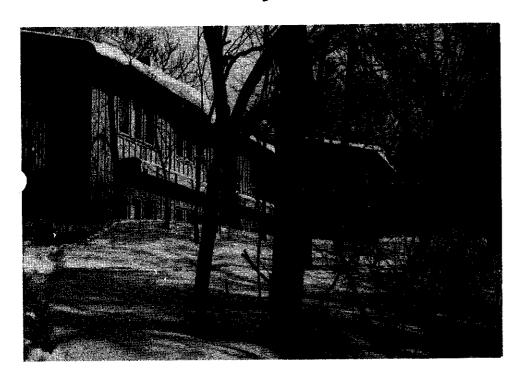
Minnesota Community Corrections Association

MCCA Winter Conference Set For February 19-20



Keeping Us Healthy and Growing will be the theme of the 1986 Annual Conference scheduled for February 19-20, 1986. In a cross-town move, this year's gathering will be held at beautiful Camp Wilder near Marine on the St. Croix.

In the spirit of the theme, participants will discuss ways of staying physically and emotionally healthy in stressful business.

The wooded setting at Camp Wilder will lend itself to the spirit of relaxation and allow a real break-away from the job. Wednesday evening we will put our cares behind us and enjoy an evening with friends on a hay ride and informal games and sociability. Camp Wilder also has groomed ski trails. If you don't have your own skis, or maybe would like to try cross-country skiing for the first time, Wilder has equipment available at

no cost to conferees.

Even if you do not spend the night at Camp Wilder, plan to join us for the evening activities.

Be Comfortable

In keeping with the theme of the conference and the comfortable setting of the Camp, participants are urged to wear comfortable and casual clothes.

Spend the Night

The enjoyment of the evening need not be cut short by a drive back home. Plan to spend the night with us at Camp Wilder. For a cost hardly more than the trip back to town, you can forget the drive and relax with us.

Register Now

January 27, 1986, is the deadline for registration. Simply fill out the registration form in the conference flier in this issue and mail it to Karole.

Chris Ringer To Keynote Conference



Christopher Ringer, popular speaker and family therapist will give the keynote presentation at the annual Winter Conference on February 19, 1986. Ringer is employed by RELATE Counseling Center as coordinator of its chemical dependency program and by Franklin Psychiatric Associates as a family therapist.

Chris is well known for his presentations on co-dependency and has lectured and conducted work shops for numerous schools, hospitals, treatment centers, counselling agencies and businesses.

His Informative and entertaining speaking style is sure to set an entusiastic pace for the two-day conference.

Meet The Speakers

Ted Thompson ("Stress and the Working Professional"), is a licensed psychologist and a family therapist at The Metropolitan Institute for Black Chemical Abuse. He has experience in Meet The Speaker's Cont To Page 4

Hennepin Names Corrections Director

Michael Cunniff has been named the director of community corrections in Hennepin County. His appointment is part of a reorganization of the County Court Services Department which was required by the State Community Corrections Act. The new organization is expected to centralize the administration of the county's corrections institutions and probation services. Until this change, the judges, through Court Services, have adminstered the Juvenile Detention Center, the County Home School and Probation. The County Board has been responsible for the Adult Corrections Facility and Parole Services.

Cunniff is a deputy court administrator in Hennepin County, working with the Municipal court. He has prior experience in labor relations with the county personnel department.

Hedin New Director in Scott County

John Hedin has been named Director of Court Services in Scott County, effective October 7, 1985. John comes from Granite Falls, where he worked since February 1978 as Yellow Medicine County's Director of Community Corrections. He has prior experience at the Sheriff's Boys Ranch in Austin.

A native of Willmar, Minnesota, Hedin has a degree in corrections from Northeast Missouri State University and participated in the graduate program in Administration of Justice/Corrections Administration at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois.

Doffing Director in Rochester

Dennis Doffing is the new Director of Court Services for Dodge/Fillmore/-Olmstead Counties. Since July 1982, he worked as Program Assistant at PORT in Rochester. Between February 1978 and July 1982, he served as a probation officer in Rochester and Dodge County.

MCCA Membership Benefits the Professional

By Jeff Martin

We will celebrate our 10th consecutive year of service to the corrections community in 1986. Originally we called ourselves the Metropolitan Community Corrections Association. When we changed our name to the Minnesota Community Corrections Association we wanted more of a representation of corrections professionals. We are presently working harder to reach our colleagues outside of the Twin Cities area.

Membership benefits for all members (including students and volunteers) include:

The Happenings - Our bi-monthly newsletter which presents indepth issue reporting, legislative news, program/public agency information, and other updates of benefit to professionals.

Annual Mid Winter Conference - A low cost, stimulating and enjoyable two-day working session.

Monthly Training - These excellent twohour meetings are free to MCCA members.

Our individual memberships have risen 45 percent in the last two years which indicates an increasing number of professionals are "jumping on the MCCA bandwagon" to be a part of this active and productive organization.

I hope you will soon join with us so we can continue to work toward a safer, more humane corrections system and community in general.

MCCA Training 1985 Review

This has truly been an **outstanding** year for MCCA training. If you were one of the many who took advantage of this year's workshops, you know what I'm talking about. Obviously, we can't please everyone, but according to the workshop evaluations and verbal responses, many were impressed.

The training committee has been putting their thoughts together for the 1986 workshops. This year we have some "new minds", mixed with the old to give you another great year of "cheap" training. It's time to block out your second Wednesday of the month and watch for the training schedule in February.

I would like to give a special thanks to the 1985 Training Committee: Rick Ricker, Donna Smythe. A special thanks to Mary Swedahl again for her greatly appreciated help.

Mike McGrane, Chairman MCCA Training Committee

MCCA Mission Statemen

The Minnesota Community Corrections Association was established in 1976. It began as a consortium of agencies, professionals and other concerned person who had the joint intent to advocate and promote community based programming for the offender.

The Minnesota Community Corrections Association membership is composed of programs, professionals, students and other concerned individuals who are employed in or concerned with quality community based corrections programming.

As a community focused association, we are concerned with:

- the promotion of public safety.
- the encouragement and support of community based alternatives to incarceration.
- full participation in society by the offender through humane, responsible and effective treatment of criminal behavior.
- the advancement of professional ethics as well as continuing education and study to ensure the provision of quality programming.

The Minnesota Community Correction Association is committed to an active role in promoting, coordinating and evaluating the following areas:

To improve professional standards of performance for community corrections workers.

To promote specialized education and training for all community corrections workers.

To provide a forum for communication, peer review and cooperative planning by all community corrections programs. To participate in the criminal justice planning process to ensure a continuum of services; this may be accomplished by being actively involved in the legislative process as well as a liaison between private and public community corrections agencies.

To promote public awareness and acceptance of the goals and successes of community corrections programs.

As Individual professionals and as community based programs, we believe it is our purpose to support the best possible programming and professional development in community corrections.

SOS—Social Outreach Service For Kids In Crisis

By Pat Simons

Tucked away near the entrance of the Hennepin County Juvenile Center in an office where file cabinets share space with stuffed animals, is a unique section of the HC system—S.O.S., Social Outreach Service—the after hours emergency center serving children from birth to 17.

In the nine years since it was established by the Juvenile Court system to deal with status offenders brought into the juvenile center, S.O.S. has dealt with thousands of cases, over 3900 in 1984 alone. Now besides dealing with the referrals from the Center, the scope of its work has widened so it handles other youth. It's permanent staff of six social workers, operating in teams of two, deal with children brought in by police following domestic disputes, abuse and neglect cases. runaways or walk-ins who need help. In addition, the staff also is responsible for manning the crisis phone lines for the Child Protection and Child Welfare Departments and will take reports and intervene in cases where the safety of a child is in question.

Maureen Green has been with SOS almost ince its inception. Her experience and those of the other five workers add up to almost a hundred years of County experience, most of it in Child Protection services. Green's enthusiasm about those she deals with comes through immediately. Her voice is soft and caring and yet bubbles with encouragement and laughter that comforts the kids who come through the door, diffusing the fear, anger and sadness that usually accompanies them.

"Kids don't deserve what's happening to them," Green says and her belief transmits itself to the kids themselves. Whether they are only in the office a few minutes or it becomes an all-night effort, Green takes time with each child, encouraging them to talk about the crisis that brought them into the center, listening to them and responding to their needs. A warm meal is always available, there are toys and games for the younger children and a tv in one corner makes the office seem less threatening to those it serves.

Each 12 hour shift at S.O.S. is different. From four in the afternoon when the office opens until the team leaves at 4 a.m., nothing is a certainty. The Juvenile Center may send over kids picked up for shoplifting, curfew violations or runaways and the worker will make contact with the parents to arrange for a pick up. Over 69% of the cases that come

each night are closed by the child's being reunited with the family. For others where the family and children need time away from each other for a short term or for a longer period of time (or where it is unsafe for the child to return home) S.O.S. arranges temporary housing in a county shelter—usually

St. Joseph's Home or Homeaway Shelter where bed space is at a premium. Other referrals are made to Crisis Intervention, Detox, Treatment Center or if the family is open to counseling to deal with what brought the crisis to a head—in some instances children are sent to the Bridge for Runaway Youth for a 5-7 day stay. For children under ten immediate shelter is offered by St. Joseph's or in emergency foster homes.

Fifty three percent of the cases that S.O.S. handles involve charges of abuse or neglect and many of these are referred by police, crisis centers, schools, relatives or neighbors who come into contact with the children. In each case reports are taken and passed on to the Child Protection Services where social workers are assigned. They will investigate to stop the abuse, prevent further harm and to foster positive parenting techniques. With Hennepin County's new policies on cutting the out-of-home placements, in-home intervention teams are being utilized where intensive therapy is use within the family setting

Ron Peterson, himself a father of two teenage duaghters, can bring a sense of calm in a choatic situation. Whether on a phone call with a distraught parent dealing with first time exposure to police procedure or taking one of the 4,000 calls per year that reports a child in danger, Peterson has the ability to lessen tension and to reassure the clients.

A typical night?

Peterson is not quite sure what that would mean. One night may find a dozen kids in the office, several angry families refusing to take a runaway home, and perhaps a toddler or baby who has been found alone in an apartment, another night may find only one runaway waiting nervously for his family to pick him up. Each case is prioritized and handled as quickly as possible in between the numerous calls of abuse or messages that need to be passed on to social workers on the day shift. Records of every family or child that has had contact with the county social system is available on microfilm and questions on current social workers or probation officers are kept up to date weekly to pass on to authorized contacts.

Many of the cases that come into S.O.S. each week are families that have been there before, in some cases many times. Yet all are dealt with with the hope that the time spent there will make the difference to the family that will aid their healing. That is the aim the reason S.O.S. exists.

Hennepin County Social Outreach Services is located in the Juvenile Center at 510 Park Ave. or may be reached from 4 pm - 4am weekdays and all weekend hours at 348-8144.

Board Asks For Robinson Award Nominees

The MCCA Board of Directors is asking for nominations for the 1986 Robert H. Robinson Service Award. The award is presented at the annual winter conference to a line staff worker in community corrections who has demonstrated "excellence, creativity and commitment" to corrections and the community.

Previous winners include Dale Fisher, Hennepin County Court Services; Mike McGrane, Wilder CAP; and Liz Teller, Freedom House. Nominations with resumes of the nominee should be submitted to the MCCA office no later than January 10, 1986.

MCA Recognizes Genesis

GENESIS II for women, Inc., was selected this year by the MCA Board as the recipient of the "President's Award for 1985". This award is given to programs that have demonstrated creativity, resourcefulness and innovation in the field of corrections.

Kate A. Speltz, Executive Director of GENESIS II accepted the award at the MCA Fall Award Luncheon on Thursday, October 10, 1985 at the Radisson Hotel in St. Paul.

Peterson Retires

Warren Peterson, Minnesota Department of Corrections Community Services Division district supervisor in the Duluth area, has announced his retirement effective December 2, 1985, after nearly 34 years with the department. Peterson was hired as a parole agent I in 1952 and since 1961 has served as a supervisor of juvenile agents, adult agents, and has been instrumental in the implementation of the Community Corrections Act in the Arrowhead region.

Time To Renew Your Membership

We wouldn't want you to miss a single issue of The Happenings or any of the training sessions scheduled for 1986. To ensure that you will continue to get the full benefits from the MCCA be sure to renew your membership NOW. If you register for the Winter Conference, your MCCA membership will be included. If not, send in the registration form on page three.

MINNESOTA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 19 — 20, 1986 CAMP WILDER — MARINE ON ST. CROIX

"KEEPING US HEALTHY AND GROWING"

Keynote Speaker Christopher Ringer Family Therapist and Lecturer



Happenings

A publication of the Minnesota Community Corrections Association, 666 Marshall Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104 — 292-1131.

The opinions expressed in the Happenings are those of the contributing writers.

Readers are encouraged to respond to the content of this newsletter and to write on topics of interest to its readers. The staff reserves the right to edit submitted articles. Copy deadline is the 25th of odd-numbered months. Members of the newsletter committee are:

Dale Fisher, Editor
Hennepin County Court Services
Mia Olsen
Genesis II For Women
Laura Sissala
REM-Lyndale
Karole Williams, Board Llason
180 Degrees
Pat Simons
The Bridge
Tim Peterson
Ramsey Co. Community Corrections

We would like to thank the men in the print show at MCF-STW for their help in publishing this newsletter.

MINNESOTA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION 666 Marshall Avenue St. Paul, MN 55104 NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 1994 MPLS., MN.