk taking and inability to consider consequences until after the fact are common while the brain is making critical connections.

Research completed by the WI Council on Children & Families ("Risking Their Futures: Why trying nonviolent 17-year-olds as adults is bad policy for WI"; "Rethinking the 'Juvenile' in Juvenile Justice"; www.wccf.org) and the UW Madison LaFollette School for Public Affairs ("Treatment of Juveniles in the WI Criminal Court System; report 08-3; www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab) indicates that trying youth in adult courts creates more crime since the recidivism rates for 17-year-olds tried in adult court are much higher than the recidivism rates for teens who remain in juvenile court. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention released the August 2008 bulletin "Juvenile Transfer Laws: An Effective Deterrent to Delinquency?" (www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org) indicating that the practice of transferring juveniles to adult court has not been a deterrent to criminal activity. The above articles confirm that there are fewer services available in the adult jail and prison systems, including educational programming and treatment services for mental health and alcohol/drug problems. Disproportionate minority confinement is a further concern in that minority 17-year-olds more often receive sentences including confinement in jail or prison and are least often accepted into deferred prosecution.

In the 2007 WI legislative session, bills were introduced in both the Senate (SB 401) and the Assembly (AB 746) advocating return of 17-year-olds to juvenile court. Neither bill was passed. It appears the major stumbling block to passage of this legislation was lack of agreement on how to fund it. Expect that similar legislation will be introduced in the 2008 session. Passage may again hinge upon whether there is agreement between the parties and the houses on how this change will be funded. The question does not seem to be whether 17-year-olds will return to the juvenile justice system but when this will occur. Should legislation pass during the coming session, 17-year-olds could return to the juvenile justice arena as soon as 2010.

Rising Stars

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Each youth had perfect attendance and showed the utmost respect to the staff and blood donors who visited the Red Cross. The American Red Cross provided letters of recognition to each youth and extended an invitation to return as a full-time volunteer after their 16th birthday.

As adults, we need to take more leadership and mentorship roles in these young people's lives. What I experienced this summer as group facilitator convinced me more than ever that these youth have real character. We just need to help them realize this.

Hold the date for...

Next year's **YOUTH SUBCULTURES CONFERENCE**

...Bringing you national and local presenters to address a variety of current issues and trends relating to youth.

When? May 8, 2009

Where? American Family Conference Center



Spotlight on Staff

Meet... Suzanne Stute

Suzanne is the new Community Program Manager with Dane County's Juvenile Court Program.

Suzanne, can you tell us what you've been doing in terms of working with kids in the juvenile justice system for the past 15-20 years?

I began my career as a volunteer counselor with Briarpatch when I was in college completing my undergraduate degree in Sociology with a certificate in Criminal Justice in 1987.

To obtain my Criminal Justice Certificate, I interned at the Youth Restitution Program and was subsequently hired as a Restitution Counselor. I worked at YRP for 3 years and then left to travel. As part of my travels, I lived and worked outside of Austin TX and Bend OR. In Texas, I worked at a wilderness camp for at-risk youth and became certified as a ropes course facilitator. In Oregon I worked at a girls residential treatment program. When I eventually returned to Wisconsin, I enrolled in graduate school to complete my Masters degree in community counseling at UW - Whitewater. I was also hired by the Department of Corrections - SPRITE program. I worked for SPRITE for four years and really enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to take the residents rock climbing, on camping expeditions and working with them on the ropes course.

I was hired as an in home therapist for the Families in Transition (FIT) Program of Family Service in 1998 and was promoted to program Coordinator in 2001. Working for FIT was a great way to interact with kids and families and help them build on their strengths and successfully navigate their way through the juvenile justice system. The FIT Coordinator carries a small caseload



so I was able to continue to work with youth and their families and balance that with my managerial duties.

What interested you in applying for the Community Program Manager position with the Juvenile Court Program?

I worked for Family Service for 10 years and felt it was time for a change and new challenges. As part of my role as the Clinical Coordinator for the FIT program, I routinely a

worked with staff from DCDHS delinquency units and juvenile court. I am very familiar with the juvenile justice system of Dane County and felt that my current skill set would be a good match for the position and would also offer the new challenges I was seeking. I also like that although this is a management position, I still have the opportunity to interact with kids and families on a regular basis.

Do you have some ideas about things you'd like to focus on or accomplish in this first year?

I would like to thoroughly learn the operations of both the Shelter Home and the Home Detention Program. I feel fortunate that both programs have dedicated hard working staff committed to serving the youth of Dane County. I feel that I will be able to best to support them to do their jobs well if I have a comprehensive understanding of both programs.

How do you see the Shelter Home and Home Detention Programs fitting into our overall efforts to develop a system that meets the needs of youth and the community?

I think that both Shelter Home and Home Detention offer solid transition options that act as a bridge that fills the gap in placement or supervision needs as a youth enters the

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ON BALANCE catches up with

Jonathan Barry

The Many Hats of Jonathan Barry

By Sherri Gatts



Jonathan Barry has worn many hats over the years as a lifelong resident of Wisconsin. He is probably best remembered as the Dane County Executive from 1981 through 1987; and he was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1976, 1978 and 1980. When talking with Jonathan, it is obvious that the hat he currently wears as the Development Director of Operation Fresh Start is one he wears with enthusiasm. His part-time position seems to give him a full measure of satisfaction. He started as a volunteer for the agency because he has a real passion for the work they do.

He enjoys being a rainmaker for Operation Fresh Start, an organization that works with at risk youth between the ages of 16 and 24. His job is to find money to keep the local agency going, and to help develop new Operation Fresh Start programs around the state. There are currently 17 Operation Fresh Start organizations in 12 different communities in

Wisconsin. They are thriving in urban, inner city and rural settings.

The agency's focus is on "building people and houses". The goal is to have youth leave Operation Fresh Start having completed their secondary education credentials and/or achieving a basic skills competency. Of all young people enrolled in Fresh Start, 80% successfully complete the goals of the program of obtaining self-supporting employment or entering post-secondary education.

Another of his recent activities is working on a task force with the United Way and community leaders in recognizing and developing responses to the shifting demographics of Dane County. These changes are evident in racial diversity as well as socioeconomically. Studies indicate that currently as many as 3,000-4,000 disconnected youth are in the metro area—these are young people who are of school age but who are not in school, not holding a job and not seriously seeking one. Many of these youth are involved with the juvenile justice system.

Since 1987 Jonathan has been co-owner and President of Tyrol Basin Ski Resort located outside of Mt. Horeb. He has also operated a family beef and produce farm in Primrose Township since 1970. Over the past 30 years, he has bred a herd of angus-cross beef in a grass fed, all natural and sustainable manner. Jonathan was a creator, organizer and the first manager of the Dane County Farmers Market on the Square from 1973 to 1981. It is apparent that agricultural issues will continue to be important to him.

Jonathan also has a keen interest in environmental concerns. He is currently working with Agrecol Corporation founded in 1991 as a small seed company and now the second largest producer of native grasses in the United States. The company uses the waste from seedpods to produce biomass pellets that can replace other heating sources. "Conservation is probably the most important thing that we can do," he stated when talking about the energy crisis and the need for more efficient and renewable sources of energy.

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On Balance

Common Wealth Development Helps Youth

By Tariq Pasha, Youth Programs Director

Stute

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juvenile justice system. It gives the court and social workers options for supervision services while additional programming is considered. Sometimes a placement in Shelter or with Home Detention is enough to give a youth a strong message about making better decisions in the community that helps them turn it around and work their way successfully through their court order without further intensive services.



Chassidy Byrd hanging clothes at Marshall's

Since 1991, Common Wealth Development has provided over 6,000 youth with programs that enable them to develop employment and money management skills, explore careers, and have access to job opportunities and earned income. Our Youth-Business Mentoring Program provides employment and financial education, job placements, and mentoring to low-income and at-risk teens, ages 14 to 16. We help teens build a connection between doing well in school and succeeding in their eventual careers, learn employment and

financial skills, develop self-confidence and leadership abilities, gain access to job opportunities, and connect with adult mentors.

The recent Youth Employment Initiative launched by Dane County has had a tremendous impact on our program. County funding has enabled us to expand our program, not only in the numbers of youth we serve, but also in our geographic focus. Our Youth-Business Mentoring Program now operates in the four primary public Madison high schools as well as in Sun Prairie High School.

At our first training on the west side of Madison, 97 teens applied for 15 spots in our Youth-Business Mentoring Program. These are youth who not only need, but clearly want program-

ming. It is incumbent upon us as a community to continue to pay attention and to invest in high quality teen

employment programs. Programs like our Youth-Business Mentoring Program provide positive and rewarding ways for teens to engage in their lives and their communities. They provide constructive alternatives to many negative youth behaviors and gang-related activities, thereby improving the general health and safety of our neighborhoods. We very much hope that in 2009 we will be able to expand our Youth-Business Mentoring Program even further to address the demonstrated demand for our program.



County Executive Falk & Antoinette Clark



County Executive Falk & Terrell Coleman



Demetrius Bell bringing in carts at Metcalfe's Sentry

On Balance

Barry

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Reflecting on his tenure as the Dane County Executive, Jonathan talked about changes he witnessed. “There was a spurt of collaboration in those years,” he noted. The airport, the zoo, job training, general relief, and the 911 Center were all moved from city to county oversight. The geriatric portion of the Dane County Nursing Home was closed permanently during those years, and the money was redirected to help the elderly stay in their homes with community support.

Jonathan commended Dane County Human Services on the great job they are doing working in this time of reduced resources. Citing years of declining federal and state support, he noted that the “Human Services delivery system in Dane County appears to be in great stress.” He noted that this stress also affects the non-profit, purchase-of-service network in the county.

When asked if he would consider being involved again in local politics, he made it clear that he has “no intention of running for political office again.” Given all the good things that Jonathan is involved in these days, it is hard to imagine him being any busier, or giving any more of his time and talents to his community. He seems very content to be working behind the scenes to make a difference in the lives of Dane County youth and their families.

NIP News

By Andre Johnson

Dane County Neighborhood Intervention Program (DCNIP) held its 7th annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament and picnic in August. Youth from several local programs participated including DCNIP, Dane County Shelter Home, St. Charles’ Focus Program, Mentoring Positives, Akasha Group Home, Horizon House Group Home and Thoreau Group Home. Approximately 75-100 youth enjoyed a beautiful day at Olbrich Park with basketball, volleyball, horseshoes, badminton, croquet, and food served up by NIP staff.



NIP Activities

On Balance

Catch-Up Bin

Announcements:

- Former Dane County Sheriff Deputy, Trish Bishop, recently resigned after 8 ½ years as a Community Deputy. She accepted a position at Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire as Faculty Member in the two year Criminal Justice Program.
- Wisconsin Division of Juvenile Corrections Administrator, Charles Tubbs, accepted the position of Chief of the Capitol Police Force. He started on September 1st.
- Sarah Thomas, a long-time DCDHS Social Worker, was promoted to Supervisor of the ARTT Unit. Sarah replaced Kristen Ryan, who left DCDHS for the position of Director of Family Counseling. (See article on page 4.)
- Debra Vieaux, a long-time DCDHS Social Worker, was promoted to Supervisor. Deb now supervises both Delinquency Services Social Worker Units in the newly formed Eastern Pod serving Sun Prairie and Stoughton. (See article on page 4.)

Publications:

Urban League of Dane County – State of Black Madison Report

Link: http://www.ulgm.org/news/Documents/State_of_Black_Madison_2008_web.pdf

United Way of Dane County – Disconnected and Violent Youth Report

Link: http://www.unitedwaydanecounty.org/documents/DDVY_Mobilization_plan.pdf

The Schott 50 State Report on Public Education and Black Males

Link: <http://www.blackboysreport.org/files/schott50staterreport-execsummary.pdf>

Wisconsin Council on Children & Families – “Risking Their Futures – Why Trying Non-Violent 17-year-olds is Bad Policy for Wisconsin”.

Link: http://www.wccf.org/pdf/risking_their_futures.pdf

Miscellaneous:

- DCNIP Fall 2008 Cycle Programming is now posted online.
Link: [EISU Fall 2008.htm](http://www.dcnip.org/EISU_Fall_2008.htm)
- Wisconsin County Human Services Association recently conducted an all County survey to estimate the cost of returning 17-year-olds to Juvenile Court.
- Dane County Youth Gang Prevention Task Force Rapid Response Board is now in operation.
- Conference Announcement: “And Justice for All: Creating a Safe and Inclusive Community” – YMCA/MPD on October 16th and 17th at the Sheraton Hotel.