

Happenings

Minnesota Community Corrections Association

Report considers new handling of violent/sexual offenders

Tom Barbeau...

From the Editor: This summer began tragically with an all too familiar reporting of repeated acts of violence against women, including a series of rape/murders. Predictably, many of our media and political leaders responded again in too familiar form, either by dodging real issues or finger-pointing and scapegoating. This accomplished little other than to obscure issues and help political and media types to avoid responsibility for failures in this area.

There were several notable exceptions to this sensationalist trend which deserve mention. The first was the excellent WCCO-TV series titled "Beyond the Fear," which intelligently explored the issues of violence in Minnesota and our responses, or lack thereof, to the problem. The impact of this program became apparent to me after seeing residents of Alpha House watch and discuss it amongst themselves afterwards. The Reader (7/10/91), Pioneer Press (7/28/91), Minnesota Women's Press (8/13/91), and others ran excellent articles on the subject. One of the better Star Tribune articles (9/29/91) was written by Noel Hoston, their television critic, who told of the efforts of two policewomen to combat violence by a campaign encouraging people, especially parents, to "turn-off: violent entertainment." Doug Grow's 7/30/91 column reported on a rally at the State Capitol opposing violence towards women. Grow spoke with Lori Peterson, activist and attorney, who said "The fodder that creates more victims keeps getting cranked out in increasing volumes."

Peterson spoke of "everything from (TV) beer commercials to nightclubs to mass circulation magazines to MTV to some rock music (being) at the root of violence towards women." Children, she said, "are bombarded with women-hating messages." This then is also developed in a column by Pioneer Press columnist Nick Coleman, which is reprinted in this Happenings.

On the political front, Frank Wood, warden of the Oak Park Heights prison, authored a report for Governor Carlson recommending improvements in the Department of Corrections' procedures regarding violent offenders and sexual psychopaths. In a time when many were either expounding extremist solutions or demagoguery, Wood's report was written in the style of a practicing professional who knows the limits of the system in eradicating such a deeply rooted problem, but takes responsibility for making changes where they have been shown to be needed. Jane Ranum, Tom Barbeau, and Tom Zoet have written the following articles, critiquing Wood's report and making observations and recommendations of their own. (Copies of Wood's report can be obtained by calling Greg Frank: 296-0037 or Wood's office: 779-1486) Ronnie Bouma has also written a well researched article pertaining to how this issue has impacted other parts of the Criminal Justice System, particularly the residential treatment programs.

•Pete Batterman, Editor

It was with a great deal of interest that I sat down and read Warden Frank Wood's report to the governor entitled "Risk Assessment and Release Procedures for Violent Offenders/Sexual Psychopaths." This report was requested by Governor Carlson in response to relatively recent and newsworthy victimizations of women in rural Minnesota. Warden Wood formed a committee composed of different Department of Corrections' personnel and people involved in the sex-offender treatment community. That committee wrote a report close to 30 pages.

I would like to start by saying that a commission was formed after the "parking ramp murders" in Minneapolis a few years ago. That commission made numerous suggestions, and it is my understanding that few of those suggestions were enacted. One can speculate that they were not enacted because of financial considerations. Two or three years later there are other events that receive media attention, a new commission is formed and many of the suggestions, which this writer would concur with, are costly, leading one to wonder if any of them will be enacted.

Warden Wood's committee suggests that, to deal with the violent offender, "after the fact is highly unlikely to have any significant impact on violence in our society." The commission suggests that the state of Minnesota should spend money on children and families in an attempt to deal with the root causes of violence. The commission suggests, "We cannot afford to continue to

increase our funding of simplistic reactionary solutions to complex social problems in an effort to placate and mislead the citizens." Although I would agree with this, it would seem, at least on an antidotal basis, that those people who speak most often of the simplistic reactionary solutions are in fact the very politicians who will be voting on any changes that may occur as a result of this commission. In what I believe is still the era of "Reagonomics," it is difficult to fathom the state legislature or the governor of Minnesota spending money for what one might label long-term solutions.

While reading the commission report, it became apparent that (what this writer would view as) the "spirit of the Guidelines" would need to be violated to successfully enact many of the recommendations made within. For instance, it was suggested that while an offender is in prison, he could be provided a system of incentives and sanctions to increase an offender's motivation for treatment. In other words, the offender might lose good time if he did not go to treatment.

Anyone who has been in this system for a period of time might remember that the original founders of the Guidelines viewed treatment and prison time in an almost similar vein, i.e. loss of freedom for an offender. Suffice it to say that this writer does agree with the commission's recommendation to provide treatment in prison, and, along with providing treatment, "to provide" incentives and sanctions. This will in effect treat the sex offender as entirely different than other offenders, almost returning to the days of the parole board, something this writer does not view as unattractive, and, as a matter of fact, would hope, if it happens, it is expanded into other types of offenses also.

The commission, throughout its report, indicates that the kind of knee-jerk, lock-them-up-for-the-rest-of-their-life mentality is costly and has never been demonstrated as working as it relates to reducing violence in a particular society.

The commission then makes a rather curious recommendation as it relates to the psychopathic personality. Much of the report talks about changing

the way people are civilly committed, working hand in hand with county attorneys from counties an offender may have come out of, and releasing people from prison into St. Peter where, according to the commission report, some should stay for the rest of their lives. The commission may want to remember that, too, is costly.

This writer, however, was happy to see that the commission is aware that there are people who "nothing can be done with." This writer felt the commission made responsible recommendations as it related to trying to identify those people and keeping society safe from them. However, the commission and eventually the state legislature is going to have to come to grips with the fact that these types of people will be locked up for periods of time not envisioned by the Guidelines Commission, thus, to some extent, going back to the days of "individualized justice."

The commission makes recommendations for starting new, experimental-type treatment facilities, along with offering treatment alternatives to rural Minnesota. These recommendations are responsible and should be followed, but one wonders if that will be done when looking at existing programs and finds that year in and year out money is more difficult to come by. Also, this writer is concerned about the concept of treating people, upon their release from prison, in a community setting. It would seem that with only one-third of their time left on supervised-release status, the "two-by-four" over their heads is too short term. It also would appear that, if we are in fact interested in "forcing" treatment upon a released offender, there will have to be real sanctions, i.e. returning to prison for the remainder of his time, when that treatment is not completed. Again, we are talking about a change in the Guidelines' philosophy. That change would be welcomed by this writer because, although the Guidelines have historically addressed the issue of inequity in the system, the current sentencing practice in the state of Minnesota has never been able to deal with the concept of a dangerous offender.

I have been a probation officer in Hennepin County for 19 years. Much of what Warden Wood's commission suggested made sense to this writer, but there are areas that the commission could not address that must be addressed. High-profile rapists and murderers tend to get punished to the maximum extent allowed. Daily, this officer sees less high-profile victimizers negotiated away because no one in the system wants to depart.

In other words, a person who commits a criminal sexual conduct in the first degree will be sent to treatment as a probation case, after he pleads guilty to an offense much less serious. If that person is later violated for not completing treatment, he will receive less time in jail, less ability to use incentives and sanctions to have him treated in jail, his one-third time off will be reduced, and any "two-by-four" over his head for treatment, upon being released from prison, will be minimized. This writer would not call for more incarceration, but instead for more honest sentencing.

It has become increasingly apparent to this officer that many rape victims are the powerless in our society. Old attitudes as it relates to these victims die hard. Although we are all too professional to publicly state those attitudes in the course of a business day, they lie close to the surface and this writer finds that only the rape victim, among all victims, can be treated somewhat like an offender.

In conclusion, perhaps consideration should be given to removing criminal sexual conduct first degree from the Guidelines, an idea that is not unique. Murder first degree is not part of the Guideline grid, for instance. This way we could return to a system of "individualized justice" in an attempt to make society safe from repeat predatory rapists. With honest sentencing and indefinite prison sentences, treatment alternatives, if properly funded, can be explored, and failure in those treatment settings can be met with long-term incarceration for those rapists who continue to act out.

•Tom Barbeau

Tom Zoet...

Reading through the Wood Report, the portions which I found myself hoping would be given the most attention were in his introduction and conclusions. Wood eloquently argues that "Our attention as a society needs to be refocused on the societal cause of an increasingly violent society and violence towards women and children. Focusing society's resources on the reaction to violence towards women after the fact is highly unlikely to have any significant impact on violence in our society ... We as a society have to look at the root causes of violence in our society and spend our very limited and finite resources on new initiatives with our children."

I think we have been very fortunate in Minnesota to have been served by corrections policy-makers who have largely resisted the temptation to dangle simple solutions like building more prisons as the answer to the public's fears about violent crime. They have endorsed ideas like those stated by Roger Lauen, author of *Community-managed Corrections*, who points out "... the fact that more prisons don't reduce crime, inmates don't get 'better' by being sent to prison, and the only difference between states that have high rates of incarceration and those that have low rates is how much money they spend." They have reminded the legislature during times of high emotion, that crimes of violence in Minnesota are news *because they are news*, not because we are experiencing some basic breakdown of the correctional system. To whatever extent the system must take blame for procedural errors or overdue improvements in service delivery, it should also be given credit for the fact that Minnesota ranks 36th in the nation for violent crime.

Generally, I felt that the report reflected sound correctional policy. The various recommendations seemed well thought out, especially those aimed at better coordination and communication between institution and field staff (including halfway houses). Although it appears, looking at the criteria, that more inmates will be identified as public risk monitoring cases, I am doubtful

that this step alone will do much for generating more halfway houses, rural or otherwise. The modification and increased use of the psychopathic personality statute may indeed be shown to be a useful vehicle for identification and incapacitation of people who should "never" return to the community. Those beds will need to come from somewhere, however, and may simply end up shifting the problem these people present from DOC to DHS, straining that system further.

Hopefully, this report will be helpful as a means for Minnesota not to permit, as Wood concludes, "the legislature and the state to be demagogued into spending millions of dollars on empty promises and simplistic solutions to very complex societal problems." I think it goes a long way towards fine-tuning the existing system. If all these recommendations are enacted/implemented we'll be able to say "we did everything we were supposed to." Yet, crimes of violence will continue to happen. Whether the public or the legislature will be willing to tackle *real* solutions is another question. It's always much harder to mobilize public support and media attention because crimes have been *avoided* through good public policy, yet that's where the long-term answer lies. Time will tell.

Ronnie Bouma...

Frank Wood's report, [Risk Assessment and Release Procedures for Violent Offenders/Sexual Psychopaths](#), has helped to focus the debate, by citizens as well as corrections professionals, on the best way to deal with the most difficult segment of the offender population.

Basically, the issue faced by communities is how to best protect society without resorting to the permanent and costly incarceration of large numbers of offenders, many of whom will not require this degree of incapacitation.

Wood's recommendations represent an effort to strike the balance between public demands for better protection and the costs (both economic and social) of an overreaction which may not provide any real additional protection.

Because we were interested in the reactions to the report of those who must work on the front lines, the staff of the MCCA newsletter decided to solicit the viewpoints of the directors of several local programs which specialize in the treatment of sex offenders, as well as selected probation officers with experience in the supervision of high risk offenders.

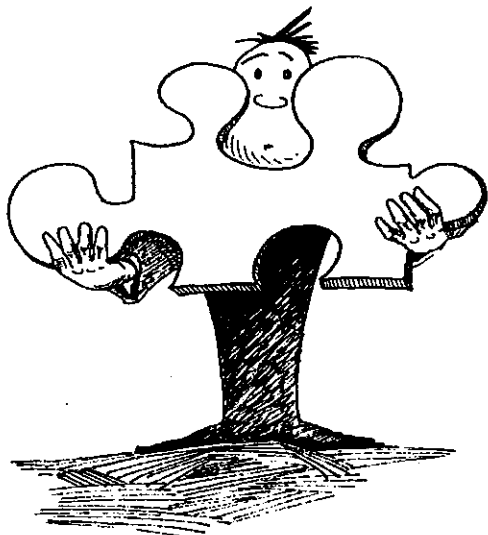
Glen Just, Executive Director of the Nexus Adult and Juvenile Treatment Programs, agrees that some offenders pose too much of a risk to qualify for acceptance in an open program, and his staff has developed its own battery of risk-assessment instruments in order to minimize that risk.

Although many treatment programs are having problems developing bed space, Just reports that the town of Onamia has welcomed Nexus' new juvenile program (which will house 75 residents on the site of the old Crosier seminary) with both financial and moral support.

In order to facilitate the program's entrance to the community, Just, along with three juvenile residents of the Minnetonka facility, has met with the members of the Mille Lacs County Commission to describe the program and allay concerns. He has also sent regular releases to the local paper, apprising the community of continuing developments, and has held an open meeting which afforded citizens the opportunity to meet some of Nexus' juvenile clientele firsthand and to explain the programs' accountability procedures.

Although Nexus has historically housed clients who came in approximately equal numbers from the metropolitan area, from out-state Minnesota, and from other states, the Onamia facility will be devoted primarily to Minnesota residents, which should quell criticism that Minnesota is inviting high risk offenders to relocate here.

Because the Minnetonka facility is phasing out, however, and because only juveniles will be going to Onamia, Just still needs to find 50 beds for adults. Despite the fact that Nexus has spent years developing risk assessment instruments, and despite their



confidence that they can screen out violent offenders, finding a community willing to accept an adult sex offender program will undoubtedly prove challenging.

Gerald Kaplan, the Director of Alpha Human Services, has experienced this challenge first-hand, when he attempted to expand Alpha's services and was met with a not-in-my-backyard reaction — despite the fact that Alpha's record in South Minneapolis is unblemished by any negative incidents. Kaplan feels that, realistically, there is unlikely to be an expansion of community-based treatment beds in the Twin Cities, and he does not believe that it is appropriate to remove offenders from the community for treatment, and then attempt to reintegrate them using "Phase II" staff who, lacking a lengthy association with the individual, may miss the subtle signs of deterioration which often precede the commission of a new offense.

As Chair of the Policy and Program Committee of the Corrections Advisory Board which serves in an advisory capacity to the Hennepin County Commissioners, Kaplan has already proposed that the County pursue commitments on dangerous sex offenders under the psychopathic personality statute soon after the criminal disposition has been made in cases involving an executed sentence, particularly following a probation revocation.

Kaplan bases this suggestion on a number of considerations. First, he believes that it would be easier to obtain

a commitment of a "qualified" offender before he has been incarcerated, rather than after he has served most of his time. This is so because, while an incarcerated offender has had no actual opportunity to re-offend (due to lack of access to potential victims), it is difficult for a conscientious examiner to offer the opinion that he still represents a danger to society when he has gone for a lengthy period of time without actually exhibiting dangerous behavior, and when he may even have undergone treatment.

Second, if the commitment process were initiated "up front," the burden would be shifted to the offender, at the end of his sentence, to prove that he was no longer dangerous.

Third, offenders would be encouraged, by the need to prove that they had changed, to engage in treatment during their incarceration.

Fourth, a psychopathic personality commitment would provide probation officers with an additional option at the time of sentencing or probation revocation, when there are serious concerns about community safety. An offender might, for instance, be mandated to treatment as a condition of probation and might then be revoked due to a treatment failure. The P.O. could then initiate a referral to the mental health division of the county attorney's office for commitment as a psychopathic personality.

Kaplan has other suggestions as well. He points out, for instance, that while there are problems inherent in housing individuals committed under the psychopathic personality statute in mental hospitals where they can prey on vulnerable adults, there are also problems inherent in throwing them into a prison population, thereby mixing those serving indeterminate sentences (as psychopathic personalities) with those serving determinate sentences.

Accordingly, Kaplan suggests the creation of a DHS facility which would be staffed and run by the DOC — thereby protecting both the public and the truly mentally ill.

The fact that individuals labeled as psychopathic personalities are not, in fact, mentally ill in the medically accepted sense, raises another issue addressed by Kaplan, who points out

that "psychopathic personality" is not an accepted diagnostic category and cannot even be found in the DSM-III-R. Kaplan suggests that a label such as "dangerous sex offender" would better serve to identify these individuals.

Kaplan also suggests that the legislature develop a new classification of criminal sexual conduct which would include sexual assaults (usually stranger-on-stranger) involving the use of weapons, and stranger-on-stranger sex-related child abductions, offenses which, he points out, are committed by a certain type of offender who poses a particularly serious threat to the public.

This CSC category would be classified as first degree criminal sexual conduct, with a presumptive sentence more onerous than the one which currently exist for CSC one. Existing felony-level categories one through four would be renumbered as two through five, each continuing to carry its current penalty. Fifth degree CSC, a misdemeanor category, would become CSC six.

Kaplan supports "coercive voluntary," as opposed to "mandatory" treatment, describing this option as one in which an offender could obtain a sentencing reduction by opting for treatment, while the treatment program would, in turn, have the option of terminating the client, should he fail to perform. Thus, Kaplan believes, one could create an investment in the treatment process on the part of the client.

Other possibilities for dealing with sex offenders suggested by Kaplan are the predication of good time on behavior during treatment, and the need for at least five years of post-release supervision of offenders, regardless of length of incarceration.

In conclusion, Kaplan reports that he encouraged legislators to temper their statutory fiddling during the next session by bearing in mind that in 1989 Minnesota improved its ability to deal with recidivists and that we have not yet had time to see how the provisions already in effect are going to impact the criminal justice system.

•Ronnie Bouma

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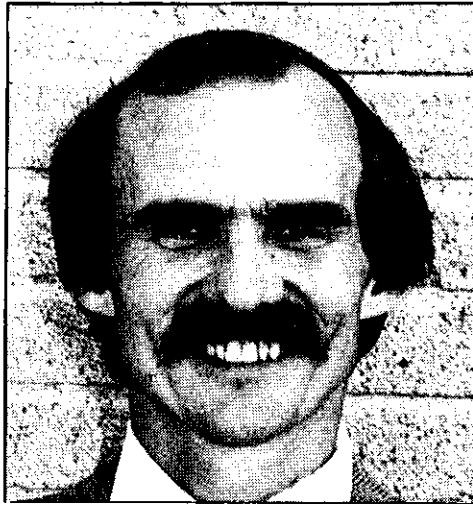
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We want you to know...



Bruce Clendenen, MCCA President

This issue of *Happenings* is dedicated to the problem of sexual violence. Those of us who work in corrections are aware that our sex offender clients are problematical, dysfunctional, and many times a danger to the community. It is a delicate balance measuring the needs of our clients against the protection of the public. In an ideal criminal justice system we would have the resources and flexibility to effectively work, with offenders, with the ability to hold them accountable.

Our system is not ideal. We work in an arena of rising caseload numbers with diminishing resources. The number of sex offenders supervised in the community grows every year and shows no sign of leveling off. Our jobs are tougher and more dangerous than ever. Yet, we in community corrections are asked to hold accountable greater number of more serious offenders. The recent increase of grave, high profile crimes serves to exacerbate the problem. As a result, the public is demanding more out of the criminal justice system.

Fortunately, Minnesota is blessed with one of the best corrections systems in the nation, which gives us an advantage. Our criminal justice system has proven to be an effective response to crime in the past. Although some changes would be welcome in order to more effectively work with these new concerns, a complete overhaul is not

needed. We have the knowledge, experience and desire to improve our services. We will, however, need to cooperate, collaborate, and work hard to respond. We should not allow funding, siting or competition to interfere with the need to address this serious problem.

MCCA is an ideal vehicle to present to the legislature and the local departments of corrections our ideas. The MCCA Board is working with other professional organizations to impact the 1992 State Legislature in terms of correctional issues. The sex offender issue will be a high priority. We need your input. Please call me with your ideas at (612) 659-9420.

A Senator's view...

In 1989, the Minnesota Legislature increased substantially the penalties for criminal sexual conduct and other violent crimes. Particularly important was the passage of 609.1352, the patterned sex offender sentencing provisions; 609.152, which increases sentences for dangerous and career offenders; 609.184, the heinous crimes statute; and 609.196, which mandates penalties for certain murders.

Some additional penalties need to be increased to further protect the public from the violent offender. I am currently working on several initiatives in that area.

What about the role of probation and supervised release in working with the violent sexual offender? I believe that the violent sexual offender belongs in prison. However, since too many violent sexual offenders were sentenced before 1989 and not all will be civilly committed to St. Peter, we must continue to have supervised release programs.

I have reviewed Warden Wood's report. Several issues were either not addressed or only minimally addressed in his report. Some of those issues, which I am currently working on, include:

- 1) Appropriate standards for "high risk" caseloads to ensure that probation/parole officers can effectively supervise violent offenders;
- 2) Appropriate training and

experience standards for probation/parole officers assigned to monitor high risk, violent offenders;

3) Specialized training and management requirements for parole/probation officers who are assigned to monitor juvenile and adult sex offenders and offenders who have psychopathic personality characteristics but were not committed;

4) Specialized training for all parole/probation officers that addresses cultural diversity issues;

5) Development of alerting risk factors and recommendations for the assessment of high risk juvenile offenders. (Warden Wood's report barely dealt with juveniles even though increasing number of juveniles are committing very violent crimes).

6) Review of notification procedures to ensure that police chiefs and sheriffs are aware when violent adult and juvenile offenders are released and when violent offenders come to their jurisdiction via the Interstate Compact Act;

7) Availability of chemical dependency and sexual offender treatment programs for the youthful offenders.

I would be glad to discuss these issues and any other areas of concern that your members have.

•Jane Ranum, Senator
District 62

State's inmate rate 2nd smallest Officials site sentence reform

From the Editor: The following article was written by Kevin Diaz, a staff writer for the Star Tribune. It appeared in the newspaper on 9/12/91 and is reprinted here with their permission.

Minnesota had the second smallest percentage of prison inmates in the nation in 1990, according to a US Justice Department report Wednesday that gratified, but did not surprise, state officials.

Minnesota's rate of 72 inmates for every 100,000 residents, second only to

North Dakota's rate of 67 per 100,000, was interpreted by corrections administrators as reflecting a legacy of progressive sentencing policies that emphasize low-cost community alternatives to prison.

Minnesota's incarceration rate was dramatically lower than that of Washington, D.C., which led the list with a rate of 1,125 per 100,000 residents. Washington was followed by South Carolina's rate of 451 per 100,000 and Nevada's 444 per 100,000, the Justice department said.

After Minnesota, the state with the third lowest incarceration rate is West Virginia, which has a rate of 85 per 100,000 residents. It also has the nation's lowest crime rate. Minnesota ranks 37th in crime.

For some, the figures came as a welcome relief after a summer of sensational crimes across the state. "We hear about the rash of violence, but that impression comes from a certain set of violent crimes, not from the statistics," said Debra Dailey, director of the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission.

Assistant Minnesota Corrections Commissioner Dan O'Brien said the figures also demonstrate that high incarceration rates do not reduce crime, vindicating the state's pioneering correction reform efforts. For example, South Carolina, with one of the highest incarceration rates, still has the sixth highest crime rate in the nation.

O'Brien echoed Chief Justice A.M. (Sandy) Keith, who told the Criminal Justice Institute convention last month, "We must disabuse the public of the false notion that if we just lock people up longer, we will be safe...Does our low incarceration rate mean that Minnesota is soft on crime? Hardly."

Keith and others argue that while state prison incarceration rate is low, Minnesota ranks 12th in the extent of control it exerts on criminals through local sanctions such as jail, workhouses, treatment, supervised probation, home detention, fines and community service.

"For the most part, it's a positive reflection," said Dailey, cautioning that many factors go into the incarceration rates of different states. "We should feel good that we're not bankrupting the

state by locking people up. We're finding alternatives."

Minnesota has about 3,300 prison inmates, nearly triple the number in the 1970s. Each one costs taxpayers about \$24,000 a year to house and feed. The prison population now grows by between 200 and 300 inmates a year, O'Brien said.

While Minnesota's overall incarceration rate has remained low compared with those of other states, Dailey said, the percentage of convicted felons who went to prison increased slightly during the 1980s, jumping from 20.4 percent in 1978 to 22 percent in 1989.

But in addition to those felons who went to prison, another 58 percent did jail time, bringing to 80 percent the proportion who are incarcerated.

O'Brien described the state's corrections policy as straightforward, but unique. "The state spends dollars for local governments to sort out the most violent, dangerous offenders from the rest. Prison is reserved for those who need it the most. Other sanctions are available for those who don't need prison. It sounds simple, but a lot of states don't do that, and it's reflected in their incarceration rates."

Minnesota's corrections system, with a budget of about \$110 million, also was selected as Financial World magazine's award winner this spring for its cost-effective practices. "Will other states take note?" the magazine asked. "Most likely they will be forced to when they realize that they are hocking their education programs to build prison cells."

•Kevin Diaz, Staff Writer
Star Tribune

MCCA: What's it all about?

Mission

The Minnesota Community Corrections Association is an organization of individual professionals and agencies dedicated to the support and development of community-based program which facilitate the offender's full participation in society through humane, responsible and effective responses to criminal behavior. The

MCCA serves as a liaison between the criminal justice system and the community to impact systems change.

Goals

MCCA is organized to promote the success of offenders in community corrections by:

- Articulating the vision of community corrections.
- Supporting high ethical and professional standards of performance for professionals in the field.
- Promoting specialized education and training for community corrections workers.
- Providing a forum for communication, peer review and coordinated planning by community corrections programs.
- Providing public education to promote the acceptance and support by the community of community corrections programs.
- Developing comprehensive and realistic standards for community corrections facilities and evaluation based on those standards.
- Providing community corrections and its consumers a strong voice in the legislative process.
- Participating in the criminal justice planning process to ensure a continuum of services which meet the needs of correctional clients.

From the Editor: The following article appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press on 9/19/91 and is reprinted here with permission.

It doesn't get any worse than this

Here's a quiz for Governor Arne Carlson and the governor's new Commission on Violent Crimes: From among the following three scenes, please choose the harmless fantasy:

Scene 1: Some men are camping in the mountains, drinking beer and enjoying the great outdoors. Suddenly, a bevy of giggling blond women in bikinis fall from the sky, dropping into the campsite for a party. "It doesn't get any better than this," one guy leers as the women shake their things.

Scene 2: A woman in a bikini is sunbathing on a crowded beach when a man dips a cowboy bott in the ocean and fills it with water. The woman stares at him, looking a bit worried by this weirdo. But the man comes closer and begins to pour water from the boot, making a circle in the sand around her. The other people on the beach disappear, magically, as he lassos her, cutting her from the herd like cowboys do to cows. Suddenly receptive to him, the woman stands up, licks her lips and moves closer to the man as he offers her a beer.

Scene 3: Two men are sitting in a car in a parking lot, drinking beer, when they spot a young woman walking past them on her way home. One man turns to the other and says, "I have to have her."

OK. Which scene is the harmless fantasy? Give up?

The answer is: None of the above. Scenes 1 and 2 are TV commercials, the first for Old Milwaukee beer, the second for Miller Draft beer. Scene 3 is from a murder. The men who were drinking beer and who "had to have" the woman in Scene 3 had guns under the seat of their car. It was in Grand Rapids, MN, in June, that Carin Streufert was kidnapped, raped and shot. Now, Governor, you may think it's silly to compare a murder to a couple of TV ads. But there's nothing silly about it.

In fact, it's often hard to separate the way women are treated in beer ads from the way in which they are treated by the men who prey upon them in real life.

"The message those ads are giving to the viewing public is, "no matter what we achieve in life, we're nothing but tits and ass," says Lori Peterson, a Minneapolis lawyer who represents victims of sexual assault and harassment. "The beer companies are using this sexist image to sell their products, making money off misogyny and promoting more sexism and violence against women. I'm enraged that they've been allowed to get away with this."

A lot of people are enraged, Governor.

That Miller Draft ad is a rape fantasy, pure and simple. The man sees a woman in a crowd and thinks that if he can get her to himself that she will want him. He captures her by drawing a circle around her that cuts her off from everyone else. The fantasy is that she enjoys it. The reality is rape.


The Old Milwaukee ads that feature the bimbos of "the Swedish Bikini Team" may be less insidious, but they are no less offensive and demeaning. Their message is that guys can't have fun until women with big chests and small minds fall into their laps like manna from heaven.

Old Milwaukee is made by the Stroh Brewery Co., Arne. Stroh's is based in Detroit but owns a brewery here and it's running an ad campaign to convince us that Strohs and Minnesota go together (MinneStrohta and all that). As governor, you've challenged Minnesotans to change the attitudes that put women at risk. Well, you couldn't find a better place to start than with sexist, degrading beer ads aimed at the age group of young men most likely to assault women. A meeting with a few Strohs executives would be helpful.

Anyway, Arne, you asked for ideas to help stop the war against women. Cleaning up the beer ads is one. If I hear other good ideas from my readers, I will be happy to pass them along to you.

Nick Coleman
Staff Columnist
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Remember...The MCCA Winter Conference will again be held at Wilder Forest this year on February 6th and 7th. Mark your calendars!



New venture for Jim Bransford

Jim Bransford, the 1989 recipient of the MCCA Robert H. Robinson Service Award, is now the executive Director of the Excelsior Program. Excelsior is an extension of the West Suburban Counseling Clinic. At this time, the treatment focus will be on non-residential rehabilitation for substance abuse and interpersonal violence. Jim wants to broaden the view of violence focused therapy to include male-on-male, parent-child, and female initiated abuse. He brings to this venture twelve years of substance abuse service delivery and three years of domestic abuse counseling. Though the program is open to anyone, the present target population is men of color and their significant family or other relational members.

The program is licensed under Rule 43 and Rule 29 through its affiliation with West Suburban Counseling Clinic. In Hennepin County those people eligible for treatment under Rule 256 chemical health criteria are also eligible.

Jim and Mark Dupont, Executive Directors of West Suburban Counseling Clinic welcome all inquiries about fees, admission and program details to (612) 545-7907. Ask for Kris or Linda.



from left to right: Jeff Martin, Mark Wilson, Dawn Brodmarkle, Sharen Southard, Greg Kraff, Denis Doege, Lisa Roberg

Q: Who's behind the MCCA training seminars?

A: The MCCA Training Committee.

Would you like to be part of this committee or have an idea for future training? Call Michel Plantz at 292-1466.

Legislative update

As I review various summaries and the legislation itself, there appear to be a number of pieces which have some impact on us. The following are my notes. I would urge that you review the actual legislation for details.

Statutes 171.3215 and 214.10 — Persons with a school bus driver endorsement and "licensed persons" eg. nurse, social worker, psychologist, etc. who have committed certain crimes against a minor...the PSI is to include that licensure/endorsement issue so that the proper authorities may revoke their special status/endorsement/licensure.

Statute 611A.04, sub1b — In matter of restitution over \$500, the defendant may be required to file an affidavit of financial disclosure with the correctional agency having the responsibility for investigating the financial resources of the defendant.

Statute 609.101 sub 3...controlled substances and minimum fines — Establishes required minimum fines of \$2500 for first degree; \$1000 for second degree; \$750 for third degree; \$500 for fourth degree; \$300 for fifth degree.

Statute 609.11, sub 5a — If the conviction is for a violation of 152 and results in a mandatory term of

imprisonment and there is a weapon per 609.11, the minimum term of imprisonment for 609.11 shall be consecutive.

Statute 609.115 sub 8 — Requires a determination in the PSI of whether or not alcohol or drug use was a contributing factor to the commission of the offense and, if so, a chemical assessment by a qualified assessor will be completed and contain recommendations regarding the level of care.

Also for 1993 there will be a requirement that the PSI contain information upon conviction for certain crimes of whether or not compulsive gambling contributed to the commission of the offense. If so, an assessment will be completed and contain recommendations regarding the level of care. (This will be added to 609.115 and is enabled by a piece in 245.98 sub 2a).

•Dave Gair, Hennepin County Adult Corrections Department

Genesis II update

From the Editor: Contrary to what we may have heard, Genesis II for Women is alive and kicking. Sheryl Hayward-Beagle, Genesis II's Director, sends us this note.

Genesis II is a nonprofit, human service agency, providing day treatment services for women involved in the criminal justice and/or child protections system. Services include: Psychotherapy — individual, group, sexual abuse, anger, and prostitution therapy and chemical dependency, african american and native american support groups; Parenting Education — classroom education, parenting observations, parenting one-to-ones; Education — GED, life skills training, and career development; Children's Center — onsite daycare for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, 5 - 12 years during school release dates.

Genesis II is contracted for services through Hennepin Community Corrections, Hennepin County Child Protection, Ramsey County Community Corrections and Ramsey County Child Protection.

During 1990, Genesis II went through a significant program and organizational restructuring. With that



completed, Genesis II provides comprehensive day treatment for up to 52 women and 35 children. The program is open entry and open exit. The average length of treatment is 12 - 15 months. If you would like additional information, or need to schedule an intake, please call (612) 348-2762.

Programs to help lighten the load... Hennepin County Service Center

Counties across the United States have been forced to explore innovative approaches to ever-increasing caseload demands. Los Angeles County has a telephone reporting system for 22,000 probationers who may never see a probation officer. Massachusetts is trying an intensive day treatment center approach with high-risk offenders. Texas is moving a large number of low-risk cases into a "case banking" system. Here, in Hennepin County, the Bureau of Community Corrections is aggressively pursuing the development of a medium-risk reporting center that will allow probation officer-to-client ratios of 1-500.

The basic concept for this reporting center is borrowed from Anoka County, where Jay Hancuch and his staff have operated a Service Center for the last two years. Medium-risk Court-ordered probationers will be given a year's schedule, usually calling for monthly meetings, within 48 hours of sentencing. Court-ordered conditions (urinalysis, restitution, et. al) will be tracked. The principle difference between Hennepin County's Reporting Center and Anoka County's Service Center will be in volume. While Hennepin County's immediate goal is to establish a downtown center capable of servicing 2,500 clients, it ultimately plans to add up to 3 suburban branches which would increase its capacity to up to 7,000 clients.

Volume at the Reporting Center would vary, driven by a need to maintain a more reasonable caseload for

traditional probation officers. The lower cut-off for high risk probationers will be allowed to "float" using a newly developed risk scale based on the probability that the client will re-offend with a "person" offense.

A typical session would include automated check-in for some 50 clients, using some form of a magstripped I. D. card; "pull asides" for regularly scheduled and random U. A. checks; in-person meetings with probation officers for failure to comply with conditions; a brief (30-50 minute) educational session for the estimated 30+ clients remaining; and follow up sessions with probation officers for clients who request them. Caseload size and tracking requirements will obviously require a significant MIS to support case management, staff scheduling, etc. Plans for a "smart" telephone system are also being discussed.

Hennepin County hopes to go operational next summer. Call Ed Vennewitz for further information at (612) 348-2716.

•Don Kelly, Hennepin County, OPD

Intensive Community Supervision

One way in which Minnesota has attempted to prevent prison overcrowding is through the establishment, by the 1990 legislature, of the Intensive Community Supervision program.

As originally conceived, ICS was designed to keep non-violent offenders in the community under house arrest. But ICS was not particularly attractive to these "front end" cases, because the individual remained on house arrest past his or her statutory release date.

In 1991, the law was amended to provide for the intensive supervision of high risk offenders emerging from prison after having completed their sentences. These Public Risk Monitoring Cases are flagged by the institution and assigned to special agents for Intensive Supervised Release. Candidates for ISR are mostly men with histories of assault and/or criminal sexual conduct.

The agency providing intensive

supervision services varies from county to county. DOC agents are supervising out-state cases; Anoka and Washington Counties are providing services through their community corrections departments; and DOC has contracted out the supervision of both Hennepin and Ramsey County cases to private nonprofits: Hennepin County to the Minnesota Citizens Council on Crime and Justice, and Ramsey County to Reentry Services.

Agents assigned to supervise ICS/ISR cases, whether employed by the state, the county, or a private agency, must meet the qualifications for Senior Corrections Agent. The maximum number of cases assigned to each agent, as mandated by law, is fifteen.

According to Tim Borass, Director of ICS for the Minnesota Citizens Council, the Hennepin County program is up and running, with four agents and sixty clients, composed of nine "front enders" and 51 "back enders." About half of the Council's sixty supervisees are mandated sex offenders, which is to say that they are required to participate by the DOC Office of Adult Release as a consequence of a conviction for first, second, or third degree criminal sexual conduct.

The Council's agents work in teams consisting of two agents each, with one Case Agent Assistant to be assigned to each team. Agents are on-call at all times and utilize beepers, as well as cellular phones. Revocation decisions require collaboration between a supervising agent and his or her partner, as well as the concurrence of a supervisor. In the event that a decision is made to revoke parole, Borass has the authority to sign A & D, after which the Office of Adult Release will issue a warrant.

In Ramsey County, the program is administered through Reentry Services, where Bruce Kimlinger, Director of Non-Residential Services, supervises two agents with thirty ICS/ISR cases. According to Kimlinger, the program consists of four phases, starting out with four agent visits per week, house arrest enforced with electronic monitoring, and free time only for work and church attendance, and proving for progressively few contacts and more freedom of movement as the client

progresses from one phase to another. Drug and alcohol testing are part of the package throughout the four phases.

An important question being asked by those assigned to monitor these cases (and undoubtedly of interest to the public) is: What will happen when the number of cases mandated by law for assignment to ISR exceeds the number mandated by law for assignment to each agent? Will there be money to hire additional agents? We may need the answer to this question very soon.

Prism

A major frustration facing Corrections professionals today is skyrocketing caseloads. The Adult Division of Ramsey County Community Corrections has mushrooming numbers of probationers. This unprecedented growth, combined with diminishing financial resources, prompted the search for alternative methods of supervision. The result of this quest is a group supervision program, PRISM: Probation, Resources, Information, Supervision and Monitoring.

PRISM staff supervise medium and low-risk offenders who continue to have special conditions of Probation which need monitoring. Monthly group meetings comprised of 50 probationers each are scheduled on a regular basis. In thus supervising large groups of low-risk offenders with a small number of staff, more dangerous, high-risk offenders are supervised on smaller caseloads, thereby providing more intensive supervision to those needing a higher degree of individual contact.

Planning for PRISM began in March, 1991 with one Probation Officer, Peggy Goettl; and in August she was joined by another officer, Ken Sandquist. Both agree that this is an exciting way to work with clients and a colleague. In order to build the Program, cases are being transferred in from other agents. To be eligible, these probationers must be non-person offenders who have the potential for being discharged from supervision within three years.

Through the use of computer information and scheduling system, PRISM staff are able to follow a large

number of probationers and effectively monitor their probation conditions. U/A testing and results are readily retrieved, yet programmed to remain confidential, thus simplifying U/A scheduling for staff. All other special conditions are also entered providing the Agents with a current listing of clients owing fines, restitution, or needing chemical assessment and/or treatment. The information system also forewarns of report deadlines and provides the required information on newly discharged, transferred and revoked cases each month.

At an initial interview, staff outline probation conditions with a contract just as with an individual caseload; and then the probationers are enrolled in a group. Upon their arrival at monthly meetings, probationers sign in and complete a report on their current residence, employment and legal status; and then they participate in a 30 to 45 minute informational and/or resource presentation. Probationers are scheduled for 12 monthly meetings, with the review completed during the tenth month, which may result in early discharge recommendation according to DOC policy, or continuance in PRISM on a monthly or quarterly basis. In some instances, probationers will need to be transferred to a more restrictive form of supervision: conviction of a new, disqualifying offense, or consistent failure to cooperate in group supervision.

Group presentations are provided by active community professionals and the use of video tapes. Topics include: Obtaining a GED, Post-secondary education, Employment Search, Sexually Transmitted Disease, HIV Infection, Parenting, Sexual Abuse, Domestic Abuse, Community Resources, Pro-Active Health, Finances and Developing Organizational Skills. Due to the high rate of chemical abuse/dependency in the client population, there are four presentations on this subject. The groups are information groups, rather than process groups; and thus client response/interaction is not required. However, many probationers find themselves becoming involved in discussions with the presenter and other participants.

The first two PRISM groups met in May, 1991, with each group consisting of about 25 persons. These groups have now reached their capacity of 50; and two additional groups were added in July. At the present time, the Program has grown to include six groups of nearly 50 each; and two additional groups are scheduled to start in December, with a quarterly group being introduced in January, 1992.

The PRISM Program is officed and sessions occur in the Ramsey County Adult Division Branch Office at the Spruce Tree Centre, Suite 226, 1600 University Avenue, St. Paul, MN (Telephone: 292-7984).

•Rosemary Morgan

Project Pathfinder moves

On September 27, 1991 Project Pathfinder moved to new office space. The new address is: Suite N377, Griggs-Midway Building, 1821 University Avenue W., St. Paul, MN 55104, phone: (612) 644-8515. This location is two blocks west of our former location in the Midway Hospital building.

•Steve Sawyer

Project RE-CONNECT

Project RE-CONNECT is a Ramsey County Community Corrections Department program providing intensive family-based services to Probationers, Parolees and Supervised Releasees who have committed an offense involving chemical abuse, are the primary caretakers of children under age 12, and reside on St. Paul's East Side.

Initiated this year through a Federal Grant, this Project employs a full-time team consisting of a Ramsey County Social Worker, Public Health Nurse and Community Corrections Officer. The team works in collaboration with contracted community agencies to provide intensive, culturally sensitive, in-home and community-based services to address client and client/family needs.

To be eligible for participation in the Project, parents must be under supervision by the Ramsey County

Adult Division and meet one of the following conditions: on supervision as the result of a substance abuse related offense; client substance abuse identified in a chemical dependency evaluation; client returning to the community from successful completion of chemical dependency treatment; or client substance abuse documented in a Pre-Sentence Investigation Report.

The goals of the Project are to support and uphold the parent in the maintenance of a chemically free, law abiding lifestyle, improvement of parent-child functioning; support of parent and child emotional/physical health, prevention of child abuse/neglect, and reduction in out-of-home placements.

Services include weekly group therapy for parents and children, family-based aide services in each household, monitoring of chemical abstinence, referring for chemical assessments and treatment, modeling and teaching families to function independently to access and utilize community resources supports, and assisting families to acquire their basic needs.

Project RE-CONNECT is officed in the midst of its target client population at 951 East Fifth Street, St. Paul, MN 55106, phone: 298-4961.

•Rosemary Morgan

Survivors of Incest Anonymous

After many years of waiting, the 12-Step movement has finally gotten to some of the truly core issues of sexual recovery: childhood sexual abuse and its consequent behaviors. The local Intergroup of Survivors of Incest Anonymous has gotten a bevy of peer support meetings organized that speak directly to each member of the sexually dysfunctional family. And more importantly, PERPETRATORS ARE NOT BEING CHOPPED OUT OF THIS ONE. In fact, they play a central role as the SIA believes in the Minnesota (Family) Recovery model of peer support and feels that the family dynamic must be treated if the perpetrator is going to have a snowball's chance once he reenters.

SIA found that perps, who were victims themselves, were having

problems mixing in victim dominant groups and so they started support groups specifically for ex-perps. The meetings have both men and women members and deal with almost any issue of incest recovery from misogyny to cranky spouses! Attendance cards are signed at meetings, like AA, and cards and meeting schedules are available from the SIA Intergroup (612) 698-0909. Please feel free to refer your clients to them directly for meeting lists.

The first meetings came as an outgrowth of a program initiated at Lino Lakes (currently spreading to Shakopee and Stillwater) where SIA members came onto campus to have meetings with insiders. These peer-based meetings, soon known as "Insider" meetings, dealt with common recovery problems, but the most popular topic was breaking the recidivism cycle. "Making it" on the outside crops up time and time again as the greatest fear of even the most model client. Aside from having to battle your own demons on a daily basis, dealing with the especially painful discrimination that faces a sex offender presents the greatest challenge for most parolees. Most frequent complaints are that 12-Step groups hardly qualified as "support" if you were a sex offender. You don't have to go too much farther than the editorial pages of the local newspapers to find out how you're going to be treated. To meet this need, "Outsider" groups grew up. Getting together with people struggling with the same challenges proves to reduce anxiety and fear, while shoring up resolve for especially critical times. Having a buddy's phone number can be invaluable just as you're about to throw in the towel, just when you feel all alone with nobody or caring (or watching???)

For further information regarding these groups, call Stu West at (612) 698-0909.

•Stu West

Vinland Chemical Health Programs

Since opening in 1990, Vinland Chemical Health Programs have served over 150 people with traumatic brain injuries and related disabilities who

were abusing alcohol and other drugs.

As a national leader in the development of innovative treatment approaches, Vinland has demonstrated that specialized chemical health services for brain injury survivors are not only possible, but successful.

Finland recently completed their first one year participant outcome survey, which indicated that Vinland participants not only demonstrated significant change in chemical use, but also reported improvement in a variety of other "quality of life" measures. Their programs have empowered people to live in a healthier, more independent and productive manner.

Those interested in visiting their programs to see first-hand why participants are discovering healthier ways of living should call (612) 479-3555 to arrange a visit, ask any questions, or to discuss a particular case and how Vinland's Chemical Health Programs can help.

MCCA Newsletter Committee

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Happy Holidays

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