

Restorative Justice Program**Re-entry Services Project****Joint Advisory Committee***August 6, 2009**1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**Family Service Center #4, Moorhead*

In attendance: Kathleen Bergseth (North Dakota State University), Nichi Erickson (County Attorney), Shelley Ford (Clay County Family Court/MN Dept. of Corrections), Alex Ishaug (Clay County Social Services), Tom McDonald (NDSU), Mike McMullen (Transitional coordinator), Corey Walters (West Central Regional Juvenile Center), Jill Wenger (Clay County Sheriff's Department), Dawn Tommerdahl (Collaborative Coordinator)

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

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM

- A. *Program Update:* Jill walked us through her report for the fiscal year. Demographics are about the same. She's pleased with the distribution of referrals. They're doing more community conferencing than she might've expected – perhaps because juveniles who didn't have that option in the past were not being served by the program. She called our attention to some of the more unique consequences (brochure on bus stop arm law, voiceover on Drano bomb). Volunteers have logged many hours for the program.
- B. *Case Study:* Jill related the story of a boy who stole an iPod from a locker room at school. He admitted his guilt right away when confronted by the SRO. His parents met with the victim and his parents. In lieu of buying a gift certificate for the victim, the victim requested that the offender give a presentation to a group. He spoke to the junior police academy this summer. It was a positive experience for all involved.
- C. *Other:*
- Jill has been conducting a survey at community events this summer – to elicit citizens' opinion about restorative justice which evolved into a Sheriff's Department survey on crime in general. They received 119 responses at the County Fair, 50 at Loco Days. They will also be at Ulen Turkey Days, Barnesville Potato Days and the Threshers Reunion in Rollag to collect responses.
 - Jill added that the Department of Corrections grant was cut completely. The Department of Public Safety grant will continue.
 - Kathleen and Jill presented on the Restorative Justice program at a conference in Grand Forks this summer. As a result of the panel presentation, the State of North Dakota would like to make restorative justice more available across the state.

RE-ENTRY SERVICES PROJECT

- A. *Program Update:* Shelley distributed copies of their quarterly report to the State and the NDSU evaluation. About 30% of the families involved in the program are getting the family assessment. She called our attention to the feedback from youth and parents. Shelley passed out the latest update of the budget. They're halfway through their two-year grant and spending is about 50%.

- B. Case Study: Mike shared the story of a young man he has just recently started working with. He is working hard to get the boy into Job Corps. It would be extremely beneficial for him to be enrolled in that program. He's doing fine in other areas.
- C. Program Evaluation: The study this quarter was done on the seven cases which closed. This group had rather extensive placement histories. They had lower in-program recidivism possibly due to their shorter stay in the program. New outcomes have been added (see pp. 15 – 16) as a result of the new grant (e.g. RJ involvement, CB, etc.). See the summary for a list of differences between outcomes on this report compared to earlier reports. Kathleen is also conducting a larger study on the program which compares the group that have completed the program with juveniles released in Clay County who weren't involved in the program. (Reentry from 9/2003 and on; youth released 1999 – 2003; youth released during the time the program has been in place but who didn't participate in it.). Jeff Bouffard was approached by *Corrections Today* to write an article about the Reentry Program and the initial evaluation that was done. He, Shelley and Kathleen are working on that.
- IV. BYRNE GRANT APPLICATION: RJ and RSP put in a joint application for \$400,000 (the maximum allowed). If they receive the grant, the programs will be funded through FY11. A new program component would be to work with the Detention Center to train 3 staff to run a cog group.
- V. OTHER PROGRAM UPDATES
- Corey reported that only seven youth are in the center at this time – this is typically the lowest population time. Chris Martin did a presentation there about gangs. Staff will begin to more closely track gang-related things they see in their kids and communicate with Chris. Shelley added that the center has been working with member counties to buy beds because the center isn't subsidized by the County like the jail is.
 - Dawn passed out the notes from the Collaborative's strategic planning session that was held on June 24. The state ATOD program sharing conference will be held in St. Cloud on October 8 – 9. Online registration is available at www.emprc.org/ps2009.
 - Shelley reported that a Juvenile Justice Forum will be held in northwest Minnesota sometime this fall. She will send more information.

NEXT MEETING: November 5, 1 p.m. meeting room #4, Family Service Center, Moorhead

Respectfully submitted,
 Dawn Tommerdahl
 Coordinator
 Clay County Collaborative