

mcca Happenings

Minnesota Community Corrections Association

Pera Changes Push Several Toward Retirement

As of July first the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) will make major changes in survivor benefits and a number of long-time corrections workers have moved up their retirement dates accordingly.

Because of a miscalculation in PERA predictions, survivor benefits have been costing PERA funds more than expected. For those people retiring after July 1, 1987, there will be an additional five to ten percent reduction in monthly survivor annuities.

Rick Deschler of the St. Paul PERA office told us that the PERA planners expected more women to elect survivor benefits. He said the vast majority of PERA members (80-85%) are female. Since women tend to live longer than men, survivor benefits for male spouses of female employees would cost PERA less. However, fewer women than expected have subscribed to survivor annuity plans, opting for the higher retirement income available without survivor benefits. The miscalculation resulted in a 30 million dollar loss to PERA.

To avoid the reduction of survivor annuity benefits, several corrections professionals who are eligible for retirement but may not otherwise have retired this spring, have chosen to head for the lakes and golf courses before July first. We are highlighting some of those retirees in honor of the many years of service they have given to our profession.

Glenn Mueller retired in Dec. 1986 after 22 years of work in the Juvenile Probation. He started as a Probation Officer in 1965 and moved to the court Intervention/Resources Program in 1979 where he remained until his retirement.

Donald Langland ended 33 years of service to Ramsey County in January, 1987. He was the Assistant Director of Ramsey County Community Corrections at the time of his retirement. Don started with the County in 1954 and was the accountant for the Detention and Corrections Authority from December, 1957 to May, 1968. He has been in an administrative capacity since November, 1969. Don plans to sail, play golf and travel.

Will Botko, Manager of the Felony Probation Division of Hennepin County Court and Field Services, retired April 30 after thirty-three years with the department. Will began his career with Hennepin County Probation on February 23, 1954, when he was hired as a probation officer. He was promoted to case supervisor in June 1963, and was named head of the Adult Division (now Felony Probation Division) in December 1968. Will has been known as a strong and fair leader, respected by his staff and others in the criminal justice system. His leadership has helped Hennepin County to maintain its nationwide reputation as a leader in the field of corrections.

Raymond Lepsche, a Juvenile Probation Officer, spent all of his 26 years with Ramsey County in the Juvenile Probation Division. Ray was well known for his community involvement as well as his probation work. Ray will travel and continue to work with young people.

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Consequences May Help Violators

By Bob Hanson

The number of people coming into the Adult Criminal Justice System is straining our infrastructure to its rational limits. Whether it is the surge in the adult population of recent years, increased arrests, or more criminal prosecutions is not entirely clear. What is clear is that in any short conversation with police, Sheriff's detention staff,

probation diversion or screening workers, public defenders, prosecutors, judges, court clerks, residential and non-residential treatment people, or our own local corrections staff, it is evident that the need for better ways to cope with the numbers confronts us daily.

In recent times the Adult Courts, Division of the Ramsey County Community Corrections department has begun emphasizing an idea that may be part of the answer. It is neither an original idea nor is it our own. It arose out of conversations in branch offices, community programs and particularly, in our domestic abuse areas. The idea is that there be a consistent and rapid consequence for failure to comply with court set conditions of sentences.

Emphasis on this idea does not represent a change in agency philosophy nor does it abandon the concept that people who have

committed offenses can and should change. It just means that reality is upon us all. When those who are willing to try to rehabilitate themselves are lined up at the doors, there is little money left to expend on those who choose not to try. Participation on diversion status, in treatment programs, and on probation itself is a privilege that costs very real dollars and takes up very real time. Everyone involved must make the most of that privilege or share in the burden of having failed.

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Crappie Tournament: A Chilling Success

The 4th annual Minnesota Corrections Crappie Tournament was held on Friday, May 1. It was held, as in past years, at Martin's Resort on Rush Lake. The weather for the tournament was rainy and cold, but it did not stop 263 corrections workers from entering the tournament and joining in the fun.

As in past years, a good number of prizes were awarded in several categories. Bill Rossini of MCF-Stillwater won 1st prize for biggest catch with a 1 pound, 8 ounce crappie. For his catch, Bill received a Micronar Chart Recorder Graph. Second prize, a Micronar Depth Finder went to Dave Walthour of MCF-St. Cloud for his 1 pound, 1 ounce crappie.

The traveling trophy, which is awarded annually to the agency with the best catch, went to MCF-Stillwater. Last year's winner of the trophy was Anoka County Community Corrections. A \$50 prize is also awarded annually to the boat bringing in the most fish. This year the \$50 prize went to the Marty McHough boat.

The crappie tournament has quickly become one of the most enjoyed correctional events. Participants have an opportunity to relax, socialize, and have fun with other corrections people. Even though the weather for this year's tournament was less than desirable, tournament organizer Bill Guelker called this year's event "the best tournament ever in terms of the number of fish caught". A tentative date of May 6, 1988 has been set for next year's tournament.

Ralph Nelson

Reprinted from "Hotline"

Ralph Nelson, superintendent of the Minnesota Department of Corrections Willow River Camp, has indicated that he will retire from state service this summer after more than 32 years in corrections. He started as a parole agent in Granite Falls, Minnesota, in 1954 and later transferred to St. Paul. He became a corrections supervisor in 1961 and was appointed as superintendent at Willow River Camp in 1963. Prior to this work in corrections, Nelson was employed by the Anoka County Welfare Department.

Harley Nelson Ramsey County Director of Administrative Services

On February 2, Harley Nelson assumed the responsibilities as Director of the Division of Administrative Services, Ramsey County Community Corrections Department.

Nelson brings 18 years of corrections experience to the department. Since 1981, Harley was the Director of Court Services in Washington County. From 1978 to 1981, he was Administrator of the Tri-County Community Corrections system of Polk, Norman, and Red Lake Counties, a position which also included direct responsibility for the management of the Northwest Regional Corrections Center at Crookston. From 1968 to 1978, Harley held several positions with the Minnesota Department of Corrections, including that of a corrections officer and as a corrections agent working with both juveniles and adults.

Nelson is also a past president of the Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (M.A.C.C.A.C.).

Nelson has bachelor's degrees in social welfare and business and a master's degree in business administration, all from the University of Minnesota.



Genesis II To Study Female Sex Offenders

GENESIS II for Women, Inc., has received a grant from the St. Paul Foundation to conduct research on the Female Sex Offender. GENESIS II was one of 5 agencies funded in 1986 to study Family Sexual Abuse as part of a three-year project that seeks to advance knowledge about intervention and treatment and to stimulate further research and dissemination of information.

In 1985 GENESIS II began a community based treatment program for female sex offenders, believed to be the first such program in the nation. The program combines therapeutic and educational dimensions.

Research questions will focus on the distinguishing characteristics of women who sexually abuse children, whether these women can benefit from treatment, whether they can learn to be effective parents, whether their families can be reunited without harm to the children, and whether the public safety can be protected if these women are treated in an outpatient setting. The outcome of the project will be a descriptive report combining qualitative and quantitative data which will expand the currently limited understanding of female sex offenders and their responses to therapy. It is hoped that the information will be useful to other professionals in identifying adult female sex offenders, formulating prevention and early intervention strategies, developing effective therapeutic programming and assisting in developing public policies.

Women may participate in the treatment program alone or in conjunction with the comprehensive GENESIS II program. Referrals can be made to GENESIS II at 348-2762.

Boxleitner

(Reprinted from "Hotline")

Monsignor Jerome J. Boxleitner, Director of Catholic Charities of the St. Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocese and the chaplain at the Minnesota Correctional Facility - Lino Lakes since 1963, has been named recipient of the Minnesota Social Service Association 1987 Morris Hursh Award for outstanding contributions in the field of human services.

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We Want You To Know



By Rod Johnson

The Wilder Foundation's Research Center (WRC) recently pulled together some information about poverty both nationally and locally that I wanted to share with you. I think this information helps us put into perspective the problems we see in corrections working with many offenders and their families who live on low incomes.

Many have tried to show a link between poverty and crime with some success, although on the other hand, many children raised in poverty don't become adult criminals. Probably the most that can be said is that, in general, poverty increases the odds of criminal behavior developing. Many other factors can also interact in individual cases that either increase or decrease the odds including the family, peer group, personality, intelligence, community support systems, etc.

Poverty has also been associated with poor educational achievement in children. The notion of a culture of poverty with a vicious cycle developing where poverty leads to poor preparation for adult life and another generation of poor families. Much evidence exists that this process is occurring although some exceptions exist. Many immigrant groups coming to the United States have been able to prepare their children to move out of poverty. The newest immigrants that seem to be headed in this direction are the Southeast Asians. A recent study completed by WRC for the Saint Paul Foundation found the Southeast Asians in St. Paul were having considerable success in school. Their rates of success were equal to white students and well ahead of other

minority groups. Native Americans and Blacks had the most difficulty succeeding in school.

The poverty rate for Southeast Asian children in Ramsey County is 42.4% followed by Black children at 31.6%, Spanish origin children at 24.1%, American Indian children at 21.5%, and White children at 7.2%. The over-all poverty rate for children in Ramsey County is 10%. Two conclusions seem obvious: 1) that minority children experience disproportionate rates of poverty, and 2) that in the case of Southeast Asian children, poverty is not limiting educational success, indicating other factors are at work. The poverty rates do hide one important fact and that is there are more White children living in poverty than all minority children combined. This is true because minorities make up a relatively small proportion of the Ramsey County population.

The national poverty rate stood at 14% in 1985, up from a fifteen year low of 11.1% in 1973. Poverty rates by race indicate largely the same picture as with the children in Ramsey County. Whites have the lowest rate at 11.4%, Blacks are at 31.3%, and Spanish origin individuals at 29.0%. The rates for Blacks over the past 15 years have changed very little while rates for Spanish origin persons have increased almost 10%. Rates for other minorities were not available. Poverty rates for the elderly (over 65) have declined from 24.6% in 1970 to 12.6% in 1985. This is in contrast to all other groupings which have either stayed constant or gone up.

Turning Point Celebrates Grand Opening Of New Facility



Turning Point, Inc., Minnesota's only residential chemical dependency program for Black adults, celebrated the completion of its new \$600,000 facility with an open house on Friday, April 3rd. The new facility, just around the corner from the site the program had occupied for ten years, is at 1105 16th Avenue North in Minneapolis.

Minneapolis Mayor Don Fraser, Minnesota Vikings punter Greg Coleman, and Minneapolis-based recording artist Mark Brown, formerly with Prince and the Revolution,

participated in a special ceremony conducted by Board President Earl Craig.

"This beautiful new facility is a wonderful addition to the neighborhood," remarked City Council president Alice Rainville. "Now a program we are proud of has a home we can be proud of too." "This place is a miracle," said one former client, "a dream come true." Afterwards, over two hundred guests toured the new facility.

Turning Point's capacity will now increase from sixteen to twenty-six clients.

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Reed Vinge is heading for the golf courses after nearly nineteen years with Hennepin County felony probation. Reed entered the business after retiring from twenty-six years of active army service in which he had worked on numerous special assignments in the Mid East and Far East.

A member of Alcoholics Anonymous for thirty-four years, Reed has served as a semi-official chemical dependency consultant to others in the department and the community. In 1971 he began supervising interns from chemical dependency counselor training programs. In 1975 Vinge's efforts were recognized by department administration and the internship program became a regular part of the felony probation division's chemical dependency unit. In his many years with Alcoholics Anonymous, Reed has helped to establish numerous AA groups and has served on the Boards of Directors or Advisors of such facilities as NuWay Halfway House, Mission Farms, Breakaway and the Anoka Regional Treatment Center.

When asked what he plans to do after retiring, Reed was quick to respond, "GOLF-seven days a week!" And in winter he'll go to Texas to play golf.

Arthur Arnold, the Assistant Superintendent at the Ramsey County Correctional Facility - Maplewood, retired last Fall. Art was appointed to this position on February 1, 1974. His 28 year Corrections career began in January, 1958 as a Children's Supervisor at Boys Totem Town. Art transferred to the Workhouse in 1962 as a caseworker, but returned to Totem Town in July, 1971. The final switch was made back to the Workhouse in August, 1973. Art is a sports enthusiast and will continue to hunt, fish or play handball and racquetball.

George Rardin was the Supervisor of the Payne Avenue Office in the Adult Courts Division in Ramsey County at the time of his retirement last Fall. George had been in the Adult Division for 23 years and was employed in a supervisory capacity since October, 1963. His 31-year Corrections career began in November, 1955 as a Juvenile Probation Officer. He was assigned to the Domestic Relations Division in 1957 and was Assistant Director of the Juvenile Services Division in 1960. In 1962 he was appointed Assistant to the Director for Training, The Family Centered Project and Research. George is an avid skier and plays hockey and softball.

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Remembering that the poverty rate for all Americans is 14%, it is startling to look at the rates for children. The rate for all children is 20.1% and ranges from 15.6% for Whites, to 43.1% for Blacks. Persons living in female headed households have poverty rates of 33.5% which explains why children live in poverty more frequently than anyone else.

The poverty guidelines for 1985 were \$10,650 for a family of 4 and \$5,250 for one person. Most of us would agree that any definition of low income would have to include many more people than just those with incomes below these minimal figures.

What does all this mean for corrections? If we accept that poverty is a risk factor, increasing the possibility of criminal behavior developing, then we

are likely to see more clients in the years to come. Why? Because increasingly more and more children are living in poverty. Paul Taylor in an article published in the Washington Post last year indicated that the nation's resources are being reallocated as the political power of our elder citizens' increase. This process is likely to accelerate as the baby boom generation ages and seeks to get its share of the pie. Poverty among the elderly should continue to decline and unless other solutions are found, the poverty among children will rise. The challenge will be maintaining the gains that our elders have made and help children as well. We really don't have any choice as a society if we hope to assure a future that's better than today.

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Archie Magnuson is retiring after working for thirty-six years with juvenile corrections in Minnesota. Since November 1970, he has been Assistant Superintendent of the Hennepin County Home School and for the past year has served as Acting Superintendent of that facility.

After serving in both the Navy and the Marine Corps, Archie began his career in corrections in July 1951. When the old Youth Conservation Commission opened the Willow River Camp that summer, Archie was among its first counselors. Five years later he moved to Hennepin County where he worked until June 1965 as a juvenile probation officer. That's when he began his career at the County Home School, first as a counselor. In February 1967 he was promoted to casework supervisor, and in 1970 became Assistant Superintendent.

In the process, Archie obtained his graduate degree in social work in 1965, claiming the distinction of being Minnesota's first person to do so on a part-time basis.

In his years with the juvenile system Archie has seen many changes in philosophy and organization. He told us that when he started people didn't believe wayward youths and adults were good places to put dollars and corrections professionals didn't get much support. There were few standards for treatment of offenders. Archie said "most of us were flying by the seat of our pants" and extra money often came from their own pockets.

Today we have a much better idea of what works and what doesn't and corrections gets much more support from the community. Magnuson recognized that today there are more external forces on corrections workers who are required to report to numerous interested agencies. With the increased resources we have today, Archie urged us to work toward greater cooperation and continuity of services.

Charles Lindberg is retiring at age 60 after thirty years with juvenile probation in Hennepin County. His career is remarkable because he spent all that time in the same position. Chuck told us he has enjoyed working with adolescents. He said he can live with a lot of the behaviors of adolescents because he knows it will change.

Lindholm said he probably would have worked for a couple more years but the changes in PERA "pushed me over"

to retire with the "Rule of 90". He figured it would take 2½ to 3 years to make up the lost benefits if he had stayed longer. He also confided that the job was not as much fun because there is "too much paperwork".

Alfred "Big Al" Smeby and DeLeu King, two longtime working buddies retired April 30, 1987. Both were Adult Probation Officers at the Selby Avenue Branch Office in Ramsey County. Al had seniority with the Probation Department starting in May, 1955 giving him 32 years of continuous experience, all in the Adult Courts Division. From 1948 to 1952 Al worked with the Ramsey County Welfare Department. Between 1953 to 1954 he worked as a Parole Agent for Ramsey, Dakota, and Goodhue Counties before returning to Ramsey County on 5-9-55. Al will travel and do some volunteer work.

DeLeu, like Al, started with Ramsey County as an Adult Probation Officer in September, 1956. He left in 1960 to become a Probation Officer in Martin County. He returned to Ramsey County in 1961 and has worked as an Adult Probation Officer since that time. DeLeu plans to golf, fish, and travel.

Sam Siebert has worked for Hennepin County juvenile probation since October 1956. Since 1969 he has served as Supervisor for the division's intake unit. Division Manager Bob Mowatt told us that Sam has been an "institution" in his service to members of the community who were looking for alternatives for dealing with delinquent youth. A law change in 1984 gave the responsibility for screening youth who would appear in court to the County Attorney's office instead of Court Services. As Mowatt said, the system may have changed, but the networks haven't. Sam Siebert was still the destination of numerous calls and inquiries by law enforcement, schools and parents who needed to know what to do with troubling young people. He was still getting "ten to twelve" such calls every day, in addition to uncountable walk-ins. That resource will be missed after Sam's retirement.

Leo Lentsch started his Corrections career with the State Department of Corrections working in southern Minnesota for several years and still managed to achieve 26 years of continuous service with Ramsey County. Leo started with the Ramsey County Probation Department in 1960 in the Adult Division and was the

supervisor of the Selby Avenue Office when he retired in February, 1987. Leo plans to travel and play lots of golf.

Sal Maniaci retired in May after 32½ years with Ramsey County. Sal has worked in the Juvenile Division and was the Director of the Domestic Relations Division for a number of years. He has been the Group Home Coordinator for the last three years.

Vito Marascullo, another Adult Probation Officer from the Payne Avenue Office will retire in June, 1987. Vito started with the Department in October, 1959 and has spent most of his time in the Adult Division. He retires with 27½ years of service.

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Whether one's role is that of supervising agent, treatment program counselor, judge, or offender, each person must do what is theirs to do. Programs should take a clear stand on requiring active client participation and on stating when a client has failed. Probation officers need to make explicit recommendations when writing violation reports. Judges must decide to take action. The theme must be present that consequences are needed for the few if we are to succeed with the many.

Whether a judge restructures probation to remove an offender from the streets to a half way house, imposes enforceable new probation conditions such as community service, or uses the local correctional facility; a short but sure consequence now may well avert the need for a future prison sentence. It may even help in making each new probation or diversion sentence more meaningful, especially to those who can observe that what was said at their sentencing yesterday is well connected to what is expected of them on the street today.

If we all try to build on the idea that there be a consistent and rapid consequence for failure to comply with court set conditions of sentences, we may very well succeed. Only by joining together can we make this happen. If we succeed we may have a chance to make it all work a little better for our having been here. That's an idea worth trying!

June Training: "Marketing Community Corrections Programs"

**Wednesday, June 17, 1987 9:00 am to
Noon**

Presenters: **Tom Zoet**, Executive Director, 180 Degrees, Inc., since 1983. Tom has worked in corrections for 16 years. He was with Hennepin County Home School and Washington County Court Services before affiliating with 180 Degrees, Inc.

Bruce Clendenen, Program Director, Reentry West. Bruce has worked in corrections for 12 years; Program Director at Reentry Services, Inc., for 7 years.

There are increasing demands being placed on community corrections providers in Minnesota. Funding and community support are declining at an alarming rate. Community programs must do more with less money. If they want to continue to exist in the marketplace, these programs must respond to these demands or they will disappear. A sound marketing strategy is essential in order to continue and to prosper in the future.

This workshop will introduce participants to basic marketing principles and provide a framework for application of a beginning marketing strategy to their agencies.

The MCCA training will again be held at the Wilder CAP building, 666 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul. The training is free for MCCA Individual Members, \$5.00 for staff of Program Member agencies and \$10.00 for non-members. Pre-registration is requested. Please call the MCCA office at Wilder CAP, 221-0048, or Andrea Lennox at 292-1466 to register or for more information.

Women Invited To Join Rape Survivors Video Project

Women are gathering to produce a video tape about the healing process that follows a rape. This is an invitation to all women to join in this production. A variety of tasks awaits you. **NO SPECIFIC SKILL IS REQUIRED.** All abilities are welcome. Do you have a story to share? Some time to give? Time commitments are flexible and varied. For more information, call Lisa at 729-4720.

Happenings

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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:**

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MINNESOTA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION

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