



On Balance

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

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Volume IX, Number 3

New Initiatives From Office of Justice Assistance

By **Jim Moeser**, Dane County
Juvenile Court

The Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance is working in partnership with other state and local agencies on a number of initiatives of interest for those in juvenile justice.

Looking at Evidence-Based Programs and Practices

The "*What Works, Wisconsin*" initiative is based on the fact that considerable research about effective practices in juvenile has been conducted over the last 5-10

years. OJA is working with UW-Madison to provide one of the only reports in the nation that closes the knowledge gap between what is known and how it can apply to decisions made by practitioners and funders. The first phase of this effort, the "*What Works, Wisconsin*" publication summarizes the state of juvenile justice research and includes a cost-benefit analysis about various types of programs that have been tried with youthful offenders.

The report is already available at the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance web-site (<http://oja.state.wi.us/>), and OJA is working on plans for further dissemination and tools to help counties and programs assess their practices and implement some of the best practice research at the local level. Watch for more about *What Works, Wisconsin* in the months ahead.

An Assessment of Short-Term Correctional Programs

OJA is working with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency to gather information about the effectiveness of some of

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Staff Spotlight: Ted Balistreri, Madison Metropolitan School District Security Coordinator

By **Dennis Whitish**, Madison Metropolitan School District

Ted Balistreri has the background to be MMSD'S Security Coordinator. As a new graduate from the University of Wisconsin in 1969, he was hired by Madison Police Department as one of the few new officers with a college degree at that time. One of his first assignments was as an undercover police officer to

purchase heroin. Balistreri rose through the ranks of the police department becoming a sergeant in 1973, a lieutenant in 1977, a Captain in 1979 and then to Assistant Chief in 1991 where he remained until his retirement from



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On the web @ www.co.dane.wi.us/juvenilecourt
www.danecountyhumanservices.org

Subculture Corner

By **Stephen Blue**, DCDHS
Delinquency Services
Manager

The recent gang related shootings in Oregon, Wisconsin have prompted renewed community attention and call to action on the growing youth gang problem in Dane County. The Executive Committee of the Dane County Youth Gang Prevention Task Force has been meeting to re-energize the Task Force and formulate a comprehensive response to the current community crisis.

The first steps of the action plan call for:

- Community Awareness
- Mobilizations
- Action

In prior meetings of the Executive Committee, discussions have focused on the future of the Dane County Youth Gang Prevention Task Force:

- How do we best meet the needs of the resurgence of youth gang activity in Madison?
- How do we go about fostering community and system collaboration?

The newly formed Executive Committee recommended the following actions:

- Continue the annual

conference and conference planning work group

- Continue the community trends subculture group
- Continue our Balanced philosophy towards youth gangs, which includes prevention, intervention, suppression and enforcement.

· Development of a speakers' bureau from the task force membership

· Develop a centralized youth gang information system

· Develop a task force website

· Develop a crisis response team with the ability to act quickly

Other Issues:

- Newsletter
- Annual Meeting
- Small workshop/brown bags

· Links to other gang organizations, MGIA, Great Lakes, etc.

· Strategic plan to address community concerns

- Policy and Public information capabilities
- Tattoo removal
- Gun surrender program
- Gang watch concept
- Gun and violence redirection strategies

Dane County Executive, Kathleen Falk, City of Madison Mayor, Dave Cieslewicz and Madison Metropolitan School District Superintendent, Art Rainwater held a briefing and discussion on the current state of youth gang activity in the area. All three leaders have pledged to support a community response and to meet again in the near future.

On September 21, 2005, a community forum was sponsored by a group of parents in the Doyle Administration building titled; *Gangs and School Violence*. The event was well attended and received significant media coverage. A common theme emerged from the panel members, a unified/collaborative strategy is needed.

It is our hope that the Dane County Youth Gang Prevention Task Force can continue to be a facilitator in the planning of a community response. The DCYGPT will seek to involve a broader spectrum of the community in the solution.

There's Light at the End of the Tunnel For Juvenile Detention

By **Jim Moeser**, Dane County
Juvenile Court

For nearly 40 years, youth who are placed in Juvenile Detention have been housed in a corner of the third floor of the City-County building. With a current capacity of 18 youth, Dane County continues to maintain one of the lowest per-capita juvenile detention centers in the country, especially when compared with other jurisdictions of a comparable size. The highest number of youth ever held in Detention was 36, with that occurring in 1976. Of course, with the "new" Children's Code of 1976, the criteria for which youth could be held in Detention changed dramatically with the elimination of holding status offenders. Continued policy and program changes in the 1990's and the collaborative efforts of all system partners have resulted in maintaining the daily population under the capacity for much of the last 10 years.

So, why build a new facility?

The Detention facility has long been recognized as lacking in many areas, both in the actual number of beds (in the peak years of 1999 & 2000 considerable resources were spent on housing youth in other counties) but more importantly in a number of programmatic areas.

Limitations on visiting space, educational facilities, health care space, and the generally "patch-work" design of the current facility makes it difficult, at best, to provide some of the basic services that should be part of a sound detention program.

When did the planning begin for a new facility?

The planning to construct a new juvenile facility began with the inclusion of \$1 million to begin the process and the approval of a resolution to construct a 28-bed (expandable to 50) facility. Shortly thereafter, the need for a new justice center and the juvenile detention issues became intertwined, and the \$1 million was integrated into the planning for a new justice center that would include a remodeled juvenile facility.

As discussions on the Justice Center transpired over the next 6-8 years, it became necessary to utilize the soon-to-be vacated space on second floor in the City-County Building as the site for a new juvenile facility. In the late spring of 2004, Dane County secured the services of Venture Architects and Michael McMillen (generally accepted as the leading national detention facility architect) to determine if and how a juvenile

detention center could be located in the CCB.

After settling on a conceptual design, determining the construction cost estimates, and then making some adjustments to keep the plan within the established budget, the County Board and Executive gave the "go-ahead" to the plan. Staff from Public Works, the Juvenile Court Program, and the State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections has been working since May with Venture Architects to finalize the schematic design for the facility.

What will be different about the new facility?

For lack of a better description, the newly constructed juvenile facility will be built in the "middle" of second floor of the CCB. Space for other county functions will remain open on both the west and east ends of the second floor. Some of the highlights of the design include:

- Initial construction of 24 beds, in three housing units with space identified for the addition of 5-9 beds at a future date. Most of the core support space has been designed to support expansion at a later date.

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Spotlight

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the Police Department in 2000.

When MMSD's security officer, John Olson retired in 2000, Ted Balistreri was one of three finalists for the job. With his considerable background and experience, he seems a perfect fit for his current position. Ted has worked as a community relations officer, and worked in the Special Operation Section, an assignment that gave him insight into working with various communities within the city of Madison. In 1987 he was the Captain responsible for the southside Experimental Police Department on Badger Road until he was promoted to Assistant Chief in 1991, when he returned to police headquarters downtown.

As Security Coordinator for Madison Metropolitan School District, Balistreri is responsible for the safety of both staff and students. He initially set up procedures to keep kids and staff safe in case of disasters within the school setting and from threatening behavior from students and non-students alike. Code Red procedures implemented since Balistreri came to MMSD involve the "lock down" of school buildings in the event of a dangerous intruder, a weapon in the building, or disruptive behavior that threatens the safety of students and staff.

Balistreri has also implemented emergency procedures which

involve protocols to follow in case of: suspicious visitors, bomb threat, tornado/severe weather/fire evacuation/missing student and medical emergencies. The emergency procedures checklist document hangs in every classroom in every building in the school district and outlines what to do in case of an emergency.

Prevention activities are also part of Balistreri's responsibilities. Front doors to all school buildings must now be locked. Staff is now required to wear identification tags during school hours and guests entering the building must sign-in at the office before going to a classroom. School campuses are now more secure due to these innovations.

Balistreri also provides staff with physical management training, especially those staff members who work with students who might pose a threat to themselves and others. The purpose of physical management training is "to keep kids safe and to keep staff safe," according to Balistreri. He also has become knowledgeable with IEP (individualized educational plans) of students with disabilities and stresses the need to prevent students from escalating their behavior to a point where physical management is necessary.

Crisis Intervention training for

clerical and other staff members also falls under the responsibility of the Safety Coordinator position. Balistreri says that recognizing when people are in crisis and teaching them how to de-escalate that behavior goes a long way to keep staff and students safe.

Balistreri is on the District's Crisis Team and assists the district during student/staff crises. While each school has a crisis team, there are times when the district needs to bring in support staff from other schools to assist a school during a crisis. The District Crisis Team has provided support to schools following death of student, injury to a student, and other neighborhood crises. When enticement of children is reported in the district, Balistreri's office makes contact with schools in the general vicinity of the incident to alert them and directs them to begin protective strategies to keep kids safe and also to notify parents of the enticement.

In addition to his district responsibilities, Balistreri is also active in the community by serving on several committees. His 31 years with the Madison Police Department serves him well as Safety Coordinator for Madison Metropolitan School District's 25,000 students and 5921 staff members.

Where Are They Now?

On Balance catches up with:

Pamela Eitland

Many of you knew Pamela Eitland from her 7 years with the Division of Juvenile Corrections. In her role as a juvenile services specialist, Pam oversaw state funding to counties for program development and expansion, targeted for youth and families. She was also liaison to the WI Juvenile Court Intake Association and the WI Counties Human/Social Services Association.

Earlier this year, Pam resigned from DJC. On Balance contacted Pam to find out what she's been up to and what her future plans are.



Vernon County Human Services Director Pamela Eitland

On Balance: What are you doing now?

Pam: I am the Director of the Human Services in Vernon County. I started on June 27, 2005.

OB: Why did you decide to take on this new challenge?

Pam: The opportunity to lead an agency in my home county was just too good to pass up. Human Services provides needed programs and services to families in a wide array of areas including mental health, AODA, long term support, eco-

nomie assistance, emergency relief, children and youth – all of them require special attention to their specific needs. I am experienced in administrative oversight and program development, and this position allows me to do both. I also know how dedicated the Human Services Committee/Board is to the agency, its employees, and its mission. The

opportunity to serve on a team with them has been very rewarding already.

next few years?

Pam: I want Vernon County to actively participate in statewide initiatives and planning. I want the staff to feel valued in the work they perform every day. I want community citizens to have the opportunity to have input and accept ownership for the successful provision of services to needy people.

OB: Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

Pam: I see myself established in Vernon County and still the Director of Human Services.

OB: What do you do in your spare time?

Pam: I don't have a lot of spare time right now because I am constantly reading and learning all of the aspects of Human Services. I like to listen to and watch Brewer games, Wisconsin Badger football games; and will be spending time spoiling my new nephew, Michael (born on August 15th).

A note from Pam Eitland:

Over the past 10 years, I have worked with so many professionals. I hope to continue our connections and share some laughs along the way. I would love to hear from colleagues, so drop me a note or call anytime.

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Teens Need Foster Homes Too!

By **Dawn Douglas**, Dane County Human Services Foster Care Unit

Many people feel that foster care is a very noble thing to do:

providing a home for young abandoned, abused and neglected children – who have no one to care for them. Unfortunately we often forget about the teenagers that come into our system every day, with no one

to turn to. In Dane County the need for foster homes for teens has dramatically increased. In July of this year, 67% of the children Dane

County has placed in foster care are above the age of 12. 42% of those teens are 15+ years of age. This is an extreme change from only

are needed for individual teens as well as sibling groups.

Phil and Char Lawler have been licensed as Dane County foster parents for 14 years. They have primarily cared for teen boys in their tenure, but until their own children were grown, always took in teens who were younger.



Dane County Human Services has been using billboards and bus advertising to recruit foster parents for teens.

5 years ago, when 38% of our foster children were teenagers. The result is that our homes for teenagers are at capacity. Foster homes

This way, they did not have to

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- Three designated classroom spaces along with a larger education multi-purpose area
- A two-story recreation space within the facility
- Designated and modern health care space for nursing and physician services
- Increased visitation space for families, social workers, attorneys, and others
- Direct access from the

secure elevator into the intake area, permitting law enforcement to bring youth to intake without going through public areas

- Improvements in space to meet with families or conduct small group meetings
- Space for multi-purpose use, including group visitation, staff training/meetings, and hearings if necessary.

So, what will happen next,

and when?

If things go right, the timetable for the next steps/completion of the project is:

Beginning with the removal of hazardous materials from the CCB when the courts move out in January 2006, the overall demolition and construction process will take approximately 15-18 months. The projected date to open the new facility is July 1, 2007.

Act 5- What Is It and What Does It Mean?

By **Dave Thorson**, Dane County Human Services

Juvenile Sex Offender Registration rules changed as of May 17 of this year with the passage of Wisconsin Act 5. Previously, the law allowed for information about individual juvenile sex offenders to be released only to law enforcement, the Department of Corrections, and the offender's victim. The law prohibited the release of information to the public about juvenile sex offenders. Act 5 allows law enforcement to release information on adjudicated juveniles who are in the sex offender registry if that information is deemed "necessary to protect the public."

Unfortunately, Act 5 does not delineate statutory guidelines to help determine what constitutes a risk to public safety. As such, it is anticipated that local law enforcement will on occasion contact Dane County Department of Human

Services for additional information pertaining to specific cases in order to make a more informed decision as to whether to release juvenile

Thorson and Service Support Specialist Jackie Hammond. As of May 2005, Dane County Courts had ordered 80 youth to register as sex offenders, with 37 of them continuing to reside in Dane County (the rest being in corrections, treatment centers or other out of

county placements, or having had their families

move out of the county).

It is hoped that the implementation of Act 5 will have a minimal impact on low risk registrants and allow them to maintain some confidentiality while they are under supervision and receiving treatment while at the same time increasing

public awareness of those adjudicated sex offenders who are at significant risk to reoffend.

For more information about Act 5 you can go to the Wisconsin Department of Juvenile Corrections web-site at www.doc.state.wi.us

greater guidance for how to deal with these requests.

To respond more accurately and efficiently to such requests, Dane County Human Services is establishing its own sex offender registry database, to be updated and monitored by Supervisor David

2005 Assembly Bill 99 Date of enactment: May 2, 2005 Date of publication*: May 16, 2005

2005 WISCONSIN ACT 5

<p>AN ACT relating to sex offenders who are children.</p>	<p>to amend 301.46 (2) (e), 301.46 (2m) (c), 301.46 (5) (b) (intro.) and 301.46 (5) (c) (intro.) of the statutes; individuals registered as sex offenders based upon a juvenile delinquency adjudication and registered</p> <p>SECTION 1. 301.46 (2) (e) of the statutes is amended to read:</p> <p>301.46 (2) (e) A police chief or sheriff may provide any of the information to which he or she has access under this subsection, other than information specified in subs. (4) (ag) and (5) (e), to an entity in the police chief's community or the sheriff's county that is entitled to request information under sub. (4), to any person requesting information under sub. (5) or to members of the general public if, in the opinion of the police chief or sheriff, providing that information is necessary to protect the public.</p> <p>SECTION 2. 301.46 (2m) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:</p> <p>301.46 (2m) (c) A police chief or sheriff who receives a bulletin under this subsection may provide any of the information in the bulletin, other than information</p> <p>entitled to request information under sub. (4), to any person requesting information under sub. (5) or to members of the general public if, in the opinion of the police chief or sheriff, providing that information is necessary to protect the public.</p> <p>SECTION 4. 301.46 (5) (b) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:</p> <p>301.46 (5) (b) (intro.) If the department or a police chief or sheriff provides information under par. (a), the department, subject to par. (c), or the police chief or sheriff shall, subject to par. (a), provide all of the following concerning the person specified in the request under par. (a) 2.</p> <p>SECTION 5m. 301.46 (5) (c) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:</p> <p>301.46 (5) (c) (intro.) The department or a police chief or sheriff may not provide any of the following under par. (a):</p>	<p>(intro.) of the statutes; individuals registered</p>
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* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES 2003-04: Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's veto which does not expressly provide the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication as designated" by the secretary of state [the date of publication may not be more than 10 working days after the date of enactment].

Runaway and Homeless Youth Project: A Partnership Between YSOSW and Project HUGS

By **Sheri Gatts**, Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin

In October of 2002, the Dane County Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect determined that Dane County's response to the problem of runaway and homeless youth was fragmented and insufficient. As a result, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Work Group was created and charged with developing strategies to effectively address the multiple and complex needs of this unique population. The Work Group was comprised of representatives of public and private agencies that provide services to Dane County Youth. The result of the work of this group was the establishment of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Project.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Project is a partnership between Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin (YSOSW) and Project HUGS, both long-standing and well-respected non-profit agencies in Dane County. It is a unique collaboration of multiple systems and agencies working with

children, youth and their families. The project provides comprehensive services to runaway and homeless youth and their parents/guardians in Dane County in a timely and cost efficient manner. The overall goal of the project is to integrate services across systems to eliminate duplication of services and to divert youth and families from more serious and expensive services.

Youth homelessness has increased by nearly 500% since the year 2000. To address the growing problem, in April 2003 the Project applied for a \$15,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Justice. They began receiving grant funds in October 2003 to:

- recruit, train and license temporary host (foster) homes, supervised through YSOSW's Briarpatch Office;
- identify and purchase an objective screening instrument for use with youth served by the Project; and
- provide training to Project staff and law enforcement officers.

The majority of intakes for the Project are done at YSOSW's Briarpatch office in Madison. If

youth prefer to seek help within the school setting, they can meet with staff from Project HUGS, which has been providing school-based services in Dane County for many years. According to Casey Behrend, Executive Director of Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin, "In 2004, approximately 250 runaway/homeless youth were screened by Project staff. They also provided 66 teens with temporary shelter in YSOSW host homes during the year, for a total of 113 overnights." Both staff and volunteers with the Project have been trained to administer the MAYSI-2 screening instrument that was purchased with grant funds.

For 2004-2005, the Wisconsin Department of Justice provided an additional \$30,000 in grant funds for the Project. These funds were utilized for foster home licensing and placement, and to support case managers of Project HUGS and Briarpatch.

The Project will receive an additional \$20,000 of grant funds from the Department of Justice for

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worry about conflicts between their birth children and foster teens. According to Char, all of the adolescents who lived with them have had a challenging past. "Most kids are pretty normal [in their behavior] if you give them a chance," says Char. She feels that her responsibility as a foster parent is to give them a chance at being a "normal" teen. Phil and Char take only one child at a time so they can devote all their energies to helping them become successful adults. One of their most rewarding experiences as foster parents occurred at their former foster son's wedding. His parents had died, and the Lawler's were able to sponsor his rehearsal dinner. The minister told them that this young man truly considered them as his parents. Since he was a real challenge as a teen, it shows how true the statement is that it's not where you start, but where you end up that matters most.

David Wainwright has been licensed a little over a year as a Dane County foster parent. He is caring for 2 teenaged brothers. David became interested in foster care after seeing lots of young black males without positive male role models in their lives. "Most teens are tough on the outside, but really need guidance," says David. He feels the most rewarding aspect of

teen foster care is watching them learn to accept responsibility and learning to make good decisions. David is sometimes frustrated by the Juvenile Justice system, and has felt that teens aren't always held accountable for their actions. As a result, they do not learn the legal consequences of their behavior, making them more susceptible to criminal behavior as adults. Overall, David loves being a foster parent and feels he can do this for a while. He states, "If I can change one kid, I am making a difference."

The Federal Government and the State of Wisconsin require that any teen in an alternative placement who is 15 years of age or older, receive services to help them identify and plan for successful independent living. Foster parent involvement is crucial to meeting this goal, as learning daily living

skills and developing solid values occurs best within the context of a home situation. Foster parents have the ability to demonstrate and role model these concepts every day, which can hugely impact teens and whether or not they succeed in life. The past 2 years, we have also had access to the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program, which provided funding for teens toward post secondary education. Last year, Dane County paid for 9 teens to attend either the UW or MATC. This year, that number has increased to 13.

Dane County is always in need of foster parents for teens. After all . . . THEY ARE OUR FUTURE! If you or someone you know would like to learn more about how to make a difference in the life of a teen, call Dawn Douglas at 242-6303.

Runaway

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the period October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006. These funds will be used for foster home placements, to support case management costs, and to improve the data collection system at Briarpatch.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Project has helped to streamline and clarify the system of care in Dane County

for the schools and police officers who are working with teens. In these days of diminishing resources, it is becoming increasingly important for organizations or systems of care to work collaboratively to provide needed services. This Project is an excellent example of a partnership that is working well to meet a growing need in Dane County.

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the short-term correctional programs that have been in operation through the Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC) and The Racine County Alternatives to Corrections through Education (ACE) program. NCCD is working to develop profiles and evaluation designs for these programs, with the goal of further informing policymakers about how the programs are now being used and how they might be improved.

Brain Research

OJA is contributing funds to the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) to aid in the development of a conference in the spring of 2006 focusing on the implications of recent adolescent brain development research on juvenile justice policy and practice.

The research that provides

additional insight into how the brains of adolescents are developing was cited by the US Supreme Court in its relatively recent decision to not permit the use of the death penalty for juvenile offenders.

More information about the WCCF-sponsored conference will be coming out before the end of 2005.

Information Sharing Initiative

It's hard to keep up with the development of the numerous information systems created by all the various systems involved with youth in the juvenile justice system. Schools, law enforcement, courts, human services, and others have all become increasingly dependent on electronic data systems to gather and store information on youth and families. However, existing data system currently fall short of meet-

ing the need for a variety of historical information that could aid various decision-makers in doing a better and more timely job working with youth/families.

OJA has developed some fundamental principles to help guide policy-makers as various proposals come forward about whether and how various system partners may share information and whether or not changes in statutes would be of benefit to families, youth, and the community. These principles attempt to balance the privacy rights of individuals with the value that may be gained by more efficient and accurate sharing of information among professionals. Anyone interested in more information about those principles can contact the Office of Justice Assistance.

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

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Call 242-6424

Supervising Juvenile Sex Offenders: What's New? What's Happening?

By **Jim Moeser, Andre Johnson
and Kristen Ryan**

In the late summer of 2004, the Department began a renewed effort to assess current practices related to working with youth alleged to have committed sexual offenses and youth placed on supervision for a sex-related offense. The mission of the work group, comprised of staff from the department, juvenile court, DA's office, SPD, law enforcement, community-based providers, and the schools was adopted to create a set of principles and protocols for all systems working with the target group that ensures best practices to meet the needs and interests of victims, ensures best practices to meet the needs and interests of victims, ensures public safety, and builds competencies of these youth.

Out of the larger coordinating group, three work groups developed. Following is an update of activities for those groups:

Assessment and Treatment of Sex Offenders

A core group of people who has been meeting monthly, including DCDHS staff, Juvenile Court staff, DCMH staff and treatment providers. The goals of this sub group are

to: establish a consistent response across offices and workers in responding to cases alleging sexual assault,

- educate the system, as a whole, on what is reasonable to expect from a risk assessment,
- provide social workers with a format from which to make a safety plan if the youth is to be released to the community pending court,
- provide training to the system, as a whole, in the differences between a psychological and a psychosexual evaluation and
- provide for a mechanism for interested and qualified evaluators to complete these evaluations.

Substantial discussions have occurred about the availability of reliable and valid (with juvenile sex offenders) risk and assessment instruments and the challenges in finding consistent and timely ways to develop safety and supervision plans. Work over the next several months will focus on the treatment of sex offenders.

Supervision, Re-Entry, Registration, and Notification

This work group identified a

number of tasks and procedures that can be developed, including:

- Develop some training registration of youthful sex offenders. As a result of Act 5 (see related story in this month's issue) it is critical that proper registration of youthful sex offenders occurs in a timely manner. Near or by the time of publication, this training will be held.
- Develop some policy/procedures regarding Notification Working with Dane County law enforcement agencies, the group will establish some proactive procedures for how to deal with situations in which notification of others is important
- Develop a specific protocol for community supervision for sex offenders, including risk level classification for supervision, training for social workers and others who provide supervision of juveniles with sex offending behaviors. A draft regarding rules of supervision within our larger group has been developed within the larger group and will be further discussed as well as developing

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specific guidelines for supervision a youth with sex offending behaviors in the community.

- Develop general policy, procedures and guidelines for release of juveniles with sex offending behaviors back into the community, including a process for successfully re-integrating a youth with sex offending behaviors back into the community.

Investigation and Prosecution

This work group has been focusing on the very early stages of the process related to the appre-

hension of youth alleged to have committed a sexual offense including, the impact of the youth being taken into custody, finding ways to provide information and/or support to parents/family, identifying specific “fast track” protocols related to case assignment and initial intake assessment steps, and coordinating information between the various partners in the process.

Initial steps have been made to develop an informational brochure about the court process that can be provided to parents of alleged offenders and to identify some potential resources for

providing support and information to parents at the time a youth is taken into custody. Implementation of these ideas should begin by the end of 2005, and then the group will turn its attention to the decisions and protocols surrounding the initial law enforcement custody decision itself.

For more information about any of the above work groups, contact Andre Johnson, Kristen Ryan, Jim Moeser, or Stephen Blue.