



DJC Newsletter

August 2008

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This issue of the DJC Newsletter focuses on art and the opportunities provided to the youth through DJC in order to prepare them for re-entry into our communities.

Youth Focused Activities Within Our JCI's

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- **Artist in Residence at Ethan Allen School**

Updates

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Announcements

- **Appointment of Chris Gomes to Juvenile Sex Offender Specialist Project Position under the Juvenile Sex Offender Re-Entry Grant**
- **Appointment of Julie Bain to Juvenile Services Specialist Project Position under the Juvenile Sex Offender Re-Entry Grant**

Model County Programs

DJC will reserve space in each newsletter to highlight county programs that are especially effective in promoting juvenile accountability, competence building and public safety. If you have a contribution for the next newsletter, please forward it to Jocelyn Petersen at jocelyn.petersen@wisconsin.gov. Thank you.

Southern Oaks Girls School: Fashion Sense Career Wear Fashion Show

On Tuesday, June 24, 2008, Southern Oaks Girls School Teachers and Treatment Social Workers facilitated a Quarterly Life Work Education Event. The focus of this event was the highly popular Fashion Sense Career Wear Fashion Show. This event allowed Southern Oaks Girls School students to learn about and practice workplace-appropriate dress, grooming strategies, make-up application, and hair styling techniques.

Preliminary Fashion Show activities required participants to create and draft job-seeking scenarios describing entry-level jobs they would consider applying for upon their return to the community. These scenarios subsequently guided students' career wear selections at the Southern Oaks Girls School Boutique. The Boutique is filled with gently used clothing donations and accessories and is utilized by all youth released from the institution. This clothing selection process, facilitated by Treatment Social Workers, is generally the most challenging component of the Career Wear Fashion Show. Examining and critiquing students' selections and helping them to appreciate the perspectives of prospective employers consistently provides great opportunities for learning!



In addition to writing their personal employment scenarios and selecting clothing aligned with these scenarios, each girl participated in two days of employment-readiness workshops. Instructional and preparatory activities included demonstrating appropriately manicured hands and nails, skincare techniques, haircuts and styling instruction, as well as lessons on poise, relaxation and stress management, and effective interviewing skills.

These days of activity culminated in the Fashion Sense Career Wear Fashion Show. Students modeled their interview-appropriate selections and also modeled common workplace uniforms representing realistic employment prospects for young adults. This event occurred in the Patricia Ogren Activity and Learning Center at Southern Oaks and was very positively received by all in attendance.

Life Work Education Programming activities initiated with the Juvenile Correctional Institutions are key components to the larger Division of Juvenile Corrections Transition Phase of Correctional Treatment.

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Artist in Residence at Ethan Allen School

Local artist Cathy Quinn, contracted by the Very Special Artist-in-Residence Program, completed her 8 week art project with 10 Ethan Allen School (EAS) youth. Ms. Quinn guided students through the process of using a photograph to pencil-sketch and subsequently paint a self-portrait using acrylics, with Teacher Corinne Steinhoff coordinating the after-school activity. Several of the final art pieces will be on permanent display in the school library.

In awarding EAS with an Artist-in-Residence Grant, VSA Arts recognized that incarcerated youth have limited opportunities for artistic and visual expression and with a history of limited schooling prior to incarceration struggle with low reading and math skills. Frustration associated with low skills, limited

freedoms, and removal from their neighborhoods, friends, families and churches can result in disruptive and negative behaviors. The VSA Artist in Residency Program provided a positive avenue for youth expression and an opportunity for exposure to the arts; it encouraged reflection and self-growth of youth and staff; facilitated active dialogue between the artist, teacher and the students; promoted a healthy alternative to poor decision making and destructive behavior through positive self-expression; and promoted life-long learning and an appreciation of the arts. EAS provided in-kind staff and administrative support, room and materials. EAS has received notification from VSA Arts of Wisconsin that Ethan Allen School has been selected to receive an Artist in Residence for the 2008-2009 school year, pending VSA Arts ability to secure adequate government grants or corporate support. The estimated value of the program is \$6,000.

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Sex Offender Re-Entry Grant

The Wisconsin High-Risk Youth Offender Reentry Project will address emerging problems associated with the reentry of juvenile sex offenders to the community. The current climate in Wisconsin at both the state legislative level and in local communities is understandably focused on community safety. More recently, some negative responses from the public have resulted in the passing of residency restrictions in local municipalities which have brought upon new difficulties in reintegrating them into the community. The grant proposal addresses these problems through a design that focuses on more intensive reentry preparation at the local level with various outreach contacts to school officials, local governing boards and councils, and the general public.

The project will target approximately 80 juvenile sex offenders being treated in secure juvenile facilities and approximately 65 on state community supervision. All sex offenders will be moved through a detailed three-phase reentry model that is designed to enhance the youth's likelihood of success in the community. The model will be augmented to include steps to address the current problems being experienced by staff as they assist the youth to find living arrangements, post-release treatment services, and employment opportunities in the community. The goals of the proposed project are to:

1. Increase the skills of staff through specialized training to more effectively integrate and supervise youth in communities that have adopted restrictive living ordinances and/or child safety zones.
2. Raise the general public's understanding and awareness of the unique needs of juvenile sex offenders through a plan to meet, train and consult with local officials including school personnel, governmental officials (city councils, town and village boards), the media, and the general public.
3. Enhance direct services to youth as they move through the reentry phases which include a structured 90-day Transition component, and an emphasis on further employment training and/or job placement of the targeted youth.
4. Enhance communication and build a strong support network between the juvenile sex offenders and their families, DJC staff, and local community service providers through collaboration local meetings, Transition Team meetings, and specific case consultations.

Gretchen Kubnick, the Grant Director, will oversee the project, hire, and supervise the two staff positions, and ensure that all monitoring, data collection, performance measuring and reporting requirements of the grant are met. Throughout the duration of the project (2007-2011), concerted efforts will be made to sustain the outreach and direct service connections for youth once the grant ends. Recently, Julie Bain was appointed as Juvenile Services Specialist under the project to serve as the Re-Entry Case Manger. Julie will work in coordination with juvenile agents and county workers

to provide case management services for the youth identified to participate in the grant. In addition, Chris Gomes was hired to serve as the Juvenile Sex Offender Specialist. In his position, he will provide a broad range of technical assistance, educational and community outreach/trainings, and policy and procedure development and implementation in the area of juvenile sex offenders.

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Appointment of Chris Gomes to Juvenile Sex Offender Specialist Project Position under the Juvenile Sex Offender Re-Entry Grant

DJC recently announced the appointment of Chris Gomes to the Juvenile Sex Offender Specialist, project position under the High-Risk Juvenile Sex Offender Reentry Grant. In his role as Juvenile Sex Offender Specialist, Chris will be responsible for the planning and implementation of statewide policies and procedures and delivery of training, technical assistance and consultation to county/tribal agencies to promote comprehensive community-based management of youth sex offenders.

Chris has his B.A. in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has extensive experience as a Sex Offender Probation and Parole Agent in Milwaukee and great knowledge of the policies and procedures of the Criminal Justice system that prepares him for this position.

Welcome, Chris!

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Appointment of Julie Bain to Juvenile Services Specialist Project Position under the Juvenile Sex Offender Re-Entry Grant

DJC recently announced the appointment of Julie Bain to the Juvenile Services Specialist, Reentry Case Manger project position under the High-Risk Juvenile Sex Offender Reentry Grant. In her role as Juvenile Service Specialist, Reentry Case Manger, Julie will be responsible for coordinating and providing reentry services for high-risk juvenile sex offenders and their families during all three phases of the intensive aftercare reentry model.

Julie has her BA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Psychology and Sociology and her MA from Mt. Mary College in Milwaukee. She has a wealth of knowledge in the juvenile justice system, and work experience that prepares her for the juvenile reentry case manager position.

Welcome, Julie!

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