

**CLAY COUNTY COLLABORATIVE GRANT
Program Report**

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

Work group: Restorative Justice **Today's Date:** 4/28/10

Person preparing this report: Charles Kaspari **Dates of Report:** January 1, 2010 – April 31, 2010

Factor(s) Being Addressed: Participation in illegal activities

PART I: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF CHILDREN SERVED

Gender by Quarter		Gender Year-to-Date (unduplicated)	
Male	20	Male	20
Female	12	Female	12
TOTAL	32	TOTAL	32

Race by Quarter		Race Year-to-Date (unduplicated)	
Native American	2	Native American	2
Asian	0	Asian	0
Hispanic	7	Hispanic	7
Black	0	Black	0
White	22	White	22
Other	1	Other	1
Missing	0	Missing	0
TOTAL	32	TOTAL	32

Age by Quarter		Age Year-to-Date (unduplicated)	
8-9	0	8-9	0
10	1	10	1
11	2	11	2
12	1	12	1
13	3	13	3
14	6	14	6
15	8	15	8
16	3	16	3
17	7	17	7
18	1	18	1
TOTAL	32	TOTAL	32

ZIP Codes by Quarter		ZIP Codes Year-to-Date (unduplicated)	
56514 (Barnesville)	0	56514 (Barnesville)	0
56525 (Comstock)	0	56525 (Comstock)	0
56529 (Dilworth)	1	56529 (Dilworth)	1
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)	29	56560 (Moorhead)	29
56580 (Sabin)	0	56580 (Sabin)	0
56585 (Ulen)	0	56585 (Ulen)	0
Other	1	Other	1
TOTAL	32	TOTAL	32

PART II: OUTCOMES

The Restorative Justice Program continues to collect data on program participant's rates of recidivism. Participants are checked using a state wide database. These checks are preformed to examine the prevalence of new offenses at regular intervals after program completion.

As mentioned in previous reports, Kathleen Bergseth has compiled information regarding:

- Prevalence of any new official contact
- Number of later official contacts
- Seriousness of later official contacts
- Time to first new official contact

A summary of this information was included in the previous quarters report. Currently, the Restorative Justice Program intends to continue to expand on the information provided by Kathleen Berseth in hopes it will provide more information regarding recidivism and program outcomes. Additional analysis and information on recidivism will be in the next quarters report.

NARRATIVE

In all cases the Clay County Restorative Justice Program brings juvenile offenders together, face-to-face, with those that they harmed. The intentions of these meetings are to create agreements that repair the harm caused by an incident of crime and work to prevent another incident from happening. To this end, each agreement is intended to be unique to both the offense and the individual offender.

For this quarter we will examine a case involving a juvenile offender who broke into several vehicles early one the morning. We will look at the affects that this had on his victims and how victims of crime often are dealing with serious events in their own lives that are compounded or exacerbated by the affects of crime.

To begin, the offender was walking home from his friend's house. He had smoked marijuana only moments after leaving that house on his way to his grandmother's home. During his walk back, this individual, went from car to car attempting to open the doors. Most were locked, but every once and a while there was one that would be unlocked. When he stumbled upon this situation he would dig through the possessions found in the car and take a few things. Most of what he took were smaller items, nothing of great value, bandanas, hand lotion, and gum.

Continuing on his way to his grandmother's house the offender stumbled onto one car in particular. Inside this car was a large bag of assorted things. The items included a passport, wallet, some prescription medicine, more lotions, hairspray, various beauty products, and keys.

Sometime after stumbling onto this car a local neighbor called the police to report the break-ins, shortly after, the police arrived and took the offender into custody. On his person were several items from most of the vehicles he had gone through. After talking to the officer for a while the offender proceeded to point out which items went with which vehicles. The police returned the offender to his grandmother's home.

As part of his court sentence he was order to pay over \$700 in restitution, all of which would go to the lady who owned the large bag. The large bag was never returned to her, she had lost several important items. During the hearing the prosecutor asked for the restorative justice program to be included in the court order, the judge obliged.

All of the victims were contacted by the restorative justice coordinator. Most did not wish to meet with the offender as they had only lost items that were of minor consequence and had no other damage. The restorative justice process is voluntary for all participants and some chose not to participate for their own reasons. With that said, the one victim that did want to participate was the lady with the lost bag.

The lady with the bag and her husband, as her supporter, met with the offender and his parents. Face to face, offender explained what he was doing that night and where he was going. The victim and her supporter asked questions; why did you pick my house? What were you looking for? What did your parents do/say? The offender responded to each questions openly and explain his reasoning for doing what he did. The offender even revealed that he has used alcohol and drugs in the past and sees it as a problem he has. The offender went on that he was being drug tested and decided to attempt to quit because of the negative consequences. After the offender explained all of this, the lady with the bag explained why she left all of those important things in her car.

She was a cancer survivor; she had been receiving treatment for cancer for a month prior to the incident. That day, she had gotten home and felt weak, she left her bag in her car intending to either get it herself or have her husband get it when he got home. That night she fell asleep without doing either, and that night the offender happened to come across her car.

The outcome of the agreement would be that the Offender would write a letter of apology to the lady with the bag and her husband. In that letter he would describe what he has learned from the situation and include his phone number so that the lady with the bag and her husband could speak with him again in a few months to see how he was doing. The group also agreed that the Offender would spend eight hours helping an organization of the lady with the bag's choosing. Her wishes were that he would help out at the local detox center to give him insight into addition and alcoholism. The offender agreed and fulfilled this and his other requirements.

This case illustrates the importance of bringing offenders together to with their victims. After meeting with the victim in this case the offender expressed his remorse for his actions and was visibly bothered by the fact that he had taking from a person who was dealing with so much in her life. To him, it was just a car, but after meeting with the victim, he was able to place a face and story along with the person he had harmed. These types of interactions hopefully allow juvenile offenders to take deeper consideration into their actions knowing more about the affects they can have and ultimately preventing future incidents.

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
- Dilworth Police Department
- Glyndon Police Department
- Moorhead High School
- Clay County Attorney's Office
- Hornbacher's Food's

Volunteers contributed 39 hours to the Restorative Justice Program this quarter. According to the industry standard (\$18.77/hour), these hours can be equated to a \$732.03 in-kind donation.

PART IV: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

During this quarter the part-time restorative justice assistant position was closed due to budget constraints. The program will continue without the assistant position. There are no other changes in staff at this time.

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

January 1, 2010 to April 30, 2010

During this quarter the Restorative Justice Program served **34 Juvenile Cases**. Currently, 18 cases are open and 16 are closed. A total of **122 Client Contacts** were served including offenders (32), offender supporters (23), victims (11), victim supporters (6), community volunteers (48), agency representatives (2), and others (0).

The majority of juvenile clients were **Male (62.5%)** and **White (66%)**. The Restorative Justice program also worked with clients of Hispanic/Latino (23%), American Indian (8.5%), and Other (2.5%). The mean age of juvenile clients was **14.94 Years**.

Referred offenses were primarily **Misdemeanors (38%)**. The majority of incidents occurred in **Moorhead (88%)**. Referred offenses also occurred in Dilworth (3%), Glyndon (3%), and Other (6%).

The majority of victims were identified as **Individuals (50%)**. Other victims were identified as Self/Community (18%), School (18%), or Business (14%).

Referrals to the program were primarily **Diversion (64%)**. Several referrals resulted in a **Restorative Process (94%)** 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 (12%)** 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 1.

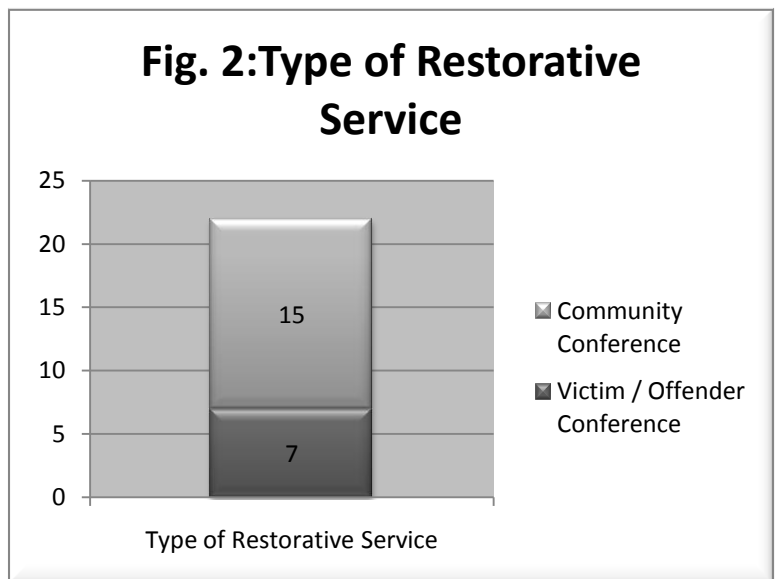
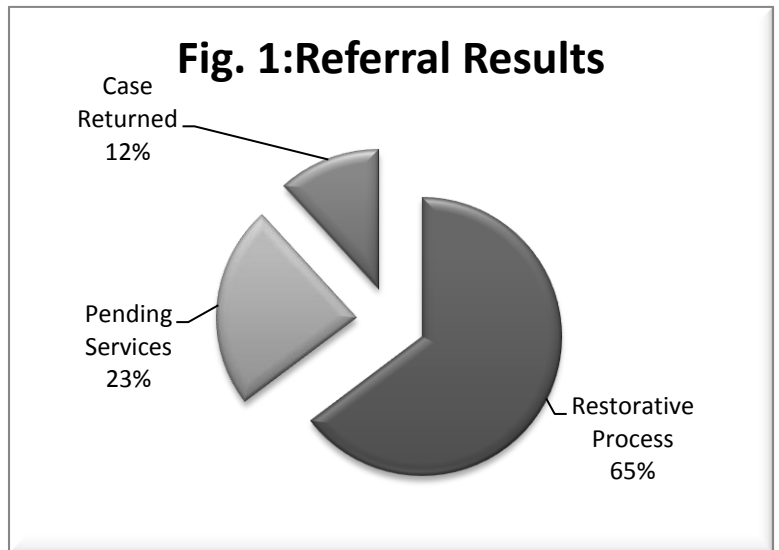


Figure 2 describes the type of restorative services provided. Several cases were processed using the **Community Conferencing (44%)** model. The **Victim / Offender Conferencing (21%)** model was used with the remaining cases.

A total of **116 participants** were involved in a restorative process this quarter. Figure 3 outlines the breakdown of process participants.

Restorative Justice Agreements have been **completed or are in the process of completion are at 88%**.

Figure 4 describes the agreement conditions that were fulfilled this quarter.

***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.*

Fig. 3: Process Participants

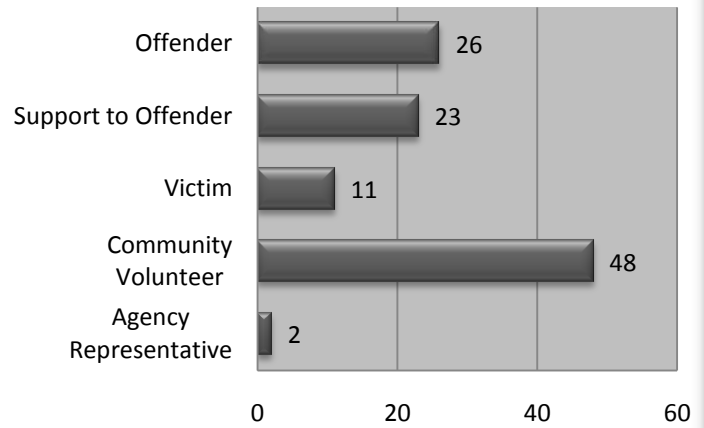


Fig. 4: Agreement Conditions

