



# On Balance

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

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## New Southwest Resource Center Opens

By Dennis Whitish

A new Joining Forces For Families site has opened as the Southwest Resource Center located at 6401 Hammersley Road, Madison. The site was officially opened in April 2003 and is staffed by Dane County Human Services Social Worker, Michael Bruce, Community Action Coalition worker, Chris Logan, a City Public Health nurse, and neighborhood police officer, Kurt Fields.

The site was chosen following a comprehensive study. Factors that influenced the site location included:

√ Call data from the neighborhood provided by the Madison Police Department.

√ Information on student/family data provided by the Madison Metropolitan School District.

√ Data from Dane County Human Services on delinquency and child protective service concerns from the area.

√ Landlord and community concerns regarding the neighborhood.

A determination was made that the neighborhood warranted a resource center.

According to Michael Bruce, this is a joint collaboration between Dane County Human Services, the City of Madison and other community agencies interested in providing services to families in this area of Madison.

Space is provided by the Community Development Authority which owns the duplex where the team has offices. The space has room for monthly meetings with

See **Resource Center**, Page 2

## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT: Meti Adams



The oldest of seven siblings, Meti Adams was born in Chicago in 1980. Her family relocated to Madison when she was just eight years old. She was placed in foster care at age ten, spent some time living with relatives, but wound up back in foster care as a teenager. In 1998 she graduated from Memorial High School. She took a semester off to join the United States Army Reserves, then enrolled at North Park University in Chicago, where she

See **Youth Spotlight**, Page 4

### In this issue:

**Page 2**

Employee Spotlight:  
*Jackie Hammond*

**Page 4**

Census Reveals "Changing Face of Dane County"

**Page 6**

Meet the new Juvenile Court Judges

On the web @

[www.co.dane.wi.us/juvenilecourt/](http://www.co.dane.wi.us/juvenilecourt/)

[www.co.dane.wi.us/humanservices](http://www.co.dane.wi.us/humanservices)

## Resource Center

Continued from Page 1

school social workers, neighborhood police, public health nurses, and other community agency representatives involved with the families from the southwest area of the city.

Schools served by the Southwest Resource Center include Orchard Ridge Elementary School, Toki Middle School, Huegel Elementary School, Chavez Elementary School, Falk Elementary School and Memorial High School.

Services provided by the new center include security deposit help, eviction prevention assistance and advocacy to keep utilities on.

Other services available at the center include: updated housing vacancy lists (including section 8), free newspaper with Dane County job listings, free phone use for job/apartment searches and bus passes on a first come first serve basis.

The center can also assist in providing personal care items, cleaning supplies and connections with resources to help with food.

Assistance for the above services is provided through advocacy using various systems and agencies in Dane County. Michael does stress that he has limited funding to supplement these efforts and is working with various community and business groups to provide donations to support the services provided by the Resource Center.

For any questions, or to access services from the Southwest Resource Center, call Michael Bruce at 273-6622.

## Employee Spotlight: Jackie Hammond

Jackie Hammond is the Social Service Specialist in the Delinquency “Metro Intake/ West/ Memorial/Verona Ongoing” Unit located at SMO-B. *On Balance* recently interviewed Jackie:

*On Balance:* Jackie, how long have you worked for Dane County, and what positions have you held?



*Jackie Hammond*  
Social Services  
Specialist

*Jackie Hammond:* **I have worked for Dane County for six years. I was hired in April 1997 as a Communicator for the Public Safety Communications Department. I was a dispatcher at the 911 center for three years. In May 2000, I was hired for my current position as Social Service Specialist in the Delinquency Intake unit for DCDHS.**

*O.B.:* What do you enjoy most about working in Human Services?

What do you like the least? Is there anything about working here that has surprised you?

*J.H.:* **Cliché as it may sound, the most enjoyable part of my job has been the people I work with every day. I feel very fortunate to belong to a unit that is more like a second**

**family to me. I have also met so many people at our partner agencies and throughout the Department that are truly dedicated to the youth in this community and their families. My least favorite part of this job is working in a building with no windows. Things surprise me every day, but nothing**

See **Hammond**, Page 7

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# Merger Creates Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin

By **Sheri Gatts**

Last winter the Boards of Directors of Community Adolescent Programs (CAP), Inc. and Briarpatch, Inc. met several times to discuss a potential partnership between the two organizations. With assistance from United Way of Dane County, the two agencies merged on July 1, 2003 to become Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin (YSOSW) Inc.

Youth Services will continue to provide the core services of CAP and Briarpatch which are now operating as Divisions of YSOSW. The merger was completed in a manner that allowed all staff from both agencies to be retained.

In these times of dwindling financial resources, agency collaborations and mergers are ways to assure that youth and their families are getting the help they need. State and local units of government everywhere are being forced to deal with financial shortages and increased demands for services. Non-profit agencies are not immune to these same challenges. The merger of CAP and Briarpatch was a proactive response to these concerns.

The two agencies have over 50 years of combined experience working with youth and families in Dane County. The areas of expertise each agency brought to the merger are complementary. Briarpatch services emphasize prevention and early intervention. CAP focuses on employment training and job placement, on community based supervision for adjudicated youth, and on restitution services for victims of juvenile crime.

Casey Behrend, formerly the Executive Director for CAP, serves as Executive Director of YSOSW. The leadership team for the new agency includes senior managers from both the Briarpatch and CAP Divisions. The Boards of Directors of both agencies have merged to form the Board for YSOSW. According to Behrend, YSOSW "will continue to offer the high quality services currently provided by each organization, while maximizing resources and program accessibility."

Staff members from both agencies participated in transition committees to help identify areas of potential cooperation. Transition committees looked at programming,

a new mission statement and a new logo for YSOSW, and made recommendations to the leadership team. Some visual changes have already taken place, including new stationery and brochures. A combined newsletter is being planned and should be available for circulation in late September. Some internal changes, not necessarily visible to the outside world, include joint trainings and staff meetings, and cross-division hiring activities for new staff.

The merger has been a very positive change for Briarpatch and CAP. Combining staff skills and resources of both agencies has allowed YSOSW to continue to focus on providing high quality services to youth and their families throughout Dane County. The agency may look a little different from the outside, and may have a different name, but the dedication and caring are still at the heart of what they do. There is no doubt that Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin will continue in the same fine tradition of service already demonstrated by CAP and Briarpatch.

# The Changing Face of Dane County

By Neil Gleason, Dane County Human Services

Dane County's rate of population growth will remain at historically high levels due to in-migration. During the 1980's, net in-migration added 15,000 people; during the 1990's, in-migration more than doubled to 32,000.

Population growth among children will differ from the previous decade, but will continue to reflect increasing ethnic diversity.

## Young Children

After a decade of stability, the number of children age 0-4 will grow by 1.3% annually through 2010. Children age 5-9 will remain constant through 2005 and then grow slowly through 2010.

This reflects a steadily increasing number of births. After declining to less than 5,000 in the mid-1990's, births rose to 5,500 by 2000 and are expected to continue rising through 2009.

This increase is driven by rising numbers of young Hispanic, Black and Asian families.

## Dane County Live Births

Ethnicity	1990	2001
# Births	5,306	5,520
White	90.6%	78.4%
Hispanic	1.5%	7.5%
Black	4.4%	7.1%
Asian	3.1%	6.3%

Population growth among young children will be felt by the Department's programs that serve young families. Steadily increasing ethnic diversity will further emphasize the importance of cultural and language issues.

## Adolescents

The demographic pressure that swelled juvenile delinquency programs during the 1990's will greatly ease during this decade.

Explosive growth added more than 12,000 adolescents during the 1990's, but only 1,600 will be added between 2000 and 2010.

During the current decade, adolescents age 10-14 will remain relatively constant (+0.1% annually), while the number of older adolescents age 15-19 will grow very slowly (+0.4% /year).

## Ethnic Diversity

Dane County's children are more ethnically diverse than its adults. In 2000, fully 89% of adults were non-Hispanic whites compared to only 81% of children.

Future articles will explore the potential impact of these changes on the Department's programs, and examine the social and economic circumstances of Dane County's rapidly growing ethnic minority communities.

## Data Sources:

- U.S. Census, 1990 and 2000.
- Wis. DOA Demographic Services Center .
- Wis. Bureau of Health Information.
- UW Applied Population Laboratory.

## Youth Spotlight

Continued from Page 1

majored in Exercise Science and Physical Education. She graduated from North Park in 2003, and is now living back in Madison with family members.

Currently employed at Sitel Technical Services, Meti hopes to return to school next January to earn her teaching certification,

with an eye on becoming a Physical Education teacher. Judging from how successful Meti has been in achieving her goals to date, there is little doubt that she will accomplish whatever she sets her mind to. Looking back at the years she spent in "the system," Meti stated that from her perspective, foster parents who work to make their foster children feel like real mem-

bers of their families make the experience more positive for the children in their care. Meti noted that she liked having regular contact with her social workers when she was in foster care. She suggested that kids in foster care be encouraged to become foster parents themselves some day, because no one knows more about being in foster care than they do.

# Meet the Dane County Juvenile Court Judges

*Judges photos courtesy Wisconsin  
Court Information Office*

Every two years the Dane County Circuit Court judges rotate between civil, criminal, and juvenile cases. Often judges remain in one discipline for several rotations. We have been fortunate in Dane County to have an array of talented judges serving juveniles and their families over the years.

This summer, Judges Sumi, Nicks, Moeser, and Callaway left their juvenile caseloads behind and were replaced by Judges Albert, Bartell, Gaylord, and O'Brien.

The outgoing judges will continue to carry a few juvenile cases for a while, with the exception of Judge Callaway who has retired. Our thanks go out to these fine jurists who have performed so capably and tolerated our flaws with patience and equanimity.

The judges rotating into juvenile cases bring extensive experience, tremendous passion, and commitment to youth and families. You can expect them to be both demanding and understanding. Their standards will be

high, not only for those appearing before them, but for themselves as well.

On Balance recently spoke with the incoming judges about their background and goals as they begin taking on juvenile cases.

Judge Angela Bartell was born in Milwaukee and received her law degree from the UW-Madison in 1971. After spending several years in private practice she became a Circuit Court Judge in 1978.



*Judge Bartell (right), replaces  
Judge Nicks (left).*

Judge Bartell has handled family related cases her entire time on the bench. Additionally she has raised five children and now has several grandchildren.

In the early 1980's Judge Bartell was also in the juvenile rotation.

Much has changed since then, although "kids are still kids". In the short time she has been back with us in juvenile, it appears that families are now more intensely disorganized with parents generally more resistant to intervention.

The standardization of forms has made documents much easier to follow than those used 20 years ago. Judge Bartell prefers to utilize a personal approach with children and families.

She recognizes that a judge only has a limited time to directly

interact with people and attempt to make a difference. She especially finds it satisfying when she is able to assist both defendants and victims in severe abuse cases find some closure and improve their lives.

Away from the courtroom, Judge Bartell loves outdoor sports, is an avid bicycle rider in summer and skier in the winter. She also finds the time to appreciate music.

Judge John Albert was born in Madison and also received his law degree from UW-Madison, graduating in 1973. He spent his first four years as a lawyer working as a juvenile public defender along with Peter Rubin at the Legal Services Center of Dane County. He spent



*Judge Albert, (right) replaces  
Judge Sumi (left) as Chief  
Juvenile Judge.*

the next 21 years in private practice doing a wide array of legal work, including family law and as a GAL. In 1999, Judge Albert was appointed to the circuit court where he has served ever since.

See **Judges**, Page 6

# On Balance

## Judges

Continued from Page 5

He is currently the chief juvenile judge in Dane County. Judge Albert is interested in exploring a mediation technique currently being utilized in LaCrosse County called the Unified Family Mediation Court. We will likely hear more about this as time goes by.

Judge Albert also recognizes the importance of maintaining an ongoing dialogue and cross-training with DCDHS and other partners in the juvenile system. As a means of decompressing, Judge Albert enjoys fishing, golfing, listening to classic county music, and attempting to successfully accomplish the tasks on his home to-do list.

Judge O'Brien was born in Stevens Point, and also was educated at the UW-Madison. She practiced law in Madison from 1975 – 1992, covering mainly criminal and then family and juvenile cases. She served as a GAL on numerous cases until becoming a judge in 1992.

Judge O'Brien is no stranger to Juvenile Court, having started the first three years of her career as a judge in the juvenile rotation. Although it is too early to make generalizations about the changes in the intervening eight years, Judge O'Brien has, like Judge Bartell, observed that the



**Judge O'Brien**, (right) replaces **Judge Moeser** (left).

forms are much different and more helpful than in the past. She suspects that violence by young women has risen, but is hopeful that the degree of youth crime involving handguns has decreased.

Judge O'Brien believes in thorough preparation and her goal is to make the right decisions for families, although sometimes "just getting through the day" can be a challenge. Judge O'Brien has been intimately involved in the construction of the new courthouse and participates on a number of other judicial committees.

To relax Judge O'Brien is an ardent sheephead player and likes to golf. She enjoys travel especially to London where her daughter resides.

Judge Shelly Gaylord is the newest Dane County judge having been elected to replace Judge Callaway and sworn in on August 1. Judge Gaylord graduated from law school in 1980. For thirteen



years her private practice centered around family and juvenile situations. She was a GAL on a number of cases. For the past 13 years she has acted as a Municipal Court judge for Madison dealing often with juveniles accused of ordinance violations. She was involved in the creation of truancy court. Judge Gaylord believes in diligently adhering to individualized

decision-making, avoiding delays, and helping those who come before her focus on presenting the facts. She has observed that as much as things have changed over the years, much is still the same. The resources may have changed and the labels recast, but the



**Judge Gaylord**, (right) replaces **Judge Callaway** (left).

information needed to make decisions is still the same. Youth still have difficulty figuring out how to handle feelings and drugs/alcohol are as prevalent as ever. Judge Gaylord is cognizant of the need to balance the big picture with attention to details. She recognizes that biological relationships are not always as critical as who youth identify as family. Judge Gaylord finds it satisfying when people experiencing problems trust the judicial process enough to explain their situation and accept help. Getting feedback afterward that your efforts made a difference in someone's life is also gratifying. Judge Gaylord has a variety of interests outside her life at the City-County Building. She enjoys spending time with her partner and three children. She also loves the outdoors, reading, playing piano, and watching movies.

# Delinquency Services Awarded Project Safe Neighborhood Grant

In April of this year DCDHS staff met with DC Sheriff's Office staff to explore the possibility of Dane County Department of Human Services applying for funding under the federal Project Safe Neighborhoods program, which is a "comprehensive, strategic approach to reducing gun violence in America." Each member of the group was given a direction to move in, and data was quickly collected and pulled together.

The group learned that Wisconsin's rates of firearm suicides and homicides are lower than the national averages, and that Dane County's rates are even lower than the state averages. Chicago's rates, on the other hand, are significantly higher than both

Illinois' rates and the national averages. The influence of migration from Chicago to Madison / Dane County can be seen in both the Juvenile and Adult Correctional systems. Nearly 1/3 of the youths committed to Juvenile Corrections by the Dane County Juvenile Courts identify Chicago - Cook County area as their place of birth. Nearly 20% of adults booked into the Dane County Jail in 2002 were born in Chicago. This data was incorporated into the Department's grant proposal.

The project proposed by DCDHS Delinquency Services - DC SAFETY (Dane County - Strategic Action on Firearms through Education Targeted to Youth) - is both a prevention program and an intervention pro-

gram. Prevention efforts include school presentations for third to eighth graders throughout the county, a county-wide gun trigger lock give-away program, and a DC SAFETY sponsored art / multimedia contest. The intervention aspects of DC SAFETY include structured groups for youth charged with handgun or firearm offenses, as well as one-to-one contact with youth by the project's Youth Gang Squad Worker. The Department recently received notification from the State of Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance that DC SAFETY has been approved as a two-year program. It is expected to be up and running starting in October 2003.

## Hammond

Continued from Page 2

**ing outstandingly shocking yet.**

*O.B.:* Do you have any hobbies or activities that you enjoy away from work?

***J.H.:* Spending time with family and friends will always top my list. But I also enjoy reading, swimming, playing cards and board games, photography and traveling to warm destinations.**

**Currently I am juggling landscaping and decorating projects at our new house.**

*O.B.:* Any long-term goals related to your Social Service Specialist position?

***J.H.:* I would like to take some additional Conversational Spanish classes. My only other goal is to remain in the delinquency intake unit and continue to work on all the special projects that seem to come my**

way.

*O.B.:* Anything else you'd like people to know about you?

***J.H.:* My husband and I are expecting a child in July. We have one wonderful son, Andrew, who will start 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in McFarland this year.**

On July 19, 2003 Jackie and Rick Hammond became the proud parents of Alaina Jane.

# Subculture Corner

## **The Dane County Youth Gang and Subculture Prevention Task Force**

By **Stephen Blue**

The Sub-Culture Corner will be a new feature for On Balance. Since its inception in 1990 the Dane County Youth Gang and Sub-Culture Prevention Task Force has felt it was important to provide the Dane County Community with information, trends, successful intervention strategies and coordination relating to sub-culture activity.

In addition to our annual Youth Gang and Sub-Culture Conference, which continues to be a highly anticipated event, and our monthly Trends meeting, chaired by Kathy Sorensen of Project Huggs, the Sub-Culture Corner will be yet another way to share information with system professionals.

For more information about the Dane County Youth Gang and Sub-Culture Prevention Task Force, or if you have any questions about the Sub-Culture Corner, contact co-chairs Stephen Blue or Kathy Sorensen.

## **Block Burner Nation: (BBN)**

By **Officer Susan Carnell**  
Madison Police Department

Block Burner Nation (BBN) began as an informal group of girls in the summer of 2001. They were brought together by an older teen in the Darbo area. Their original purpose was to form a competitive dance group.

East High School became aware of this group of girls in the fall of 2001. It is likely that the group began during middle school. Middle school staff during the 2001 school year provided school police liaison officers with information that the recently graduated 8th graders and the new class of 8th graders that year had been difficult to deal with due to disciplinary issues pertaining to disturbances and physical fights.

The members at the time (2001) did not exceed the age of

15. However, during the 2002-2003 school year, at least two of the members were 17 years of age. Some were still in 8th grade and most were freshmen at Madison East, and one member each at both Madison West and Lafollette High Schools.

There is a core group that has been identified as instigating many of the fights and disturbances that have occurred throughout the 2002- 2003 school year

The Block Burners operate as a gang in that there is an internal hierarchy, the group does have regular membership/business meetings, and the group has definitely shown its willingness to be violent. The group does have its own greeting in the form of an elaborate handshake and on some personal clothing, such as jackets, the letters "BBN" (Block Burner

Nation) are written on in silver metallic markers.

It appears that the main motivation of this group has been to threaten, harass and intimidate those they do not like. Once an individual has become a Block Burner "target" that individual is threatened with acts of physical violence or verbal harassment. An "enemy" of one group member becomes an "enemy" to every member and all will participate in the harassment or even act as a decoy to set that individual up, by acting like a friend, and inviting that person to a location, only to have members arrive to confront or batter the individual.

At the end of the 2002-2003 school year, several members of the Block Burners were charged with

See **Block Burner**, Page 9



## Franks Heading Disproportionate Minority Confinement Initiative

Since July, 2003, Assistant District Attorney Barbara Franks has taken a leave from her job duties to coordinate Dane County's efforts to address the issue of the over-representation of ethnic minority juveniles in the justice system. The initiative is referred to as Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC).

Attorney Franks' role in this initiative is to provide support and leadership to the DMC Oversight Board comprised of the court system, juvenile justice professionals, educational administrators, community stakeholders, parents and youth. This diverse group of

committed individuals brings considerable knowledge and expertise to bear on this complex issue.

The DMC initiative has two primary goals:

1. To identify factors, policies and procedures that may contribute to this phenomena, and to develop a plan of action and timetable to address this issue; and
2. To implement strategies designed to enhance the effectiveness of the juvenile justice system



*Barbara Franks coordinates DMC initiative.*

and to promote public safety by capitalizing on the strengths of families, schools and communities.

Attorney Barbara Franks has lived in the Madison area since graduation from UW-Platteville in 1971. She has worked in a variety of criminal/juvenile justice capacities including criminal/juvenile prosecution since 1988, state criminal and juvenile justice planning for 12 years, and as an Offender Outreach Worker with the Madison Urban League. Attorney Franks currently serves on the Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission.

### Block Burner

Continued from Page 8

residential burglary or party to a crime of burglary and criminal damage to property. This stemmed from a school year dispute with a young woman the gang had conflict with. Apparently, the gang went to the home of this young woman's best friend, and broke down the door in an attempt to confront this young woman and perhaps batter her. Fortunately, the young woman was not at her friend's home. Unfortunately, her friend was home, and a member of the gang, after

entering the house, found the girl huddled in her closet. She was on the phone after having called 911 about the break-in. She later reported that she was initially too terrified to report this immediately to police due to threats and intimidation. But after a month, with support from school and police, she found the courage to do so.

When school staff or Police confronts a Block Burner regarding their behavior, the member reports that they are no longer involved in the gang and/or repent and advises that they would no longer involve

themselves in such behavior toward the victim. Afterwards (sometimes as little as 5 minutes later) they are speaking to other members and invariably the victim is more intently harassed or beaten.

Originally, the Block Burner gang was thought to be an affiliation of the Gangster Disciples. Although some of the girls have older brothers or friends who claim membership in the GD's, the Block Burners are a blossoming stand-alone girl gang, whose members claim affiliation with both GD and Vice Lord members.