



# On Balance

A publication of Dane County Department of Human Services  
and the Dane County Juvenile Court Program

February 2009  
Volume XIII, Number 1

## Juvenile Justice - Disproportionate Minority Contact & Confinement (DMC)

By Stephen Blue, DCDHS



The Juvenile Justice DMC Solutions Workgroup was formed with the purpose of bringing together key stakeholders and community leaders to examine the Disproportionate Minority confinement and contact issue facing our community. Our hope is that during the course of this process, the workgroup will recommend a comprehensive and viable prevention and intervention strategy to reduce JJ-DMC in our community. To reach this end point, the JJ-DMC Solutions Workgroup has held listening sessions with community members and experts in the field to better understand the scope and complexity of DMC and the factors influencing its growth.

Based on the information gathered during this process, 6 Sub-Work Groups have been identified to develop measurable responses to JJ-DMC. These include: Law Enforcement & Charging (Chair Barbara Franks); Custody, Screening & Petitioning (Chair David Thorson); Disposition & Placement (Chair Diane Prellwitz); Schools (Chair Johnny Winston, Jr.); Family & Community Supports (Chair Jeanne Ferguson); Positive Community Alternatives (Chair Scott Strong). Each Sub-Work Group is charged with formulating recommendations to address issues related to DMC within their assigned work area. Each group has been given its specific charge including goals and suggested strategies; data reports or access to data as needed; and staff support as needed. Sub-Work group recommendations will become a part of a comprehensive report to be submitted to the Chief Juvenile Judge John Albert, CYF Division Administrator Bob Lee and the Dane County DMC Oversight Board.

Last September at The Juvenile Justice Solutions workgroup's first meeting, Judge Albert and Robert Lee welcomed the group and gave an overview of the task. Madison Police Chief Noble Wray put the night firmly in

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**May 8, 2009**

**Dane County Youth Gang Prevention Conference  
See Page 11 for details.**

On the web @ [www.co.dane.wi.us/juvenilecourt](http://www.co.dane.wi.us/juvenilecourt)  
[www.co.dane.wi.us/humanservices](http://www.co.dane.wi.us/humanservices)

## Dane County Youth Board Works for Change

By O. L. Harris, Jr., Youth Board Facilitator

The Dane County Youth Board (DCYB) is an all youth, high school age subcommittee of the Dane County Youth Commission. This group focuses on a lot of current issues including but not limited to the Achievement Gap, MLK Youth Service Day, and Earth Day. We host an annual Open House, as well as a Teen Summit. Our goal is to give back to the community and to strengthen relationships through positive involvement of youth and adults. The message we want people to know is: *"We have to be the change we want to see in the world."* – Gandhi

Recently DCYB decided to create divisions within itself to be more effective in the community, and to take only purposeful steps. These divisions are:

- § Administration – to assist the group with making sure they are compliant with government regulations and policies;
- § Marketing – to assist in locating and effectively reaching a targeted area or group of people;
- § Public Relations – to assist in customer service to our target area or group of people;
- § Service - to assist with internal training and leadership development.

There is also a youth Divisions Administrator who directs and oversees the activities. With these four operating groups, DCYB believes they can meet any need

and accept any challenge. They want the community to know, "We mean business."

A Direct Action Plan is now being developed to help DCYB decide where they want to focus. Whether it is schools, communities, children, seniors, teens, single parents, teen parents, or education, DCYB wants to be available and prepared. DCYB facilitated a workshop at the MLK Youth Service Day that focused on youth in the Dane County school system. The workshop demonstrated a remedial class and an advanced class, including teachers and their

commitment to teaching and, in some cases, their lack of interest in students. Though it was all actors, they displayed what they have come across in their learning career.

DCYB has grown to over 25 active regularly attending high school students from East, West, Memorial, LaFollette, Middleton, and Verona high schools. We still would love to have more. If you know of any high school youth who are interested in making a difference and want to be a part of something moving fast speed ahead into the future, Dane County Youth Board is for them.

### DMC

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perspective by leading us through the Governors Report on Racial Disparity in the Justice system. Dane County Human Services and Juvenile Court staff updated the group on current DMC numbers and trends.

The next large group meeting in November featured a presentation by Urban League of Greater Madison CEO, Scott Gray and an overview of the local youth gang scene by MPD Detective George Chavez and Officer Lester Moore.

January's meeting agenda included a presentation by the Madison Metropolitan School District and the United Way.

The JJ-DMC workgroup is working under the umbrella of the ongoing Dane County Disproportionate Contact and Confinement Oversight Committee that has been operating since 2002. The DMC Oversight Committee held its last meeting on November 6, 2008. The focus of the agenda was the OJA -DMC report on 6 funded counties' DMC efforts. This group is taking a short hiatus until May. Then at the special May 21st meeting, the JJ-DMC solutions work group recommendations will be presented. The Oversight Committee will then be reconfigured to include some of the JJ-DMC membership as we move toward implementation steps and continue our overall DMC mission.

# On Balance

## Meet Margaret Carpenter, New DJC Administrator

By Gretchen Kubnick, DJC

Charles Tubbs, the Administrator of the Division of Juvenile Corrections, resigned after 4 1/2 years of service to take a position as the Chief of Police with the Wisconsin Capitol Police Department. He began his new position with the Wisconsin Capitol Police Department effective August 17, 2008. Prior to his tenure with the Division of Juvenile Corrections, he was employed with the Beloit Police Department as a law enforcement officer for 30 years, retiring in 2003 as the Deputy Chief of Police. During his tenure there, he served in every function including the interim Chief of Police.

We are pleased to have Margaret Carpenter. She became the new Administrator of the Division of Juvenile Corrections on October 13.

Margaret, who was formerly the Education Director in the Division of Adult Institution's Office of Program Services, brings to the job close to 20 years of experience in professional roles dedicated to helping youth and others to be

successful. A native of Memphis, Tennessee, she earned her bachelor's degree in Ethnic Relations from the University of the State of New York (USNY) and her master's degree in Urban Teaching from Concordia University. She also has Wisconsin Teaching and Administrative Certifications.

Margaret's background, talents and dedication to helping youth succeed will be tremendous assets to DJC as the Division strives to hold juvenile offenders accountable in institutions and in the community, while offering them the opportunities to be productive, responsible and law-abiding individuals who will not re-offend.

From 1990-95, Margaret worked for the Chicago Public Schools system, first as a Human Relations Officer specializing in discipline referrals, and then as a teacher of seventh-grade math, science, and reading. In 1996 she joined the Kenosha Unified School District as a teacher of 6<sup>th</sup> grade math and science, and

then moved to the posts of Learning Specialist, Interim Assistant Principal, and then Principal of an inner city elementary school. She joined the DOC in 2007 as Education Director for the DAI's Office of Program Services, where she has overseen efforts to help adult offenders make educational gains in math, writing, reading and other areas. In addition to her public school roles, Margaret co-coordinated an Alternative Teaching Certification Program at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside from 1997-2001.

Outside of work, Margaret is active in her local community. She has volunteered numerous hours with the Verona Public Library and the Verona Area School District as an elementary tutor, and she now serves on a high school committee focused on bringing underrepresented groups of students into Advanced Placement courses.

**On Balance** is a publication of Dane County Department of Human Services and Juvenile Court Program.

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**Comments?** Call Dawn MacFarlane 242-6267 or email to [macfarlane@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:macfarlane@co.dane.wi.us)



Margaret Carpenter  
DCJ Administrator

## MMSD Superintendent Dan Nerad

By Dennis Whitish, MMSD



*Dan Nerad  
MMSD Superintendent*

Dan Nerad became Madison Metropolitan School District Superintendent in July 2008. Nerad earned an undergraduate social work degree in 1973 and a graduate social work degree in 1975 from UW Madison. His first job was as a school social worker for the Green Bay School District, where he remained for 14 years. After earning his advanced degree, he continued to work in the Green Bay School District, first as a supervisor for At Risk Children, as Executive Director of Curriculum, Assistant Superintendent, and then for seven years as Superintendent for the Green Bay School District.

Since coming to Madison, Superintendent Nerad has made extraordinary efforts to meet members of

the community by attending the summer Farmer's Markets and various festivals throughout the city. Nerad draws on his early training in social work and uses a systems perspective to guide him in his work with children, families and the community. Superintendent Nerad sees a dual mission for the district. First, there is the district mission of teaching and learning for which the district is responsible, as well as a concern/responsibility that our children develop into good citizens and adults. "We have this responsibility along with the family," says the new superintendent.

Working with community agencies collaboratively is essential according to Nerad. Working together in order to provide the best services and interventions for children and families is critical. He attributes his social work training for his views on the importance of collaboration with community agencies.

Recently, the most pressing issue for the new superintendent was the referendum on November 4<sup>th</sup> which passed. The anticipated gap of \$8 million for 2009-10 school year, an additional \$4.4 million for the 2010-11 school year, and another \$4.3 million for the 2011-12 school year would have caused significant changes in the operation of the school district. With the passage of the referendum,

Superintendent Nerad's next focus is to create a strategic plan for the district. The strategic plan will include District staff as well as community members will participate in development of this plan, which will determine the district's priorities for the next several years. Nerad will provide leadership around the plan and will steer the district in the direction as determined by the outcome of the strategic plan. The Superintendent is also interested in looking at a possible four-year-old kindergarten program, similar to the one created by his former school district, as well as looking at high school reform and school safety issues.

Dr. Nerad is enjoying his return to Madison, which he describes as a "vibrant and lively place to live." He enjoys the creative arts available in Madison and the value the community places on the environment. The Nerad have a son who lives and works in Madison as a legislative aide and a daughter who recently moved from NYC to Los Angeles.



## Spotlight on Staff - DL Bridges

By Rhonda Voigt, DCDHS

Did you know that DCDHS offers families rides to Ethan Allen School to visit their sons on the second Saturday of each month? DL Bridges does! DL has given up 27 Saturdays since 6/2006 to drive the EAS van. Twqenty-six families and a total of 192 passengers have taken advantage of this service to date. He has provided the stabilizing force that makes this program a success. DL helps families with their questions regarding visiting procedures. He welcomes families for every trip, providing them a sense of comfort through his display of empathy for others. This keeps families coming back month after month, which in turn benefits Dane County. We know that teens that have regular contacts with their families do better in both behavior and program completion, shortening their stays in secure care.

DL is a Social Service Specialist (SSS) in DCDHS' Metro Ongoing Delinquency Unit. In addition to driving and coordinating the EAS van, his work responsibilities include PASS (Parent Assisted Supervision Service) monitoring, transporting teens and families for



DL Bridges  
DCDHS - NIP

a variety of appointments, early intervention and prevention ADDS (Assessment, Deflection, Deferment and Stabilization) groups with young men and monitoring youths' school attendance. DL started his SSS position as an LTE in 1992. He began working for DCDHS in 1992 as a LTE Income Maintenance Worker at NPO. DL's work has required him to maintain positive working relationships with a variety of agencies in our community in

order to assist families in navigating the complex human services system. He has worked with youth and families with histories of abuse, neglect and aggression, and has been called on to assist families who have had negative relationships with systems in the past. DL also re-directs high-risk youth and their families, which he does in a culturally sensitive manner.

DL received his degree in rural sociology from UW Madison in 1982. He minored in Social Science and is 6 credits away from a degree in Afro-American Studies. DL and his wife Hershey, a public health nurse, have four children and four grandchildren. David is a firefighter in Madison, Darryl is a manager for SubZero, Danielle works in the dialysis unit at the UW, and Derrick is a supervisor/manager. DL's grandchildren range in age from 2-13 years. In his spare time, DL enjoys exploring computer technology.

Let's all give DL a pat on the back next time we see him for his dedication in helping families maintain contact with their children.

## School Success Program Helps Youth Succeed

By Veronica Hereford, DCDHS

The young men entered the group room with thoughts of dinner already on their minds. The moans and groans were audible when they were told that it was homework time - "I don't have any homework and it was a half a day at school" - one after the other shared with the group, staff and anyone else who would listen. A question was posed to the group, "But how are you doing in school?" An excellent beginning to the School Success program and for our young people to be introduced to the newest staff addition at NIP - Barb Lulak. The young men searched for a comeback and a way around doing anything that remotely resembled school work. Barb patiently but sternly redirected each of the young men's attention back to the various math worksheets she had for the group. With some hesitation, each young man started down a path that will hopefully lead to increased success not only academically but socially in their school settings.

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# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

*ON BALANCE catches up with ....*

## *Jim Moeser*

Jim Moeser retired from service to Dane County at the beginning of 2008. We connected with him recently to talk about his history with Dane County and what he is currently doing.

### *What were your positions with Dane County prior to your retirement?*

I began in 1974 as an LTE Juvenile Court Worker and Juvenile Court Counselor, working in Detention and Reception Center. In December 1974 I became a full-time Juvenile Court Counselor and in May 1975, I began as the Supervisor for the Shelter Home and helped coordinate the move from the old facility on West Washington Avenue to its current location on Atwood Avenue.

From 1975-1984 I primarily served in the role of Supervisor of the Shelter Home but between the original Juvenile Court Administrator Luther Simonson and Maureen Torphy, I helped fill portions of the Juvenile Court Administrator position. In 1984 I moved from Shelter Home to the role of Community Programs Manager for the Juvenile Court Program and assumed responsibility for supervising the Home Detention Program. Also, in 1984 I was a part of an effort to construct and maintain the SPRITE Ropes Course, as well as lead many group team-building course.

In 1987, in partnership with Stephen Blue, we successfully applied for a three-year federal gang prevention

grant that provided the early source of funding for development of the Neighborhood Intervention Program and support for a range of community-based prevention programs. Somewhere around 1989-90, I assumed responsibility for supervising the Juvenile Reception Center, as well as Home Detention and the YRP/VOC contract. I also helped develop the beginnings of the Children Come First program in Dane County and for a brief time served as the Mental Health Services Manager at Dane County Human Services to help fill in for a vacancy there.

Perhaps in late 1991, I was fortunate to receive the appointment from the Judges as the Juvenile Court Administrator and continued in that role until January 2003. In January, 2003 I was appointed as the Administrator for the Division of Juvenile Corrections and provided oversight for both a significant “downsizing” of staff in the Division as well as providing support for a number of progressive program efforts initiated by DJC.

Since around 1997 I have also been able to work in a number of publications, served on numerous statewide committees and in 2007 I received a Distinguished Service Award from the National Juvenile Detention Association for work done in promoting progressive juvenile detention practices.

After returning to the friendly confines of the Juvenile Court

Program in 2004, I had my sights set firmly on getting us through the construction and opening of a new Detention/Reception Center, a project long-awaited and long-delayed. Between 2005-2007, we planned the design of the new facility, helped transition the courthouse to the new building, began construction and moved to the new facility on the second floor of the CCB in August 2007. After getting settled in and ensuring that the new facility and program was off to a sound start, I decided it was time to move on and leave the Juvenile Court Program in the capable hands of a good staff and new leadership. In many ways “my work was done”, and after 33 years in juvenile justice I was ready for a change.



*Jim Moeser*

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# On Balance

## Moeser

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### *What are some of the accomplishments that you are most proud of to date in your career?*

It is easy to cite the construction of the Juvenile Detention/Reception Center as a significant accomplishment. It is a facility that should well serve the community for many years to come. There are so many other things I was fortunate to be involved in, but a few things stand out – things that represent the work of many, many others and I was “along for the ride” at times, including:

- ◆ Development of the Neighborhood Intervention Program – thanks to Stephen for his great leadership, creativity, and remarkable dedication that led to the creation of a wide range of prevention and early intervention programs to reach out to minority youth.
- ◆ Development of Safe Harbor of Dane County – thanks to Ami Orlin for her great leadership and vision related to the creation of a child interview and advocacy center that, despite the challenges inherent in creating that collaborative in a time of tight resources, has been a beacon of hope and healing for countless children and families. So many people have contributed so much to the development of Safe Harbor, and I was fortunate to be able to be associated with it for a while.
- ◆ Development of Children Come First – thanks to Lynn Green and

all those with vision to create a system that serves the very challenging group of youth experiencing mental health problems who find their way too often into the juvenile justice system.

Finally, something that is not universally considered an accomplishment was our work in what has come to be called “detention reform”. This is an area that focuses partially on limiting the use of secure custody to those youth who pose a risk of harm to the community and developing alternate systems and processes to work with other youth who may need some form(s) of supervision and support but do not need to be confined. With the support of many, Dane County became a model for other jurisdictions on how to ensure that youth were held when necessary and not held when not necessary, while at the same time maintaining a commitment to ensuring public safety.

### *Any funny or fond memories?*

My memories, both fond and funny, are about the people. The kids who were both frustrating and fascinating, so many in the early Shelter Home years that I remember – one quick anecdote that perhaps serves as the precursor to the more recent work in strength-based practice was the boy at Shelter Home who was fascinated by taking things apart, including our washer and dryer, furniture, and anything that had parts to it. Of course, he’d get them apart and couldn’t put them back together – later on he became a mechanic working on helicopters in the Air Force. Or, perhaps the

young girl with dozens of OMVWOC charges who later became a chauffeur!

And, so many great staff within the program, whom I miss and so many dedicated professionals in all corners of the juvenile justice system who bring to their work their compassion, their commitment, their day in and day out efforts to serve the community in different ways with their unique gifts.

### *What have you been up to since retiring from the County?*

Since leaving Dane County I had the good fortune to serve as a consultant to the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance working on juvenile justice policy issues on behalf of the Governor’s Juvenile Justice Commission and on issues related to compliance with deferral Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act requirements, helping to get Wisconsin “back into compliance”. I also have served as a private juvenile justice consultant and continue to serve as a volunteer on the Growing Up, Getting Ready solutions team for United Way of Dane County and as a member of the McFarland School Board. This fall I served as an adjunct faculty member at Edgewood College and Herzing College.

Beginning in December, I was selected to be the Deputy Director for the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families and I look forward to being able to be part of a progressive agenda working on issues of quality childcare, early childhood education, employment, and health care access for the children and families of Wisconsin.



## Spotlight on Youth - David

By Sally VanLysel, DCDHS

David is a 15-year-old young man who came to our Dane County Focus (see last issue of On Balance for more about Focus) program in March of 2008. Previous to his placement in the program David had been involved in the juvenile justice system for several years. He then committed a crime that could have sent him to Ethan Allen. He was given a chance at Focus instead.

Like so many of our youth, David's life has been hard. He has had little in the way of positive supports, both emotionally and economically. Due to no fault of his own, he has little contact with his family, whom he cares about deeply. But despite all of these huge obstacles, David is overcoming the odds. He has worked so very hard at achieving

his goals and is showing strength that few of us have.

David has developed the ability to stay away from further law violations by thinking about his choices. According to his past FOCUS social worker, Sarah Thomas, "David has shown the ability to process bad choices and make better choices and follow through with consequences. Now he can acknowledge the 'mistake' and own up to it." Ms. Thomas stated that David "has shown a great deal of compassion for others who have been ill or hurt," citing an example of his compassion when a child was facing surgery. "He pulled me aside and told me he was going to pray for her to have a safe surgery and to get better soon. He asked about her several times after the surgery to inquire if she was doing better."

David has shown tremendous strides academically over the past few years. He is involved in East High programming that includes training in the culinary field. He has shown strong interest and ability in this area and hopes to continue in the culinary field.

Last November David was given an award at a St. Charles reception in Milwaukee. It was an award well deserved and it was an honor to be present for this event. The pride on his face was heartwarming. A part of David's success has also been due to the involvement and dedication of his foster parents, who have been with him for several years and are committed to his success.

David's strong determination to make a better life for himself, coupled with his intelligence, compassion and great sense of humor will most certainly contribute to his continued success.

## Success

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Barb Lulak, DCDHS NIP

Barb Lulak comes to NIP with many years of teaching under her belt and a mission to impact the lives of the young people we work with. She has taught high school special education and in alternative programs. Some of you may remember her from her many years at Work and Learn. The School Success concept is built upon the notion that if we provide our young people with tools and academic support, it will hopefully positively impact their behavior and help build self esteem.

The program will assess current academic level; provide homework help; assign additional projects; teach basic competency like check book balancing; how to access reference materials; ACT prep; and help build study skills. We are very excited about the impact this program will have on the youth we serve. The School Success Club will operate Mondays and Wednesdays. 3:45-7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Barb at 288-2440

# Subculture Corner

*By Stephen Blue, Chair  
Dane County Youth Prevention Task Force*

During the past 20 years, Dane County Department of Human Services has been at the forefront of youth/gang issues in our community. As Delinquency Services Manager and in my previous position as Neighborhood Intervention Program Supervisor, I was given support in finding solutions and creating a community dialogue on youth gang issues.

The Dane County Youth Gang Taskforce was formed in 1988 in collaboration with state Drug Czar, Donna Bestor. In 1992 Kathy Sorenson assumed the role of co-chair with me. During this period, the Dane County Youth Gang Prevention Taskforce was a leading voice and action response vehicle to address issues of youth gang crises.



*Stephen Blue, DCDHS*

In 2005, the Taskforce produced a document: *A Proposed Community Response to Youth Gangs*. During this time, the Dane County area was experiencing a resurgence of youth gang activity, with significant shifts in new emerging gangs. The 2005 plan called for the development of an Enhanced Dane County Youth Gang Task Force. The County Executive, Kathleen Falk and Mayor Dave Cieslewicz appointed two highly respected individuals to lead the initiative - Luis Yudice and the late Milt McPike.

In January 2007, the Enhanced Task Force report was presented to the community and detailed a concise strategy to address the youth gang problems in our community and made recommendations for implementation.

DCDHS took a lead role in trying to keep the momentum going on the implementation of some key recommendations from the Enhanced Taskforce report. Our facilitation role has included collaboration in the development of the CASE (Coordinated Action Supervision Enhancement) concept and the Rapid Response board; a tool designed to post and disseminates critical crises info to key system partners. The Youth Employment initiative RFP process was completed and the \$160,000 was awarded to two agencies.

The Madison Metropolitan School District has implemented many of the school-based recommendations detailed in the report. Also, collaborative partnerships included new programming by our gang squad worker in Sun Prairie. The Rising Stars program was a major success and brought together Black and Latino gang-involved youth in an eight (8) week, three (3) days a week summer program. DCNIP Supervisor Andre Johnson continued to chair our Taskforce Community Trends meetings where youth service professionals, schools, law enforcement and social workers gathered to discuss youth/gang issues. The group will now shift to MPD staff and be coordinated by Det. George Chavez. The conference Planning committee, under the leadership of Sue Milch has been hard at work preparing our 14<sup>th</sup> spring conference. (*See page 11*) Over 300 participants attended the last event, and our May 8, 2009, event promises to keep our reputation as one of finest youth gang conferences in the mid-west intact.

Prevention activities and coordination included expansion of Right Track-school based early intervention discussion groups in both Madison and Sun Prairie. A special Right Track Latina (girls) discussion group was formed at Sennett Middle School and co-facilitated by school staff.

Madison Spartans youth basketball continues to be one of the most successful, cost effective youth/gang prevention programming initiatives. This past year, over 300 youth participated in this programming. Over 3500 hours of service

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# On Balance

## Subculture Corner

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are included in games, practices and developmental forums. New programming included RT-Spartans boys 9/10 and 11/12 MSCR league teams. This option was developed for young men, who because of grades, behavior or skill level were not able to participate on their local high school teams.

All of these steps have impacted our delinquency statistics. One of the 2008 goals was to impact the number of referrals for weapons, battery and disorderly conduct by youth of color.

<u>2008</u>	<u>Males of color</u>	<u>Females of color</u>
Weapons	<u>97 (26)</u>	<u>10 (1)</u>
Battery	91(45)	55 (25)
DC	154 (78)	58 (25)
<u>2007</u>	<u>Males of color</u>	<u>Females of color</u>
Weapons	126 (74)	91 (29)
Battery	97 (31)	57 (20)
DC	97 (69)	100 (43)

( # In parenthesis denotes school-based event)

## Gang Squad

In the 2006 the County Executive approved the funding of two full-time gang squad positions at the Neighborhood Intervention Program. This was a timely addition in our efforts in combating the spread of youth gang development in our community. The second gang squad worker was eliminated in the 2007 DCDHS budget. Since that time, we have operated with one dedicated gang squad worker, Aaron Perry. In review of the gang squads annual report, it is impressive what impact one position can make.

607 direct youth contacts  
125 parent contacts  
307 staff contacts  
400 indirect youth contact via bus transfer point monitoring

## Future

In closing, I will continue to address our local Youth Gang problems in my role of Delinquency Services Manager. There will continue to be a Youth gang sub-committee as part of the Juvenile Delinquency Coordination Team. The Juvenile Justice –DMC Solutions Workgroup has identified many of the same issues as correlates to gang involvement and disconnection by youth, as did the Enhanced Task Force Report.

The recommendations and strategies that will be proposed by the DMC Solutions Group will clearly impact our communities youth gang problem and disconnection issues, The CYF efforts in the areas of competency Development, Prevention services and youth employment will also impact the communities youth gang dynamic.

It has been my privilege to have been a part of Dane County response and community dialogue on youth gangs for the past 20 years. As I formally leave my role in the Dane County Youth Prevention Task Force on May 8, 2009. I would encourage the community to keep up the examination of the youth gang issues and continue to respond to the needs of

# On Balance

## DANE COUNTY YOUTH GANG PREVENTION CONFERENCE

\* \* \* \* \*

YOUTH SUBCULTURES IN DANE COUNTY:

### STRATEGIES TO ENGAGE & WORK WITH HIGH RISK YOUTH

**When:** May 8, 2009  
8:30am to 4:00pm  
(Registration at 7:45 am)

**Where:** American Family Training & Conference Center  
6000 American Parkway, Madison WI

**Target:** Social workers, youth workers, other community service providers;  
**Audience:** law enforcement; school counselors and social workers; probation & parole and other corrections officers; court workers, attorneys, alternate care providers; interested others.

**Program:** Featured speakers will be **John Hagedorn**, researcher and well-known author of several books including **A World of Gangs: Armed Young Men and Gangsta Culture**; and innovative presenter **Roberto Rivera** from **The Good Life Organization**, a program that successfully activates disengaged students and works to create and sustain community change.

Participants will also have an opportunity to select from among a variety of afternoon workshops. Tentative topics include: *cyberbullying; local gang activity; keeping track of youth on the internet; a middle school approach to intervening with gang behavior; gender-specific programming for girls; intervention strategies with Latino youth; hip hop culture; more.*

**Registration:** There is a \$30 fee for this program; lunch included.

**Information:** Registration materials will be available in late February.

*Space will be limited.*

For more information or to get on the mailing list, contact:

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