

MCCA

June 1993

Happenings

Minnesota Community Corrections Association

Why WATCH?

Something is wrong when women and children must give up conveniences and simple pleasures — the use of a parking ramp or an evening walk — while abusive and violent predators seem to give up so little. Something is wrong when children can no longer be safe in their neighborhood parks. Something is wrong when women must close and lock every window on sweltering summer nights. Something is wrong when behind the locked doors women are battered or killed by their husbands or other acquaintances. Something is wrong when women and children live like prisoners while those who terrorize them roam freely on the streets.

In November of 1991, the Minneapolis Star Tribune published a series of articles which reported that some convicted rapists, often repeat offenders, were receiving surprisingly lenient sentences. For a variety of complex reasons they were often back on the streets in only a few years and in some cases, only months. For instance, the man who murdered Mary Foley at Honeywell in 1988 had previously been convicted of two extremely violent sexual assaults and served only four years for each one. Where is the gap in the system that allowed him to go free?

WATCH is a court monitoring organization that was founded in

1992 to look for that gap. Modeled after MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), WATCH seeks to encourage more aggressive sentencing, create a judicial system more sensitive to victims' needs, improve judicial accountability, and increase public awareness of the criminal justice system.

WATCH monitors felony level sexual assault and domestic abuse cases as well as child abuse and child sexual abuse cases as they proceed from arraignment to sentencing. Collected data is carefully analyzed and will be released to the judges and to the public on a regular basis.

Although WATCH observes and reports on the justice system from the perspective of the victim and the public, it is primarily a monitoring group which advocates, not an advocacy group which monitors.

After a year of preliminary work to establish WATCH as a credible force for change, (including a "think tank" made up of representatives from all components of the criminal justice system to help define WATCH's mission) a training session was held in February. The 70 volunteers who attended the training, armed with data-collection forms and shiny red clipboards, entered the Hennepin County courts in March. Approximately three to six volunteers are in the courts every day.

The first days in court have been rewarding and sometimes frustrating. It is tricky to schedule volunteers for cases that get canceled or changed at the last **WATCH cont'd page 2...**

Remembering Mike Ruddy

On May 24, 1993, Mike Ruddy died following a long battle with cancer. This was Mike's 20th year as a Probation Officer with Hennepin County's Adult Corrections Department. Throughout these years, Mike served with consistent distinction and set a standard for others to emulate.

He was a pioneer in Minnesota Corrections in the supervision of sex offenders, setting standards and structure that continue to be used today.

Mike was known as a professional, in the best sense of the word, being a man who believed in what he did and took pride in his job.

He provided inspiration to others by fighting injustice and unethical standards. He had the ability to reach out to those he had disagreements with and still keep his integrity intact.

Mike loved his wife, his family and friends (and golf, of course).

Mike will be greatly missed for all he brought to our lives but also for all that he had yet to live.

WATCH cont'd ...

minute. Volunteers were surprised to find that even attorneys involved were not always informed of the changes. As one volunteer put it, "I've never seen anything organized in such a habitually disorganized way."

WATCH Executive Director, Jacquelyn Hauser, former administrator to Hennepin County Attorney Tom Johnson, said that overall the first weeks have gone well. "I'm encouraged by the number of people in the system we've already heard from — parole officers, victim advocates, and attorneys — who say that they sense an effort to be clearer about what they're doing because they are aware of WATCH being in the courtroom."

And volunteers report that sitting in on cases is more compelling and gratifying than they expected. At a recent meeting to discuss their first days in court, many WATCHers said that while they felt saddened or angered by much of what they've seen, it also felt good to be doing something so specific about violence against women and children.

WATCH volunteers will continue to get together on a regular basis to learn more about aspects of the criminal justice system which they find interesting or disturbing and to discuss ways in which the system could be improved. The next training for those who wish to become in-court volunteers is scheduled for June 11.

Once established in Hennepin County, WATCH intends to spread across Minnesota, chapter by chapter, encouraging young people, old people, men and women to watch and make changes in a system that, ultimately, they control.

There are many reasons why the public needs to demand accountability from the criminal justice system. Among them:

- **Increasing Sexual and Domestic Violence**

Minneapolis police records

show that reports of forcible rape rose 43% between 1987 and 1991 and 29% from 1990 to 1991 alone.¹ In 1990, 27 women in Minnesota were killed or allegedly killed by their husbands, boyfriends, or acquaintances.²

WATCH believes that violence prevention should begin early, in the home and in school. However, WATCH also believes that the justice system *must* regard violent acts against women and children as the intolerable hate crimes that they are.

- **Ineffective Treatment of Offenders**

Time and again the predatory rapist serves a portion of his term and rapes again, the battering husband kills his wife while out awaiting sentencing, the pedophile gets sent to treatment despite a history of other failed interventions.

WATCH believes that those who rape, batter and destroy the lives of women and children should not be allowed to return to the streets so quickly and easily, if at all. WATCH encourages a more aggressive sentencing policy in cases of sexual assault, domestic abuse and child abuse and will work on legislative action to obtain that goal.

- **Insensitive Treatment of Victims**

Courts are often intimidating or ineffective in dealing with women and children. Victims report feeling insignificant, not respected, or somehow responsible for what happened. Others sense that their attacker receives better treatment than they do.

WATCH believes that those in the system who have become numb to the trauma of violent crime need to be reminded that the victim has not. WATCH does not advocate on behalf of any one victim, but represents the victim's perspective in all cases.

- **Inadequate Judicial Accountability**

There are many good, hard-working judges and WATCH will recognize their efforts.

Unfortunately, there are also a handful of judges who consistently reduce bail, depart from sentencing guidelines, come late to court, and generally fail in their responsibility to ensure justice and public safety.

Judges are accountable to the public. However, it is very difficult for the public to get information about a specific judge. Records are kept in a way that makes it quite time-consuming to compile a sentencing record or other data. Furthermore, discussions and agreements often take place in judicial chambers, out of the public eye altogether. Even delays and other schedule changes are unnecessarily hard to track. With so little information available, it is no surprise that judicial elections are notoriously ignored. In fact, the odds of defeating a sitting judge are so high that there have only been four contested elections in Hennepin County in the last 20 years.

WATCH believes that the public should be more informed about judicial conduct and other aspects of the criminal justice system. WATCH will work to make the information that rightfully belongs before the public more easily accessible. Thoroughly analyzed and accurate data will be released throughout the year and at election time.

¹ Brunswick, Mark. *Minneapolis Rape Controversy*. Star Tribune, February 4, 1993.

² Statistic from the Violence Against Women Coalition.

• Susan Lenfestey
WATCH founder

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We want you to know



Sharen Southard

For the past three years Bruce Clendenen's picture has appeared above this column, and as I mentioned to him, he will be a tough act to follow because he has done so much for MCCA since he was elected to the Board of Directors over six years ago. At that time, MCCA was just breaking even financially and although there was a hard working Board of Directors, a successful training program, a winter conference, and a highly acclaimed newsletter, the treasury did not allow for additional advancement of ideas or services to our membership. About 1988, Bruce and Bill Guelker turned over their "Crappie Tournament" to MCCA as a fund raiser. This year's contest raised about \$1,400 for the association. And, under Bruce's leadership our current total assets are over \$20,000.

Bruce has not impacted MCCA only from a financial standpoint though. He has led us in legislative matters, public education programming, and strengthened our relationship with the International Association of Residential and Community Alternatives (IARCA). Of course he has not accomplished all this on his own. He has had the foresight to maintain a solid Board of Directors which is made up of people who work very hard on behalf of the members of MCCA. Before I go into detail about the current Board and our 1993 goals, I just want to express my

appreciation to Bruce on behalf of the Board and the membership for all he has given us. And, I will try to continue to build on an already secure MCCA during my presidency.

During the last two Board of Directors meetings, the Board members have been presenting their goals and budget requests. In listing these committees it is apparent that almost every committee is co-chaired, which really gives you an idea of the amount of cooperation on the Board. Here is just a highlight of what is going on this year: Ricki Tufte and Rick Pung are the Fundraising co-chairs and have already hosted a successful Crappie Tournament. Ricki is also our Treasurer this year and Rick is also serving on the Training Committee. Bill Guelker and Susanne Lambert are co-chairing the Training Committee which has already met several times and continues to bring us monthly training events. Bruce Clendenen and Dave Loftness are representing MCCA on the Minnesota Corrections Consortium (MCC), which MCCA chairs this year. The Happenings Committee is co-chaired by Helen Trickey and Pete Batterman who have established newsletter deadlines for distribution this year in addition to continuing to provide the excellent newsletter we are accustomed to receiving. Kris Clendenen and Michael Nichols will be co-chairing this year's Winter Conference (And, as an aside, almost all of last year's committee has agreed to do the conference again this year). Dave Conde will continue to cover our legislative activities through his work with MCCA. Dave also is our Secretary again this year, which is greatly appreciated by any of us who have taken minutes in his absence. Our Membership and Nominating Committee is co-chaired by Louise Wolfgramm and William Nelson who will begin to

build our membership and strengthen our Board through various activities this year. Kay Pranis, Kris Clendenen (who is also Vice President this year) and Mary Scully-Whitaker are jointly chairing the Public Education Committee which has a huge list of goals for the upcoming year, including arranging for our Public Service Announcements to be broadcast on television. (By the way, Kay also works on the Newsletter and "The Event" Committees). "The Event," which you should have already received your application for, is co-chaired by Bruce and myself. Michael Nichols is also a part of our committee.

This then is our "line up" for 1993. As the year progresses, I will keep you updated on what is happening with our Board. If any of these committees are of interest to you, feel free to call the chairs and get involved with MCCA. This is a great group of people to work with!!!

First Judicial District Response

Dr. Donald Andrews' presentation entitled, "What's new in Corrections — Treatment Works," was a very well attended seminar that offered valuable technical information advocating appropriate treatment of offenders. The primary question following his presentation was how do we take the information Dr. Andrews presented and make it useful in the day-to-day supervision of offenders.

Following the seminar, a small group of staff from Carver and Scott counties began to develop a plan for further training in this area. After consulting correction management personnel across the First Judicial district, we decided to develop a comprehensive training program with a built-in planning process.

The concept is to break down the Andrews presentation into four distinct focus areas as follows:

- Assessment/Targeting
- Supervision
- Treatment
- Evaluation.

All probation staff from across the First Judicial District will participate in the process along with allied professionals also involved in providing some level of correctional service. Experts in the above focus areas will be contracted to provide a full day of training including theory, relevant research, practitioner application, and recommendations for implementing new strategies. Out of each training focus a "work/planning group" of probation officers and allied professionals will begin a six month process of developing specific recommendations for standards and practice in the First District.

Training will be offered quarterly beginning in October 1993, with the final session in September of 1994. The complete time line for this project extends over two years as it allows for the "work/planning groups" to do further in-depth study and planning before submitting recommendations to District supervisory personnel.

From the beginning it was felt that probation staff need to be involved in the process of determining how the information presented by Dr. Andrews may change the way we provide correctional service. The research proves that cognitive behavioral approaches work with offenders who are properly targeted. It follows, then, that as correctional practitioners we should be offering services that will address continued criminality.

There is a great deal of excitement about further studying the Andrews' information in a practical manner. The projected outcome of this effort is to impact recidivism by providing correctional service that will be effective toward that end. We must evaluate probation not only

on the basis of compliance to conditions, but also on the impact of probation on the offenders' behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs.

- Paul Schnell

Catalyst closes

It is with many mixed emotions that we share the news of Catalyst closing. Effective May 7, 1993, Catalyst - A Program For Women will be closing its office doors. Many events have led up to this decision but as we all know, change is a constant in this life.

We as a staff are concerned and committed to assisting each of our clients in finding community resources to address their individual needs. We are providing groups and individual session times to help each client with the feelings involved in this transition. Written communication has also been sent to each of our participants regarding the decision. The clients you share with us are being given our full attention and support. We are making every effort humanly possible to be available to each of them.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

- Catalyst Staff & Board of Directors



1993 MCCA training Who's who and what's up

This year's Training Committee would like to remind all of you of the exciting training opportunities offered each month through MCCA. On the third Wednesday of each month, MCCA provides a training event (topics vary) at the Wilder Community Assistance Program, 650 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul, MN from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The training is at no cost to individual members of MCCA, \$5 for program members, and \$10 for non-members.

Upcoming training events include "What's Your Cancer I.Q.?" / "Coping with Change," June 16, 1993. July and August will offer workshops on street weapons (with presenters from ATF) and legislative issues.

Each member will receive a flier in the mail with information regarding upcoming events. So keep an eye open and don't forget to call Michel Plantz at (612) 292-1466 to register! If you have any ideas or comments, please feel free to contact any of the following committee members:

William Guelker (Co-Chair), MN Dept. of Corrections; Susanne Lambert (Co-Chair), Reentry Metro; Michel Plantz, Reentry Services, Inc.; Rick Pung, 180 Degrees; Sharen Southard, Parole and Victim Services; Joe Mayer, Ramsey County Community Corrections.

See you at the trainings!

What's your cancer I.Q.?

On Wednesday, June 16, 1993 Kathy Glewwe, Community Health Specialist from the Hennepin County Community Health Department will discuss your personal risk of developing cancer and coping with change in your personal and professional life.

The training will be held from 10 am to noon at 650 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul. For advance registration call Michel Plantz at 292-1466. There is a \$10 charge for non-members and a \$5 charge for program members. Individual members are free.

Success." There will be more workshops on Friday. This conference will encompass various current correctional topics for community, institution, and field professionals.

Social events will include a dance on Wednesday evening spotlighting the band "Incognito." Hospitality rooms will be featured on Thursday evening with Karaoke to follow poolside.

This year's registration costs are \$80 for the three-day conference, or \$55 for a single day. Radisson South room rates are \$67 for a single, \$77 for a double. When making hotel reservations be sure to ask for conference rates.

Additional information will be

provided as the time draws near. For information contact Janet Bergland: 426 US Courthouse, 110 South 4th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55401, phone: (612) 348-1980.

The Event: A Vision for 2013

What is the future of community corrections in Minnesota? What is your idea of the best we can do? *Do you want to be a part of shaping the future?*

The Minnesota Community Corrections Association, with the assistance from the National Institute of Corrections, is inviting a cross section of 80 community corrections professionals from across the state to a two-day visionary working session at Wilder Forest on September 13th and 14th, 1993. The process will be facilitated by nationally known corrections consultant, Mr. Skip Mullaney. The results will be published and distributed to state decision makers to help shape present and future policy decisions. The total cost is \$70.00 per person.

Are you interested? *To receive an application and more information, contact Bruce Clendenen at (612) 659-9420.* Applications must be completed and returned by July 1, 1993. This could be "THE EVENT" of the year!

Sex offender treatment training

The Third International Congress on the Treatment of Sex Offenders, sponsored by the University of Minnesota, Department of Family Practice and Community Health will be held at the Radisson Hotel Metrodome in Minneapolis on September 19, 20, and 21. For further information call (612) 626-7600.

MCA Fall Conference

The MCA 60th Annual Fall conference will again be held at the Radisson Hotel South, Highway 100 and I-494, Bloomington, MN from October 13 to 15, 1993. This year's theme is "Minnesota Justice: Striving for Excellence."

The schedule for this year's conference will include over 40 workshops, extended training opportunities, and round-table discussions. Wednesday's general session will include the awards ceremony. Thursday's general session will feature motivational speaker, Jackie Pflug, who will speak on "Choosing Your Road to

10th Annual Crappie Tournament news & highlights

In order to raise money for Minnesota Community Corrections Association's monthly training sessions, correctional professionals from throughout the state of Minnesota headed North to Lake View Resort and took part in MCCA's Tenth Annual Crappie Tournament, held on May 7.

Despite the winds, clouds, and cool temperatures, over 250 people participated in the annual Rush Lake fish-off, raising \$1,400 for MCCA's monthly training sessions. (Watch for these training seminars in upcoming editions of Happenings.) According to Rick Pung of 180 Degrees, "We fish rain or shine. One year it was snowing and people still drove up to participate in the event."

Prizes were awarded to the ten individuals who reeled in the biggest crappie. The quest began at

8 a.m. and "weigh in" time was at 3 p.m.

This year 12 ounces was a popular weight for crappie; a three-way tie for first place was determined by a coin toss. Jerry Botcher of St. Cloud was the first place winner and had his choice of the grand prizes: a trolling motor or depth finder. Todd Krone of St. Cloud came in second place and Mark Keller of St. Cloud came in third place.

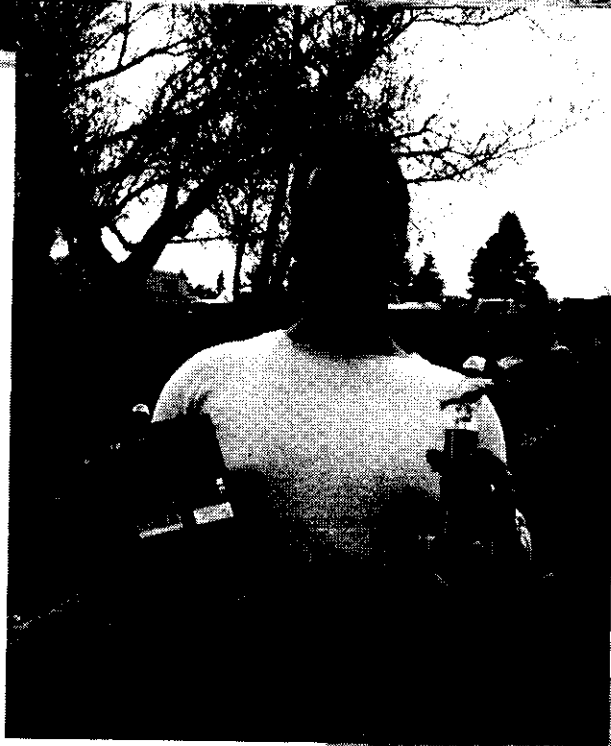
St. Cloud Correctional Institution also won the traveling trophy: awarded to the institution or agency whose members hook the biggest fish overall.

And for those not-so-lucky fishermen, there was still a chance to take home some great prizes. Participants were able to win rods, reels, minnow buckets, lures, nets, and coolers in door prize

drawings. Sherry Burt and Roy Adtis, raffle ticket winners, took home television sets.

Special thanks to Bruce Anderson, Jerry Soma, and Anoka County for making this tenth annual event a success! The following pages offer some memories of this year's tournament.





Challenging the perception of harsher punishment demands

Introduction

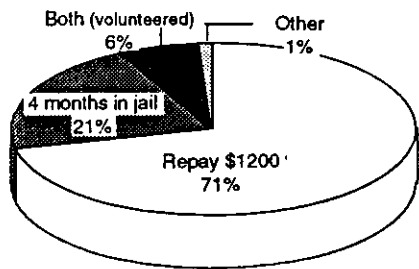
The results of a Minnesota public opinion poll challenge conventional wisdom about public attitudes toward crime and punishment, raising serious questions about the direction of public policy on sentencing. This report will present those results, discuss implications for public policy and compare the results to the outcomes of previous public opinion research.

Findings

- Four out of five Minnesotans favor spending on education, job training and community programs rather than on prisons in order to reduce crime.

- More than four out of five Minnesotans indicate an interest in participating in a face to face meeting with the offender in the presence of a trained mediator to let the offender know how the crime affected them, to discuss their feelings and to work out a plan for repayment of losses, if they were the victim of a nonviolent property crime committed by a juvenile or young adult.

"Suppose that while you are away, your home is burglarized and \$1200 worth of property is stolen. The burglar has one previous conviction for a similar offense. In addition to four years on probation, would you prefer the sentence include repayment of \$1200 to you or four months in jail?"



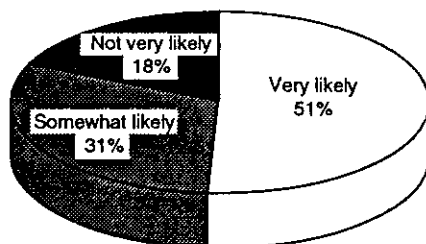
- Nearly three out of four Minnesotans chose restitution as more important than jail time in sentencing for a burglary of their own home.

- The results were consistent across age, income, gender, race and education level subgroups.

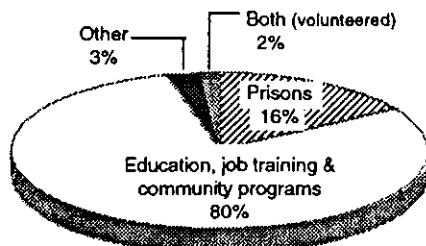
Methodology

A statewide survey of attitudes of Minnesota adults toward issues of crime and punishment, part of an omnibus survey consisting of questions on a variety of topics, was conducted by the University of Minnesota Center for Survey Research in October and November of 1991. The survey was conducted through telephone interviews and sampled 825 Minnesota adults. The sample was demographically and geographically balanced to reflect Minnesota's total population. A sampling of this size would be expected to have a sampling error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

"Minnesota has several programs which allow crime victims to meet with the person who committed the crime, in the presence of a trained mediator, to let this person know how the crime affected them, and to work out a plan for repayment of losses. Suppose you were the victim of a non-violent property crime committed by a juvenile or young adult. How likely would you be to participate in a program like this?"



"For the greatest impact on reducing crime, should additional money be spent on more prisons, or spent on education, job training and community programs?"



Implications for Public Policy

The results of this poll uniformly reflect a far less vindictive attitude toward offenders than is commonly assumed. Responses reveal a greater public interest in restitution and prevention than in retribution. They also indicate low public confidence in incarceration as an effective strategy to reduce crime.

The traditional concerns of the public for safety and holding offenders accountable are reflected in this poll, but not in the simplistic terms commonly attributed to the public. Results indicate a greater public interest in personal accountability to the victim, through restitution and face to face meetings with the victim, than in retribution through jail or prison sentences. Public safety is seen as an outcome of education, job training and community programs rather than incarceration.

The overwhelming support in the poll for investment in prevention strategies rather than prisons is consistent with traditional Minnesota public policy which has invested heavily in education and social programs while using prisons sparingly. However, policy trends in Minnesota between 1986 and 1991 drifted away from that traditional approach. While the prison population and corrections budget grew rapidly in the eighties, Minnesota fell from 4th to 28th in the nation in the percent of children in poverty.

The public policy trend toward increased use of incarceration is premised on the belief that the public is clamoring for a "tougher" response to crime, primarily through harsher sentencing. This public opinion research raises serious doubts about the validity of that assumption which is the rationale for most sentencing legislation in Minnesota.

Previous Public Opinion Research

The results of this survey are consistent with a growing body of

public opinion research across the United States. Previous research has similarly found broad public support for prevention strategies over prison strategies to control crime, support for restitution over incarceration for property crimes and a gap between public opinion and policymaker perceptions of public opinion.

- A national poll conducted in the summer of 1988 by Louis Harris and Associates found that when asked which approach would be most effective in cutting the rate of crime, 80% of the respondents chose spending to attack the causes of crime (poverty, lack of education) rather than spending to send more criminals to prison for a long time.

- A September, 1991, national poll conducted by The Wirthlin Group found that four out of five Americans favor community corrections programs over incarceration for non-dangerous offenders.

- Public opinion research conducted through focus groups by the Public Agenda Foundation in Alabama in 1989 and in Delaware in 1991 found that public attitudes toward sentencing shifted dramatically to more support for community corrections punishments when participants were given more information about non-prison sentences, problems of prison overcrowding and costs.

- A public opinion research project conducted in Hennepin County, Minnesota, in 1991 by Imho Bae, University of Minnesota, found strong public support for restitution as an alternative penalty to incarceration for property offenders. This research also found a significant lack of awareness by criminal justice officials of public support for restitution and found that crime victims seem to be less punitive than nonvictims. Bae concludes that his findings imply that citizens perceive crime issues in a broader social context and independently from reports of the

mass media.

- A study by Gottfredson and Taylor in Maryland in 1980 found serious misconceptions among policymakers of the public will with respect to corrections issues. Policymakers based their priorities for the operation of the correctional system on their perception of public will. However, policymakers' perceptions of public opinion were almost the exact opposite of measured public opinion. Policymakers perceived the public to give the highest priority to incapacitation and punishment when the public's actual highest priorities were deterrence and rehabilitation. Punishment was the lowest priority for the public.

- A study in 1985 by the Michigan Prison & Jail Overcrowding Project found that policymakers believed that 12 percent of the general public would support increased use of community corrections when, in fact, 66 percent were supportive.

The findings of the current research, like those of previous research efforts, suggest an urgent need to examine the underlying assumptions of policy directions in criminal justice. This lack of congruence between policymakers' perceptions of public opinion and actual public opinion may explain the widespread dissatisfaction and frustration with the criminal justice system. Policymakers are systematically trying to please the public, but the public wants something different. The more policymakers misread the desires of the public, the farther they get from satisfying the actual desires of the public.

Restorative Justice

The results of this survey demonstrate broad public support for central tenets of the emerging criminal justice reform movement called restorative justice. The restorative justice model views crime as a conflict between the victim and the offender, not between the offender and "the state." In this model offenders are

held accountable through taking responsibility and taking action to repair the harm done to the victim.

The restorative justice model proposes increasing public safety through building community harmony and meeting community needs. Public support for prevention programs over prison building indicates public agreement with that principle.

The public expresses strong support for restitution for victims and very strong interest in face to face meetings with offenders. Similarly, the restorative justice model places a higher priority on the restoration of the victim than on retribution and values personal accountability to the victim more than abstract punishment imposed by the state.

Payment of restitution to victims and involvement in victim offender mediation programs, both supported by this survey, allow for much greater involvement of both victims and offenders in the criminal justice process which is another goal of the restorative justice model.

Summary

This research provides us with significant information about public ideas of certain DOs and DON'Ts of criminal justice policy.

- DON'T spend money on more prisons to prevent crime;
- DO spend money on education and job training to prevent crime;

- DON'T lock up every burglar;

- DO make them pay restitution;

- DO expand victim opportunities, as a volunteer choice, to be a part of the process by meeting with the offender to: let the offender know how the crime affected them, to get answers to questions, to work out a restitution agreement;

- DO encourage processes which hold offenders directly accountable to victims.

This research shows significant public support for the legislative direction of the 1992 crime bill

which emphasized investment in prevention. However, many changes in criminal justice public policy in Minnesota in recent years are in a direction contrary to that suggested by the public in this poll. Those initiatives should be re-examined in light of this research.

MAWCJ Summer Conference

The MAWCJ Summer Conference, "Bridging the Gap between Mental Health and Corrections," is scheduled for July 29, 1993 at the Earl Brown Center, St. Paul Campus, University of Minnesota. Various topics included will be: Symptomology, Identification of Most Common Disorders, Adolescent Treatment Modalities, Legislative Issues, and Mentally Ill People in the Courtroom (Rule 20, Pre-Petition Screening, Civil Commitment, and the McNaughton Rule).

Speakers will include a Hennepin County Judge, a Senator, a psychiatrist, and a

psychologist. Hal Shippits, Director of Hennepin County Day Treatment, will address how to coordinate the Mental Health System for corrections clients.

Registration for the Conference will be mailed mid June. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to be, please leave your name and address at (612) 496-4440 ext. 2001.

•Patt Seleen

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The members of the Happenings Newsletter Committee welcome your suggestions and comments. Please call any of the above members with your ideas.
Thank you

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Practitioner's Notebook

On March 12, 1993 Dr. Don Andrews from Carlton University, Ottawa, Canada, gave a seminar on Treatment Effectiveness. Dr. Andrews completed a meta-analysis on the effectiveness of correctional programs in reducing recidivism. His research findings (many of which have been validated by other researchers) could influence how we process/sentence offenders and provide correctional services. Some of the findings include:

- Sanctions and their variations (such as intensive probation, boot camps, jail, etc.) are not effective in reducing recidivism if treatment is absent.
- Treatment programs produced statistically significant reductions in recidivism in 40% of programs. When the treatment placement was matched with the offender characteristics, the reduction was significant in a much larger percent of programs studied.
- The most effective treatment programs for correctional clients were cognitive/behavioral rather than psycho-dynamic. More specifically, the best results occurred in programs which emphasized skill building, role modeling, critical thinking, rewards and consequences, reducing anti-social values, increasing empathy and relationship orientation.
- Correctional responses have a greater likelihood of effecting behavioral change among the moderate to high risk offender.
- Risk tools can be an effective method of determining how to apply limited resources, and to whom. The better risk tools today are 70%+ accurate.
- The best predictors of future criminal behavior are anti-social attitudes, pro-criminal associates, temperament problems (such as egocentric, poor impulse control, etc.) and parental/family factors (such as weak affection, lack of discipline, etc.)
- An offender's risk is not stagnant and can vary significantly and quickly. Correctional responses should be flexible to change with the offender's circumstances and attitude.

▪ Tools are being developed to assess treatment program design. These tools can be useful in determining whether the most effective approaches for the target population are being used.

The planning group for the March 12th seminar was encouraged to continue the dialogue related to treatment effectiveness and research. One of the responses has been to develop this insert for the MCCA Happenings newsletter. It is our hope that this insert can provide a medium for exchanging ideas, thoughts and questions regarding effective correctional responses. Since the seminar, we have heard many questions such as:

- Where do we go from here?
- How do I get more information?
- Can we translate the research into practical terms?
- How can this be converted to practice changes?
- What relevance does this have for me?
- What are other jurisdictions doing with this?
- What is other research finding?

If you, the reader, are interested in learning more about the research or to find out how others are responding to the seminar information, we would like to help. This insert will provide you with an avenue to ask questions, make comments or to let the rest of us know how you incorporated the information into changes in your practice or agency.

Let us know your thoughts! In order to make the next printing deadline, we will need your comments by August 9, 1993. Questions can be directed to Kay Pranis, Citizens Council (612) 340-5432.