

MINUTES

Joint Advisory Committee Restorative Justice Program & Re-entry Services Project

October 20, 2005

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Present: Jill Wenger (Restorative Justice Program), Jeff Bouffard and Kathleen Bergseth (NDSU), Darin Viken and Sally Dandurand (Re-entry Services Project), Shelley Ford (Dept. of Corrections), Mike McCarthy (County Board), Nancy Tetteh (Migrant Health Services, CH program), Jerome Thorson (Sheriff's Dept.), Barry Steen and Shawn Seibold (WCRJC), Kristen DePree (CC Social Services), Jessica Hoornaert (Lakeland Mental Health), Mary Swensen (Victim's Office)

II. COLLABORATIVE UPDATE

Shelley Ford reported that the Collaborative continues with the restructuring process. A Collaborative Coordinator, Dawn Tommerdahl, has been hired and will be forming work groups for the Reentry and Restorative Justice projects. There will be separate work groups for each project. Volunteers for these work groups are needed. The Joint Advisory Committee will continue to meet quarterly.

III. RE-ENTRY SERVICES PROJECT

Kathleen Bergseth presented the last quarter report. NDSU is currently working on an annual report, as well as a two year synopsis report of the Project. (see attachment)

Sally Dandurand gave a case study of a 17 year old male that was released from the Northwestern MN Juvenile Center that had been involved in Meth. Nancy Tetteh commented on the increase of Meth in the community and the impact it is having. Darin Viken gave case study of a juvenile male who was released from the long term Thistledeew program..

IV. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM

Jill Wenger reported that she will be returning 35,000-40,000 unspent dollars back to the Collaborative.

Jill will be going on maternity leave in January and a part time employee will be hired to staff the office in her absence. Jill will be doing facilitator training in October and hopes to have 3 new facilitators trained that can do Victim Offender Mediation.

At the present time Jill is the only person in the region qualified to train others in the Restorative

Justice process. Staff from Fargo and Crookston will also be trained.

Jill recently went to a 6 day training in Minneapolis regarding “ Severe Criminal and Political Violence.” Part of the training included going to Lino Lakes prison and observing prisoners interacting with survivors of severe violence.

Jill shared statistics from the program. (see attachment) The schools have been quiet in terms of referrals, but there have been more traffic offenses referred. On these type of offenses an officer and community volunteer talk to the offenders. Offenders are also able to speak of their experiences at the Cars and Kids program in Fargo.

Kathleen Bergseth continues to code and enter data for a comparison study of outcomes between RJ clients and probation cases.

Jill gave case study of juveniles that were diverted from the court system through Restorative Justice. Involved 8 juveniles that stole beer out of an unlocked garage and were charged with Minor Consuming. The Chief of Police, juveniles and their parents and the owner of the garage were all involved. For sanctions some made verbal apologies, some written and all wrote letters of apology to the family of the garage owner. All did Community Work Services cleaning cars for the city auction. 6 out of the 8 wanted to do a presentation to DARE, which they could not do under the DARE guidelines, but will be able to talk to a class, just one not involved with DARE. All were still reported to the school for sanctions.

V. OTHER

Barry Steen introduced Shawn Seibold, who is the new Transitional Coordinator at the Detention center. The Re-entry staff will collaborate with Shawn to avoid duplication of services and to learn from each other.

VI. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is set for January 19, 2006 at 1:30, Room 4 of the FSC.