



# On Balance

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

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## Mental Health Access and Services in Dane County

by

**Andy Heidt, Ombudsman, DCDHS**

**Marykay Wills, Mental Health and Alternate Care Manager, DCDHS**

*Mental health access is a difficult conundrum. This is as true for adolescents and their families as it is for any population in Dane County. Accessing timely and appropriate treatment can be an even greater challenge for poor and working class families. So how does one find affordable therapy and psychiatry in Dane County? The easiest way is to "follow the money," meaning use the path dictated by your insurance coverage.*

*As Ombudsman, Andy encounters daily questions/challenges regarding consumer access to reasonably affordable health care. As a Children, Youth & Family contract manager, Marykay looks to purchase mental health services to help meet consumer demand for treatment and garner access to less traditional services. In this article, Andy gives his perspective about the best ways to access treatment via private insurance, Medical Assistance (MA) and Badger Care and for the uninsured. Marykay expands upon access issues and discusses county contracted services and other related community referrals.*

With so-called mental health parity being the law of the land, there is, in theory, unlimited access to medically necessary services. It's true, insurance companies have expanded visits, but commercial co-pays are in the \$60 dollar range

for a session, effectively making mental health services less accessible than before the law when therapy sessions were limited. Minors often qualify for a Medicaid deductible, but it may be very high and subject a family to significant debt.

Most kids in Dane County are covered under an HMO, either commercial or Badgercare. The good news is that Badgercare enrollees are spared the outrageous co-pays assessed for commercial members. The bad news is that HMO clinics are unforgiving of appointment no-shows and "poor patient follow through" and at times struggle to effectively serve a portion of their Badgercare members. See the chart on page 8 for entry points for MA HMO members as well as Medicaid Advocates and Ombud services for

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

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## Delinquency Court Diversion Unit – 11 Months In and Counting

By David Thorson

In November 2011, as part of the DMC (Disproportionate Minority Contact/Confinement) initiative, Dane County Dept of Human Services revised its intake process for all new juvenile delinquency referrals. Part of this change included the creation of a Court Diversion Unit (CDU) housed at NIP. The goal of CDU is to assess the strengths and challenges for youth charged with a delinquency and their families in order to provide recommendations before the District Attorney makes their final charging decision. The hope is that with access to greater knowledge about a what consequences and interventions make the most sense, more youth (especially minority youth) will be allowed to enter into a deferred prosecution agreement (DPA) so that they are held accountable and receive services, but without incurring a criminal record.

For a number of years prior to this initiative, Wisconsin held the dubious distinction of being the worst state in the nation for arresting and incarcer-

ating African Americans. And statistically, Dane County was the worst county in the worst state. Dane County was arresting minority youth (primarily African Americans) at more than 6 times the rate of white youth.

In the first 9 months of its existence, the CDU handled 434 cases involving 321 youth. Of these, 37% were white, and 63% minority. 67% of all youth referred were either closed at intake or received Deferred Prosecution Agreements. The District Attorney rejected the recommendation for a DPA 5% of the time, and the case went formal. Seventy-three youth have had multiple referrals (33% white, 67% minority), which has impacted the number of DPA's recommended. Ultimately, of the total number of youth referred to the CDU, approximately 67% have been deflected from court. Prior to the enhanced delinquency practice plan, our diversion rate was less than 30%. These are promising initial stats,

but only reflect CDU unit numbers and don't include referrals that went directly to Ongoing social workers.

So what have we learned in these first 11 months? The complexity of accounting for every nuance in reshaping our delinquency system has been extremely challenging. Not only did social workers and program leaders join together to create a brand new unit, but that also resulted in new ways of receiving and managing cases for the rest of the delinquency staff as well. The initial transition where multiple cases were being transferred between workers was tumultuous and dominated workers time and energy for the first several months. Working collaboratively and communicating with the District Attorneys Office has never been more necessary or demanding. Making sure we never miss time limits has never been more critical. Creating a standardized system where victims are always given an opportunity to participate before decisions are made has proven to be a complex task. Developing and maintaining a new database that provides comprehensive and measurable outcome statistics has been overwhelming at times and remains a work in progress. We have yet to fully determine whether there is a need for additional services in the continuum of interventions available and exactly what those new initiatives might look

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

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## DOC-Division of Juvenile Corrections Updates Four New Appointments Made in 2012

*By Rhonda Voigt*

Effective February 26th, DOC Secretary Gary Hamblin appointed **Cari Taylor** as the Division of Juvenile Corrections Administrator. Ms. Taylor began her career in the Division of Juvenile Corrections in 1996 as a Therapist and eventually promoted to a Corrections Unit Supervisor at Ethan Allen School. Since beginning in DJC, Ms. Taylor has worked in every DOC division: at the Division of Management Services as a Staff Development Program Director; at the Division of Adult Institutions as the Deputy Warden at Jackson Correctional Institution; and most recently at the Division Community Corrections as the Assistant Division Administrator.

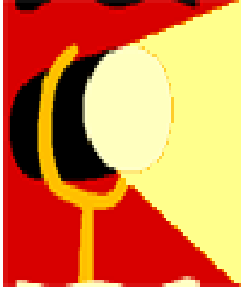
Also in February, former DJC Administrator Margaret Carpenter returned to her role as Education Director for the Division of Adult Institutions. Former DJC Assistant Administrator **Silvia Jackson** joined the Division of Community Corrections as the Program & Policy Chief.

Last April, DJC Administrator Taylor announced the appointment of **Stephanie Hove** as the Correctional Services Manager-Southeast Regional Chief. Ms. Hove had been the Acting/Interim Southeast Regional Chief since August of last year. She has more than 19 years of service with the DOC in DCC positions including Assistant Regional Chief, Region 7 (Waukesha), Assistant Regional Chief, Region 1 (Madison), Corrections Field Supervisor and Probation and Parole Agent.

In July, Secretary Hamblin announced the appointment of **Randall Hepp** as the Assistant Administrator for DJC. Mr. Hepp has been with DOC since 1982 and has worked as a Correctional Officer 1 and 2, Correctional Officer 3 (Sergeant), Supervising Officer 1 (Lieutenant), Supervising Officer 2 (Captain), Assistant Superintendent, Corrections Program Supervisor, Corrections Contract Specialist, Security Director, Deputy Warden, and most recently as the Warden at Jackson Correctional Institution.

**Suzanne Boeke** retired as the DJC Correctional Services Manager-Northwest Regional Chief in August 2012. Ms. Boeke worked for 28 years with DOC including positions as a Social Worker, Aftercare Agent, Corrections Field Supervisor and Deputy Superintendent at Southern Oaks School as well as the Northwest Regional Chief.

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## Staff Spotlight – JOSHUA CLAUER, DC-NIP PROGRAM LEADER



For some people, a job is just a job... a way to make a living or to pass the time until retirement. But spend five minutes in the presence of Joshua Clauer and you can tell he feels very differently about his job. Joshua's commitment and enthusiasm for working with youth are immediately apparent.

Joshua began employment with the Dane County Neighborhood Intervention Program last May. In his Program Leader role, he works with youth at risk for gang involvement as well as those already involved. With co-worker George Brown, Joshua regularly conducts groups for teen males which include, among other compo-

nents, frank discussions about how gang behavior is a feeder to adult prison. Group sessions aim to build competency by providing participants with a variety of enrichment activities and experiences they might not otherwise have.

"I see a lot of kids being misled," Joshua says. The youth he works with need positive role models. He hopes to be that role model and to help them change in a positive direction. He wants kids to know they can dream, and that dreams can come true.

Joshua holds both a bachelors and masters degree in criminal justice. Most recently he was employed by Madison Area Urban Ministry assisting adults coming out of the prison system. Although he enjoyed that job, Joshua appreciates that his DC-NIP position allows him the opportunity to work with young men before they get deeper into the system.

Joshua has also worked for the WI Department of Corrections as a probation and parole agent with serious juvenile offender populations, an adult probation and parole agent in the gang and drug unit, and as a correctional sergeant at the Oregon Correctional Center. Those experiences, where he saw so much wasted talent, led him to change his

focus to helping youth avoid that adult prison path.

A punter in an earlier life, Joshua worked out with Dallas Cowboys, Seattle Seahawks, Chicago Bears, and Baltimore Ravens. Currently he has his own business coaching and consulting with athletes and teams including Wisconsin Badgers, Iowa Hawkeyes, and countless high schools. He also works part-time as a mentor for youthful offenders.

When asked if he had any final comments, Joshua said, "I love this (work). I landed where I'm supposed to be." And, Joshua, we're certainly glad you did.



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## Youth Spotlight Shines on...SHANEICE WHITE DC-NIP's ADDS II Participant Finds Success

*By Veronica Hereford, DC-NIP Program Leader*

Dane County Neighborhood Intervention Program is the home of the ADDS II- Assessment, Deflection, Deferment, and Stabilization Program for youth and families in Dane County. This program works with young people who have been given an opportunity to defer a referral to the formal juvenile justice system. These young people and their families agree to work with the program for 6 months in an effort to obtain new or grow existing pro-social skills; improve school attendance, behavior, and achievement; and participate in community service projects.

I started as the Program Leader in December of 2008. There was no honeymoon period as the first two referrals to the program were two young ladies who had been involved in a heated conflict with one another. They clearly had nothing to say to one another and did not even want to be in the same vicinity, and I was given the pleasure of facilitating a group with just the two of them. This was a very interesting and rewarding experience. Today I have the privilege of interviewing one of the first young ladies I had the opportunity to work with. I would like to introduce a young lady who is definitely on a path that she will be a positive force to be reckoned with as she moves through life.

Shaneice White is a 16-year-old junior at Lafollette High School. She completed the ADDS II program in 2009. She recounts her experiences in the ADDS II program, what she is currently doing, and what her plans for the future are.

*When I first came to ADDS II I was upset and thought it was really stupid. Not only did I not want to do the program but I thought it was no way I wanted to sit in the group with the other young lady. When I arrived at the group and realized it was only the two of us that made me even more upset. The program helped me to not only resolve the conflict with the other person but moved me to a place that I could forgive her, participate in group with her and now we are in a good place and have a friendly relationship.*

*The most important thing I learned in the program was how I did not*

*want to act and how I did not want to be seen. Some of the other people who came into group were really over the top. Their attitudes and the way they carried themselves were really negative. Watching them really made me say I don't want other people to look at me and think the way I was thinking about them. I made a vow to myself that I would always carry myself as a positive young lady.*

*Since I left the program I have participated in On Ramp -- a college prep program through the Nehemiah Foundation, volunteered with Youth Court and for UW basketball games. I have been a peer tutor and*

*Delta Gem, as well. Currently I am in the People Program, AVID, a cheerleader, BSU Leader, and a HOSA-Health Occupation Students of America member.*

*I have also participated in ACT prep courses offered at the Urban League. I am preparing to take the ACT real soon and possibly looking into taking the SAT also.*

*I am planning to go to college in California. This summer I had the opportunity to visit UCLA and USC. I am leaning more towards USC. My goal is to become a*

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## Youth Governance Program Provides “Hands On” Experience for Dane County Teens

**Contact:** Youth Governance Facilitator, Karissa Propson, 224-3712, propson.karissa@countyofdane.com



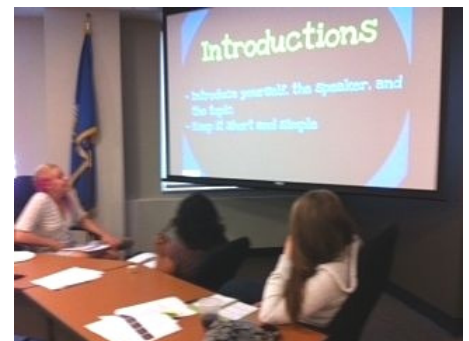
In the first quarter of its pilot year, Dane County’s Youth Governance Program has continued to refine and develop the program for maximum benefit. Throughout the past few months, Youth Governance Program members have been consistently attending committee meetings and their knowledge of and engagement with committee topics, ranging from deferred prosecution to impervious surfaces (and everything in between), is evident in monthly YGP meetings. As committee conversations turned to the 2013 budget, YGP members met with County Controller Chuck Hicklin and County Board Chair Scott McDonell to learn and understand the budget process. In addition, YGP staff held an orientation with County Board supervisors who graciously volunteered

to mentor the youth on their committees. This orientation addressed facets of youth-adult partnerships, working with youth, and information on positive youth development to better equip mentors for a beneficial relationship with their mentees.

Another exciting piece of the Youth Governance Program is the development of the Youth Executive Committee. YGP members created a model for the YEC, which aims to increase youth involvement in and knowledge of government as well as to create a community of active, engaged youth. Each Youth Executive Committee meeting will be open to all Dane County youth and will facilitate interaction and critical thinking by the attendees. This model has been very well received by the Dane County Youth Commission and will be youth-led by the YGP members. The first YEC event will be held in mid-November.

Finally, through a UW-Extension Program Innovation Fund grant, YGP received 12 “shoot-and-share” video cameras for YGP members to document their experiences with the program. YGP members have diverse backgrounds and experiences, and videotaping their involvement with the program will allow a better understanding of YGP members and what they need. This video will also be used as promotional material. YGP members are very excited and eager to begin filming their experiences.

Overall, initial feedback for the Youth Governance Program from YGP members, parents, community members, County Board supervisors, and staff has been very positive. The Youth Governance Program will continue to grow and develop through efforts to engage, involve, and support youth in Dane County.



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information, grievances, and HMO exemptions.

Kids in foster care, under adoption assistance or on SSI, are assigned to fee-for-service (straight) MA. In theory, 'straight' MA offers more choices for treatment, but does not guarantee access. In other words, Dean Badgercare *has* to offer an appointment to its members, but they (or any other provider) are free to refuse to serve the family with straight MA. So what kinds of providers accept straight MA? Actually many of the traditional clinics accept a certain number of MA patients. **Foundations Family Counseling and Orion Family Services** actually *prefer* fee for service MA as a payment source for in-home family counseling and **Family Service Madison** will bill MA for family therapy as well as office-based individual therapy.

Sadly, for the undocumented and uninsured population, it is even harder to access services. The Latino Clinic at Journey Mental Health is primarily for adults, but worth exploring. The Family Center at Edgewood College is also a good possible option for therapy only folks. They charge a very reasonable sliding scale. The Family Center is at 663-6154, <http://www.edgewood.edu/Portals/0/pdf/>

Academics/Graduate/  
FamilyCenterBrochure.pdf.

Clients without primary care and in need of brief treatment may be well served at **Access Community Health**. Access accepts a variety of insurance as well as straight MA. They also provide care for the uninsured. The Access behavioral health model doesn't meet the needs of folks with complex mental health issues, but has proven effective in treating many children and adults. Kids and parents who have been reluctant to engage in mental health services have been far more compliant with this non-stigmatizing medical home model of care.

Regardless of insurance, social workers can refer clients to CYF contracted services for **FIT, SAH (Safe At Home), Steps to Success, Journey Mental Health Center, The Rainbow Project, and OA-SIS**. Children who are MA eligible may be referred for **Children Come First**. If a contracted service has waitlists, Marykay may be contacted to seek prioritization on the waitlist. Each request is weighed on consumer need and current wait times.

Every case is different. Some people are well served in HMOs while others are better off outside of an HMO. In these cases, exemptions can be granted for continuity of care. The key is trying to find a

good match where trust is built and the consumer can be effectively treated. It is far easier to say than do.

Andy and Marykay are available for case consultation as needed. Marykay's expertise is best used for treatment options within the range of county funded programs, referrals for MA oriented providers and options for child psychiatry. Andy can be helpful regarding HMO status, expediting the path to services, grievance rights, exemptions and changing HMOs.

We need to continue to be creative advocates to build capacity in this critical area so people can move forward in their lives.

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HMO NAME	Medicaid Advocate- Phone, fax and Customer Service	Mental Health & AODA Contact Numbers
Dean Health Plan	Babette Casey 827-4221; (f) 836-9620 Customer Service- 828-1301 or 1-800-279-1301	MH 252-8226; Tom Crabb AODA - Gateway Recovery 278-8200
GHC of South Central WI	Jodi Joyce 661-7200 x 7523  Customer Service- 251-3356	MH Intake 257-9700; Richard Adelman/Jim Vandenbrandt AODA - Gateway Recovery 278-8200
Physician's Plus	Rebecca Wuetrich 417-4612 Customer Service 282-8900	MHCDC 280-2700 Contact Lynn Brady or Sue Moran
Unity Health Plans	Carola Peterson-Gaines 821-4214 (f) 821-4207 Daphne Daniels 821-4212 Customer Service- 1-800-362-3310	MH/AODA - Intake Services through UW Health 282-8960 or 1-800-683-2300; MH Services at Mental Health Center of Dane County; 280-2700; Lynn Brady/Sue Moran
HP/EDS State Health Care-Ombudsman	(800)760-0001 or 221-4746 hit 0 'ask' or  Taleena Warren ext. 2030106 HMO Katie Ploeser FFS Ombud ext. 2320175  Natalie Stone ext. 2030105 Dental	Call for complaints, grievances and advocacy.  Call Lucy Miller 224-6525 for assistance with exemption requests

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like. And we continue to evaluate whether we are doing the best job possible of matching youth to appropriate programs.

In the final analysis we believe Dane County has developed a system that better assesses youth and more effectively evaluates whether the community can be protected, competencies enhanced, and kids held accountable without the necessity of court involvement. And by extension, the impact of a more nuanced and responsive system should result in a disproportionately positive effect on minority youth. Definitive proof that our efforts are on the right track will come with the release of 2012 data in early 2013. However, we know that whatever the 2012 data ultimately shows, it will reflect a year of major transition for a system that had been in place for decades. We have galvanized a system that was overdue for change and our best practice still lies in our future. Anyone who doesn't find that stimulating clearly needs a new line of work.



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**Shaneice White**

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*kindergarten teacher. I have worked as a peer tutor and worked with many of my nieces, nephews and young cousins. The feeling that you get when you teach someone something is indescribable. I learned from these experiences that the earlier young people learn skills, the better off they are in the long run. This so profoundly struck me that I want to dedicate my life to working with young people to help them achieve to the highest level of their ability.*

*In 10 years I plan on being in California. I will be working in schools and possibly working on my doctorate. I plan to be married with no children at this time. Traveling is definitely a part of my life currently and in the future. I plan on seeing as much of the world as possible. I do not plan on having children at this point but eventually I want to have children. The most important thing I have planned is to be SUCCESSFUL!!!*

Throughout the interview Shaneice is a poised and delightful young lady. I look at her with pride as she glows while talking about all of the things she has done to date. The hope that pours out of her eyes energizes me and affirms that I am definitely where I am supposed to be at this time in life. Young people like Shaneice are out there. It takes the right person and intervention at that moment when they are open to it. The stars aligned in December 2008 and I was allowed into the life of a truly extraordinary young lady who reminded me of the greatness that is in each of us.

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## Wisconsin ChalleNGe Academy Can Change Your Life

*By David Thorson*

For certain youth age 16.9 - 18, the ChalleNGe Academy is the program that turned their life around. Most youth who enroll have been high school dropouts, habitual truants, were expelled, and have been living high-risk lifestyles. They must be at a point in their life where they are ready to make a change; also drug free, physically healthy, and not on probation or awaiting sentencing for felony level offenses. The program involves an intensive 22-week residential phase during which most cadets earn their High School Equivalency degree followed by a 12-month post-residential phase.

Born in 1994 (at Fort McCoy near Sparta, WI) as Badger Challenge, a program sponsored by the National Guard, it morphed into the ChalleNGe Academy in 1998. Wisconsin is one of 26 states with ChalleNGe programs. Since 1998 they have graduated over 2000 cadets. Run in part like a boot camp, the program is grounded in these 8 tenets: Academic Excellence, Life Coping Skills, Job Skills, Health and Hygiene, Responsible Citizenship, Service to the Community, Leadership/Followership, and Physical Fitness. Youth must enter the program with a mentor who has agreed to be a supportive resource during both the residential and post-residential phases.

This is the story of one Dane County youth who successfully completed the program several years ago.

GH was under court supervision for felony burglary. His school attendance was poor and he had consistently dirty UA's. He worked with DCDHS' Neighborhood Intervention Program (NIP) for 6-8 months but still was not meeting expectations. He continued using marijuana and even received a traffic citation for OWI. He had participated in AODA treatment with Connections, and seemed to make some progress, i.e., he used less than he had prior to treatment.

He participated in NIP programming during the summer, but continued to use marijuana. His parents had done some research on ChalleNGe Academy and took him to an informational session. Initially, GH was not totally sold and the parents kept working through issues with him and offering ChalleNGe as an option any time they had the opportunity.

By fall GH was 17 years old, had earned about one year's worth of credit and knew he was not going to graduate on time. As a way to get his parents off of his back, he filled out an application to ChalleNGe. He continued to skip school, but made a serious effort to stop smoking marijuana. Eventually he began having clean UA's and started to talk about his long-term options. The prospect of getting a GED in 6

months began looking more favorable.

GH completed the application for ChalleNGe Academy. His parents helped him find a mentor, one of the requirements of the program, and he became more optimistic that he could complete the program.

The fact that GH had been adjudicated on a felony remained a major hurdle. Supervision had been extended for 6 months. The judge offered to reconsider the felony, if he could show that he was clean, and had met the other requirements to be considered for the Academy.

The DA was concerned about the precedent of expunging a felony and asked numerous times if a black kid would be given a similar opportunity. The judge asked the same question from the bench. The victim in the case wrote a long letter to the judge in opposition to the request.

Eventually, the judge agreed with the defense to allow GH to plead to misdemeanor and amended his record, which enabled him to be eligible for the ChalleNGe Academy.

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## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### *ON BALANCE catches up with .... Cora White*

#### Retirement? What's That?

*By Sheri Gatts*

Whenever I hear the name Cora White, I think of children. Ms. White was a great foster parent for over 30 years here in Dane County. Then she retired in September 2011. But it didn't take long for someone to get her back out there as the Director of the Resilience Neighborhood Center. The day she met with me at the Center, she certainly didn't seem retired.

As for foster care, she was there from the beginning, working on a committee charged with writing legislation for foster care standards. When asked how many children she foster parented in those 30 years, she replied, "Over 200; probably closer to 300. I also worked with the parents of the children, helping them get back to work or school." The very first foster child she had in her home now has a son who graduated from high school this year.

Cora White has served as President of the Dane County Foster Parent Association and has been active on the national and international level. She has received many awards, as well as rewards, while caring for these children. People still call her

to ask how they can become foster parents. She refers them to the right social worker at Dane County Human Services.

She has received the Jefferson Award and L'Oreal's \$10,000 Parenting Award, and is currently a finalist in the Lady Godiva (Candy) Contest. By the end of the month she'll find out if she



wins the \$1,000 award from this contest. She recently received an award from the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority for her hard work in the community.

The Resilience Research Neighborhood Center is a living laboratory where neighbors of all ages can come together and get to know each other. Private donations were used to build the facility. Lives are enriched through

classes and groups, run for and by people from the neighborhood. The various partners involved as partners with the center include:

Growing Power-Madison – a year-round intensive food production, both outdoors and using greenhouses next to the Center.

Badger Rock Middle School – a project-based charter middle school opened September 1, 2012 for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders. The school uses an interdisciplinary program focusing on environmental sustainability with culturally relevant teaching. More than half of the 150 middle school students come from the neighborhood. The classrooms upstairs are impressive and the students were well behaved and polite. The desks were arranged in a circle in the classrooms so that the students can see each other. The students were enjoying lunch and playing outside as the teachers worked upstairs, preparing for the afternoon classes.

Energy Understanding – Madison Gas and Electric demonstrates innovations in green, energy-efficient design, ranging from low-cost alternatives that anyone can use at home, to cutting-edge technologies. The Center reused more than 90% of the

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When GH first arrived at Fort McCoy, he found it physically difficult. Cadets are not allowed to smoke, consume caffeine, and were up at 5AM for physical training (PT). All privileges, which could include more 'quiet time', watching a movie, or time in the game room must be earned. Cadets have to do chores in the barracks and in the cafeteria. In addition to school, they do community service activities. They are subjected to random UA's, especially if they have been off of the base doing community service work.

The approach of the academy is militaristic. Cadets wear uniforms, staff are addressed in a formal manner, and discipline can involve physical activity

like filling and moving sand bags, or dragging large tree stumps around a parking lot.

For GH, this approach worked. He liked the structure and embraced it. As a model cadet, he was assigned leadership responsibilities. He was doing very well in school and his letters home were generally positive.

GH graduated in June with one of the highest academic scores in his group. He spent the summer at home and was able to find a job. In the fall, he went to California to work in an Americorps Program. After about 9 months, he decided to come back to Wisconsin to go to school. He was awarded a \$2,000 Wisconsin National Guard Scholarship and was also one of three Ca-

detts to be awarded a \$6000 two-year scholarship.

GH is now in Wisconsin attending a two-year UW campus while living with his mentor. According to his mother, "GH has turned into one awesome, responsible, level-headed, hard-working, mature young man. He is like a different person, has been through the worst, and now uses that experience in his life decisions."

For more information on the Wisconsin ChalleNGe Academy, visit their website. The 29<sup>th</sup> ChalleNGe Academy class begins on January 17, 2013. Applications are on a first come, first serve basis. If you know a youth who is poised to make a life change and is prepared for a "challenge," then consider letting him or her know about this unique program.

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## ***Cora White Continued from Page 11***

"waste" material from the old Badger School and other site demolition. For example, trees cleared from the area were milled on-site and are featured as wood paneling and room dividers in the building. The Center is 100% green-powered, and "is probably the greenest building in the world," Ms. White explained. It has solar lighting, geothermal heating, and they collect rainwater from the roof.

Neighborhood-Focused Services (Mixed Use) – The Phase 2 Plan for the Center is to offer up to 5,000 square feet of space for neighborhood-focused businesses. This will bring many needed services and jobs to the Center.

Cora White has been involved as Director of the new Center since before the old Badger School was torn down. She has lived in the neighborhood for about 30 years and has seen many changes over time. The Resilience Research Center is built on the site of the former Badger School, a four-acre site located at the corner of East Badger and Rimrock Roads in south Madison. Future plans include a health fair in the fall and a job fair to teach people how to apply for jobs. There are plans to add a computer lab to use for typing resumes, cover letters, etc. There is a professionally sized and equipped kitchen, which will make it easy to offer Thanksgiving dinner for the neighborhood.

Cora's daughter, Martha White, works part-time at the front desk. When asked what she would tell people about the Center, she replied that they "should come over and find out what we are doing. An important part of any neighborhood center is getting people to use it. That's what we are here for."

"That sounds good to me," her mother agreed smiling. I was thoroughly impressed with the facility and the people there. I agree with Martha and Cora. If you haven't been to see it, drive past and take a look, and watch for future events and classes that you might want to attend. There is a lot going on there, and even more being planned.

*Note: Some information in this article came from the Resilience Neighborhood Center website.*

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## DANE COUNTY JUVENILE SHELTER HOME

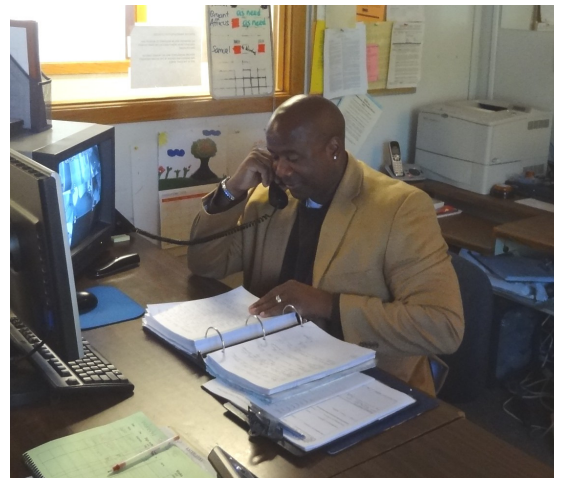
*By John Bauman*



When walking through the door at Shelter, some days you can instantly hear the activity and feel the energy in the house, but then on other days, there is near silence. Such is the nature of the temporary care, Dane County Juvenile Shelter Home. Shelter Home's mission is to "Provide quality services and foster safe passage to youth in need of a temporary home while instilling accountability, teaching competency and ensuring community safety" and they have been doing so for many years.

The Dane County Juvenile Shelter Home came into being in January 1972. The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration funded the program for the first two years of its existence when it was located on West Washington Ave. Dane County assumed full funding responsibility in January 1974. Dane County purchased the current Shelter Home facility at 2402 Atwood Avenue in May 1975, which had previously been owned by St. Bernard's church and housed nuns from the Catholic Church.

Shelter Home is the non-secure branch of the Dane County Juvenile Court Program. Shelter Home provides temporary care to up to 16 male and female children, ages 10-17, for as long as 60 days for each admission. Residents are placed at Shelter Home by the Juvenile Reception Center, and/or by a court order entered by a Juvenile Court Commissioner or Dane County Juvenile Court Judge. Residents are placed for a CHIPS or Delinquency reason and are under a temporary physical custody order while the court process moves along. In 1994, Shelter Home began receiving residents placed on a basis of an "Emergency Change of Placement" (Emergency-COP), pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 48.357 and 938.357. Residents placed under this status are admitted on the basis of Shelter Home staff approval, require no physical custody order and are limited by statute to 20 days. During 1998, residents began being placed by Juvenile Court Judges to serve sanctions. These placements represent days spent at Shelter Home as a consequence for violation of a previous court order. Shelter Home also serves as an overnight resource for Briarpatch referred youth and can accept youth from other counties.



Shelter Home is staffed by 10 permanent Juvenile Court Workers, a pool of limited-term employees who provide relief work for permanent staff, a case manager and a supervisor. The current permanent staff have a wealth of experience in the department, with a combined total of over 125 years between the ten of them! There are also two part-time Madison School District teachers during the school year, interns and other volunteers who assist with the Shelter program. Shelter Home has a lengthy list of past employees who worked for the program and they can be found throughout the juvenile system. This includes an illustrious list of supervisors. Past supervisors include (in order of the first to the

*See Shelter Home  
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# On Balance

## *Shelter Home*

*Continued from Page 13*

present), Kathy Douglas, Jim Moeser, Bob Lee, Dave Thorson, Dale Klubertanz, John Bauman and the present Shelter Home supervisor, Suzanne Stute.

Bob Lee eloquently stated what many staff have experienced during their time at Shelter: “I have very fond memories of my time as Director at Shelter Home (7.5 years; 1984-91). It was one of the best professional experiences of my life. I was able to combine hands-on work with young people and professional work with colleagues and collaterals in a way I had not previously done ... and have not done since.

I met hundreds of young people at times of individual and family difficulties and I had the opportunity to have some positive impact (I hope) on their lives. I worked with truly excellent and dedicated childcare staff (many of whom I remain in touch with at this time). I interfaced with myriad Court, Department of Human Services, Juvenile Court Program, and other staffs and learned much from all of them. I learned the ins-and-outs of County government and this has



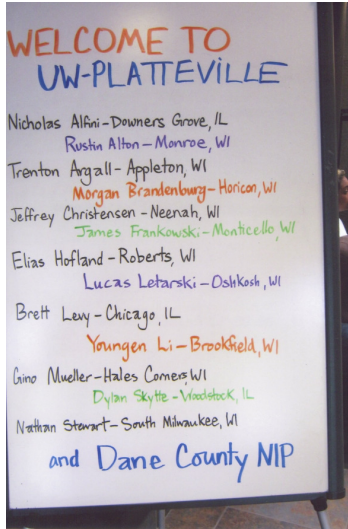
served me well in subsequent management assignments at the Department of Human Services. I frequently look back on my Shelter Home years as the most rewarding of my social work and social work management career.

I occasionally run into former residents. I am surprised at how many remember their Shelter Home placements (after 20 or more years) and how many have positive memories of the experience. It is truly rewarding to know that the program and staff so positively affected these young (now middle-age!) people at a time when they needed help and understanding.”

On average, youth are at Shelter for about 10 days. Some reside there for the full 60 days and others for only a day. Shelter Home is on track this year to have its highest average daily population since 2000. While in placement, youth are able to attend school (in house or out to a school), continue employment, participate in their existing treatment programs, have home visits, etc. depending on their case plan. Nearly 300 youth are placed at Shelter Home each year, so in the 40 years of the program’s existence, approximately 12,000 youth have been served in placement! Youth often come to Shelter Home in a state of unrest and through the hard work of the dedicated and caring staff, they usually leave in a much better place to be able to face whatever the next step is in their life. Dane County is fortunate to have such a quality program in our juvenile system.

# On Balance

DCNIP staff Veronica Hereford & Allan Chancellor take youth on a college tour of UW Platteville



## Right Track Stars of Tomorrow League



*Members of the LaFollette area RT-SOT League*



*Game Action*



*A couple of youth volunteers work the score table for the RT-SOT League*



*Game Attendees*

# On Balance

## DCNIP Right Track—Group Discussion Guest Speakers



*Melvin Jette of Dane County's First Offender Program*



*Dane County District Attorney Ismael Ozanne*