

MCCA Happenings*

Minnesota Community Corrections Association

Hennepin County Maintains Community Programs

By Joanne Rother

In a last minute move, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners voted to maintain most of the community corrections programs at their present levels. Court Services had submitted its budget, but there appeared to be a need to cut it by \$153,000.

In an effort to simplify the budget cutting process Court Services recommended eliminating the \$66,000 budgeted for Freedom House. The cut would mean the loss of funding for seven of the program's 22 beds and result in a critical impact on the services provided.

The Freedom House staff and supporters responded with extensive lobbying of the County Board to restore the funds. The petitioners found that the Commissioners were willing to listen--both Democrats and Republicans--and respond favorably. The Commissioners did put Freedom House back into the budget for \$60,000 plus one parole bed. These combined factors brought the financial status of Freedom House back to its requested budget.

Portland House also felt the blade as cuts were made by the Commissioners. This program lost one bed which, fortunately, was picked up by Lutheran Social Services. Staff at Portland House does not expect that any of its services will be affected during 1982 and that they will be able to function effec-

tively with their proposed funding.

The Commissioners also proposed cutting Prodigal House and that funding be eliminated for this program. However, in the revised budget of October 1, Prodigal House appeared to have received funds totalling \$30,000. Since the revised Hennepin budget was approved, so were the funds for Prodigal House.

Nexus Adult program was cut by 4 beds. However, this was by mutual agreement because Nexus Juvenile needed the 4 beds. However, the reduced funding for the adult program will have a direct relationship in the services provided to the staff such as in-service training, staff development, etc. Staff at Nexus does not expect services to the clients to be affected. The Nexus Juvenile program will gain the 4 beds and the substantial increase in its budget will better enable the staff to provide effective services to meet the needs of the juvenile offenders.

The other programs in the court services area did receive increases over their 1981 budgets for 1982 operating expenses. The general feeling is that the programs will continue to operate as effective services and can live within the funding available to them.

At this point, the court services programs will not be suffering too badly by the cuts imposed by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. I repeat - at this point! It should be noted that this article is written based on information currently available. The respective 1982 contracts for the programs will not be formalized and signed until December of this year. At that time the programs will be better able to evaluate their individual situations.

This too is contingent upon the State Legislature making funds available to the County which would then be available to the programs. It is expected that Governor Quie will request a special session of the Legislature to consider further cuts in the 1982 State budgets. Although we would rather not think about it, it does present the possibility that the court services area would again be on the butcher's block for further trimming - along with many others.



Happenings

New Additions

Alpha House would like to announce the addition of new Case Supervisor Jeff Brown to their staff. Mr. Brown's responsibilities will include overseeing treatment focus and direction, coordinating therapy work and corresponding with support personnel. His background includes an M.S.E. in counseling and a B.S., both from the University of Wisconsin at River Falls. Mr. Brown interned at Field Elementary School and at Family Renewal Center in Edina. Prior to receiving his Master's Degree, Mr. Brown was an elementary school teacher in Prescott, Wisconsin. Welcome to Community Corrections, Jeff Brown.

Cherilynn Castleman-Bryant has joined the counseling staff of **Genesis II** for Women, Inc., as of September 14, 1981. Ms. Castleman-Bryant, originally from Denver, received her degree from Occidental College in Los Angeles, California. She relocated to the Twin Cities area one year ago.

Kate Speltz took over the position of Executive Director and Alyce Rodda became Associate Director of **Genesis II** effective June 1, 1981. Ms. Speltz has a broad background in both clinical and managerial experience. Ms. Rodda has been with the agency as Business Manager since Sept. '79. These appointments follow the resignation of Julie Shaw as Executive Director.

Julie Shaw assumed a position with the U.S. Senate Sub-Committee on Inter-Governmental Relations under the chairmanship of Senator Dave Durenberger.

Ms. Shaw's project since taking over the position was to arrange several days of hearings in the U.S. Senate. The remarkable reshaping of the national budget and the tax policy has impacted so heavily on the health and social services provided for people that concern was felt to select the right strategies for delivering services that people need in an era of declining government involvement. Testimony was heard from Democrats, Republicans, public and private sectors, various levels of government and included a substantial presence from Minnesota.

M&R IV, as of August 1, 1981 has changed it's name to Rem-Lyndale. The Rem organization has several group homes throughout the state and is in the process of changing all the group homes names to include Rem in their title.

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:

Dale Fisher--editor

Mia Olsen

Liz Tellers

Karole Williams--Board of Directors Liaison

We would also like to thank the men in the print shop at MCF-STW for their help and assistance in putting out this newsletter.

Positions Available

JOB OPENING

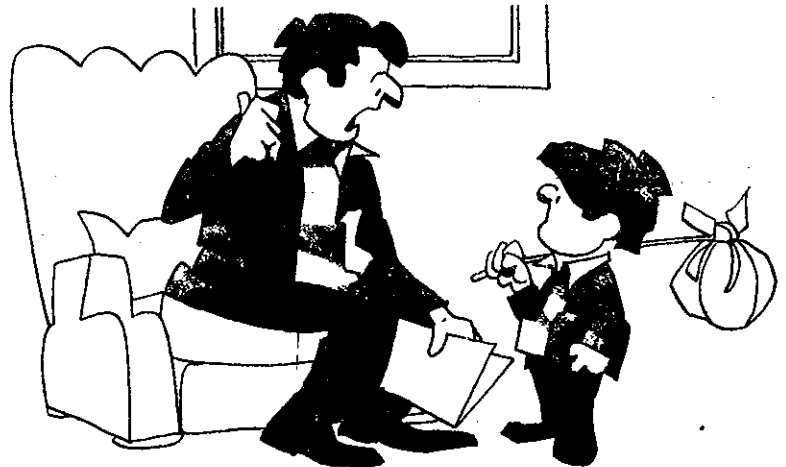
Executive Director

Salary range: \$25 - \$2800.

Duties include Court diversion, pre-trial release, and supervision of chemical dependency programs. Requires BA, BS minimum of 2+ years administrative experience. Apply by October 30, 1981 to:

Project Remand
700 Minnesota Building
St. Paul, MN 55101

American Indian Service has an opening for a **Chemical Dependency Counselor**. The position is full time temporary, ending December 31, 1981. The salary is negotiable. Send resumes to **735 East Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, 55404**; or phone 871-2175.



"Let's think this over, son. You want to run away from home and leave me stuck with your mother?"

Board Of Directors

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3020 Lyndale Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55408
823-6610

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292-1466 (office)

TOM ZOET
WASHINGTON COUNTY COURT SERVICES
Wash. Co. Courthouse
Stillwater, MN 55082
439-3220 Ext. 141

We Want You To Know



Gail Johnson

The following letter was received by Freedom House shortly after the funds for the program were reinstated in the 1982 budget.

The purpose for which this correspondence originates is to inform those prospective referral agents of Freedom House that it is Hennepin County's intention to fund it for 1982. Because of serious budget limitations for 1982, the Contractual Services budget of the Department of Court Services was reduced significantly, as was all other departments. A continuous problem that this office was faced with was that all of the proposed decreases in funding to contracted agencies resulted in elimination programming that was recognized as good to excellent. (Prior decreases in our budget during 1980 and 1981 had eliminated extraneous programming that was either not utilized or was not serving the needs of our clients.)

The original decision to decrease the funding to Freedom House was not based on any negative factors; in fact, the Department consistently stated that to eliminate this program from further funding would limit probation officers' alternatives in seeking treatment for their clients. After much direct contact with decision makers, the County decided to reallocate monies within its budget and fund Freedom House in the amount recommended by our Department.

In summary, I am hopeful that this information can be shared with others so that there is no cessation or decrease in the continuation of referrals to Freedom House. If there is a need for any specific clarifications regarding the present or future funding of Freedom House insofar as Hennepin County is concerned, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Richard F. Scherman
Contractual Services Administrator
Hennepin County Court Services

MINNESOTA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION
666 Marshall Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

NAME: _____

PROGRAM/AGENCY: _____

WORK ROLE: _____

WORK PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____, ZIP: _____

ADDRESS SHOWN IS: HOME WORK

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: _____ \$15 INDIVIDUAL SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP: _____ \$25

INDIVIDUAL PATRON MEMBERSHIP: _____ \$50 PROGRAM MEMBERSHIP: _____ \$100

PROGRAM SPONSORING MEMBERSHIP: _____ \$300

Make checks payable to MCCA

Wilder, MCCA, Ramsey County, Sponsor Open House

The Wilder Community Assistance Program (CAP), in conjunction with MCCA and the Ramsey County Adult Probation and Parole Division, announces an Open House at the New Marshall Center, 666 Marshall Ave., St. Paul on November 10, 1981 from 2:00 to 6:00 PM. The Marshall Center was opened on March 15, 1981 and is now in full swing, offering comprehensive services to correctional clients.

The Center houses the CAP, one unit of Ramsey County Community Corrections and the MCCA offices.

Members of the MCCA Board of Directors will be present at the Open House to discuss our organization and will have available information about MCCA programs.

The Wilder Community Assistance Program is a new community based, non-residential program for adult offenders which offers structured services providing clients with law-abiding alternatives and self-help skills. This program was developed in conjunction with Ramsey County correctional personnel specifically aimed at providing concrete services to Municipal Court clients whose needs were not being met.

Services provided by CAP include:

- 1) Problem Solving Counseling - with emphasis on group and/or individual counseling that provides an opportunity for clients to become more effective and productive in their personal relationships and the management of their own lives.
- 2) Family Counseling - assists families of correctional clients to improve communication and problem solving skills with particular emphasis on family violence.
- 3) Driver's Licensing - providing assistance in obtaining or re-obtaining driver's licences as well as promoting safe and lawful driving skills and attitudes.
- 4) Employment Counseling - assisting

clients in the development of employment readiness skills and helping them to obtain and maintain gainful employment.

- 5) Financial Management Counseling - assists clients in the development of financial management skills and offer

support in making financially responsible decisions to meet financial obligations.

- 6) Civil/Legal Counseling - assists clients in the mediation and resolution of conflicts that could lead to Court Actions.
- 7) Education and GED Preparation.

CASH FLOW LOANS AVAILABLE THROUGH NEW METRO FUND

Reprinted with permission from "Giving Forum, Spring, 1981, a publication of the Minnesota Council on Foundations, 413 Foshay Tower, Minneapolis, MN 55402, 612/338 - 1989.

On May 15, the Minneapolis - St. Paul metropolitan area became one of a handful of places around the country offering non-profit organizations short-term loans to cover delays in payment or reimbursement from governmental funding sources.

The Minneapolis Foundation, in cooperation with the St. Anthony Park State Bank, will be administering the Minnesota Non-Profits' Assistance Fund.

Contributions from the McKnight Foundation, the Minneapolis Foundation, Northwest Area Foundation, Otto Bremer Foundation, General Mills Foundation and Dayton Hudson Foundation totaled more than \$200,000 to form the loan fund.

Susan Weinberg, former director of the Minneapolis Communications Center and an M.B.A. student at the University of Minnesota, will be responsible for managing the fund. She will have her office at the bank, where she will have access to the vice president of the loan department for technical assistance in processing the loans.

Thomas Berg, program administrator for the Minneapolis Foundation, will serve as the foundation's primary contact person with the new fund.

Loans will be limited to non-profit organizations within the seven-county metropolitan area that can document the existence of a government contract or grant which has been delayed, thus causing the organization a cash flow problem. Contracts or grants can be forthcoming from any level of government — local to federal.

Berg explained that 1981-82 would serve as the "pilot" phase of the project.

Through a 1980 survey of more than 200 organizations conducted by a student intern, Katherine Brooks, housed at the Minnesota Council on Foundations (MCF), it was determined that the bulk of organizations experiencing cash flow problems had such problems because of delayed government funding.

As a follow-up to the study, a committee composed of Thomas Beech and Patricia Vomhof from the Minneapolis Foundation, Valerie Lies from the Otto Bremer Foundation and Jacqueline Reis from MCF recommended that a three pronged approach be developed to deal with cash flow problems.

The committee recommended advocacy for specific changes in government policies in order to alleviate delays in payment; technical assistance, particularly in the areas of cash management and financial planning for non-profits; and a loan fund.

"The loan fund was the most immediate response which the foundation community could make to address the problem," Berg said. Other recommendations may be implemented as the fund becomes established and data are accumulated.

Weinberg explained that the pilot phase of the fund would enable the foundation and the fund's advisory committee to determine if, in the future, it should be expanded to deal with other types of cash flow problems; if any potential for advocacy exists; and if it should be expanded geographically to assist non-profits in other sections of the state.

The new program will include a data collection component which will try to determine the origin of cash flow problems. A survey of government funders will ask how they administer contracts and document what their problems are. "We hope to see a pattern so that we can determine where problems are developing," Weinberg said.

Interest on loans, which are limited to \$20,000 per applicant, is six percent per an-

Major Changes Affecting G.A.

The 1981 Minnesota Legislature made major changes affecting the Minnesota State Statutes governing the General Assistance program. These changes came into effect on July 1, 1981.

The category of eligibility in the new law under which community corrections programs can potentially find persons eligible is: "a person who has been placed in a licensed or certified facility for the purposes of physical or mental health or rehabilitation if the placement is:

- based on illness or incapacity, and
- pursuant to a plan developed or approved by the local agency through its director or designated representative."

A person who places him/herself in a licensed or certified facility does not become eligible for GA until the local agency has developed or approved a plan of rehabilitation which provides for placement in that facility.

The new law will affect persons requesting assistance when they leave such facilities. In a month in which GA has assisted an individual in such facilities, and the person leaves prior to completion of a treatment plan and discharge by program staff, GA will not provide funds for the individual outside of the facility. GA will instruct him/her to return for continuation of treatment. Individuals who have met the requirements of the treatment plan and have been discharged by program staff, will have their eligibility for General Assistance redetermined under the new law. Persons requesting GA who have been asked to leave a facility prior to completion of a treatment program will be referred to their county worker for intervention on their behalf.

GA requests that they be contacted promptly on the date each person leaves the facility, regardless of the circumstances surrounding the departure.

Following is a list of procedures and guidelines for individual client classifications:

Marketable Skills

(1) Determination Guidelines

- if the client is now working and the work

- is suitable (suitable defined as legal employment paying minimum wage),
- if the client quit their last job and the job was suitable, the client has a marketable skill,
- if the client holds a license or certificate for any profession or trade, the client has a marketable skill,
- if the client completed a vocational/technical course, post high school course or high school course of a vocational nature, the client has a marketable skill,
- if a client received their high school diploma or GED within the last 50 years the client has a marketable skill,
- if the client is a veteran of the armed forces, the client has a marketable skill,
- if a client has previously worked for a day labor agency and the client is able to work day labor jobs that are "currently available" (additional information will be provided you), the client has a marketable skill,

- if a client does not have a high school diploma or GED and has no work history, the client does **NOT** have a marketable skill.

The above definitions are "guidelines" only and in some cases there may be extenuating circumstances or contradictory information. Programs will be asked to make a decision as to whether or not the client has a marketable skill and staff should take into consideration all factors addressed on the Employability Assessment Form. Program decisions will be reviewed by professional staff member and staff should note any comments that will support the decision. Please note that any previous case history should be reviewed to determine if any case information conflicts with the current employability assessment form.

If you have any questions regarding the above changes, please contact Phyllis Hildreth at 348-3010.

Recommendation: Residential Programming for Women

Some time ago, the Department of Corrections at the request of MCCA convened a group of representatives of correctional agencies in the metropolitan area to examine the need for and availability of community programming for women offenders. It was hoped that such a group could cooperatively determine the type of programming needed and possible funding mechanisms that would assure availability of the service and the stability of such a program.

After surveying metro area probation and parole staff, a great deal of committee discussion, a visit to the Volunteers of America facility in Minneapolis and consultation with some staff from Reentry Services of St. Paul, the committee arrived at consensus regarding the need for a residential program that might be described as follows:

No major "in-house" treatment focus; a setting where a woman could expect a clean, comfortable residence, structured to assure good program management and assistance in bringing useful structure and direction into her life. Staff in this program would serve as advocates and resource brokers for the women, would hold the women accountable to develop and pursue reorganization of their lives and assure compliance with terms of

court orders or parole (supervised release) agreements.

The committee felt that such a program should ideally provide for the residents' children, should be available either on a voluntary basis or as a condition of supervision and finally, should provide for varied lengths of stay depending on the needs of the women, but that generally a program in the three to six month range was appropriate. Of

Cont on page 6



Recommendation - Cont from 5

significant importance in the committee's judgement in looking at this subject was the desirability of the women's program being completely separate from a program for men if at all possible. This would eliminate the possibility of women, by virtue of their smaller numbers, being short-changed as can happen in programs which are designed and operated to serve the needs of men offenders.

The committee goal of developing a funding mechanism which would encourage the development of such a program and assure its financial stability is a much less attainable one now than when our work began. The current budget problems being experienced or anticipated at all levels of government make it unrealistic to guarantee fund availability for a new program.

Because of this budget situation, the committee felt it would be unrealistic to expect that a new program could be developed with any assurance of survival and therefore felt the most appropriate alternative to be the development of the capability in existing programs to serve the needs of women offenders.

Existing Services:

1. **Hidden Ranch** - South Minneapolis:
Exclusively for women on a relatively short term basis with minimal in-house treatment focus.
2. **Freedom House** - Minneapolis:

A longer term therapeutic community program serving small numbers of women (no children).

3. Reentry Services of St. Paul:

Relatively short term programming for women and their children with emphasis on goal setting and brokerage to outside resources.

Additional Resource:

Volunteers of America Residential Center

The committee met at the center for a tour, explanation of the program and to discuss their interest in providing a program for women. While they do not plan to serve children, they have served small numbers of women for some time and have now expressed interest in expanding that service. Their physical facility is adaptable to that use and the Director, Bill Nelson indicated they would like to serve up to 15 women so that it could be a separate program component. Because the program is financially stable, a straight purchase of service arrangement would meet their needs. In addition, it is conceived as a relatively short term program with strong accountability and the capability of providing many of the other services noted by the committee.

Recommendation:

The committee recommends that agencies contract with the existing program or programs which come closest to providing the services noted and that they encourage the development of specialized and separate ser-

vices for women with the addition of services for children where possible.

These suggestions on the part of the committee are clearly somewhat short of the idea we had hoped for when we began our work. The committee agrees that improvement of existing services to meet the needs of women offenders is a more realistic direction in the current budget climate.

Tom Lawson, Chairman
Committee Programming for
Woman Offenders

Cash Flow - Cont from 4

num up to 45 days; eight percent per annum, 46 to 90 days; and the greater of 12 percent per annum or the bank's prime rate (as of date of loan) for loans exceeding 90 days.

An advisory committee representing the foundation, the bank, the government's director, the non-profit sector, a provider of technical assistance, a corporate donor and a foundation donor will supervise operation of the fund.

For further information about the Minnesota Non-Profits' Assistance Fund, call 647-0131, Susan Weinbergs's office at the St. Anthony Park State Bank.

MINNESOTA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION

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St. Paul, MN 55104

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