



Minnesota
Community
Corrections
Association

MINNESOTA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION

Happenings

President's Message

By Bridget Letnes

Hello. I am excited about serving as President of MCCA over the next 12 months. I want to thank Mary Dombrovski for her exceptional leadership last year. The MCCA Board has some new faces. We held our annual election in March. Dan Cain is our Public Policy Director; Ben Nowak is our Marketing Committee Director; Amy Zabransky is Co-Director of the Education & Training Committee, and Mark Groves is President-elect. Please refer to the MCCA Board of Directors roster in this issue for details of 2007 MCCA Board.

What an exciting time for community corrections in Minnesota! As the new fiscal year approaches, many organizations are evaluating their services and trying to keep up with emerging trends in the community corrections field. Over the past year, we have heard a lot about Pre-

release Planning, Re-entry, and Sex Offender Management. We are collectively holding our breaths for the Second Chance Act and MCORP to help fund the needs of offenders in our communities. The future looks promising for both private and public entities to come together and provide much needed services to offenders in Minnesota.

MCCA is a great example of bringing institutional, community, and private organizations together to educate professionals about programs and trends in the field. So far in 2007, MCCA hosted presentations about: *Staying Motivated & Energized in Life, School & Work*; *Brain Injury: Basics*; *MCORP (Minnesota's Comprehensive Offender Re-Entry Plan)*; *International and Domestic Terrorism*. Our Education and Training Committee is busy developing future training opportunities.

On deck, we have a *Crash into Diversity* workshop in May and *Internet Predators* in June. Our plan is to continue including partnerships providing innovative and best-practice services to offenders in Minnesota.

As members of MCCA, I encourage everyone to become more involved in the new opportunities available to offenders or professionals in the field. Life Skills, Evidence-Based Practices, Sex-Offender Supervision/Treatment/Support, and Juvenile and Adult Mentoring are just a few of the buzz words surrounding proposals and services in the community.

Please consider joining an MCCA committee this year to help support these programs and promote their contributions to the field. In the words of our past president, Mary Dombrovski, "keep up the good work!"

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MCCA Workshops

**Crash Into Diversity:
5/24/07**

**Internet Predators:
6/15/07**

ReEntryWorks By Robert Hope

Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota and the Wilder Foundation are partnering to provide employment services to men recently released from prison for a new program called ReEntryWorks.

ReEntryWorks is part of a multi-state demonstration project and evaluation funded principally by the Joyce Foundation in Chicago, Illinois. The goal of the project is to inform public policy about effective methods of preparing ex-offenders for stable employment, reducing their likelihood of committing additional crimes, and improving public safety. The four other demonstration sites are located in Chicago (two), Detroit, and Milwaukee.

When a participant signs up for ReEntryWorks, he will be assigned at random to receive employment services from either Goodwill/Easter Seals or the Wilder Foundation. Neither participants nor program staff can choose from which organization a participant receives services. This random assignment process ensures that the evaluation will yield statistically reliable results.

Participants who are assigned to Goodwill/Easter Seals will receive a transitional job starting the next day, in a Goodwill retail store or donation processing site. A transitional job is a temporary, subsidized job that pays minimum wage for 32.5 hours per week. After an average of 8 weeks, participants who demonstrate work-readiness (good punctuality and attendance, and appropriate workplace behavior), decide between participating in a construction or automotive skills training program, or starting to work with an employment consultant to find a permanent, unsubsidized job in the community.

Participants who are assigned to the Wilder Foundation Job Club receive assistance preparing a resume and answering conviction questions, internet job searching, individualized job leads, telephone and fax access for contacting employers, and daily presentation of a job search topic. On-site visits from employers also occur every Wednesday.

Eligibility requirements: An eligible participant is a male individual

who is age 18 or older, was released from a Minnesota Department of Corrections facility to the Twin Cities metro area within the last 90 days, and is ready and able to start working 32.5 hours per week immediately. This includes Minnesota DOC short-term offenders who served their sentence in a county facility, and parolees on Supervised Release and Intensive Supervised Release. People on work release, prisons are not eligible.

How to refer clients: If you have someone on your caseload who could benefit from these services, send them to the Wilder Job Club office at 1600 University Avenue, Suite #219 in St. Paul. Intake is conducted Monday through Thursday at 8:30 am sharp. For additional information about eligibility or available services, contact Chris Fotsch at the Wilder Foundation (651-288-0324) or Rob Hope at Goodwill/Easter Seals (651-379-5972).

Spam

***T*o Whom it my Concern:** Just a word to the wise. Be wary of e-mail "prayer chains." Almost all e-mails that ask you to add your name and forward on to others are similar to that mass letter years ago that asked people to send business cards to the kid in Florida who wanted to break the Guinness Book of Records for the most cards. All it was and all this type of e-mail is, is to get names and "cookie" tracking info for telemarketers and spammers to validate active e-mail accounts for their own purposes. Any time you see an e-mail that says forward this on to "10" of your friends, sign this petition or you'll get good luck or whatever, it has either an e-mail tracker program attached that tracks the cookies and e-mails of those folks you forward to, or the host sender is getting a copy each time it gets forwarded and then is able to get lists of "active" e-mails to use in spam e-mails, or sell to others that do. If you have been sending out the above kinds of email, now you know why you get so much spam.

Check it out: <http://www.snopes.com/inboxer/petition/internet.htm>

Responding to the Challenge of Reentry By Kelley Heifort

One of the more pressing and multifaceted challenges facing state government in Minnesota and across the nation is the reintegration of offenders who leave correctional placement. Minnesota currently has over 8,000 offenders incarcerated in state correctional institutions. Ninety-five percent of all Minnesota inmates will, at some point, be released to the community. It is in the best interest of all Minnesotans that, when released, ex-felons reintegrate into the community successfully.

There is an increasing need for correctional agencies to work collaboratively with other state agencies, local governmental and community-based organizations and service providers to strengthen the likelihood that ex-offenders will not recidivate but instead become responsible contributors to their communities with stable housing, secure employment, and the skills to successfully parent the next generation of Minnesotans.

Minnesota's Comprehensive Offender Reentry Plan (MCORP) is a strategic initiative between invested state agencies, the courts and the community to plan for offender reentry from the time of court sentencing through offender reentry into the community as productive, law-abiding citizens. This investment in public

safety and the social and economic health of families and communities throughout the state is critical to the citizens of Minnesota.

Joining Corrections, the state department of Education, Employment and Economic Security, Health, Housing Finance, Human Services, Public Safety, Veteran's Affairs, and State Courts are committed to the success of MCORP. Along with these agencies, three counties were targeted for the initial pilot of the reentry project, Hennepin, Ramsey and Olmsted Counties.

Vision: Minnesota Comprehensive Offender Reentry Plan (MCORP) envisions a state in which:

- Offenders live purposeful, productive, law-abiding, healthy lives; and
- There are safe communities.

Mission: MCORP will create a supportive infrastructure sufficient to reduce recidivism by:

- Developing a strategic plan to identify and eliminate reentry problems and barriers by December 2006;
- Implementing the plan by July 2007; and Providing ongoing oversight, monitoring, and evaluation of the strategic plan.

Key issues that are being addressed:

- Comprehensive case management and planning that includes opening the lines of communication between state, county and local agencies and organizations;
- State-level collaborative projects are increasing to serve incarcerated offender populations;
- Organizing and activating local advisory boards in each of the pilot counties;
- Community capacity-building on the local level to create supportive systems through housing, mentoring, and employment opportunities;

To find out more about MCORP and its progress to date, or if you are in a pilot county and would like more information on how your agency or organization may get involved at the local level:

- Check out the MCORP website at www.forums.doc.state.mn.us/mcorp (list of members and contact info available)
- Contact the community corrections liaison in your county: Dennis Avery in Hennepin, Andy Erickson in Ramsey or Wanda Berg in Olmsted.
- Call MN DOC and ask for one of the Reentry Team

Only in America

Only in America . . . do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke.

Only in America . . . do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.

Only in America . . . do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.

Only in America . . . do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.

Only in America . . . do we use the word "politics" to describe the process so well: 'Poli' in Latin meaning "many" and "tics" meaning "bloodsucking creatures."

Only in America . . . do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering.

Legislative Update, By Calvin Saari, MCA Legislative Chair

March 26 thru March 31, was the busiest week for the legislature this Session, and ended with the Senate having passed every one of it's budget bills off the floor and the House having passed all it's appropriation bills out of their Finance Committee Divisions. After sitting through two hearings of the Public Safety Finance Committee, we saw them pass HF 829, which serves as the House Appropriations Omnibus bill for this Session. This bill contains language from 71 different bills, including 13 bills on our legislative tracker. There is a lot to be pleased with in this proposal as the House spending target is \$ 12.62 million over the Governor's proposal (which was reported to you in an update several weeks ago. Two weeks ago, the Senate Public Safety appropriations bill was presented which was \$100 million under the Governor's proposal. So now comes the difficult task in the next seven weeks for our elected officials to reconcile these proposals and get similar language that can also garner the Governor's signature.

Although there are certainly going to be many changes in the language of the appropriations bills, I'd like to provide you with a brief comparison of where they currently sit from a financial perspective: (this comparison is from material from MICA) These figures are in thousands/therefore you need to add three more zeroes.

Funding Categories	Governor	Senate	House
Short-Term Offenders	4,380	5,000	5,000
Community Corrections Funding	5,600	5,600	5,600
County Probation Officer Funding	1,200	1,200	1,200
Sex Offender Adult & Juvenile Prob.	6,000	2,000	6,228
Sex Offender Treatment Grants (2)	1,500	0	1,500
Sex Offender Evaluations/Polygraphs (3)	1,500	0	1,500
Sex Offender Assessment Reimbursement	150	150	150
Sentence to Service	1,200	600	1,200
ARMER -Implementation & Upgrade	160,066	160,066	160,066
CriMNet (one time appropriation)	15,539	1,600	6,595
Drug Court Funding (4)	0	5,193	6,572

Legislative Update, Continued on next page

Ever Wonder?

Have you ever wondered:

- Why do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?
- Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin ?
- Why women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?
- Why don't you ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?
- Why is "abbreviated" such a long word?
- Why is it that doctors call what they do "practice"?
- Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?
- Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
- Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?
- Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?
- Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?
- Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?
- You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes?
- Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?!
- Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?
- Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?
- If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?
- If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

Legislative Update, continued from previous page

So the House proposal compares to the others and will result in increased funding for Short-Term Offenders (estimated increased per diem of \$ 30 to \$33 depending on the numbers of clients. There is more money for DOC Community Services including increased funding for caseload reduction dollars, as well as increases in sex offender treatment and management.

There are also several specific community grants where \$ 4.1 million over the biennium is targeted for five specific grant programs.

- Metro offender re-entry grants (\$2.5 million)
- Re-entry grants for Domestic Violence (\$ 500 K)
- North Minneapolis offender pilot program for a non-profit (\$400K)
- Mentoring grants for children of offenders (\$400K)
- Productive Day for St. Louis County (\$ 300 K)

There was a lot of interest in the proposal to reduce to age 13 for adult certification. This really had some genuine support , but eventually was dropped from the Omnibus bill after agreement by the House Chair Joe Mullery and Senate Judiciary Chair Mee Moua, to work on the issue over the summer.

We continue to have several proposals we are monitoring as well as tracking the anticipated changes in the appropriation bills as they work to reach agreement on spending levels.

The House has also passed HF 584, the House Public Safety Omnibus bill which contains the policy language proposals (non money items), and I am continuing to compare it's content and will report on that in further detail in a future report.

I will continue to update legislative information in a timely manner. Please let me know if you have any questions or if there are other areas of concern you'd like us to cover. You can contact me at: SISUwithSAARI@aol.com or through the MCA website (<http://www.mncorrections.org/MCA/boardmembers.htm>). *Thanks again for your continuing support!*

In the News

Second Chance Act Moves in Both Houses

The House Judiciary Committee, busy with many hearings on a variety of topics, passed the Second Chance Act which is expected to move into the House floor on the suspension calendar (non-controversial bills not subject to amendment) by mid-May. The House bill, 1593, has 90 co-sponsors. In the Senate, S. 1090 has 11 co-sponsors at present and advocacy action is focused on Judiciary Committee leaders to move the bill forward.

Community Supervision and Employment

Providing employment opportunities to individuals upon release from prison or jail is a critical step to facilitating their successful return to the community. According to a five-year study conducted by the United States Probation and Pretrial Services System and published in 2007, people convicted of federal offenses who are employed are more likely to complete their term of community supervision without revocation for technical violations or new criminal conduct. The study found that the conditional release of individuals under community supervision was seven times more likely to get revoked if they were unemployed at the start and end of supervision.



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We're on the Web!
www.mnmcca.com

**The MCCA *Happenings*
newsletter is prepared by
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The statements contained
in *Happenings* are the
personal views of the au-
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Education & Training Events

“Crash” Into Diversity

Participants will view the film "Crash." Following the film, a series of exercises will be played out in small and large groups with follow-up dialogue covering issues of race, class and gender in the United States. This session will be facilitated by Captain Sam Owiredo, MCF/Rush City; Sandy Hand, MCF/SHK Transitions Coordinator; and Amy Zabransky, MCF/SHK Employee Development Specialist.

Presentation Highlights:

1. Improve your ability to engage in authentic dialogue and inspire other employees to foster honest conversations and discussions about race in the workplace.
2. Explore tools for creating courageous conversations that help get beyond biases.
3. Create individual action plans for the next steps to take in your organization.
4. Promote the vision of creating inclusive and high performing organizations.
5. Reveals how strangers affect each other and how all people are interrelated.

Date: Thursday, May 24, 2007

Time: 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Location: Minnesota Department of Corrections—Central Office
1450 Energy park Drive, Suite 200 — St. Paul, MN.
Pung Rooms 1 & 2

Registration should be e-mailed to Mark Groves at: mgroves@rseden.org

Internet Predators

Special Agent Maureen Lese will present information on investigating internet predators. Special Agent Lese has over 15 years experience conducting investigations with the Bureau. This presentation will include highlights of several cases involving predatory offenders. Attendees will also learn how predators use the internet to find their victims. Learn some of the ins and outs of investigating predatory offenders. There will also be time available for questions and answers.

Date: Friday, June 15, 2007

Time: 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Location: Minnesota Department of Corrections—Central Office
1450 Energy park Drive, Suite 200 — St. Paul, MN.
Pung Rooms 1, 2 & 3

Registration should be e-mailed to Mark Groves at: mgroves@rseden.org

Recognition for Excellence: Robbie Robinson Service Award

The Robbie Robinson Staff Excellence Award is presented by MCCA to a staff person who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and dedication to community corrections. Robbie Robinson spent more than 20 years of his adult life in prison for a series of offenses, and upon release, developed a safe and sober living environment in 1973 for men returning to the community from prison. This program is called 180



Degrees. The Robbie Robinson Award requires that the recipient be nominated by a peer or a number of peers.

We are pleased to announce that Scotty Emanuel was awarded this year's *Recognition for Excellence: Robbie Robinson Service Award*. Bridget Letnes and Dan Cain made the presentation at the MCCA Education & Training event in March. Scotty has worked at RS Eden since 1976. He initially volun-



teered and ultimately was hired to help develop reentry and after-care for people graduating from substance abuse treatment at Eden House. Scotty has been instrumental in not only developing and delivering programs and services for RS Eden, but he also helped shape the licensing process for all Minnesota alcohol and drug abuse counselors. Now in his 70's, Scotty continues to contribute with his commitment and leadership, and has the energy of someone half his age.

Past Recipients

"Going above and beyond the call of duty" is the recurring statement used in describing the work habits of our past award recipients. Here they are.

1983	Dale Fisher
1984	Mike McGrane
1985	Liz Tellers
1986	Joan Cichosz
1987	Lennis Carpentier
1988	Jim Bransford
1989	Helen Trickey
1990	Joseph Adderley
1991	David Mathews
1992	Steve Rancour & Tom Kane
1993	Ken Pugh
1994	Nina Swanson
1995	Wayne Eggleston
1996	Raul Sanchez
1997	Jan Wagener & Roy Adams
1998	Kris McGregor
1999	David Heacock
2000	Dona Woltering
2001	Michelle Moran
2002	Kathy Tarver-King
2003	Paul Stasica
2004	Doreen Robinson
2005	Harriette Manis
2006	Tamara Persaud
2007	Scotty Emanuel

Triggering the Alarm By Andrew Orth

Doug's first "big" company meeting came as scheduled — day and time. Unfortunately, it came off a schedule that he had buried somewhere inside the imagination of his desk-drawer and on a day and time when he sat in his office fantasizing about golfing over the upcoming weekend.

His saving grace came by way of a cleared throat and raised eyebrows — an intern standing at his office doorway holding up a memo dated three weeks prior — and Doug, spewing his coffee, giving his computer monitor a Starbucks shower. And then he became a blur, leaving his office walls stunned and his swivel chair spinning in bewilderment. Yes, Doug was the madman with a death-wish, dashing throughout the maze of office cubicles like a deer on Ex-lax.

The thunder from his footsteps had his coworkers' curious faces popping up over the tops of their cubicles while their picture frames convulsed on their desks, changing their loved ones' frozen smiles to frozen lines of alarm.

Doug tore down the long hallway towards the big door — the *closed* big door. His heart ran as fast as his legs and he felt his pulse swing a Louisville Slugger against the inside of his skull. A few strides short of the oak door, Doug slowed and steadied himself, wiping his palms on his dress-pants and his forehead on the arm of his suit-coat. He tightened his tie like a noose around his neck and said his farewell: Arriving late to his first meeting at his first "big job" fresh out of Graduate School deserved a kick in the ass and stones to the face. He prepared himself to embrace both.

His chattering hand gripped the door-knob and he took a final breath, opening the door and entering with his head hung as low as a Basset Hound's after getting caught stealing food from the kitchen table. Doug looked up just enough to quickly look down again.

His boss had paused, ceased speech to look up at Doug with an expression that slid sandpaper across the soles of Doug's feet and sent the heat of shame down Doug's spine. And the men and women that suffocated around the rectangular table waited and watched, some of them with the same raised eyebrows the intern had displayed moments before.

Doug took his seat — the only empty seat at the table. He nestled in amongst his coworkers and began to apologize, but his apology was cut off at his tongue when his boss resumed talking, voice and manner unfazed, as though the typical day brought typical circumstance, and precious time would only be wasted if invested in the typical.

Doug was too ashamed to focus on the meeting. The only voice he listened to was his own, which became the voice of a haywire robot repeating words worth four letters inside broken sentences. He wanted to slam his face into the table until it was a smashed pumpkin, because a pumpkin-head is what he knew he was — a jack-o-lantern going loony from the flame of embarrassment that blazed yellow within.

The large hanging clock did its dance on the wall until eventually the party was over and the dizzied guests could depart.

As Doug stood, he looked again at his boss and tried to gain attention. Again, he was unsuccessful. Doug's apology would not happen, or it would have to wait at the very least: his boss was already on the cell-phone, *checking the ol' wrist-watch*.

So Doug left the meeting and headed back to his office expecting to find it empty of all belongings and a note on the door *nicely* telling him to join the line at the unemployment office. However, he entered to find it unchanged: Coffee was caked to his monitor and keyboard, and as he looked closer he could almost still see his chair spiraling on axis from the trauma it had endured earlier. Part of Doug was relieved, but he did not sigh. He wiped off his workstation with Kleenex before forcing himself back to work...

...Doug drove home that night with a million questions for himself and anyone that would listen. No one would.

And that night he went to bed asking the same questions, knowing it was useless to do so but not caring. He tried to see himself as a success in twenty years — with a nice house and nice family, as a professional, as a good spouse and good parent; he tried to see himself as a boss, sitting at the chair and conducting a meeting. Doug wanted it all. He hoped he would not screw it up, and more importantly, he hoped that he had not screwed it up already. Doug fell asleep.

The following A.M., Doug got out of bed as a zombie, trudging through his morning in the same way he would for every day that followed. He turned on the morning news to hear the weather. What he saw was his boss's face covering the screen, followed by video footage of a bank robbery—a ski-masked figure waving a shotgun in all directions, screaming a bird's nest of incoherence at no one in particular, and dressed in a business suit. Surveillance footage showed the masked figure flee the scene, oddly making off with only a hundred dollars in coins.

It cut to his boss's face again and reported that after an eight-hour standoff with law enforcement authorities the suspect was in custody, but that few details had been released regarding the suspect's identity...or motive.