



# On Balance

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

February 2011  
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## MMSD Offers New Disciplinary Alternative: Phoenix Program

By Dennis Whitish

Madison Public Schools now has an abeyance program for some students who have been recommended for expulsion. The Phoenix Program, which began last fall, provides educational and social emotional opportunities to students who choose to participate in the program instead of going to an expulsion hearing and being expelled.

A regular education student may be offered the Phoenix Program option after an Assistant Superintendent approves the Recommendation for Expulsion. A special education student may be offered the Phoenix Program option after an Assistant Superintendent approves the Recommendation for Expulsion and if it is determined that the behavior in question is not a manifestation of the student's disability.

The Phoenix Program is not available to students Recommended for Expulsion based on:

- Aggravated Sexual Assault
- Possession of a Firearm
- Possession of Any Weapon combined with Any Threat to Use, Attempt to Use or Actual Use to Cause Harm.
- Possession of a Bomb or Other Significant Explosive Device combined with the Actual or Attempted Detonation of Bomb/Device.

The District may also choose not to offer the Phoenix Program option under other circumstances such as extremely violent behavior or certain drug transactions.

Once an Assistant Superintendent offers the Phoenix Program, the

student and family meet with Nancy Yoder, Director of Innovative Programs, to review the student's options including the Phoenix Program or continuing with the Expulsion Process. The Director reviews program expectations regarding attendance, achievement and behavior, and other requirements relating to the code of conduct. If the student and family wish to enter into the Phoenix Program, the family must sign a participation agreement outlining program expectations. So long as the student meets these expectations, the Expulsion Process will be on hold. If the student fails to meet these expectations, the Expulsion Process will proceed.

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### SAVE THE DATE

2010 Dane County Juvenile Court Awards (see p. 14)  
 April 14, 2011 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
 Goodman Community Center  
 For more info, call 283-2925 or e-mail:  
[bauman.john@countyofdane.com](mailto:bauman.john@countyofdane.com)

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)

# On Balance



## Spotlight on Staff – Jay Kiefer

*By Andre Johnson, Neighborhood Intervention Program*

*On Balance:* Jay, tell us how you came to Madison.

*Jay:* I grew up in Freeport, IL, home of the “Mighty Pretzels.” After graduating from high school, I attended Western Illinois University (Leathernecks). My educational choices had as much to do about the school nickname as the education I received. I completed an internship at the Youth Restitution Program and when I graduated from WIU in 1986, and I moved to Madison permanently.

*On Balance:* What job experiences have you had since you came to Madison?

*Jay:* After my internship at Youth Restitution Program, I took a job at Sojourn House group home. I worked there for two years until 1988 when I left for a job at Community Adolescent Programs (CAP). CAP is now part of Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin (YSOSW). I have remained at YSOSW for the last 22 years. In that time I have held several jobs (Work Team Coordinator, YRP Counselor, Coordinator of the Madison Street Team, Youth Conservation Corp and Madison Service Corp, Partners In Youth Employment Coordinator, Youth Restitution/Intensive Supervision Program Coordinator to name a few).

*On Balance:* What kind of work do you do now?

*Jay:* Professionally I am the Program Director for Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin (YSOSW). YSOSW was founded in 1971 and was formed through the merger of Briarpatch and Community Adolescent Programs on



*Jay Kiefer*

July 1, 2003. Project Hugs joined the agency on January 1, 2009. With the support of over 75 volunteers and an incredible staff, we provide services to approximately 2,000 at-risk and court-involved youth every year.

On a personal note, I serve on several boards in my home community of Cottage Grove as well as my faith community. I also serve as a volunteer coach for my daughter’s soccer and basketball teams and am involved as a parent volunteer with the Red Hawk Brigade at Glacial Drumlin school that works on issues related

to diversity and inclusiveness in the MG School District.

*On Balance:* What are some things that you are most proud of?

*Jay:* I would have to say the people that I have had an opportunity to work with over the years. I have had the pleasure of working with some outstanding people in my life. They have taught me and allowed me to learn, grow and become a better person. Many of those people are still at YSOSW, but co-workers who have left the agency have meant a great deal to me and are doing some very impressive things as well. Also, I appreciate being able to work in an agency that allows our youth to be part of the solution. It is awesome to hear what our youth have to say and we can implement their ideas into our services.

*On Balance:* So Jay, What do you like to do in your free time?

*Jay:* I have already mentioned some of the things that I do that include my faith and home community. In addition, my family, both immediate and extended, is where I spend much of my free time. I really enjoy the opportunity to coach my daughter and her friends in basketball and soccer. I am a Packer fan and fortunately/unfortunately I am a Die Hard Cubs

**See Kiefer, Page 8**

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## For Wisconsin's Children

### NEW ASSESSMENT TOOL TO DETERMINE LEVELS OF CARE

By Marykay Wills, CYF Manager-MH & Alt Care

Effective January 1st, the State of Wisconsin instituted an emergency administrative rule, Foster Care and Kinship Care, DCF 56 and 58. Revisions to State Administrative Rules are not generally considered “*breaking news*” but in this case, the rule will significantly impact Wisconsin’s child welfare placement processes (*and can also be used as effective treatment for insomniacs*). This emergency rule brings together rule changes initiated in 2010 (*the creation of Level 1 court ordered relative foster care*) with the remainder of the state’s vision to create a categorized level system for out of home placements.

#### Why create a Level System of Care?

According to the WI Department of Children and Families, the new rule and the Levels of Care initiative are needed for Wisconsin to meet federal standards to have a uniform methodology to determine and document out of home placement decisions for children. (*Apparently not all of Wisconsin’s 72 counties make placement decisions in the same manner.*) This initiative also categorizes services provided by group homes and residential care settings.

#### Levels of Care Categories

Level 1 - Court Ordered Kinship Care

Level 2 - Standard Licensed County Foster Home

Level 3 - Moderate Treatment Level Foster Care and Basic Group Home Care

Level 4 - Specialized Treatment Foster Care and Moderate Group Home Care

Level 5 - Staffed Foster Homes (exceptional) and Moderate Level RCC Care

Level 6 - Highest Level RCC Care (specialized)

#### **Determining Levels of Need**

Administrative Rules are governance tools – not scoring instruments. The new rule doesn’t *determine* a child’s level of need but rather suggests that a validated and reliable tool be utilized to accomplish this task. Wisconsin’s selected tool is the *Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS)*. The CANS is a valid and reliable functional assessment tool designed to review the current functioning of children and youth. (There are two tools - one for young children and another for older children and teens).

See Assessment Tool, Page 8

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

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# On Balance

## UPDATES: Division of Juvenile Corrections

*By Rhonda Voigt*

**Close Ethan Allen School or Lincoln Hills School?** Governor Scott Walker will likely make this decision early this year. In the meantime, Governor Walker has announced his appointment of Gary Hamblin to the post of Secretary of the Department Of Corrections. We all remember Mr. Hamblin as our former Dane County Sheriff.

**SPRITE** – This program is “on hold.” There has not been a SPRITE session since last March. The future of this program is yet to be determined.

**Southern Oaks Girls School (SOGS)** – Last November Suzanne Boeke became the new Superintendent of Southern Oaks Girls School, replacing Jane Dier-Zimmel. Many will know Ms. Boeke from her position as the Northwest Regional Chief in the Division of Juvenile Corrections (since October 2005) and as the Juvenile Corrections Field Supervisor at the Northwest Regional Office before that. Sue also has previous work experience at Southern Oaks (Deputy Superintendent), as a Juvenile Probation & Parole Agent in Dane County, at Ethan Allen School (Social Worker) and with the Iowa Department of Corrections. Although we will miss Sue’s direct involvement with various committees and meetings in Dane County, she continues her dedication to working with incarcerated juveniles with her new appointment. Best wishes, Sue!

**Northwest Regional Office** – Probation & Parole Agent Lonnie Morgan was the sole Dane County agent for an extended period in 2010, resulting in temporary coverage by agents in other areas of the state. Last July, Agent Morgan was joined by Genoveva Calderon, who transferred from the Adult DOC Community Corrections system to the Division of Juvenile Corrections Northwest Regional Office. Veva started working for the WI Department of Corrections in 1998. She worked in the Williamson Street office and also managed Seton House in Madison. Lonnie & Veva were joined by LTE Probation & Parole Agent Brandon Saunders in December. A licensed attorney in the State of IL, Brandon has previous experience with WI DOC at the Electronic Monitoring Center. While continuing his search for an attorney position, Brandon will be working with Dane County area youth.

### **Phoenix**

Continued from Page 1

The Phoenix Program is located at the Doyle Administration Building. Online curriculum is provided as well as transitions between schools, assessments, social emotional curriculum, and services related to the behavior that led to the Recommendation for Expulsion. Students attend the program for three hours each day, either morning from 8:30–11:30 or afternoons from 12:30–3:30. After being successful both academically and socially for approximately one semester, the student returns to his home school. Students who are not successful, depending upon the situation, either go through the regular Expulsion Process or remain in the Phoenix Program for an additional semester.

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

*ON BALANCE catches up with ....*

*Kathy Sorenson*



*Kathy Sorenson*

**You worked with youth and families for a long time. Please give us a brief history of your career.** In 1983, two friends and myself went to Madison East High School's principal, Milt McPike, with an idea about helping parents intervene on their teen's alcohol and other drug use. Milt thought it was a great idea, named us Project HUGS and gave me an office at East. Even though I was housed at EHS, I worked with parents from all over the county. (After Milt retired, I moved my office to La Follette High School.) After 10 years of strictly AOD intervention work, the strong correlation between subculture involvement and AOD use became more and more apparent. That involvement was in most cases a major roadblock to both AOD and mental health intervention/treatment. Thus I became active in subculture intervention also.

**Looking back over your career, are there any achievements that stand out? Of what are you most proud?** Gandhi said; "Be the change you wish to see in the world." I tried to "live" by that, focusing on bridging relationships between parents and systems/resources. Having Milt McPike as my friend and mentor pointed me in the best directions possible to accomplish that goal. Helping my friend Stephen Blue build the Dane

County Youth Gang Prevention Task Force will always be something I will be most proud of. I chaired the Task Force's "Community Trends Committee" monthly meeting for years; working with area law enforcement helped open more doors for parents. It was through that group that I met another dear friend, Det. George Chavez. I am very proud of the work that George and I were able to accomplish together.

**Is there anything you miss from your work with families and kids?** Besides working with all of you????!! I miss working in a high school setting, seeing and working with teens every day. Many of my "HUGS" kids are now raising kids of their own...I still hear from many of them on a regular basis and feel so lucky to still have that contact. But I still miss the "cutting edge"...I always was an adrenaline junkie ☺!!

**What are you doing now? How do you spend your time?** I retired in 2006 and now work part time as a "barista" in a coffee shop in Lodi, Wisconsin...(still using my crisis intervention skills on occasion when a customer hasn't had their espresso for the day yet!!!) We live on Crystal Lake between Sauk City and Lodi and the flooding has been awful for the last 2 years. My husband Bill is retired now also after a successful fight with cancer. He keeps busy running pumps 24/7 trying to keep us dry...yes, even in winter. We spend as much time as possible with our grandchildren. I don't feel old until I think about the fact that I live with a grandpa!!!

**Is there anything else you want to comment on that I haven't asked you?** Take care of yourselves. You work every day taking care of the needs of others...it is all too easy to put your own needs on hold...Don't'!!! We need you!!! You make an incredible difference every day. Thank you for doing what you do.

## THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN’

*By David Thorson*

There will be a very different face for several of the traditional delinquency services effective January 15, 2011. Dane County Human Services no longer contracts with some providers who have served youth in Dane County for many years. These include Bockari House, Network, and UW-AADAIP.

Bockari House provided short-term placement for youth in transition for over two decades. Their placement numbers decreased in recent years, such that it became impossible fiscally for Human Services to guarantee payment for their beds, regardless of how many kids were actually there. Unfortunately, a bed-by-bed contract was determined by Bockari management to be unworkable, so as of December 31, 2010, they closed their doors. Although there remains a possibility of reopening in a modified capacity, the reality is that for now social workers have only one resource for transitioning youth – that being the Dane County Juvenile Shelter. This will undoubtedly present some problems at times. Systemically, there has consistently been a need for more space for boys than girls. Shelter is looking at trying to alter their building so they can increase the number of boys they can take (currently they can take 8 boys and 8 girls). Hopefully this will alleviate concerns about lack of bed space in emergency situations. Additionally, Bockari had served as a useful alternative to Shelter. It was a smaller facility, which suited some kids better, plus could be used for

short-term voluntary respite. It was also a good option for kids who were either running out of time at Shelter, or who weren’t a good match for Shelter due to behavioral issues, concerns about them not fitting in with the Shelter population, or needing to keep co-defendants or victim/offenders separated. Efforts to explore additional resources for this population are ongoing.

DCDHS contracted with Network for many years to supply outpatient AODA treatment for older youth, including group treatment, individual therapy, and family counseling. Network staff would pick up youth at their school and transport them to their facility in the afternoon for treatment. AODA day treatment services is now provided by UW-AADAIP (University of Wisconsin – Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Assessment and Intervention Program). That program is titled Multidimensional Family Therapy, or MDFT. MDFT is administered separately from the AODA assessment function at UW-AADAIP. The program is evidence-based, culturally sensitive, and developmentally appropriate for the 11-18 year old target group.

The goal of MDFT is to help adolescents improve relationships with family and peers, make healthier choices, and promote recovery. Parents are given assistance on how to communicate more effectively with their children, establish reasonable limits, and respond/intervene more successfully when necessary. Youth involved

with this program typically have behavioral and other issues besides their alcohol/drug use. These include disrespect, aggressive behavior, school problems, and mental health concerns such as depression and anxiety. MDFT provides weekly family therapy, individual sessions with youth, individual sessions with parents, consultation with schools, coordination with other systems (such as court, Human Services, etc.), and individualized case management. Clinicians from MDFT meet with kids and families on average 2-3 times per week initially and spend an average of 5-8 hours per week on that youth/family in total. Treatment length is usually between 3-4 months. This is a fairly substantial time commitment, but ultimately they should be able to serve more youth than Network was able to. Most sessions are held at the UW-AADAIP office, but they do have the capacity to work in the family home if necessary. To make a referral, contact UW-AADAIP at (608) 262-1111.

As much as we will miss both the staff and the resources that Bockari and Network provided, the system must move forward and we will embrace the possibilities and challenges that come with changing the way we have done business for a long time. As a wise troubadour once sang, “You better start swimming or you’ll sink like a stone.” Hopefully and ultimately it is anticipated that youth and families will be well served by the new system.



## Agency Spotlight

### Common Wealth Development Provides Positive Youth Opportunities

*By Sheri Gatts*

The Common Wealth Development (CWD) neighborhood stretches from the corner of East Washington and Blair St. down to E. Washington and First St. The boundary runs along Lake Monona, up Dunning St. and down Atwood Ave. The organization was originally created in 1979 when the neighborhood realized there was a need to preserve the diversity and vitality of this up and coming neighborhood. They continue to be dedicated to promoting community and economic development throughout Madison and Dane County.

This non-profit agency has been helping teens take steps toward economic success since 1991. Their goal is to create opportunities for youth to develop and apply employment and financial skills and explore post-secondary education. Youth participants, aged 14 to 16, build a host of life skills ranging from prioritizing to problem solving. Their award-winning programs provide teens with employment and financial education, college access awareness, job placements, mentoring, and matched savings accounts.

Tariq Pasha Saqqaf, Youth Programs Director, has been with the organization since 2003. He explains that they “help youth open doors to be able to call the shots in their own futures.” They use employment, college access, and financial education as a vehicle for youth to achieve that goal.

There are currently five staff and two AmeriCorps workers in the Youth Development Program. They work with youth who are most in need due to their financial situation, family issues, or involvement in the juvenile justice system. Referrals come from schools, social workers, family members or other agencies serving youth. They “need to be motivated to participate in the program. We are able to provide services to only about one-third of the youth who apply.”

Dane County, the City of Madison, Community Shares, and private donations provide funding for youth employment programming. The money is well spent. Despite the current economic recession, 90% (198 of 220) of Common Wealth’s participants over the past two years successfully completed a three-week training and 88% (174 of 220) went on to be placed in part-time jobs by Common Wealth’s staff.



**See Common Wealth, Page 11**

*Laura Randall, Tatek Assefa, Kate Weis, Becky Redelings, Tariq Pasha Saqqaf, Aronn Peterson*

# On Balance

## Kiefer

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fan. I enjoy fishing, golfing, softball and pretty much anything outdoors. But most of all spending time with friends and family. Time with my lovely wife, Michele, and my 10-year-old daughter, Olivia, is very special to me.

*On Balance:* How have you seen Dane County change? What are the challenges we are facing?

*Jay:* Since I began working at YSOSW in 1988, I have seen a significant increase in the number of gang-involved youth in Dane County. In both rural and urban communities, the Disproportionate Minority Contact problem has increased. For providers of human services, this has meant a larger number of youth of color receiving services. When I started at my agency, youth of color made up roughly 20% of our client population. Today, youth of color represent over 50% of our client population. With these changes, it is important for agencies and staff to provide services that are respectful of each client's individual and cultural identity.

*On Balance:* Jay, are there areas that we need to work on or innovative things you see happening in Dane County?

*Jay:* I think we need to continue to challenge our system and not just accept the status quo. We need to be open and accepting of change. We need to examine how we do business and embrace new ways, including technology, to engage youth. That being said, I think Dane County has a lot of good resources and services. We need to continue to find ways to collaborate. I'm excited to have been part of one such collaboration with the merger of Briarpatch and CAP into Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin.

*On Balance:* Any final Thoughts?

*Jay:* I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with some amazing people, both within my agency and within the juvenile justice system and our community as a whole. The creativity of others and their willingness to make a difference has been a consistent part of my work life since I've been in Dane County. I appreciate the fact that there are always new challenges to tackle, and I can honestly say that I have never been bored with my job. Again, I feel blessed to work with so many great people and collaborating agencies that do their best every day to have an impact on the youth and families that they serve. Conversely, I appreciate the resiliency shown by our youth and their families and the decisions and transformations they make. I try to live by the philosophy "Each One Teach One". If we can make this investment and "pay it forward," our community and our future (the kids) will be just fine.

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## Assessment Tool

Continued from Page 3

The CANS is used in multiple child serving settings in both the US and internationally and is currently being used for child welfare/placement purposes in 14 other states. Its claim to fame is that it has moved children who were in more restrictive levels of care (mostly RCCs) to less restrictive levels. CANS author John Lyons is widely published and has

presented internationally on both the tool and the algorithms he has developed to determine placement levels.

In preparation for implementation at the end of February, more than 75 county Human Services and Community Partnership social workers are being trained in the use of this tool. By the end of the year, all children in

out of home care will have a completed CANS. Only time will tell if this tool changes our placement practices and lives up to its reputation as an easy to use case-planning instrument.



# On Balance

## Youth in our Community: Are We Helping, Hurting or Just Getting in the Way?

*By John Bauman*

When youth are involved in conflicts in or out of the home, there are many possible responses from the family, the community and various formal and informal systems. When working, our responses quickly correct this youth's path by addressing the underlying factors leading to this conflict. When the systems do not or cannot work together, the youth's problems grow worse and the conflicts become more dangerous.

On November 5, 2010, the Dane County Children's Council and United Way sponsored a Juvenile Delinquency Summit at the United Way. The Council is a brainchild of Judge Shelley Gaylord and consists of representatives from the juvenile delinquency and CHIPS systems. The mission of the Council is to create opportunities for system partners to review, discuss and ultimately change any areas of the delinquency and CHIPS systems that may be necessary in order to benefit the youth of the community.

The Council determined that the first step in the process should be to examine the current system and the summit was the method to do so. Representatives from school districts, mental/behavioral health care providers, judges/commissioners, juvenile court, social workers, social service agencies, law enforcement and others attended the all day summit. Groups explored the limitations, challenges and possibilities of our system's response to youth heading down the wrong path through a case study process. Some of the questions asked were: Are the current responses effective? Are we making good decisions? What do we not know about how other groups/agencies can help? How can we produce better outcomes for youth?

The groups read through a scenario that described a case which involved both CHIPS and delinquency issues and then discussed the different points of intervention that occurred and who the participants were in the life of the youth and family. Groups then plotted the interventions on a map and determined where the systems "broke down" for the youth and family by not helping prevent deeper involvement in the system. All participants in the process rotated through each area of the system so they could learn more about the different perspectives of each represented group.

Participants also charted the types of data available in the juvenile system to create a list of the variety of data sources that already exist. The day concluded with participants choosing to join a discussion on how to bridge any gaps or make improvements in either Early Intervention, Cultural Competency or Communication related areas in the system. This information will be used to help guide future discussion and decision-making.

The Dane County Children's Council will be analyzing information from the summit at future meetings and will begin to plan for the next steps. If you are interested in participating in this exciting process, please contact Judge Gaylord at 266-4321 or John Bauman at 283-2925 to discuss the initiative.



*Judge Shelley Gaylord*

# On Balance

## *Juvenile Delinquency Summit November 5, 2010*



## *Juvenile Delinquency Summit November 5, 2010*



### **Common Wealth**

Continued from Page 7

When asked what he likes the most about his job, Tariq replied, “The world of youth employment is an amazing place. It’s an incredible privilege to bring young people into a world that we can make so much larger than they expect.

Employment provides a catalyst to their development so that they learn traits like patience and perseverance at a much accelerated rate.” After watching many young people succeed in the program, Tariq hopes that the community “will continue to be committed to engaging our youth positively.”

CWD also works in other arenas in the community. They support the success of small start-up and expanding companies at their business incubators located in the heart of the vibrant near-eastside. The Madison Enterprise Center and Main Street Industries offer small

businesses an exciting entrepreneurial community, affordable rent, shared services and access to a loan fund.

They offer business, studio and gallery space for local artists. Their business incubators support the success of art businesses such as Renee Glass Factory and Radiant Glass. The Foundry, located on the 3rd floor of the historic Madison Enterprise Center, includes 6 artist studios and the Common Wealth Gallery. The Garver Arts Incubator, currently in development, will create a dynamic arts facility that will include art studios, an art gallery, performance space, a cafe, workshop space and a gift shop. The incubator will be located in the historic Garver Feed Mill on Madison’s east side behind Olbrich Gardens.

Common Wealth also provides affordable rental housing for low to moderate-income households through the ownership and management of apartments throughout the Williamson-Marquette neighborhood. Apartment sizes range from studios to 3-bedrooms.

Youth who participate in the job skills program can continue to be connected to the organization as adults through these other great opportunities. Imagine being a 15-year-old looking for a job, and learning that this amazing organization is prepared to help you navigate life into and throughout adulthood. What a wonderful resource for our community!

(Portions of this article are taken from the CWD website: [www.cwd.org](http://www.cwd.org).)

## Subculture Corner

*Stephen Blue – Co-Chair*

*Dane County Youth Gang Prevention Task Force*

**Big Props** to Madison Police (Gang Squad) Sergeant, Amy Schwartz and Luis Yudice, MMSD for bringing together a group of community organizations and key individuals for a gang mediation between the members of the Mexican Brown Pride and C-14.

Recent street level intelligence revealed growing tension and escalation of conflict between these groups of kids. Over three nights, the kids and their parents were brought together to resolve the issue. The conclusion of the three nights of mediation produced a signed agreement.

The working cooperation between the agencies involved was key in the resolution. Hats off to the staffs of MPD, DCNIP and Centro Hispano. Not one of the agencies involved could have completed this mediation successfully alone. In the future, collaboration will be necessary to meet our community's ongoing youth gang issues.

## Introducing Randy Molina, Dane County Neighborhood Intervention Program Leader

*By Andre Johnson, NIP*



*Randy Molina, DCNIP*

Randy Molina is the youngest of three boys, born and raised in the small Hispanic community of South Gate on the southeast side of Los Angeles. Both of his parents emigrated from a small town in northern Mexico to the U.S. where they hoped to find a more prosperous life for their family. They worked hard

to raise their boys amid the turmoil and negative influences of the streets on L.A.'s southeast side.

Athletics was a great support for the family and Randy took to baseball at a very early age. With guidance from his father, he excelled not only on the baseball field but in the classroom as well where he was an Honor Roll student throughout grade school. A major motivation for his success was athletics, which eventually led him to the halls of Stanford University via an athletic scholarship. While at Stanford, he was an All Pac-10 first baseman on their nationally ranked baseball team as well as a member of the Madison Mallards summer team for three years. Randy worked hard on and off the field, graduating with a Bachelors in Political Science in 2008. Following college, Randy played professional baseball after being drafted by the Seattle Mariners. All along, Randy was sharing his story with youth from his neighborhood back in

Los Angeles whenever he returned home attempting to motivate them to aim higher and set goals.

After professional baseball and a brief stint as a coach, Randy found an opportunity with the Dane County Neighborhood Intervention Program to help youth in the community who come from backgrounds similar to his own. With his life experiences and desire to help at-risk youth, he aims to help kids and their families see that through hard work they can achieve more. Randy also hopes to start youth baseball teams in Madison so he can pass on his passion for baseball and hopefully lead the kids down a path like the one he took.

# On Balance

## History Behind Saggy Pants

By Aaron Perry, DCNIP

Over the past 5 years, Saggy Pants have taken on an identity of its own. Although many states have targeted this trend, very few Lawmakers and even the youth themselves are aware of the history behind this style of dress. As a DCNIP group facilitator, it is my responsibility to educate young men of color that the saggy style originated in prisons. Many prison inmates who were issued pants that were too big had to “let ‘em hang” because in prison no belts were allowed. This style was continued by men, especially African-American and Latino men (and especially gang members), who continued to wear their pants saggin’ upon release as a proud announcement that they had served time. Thus the style came to be associated with being a “hardened” criminal or at least a “hard” gangster on the street.



As a group facilitator, I encourage teens and young adults to appreciate self-expression and generation identification, but is also my responsibility to steer them away from the profound part of a movement that’s about materialism through illegal means, violence and anti-intellectualism.

This past month, myself and Toki Social Worker Bob Howard addressed this subject with the youth and educated them on the history of Saggy Pants. What emerged from this group meeting was a positive self image day in which young men of color dressed in a manner that was more of a representation of who they are. This photo represents the true character of the young men we work with.

Many of the young men stated that wearing a shirt and tie made them feel respected, and therefore, they needed to be respectful.



### Gang Quiz

1. Jerome Freeman is the leader of the Chicago based Black Disciples Gang. What is the name his followers call him?
  - A. The chairman
  - B. King David
  - C. The main man
  - D. King Shorty
2. What Chicago based gang is also known as the “New Breed”?
  - A. Black Disciples (BD’s)
  - B. Gangster Disciples (GD’s)
  - C. Black Gangsters (BG’s)
  - D. Black Gangster Disciples (BGD’s)
3. Which of the Hispanic Gangs ride under the “people nation” banner?
  - A. Satan Disciples
  - B. Latin Kings
  - C. Spanish Cobras
  - D. Maniac Latin Disciples

1. D 2. C 3. B



## **SAVE THE DATE-April 14, 2011 6-8 p.m.** **SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2010** **JUVENILE COURT RECOGNITION AWARDS**

Nominations are being solicited for the 2010 Juvenile Court Recognition awards. Nominations are due **by March 4, 2011.**

Nominations may be made in several categories (You do not need to specify a category if you are unsure):

- ***The Peter Rubin Award*** in recognition of someone who has made significant contributions to youth (in and out of the juvenile justice system), particularly recognizing many years of service and dedication “above and beyond” the job.
- ***The Ervin Bruner Award*** in recognition of an individual who has made significant contributions over many years to the lives of families/youth through their professional work in the juvenile justice system.

- ***The George Northrup Award*** in recognition of an individual who has overcome adversity and/or demonstrates a commitment to persevere in improving the lives of youth and families despite difficult circumstances.
- ***Outstanding Service Awards*** to individuals (youth, parent(s), citizens) or groups for significant contributions to the lives of youth and families as a result of special projects or activities.
- ***Outstanding Achievement Awards*** to youth who demonstrate strengths and abilities to overcome obstacles and give back to the community through their achievements.

For more information or a nomination form, see last page of this newsletter or contact:

**John Bauman, Dane County**  
**Juvenile Court Program**  
283-2925 or e-mail:  
[bauman.john@countyofdane.com](mailto:bauman.john@countyofdane.com)

You can use the form (but are not required to). If not using the form you can simply use a blank sheet of paper (or e-mail) information including the name(s) of the person(s) being nominated, the category (or multiple categories) for nomination, a statement of reasons for the nomination and your contact information. Recipients will be recognized at the thirteenth Annual Juvenile Court Awards ceremony on Thursday, April 14, 2011 from 6-8 p.m. at the Goodman Community Center. Registration information, directions and other information will follow in the next two months.

Recipients and one guest each will receive complimentary meals at the event. The people who nominate the youth recipients will also receive this complimentary meal.

# On Balance

# 2010 DANE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT RECOGNITION AWARDS

## NOMINATION FORM

Name of Individual(s)/Organization(s) Nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

If an Organization, list primary contact/agency administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

Category for Nomination (Indicate any/all that apply):

George Northrup Award       Peter Rubin Award       Ervin Bruner Award

Outstanding Service       Outstanding Achievement

Describe why you believe this person should be recognized for their contributions and/or achievements. Remember, individuals on the screening committee may not know the individual involved, so provide as much information as possible (insert information, use reverse side and/or attach additional sheets as may be necessary).

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

It may be necessary to obtain additional information from you, so please include your name and where/how you can be reached. Send to: John Bauman, Dane Co. Juvenile Court Program, 210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd Room 200, Madison, WI. 53703, FAX: 267-4160 or e-mail: [bauman.john@countyofdane.com](mailto:bauman.john@countyofdane.com).

**NOMINATIONS DUE BY: March 4, 2011**