

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

## RE-ENTRY SERVICES PROJECT

### Joint Advisory Committee Minutes

May 5, 2011

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Family Service Center, Room #4, Moorhead

*In attendance:* Saddi Bouschee (Clay County Probation), Shelly Carlson (Clay County Attorney/Victim Services), Shelley Ford (Clay County Probation), Alex Ishaug (Clay County Social Services), Charles Kaspari (Clay County Attorney/Victim Services/Restorative Justice), Sally Lauritsen (Transitional Coordinator, Reentry Services), Dina Loomer (Rural MN CEP), Mike McMullen (Transitional Coordinator, Reentry Services), Yolanda Redding (The Village Family Service Center), Dave Schwehr (Juvenile Chaplaincy and Guidance Outreach), Terra Smith (Clay County Probation), Corey Walters (West Central Regional Juvenile Center), Grant Wyland (Clay County Board), Dawn Tommerdahl (Clay County Collaborative)

Shelley welcomed the group and we did a round of introductions.

#### **Reentry Services Project report**

*Shelley:* Number of clients about the same – working with clients pre-placement goes well. No new offenses.

*Budget:* Spending: on target so that the money will be spent down in a timely way. Shelley submitted a grant to the Office of Justice Programs in April - a competitive grant for existing programs. They will hear by the end of May.

*Sally:* Collaboration: Girls group (with Linda Scheet at RRALC) is going well. It is now being offered at the Juvenile Center. Topics include substance abuse and how it affects young children. Native American group from school has been very supportive. One client will start making a shawl dancing costume this summer. Clients will be involved in “Heart2Heart,” a new program for troubled teens that will link youth with artists who have also been in trouble as young people. There is also a wilderness/outdoor component that will be held at Trollwood. Six students from RRALC plus two clients from each of the transitional coordinators will meet twice a week for three months. The organizers have applied for funding from Dakota Medical Foundation.

*Mike:* Barriers – culture, family cycles of violence, substance abuse, poverty are challenging to overcome.

#### **Restorative Justice Program report**

*Charles:* 46 juvenile cases including new referrals, client contacts about the same (165) including offenders, victims and their supporters plus community members and agency representatives (DNR participated this quarter). 50/50 male/female balance this quarter – more female than in the past. Offenders come from all over the County. Charles dealt primarily with individual offenses this quarter. Most cases were diversion. 11% were returned for various reasons. Quite a few community conferences this quarter because the victims chose not to participate. Charles noted that the recidivism rate was slightly higher for this quarter’s group.

*Budget:* Shelly reported that finding other sources of funding has been difficult. State funding runs through December. The group discussed a sliding fee scale for restorative justice – could be viewed as “buying” diversion, but other diversion programs charge fees. There was a concern that some families couldn’t afford the fee. Another option would be to expand the program to work with adult offenders instead of exclusively juveniles.

## **Partner news & updates**

*Yolanda:* DC 0-3 grant from the State of MN is going well – therapists are working with approximately 100 young children. Parenting workshops are ongoing. It's a very busy time of year.

*Dina:* Youth Program has yet to receive federal funding (usually starts in April). CEP could be 20% less than in previous years. That means that kids on the waiting list might not get to participate. Funding for adult programs will also be less this year, so they are looking to do more direct placements.

*Corey:* Detention was really full in March-April. Numbers have fallen to low teens. Otter Tail Clay and Douglas Counties send the most kids to the center. New programming: "Thinking for a Change" groups run three days/week. There's a short-term group for detention kids and long-term for kids in the treatment program. Community Service has been added - at the homeless shelter. Clients did some sandbagging during the flood, too.

*Alex:* Brenda's position will be filled so that Social Services won't be so understaffed.

*Dawn:*

- Children's Mental Health fair this afternoon at Hilton Garden Inn in Fargo, fair at 4:30, training at 6. Cost is \$10.
- NAMI is conducting workshops on children's mental health tomorrow and Saturday at Our Savior's Church in Moorhead. See Collaborative website for the number to call to register.

*Dave:* Encouraged people to encourage kids who have had contact with him in detention to contact him when they're out of detention. Dave's looking for additional volunteers to mentor kids. There will be an event held in schools in the fall – 150 people from around the world participating.

*Grant:* The County's budgeting process will start soon.

*Shelly C.:* The Clay County team from the Domestic Violence Court will be traveling to New York next week to get some training and technical assistance. Elder Abuse program continues to train service providers, law enforcement, and others in the community.

*Shelley F.:* Bullying workshop by YIPA May 11. Moorhead PD is looking for mentors for summer youth program. Wednesday afternoons from 1 – 4 p.m. taking pre-teens out for activities. Salaries are used as match funds for that grant.

**Next meeting: August 4, 1 p.m., meeting room 2**

Respectfully submitted,  
Dawn Tommerdahl  
Clay County Collaborative