

**BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION**  
**Quarterly Report**  
**January – March 2009**

**June 2009**

**Summary**

There are several notable activities that took place in the first quarter. On a legislative front, the City of Minneapolis included Youth Violence as a public health issue in its legislative agenda and partnered with the Northside Policy Action Coalition to lobby the state legislature to declare violence a preventable issue. State Senator John Marty and State Representative Paul Thissen agreed to serve as chief authors of the legislation (S.F. 1235 & H.F. 1328).

In addition, the Executive Committee, one of the twin oversight entities for the Blueprint for Action, convened its first meeting in February. The Executive Committee is comprised of 17 individuals representing a range of sectors including private business, faith communities, community-based organizations, parks, law enforcement, educational/research entities and elected officials. The primary purpose of the committee is to oversee the general implementation of the Blueprint and to provide advice and recommendations on high level strategic and policy issues for the sustainability of the initiative.

As a result of the federal stimulus legislation, the Department of Health began developing a proposal that would be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice under the latter's Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program. This program allows states and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime, including youth violence prevention.

**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*

- During the first quarter 2009 there were 91 kids matched with Kinship mentors with 3 newly established mentoring relationships created for children in the City of Minneapolis. There are 42 children in the City of Minneapolis waiting for Kinship mentors.
  
- Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) served approximately 212 children in the neighborhoods delineated in the Blueprint in the first quarter. In addition to those

matches, 2 rematches were made. Overall, BBBS has served 833 children with 11 rematches for the months of January–March city wide.

- 110 STEP-UP youth will have 1:1 mentors. STEP-UP supervisors will receive training to provide mentoring at their worksite so all the youth (650) in the 14/15 group get a version of mentoring.
- Bolder Options implemented a new Mentor Recruitment Plan in the 1st quarter of 2009, which had a particular focus of recruiting male mentors and mentors of color. In addition, Bolder Options made 6 new North Minneapolis matches in the first quarter 2009 and continued to serve 33 North Minneapolis matches for a total of 39 North Minneapolis youth matched with mentors.
- At the end of the first quarter, Bolder Options had 7 North Minneapolis youth who have completed the intake who are waiting to be matched with mentors and 17 referred youth who were waiting to complete intakes.
- During this quarter a total of 164 contacts were made with girls ages 7-18 at Little Earth by YouthCARE staff. YouthCare staff also undertook a bevy of youth development activities with young girls which included a mentoring program in Little Earth; an age-appropriate healthy sexuality workshop focused on giving girls the information to make positive choices and reduce harm in their lives, and after-school activities focused on building respect for self and others, leadership and self-sufficiency skills.
- Regrettably, due to funding shortages, a plan to expand the frequency of programming at Little Earth has been postponed until further notice.

#### 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's 2009 youth hires goal is 2,350, which is an increase from last year's total youth hires of 1,850. This year, approximately 3,200 STEP-UP applications were received after summer employment guides were sent to every high school in the city.
- In 2009, 656 STEP-UP youth will be employed at 129 companies, an increase of 69 youth positions, but a decrease of companies from 142 in 2008. The dual focus is to get more companies involved and employ more youth at those companies.
- In 2009 there are 41 non-profit STEP-UP employers employing approximately 650 14-15 year-olds. In 2008, 38 non-profits employed 644 youth.
- 1,600 youth completed STEP-UP work readiness training and 610 participated in mock interviews.

### Recommendation 1C

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

#### Action

- The Minnesota Youth Intervention Programs Association (YIPA), through its Kids Change initiative, launched a website ([www.kidschange.org](http://www.kidschange.org)) which serves as a central hub of information and resources that access over 85 community-based early intervention programs throughout the state. Interested parties can enter their zip code and find a host of agencies in their respective area/neighborhood.
- A new collaborative called *Rise UP* was created with the intention to interrupt the trajectory of youth violence in North Minneapolis by improving relationships between family members and community organizations, teaching pro-social skills, enhancing the capacity of families to move from survival to self sufficiency, and supporting the learning skills of low academic performing African American males in grade school. The goals of the collaborative are to prevent high-risk youth from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system and to reduce the number of youth who re-offend. Member organizations are Northpoint Health & Wellness Center, Beacons program, Cityview and the Minneapolis Public Schools.
- More than 50 local programs have been entered into the Community Resource Database established by the National Youth Gang Center. The Center is working on establishing a 'read only' function in order to make this data base available to the public.

### 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

- From January to March of 2009, the YWCA of Minneapolis served about 1,300 youth. Over 60% resided in or near the communities of Phillips, Folwell, McKinley and Jordan targeted by the Blueprint. Program groups operated in four locations within the target communities: Little Earth of United Tribes (Phillips), Lucy Craft Laney School (Folwell), Cityview Performing Arts Magnet School (McKinley) and Hmong International Academy (Jordan). YWCA of Minneapolis Beacons Learning Center at Cityview served 316 students. The program provides at least 1 hour of academic support each day along with quality youth development and recreation opportunities
- Girls Incorporated® at the YWCA of Minneapolis ran outreach programming for girls residing in Little Earth and the surrounding Phillips community. Activities focused on leadership development, math & science enrichment, violence prevention, and pregnancy prevention. This outreach encourages all girls to build life-skills and take part in positive youth development opportunities in their schools and communities.

- Minneapolis Department of Health hired a full-time Gang Prevention Coordinator and began a Comprehensive Gang Assessment process in the Folwell, Jordan, Hawthorne and McKinley neighborhoods. More than 35 organizations and individuals were invited to participate and 20 key informant interviews were completed during the first quarter.

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

- In September 2008, Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) was awarded the School Resource Officer (SRO) contract for Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), incorporating a new philosophy of balancing the role of the SRO from solely an enforcement position to that of a resource/community partner. Decriminalizing school behavior is one of the key goals of this initiative and allows the MPD and its partners to change the course of a student's life.

Working closely with school personnel in determining the proper course of action for delinquency is established and maintained through close partnership with school administrators and helps to provide a safe school environment.

The largest drop in crime has occurred since the MPD has been the provider of SROs. Extrapolated out at the current rate, the 2008-2009 school year could see a 36% decrease in cases over 2007-2008, and a 73% decrease over the 2005-2006 school year.

Recommendation 1F

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

Action

- The 2009 Winter/Spring Buses run from 1/20–5/15. In the first quarter (1/20–3/31) there were 2,052 riders on the buses. A full report will be available in late May after all data from the Winter/Spring run is complete.

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 Park and Recreation Board's Youthline program is committed to the empowerment, development, and providing a safe place for youth (12-17) to be engaged in positive activities. Focus on out-of-school time is planned with the input of youth. Free Style Fridays has a Friday night program focus that is planned, organized and implemented by youth designed to give over 100 youth positive programming in North

Minneapolis. Youth are engaged at Club Youthline in the Phillips neighborhood and Central Gym on Friday and Saturday evenings by providing leadership for sporting activities and entrepreneurship opportunities. During school out days youth experience an array of activities to include plays, sporting events, concerts, job fairs, etc. Youth also have the opportunity to provide leadership in community service events.

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 continues the multi-year process of reviewing, piloting and adopting all health related curriculum (including general health info, infection control, self-care, human sexuality, decision-making, violence prevention, mental health, social skills, conflict mediation, drug/alcohol prevention, personal safety, etc) to be used E-12. This content will be used by school staff as well as by community partners in our schools and is intended to coordinate and mesh with content provided by park and library staff.

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

- YouthLink specializes in the multiple needs of homeless and precariously housed youth (14-21). Street outreach, emergency crisis assistance, basic needs support, case management, housing support services, education, career/life transition planning and health and wellness are key areas of agency focus. In the first quarter of 2009, 17 youth have been served in the neighborhoods delineated in the Blueprint.
- MPS Student Support Services/Safe & Drug-free Schools will be expanding parent outreach/trainings for the next school year in partnership with the MPS Community Education Department and the Family Engagement/CPEO department. Topics available include “Walking the Talk” (a session about setting family rules about non-use), Parent Updates on Adolescent Substance Use Prevention, Bullying & Cyber-bullying, Gang Awareness, and Adolescent Technology Use: Social networking, cell phones and beyond.
- MPS Student Support Services/Safe & Drug-free Schools is also partnering with a major local media outlet and several community-based cable providers to produce and air PSA’s aimed at parents/guardians/grandparents. Content will be available in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong and will focus on using teachable moments to talk with youth about violence prevention, impact of gangs and warning signs of possible gang involvement. These PSA’s will air late summer.

- \$185,000 in Community Development Block grant awards were made by the Minneapolis Department of Health to three community-based organizations to increase support, education and skill-building opportunities to parents of teens in diverse communities. The organizations receiving awards were the Minneapolis Urban League, Centro Cultural Chicano and Lao Family Community.

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

- Minneapolis Department of Health completed the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) competitive review process for proposals to provide teen pregnancy prevention services to Minneapolis youth. A total of \$168,000 has been awarded to Southside Community Health Services, Division of Indian Work and Minneapolis Public Schools-TAPPP to provide teen pregnancy prevention education and services to 1000 youth. The funding cycle for these programs begins June 1, 2009.
- Christy Bischoff has been hired by Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Parenting (MOAPPP) to coordinate the Minneapolis Urban Initiative, a consortium of Minneapolis organizations focused on creating a replicable model for district-wide implementation of evidence-based sex education. MOAPPP and City of Minneapolis staff have been working with MPS staff on the development of a middle school health education curriculum and meeting with school administration about the need for school board policy requiring health education in the middle schools.
- City of Minneapolis School Based Clinic Staff provided training to health education and science teachers at Na-Way-Ee Center School and City Inc-North campus on evidence based comprehensive sexuality education curricula. Three teachers have completed training and have begun implementing the curriculum in their perspective classrooms. Currently 22 students in grades 7-12 are taking this course.
- Minneapolis Department of Health is partnering with University of Minnesota Department of Family Social Science and Southside Community Health Center to launch a Citizen Teen Action Group in South Minneapolis. The purpose of the project is to use community engagement and social action strategies to empower youth ages 14-17 to address the issue of teen pregnancy from a community perspective. Planning is underway to develop project framework and begin recruitment of youth late summer.

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

- Between January–March 2009 Minnesota Visiting Nurses Association provided 1,707 public health visits to pregnant and parenting teens in Minneapolis. This is a 50% increase over the visits provided during this same period in 2008.

## **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

- In 2009 STEP-UP non-profit employers selected to participate increased to 41 from 38 in 2008. Owing to the challenging financial circumstances, 128 private businesses are employing youth in 2009 compared to 142 in 2008.
- In addition, 7 Special Youth Initiatives (SYI) providers were selected in 2009 compared to 10 in 2008. It should be noted that while there was a reduction in the providers, there was an increase of jobs pledged. In 2009 313 SYI jobs were pledged; 258 SYI youth were placed in 2008.
- Approximately 813 at risk youth will be hired in 2009 bringing the total youth hires, including STEP-UP, to 2,350.
- SYI will provide approximately 313 jobs with Asian Media Access, Emerge StreetWerks, YouthCARE, Pillsbury United Communities/MN Transition Charter School, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Youth Farm & Market Project and the Urban Arts Academy.

### 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 first quarter of 2009 there were 881 youth contacts with the Juvenile Supervision Center. Of the 881 contacts, 127 youth were identified as having needs that required case management services. All 127 youth received case management services as a result . There were a total of 751 unduplicated youth brought to JSC. Both unduplicated and duplicated counts have risen by over 20% from this time last year. The numbers for most violations have remained consistent. However, there was a dramatic increase in the number of youth brought to JSC for curfew violations. During the first quarter of 2008

JSC served 275 youth who were brought in for curfew violations. So far this year, JSC has served 400 youth brought in for curfew violations. This is over a 45% increase. Truancy violations have also risen by 16% from 2008.

### 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 from Minneapolis' Emergency Preparedness, Minneapolis Police, Park Police, MPS Youth Violence Prevention Task Force and Minneapolis Public Library met to conduct an initial assessment of available protocols. Staff from Emergency Preparedness agreed to reconvene the group after exploring national models and potential resources for the development of a protocol. The group will reconvene in the second quarter to review findings and to develop a timeline which will culminate in a table top exercise.
- Minneapolis Health Department physician intern has developed a draft protocol to be used at HCMC and North Memorial, as well as a referral form, to be employed when a violently injured youth is admitted to the emergency department. Approximately 9 community based organizations have agreed to participate by providing community-based follow-up for violently injured youth. Draft protocol is to be circulated and vetted by other healthcare partners.

### Recommendation 2D

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

#### Action

- Minneapolis Public Schools, in partnership with the Minneapolis Department of Health and Minneapolis Police Department are exploring a partnership to sponsor an anonymous youth violence tip-line. The tip-line, with text and phone capacity, will be marketed to students across the district using posters, web postings, brochures and stickers.

### 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 MPS Youth Violence Prevention Task Force has continued to meet with both internal and external partners to discuss shared concerns, opportunities for partnership and ways to continue to have a city-wide, consistent and culturally responsive message to youth and families about prevention and the impact of youth violence on our community.

Members include MPS reps from a wide-range of departments and disciplines including Alternative Schools, Community Ed, Safety & Security, Safe & Drug-free Schools and Associate Superintendents. Partners include Mpls. Park Reps, Henn. Ct. Library Staff, YCB, Health Dept, and MPD.

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

- Girls RAP (Resolution and Prevention), a program for girls involved or at-risk for involvement with juvenile justice, worked with 107 girls in Diversion and Prevention groups. In addition, program graduates completed a college tour and supported the creation of a video on young women's leadership. Two graduates were hired as Junior Counselors to support girl-led activities focused on preventing recidivism.
- Midtown Community Restorative Justice (MCRJ) provides an individualized process in which juvenile offenders engage in restorative conferencing with a very small group of community volunteers (adults and youth) 2 to 3 times over a 6-month period. As part of the Blueprint, MCRJ has been accepting referrals from and coordinating efforts with the City's Juvenile Diversion Program since September 2008.
- MPS Student Support Services/Safe & Drug-free Schools continues to use restorative measures in schools as tools to improve school climate and reduce student suspensions with a number of agencies including: Circle-keepers Oscar Reed and Jamie Williams (Circle-keepers trainings for staff and Circle-keeping services for leadership development and problem-solving), Legal Rights Center (Family Group Conferences for youth at risk for expulsions), State Bar (Peer Mediation Training, coaching and mentoring at pilot high school) and Minneapolis Mediation (Neutral conflict mediation services at targeted Contract Alternative Sites and staff training on conflict mediation)

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:

- 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

- 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 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.

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

- 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.
- 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.
- Evaluating the impact of this intervention on juvenile substance use and related criminal behavior to determine the effectiveness of this treatment.

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 have made 152 matches for children/youth who have a parent/significant family member incarcerated as a part of their Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program.

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

Through the first quarter of 2009, the 500 Under 5 initiative has achieved the following:

- Family Support Advocates have connected with and shared project information with 144 families during community outreach sessions.

- Facilitated an 8 week session of Family Academy, with an average of 11 parents and 14 children attending each session. The 500 Under 5 Family Academy is a series of parent-child education classes provided in partnership with Minneapolis Early Childhood Family Education and Way to Grow. The purpose is to support families in building school readiness skills and activities into their daily lives. Each session includes time for parents to network with one another, families to learn together, as well as separate time for the children and their parents.

### **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, which allows divisions internal to Hennepin County Juvenile Corrections and external support areas (i.e., parental fee unit, HSPHD) to have access to each others information. The system is already producing reports related to juvenile probation workload/caseload which helps allocate resources appropriately to high risk youth. It is also producing reports on the number and types of youth in out-of-home placement – by risk level, type of placement, length of stay, sentencing judge, and supervising probation. This tool is very helpful in developing transition plans for these youth back into the community.
- 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.

#### 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 launching the Monitoring Education and Training (MET) program on June 22, 2009. The MET Program will be focused on community work based consequences as well as vocational skill building. The MET Program will be available for offenders that need more substantial consequence and supervision than traditional Sentencing to Service (STS) and/or regular probation.
- Each participant will be placed on an EHM bracelet to be held accountable for their location while on the program.

- MET Program daily operations are designed to support school attendance and pro-social activity during “high- crime” times after school.
- The program will use sites that offer landscape maintenance, construction, and forestry training opportunities.
- Effective June 1, 2009 all Hennepin County youth sent to a correctional out-of-home placement will transition through a 30 day program at the County Home School to provide them with the structured support mechanisms necessary to help them continue their return to law-abiding behavior as they return to our communities from residential treatment centers.
- 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 – Contract for Board approval on June 2, 2009 – expansion plan is being developed
  - Anger Replacement Therapy - Summer 2009
  - CD and MH Wrap Around – Summer 2009
  - Evening Reporting Center – Targeted pilot date of Summer 2009 with others to open in Fall 2009
  - Multi-Systemic Therapy – Winter 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

- No new action

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

- No new action

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

- The YWCA's Young Women's Rites of Passage group at the Beacons Learning Center planned and hosted a gathering on National African American Parent Involvement Day. The event gave youth the opportunity to invite all parents to take an active role in their child's education.

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 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

- A workplan for the public information and community mobilization campaign was developed and is to be shared with the Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee in the second quarter.

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

- A bill which designated youth violence as a public health issue and calls for pilot sites around the state of Minnesota to replicate the Blueprint was introduced in the Minnesota Legislature. State Representative Paul Thissen, Chairman of the House Healthcare and Human Services Policy and Oversight Committee introduced the House version (H.F. 1328) and State Senator John Marty, Chairman of the Senate Health Housing and Family Security Committee introduced the Senate version (S.F. 1235).

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**  
**Quarterly Report**  
**April-June 2009**

**Summary**

From January–June 2009, none of the homicides in Minneapolis were of a juvenile, a feat that has not happened since 2001. Moreover, the number of juveniles arrested for violent crime is 15% lower than it was five years ago and nearly 44% lower than ten years ago. Juvenile violent crime arrests are also showing the same downward trend. A YTD comparison from 2007-2009 reveals a 30% city-wide reduction in violent crime arrests while total violent crime reports for juveniles are down 37% during the same time period.

During the second quarter the City of Minneapolis, as well as a host of community-based providers, submitted proposals for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance grants, part of the federal stimulus funds passed by Congress. The Byrne grants are intended to support state, local and non-profit entities in their law enforcement efforts on a range of programs which include education and prevention. Among the proposals submitted by the City was one by the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support (MDHFS) to fund “shovel ready” community-based programs in their youth development/ violence prevention activities.

The Blueprint for Action continues to provide a platform for partnerships among stakeholders. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board’s Youthline Outreach Mentorship Program implemented Youthline StreetReach Outreach this summer in the Hawthorne, Jordan, Folwell and Willard neighborhoods in partnership with MDHFS, connecting youth to existing alternatives and coaching youth displaying negative behavior. Additionally, Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) is partnering with MDHFS to launch a 24/7 confidential hotline for youth to report threats or weapons possessions.

**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

- Hennepin County is launching Project Reconnect; an evidence-based mentoring and transition service to youth who are returning to the community from correctional placements. Project Reconnect will link youth who are at moderate to high-risk to re-offend with trained mentors from community-based organizations that also provide transitional services that target risk and need areas on the Youth Level of Service Inventory (YLSI), a validated risk assessment tool for re-offense. The mentoring relationship will begin while the youth is in the facility and continue as they transition into their community for a minimum of one year.

- La Oportunidad matched 15 Latino youth with 15 mentors during the second quarter.
- The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's Youthline Outreach Mentorship Program, in partnership with MDHFS, implemented Youthline StreetReach Outreach in the Hawthorne, Jordan, Folwell and Willard neighborhoods. The project aligns with the Blueprint's Goals 1 & 2. Youthline Outreach Mentor staff provides mentorship, connect youth to existing alternatives, and coach youth who display negative behavior. They connect with youth at the point of greatest impact--on the streets, at parks or other agencies/programs (i.e. North Regional Library, Jerry Gamble Boys and Girls Club, and the Youth Are Here Bus)--when youth are misbehaving. The Youthline StreetReach Outreach project will run through August 28, 2009.
- YouthCARE's Camp Sunrise and YouthLEAD programs provided over 25 opportunities for youth to build positive relationships with caring adults during April and May. Activities ranged from a BBQ to small group gatherings and attending sporting events.
- Camp Sunrise is a free one-week camping experience for youth ages 13 to 18 from Minneapolis and St. Paul. It runs from June until mid-August. To date, 103 youth from Minneapolis have attended Camp Sunrise.
- Kinship served a total of 23 young people within the neighborhoods delineated in the Blueprint. Services included being matched with a mentor, match support of an existing match or recruitment and intake efforts to find mentors for kids already on the waiting list. Kinship's greatest challenge in 2009 has been recruitment of mentors. Kinship asks its mentors to meet at least once a week for a period of one year.
- The Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota (MPM) continued to work with 14 North Minneapolis organizations that provide mentoring to youth to strengthen their capacity to provide quality mentoring services. The participants in the *North Minneapolis Training Institute* (NMTI) received training in "Elements of Effective Practice" – evidence-based, nationally recognized guidelines developed by MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership. MPM is currently seeking funding to extend the NMTI into a second year and to begin replication of the model in several south/central Minneapolis communities.
- MPM continued to develop a pilot for a quality-based program assessment initiative that will move the mentoring field's focus to *quality*, not quantity. Based on the Elements of Effective Practice, this process will promote professional practices, encourage excellence and accountability, and institutionalize quality in the mentoring field.

#### 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

- YouthCare's YouthLEAD program employed 14 youth ages 14 to 18 from Minneapolis as a part of its Community Service Stars (CS Stars) employment and training program.

Youth in this program gain valuable work experience while providing community service to non-profits throughout the City by working an average of 28 hours a week. Other benefits include learning about environmental issues in the community and working to help solve them, college visits and career explorations.

Recommendation 1C

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

Action

- The Minnesota Youth Intervention Programs Association (YIPA): 1) continued to develop its website ([www.kidschange.org](http://www.kidschange.org)), which provides interested parties (parents, youth, police, youth service professionals, school personnel) with information and resources on community-based early intervention programs; 2) sponsored a quarterly meeting for youth service professionals, and 3) coordinated the advocacy efforts at the state level to protect the Youth Intervention Programs funding during State budget negotiations.

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

- La Oportunidad's children and youth programs served 575 children and youth. The El Camino Program's activities included participating in Earth Day, recreational activities at Minneapolis Parks, culturally based activities, and accident prevention activities.
- Little Earth partnered with Minneapolis Park & Recreation, the Minnesota Twins and the Shakopee Mdewakanton to field four youth baseball teams. Over 50 youth ages 9-13 were served by eight volunteer coaches. Among the highlights: youth crime/violations statistically decreased (curfew, vandalism) as well as the 11U boys' team winning the baseball tournament. Some of the challenges were assuring a steady and sufficient practice schedule due to lack of capacity/staffing internally.
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation's Youthline, the Cookie Cart, Plymouth Christian Youth Center, the PEACE Foundation, Kwanzaa Church, North Community YMCA, and the Salvation Army formed a partnership to establish Northside Youth StandUp! (NYSU). A governance structure was created with representatives from each of the participating organizations.

NYSU youth are paid a monthly stipend to build a movement of youth dedicated to achievement and non-violence. During the quarter the youth organized several events and recruited over 500 youth who attended these community-building events: Go!, a 5K family fun run, monthly Freestylin' Fridays social gatherings, and several youth talent

shows. NYSU also participated in weekly leadership training sessions on topics ranging from how to network to team building.

- MAD DADS led weekly prevention groups at middle and high schools in north and south Minneapolis. This partnership has been very effective in building relationships and reducing crime by providing resources and intervention tools to youth and families.

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 school resource officers continued to support school administration and faculty and build relationships with students. Officers met with nearly 100 students on a wide range of activities/issues. School resource officers will be developing a summer strategy to follow up with youth who are sent to the Juvenile Supervision Center (JSC) in coordination with The Link.

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

- The Library Foundation of Hennepin County received notification from the McKnight Foundation that they had renewed funding for positive youth development programs at the North Regional and Franklin Libraries in North and South Minneapolis respectively. Funding will continue to support two professionals to work closely with youth ages 11-17 in those libraries and create programming that responds to the needs of the individual communities. Funding will continue through first quarter 2011.
- Homework Hub, the library's homework assistance program, operated in 10 libraries within the City of Minneapolis and three libraries in suburban Hennepin County with 13,772 visits from students. 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

- 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

- MDHFS has developed three new contracts with organizations providing training and support programs to parents of teens. Programs will be operated by Centro Cultural Chicano, the Minneapolis Urban League and Lao Family Assistance. Existing programs are provided by Kwanzaa Community Church and Holy Rosary Church.
- MPS Student Support Services/Safe & Drug-free Schools partnered with KARE-11, KBEM, and several community-based cable providers to produce and air public service announcements (PSA's) aimed at parents/guardians/grandparents. Content will be available in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong and will focus on using teachable moments to talk with youth about violence prevention, impact of gangs and warning signs of possible gang involvement. The PSA's will air late summer.
- MPS Student Support Services/Safe & Drug-free Schools expanded parent outreach/trainings for the next school year in partnership with the MPS Community Education Department and the Family Engagement/CPEO department. Topics include "Walking the Talk" (setting family rules about non-use), Parent Updates on Adolescent Substance Use Prevention, Bullying & Cyber-bullying, Gang Awareness, and Adolescent Technology Use: Social Networking, Cell Phones and Beyond.

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

- In June, Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting invited staff from MPS, State Department of Education, MDHFS, Mayor's Office and other community based agencies to participate in an all day training on science based approaches to teen pregnancy prevention and practical strategies for handling community controversy. Approximately 30 people received training from Tom Klaus and Barbara Huberman with Advocates for Youth a national teen pregnancy prevention organization.

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

- MPS continued its multi-year process of reviewing, piloting and adopting all health-related curriculums (general health, infection control, self-care, human sexuality, decision-making, violence prevention, mental health, social skills, conflict mediation, drug/alcohol prevention, personal safety) to be used E-12. This content will be used by school staff and community partners.

**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

- The City received a U.S. Department of Labor Appropriation, submitted by Congressman Keith Ellison, to develop a pilot employment program that will work with young adults who have significant barriers to employment, including criminal histories. Program development is in process and funding will be available in the spring of 2010.
- 2,242 Minneapolis youth are working this summer!
- 1,281 in STEP-UP
  - 317 in Special Youth Initiatives (SYI) with 7 non-profits
  - 417 in Economic Recovery Act (ERA) at over 80 worksites
  - 227 in Year-Round WIA at Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS)
  - 392 more youth are employed than last summer
  - 40% of the SYI, ERA & STEP-UP youth reside in North Minneapolis
  - 41 non-profits are employing 14-15 year-olds
  - 1,600 youth completed work readiness training
  - Approximately 440 14-15 year-olds are attending classroom training three hours a week for eight weeks.
  - Approximately 100 14-15 year-olds are matched 1:1 with a mentor.

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

- Minneapolis Police Department maintains a Youth Diversion Program that diverts first offenders from the juvenile justice system. Youth who participate in diversion avoid contact with the juvenile court and instead are involved in a structured, community-based program. Eligible first offenses include shoplifting, petty theft, criminal trespass, criminal damage, and runaway. The following data is from the second quarter:
  - Property crimes violations: 72 youth diverted
  - Low-level person crimes: 19 youth diverted
  - Somali youth: 4 youth diverted
- In the second quarter, a total of 838 juveniles were brought to the JSC. Of these, 129 juveniles who were prescreened indicated the need for greater assessment and follow up. Eighty-one percent (81%) of youth have not re-entered the JSC in 2009 compared to 73% at this time last year.

Depending on their assessed risk level and supports already in place, youth receive an appropriate level of one on one mentoring with staff after they leave. 105 youth were referred to The Link's intensive one to one case management for up to 6 months.

### 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 U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant was secured by Minneapolis Emergency Preparedness to develop a protocol that would achieve this goal. A consultant was retained to lead the effort to work with the various jurisdictions on the assessment of their protocol. The group will reconvene before the end of the year to debrief on the findings and to begin developing the table top exercise.
- A MDHFS physician intern has been meeting with medical staff from HCMC, North Memorial, and a host of community based agencies. A referral framework has been developed that would allow patients, upon assessment, to be sent to the appropriate agency to access a bevy of services. Efforts are underway to examine how this referral system would be operationalized with community based organizations.

### Recommendation 2D

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

### Action

- MPS and the City have developed a partnership and retained a vendor for a confidential hotline in the late summer/early fall. The purpose of the hotline will allow youth to

report weapons possession or potential threats in a confidential manner. Youth will also be able to text in potential threats.

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

- The MPS Student Support Services Department issued a report regarding their partnership with Legal Rights Center's Family & Youth Restorative Services program for the 2008-09 school year. The report addressed 24 high school students who had completed a strengths-based, family-inclusive, restorative process intended to allow their prompt return to the district in good standing on the heels of a statutorily mandated expulsion. Alternatively, some students and families chose to use the process to plan for long-term success in the alternative school placement.

The report found that compared to 2007-08, a year in which 19% of all school expulsions occurred after a prior expulsion, that percentage was reduced to zero in 2008-09. All but two of the 24 youth passed more classes after the intervention took place than in the prior period. The same number stayed clear of any further behavioral referrals.

Recommendation 2G

- **Recommendation Removed**

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:

- MDHFS developed three new contracts with organizations providing training and support programs to parents of teens. Programs will be operated by Centro Cultural Chicano, the Minneapolis Urban League and Lao Family Assistance. Existing programs are provided by Kwanzaa Community Church and Holy Rosary Church. Targeted outreach to high-need parents has begun in an effort to engage parents in support programs.

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

- MPS Student Support Services Department entered into partnership with Hennepin County Truancy staff to formalize staff training opportunities and treatment/service referrals for MPS students who are at risk for truancy and have been identified as having substance use or abuse concerns.

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

- A 10-week pilot project was developed and funded by MDHFS in partnership with Minneapolis Parks and Minneapolis Police called Streetreach. Youthline workers and school resource officers conduct street-based outreach in North Minneapolis in order to provide mentorship, connect youth to positive opportunities within their community and counsel youth who display negative behavior.
- MAD DADS provided Street Patrol Outreach into communities to recruit trained men and women who have overcome challenging circumstances and adversities to serve as community role models. This has been a special component that MAD DADS has added to its outreach efforts.

MAD DADS continues to encourage high-risk individuals to attend programs, group meetings and to invite friends and relatives to participate in asset building activities. Over 2,000 men, women and children have participated in group programs this quarter.

**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

- Hennepin County Corrections initiated a program with The Bridge to divert youth charged with a domestic crime. The Alternative to Detention for Domestic Assault clients is a venture that partners the same entities to provide a safe alternative for kids that are arrested and charged with domestic assault. This venture will help support Hennepin County's goal of utilizing the JDC for those youth who present a danger to the community and those who pose a risk to not appear for their court date.

These domestic assault clients are often first-time offenders and/or low-risk offenders. Placing these youth in an alternative to detention will protect them from adverse influences from "seasoned" offenders who are in detention populations.

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 following Hennepin County Corrections activities occurred in the second quarter:

- Family Functional Therapy – Board approved a limited number of slots for FFT. An expansion plan is being developed and an RFP is expected to be issued mid-to-late 2010.
- Chemical Dependency and Mental Health Wrap Around – Short term plan will provide some slots by summer 2009. The long term plan includes the purchase of mental health wraparound services for staff to develop a County RFP to establish local service vendors who would better reflect and serve the diversity of Hennepin County clients.

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 Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections and the Department of Human Services began developing policies surrounding the administration of the MAYSI II mental health screening tool and a tool for determining Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. These policies will help ensure that youth with mental health issues are being assessed so they can be referred to appropriate services.

Recommendation 3D

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

Action

- The City received a U.S. Department of Labor Appropriation, submitted by Congressman Keith Ellison, to develop a pilot employment program that will work with young adults who have significant barriers to employment including criminal histories. Program development is in process and funding will be available in the spring of 2010.

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

- No new action

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

- The Hennepin County Home School applied for a grant through the OJJDP FY 2009 Second Chance Juvenile Youth Mentoring Initiative for Project Reconnect. The goal of the Project is to reduce the recidivism rate of juvenile offenders by 15% by providing evidence-based mentoring and transition services to youth returning to the community from correctional placements. Project Reconnect will link youth who are at moderate to high-risk to re-offend with trained mentors from community-based organizations that also provide transitional services that target risk and need areas on the YLSI, a validated risk assessment tool for re-offense. The mentoring relationship will begin while the youth is in the facility and continue in the community for a minimum period of one year. Project Reconnect is a collaboration between the Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation, Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota, the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Red Wing, and an array of community-based agencies.
- Hennepin County started a pilot project called “Community Coaches” to link delinquent youth with coaches from one of four providers (Boys and Girls Club, Humble Beginnings, Center for Hope, and Little Earth) to ensure court ordered conditions are met. Services provided under the pilot include:
  - Short-term supervision (in custody timeframe) of youth referred by the JDC, Court, and STS to assist them in attending their scheduled court dates.
  - Transportation to court if needed, and reminder phone calls to family about hearing dates.
  - Engaging youth and minimizing the chance of a new offense being committed before their scheduled court date and / or disposition.
  - Connecting or reconnecting youth to educational opportunities such as mainstream schooling, alternative schooling, or tutoring.

- Providing access to a variety of cultural and recreational activities and completion of community service hours, while supervised. All youth are given free membership to the Jerry Gamble Boys and Girls Club. Youth will have continued access to activities after disposition if they choose.

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

- No new 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

- The Community Power Against Violence (formerly known as PIM) group of 30-40 youth and adults convened a series of meetings to help develop a media and mobilization campaign. The group developed and commenced field-testing of their primary message/slogan: "The Violence Virus: Be the VACCINE." Plans are underway to print this slogan on t-shirts and have them displayed during National Night Out events.

Additionally, the group intends to videotape interviews with people about how they can "be the vaccine." The coordinating committee intends to undertake a host of activities from branding the slogan to working with community mobilizers and trainers to facilitate change in individuals and organizations.

- La Oportunidad staff participated in Community Power Against Violence, led by The Minneapolis Foundation and facilitated by the University of Minnesota Extension Center for Youth Development.

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

- A bill which designated youth violence as a public health issue was passed by the state legislature and signed by Governor Pawlenty this past legislative session. It calls on the State to work with local communities throughout Minnesota to develop community-based violence prevention programs and also help identify public and private funding for proven effective initiatives to prevent youth violence. Five pilot communities around the state, including Minneapolis, will initially be identified for these programs.

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

- MN Department of Health is supporting the leadership of and partnership with the African American Men Project, the Power of the People Leadership Institute, and other community partners in working to understand the factors in the community that contribute to safety and to perceptions/feelings of safety. One aspect of the partnership is conducting a survey in the community.

The broad goals of the community survey include:

To determine to what extent young residents are affected by gun violence.

To determine the extent to which young residents use guns for protection.

To determine effective intervention strategies for populations most at risk of gun violence.

To determine policy changes that would decrease gun violence.

**Longer-Term Objectives include:**

Determine potential shifts to a new community norm that refuses to accept gun violence and its aftermath.

Promote the health, safety and quality of life for all community residents.

Instill in the community a sense that gun violence is a problem that can be solved.

**BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION**  
**Quarterly Report**  
**July-September 2009**

*Summary & Highlights from the Third Quarter*

**Decrease in Violent Crime and Homicides**

Juvenile violent crime and homicides continued their downward trend in the third quarter. Citywide, total violent crime arrests were down 32% compared to 2007 and 6% compared to 2008. Juvenile homicides are also showing a downward trend with 1 homicide in the City of Minneapolis year to date. Last year at this time there were 8 juvenile homicides.

**SPEAK UP Minneapolis**

In fall 2009, Minneapolis City Council Member Don Samuels and Blueprint Executive Committee members David Cress, Karen Kelley-Ariwoola, Superintendent William Green and Chief Tim Dolan launched a 24/7 anonymous tip line for youth. The tip line will serve as a critical tool in violence awareness, education and prevention and provides young people the opportunity to play a role in keeping friends, classmates and the community safe from violence.

By calling 1-866-SPEAK-UP, youth will access a professionally-trained crisis counselor who will ask a series of questions related to the threat. Minneapolis will be the first city to utilize innovative text messaging technology. The texting option allows students to send an anonymous text message and communicate via text with a crisis counselor.

**Hospital Based Protocol for Gun Injuries**

The Minneapolis Department of Health & Family Support (MDHFS) and intern Dave Dvorak, M.D. are leading an effort to create a standardized protocol for hospital staff in HCMC and North Memorial's emergency rooms who encounter a youth that has been a victim of gun violence. The protocol will be followed by ER physicians or nurses when youth between the ages of 8 and 22 are identified who are victims of gun injury that is not self-inflicted. A hospital social worker will be notified.

The timeline for the completion of the planning and development of the protocol is fall 2009/winter 2010 with the actual launch at North Memorial and HCMC soon thereafter.

**Somali Youth Violence Prevention**

MDHFS has launched two pilot projects in partnership with two community-based programs to help build capacity in the Somali community on youth and parent engagement. The first is a partnership with Pillsbury United Communities to engage moderate to high-risk teens during the summer months to divert them to culturally appropriate programs and resources. The second pilot is with the Center for Policy and Planning to provide parents of teenagers with education tools to help them identify at-risk behavior and draw on the community's resources to address them. Both contracts end in December 2009.

## 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 (BBBS) has connected 833 youth citywide. This includes 159 children who have an incarcerated parent and 212 youth in the Blueprint neighborhoods. There are 41 youth in the Blueprint neighborhoods currently on a waiting list.
- Hennepin County began a pilot project called “Community Coaches”, linking delinquent youth with coaches from one of four providers (Boys and Girls Club, Humble Beginnings, Center for Hope, and Little Earth) to ensure court-ordered conditions are met. Services include a range of activities from short term supervision to providing cultural and recreational activities. In addition, 123 youth were referred to Community Coaches from July 1 to September 21, 2009. Community Coaches is designed to serve up to 25 youth per location, with 6 locations planned.
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) secured \$500,000 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to recruit, train and support 45 mentoring relationships with at-risk youth in North Minneapolis over a two year period.
- MPRB’s Youthline Girls’ Leadership Development Retreat: Thirty-five girls ages 12-17, five women mentors and one parent volunteer participated in an overnight retreat at Camp Lakamaga in Marine on St. Croix in August. The girls focused on topics of self esteem, positive relationships, school, and dealing with peer pressure. Recreational activities included archery, nature walks, canoeing, bicycling and arts and crafts.
- MPRB’s Youthline StreetReach Program: In partnership with the Minneapolis Health Department, four staff conducted outreach in north Minneapolis to youth exhibiting signs of at risk behavior for violence and other negative situations. Staff talked with, mentored and connected 107 youth (50 10-14 year olds; 53 15-17 year olds; 4 18-24 year olds) with resources, recreational activities and other positive adults during July, August and September. The following topics/issues were addressed with the youth in response to their behavior and/or their inquiry: Education (24), Youth Programs (10), Family Issues (5), Gang Involvement (21), Gambling (7), Drug Involvement (7), Alcohol Use (8), Employment (11), Transportation Needs (6), Violent Behaviors (7), Health/Mental Health (4), and Housing Issues (4).
- MPRB’s sports teams included Track (13 teams & 400 participants), Baseball (100 teams & 1,500 participants-an increase of 13 teams over last year), and Softball (49 teams & 735 participants-an increase of 18 teams over last year). Hundreds of volunteers, staff and youth leaders developed positive relationships with youth in the community.
- The Youthline Outreach Mentorship Program engaged 1,200 unduplicated youth in positive recreational activities and leadership opportunities at 24 parks 36,000 times (each youth participates 2-3 times on average each week).

- MPRB's Teen Teamworks youth employment program employed 443 youth ages 14-17 in park maintenance and park program positions. In addition to learning employment skills, the youth participated in weekly educational classes in reading and math.
- Kinship served a total of 27 young people within the Blueprint zones. Services included mentor matching, match support of an existing match, or recruitment and intake efforts to find mentors for kids on the waiting list.
- The Minneapolis Chapter of MAD DADS took the lead in organizing Minneapolis CARES, a local mentoring support program modeled after the National CARES Mentoring Movement. Minneapolis CARES is a collaboration between Bolder Options, Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota, Kinship, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, MAD DADS and the Blueprint for Action to focus on recruiting black adults to mentor at-risk youth. The CARES effort does not offer mentoring services but serves as a conduit for members of the African American Adults to become further engaged in mentoring African American youth.

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 partnered with 21 new employers in the summer of 2009 while the new Economic Recovery Act (ERA) Program garnered 30 new private sector employers.

Recommendation 1C

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

Action

- The Youth Intervention Programs Association (YIPA) officially launched its KidsChange website ([www.kidschange.org](http://www.kidschange.org)), providing parents, youth, police, youth service professionals, school personnel, etc. with information and resources on community-based early intervention programs. The official launch took place at the Mall of America on August 29 with an Extreme Teen Makeover, recognizing two state youth who have made significant changes in their lives because of community-based youth intervention programs.
- YIPA began exploring a collaborative effort with the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board (YCB): **a)** YCB has incorporated a link to YIPA's KidsChange website on their new youth resource website as a place for Minneapolis residents to find the most appropriate youth intervention resources and services. **b)** In order to help promote standards of best practices and quality services, YCB and YIPA will partner with the Youth Work Institute at the University of Minnesota to sponsor trainings in the Youth Quality Program Assessment (YQPA) model for youth service organizations across the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota.
- Kinship has joined two community based network organizations dedicated to providing solutions for the youth in Minneapolis: Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ) and

Minneapolis CARES Mentoring. Each of these initiatives grew out of the community's need to create greater opportunity for a better life for the children of Minneapolis and are dedicated to recruiting mentors. Kinship staff is part of the steering committees of both organizations and Kinship will actively participate in launch activities in the fall of 2009.

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's continued its Youth in Government program which builds strong leaders and good citizens through participation in the Model Assembly, Model United Nations, National Affairs Conference and leadership retreats and training sessions. There are many leadership development opportunities for students in grades 8–12.
- YMCA Leaders Club provides opportunities for youth to develop leadership skills and abilities through service learning activities and projects. Youth have an opportunity to participate in YMCA Central Leaders School, promoting leadership growth through skill development, service learning and group work.
- The YMCA's Multicultural Achievers program helps junior and senior high school 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.
- Y-Tutors is a YMCA program offering after-school tutoring for K-8<sup>th</sup> graders, focusing on strengthening literacy skills, while providing work-study employment and volunteer opportunities for college students as mentors.
- MAD DADS has been giving young people a safe place to come to for support, resource information, emotional support, anger management and family issues. They meet every Tuesday night with a free meal and daycare for those with children.

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 School Resource Officers conducted community outreach and home visits during the summer months in order to strengthen coordination between schools, parks and youth in the community.

Recommendation 1F

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

Action

- The Youth Are Here Buses provided 1951 rides to more than 500 youth.

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

- Increased library hours were not provided during the summer due to lack of funding. Twelve libraries within the City are open five or six days per week; many of these hours are after school, evenings and weekends. Three libraries are open three days per week.

Out-of-school time activities were offered at all libraries within Minneapolis during the third quarter, varying from monthly to near-daily. Activities and programs included Guys Read and other book clubs, youth technology workshops and labs, writing workshops in partnership with the Loft, and arts and science workshops in conjunction with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Attendance at library programs, including storytimes, held in Minneapolis libraries within Hennepin County during this period, was 30,915.

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

- Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) continues to expand the use of social skills curriculum "Second Step" in K-8 classrooms across the district. In addition, a "Social-Emotional Learning Lending Library" for use by district staff and community partners has been opened. This library includes prevention and early intervention curriculum and related supplemental activities as well as professional development materials on a variety of SEL topics including bullying prevention, mental health issues, self-care/stress reduction, student-led youth violence activities, supports for GLBTQ students & families, drug/alcohol prevention/recovery resources and restorative measure interventions.
- MAD DADS provides the Community Organizing and Preparing Students for Success (COPS) program to youth in the MPS through collaboration with the Minneapolis Police Department. The goal of COPS is to empower students to make positive life and career decisions and to make a difference in their communities. To date, the program has been in six schools.

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

- Five community-based organizations provided training and support programs for parents of teens over the summer months. These organizations included the Minneapolis Urban League, Kwanzaa Community Church, Holy Rosary Church, Centro Cultural Chicano and Lao Family Assistance.

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

Activities of the Minneapolis Urban Initiative for Reproductive Health Activities:

- Continued to work with Minneapolis Public Schools' Health Curriculum Adoption process. The Sex Ed work group has chosen curricula to pilot in middle and high schools between December 2009- February 2010.

Activities of Minneapolis Department of Health & Family Support:

- Provided training to Center School staff. Developed cooperative agreement to see students from Center School at the South High 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

Activities of Teen Parent Connection:

- 89 teens participated in Not Ready Now, a curriculum to prevent subsequent teen births.
- Students have begun creating Public Service Announcement related to the reduction of second pregnancies and primary pregnancy. Video should be completed by December
- 220 pregnant and parenting teens participated in summer school.
- 2 Teen Parent Networking groups were held this quarter

Activities of MVNA:

- MVNA saw 467 teens from Jan.-Sept. and provided 4,650 visits to those teens and their children. This is an increase of 1,476 visits over the same period in 2008.
- In an effort to connect with teens not currently being referred to MVNA, staff connected with clinic, hospitals, and community providers to increase awareness of public health nursing and the services offered.

**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

- The City of Minneapolis submitted a proposal to the U.S Department of Labor for \$238,000 to develop an employment program serving youth with criminal histories. Funds have been approved and project will begin in Spring of 2010.

The Minneapolis Employment and Training Program (METP) reported:

- 2,270 Minneapolis youth were employed with city, state and federal funding.
- There were 420 more jobs provided this summer than last summer.
- 1,281 mostly low-income youth were in STEP-UP.
- 330 in the Special Youth Initiatives (SYI) Program with 7 non-profits.
- 448 in the Economic Recovery Act (ERA) Program at over 80 worksites.
- 216 in year-round WIA at MPS, a program for youth with disabilities.
- 47% of the SYI, ERA & STEP-UP youth are from North Minneapolis. Youth in these programs must have at least one of the following barriers: economically disadvantaged, disabled, basic skills deficient, homeless, runaway or foster child, school dropout, pregnant or parenting, offender, requires assistance to complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment.

Some of the largest public and private employers for youth in METP programs are Minneapolis Public Schools (88), Transition Plus (85), University of Minnesota (78), Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (75), Hennepin County (63), City of Minneapolis (61), U.S. Bank (25) and Allina Hospitals & Clinics (26)

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

- There were a total of 892 youth visits to the Juvenile Supervision Center – curfew (65%), low level offenses (21%), and truancy (14%). 78% of youth who have been to the JSC in 2009 have not re-entered the Center. 72% of youth who have been to the JSC since it opened (1/7/08) have not re-entered. 71 youth this quarter received case management services after they left that helped connect them to school and positive behavior.
- Midtown Community Restorative Justice (MCRJ) applied for \$83,200 from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs *Recovery Act: Byrne Justice Assistance Grants* to fund a new Juvenile Diversion Assistant position. These funds would have paid for a full-time employee over two years to provide support to the Juvenile Diversion Supervisor and Minneapolis Police Department. Unfortunately, this grant request was not funded.

### 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

- Minneapolis Department of Health & Family Support assembled a referral network of approximately 40 community-based agencies willing to provide services to violently injured youth upon hospital discharge. A meeting was convened to introduce the program and solicit feedback. A workgroup was formed comprised of HCMC, North Memorial and community based organizations staff. Initial estimate for implementation of protocol is the December 2009.

### 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 Minneapolis tip-line was launched in September. Following a press conference posters, wallet cards and stickers were distributed to all MPS high school and middle school students and those at targeted K-8 sites. Press coverage included local newspaper, radio and TV interviews. Billboard, bus shelter ads and radio/TV PSA's are pending. Materials were also distributed to parks, libraries and various youth serving agencies across the city. Shortly after the launch the first tip was received and arrived via the text option, the first time this has been used nationally.

### 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

- MPS has expanded community partnerships with agencies providing a variety of restorative practices for use as an alternative to and adjunct to suspension and to address potential school climate concerns. Examples of these restorative measures include Peace-keeping Circles, neutral party restorative mediations and family group conferences.
- MPS has launched a Youth Violence Prevention Task Force, comprised of staff from Student Support Services, Emergency Management, Contract Alternative Schools, Special Education, Community Education, Indian Education, Check & Connect and

Safety & Security. External partners include staff from MDHFS, Minneapolis Police Department, Park & Recreation and Hennepin County Libraries. This group meets regularly to discuss any immediate concerns, opportunities for future partnership and to develop a shared approach to addressing issues of youth violence in a consistent, effective and culturally respectful way.

Recommendation 2G – REMOVED

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

- A plan is being created to provide more streamlined services to truants over the age of 12 with a partnership between the County Attorney’s Office, Community Corrections and Human Services.
- The County Home School is implementing a Chemical Dependency treatment program for youth who are sent to the Home School and will be available by December 1, 2009.
- MAD DADS has started a support group and gang intervention program at the Hennepin County Home School, teaching current gang members skills that they can use once they are released from incarceration. Issues include how to get out of the gang, how to be a positive force in their families, how to choose friends who will lead them in a positive direction, and how to stay away from gangs, drugs, and violence.

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

- See Action under Recommendation 1A – Youthline StreetReach.

### 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

- Hennepin County Corrections initiated a program with The Bridge to divert youth charged with a domestic for the first time from the Juvenile Detention Center to The Bridge to focus on family re-unification. This venture will help support Hennepin County's goal of utilizing its Detention Center for those youth who present a danger to the community or who pose a risk to not appear for their court date. The appropriate placement of youth in detention alternatives protects the community as well as youth charged with delinquent acts. These Domestic Assault clients are often first-time offenders and/or low risk offenders. Placing these youth in an alternative to detention will protect them from adverse influences from "seasoned" offenders who are in our detention populations.

A contract was also established with Catholic Charities in October 2009 to serve as an additional alternative for the first time domestics.

#### 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 following Hennepin County Corrections activities occurred in the third quarter:

- Family Functional Therapy – Board approved a limited number of slots for FFT. A Request for Proposal (RFP) to expand the number of FFT slots and to contract with culturally specific providers is expected to be issued by mid-November 2009.
- Aggression Replacement Therapy – Staff from juvenile probation and the County Home School have been trained to facilitate ART groups and will begin convening these groups for kids with anger issues in November 2009. The County Home School will be replacing their current anger management curriculum with ART.
- Chemical Dependency and Mental Health Wraparound – Short term plan will provide some slots in October 2009. The long term plan for the purchase of Wraparound services is for staff to develop a RFP that will expand the number of slots available and contract with culturally specific providers. This RFP is expected to be issued Spring 2010.
  - Evening Reporting Center – Shiloh Temple has been selected as the ERC provider. A contract with Shiloh is currently being negotiated. The ERC is expected to open by January 1, 2010.

- Multi-Systemic Therapy – An RFP is being developed to purchase MST. The RFP is expected to be issued in mid-November 2009.
- MCRJ accepted 7 referrals from the Hennepin County Juvenile Petty Offender Program. These youth will participate in restorative conferencing with community members and will be required to complete community service and community programming.

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

- Hennepin County Library Outreach staff visits the County Home School once a month to deliver new materials and take requests from the residents. Working with the Epsilon Program, the library provides materials to help students with assignments and obtain recreational reading. The library also provides programming for residents such as author visits, writing workshops and presentations from library staff.

Library staff also visited the Juvenile Detention Center twice a month to deliver new materials and took requests from the residents. The library supports a small library in each mod, and works with MPS staff to provide materials to help students with assignments and obtain recreational reading.

- The Minneapolis Employment and Training Program collaborated with MDHFS to implement a pilot project for youth employment and training, aiming to serve 30 youth over two years. The \$238,000 proposal, sponsored by Rep. Keith Ellison, would use WIA Earmark Funds and was submitted to the Department of Labor in September.
- YMCA Juvenile Probation Program continues to work with youth ages 12-21 who have become involved in the Juvenile Justice system and 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 in their community, and paying restitution for their behaviors. 37 youth were served during this past quarter.
- MCRJ continued to provide juvenile offender and youth volunteers with information about educational opportunities, and employment and health-related resources. MCRJ’s work with Project Legos’ to develop the new *Project 8* to assist youth-in-need continues with a tentative launch date set for November 15, 2009.
- MAD DADS has started a support group and gang intervention program at the Hennepin County Home School. They teach current gang members skills that they can use once they are released from incarceration, including how to get out of the game, how to be a

positive force in their families, how to choose friends who will lead them in a positive direction, and how to stay away from gangs, drugs, and violence.

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

- MCRJ continued to provide an individualized process in which juvenile offenders engage in restorative conferencing with a very small group of community volunteers (adults and youth) 2 to 3 times over a 6-month period. During this quarter MCRJ received 12 referrals (including 7 from the Minneapolis Police Department) and served a total of 38 clients (victims, youth volunteers, other community members and juvenile offenders and their families). Thirteen Crime Prevention Specialist Interns were trained in restorative practices and eight served as youth volunteers for six restorative conferences during this quarter. It is hoped that these youth will continue to participate in MCRJ.

Unfortunately, a significant portion of time was dedicated to grant-writing due to recent funding cuts, including those to the City Attorney's Office budget, which has previously provided significant funding to Minneapolis Restorative Justice programs.

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

- Effective June 1, 2009 all Hennepin County youth sent to a correctional out-of-home placement will transition through a 30-day program at the County Home School to provide them with the structured support mechanisms necessary to help them continue their return to law-abiding behavior as they return to their communities.
- YMCA Hennepin County Home School Program serves young people ages 12 – 21 who are involved in the juvenile justice system. The YMCA goal is to help youth make positive transitions to school and /or employment after their release, and to reduce the recidivism rate. 85 youth were served during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

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 Action under Recommendation 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

This group of 35-40 youth and adults from African-American, Asian-American, Hispanic/Chicano, Native American, Somali/African, and Caucasian communities from Minneapolis' inner-core neighborhoods has met weekly for three hours throughout the summer.

- A final slogan has been chosen: “*PEACE: 24/7. It Begins With YOU*” and will be marketed in numerous ways in an effort to spread the message that 1) violence is preventable, and 2) you have a role in making your community a safer place.
- Prototype designs for the slogan and logo and a merchandising and media plan have been developed and are ready to implement including:
  - Culturally-relevant PSA's shown at community-based “peace rallies” throughout multiple cultural and geographic communities;
  - Pledge wristbands, bumper stickers, string backpacks, t-shirts, lawn signs, temporary tattoos, etc. that will help show how many people are committed to peace-making, shifting the perceived social norm from one of violence to peace;
  - Regular call-in radio talk shows hosted by youth and adults;
- The group has begun training team members in a variety of community mobilization strategies including conflict mediation and interruption, community organizing, and community dialogues, so that they can help people and organizations:
  - Identify what they can do to help reduce violence;
  - Identify what they need to make that happen; and,
  - Receive/link to additional resources (e.g., training, community organizations, other individuals and opportunities)
- The group convened its first stakeholder meeting, which included executive directors and others from the 12 organizational partners of CPAV, as well as additional key players in the PEACE: 24/7 movement. A second stakeholder meeting including key Blueprint staff and stakeholders is planned for early December 2009.
- The first public service announcement will be filmed in the fourth quarter and should premiere the video at the second stakeholder meeting in December.

- Three proposals for future funding of the implementation of the media and mobilization campaign have been submitted to philanthropies.

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**  
**Quarterly Report**  
**October – December 2009**

*Summary & Highlights from the Fourth Quarter*

**Decrease in Violent Crime and Homicides**

Juvenile-related homicides were at the lowest levels in 2009 since 2001. In addition, violent crime in the Fourth precinct (which includes four neighborhoods in the Blueprint) decreased 35% from 2007.

**Expansion of Neighborhoods**

The Executive Committee for the Blueprint for Action voted to expand the number of neighborhoods from four to 22. This decision was arrived at after staff presented data on the neighborhoods that may be at higher risk for violent crime. This was determined based on a risk-level map that factored in homicides, violent crime, firearm-related assault injuries, population under the age of 15, percent of families in poverty with children under 18 and access to Minneapolis Park and Recreation Centers.

**Hospital-Based Protocol for Gun Injuries**

A hospital-based initiative designed to identify and address the needs of youth victims of violence who present to the emergency departments (EDs) of Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) and North Memorial Medical Center (NMMC) was finalized in the fourth quarter. Youth ages 8-24 presenting to these EDs with violence-related injuries (e.g., gunshot wounds, stab wounds, beatings) will be eligible to participate in this voluntary protocol.

The protocol is activated after the medical condition has been stabilized. The victim and their family will meet the social worker for a detailed psychosocial assessment. Based upon this evaluation, the social worker makes appropriate referrals to community-based agencies that provide services to troubled youth. To date, nearly 40 agencies in the metro area have agreed to offer their services in partnership with the MY-VIP program.

**Somali Youth Violence Prevention**

Two pilot programs addressing Somali youth violence concluded this quarter. One was directed by the Center for Policy, Planning and Performance to engage Somali parents as part of a broad-based education program to train them to better identify signs of at-risk behavior in their children. The pilot program included a range of stakeholders in the Somali community including Imams, disaffected youth, entrepreneurs and community residents.

The second pilot was in conjunction with Pillsbury United Communities (PUC). The program focus was to prevent negative/risky behavior by connecting youth with a Youth Diversion Program or an array of community based programs which includes restorative justice circles (trained volunteers), connections to mentors, relationship building with family members, community service, and leadership development opportunities. PUC also provided transportation services for disaffected youth to recreational and educational opportunities.

## 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, operating in the Little Earth of United Tribes community, was able to reach **32** girls and young women, 7-18 years old, through weekly after-school programming and youth employment with a total of **131 contacts**.
- Together the Camp Sunrise and YouthLEAD programs of YouthCARE have provided over 25 opportunities for youth to build positive relationships with caring adults during October and November 2009. These included:
  - A roller skating reunion event for 43 Minneapolis youth and 22 adult volunteers and staff
  - A gym and swim night for 49 Minneapolis youth and 21 adult volunteers and staff
  - Many small group activities including: youth advisory council meetings, attending youth's sporting events, helping youth apply for jobs, and planning positive activities for other youth to participate in.
- In 2009, Bolder Options matched 153 youth in the Twin Cities, of which 118 were from Minneapolis. In addition, 15 North Minneapolis youth were matched in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, for a total of 41 North Minneapolis youth matched out of the 118 Minneapolis matches. Seven of the youth matched had an incarcerated or imprisoned parent. Bolder Options achieved a success rate of 67% in 2009, graduating 67% of the youth matched in 2008, surpassing the average national mentoring success rate of 45-50%.
- The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Youthline Program was awarded a federal grant for an Intensive Gang Prevention Youth Mentoring Project for the period of October 1, 2009 through September 20, 2012. The program will be implemented in the Hawthorne, Jordan, McKinley and Folwell neighborhoods. Two staff were hired to do outreach to youth, recruit and train mentors, develop an incentive program for youth participation, and work with community agencies.
- Project DIVA met with 30 mentees for 2 ½ hours every Saturday to focus on academic, social and emotional behaviors. This quarter their 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 mentees submitted short stories that will be published in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Perceptions of Young DIVAS. They also ran the DIVA Boutique, which they own and operate.
- Kinship of Greater Minneapolis has connected 77 youth with mentors in Hennepin County. Included are 22 youth of incarcerated parents and 12 youth from the Blueprint neighborhoods. Three mentors have stepped forward from Minneapolis Cares.

- MAD DADS has taken the lead in organizing, preparing, and developing a local mentoring support program called “Minneapolis Cares”. This local program is modeled after the National Cares Mentoring Movement. The launch of Minneapolis Cares took place on December 11, 2009 at International Market Square. There were 300 individuals in attendance. We continue to work with Bolder Options, Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota, Kinship, Big Brothers and Big Sisters in securing mentors for all children in need.
- The Outreach Workers of MAD DADS continue to patrol different areas of Minneapolis which includes Transit Stations, apartment complexes, and business and residential areas.

**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**

- Minneapolis Employment and Training staff has been engaged in recruiting STEP-UP employers in the 4th quarter and have planned an employer recruitment strategy session for early January, 2010.

**Recommendation 1C**

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

**Action**

- YIPA state funding was not eliminated. The \$1.5 million one-time increase in funding that had been acquired in 2007 was lost for the next biennium; however, YIPA was able to convince the legislature to only cut the base funding by 3%. YIPA continued its work and was able to get approximately \$800,000 of the potential losses back over the next 2 years –resulting in a 10-15% reduction in services overall. In early December, 63 of the 66 YIPA organizations reapplied for the Youth Intervention Program funding. 57 were awarded new grants and those organizations will receive a 1.4% reduction in their funding.
- YIPA has formed a new partnership with the City of Minneapolis and the Youth Coordinating Board (YCB) in order to promote the KidsChange website referral system to the community. The YCB will create a link on their website for families looking for help, directing them to the KidsChange.org site. The YCB and YIPA are also in the planning stages of developing a way to promote standards of best practices for youth service organizations, and hope to include a short checklist that parents can use to determine if youth programs meet specific quality standards.
- Kinship of Greater Minneapolis continues to be on the steering committee for both Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ) and Minneapolis Cares.
- Protect the EDGE has collaborated with Urban Stars to provide two Christmas basketball camps in 2008 and 2009 serving 120+ youth ages 8-17 each year from the Blueprint neighborhoods. Protect the EDGE coaches consist of former college and professional basketball players that have played organized basketball at a high level and have proven

that they understand the fundamentals of the game. They are professionals and leaders on the court and off the court in their current fields such as teaching, social work, and entrepreneurship. Together, these organizations combine their philosophies to provide a basketball camp that focuses not only on basketball but academic skill, life skills and personal development.

- Butterfly Springs has collaborated with 30 local leaders and 12 organizations, including Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, Shiloh Temple, Oasis of Love, and the Urban League to provide SES reading tutoring services after school to 33 K-6<sup>th</sup> grade youth in the Blueprint neighborhoods. The program supplements the core curriculum of the Minneapolis Public Schools, provides pre and post assessments, and a daily lesson plan. Butterfly Springs established a partnership with Green Community Center that serves 10-15 youth from Richard Green School. This program also builds positive, mentor-like relationships with the youth giving us the opportunity to influence them in the areas of character and leadership.
- MAD DADS continues to work with Tree Trust to help provide training opportunities and jobs for youth/young adults in our community. There are three workers presently working at MAD DADS. MAD DADS provides not only job training, but offers opportunities to learn and/or enhance their leadership skills.

### **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**

- Protect the EDGE provided a youth sports leadership development afterschool program serving over 50 youth grades 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. 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. Protect the E.D.G.E. collaborated with after-school coordinators, teachers, and principals to develop the program.
- The YMCA provided many different youth development programs that develop skills in leadership, education, mentoring, and service learning. These included:

**Youth in Government** builds strong leaders and good citizens through participation in the Model 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

Unduplicated youth served during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter – 416

**Multicultural Achievers** is a 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade program that helps African American, Hispanic and Latino students set and obtain high educational and career goals. 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 4<sup>th</sup> quarter – 185

**Leaders Club** provides opportunities for youth to develop leadership skills and abilities through service learning activities and projects. 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 4<sup>th</sup> quarter - 38

**Y's Start** is a middle school program focusing on community service, academic support, recreation and employment readiness skills.

Unduplicated youth served during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter - 126

**Y- Buddies** is a one-on-one mentoring program that offers recreational, educational, community service activities and higher education exposure for youth grades 3–8 through matches with college students.

Unduplicated youth served during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter – 36

- Butterfly Springs comprehensive tutoring and mentoring program focused on critical academic areas such as math, science and reading, serving over 70 youth. Students are taught how to study, how to get good grades, and how to excel in class; develop problem solving skills, critical thinking/questioning skills; empower students to discover their own solutions; and provide school and life goal setting, coaching and mentoring.

#### **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 School Resource Officers continued to build relationships with students and faculty at Minneapolis Public Schools.
- MAD DADS is working in partnership with the MPD and the K-9 Unit on a new program called “COPS” (Communities Organizing and Preparing Students for Success). This program has been very helpful in building a positive relationship with the Minneapolis police community members and parents. In this quarter, we had five school assemblies for middle school and high school students.

#### **Recommendation 1F**

**Provide year-round *You<sup>th</sup> 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**

- In December 2009, Hennepin County commissioners approved the expansion of Monday library hours for the Central Library in 2010. The library will be open from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. beginning February 8, 2010, 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 fourth quarter, varying in frequency from monthly to near-daily.
- Hennepin County libraries celebrate “Teen Read Month” annually in October. One component is an opportunity for youth to eliminate up to \$10.00 in library fines and receive a free replacement library card. Library fines are often a barrier to library use. In October 2009, Hennepin County libraries waived more than \$11,000 in library fines and issued hundreds of new library cards across 41 libraries; many youth in Minneapolis participated.
- 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 2045 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.
- Butterfly Springs’ SES program provided tutoring services afterschool to 33 K-6<sup>th</sup> grade youth. Tutoring services were held at Green Community Center and Hosmer Library 4 days a week, 1 ½ hours per day.
- Butterfly Spring’s partnership with Dream Tracks’ teen mother tutoring and mentoring program held tutoring sessions at Park Avenue Church, Hmong American Mutual Assistance Association Center, and Reuben Lindh Family Services. This program served 18 Hmong-speaking, Spanish-speaking and English-speaking teen mothers ages 15-21. These sessions were held twice a month, 1 hour each session.

**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**

- Protect the E.D.G.E. collaborated with after-school coordinators, teachers, and principals to develop a Sports Leadership Development Program. The program impacted over 50 youth focusing on core values that are challenged daily but are required in shaping their identity such as managing emotions, problem solving, exhibiting self-discipline, building courage, commitment, and good character. The program taught the youth that as young adults in this society, they are responsible for contributing to society in positive and productive ways.

**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

- Minneapolis Public Schools is piloting several new sexuality education curricula in volunteer middle school and high school programs as part of a broader health curriculum review and adoption process. Final recommendations will be presented to the MPS Health Adoption Steering Committee later this spring with planned implementation district-wide set for Fall 2010.

**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

- Butterfly Springs has partnered with Way to Grow's Dream Tracks program to provide tutoring and mentoring to 18 Hmong-speaking, Spanish-speaking and English-speaking teen mothers ages 15-21 that are pregnant or have a child ages 0-6 months old from the Blueprint neighborhoods every other week throughout the academic school year. The overall objective of the program is to empower young mothers to reach their full potential AND to reduce the number of second children to the young mothers. The tutors/mentors are highly skilled academic and professional women from the community

## 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**

- As a result of federal stimulus funds, at least 50 Minneapolis at-risk youth secured employment in the 4th quarter and plans are to provide employment to another 80 youth beginning in early 2010.
- In October, YouthLEAD hired 14 youth ages 14-18 from Minneapolis for the Community Service Stars Employment and Training Program (CS Stars). The CS Stars gain valuable work experience while providing community service to non-profits throughout the city. The youth work an average of 14 hours a week learning about various social justice issues in the community and working to help solve them. In addition to doing community service the youth participate in career exploration and college visits. CS Stars is funded by the Minneapolis Employment & Training Program's Economic Recovery Act Program.
- Hennepin County Library partners with the County Home School in an effort to connect youth transitioning out of the County Home School with library resources. Youth visiting the Central Library receive an orientation to the library with specific focus on job resources and programs available. Six young men transitioning out of the County Home School visited the Central Library from October–December 2009.

### **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**

- The Link served a total of 480 duplicated and 299 unduplicated at the JSC in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Of these, 221 (46%) were picked up for truancy, 131 (27%) for curfew, and 128 (27%) for low-level offenses. 77% of youth who had been to the JSC in 2009 have not re-entered the Center. 79% of youth who have been to the JSC since it opened (1/7/08) have not re-entered. 64 youth this quarter received case management services that helped connect them to school and positive behavior.
- The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's Youthline Program formalized an agreement with the City of Minneapolis Juvenile Diversion Program to accept referrals of youth. The Youthline staff will: 1) Assist in scheduling and monitoring completion of community service; 2) Provide weekly activities/groups for the youth to be involved in

and monitor their progress; 3) Assist in monitoring the youth's school attendance and performance; 4) Assist in providing a Restorative Justice circle to deal with the dynamics of the issues that led to the youth's referral; and 5) Assist in reinforcing abstaining from committing any further criminal offenses

### **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 hospital-based initiative designed to identify and address the needs of youth victims of violence who present to the emergency departments (EDs) of Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) and North Memorial Medical Center (NMMC) was finalized. Youth ages 8-24 presenting to these EDs with violence-related injuries (e.g., gunshot wounds, stab wounds, beatings) will be eligible to participate in this voluntary protocol.

The protocol is activated after the medical condition has been stabilized. The victim and their family will meet the social worker for a detailed psychosocial assessment. Based upon this evaluation, the social worker makes appropriate referrals to community-based agencies that provide services to troubled youth. To date, nearly 40 agencies in the metro area have agreed to offer their services in partnership with the MY-VIP program.

### **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 its launch in fall 2009, SPEAK UP Minneapolis was featured in a segment on every major television network, in an article in the Minneapolis StarTribune, and in dozens of local online media communities. Television PSAs air daily on ABC-5, ABC Family-45, NWCT, MCN, and KXPM-41. Radio PSAs air on KMOJ, KBEM and KFAI. SPEAK UP billboards around Minneapolis total 1.89 million impressions per month. Transit ads in bus shelters in four languages (English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong) reach 437,100 people each month.

To date, the hotline has received 38 texts from Minneapolis. In that same period, 23 calls have been recorded and reported.

### **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

- Conflict Resolution Center receives funding from the Minneapolis Public Schools and The Minneapolis Foundation to provide restorative mediation and peacekeeping circles in the Minneapolis Public Schools. CRC currently runs four peacekeeping circles and does restorative mediation at Olson Middle School, Urban League High School and Urban League Elementary 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, and City government, Hennepin County, and the broader juvenile justice system.**

Action

- Recommendation Removed

**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

- The YMCA’s South Minneapolis and Northwest Hennepin Truancy Intervention program is designed to reach out to truant students and help them “re-connect” with school, positive activities, adult role models, and their communities. The program served 40 youth in the fourth quarter.
- The County Attorney’s Office, in partnership with County Corrections, is working with several community agencies to enhance services for these children 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.

**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 has been going door to door in hard-to-reach neighborhoods to give residents a sense of safety and to connect them with resources from Shiloh Temple International Ministries and Jordan New Church. We had for this quarter a total of 567 referrals from north and south Minneapolis.
- Butterfly Springs initiated a recruitment process to bring youth into the SES reading tutoring afterschool program, connecting with youth attending the community centers after school. Visits were made to neighborhood homes, apartments, and shelters to inform parents of the program, assist them in the enrollment process, encourage them to attend tutoring. Through this process, we connected with over 50 families and recruited over 30 youth into the program.

### 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**

- Hennepin County Corrections initiated a program with The Bridge to divert youth charged with a domestic for the first time from the Juvenile Detention Center to The Bridge to focus on family re-unification. This venture will help support Hennepin County's goal of utilizing its Detention Center for those youth who present a danger to the community and those youth who pose a risk to not appear for their court date. The appropriate placement of youth in detention alternatives protects the community as well as youth charged with delinquent acts. These domestic assault clients are often first time offenders and/or low-risk offenders. Placing these youth in an alternative to detention will protect them from adverse influences from "seasoned" offenders who are in our detention populations. A contract was also established with Catholic Charities in October 2009 to serve as an additional alternative for first time domestics.
- MAD DADS has developed a program called "GRIP" which stands for "Gang Reduction Improvement Program". This quarter, we had intense gang reduction sessions with 64 gang members from Minneapolis and Hennepin County. This is an ongoing 12-week program that includes a graduation for those completing the program and aftercare.

#### **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**

- No new action

#### **Recommendation 3C**

**Implement a comprehensive assessment tool that identifies a juvenile's mental health 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**

- The proposal that Minneapolis Employment and Training Program (METP) and the MDHFS submitted for WIA Earmark Funds was approved by the Department of Labor. The \$238,000 will be used to implement a two-year pilot project for employment and training for 30 youth who are currently, or were previously, gang affiliated.
- YMCA Juvenile Probation Program works with youth ages 12-21 years who have become involved in the juvenile justice system and 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 4<sup>th</sup> quarter – 88

- YMCA Hennepin County Home School Program is a lock-down facility for young people ages 12–21 who are involved in the juvenile justice system. The YMCA goal is to help youth make positive transitions to school and /or employment after their release, and to reduce the recidivism rate.

Unduplicated youth served in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter –58

- 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.

### **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 to provide neutral mediation services for student conflicts in school.
- A Solicitation of Interest will be issued for the provision of mentoring services with a focus on mentoring opportunities for Somali and Hispanic youth. Contracts will be established during the first quarter of 2010.

### **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**

- Effective June 1, 2009 all Hennepin County youth sent to a correctional out-of-home placement will transition through a 30 day transition program at the County Home School to provide them with the structured support mechanisms necessary to help them continue their return to law-abiding behavior as they return to our communities.

**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**

- Family Functional Therapy – Hennepin County Board approved a limited number of slots for FFT. An RFP to expand the number of FFT slots and to contract with culturally specific providers was issued. Contracts are expected to be established by the end of the first quarter of 2010.
- Aggression Replacement Therapy – staff from juvenile probation and the County Home School have been trained to facilitate ART groups and have begun convening these groups for kids with anger issues. The County Home School will be replacing their current anger management curriculum with ART.
- Evening Reporting Center – Shiloh Temple has been selected and a contract has been established and approved by the County Board. The ERC will open by January 4, 2010. A RFP for two additional ERC's (one in South Minneapolis and one in suburban Hennepin County) will be issued during the first quarter of 2010.
- Multi-Systemic Therapy – An RFP has been issued. A team will be reviewing proposals in mid-January. Contracts will be established by first quarter 2010.

**Recommendation 3I**

**Ensure that support systems for youth offenders are extended to strengthen the families these youth come from and return to.**

**Action**

- No new 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**

- Community Action Against Violence officially launched its campaign with this strategy:
  - Marketing/Media - Communicate core message and unifying campaign slogan, “PEACE 24/7: It Begins With You” through multiple city-wide, youth-friendly, community-based mediums in order to create a “buzz” to help people feel they are part of a movement and critical mass to make reducing youth violence plausible, recognize that they have a role and responsibility in making this happen, and offer practical information to help them learn how to make a difference.
  - Community Mobilization - Train and support youth and adult organizers who will cultivate and facilitate productive dialogue among community members of all ages and cultures through one-on-one conversations, house meetings, neighborhood/community events, and in other places where people gather. Develop curriculum and train trainers to facilitate discussion and collective skill building for organizations and sectors, e.g., schools, police, neighborhood associations, parks, libraries, youth orgs, businesses.
  - Community-Wide Alliance Building - Create effective ways for programs, coalitions and individuals to connect with, learn from, and take action together to support the work of the Blueprint and Goal #4 in particular.

### **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