

BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION
Quarterly Report
April – September 2008

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

- Convened 8 Northside mentor programs to develop collaborative ventures and opportunities to recruit, train and match mentors. City of Minneapolis is partnering with the Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota to assist in supporting northside mentor programs who serve the 5 target neighborhoods to expand capacity to increase opportunities for mentor recruitment and placement.
- Created a mentorship policy committee comprised of multiple mentoring organizations to increase the number of quality mentoring programs, along with proper training for all mentors who work in the target 5 neighborhoods. Committee will work closely with the city's Youth Violence Coordinator on said objectives.
- Submitted grant to the U.S Department of Justice to help increase capacity for mentoring programs to use best practices to increase capacity to recruit, train and match mentors.
- City of Minneapolis launched effort to recruit 50 employees to mentor 50 children from the 5 targeted neighborhoods on the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities waiting list. To date, 16 Minneapolis employees have become mentors through this ongoing recruitment effort.
- Provides ongoing support to the Minneapolis Public Schools' Family Connection Centers (Northside and Southside) which are school-based centers that provide health and social services for students and their families.
- Submitted federal appropriation request through Congressman Ellison office.

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

- STEP-UP placed 1,195 youth during the summer of 2007, bringing the City's year round youth job total to 2,011.
- STEP-UP placed approximately 1,861 youth in 2008 YTD. Younger youth STEP-UP placed 660 students ages 14-15. Older youth STEP-UP placed 1,201 youth ages 16-21.
- Minneapolis Department of Health & Family Support (MDHFS) created an additional 12 summer jobs through micro grants and youth violence prevention funding.

Recommendation 1C

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

Action

- Applied and awarded \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to hire a Gang Prevention Coordinator to work with community based organizations to help coordinate existing gang prevention efforts and formalize systems to serve and report outcomes regarding youth at high risk for gang involvement.
- Convened Youth Action Team of Youth Coordinating Board to conduct needs assessment of community based programs. This group will identify gaps, needed resources and communication strategies for youth services in Minneapolis and present recommendations for action to the Executive Committee of the Youth Coordinating Board.

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

- Empowerment Zone funds (\$514,000) issued by City of Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development were made available to 9 community organizations offering high quality community based-youth programs.

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

- The School Board of the Minneapolis Public Schools has agreed to enter School Safety Liaison contract negotiations with the Minneapolis Police Department in late summer 2008.

Recommendation 1F

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

Action

- City of Minneapolis co-sponsored youth buses that run from noon to 8pm. There are currently 500 registered riders. In the year since the buses began running, more than 13,000 rides have been given to children and youth, connecting them to libraries, parks, and non-profit organizations that provide youth opportunities and activities.

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 Park Board extended hours by creating hubs and compressing hours. Using Local Collaborative Time Study funding, high quality youth summer programs (Beacons, etc) offered at libraries, parks and schools received additional support so young people could have more safe spaces for activities during out-of-school times. Beginning June 16, recreation centers offered expanded teen programming until 10 p.m. up to six nights per week at the following sites: are Creekview Park, Farview Park (with General Mills support), Folwell, Green Central, Harrison, Logan, North Commons, Powderhorn, Stewart, Webber Pool, Windom South.

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

- Curricula addressing inter-personal violence have been explored. The preferred curriculum has potential to be implemented in multiple community settings. A national training organization involved in the creation of this curriculum would be prepared to administer training across multiple setting with large groups of trainees. Blueprint Goals involving cross jurisdictional efforts to prevent youth violence will be considered for adoption by the Executive Committee of the Youth Coordinating Board in Fall 2008.

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

- Project MURUA, an intensive parent education and support program, was funded as part of the city's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation.
- The Department of Health and Family Support will award proposals for training and support programs for parents of teens. The department anticipates providing \$100,000 per year for two years in fall 2008.

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

- Convened small group representing Children's TAMS, U of M Prime Time, Hennepin County and city health department staff to meet with Minneapolis Public Schools staff to discuss YVP work plan action step focused on providing comprehensive sexual health education to middle school students.
- Planning training session in late summer 2008 for Minneapolis Public School Health Education staff on Teen Pregnancy Prevention and community resources.
- Convened meeting in mid summer 2008 with key leadership from city and other key community stakeholders regarding working with Minneapolis Public Schools and tapping resources from the National Institute for Reproductive Health Urban Initiative in order to develop policy mandating comprehensive sexuality education for students in middle grades (6-8).
- Hired Graduate Student Summer Intern to convene meetings with MDHFS staff, MDHFS contractors and conduct community focus groups with adolescents, teen parents and Parents of Adolescents on the topic of Teen Pregnancy Prevention, gaps in services and cultural issues that need to be addressed. Intern will also work with Director of Community and Public Health Initiatives on creating a strategy and timeline for developing a policy to take to the school board regarding a requirement for comprehensive sex education in middle schools (6-8), and implementing a sex ed curriculum in Minneapolis Public Schools.
- Developing partnership with Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) regarding Center for Disease Control (CDC) funded HIV and Sexual Health Education initiative. MDE submitting grant to CDC in summer 2008 for professional development and intensive technical assistance to educators teaching HIV, STI, and pregnancy prevention, specifically targeting students at highest risk for HIV, STIs, and pregnancy – African American, American Indian, and Hispanic.

- School Based Clinics received funding targeted at Hispanic high school students at Roosevelt and Edison. Plans are to hire a Mental Health staff person that will be working with Hispanic adolescents on teen pregnancy prevention related topics.

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

- City finances Minnesota Visiting Nurses Agency's (MNVA) program to reach every pregnant and parenting teen with the goal of assisting teen parents to remain in school during pregnancy and return to school after pregnancy and delaying subsequent pregnancies until graduation or adulthood. MNVA saw 236 pregnant or parenting teens from Jan-June 2008 totaling 1,074 visits. In 2007, 80% of pregnant teens with MNVA public health services remained in school and obtained a GED.
- Teen Parent Connection lead agencies Hennepin County, MDHFS and MPS – Teenage Pregnant and Parenting Program meeting bimonthly to implement YVP work plan.
- Working with Teen Parent Agency Network to improve coordination of services. Activities to date include surveying member organizations regarding Network needs in order to improve participation; and plans to convene key stakeholders in early fall to work on developing and implementing standardized case management protocols.

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

- Approximately 258 youth of the 1861 total STEP-UP youth were placed with summer jobs.
- \$100,000 has been requested from the Partners Fund to create a pilot project providing employment opportunities for high risk youth who are homeless or precariously housed and have cd/mental health issues. The target population is at highest risk for incarceration and/or long term homelessness.

Recommendation 2B

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

Action

- Established the Juvenile Supervision Center. In the first six months of operation, 1515 youth were seen in the center. Based on needs identified in the center, 950 youth received limited case management, case coordination or case management services.

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

- A collaborative of hospital and clinic representatives have developed recommendations for addressing youth violence in primary care settings and hospital emergency rooms. Deliberations are currently taking place with the two trauma hospitals serving Minneapolis that may lead to adopting new protocols for responding to youth violence in their ERs. Police chaplains are also being consulted in the development of any new protocols.

Recommendation 2D

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

Action

- Identified vendor to provide 24 hour/365 access to confidential hotline. Vendor provides customized script and immediate reporting to police and school district. Follow up incident reports are also available. Minneapolis Department of Health & Family Support (MDFHS) is seeking funding for this.

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

- Each of these entities has a safety policy. The Public Library received funding support to attain training on how to work more effectively with youth. Youth Violence Coordinator will launch a planning process to explore potential adoption or consolidation of protocols in fall 2008.

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

- School district has established a task force to recommend alternative to suspension and expulsion in Minneapolis Public Schools. Task force is called Reversing the Cycle. Recommendations will be forwarded to the school board in summer/fall 2008.

Recommendation 2G

Provide young people with consistent and effective support by creating a common definition of “risky behavior,” and coordinating a set of actions to be taken as a result; to be shared and used by Minneapolis Parks, Schools, and City government, Hennepin County, and the broader juvenile justice system.

Action

- Under consideration for removal/re-definition.

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:

- Minneapolis Urban League designed an innovative, afrocentric "Parenting Boot Camp" to better prepare parents for raising teens in neighborhoods that face great challenges. Three, ten week "Boot Camps" were conducted over this past year. 65 parents participated. Follow up support was provided as well as leadership opportunities for parents who completed the class. All participants reported significant improvement in their own parenting skills.
- The Department of Health and Family Support award has made two awards to community based organizations to provide support, education and skill building programs for parents of teens. The department will provide \$200,000 over a two year period beginning in October of 2008.

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

- Juvenile probation just received a grant from OJJDP for brief interventions with CD/alcohol issues that started in summer 2008.

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

- Created the mentorship policy committee comprised of multiple mentoring organizations to increase the number of quality mentoring programs, including those that specialize in serving children of incarcerated parents. Meetings have focused on developing a coordinated strategy with mentoring groups to work with incarcerated families and their children.
- Submitted grant to the U.S Department of Justice to help increase capacity for mentoring programs to use best practices to increase capacity to recruit, train and match mentors.

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

- City supported street level outreach campaign undertaken by Shiloh Baptist Church which seeks to engage every family in 40 block radius in two of the targeted neighborhoods.
- City engaged with fledgling collaborative which seeks to replicate in North Minneapolis a model of the Harlem Children's Zone project. A steering committee has been working over these months to create a potential structure for how a collaborative effort could create a zone of success in North Minneapolis.
- Minneapolis Department of Health & Family Support is awaiting Empowerment Zone funding approval to help finance a pilot door to door campaign in late Summer/early Fall 2008.

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

- County staff who are serving youth that are leaving a youth detention facility are putting forth greater efforts to facilitate the transition from incarceration and back to the community. To this end, staff will work to develop kinship (family) search capacity for Juvenile Probation to identify real kin for youth so they can reconnect with someone from their family.
- Cross-jurisdictional issues that relate to service and support systems are being addressed in numerous work groups that have been in existence. The Youth Violence Blueprint is referenced and the link distributed so members can familiarize themselves with the content. This will aid in the focus of many of these discussions.

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

- A new risk assessment instrument was put into place by Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) on April 1, 2008 which is designed to further reduce the number of youth placed in secured detention. The Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) evaluates the risk of the offender for not returning to court or reoffending. This is intended to ensure that the juveniles being held in Secure Detention are the correct youth.
- JDAI has an Implementation Workgroup that is working to develop a continuum of services in the community for the youth that are released on the RAI.
- Juvenile Probation and a high level Out of Home (OHP) Placement task force is working to develop appropriate community resources to keep kids from being placed out of home.

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

- The Youth Levels of Service Inventory is being administered when youth are brought in to the Juvenile Supervision Center. This tool is being utilized for the sole purpose of identifying the needs of a juvenile in order to connect them to the appropriate community

- Juvenile probation also administers the YLSI to youth placed on individual supervision.
- Juvenile probation administers the MAYSI II, which is a mental health assessment that determines what/if mental health services are indicated. If services are indicated the appropriate referrals are made.

Recommendation 3D

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

Action

- HIRED provides services to participants who have a criminal record and who are ready to seek employment. The program includes intensive job search skills classes, job placement assistance, and referral to customized training when appropriate. The program boasts an approximate 90% job-retention rate.
- Heading Home Hennepin’s 24-Seven program provides supportive housing and wrap-around services for youth exiting corrections. This is a multi-faceted approach to reintegrating youth from incarceration back into their communities.
- Working to develop memorandums of understandings with community based organizations to accept direct referrals from Juvenile Supervision Center.
- Juvenile Probation currently has an Educational Advocacy unit that works with the schools, new immigrant populations and parents to increase the youth’s success in school.
- There are currently individual efforts by the Minneapolis School District, Independent School District 287, County Home School and other community providers to design and implement Intensive day Treatment programs that target high risk youth who have mental health and educational needs.

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

- Diverted first time offenders by removing them from the court system, engaging them in restorative justice, and monitoring their educational progress, e.g., Juvenile Diversion.
- Juvenile Probation has a Restorative Justice Unit that provides restitution services (investigation and collection), victim services, family group conferencing and victim/offender mediation.

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

- MDHFS awarded grant from the Office of Justice and Delinquency prevention to hire a Gang Prevention Coordinator who will work to develop community preparedness for youth returning from incarceration.
- Hennepin County is currently piloting Youth in Transition Conferences (YTC) at the County Home School which are a series of meetings between youth and their circle of support for the purpose of actively planning and preparing youth for independent living.
- Juvenile Probation will be expanding their Return To Success re-entry model to include all of their clients returning from out of home placement. This is part of the larger OHP effort being taken on by the County.
- Hennepin County Home School has a transitional program that will be expanded to include this larger population of youth also.
- HSPHD has a transitional group called On Ramp To Independence is working on developing services for youth transitioning from the juvenile arena into the adult arena. This includes housing, independence etc.

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

- Hennepin County awarded funds to Centro to develop a program with at risk young men in the Latino community.
- Division of Indian Work's Healing Spirit programs are intentionally designed to ensure a proper reflection of American Indian culture for their youth.
- While not focused on youth who have been offenders, the Otto Bremer Foundation has nominated Minneapolis Department of Health & Family Support for a Robert Wood Johnson grant to develop culturally-based rites of passage for youth.

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

- Juvenile Probation, in concert with HSPHD, is currently trying to find the funding to get Family Functional Therapy for their clients.
- Thinking for a Change is currently used in both facilities. This is a cognitive restructuring program that has had good outcomes and is evidence based.

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

- Minneapolis Foundation has agreed to develop, create and launch Public Information Campaign on Youth violence as a public health issue.
- City of Minneapolis has formed a strategic partnership with KMOJ (89.9) to air a weekly youth run radio show on youth violence prevention and related issues.

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

- Mayor Rybak has presented the Blueprint to the US Conference of Mayors, Hennepin County Board of Commissioners and to the City of Brooklyn Park. Plans underway to involve additional national entities, e.g., the National League of Cities.

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

- City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County launched the Juvenile Offender Gun Initiative focused on reducing the number of youth carrying guns, through a series of coordinated activities beginning summer 2008.

BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION
Quarterly Report
October –December 2008

Summary

Juvenile-related violent crime citywide has declined 29% from 2007 and over 37% from 2006. More encouraging has been the data from four out of the five targeted Minneapolis neighborhoods identified in the *Blueprint for Action*. The neighborhoods of Folwell, McKinley, Hawthorne and Jordan experienced a decline of 39% from 2007 and 43% in 2006 in juvenile violent crime.

The fourth quarter had the latest juvenile/young adult homicide occur in the Somali community. City policymakers and staff have responded by allocating resources to either develop or fund culturally competent and effective intervention strategies that would potentially have an immediate impact and would augment law enforcement's efforts. Action steps have been taken in collaboration with Somali community members to implement this.

Over the summer and fall months, the City of Minneapolis provided over \$514,000 in grants to 12 community organizations for a wide range of issues including youth employment and academic enrichment with community-based programs. In addition, the City of Minneapolis has developed a youth violence prevention legislative agenda which, among other initiatives, calls for statewide policy that defines youth violence as a public health issue.

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

- Bolder Options matched 23 Minneapolis youth with mentors in their community-based mentoring program, including 10 youth in North Minneapolis. The mentors helped their youth set academic, athletic, and personal goals, as well as improve their school success and healthy habits.
- Kinship of Greater Minneapolis created six long-term community-based mentoring relationships for youth living in the City of Minneapolis. There are an additional 43 children on the waiting list for a mentor.

- The Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota broadened its partner organizations for the North Minneapolis Training Institute (NMTI). Seventeen (17) programs are now enlisted which serve an estimated 400- 450 students in 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

- STEP-UP modified its program for next year's students by consolidating its 14-15 year old and 16-21 year old programs as well as modifying its application process to ensure a greater percentage of enrolment for high risk youth.
- At this time, data is not available for number of businesses/non profits added for fourth quarter; however, 142 businesses supported the STEP-UP program for 16-21 year olds and 33 non-profits supported the program for 14-15 year olds for summer 2008. In addition, 167 youth were connected to business partners (mentors) during their summer work experience.
- The Cookie Cart and STEP-UP received \$25,000 in City Empowerment Zone funding to increase employment opportunities and job skills training for youth.
- The City of Minneapolis' Legislative Agenda has proposed increasing job training and employment through a \$10 million state appropriation for the Minnesota Youth Program.

Recommendation 1C

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

Action

- Minneapolis Health Department staff conducted interviews to hire a Minneapolis Gang Prevention and Intervention Coordinator. Using the healthy youth development model for addressing youth violence, this program plans to work with local government, community-based youth serving organizations and other community stakeholders to effectively coordinate services for gang-affiliated youth, gang-involved youth and youth at risk of becoming involved in gangs. Position will be filled by first quarter 2009.
- The Minneapolis Public School's (MPS) Youth Violence Prevention Task Force, a multi-disciplinary, multi-department work group of district and community partners, met three times to discuss the continuum of services available for prevention, early intervention and re-entry support for youth impacted by or at risk from violence in the community. Topics include parent and staff education on gang awareness (with a focus on culturally specific outreach), partnering with community agencies which provide direct service for gang involved youth, universal social skills training, focus supports for youth at risk of joining or who are being recruited to join, monthly "hot spots" discussion of community sites

(including parks, schools, neighborhoods) to better coordinate response efforts and safety planning.

- The Youth Action Team of the Youth Coordinating Board convened to conduct needs assessment of community based programs. This group presented recommendations for action to the Executive Committee of the Youth Coordinating Board.
- The Minneapolis Youth Congress was awarded \$65,000 in foundation grants to continue to provide a key leadership role for youth in shaping public and private youth programs, services and opportunities.

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 Youth Coordinating Board provided \$38,367 to Franklin (Phillips Neighborhood) and East Lake Libraries for youth programs; the Minneapolis Community Education Summer Leadership Camp received \$19,434 (Phillips and Folwell neighborhoods); and the Minneapolis Youth Congress received \$13,000 to serve 400 youth citywide.

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

- Minneapolis Police Department was awarded the contract and began providing school resource officers to serve 39,479 students and 6,700 staff in approximately 91 mainstream school sites and 20 contract and special sites.

Recommendation 1F

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

Action

- City of Minneapolis co-sponsored youth buses that run from noon to 8pm. There are currently 500 registered riders. 2 buses ran each school day from October 14 – December 19. During that time, an estimated 2,410 youth used the bus. In the year since the buses began running, more than 13,000 rides have been given to children and youth, connecting them to libraries, parks, and non-profit organizations that provide youth opportunities and activities.

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 Youth Coordinating Board provided the following resource: \$4,805 for “Free Stylin Fridays” which draws youth from across North Minneapolis to come together and showcase their own talents through music and art, connect with other youth and organizations and enjoy an evening of positive youth connections.
- The City of Minneapolis’ Legislative Agenda endorsed the Youth Community Connections (YCC) After School Alliance initiative to extend the “Afterschool Community Learning Opportunities Act” which includes:
 - Expanded out of school time community learning opportunities;
 - Increased state funding and using this commitment to leverage private resources for out of school time learning opportunities;
 - Studying youth transportation needs in Minnesota;
 - Assessing the state of out of school time learning opportunities in Minnesota.

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

- Patrick Henry High School is working with the MN State Bar Association to launch a peer mediation program at the high school. Peer mediators are trained by volunteer lawyers to mediate conflicts between fellow students or “peers”. Over 100 students participated in the peacemaking skills workshop in the fall.
- Through the Minneapolis Public School’s Department of Student Support Services, the district has drawn on national best practice for Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum and for implementation/integration support. These include: Second Step, Olweus Bullying Prevention Framework and “No Name Calling” projects.

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

- The Minneapolis Health Department awarded Kwanzaa Community Church and Holy Rosary Catholic Church a total of \$100,000 to provide intensive support, education and skill building programs for parents of teens.

- The Minneapolis Health Department issued an RFP to provide additional training and support programs for parents of teens using Community Development Block Grant Funds.
- La Oportunidad/Padres parenting program received \$39,000 in Empowerment Zone funds to continue their parent education program offered to parents citywide.
- MPS parent education on request including “Walking the Talk” (setting family rules on non-use of drugs/alcohol), “Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Use Trends for Parents”, newly developed training on “Street Gang Awareness for Parents”.

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

- The Minneapolis Public Schools Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Programs (TAPPP) in partnership with HIRED and Minneapolis Community and Technical College requested \$50,000 from the Empowerment Zone. This funding will allow them to support the Broadway Teen Parent Program’s career and technical education programs by hiring two part-time customized trainers. Over the funding period, Broadway will serve 200 teen parents and 100 children of teen parents.
- The Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting received a grant from the National Institute for Reproductive Health (NIRH) to support the efforts of a consortium of Minneapolis organizations to create a replicable model for district-wide implementation of evidence-based sex education. Efforts will initially be focused on establishing a middle school curriculum in the Minneapolis Public Schools. The Project Coordinator position should be filled by mid January.
- The Minneapolis Health Department is partnering with Minnesota Department of Education in providing technical assistance and training to classroom teachers to implement evidence-based curriculum to prevent teen pregnancy and STDs. Health department staff are working with two charter schools, Na-Way-Ee Center School and City Inc-North Campus.

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

- The Minneapolis Health Department co-sponsored with Hennepin County a county-wide forum and resource fair for government and community based organizations that work with teen parents and their children.
- The Minneapolis Health Department continues to meet regularly with Hennepin County, TAPPP and other partners to develop strategies to sustain prevention and early intervention services targeted to young families, given that funding in local government earmarks to serve this population is being reduced.
- The Minneapolis Health Department is partnering with TAPPP to develop a centralized referral system to identify pregnant teens early and connect them with public health nursing. A specific effort being piloted is working to increase the number of WIC recipients that are referred.
- More pregnant and parenting teens were served by public health nurses. Minnesota Visiting Nurses Association (MVNA) provided 1,773 public health nurse visits in the 4th quarter compared to 954 public health nurse visits in the 4th quarter of 2007. In addition, 110 teens were admitted in the 4th quarter of 2008 compared with 82 in the 4th quarter of 2007. A higher percentage of teens are being connected during their pregnancies instead of after the baby is born.
- The Minneapolis Health Department is also making special efforts to connect with pregnant Somali teens and is collaborating with MVNA, TAPPP and Axis Medical Clinic to develop culturally specific services for this population.

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

- 17 youth (between the ages of 18-21) were placed in unsubsidized employment and 2 youth (ages 14-17) were placed in unsubsidized employment during the fourth quarter.

Recommendation 2B

Provide focused attention and resources toward early intervention with juvenile offenders by establishing the Juvenile Supervision and Service Center and maintaining the Minneapolis Police Department's juvenile unit.

Action

- In the fourth quarter, the Juvenile Supervision Center saw 609 youth. In the first nine months of operation, 1702 unduplicated youth were seen in the Center. Based on needs identified in the Center, 1091 youth received limited case management, case coordination or case management services.

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

- Staff has begun to research national best practices for the development of a protocol. A workgroup consisting of members from the Minneapolis' Emergency Preparedness Team, Minneapolis Police, Park Police, Minneapolis Public School Violence Prevention Team and Minneapolis Public Library will meet to explore national models in the first quarter of 2009.
- All Minneapolis Public School sites have "Site Emergency Plans"; the school district has a District Safety Team, a Crisis Recovery Team and a Threat Assessment Team. This group coordinates its activities with the school's youth violence prevention task force. This task force began to develop a district/community partnership that aligns its violence prevention efforts with the City of Minneapolis' *Blueprint for Action* activities.

Recommendation 2D

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

Action

- Minneapolis city staff continues to seek funding for confidential youth violence tip line.

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

- The Minneapolis Public Schools has created a youth violence prevention task force that coordinates violence prevention strategies and activities with external entities. School safety protocols can be viewed at http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/5000_Students.html

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

Minneapolis Public Schools has the following:

- Pilot project with MN State Bar “Operation Mediation” using volunteer lawyers to train and support peer mediation at Patrick Henry High School
- Peace-making Circle-keeping training for interested site teams by nationally regarded Circle Trainers
- A task force to recommend alternatives to suspension and expulsion in Minneapolis Public Schools. Task force is called Reversing the Cycle. Recommendations will be forwarded to the school board by first quarter 2009.
- A grant was awarded in December for \$93,030 by the AT&T Foundation. Funds will be used at Anishinabe Academy and South High School's All Nations small learning community to support Check and Connect, a student engagement program focused on enhancing the academic performance and increasing the graduation rate of at-risk students.
- Check & Connect is a model of sustained intervention for promoting students' engagement with school and learning. Student levels of engagement (such as attendance, grades, and suspensions) are "checked" regularly and used to guide the monitors' efforts to increase and maintain students' "connection" with school.

Recommendation 2G

Provide young people with consistent and effective support by creating a common definition of “risky behavior,” and coordinating a set of actions to be taken as a result; to be shared and used by Minneapolis Parks, Schools, City government, Hennepin County, and the broader juvenile justice system.

Action

- Under consideration for removal/re-definition.

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:

- Minneapolis Health Department awarded Kwanzaa Community Church and Holy Rosary Catholic Church a total of \$100,000 to provide intensive support, education and skill building programs for parents of teens.

- Minneapolis Health Department issued an RFP to provide additional training and support programs for parents of teens using Community Development Block Grant Funds.

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

- Hennepin County received a grant from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to address alcohol and other drug use by juveniles involved in the criminal justice system. The grant is for \$750,000 over a four-year period (2008-2011). This grant will be used to support the implementation and evaluation of a brief four-session intervention for juveniles with mild-to-moderate substance use that are involved in the criminal justice system. Hennepin County Corrections is teamed up with the County Attorney on this initiative .

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

- The City of Minneapolis’ Legislative Agenda endorsed the establishment of competitive grant funds for existing state or local mentoring partnerships to increase the number of mentors statewide.
- Bolder Options obtained a contract in 2008 with national MENTOR to serve children of incarcerated parents, and the agency has contacted state and county facilities to do outreach for Minneapolis youth referrals.

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

- The Minneapolis Health Department will issue an RFP for a door to door campaign in the spring of 2009.
- *500 Under 5* is an initiative designed to help children ages 0-5 in two North Minneapolis neighborhoods enter kindergarten ready to learn. *500 under 5* Family Support Advocates meet with families, learn about their needs and help connect families to information and services such as parenting classes, opportunities to meet other parents, help selecting child care and financial help with child care. Through the fourth quarter of 2008, *500 under 5* had achieved the following:

- Family Support Advocates have connected with and shared project information with 995 families during community outreach sessions
 - 110 families are currently enrolled
 - 169 children are currently enrolled
 - Family Support Advocates have facilitated 617 home visits with enrolled families
 - Family Support Advocates have made 452 referrals to human service and family support organizations on behalf of 500 under 5 families
- The Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ) is a collaborative of over 40 community organizations serving North Minneapolis working to develop opportunities for all children growing up in the area most impacted by crime, violence, and poverty. In the fall they hired a coordinator, set up the collaboration governance structure, initiated a series of "affinity groups" to begin on-the-ground strategic coordination to align services, and will publicly launch the initiative in second quarter 2009.

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

- Juvenile Services has implemented a new case management system called MAIN. It allows the divisions internal to Hennepin County Juvenile Corrections and external support areas (i.e., parental fee unit, HSPHD) to have access to each others information. After the initial system bugs are worked out there will be an effort launched to further integrate with other systems that deal with juveniles. This is an on-going process.
- Hennepin County Corrections, Red Wing Correctional Facility and the City of Minneapolis have applied for a federal grant that will help fund cross-jurisdictional and cross-systems collaborations. This grant would allow city, county and state to work together to further coordinate service provision.
- A meeting was held with Community Collaboration Inc. where they demonstrated their integrated case management system. This information has been passed on to Hennepin County IT group for further consideration.

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

- Hennepin County Correctional Out of Home Placement Committee has been meeting to implement this recommendation. The community component is a matrix of programs that will be provided. Introductory meetings have taken place with some providers and a larger meeting of all of the potential providers is currently being scheduled.
- The County Home School (CHS) is being redesigned so that all offenders that are in out of home placement will come back through the CHS aftercare cottage for stabilization prior to returning home. All probation youth will participate in the Return To Success program. There is currently a request being authored by county corrections requesting more funding so they can adequately increase these services for youth returning to the community. Hennepin County Corrections is currently determining case/work load numbers in all communities to determine what resources will be needed. A determination will be made by the end of the first quarter 2009.

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

- Resources were eliminated due to serious budget constraints. Hennepin County Corrections maintains a contract with HIRED and The Link and are hoping to create more capacity. This will evolve out of the Out of Home Placement work group efforts.

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

- New project in partnership was formed with the Legal Rights Center and Contract Alternative Sites: “45 Day Restorative Placement” for students who are at risk for expulsion. This new pilot project allows for a contract alternative site and the “Conflict Resolution Center” to provide neutral mediation services for student conflicts in school.

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

- A new project led by Special Education leadership which teams to support youth who are returning to school following corrections or treatment placements was started by MPS.

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

- Department of Community Corrections in Red Wing has been working with Hennepin County's Human Service and Public Health Department to contract for Family Functional Therapy in Hennepin County. The dollars have been identified and contract staff are working on this.
- *Thinking for a Change* is a cognitive restructuring program being used at Juvenile Detention Center, County Home School, Red Wing Corrections Facility and by several of our providers. The Link is using a Health Realization model for their interactions with kids. Hennepin County will be starting a short-term cognitive model with female offenders, along with gender responsive services.

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

- Juvenile Diversion staff has involved youth interns and young adults in an exploration of what a “Make Violence Unpopular” campaign would look like. The young people involved came up with a “Don’t be a Sell Out” slogan. This concept of not “selling out” could be applied to violence, drugs, alcohol, gangs, etc. Every time youth give in to these negative forces they sell out to what they could have become as a person, a family, a community and a city. The youth are exploring messaging/media possibilities.
- The Minneapolis Foundation has hired a consultant to begin developing a youth driven/focused public information campaign.

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

- The City of Minneapolis has added youth violence prevention to its state and federal legislative agendas. The state budget’s deficit has led city staff to place an emphasis on legislative agenda items that would have no new budgetary impact, specifically defending funding reductions to youth summer jobs programs, and promoting new legislation to define youth violence as a public health issue and the realignment of departments and agencies to better coordinate youth programming. The full youth violence prevention state agenda is as follows:
 1. A state policy that defines youth violence as a public health issue that can be prevented by drawing on public health methodologies used to address other acute health concerns.
 2. Align state resources annually to fund prevention and intervention programs that address youth violence prevention and associated risk factors.
 3. Support investment in the Minnesota Youth Program, a state-wide program that provides work experience and academic skill attainment to disadvantaged and at-risk youth.
 4. Establish competitive grant funds for existing state or local mentoring partnerships to significantly increase the number of mentors statewide.
 5. Develop a pilot program to allow for a coordinated case file so that cross jurisdictional entities of the juvenile justice system can coordinate services and support services.
 6. Reintroduce sensible gun laws that provide public safety professionals to control access of illegal handguns.
- In the fourth quarter, Mayor Rybak met with the Mayors from the National League of City's Council on Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Council) which guides the YEF Institute's work. The Mayors in attendance agreed to Mayor Rybak’s suggestion to

include the 4 major goals of the Youth Violence Prevention blueprint in the YEF Mayors' agenda for children, youth, and families.

- The Mayors of Charleston, Denver, and Salt Lake City joined Mayor R.T. Rybak to unveil the “Mayors' Action Challenge for Children and Families” and discussed innovative efforts in their communities to help children and families thrive, including seeing youth violence prevention through a public health lens at the National League of Cities' 85th annual Congress of Cities and Exposition.
- Mayor Rybak discussed improving lives of children and families in a session at the National League of Cities conference.
- Mayor Rybak presented the Blueprint to U.S Attorney General Eric Holder to explore potential collaboration with U.S Department of Justice.
- UNITY Cities Network for Preventing Violence co-chairs extended an offer to the City of Minneapolis to become a formal partner. UNITY provides support to a select group of cities to develop, implement, and/or evaluate strategic efforts to prevent violence. UNITY is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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

- The City of Minneapolis' Legislative Agenda supports policies that help local law enforcement track illegal guns and restrict the access of young people to illegal guns.