



Minnesota Community Corrections Association

HAPPENINGS

Summer 2004

Robbie Robinson Excellence Award

A highlight of the winter conference is the presentation of the Robbie Robinson Line Staff Excellence Award. Doreen Robinson is this year's Robbie Robinson award winner. Robbie Robinson was a man who knew the criminal justice system inside and out. He spent over twenty years of his adult life in prison for a series of offenses. Then he discovered AA and began to get some control over the direction of his life. He married, returned to Stillwater prison, this time as a guard, and started laying plans for using the lessons he had learned there.

In 1971, 180 Degrees was born out of Robbie's vision. It was to be a safe and sober living environment for men returning to the community from prison. In 1973, 180 opened its doors with Robbie as its first Executive Director.

Over the next 10 years, until his death in 1982, Robbie remained true to his dream. He was a tireless advocate for the offenders whose lives touched his own. He made sure that 180 was there for

the clients no one else would take, to provide the chance for success that he felt was their right. The mechanics of the Robbie Robinson award requires that the recipient be nominated by a peer or number of peers.

Doreen began her career with Hennepin County as an eligibility technician in the Family Services Division. She later transferred to the Probation Department and has worked with numerous offenders over the past 25 years. She is currently a probation officer, supervising a specialized case load of adult sexual offenders. The citation accompanying the award stated in part, "Doreen embodies the tenets of community corrections in that she holds her clients responsible and accountable without demeaning them. Her firm but fair stance helps protect the community but provides offenders an opportunity to change." Congratulations, Doreen!

Board of Director's Service Award

Jan Wagener is this year's recipient of the Board of Directors' Service Award. She is honored for not only the quantity of her

opinions were always thoughtful. Jan made it a priority to be at virtually each monthly Board meeting. She was a great asset to our board.

In February of 1998, Jan joined the Minnesota Community Corrections Association Board of Directors as the Communications Director. During her five years in that position, she brought stability and quality back to our newsletter. Jan managed to get *Happenings* out despite deadlines, late submissions, mysteriously disappearing e-mail's, technology angst, stress and overload.

years of service but also for the quality. Her commitment to her position as a Hennepin County probations officer earned her the 1997 Robert H. Robinson award for line-staff excellence. As is her nature, Jan was surprised and honored to receive that award. Jan Wagener has been a valuable member of MCCA for the last decade. She was a "gentle" voice on our board whose calm

Jan has worked for Hennepin County Probation since 1980 and currently works in the sex offender unit. She couldn't be more deserving of this year's Minnesota Community Corrections Association Board of Directors award for meritorious service to the Association. Thanks Jan!



Doreen Robinson and Jan Wagener

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Legislative Update: 2004

MCCA is again pleased to announce our annual Legislative Update workshop. This first-rate session will provide an opportunity for our presenters to inform MCCA members about the ever-changing laws, policies, and plans that have been or are bouncing around the state legislature. This is an excellent opportunity to ask those burning questions you have about our state of affairs. We invite you to attend this notable event to find out what's in store and discover how various state departments, county agencies and other social services organizations are dealing with changes. Are there federal or state actions that in the future could affect the work we all do? Come and join us, ask a few questions, find some answers and help generate ideas and discussion.

Date: Wednesday, August 18, 2004
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Location: DOC - Central Office Itasca Room
 1450 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul, MN

Presenters:
Harley Nelson, Deputy Commissioner, MN DOC
John Tuma, Lobbyist, Metropolitan Inter-County Association, Public Safety & Corrections
Bob Olander, Division Director, Hennepin County Child, Family and Adult Services
Dan Cain, President, RS Eden

Release Planning for Offenders With Serious and Persistent Mental Illness: Overcoming Community and Agency Barriers!

This training focuses on identifying SPMI offenders and on the following aspects of working with this population.

- ◆ Referring SPMI offenders to county mental health units -(rule 79 referrals)
- ◆ Locating housing resources -(rule 36 group homes, rule 25 placements, transitional housing)
- ◆ Applying for economic assistance - (SSI, SSDI, GMAC, MA)
- ◆ Setting up community psychiatric services
- ◆ Vocational training resources
- ◆ Working collaboratively with community agencies
- ◆ Locating community resources
- ◆ Prevention planning
- ◆ Counseling techniques in preparing the offender to manage his/her mental health in the community

Date: Friday, July 16th, 2004
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Location: DOC - Central Office
 1450 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul, MN
Presenters: *Willa Lavamaki*, MSE, Therapist - DOC
Brent Erickson, MA, LISW, Therapist - DOC

Registration For Both Training Sessions: Mark Groves via email at mgroves@rseden.org

This training is free to MCCA members.

If you are not an MCCA member, you may attend this workshop and pay your annual \$20 membership.
 Remember, every workshop through January 2005 is free for current MCCA members!

Life's Rules I've Learned

- ✓ I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.
- ✓ The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.
- ✓ Never take life seriously. Nobody gets out alive anyway.
- ✓ There are two kinds of pedestrians: the quick and the dead.
- ✓ An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys.
- ✓ If quitters never win, and winners never quit, then who is the fool who said, "Quit while you're ahead?"
- ✓ Always get the last word in: Apologize.
- ✓ Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach that person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks.
- ✓ Have you noticed since everyone has a camcorder these days no one talks about seeing UFO's like they used to?
- ✓ Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again.
- ✓ Why does a slight tax increase cost you two hundred dollars and a substantial tax cut saves you thirty cents?
- ✓ In the 60s, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.
- ✓ Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first.
- ✓ How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

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The Year in Review

By Clay Hildahl

MCCA and I had another great year together! Our Board of Directors and all of our committees' volunteers made 2003 a progressive year for MCCA. We had our first Annual "Fun on the Fairways" Golf Tournament Fund Raiser and our first co-sponsored Annual Conference on Female Offenders. Both of these new ventures were resounding successes. In a year filled with valuable monthly trainings, a newly revitalized Winter Conference and another popular Crappie Fishing Tournament, we had a successful event around every corner. Speaking of which, May 7th brought us another Crappie Tournament and July will be our second annual Golf Tournament.

Be Safe.

Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R)

By Shelva Lee Swanson

The most critical piece of the Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R) protocol now is Quality Assurance. The integrity of the LSI-R instrument lies in the ability of agencies to provide adequate quality assurance measures. The automated LSI-R has built in certain self-check procedures so that users are reminded of the "If, then's" during the scoring process. The automated version also adds the score to eliminate any counting

errors. The true quality of an LSI-R assessment however, lies in the ability of the assessor to

conduct a motivational style interview, to analyze the information that is provided and to verify certain information through collateral resources. The assessor's interviewing skills are critical to this process.

Supervisors or Quality Assurance designees should set procedures in place that require, encourage and reward good interviewing skills as part of an assessor job performance. Agencies should provide Motivational Interviewing and/or Effective Case Management trainings to ensure that assessors have good interviewing skills and utilize those

skills in the assessment process to ensure LSI-R quality. In addition to ensuring that users have good interviewing skills, the Quality Assurance designee should conduct periodic "inter-rater reliability" testing within their agency. Inter-rater reliability means that if provided the same information on an individual, and utilizing a standardized scoring guide, two or more raters arrive at same or similar results when scoring the instrument.

"Agencies should provide...trainings to ensure that assessors have good interviewing skills."

MCA provided a LSI-R "Booster" training at the annual training institute and the Department of

Corrections continues to assist in the provision of "Boosters" and the standardized three-day LSI-R training for new users who are responsible for completing LSI-R's and supervisors responsible for quality control. This article is meant to encourage agencies and supervisors to continue to provide regular "booster" sessions for all users. All qualified LSI-R trainers should be capable of providing "Booster" sessions for their agencies. Many of you are now seeing the application of the LSI-R assessments and reassessments in your offender classification systems and the continuum

Continued on p. 7



M.C.C.A

Is Sponsoring the 2nd Annual *"Fun On The Fairway"* Golf Tournament

\$100 - First Prize will go to the winning team!



Time again to talk smack, talk trash, but bring your "A" game!

Fairway Prizes For:

Closest to the Hole

Longest Drive

Four Person Team Scramble

Closest to the Creek Without Going Over or In

Longest Putt

Best Score Wins Traveling Trophy

When: July 23, 2004

Where: Kate Haven Golf Course

8791 Lexington Ave NE, Circle Pines, Minnesota 55014
(763) 786-2945

Time: Tee Times Start at 8:45 a.m.

Cost: \$25.00, Includes: 9 holes of Golf, Lunch, MCCA Beverage Mug, & lots of Door Prizes Refreshments will be available at the Clubhouse.

Tee Times Are Limited So Register Early. First 3 Teams Registered Will Receive A Leather MCCA Business Portfolio!

No Personal Coolers are allowed on the course

To Make Reservations: Mail your Team Registration & Fees to:

Gary Biedler - RS Eden-Ashland

532 Ashland Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

(651) 292-1466 or e-mail: gabiedler@rseden.org.

Make checks payable to: Minnesota Community Corrections Association



MINNESOTA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Membership Benefits:

- √ Free monthly education & training workshops
- √ Subscription to quarterly *Happenings* newsletter
- √ Networking opportunities
- √ Early notice of annual Crappie & Golf Tournaments
- √ MCCA Committee involvement

Membership Application

(Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Agency/Organization: _____

Position/Title: _____

Phone # _____

e-mail address: _____

A \$20.00 annual investment. Please make your check out to MCCA and send it to:

Mark Groves, c/o MCCA
 357 Oneida Street
 St. Paul, MN 55102

Please visit our website at: <http://www.mnmcca.com>

Are you interested in serving on any MCCA committees? Please check the committees you are interested in:

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| _____ Communications | _____ Education & Training | _____ Membership |
| _____ Finance | _____ Marketing | _____ Public Policy |
| _____ Winter Institute | _____ Crappie Tournament | _____ Golf Tournament |
-

2004 Winter Institute

By Bridget Letnes

This year's MCCA Winter Conference was held on February 19th and 20th at Camp Ripley, located in Little Falls, MN. This was a new venue for the annual conference and we welcomed over 55 MCCA members, many of them joining for the first time. We also welcomed 10 college students throughout Minnesota who wanted to get their feet wet in the community corrections field.

Camp Ripley was more than a hospitable site for the conference and reasonably priced to help keep participants' costs minimal. Members had the opportunity to stay on the military base, housed in single room that provided a bed, refrigerator, "locker," T.V., and personal sink and mirror. A bathroom was shared with your next door neighbor. I personally found these conditions comfortable and nothing like I had imagined from years of watching M.A.S.H. Each morning, I could hear the chanting of runners-in-training in the distance, but did not have a sergeant wake-up call at 5 a.m. as imagined.

The conference got off to a great start on Thursday morning with the keynote speakers educating participants on Juvenile Prostitution in Minnesota. Ann Quinn-Robinson and Sgt. Andrew Schmidt provided a balance of information on both the "pimps" and prostitutes, both adult and juvenile. I heard nothing but great reviews on these speakers. Other presentations on Thursday were also spectacular,

POLL

Dear MCCA Members: The MCCA Conference Committee has begun planning for our 2005 Winter Conference and would like MCCA members' input on where/what you would like to see at the next conference. Please email your answers to tamara.persaud@co.ramsey.mn.us by July 1, 2004. Your response will be highly appreciated.

1. Would you be more likely to attend the Conference if it was **within the Twin Cities or outside** of the area?
2. **What do you or your department need** in terms of training hours?
3. If you attended the 2004 conference, what are some things you **liked and what are some things you disliked?**

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!!

especially noting Don Streufert's twist to a "normal" restorative justice training. His group conversations and small cluster discussions were very engaging to the topic and allowed various professionals and students to mingle. A highly energetic Terry Casey spoke on self-injury trends with juveniles, CPR certification was provided, and a first-hand look at working with a Hmong family was presented.

A volleyball tournament and basketball shoot-around was available Thursday evening for physical activity and group interaction. Board games and cards were also provided.

Friday morning brought Camp Ripley a few inches of snow, though all of our presenters showed up raring to go! We got an introductory course to Extended Juvenile Jurisdiction, approaches to supervising the Chemically Dependent Sex Offender, a model of the ECRC policies in Minnesota, and gender-specific services for juvenile girls. After lunch, though the crowd dwindled, we had an extraordinary look into the BCA's Crime Scene

Investigations. Janet Nelson provided great insight to the realities of the job, and we all learned that the current T.V shows really are nothing but Hollywood!

Each year two awards are given during the conference's business meeting. This year's Robert H. Robinson plaque, awarding line staff for his/her dedication to the community corrections field, was given to Doreen Robinson. MCCA's Board of Directors award was presented to Jan Wagener for her outstanding service to MCCA.

I would like to thank the Conference Committee's hard work in developing and delivering a great line-up at Camp Ripley!

I think we had a great comeback for this year's conference and we hope to make it even better in 2005. If you have ideas and suggestions for next year's conference, or would like to become part of MCCA's Winter Conference Committee, please feel free to email me at Bridget@180degrees.org.

What is the MCCA Public Policy Committee?

Has this ever happened to you? You're reading the paper, watching or listening to the news, and you come across a story about someone who's doing something you're not too crazy about. Suddenly, that usually passive activist in you jumps up and says, "Man, this is wrong. I've got to talk to someone about this!"

Unfortunately, that's usually as far as it gets because (a) it's virtually impossible to get through to that someone who might be able to do something for

you. And (b) what if you did? Would they really care about your opinion?

Community members often struggle to find and understand reliable information on public policy issues that affect their future. In addition, many of us would like to be involved in the policy making process, but do not know how to do so. Well, now here's your chance. The Public Policy committee is an MCCA resource for objective policy analysis and expertise. Our objective is to examine public policy issues, inform MCCA membership and policy makers, and advise leaders on choices and actions.

As you read this, please get on your computer right now and send me a message telling me that you want to get involved in MCCA's new public policy committee. My e-mail address is: mgroves@rseden.org. If you do not have access to a computer right now, get on your telephone and dial 612-630-3604 and let me know you care! I want to get involved! If neither of those two methods is accessible, I'll somehow try to figure out how to send a carrier pigeon to you. Thank you and enjoy the rest of the summer. Mark Groves, MCCA Public Policy Director.

Extra! Extra! Read All About It: Committee Members & Newsletter Writers Needed!

After twenty-eight years of excellent publications, MCCA has a brand, spanking new *Happenings* newsletter chair. Me! (Mark Groves.) I am forming a newsletter committee of idea-persons, movers and shakers. I am especially looking for photographers, aspiring writers and authors who can create quality articles dealing with any aspect of community corrections. If this sounds like you, then, by all means, you're just the person I'm looking for!

This is an excellent time to join our newsletter committee. I'm thinking our committee members would be known as "Beat Writers." I am looking for enthusiastic and creative individuals to join now to get the committee up and running. My goal is to get an energetic committee together that will produce the next edition of the *Happenings* newsletter. To be quite frank with you, right now, I am a committee of one! Of course, this has its pros and cons. The pros are many including: Committee meetings move along quite rapidly; there are not a lot of distractions, bickering, or disagreements at the meetings. I get to eat all of the cookies. It's relatively easy to find space for meetings - I can have them with myself while I'm driving around.

The cons are also many including: I feel like the Maytag repairman; I become quite anxious when I'm alone and I'm afraid of the dark (I don't know what this has to do with newsletter stuff). It's hard to generate ideas and discussion. The meetings are not very dynamic. I have to do everything!

As you know, the purpose of MCCA is to provide our membership, and other interested individuals, with a variety of activities relating to the enhancement of correctional services. These activities include monthly education and training workshops; quarterly publication of the *Happenings* newsletter; our annual Winter Institute, Crappie Tournament, Golf Tournament; liaison with other corrections organizations. It is our belief that both individuals and programs providing services to the criminal justice client be supported by the best possible programming and professional development.

So, there you have it! As you read this, make a straight bee-line to your computer (right now) and drop me a line to let me know you've heard the calling. My address is mgroves@rseden.org. I'm sitting at my computer right now looking at the screen waiting for your message. Later, gater.

LSI-R, Continued from p. 3

of care model, recommended for "Best Practices" in corrections. As this new protocol is integrated into our daily work we need to be cognizant of the integrity of the instrument to provide valid information in our level of supervision/care decisions.

The most critical piece of the LSI-R protocol now is Quality Assurance. Even for individuals with advanced training, it is recommended that continuous quality control training be provided. This requires ongoing training and refresher training for users so that the tendency to "drift" in scoring does not become problematic. The automated version of the LSI-R has been designed to eliminate the most frequent scoring errors, however it is not meant to eliminate the need for ongoing quality control by immediate supervisors and/or quality assurance designees. Each agency must establish a quality assurance method to ensure that users are utilizing appropriate interviewing techniques so that the depth of information needed to score the LSI-R is attained and is reflected in the scoring of the instrument.

For information on LSI-R trainings and LSI-R "Booster" sessions contact Susan Stacey, Department of Corrections; phone number (651) 642-0338.

VISIT US AT WWW.MNMCCA.COM

Mission Statement

The Minnesota Community Corrections Association (MCCA) is a state-wide organization of people working in corrections dedicated to the advancement of effective community alternatives to incarceration as a way to build safer communities. To accomplish this we:

- * Offer high quality, affordable training programs
- * Partner with other organizations & the community in a shared response to crime
- * Advocate & educate on the need to give priority allocation of public resources
- * Communicate with our members on issues affecting community corrections
- * Provide a stakeholder's forum for innovations that enhance & create new community corrections options
- * Heighten awareness of restorative justice within the community and the legislature.

Zero Gravity

When NASA first started sending up astronauts, they quickly discovered that ball point pens would not work in zero gravity. To combat this problem, NASA scientists spent a decade and \$12 billion developing a pen that writes in zero gravity, upside down, on almost any surface including glass and at temperatures ranging from below freezing to over 300° C.

The Russians used a pencil.

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The statements contained in ***Happenings*** are the personal views of the authors and do not constitute MCCA policy or endorsement by the Association or its Board of Directors, unless so indicated. MCCA does not assume responsibility for the content of the ***Happenings*** articles as submitted by contributors.

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