



On Balance

Dane County Department of Human Services & Dane County Juvenile Court Program Publication

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Farewell to John Bauman

Juvenile Court Administrator Set to Retire in January 2025

By Amanda Wiza

If you are a regular reader to this newsletter, you have some sort of stake with youth and juvenile justice in our community. If this rings true, you most certainly have heard of, met or worked with John Bauman. John has been a cornerstone of the Dane County Juvenile Court Program for the past two decades. As Dane County Juvenile Court Administrator, John supervises the Dane County Juvenile Reception Center, Dane County Juvenile Detention Center and the Dane County Shelter Home.

Taking on the position in 2008, John has worked with many Dane County employees within Human

Services and Juvenile Court and has been a driving force behind countless achievements that have benefited the youth of Dane County.



John Bauman, Juvenile Court Administrator, right

John came to Dane County Juvenile Court with a social work degree and background, having previously worked as a group home counselor, intensive supervision counselor, case manager and then program manager for Dane County Shelter Home and the Dane County Home Detention Program. John's variety of experiences working directly with court-involved youth, management of youth programming and

dedication to educating others about the trials and tribulations youth face in our community made him an ideal candidate for the position.

In addition to his administrative duties, John has also contributed much to educating others about the juvenile court process and resources in our community, helping individuals, parents and other organizations understand the complex workings of the court system through outreach. One of John's most enduring qualities is his ability to demystify the court process and trigger compassion in others with the reminder that at the end of each day, the youth we work with are children who have made mistakes and need our empathy and support. Over the years, John helped to train Dane County Juvenile Court judges, employees and interns. He was the familiar face headlining the monthly Judge's Meetings.

John is also well known for creating a supportive work environment for his employees, in a field often riddled with the unexpected. "There was never a crisis that seemed too big to handle when John was there to help," explained JRC colleague Bert Schaetz, describing how John has his own unique way of commanding respect and an ability to address any problem. JRC colleague Jake Aslakson sees himself as "lucky" to have experienced John as a supervisor. "I would say having John as my boss was transformative. He was always knowledgeable, helpful and supportive both personally and professionally." John cared deeply about his employees and was always there with advice and eager to promote their professional development.

John's retirement milestone was celebrated on September 24, 2024, at the Dane County Juvenile Detention Center, where current and former employees, colleagues and, in true John fashion, Dane County youth were able to honor John during a luncheon. On behalf of On Balance and the entire Dane County juvenile justice community, we extend our heartfelt gratitude and warmest wishes to John in his retirement. Thank you, John, for your unwavering commitment to youth and steady contribution to improving youth outcomes. Happy Retirement!

New Program Available at Juvenile Detention Center

By Olivia Dupasquier



The Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) is debuting a new program in 2025, created at the request of Honorable Judge Mitchell. "ATTA" stands for the four phases of the program: Assessment, Treatment, Transition, and Aftercare. JDC Interim Superintendent Albert Watson and Juvenile Court Worker Ryan have spent time observing and learning from long-term programs out of Milwaukee, Rock, and Racine counties to create something tailored to the needs of Dane County youth. This program seeks to keep youth out of correctional settings like Copper Lake or Lincoln Hills. For this reason, youth with a high risk of being placed at these facilities may be enrolled in the program.

ATTA is designed to span six months, with assessment lasting for four weeks and transition/treatment lasting for 10 weeks; aftercare will fill the remaining time.

Youth will be housed at JDC in a separate wing solely for program participants. Daily schedules will mirror that of other youth at JDC and differ mainly during after-school hours. This program will provide youth with access to the community and allow them opportunities for employment, community service, and skill building. Another goal of the program is to expose youth to things in their community that they

have not had the privilege to experience, such as attending a play. ATTA will contract with Anesis for individual and family therapy to support youth in meeting their mental health needs.

ATTA will mimic a group home in offering the potential to earn home visits or overnight visits to spend time with family and in the community. Depending on the phase of the program, there would also be the opportunity for youth to attend their traditional school as well. This program is projected to start late spring or summer of 2025. This start date ensures enough time for hiring, training, and preparing the space. There are plans for furnishing the wing in a way that feels comfortable and relaxing. The designated space is pictured here.

DID YOU KNOW?

Restorative Justice (RJ) Is Expanding Across Youth Justice!

By Jacob Hanifl

You might be asking, “What is Restorative Justice?”

According to the UW-Madison Law School:

Restorative justice is a set of principles and practices that create a different approach to dealing with crime and its impacts. Restorative justice practices work to address the dehumanization frequently experienced by people in the traditional criminal justice system. Instead of viewing a criminal act as simply a violation of a rule or statute, restorative justice sees this action as a violation of people and relationships.

Restorative justice seeks to examine the harmful impact of a crime and then determines what can be done to repair that harm while holding the person who caused it accountable for his or her actions. Accountability for the offender means accepting responsibility and acting to repair the harm done. Outcomes seek to both repair the harm and address the reasons for the offense, while reducing the likelihood of re-offense.

The Expansion of RJ across YJP:

Dane County Youth Justice and Prevention (YJP) has been investing in Restorative Justice (RJ) for several years as a diversion from municipal court systems. In recent years, CYF received an innovation grant to expand these services in collaboration with Briarpatch Youth Services to provide a gateway to diversion from Juvenile Court through the Deferred Prosecution process. African-American youth are involved in the youth justice system at almost seven times the rate of white youth; as a result, RJ can help impact the disproportionate involvement in our county.

In February 2022, attendees of a YJ All Staff meeting participated in a readiness assessment survey created by the Youth Justice Antiracist Workgroup to assess readiness for RJ services throughout YJP. 90.3 percent of respondents disagreed with the statement, “Current Youth Justice practices work well with youth and families and should be left as is.” When asked about RJ, 96.8 percent of respondents believed RJ can change the culture of YJP. Moreover, 96.7 percent were interested in learning more

about RJ. Based on the data that came out of this readiness assessment, YJP Staff expressed their readiness and willingness for a culture shift towards restorative justice.

By way of the readiness assessment, continued evaluation of data, and a collective of leadership and staff, YJP identified an additional need for post-dispositional intervention to further support victims and youth, as well as the training of YJP Staff and system partners on RJ, thus expanding services in 2024 and beyond.

The referral process:

In collaboration with Briarpatch Youth Services, referrals can be made when youth are appropriate for the restorative justice process. Appropriate cases are any case where there is a potential victim(s)/survivor(s). If victims/survivors do not wish to participate, a surrogate may be included. Exclusionary cases are: intrafamilial sexual offenses and youth violence towards caregiver where child abuse has occurred; this could be reconsidered with supervisory, therapist and Briarpatch consultation and approval.

To discuss more about RJ and the referral process, contact the following individuals:

Diversion cases: Rhonda Voigt, Social Work Supervisor in CDU, Voigt.Rhonda@danecounty.gov

Post Disposition cases: Jacob Hanifl, Ongoing Social Worker II in NET, hanifl.jacob@danecounty.gov

Briarpatch Youth Services: Dominique Smith, RJ Coordinator, dd.smith@briarpatch.org

Youth Art Program

By Olivia Dupasquier

Alan Chancellor, a Youth Justice & Prevention program leader, has collaborated with the Dean of Arts at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on multiple occasions to expose youth to the world of art and creativity. Art that youth in the program create has been incorporated into exhibits that have traveled the world. To bring that exhibition back home, the hope is to put on an art display at the Youth Justice & Prevention office. The goal is to have this event for the community and families to participate in a gallery walk-through and highlight the work these young people put into their final pieces.

Youth engaging in this program are first exposed to new places and ideas. Visiting art galleries and studios kicks off this group and opens a conversation about what art is and how everyone can be an artist in their own way. Alan has been supporting these youth from 6th to 9th grade, and, through this group, provides space for relationship building. He works closely with the three middle schools that feed into Memorial High School and provides 8th graders with opportunities to meet fellow incoming students to make the transition to high school less intimidating. Once the group feels comfortable around one another and everyone has tapped into their creative side, youth are paired up to take pictures of each other. They are free to pose in ways they feel comfortable and confident, while learning how to direct others and develop photography skills.

Attending this group long term, they can see their 6th grade self and 9th grade self through the images, but Alan challenges them to also picture their future selves. The boys are then taken to get a haircut and business clothes to take pictures of how they would present themselves when they are older. This experience allows these young men to see themselves positively and professionally and gain confidence in themselves. Alan's work with youth creates space for new interests to flourish and confidence to grow.

NEW! Parent Mentoring Program for YJ

Youth Justice and Prevention (YJP) is excited to announce a new contract between Anesis and YJP. Anesis was awarded the contract for Parent Mentoring Services, which is a contract that will support parents and guardians of youth involved in YJP services. Parents enrolled in this program will be connected to a Parent Mentor and will receive the following through this service:

- The opportunity to have a mentor to listen to their needs as a parent
- Learn new skills to build competencies and increase effective responses to behavioral challenges
- Address unique parenting needs and opportunities for empowerment
- Gain assistance with navigating systems and building competency to navigate systems with increased independence and success
- Avoid out of home placements and work towards reunification

We look forward to supporting parents and caregivers of YJ youth with this service!

Holiday Home Camp

Holiday Home camp is a one-week summer camp for youth ages 2nd grade to 8th grade from low-income families. Camp is divided by age group.

Finances are never an issue – camp should be accessible for everyone. Registration is open as of December 3, 2024. *First session starts June 14, 2025.*

To register, check out the website: <https://lakegenevafreshair.org/registration/>

Located in Williams Bay Lake Geneva area. There is a bus that picks up in Madison.

Registration is a \$25 refundable fee. If you are working with CCS, sometimes they can assist with this fee and other summer camp fees.

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

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