

# Happenings\*

Minnesota Community Corrections Association

## Juvenile Certification – Then What?

By: Carol Sturm

Juvenile offenders who are certified as adults and subsequently are prosecuted in district court, often continue to present frustration to the corrections system.

Who are these juveniles? Any juvenile over the age of 14 who commits first degree murder is automatically petitioned for certification as an adult; Other crimes against persons may result in a petition for certification; A juvenile who has committed so many crimes that he or she is no longer suitable for the juvenile courts or who is considered a menace to society may be petitioned for certification. County attorneys do the petitioning based on the crime and the youth's history. Minnesota Juvenile Code 260.125 defines standards for certification. A judge may or may not grant the petition. No youth under the age of 14 is ever certified.

Often the juvenile has been in a variety of foster homes, group homes, camps or treatment centers. It is likely the youth has run a number of times from one or both of the State Juvenile facilities at Red Wing or Sauk Center.

The vast majority of certifications are male. Sentencing in district court most often includes some form of incarceration. Frequently it will be a period of time in jail or in the Workhouse, occasionally including the possibility of furlough to treatment. Certified juveniles may be sent to the less frequently used Minnesota Correctional Facility at St. Cloud.

The "new adult" is now faced with a new set of rules, with new contingencies and expectations, and living where very few persons are his peers. At the Hennepin County Adult Correctional Facility (Workhouse), where approximately 5 - 7% of the male population (20-25) are certified juveniles, special adjustment problems are reported. As a group it is reported that these people have a "chip on their shoulder", do not take

responsibility for their behavior, engage in horseplay and in general, engage in behavior that the more "seasoned" adult inmates find irritating. Fred Hinds, Chemical Dependency Counselor at the Hennepin County Workhouse, is experimenting with holding group sessions with these people on how to adjust in the adult system. There is, otherwise, no special programming for this population. Ramsey County Workhouse has fewer (approximately 4-5 at a time) certified juveniles and reports no particular noticeable problems with this group.

Limited communication with Reformatory staff indicates no outstanding difficulties that would be attributed to certified juveniles as a group. They are not given separate programming, but are handled like any other inmate. There currently are no certified females at MCF-Shakopee (women's prison); however, when there have been, they reportedly do not adjust well in that type of open setting.

The experience of professional staff informally surveyed is that as a whole, certified juveniles do not do well on probation or parole. In cases where probation is granted with little or no incarceration and no treatment, there is no reason to believe that the youth will alter his behavior from that which resulted in certification. Nothing changes when he has no new adjustment skills including the potential for obtaining employment. Placing him in an adult treatment program or half-way house is generally futile in that he does not relate well with the older age residents; is not willing to abide by the rules and accept consequences in an open setting. Either the staff find themselves bending the rules and then realize they can't do that and terminate him, or he runs away.

Jeff Rasmussen, Dispositional Advisor in the Hennepin County Public Defender's office has been involved in 75-80% of the certifications in Hennepin County, as well as

## MCCA Conference Planned

The annual Winter Conference of the Minnesota Community Corrections Association will be held at Lymon Lodge in Excelsior of February 15-16, 1984. The theme of the conference will be "Community Corrections: 'Who's Buying'" and will discuss the acceptance of non-incarceration. The keynote speaker will be John Brantner, a popular educator and consultant at the University of Minnesota.

The two-day event may be the best deal for the money to come along in a long time. The cost for the conference, meals and MCCA membership will be \$36.00, plus \$13.00 for an optional overnight stay at Lymon Lodge. Entertainment is being planned for Wednesday evening.

The full details and registration information will be available in the next issue of **Happenings**.

ing a consultant statewide on petitions for certification. He believes that "throwing the (juveniles) into the adult system" is of no benefit except to protect the public safety for awhile. While a number of them do not want to change, he believes a separate (thereby a peer group) secure unit or facility with some treatment would be warranted.

**\*Note:** Nexus is a Hennepin County facility which has a program geared for serious juvenile offenders, specifically, certified juveniles. (See article in this issue.)

When a certified juvenile on probation or parole gets arrested in Hennepin County, he is transported to the juvenile center. If there is a new felony charge, the person will be certified again as an adult due to that charge. (This is virtually automatic in that a probable cause hearing is not required due to the recent law - "once certified, always certified.")

## New Faces At REM-Lyndale

By: Laura Sissala

In the past 5 months of this year three new faces joined the staff at REM-Lyndale, Inc., a facility serving the developmentally disabled offender. They are Dick Levering-Snyder, Kate Gramling, Curt Peterson and Jill Johnson. Each person has added many new and exciting dimensions to our program.

**Dick Levering-Snyder** had previous experience with this program, this time he rejoined us as a full-time day coordinator. His experience and education span a B.A. in psychology and credits toward his M.A., to working at the Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Center. Dick has brought a special enthusiasm and caring to the REM-Lyndale program. He spends his time directing the vocational aspects of his five (of 10) clients. This entails training job skills, monitoring job placements, finding suitable employment positions and establishing good community relations. Each client is seen as having a special area of accomplishment by Dick and they enjoy spending time with him.



Dick & Kate

**Kate Gramling** joined us from the Allen Hall Residential Treatment Center in Madison, Wisconsin. At REM-Lyndale, Inc. Kate is also responsible for 5 clients vocational and educational training. She combines her experience with her B.A. in psychology and sociology into skills for training pre vocational, vocational and academic skills. Kate has displayed innovative methods of encouraging each client to practice new and different vocational behaviors. The techniques she employs places the responsibility of appropriate behavior on the client. Many clients have stated that they feel Kate takes a sincere interest in their problems and progress.

**Curt Peterson** brings with him a M.S. in Education from the University of Southern California as well as experience from a psychiatric center and 14½ years with the U.S. Navy. He is a compassionate person who enjoys spending time with the clients. He is responsible for 5 clients in the evening and teaches a variety of skills from horseshoes and fishing to money management, human sexuality, peer relations and leisure time skills. The clients find Curt interested in their recreational interests and they enjoy spending time sharing these interests.



Curt & Jill

**Jill Johnson** joined REM-Lyndale, Inc. in August and has quickly become a valued team member. Jill has a Special Education degree and 3 years experience at Fergus Falls Senior High School. Jill has combined her skills and high level of concern for the client into innovative and challenging programs addressing hygiene, money management, leisure activity, assertion, self-concept and socialization skills. Clients have found her a willing listener and someone ready to help them accomplish their goals of becoming good citizens.

Each of these new staff have provided REM-Lyndale, Inc. with new abilities, varied interests, and great client rapport. Each is appreciated as a member of the team and is becoming a highly respected professional in the field of community corrections for the disabled.

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The shoemaker was explaining to a dissatisfied customer why his soles were not of high quality. "All the good leather," he said, "is going into stea's."

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## Throwaway

### Children

By: Jane Braaten & Debbie Eng

Although there has been much publicity recently regarding the number of juveniles being placed out of their homes; current Hennepin County juvenile parole caseloads seem to reflect a trend that many of these juveniles are being placed in foster care, group homes and/or treatment facilities due to parental indifference. The term "throwaway" children has been used to describe these clients - children whose families refuse to take responsibility for child raising and prefer to have outside agencies take care of their children.

Observations by Hennepin County workers and correctional personnel indicate that the parents for these children have little or no attachment to them. They often consider the children to be an inconvenience or barrier that prevents them from meeting their needs and "doing their own thing". Many of these parents were adolescents during the 1960's.

The parents' need for self gratification may have evolved from the social attitudes prevalent at that time. Characteristics of such parents include anti-authority and anti-responsibility attitudes, involvement in alcohol and drugs, and personal relationships.

The families we are now seeing can not be approached with traditional family counseling methods because many of the assumptions on which family counseling is based (i.e. attachment, involvement) are not present. These situations require earlier assessment and innovation on the part of the worker. Workers also need to present a stronger role model to both parent and child and attempt to assist the parent in gaining the parenting skills so badly lacking. Also it appears that these cases may need more long-term supervision assistance.

Until more effective ways of dealing with these families can be found, the need of out of home placement of such juveniles will continue.

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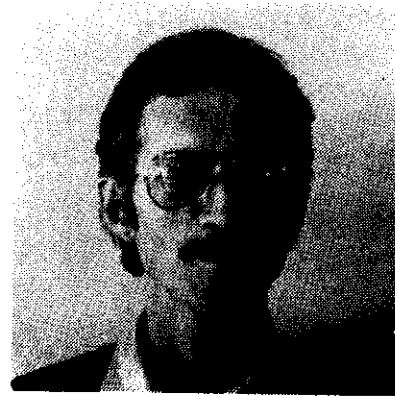
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# We Want You To Know



Jeff Martin

## Dear Fellow Members:

I am pleased that MCCA has an interest in issues concerning juvenile offenders and the programs designed to serve this client group. Since the beginning of this organization, our orientation has been toward the adult corrections system. We clearly need an "education" or re-education on the juvenile system. I hope that professionals, students, and volunteers presently working with juveniles will join our committees to help us become more aware of needs relating to legislation, public information (through the Happenings) and training.

We have two new committee chairpersons. Mike McGrane (221-0048) of the Wilder Community Assistance Program is now responsible for our ongoing training sessions. Gail Wik (827-3300) is now the head of our Legislative Committee. Both she and Mike are open to ideas, suggestions, and new members to help the committees.

Jeff Martin  
 MCCA President

### MINNESOTA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Make checks payable to MCCA

## Katahdin: A Workshop For Youth

During the fall of 1975 five people who had been working with "troubled" youth in Minneapolis since the late sixties organized to develop a new correctional approach which could serve as an alternative to institutionalization for delinquent youth. The available treatment options for these youth, at that time, consisted primarily of intermittent counseling services and long-term, out-of-home placement. This group felt a more consistent, wholistic treatment model was needed which facilitated a youth remaining in the home and community where problems could be addressed directly. Over the next two years, with the direct input of youth and other juvenile justice professionals, and support from Enablers and the Minneapolis Foundation, the Katahdin program was developed and a not-for-profit corporation formed. Funds for implementation of this day treatment model were granted in late 1977 from the Crime Control Planning Board, State of Minnesota (Federal JJDP monies) with matching grants from the Dayton Hudson and General Mills Foundations. Katahdin's first clients entered the program in May of 1978.

Today Katahdin provides an individualized, wholistic educational/treatment program for 60-80 youth per year, each for a period of four to six months. Youth are involved directly with the program five days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., returning to their homes in the evenings and on weekends. Program components include: 1) an accredited school program with individual curriculum design; 2) goal-oriented counseling activities which include individual, group, and family therapy; 3) independent living skills development; 4) supervised community service involvement; 5) diverse social and recreational activities; 6) cultivation of external support systems within each youth's community.

Katahdin is committed to the fact that caring results in human dignity for children and adults. The program strives to create a supportive, positive environment which facilitates socially appropriate behavior. Trust and respect for and by individuals within this environment is critical to value formation and behavioral change. Realizing that trust and respect are earned, Katahdin

**Katahdin Workshop Con't. On Page 7**

## Nexus Juvenile Program

The Nexus Juvenile Program opened in 1975 and was named a national model program by the United States Department of Justice in 1981.

Those juvenile clients entering Nexus are males between the ages of sixteen and eighteen with a current adjudication for a major property offense or a major person offense. Chemical dependency is neither a criteria for admission nor does it exclude a person from consideration. All clients must be either certified as adults or defined by Juvenile Court as a serious juvenile offender.

A recent report from the Community Corrections Research Project describes the Nexus juvenile client:

Juveniles admitted to Nexus appear to be serious offenders, as indicated both by the severity of their present (most recent) offense and by the number of their total offenses . . . present offenses are about evenly divided between person and property offenses . . . the average client has a record of 16 status offenses, 1.9 misdemeanors, and 3.7 felonies that were admitted or proven in Court, for an average total of 7.2 admitted or proven offenses.

The Nexus Juvenile Program structures phases that move from maximum to moderate supervision in a residential setting.

The targeted length of stay while in residence is nine months. In the interest of continued cost effectiveness, Nexus has offered a juvenile placement alternative effective May 1, 1983. Upon review of the matter with Hennepin County Juvenile Court and probation, the following policy was instituted: ". . . All Hennepin juveniles will be Court ordered to Nexus for a period no longer than six months. All clients will be Court reviewed after this six month period and in those cases that justify continued therapy, the Court will at that time order it. If at the time of disposition, the Court requests a specified long-term placement (greater than six months), then the Court review will not be necessary . . ." To date, this policy has had positive responses, particularly for non-certified clients.

There are several services that make the Juvenile Program distinct from the Adult Pro-

gram at Nexus. At present, three of the distinguishing features are: the school program, family therapy and community outreach.

### School

The Nexus school is located on the premises and all juveniles are required to attend class three hours a day. As most clients enter Nexus with some form of learning disabilities, the classroom is geared to individual development and the teaching staff have S.L.B.P. backgrounds. In addition to preparation for a GED or high school diploma, students participate in a career evaluation/counseling sequence, recreational activities and a basic living skills component.

### Family Therapy

Family therapy at Nexus emphasizes involvement of all concerned parties in assisting the client to set goals and develop a treatment plan. Experience with juveniles strongly indicates that obtaining cooperation from the family or peers greatly increases the client's chance for success. At Nexus, the family therapist initially meets with all significant parties of the juvenile and when appropriate, provides on-going family therapy.

### Community Outreach

One of the most predominant characteristics of Nexus is the emphasis on successful reintegration into the community. A Harvard study has recently concluded that "short-run gains (in a program) are frequently erased as the youngster returns to his former networks." What the Nexus juvenile has experienced before entering the program and what he returns to is often more significant in determining recidivism than treatment approaches. For this reason, what will happen upon return to the community must be a major focus for the client. Maintaining contacts with family and other interested individuals, creating job and education opportunities in the community, building positive peer groups, training for the social, survival, educational and work skills are all elements that must be addressed.

Hennepin is the host county for Nexus with six other counties currently utilizing Nexus Juvenile services. The program is located at 5915 Eden Prairie Road, Minnetonka, MN 55343.

# Eden Youth Outpatient

Eden Youth located at 1035 East Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis, is a highly structured outpatient treatment center for juveniles in need of direction with drugs and alcohol use, education, use of leisure time, family functioning, and overall behavioral responsibility.

Eden Youth assists the clients to work towards positive change. Responsibility and accountability are stressed. We encourage the adolescents to explore self-awareness and give them information on problem-solving and coping skills. The expectations of the program require the juvenile to attend five hours of school each morning at Eden Youth. The classes are taught by teachers provided to us through the Minneapolis Public School system.

During the afternoon hours a variety of counseling sessions are in process.

**Group Counseling:** this provides a time for clients to share information and experiences with their peers.

**One to One Counseling:** provides individual time for the client to work on issues with a trained primary counselor.

**Family Counseling:** individual family counseling with the client and his/her family members, is provided by two counselors specifically qualified to facilitate family counseling.

The afternoon sessions end at 3:00 p.m. when the clients leave for supper break at their individual home. After supper they return to Eden Youth for an evening program of either recreational activity or group therapy.

Each day is filled. Attendance is also required on Saturday nights for recreational activities with the group.

During the first month or two the main focus is on abstinence from chemicals, consistent treatment, and school attendance. After responsibility is exhibited by the client in these areas, nights off are recommended along with a slow and supervised re-entry into the home school, this time with new self-awareness, self-control, friends, and a place to turn when problems seem too large to deal with alone. Groups, family counseling, and optional recreational activities continue during this re-entry period. When the client is secure and independently responsible, they graduate from Eden Youth and have the option to maintain a tie with an aftercare group for graduates at Eden Youth.

Typically, referrals come from the Minneapolis Public Schools or Hennepin County

Court Services, possibly with a court order. Clients tend to be from the Phillips neighborhood, giving Eden Youth a high population of American Indian clients. Eden Youth has a racially diverse staff, sensitive to the cultural issues of the clients. The staff maintains a consistent contact with supplemental and supporting agencies working with each individual client to assure quality care and follow-through in every area.

\*For any Adolescent residing in Hennepin County

\*Ages 13-17 who is in a harmful relationship with chemicals

\*Average length of stay six months

\*If interested in making a referral, or obtaining more information, please call 874-9441

## Eden Youth Residential

### Program

Eden Youth Residential, 1025 Portland Ave. South, Minneapolis, is a long-term residential treatment facility which provides services to adolescent males, ranging in age from 13 to 17. Treatment is provided in a highly structured environment, with emphasis on growth and responsibility.

Our program provides on-site education in conjunction with the Minneapolis Public Schools Special Education Department, as well as social and recreational programs.

The client enters the program and progresses through a series of phases before graduating from treatment and returning to full community living; either with his nuclear family, independently or in a supportive living environment.

The program steps include: Phase 1, diagnostic; Phase 2, psychotherapy, Phase 3, psychotherapy and community-related activities; and Aftercare, follow-up after the client leaves the program. The average stay in the program is 7 months.

### Modality And Services

Our approach to psychotherapy is eclectic. Rational-emotive approaches, along with transactional analysis and behavior modification techniques are utilized. We provide group and individual counseling on a daily basis. When appropriate, family counseling

services are also provided. We also provide services to address incest and abuse, and sexuality issues. Limited medical services are available to our clients.

### Clientele

Most of our clients are from the Minneapolis area, although approximately 10% come from out of state. Approximately 80% are court-ordered to our program. The remaining 20% are voluntary admittances. All our clients abuse chemicals or are chemically-dependent. Most have had extensive involvement in the system, and have been incarcerated or through treatment at least once.

### Juvenile Con't. From Page 1

It is not yet clear whether the certification would be granted on a misdemeanor charge. It has already been determined that the juvenile court has nothing to offer this person. Certification on a misdemeanor for these previously certified juveniles could at least offer the consequence of workhouse or jail time as opposed to no consequences, which would reinforce continuing illegal behavior. Parents have voiced concern that their self-emancipated juveniles who have behaved uncontrollably to the extent of certification, and then do not have restricted freedom, may engage in additional illegal behavior that could result in a lawsuit against them (parents).

While there appears to be extremely limited programming for this group of offenders, probation with unenforceable conditions seems to give license to continue impulsive, irresponsible and illegal behavior. Many correctional persons as well as judges, are reluctant to incarcerate these people. However, given no other alternative, this seems to be the only certain and immediate method of control.

How extensive, and thus how critical is the problem of certified juveniles? What is the answer? Where is the answer? What is the cost factor - not in terms of immediate dollars, but as it relates to continuing criminal behavior? Perhaps this is an area where we need to gather data, study trends with an eye on the future and then take action. What happens to certified juveniles? Are there numbers likely to increase? What is needed to thwart otherwise criminal careers?

## MCA Conference Celebrates 50 Years

The Minnesota Corrections Association celebrated its fiftieth anniversary at its Fall Conference, September 27-29. During the business meeting on Wednesday, Commissioner Orville Pung recalled some of the history of Corrections in Minnesota. He pointed out that when Minnesota became a territory in the 1850's, Stillwater chose to be the site of the prison, allowing Minneapolis to host the state university. St. Cloud was the state's second prison, being built by prison labor with the stone quarry inside the imposing granite walls. When the women's institution was built at Shakopee, it received national attention for its innovative lack of prison walls.

The keynote speaker for the conference was John Elkins, a Trends Analyst. He discussed the current "entrepreneurial explosion" in which many businesses are being created because large capital investment is no longer essential, but "ideas count." We are seeing a trend toward decentralization of our society because the needed services are no longer available only in the major metropolitan areas. Large national organizations are losing their power to regional and local groups (there are 484 nuclear freeze organizations). Elkins pointed out the need to personalize contact between people. We are beginning to question the philosophy of mass production, becoming more concerned with quality than quantity of our production. Elkins used the terms "High Touch" and "High Tech" to differentiate between personal contact and automated service systems. He indicated the increasing interest in the more costly "ego-intensive" high touch approach to consumerism.

Happenings staffers had the opportunity to attend several of the workshops offered at the MCA Conference. Awareness of Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Abuse Prevention was the subject of three workshops at the MCA Conference. This formerly hidden subject has been documented as one of the contributing factors in juvenile delinquency, prostitution, and other adult crime.

The first workshop was conducted by Kathleen Morris, Scott County Attorney who prosecuted the controversial Cermak case. She addressed an over-capacity crowd discussing the importance of all professionals involved in the prosecution of child sexual abuse to work in cooperation. She placed special emphasis on precise documentation and sensitivity to the victims.

She also explained the generational cycle of sexual abuse and its implications on working with clients from this kind of dysfunctional family system. She shocked many listeners by graphically describing the details of the Cermak case.

GENESIS II and The Illusion Theatre presented a workshop on how women are affected by child sexual abuse. A video tape was shown which contained four interviews of women who were victims of child sexual abuse. Ideas were offered to professionals on helping these women become survivors rather than victims.

Cordelia Kent, Director of Applied Theatre, of The Illusion Theatre presented a video tape titled "No Easy Answers". This video is used expressly for preadolescent and adolescents in order to educate them on feelings and attitudes around sexuality. The information presented in skits performed by actors from their theatre company. The skits show the media's impact on social/sexual attitudes; myths about sexuality, and the difference between good touch and bad touch.

In another workshop, staff of the Hopkins Intervention Project discussed their work in the field of domestic violence and the dynamics of abuse. (The Project was reported in the March-April issue of the Happenings.) According to the presenters, abuse is often the result of a sense of control and ownership of "my woman". Women tend to remain in an abusive relationship out of fear of greater physical abuse to themselves or others close to them, or of having their children snatched from them. They may feel guilt if there is fear the man will hurt himself if she leaves. Through the emotional abuse the woman receives, she may feel worthless, unable to manage without the abusive man. She may also feel she loves the man because abusers can be convincing in their protestations of love.

In her discussion of the treatment of sex offenders, Dr. Nancy Steele, Supervisor of the Transitional Sex Offender Program at Lino Lakes, emphasized the "carrot and stick" approach to treatment. For treatment to be effective, the therapist and the patient must know and acknowledge the limits and controls placed on the patient. The worker's attitude is also important; it is vital that the therapist be comfortable about sexual issues. The therapist also needs to be clear in his own role, that he is not a judge or prosecutor. To understand the offense, we

need to know the details of the behavior especially as described in the victim's statement. Steele uses the crime as a symptom to understand the offender; behavior has meaning and purpose. She said there is always a background problem and a trigger incident for the offense.

DWI's were discussed from the legal and law enforcement standpoint as well as from that of Mother's Against Drunk Drivers (MADD). Minnesota law was noted to be comprehensive and certain regarding DWI's but the penalties are not severe relative to many other states.

In a very lively afternoon general session, Mike Walcher, WCCO and Dave Anderson of the Minneapolis Star & Tribune, responded to questions about the media's role in reporting crime. Walcher acknowledged the potential "copycat" crimes, such as skyjacking, but expressed the belief that not reporting it would give up too much of the public's right to know about events and trends in our society. The speakers also admitted a tendency to overdramatize crime reporting, that most crimes are not very dramatic or well organized. When asked whether the media is primarily concerned with sales, Anderson responded, "To some extent pandering to the reader is the way democracy operates. If we don't give them what they want, they'll buy another." Walcher said the primary role of the media is reporting rather than educating. Anderson, however, maintained that his job is to ascertain trends, to educate people, to serve as a stand-in for people who cannot attend the hearings, legislature, etc.

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## FROM THE COMMISSIONER

In his discussion of the history of corrections in Minnesota, Commissioner Pung noted that capital punishment, which was abolished in 1915, was administered by the counties rather than the state. "Sort of a community corrections with a vengeance."

## Fleming Named To Top MCA Award

Jacqueline Fleming, superintendent of the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Shakopee, has been named Corrections Person of the Year by the Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) at its annual conference in St. Paul. Ms. Fleming has served as superintendent of the state's institution for women for 13 years. MCA is honoring Ms. Fleming for bringing "the role of the female offender to the forefront of corrections in Minnesota...continuously working to improve conditions and resources for women offenders." The organization also cited Ms. Fleming as a leader among the nation's wardens and superintendents and acknowledged that the Shakopee institution has been nationally recognized for its outstanding programs.

The MCA's Professional Achievement Awards were presented to Rubio Rodriguez, youth worker at the Hennepin County Home School, and Jerry Mihock, Hennepin County career parole officer.

The Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth, and the Northwest Minnesota Juvenile Training Center, Bemidji, received the association's President's Award.

### Katahdin Con't. From Page 4

promotes personal accountability within a structured yet flexible program. Family, peers, employers, relatives, and other concerned individuals are considered and involved whenever appropriate. This wholistic approach better ensures consistency of behavioral expectations, coordination of resources, and shared responsibility. Egalitarianism is another value featured within the Katahdin program. Students and staff are equally involved in programmatic decision making as much as possible. Youth must have the opportunity to make and impact decisions which affect their lives and the lives of those around them.

Katahdin students generally meet the following eligibility criteria:

- a. between the ages of 12 - 18
- b. reside in Hennepin County
- c. adjudicated delinquent with an offense history of at least two felonies and/or serious misdemeanors
- d. a home situation where the family wants the youth to remain in the home and is willing to contract for initial family counseling

## Task Force Unites Corrections Groups

The Joint Task Force of Corrections Professionals was organized in late 1982 in an effort to bring together five statewide and diverse professional corrections organizations in Minnesota to explore ways in which the memberships could work together with other concerned citizens in the community to promote and improve corrections throughout Minnesota in a unified manner.

The five organizations include: Minnesota Corrections Association; Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers; Minnesota Community Corrections Association; Minnesota Association of Women in Criminal Justice and Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties. The MCCA representatives are Gail Wik, Bob Elkins and John Mitchell.

Task Force members consist of twelve executive officers or appointees of the parent organization and collectively represent approximately one thousand members from all walks in the corrections community.

Two primary goal areas in which the Task Force has committed its efforts are, (1) change and improvements through legislation; and, (2) improved community support through educational activities and public relations.

Community support is a vital element in the effective formulation of public policy and delivery of correctional services. While professionals in the field have recognized the need for community support, they have not

been aggressive in efforts to raise awareness of their problems or moderate perceptions, attitudes and opinions in the community. In more recent years changes in the economic and political climate has increased the need for strong community support of corrections.

Constraints on public agency budgets have increased while competition for shares of diminishing resources has intensified. Public attitudes demanding crackdowns on criminals are often characterized by skepticism about the ability to rehabilitate offenders or predict crime. At the same time the political climate has been unfriendly towards the concept of community corrections while support for incarceration of more offenders for longer periods of time has grown.

In the face of these assaults, fueled by public fear of crime and scarce government resources, corrections can no longer afford to be without strong support in the community if it is to maintain a forward momentum. If corrections is to avoid serious, perhaps even disastrous budget cutbacks and at the same time enlighten negative public attitudes towards corrections, while continuing to provide services and advance innovative techniques for dealing with offenders in the community, it must assume an aggressive, proactive stance in enlisting and maintaining support in the community. To this end the **Task Force** has identified the need to develop a systemwide, coordinated plan to correct distortions and redirect public sentiment concerning correctional needs and services in Minnesota.

The objective of the Task Force is to improve the delivery of correctional services through the promotion of communications and cooperation among concerned citizens and professional corrections organizations.

The specific goals of this project are (a) to acquire the expertise of public relations in the public sector by means of instructions, both written and oral, from a specialist, for members of the **Task Force**; (b) to identify and prioritize existing or potential constituent groups on which to impact; (c) to develop the means and the messages to be presented to these target groups; (d) to develop and implement the strategies for transmitting these "messages"; (e) to identify the resources needed to implement these steps and carry the "messages" to the target groups.

- e. a willingness to work on changing his/her behavior and to continue his/her education
- f. would otherwise be placed in a residential or institutional setting, or is in need of highly structured, transitional services between corrections institutions and normal community involvement.

Referrals are accepted primarily from personnel of Hennepin County Court Services, Juvenile Division. Youth identified by families, social workers, attorneys, schools, social service and mental health agencies will also be considered. Contact Katahdin, Inc., 419 Oak Grove, Minneapolis, MN 55403; - 872-4701

## Legislative Committee Report

**By: Rod Johnson, Legislative Committee**

A little known committee of the Legislature called the Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules (LCRAR) held hearings in August on whether they could review and suspend modifications to Sentencing Guidelines. The LCRAR review was requested by Senators Gary Laidig, (Stillwater), James Ulland, (Duluth), Duane Benson, (Lanesboro), and Fritz Knaak, (White Bear Lake), and Representative Steve Wenzel, (Little Falls). The major motivation for the request seemed to be these legislators' reaction to the more "radical" proposals being considered by the Sentencing Guidelines Commission (MSGC) to remedy the potential prison over-crowding problem. The sentence reduction proposal for serious offenders, which was later rejected by the MSGC, seemed to be the catalyst that promp-

ted this attempt to bring the MSGC under some Legislative control quickly.

The LCRAR held hearings on August 25th and decided on August 31st that they did not have jurisdiction over the MSGC. Basically, they decided that the Sentencing Guidelines are not rules as defined to be reviewed by their committee and that the Legislature did not intend for the LCRAR to have jurisdiction over Sentencing Guidelines.

It seemed clear from the testimony before this Committee that legislation will be advanced in the next Legislative session to clarify how the Legislature intends to review modifications to the Guidelines. The nature of the Legislature's attempt to bring some checks and balances to the power of the Sentencing Guidelines Commission should be interesting to follow.

## MCCA Training

The subject for the November 9th MCCA Training Session will be "Sex and Boundaries in Counseling". The presenter is Gary Schoener, a licensed psychologist and Executive Director of the Walk-In Counseling Center.

Topics for the training session will include non-therapeutic involvement between client and counselor, the handling of complaints by clients and administrative safeguards to limit the risk of unprofessional conduct by counselors.

Gary Schoener has been a local, state and national consultant on issues related to com-

munity mental health, alcohol and drug abuse and program standards. The Walk-In Counseling Center is a national leader in work with clients who have been sexually involved with their counselors, having dealt with about 250 cases during the past nine years.

The training session will be held at Wilder, CAP, 666 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul, from 10 a.m. to noon, with coffee, doughnuts, and fruit provided at 9:30 a.m. To attend, call Mike McGrane at 221-0048 one week prior to the session.

## Happenings

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

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

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