



On Balance

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

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Dane County Celebrates 9th Annual Juvenile Court Awards

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

The Lussier Heritage Center was the destination for approximately 100 people on February 28, 2007. Their purpose was to recognize and celebrate the success and accomplishments of youth who have rubbed elbows with the juvenile justice system, as well as a select few of the special individuals who helped them achieve their goals.

Judge John Albert was once again master of ceremonies, while Supreme Court Justice Shirley Abrahamson again graced the crowd with her humor, insight, and obvious ongoing compassion for youth and families, as she gave the keynote address.



*Northrup Award Winner
Camille Young*

Awards given out included: the Ervin Bruner Award, the Peter Rubin Award, the George Northrup Award, and awards for Outstanding Service, and Outstanding Achievement.

The George Northrup Award is named after a former Dane County judge who was dedicated to making the courts accessible and a useful experience for youth and families. Even after becoming ill, Judge Northrup remained optimistic and continued his efforts and commitment to improving the system. As a result, this award is designed to recognize those who

overcome significant challenges to contribute to the lives of kids. This years recipient was Camille Young. In 2003, Ms. Young took on raising four half-siblings who had been removed from their parental home. The oldest one suffers from cerebral palsy. When she learned they had all been placed in foster
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Dennis Maloney, Founder of BARJ, Will be Missed

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

The BARJ movement suffered its greatest loss on February 7 with the untimely passing of Dennis Maloney. Dennis was one of the original authors of "the Balanced Approach to Juvenile Probation" in 1987 and continued for nearly 20 years to



Dennis Maloney

be the leading advocate for Balanced and Restorative Justice. After working in Wisconsin for a number of years, Dennis moved to Bend, Oregon around 1990 and served as the head of the DeSchutes County Community Corrections system, a system that became a national

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On the web @ www.co.dane.wi.us/juvenilecourt/
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MMSD Chief of Staff, Mary Gulbrandsen, to Retire

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

Mary Gulbrandsen, 56, will retire from Madison Metropolitan School District on June 30th. She has been the Chief Of Staff for MMSD since Superintendent Art Rainwater was hired in 1999. Gulbrandsen, who has a background as a pediatric nurse practitioner, has been with MMSD since 1978 when she worked as a school nurse at Gompers Elementary School. At the time, she was an instructor at the UW-Madison School of Nursing. Mary was instrumental in researching how the district could best supply health services to the growing number of children with disabilities who were being mainstreamed into public education. The school district created its own health services department in 1983 after contracting with the city health department to provide school nursing services. Mary became MMSD's first health services administrator.

As a district administrator, Mary was also instrumental in overseeing a three-year, 8.3-million dollar federal violence prevention and healthy-

child grant for Madison and its schools in 1999. As the lead grant writer, Mary collaborated with the Madison Police Department, Dane County Human Services and Head Start and submitted a winning proposal. Madison was the only Wisconsin school district to get a Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant.

As the Director of Student Services, Mary is also responsible for psychology and social work services, alcohol and drug services, security and educational options as well as occupational and physical therapy services and attendance initiatives.

During the last several years with million dollar budget cuts, Mary has been a supporter of services that benefit the needs of all students. Support service staff has appreciated her guidance and direction during difficult budget reductions.

Asked what she'll miss about her job, Mary says, "the people and students I work with. I have always wanted to go to work." Mary's retirement will be a loss to the school district and to support services staff. Mary doesn't know exactly what she will do after leaving MMSD, but she will probably work in the health care field.



Mary Gulbrandsen is retiring after 29 years with MMSD

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??? Where Are They Now???

ON BALANCE catches up with: Sandy Marrier

Many of you may remember Sandy Marrier from her long career with Dane County Group Homes, Inc. For most of that time, she was the creative and inspiring director of Coventry House group home. Over the course of her 30 year career, Sandy touched the lives of more than 900 teen girls. She retired in 2005.

In the two years since you've been retired, how have you been spending your time?

It took me so long to just get organized and stop wanting to check on the kids. I am now getting the hang of this and am relaxing with friends, working on

my garden and crafts, and sleeping way too late in the morning. I may have to work again!!!!

What do you miss most about your old life as a group home director?

I miss the staff and residents the most. Every day was different and never dull. It was always a challenge.

What do you miss about your working life?

Almost every day I talked with other professionals and learned

from them. I felt I was always growing stronger.

Is there anything else you want to comment on that we haven't asked you?



Sandy Marrier retired in 2005.

I think I would have been totally different person if I had not worked in this field. When we help others to believe in themselves, we believe more in ourselves. I have never regretted my decision to work in

this profession.

Maloney

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model for implementing BARJ principles and practices in both the juvenile and adult systems. Dennis' impact stretches far beyond Oregon. In fact more than 30 states, including Wisconsin, have adopted the core BARJ principles as the underlying purpose of their juvenile code, and Dennis' work throughout the nation and indeed the world helped him develop powerful and

effective relationships with countless legislators, senators, community leaders and activists, and other justice professionals.

Dennis suffered a heart attack while driving near his home in Bend, Oregon and passed away at the age of 55. While best known for his work with BARJ, Dennis was the very proud father of five daughters and was a committed and creative

leader in the Bend community on a wide variety of youth and family issues.

It will be difficult to replace the fun-loving commitment, passion, and vision that Dennis shared with so many over the past 20-30 years. His passion for restorative justice and his ability to match ideals with reality will remain an inspiration to all of us involved with BARJ.

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care, she immediately offered her own home as an alternative. She made this offer despite already raising four children of her own! Not much help was available from extended family and the system was not always able to support her in the way you would like, especially financially. It has been an emotional challenge as well. Clearly, if not for her rising up to that challenge, her siblings might still be in foster care, and they probably would not have been able to stay together. This community is truly fortunate to have persons such as Camille, and these are the reasons she so richly deserves this tribute.



Rubin Award Winner
Bobby Moore

Neighborhood Intervention Program social worker Bobby Moore was given the Peter Rubin Award. Peter was a long time Public Defender who loved kids. His sense of humor was legendary and he was one of the most respected attorneys ever to practice juvenile law in Dane County. Peter didn't just show his dedication from 9 to 5 however. He coached Spartan Basketball, took kids into his home, and was constantly positive and energetic. Bobby Moore shares that same spirit. Neither man could be accused of being short on words, or their time. Bobby has been a mentor and role

model for many African American youth in our community. He doesn't define his job by what time or day it is. Bobby will continue to be a resource for youth or their families whether their case has formally ended or not. His cell phone might as well be surgically attached since it is never off and he is always available in a crisis. It would not dawn on him to operate any other way. He is realistic, but never gives up on kids. Bobby came to NIP in 1991 and has been a valued colleague ever since. One would be hard pressed to find a more deserving recipient for this award.

Two young people were singled out for Outstanding Achievement this year. Kennedy aka Kenny Klingele was put on court supervision back

on February 2002. He spent much of his life in foster care, even after being adopted. Despite many physical, emotional and mental obstacles, Kenny made tremendous progress throughout his time on court supervision. He completed treatment programs, learned independent living skills, and has transitioned to receiving services in the adult system. Every time he hit a bump, Kenny persevered

and did not give up. He was surrounded with a loving and dedicated group of adults who supported him along the way, but without the heart and tenacity of Kenny himself, none of this would have mattered much. His work is not done, but given how far he had to come just to reach this point, Kenny should be proud of his accomplishments and receiving this award.

Ashley McIntyre also received an award for Outstanding Achievement. Like Kenny, her life has been filled with challenges and obstacles. She was adopted as an infant by her grandmother. As she grew



Outstanding Achievement Honoree
Ashley McIntyre

older she struggled with social situations and school. Eventually she began skipping school and having other problems that resulted in her placement in foster care. At one point however things clicked inside Ashley and she made a decision to turn her life around. Both school



Outstanding Achievement Honoree
Kenny Klingele

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and relationships got better, and she became a role model for other kids who faced similar issues. She began a job through CESA II and started saving money. Her attitude became positive and despite the challenge academic work poses for her, she will soon graduate from high school. This was a goal no one would have thought possible several years ago. Everyone who knows her is unbelievably and rightfully proud of her. Her story should be an inspiration to other youth and everyone who works with them.

Four awards were given out for Outstanding Service. These go to persons or organizations who have long given their time and talents to the youth of this community, especially those who wind up in the social service network.

Deena Williams has worked for Dane County Dept of Human Services since 1972 – yes, that’s 35 years. She has supervised the Substitute Care unit for over 12 years. Deena has seen many changes over the years, but one of the constants has been her dedication to developing a foster care system that supports foster parents, trains them adequately, and addresses the special needs of all children, whether they be infants, toddlers, or teens.



*Outstanding Service Honoree
Deena Williams*

Cora White tried to retire

from foster care after over 20 years, but just couldn’t stay away. She has been a leader nationally in foster care issues and was instrumental in the planning and hosting of the International Foster Care Conference held in Madison in 2006. Cora is active in the community, works closely with many collaterals, and has been a foster parent for well over 100 youth. She has been and will continue to be a mentor and guide for other foster parents in our community.



*Outstanding Service Honoree
Cora White*

Joan Klang is yet another long term foster parent who has provided a safe, stable, nurturing and structured environment for more than 96 foster children since she and her husband became foster parents in 1973. This was in addition to raising three of their own children. The Klangs started off with infants and preschoolers, and eventually switched to taking primarily young boys with exceptional needs. Joan was able to see beyond a diagnosis to that vulnerable child underneath. When her husband Jim passed away in 2002, Joan decided after much soul searching to continue fostering children. With her faith, her dedi-



*Outstanding Service Honoree
Joan Klang*

cation, and her quiet and reassuring ways, she has become known throughout the Substitute Care unit as “St. Joan.” We are blessed to continue to have her as a resource for our children.

For over 10 years, Michael Dyer has been a foster parent in Dane County taking kids, mostly teens, that others would shy away from due to their special needs and difficult behaviors. He was one of the first to develop the “transitional home” model in Dane County and has been



*Outstanding Service Honoree
Michael Dyer*

extremely effective with kids no one gave much of a chance to be successful in a community setting. Michael teaches life skills and decision making and moves youth toward more independence, all while providing the guidance, coaching, mentoring, and caring necessary to help them grow. Michael has worked with youth in Dane County for over 25 years and a grateful community takes this opportunity to recognize his efforts.

The final award handed out this year was the Ervin Bruner Award. Judge Bruner was once upon a time the one and only juvenile judge in the county for many years. His skill and commit-

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DMC – The Philadelphia Story

By **Barbara Franks**, Dane County DMC Coordinator

To help understand some of the factors that go into the relationship between law enforcement and youth, a Youth –Law Enforcement Forum was held in Philadelphia. Here are some of the findings from that forum—not necessarily a surprise, but it was a unique opportunity for dialogue between youth and law enforcement:

The issue addressed was ***“Are police more aggressive because the youth are confrontational, or are the youth more confrontational because officers tend to be more aggressive to minority youth?”***

1. YOUTH WANT MORE RESPECT FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Youth don’t want law enforcement officers to assume they’re doing something bad because of the way they’re dressed.

They would like the officers to be less aggressive in their approach and when they pull up to the corner fast and jump out, the youth often run because they’re scared, not because they are guilty.

2. MANY YOUTH HAVE HAD POSITIVE EXPERIENCES WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT... where officers have given them good advice, acted as positive role models and were very polite when taking reports.

3. ACCORDING TO

YOUTH, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MAKE THEM FEEL UNEASY WHEN:

- They are disrespectful;
- They do not believe what the youth are saying;
- They use their power to mistreat youth;
- They behave like racists; or
- They really don’t care and assume that all youth, especially those in poor communities, are guilty.

4. MANY YOUTH ARE CONCERNED THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS STOP THEM BECAUSE OF THE CLOTHES THEY WEAR.

For example, youth dressed in dark pants and white t-shirts feel they are often “checked” whenever they are near a crime scene. During the winter months, youth wearing “walrus” coats, which have many pockets, feel they are often stopped and searched by law enforcement officers because they “look suspicious.”

5. MOST YOUTH DON’T HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO RESPOND WHEN STOPPED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS:

- In schools
- On (public transportation),
- On public housing property, and
- On the streets
- They also don’t know how to file complaints when they feel their

rights have been violated.

6. LAW ENFORCEMENT WOULD LIKE YOUTH TO KNOW THAT NOT ALL OF THEM DO BAD THINGS.

- They want to be respected like normal people
- At times they make mistakes

7. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ALSO WANT YOUTH TO KEEP IN MIND THAT THEY HAVE A JOB TO DO AND THEY MUST DO IT.

8. YOUTH MAKE MANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FEEL UNEASY

..... by their threatening postures, confrontational attitudes and their failure to respond to the reasonable demands of law enforcement, such as “move off the corner” or “stop rolling dice on the sidewalks.”

This raises some interesting questions about what we do, including:

1. What would youth in Dane county say about their interactions with law enforcement? Social Workers? Court staff? School personnel?

2. Are we at all aware of, or do we even think about, how youth perceive us?

3. What do we do to either inadvertently reinforce negative perceptions or intentionally promote more positive relations with youth?

Subculture Corner

Youth Subcultures Conference Held on April 13th

This year's Youth Subcultures Conference, held at the UW-Madison Memorial Union, brought together close to 350 law enforcement officers, county social

workers and other service providers, school counselors and social workers, and many other professionals from the Madison and Dane County area.

There was something for everybody: out-of-town speakers and a spoken word artist in the

morning, followed by a variety of workshops in the afternoon.

As always, participants enjoyed the chance to greet colleagues and mix with others in a relaxed setting, not to mention the fact that it was a fine day to look out on the lakes while having lunch on the Union Terrace.



Kathy Sorenson, pictured with Stephen Blue, received an award of appreciation.



Terry Timm, from Lincoln Hills School, on "Gangs 101: The Basics".



MMSD Safety Coordinator Luis Yudice spoke on "Creating a Safe School".



Spoken Word Poet Monica Davidson performed.



Keynote speaker Scott Larson discusses intervention with high-risk youth.

Focus Comes Alive

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

I could be wrong, but I think Ronald Reagan was president the last time there was a Residential Care Center for boys in Dane County. Back then, of course, we called them Child Caring Institutions, and the average stay was a year or more. Plus, there were no such things as permanency planning or reunification services. OK, I know there was Touchstone back in the 90's, but that brief and inglorious chapter was just a blip and is perhaps best left forgotten.

All this changed on January 22, 2007 when St. Charles Youth and Family Services opened the Focus RCC program on the grounds of Mendota Mental Health Institute. This program, an offshoot of a similar program in Milwaukee, takes up to 10 boys ages 12-17 who are at risk for placement in Juvenile Corrections. Focus consists of a three month residential placement phase followed by three months at home with electronic monitoring, and finishing with a three month period transitioning out of the program and off court supervision.

Several criteria must be met for youth to be eligible for Focus.

First and foremost, they must have committed a crime that could result in being sent to Corrections. In fact, all of the Focus boys are placed by the courts on a Stayed Correctional Order. Any serious violation could result in the stay being lifted. They are also placed under Type 2 status, which means rule violations can also result in their being sanctioned to Ethan Allen for a time to reflect on their decision making.

Focus youth must have a mental health diagnosis, but not have a major mental illness. They cannot have any sex offender history or alcohol or drug abuse issues requiring intensive treatment.

Finally, these youth must have an adult, usually a family member, who agrees to participate in their treatment

and be a placement resource once the residential phase is completed.

Focus is a true collaboration between St. Charles and Dane County Department of Human Services. In general terms, St. Charles runs the residential program

while DCDHS staff manage the referral process, coordinate treatment staffings, monitor the intensive home supervision and oversee the court work and transition phase off of supervision. Focus residents attend school at the NIP building

with a teacher provided by Madison Metropolitan School District. Family counseling is provided through Ujima. Regular meetings between St. Charles, Focus

and DCDHS staff ensure that the team is consistent and in agreement on all major decisions.

The original Focus program began in Milwaukee in 2003 with grant money designated to address Disproportionate Minority Confinement. The incarceration rate of minorities, especially African Americans, has been a significant concern in Wisconsin for some time. The problem begins in the juvenile arena and only worsens once they become adults. It is unfortunately no different here in Dane County. Due to Milwaukee County's overwhelming success diverting young men from juvenile corrections (over 200 youth now),

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while at the same time maintaining community safety, we became eager to try and duplicate that success in Dane County.

Family contact and involvement is paramount. Having the residential program located in Madison makes it much easier for families to have regular contact and participate in treatment. Family members are welcome on the unit virtually any time. It is not uncommon for moms show up to cook meals for the boys. Positive affirmation and accountability are emphasized, whether in school, on the unit, or on home passes. Re-connecting youth to their community in a positive manner is critical to their success once they return home.

Life on the unit is focused on skill building, community service, and developing and enhancing their unique talents. Skill building covers

things like anger management, academics, drug and alcohol education, and dealing with authority. A variety of educational and therapeutic techniques are utilized. Community service enables them to give back through their time and talents in order to restore the damage they have done, and regain their own dignity, reputation, and sense of self worth. Talent exploration and enhancement comes from a variety of “badges and benchmarks” the youth can choose from. Examples include fitness, spiritual development, job readiness, wilderness survival, carpentry, autobiography, music, cooking, computer literacy, and independent living skills.

The Program Manager of Focus is Mike Kass. Mike spent 19 years leading the Sprite program for the State of Wisconsin Dept of

Juvenile Corrections. Coming with him to Focus after 17 years at Sprite is John Givens as Assistant Program Manager. Their level of experience and expertise working with At Risk youth has given the program immediate stability and instant credibility with system partners.

Focus is still in its infancy. There continue to be growing pains. Several youth have already failed and have been sent to corrections,

despite the best efforts of a skilled and dedicated staff group. Nevertheless, if Focus can begin to impact the disproportionate numbers of minority youth going to juvenile corrections, while at the same time ensuring community safety, then it's a program well worth having.

The question won't be “why now” but “what took so long.”



FOCUS Program Manager, Mike Kass

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ment were given, and he was instrumental in developing the service delivery system we have today. Judge Moria Krueger recently retired from the bench after serving several rotations as a juvenile judge. She was dedicated to having the courts be a fair place for youth and families to address the issues that brought them there. She maintained high standards and expectations for everyone who appeared before her. Judge Krueger was a quick study and if a youth, parent, social worker or



Judge Moria Krueger

attorney showed up unprepared or not having done what they were expected to do, they were likely to hear it from the judge. Judge

Krueger was extremely sensitive to just how important the decisions she made were, and expected a sound rationale for anything she was asked to order. Judge Krueger prodded the system to be more responsive and effective and wasn't afraid to challenge whatever the current paradigm was. She will be missed and one can only hope that future

juvenile court judges will share her passion and advocacy for improving the juvenile court system.

All in all, it was a terrific and inspiring evening. The food was good, and the introductions and speeches were humorous and often heart rending. You could not avoid leaving feeling optimistic about our youth and grateful for the wonderful individuals who work with them. If you haven't attended one of these banquets in the past, you are highly encouraged to put it on your calendar next year. And if you know of a youth or individual who deserves recognition, be sure to make a nomination next year.