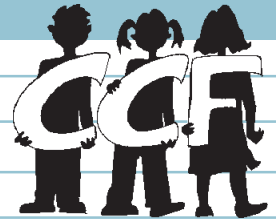


Quarterly Report

FALL 2000



Risk and Needs Assessment Study Completed

A portrait of juvenile offenders in the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County has emerged from a recent study by the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) to be released by the CCF in early December. One objective of the study is to better understand and address the risks facing local juvenile offenders and their needs for local services.

Data was obtained from the case files of 263 juveniles who were placed on probation in 1997 and 1998. A range of characteristics, such as family dysfunction, truancy, mental health diagnoses, or lack of involvement in productive activities, were identified as problems or existing risk factors for over half of the offenders. For example: 76% of the children studied had reading scores below the 50th percentile nationally, and 47% had parents with substance abuse problems. These findings have implications for earlier identification of local youths

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INSIDETHIS ISSUE

- Strategic Plan for Juvenile Justice
- Risk/Needs Assessment Study and Tool
- New Coordinator Hired

Juvenile Justice Strategic Plan Achieves First Milestones

The completion of the first *Coordinated Enforcement Plan: A Comprehensive Community Juvenile Justice Plan for the Charlottesville/Albemarle Juvenile Justice System* has already led to noticeable results in Charlottesville/Albemarle.

The development of the *Coordinated Enforcement Plan (CEP)* was launched when CCF members recognized the need for systemic improvements and coordination in juvenile justice services and established the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC). The JJAC—a diverse group of law enforcement, court, advocacy, government, and private representatives—brings the many independently functioning public and private providers within the juvenile justice system together in a unified, collaborative structure for juvenile justice programming.

The JJAC then identified four priority issues—Information Sharing, Risk and Needs Assessment, Evaluation, and Juvenile Court System Policies and Procedures—where short-term interventions would yield measurable results. Subcommittees in each of these areas have launched strategies for addressing common goals.

Already, JJAC and its sub-committee members have achieved several milestones. Local information sharing practices have been researched and reported and a universal information sharing form is currently being drafted. See related article about the progress of risk/needs assessment study and tool.

Read the *CEP* online at www.ccf.ci.charlottesville.va.us/Publications.htm or contact CCF offices for a hard copy. Support for the *CEP* has been provided by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

New Coordinator Hired for Teen Pregnancy/ Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention

Laurie McDade was hired by Martha Jefferson Hospital in October as a Coordinator for teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease prevention. She will begin her work by building on local prevention programs that have proven successful and by serving as a resource to reduce the incidence of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

As the Coordinator, McDade will: draft a plan to coordinate existing community efforts to fight teen pregnancy and STDs; advocate for increased funding and

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New Coordinator (cont.)

expansion of successful prevention programs; staff the Teen Pregnancy/STD Prevention Work Group of CCF; serve as the liaison with state and national agencies and with local supporters, public and private; and administer the local Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (CAPP).

A number of local foundations and individuals have backed the creation of the new position, committing funds totaling \$169,000. Supporters include Martha Jefferson Hospital, the Charlottesville-Albemarle Community Foundation, the Perry Foundation, the Charlottesville Rotary Club Foundation, the Watterson Foundation, the J & E Berkley Foundation, and the Better Beginnings program of the Virginia Department of Health. Laurie McDade can be reached at 982-8268 or Laurie.McDade@mjh.org.

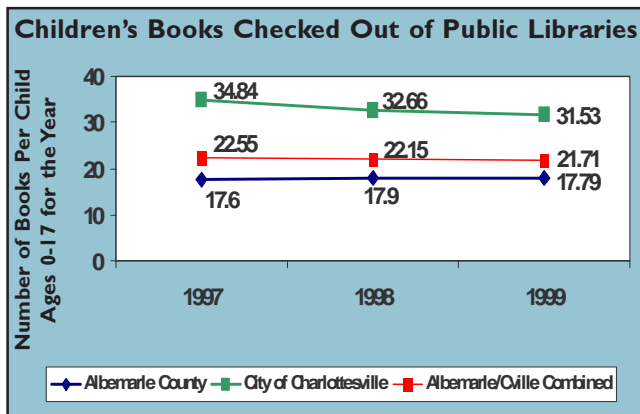
Stepping Stones Profile #2 (p.16)

This graph represents the total number of children's books checked out of the public libraries in the locality in the fiscal year, divided by the population of children, ages 0-17, for that year.

- Children's books include youth adult fiction. Young adult non-fiction is counted in adult circulation numbers.

- Combined Albemarle/Charlottesville data is presented to reflect the fact that County children use City libraries, and City children use County libraries.

- Information Source: Jefferson-Madison Regional Library



Risk/Needs Assessment Study (cont.)

at risk for delinquency and for the development of more focused delinquency prevention efforts.

A separate analysis was conducted for a subgroup of juvenile offenders with a higher level of need for resources and interventions. A number of risk and need factors were present for these juveniles at statistically significant levels. This information is being used to create a local needs assessment tool to identify juvenile offenders at first contact with the juvenile justice system who may benefit from more thorough evaluation to assess appropriate intervention. This tool will be piloted in 2001.

Many thanks to the JJAC Risk Assessment Sub-Committee members and the 16th District Court Service Unit staff for their assistance with this report. Requests for data from the study or for a final report, should be made to the CCF office.

COME JOIN US!

CCF MONTHLY MEETINGS

*Albemarle County Building
401 McIntire Road, Room 235*

*4:30-5:00 p.m., refreshments
5:00-6:30 p.m., public meeting*

December 6, 2000

January 3, 2001

February 7, 2001

WHAT'S NEW?

Congratulations to **Ruth Stone** who was recently elected as the CCF Vice Chair.

Visit the CCF website to register by Dec. 1 for "**Understanding Families in Poverty**," a full day training with Ruby Payne, December 14, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Partnership for Children. Contact Jacki Bryant at 296-4118 for more info.

The recently released City of Charlottesville **Neighborhood Planning Needs Survey Report** contains useful data on residents' perceptions of community needs. The community resources listed as the two most needed are avoiding teen pregnancy and keeping kids away from crime. Other needed resources vary significantly across ethnic, neighborhood, and class lines, as demonstrated in cross-tabs at the end of the report. Copies of the report are available in the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library, or stop by CCF to review a copy.

Join us in January to help plan for the **Blue Ridge Detention Center**. Contact CCF for more info.

WEB LINKS

What does school readiness mean? Find out at www.childtrends.org/r_ed.cfm, and explore the Child Trends homepage for other great resources and data.