

# SURVEY OF MINNEAPOLIS ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

## APRIL 2008 – SEPTEMBER 2009

**Goal #1 Objective:** *Every young person in Minneapolis is supported by at least one trusted adult in their family or their community*

**Recommendation 1A:** **Ensure there is a trusted adult in the life of every young person in Minneapolis by increasing the number of quality mentoring opportunities for young people, along with proper training for mentors of all ages and backgrounds.**

April-Sept. 2008:

Convened a meeting of 8 mentoring programs serving North Minneapolis to develop collaborative ways to recruit, train and match mentors. City of Minneapolis is partnering with Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota to assist in supporting these mentoring programs to expand capacity to increase opportunities for mentor recruitment and placement.

Created a mentorship policy committee comprised of multiple mentoring organizations to increase the number of quality mentoring programs, along with proper training for all mentors who work in the targeted 5 neighborhoods. Committee will work closely with the City's Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator.

Submitted grant to the U.S Department of Justice to help build capacity in mentoring programs to use best practices to recruit, train and match mentors.

City of Minneapolis launched effort to recruit 50 employees to mentor 50 children from the 5 targeted neighborhoods on the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) waiting list. To date, 16 Minneapolis employees have become mentors through this effort.

Provide ongoing support to the Minneapolis Public Schools' Family Connection Centers (Northside and Southside), school-based centers that provide health and social services for students and their families.

Submitted federal appropriations request through Congressman Ellison's office.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

Bolder Options matched 23 Minneapolis youth with mentors, including 10 youth in North Minneapolis. The mentors helped youth set academic, athletic, and personal goals, as well as improve their school success and healthy habits.

Kinship of Greater Minneapolis created 6 long-term community-based mentoring relationships for youth living in the City of Minneapolis. There are an additional 43 children on the waiting list.

The Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota broadened its partner organizations for the North Minneapolis Training Institute (NMTI). 17 programs are now enlisted which serve an estimated 400–450 students in North Minneapolis.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

91 kids matched with Kinship mentors with 3 newly established mentoring relationships created for children in Minneapolis. There are 42 children in Minneapolis waiting for Kinship mentors.

Big Brothers Big Sisters served approximately 212 children in the 5 neighborhoods. Overall, BBBS has served 833 children in this quarter throughout the City.

110 STEP-UP youth will have 1:1 mentors. STEP-UP supervisors will receive training to provide mentoring at their worksite so all the youth (650) in the 14/15 age group receive mentoring.

Bolder Options implemented a new Mentor Recruitment Plan, which had a particular focus of recruiting male mentors and mentors of color. In addition, Bolder Options made 6 new North Minneapolis matches and continued to serve 33 North Minneapolis matches. Seven North Minneapolis youth have completed intake and are waiting to be matched and 17 referred youth are waiting to complete intake.

164 contacts were made with girls ages 7-18 at Little Earth by YouthCARE staff. Staff also undertook a bevy of activities with young girls which included a mentoring program in Little Earth; an age-appropriate healthy sexuality workshop focused on giving girls the information to make positive choices and reduce harm in their lives, and after-school activities focused on building respect for self and others, leadership and self-sufficiency skills.

Due to funding shortages, a plan to expand the frequency of programming at Little Earth has been postponed until further notice.

April-June 2009:

Hennepin County is launching Project Reconnect; a mentoring and transition service to youth who are returning to the community from correctional placements. The Project will link youth who are at moderate to high-risk to re-offend with trained mentors from community-based organizations that also provide transitional services to youth. The mentoring relationship will begin while the youth is in the facility and continue as they transition into their community for a minimum of one year.

La Oportunidad matched 15 Latino youth with 15 mentors.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's Youthline Outreach Mentorship Program, in partnership with MDHFS, implemented StreetReach Outreach in the Hawthorne, Jordan, Folwell and Willard neighborhoods. Outreach staff provides mentoring, connecting youth to existing alternatives, and coaching youth who display negative behavior. They connect with youth at the point of greatest impact--on the streets, at parks or other agencies/programs (i.e. North Regional Library, Jerry Gamble Boys and Girls Club, and the Youth Are Here Bus)--when youth are misbehaving. The StreetReach Outreach project will run through August 2009.

YouthCARE's Camp Sunrise and YouthLEAD programs provided over 25 opportunities for youth to build positive relationships with caring adults during April and May. Activities ranged from small groups to attending sporting events.

Camp Sunrise is a free one-week camping experience for youth ages 13 to 18 from Minneapolis and St. Paul. It runs from June until mid-August. To date, 103 youth from Minneapolis have attended Camp Sunrise.

Kinship served a total of 23 young people within the neighborhoods delineated in the Blueprint. Services included being matched with a mentor, match support of an existing match or recruitment and intake efforts to find mentors for kids already on the waiting list. Kinship's greatest challenge in 2009 has been recruitment of mentors.

The Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota (MPM) continued to work with 14 North Minneapolis organizations that provide mentoring to youth to strengthen their capacity to provide quality mentoring services. The participants in the *North Minneapolis Training Institute* (NMTI) received training in "Elements of Effective Practice" – evidence-based, nationally recognized guidelines developed by MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership. MPM is currently seeking funding to extend the NMTI into a second year and to begin replication of the model in south/central Minneapolis communities.

#### July-Sept. 2009:

Hennepin County began a pilot project called "Community Coaches", linking delinquent youth with coaches from one of four providers (Boys and Girls Club, Humble Beginnings, Center for Hope, and Little Earth) to ensure court-ordered conditions are met. Services include short term supervision to providing cultural and recreational activities. 123 youth were referred to Community Coaches from July 1 to September 21, 2009. Community Coaches is designed to serve up to 25 youth per location, with 6 locations planned.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) secured \$500,000 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to recruit, train and support 45 mentoring relationships with at-risk youth in North Minneapolis over a two year period.

MPRB's Youthline Girls' Leadership Development Retreat: Thirty-five girls, five women mentors and one parent volunteer participated in an overnight retreat at Camp Lakamaga in Marine on St. Croix in August. The girls focused on self esteem, positive relationships, school, and dealing with peer pressure. Recreational activities included archery, nature walks, canoeing, bicycling and art.

MPRB's Youthline StreetReach Program: In partnership with MDHFS, four staff conducted outreach in north Minneapolis to youth exhibiting signs of at risk behavior for violence and other negative situations. Staff talked with, mentored and connected 107 youth with resources, recreational activities and positive adults during this quarter. The following topics were addressed: Education (24), Youth Programs (10), Family Issues (5), Gang Involvement (21), Gambling (7), Drug Involvement (7), Alcohol Use (8), Employment (11), Transportation Needs (6), Violent Behaviors (7), Health/Mental Health (4), and Housing Issues (4).

MPRB's sports teams included Track (13 teams & 400 participants), Baseball (100 teams & 1,500 participants-an increase of 13 teams over last year), and Softball (49 teams & 735 participants-an increase of 18 teams over last year). Hundreds of volunteers, staff and youth leaders developed positive relationships with youth in the community.

The Youthline Outreach Mentorship Program engaged 1,200 youth in positive recreational activities and leadership opportunities at 24 parks 36,000 times (each youth participates 2-3 times on average each week).

MPRB's Teen Teamworks youth employment program employed 443 youth ages 14-17 in park maintenance and park program positions. In addition to learning employment skills, the youth participated in weekly educational classes in reading and math.

Kinship served a total of 27 young people within the Blueprint zones. Services included mentor matching, match support of an existing match, or recruitment and intake efforts to find mentors for kids on the waiting list.

The Minneapolis Chapter of MAD DADS took the lead in organizing Minneapolis CARES, a local mentoring support program modeled after the National CARES Mentoring Movement. Minneapolis CARES is a collaboration between Boulder Options, MPM, Kinship, BBBS, MAD DADS and the Blueprint for Action to focus on recruiting black adults to mentor at-risk youth. The CARES effort serves as a conduit for African American adults to become engaged in mentoring African American youth.

**Recommendation 1B: Increase the number of private businesses providing jobs through the City of Minneapolis STEP-UP to give more young people the opportunity for employment and positive interactions with engaged adults.**

April-Sept. 2008:

STEP-UP placed approximately 1,861 youth YTD. 142 businesses supported the STEP-UP program (16-21 year olds) and 33 non-profits supported the 14-15 year olds program in summer 2008. 167 youth were mentored by business partners during summer 2008.

MDHFS created an additional 12 summer jobs through micro grants and youth violence prevention funding.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

STEP-UP modified its program for 2009 by consolidating its 14-15 year old program with its 16-21 year old as well as modifying its application process to ensure greater percentage of enrolment for high risk youth.

The Cookie Cart and STEP-UP received \$25,000 Empowerment Zone funding to increase employment opportunities and job skills training for youth.

The City of Minneapolis' Legislative Agenda has proposed increasing job training and employment through a \$10 million state appropriation for the Minnesota Youth Program.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

STEP-UP's 2009 youth hire goal is 2,350, an increase from last year's total of 1,850. This year, approximately 3,200 STEP-UP applications were received after summer employment guides were sent to every high school in the city.

In 2009, 656 STEP-UP youth will be employed at 129 companies, an increase of 69 positions, while a decrease of companies from 142 in 2008. The dual focus is to get more companies involved and employ more youth.

In 2009 there are 41 non-profit STEP-UP employers employing approximately 650 14-15 year-olds. In 2008, 38 non-profits employed 644 youth.

1,600 youth completed STEP-UP work readiness training and 610 participated in mock interviews.

April-June 2009:

YouthCare's YouthLEAD program employed 14 youth ages 14 to 18 in its Community Service Stars employment and training program. Youth in this program gain valuable work experience while providing community service to non-profits throughout the City by working

an average of 28 hours a week. Other benefits include learning about environmental issues in the community and working to help solve them, college visits, and career explorations.

July-Sept. 2009:

STEP-UP partnered with 21 new employers in the summer of 2009 while the new Economic Recovery Act (ERA) Program garnered 30 new private sector employers.

**Recommendation 1C: Strengthen the coordination of public and private youth programs, services and opportunities.**

April-Sept. 2008:

Applied and awarded \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to hire a Gang Prevention Coordinator to work with community-based organizations to coordinate existing gang prevention efforts and formalize systems to serve and report outcomes regarding youth at high risk for gang involvement.

Convened Youth Action Team of Youth Coordinating Board to conduct needs assessment of community based programs. This group will identify gaps, needed resources and communication strategies for youth services in Minneapolis and present recommendations for action to the Executive Committee of the Youth Coordinating Board.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

MDHFS staff conducted interviews to hire a Gang Prevention and Intervention Coordinator. Using the healthy youth development model for addressing youth violence, this program plans to work with local government, community-based youth-serving organizations and other community stakeholders to effectively coordinate services for gang affiliated youth, gang-involved youth and youth at risk of becoming involved in gangs. Position will be filled by first quarter 2009.

The Minneapolis Public School's (MPS) Youth Violence Prevention Task Force, a multi-disciplinary, multi-department work group of district and community partners, met three times to discuss the continuum of services available for prevention, early intervention and re-entry supports for youth impacted by or at-risk for violence in the community. Topics include parent and staff education on gang awareness (with a focus on culturally specific outreach), partnering with community agencies which provide direct service for gang involved youth, universal social skills training, focus supports for youth at risk of joining or who are being recruited to join, monthly "hot spots" discussion of community sites (including parks, schools, neighborhoods) to better coordinate response efforts and safety planning.

The Youth Action Team of the Youth Coordinating Board presented recommendations for action to the Executive Committee of the Youth Coordinating Board.

The Minneapolis Youth Congress was awarded \$65,000 in foundation grants to continue to provide a key leadership role for youth in shaping public and private youth programs, services and opportunities.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

The Minnesota Youth Intervention Programs Association (YIPA), through its Kids Change initiative, launched a website ([www.kidschange.org](http://www.kidschange.org)) which serves as a central hub of information, accessing over 85 community-based early intervention programs throughout the state. Interested persons can find a host of agencies in their respective area/ neighborhood.

A new collaborative called *Rise UP* was created with the intention of interrupting the trajectory of youth violence in North Minneapolis by improving relationships between family members and community organizations, teaching pro-social skills, enhancing the capacity of families to move from survival to self sufficiency, and supporting the learning skills of low academic performing African American males in grade school. The goals of the collaborative are to prevent high-risk youth from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system and to reduce the number of youth who re-offend. Member organizations are Northpoint Health & Wellness Center, Beacons program, Cityview and the Minneapolis Public Schools.

More than 50 local programs have been entered into the Community Resource Database established by the National Youth Gang Center. The Center is working on making this data base available to the public.

April-June 2009:

The Minnesota YIPA: 1) continued to develop its website ([www.kidschange.org](http://www.kidschange.org)), providing parents, youth, police, youth service professionals, school personnel with information and resources on community-based early intervention programs; 2) sponsored a quarterly meeting for youth service professionals, and 3) coordinated advocacy efforts at the state level to protect the Youth Intervention Programs funding during State budget negotiations.

July-Sept. 2009:

The Minnesota YIPA officially launched its KidsChange website ([www.kidschange.org](http://www.kidschange.org)). The official launch took place at the Mall of America on August 29 with an Extreme Teen Makeover, recognizing two state youth who have made significant changes in their lives because of community-based youth intervention programs.

YIPA began exploring a collaborative effort with the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board (YCB): **a)** YCB has incorporated a link to YIPA's KidsChange website on their new youth resource website as a place for Minneapolis residents to find the most appropriate youth intervention resources and services. **b)** In order to help promote standards of best practices and quality services, YCB and YIPA will partner with the Youth Work Institute at the University of Minnesota to sponsor trainings in the Youth Quality Program Assessment (YQPA) model for youth service organizations across the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota.

Kinship has joined two community based network organizations dedicated to providing solutions for youth in Minneapolis: Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ) and Minneapolis CARES Mentoring. Kinship staff is part of the steering committees of both organizations and Kinship will actively participate in launch activities in the fall of 2009.

**Recommendation 1D: Increase the number of high-quality community-based youth programs, services and opportunities, including leadership training. Equip these organizations and their leaders with the skills needed to direct youth away from violence and towards positive alternatives.**

April-Sept. 2008:

Empowerment Zone funds (\$514,000) issued by City of Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development were made available to 9 community organizations offering high quality community based-youth programs.

Oct.-Dec 2008:

The Youth Coordinating Board provided \$38,367 to Franklin and East Lake Libraries for youth programs (Phillips neighborhood); the Minneapolis Community Education Summer Leadership Camp received \$19,434 (Phillips and Folwell neighborhoods); and the Minneapolis Youth Congress received \$13,000 to serve 400 youth citywide.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

The YWCA of Minneapolis served about 1,300 youth. Over 60% resided in or near the communities of Phillips, Folwell, McKinley and Jordan targeted by the Blueprint. Programs operated in 4 locations within the target communities: Little Earth of United Tribes (Phillips), Lucy Craft Laney School (Folwell), Cityview Performing Arts Magnet School (McKinley) and Hmong International Academy (Jordan). Beacons Learning Center at Cityview served 316 students. The program provides at least 1 hour of academic support each day along with quality youth development and recreation.

Girls Incorporated® at the YWCA of Minneapolis ran outreach programming for girls residing in Little Earth and the surrounding Phillips community. Activities focused on leadership development, math & science enrichment, violence prevention, and pregnancy prevention. All girls are encouraged to build life-skills and take part in positive youth development opportunities in their schools and communities.

MDHFS hired a full-time Gang Prevention Coordinator and began a Comprehensive Gang Assessment process in the Folwell, Jordan, Hawthorne and McKinley neighborhoods. More than 35 organizations and individuals were invited to participate and 20 key informant interviews were completed during the first quarter.

April-June 2009:

La Oportunidad's youth programs served 575 children and youth. Youth in the El Camino Program participated in Earth Day activities, recreation at Minneapolis Parks, culturally-based activities, and accident prevention activities.

Little Earth partnered with Minneapolis Park & Recreation, the Minnesota Twins and the Shakopee Mdewakanton tribe to field four youth baseball teams. Over 50 youth ages 9-13 were served by eight volunteer coaches. Among the highlights: youth crime/violations statistically decreased (curfew, vandalism) and the 11U boys' team won the baseball tournament. Some of the challenges were assuring a steady and sufficient practice schedule due to lack of capacity/staffing internally.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation's Youthline, the Cookie Cart, Plymouth Christian Youth Center, the PEACE Foundation, Kwanzaa Church, North Community YMCA, and the Salvation Army formed a partnership to establish Northside Youth StandUp! (NYSU) A governance structure was created with representatives from each of the organizations. NYSU youth are paid a monthly stipend to build a movement of youth dedicated to achievement and non-violence. During the quarter the youth organized several events and recruited over 500 youth to attend these activities: Go!, a 5K family fun run; monthly Free Stylin' Fridays social gatherings, and several youth talent shows. Youth also participated in weekly leadership training sessions on topics such as how to network & team building.

MAD DADS led weekly prevention groups at middle and high schools in Minneapolis. This partnership has been very effective in building relationships and reducing crime by providing resources and intervention tools to youth and families.

#### July-Sept. 2009:

The YMCA continued its Youth in Government program which builds strong leaders and good citizens through participation in the Model Assembly, Model United Nations, National Affairs Conference and leadership retreats and training sessions. There are many leadership development opportunities for students in grades 8-12.

YMCA Leaders Club provides opportunities for youth to develop leadership skills and abilities through service learning activities and projects. Youth have an opportunity to participate in YMCA Central Leaders School, promoting leadership growth through skill development, service learning and group work.

The YMCA's Multicultural Achievers program helps junior and senior high school African American, Hispanic and Latino students set and obtain high educational and career goals. Students participate in team building, leadership skill development, and increasing academic achievement. Youth focus on goal setting, preparing for high school, exploring post-secondary options, college tours, and cultural enrichment to assist in preparation for after high school and success in their secondary programs.

Y-Tutors is a YMCA program offering after-school tutoring for K-8<sup>th</sup> graders, focusing on strengthening literacy skills, while providing work-study employment and volunteer opportunities for college students as mentors.

MAD DADS has been giving young people a safe place to come to for support, resource information, emotional support, anger management and family issues. They meet every Tuesday night with a free meal and daycare for those with children.

**Recommendation 1E: Reestablish Minneapolis Police liaisons in Public Schools to give young people opportunities to build positive relationships with the Minneapolis Police and to strengthen coordination between schools, parks and police.**

#### April-Sept. 2008:

The MPS School Board will enter School Safety Liaison contract negotiations with the Minneapolis Police Department in summer 2008.

#### Oct.-Dec. 2008:

Minneapolis Police Department was awarded the contract and began providing school resource officers (SRO) to serve 39,479 students, 6,700 staff in approximately 91 mainstream school sites and 20 contract and special sites.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

Decriminalizing school behavior is one of the key goals of the SRO initiative and allows the MPD and its partners to change the course of a student's life. Working closely with school personnel, the proper course of action for delinquency is established and maintained. The largest drop in crime has occurred since the MPD has been the provider of SROs. Extrapolated at the current rate, the 2008-2009 school year could see a 36% decrease in cases over 2007-2008, and a 73% decrease over 2005-2006.

April-June 2009:

SROs continued to support school administration and faculty and build relationships with students. Officers met with nearly 100 students on a wide range of activities/issues. SROs will be developing a summer strategy to follow up with youth who are sent to the Juvenile Supervision Center (JSC) in coordination with The Link.

July-Sept. 2009:

SROs conducted community outreach and home visits during the summer months in order to strengthen coordination between schools, parks and youth in the community.

**Recommendation 1F: Provide year-round Youth Are Here bus service so that young people have safe reliable transportation to services and activities.**

April-Sept. 2008:

City of Minneapolis co-sponsored youth buses that run from noon to 8pm. There are currently 500 registered riders. In the year since the buses began running, more than 13,000 rides have been given to children and youth, connecting them to libraries, parks, and non-profit organizations that provide youth opportunities and activities.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

2 buses ran each school day from October 14 – December 19, with approximately 2,410 youth riding the bus.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

The 2009 Winter/Spring Buses run from Jan. 20–May 15. From Jan. 20 – Mar. 31 there were 2,052 riders.

April-June 2009:

No new action.

July-Sept. 2009:

Buses provided 1,951 rides to more than 500 youth during this quarter.

**Recommendation 1G: Give young people safe spaces for activities during out-of-school times by increasing the hours when Library, Park and School buildings are open.**

April-Sept. 2008:

The Minneapolis Park Board extended hours by creating hubs and compressing hours. Using Local Collaborative Time Study funding, high quality youth summer programs offered at libraries, parks and schools received additional support so young people could have more safe spaces for activities during out-of-school times. Beginning June 16, recreation centers offered expanded teen programming until 10 p.m. up to six nights per week at: Creekview Park, Farview Park (with General Mills support), Folwell, Green Central, Harrison, Logan, North Commons, Powderhorn, Stewart, Webber Pool, Windom South.

Oct.-Dec 2008:

The Youth Coordinating Board provided \$4,805 for “Free Stylin’ Fridays” which draws youth from across North Minneapolis to showcase their talents through music and art, connect with other youth and organizations and enjoy an evening of positive youth connections.

The City of Minneapolis’ Legislative Agenda endorsed the Youth Community Connections (YCC) After School Alliance initiative to extend the “Afterschool Community Learning Opportunities Act” which includes:

- Expanded out-of-school time community learning opportunities
- Increased state funding to leverage private resources for out-of-school time learning opportunities
- Studying youth transportation needs in Minnesota
- Assessing the state of out-of-school time learning opportunities in Minnesota

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

MPRB’s Youthline program is committed to empowering, developing, and providing a safe place for youth (12-17) to be engaged in positive activities. In addition to Free Stylin’ Fridays, youth are engaged at Club Youthline in the Phillips neighborhood and Central Gym on Friday and Saturday evenings. During school out days youth experience an array of activities including plays, sporting events, concerts, job fairs, etc. Youth also have the opportunity to provide leadership in community service events.

April-June 2009:

The Library Foundation of Hennepin County received renewed funding from the McKnight Foundation for positive youth development programs at the North Regional and Franklin Libraries in North and South Minneapolis. Funding will continue to support two professionals to work closely with youth ages 11-17 and create programming that responds to the needs of the individual communities. Funding will run through first quarter 2011.

Homework Hub, the library’s homework assistance program, operated in 10 libraries within the City of Minneapolis and three libraries in suburban Hennepin County with 13,772 visits from students. The Homework Hub program is supported by the Library Foundation of Hennepin County and the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board.

July-Sept. 2009:

Increased library hours were not provided during the summer due to lack of funding. Twelve libraries within the City are open five or six days per week; many of these hours are after school, evenings and weekends. Three libraries are open three days per week.

Summer activities were offered at all libraries within Minneapolis. Activities and programs included Guys Read and other book clubs, youth technology workshops and labs, writing workshops in partnership with the Loft, and arts and science workshops in conjunction with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Attendance at Minneapolis library programs, including storytimes, was 30,915.

**Recommendation 1H: Provide young people with consistent, effective and meaningful violence prevention training by developing a shared curriculum and coordinated training program for the Minneapolis Libraries, Parks, and Schools.**

April-Sept. 2008:

Curricula addressing inter-personal violence have been explored. The preferred curriculum has potential to be implemented in multiple community settings. A national organization involved in the creation of this curriculum would administer training across multiple settings. Blueprint goals involving cross jurisdictional efforts to prevent youth violence will be considered for adoption by the Executive Committee of the Youth Coordinating Board in Fall 2008.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

Patrick Henry High School is working with the MN State Bar Association to launch a peer mediation program. Peer mediators are trained by volunteer lawyers to mediate conflicts between fellow students or “peers”. Over 100 students participated in the peacemaking skills workshop in the fall.

Through the MPS’ Department of Student Support Services, the district has drawn on national best practice for Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum and for implementation/integration support. These include: Second Step, Olweus Bullying Prevention Framework & “No- Name Calling” projects.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

MPS continues the multi-year process of reviewing, piloting and adopting all health related curriculum to be used E-12. Content will be used by school staff and community partners and is intended to coordinate content provided by park and library staff.

April-June 2009:

No new action.

July-Sept. 2009:

MPS continues to expand the use of social skills curriculum "Second Step" in K-8 classrooms across the district. In addition, a Lending Library for use by district staff and community partners has been opened. This library includes prevention and early intervention curriculum and related supplemental activities as well as professional development materials on a variety of topics including bullying prevention, mental health issues, self-care/stress reduction, student-led youth violence activities, supports for GLBTQ students & families, drug/alcohol prevention/recovery resources and restorative measure interventions.

MAD DADS provides the Community Organizing and Preparing Students for Success (COPS) program to youth in the MPS through collaboration with the Minneapolis Police Department. The goal of COPS is to empower students to make positive life and career decisions and to make a difference in their communities. To date, the program has been in six schools.

**Recommendation II: Increase the number of training and support programs available for parents of teenagers so they have the knowledge, tools, education and resources to spot early warning signs and raise teens that do not condone or engage in violence.**

April-Sept. 2008:

Project MURUA, an intensive parent education and support program, was funded as part of the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation.

Oct.-Dec 2008:

MDHFS awarded Kwanzaa Community Church and Holy Rosary Catholic Church a total of \$100,000 to provide intensive support, education and skill building programs for parents of teens.

MDHFS issued an RFP to provide additional training and support programs for parents of teens using CDBG funds.

La Oportunidad/Padres parenting program received \$39,000 in Empowerment Zone funds to continue their parent education program.

MPS parent education on request including "Walking the Talk" (setting family rules on non-use of drugs/alcohol), Parent Updates on Adolescent Substance Use Prevention, Bullying & Cyber-bullying, Gang Awareness, and Adolescent Technology Use: Social Networking, Cell Phones and Beyond.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

YouthLink specializes in the multiple needs of homeless and precariously housed youth (14-21). In 2009, 17 youth have been served in the 5 targeted neighborhoods.

MPS Student Support Services/Safe & Drug-free Schools is partnering with major local media outlets and several community-based cable providers to produce and air PSA's aimed at parents/guardians/grandparents. Content will be available in English, Spanish, Somali and

Hmong and will focus on using teachable moments to talk with youth about violence prevention, impact of gangs and warning signs of possible gang involvement. These PSA's will air late summer.

\$185,000 in CDBG awards were made by MDHFS to 3 organizations to increase support, education and skill-building opportunities to parents of teens in diverse communities: the Minneapolis Urban League, Centro Cultural Chicano and Lao Family Community.

April-June 2009:

MPS Student Support Services/Safe & Drug-free Schools partnered with KARE-11, KBEM, and several community cable providers to produce and air PSA's aimed at parents/guardians/grandparents.

MPS Student Support Services/Safe & Drug-free Schools expanded parent outreach/trainings for the next school year in partnership with the MPS Community Education Department and the Family Engagement/CPEO department.

July-September 2009:

Five community-based organizations provided training and support programs for parents of teens over the summer months, including the Minneapolis Urban League, Kwanzaa Community Church, Holy Rosary Church, Centro Cultural Chicano and Lao Family Assistance.

**Recommendation 1J: Increase teenage pregnancy prevention programs in Minneapolis, so teens do not become parents before they have completed their own education or before they are prepared to take on the responsibility of raising children.**

April-Sept. 2008:

Convened small group representing Children's TAMS, U of M Prime Time, Hennepin County and MDHFS staff to meet with MPS staff to discuss YVP work plan action step focused on providing comprehensive sexual health education to middle school students. Planned & convened training session in mid summer 2008 to develop policy mandating comprehensive sexuality education for students in grades 6-8.

Hired graduate student summer intern to convene meetings with MDHFS staff & contractors and conduct community focus groups with adolescents, teen parents and parents of adolescents on the topic of teen pregnancy prevention, gaps in services and cultural issues that need to be addressed. Intern will also work with Director of Community and Public Health Initiatives on creating a strategy and timeline for developing a policy to take to the school board regarding a requirement for comprehensive sex education in grades 6-8.

Developing partnership with Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) regarding Centers for Disease Control (CDC)-funded HIV and Sexual Health Education initiative. MDE submitted grant to CDC in summer 2008 for professional development and intensive technical assistance to educators teaching HIV, STI, and pregnancy prevention, specifically targeting students at highest risk-- African American, American Indian, and Hispanic.

School Based Clinics received funding targeted to Hispanic students at Roosevelt and Edison. Plans are to hire a Mental Health staff person that will be working with Hispanic adolescents on teen pregnancy prevention related topics.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

MPS' Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Programs (TAPPP), in partnership with HIRED and Minneapolis Community and Technical College, requested \$50,000 from the Empowerment Zone. This funding will allow them to support the Broadway Teen Parent Program's career and technical education programs by hiring 2 part-time customized trainers. Over the funding period, Broadway will serve 200 teen parents and 100 children of teen parents.

The Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting (MOAPP) received a grant from the National Institute for Reproductive Health (NIRH) to support the efforts of a consortium of Minneapolis organizations to create a replicable model for district-wide implementation of evidence-based sex education in middle school.

MDHFS is partnering with MDE to provide technical assistance and training to classroom teachers to implement evidence-based curriculum to prevent teen pregnancy and STIs. MDHFS staff are working with two charter schools, Na-Way-Ee Center School and City Inc, - North campus.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

MDHFS completed the CDBG competitive review process for proposals to provide teen pregnancy prevention services to Minneapolis youth. A total of \$168,000 has been awarded to Southside Community Health Services, Division of Indian Work and MPS-TAPPP to provide teen pregnancy prevention education and services to 1,000 youth. The funding cycle for these programs begins June 1, 2009.

Christy Bischoff has been hired by MOAPP to coordinate the Minneapolis Urban Initiative, a consortium of Minneapolis organizations focused on creating a replicable model for district-wide implementation of evidence-based sex education.

School-based clinic staff provided training to teachers at Na-Way-Ee Center School and City Inc-North campus on evidence based comprehensive sexuality education curricula. Three teachers have completed training and have begun implementing the curriculum in their classrooms. Currently 22 students in grades 7-12 are taking this course.

MDHFS is partnering with University of Minnesota Department of Family Social Science and Southside Community Health Center to launch a Citizen Teen Action Group in South Minneapolis. The purpose is to use community engagement and social action strategies to empower youth ages 14-17 to address the issue of teen pregnancy from a community perspective. Planning is underway to develop project framework and begin recruitment of youth late summer.

April-June 2009:

In June, MOAPP invited staff from MPS, MDE, MDHFS, Mayor's Office and other community-based agencies to participate in an all-day training on science-based approaches to teen pregnancy prevention and practical strategies for handling community controversy. Approximately 30 people received training from Tom Klaus and Barbara Huberman with Advocates for Youth, a national teen pregnancy prevention organization.

July-Sept. 2009:

The Minneapolis Urban Initiative continued to work with MPS' Health Curriculum Adoption process. The work group has chosen curricula to pilot in middle and high schools between December 2009-February 2010.

MDHFS developed a cooperative agreement to see students from Center School at the South High school-based clinic.

**Recommendation 1K: Reduce the number of second children to teen parents by connecting every teen parent with health, education and parenting resources to ensure that they have the tools they need to raise healthy children.**

April-Sept. 2008:

The City finances Minnesota Visiting Nurses Agency's (MVNA) program to reach every pregnant and parenting teen, with the goal of assisting them to remain in school during pregnancy and return to school after pregnancy and delaying subsequent pregnancies until graduation or adulthood. MVNA saw 333 pregnant or parenting teens from Jan-June 2008 totaling 1,074 visits. In 2007, 80% of pregnant teens with MNVA public health services remained in school or obtained a GED.

Teen Parent Connection lead agencies Hennepin County, MDHFS and MPS – TAPPP meeting bimonthly to implement YVP work plan.

Working with Teen Parent Agency Network to improve coordination of services. Activities to date include surveying member organizations regarding Network needs in order to improve participation; and plans to convene key stakeholders in early fall to work on developing and implementing standardized case management protocols.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

MDHFS co-sponsored, with Hennepin County, a county-wide forum and resource fair for governmental and community based organizations that work with teen parents and their children.

MDHFS continues to meet regularly with Hennepin County, TAPPP and other partners to develop strategies to sustain prevention and early intervention services targeted to young families.

MDHFS is partnering with TAPPP to develop a centralized referral system to identify pregnant teens early and connect them with public health nursing. A pilot effort is working to increase the number of WIC recipients that are referred.

MVNA provided 1,773 public health nurse visits this quarter compared to 954 visits in the same quarter of 2007. In addition, 110 teens were admitted in the fourth quarter of 2008 compared with 82 teen admits in the fourth quarter of 2007. A higher percentage of teens are being connected during their pregnancies instead of after the baby is born.

MDHFS is also making special efforts to connect with pregnant Somali teens and is collaborating with MVNA, TAPPP and Axis Medical Clinic to develop culturally-specific services for this population.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

MVNA provided 1,707 public health visits to pregnant and parenting teens in Minneapolis. This is a 50% increase over visits provided during this same period in 2008.

April-June 2009:

MPS continued its multi-year process of reviewing, piloting and adopting all health-related curriculums to be used E-12. The content will be used by school staff and community partners.

July-Sept. 2009:

89 teens participated in Teen Parent Connection's Not Ready Now, a curriculum to prevent subsequent teen births.

Teen Parent Connection students have begun creating PSA's related to the reduction of second pregnancies and primary pregnancy. Video should be completed by December.

220 pregnant and parenting teens participated in summer school through Teen Parent Connection and 2 Teen Parent Networking groups were held.

MVNA saw 467 teens from Jan.-Sept. and provided 4,650 visits to those teens and their children. This is an increase of 1,476 visits over the same period in 2008. In an effort to connect with teens not currently being referred to MVNA, staff connected with clinic, hospitals, and community providers to increase awareness of public health nursing and the services offered.

**GOAL #2 Objective: *Intervene at the first sign that youth and families are at risk for or involved in violence***

**Recommendation 2A: Find meaningful employment for young people who may be more difficult to employ by expanding the summer employment programs for at-risk youth, expanding the City's STEP-UP youth jobs program, and better connecting to County employment programs for youth already in the justice system.**

April-Sept. 2008:

Approximately 258 youth of the 1861 total STEP-UP youth were placed with summer jobs.

\$100,000 has been requested from the Partners Fund to create a pilot project providing employment opportunities for high risk youth who are homeless or precariously housed and have chemical dependency/mental health issues. The target population is at highest risk for incarceration and/or long term homelessness.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

17 youth (between the ages of 18-21) were placed in unsubsidized employment and 2 youth (ages 14-17) were placed in unsubsidized employment during the fourth quarter.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

In 2009 STEP-UP non-profit employers increased to 41 from 38 in 2008. Owing to the challenging financial circumstances, 128 private businesses are employing youth in 2009 compared to 142 in 2008.

In addition, 7 Special Youth Initiatives (SYI) providers were selected in 2009 compared to 10 in 2008. While there was a reduction in the providers, there was an increase of jobs pledged. In 2009 313 SYI jobs were pledged; 258 SYI youth were placed in 2008. SYI providers include Asian Media Access, Emerge StreetWerks, YouthCARE, Pillsbury United Communities/MN Transition Charter School, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Youth Farm & Market Project and the Urban Arts Academy.

Approximately 813 at-risk youth will be hired in 2009 bringing the total youth hires, including STEP-UP, to 2,350.

April-June 2009:

The City received a U.S. Department of Labor Appropriation, submitted by Congressman Keith Ellison, to develop a pilot employment program that will work with young adults who have significant barriers to employment, including criminal histories. Program development is in process and funding will be available in the spring of 2010.

2,270 Minneapolis youth are working this summer with City, state and federal funding,

July-Sept. 2009:

1,281 youth were employed in STEP-UP

- There were 420 more jobs provided this summer than last summer.
- 330 in the Special Youth Initiatives (SYI) program at 7 non-profits.
- 448 in the Economic Recovery Act (ERA) program at over 80 workites.
- 216 in year-round WIA at MPS, a program for youth with disabilities.
- 47% of the SYI, ERA & STEP-UP youth are from North Minneapolis. Youth in these programs must have at least one of the following barriers: economically disadvantaged, disabled, basic skills deficient, homeless, runaway or foster child, school dropout, pregnant or parenting, offender, requires assistance to complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment.

Some of the largest public and private employers for youth in METP programs are Minneapolis Public Schools (88), Transition Plus (85), University of Minnesota (78), Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (75), Hennepin County (63), City of Minneapolis (61), U.S. Bank (25) and Allina Hospitals & Clinics (26)

**Recommendation 2B: Provide focused attention and resources toward early intervention with juvenile offenders by establishing the juvenile supervision and service center and maintaining the Minneapolis Police Department's juvenile unit.**

April-Sept. 2008:

Established the Juvenile Supervision Center (JSC). In the first six months of operation, 1515 youth were seen. Based on needs identified, 950 youth received limited case management, case coordination or case management services.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

The JSC saw 609 youth. In the first nine months of operation, 1702 unduplicated youth were seen in the center. Based on needs identified, 1091 youth received limited case management, case coordination or case management services.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

There were 881 youth contacts with the JSC. Of these contacts, 127 required case management services. There were 751 unduplicated youth. Both unduplicated and duplicated counts have risen by over 20% since last year. The numbers for most violations have remained consistent. However, there was a dramatic increase in the number of youth brought in for curfew violations. During the first quarter of 2008 JSC served 275 youth for curfew violations. So far this year, JSC has served 400 youth for curfew violations, a 45% increase. Truancy violations have also risen by 16%.

April-June 2009:

MPD maintains a Youth Diversion Program which diverts first offenders from the juvenile justice system. Youth who participate in diversion are involved in a structured, community-based program. Eligible first offenses include shoplifting, petty theft, criminal trespass, criminal damage, and runaway. Second quarter data:

- o Property crimes violations: 72 youth diverted
- o Low-level person crimes: 19 youth diverted
- o Somali youth: 4 youth diverted

In the second quarter, a total of 838 juveniles were brought to the JSC. Of these, 129 juveniles indicated the need for greater assessment and follow up. Eighty-one percent (81%) of youth have not re-entered the JSC in 2009 compared to 73% at this time last year. Depending on their assessed risk level and supports already in place, youth receive an appropriate level of 1:1 mentoring with staff after they leave. 105 youth were referred to The Link's intensive 1:1 case management for up to 6 months.

July-Sept. 2009

There were 892 youth contacts at the JSC – curfew (65%), low level offenses (21%), and truancy (14%). 78% of youth brought to the JSC in 2009 have not re-entered the Center. 72% of youth who have been to the JSC since it opened (1/7/08) have not re-entered. 71 youth this quarter received case management services after they left that helped connect them to school and positive behavior.

Midtown Community Restorative Justice (MCRJ) applied for \$83,200 from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs *Recovery Act: Byrne Justice Assistance Grants* to fund a new Juvenile Diversion Assistant position. These funds would have paid for a full-time employee over two years to provide support to the Juvenile Diversion Supervisor and Minneapolis Police Department. Unfortunately, this grant request was not funded.

**Recommendation 2C: Develop a standard protocol and train adults to use it in parks, schools and health care facilities in the aftermath of critical violent incidents so that those incidents can be used to educate young people on the ways to prevent and de-escalate violent behavior.**

April-Sept 2008:

A collaborative of hospital and clinic representatives has developed recommendations for addressing youth violence in primary care settings and hospital emergency rooms. Deliberations are currently taking place with the two trauma hospitals serving Minneapolis that may lead to adopting new protocols for responding to youth violence in their ERs. Police chaplains are also being consulted.

Oct-Dec 2008:

Staff has begun to research national best practices for the development of a protocol. A workgroup consisting of members from the Minneapolis' Emergency Preparedness Team, Minneapolis Police, Park Police, Minneapolis Public School Violence Prevention Team and Minneapolis Public Library will meet to explore national models in early 2009.

All MPS sites have "Site Emergency Plans"; the district has a District Safety Team, a Crisis Recovery Team and a Threat Assessment Team. This group coordinates its activities with the school's youth violence prevention task force. This task force began to develop a district/community partnership that aligns its violence prevention efforts with the City of Minneapolis' Blueprint for Action activities.

Jan-Mar 2009:

Staff from Minneapolis' Emergency Preparedness, Minneapolis Police, Park Police, MPS Youth Violence Prevention Task Force and Minneapolis Public Libraries met to conduct an initial assessment of available protocols. Staff from Emergency Preparedness agreed to reconvene the group after exploring national models and potential resources for the development of a protocol. The group will reconvene in the second quarter to review findings and to develop a timeline which will culminate in a table top exercise.

MDHFS physician intern has developed a draft protocol to be used at HCMC and North Memorial, as well as a referral form to be employed when a violently injured youth is admitted to the emergency department. Approximately 9 community based organizations have agreed to participate by providing community-based follow-up for violently injured youth. Draft protocol is to be circulated and vetted by other healthcare partners

April-June 2009:

A U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant was secured by Minneapolis Emergency Preparedness to develop a protocol that would achieve this goal. A consultant was retained to lead the effort to work with the various jurisdictions on the assessment of their protocol. The group will reconvene before the end of the year to debrief on the findings and to begin developing the table top exercise.

A MDHFS physician intern has been meeting with medical staff from HCMC, North Memorial, and a host of community based agencies. A referral framework has been developed that would allow patients, upon assessment, to be sent to the appropriate agency to access a bevy of services. Efforts are underway to examine how this referral system would operate within community-based organizations.

July-Sept. 2009

MDHFS assembled a referral network of approximately 40 community-based agencies willing to provide services to violently injured youth upon hospital discharge. A meeting was convened to introduce the program and solicit feedback. A workgroup was formed comprised of HCCMC, North Memorial and community based organizations staff. Initial estimate for implementation of protocol is December 2009.

**Recommendation 2D: Establish and promote a youth help line to give young people a safe, confidential way to report trouble or seek help.**

April-Sept. 2008:

Identified vendor to provide 24/7 access to confidential hotline. The hotline will allow youth to report weapons possession or potential threats in a confidential manner via phone or texting. Vendor provides customized script and immediate reporting to police and school district. Follow-up incident reports are also available. MDHFS is seeking funding for this.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

Minneapolis city staff continues to seek funding for confidential youth violence tip line.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

MPS, with the MDHFS and MPD, is exploring a partnership to sponsor the tip-line. The tip-line will be marketed to students across the district using posters, web postings, brochures and stickers.

April-June 2009:

MPS and the City have developed a partnership and retained a vendor for the hotline in the late summer/early fall.

July-Sept. 2009

SPEAK UP Minneapolis tip-line was launched in September. Following a press conference posters, wallet cards and stickers were distributed to all MPS high school and middle school students and targeted K-8 sites. Press coverage included local newspaper, radio and TV interviews. Billboard, bus shelter ads and radio/TV PSA's are pending. Materials were also distributed to parks, libraries and youth serving agencies. Shortly after the launch the first tip was received and arrived via text, the first time this has been used nationally.

**Recommendation 2E: Establish policies and training making every library, park and school a nonviolence zone, so that young people see nonviolence being actively practiced and do not see violence being ignored or condoned by adults at facilities that are meant to be safe places for learning and activities.**

April-Sept. 2008:

The Public Library received funding support to attain training on how to work more effectively with youth. Youth Violence Coordinator will launch a planning process to explore potential adoption or consolidation of protocols with above entities in fall 2008.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

Minneapolis Public Schools has created a youth violence prevention task force that coordinates violence prevention strategies and activities with external entities. School safety protocols can be viewed at <http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us>

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

The MPS Youth Violence Prevention Task Force has continued to meet with both internal and external partners to discuss shared concerns, opportunities for partnership and ways to continue to have a city-wide, consistent and culturally responsive message to youth and families about prevention and the impact of youth violence on our community. Members include reps from a several departments and disciplines including Alternative Schools, Community Ed, Safety & Security, Safe & Drug-free Schools, and Associate Superintendents. Partners include Minneapolis Park reps, Hennepin County Library staff, YCB, MDHFS, and MPD.

April-June 2009 & July-Sept. 2009:

No new action.

**Recommendation 2F: Support alternatives to suspension and expulsion in Minneapolis schools as a way to determine effective tools and policies to prevent violence and address violent incidents.**

April-Sept. 2008:

MPS has established a task force to recommend alternatives to suspension and expulsion. Task force is called Reversing the Cycle. Recommendations will be forwarded to the school board no later than first quarter 2009.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

Minneapolis Public Schools has initiated the following:

Pilot project with State Bar “Operation Mediation” using volunteer lawyers to train and support peer mediation at Patrick Henry High School

Peacemaking Circle-Keeping training for interested site teams by nationally regarded Circle Trainers

A grant was awarded in December for \$93,030 by the AT&T Foundation. Funds will be used at Anishinabe Academy and South High School's All Nations small learning community to support Check and Connect, a student engagement program focused on enhancing the academic performance and increasing the graduation rate of at-risk students.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

Girls RAP (Resolution and Prevention), a program for girls involved or at-risk for involvement with juvenile justice, worked with 107 girls in Diversion and Prevention groups. Program graduates completed a college tour and supported the creation of a video on young women's leadership. Two graduates were hired as Junior Counselors to support girl-led activities focused on preventing recidivism.

Midtown Community Restorative Justice (MCRJ) provides an individualized process in which juvenile offenders engage in restorative conferencing with a small group of community volunteers (adults and youth) 2 to 3 times over a 6-month period. As part of the Blueprint, MCRJ has been accepting referrals from and coordinating efforts with the City's Juvenile Diversion Program since September 2008.

MPS Student Support Services/Safe & Drug-free Schools continues to use restorative measures as tools to improve school climate and reduce student suspensions with a number of agencies including: Circlekeepers Oscar Reed and Jamie Williams (trainings for staff, leadership development and problem-solving), Legal Rights Center (Family Group Conferences for youth at risk for expulsions), State Bar (Peer Mediation Training, coaching and mentoring at pilot high school) and Minneapolis Mediation (Neutral conflict mediation services at targeted Contract Alternative Sites and staff training on conflict mediation).

April-June 2009:

MPS Student Support Services issued a report regarding their partnership with Legal Rights Center's Family & Youth Restorative Services program for the 2008-09 school year. The report addressed 24 high school students who completed a strengths-based, family-inclusive, restorative process intended to allow their prompt return to school in good standing on the heels of a statutorily mandated expulsion. Some students and families chose to use the process to plan for long-term success in the alternative school placement.

The report found that, compared to 2007-08, a year in which 19% of all school expulsions occurred after a prior expulsion, that percentage was reduced to zero in 2008-09. 22 of the 24 youth passed more classes after the intervention took place than in the prior period. The same number stayed clear of any further behavioral referrals.

July-Sept. 2009:

Continued work with YVP Task Force (see 2E) and restorative practices (see above)

**Recommendation 2G: Provide young people with consistent and effective support by creating a common definition of "risky behavior," and coordinating a set of actions to be taken as a result; to be shared and used by Minneapolis Parks, Schools, and City government, Hennepin County, and the broader juvenile justice system.**

Recommendation removed.

**Recommendation 2H: Increase training and support programs for parents of at-risk teenagers, including juvenile re-entry, so that these parents have the knowledge, tools and resources they need to get their kids back on the right track.**

April-Sept. 2008:

Minneapolis Urban League designed an innovative, Afrocentric "Parenting Boot Camp" to better prepare parents for raising teens in neighborhoods that face great challenges. Three 10- week "Boot Camps" were conducted over this past year. 65 parents participated. Follow up support was provided as well as leadership opportunities for parents who completed the class. All participants reported significant improvement in their own parenting skills.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

MDHFS awarded Kwanzaa Community Church and Holy Rosary Catholic Church a total of \$100,000 to provide intensive support, education and skill building programs for parents of teens.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

No new action.

April-June 2009:

MDHFS developed three new contracts with organizations providing training and support programs to parents of teens. Programs will be operated by Centro Cultural Chicano, the Minneapolis Urban League and Lao Family Assistance. Targeted outreach to high-need parents has begun in an effort to engage parents in support programs.

July-Sept. 2009:

No new action.

**Recommendation 2I: Increase the capacity of Hennepin County's truancy intervention program for students with mental health and chemical dependency issues so that these young people have the added support and resources to stay in school and out of trouble.**

April-Sept. 2008:

Hennepin County Juvenile Probation received a grant from OJJDP for intervention with chemical dependency/alcohol issues. The \$750,000 grant is over a four-year period (2008-2011) and will be used to support the implementation and evaluation of a 4-session program for juveniles with mild-to-moderate substance use that are involved in the criminal justice system.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

See above. Hennepin County Corrections and the County Attorney are working together.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

Continuing to implement the grant. The goals of the project are to reduce youth substance use and related criminal behavior by:

- Building community and correctional capacity to provide a brief evidence-based intervention by training community agencies and county service providers.
- Providing the four-session substance abuse intervention to approximately 800-1,000 justice-involved youth and their parents over the 3.5 year grant period.
- Evaluating the impact of this intervention on juvenile substance use and related criminal behavior to determine the effectiveness of this treatment.

April-June 2009:

MPS Student Support Services entered into partnership with Hennepin County Truancy staff to formalize staff training opportunities and treatment/service referrals for students who are at risk for truancy and have been identified as having substance use or abuse concerns.

July-Sept. 2009:

A plan is being created among the County Attorney's Office, Community Corrections and Human Services to provide more streamlined services to truants over the age of 12.

The County Home School is implementing a Chemical Dependency treatment program for youth who are sent to the Home School which will be available by December 1, 2009.

MAD DADS has started a support group and gang intervention program at the Hennepin County Home School, teaching current gang members skills that they can use once they are released from incarceration. Issues include how to get out of the gang, how to be a positive force in their families, how to choose friends who will lead them in a positive direction, and how to stay away from gangs, drugs, and violence.

**Recommendation 2J: Provide young people who have an incarcerated parent with additional adult support by creating mentor programs that match these youth with individualized support.**

April-Sept. 2008:

Created the mentorship policy committee, comprised of multiple mentoring organizations, to increase the number of quality mentoring programs, including those that specialize in serving children of incarcerated parents. Meetings have focused on developing a coordinated strategy with mentoring groups to work with incarcerated families and their children.

MDHFS and the Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota submitted a grant to the US DOJ to help increase capacity for mentoring programs to use best practices to increase capacity to recruit, train and match mentors.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

The City of Minneapolis' Legislative Agenda endorsed the establishment of competitive grant funds for existing state or local mentoring partnerships to increase the number of mentors statewide.

Bolder Options obtained a contract in 2008 with national MENTOR to serve children of incarcerated parents, and the agency has contacted state and county facilities to do outreach for Minneapolis youth referrals.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

Big Brothers Big Sisters have made 152 matches for children/youth who have a parent/significant family member incarcerated as a part of their Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program.

April-June 2009 & July-Sept. 2009:

No new action.

**Recommendation 2K: Expand street level outreach, including bold door-to-door outreach that engages families and re-connects youth exhibiting risky behavior with quality education and employment opportunities.**

April-Sept. 2008:

City supported street-level outreach campaign undertaken by Shiloh Baptist Church, seeking to engage every family in a 40-block radius in two neighborhoods.

City engaged with fledgling collaborative which seeks to align resources and opportunities to meet a wide range of needs for all children birth to 18. A steering committee has been working over these months to create a potential structure for how a collaborative effort could create a zone of success in North Minneapolis.

MDHFS is awaiting Empowerment Zone funding approval to help finance a pilot door-to-door campaign.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

MDHFS will issue an RFP for a door to door campaign in the spring of 2009.

*500 under 5* is an initiative to help children ages 0-5 in two North Minneapolis neighborhoods enter kindergarten ready to learn. *500 under 5* Family Support Advocates meet with families, learn about their needs and then help connect the families to information and services such as parenting classes, opportunities to meet other parents, help selecting child care and financial help with child care. Through December 2008, *500 under 5* achieved the following:

- Family Support Advocates have connected with and shared project information with 995 families during community outreach sessions.
- 110 Families are currently enrolled in *500 under 5*
- 169 Children are currently enrolled in *500 under 5*
- Family Support Advocates have facilitated 617 home visits with enrolled families
- Family Support Advocates have made 452 referrals to human service and family support organizations

The Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ) is a collaborative of over 40 community organizations serving North Minneapolis working to develop opportunities for all children growing up in the area most impacted by crime, violence, and poverty. They have hired a coordinator, set up the collaboration governance structure, initiated a series of "affinity groups" to begin on-the-ground strategic coordination to align services, and will publicly launch the initiative in 2009.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

The 500 under 5 initiatives have achieved the following:

- Family Support Advocates have connected with and shared project information with 144 families during community outreach sessions.
- Facilitated an 8 week session of Family Academy, with an average of 11 parents and 14 children attending each session. Family Academy is a series of parent-child education classes provided in partnership with Minneapolis Early Childhood Family Education and Way to Grow. The purpose is to support families in building school readiness skills and activities into their daily lives.

April-June 2009:

A 10-week pilot project was developed and funded by MDHFS in partnership with Minneapolis Parks and MPD called Streetreach. Youthline workers and SROs conduct street-based outreach in North Minneapolis, providing mentorship, connecting youth to positive opportunities and counseling youth who display negative behavior.

MAD DADS provided Street Patrol Outreach into communities to recruit and train men and women who have overcome challenging circumstances and adversity to serve as community role models. This has been a special component that MAD DADS has added.

MAD DADS continues to encourage high-risk individuals to attend programs, group meetings and to invite friends and relatives to participate in asset-building activities. Over 2,000 men, women and children have participated in group programs this quarter.

July-Sept. 2009:

See Youthline StreetReach efforts under Recommendation 1A.

**Goal 3 Objective:** *Every young person in Minneapolis is supported by at least one trusted adult in their family or their community.*

**Recommendation 3A:** **Strengthen cross-jurisdictional mechanisms so that different parts of the juvenile justice system (probation, police, corrections, health care providers, community-based organizations, etc.) can better coordinate services and support systems for young offenders.**

April-Sept. 2008:

County staff serving youth leaving a youth detention facility are putting forth greater efforts to facilitate the transition from incarceration back to the community. To this end, staff will work to develop kinship (family) search capacity for Juvenile Probation to identify real kin for youth so they can reconnect with someone from their family.

Cross-jurisdictional issues that relate to service and support systems are being addressed in numerous work groups that have been in existence. The Blueprint is referenced and the link distributed so members can familiarize themselves with the content. This will aid in the focus of many of these discussions.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

Juvenile Services has implemented a new case management system called MAIN, allowing internal divisions to Hennepin County Juvenile Corrections and other external support areas (parental fee unit, HSPHD, etc.) to have access to each others information. This is an ongoing effort launched to further integrate other systems dealing with juveniles.

Hennepin County Corrections, Red Wing Correctional Facility and the City of Minneapolis have applied for a federal grant that will help fund cross-jurisdictional and cross-systems collaborations.

A meeting was held with Community Collaboration Inc., demonstrating their integrated case management system. This information has been passed on to Hennepin County IT group for further consideration.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

The MAINS system is already producing reports related to juvenile probation workload/caseload which helps allocate resources appropriately to high-risk youth. It is also producing reports on the number and types of youth in out-of-home placement – by risk level, type of placement, length of stay, sentencing judge, and supervising probation. This tool is very helpful in developing transition plans for these youth back into the community.

April-June 2009:

Hennepin County Corrections initiated a program with The Bridge to divert youth charged with a domestic crime. The Alternative to Detention program for domestic assault clients is a venture to provide a safe alternative for kids that are arrested and charged with domestic assault. This venture will help support Hennepin County's goal of utilizing the JDC for those youth who present a danger to the community and those who pose a risk to not appear for their court date.

These domestic assault clients are often first-time offenders and/or low-risk offenders. Placing these youth in an alternative to detention will protect them from adverse influences from “seasoned” offenders who are in detention populations.

July-Sept. 2009:

A contract was established with Catholic Charities to serve as an additional alternative for first time domestic assault clients.

**Recommendation 3B: Expand the scope and increase the funding of juvenile probation to better integrate young offenders back into the community. This should include incorporating youth development practices into probation instead of solely focusing on punishment and monitoring.**

April-Sept. 2008:

A new risk assessment instrument was put into place by Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) on April 1, designed to further reduce the number of youth placed in secured detention. The Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) evaluates the risk of the offender not returning to court or re-offending. This is intended to ensure that higher-risk juveniles are being held in Secure Detention.

JDAI has an Implementation Workgroup that is working to develop a continuum of services in the community for youth that are released on the RAI.

Juvenile Probation and an Out of Home Placement (OHP) task force are working to develop appropriate community resources to keep kids from being placed out of home.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

Hennepin County Corrections OHP task force has been meeting to implement this recommendation. The community component is a matrix of programs. Introductory meetings have taken place with some providers and a larger meeting of all potential providers is currently being scheduled.

The County Home School (CHS) is being redesigned so that all offenders in OHP will come back to the CHS aftercare cottage for stabilization prior to returning home. All probation youth will participate in the Return To Success program. There is currently a request by County Corrections for additional funding so they can adequately increase these services. Hennepin County Corrections is currently determining case/work load numbers in all communities to determine what resources will be needed.

Jan.-Mar 2009:

Hennepin County Corrections and Rehabilitation is launching the Monitoring Education and Training (MET) program in June, 2009. The MET Program will focus on community work-based consequences as well as vocational skill building. The MET Program will be available for offenders that need more substantial consequences and supervision than traditional Sentencing to Service (STS) and/or regular probation.

- Each participant will be placed on an EHM bracelet to be held accountable for their location while on the program.
- MET Program daily operations are designed to support school attendance and pro-social activity during “high-crime” times after school.
- The program will use sites that offer landscape maintenance, construction, and forestry training opportunities.
- Effective June 1, 2009 all Hennepin County youth sent to a correctional out-of-home placement will transition through a 30-day program at the CHS to provide them with the structured support mechanisms necessary to help them continue their return to law-abiding behavior as they return to our communities from residential treatment centers.

- Hennepin County Corrections and Rehabilitation is developing an array of community-based services. These services will provide intensive interventions in the home/community to address the youth's specific criminal risks to return that youth to law-abiding behavior and to address potential environmental/family issues that may be contributing to those risks. This continuum and the timeline for implementation includes:

- Family Functional Therapy – Contract for Board approval on June 2, 2009 – expansion plan being developed
- Anger Replacement Therapy - Summer 2009
- CD and MH Wrap Around – Summer 2009
- Evening Reporting Center – Targeted pilot date of Summer 2009 with others to open in Fall 2009
- Multi-Systemic Therapy – Winter 2009

April-June 2009:

The following Hennepin County Corrections activities occurred in the second quarter:

- Family Functional Therapy – Board approved a limited number of slots for FFT. An RFP is being developed to expand the number of slots and to contract with culturally specific providers.
- Chemical Dependency and Mental Health Wrap Around – Short term plan will provide some slots in October 2009. The long-term plan for the purchase of wraparound services is for staff to develop an RFP to expand the number of slots available and to contract with culturally specific providers.

July-Sept. 2009:

The following Hennepin County Corrections activities occurred in the third quarter:

- Aggression Replacement Therapy – Staff from juvenile probation and the County Home School have been trained to facilitate ART groups and will begin convening these groups for kids with anger issues in November 2009. The County Home School will be replacing their current anger management curriculum with ART.
- Evening Reporting Center – Shiloh Temple has been selected as the ERC provider. A contract with Shiloh is currently being negotiated and is expected to open by January 1, 2010.
- Multi-Systemic Therapy – An RFP is being developed to purchase MST and is expected to be issued in mid-November.
- MCRJ accepted 7 referrals from the Juvenile Petty Offender Program. These youth will participate in restorative conferencing with community members and will be required to complete community programming and service.

**Recommendation 3C: Implement a comprehensive assessment tool that identifies a juvenile's mental health needs and related needs and connects them to available services without risking self-incrimination.**

April-Sept. 2008:

The Youth Levels of Service Inventory (YLSI) is being administered to youth brought in to the JSC. This tool is utilized for the sole purpose of identifying needs in order to connect youth to the appropriate community resources.

Juvenile probation also administers the YLSI to youth placed on individual supervision.

Juvenile probation administers the MAYSI II, a mental health assessment that determines what/if mental health services are indicated. If services are indicated the appropriate referrals are made.

Oct.-Dec. 2008 & Jan.-Mar. 2009:

No new action.

April-June 2009:

Hennepin County Corrections and the Department of Human Services began developing policies around the administration of the MAYSI II mental health screening tool and a tool for determining Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. These policies will help ensure that youth with mental health issues are being assessed and referred to appropriate services.

July-Sept. 2009:

No new action.

**Recommendation 3D: Decrease re-offense rates by better connecting youth offenders to educational opportunities, employment skills and health care services.**

April-Sept 2008:

HIREd provides services to participants with a criminal record and are ready to seek employment. The program includes intensive job search skills classes, job placement assistance, and referral to customized training. The program boasts a 90% job-retention rate.

Heading Home Hennepin's 24/7 program provides supportive housing and wrap-around services for youth exiting corrections. This is a multi-faceted approach to reintegrating incarcerated youth back into their communities.

Working to develop MOUs with community-based organizations to accept direct referrals from JSC.

Juvenile Probation currently has an Educational Advocacy unit working with the schools, new immigrant populations and parents to increase youths' success in school.

There are currently individual efforts by the Minneapolis School District, ISD 287, County Home School and other community providers to design and implement Intensive Day Treatment programs that target high-risk youth who have mental health and educational needs.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

Resources were eliminated due to budget constraints. Hennepin County Corrections maintains a contract with HIREd and The Link and are hoping to create more capacity. This will evolve out of the Out of Home Placement work efforts.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

No new action

April-June 2009:

The City received a U.S. Department of Labor Appropriation, submitted by Congressman Keith Ellison, to develop a pilot employment program that will work with young adults who have significant barriers to employment including criminal histories. Program development is in process and funding will be available in the spring of 2010.

July-Sept. 2009:

Hennepin County Library Outreach staff visits the County Home School once a month to deliver new materials and take requests from the residents. Working with the Epsilon Program, the library provides materials to help students with assignments and obtain recreational reading. The library also provides programming for residents such as author visits, writing workshops and presentations from library staff.

Library staff also visited the Juvenile Detention Center twice a month to deliver new materials and take requests. The library supports a small library in each mod, and works with MPS staff to provide materials to help students with assignments and obtain recreational reading.

The Minneapolis Employment and Training Program collaborated with MDHFS to implement a pilot project for youth employment and training, aiming to serve 30 youth over two years. The \$238,000 proposal, sponsored by Rep. Keith Ellison, would use WIA Earmark Funds and was submitted to the Department of Labor in September.

YMCA Juvenile Probation Program continues to work with youth ages 12-21 who have become involved in the Juvenile Justice system and who are currently on probation. The YMCA develops relationships with young people and their families and assists youth in continuing their education, securing employment, finding resources in their community, and paying restitution for their behaviors. 37 youth were served during this past quarter.

MCRJ continued to provide juvenile offenders and youth volunteers with information about educational opportunities, and employment and health-related resources. MCRJ's work with Project Legos' to develop *Project 8*, assisting youth-in-need, continues with a tentative launch date set for November 15, 2009.

**Recommendation 3E: Expand restorative justice programs for youth offenders, which have been shown to effectively reduce re-offenses by reintegrating offenders into the community, and enable offenders to assume active responsibility for their actions.**

April-Sept. 2008:

Diverted first time offenders by removing them from the court system, engaging them in restorative justice, and monitoring their educational progress, e.g., Juvenile Diversion.

Juvenile Probation has a Restorative Justice Unit that provides restitution services (investigation and collection), victim services, family group conferences and victim/offender mediation.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

New project was formed with the Legal Rights Center and Contract Alternative Sites: *45 Day Restorative Placement* for students who are at risk for expulsion. This new pilot project allows for a contract alternative site and the Conflict Resolution Center to provide neutral mediation services for student conflicts in school.

Jan.-Mar. & April-June 2009:

No new action

July-Sept. 2009:

MCRJ continued to provide an individualized process in which juvenile offenders engage in restorative conferencing with a very small group of community volunteers (adults and youth) 2 to 3 times over a 6-month period. During this quarter MCRJ received 12 referrals (including 7 from the Minneapolis Police Department) and served a total of 38 clients (victims, youth volunteers, other community members and juvenile offenders and their families). Thirteen Crime Prevention Specialist Interns were trained in restorative practices and 8 served as youth volunteers for 6 restorative conferences during this quarter. .

Unfortunately, a significant portion of time was dedicated to grant-writing due to recent funding cuts, including those to the City Attorney's Office budget, which has previously provided significant funding to Minneapolis Restorative Justice programs.

**Recommendation 3F: Strengthen and expand proven after-care models to ensure that each youth returning from out of home placement has a comprehensive plan to re-enter their community. Better engage community and faith organizations in helping to provide after-care solutions for these youth and their families.**

April-Sept 2008:

MDHFS was awarded a grant from the Office of Justice and Delinquency Prevention to hire a Gang Prevention Coordinator who will work to develop community preparedness for youth returning from incarceration.

Hennepin County is currently piloting Youth in Transition Conferences (YTC) at the CHS, a series of meetings between youth and their circle of support for the purpose of actively planning and preparing youth for independent living.

Juvenile Probation will be expanding their Return To Success re-entry model to include all of their clients returning from out of home placement. This is part of the larger OHP effort being taken on by the County.

Hennepin CHS has a transitional program that will be expanded to include this larger population of youth also.

Hennepin County Human Service and Public Health Department (HSPHD) coordinates *On Ramp To Independence*, developing services for youth transitioning from the juvenile arena into the adult arena. This includes housing and independent living.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

Minneapolis Public Schools started a new project with Special Education leadership which teams to support youth who are returning to school following corrections or treatment placements.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

No new action.

April-June 2009:

The Hennepin CHS applied for a grant through the OJJDP Second Chance Juvenile Youth Mentoring Initiative for Project Reconnect. The goal of the Project is to reduce the recidivism rate of juvenile offenders by 15% by providing evidence-based mentoring and transition services to youth returning to the community from correctional placements. Project Reconnect will link youth who are at moderate to high risk to re-offend with trained mentors from community-based organizations that also provide transitional services targeting risk and need areas on the YLSI. The mentoring relationship will begin while the youth is in a facility and continue in the community for a minimum of one year. Project Reconnect is a collaboration among Hennepin County Corrections and Rehabilitation, Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota, the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Red Wing, and an array of community-based agencies.

Hennepin County started a pilot project called “Community Coaches”, linking delinquent youth with coaches from one of four providers (Boys and Girls Club, Humble Beginnings, Center for Hope, and Little Earth) to ensure court-ordered conditions are met. Services provided under the pilot include:

- Short-term supervision of youth referred by the JDC, Court, and STS to assist in attending scheduled court dates.
- Transportation to court, if needed, and reminder phone calls to family about hearing dates.
- Engaging youth and minimizing the chance of a new offense being committed before their scheduled court date and / or disposition.
- Connecting or reconnecting youth to educational opportunities such as mainstream schooling, alternative schooling, or tutoring.
- Providing access to a variety of cultural and recreational activities and completion of community service hours, while supervised. All youth are given free membership to the Jerry Gamble Boys and Girls Club. Youth will have continued access to activities after disposition if they choose.

July-Sept. 2009:

Effective June 1, 2009 all Hennepin County youth sent to a correctional out-of-home placement will transition through a 30-day program at the County Home School to provide them with the structured support mechanisms necessary to help them continue their return to law-abiding behavior as they return to their communities.

YMCA Hennepin County Home School Program serves young people ages 12 – 21 who are involved in the juvenile justice system. The YMCA goal is to help youth make positive transitions to school and /or employment after their release, and to reduce the recidivism rate. 85 youth were served during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

**Recommendation 3G: Develop relevant and culturally appropriate rites of passage to support a more comprehensive process for youth offenders to re-enter the community. Helping these youth and their families will alleviate many community concerns and buoy their confidence and civic engagement.**

April-Sept. 2008:

Hennepin County awarded funds to Centro to develop a program with at-risk young men in the Latino community.

Division of Indian Work's Healing Spirit programs are designed to ensure a proper reflection of American Indian culture for their youth.

While not focused on youth who have been offenders, the Otto Bremer Foundation has nominated MDHFS for a Robert Wood Johnson grant to develop culturally-based rites of passage for youth.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

No new action.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

The YWCA's Young Women's Rites of Passage group at the Beacons Learning Center planned and hosted a gathering on National African American Parent Involvement Day. The event gave youth the opportunity to invite all parents to take an active role in their child's education.

April-June & July-Sept. 2009:

No new action.

**Recommendation 3H: Expand sentencing options for youth to include comprehensive and intense behavioral training and therapy for young offenders and their families. Ensure that support systems for youth offenders are extended to strengthen the families these youth come from and return to.**

April-Sept. 2008:

Juvenile Probation, with HSPHD, is currently trying to find funding to get Family Functional Therapy for their clients.

Thinking for a Change is a cognitive restructuring program being used at JDC, CHS, Red Wing Correctional Facility and several other providers. This program has had good outcomes and is evidence based.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

Department of Community Corrections in Red Wing has been working with HSPHD to contract for Family Functional Therapy in Hennepin County. The dollars have been identified and contract staff are working on this.

The Link is using a Health Realization model for their interactions with kids. Hennepin County will be starting a short-term cognitive model with female offenders, along with gender responsive services.

Jan.-Mar. & April-June 2009:

No new action

July-Sept. 2009:

See Actions under Recommendation 3B.

**GOAL #4 Objective:** *Recognize that violence is learned and can be unlearned by reducing the impact of violent messages in our media, culture and entertainment.*

**Recommendation 4A:** *Work with local experts and youth to develop a local public education campaign to ensure that young people and our entire community see their roles and responsibilities in stopping violence, while providing the knowledge and tools to reduce violence and safely intervene when violence occurs.*

April-Sept. 2008:

The Minneapolis Foundation has agreed to create and launch a public information campaign on youth violence as a public health issue.

The City of Minneapolis has formed a strategic partnership with KMOJ (89.9 FM) to air a youth-run radio show on youth violence prevention and related issues.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

Juvenile Diversion staff has involved youth interns and young adults in an exploration of what a “Make Violence Unpopular” campaign would look like. The young people came up with a slogan - “Don’t Be a Sell Out”. This concept of not “selling out” could be applied to violence, drugs, alcohol, gangs, etc. Every time youth give in to these negative forces they sell out to what they could have become as a person, a family, a community and a city. The youth are exploring messaging/media possibilities.

The Minneapolis Foundation has hired a consultant to develop the above-mentioned public information campaign.

Jan.-Mar 2009:

A work plan for the public information and community mobilization campaign was developed and is to be shared with the Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee in the second quarter.

April-June 2009:

Community Power Against Violence, a group of 30-40 youth and adults, convened a series of meetings to help develop a media and mobilization campaign. The group developed and commenced field-testing of their primary message/slogan: "The Violence Virus: Be the VACCINE." Plans are underway to print this slogan on T-shirts and have them displayed during National Night Out events. Additionally, the group intends to videotape interviews with people about how they can "be the vaccine." The coordinating committee intends to undertake a host of activities from branding the slogan to working with community mobilizers and trainers to facilitate change in individuals and organizations.

La Oportunidad staff participated in Community Power Against Violence, led by The Minneapolis Foundation and facilitated by the University of Minnesota Extension Center for Youth Development.

July-Sept. 2009:

Community Power Against Violence has met weekly for three hours throughout the summer.

- A final slogan has been chosen: "PEACE: 24/7 - It Begins With YOU". This will be marketed in numerous ways in an effort to spread the message that 1) violence is preventable, and 2) you have a role in making your community a safer place.
- Prototype designs for the slogan and logo and a merchandising and media plan have been developed and are ready to implement:
  - Culturally-relevant PSAs shown at community "peace rallies" throughout multiple cultural and geographic communities;
  - Pledge wristbands, bumper stickers, string backpacks, t-shirts, lawn signs, temporary tattoos, etc. that will help show how many people are committed to peace-making, shifting the perceived social norm from one of violence to peace;
  - Regular call-in radio talk shows hosted by youth and adults;
- The group has begun training team members in a variety of community mobilization strategies including conflict mediation and interruption, community organizing, and community dialogues, so that they can help people and organizations:
  - Identify what they can do to help reduce violence;
  - Identify what they need to make that happen; and,
  - Receive/link to additional resources (e.g., training, community organizations, other individuals and opportunities)
- The group convened its first stakeholder meeting, which included executive directors and others from the 12 organizational partners of CPAV, as well as key players in the PEACE: 24/7 movement. A second stakeholder meeting including key Blueprint staff and stakeholders is planned for early December 2009.
- The first public service announcement will be filmed in the fourth quarter and will premiere at the stakeholder meeting in December.
- Three proposals for future funding of the implementation of the media and mobilization campaign have been submitted to philanthropies.

**Recommendation 4B: Recognize that youth violence is a national problem and Minneapolis should lead the discussion by partnering with other mayors and leaders in other cities to form a national coalition against youth violence.**

April-Sept. 2008:

Mayor Rybak presented the Blueprint to the US Conference of Mayors, Hennepin County Board of Commissioners and to the City of Brooklyn Park. Plans are underway to involve additional national entities, e.g., the National League of Cities. The Mayor has worked with other U.S. Mayors to craft the National League of Cities Mayors' Agenda for Children, Youth and Families. This agenda is rooted to City-level actions, has recommendations that define the Federal role, and includes Youth Violence Prevention as a priority.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

The City of Minneapolis has added youth violence prevention to its state and federal legislative agendas. The state budget's deficit has led City staff to place an emphasis on legislative agenda items that would have no new budgetary impact, specifically defending funding reductions to youth summer jobs program, and promoting new legislation to define youth violence as a public health issue and the realignment of departments and agencies to better coordinate youth programming. The full youth violence prevention state agenda is as follows:

1. A state policy that defines youth violence as a public health issue that can be prevented by drawing on public health methodologies used to address other acute health concerns.
2. Align state resources annually to fund prevention and intervention programs that address youth violence prevention and associated risk factors.
3. Support investment in the Minnesota Youth Program, a state-wide program that provides work experience and academic skill attainment to disadvantaged and at-risk youth
4. Establish competitive grant funds for existing state or local mentoring partnerships to significantly increase the number of mentors statewide.
5. Develop a pilot program to allow for a coordinated case file so that cross jurisdictional entities of the juvenile justice system can coordinate services and support services.
6. Reintroduce sensible gun laws that provide public safety professionals to control access of illegal handguns.

Mayor Rybak met with the Mayors from the National League of City's Council on Youth, Education, and Families which guides the YEF Institute's work. The Mayors agreed to Mayor Rybak's suggestion to include the 4 major goals of the Youth Violence Prevention Blueprint in the YEF Mayors' agenda for children, youth, and families.

The Mayors of Charleston, Denver, and Salt Lake City joined Mayor R.T. Rybak to unveil the "Mayors' Action Challenge for Children and Families" and discussed innovative efforts in their communities to help children and families thrive, including seeing youth violence prevention through a public health lens, at the National League of Cities' 85th annual Congress of Cities and Exposition.

Mayor Rybak discussed improving lives of children and families in a session at the National League of Cities conference.

Mayor Rybak presented the Blueprint to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to explore potential collaboration with U.S DOJ.

UNITY Cities Network for Preventing Violence co-chairs extended an offer to the City of Minneapolis to become a formal partner. UNITY provides support to a select group of cities to develop, implement, and/or evaluate strategic efforts to prevent violence. UNITY is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

A bill which designated youth violence as a public health issue and calls for pilot sites around the state of Minnesota to replicate the Blueprint was introduced in the Minnesota Legislature. State Representative Paul Thissen, Chair of the House Healthcare and Human Services Policy and Oversight Committee, introduced H.F. 1328 and State Senator John Marty, Chair of the Senate Health Housing and Family Security Committee, introduced S.F. 1235.

April-June 2009:

H.F. 1328 passed and was signed by Governor Pawlenty this past legislative session. It calls on the State to work with local communities throughout Minnesota to develop community-based violence prevention programs and also help identify public and private funding for proven effective initiatives to prevent youth violence. Five pilot communities around the state, including Minneapolis, will initially be identified for these programs.

July-Sept. 2009:

No new action.

**Recommendation 4C: Support sensible illegal gun laws and work to change community values around the acceptance of guns. This includes seeking stronger penalties for people who sell and distribute illegal guns, and profit from the sale and distribution of illegal guns to young people.**

April-Sept. 2008:

City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County launched the Juvenile Offender Gun Initiative focused on reducing the number of youth carrying guns, through a series of coordinated activities beginning summer 2008.

Oct.-Dec. 2008:

The City of Minneapolis' Legislative Agenda supports policies that help local law enforcement track illegal guns and restrict the access of young people to illegal guns.

Jan.-Mar. 2009:

No new action

April-June 2009:

MDH is supporting the leadership of and partnership with the African American Men Project, the Power of the People Leadership Institute, and other community partners to understand the factors in the community that contribute to safety and to perceptions/feelings of safety. One aspect of the partnership is conducting a survey in the community.

The broad goals of the community survey include:

To determine to what extent young residents are affected by gun violence.

To determine the extent to which young residents use guns for protection.

To determine effective intervention strategies for populations most at risk of gun violence.

To determine policy changes that would decrease gun violence.

**Longer-Term Objectives include:**

Determine potential shifts to a new community norm that refuses to accept gun violence and its aftermath.

Promote the health, safety and quality of life for all community residents.

Instill in the community a sense that gun violence is a problem that can be solved.

July-Sept. 2009:

No new action.