

MINUTES

Joint Advisory Committee

Restorative Justice Program & Re-entry Services Project

November 3, 2011 1 p.m. meeting room 7, Family Service Center, Moorhead

In attendance: Saddi Bouchee (Corrections), Shelley Ford (Probation/Corrections/ Reentry Services), Alex Ishaug (Clay County Social Services), Charles Kaspari (Restorative Justice), Sally Lauritsen (Reentry Services), Mike McMullen (Reentry Services), Linda Sheet (RRALC), Terra Smith (Corrections), Lindsey Ternes (Corrections), Dawn Tommerdahl (Clay County Collaborative), Corey Walters (West Central Regional Juvenile Center), Grant Weyland (County Board), and Pat (intern, RRALC), special guest: Molly McMullen

After introductions, we began with a report on the reentry services project.

Reentry Services Project

1. Program update: The budget is looking good – there should be about \$5000 to carry over into the new grant period that starts January 1. The number of kids who were employed this last quarter went up due to summer jobs. Twenty-six kids were involved in the program last quarter. 69% had mental health issues and half had CD issues. Mike told the group about the boys group that started this fall at RRALC. The kids know more about many of the “boring” topics than Mike and co-leader Louis Ochoa do. They are looking forward to some outdoor activities this winter. Many of the kids haven’t had previous experience with outdoor activities. Sally and Linda will start a group at the middle school that will include arts adventure kinds of activities, thinking for a change, sexual con games and other topics. Groups at the Area Learning Center will start in December.
2. Case study: A letter from one of Sally’s clients was included in the quarterly report in place of a case study. He has made a lot of progress in the two years he’s been in the program.
3. Clients are still involved in Arts Adventure. The video they made will be shown at the Fargo Theater on Tuesday, November 29 – by invitation only!

Restorative Justice Program

Program update: The program will add a \$25 offender fee starting December 1. There will be a waiver for families that cannot afford to pay the fee. There were forty-six juvenile cases in the quarter. Demographic data is about the same. Diversion referrals (from Moorhead and Dilworth Police) are up. Community conferencing has been big this quarter.

Updates

Corey reported that detention numbers are still down for this quarter.

Pat has been an intern since the end of August. He will graduate when he’s done, work for awhile and then apply for grad school at UND.

Lindsey will be going to “Thinking for a Change” training in Bemidji at Northwest. Corey will also attend.

Linda – numbers at RRALC are a little down, but enrollment may go up after the end of the quarter this Friday. Janelle Simonson is the full-time dean of students for the students there (grade 9 – 12) and Deb spends most of her time at Horizon working with the younger kids. She still oversees the Area Learning Center.

Alex: Social Services is busy. Lots of drug/alcohol issues with parents who can’t care for their children. Some pregnant mothers are also using. Time in foster care: 8 & under – family/social

services have 6 months to come up with a permanency plan, 12 months for older kids plus follow-up plan, etc. Lots of homes are available at the moment.

Grant: County Commissioners are working on 2012 budget.

Sharon couldn't attend in person but she let Shelley know that YES could use more students.

There is no recovery school for the time being due to lack of students.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 2, 2011, 1 p.m., meeting room 7, Family Service Center

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Tommerdahl
Collaborative Coordinator