

# BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

Preventing Youth Violence in Minneapolis



## Quarterly Report January – March 2010

**GOAL 1**  
Objective: Every young person in Minneapolis is supported by at least one trusted adult in their family or their community

**GOAL 2**  
Objective: Intervene at the first sign that youth and families are at risk for or involved in violence

**GOAL 3**  
Objective: Do not give up on our kids, work to restore and get them back on track

**GOAL 4**  
Objective: Recognize that violence is learned and can be unlearned by reducing the impact of violent messages in our media, culture and entertainment

### *Coordinator's Corner*

This past January marked the two year anniversary of the launch of the **Blueprint for Action**. The critical impetus that launched the Blueprint was a central question: *how do we as a community deal with juvenile violence?* Rooted in a public health model of prevention and intervention, the Blueprint has served as a unifying strategy for institutions and the broader community to connect and coordinate their individual efforts within a common framework. Juvenile violence is a complex social problem that takes different forms and often occurs with other problem behaviors. A multi-faceted, long term approach is the critical path to properly address the full range of issues associated with this public health issue.

During the past two years, the four targeted neighborhoods of the Blueprint experienced a notable reduction in juvenile crime and homicides. This measured success led to the expansion of the implementation of the Blueprint to an additional 18 neighborhoods for 2010. Regrettably, the beginning of the New Year witnessed an increase in homicides involving juveniles. Despite this unfortunate increase, the crux of the Blueprint's strategy – to identify risk and promote protective factors in the course of a youth's development and in their environment (individual, family, school, peer group, community) – remains the pre-eminent evidence-based course of action that will ultimately address the root causes associated with violence.

The intent of the Quarterly Report is to give voice to the countless efforts by a wide range of community stakeholders on the issue of youth violence prevention within the framework of the Blueprint. In the following pages, we have attempted to capture this all-important work through a lens of community stakeholders and partners who represent the fabric of the youth development community and are the front lines in youth engagement, empowerment and rehabilitation. Ultimately, the success of the Blueprint is intertwined with the daily efforts these and so many more organizations strive to undertake with each and every youth they encounter.

Each quarter, we will highlight a different community stakeholder in the summary version of the Quarterly Report, but I invite you to review the full report to better assess the wide range of high quality activities that serve to advance our two-fold goal: the reduction of juvenile violence and the well being of our community's youth.

Bass Zanjani  
Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator

## GOAL 1

### **Objective:**

Every young person in Minneapolis is supported by at least one trusted adult in their family or their community

YouthCARE (*Youth for Cultural Appreciation & Racial Equality*) is a Twin Cities based nonprofit organization with a successful thirty year history of directing leadership development, multi-cultural, and educational programs and services for urban youth, 7-18 years old.

All YouthCARE programs:

- Help youth develop the skills necessary to live and work in a multicultural community.
- Encourage understanding, respect, and appreciation for self and others.
- Help youth make a successful transition from adolescence to adulthood.
- Provide opportunities for disadvantaged youth and youth of color to gain leadership skills.

In the first quarter of 2010:

- YouthCARE's mentoring program conducted four 7-10 year old *Girls Groups*. Members participated in one-on-one mentoring activities at their local library with 14-18 year old *Youth Mentors* from their community. They also conducted three 14-18 year old groups. *Youth Mentors* participated in one-on-one mentoring activities with adult staff from the program to assist with personal development goals.
- YouthCARE's Young Women's Mentoring Program provided the following community-based programs in the Little Earth of United Tribes Community:
  - *Girls Group*, 7-10 year olds, had 10 after-school enrichment activities with 53 contacts made.
  - *Adventure Girls*, 10-13 years, had 10 after-school service-learning and leadership development activities with 42 contacts made.
  - In January, 16 girls from Little Earth *Girls Group* and *Adventure Girls* participated in an all-program Winter Celebration at the Depot Ice Rink.
  - Four 14-18 year old *Youth Mentors* participated in 32 leadership development, employment readiness training and service-learning opportunities with 75 contacts made.

## GOAL 2

### **Objective:**

Intervene at the first sign that youths and families are at risk for or involved in violence

STEP-UP is a summer job program for Minneapolis youth ages 14-21. Youth ages 14 and 15 are offered a first job experience and matched with positions at non-profits. Youth ages 16-21 are matched with jobs in private businesses, government and education.

City of Minneapolis funds are paired with State and Federal funding sources to support projects to employ approximately 2,000 Minneapolis youth annually.

In addition to being employed, youth participate in academic enrichment classes, financial literacy training, and business mentor relationships. The success of the youth programs can be attributed in part to the variety of job experiences available through partners such as US Bank, Target, University of Minnesota, Phillips Community Television, Emerge Community Development and YouthCARE.

- This year, STEP-UP will be serving more at-risk and income eligible youth than in past years.
- Minneapolis Employment and Training Program (METP) has a summer 2010 goal of employing 2,300 youth in all programs with most falling in the at-risk category, including up to 298 youth with disabilities through the year-round Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program.
- Year-round WIA providers are required to serve youth connected to juvenile diversion or at-risk of offending. Most providers have connections to Hennepin County Probation and some have developed expertise in working with adjudicated youth.
- METP staff distributes employment and training information at biannual events such as Project Youth Connect, Youth Link's Job Fair and Project Homeless Connect.
- STEP-UP staff made certain the Hennepin County Foster Care case managers had information about the 2010 STEP-UP application process.
- STEP-UP recruitment is on-site at Broadway High School, a Minneapolis public high school for pregnant or parenting youth.
- METP partners with culturally specific organizations to get the word out about employment opportunities to the ELL community.

### GOAL 3

**Objective:**

Do not give up on our kids, work to restore and get them back on track

Restorative Justice encompasses a wide variety of practices employed in cultures around the world. These methods allow for all parties involved in a conflict to collaboratively work to find just and healing solutions, rather than concentrating solely on punishment. Restorative justice includes mediation, circles, and family group conferencing.

As an alternative to out-of-school suspensions, community partners offer restorative services to students with behavioral issues. In addition, Hennepin County Family Group Conferencing, a program of the Hennepin County Children and Family Services Department, helps parents and extended family of youths involved in Child Protection plan for their safety and protection. Our community partners provide co-facilitators for Family Group Conferences.

- Conflict Resolution Center mediators facilitate peacekeeping circles with high risk students in North Minneapolis. 120-150 students participate in these circles each month. Results include improved conflict resolution skills, mentoring and violence-prevention.
- Hennepin County Restorative Justice community providers (Restorative Justice Community Action, Conflict Resolution Center, Longfellow-Seward RJ, Community Mediation Services, BIHA, Legal Rights Center) are working with Juvenile Probation Staff to refer youthful offenders to restorative justice as an alternative.
- Through the Restorative Measures in Schools project, a partnership between the Legal Rights Center and MPS, 27 newly referred students completed their first Restorative Group Conference (RGC). 11 students who entered the program last year successfully completed their transitional and follow-up RGCs this quarter. This project is funded by the Office of Justice Programs-MN and The Minneapolis Foundation.

## GOAL 4

### **Objective:**

Recognize that violence is learned and can be unlearned by reducing the impact of violent messages in our media, culture and entertainment

Community Power Against Violence (CPAV) is a multi-cultural, Multi-generational group of community partners working to reduce youth violence.

The campaign combines community-based awareness-raising, unity-building, problem-solving, training and skill-building, support, and intervention, all implemented in ways that reinforce the power and promise of collective community action to change the social norm from one of violence to one of peace-making:

- *MEDIA*
- *MERCHANDISE*
- *MOBILIZATION*

CPAV will work through organizations (schools, parks, youth orgs, faith communities), and within families, neighborhoods, and cultural communities.

CPAV believes that if enough people join the movement and make a commitment to do what they can to be more peaceful and to promote peace among their friends, families and neighbors, we will change the social norm from one where violence is expected or glorified, to one in which peace-making is celebrated and becomes the norm.

Community members need to:

- Believe violence can be unlearned—be hopeful
- Understand they have a role and a responsibility
- Learn the skills and receive the supports to be active peace-makers

CPAV meets:

4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month. Meetings are open to the public  
5 pm-8 pm including light meal  
UROC, 2001 Plymouth Ave N., Minneapolis

[www.peace247.org](http://www.peace247.org)

**Addendum**

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The most recent quarterly report can be found at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/yvp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/yvp)

**BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION**  
**Quarterly Report**  
**January – March 2010**

**GOAL #1**

**Objective: Every young person in Minneapolis is supported by at least one trusted adult in their family or their community.**

**Recommendation 1A**

**Ensure there is a trusted adult in the life of every young person in Minneapolis by increasing the number of quality mentoring opportunities for young people, along with proper training for mentors of all ages and backgrounds.**

**Action**

- Project DIVA meets with 30 mentees for 2 ½ hours every Saturday from September to June focusing on academic, social and emotional behaviors. This quarter participation included commitments to weekly academic goal sheets, three service learning projects and weekly topic discussions dealing with possible obstacles some of them may face. The young ladies are currently preparing for their annual fashion show on June 19 at North High School where they will showcase their growth over the year. They also continue to own and operate the DIVA Boutique through the Financial Literacy program. Six volunteers and the Board of Directors enjoy developing positive relationships with these youth from our community.
- Youthcare's mentoring program conducted four 7-10 year old Girls Groups. Members participated in one-on-one mentoring activities at their local library with 14-18 year old Youth Mentors from their community. They also conducted three 14-18 year old groups. Youth Mentors participated in one-on-one mentoring activities with adult staff from the program to assist with personal development goals.
- YouthCARE's Young Women's Mentoring Program provided the following community-based programs in the Little Earth of United Tribes Community.
  - Girls Group, 7-10 year olds, had 10 after-school enrichment activities with 53 contacts made.
  - Adventure Girls, 10-13 years, had 10 after-school service-learning and leadership development activities with 42 contacts made.
  - In January, 16 girls from Little Earth Girls Group and Adventure Girls participated in an all-program Winter Celebration at the Depot Ice Rink.
  - Four 14-18 year old Youth Mentors participated in 32 leadership development, employment readiness training and service-learning opportunities with 75 contacts made.
- Kinship of Greater Minneapolis has connected 15 youth with mentors in Hennepin County. Included are 5 youth of incarcerated parents and 7 youth from the Blueprint neighborhoods.
- Kinship of Greater Minneapolis is collaborating with Northside Achievement Zone and the Peace Foundation to explore matching children in Lucy Laney and Nellie Stone elementary schools with mentors from churches that support North Minneapolis.

**Recommendation 1B**

**Increase the number of private businesses providing jobs through the City of Minneapolis STEP-UP to give more young people the opportunity for employment and positive interactions with engaged adults.**

**Action**

- This quarter, 566 positions have been developed at 91 employers for the 16-21-year-old STEP-UP youth.

**Recommendation 1C**

**Strengthen the coordination of public and private youth programs, services and opportunities.**

**Action**

- The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Youth Sports Department connected youth with positive adult coaches and activities:  
Wrestling: **155** youth; Hockey: **547** youth; Basketball: **1,598** youth
- The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Youthline Program recruited 29 mentors to work with youth involved in the Gang Intervention Prevention project (funded by a Federal grant). Recruitment for youth ages 11-15 is being done in partnership with the City of Minneapolis Juvenile Diversion Program and community agencies.
- On March 22, the Youthline Outreach Mentorship Program hosted a Peace Party at North Commons Park to promote National Violence Prevention Week. 100 youth attended a presentation on Tolerance and Respect and enjoyed dodgeball and basketball.
- During National Youth Violence Prevention Week, March 22-26, Youthline staff promoted and encouraged youth to sign a Peace Pledge and wear Peace Begins with Youth 24/7 bracelets to demonstrate their support. Three hundred youth at 26 parks pledged their support for peace.
- In January, youth demonstrated leadership by planning, performing and attending Black History-related activities with their Youthline mentors. 70 youth participated in a scavenger hunt highlighting Black History events in partnership with the Mall of America. 100 youth attended the youth-run Black History event at Powderhorn Park and enjoyed the talents of their peers.
- Youthline's Village Park program involves 45 youth in weekly activities that promote cultural learning and understanding through music, language, activities and games. Monthly field trips help youth learn about Minneapolis' diverse cultures. Youth may also attend Concordia Language Village immersion camps in Bemidji during the summer. This program culminates every February and youth are selected through an application process.
- Youthline staff conducts street outreach in neighborhoods and connect with youth in schools, libraries and at other agencies to prevent and de-escalate negative behaviors. Youth are connected with community adults and activities at parks and other youth-serving agencies.

- From July 1, 2009-March 31, 2010, 300 youth who had previously failed to show up in court or complete their Sentence to Service sanctions were referred to Community Coaches. The work of the Community Coaches resulted in a 65% success rate of these youth appearing for scheduled court hearings, and a 30 % success rate of youth completing their Sentence to Service court order.
- In February, Hennepin County selected Urban Ventures Leadership Foundation-La Victoria and the Confederation of Somali Community in Minnesota to provide culturally specific mentoring services to Somali and Hispanic/Latino youth on probation. Mentoring services are to begin in early June.
- In February, Hennepin County provided additional incentive funding for mentoring services through the Minneapolis Park Board Youthline program. This funding will provide an enhanced partnership and support for youth on probation.
- Kinship of Greater Minneapolis continues to be on the steering committee for both Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ) and Minneapolis Cares.
- YIPA has been working in collaboration with the City, the Youth Coordinating Board, and the Youth Work Institute of the University of Minnesota in order to create a *Youth Intervention Quality Training Program*. We have been working with the Youth Work Institute to provide access to the Quality Matters training and assessment components and hope to begin a pilot phase of this Quality Assessment Program with limited Minneapolis organizations before launching the program for other early intervention providers. The Youth Coordinating Board will work with YIPA to identify potential participants. We have also been working with the Youth Coordinating Board on developing a parental checklist for evaluating youth programs.

### **Recommendation 1D**

**Increase the number of high-quality community-based youth programs, services and opportunities, including leadership training. Equip these organizations and their leaders with the skills needed to direct youth away from violence and towards positive alternatives.**

#### **Action**

- The YMCA offers many different Youth Development programs that develop skills in leadership, education, mentoring, and service learning. Programs included:
  - **Youth in Government** builds strong leaders and good citizens through participation in the Model State Government Assembly, Model United Nations, National Affairs Conference and various leadership retreats and training sessions. There are many and varied leadership development opportunities for students in grades 8 – 12 grade. *Unduplicated youth served during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter – 564*
  - **Multicultural Achievers** is a junior and senior high school program that helps African American, Hispanic and Latino students set and obtain high educational and career goals. Students participate in teambuilding, leadership skill development, and increasing academic achievement. Youth focus on goal setting, preparing for high school, exploring post secondary options, college tours, and cultural enrichment to assist in preparation for after high school and success in their secondary programs. *Unduplicated youth served during the 1st quarter – 242*

- **Leaders Club** provides opportunities for youth to develop leadership skills and abilities through service learning activities and projects. For one week youth have an opportunity to participate in YMCA Central Leaders School which promotes leadership growth through skill development, service learning and group work. Unduplicated youth served during the 1st quarter - 110
- **Y's Start** is a middle school program focusing on community service, academic support, recreation and employment readiness skills. Unduplicated youth served during the 1st quarter - 297
- **Y- Buddies** is a one-on-one mentoring program that offers recreational, educational, community service activities and higher education exposure for youth grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> to build social and life skills through matches with college students. Unduplicated youth served during the 1st quarter – 50
- **Y-Tutors** is an after-school tutoring program for K -8<sup>th</sup> graders that focuses on building and strengthening literacy skills, while providing work-study employment and volunteer opportunities for college students. Unduplicated youth served during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter –76
- **YMCA Beacons Centers** transform public schools into active community centers during non-school hours, providing educational, recreational and cultural activities at no charge for children and families in low-income neighborhoods surrounding the Beacons schools. Beacons Centers are open after school, holiday breaks and over the summer. Beacons Centers use after-school fun to help low-income youth improve their academic, social and leadership skills. The Beacon Centers offer young people a place to grow through challenging activities, caring relationships, and leadership opportunities. Unduplicated youth served during the 1st quarter – 1143 all sites
- **North Community Youth & Teen Enrichment Center** is a membership based youth center specially designed for youth and teens with programs and services created specifically them. The Youth & Teen Center opened April 2009 and the hours of operation are during non – school hours, providing educational support, youth health and wellness, leadership development, and service learning programs. Unduplicated youth served during the 1st quarter – 209
- **YMCA out of school time branch based sites** are community centers during non –school hours, providing educational, recreational, physical education, life skills and cultural activities for children and families in low-income neighborhoods surrounding the branch. Unduplicated youth served during the 1st quarter – 208
- Unduplicated youth served in all youth programs in 1st quarter – 2899
- The Link's Gang Intervention Program provided intensive one-on-one case management to 23 active gang-involved youth in Minneapolis. 95% of these youth reduced indicators of gang involvement (wearing colors, using nicknames, signing, etc), 89% refrained from having any new criminal charges, and 31% gained employment.

### **Recommendation 1E**

**Reestablish Minneapolis Police liaisons in Public Schools to give young people opportunities to build positive relationships with the Minneapolis Police and to strengthen coordination between schools, parks and police.**

Action

- No new action

**Recommendation 1F**

**Provide year-round Youth Are Here bus service so that young people have safe reliable transportation to services and activities.**

Action

- No new action

**Recommendation 1G**

**Give young people safe spaces for activities during out-of-school times by increasing the hours when Library, Park and School buildings are open.**

Action

- Minneapolis Central Library is now open to the public on Mondays from 10 a.m.–6 p.m, adding a total of 376 additional hours for the year.
- Out-of-school time activities and programs were offered at all libraries within Minneapolis during the first quarter, varying in frequency from monthly to near-daily.
- Homework Hub, the library’s homework assistance program, operates in 6 libraries within the city of Minneapolis and 3 libraries in suburban Hennepin County. Volunteer tutors in the program engage youth in learning, assist them in academic skills and help build self-confidence. Minneapolis libraries had 2,456 total visits from students this quarter. The Homework Hub program is supported by the Library Foundation of Hennepin County and the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board.

**Recommendation 1H**

**Provide young people with consistent, effective and meaningful violence prevention training by developing a shared curriculum and coordinated training program for the Minneapolis Libraries, Parks, and Schools.**

Action

- MPS, in partnership with MDHFS, created an electronic toolkit for use by youth and youth-serving agencies to plan activities for National Youth Violence Prevention Week March 22-26. This toolkit included activities for use in schools, after-school programs and in homes. The most popular item was the distribution of “Peace 24/7” wristbands and accompanying peace pledge cards provided by Community Power Against Violence.”
- 35 Library staff members participated in the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) training in collaboration with Parks, MPS Community Ed and Youth Coordinating Board. Staff who attended are training staff at their local libraries and Hennepin County Library is exploring options for system-wide support of PBIS concepts.

**Recommendation 1I**

**Increase the number of training and support programs available for parents of teenagers so they have the knowledge, tools, education and resources to spot early warning signs and raise teens that do not condone or engage in violence.**

Action

- No new action

**Recommendation 1J**

**Increase teenage pregnancy prevention programs in Minneapolis, so teens do not become parents before they have completed their own education or before they are prepared to take on the responsibility of raising children.**

Action

- No new action

**Recommendation 1K**

**Reduce the number of second children to teen parents by connecting every teen parent with health, education and parenting resources to ensure that they have the tools they need to raise healthy children.**

Action

- No new action

**GOAL #2**

**Objective: Intervene at the first sign that youth and families are at risk for or involved in violence.**

**Recommendations 2A**

**Find meaningful employment for young people who may be more difficult to employ by expanding the summer employment programs for at-risk youth, expanding the City's STEP-UP youth jobs program, and better connecting to County employment programs for youth already in the justice system.**

Action

- This year, STEP-UP will be serving more at-risk and income eligible youth than in past years.
- METP has a summer 2010 goal of employing 2,300 youth in all programs with most falling in the at-risk category including up to 298 youth with disabilities through the year-round WIA@MPS program.
- METP partners with culturally specific organizations to get the word out about employment opportunities to the ELL community.
- Year-round WIA providers are required to serve youth connected to juvenile diversion or at-risk of offending. Most providers have connections to Hennepin County Probation and some have developed expertise in working with adjudicated youth.
- WSA 10 WIA providers are required to serve homeless youth. HIRED employs staff who office at St. Barnabas, a residential setting for youth transitioning out of homelessness.

- METP staff distributes employment and training information at biannual events such as Project Youth Connect, Youth Link's Job Fair and Project Homeless Connect.
- Hennepin County Foster Care Assistance staff presented at a WIA youth service provider meeting to inform provider staff about the best ways to connect their WIA services to youth within the foster care system.
- STEP-UP staff made certain the Hennepin County Foster Care case managers had information about the 2010 STEP-UP application process.
- STEP-UP recruitment is on-site at Broadway High School, a Minneapolis public high school for pregnant or parenting youth.

**Recommendation 2B**

**Provide focused attention and resources toward early intervention with juvenile offenders by establishing the juvenile supervision center and maintaining the Minneapolis Police Department's juvenile unit.**

**Action**

- In the 1st quarter, there were a total of 697 youth visits to the Juvenile Supervision Center operated by The Link. 39% were brought in for curfew, 40% for truancy, and 21% for low level offenses. 81 youth were referred to The Link's case management services that helped connect them to school and positive behavior.

**Recommendation 2C**

**Develop a standard protocol and train adults to use it in parks, schools and health care facilities in the aftermath of critical violent incidents so that those incidents can be used to educate young people on the ways to prevent and de-escalate violent behavior.**

**Action**

- No new action

**Recommendation 2D**

**Establish and promote a youth help line to give young people a safe, confidential way to report trouble or seek help.**

**Action**

- Since the launch of the SPEAK UP program in September 2009, there have been a total of 67 calls and 41 texts to the hotline. Three threat reports have generated over the course of the program, each of which was routed to the relevant education and law enforcement contacts. Throughout each month, hotline and text-messaging technologies are tested once a week each at PAX.

**Recommendation 2E**

**Establish policies and training making every library, park and school a nonviolence zone, so that young people see nonviolence being actively practiced and do not see violence being ignored or condoned by adults at facilities that are meant to be safe places for learning and activities.**

Action

- No new action

**Recommendation 2F**

**Support alternatives to suspension and expulsion in Minneapolis schools as a way to determine effective tools and policies to prevent violence and address violent incidents.**

Action

- Through the Restorative Measures in Schools project, a partnership between the Legal Rights Center and MPS, 27 newly referred students completed their first Restorative Group Conference (RGC). 11 students who entered the program last year successfully completed their transitional and follow-up RGC's this quarter. This project is funded by the Office of Justice Programs-MN and The Minneapolis Foundation.
- Conflict Resolution Center mediators facilitate peacekeeping circles with high risk students in North Minneapolis. 120-150 students participate in these circles each month. Results include improved conflict resolution skills, mentoring and violence-prevention.

**Recommendation 2H**

**Increase training and support programs for parents of at-risk teenagers, including juvenile re-entry, so that these parents have the knowledge, tools and resources they need to get their kids back on the right track.**

Action:

- No new action

**Recommendation 2I**

**Increase the capacity of Hennepin County's truancy intervention program for students with mental health and chemical dependency issues so that these young people have the added support and resources to stay in school and out of trouble.**

Action

- In a new partnership, Community Corrections services for truants are being coordinated by the County Attorney's Office. The County Attorney's Office is working with several community agencies to enhance services for these youth to keep them in school and help them resolve issues that are interfering with their academic progress.
- The County Home School implemented a Chemical Dependency treatment program for youth who are sent to the Home School and who have CD issues.
- Hennepin County received a grant from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to implement a Brief Intervention Program to address alcohol and other drug use by juveniles involved in the criminal justice system. The grant is for \$750,000 over a 4-year period covering years 2008-2011. The Brief Intervention program bridges the gap between treatment need and treatment availability for youth who are mild or moderate substance users. Most teens are not medically "addicted" to drugs or alcohol and little attention has been paid to this large group of adolescents who use drugs but are not, or not yet, dependent and who could successfully reduce their drug use through an early intervention. For youth without a substance dependence diagnosis,

access to treatment is limited. This puts such youth at high risk for escalation of substance use as well as involvement in the juvenile justice system as a result of their use.

The Brief Intervention for Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Use from the U of MN offers an option for such mid-level drug users. Locating this intervention throughout Hennepin County's juvenile justice system provides an opportunity to modify the trajectory of at-risk, mild-to-moderate drug using youth.

The goals of the project are to reduce youth substance use and related criminal behavior by:

- a. building community and correctional capacity to provide a brief evidence-based intervention by training community agencies and county service providers in the Brief Intervention model.
  - b. providing the brief four-session substance abuse intervention to approximately 800-1,000 justice-involved youth and their parents over the 3.5 year grant period.
  - c. evaluating the impact of this intervention on juvenile substance use and related criminal behavior to determine the effectiveness of this treatment.
- **South Minneapolis and Northwest Hennepin Truancy Intervention program** – The YMCA Truancy programs are designed to reach out to truant students and help them “re-connect” with school, positive activities, adult role models, and their communities in general. *Unduplicated youth served in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter – 60*

#### **Recommendation 2J**

**Provide young people who have an incarcerated parent with additional adult support by creating mentor programs that match these youth with individualized support.**

#### **Action**

- No new action

#### **Recommendation 2K**

**Expand street level outreach, including bold door-to-door outreach that engages families and re-connects youth exhibiting risky behavior with quality education and employment opportunities.**

#### **Action**

- MAD DADS street outreach crew spent over 2,500 hours on the street in the first quarter. In January, four outreach crews spent 52 hours each doing street patrol in targeted areas of high crime and violence on the north side of Minneapolis.
- In February, MAD DADS had nine members spend 48 hours each going out on street patrol and outreach explosion events to talk to youth in targeted areas in north Minneapolis.

### **GOAL #3**

**Objective: Do not give up on our kids, work to restore and get them back on track.**

### **Recommendation 3A**

**Strengthen cross-jurisdictional mechanisms so that different parts of the juvenile justice system (probation, police, corrections, health care providers, community-based organizations, etc.) can better coordinate services and support systems for young offenders.**

#### **Action**

- From July 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010, 128 youth were diverted from the Juvenile Detention Center to the Bridge or Catholic Charities (St. Joes). All, but one of these youth successfully appeared for their detention hearings and only one of these youth was sent back to the Detention Center after being diverted to the Bridge or St. Joes.
- J-CAT is a conglomerate of agencies which includes MPD Juvenile, Hennepin County Juvenile Probation, U.S. Marshals and other agencies. The team goes out to find youth who have warrants that have been issued by the Court. In the past, these warrants/youth were not sought after and were not followed up.

# OF ADDRESSES CHECKED: = 164

# OF PERSONS SOUGHT: = 94

# OF WARRANT APPREHENSIONS: 1st = 37

- 5 kids turned themselves in after being sought
- 2 handguns recovered
- 2 proactive arrests
- 2 runaway children located and returned
- MAVI – “Minnesota Anti-Violence Initiative” – (1st Qtr):75 home visits by Juvenile Division Investigators and Hennepin County Probation Agents to kids on probation

### **Recommendation 3B**

**Expand the scope and increase the funding of juvenile probation to better integrate young offenders back into the community. This should include incorporating youth development practices into probation instead of solely focusing on punishment and monitoring.**

#### **Action**

- The Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation is developing an array of community-based services. These services will provide intensive interventions in the home/community to address the youth’s specific criminal risks to return that youth to law-abiding behavior and to address potential environmental/family issues that may be contributing to those risks. This continuum and the timeline for implementation includes:

- **Family Functional Therapy (FFT)** services are expected to be available in the third quarter of 2010 through three local service agencies (HSI-New Generations, Kente Circle and Volunteers of America) with a total of 4 therapists.

FFT is a short-term highly structured in-home intervention that was developed to treat "treatment resistant" families of youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system. FFT targets youth with very serious problems including conduct disorders, oppositional defiant disorders, alcohol and drug abusers, and delinquent and violent youth. It can also be used to treat siblings. Therapy is conducted in approximately 12 one-hour sessions over a 90 day time period.

- **Aggression Replacement Training (ART)**—ART is a cognitive behavioral intervention designed to alter the behavior of aggressive youth, reduce anti-social behaviors, and develop alternative pro-social skills. Two juvenile probation officers coordinate and facilitate ART groups. Groups are offered through the South Side Garage, Harrison School and Bren Road; the County Home School also provides this service through the Epsilon School.
- **Chemical Health Wraparound Services (CH)** – A contract to deliver CH Wraparound services is currently available through the Odyssey Programs; there are limited referral slots available. A RFP for Wraparound Services is expected to be issued in late April to solicit and select long term providers with a focus on culturally specific service provision. CH Wraparound is a family-based intervention in which youth and their families identify goals and determine what is important to their family's success. A trained facilitator coordinates a team of people from treatment, school, recreational activities; or a community or faith-based agency to support a drug and alcohol free life.
- **Mental Health Wraparound Services (MH)** –A contract with Stepping Stones for Families is currently available for a limited number of referrals for MH Wraparound services. A RFP for Wraparound Services is expected to be issued in late April 2010 to solicit and select long term providers for this service with a focus on culturally specific service provision. MH Wraparound is a strength based system of care for children with serious emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs and their families. Case coordination is comprehensive and offers a flexible array of services to youth and their families.
- **Evening Reporting Center (ERC)** – Located in Shiloh Temple in North Minneapolis and open from 3:00-9:00 pm, Tuesday - Saturday. The ERC offers programs and services designed to hold youth accountable while supporting the development of pro-social skills and providing them with structured and positive activities during the hours that are highest for youth crime. The ERC utilizes a strengths-based approach to intervene, address, and prevent delinquent behavior. The ERC is staffed by Shiloh program staff and a dedicated probation officer on site. Staff are continuing to work on the development of an ERC RFP for South Minneapolis. The recommendations for this ERC RFP are expected to be made by the end of April or May 2010.
- **Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)** –MST services are expected to begin in July 2010 with services provided by Family and Children Services (F&CS). MST is an intensive in-home, treatment program designed to make positive changes in the various social systems (home, school, peer relations) that contribute to the serious antisocial behaviors of youth. MST has demonstrated very positive outcomes for high-risk youth who are at risk for an out-of-home placement. MST is a strength-based program that focuses on teaching parents/caregivers effective techniques for dealing with the issues that contribute to the youth's offending behaviors. A trained MST therapist works with the youth and family at least once a week for 4 months and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Two Task Forces have been established to develop an array of services for girls in corrections and sex offenders. These task forces will develop recommendations and an implementation plan by 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2010.

- Minneapolis Police Department Diversion Program (1<sup>st</sup> Qtr):
  - 23 total youth considered for diversion
  - 14 youth currently in contract
  - 9 youth declined diversion

**Recommendation 3C**

**Implement a comprehensive assessment tool that identifies a juvenile’s mental health needs and related needs and connects them to available services without risking self-incrimination.**

**Action**

- No new action

**Recommendation 3D**

**Decrease re-offense rates by better connecting youth offenders to educational opportunities, employment skills and health care services.**

**Action**

- METP and MDHFS have selected Emerge Community Development as the provider for the North 4 Program, a two-year pilot project for employment and training for 30 youth who are currently, or were previously, gang affiliated. The program will begin June 1.
- **YMCA Juvenile Probation Program** works with youth ages 12 to 21 years who are currently on probation. The YMCA develops relationships with young people and their families and assists youth in continuing their education, securing employment, finding resources/programs in their community, and paying restitution for their behaviors. Unduplicated youth served in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter – 80
- **YMCA “24/Seven” Program** works with referred youth ages 16 and older who are exiting their placement from Hennepin County programs and who need independent housing. The YMCA helps youth learn how to find housing, develop independent living skills, review education requirements, and connect with local resources. Unduplicated youth served in the 1st quarter –35
- **YMCA POINT Northwest** is a 24 hour – crisis intervention and mediation program for young people, ages 10 – 21 (and their families), in Northwest Hennepin County, who are on the run, thinking of running away, homeless, precariously housed, or transitioning out of foster care, group home and correctional placements. POINT Northwest provides outreach services. Unduplicated youth served in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter – 300
- **YMCA EJJ Program** works with youth ages 14 to 21 years of age, residing in Hennepin County, who are under court jurisdiction as Extended Jurisdiction Juveniles. The YMCA staff will work in conjunction with Hennepin County Probation Officers to provide additional structure and supervision of EJJ youth in the community in order to successfully comply with court orders. The YMCA staff develop relationships with youth and their families and assists youth in achieving success in education, securing employment (if applicable), developing life skills, aligning supportive resources/programs in their community, paying restitution for their behaviors and maintaining law abiding behavior. Unduplicated youth served in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter – 269

**Recommendation 3E**

**Expand restorative justice programs for youth offenders, which have been shown to effectively reduce re-offenses by reintegrating offenders into the community, and enable offenders to assume active responsibility for their actions.**

**Action**

- Hennepin County Restorative Justice community providers (Restorative Justice Community Action, Conflict Resolution Center, Longfellow-Seward RJ, Community Mediation Services, BIHA, Legal Rights Center) work with youth referred from Operation DeNovo and the Minneapolis Police Department Juvenile Unit to provide them with restorative services and divert them from the criminal justice system. .
- Hennepin County Restorative Justice community providers (Restorative Justice Community Action, Conflict Resolution Center, Longfellow-Seward RJ, Community Mediation Services, BIHA, Legal Rights Center) are working with Juvenile Probation Staff to refer youthful offenders to restorative justice as an alternative.

**Recommendation 3F**

**Strengthen and expand proven after-care models to ensure that each youth returning from out of home placement has a comprehensive plan to re-enter their community. Better engage community and faith organizations in helping to provide after-care solutions for these youth and their families.**

**Action**

- See initiatives in 3B

**Recommendation 3G**

**Develop relevant and culturally appropriate rites of passage to support a more comprehensive process for youth offenders to re-enter the community. Helping these youth and their families will alleviate many community concerns and buoy their confidence and civic engagement.**

**Action**

- No new action

**Recommendation 3H**

**Expand sentencing options for youth to include comprehensive and intense behavioral training and therapy for young offenders and their families. Ensure that support systems for youth offenders are extended to strengthen the families these youth come from and return to.**

**Action**

- See initiatives in 3B

## GOAL #4

**Objective: Recognize that violence is learned and can be unlearned by reducing the impact of violent messages in our media, culture and entertainment.**

### **Recommendation 4A**

**Work with local experts and youth to develop a local public education campaign to ensure that young people and our entire community see their roles and responsibilities in stopping violence, while providing the knowledge and tools to reduce violence and safely intervene when violence occurs.**

### **Action**

- Following the successful launch of the “PEACE 24/7: It Begins with You” campaign in December, Community Power Against Violence (CPAV) has been busy planning for summer Peace Rallies to be launched in the Somali, African American, Native American, and the Southeast Asian community. They have been actively engaged in promoting the campaign in myriad ways:
  - CPAV members were “on the air” during an hour-long call-in show on KFAI radio in January
  - In February CPAV began meeting to create an Elders group that will have monthly breakfast meetings to which select young people will be invited.
  - CPAV provided training to community members on “Youth Community Organizing: 101” and an informational presentation by a social media organization called “TV by GIRLS.”
  - Through a partnership with the Blueprint, MPS, the Park Board and others distributed over 1,000 PEACE 24/7 wristbands and Peace Pledges during Youth Violence Prevention Week. A dozen schools, clinics, youth programs and even the Children's Hospital in Los Angeles, CA participated in the campaign.
  - Through a partnership with PeaceJam/Youthrive (a CPAV member), several hundred wristbands and Peace Pledges were distributed at PeaceJam 2010.

### **Recommendation 4B**

**Recognize that youth violence is a national problem and Minneapolis should lead the discussion by partnering with other mayors and leaders in other cities to form a national coalition against youth violence.**

### **Action**

- No new action

### **Recommendation 4C**

**Support sensible illegal gun laws and work to change community values around the acceptance of guns. This includes seeking stronger penalties for people who sell and distribute illegal guns, and profit from the sale and distribution of illegal guns to young people.**

### **Action**

- No new action

# BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

Preventing  
Youth Violence  
in Minneapolis



## Quarterly Report April-June 2010

### GOAL 1

Objective: Every young person in Minneapolis is supported by at least one trusted adult in their family or their community

### GOAL 2

Objective: Intervene at the first sign that youths and families are at risk for or involved in violence

### GOAL 3

Objective: Do not give up on our kids, work to restore and get them back on track

### GOAL 4

Objective: Recognize that violence is learned and can be unlearned by reducing the impact of violent messages in our media, culture and entertainment

### Coordinator's Corner

The second quarter of 2010 saw an unfortunate number of homicides of juveniles and young adults. From January-June there have been 3 homicides of juveniles and 7 homicides of young adults (18-25).

This increase in homicides is an unfortunate and costly reminder that any gains made in the prevention of youth violence are often fragile and can be quickly shortlived. These tragic homicides also serve notice that, in addition to having a city-wide strategy with a growing number of community partners, more involvement from community members, parents, adults and young adults is needed.

We have begun meeting with neighborhood associations and youth-serving organizations in 18 neighborhoods to engage the community to become involved with the Blueprint's efforts. These efforts are aimed at ensuring that anyone interested in becoming involved in youth violence prevention activities has a practical set of options to engage.

In addition to this, the Minneapolis Department of Health & Family Support is pursuing a set of tools to further provide resources to community and youth-serving agencies to better attend to the needs of youth. These include:

- A partnership with Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis Police Department, Minneapolis Park & Recreation, The Minneapolis Foundation and Hennepin County Libraries to expand collaborations to ensure greater youth programming in key parks on the north and south side during the summer.
- A planning process to explore replicating *CeaseFire*, an evidence-based public health model that works with high-risk gang-affiliated youth. Studies have shown that homicides have been reduced by up to 25% in the first year of implementation. This model uses outreach workers and violence interrupters to engage gang affiliated youth and prevent shootings by mediating conflicts and targeting interventions.

We hope to report on these and other efforts in the next report. Thank you for your support of the Blueprint.

Bass Zanjani  
Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator



Published quarterly by  
the City of  
Minneapolis  
Department of Health  
and Family Support

## GOAL 1

Objective: Every young person in Minneapolis is supported by at least one trusted adult in their family of their community

### PROTECT THE E.D.G.E

Protect the E.D.G.E. Sports (*Excel, Dreams, Goal, Education*) is a Twin Cities based organization with a successful 5 year history, with programs in Virginia, Texas, South Dakota, California and, soon, Florida. The sports component is the centerpiece of the youth development program, and remains connected to the developmental and educational components, functioning as a lever to encourage program attendance/performance, and deployed as a "hook" to attract youth at drop-in centers or other programs serving youth and young adults 8-18 years old from all walks of life.

In addition, Protect the E.D.G.E. youth sports promotes self-esteem and self-confidence, builds character, engenders responsible social behavior, inspires the habits, social values, civic participation, and healthy and wholesome lifestyles that culminate in an increased quality of life and, if we're lucky — a few outstanding leaders. This compelling thesis has never been proven until now, by utilizing these four principles of Excel, Dreams, Goals, and Education to get the *EDGE* in life.

In the second quarter of this year, some of the salient activities of Protect the Edge includes:

- A collaboration with a number of schools to develop a Sports Leadership Development Program over spring break and into the summer. This partnership was eventually expanded to include partnerships with Parks and Recreation, Green Community Center, and Youthline.
- The program utilized basketball camps and impacted over 80 youth with a focus on core values that are challenging and help to shape a sense of self esteem and identity. The program emphasized managing emotions, problem solving, exhibiting self-discipline, building courage, commitment, and good character. The program teaches youth to take responsibility for their own actions and decisions in life. It also teaches youth about contributing to society in positive and productive ways.

## GOAL 2

Objective: Intervene at the first sign that youths and families are at risk for or involved in violence

### MAD DADS

MAD DADS is an acronym for Men Against Destruction, Defending Against Drugs and Social Disorder.

The mission of MAD DADS is to create a milieu for positive change; this is achieved through strategies that encourage, motivate and guide committed men and women in the struggle to save children, communities and ultimately themselves from the social ills in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

MAD DADS works on a daily basis to do the following:

- Recruit, Engage and Activate adults in local communities.
- Serve as parental role models to children, adolescents and young adults.
- Guide, instruct and influence children, adolescents and young adults in a way that ensures the healthy development of each child's emotional, spiritual and physical well-being.
- Combat social disorder, while restoring and stabilizing the family environment for children, adolescents and young adults, neighborhoods, communities and cities, with the task of addressing the issues of drugs, gangs and violence.

In the second quarter:

- MAD DADS street outreach crew spent over 5,000 hours on the street. In April, team members spent over 636 hours patrolling targeted areas of high crime and violence on the north and south side of Minneapolis.
- In April, MAD DADS held 8 outreach explosion events to talk to youth in targeted areas to attend support groups, giving up drugs and crime.
- MAD DADS has started the Get Real Youth Program (GRYP) for at-risk urban youth. It focuses on teaching leadership skills and nonviolence.

### GOAL 3

Objective: Do not give up on our kids, work to restore and get them back on track

### NORTH 4

The North 4 Project creates pathways of success for 30 gang-involved youth (ages 14-21) who live in 4 North Minneapolis neighborhoods (Hawthorne, Jordan, Folwell and McKinley).

The City of Minneapolis' Departments of Health and Family Support and Minneapolis' Employment and Training Program awarded a 2-year grant to Emerge Community Development to implement the North 4 Project. The first of three North 4 cohorts of ten youth began on June 14, 2010. The first cohort involves 18-21 year old males. Those selected exhibited leadership qualities, participated in a project orientation and, upon completion, were interviewed by a 4-member interview panel. The process was competitive and not all of those interviewed were selected. Each cohort will run for 33 weeks and includes the following activities:

- A week-long job readiness and cohort development training to begin the project
- Subsidized work experience that evolves into unsubsidized job placements combined with a weekly 4 hour cohort training to build support, refine skills and explore opportunities
- Ongoing advocacy and strengths-based coaching to ensure participating youth remain focused on securing unsubsidized employment, while addressing other obstacles that might impact success

Six weeks into the project, 10 of 10 youth are still involved with the project.

The 3 EMERGE/North 4 Project staff have spent a significant amount of time advocating for and problem solving with the 10 young men involved in this first cohort.

While the overwhelming majority of staff time has been devoted to work-readiness and crisis oriented issues with approximately half of the youth, it's important to state that overall, youth are determined to succeed, a supportive cohort climate is emerging, and inspiring incidents are occurring on a regular basis.

#### GOAL 4

Objective: Recognize that violence is learned and can be unlearned by reducing the impact of violent messages in our media, culture and entertainment

#### **BURY OUR GUNS NOT OUR PEOPLE**

On June 18, Shiloh Temple Church held a gun buy back program called "Bury our Guns not our People." The event's motto was "no questions asked." A coalition of community organizations sponsored the event to encourage youth to turn in firearms in their possession. Individuals turning in revolvers received a \$50 gift card; automatic rifle owners received a \$100 gift card.

Individuals surrendering their firearms were offered voluntary counseling and education regarding a wide range of livability issues ranging from education opportunities to employment resources.

The gun buy back was successful in removing 68 firearms off the streets. Of these 12 were rifles with the balance being handguns.

Addendum

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**BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION**  
**Quarterly Report**  
**April-June 2010**

**GOAL #1**

**Objective: Every young person in Minneapolis is supported by at least one trusted adult in their family or their community.**

**Recommendation 1A**

**Ensure there is a trusted adult in the life of every young person in Minneapolis by increasing the number of quality mentoring opportunities for young people, along with proper training for mentors of all ages and backgrounds.**

**Action**

- YouthCARE's **Young Women's Mentoring Program** matched (3) 14-18 year old mentors with (18) 7-13 year old mentees for group and one-on-one mentoring at Little Earth of United Tribes.
- Kinship has 15 one on one community matches in North Minneapolis and 30 in the city of Minneapolis. Kinship has a total of 250 mentoring matches in Hennepin County for this year. We had an event in Loring Park that included 5 waiting kids from North Mpls and 40 total mentors and children from the city of Minneapolis.
- Bolder Options had a very successful 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, matching 34 youth with mentors for a total of 77 new matches in the first half of 2010, of which 45 were from Minneapolis. Five of the new matches had an incarcerated or imprisoned parent. Forty-one youth graduated from the Bolder Options Mentoring and Intervention Program in 2010.
- In this quarter, 76 STEP-UP youth have been matched 1:1 with a mentor from a local business for the summer. In addition, 102 other STEP-UP youth will participate in a career day or a job shadow day.
- 47 gang-involved youth have received case management and mentoring services in 2010 from The Link's Gang Intervention Program. 82% suspended or reduced gang activity in the second quarter of 2010 and 76% had no new offenses.
- During the first half of 2010, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities has served 879 youth in the City of Minneapolis through mentoring relationships (matches), including making 149 new matches between youth and mentors. Sixty-five (65) of these new matches were made during the second quarter. The agency has provided extensive training and support to these matches and families, including offering specialized training for mentors and matches in health-related topics and developmental and special needs. We have also continued and expanded our partnerships with a number of community agencies to provide additional services and resources to youth, mentors and families as part of our mentor training and match support, including working with the Council on Crime and Justice and Family and Children's Service, along with many others.

**Recommendation 1B**

**Increase the number of private businesses providing jobs through the City of Minneapolis STEP-UP to give more young people the opportunity for employment and positive interactions with engaged adults.**

**Action**

- This quarter, 178 employers are working with over 2,300 STEP-UP youth. Employers represent a broad segment of the community from nonprofits to corporations. The largest employers include Minneapolis Public Schools, U.S. Bank, Allina, Minneapolis Public Housing, and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

**Recommendation 1C**

**Strengthen the coordination of public and private youth programs, services and opportunities.**

**Action**

- YIPA staff continued to work with colleagues on the Youth Intervention Quality Training Program Advisory Committee; discussion focused on launch of a pilot program of 10 Minneapolis organizations soon after Jan 1, 2011.
- Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board convened a series of meetings with youth workers and program managers on the North and South side of Minneapolis to coordinate summer programs and identify gaps in programming.
- The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Youthline Program has recruited about 35 mentors to work with approximately 45 youth involved in the Gang Prevention intensive mentoring program (funded by a Federal grant). Each mentor connects with their mentee for 2 hours a week over the next 3 years.

**Recommendation 1D**

**Increase the number of high-quality community-based youth programs, services and opportunities, including leadership training. Equip these organizations and their leaders with the skills needed to direct youth away from violence and towards positive alternatives.**

**Action**

- The Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support and the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board provided funds to support additional summer programming in North Minneapolis. Funds will support a summer-long High School Basketball league at Farview Park and a three week Hip Hop Academy for middle school age youth during the month of August.
- Protect the E.D.G.E. provided a spring break and early summer youth sports leadership development program for over 80 youth ages 8-17. The program was based on the EDGE - Excels, Dreams, Goals and Education - using sports as a vehicle to deliver leadership and personal development principles.
- YMCA **Youth in Government** builds strong leaders and good citizens through participation in various leadership retreats and training sessions. In the second quarter the students went to CONA National Affairs.

**Unduplicated youth served during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter – 12**

- **YMCA Multicultural Achievers** helps African-American, Hispanic and Latino students set and obtain high educational and career goals. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter the Achiever groups did a variety of college tours. The Midwest college tour included 10 colleges from Minneapolis to Chicago – University of Illinois-Urbana, University of Chicago, Columbia College, Marquette, University of Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Stout, River Falls and Eau Claire. The Minnesota mini-tour included Carleton College, Augsburg, St. Thomas, and Hamline. 70 students attended these college tours. Unduplicated youth served during the 2nd quarter – 229
- **Y's Start** is a middle school program focusing on community service, academic support, recreation and employment readiness skills. Activities in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter included: Sailing, Camp Menogyn/Boundary Waters and Shattuck St. Mary's. This summer 36 youth were involved in small groups. Unduplicated youth served during 2nd quarter-118
- **North Community Youth & Teen Enrichment Center** is a membership based (900) youth center specially designed for youth and teens with programs and services created specifically for youth. In this quarter, 30 youth are meeting with a job coach, receiving job skills. Unduplicated youth served during the 2nd quarter – 350
- **YMCA out of school time branch based sites** are community centers during non – school hours, providing educational, recreational, physical education, life skills and cultural activities for children and families in low-income neighborhoods surrounding the branch. Unduplicated youth served during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter – 152

### Recommendation 1E

**Reestablish Minneapolis Police liaisons in Public Schools to give young people opportunities to build positive relationships with the Minneapolis Police and to strengthen coordination between schools, parks and police.**

#### Action

- Bike Cops for Kids:
  - Bike Helmets given away: 245
  - New bikes given away (as a result of kids seen wearing helmet): 20
  - Kid & Citizen contacts: 2,000+

In addition, news footage of this program was covered by the Star Tribune, Fox 9 news, and the Minneapolis Public Access channel

### Recommendation 1F

**Provide year-round Youth Are Here bus service so that young people have safe reliable transportation to services and activities.**

#### Action

- The Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board with funding from Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support co-sponsored youth buses that ran from noon to 8pm. During the summer months the Bus will operate Monday- Friday from 4pm-midnight. There are currently more than 500 registered riders.

### Recommendation 1G

**Give young people safe spaces for activities during out-of-school times by increasing the hours when Library, Park and School buildings are open.**

Action

- Protect the E.D.G.E. collaborated with a number of schools to develop a Sports Leadership Development Program over spring break and into the summer, partnering with Parks and Recreation, Green Community Center, and Youthline. The basketball camps impacted over 80 youth with a focus on core values that are challenged daily but required in shaping identity. The emphasis was on managing emotions, problem solving, self-discipline, courage, commitment, and character.

**Recommendation 1H**

**Provide young people with consistent, effective and meaningful violence prevention training by developing a shared curriculum and coordinated training program for the Minneapolis Libraries, Parks, and Schools.**

Action

- *No new action*

**Recommendation 1I**

**Increase the number of training and support programs available for parents of teenagers so they have the knowledge, tools, education and resources to spot early warning signs and raise teens that do not condone or engage in violence.**

Action

- During this quarter five programs continued to operate to provide support, education and skill building opportunities for parents of teens. Due to cuts in Federal funding, two of these programs ended at the end of this quarter. One will continue to operate with funding provided by The Minneapolis Foundation.

**Recommendation 1J**

**Increase teenage pregnancy prevention programs in Minneapolis, so teens do not become parents before they have completed their own education or before they are prepared to take on the responsibility of raising children.**

Action

- Twenty adolescents (10 male and 10 female) have been recruited to participate in the Citizen Teen Pregnancy Prevention Project at South High School. Their mission is to develop a project that calls on the resources of teens to address teen pregnancy as a community challenge.

**Recommendation 1K**

**Reduce the number of second children to teen parents by connecting every teen parent with health, education and parenting resources to ensure that they have the tools they need to raise healthy children.**

Action

- At the end of summer school a total of 134 students have participated in the Not Ready Now program.
- Of the 134 students participating in NRN, 132 have remained pregnancy free as of this report

- This summer 63 students attended the end of the year incentive trip to Valley fair.
- In May a group of NRN participants presented at the MOAPPP professional conference. They presented their findings from a student-driven project-based learning class in which they conducted research on pregnancy prevention (through the eyes of teen parents). They incorporated video podcasts, public service announcements, and on-line journals into their presentation.
- In August students presented their MOAPPP presentation to the Minneapolis Dept. of Health and Family Support.
- This summer, students have been working with the program coordinator to develop new activities to use next year in their peer education efforts.
- In 2010 (January-June) the Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency saw 438 pregnant and parenting teens with 3,398 visits. A higher percentage of teens are being connected during their pregnancies instead of after the baby is born: 63% of new teen admits in 2009 were prenatal admits compared to 65% in 2010. The Public Health Nurse connects with enrolled teen parents to help achieve a healthy birth outcome, support positive parenting skills and provide a trusting, caring and consistent mentor who encourages school attendance and delay a subsequent pregnancy. In 2009 97% of teen mothers had a healthy birth outcome and 81% were enrolled in school or had graduated.

## **GOAL #2**

**Objective: Intervene at the first sign that youth and families are at risk for or involved in violence.**

### **Recommendation 2A**

**Find meaningful employment for young people who may be more difficult to employ by expanding the summer employment programs for at-risk youth, expanding the City's STEP-UP youth jobs program, and better connecting to County employment programs for youth already in the justice system.**

### **Action**

- 1,324 youth, ages 14-21, (mostly low income) have been placed in STEP-UP jobs that match their skills and interests.
- 214 youth with disabilities are employed this summer through the year-round WIA@MPS program.
- 390 Minneapolis youth, ages 14-21, received long-term, comprehensive year-round WIA employment services between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010.
  - A variety of WIA services and supports are available to participants based on identified need. The agency providers offer both individual and group services at nine sites throughout Minneapolis.
  - In order to be eligible for METP WIA programming, youth must be economically disadvantaged and have at least one of the following at-risk barriers: 1) disabled, 2) basic skills deficient, 3) school dropout, 4) homeless, runaway or foster child, 5) pregnant or parenting, 6) offender, and 7) requires additional assistance to complete an educational program, or secure and hold employment.

- Since January 2010, 20 youth, ages 19-21, have gained valuable employment experience through the WIA Older Youth Paid Internship Project. The goal of the project is to enhance youths' employment histories and resumes as they work towards gaining unsubsidized employment. METP supports the youths' wages of \$7.25 per hour, while service providers secure internship sites and place the youth on their agencies payroll.
- METP, along with partners Hennepin County Library, Minneapolis Workforce Centers and Mall of America, sponsored the fourth annual Teen Job Fair on April 10. Over 1,000 teens met 30 businesses and organizations that offered jobs, internships, employment and training, and other resource opportunities. Teens also attended employment workshops.
- The SYI (Special Youth Initiatives) program has enrolled approximately 540 youth through June with an anticipated total of 730.
  - A wide-variety of work placements were available from office assistants and day care attendants to customer service representatives, to name just a few.
  - Most projects will operate from 7-10 weeks with youth earning \$7.25 per hour.
- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act year round youth program, begun on January 1, 2010 and concluding on June 30, 2010, saw a total of 210 youth enrollees benefit from work readiness training and a paid work experience. Many of the youth had little or no previous work experience and were disconnected from school or training. Seven local employment and training organizations recruited the youth participants, found learning rich worksites and provided case management along with payroll services.
- The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board has hired 280 youth in its Teen Teamworks program, who are employed at City parks in a variety of positions.

### **Recommendation 2B**

**Provide focused attention and resources toward early intervention with juvenile offenders by establishing the juvenile supervision center and maintaining the Minneapolis Police Department's juvenile unit.**

#### **Action**

- A total of 998 unduplicated youth have been served by the Juvenile Supervision Center in the first six months of 2010. This represents 1,399 visits to the JSC during this period. The service provider, The Link, has returned these youth to safe environments and connected them with community resources. 94 youth were referred to The Link's intensive case management services in the second quarter of 2010. 90% of un-enrolled youth were enrolled in school and 76% reduced their high risk behavior.

### **Recommendation 2C**

**Develop a standard protocol and train adults to use it in parks, schools and health care facilities in the aftermath of critical violent incidents so that those incidents can be used to educate young people on the ways to prevent and de-escalate violent behavior.**

#### **Action**

- *No new action*

**Recommendation 2D**

**Establish and promote a youth help line to give young people a safe, confidential way to report trouble or seek help.**

**Action**

- Since the launch of SPEAK UP Minneapolis through June 2010, there have been 86 calls and 41 texts. Billboards are posted around Minneapolis, and ads appeared in 4 local newspapers. Radio PSA aired on 3 stations. Television PSAs aired on 5 local stations.

**Recommendation 2E**

**Establish policies and training making every library, park and school a nonviolence zone, so that young people see nonviolence being actively practiced and do not see violence being ignored or condoned by adults at facilities that are meant to be safe places for learning and activities.**

**Action**

- *No new action*

**Recommendation 2F**

**Support alternatives to suspension and expulsion in Minneapolis schools as a way to determine effective tools and policies to prevent violence and address violent incidents.**

**Action**

- This quarter planning began for a City-wide youth campaign to enroll 200 non-enrolled young people in school this fall. Minneapolis Public Schools and the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board have joined forces to raise public awareness about the dropout crisis and graduation gap in Minneapolis and enlist the entire community's help to resolve it. All jurisdictions are participating in this effort to reach youth and re enroll youth who are not in school.

**Recommendation 2H**

**Increase training and support programs for parents of at-risk teenagers, including juvenile re-entry, so that these parents have the knowledge, tools and resources they need to get their kids back on the right track.**

**Action**

- *No new action*

**Recommendation 2I**

**Increase the capacity of Hennepin County's truancy intervention program for students with mental health and chemical dependency issues so that these young people have the added support and resources to stay in school and out of trouble.**

**Action**

- **South Minneapolis and Northwest Hennepin Truancy Intervention program** – The YMCA Truancy programs are designed to reach out to truant students and help them “re-connect” with school, positive activities, adult role models, and their communities in general. Unduplicated youth served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter – 60

**Recommendation 2J**

**Provide young people who have an incarcerated parent with additional adult support by creating mentor programs that match these youth with individualized support.**

**Action**

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities has continued its successful Mentoring Children of Prisoners program during 2010, providing young people who have an incarcerated parent or significant family member with a mentor and supporting the match to provide additional support and resources to enable the youth to develop positive assets. During the first two quarters, we have served 213 Minneapolis youth who have an incarcerated parent through mentoring, including making 47 new matches (25 of these new matches were made during the second quarter).

**Recommendation 2K**

**Expand street level outreach, including bold door-to-door outreach that engages families and re-connects youth exhibiting risky behavior with quality education and employment opportunities.**

**Action**

- Minneapolis Parks Youthline StreetReach teams are providing mentorship, support and resources to youth on the streets and at gathering sites that have been impacted by violence and negative behavior in the McKinley, Jordan, Hawthorne and Folwell neighborhoods in North Minneapolis with a primary emphasis on the perimeters of Folwell, Farview and North Commons parks. Street outreach will be carried out to reach disengaged youth and engage them in positive opportunities, services and relationships with healthy adults.
- MAD DADS street outreach crew spent over 5,000 hours on the street in the 2nd quarter. In April, team members spent over 636 hours patrolling targeted areas of high crime and violence on the north and south side of Minneapolis.
- In April, MAD DADS held 8 outreach explosion events to talk to youth in targeted areas to attend support groups, giving up drugs and crime.
- MAD DADS has started the Get Real Youth Program (GRYP) for at-risk urban youth. It focuses on teaching leadership skills and nonviolence.

**GOAL #3**

**Objective: Do not give up on our kids, work to restore and get them back on track.**

**Recommendation 3A**

**Strengthen cross-jurisdictional mechanisms so that different parts of the juvenile justice system (probation, police, corrections, health care providers, community-based organizations, etc.) can better coordinate services and support systems for young offenders.**

**Action**

- School Resource Officers have made over 200 home visits to youths recently at the JSC.

- The Juvenile Criminal Apprehension Team (JCAT) team goes out to find youth who have warrants that have been issued by the Court.
  - Addresses checked – 21
  - Persons sought – 59
  - Arrests – 34
- MAVI (Minneapolis Anti-Violence Initiative) - 51 home visits by Juvenile Investigators and Hennepin County Probation Agents to assure compliance

### **Recommendation 3B**

**Expand the scope and increase the funding of juvenile probation to better integrate young offenders back into the community. This should include incorporating youth development practices into probation instead of solely focusing on punishment and monitoring.**

### **Action**

- The Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation has developed an array of community-based services:
  - **Family Functional Therapy (FFT)** services were made available to clients in July 2010 through three local service agencies (HSI-New Generations, Kente Circle and Volunteers of America) with a total of 4 therapists. To date 18 clients have been screened and 2 are actively receiving services.
  - **Aggression Replacement Training (ART)**—ART is a cognitive behavioral intervention designed to alter the behavior of aggressive youth, reduce anti-social behaviors, and develop alternative pro-social skills. Two juvenile probation officers coordinate and facilitate ART groups. Since August 2009, 37 clients have been referred for ART services and 13 clients have successfully completed ART programming. Currently, there is no active ART programming in the community, the next group (males only) starts August 2010 and currently has 14 enrolled.
  - **Wraparound Services (Chemical & Mental Health)** – A contract to deliver chemical wraparound services is currently available through the Odyssey Programs. A contract with Stepping Stones for Families is currently available for a limited number of referrals for mental health services. The expansion in the number of wraparound service providers is expected to be completed by November 1, 2010. Currently there are 11 families receiving wraparound services.
  - **Evening Reporting Center (ERC)** – Located in Shiloh Temple in North Minneapolis and open from 3:00-9:00 pm, Tuesday - Saturday. The ERC offers programs and services designed to hold court-ordered youth accountable while supporting the development of pro-social skills and providing them with structured and positive activities during the hours that are highest for youth crime. Since its opening in January 2010, 32 clients have been referred for services. Currently there are 8 clients in the ERC.
  - **Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)** –MST services are expected to begin in August 2010 with services provided by Family and Children Services. MST is an intensive in-home, treatment program designed to make positive changes in the various social systems (home, school, peer relations) that contribute to the serious antisocial behaviors of youth.

- Other services provided by Hennepin County include Monitoring Education and Training (MET), including Weekend MET, Girls Programming, and Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC).
- Minneapolis Police Department Diversion Program (1<sup>st</sup> Qtr):
  - 23 total youth considered for diversion
  - 14 youth currently in contract
  - 9 youth declined diversion

**Recommendation 3C**

**Implement a comprehensive assessment tool that identifies a juvenile’s mental health needs and related needs and connects them to available services without risking self-incrimination.**

Action

- *No new action*

**Recommendation 3D**

**Decrease re-offense rates by better connecting youth offenders to educational opportunities, employment skills and health care services.**

Action

- MAD DADS director VJ Smith and board member John Turnipseed go to the Hennepin County Home School each week and talk to 15 youth, talking to them about leaving gangs, drugs and violence, giving them tools to handle their anger and frustration and change their thinking to take positive action in regards to their lives and their families..
- Pre-program activities began for the North 4 Youth Employment Program in April 2010. The project is a partnership between METP, MDHFS and Emerge Community Development (ECD) which was selected as the youth service provider.
- Between June 1, 2010-May 31, 2012, ECD will provide employment and training opportunities for 30 gang involved youth ages 14-21 who live in or near Folwell, Hawthorne, Jordan and McKinley North Minneapolis neighborhoods. The project will serve three cohort groups of ten youth each over the 2-year project period.
- MDHFS provided ECD with a pre-program planning contract for intensive employment development and curriculum planning between April 1, 2010-June 30, 2010.
- The first cohort of ten youth began on June 14, 2010 and is comprised of 18-21 year old African American males. Each cohort group will receive a 33 week intensive program experience that includes: a 20 hour training the first week to prepare youth for subsidized work experiences beginning week two; weekly four-hour cohort training sessions on Fridays (designed to promote leadership, team building, personal goal setting, learning how to deescalate tense situations, career exploration, anger management, budgeting and financial management); placement into unsubsidized employment, and; 12-month employment retention and follow-up services.
- **YMCA Juvenile Probation Program** works with youth ages 12 to 21 years who are currently on probation. The JPP develops relationships with young people and their families and assists youth in continuing their education, securing employment, finding

resources/programs in their community, and paying restitution for their behaviors.

Unduplicated youth served in 2nd quarter – 40

- **YMCA “24/Seven” Program** works with referred youth ages 16 and older who are exiting their placement from Hennepin County programs and who need independent housing. 24/7 helps youth learn how to find housing, develop independent living skills, review education requirements, and connect with local resources. Unduplicated youth served in the 2nd quarter –36
- **YMCA EJJ Program** works with youth ages 14 to 21 years of age, residing in Hennepin County, who are under court jurisdiction as Extended Jurisdiction Juveniles. The YMCA staff will work in conjunction with Hennepin County Probation Officers to provide additional structure and supervision of EJJ youth in the community in order to successfully comply with court orders. The YMCA staff develop relationships with youth and their families and assists youth in achieving success in education, securing employment (if applicable), developing life skills, aligning supportive resources/programs in their community, paying restitution for their behaviors and maintaining law abiding behavior. Unduplicated youth served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter – 251

### **Recommendation 3E**

**Expand restorative justice programs for youth offenders, which have been shown to effectively reduce re-offenses by reintegrating offenders into the community, and enable offenders to assume active responsibility for their actions.**

#### **Action**

- Conflict Resolution Center mediators facilitate peacekeeping circles with high risk students in North Minneapolis. 120-150 students participate in these circles each month. Results include improved conflict resolution skills, mentoring and violence-prevention.
- Hennepin County Restorative Justice community providers (Restorative Justice Community Action, Conflict Resolution Center, Longfellow-Seward RJ, Community Mediation Services, BIHA, Legal Rights Center) work with youth referred from Operation DeNovo and the Minneapolis Police Department Juvenile Unit to provide them with restorative services and divert them from the criminal justice system. .
- Hennepin County Restorative Justice community providers (Restorative Justice Community Action, Conflict Resolution Center, Longfellow-Seward RJ, Community Mediation Services, BIHA, Legal Rights Center) are working with Juvenile Probation Staff to refer youthful offenders to restorative justice as an alternative.
- The Legal Rights Center, as a community partner of MPS, provides Family Group Conferencing as a restorative intervention for students who might otherwise face suspension or expulsion. New protocols were instituted in 2010 with MPS for referring students with discipline issues. 54 conferences were completed in the first half of the year, including 16 between April and June (compared to 5 in those months in 2009). Not a single student was later expelled. 70% had no behavioral referrals after the intervention. 62% improved their percentage of classes passed following the intervention and another 21% passed the same percentage of classes.

### **Recommendation 3F**

**Strengthen and expand proven after-care models to ensure that each youth returning from out of home placement has a comprehensive plan to re-enter their community. Better**

**engage community and faith organizations in helping to provide after-care solutions for these youth and their families.**

Action

- *See initiatives in 3B*

**Recommendation 3G**

**Develop relevant and culturally appropriate rites of passage to support a more comprehensive process for youth offenders to re-enter the community. Helping these youth and their families will alleviate many community concerns and buoy their confidence and civic engagement.**

Action

- *No new action*

**Recommendation 3H**

**Expand sentencing options for youth to include comprehensive and intense behavioral training and therapy for young offenders and their families. Ensure that support systems for youth offenders are extended to strengthen the families these youth come from and return to.**

Action

- *See initiatives in 3B*

**GOAL #4**

**Objective: Recognize that violence is learned and can be unlearned by reducing the impact of violent messages in our media, culture and entertainment.**

**Recommendation 4A**

**Work with local experts and youth to develop a local public education campaign to ensure that young people and our entire community see their roles and responsibilities in stopping violence, while providing the knowledge and tools to reduce violence and safely intervene when violence occurs.**

Action

- On June 19, 2010 Community Power Against Violence (CPAV) participated in the Juneteenth festival sharing a booth with Girls in Action. CPAV conducted 1:1 interviews, distributed Peace 24/7: It Begins with You wristbands and Peace Pledge cards, and videotaped discussions about girl violence for future work on this issue.
- CPAV and the Cedar Riverside Youth Council planned a Peace Rally/event July 17. The free event includes basketball, food, workshops, and youth-created videos being shown and taped.
- CPAV is also planning a “Dance for Peace 24/7” event on August 21 from 1-4:00 p.m. in the North Community YMCA parking lot.

**Recommendation 4B**

**Recognize that youth violence is a national problem and Minneapolis should lead the discussion by partnering with other mayors and leaders in other cities to form a national coalition against youth violence.**

**Action**

- *No new action*

**Recommendation 4C**

**Support sensible illegal gun laws and work to change community values around the acceptance of guns. This includes seeking stronger penalties for people who sell and distribute illegal guns, and profit from the sale and distribution of illegal guns to young people.**

**Action**

- A Gun Buy Back program was held on June 18, with over 68 guns collected. Several community organizations participated in staffing the event.

# BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

Preventing Youth Violence in Minneapolis



**GOAL 1**  
Objective: Every young person in Minneapolis is supported by at least one trusted adult in their family or their community

**GOAL 2**  
Objective: Intervene at the first sign that youths and families are at risk for or involved in violence

**GOAL 3**  
Objective: Do not give up on our kids, work to restore and get them back on track

**GOAL 4**  
Objective: Recognize that violence is learned and can be unlearned by reducing the impact of violent messages in our media, culture and entertainment



Published quarterly by the City of Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support

## Quarterly report July – September 2010

The third quarter saw an increase in the level of interest of youth wanting to attend programs and services. The central question facing many stakeholders and youth-serving organizations was: in the face of major funding cuts, how can they continue to provide the quality services for an ever increasing number of youth?

The following pages and stakeholder contributions represent a mosaic of heroic accomplishments that attempted to move beyond the disinvestment of youth development dollars and rise to the challenge of addressing critical needs. It is no understatement that these programs do matter as they represent necessary delivery system for critical skills development for youth and young adults. These programs produce significant outcomes that ultimately impact our youth's well being.

What began emerging was a common theme: forming collaborative partnerships. In many cases, youth-serving stakeholders formed stronger working partnerships to help address critical needs.

One such example was The Minneapolis Foundation, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the Minneapolis Police Department's Juvenile Division, Minneapolis Public Schools and Hennepin County Public Libraries. Recognizing the critical need to provide programming during evening and weekend hours in neighborhoods with high concentrations of at-risk youth, this group developed a coordinated plan to provide programming during those times as well as during the day. Among the activities undertaken were Minneapolis Police School Resource Officers giving away bicycles and bicycle helmets while park and library staff provided mentoring and other services for youth.

It is often said that social capital consists of the networks of trust, support, and goodwill in any given community. It represents both the individual and collective contributions residents make to the community's wellbeing, contributions that go beyond their immediate self-interest.

Our children's well being represents the greatest form of social capital investment for our community. Their development as tomorrow's leaders begins with today's efforts to engage them and to provide a healthy environment. We hope the following pages will provide you with a glimpse of the social capital afforded our youth.

Bass Zanjani  
City of Minneapolis  
Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator

## **GOAL 1**

Objective: Every young person in Minneapolis is supported by at least one trusted adult in their family of their community

The Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota (MPM) is a statewide network that seeks to ensure quality mentoring exist and are arranged for every child. MPM supports more than 400 youth mentoring programs through training, technical assistance, and marketing around quality mentoring while also providing resources on how to initiate and maintain a mentoring program. MPM was formed in 1994 as a community initiative to promote mentoring for Minnesota youth.

In the third quarter, (MPM) received funding to establish a year-long South Minneapolis Training Institute (SMTI), and continue work with participants in the North Minneapolis Training Institute, which was active in 2008 – 2009.

The SMTI, which began providing service in September 2010, is open to anyone interested in starting or strengthening an adult-to-youth mentoring program serving young people residing in South Minneapolis; institute activities focus on ensuring quality and effectiveness in mentoring programs.

The SMTI provides extensive training, consultation and technical assistance as well as access to resources, such as the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring Programs toolkit and associated two day training, MPM's new online program quality assessment tool, the Quality Mentoring Assessment Path (QMAP) along with a targeted program improvement plan, program evaluation tools, and opportunities to network or collaborate with other mentoring programs. To date, 13 programs have enrolled in the South Minneapolis Training Institute.

## GOAL 2

Objective: Intervene at the first sign that youths and families are at risk for or involved in violence

STEP-UP is a City of Minneapolis employment program that recruits, trains and places Minneapolis youth between the ages of 14-21 in summer jobs with local employers. STEP-UP is a single program that has two employment tracks. Youth ages 14 and 15 are trained and placed in paid internships with non-profit employers. The wages for the 14 and 15 year-olds are subsidized by the Minneapolis Employment and Training Program (METP) using local, state and federal funds. Youth ages 16-21 are placed in paid internships with employers that include non-profit, government, and private businesses

Youth in STEP-UP are offered a variety of experiences to give them a well-rounded training experience. STEP-UP internships not only include comprehensive work readiness training, but also opportunities to: connect with a business mentor; attend camps, seminars, and college preparation workshops; and classroom training that offer the chance to earn high school credit and keep academic skills sharp.

In 2010, the City of Minneapolis STEP-UP Summer Jobs program offered opportunities for youth ages 14-21 to learn about and engage in the workforce. Nearly 180 businesses participated to employ STEP-UP interns. Private sector, government, and non-profit employers were represented in providing quality internships for 1,341 Minneapolis youth.

Of the youth placed in STEP-UP internships this summer, 485 (36%) were employer-paid, and 856 (64%), primarily those placed in the non-profit or public sector, had their wages subsidized with federal, state, local, or foundation funds. Combined, youth in the STEP-UP program earned an estimated 1.9 million dollars. On average, each STEP-UP intern earned \$1440.

The STEP-UP program serves a wide range of Minneapolis youth. In 2010, 89% of youth placed in jobs youth were eligible for free or reduced school lunch, 15% self-reported that they had a disability, and 8% were English Language Learners (ELL). Ninety (90%) percent of youth placed in jobs were youth of color.

### **GOAL 3**

Objective: Do not give up on our kids, work to restore and get them back on track

The Minneapolis Anti-Violence Initiative (MAVI) is a collaborative of the Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections, the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, and the Minneapolis Police Department, and is modeled after Boston's Operation Night Light program.

For the first time, probation and police officers work together to monitor both adults and juveniles who are in pretrial or sentencing status. The MAVI teams also respond to referrals from judges, probation officers, and pretrial and post trial sources. Priority is given to cases involving violence, weapons possession, and gang affiliation.

MAVI teams make unannounced "soft entry" visits (where consent is obtained) to the homes of selected probationers during the evening hours to monitor adherence to the terms of their probation. The most common violations found during these visits are possession of drugs or weapons and probationers under the influence of drugs. Police and deputies train with probation officers for two days to learn about their respective roles in this operation.

During the third quarter, 70 home visits by Juvenile Division Investigators and Hennepin County Probation Agents to kids on probation took place.

## GOAL 4

Objective: Recognize that violence is learned and can be unlearned by reducing the impact of violent messages in our media, culture and entertainment

Community Power Against Violence, or CPAV, is an initiative that was started in partnership with the Minneapolis Foundation. CPAV is a group of about 30-40 youth and adults who are working to reduce youth violence in Minneapolis through a media and mobilization campaign to "ensure that young people and our entire community see their roles and responsibilities in stopping violence, while providing the knowledge and tools to reduce violence and safely intervene when violence occurs"

CPAV's stakeholder groups represent a broad cross section of organizations of various backgrounds owing to the fact that violence occurs within and across cultural communities and within community contexts and circumstances, and each community has their own approach to reducing youth violence.

During the third quarter, Community Power Against Violence:

- Held a Peace 24/7 event in partnership with the Somali community at the Brian Coyle Center for approximately 125 youth and adults;
- Held a Northside Peace 24/7 Dance for Peace in the parking lot of the North Community YMCA for well over 200 people, The event attracted media coverage on the NBC KARE 11 newcast and initial and follow-up stories by Minnesota Public Radio; and
- Participated in a panel discussion at the Konopka Summer Institute on Youth Violence Prevention.

**Addendum**

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**BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION**  
**Quarterly Report**  
**July-September 2010**

**GOAL #1**

**OBJECTIVE: Every young person in Minneapolis is supported by at least one trusted adult in their family or their community.**

**Recommendation 1A**

**Ensure there is a trusted adult in the life of every young person in Minneapolis by increasing the number of quality mentoring opportunities for young people, along with proper training for mentors of all ages and backgrounds.**

**Action**

- Big Brothers Big Sisters has made 81 new matches with Minneapolis youth during the third quarter of 2010. 386 new matches with Minneapolis youth have been made from January through September 2010. A total of 1,686 Minneapolis youth have been served throughout the year.
- Project DIVA is normally not in session for the months of July and August but was able to keep young ladies busy through community service projects during that time. Ten of the young ladies in Project DIVA who live in north Minneapolis extended their services to the Run & Shoot High School Basketball League from May 25<sup>th</sup> - August 3rd. They were the official score keepers, staticians and team managers for the league. The league rotated between Farview, the Jerry Gamble Boys and Girls Club and the north YMCA. The league held games on Sundays and Wednesdays for 4 hours each day. The young ladies ended the season with over 75 hours each of community service hours!
- The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's Gang Intervention and Mentorship program recognized 40 youth participants in a back-to-school skating outing where 27 mentors presented youth with back packs filled with school supplies. This program was for dedicated participation in the mentorship program from June through September 2010.
- 89 STEP-UP youth were paired 1:1 with mentors via the Business Partners Mentoring Program during the third quarter of 2010 and 80 more youth benefited from other career exposure activities.
- YouthCARE mentors girls and young women living at the Little Earth of United Tribes Community located in the East Phillips neighborhood. During the third quarter 2010, (3) 14-18 year old "Youth Mentors" participated in ongoing one-on-one mentoring and job coaching with adult women program staff to assist with work readiness, leadership and life skills development goals.
- In addition, (37) 7-13 year old girls participated in ongoing group mentoring with 14-18 year old young women "Youth Mentors" from their community and adult women program staff of YouthCARE.
- The Link's Gang Intervention program served 17 gang involved youth in the third quarter of 2010. By working with their Link Case Manager one on one, 85% of youth had no new criminal offenses, 75% reduced or suspended gang activity, and 13% gained employment.

- MPM received funding to establish a year-long South Minneapolis Training Institute (SMTI), and continue work with participants in the North Minneapolis Training Institute, which was active in 2008 – 2009. The SMTI, which began providing service in September 2010, is open to anyone interested in starting or strengthening an adult-to-youth mentoring program serving young people residing in South Minneapolis; institute activities focus on ensuring quality and effectiveness in mentoring programs. The SMTI provides extensive training, consultation and technical assistance as well as access to resources, such as the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring Programs toolkit and associated two day training, MPM’s new online program quality assessment tool, the Quality Mentoring Assessment Path (QMAP) along with a targeted program improvement plan, program evaluation tools, and opportunities to network or collaborate with other mentoring programs. To date, 13 programs have enrolled in the South Minneapolis Training Institute.

### **Recommendation 1B**

**Increase the number of private businesses providing jobs through the City of Minneapolis’ STEP-UP program to give more young people the opportunity for employment and positive interactions with engaged adults.**

#### **Action**

- 1,341 youth worked in private sector, non-profit and government jobs during the third quarter 2010 through STEP-UP. 178 total employers included 40 non-profit agencies and 138 companies.
- The largest employers for 16-21 year olds were Minneapolis Public Schools (122), Hennepin County (71), University of Minnesota (38), City of Minneapolis (27) and U.S. Bankcorp (23).

### **Recommendation 1C**

**Strengthen the coordination of public and private youth programs, services and opportunities.**

#### **Action**

- 20 youth involved in Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board programming participated in partnership with YMCA NYPUM (National Youth Project Using Minibikes) to strengthen the coordination of public and private youth program opportunity.
- Kinship has worked with Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota, Bolder Options and Big Brothers Big Sisters, along with NAZ (Northside Achievement Zone) towards supporting children to be college ready. Kinship is on the steering committee of NAZ and had just started receiving 33 potential mentor names and 12 children that would be seeking mentors.
- Kinship has started a collaboration with Central Lutheran and Colonial Church. Each church has offered to support 10-15 children that want to be mentored in North Minneapolis. Lucy Craft Laney School has expressed interest in having their children matched with these churches.
- Hennepin County Library librarians in Minneapolis coordinated with local parks to provide outreach participation at parks and library visits during the summer months.

- TVbyGIRLS at Franklin Library: Franklin Library collaborates with a local partner to provide a youth development opportunity for teens who learn/use media tools, research/interview skills, & technical/video skills to create a documentary film program representing multicultural youth and elder experience. Participating elders represent Somali, Native American, Latino and long-term Phillips Neighborhood residents.
- 350 STEP-UP youth attended class each week to augment their work experience and prevent the erosion of academic skills over the summer. Each student rotated through English, Math, STEM and Life Skills classes – attending class for a total of 24 hours over the course of the summer. Classes were taught by licensed teachers. A relationship with Minneapolis Public Schools and Independent School District 916 allowed the youth that attended class and met established criteria to earn academic credit. Classes were held at North High School and Richard Green Central School.
- La Oportunidad youth collaborated with MIGIZI's Native Youth High School Preparation program on their Multicultural Community Garden. MIGIZI invited youth from community agencies to plant their traditional plants (herbs and vegetables) in their community garden. La Oportunidad's youth helped plant the garden and gave a short presentation to the other students about the plants they brought and what their traditional uses are.

### **Recommendation 1D**

**Increase the number of high-quality community-based youth programs, services and opportunities, including leadership training. Equip these organizations and their leaders with the skills needed to direct youth away from violence and towards positive alternatives.**

#### **Action**

- YouthCARE's Young Women's Mentoring Program provided the following community-based programs in the Little Earth of United Tribes Community.
- (18) 7-10 year old girls participated in 16 "Girls Group" after-school enrichment activities with 144 contacts made.
- (19) 10-13 year old girls participated in 13 "Adventure Girls" after-school enrichment activities, including leadership development activities. 103 contacts were made.
- This September, 24 girls and young women, and their families participated in an all-program Roller Skating Reunion bringing them together with families from different cultural and racial backgrounds to learn skills to live in a multi-cultural community.
- (3) 14-18 year old "Youth Mentors", participated in 42 life skills development, leadership development, service-learning and mentoring opportunities with 89 contacts made.
- Homework Hub is the Library's homework assistance program, which operates in 5 libraries within the city of Minneapolis and 3 libraries in suburban Hennepin County. Volunteer tutors in the program engage youth in learning, assist them in academic skills and help build self-confidence. Minneapolis libraries had 704 total visits from students from July-September. The Homework Hub program is supported by the Library Foundation of Hennepin County and the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board.

- Franklin Library Teen Center connects youth (6th-12th grade) to local organizations in their neighborhood through engaged, field-based exploration and education. Teen Center youth have also been engaged in community service projects – graffiti clean-up, local Food Shelf food prep and distribution, and the Save Peavey Park campaign.
- 43 STEP-UP youth worked at, or attended, YouthCARE Camp Sunrise, a weeklong camp experience where youth can earn wages while they work and learn outdoors.
- Protect the E.D.G.E. provided a spring break and early summer schedule for youth with a sports leadership development program serving over 80 youth ages 8-17. The program was based on the EDGE - Excels, Dreams, Goals and Education - using sports as a vehicle to deliver the leadership and personal development principles, including commitment, relationship building, accountability, and purpose.

**Recommendation 1E**

**Reestablish Minneapolis Police liaisons in Public Schools to give young people opportunities to build positive relationships with the Minneapolis Police and to strengthen coordination between schools, parks and police.**

Action

*No new reported action.*

**Recommendation 1F**

**Provide year-round Youth Are Here bus service so that young people have safe reliable transportation to services and activities.**

Action

- Webber Park Library was added as a stop on the Youth Are Here Bus route. North Regional Library is also a stop.

**Recommendation 1G**

**Give young people safe spaces for activities during out-of-school times by increasing the hours when Library, Park and School buildings are open.**

Action

- The Minneapolis Foundation gave funding to Youthline (Minneapolis Parks & Recreation) for extended evening and weekend hours to provide programs, street outreach and outdoor supervision. Beginning June 15<sup>th</sup> for 10 weeks, 12 recreation centers added extended programming until 10:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and occasional late afternoon or evenings on Fridays or Saturdays. Community partners such as the Minneapolis Public Libraries, Somali Community of Minnesota, Young Dads and other youth serving agencies helped the Parks with additional programming. The 12 recreation centers were Folwell, Farview, North Commons, Logan, Luxton, Creekview, Peavey, Stewart, Powderhorn, Central-Green, Harrison, and Windom.
- Extended Hours served over 400 youth in the City of Minneapolis by providing programs such as cooking, dance classes, movie nights, table games, basketball, soccer, education night, recording studio, water activities, computer lab and back to school events.

- Protect the E.D.G.E. collaborated with a number of schools to develop a Sports Leadership Development Program over the summer, partnering with Parks and Recreation, Green Community Center, and Youthline. The program utilized basketball camps and impacted over 80 youth focusing on core values that are challenged daily but are required in shaping their identity. The emphasis is on managing emotions, problem solving, exhibiting self-discipline, building courage, commitment, and good character. The program teaches youth that they have to take responsibility for their actions and decisions in life and that no one can stop them but themselves. It also teaches youth that as youth in this society, they are responsible for contributing to society in positive and productive ways.

### **Recommendation 1H**

**Provide young people with consistent, effective and meaningful violence prevention training by developing a shared curriculum and coordinated training program for the Minneapolis Libraries, Parks, and Schools.**

#### Action

*No new reported action*

### **Recommendation 1I**

**Increase the number of training and support programs available for parents of teenagers so they have the knowledge, tools, education and resources to spot early warning signs and raise teens that do not condone or engage in violence.**

#### Action

- Freeport West is reaching out to parents in the community to teach parents to be educators to their children/teens using the *It's That Easy* curriculum from the Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting (MOAPPP).

### **Recommendation 1J**

**Increase teenage pregnancy prevention programs in Minneapolis, so teens do not become parents before they have completed their own education or before they are prepared to take on the responsibility of raising children.**

#### Action

- FIT Force for Youth: North Regional Library collaborated with a local health clinic to provide summer programming for youth promoting health awareness.
- Freeport West provides pregnancy prevention education on-site for 16-18 year olds using the curriculum: *Mothers Too Soon*, *Fathers Too Soon*, and *Streetwise/Sex Wise*. New to Freeport this year is the addition of the evidence based curriculums *Making Proud Choices* and *Becoming a Responsible Teen* that include instruction in the areas of abstinence training, delaying early sexual activities and the use of condoms and contraceptives.
- Freeport is engaging youth that have successfully completed our teen pregnancy prevention program to become peer educators through a two week training program using *Mom's Too Soon* and *Dad's Too Soon* curriculum which addresses postponing early sexual activity.
- Edison High School's Peer Educator Group consists of 12 students who meet once a week after school for two hours. Since September, the peer educators have learned about healthy relationships, reproductive anatomy, sexually transmitted infections,

postponing sexual involvement, decision-making and effective communication. While the peer educators are being trained to talk to other students about various health issues, the peer educators are also learning how to make safer choices and take care of themselves. The outcome of the peer educator program is to develop a model that can be replicated at other Minneapolis public high schools. In addition, this program expects to increase the number of students seeking care at the school based clinic and to increase the knowledge about STI, HIV and pregnancy prevention.

**Recommendation 1K**

**Reduce the number of second children to teen parents by connecting every teen parent with health, education and parenting resources to ensure that they have the tools they need to raise healthy children.**

**Action**

- TAPP Partnership: Roosevelt Library and Hennepin County Library Immigrant Resources partner with Roosevelt High School teen parent program to provide monthly library visits with workshops on using early literacy resources and techniques and job and career resources, a teen book club with books in either English or Spanish, and homework help and research skills.

**GOAL #2**

**OBJECTIVE: Intervene at the first sign that youth and families are at risk for or involved in violence.**

**Recommendation 2A**

**Find meaningful employment for young people who may be more difficult to employ by expanding the summer employment programs for at-risk youth, expanding the City's STEP-UP youth jobs program, and better connecting to County employment programs for youth already in the justice system.**

**Action**

- 1,255 youth completed work-readiness training. 56 youth received specific health careers work readiness training.
- 703 youth found employment and training opportunities in a variety of projects with private and non-profit employers that offered community service and work-based learning. (Special Youth Initiatives Program)
- Through the SYI Program, 10 precariously housed youth worked as screen printers and woodworkers at Elpis Enterprises and learned MN core academics.
- The goal of the Year-Round WIA@MPS program is to increase competencies of special needs youth in the areas of prevocational, vocational, communication, mobility, work related, academic and social skills. 197 youth worked part-time in July in the Life Skills (125), SILS (52) and School That Works (20) programs.
- Little Earth of United Tribes has been doing basic job readiness in the community to get young people ready for the STEP-UP program. 30 youth (ages 14-18) were engaged in a group this past quarter.
- Pillsbury United Communities held workshops for youth interested in STEP-UP which covered application completion & preparation for STEP-UP. In addition, an AmeriCorps volunteer is working in youth employment.

- Pillsbury United Communities oversees 11 youth working in a coffee shop, through training and supporting them.
- The Link provides 1:1 employment support & readiness & refers some kids to STEP UP.
- Teen Tech Interns is an internship and youth development program (paid and supported through Best Buy Children's Fund Grant) employing 8 teens out of Minneapolis Central and North Regional Libraries to deliver technology workshops for teens and kids at their assigned library and multiple locations in the system. A total of 22 workshops attracted 89 teens and 54 kids.
- STEP-UP Interns: 16 summer interns worked at 11 libraries/ locations throughout Hennepin County Library, including 7 city libraries. They provided over 2400 hours of service this summer.
- Over 200 youth were employed through collaboration with Park & Recreation Board Teen Team Works and STEP-UP employment programs.
- 25 Broadway High School Teenage Parenting & Pregnancy Prevention Program students worked in Child Development Business, Culinary Arts & Health through the SYI (Special Youth Initiatives) Program, one of the Minneapolis Employment & Training Program summer programs that offers community service and work-based learning.

### **Recommendation 2B**

**Provide focused attention and resources toward early intervention with juvenile offenders by establishing the juvenile supervision center and maintaining the Minneapolis Police Department's juvenile unit.**

#### **Action**

- In the third quarter of 2010 669 duplicated and 487 unduplicated youth came to Juvenile Supervision Center (JSC). The Link's support staff assessed their strengths and barriers, provided them with resources, kept them safe, got them to school, home or other appropriate destination, and provided follow up services when needed. 76% of youth who have come to the JSC in 2010 have not returned. Of those who have returned, 60% have only returned once. 86% of youth who are closed from follow up case management services have not returned to the JSC. 95% of youth who came to the JSC in the third quarter reported they felt safe.

### **Recommendation 2C**

**Develop a standard protocol and train adults to use it in parks, schools and health care facilities in the aftermath of critical violent incidents so that those incidents can be used to educate young people on the ways to prevent and de-escalate violent behavior.**

#### **Action**

*No new reported action*

### **Recommendation 2D**

**Establish and promote a youth help line to give young people a safe, confidential way to report trouble or seek help.**

#### **Action**

- Since the launch of SPEAK UP Minneapolis through August 2010, there have been 104 calls and 63 texts. Through September 2010, 5 reports have been generated.

**Recommendation 2E**

**Establish policies and training making every library, park and school a nonviolence zone, so that young people see nonviolence being actively practiced and do not see violence being ignored or condoned by adults at facilities that are meant to be safe places for learning and activities.**

Action

*No new reported action*

**Recommendation 2F**

**Support alternatives to suspension and expulsion in Minneapolis schools as a way to determine effective tools and policies to prevent violence and address violent incidents.**

Action

- The Legal Rights Center's Juvenile Diversion Restorative Justice program continues to expand. We received 6 new referrals from July-September. Three youth are still in the program and making progress; one has successfully completed. Our work in the Minneapolis Public Schools slows in the summer, but in September we welcomed three new referrals for Restorative Conferencing.
- Conflict Resolution Center mediators facilitate peacekeeping circles with high risk students in North Minneapolis. 120-150 students participate in these circles each month. Results include improved conflict resolution skills, mentoring and violence-prevention.

**Recommendation 2H**

**Increase training and support programs for parents of at-risk teenagers, including juvenile re-entry, so that these parents have the knowledge, tools and resources they need to get their kids back on the right track.**

Action

*No new reported action*

**Recommendation 2I**

**Increase the capacity of Hennepin County's truancy intervention program for students with mental health and chemical dependency issues so that these young people have the added support and resources to stay in school and out of trouble.**

Action

*No new reported action*

**Recommendation 2J**

**Provide young people who have an incarcerated parent with additional adult support by creating mentor programs that match these youth with individualized support.**

Action

- During the first three quarters of 2010, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities has served 386 youth who are dealing with parental and family incarceration, including making new matches with 88 youth. During Quarter 3, we made 13 new matches with Minneapolis children with incarcerated parents, and served 307 total youth in active mentoring relationships (matches).

- Kinship has matched 35 kids in Minneapolis with mentors, 6 of those are from North Minneapolis. Kinship has also matched 12 kids in Minneapolis that have parents that are incarcerated.

**Recommendation 2K**

**Expand street level outreach, including bold door-to-door outreach that engages families and re-connects youth exhibiting risky behavior with quality education and employment opportunities.**

Action

- 8 Youthline StreetReach staff door knocked and conducted a pre and post summer 2010 survey in regards to park program offerings for youth and neighborhood safety. Survey results are being tabulated by the City of Minneapolis Health and Family Support.

**GOAL #3**

**OBJECTIVE: Do not give up on our kids, work to restore and get them back on track.**

**Recommendation 3A**

**Strengthen cross-jurisdictional mechanisms so that different parts of the juvenile justice system (probation, police, corrections, health care providers, community-based organizations, etc.) can better coordinate services and support systems for young offenders.**

Action

- J-CAT (Juvenile Criminal Apprehension Team) is a conglomerate of agencies including Minneapolis Police (Juvenile Division), Hennepin County Juvenile Probation, U.S. Marshals and other agencies. This team seeks to find youth who have warrants that have been issued by the Court. In the past, these warrants / youth were never sought after and were basically forgotten by the courts and system.
  - Year to date (9/30/10):
    - # of addresses checked: = 573
    - # of persons sought: = 295
    - # of warrant apprehensions: = 127
    - 11 kids turned themselves in after being sought
    - 3 handguns recovered
    - 2 proactive arrests
    - 2 Runaway children located and returned
- MAVI – “Minnesota Anti-Violence Initiative” (July-Sept.): 70 home visits by Juvenile Division Investigators and Hennepin County Probation Agents to kids on probation

- The Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation reports the following for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

♦**Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)** –MST services began August 9, 2010 with services provided by The Family Partnership (fka Family & Children’s Service). MST is an intensive in-home, treatment program designed to make positive changes in the various social systems (home, school, peer relations) that contribute to the serious antisocial behaviors of youth. Since August 9, 2010, **19** families have been screened for MST services and **12** families have begun receiving MST services. The other **7** families are awaiting court hearings for disposition.

♦**Wraparound Services (CH and MH)** – The Wraparound process is a family based intervention in which the youth and their families identify goals and determine what is important to their family's success. A trained facilitator coordinates a team of people from treatment, school, recreational activities; or a community or faith-based agency to support a drug and alcohol free life. After reviewing proposals in July, recommendations were made to contract with four vendors for the purchase of Wraparound services—La Familia Guidance Center, Metro Social Services, Minneapolis Council of Churches through its Division of Indian Work and Behavioral Health Services Program. The HC Board approved the four contracts in September. Since January 2010, **20** clients have been referred for Wraparound and **13** clients have successfully completed Wraparound. Currently there are **7** families receiving Wraparound services.

♦**Girls Programming** – The Amicus Radius program provides gender-responsive services to adolescent girls on probation in Hennepin County that include: a 15 week closed psycho educational group (3 times annually), 10 individual counseling sessions, family support, and resource referrals. The overall desired outcome for the Radius program is to assist girls to live a healthy, successful, productive, and law-abiding life in the community. Services have been provided to North Minneapolis girls since May 2008.

Total number of girls served at one time: 30 in groups at three different sites: (12 North Mpls, 12 Suburbs, 6 South Mpls), Additional girls may be seen individually as time allows. Anticipated number served annually is 90.

The Juvenile Probation contract with Amicus was expanded effective 7/1/10 to add services to the Suburban region and South Region.

Currently, there are **26** clients active with Amicus. The North side has **9** active girls, the Suburban region has **9** and the South has **8**.

The most recent graduation date was August 8, 2010 when **5** clients graduated successfully. Since January 2010, **45** clients have been referred to Amicus with **21** clients completing the program.

### **Recommendation 3B**

**Expand the scope and increase the funding of juvenile probation to better integrate young offenders back into the community. This should include incorporating youth development practices into probation instead of solely focusing on punishment and monitoring.**

### Action

- Minneapolis Police Department Diversion Program (Year to date-9/30/10):
  - ♦ 181 total youth offered diversion
  - ♦ 78 youth currently in contract
  - ♦ 23 passed Diversion
  - ♦ 10 declined
  - ♦ 24 failed
  - ♦ 46 no contact
- The Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation reports the following for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
  - ♦ **Evening Reporting Center (ERC)** –Is located in Shiloh Temple in North Minneapolis and is open from 3:00-9:00 pm Tuesday - Saturday. The ERC offers programs and services designed to hold youth accountable while supporting the development of pro-social skills and providing them with structured and positive activities during the hours that are highest for youth crime. Since the opening of the North Minneapolis ERC in January 2010, **40** clients have been referred for services and **7** clients have successfully completed the ERC program. Currently there are **6** clients in the North Minneapolis ERC with **5** more expected to be admitted soon.

### Recommendation 3C

**Implement a comprehensive assessment tool that identifies a juvenile's mental health needs and related needs and connects them to available services without risking self-incrimination.**

### Action

*No new reported action*

### Recommendation 3D

**Decrease re-offense rates by better connecting youth offenders to educational opportunities, employment skills and health care services.**

### Action

- **be@school At Your Library:** HCL partners with the [Hennepin County Attorney](#) and the Hennepin County Juvenile Justice system to provide a truancy intervention program, based in five libraries that are also Homework Hub sites (Augsburg Park, Brookdale, East Lake, Central and North Regional), serves habitually truant students ages 12-18 referred by the County Attorney or the Juvenile Courts. Since September, 17 students have been referred with 7 completing the program.
- **Monitoring Education and Training (MET)** – MET is a 6 week community based intensive work program for juvenile offenders. Offered in conjunction with Electronic Home Monitoring, the program is designed to offer structure and accountability. Youth referred to MET work on STS crews and receive academic and work-readiness programming; the program can be completed in 4 weeks through rigorous effort. Since January 2010, **115** clients have been referred for MET and **99** clients have successfully completed MET.

### Recommendation 3E

**Expand restorative justice programs for youth offenders, which have been shown to effectively reduce re-offenses by reintegrating offenders into the community, and enable offenders to assume active responsibility for their actions.**

Action

- Hennepin County Restorative Justice community providers (Restorative Justice Community Action, Conflict Resolution Center, Longfellow-Seward RJ, Community Mediation Services, BIHA, Legal Rights Center) work with youth referred from Operation DeNovo and the Minneapolis Police Department Juvenile Unit to provide them with restorative services and divert them from the criminal justice system. .
- Hennepin County Restorative Justice community providers (Restorative Justice Community Action, Conflict Resolution Center, Longfellow-Seward RJ, Community Mediation Services, BIHA, Legal Rights Center) are working with Juvenile Probation Staff to refer youthful offenders to restorative justice as an alternative.

**Recommendation 3F**

**Strengthen and expand proven after-care models to ensure that each youth returning from out of home placement has a comprehensive plan to re-enter their community. Better engage community and faith organizations in helping to provide after-care solutions for these youth and their families.**

Action

- **Return to Success—YMCA and Humble Beginnings** - Expansion of Return to Success to serve as the standard aftercare model for Juvenile Probation youth returning from out-of-home placement, involves expansion of both the YMCA and Humble Beginnings contracts.

For the YMCA, the addition of 5.5 Community Specialists (totaling 6.0 FTE with RTS) was accomplished through an amendment that was approved by the Board on September 9, 2010. The YMCA has since hired staff who are in the process of being trained.

The second component is the addition of two .5 FTE Community Review Process Facilitator Assistants through Humble Beginnings to expand the availability of weekly Community Review Process meetings. Staff negotiated the terms of the contract with Humble Beginnings which the County Board approved on November 2, 2010.

**Recommendation 3G**

**Develop relevant and culturally appropriate rites of passage to support a more comprehensive process for youth offenders to re-enter the community. Helping these youth and their families will alleviate many community concerns and buoy their confidence and civic engagement.**

Action

*No new reported action*

**Recommendation 3H**

**Expand sentencing options for youth to include comprehensive and intense behavioral training and therapy for young offenders and their families. Ensure that support systems for youth offenders are extended to strengthen the families these youth come from and return to.**

Action

**Functional Family Therapy (FFT)** –FFT services were made available to clients on Juvenile Probation beginning July 23, 2010 through three local service agencies (HSI-New Generations, Kente Circle and Volunteers of America) with a total of 4 therapists. To date **39** clients have been screened, and **16** are actively receiving services. The additional **23** are either waiting for a court date, or have been assigned to complete FFT at the conclusion of their out-of-home program. FFT is a short-term highly structured in-home intervention that was developed to treat "treatment resistant" families of youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system.

**GOAL #4**

**OBJECTIVE: Recognize that violence is learned and can be unlearned by reducing the impact of violent messages in our media, culture and entertainment.**

Recommendation 4A

**Work with local experts and youth to develop a local public education campaign to ensure that young people and our entire community see their roles and responsibilities in stopping violence, while providing the knowledge and tools to reduce violence and safely intervene when violence occurs.**

Action

- **1-866-Speak-Up** posters and flyers to encourage reporting weapons and the potential of gun violence and the "**We Watch We Call**" neighborhood watch signs were posted at libraries.
- The annual Latino Youth Peace Conference was held on May 14, 2010 at Augsburg College, attended by 208 individuals (139 Latino youth representing various middle and high schools and 69 adults –mentors, school personnel, community leaders).

Recommendation 4B

**Recognize that youth violence is a national problem and Minneapolis should lead the discussion by partnering with other mayors and leaders in other cities to form a national coalition against youth violence.**

Action

*No new reported action*

Recommendation 4C

**Support sensible illegal gun laws and work to change community values around the acceptance of guns. This includes seeking stronger penalties for people who sell and distribute illegal guns, and profit from the sale and distribution of illegal guns to young people.**

Action

*No new reported action*

# BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

Preventing  
Youth Violence  
in Minneapolis



## GOAL 1

Objective: Every young person in Minneapolis is supported by at least one trusted adult in their family of their community

## GOAL 2

Objective: Intervene at the first sign that youths and families are at risk for or involved in violence

## GOAL 3

Objective: Do not give up on our kids, work to restore and get them back on track

## GOAL 4

Objective: Recognize that violence is learned and can be unlearned by reducing the impact of violent messages in our media, culture and entertainment

## Quarterly report October - December 2010

*Every life matters.*

2010 was a year with mixed results for violent crime and homicides. While juvenile violent crime continues to decrease, there were 5 juvenile homicides and a total of 15 when factoring in young people ages 18-24. The goal of the *Blueprint for Action* is to achieve zero homicides for youth ages 10-24 in Minneapolis. While 2010 represented a challenging setback in terms of achieving our ultimate goal, it reinforced the need to re-double our efforts, to support more effective targeted interventions and to become more deeply engaged in young people's lives.

What we cannot lose track of is that progress towards the ultimate eradication of juvenile homicides is being made. From a youth development vantage point, more youth-serving groups are partnering with the City of Minneapolis through the *Blueprint for Action* strategy and are working in a more collaborative manner. In a community with the level of resources and programs available to youth, it should be everyone's expectation that youth violence can be prevented and that each person can play a role towards that outcome.

This will be no small task, especially in a climate of ever increasing cuts and downsizing. Many youth-serving organizations demonstrated a tremendous display of selflessness and devotion to cause to persevere in meeting the needs of youth. Among the many examples is the restorative justice community, which provides an indispensable service working with low-level offenders to engage them in activities that contribute to the improvement of the community while teaching accountability. Over the past few years, the restorative justice community has experienced funding shortages from all sources. The restorative justice groups continue to engage a high number of youth offenders so that these youth don't fall further into the criminal justice system.

The City of Minneapolis will arduously work to try to leverage available resources to ensure that youth-serving organizations and the community at large has the necessary tools to help eradicate the disease of youth violence. 2011 represents a chance to re-dedicate ourselves to finding ways to better engage youth and provide them with a greater environment of support.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

*~Bass Zanjani, Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator~*



Published quarterly by  
the City of Minneapolis  
Department of Health  
and Family Support

## GOAL 1

Objective: Every young person in Minneapolis is supported by at least one trusted adult in their family of their community

## Little Earth of United Tribes

Little Earth has begun a venture with a Minneapolis Public Schools program called “*We Want You Back*”.

In this venture, teens and adults who have dropped out of school are given several options to re-enroll.

- If the individual is a good candidate for going back to high school, and wants to return to school, Little Earth’s student counselor is able to pull their transcript and develop an individualized work plan for the student.
- While this approach may work for some, they did realize early on that it will not work for everyone. In instances where the person does not want to return to a typical high school setting due to being too far behind, problems with other students, family or gang issues, they are provided other options for graduating. One of these options is for the student to first meet with the Little Earth school counselor (on-site) and see exactly what they need to graduate. Utilizing the Little Earth Youth Development Center (LEYDC) the school counselor will set the student up to take on-line classes. The student can report to the LEYDC at a time of their choosing and do their coursework. While they are in the Center they will be provided with school supplies but, most importantly, tutors will be available if the student needs help. In addition to this there is a licensed teacher that comes to the Center twice a week to check on and/or help new students that dropped out.

Little Earth is the first satellite site for the *We Want You Back* program. The program has been operating for only two months so is being refined according to the changing needs of the community. Little Earth has seen many drop-outs come in and, after meeting with the counselor, have a clear understanding of what they need to do to get back on track to success. The program has been credited as being a model and there is discussion about replicating it in the Cedar-Riverside community.

## GOAL 2

Objective: Intervene at the first sign that youths and families are at risk for or involved in violence

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities continued its ongoing Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program and also began a new three-year federally-supported initiative to support youth with a parent incarcerated at the state or federal level.

During the quarter, the agency served 307 matched Minneapolis youth who had an incarcerated parent or significant family member, including making 44 new matches. BBBS is actively working to build additional partnerships within the community to provide increased mentor training and case management and referrals needed to address issues specific to youth facing familial incarceration.

The MCP Program was the focus of an article in the Star Tribune (12/26/10), and highlighted one of the matches served through the program.

### GOAL 3

Objective: Do not give up on our kids, work to restore and get them back on track

## Two Mothers and Two Dads Healing Groups

From Death to Life” is an organization dedicated to ending violence through the facilitation of healing and reconciliation between families of victims and perpetrators. From Death to Life offers support groups empowering mothers and fathers to come to terms with the impact of homicide through emotional, spiritual, mental, and physical healing.

In addition to healing groups, From Death to Life sponsors an annual prayer walk, community gatherings that celebrate life (including Gospel & Jazz on the Lawn), and presentations that invite others to witness the power of healing forgiveness and use that vision to heal in their own lives.

Mary Johnson is the mother of a murdered child, and the founder of “From Death to Life”. We are honored to have her as a new member of the Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee. In addition to the healing groups she holds for parents of victims and perpetrators, she shares this work of her organization over the past quarter:

“A dad of our Two Mothers/Two Dads group shared his story with the teens that attend the Hennepin County Gun Program and 3 of our Mothers accompanied him and shared a little of their story. We share at these sessions quarterly. This program is for teens that have been caught with a weapon in their possession.”

More about Mary and her work can be found at <http://www.bewhoyouare.info/fromdeathtolife/home.html>

## GOAL 4

Objective: Recognize that violence is learned and can be unlearned by reducing the impact of violent messages in our media, culture and entertainment

### **Urban Youth Conservation**

Urban Youth Conservation (UYC) is a grass roots effort supported by former gang members to reduce gang-related violence among youth in Minneapolis and St. Paul. By providing positive alternatives like youth sports, employment, and programs, UYC gives kids an option to participate in something every kid deserves to do.

UYC reaches out to young men and women who are involved in gangs and helps them extricate themselves from that destructive life. UYC staff talk with young people and intervene in fights – sometimes risking their lives, giving them hope and constructive strategies to leave the streets behind.

Urban Youth Conservation was founded by two long-time gang members. They've recruited other former gang members to try to convince young people to give up gang life. This past quarter, Urban Youth Conservation worked with Community Power Against Violence (CPAV), a multicultural collaboration which understands that violence occurs within and across cultural communities and within community. The groups were involved in five events all over the community and two retreats.

Addendum

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**BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION**  
**Quarterly Report**  
**October-December 2010**

**GOAL #1**

**OBJECTIVE: Every young person in Minneapolis is supported by at least one trusted adult in their family or their community.**

**Recommendation 1A**

**Ensure there is a trusted adult in the life of every young person in Minneapolis by increasing the number of quality mentoring opportunities for young people, along with proper training for mentors of all ages and backgrounds.**

**Action**

- A part-time Tutoring Programming Coordinator was hired to implement a tutoring supplement to Bolder Options mentoring program - the number of youth receiving tutoring services continues to grow
- The Alumni Network was established to provide support for pairs post intensive one-year period in Bolder Options. The network will enable the program to keep youth and mentors attached to the program for a longer period of time and improve long-term outcomes
- During the final quarter of 2010, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities served 1,315 youth who reside in Minneapolis, through mentoring relationships, including 940 children served through its Community-Based mentoring program, and 375 youth served through its site- and school-based program. Of these, 250 children were in new matches made after October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- MPM's new South Minneapolis Training Institute (SMTI) has seen strong participation since enrollment began in September 2010. The SMTI is open to people interested in starting or strengthening adult-to-youth mentoring programs serving South Minneapolis; activities focus on ensuring quality and effectiveness in youth mentoring programs. Services include training, consultation and technical assistance as well as access to networking and resources, such as the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring Programs toolkit and MPM's new online program quality assessment tool, the Quality Mentoring Assessment Path (QMAP). The QMAP self-assessment results in a targeted program Improvement & Innovation plan; the process then continues with consultation to help programs meet goals for enhancement of their practices.
- To date, 17 staff members from 13 South Minneapolis mentoring programs are participating in the SMTI. Eight of these programs have completed the QMAP assessment, met with Mentoring Partnership staff for reviews of the findings, and are working on Improvement & Innovation plans; the remaining five programs are engaged in the assessment process. All 17 participating staff members have either attended MPM's Elements of Effective Practice (EEP) training previously, or are registered for the two day EEP training scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Project DIVA meets with 35 mentees and 7 mentors for 3 hours every Saturday from September to June focusing on academic, social and emotional behaviors. This quarter participation included commitments to weekly life and academic goal sheets, weekly topic discussions dealing with possible obstacles many of them may face and writing submissions to our book – the 3rd Edition of Perceptions of Young DIVAS (\$15 per copy). We are meeting monthly with our 11 seniors on ACT

testing, college applications, scholarship essays and visits to area colleges. We made our presence known at the Miss Black Minnesota Pageant through sponsorship, as well as escorting our young ladies to the event. The young ladies continually are guided to work on their **Dignity, Integrity, Virtue, Availability** and accountability during and outside of our program.

- Twenty seven mentors (27) in the Gang Prevention and Mentoring program were recognized for providing 1,080 hours of mentorship to 32 youth from June – October (program is ongoing). Each mentor spent 2 hrs. per week with youth doing activities such as bowling, movies, professional and college sports activities, mall walk and talks, dinners and a Halloween event.
- Kinship of Greater Minneapolis is on the steering committee for the Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ). We are stepping up to guarantee that every eligible child in NAZ can be matched to a mentor. We have started matching children from Lucy Craft Laney this fall and hope to grow this program.

### **Recommendation 1B**

**Increase the number of private businesses providing jobs through the City of Minneapolis' STEP-UP program to give more young people the opportunity for employment and positive interactions with engaged adults.**

#### **Action**

- To date, 35 employers have pledged to hire (and pay) 140 STEP-UP youth. Thirty-one non-profit employers have pledged 195 subsidized jobs. Previous private sector employers are being contacted to encourage them to pledge jobs again in 2011.

### **Recommendation 1C**

**Strengthen the coordination of public and private youth programs, services and opportunities.**

#### **Action**

- Eighteen youth participated in a River Front Design Project. Youth met weekly to give architects input on how to redesign the Mississippi River Front. The youth went through an Environmental Literacy Neighborhood based curriculum. In the process youth had the opportunity to map their neighborhood and gained new perspective in the Folwell, McKinley, Jordan and Hawthorne neighborhoods. Educational goals accomplished:
  - Introduced to vocabulary and concepts of responsible community design
  - Understand issues facing neighborhoods and articulate their ideas
  - Empower youth to become responsible for their environment and participate in public decision making process
  - Expand research skills through gathering of historical facts and information about the built and natural environment using primary source.
- **Intermedia Arts Programs** and Hennepin County Library held 5 workshops attended by 31 youth. From filmmaking and creative writing to graffiti art and spoken word, Intermedia Arts empowers young people with the skills and tools they need to become positive catalysts for change within their communities. These programs were funded with money approved by voters on November 4, 2008, which dedicated funding to preserve Minnesota's art and cultural heritage.

### **Recommendation 1D**

**Increase the number of high-quality community-based youth programs, services and opportunities, including leadership training. Equip these organizations and their**

**leaders with the skills needed to direct youth away from violence and towards positive alternatives.**

Action

- MAD DADS participated in 100 Strong Who Care at Anderson School in October, a collaborative with Minneapolis Public Schools. 100 Strong Who Care is a community involvement initiative working to close the educational gap with children of color and present inspirational community members who want to positively impact students' lives.
- MADDADS helps coordinate the "Get Real Youth Program", developing leaders to help assemble a youth plan of action against the rise of youth violence. Meetings are held every other week.
- The Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota (MPM) presented the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Minnesota Mentoring Conference, *Quality in Action*, on October 25<sup>th</sup> at the University of Minnesota's Continuing Education and Conference Center. Over 200 participants gathered to learn about best practices, share tools and techniques, and discover new research and resources. Programs serving Minneapolis area youth were well-represented among participants and presenters; staff members from 20 Minneapolis area mentoring programs and youth initiatives attended the conference, while five professional development workshops were facilitated by staff from Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities, Bolder Options, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Project Diva. Staff members from programs participating in MPM's North and South Minneapolis Training Institutes were able to attend the conference at a reduced rate as a benefit of their affiliation; 14 staff members from 11 of the SMTI/NMTI programs attended the conference.
- During the school year La Oportunidad's curriculum for the Latino Youth Program focuses on prevention and intervention through a focus on education, self, family, and community. In addition, special groups are coordinated for young girls and for youth who exhibit leadership potential and summer activities are also offered. The youth activities provide education and support that keep youth on a positive track educationally and socially. They also create opportunities for youth to develop positive relationships with caring adults including the program coordinators, teachers, and other adult community volunteers. These services are also successful because they are preventive and provide a structure through which to intervene for youth who have exhibited risky behaviors. The groups promote a positive philosophy of peace, helping youth "unlearn the culture of violence" in a setting that is culturally appropriate and builds upon their Latino identity. To date in 2010, La Oportunidad has served **328 Latino Youth**.
- Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010, youthrive hosted a PeaceJam Slam youth leadership conference, hosting 200 youth from throughout the Upper Midwest region. Of those youth, 30 represented several Minneapolis sites, including: Edison High School, North High School, Kwanzaa Community Church, Peace Dinners Initiative, Twin Cities Friends, and Urban 4-H Youth Development. At the event young people shared with each other about the service they are doing in their local communities and attended learning sessions focusing on The Global Call to Action campaign issues addressing Breaking the Cycle of Violence, Ending Racism and Hate, and Eliminating Extreme Poverty. Participants left feeling excited about returning to their communities to begin planning and implementing service and begin learning about the life of the featured Nobel Peace Prize Laureate for the PeaceJam Youth Leadership in the spring.

- youthrive exhibited at the Minnesota Mentoring Conference about youthrive's violence prevention curriculum and programming, created and facilitated by youthrive's youth and adult partners.
- **Homework Hub** is the Library's homework assistance program, which operates in 5 libraries within the city of Minneapolis from October through December. Volunteer tutors in the program engage youth in learning, assist them in academic skills and help build self-confidence. Minneapolis libraries had 704 total visits from students from October - December. The Homework Hub program is supported by the Library Foundation of Hennepin County and the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board.
- **Franklin Library Teen Center** connects youth (6th-12th grade) to local organizations in their neighborhood through engaged, field-based exploration and education. Teen Center youth have also been engaged in community service projects – graffiti clean-up, local Food Shelf food prep and distribution, Save Peavey Park campaign. In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter the Teen Center had 1450 visits from young people.

**Recommendation 1E**

**Reestablish Minneapolis Police liaisons in Public Schools to give young people opportunities to build positive relationships with the Minneapolis Police and to strengthen coordination between schools, parks and police.**

Action

*No new reported action.*

**Recommendation 1F**

**Provide year-round Youth Are Here bus service so that young people have safe reliable transportation to services and activities.**

Action

*No new reported action.*

**Recommendation 1G**

**Give young people safe spaces for activities during out-of-school times by increasing the hours when Library, Park and School buildings are open.**

Action

- *No new reported action*

**Recommendation 1H**

**Provide young people with consistent, effective and meaningful violence prevention training by developing a shared curriculum and coordinated training program for the Minneapolis Libraries, Parks, and Schools.**

Action

- The Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support was awarded a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to implement Gang Prevention curriculum. In partnership with the YMCA work will begin with young people who are incarcerated at the Juvenile Detention Center and with children in the Beacons program and Nellie Stone Johnson school in North Minneapolis.

**Recommendation 1I**

**Increase the number of training and support programs available for parents of**

**teenagers so they have the knowledge, tools, education and resources to spot early warning signs and raise teens that do not condone or engage in violence.**

Action

*No new reported action*

**Recommendation 1J**

**Increase teenage pregnancy prevention programs in Minneapolis, so teens do not become parents before they have completed their own education or before they are prepared to take on the responsibility of raising children.**

Action

- Edison High School's Peer Educator group is now called HYPE (Healthy Youth Peer Educators). Upcoming plans include going into the lunchrooms and educating their peers on STDs. They will also hand out cards encouraging students to come get a quick STD test at the School Based Clinic.

**Recommendation 1K**

**Reduce the number of second children to teen parents by connecting every teen parent with health, education and parenting resources to ensure that they have the tools they need to raise healthy children.**

Action

- **TAPP** partnership: Roosevelt Library and HCL Immigrant Resources partner with Roosevelt HS teen parent program to provide monthly library visits with workshops on using early literacy resources and techniques and job and career resources, a teen book club with books in either English or Spanish, and homework help and research skills. For the fourth quarter of 2010, this program provided services to 22 young parents and 22 of their children.

**GOAL #2**

**OBJECTIVE: Intervene at the first sign that youth and families are at risk for or involved in violence.**

**Recommendation 2A**

**Find meaningful employment for young people who may be more difficult to employ by expanding the summer employment programs for at-risk youth, expanding the City's STEP-UP youth jobs program, and better connecting to County employment programs for youth already in the justice system.**

Action

- Work has been done to bring all summer youth programs under the STEP-UP brand.
- METP released a Request for Proposals seeking a provider to offer longer and more intensive training for youth who need additional preparation for work. The Youth Council will select the provider by January 28, 2011.
- Year-Round Youth Programs increase youths' long-term employability by enhancing educational, occupational and leadership skills. To be eligible for WIA services, youth must be economically disadvantaged and have at least one of the following at-risk barriers: 1) basic skills deficient, 2) school dropout, 3) disabled, 4) pregnant or parenting, 5) homeless, runaway or foster child, 6) offender and 7) requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure and

hold employment. Through second quarter (July 1, 2010-December 31, 2010), **217** Minneapolis youth, ages 14-21, have enrolled in the program.

- **Teen Tech Interns** is an internship and youth development program employing 8 teens out of Minneapolis Central and North Regional Libraries to deliver technology workshops for teens and kids at their assigned library and multiple locations in the system. A total of 12 workshops attracted 39 teens.
- **Teen Job Assistance** is a collaboration between Hennepin County Library and the Minneapolis WorkForce Center Youth Zone. Youth Zone staff presented tips and information on job search and then provided one-on-one assistance with job searches, applications, résumés and interview preparation at three Minneapolis libraries. Library staff were available for tours and further questions. At Minneapolis Central Library, youth from MET, Hennepin County's Monitoring, Education, and Training Program, take part in this monthly program, which is also open to the public. For the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2010, 41 youth participated in this program.

### **Recommendation 2B**

**Provide focused attention and resources toward early intervention with juvenile offenders by establishing the juvenile supervision center and maintaining the Minneapolis Police Department's juvenile unit.**

#### **Action**

- In the fourth quarter of 2010, 478 duplicated and 446 unduplicated youth came to Juvenile Supervision Center (JSC). The Link's support staff assessed their strengths and barriers, provided them with resources, kept them safe, got them to school, home or other appropriate destination, and provided follow-up services when needed. 74% of youth who have come to the JSC in 2010 have not returned. Of those who have returned, 59% have only returned once. 87% of youth who are closed from follow up case management services have not returned to the JSC. 96% of youth who came to the JSC reported they felt safe.

### **Recommendation 2C**

**Develop a standard protocol and train adults to use it in parks, schools and health care facilities in the aftermath of critical violent incidents so that those incidents can be used to educate young people on the ways to prevent and de-escalate violent behavior.**

#### **Action**

*No new reported action*

### **Recommendation 2D**

**Establish and promote a youth help line to give young people a safe, confidential way to report trouble or seek help.**

#### **Action**

- SPEAK UP bus shelter ads in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong are visible throughout Minneapolis in language-appropriate neighborhoods. Total impressions were 2.76 million for the month of December. Since the launch of SPEAK UP Minneapolis through December 2010, there have been 120 calls and 66 texts. Through December 2010, there have been 5 reports generated.

### **Recommendation 2E**

**Establish policies and training making every library, park and school a nonviolence zone, so that young people see nonviolence being actively practiced and do not see**

**violence being ignored or condoned by adults at facilities that are meant to be safe places for learning and activities.**

Action

*No new reported action*

**Recommendation 2F**

**Support alternatives to suspension and expulsion in Minneapolis schools as a way to determine effective tools and policies to prevent violence and address violent incidents.**

Action

- Legal Rights Center accepted 20 new referrals from the Minneapolis Public Schools for Restorative Conferencing. To date, 14 of those students have completed their first conferences. They are currently working through their Plans and learning alternative conflict resolution.

**Recommendation 2H**

**Increase training and support programs for parents of at-risk teenagers, including juvenile re-entry, so that these parents have the knowledge, tools and resources they need to get their kids back on the right track.**

Action

*No new reported action*

**Recommendation 2I**

**Increase the capacity of Hennepin County's truancy intervention program for students with mental health and chemical dependency issues so that these young people have the added support and resources to stay in school and out of trouble.**

Action

*No new reported action*

**Recommendation 2J**

**Provide young people who have an incarcerated parent with additional adult support by creating mentor programs that match these youth with individualized support.**

Action

- Kinship of Greater Minneapolis was successful in mentoring 36 children of prisoners. This is a three year federal program that helps support children who have a caregiver that is incarcerated. Children who have an incarcerated parent are 72% more likely to become incarcerated themselves without additional adult support. Kinship strongly advocates for these children to have mentors to help break the cycle. .

**Recommendation 2K**

**Expand street level outreach, including bold door-to-door outreach that engages families and re-connects youth exhibiting risky behavior with quality education and employment opportunities.**

Action

- MDHFS is working to address personal safety barriers at three Northside parks as part of the Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) project. MDHFS has partnered with MPRB to employ outreach workers at Farview, Folwell, and North

Commons Parks. From June 2010 through October 2010, seven outreach workers conducted street outreach within and near the perimeters of parks, at events, and within park buildings with a special focus on engaging youth and linking them with available park and community programs. The presence of the StreetReach workers is intended to change the perception that parks are unsafe and encourage people of all ages to safely and comfortably use their parks to engage in physical activity.

- The Minneapolis Parks will receive funds to enhance their street based outreach focusing on Folwell, Farview and North Commons parks. Training began in November and services will begin in January, 2011.

### **GOAL #3**

**OBJECTIVE: Do not give up on our kids, work to restore and get them back on track.**

#### **Recommendation 3A**

**Strengthen cross-jurisdictional mechanisms so that different parts of the juvenile justice system (probation, police, corrections, health care providers, community-based organizations, etc.) can better coordinate services and support systems for young offenders.**

#### **Action**

- J-CAT (Juvenile Criminal Apprehension Team) is a cross-jurisdictional team that includes MPD (Juvenile), Hennepin County Juvenile Probation, U.S. Marshals and other agencies. This team seeks to find youth who have warrants that have been issued by the Court. In the past, these warrants / youth were never sought after.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. (Oct.-Dec.2010):
    - # of addresses checked: = 122
    - # of persons sought: = 59
    - # of warrant apprehensions: = 28
    - 3 kids turned themselves in after being sought
    - 1 handgun recovered
    - 2 proactive arrests
    - 1 runaway child located and returned
- MAVI – “Minnesota Anti-Violence Initiative” has been established to conduct home visits by Juvenile Division Investigators and Hennepin County Probation Agents to kids on probation. Unfortunately, due to lower staffing levels, MPD was unable to conduct these visits in the last quarter.

#### **Recommendation 3B**

**Expand the scope and increase the funding of juvenile probation to better integrate young offenders back into the community. This should include incorporating youth development practices into probation instead of solely focusing on punishment and monitoring.**

#### **Action**

- Minneapolis Police Department Diversion Program (Year to date-12/31/10):
  - 279 total youth offered diversion
  - 112 youth currently in contract
  - 46 passed Diversion
  - 24 declined
  - 31 failed
  - 66 no contact

### **Recommendation 3C**

**Implement a comprehensive assessment tool that identifies a juvenile's mental health needs and related needs and connects them to available services without risking self-incrimination.**

#### **Action**

*No new reported action*

### **Recommendation 3D**

**Decrease re-offense rates by better connecting youth offenders to educational opportunities, employment skills and health care services.**

#### **Action**

- The Link's Gang Intervention program served 17 gang involved youth in the fourth quarter of 2010. By working with their Link Case Manager one on one and in groups, 75% of youth reduced indicators of gang involvement, 75% of youth had no new criminal offenses, 75% reduced or suspended gang activity, and 38% gained employment.
- The North 4 Youth Employment Program (a METP youth program) will provide employment and training opportunities over 2-1/2 years for 30 gang involved youth, ages 14-21, who live in or near Folwell, Hawthorne, Jordan and McKinley neighborhoods. Ten African American males, ages 17-21, were selected for Cohort 1 that ran throughout the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.
  - Nine of ten youth in the program are employed in either subsidized or unsubsidized positions.
  - Four youth have been placed into unsubsidized employment with an average wage of \$8.80 per hour.
  - Three youth are attending community colleges while working part-time.
  - Two youth have secured stable housing.
  - Two youth have enrolled in programs to earn their high school diploma/equivalent.
- **be@school At Your Library:** HCL partners with the [Hennepin County Attorney's](#) Office and the Hennepin County Juvenile Justice system to provide a truancy intervention program, based in five libraries that are also Homework Hub sites (Augsburg Park, Brookdale, East Lake, Central and North Regional) that serves habitually truant students ages 12-18 referred by the County Attorney or the Juvenile Courts. Since September, 22 students have been referred with 9 completing the program.

### **Recommendation 3E**

**Expand restorative justice programs for youth offenders, which have been shown to effectively reduce re-offenses by reintegrating offenders into the community, and enable offenders to assume active responsibility for their actions.**

#### **Action**

- In the Juvenile Restorative Justice Diversion program, the Legal Rights Center is working with 7 referred teens, 6 diverted pre-charge from the Minneapolis Police Department and 2 direct referrals from the Hennepin County Attorney's office.

### **Recommendation 3F**

**Strengthen and expand proven after-care models to ensure that each youth returning from out of home placement has a comprehensive plan to re-enter their community.**

**Better engage community and faith organizations in helping to provide after-care solutions for these youth and their families.**

Action

*No new reported action.*

**Recommendation 3G**

**Develop relevant and culturally appropriate rites of passage to support a more comprehensive process for youth offenders to re-enter the community. Helping these youth and their families will alleviate many community concerns and buoy their confidence and civic engagement.**

Action

*No new reported action*

**Recommendation 3H**

**Expand sentencing options for youth to include comprehensive and intense behavioral training and therapy for young offenders and their families. Ensure that support systems for youth offenders are extended to strengthen the families these youth come from and return to.**

Action

*No new reported action*

**GOAL #4**

**OBJECTIVE: Recognize that violence is learned and can be unlearned by reducing the impact of violent messages in our media, culture and entertainment.**

**Recommendation 4A**

**Work with local experts and youth to develop a local public education campaign to ensure that young people and our entire community see their roles and responsibilities in stopping violence, while providing the knowledge and tools to reduce violence and safely intervene when violence occurs.**

Action

- youthrive hosts the youth committee for the Safe Families Coalition with Greater Twin Cities United Way. The youth committee has developed the “Silence All Violence” campaign, launching promotional and outreach efforts throughout Minneapolis and the greater metro area. The team presented the campaign to over 2,000 attendees at Search Institute’s Big Tent Conference in Houston, Texas, November 2010.
- youthrive hosted the Violence Prevention tent at the Children’s Defense Fund’s 10-10-10 Rally for Children and Youth at the Minnesota State Capitol building with over 1,000 participants. Minneapolis’ Community Power Against Violence (CPAV) was recruited to present information in the tent and work with youthrive’s youth and adult staff to answer questions about violence prevention. Safe Families Coalition information and resources about violence prevention and domestic abuse were made available to rally participants as well.

**Recommendation 4B**

**Recognize that youth violence is a national problem and Minneapolis should lead the discussion by partnering with other mayors and leaders in other cities to form a national coalition against youth violence.**

Action

*No new reported action*

**Recommendation 4C**

**Support sensible illegal gun laws and work to change community values around the acceptance of guns. This includes seeking stronger penalties for people who sell and distribute illegal guns, and profit from the sale and distribution of illegal guns to young people.**

Action

*No new reported action*