

**CLAY COUNTY COLLABORATIVE GRANT  
Program Report**

**Project/program:** Restorative Justice **Host agency:** Clay County Attorney's Office

**Work group:** Restorative Justice **Today's Date:** 1/30/10

**Person preparing this report:** Charles Kaspari **Dates of Report:** October 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009

**Factor(s) Being Addressed:** Participation in illegal activities

**PART I: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF CHILDREN SERVED**

Gender by Quarter		Gender Year-to-Date (unduplicated)	
Male	22	Male	52
Female	11	Female	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74</b>

Race by Quarter		Race Year-to-Date (unduplicated)	
Native American	1	Native American	1
Asian	0	Asian	2
Hispanic	5	Hispanic	9
Black	0	Black	2
White	26	White	58
Other	1	Other	2
Missing	0	Missing	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74</b>

Age by Quarter		Age Year-to-Date (unduplicated)	
8-9	4	8-9	7
10	5	10	5
11	2	11	2
12	1	12	2
13	3	13	5
14	3	14	9
15	5	15	16
16	3	16	13
17	6	17	12
18	1	18	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74</b>

ZIP Codes by Quarter		ZIP Codes Year-to-Date (unduplicated)	
56514 (Barnesville)	0	56514 (Barnesville)	1
56525 (Comstock)	0	56525 (Comstock)	0
56529 (Dilworth)	2	56529 (Dilworth)	3
56536 (Felton)	0	56536 (Felton)	0
56547 (Glyndon)	1	56547 (Glyndon)	1
56546 (Georgetown)	0	56546 (Georgetown)	0
56549 (Hawley, Rollag)	0	56549 (Hawley, Rollag)	0
56552 (Hitterdal)	0	56552 (Hitterdal)	0
56560 (Moorhead)	28	56560 (Moorhead)	67
56580 (Sabin)	0	56580 (Sabin)	0
56585 (Ulen)	0	56585 (Ulen)	0
Other	2	Other	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74</b>

## **PART II: OUTCOMES**

The Restorative Justice Program contracted with Kathleen J. Bergseth to analyze and report on data collected by the Restorative Justice Program. The following information is a preliminary analysis and report. Data on the recidivism rates of all Restorative Justice participants is collected at the six, twelve, and twenty four month anniversaries of case closure. Currently there is data for the 106 youth served by the Clay County Restorative Justice Program in 2008 and 2009. Data for 75 of those youth is available through the twelve month anniversary.

### Recidivism within 6 Months of case closure

Of the 106 youth for which recidivism data has been collected six months after case closure:

- The majority of youth had not had any new official contact (82%).
- Only 26 new official contacts had been recorded since case closure and six months after (an average of 1.34 contacts among the 19 youth with at least one new contact).
- Only 10% experienced a new misdemeanor, 5% a new felony, and 3% a new status offense.

### Recidivism within 12 Months of case closure

Of the 75 youth for which recidivism data has been collected twelve months after case closure:

- The majority of youth had not had any new official contact (67%).
- Only 40 new official contacts recorded between case closure and twelve months after (an average of 1.6 contacts among the 25 youth with at least one new contact).
- Only 17% experienced a new misdemeanor, 9% a new felony, and 7% a new status offense.

This data is only preliminary and does not contain information regarding a sample of individuals who did not receive Restorative Justice Services as a comparison. We will include more information in future reports as it becomes available and will include more information regarding the analysis and reporting of Kathleen J. Bergseth as that report is finished.

## **NARRATIVE**

This quarter has seen immense transition take place in the organizational structure of the Clay County Restorative Justice Program. Originally the program was housed and overseen by the Clay County Sheriff's Office. During this quarter the program transitioned into being housed by the Clay County Attorney's Office and will be part of the Clay County Crime Victim program overseen by Shelly Carlson. As the catalyst to that transition, Jill Wenger resigned as the full-time program coordinator and will continue to work as a part-time facilitator. In order to continue program services, Charles Kaspari has been hired as the full-time program coordinator and will continue to provide restorative services to Clay County.

Housing the Restorative Justice Program within Victim Services has proved to be an excellent amalgamation. Restorative Justice focuses heavily on involving victims in the criminal justice process. Victims are allowed to participate in the process of dealing with juvenile crime and are included in the outcome. At their cores, Restorative Justice and Victim Services both seek the involvement of victims and work to secure and protect victim's rights within the criminal justice system. Additionally, both Victim Services and Restorative Justice aim to improve the relationship between victims and the criminal justice system. The resources available to the

Restorative Justice Program through its close link with the Clay County Crime Victim Program will help strengthen the services the Restorative Justice Program provides to victims.

The integration of the Clay County Restorative Justice program with the Clay County Attorney's Office has provided a unique opportunity for the program to work alongside the prosecutors that refer cases. The program predicts this integration will provide an increase in referral to the Restorative Justice program from the County Attorney's Office. These referrals may consist of "at risk" youth diverted from the court system by the prosecutors or youth who are referred to the Restorative Justice program as part of their disposition.

Additionally, incorporation of the program into the Crime Victim Program has brought several small changes to the programs work flow. The Restorative Justice Program recently hired a private contractor to construct a database to house all program information. The database is being designed in Microsoft Access to allow simple update and usage. As of now, the Access database is 80% complete and will provide another excellent tool for collecting, maintaining, and using data important to the program.

As part of Victim Services, the Restorative Justice program has implemented new changes in its data collection method to include greater collection of data on the victims referred to the Restorative Justice Program. The program will now collect detailed demographic information on victims that can be analyzed to insure the Restorative Justice Program staff are able to identify and make changes, if necessary, to ensure victims of all backgrounds and areas are fully included in the process. Along with information on victims, Information collected on the "at risk" youth who are referred to the program will also be streamlined and data collected can be analyzed much sooner. This ability will allow the program to continue to make any changes necessary to provide better services to youth referred to the Clay County Restorative Justice Program.

Lastly, the Restorative Justice Program has also been given access to the Clay County Attorney's Office database which has been a useful tool for gaining valuable information on the youth referred to the program. And, the Restorative Justice Program recently incorporated a new filing system that will use this data and conform to the filing system used by the Crime Victim Program. We hope all of these changes combined, will provide better restorative services to the youth and victims referred to the Clay County Restorative Justice Program.

### **PART III: COLLABORATION**

The Restorative Justice Program continues to collaborate with agency partners to provide services. The following agency representatives participated in a restorative process at some point during this quarter, or referred a client to the Restorative Justice Program:

- Moorhead Police Department
- Moorhead Fire Department
- Clay County Attorney's Office
- Hornbacher's Food's

Volunteers contributed 9 hours to the Restorative Justice Program this quarter. According to the industry standard, these hours can be equated to a \$169.78 in-kind donation.

### **PART IV: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

During this quarter Jill Wenger, the previous program coordinator for the past 10 years, resigned to pursue a career as the City Clerk for Moorhead, MN. As mentioned in the previous report, there have been many changes in the supervision of the program and staff in this quarter. The Clay County Restorative Justice Program has been brought under the supervision of and is housed in the Clay County Attorney's Office Crime Victim Program. The program is now overseen by Shelly Carlson, the Director of the Crime Victim Program. Charles Kaspari was hired at the end of November as the full-time Restorative Justice coordinator to ensure Restorative Justice Services will continue to be provided in Clay County. Charles Kaspari received a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from North Dakota State University and, prior to being hired, worked as an intern with the Clay County Restorative Justice Program under the Clay County Sheriff's Department from May to December of 2008. Charles had received Restorative Justice Facilitator training and facilitated numerous cases before being hired as the Program Coordinator. Charles Kaspari will remain the main contact for information regarding the restorative justice program. His contact information is:

Email: [charles.kaspari@co.clay.mn.us](mailto:charles.kaspari@co.clay.mn.us)

Phone: 218-299-5213

Program Address: 807 11<sup>th</sup> Street North, PO Box 280, Moorhead, MN 56561-0280

Shelly Carlson will provide oversight of program activities and will be responsible for all OJP reporting requirements of the grant. Shelly's contact information is:

Email: [shelly.carlson@co.clay.mn.us](mailto:shelly.carlson@co.clay.mn.us)

Phone: 218-299-7542

Lisa Johnk will continue to work as the part-time office assistant for the program and her contact information is:

Email: [lisa.johnk@co.clay.mn.us](mailto:lisa.johnk@co.clay.mn.us)

Phone: 218-288-7285

## **PART V: FINANCIAL REPORT**

Please see the attached “Restorative Justice Quarterly Financial Report” for a detailed financial report of this quarter.

# Restorative Justice Program Report

Second Quarter 2009 (October 1, 2009 – December 1, 2010)

During this quarter the Restorative Justice Program served **33 Juvenile Cases**. Currently, 14 cases are open and 19 are closed. A total of **109 Client Contacts** were served including offenders (33), offender supporters (42), victims (15), victim supporters (0), community volunteers (17), agency representatives (2), and others (0).

The majority of juvenile clients were **Male (66.7%)** and **White (78.8%)**. Clients of Hispanic/Latino (15.2%), American Indian (3%), and Other (1%) ethnicities were also served. The mean age of juvenile clients was **13.39 Years**.

Referred offenses were primarily **Misdemeanors (84.8%)** and **Disorderly Conduct (39.4%)**. All offenses served can be found in Figure 1.

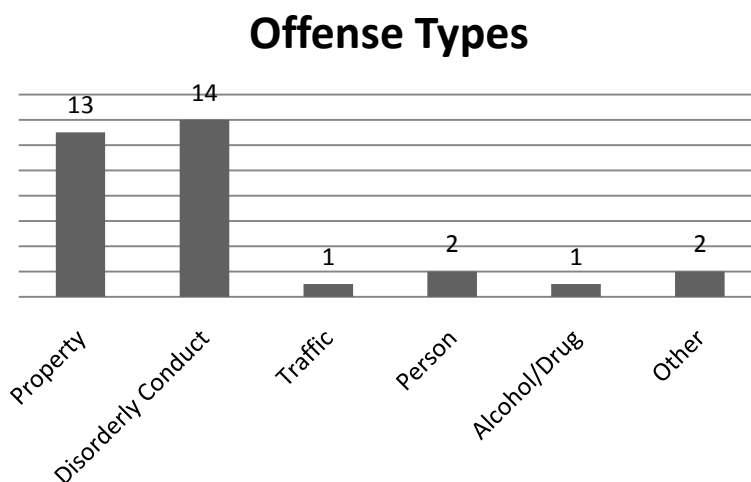


Figure 1

The majority of incidents occurred in **Moorhead (84.8%)**. Referred offenses also occurred in Glyndon (3.0%), Dilworth (6.1%).

The majority of victims were identified as **Individuals (60.6%)**. Other victims were identified as Self/Community (3%), School (3%), Business (24.2%), or Other (9.1%).

Referrals to the program were primarily **Diversion (90.9%)**. All referral sources can be found in Figure 2.

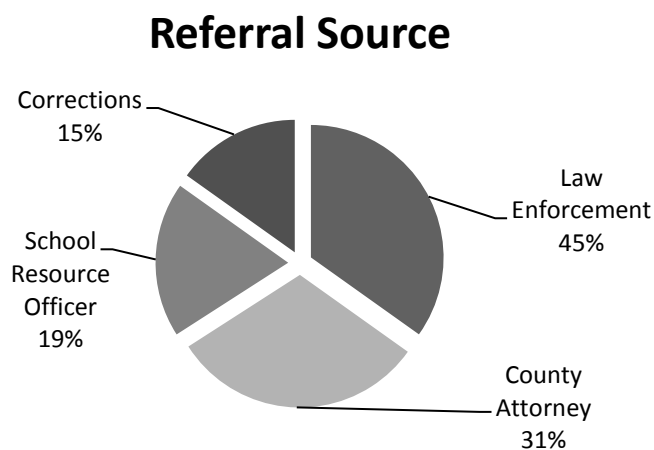


Figure 2

## Referral Results

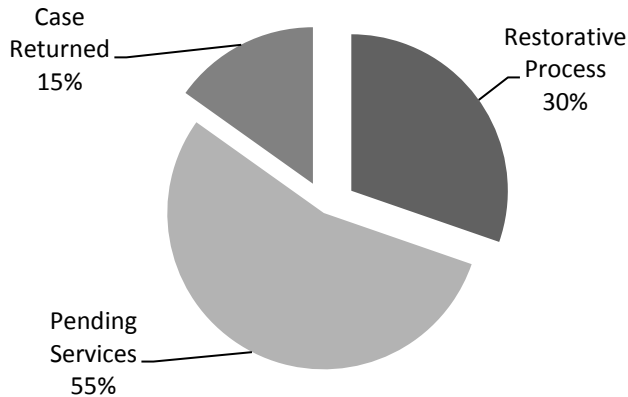


Figure 3

Several referrals resulted in a **Restorative Process (30.3%)** in which the juvenile met face-to-face with the affected victims and/or community members and came to a formal agreement on how to repair the harm caused by the incident. **Cases Returned (15.2%)** were sent back to the referring source because the offender was not appropriate for the program, made no attempt to contact the program, or the victim was not willing to participate. See Figure 3.

## Type of Restorative Service

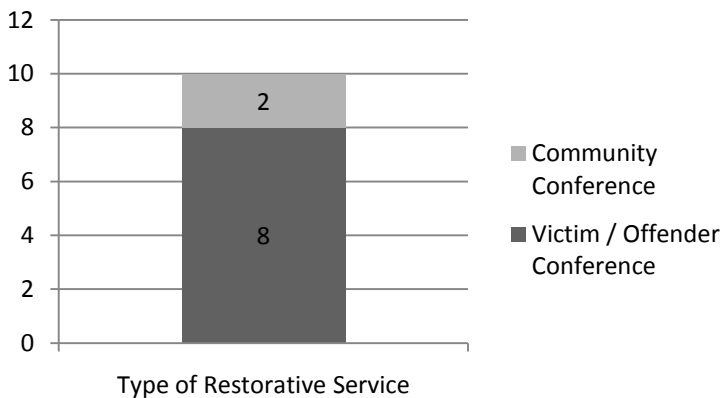


Figure 4

Figure 4 describes the type of restorative services provided. Several cases were processed using the **Victim / Offender Conferencing (24.2%)** model. The **Community Conferencing (6.1%)** model was used with the remaining cases.

A total of **109 Participants** were involved in a restorative process this quarter. Figure 5 outlines the breakdown of process participants.

## Process Participants

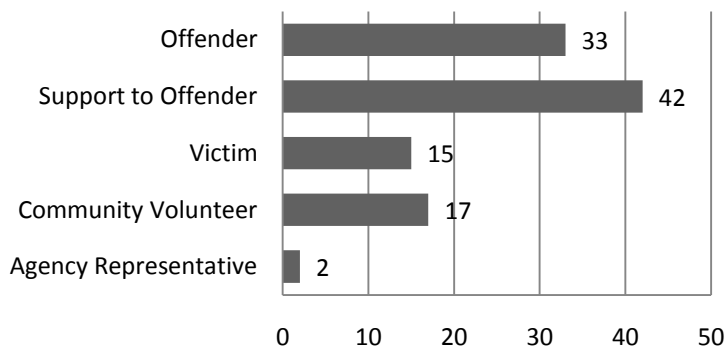


Figure 5

**Victim/Offender Conferencing** – involves direct victims coming together with juvenile offenders to discuss how people have been harmed by an incident and how that harm might be repaired.

**Community Conferencing** – brings together a panel of community volunteers and agency representatives to hold juvenile offenders accountable for harms caused to the community.

Feedback from process participants was very positive. Figure 6 shows the results of participant evaluation surveys.

Restorative Justice Agreements have been completed or are in the process of completion at an **81.8% Completion Rate**.

Figure 7 describes the agreement conditions that were fulfilled this quarter.

## Client Evaluations

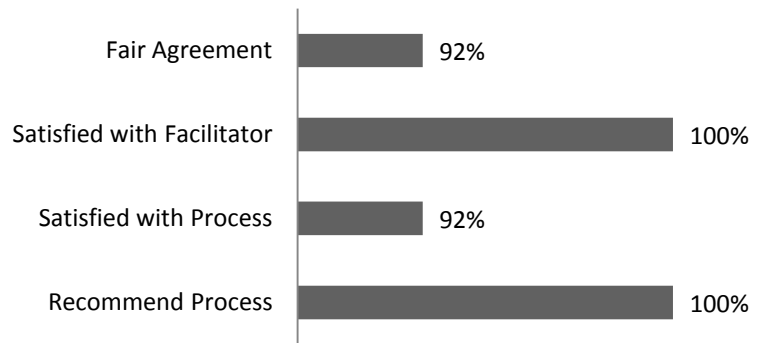


Figure 6

## Agreement Conditions

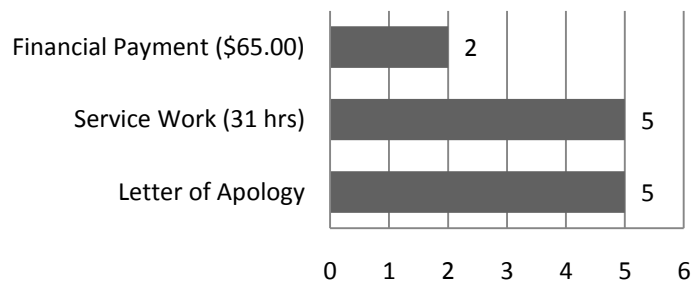


Figure 7