



# On Balance

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

February 2013  
Volume XVII, Number 1

## Court Ordered Evaluation Program Changes

By John Bauman

As of December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Community Partnerships began serving as Dane County Human Services' contract vendor for the Court Ordered Evaluation (COE) program, and began brokering court ordered evaluations for individuals under the following Wisconsin State Statutes: Juvenile Justice Code 938.295, Children's Code 48.295, Emergency Detention 51.15, Involuntary Commitment for Treatment 51.20, and Guardianship 54/55. Based on its experience with community mental health, children and families, system navigation and partnerships, and effective provider

network management, Community Partnerships was well positioned to add the COE program to its service array, and successfully responded to Dane County's Request for Proposal process.

The COE Program utilizes a diverse provider network of over 40 qualified mental health professionals including Master's level clinicians, Licensed Psychologists, and Licensed Psychiatrists to provide objective assessments and evaluations to the court for the purposes of treatment planning and placement decisions. The COE program intends to implement a variety of program innovations to better serve Dane County court systems, Dane County Human Services, individuals and families, and other system stakeholders. Some of the program initiatives that Community Partnerships will be addressing as the new program vendor include:

- Expanding the evaluator provider pool to include a greater number of evaluators as well as more diversity in specialty areas and expertise.

- Providing consultation services and resources to evaluators, social workers, and individual consumers to improve the quality of evaluation content and recommendations, as well as assisting with linkage to specific services in Dane County.
- Using comprehensive data collection and analysis to capture timeline accuracy as well as identify broader system barriers and service gaps.
- Committing to timeliness of referral submission, evaluation assignment, and completion to ensure that evaluations are able to have an impact on decision-making and treatment planning in court.
- Meeting standards of excellence as it pertains to service delivery and provider expectations.
- Providing tools, education, and training to social workers, evaluators, and other community stakeholders to improve evaluation quality and content.

Katie Myhre is the coordinator of the program and she welcomes suggestions and feedback. She can be reached at 250-6634 ext. 203.

### In this issue:

- P 2 Changing Faces of Dane County Group Homes
- P 3 National Juvenile Justice Program Models
- P 4 Staff Spotlight—Joe Gothard
- P 5 Where Are They Now—Diane Prellwitz
- P 7 A Day in the Life of Bobby Moore
- P 8 National Research Council—Juvenile Justice Reforms
- P10 MMSD Mental Health Task Force
- P11 Subculture Corner
- P14 Save the Date—March 7, 2013  
Juvenile Court Recognition Awards

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

# On Balance

## THE CHANGING FACES OF DANE COUNTY GROUP HOMES

*By Michelle Palay, DCDHS Substitute Care Unit*

Dane County is fortunate to have several excellent group home resources serving teen boys and girls in need of out-of-home care. One group home for girls, Horizon House, closed in August 2012, leaving only one other girls group home in Dane County. Also last year, Orion Family Services took over the remaining group homes that had been owned and operated by Walden Homes. Those included Thoreau House (boys) and Coventry House (girls).

Orion Family Services now operates all Dane County group home facilities. The facilities for boys are Akasha and Spaight Street House (formerly Thoreau). The facility for girls is Spohn Ave House for Girls (formerly Coventry). Akasha is located on the near westside of Madison; Spaight Street House is located on the near eastside of Madison; and Spohn Avenue House is located on the northeast side of Madison. All three programs provide individual case managers for youth in care, as well as a school liaison. Furthermore, the group homes are staffed around the clock by staff that have passed background checks and have received specialized training. Another positive is that group home locations help facilitate youth's readiness to return home given the ease of contact between the youth, his/her family, his/her social worker, and service providers.

Orion Family Services also operates two group homes outside of Dane County - a boys' group home in Platteville and a girls' group home in Monroe. Orion has been able to utilize the relationship between their out-of-town and in-town facilities to help youth make smooth transitions. Orion Family Services staff and Dane County Human Services staff have had positive working relationships for close to 20 years and look forward to continuing to build these bonds. Referrals to group homes may only be made through a youth's social worker.

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

**Editorial Board:**

John Bauman, Juvenile Court  
Brian Dean, Sun Prairie Schools  
Sheri Gatts, YSOSW  
Sue Milch, DCDHS  
David Thorson, DCDHS  
Rhonda Voigt, DCDHS

**Editor:**

Stephen Blue, DCDHS

**Comments?** Call Dawn  
MacFarlane 242-6267 or  
macfarlane@countyofdane.com

# On Balance

## National Juvenile Justice Program Models

*By Rachel Ellenz*

Is getting youth off the street and doing something more productive with their life as easy as sitting them down and talking to them? According to David Kennedy, it is. Kennedy came to Madison and spoke with the Juvenile Justice System Partners but also presented his work at MATC.

Kennedy developed a program called Operation Ceasefire in regard to gun violence. In 1995, he went to Boston to study violent crime. At that time gun violence was on the rise and Kennedy stepped in with Ceasefire. Ceasefire is law enforcement, social services and community partnerships coming together, talking with gang members and drug crews and expressing to them that the violence needs to stop. The community partnerships offered help and the law enforcement told them that the next gang to kill someone would get all their attention, not just the person committing the crime but the whole gang. As a result of this, violence dropped dramatically overnight. Several years later, gun violence was on the rise again and that was due to Boston not sticking with the program.

Kennedy stated that he can help start the program but it is up to the community to keep it up. Ceasefire is one of the programs that seems too good to be true but the only way it is effective is by getting the community leaders on the same page and to reevaluate their standards. He has also found that law enforcement going out on the street and showing gang members their files with their picture in and all their boys' pictures as well is effective because it shows these youth that they are being watched and what they are doing can land them some hard time in prison.

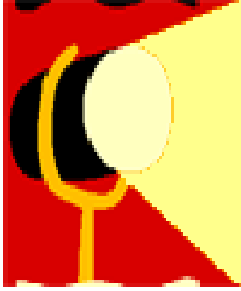
In High Point, North Carolina in 2004, Kennedy put his program to use toward a drug problem. They actually didn't call it a drug problem because it was worse so they called it an Overt Market. These drug markets were typically located in inner-city poor, minority neighborhoods, where drugs are readily available and a stranger can make a purchase on the street or in a drug house. Young people are eased into criminal activity since drug markets are hotspots for crime. Law enforcement is rarely ever able to shut down a drug market. People still go back to these areas despite great attention by law enforcement because those are the areas they know they will get their drugs.

Kennedy used the same approach with drug markets as he did for gun violence. Police officers went into neighborhoods and rounded up some of the young drug dealers off the street. They showed them videos and pictures of them dealing. The police showed them what their criminal case would look like and the time they would be spending in prison if they continue what they are doing. The young dealers were let go with a second chance to straighten up their lives. The police worked with their families and got them job training and mentors. If they did not follow through with these conditions, law enforcement would come down on them aggressively. More times than not the police who are giving these drug dealers a second chance are more effective than the ones making arrests everyday.

Another program is YouthBuild in Chicago, IL which is aimed toward at-risk youth. This program works with youth between the ages 18-24 who are low income and high school dropouts. They work toward getting their GED as well as learning job skills. YouthBuild is partnered with Habitat for Humanity and South Suburban College during the 32-week program. During the program, youth build affordable houses in their community so they are learning community service, job skills and leadership skills while working toward their GED.

*See National Juvenile Justice  
Page 6*

# On Balance



## Staff Spotlight – Joe Gothard Madison Metropolitan School District

*By Sheri Gatts*

Mr. Joe Gothard is in his second year as Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education (grades 6-12) with the Madison Metropolitan School District. He has enjoyed a long and interesting relationship with the school district, where he was a student at LaFollette High School.

After graduating from there and going to college for his teaching degree, he became an educational assistant at Lincoln Elementary in 1993. His next move was to Principal of Toki Middle School; then he became a teacher, coach and Dean of Students at LaFollette, prior to becoming the Assistant Superintendent of the School District.

He has seen a lot of changes over the years. “There are incredible demands being made on schools from the State and Federal Governments that need to be balanced with support for the students and teachers who also need a voice,” he explained. “We have identified the problems, but it’s difficult to bring people together to actually do something.” The district still struggles with racial and academic achievement gaps. A lot of time and energy go into these issues to help keep our youth on the right path and away from the pipeline to prison.

To address such problems, the district is implementing transitional programs to help kids who are homeless or living in chaotic situations. The teachers

and administrators worry about the students who need help. “These kids become your kids, and you worry about them,” he emphasized.

Food service staff is running a dinner program for students who qualify this year at Memorial High School, Black Hawk Middle School, and Falk Elementary. This



year it is only for students attending those schools, but the hope is that it can be offered to families some time in the future.

One of Joe’s most promising efforts for the school district involves implementing restorative practices, an outgrowth of restorative justice which has been part of the criminal justice system for over 15 years. “The landscape of education is changing, and school districts need to respond to those changes,” he explained. They are whatever they can manage, starting small and ex-

panding as the principles of restorative practices show that it works.

Restorative practices are being implemented throughout the school district in the form of restorative youth courts and restorative circles. A restorative youth court is in its fifth year of operating at LaFollette High School, and was launched in the other three high schools this school year. Restorative Circles will soon be expanded into the middle schools. The district is working collaboratively with Timebank Youth Court and the YWCA Racial and Restorative Justice Initiatives to implement these programs.

In the 2007-08 school year, LaFollette handled 312 disciplinary actions. During the 2010-11 school year, that number dropped to only 200 disciplinary actions. According to Joe Gothard, “when there are fewer suspensions, school buildings are safer. It provides an environment where students can become leaders.”

Mr. Gothard keeps busy these days working on his dissertation and will be graduating this spring with his Doctorate of Education. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Mary, their two daughters and one son. Joe has lived on the east side of Madison most of his life, so it has always felt like home. “This is a great place to raise a family so we are planning to stay around.”

# On Balance

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

*ON BALANCE catches up with .... Diane Prellwitz*



Happy New Year to my friends and former co-workers in Madison! I must say I miss you - the camaraderie, shared angst and humor, small triumphs and day-to-day conversations. It is hard to believe it's been over a year since I retired as supervisor of the NPO delinquency ongoing unit. It is interesting that I still have a difficult time saying I am retired. I guess my sense of self still includes being a worker. Nevertheless, I have enjoyed my time off and adapted amazingly well to the slowed down lifestyle of a retired person living in a small rural town in southwestern Kansas.

This past summer I kept busy with my first vegetable garden. It is amazing how many different garden insects and diseases there are. The "favorites" on my computer is full of garden sites with lists of good and bad bugs, diseases and "how to's". I learned a lot. For instance, I was killing insects which I thought were cucumber beetles, only to be told by the owner of a nursery that they were actually young ladybugs, which are good insects. I felt terrible. I also got good at polli-

nating cucumbers, which have both male and female flowers, and need help with pollination when extremely dry conditions make the bees scarce. In spite of my inexperience and the very dry weather, we did harvest peppers, potatoes, carrots, onions and a few late tomatoes.

My favorite parts of retired life are sleeping until I wake up without an alarm, which is wonderful, and reading a lot. There is nothing more pleasant than morning coffee and a book. I am fortunate to have a small fitness center in Bucklin or I can walk outdoors, where the wheat, milo and cotton grow and the sky is very blue. The biggest drawback to walking outdoors is the wind, which on many days is much more intimidating here than in Wisconsin.

My relationship with Jack has continued to be a really good thing for me, and in February I decided to put my condo on the market. The condo market was very competitive but thanks to a wonderful realtor (and a little luck), it sold in September. I anticipated feeling sad but was actually quite relieved. It was time for me to have just one home - the one in Kansas.

I've been back to Madison several times to check on my condo, participate in training and see friends. On most trips back I've paid a visit to NPO to visit with folks and find out what is going on in the world of CYF. I have heard that you are all very, very busy (some things do not change). I know court hearings still take up too much of your time. I know the perm plan in WiSACWIS

changed rather dramatically and now requires a series of approvals. I know the requirements for face-to-face contacts for out of home placements have expanded to include the placement providers and parents. So much to do and never enough time! For all the parts of the job I miss, I do not miss being responsible for keeping track of the myriad expectations.

A couple of people let me know that Izzie and Deena were retiring last December and although I wasn't able to attend the party, I did visit with each of them in late November, which was really nice. Congratulations to Sarah Lawton and Kristen Ryan on being hired as supervisors of the Subcare and CPS Access units respectively.

I still think of all of you and the work you do on a regular basis and really enjoy staying connected. However, now in 2013, I feel like I need to explore my options for "being a part of something bigger" here in Kansas. Most of my training hours in 2012 were in the area of mental health with the older adult, through the UW Continuing Education Department. (Don't worry, I also got my 4 hours of Boundaries and Ethics!) The focus of the training was on persons with Alzheimers and I found myself quite excited about everything I was learning. Ever since I spent time caretaking for my mother who had Alzheimers, I have thought of

*See Diane Prellwitz  
Page 6*

# On Balance

## *National Juvenile Justice* *Continued from Page 3*

The Missouri Model was developed to avoid using the large facilities and start using smaller facilities dispersed throughout different regions so juveniles could stay closer to their families. This program challenges youth to make behavior changes and prepares them to return to the community. Missouri felt that large juvenile facilities often have a negative life-long impact, so their approach is to place these youth in community-based rehabilitation or development programs where they can be supervised at all times.

Missouri's recidivism rate of 14.5% for youth recommitted to juvenile custody or adult prison for a new offense within two years compares favorably to New Jersey's 36.7%. Statistics show that as each year passes for youth who have been released means they are less likely to be sentenced again in Missouri so the percentage drops continually. Missouri also tran-

sitions their youth into the community by providing intensive aftercare support to be engaged in school, college or employment at the time of their discharge.

Being cost effective has been very important to the Missouri Model as well. One way they keep cost down is because their confinement ranges from 4-6 months in a non-secure facility and 9-12 months in a secure facility, where as in California the average length of state for youth is three years. Another reason for being so cost effective is because if a youth violates their behavioral rules in their aftercare, they are not brought back in to the facility. And the biggest saver of all is due to their great success with graduates not committing crimes again. It is said that keeping just one delinquent teen away from a life of crime saves society \$3 million-\$6 million in criminal expenses and victim costs over that teen's lifetime.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2011/10/14/david-kennedy-talks-gang-violence-and-ceasefire.html>

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2011/09/25/god-it-s-got-to-stop.html>

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/Publications/e08097226-HighPoint.pdf>

<http://www.oaiinc.org/Jobs.html#top>

---

## *Diane Prellwitz* *Continued from Page 5*

this as a later life career option. I may start with volunteer work, which would allow me to network with professionals in the field and get a feel for what work options there are. I also need to go through the process of applying for a reciprocal license.

We will see what 2013 brings our way. I wish you good luck with all the challenges you face every day doing the hard work you do. You are incredibly resilient, compassionate and dedicated. Take care!

Diane



# On Balance

## A Day in the Life of DC-NIP Social Worker, Bobby Moore

*By Emily Risser*

Bobby Moore has been a social worker with Dane County Human Services' Neighborhood Intervention Program (DC-NIP) for 24 years. He works with youth under court supervision with the goal of redirecting their thought processes and mentoring them down paths toward their bright futures.

Bobby fills many roles with his clients, coworkers, family, friends, neighbors, and other members of the community. He has to balance, among other responsibilities, supervising at-risk youth in the community, communicating with school officials, making court appearances, teaming with co-workers and collaterals, negotiating, case managing, home visiting, and supporting the community. One of the first things he tells new clients and their families is that he is always fair and honest; he never keeps any member of the team (client, family members, co-workers) in the dark about what he's doing, what his intentions are, or potential consequences, so nothing is a surprise, no matter how difficult that conversation may be.

On the particular day I shadowed Bobby, we started our day at the Juvenile Reception Center (JRC) downtown to remove a GPS bracelet from a teen before he was transferred to a group home. Then, traveling from JRC, we caravanned to a school on the east side of Madison to find out from faculty why one of our clients was suspended.

We learned of the suspension the night before when doing a random home curfew check and his mom informed us of her son's tough day at school. After talking with the school police officer, the student, and teacher, and reading the be-



havioral referral, we decided on a reasonable consequence: hard community service on a Saturday, starting early in the morning, causing the teen to miss his beloved basketball game.

From the school we went to the DC-NIP office where Bobby's first task was to check his email. He responded to many emails, getting interrupted by several phone calls and text messages, then wrote a monthly court report.

In the afternoon we rushed downtown for a court hearing. Because

of a fistful of keys inadvertently left in his pocket, Bobby almost didn't make it through security. After leaving the courthouse, we returned to the DC-NIP office where we eventually ended our day.

This one work day for Bobby cannot adequately describe all that he juggles, both professionally and personally, on a daily basis. Committed to educating youth, he volunteers some of his limited time to tutoring students, including his grandchildren, once a week at a neighborhood church. The kids get one-on-one attention from adults and college students, some of whom were in a tutoring program back when they were in school.

Every day with Bobby can look completely different, and while organization is important to get tasks done, unplanned events occur all the time so Bobby has to be able to go with the flow.

Bobby is one of the hardest working people in social services around. He may be difficult to reach given that he has at least three cell phones that I know of, but he will always return your call whenever possible. With the daily chaos and difficult nature of this kind of work, it pays to have a great sense of humor, and if you've never met Bobby, he'll be the guy handing you a yellow business card introducing himself as Denzel Washington.

# On Balance

## National Research Council - Juvenile Justice Reforms

*By Kris Moelter, Office of Justice Assistance*

A recently published report from the National Research Council lends support to the juvenile justice system reform efforts already underway in Wisconsin.

*Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Development Approach* (November 2012) sets forth a roadmap for juvenile justice system improvement using a development framework for reform. The report calls on policymakers to reform their juvenile justice systems using what we know about adolescent development and brain science to implement changes that will benefit youth, families, and communities.

The goal of the juvenile justice system is to ensure public safety by supporting the positive social development of youth in the system. Specifically, juvenile court system players need to hold youth accountable, prevent reoffending, and treat youth fairly.

The science of adolescent and brain development needs to inform how the juvenile justice system responds in order to achieve the system objectives. We know that adolescents, relative to adults, lack a mature capacity for self-regulation in emotionally charged situations, are more susceptible to peer pressure and immediate rewards, and have less ability to make decisions that require future orientation. These cognitive patterns explain why adolescents often engage in risky behaviors that have a high probability of immediate rewards even though the actions may cause harm.

In addition, the vast majority of youth who are arrested or referred to juvenile court have not committed serious offenses and half of them will not reoffend. Most will mature out of their behavior. In Wisconsin only two percent of the youth arrested have committed a violent crime. Over 60 percent of the petitions filed in Wisconsin are for disorderly conduct, theft, criminal damage to property, misdemeanor battery, or JIPs. The most petitioned “serious” offenses are burglary (five percent), robbery (three percent), and operating a motor vehicle without the owner’s consent (three percent).

Given the above considerations, the report authors suggest state, local, and tribal governments use the following guiding principles for juvenile justice reform:

**Accountability.** Accountability is different for adolescents than for adults. If the goal is to promote pro-social development while ensuring public safety, accountability must be developmentally appropriate. That means promoting positive socialization. According to the report, holding youth accountable means a system that:

- Communicates the message that youth need to take responsibility for their actions
- Encourages youth to accept responsibility for their actions while protecting their legal rights
- Involves family members in the process
- Uses restitution and community service as instruments of accountability to victims and the community
- Securely detains youth only when needed to ensure public safety
- Avoids the collateral consequences of adjudication such as public release of juvenile records

*See National Research  
Page 9*



# On Balance

## *National Research*

*Continued from Page 8*

**Preventing reoffending.** The report recommends:

- Using structured assessment tools to identify low-risk youth who can be diverted from the formal system and to provide effective interventions for medium and high risk youth
- Using interventions that are based on scientific knowledge about adolescent development and tailored to the individual youth's needs and social environment
- Engaging the family and using community resources to promote positive activities, pro-social development, and law-abiding behavior
- Stopping the use of interventions that research shows are harmful or ineffective (such as Scared Straight and boot camps)
- Keeping accurate data and measuring outcomes

**Fairness.** Youth are highly sensitive to the notion of fairness. The system needs to ensure that youth perceive they are being treated fairly. To that end, the report recommends:

- Ensuring youth are represented by an attorney throughout the process
- Ensuring that youth are adjudicated only if they can understand the proceedings and assist their lawyer in their own defense
- Facilitating participation by all youth in all proceedings
- Reducing ethnic and racial disparities
- Implementing evidence-based measures for fairness based on legal criteria and perceptions of the youth, families, and other system participants.

In addition, the report makes recommendations for federal policymakers, including amending the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) to:

- Define offenses such as possession of alcohol or tobacco as status offenses, thereby prohibiting the secure detention of youth charged with possession of those substances. Currently underage alcohol possession is not considered a status offense under the JJDP A.
- Prohibit any status offender from being held in a secure juvenile detention facility, jail, or lockup. The JJDP A currently allows status offenders to be securely detained in a juvenile detention center for up to 24 hours before and/or after a court hearing and as a sanction for violating a court order, provided certain procedures are followed. Wisconsin law allows status offenders to be held in secure detention in certain circumstances.
- Give states the flexibility to keep youth in juvenile facilities until they reach the age of extended juvenile court jurisdiction.
- Prohibit any youth under the age of 18 from being held with adult offenders until conviction, regardless of the state's age of criminal responsibility. For Wisconsin, that would mean 17 year-olds or younger youth waived to adult court or subject to original adult court jurisdiction would need to be sight and sound separated from adult inmates until conviction.

The current efforts underway in Wisconsin are consistent with these recommendations. For several years, the Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission has supported the use of evidence-based programs and practices. It has done this by

*See National Research  
Page 13*

# On Balance

## School Community Plan to Support Children's Mental Health - MMSD Mental Health Task Force

By John Bauman

Over the past 12 months, representatives from the Madison Metropolitan School District, Human Services, HMO's, Juvenile Court, providers, parents and others have met to discuss how to improve the delivery of mental health services to youth in the Madison Metropolitan School District. Data was presented, a Vision was developed and strategic goals were established in key areas. Specific action steps were finalized at the January meeting and now a smaller implementation team will use these steps to refine the process to use to begin implantation. Policy and procedure development, staff development, funding mechanisms and collaborations are some of the areas that this group will continue to work on.

*The following is from the plan that has been developed over the past 12 months. We pay tremendous immediate and long-term costs when students' mental health needs are not met. Our data tells us that...*

1. There are inequities resulting from decreasing funding streams, limited coordination of existing resources, and inefficiencies in current use of resources. Students of color and those living in poverty are less likely to receive recommended services in our community's mental health system.
2. School staff and community's lack of education and gaps in knowledge contribute to stigma associated with mental health. This, in turn, contributes to difficulties in successfully connecting struggling youth and families with appropriate services.
3. Students with mental health concerns are more likely than peers to miss instruction due to suspension (x10), office discipline referrals (x7), and attendance prob-

lems. Students identified as having an emotional or behavioral disability are less likely to graduate than their peers.

4. Students with mental health concerns are more likely to interface with the juvenile justice system.
5. Adverse childhood experiences and trauma are common and contribute to emotional dysregulation, risk-taking behaviors and mental health concerns.
6. Research links mental health and social-emotional wellbeing with academic success.

### Vision

We will . . .

- Identify and implement culturally competent, trauma-informed, evidence-based practices that provide education and access to high quality direct service and individualized care...
- Take collective responsibility to develop and sustain a coordinated, seamless system of care within our schools and community...
- Empower parents/caregivers to partner and fully participate in all aspects of care for their children...
- Include an evaluation plan with outcomes that are measurable and lend themselves to program improvement...

So that . . .

All students will have access to the mental health services they need to support the achievement of their full potential as healthy and contributing community members.

### Mission

Create a comprehensive, integrated, culturally-competent and trauma-informed school-linked system of mental health practices and supports for MMSD students and their families.

### Strategic Goals

**Organization/Policy** - We will establish shared ownership and responsibility amongst community policy makers to align and coordinate systems, policies, strategies and resources that will ensure that the objectives of the Task Force are met.

**Education/Outreach** - We will identify and develop culturally competent models of school and community education that empower students, parents/caregivers, educators, community members and other professionals to support children's social and emotional well-being and mental health needs.

**Direct Service/Access** - We will develop new initiatives and build on existing successful programs to establish a coordinated, efficient and responsive system of referral, access and provision of mental health services and supports to assure student (children/youths) health and achievement.

**Individualized Care** - We will develop and maintain a collaborative system including parents/caregivers that provides children/youth with significant mental health needs timely and appropriate access to quality individualized mental health care that will support educational achievement.

# On Balance

## Subculture

## Corner

*Stephen Blue – Co-Chair  
Dane County Youth Gang  
Prevention Task Force*



In the aftermath of horrific incidents at Newtown, Connecticut, Oak Creek, Wisconsin and Aurora Colorado, community violence concerns are in the news again. This trend is occurring across the nation. Our sister city Chicago, IL, has been at the center of the storm trend, with a record 441 murders in 2011. One weekend in August, there were firearm incidents involving 40 shots recorded in the city and seven deaths. The 2012 total for Chicago was an alarming 506 murders and over 2000 firearm injuries. The trend has continued in 2013, with 42 murders in the month of January. An unidentified gunman shot 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton, who performed at President Obama's inauguration with her high school band. According to police, the suspected gunman might have believed she and friends were members of a rival gang. Hadiya

had no arrest history and there is no indication she was in a gang. Two young adult men, one 19 years old and one 20 year old have been arrested as suspects in the shooting.

The City of Madison and surrounding areas have not been immune from the national trend. The City of Madison recorded two murders in 2010, seven murders in 2011. Down the road in Milwaukee, the data is 94 in 2010, 85 in 2012. Before we move on, one loss of life is a tragic event and should not be accepted in modern society. Since the rise in violence is juxtaposed in a decade long overall national crime decline, why and who are the questions all municipalities are struggling to deal with.

According to OJJDP, which compiles figures reported by many jurisdictions the youth violence epidemic peaked in 1993 and was followed by a rapid and substantial drop over the rest of the 1990s. In 1993 nearly all gang-related homicides involved guns (97%). In 1994, juveniles were involved in committing more than 2,300 murders. The year before, nearly 3,000 minors were murder victims. By 2010, the statistic had fallen dramatically for juveniles. Guns are more likely to be used in homicides of teens and young adults than homicides of any other age group. Per Buddy Howell of the National Gang Center, there is no one proven factor behind juvenile-involved murder. But young gang membership increases the likelihood of firearm death or injury. There were about 2,000 gang-related murders annually from 2006 through 2010 according to the National Youth Gang Survey. Howell cautioned that the data also includes gang members over the age of 18. The vast majority of murders are concentrated in a few urban counties. The cities of Los Angeles and Chicago alone account for about half the murders in the USA.

Who is at the center of the violence trend? Many of the recent local incidents involving firearm murders, domestic violence, robberies and assault and battery involve adult or young adult 17-25 year-olds. There is a tendency to look at programs, rather than the missed identified intervention strategy and target population when the responses fail to end the community violence. There were 156 murders in Wisconsin in 2010; Dane County was .8% of the total murders. Of those murders, 90% of the offenders were adults and 10% juvenile.

As the nation and local communities begin to dialogue about the impact of firearms on our modern society, the issue of rights, victims and safety will come into play. The early focus has been on the legislation to ban production of high capacity ammunition feeding devices and mental health. Many solutions will be suggested and tried. Recently, Emporia,

*See Subculture Corner  
Page 12*

# On Balance

## *Subculture Corner*

*Continued from Page 11*

Kansas will allow high school security guards to carry weapons. This is the first school district to enact this measure since the Sandy Hook incident in Newtown.

In fact, research has shown us in many jurisdictions and reports from 17 OJJDP sites that certain types of firearm and gang strategies have yielded few examples of success. There is no consistent relationship between law enforcement measures of gang activity and firearm crime trends. In most instances, there is a lack of correspondence between the problems. OJJDP states that severe imbalances of power and resources between law enforcement and community partners hamper the implementation of “balanced” gang and firearm control initiatives. One researcher argues that in Chicago IL, a cycle of police suppression and incarceration and a legacy of segregation have actually helped to sustain unacceptably high levels of gang and firearm violence. What we know and research has shown that works is a balanced comprehensive effort that includes positive public safety strategies

- Expanded use of evidence-based practice to reduce youth crimes
- Focus on behavior, not the eradication of gangs with strategies grounded in principles of effective social work practice.
- Promote jobs, education, and healthy communities and lower barriers to reintegration of gang members into the mainstream society.
- Redirect or balance resources from failed anti-gang strategies to proven public safety strategies.

The President has called for action on the issue of Firearm violence. He is challenging the elected officials and local communities to support revisions in our current laws. President Obama has directed vice president Biden to work with members of the Administration, congress, and a broad cross section of the general public to come-up with a comprehensive set of policy proposals we should take to begin to curb gun violence in America.

Congressman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott convened the Youth Violence Prevention Summit on Tuesday, January 22, 2013, in Washington, DC. Sponsored by the House Democratic Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, the summit brought together panelists comprised of justice, mental health, education, child development, and law enforcement professionals to discuss ways to identify threats of violence in schools and communities, strategies to reduce violence, and legislative initiatives to empower communities. Speakers emphasized evidence-based programs to reduce violence, including CrimeSolutions.gov and Blueprints for Violence Prevention and, along with task force members, expressed support for the Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education (Youth PROMISE) Act, legislation introduced by Congressman Scott.

Wisconsin has few gun laws on the books but still ranks somewhere near the middle among states for strictness because so many other states do even less. Wisconsin requires a 48-hour waiting period on handgun sales from licensed dealers – a modest measure, gun control advocates say, but tougher than 39 states that have no waiting period. Wisconsin does not require firearms to be registered, making statistics on gun ownership hard to come by. Wisconsin has no ban on assault weapons or large capacity ammunitions magazines.

*See Subculture Corner  
Page 13*

# On Balance

## *National Research*

### *Continued from Page 9*

funding the *What Works*, *Wisconsin* publications, funding intensive evidence-based practice training for counties and tribes, encouraging counties and tribes to eliminate the use of secure detention for status offenders, supporting the return of 17-year olds to the juvenile justice system, educating counties on the harmful effects of housing juveniles with adults, addressing DMC in the juvenile justice system, training law enforcement on fair and impartial policing, and supporting local implementation efforts such as:

- Giving grants so counties can purchase assessment tools
- Funding training in evidence-based practices such as motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioral interventions
- Providing local training to juvenile justice stakeholders on what works to reduce juvenile reoffending

Going forward the commission will be piloting a juvenile justice data collection project in several counties that will hopefully serve as a model for all counties to use for data collection and program evaluation. It also is developing a core foundations training curriculum for juvenile justice on-going social workers, similar to the foundation training available to child welfare social workers.

An effective juvenile justice system recognizes that adolescent offenders are neither children nor adults. Their delinquent activity is often predictable and transient and part of adolescent behavior. This knowledge allows for the development of a system that holds youth accountable by responding with interventions that likely will decrease reoffending and enhance the likelihood of the youth developing into productive adults.

You can find the full report at [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=14685](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=14685).

---

## *Subculture Corner*

### *Continued from Page 12*

Wisconsin law requires the identities of individuals who have been court ordered not to possess firearms due to mental illness to be sent to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (no federal law requires states to report this information).

There are thirty or more American firearm deaths, on the average day, week in and week out with no end in sight. 150,000 Americans have been killed by firearms in a five year period, while there have been 4000 US fatalities in Iraq.

UW Medical School states, although injuries both intentional and unintentional are the major cause of death of children under age 19, the rate of deaths from motor vehicles has fallen, while the rate of injury death rate is a reflection of greater availability of handguns in our society and the greater number of handgun related deaths. The question is why, as the most progressive nation in the world, we cannot find a solution? It will be a sad day in America, when armed guards in our schools are the new norm.

# On Balance

## SAVE THE DATE—THURSDAY, MARCH 7 Juvenile Court Recognition Awards Ceremony

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Juvenile Court Recognition Awards will be presented at a ceremony and dinner to be held on Thursday, March 7, 2013 at the Goodman Community Center. Award categories include:

- **The Peter Rubin Award** in recognition of someone who has made significant contributions to youth (in and out of the juvenile justice system), particularly recognizing many years of service and dedication “above and beyond” the job.
- **The Ervin Bruner Award** in recognition of an individual who has made significant contributions over many years to the lives of families/youth through their professional work in the juvenile justice system.
- **The George Northrup Award** in recognition of an individual who has overcome adversity and/or demonstrates a commitment to persevere in improving the lives of youth and families despite difficult circumstances.
- **Outstanding Service Awards** will be given to individuals (youth, parent(s), citizens) or groups for significant contributions to the lives of youth and families as a result of special projects or activities.
- **Recognition Awards to youth** who demonstrate strengths and abilities to overcome obstacles and give back to the community through their achievements.

For more information about the awards and the recognition event, check the Juvenile Court Program web-site at

<http://www.countyofdane.com/juvenilecourt/index.html>

### The Juvenile Court is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's recognition awards:

<b>The Peter Rubin Award:</b>	<b>Peggy Bartlett</b>
<b>The Ervin Bruner Award:</b>	<b>Izzie Popic</b>
<b>The George Northrup Award:</b>	<b>Deb Gordon</b>
<b>Outstanding Service:</b>	<b>Jackie Hammond</b>
	<b>Kate Gravel</b>
	<b>Oscar Mireles</b>
<b>Outstanding Achievement:</b>	<b>Jesus Lara</b>
	<b>Matthew Frisch</b>