

Happenings

Minnesota Community Corrections Association

Wilder Domestic Abuse Program Becomes One Of Nation's Most Complete

By Michael F. McGrane

The Wilder Community Assistance Program developed its Domestic Abuse Program Component in late 1981 with the encouragement and assistance of the Ramsey County Community Corrections Department. Since starting our first groups for men and women in April of 1982, we have provided counseling services for over 1,200 clients. We have also provided crisis intervention counseling, information and referral, legal advocacy and assessments for several hundred additional men, women and children in the area of family violence who have asked for assistance.

In four years, we have become one of the largest and most comprehensive domestic abuse programs in the country. Currently, we are serving over 200 domestic abuse clients each week. Most of these clients are participating in a domestic abuse group, in addition to their individual counseling sessions. Presently, our staff are facilitating nine adult male perpetrators groups, five women's groups, three children's groups, one couple's group, a parenting group, a men's awareness/education group, and an adolescent male perpetrator's group. Although we have accomplished this success on a limited budget, a small staff, and with very little advertising, we have only begun to achieve our desired goals. This year we have a number of new ideas and programming in the works.

Our program's philosophy and response to working with the male batterer is to hold him responsible for the violence. Men that we have worked with in counseling have used violence to maintain power and control. Battering is not an unconscious decision on the part of the person who is battering. Therefore, it is imperative that the batterer learn to control his violent responses or be held legally responsible for his actions.

Our response to working with a battered woman is to help her learn ways



to protect herself from further violence and to provide a support system that helps her realistically assess her options. It is our approach to work separately with the men and women in individual and group counseling. We also provide aftercare support services and couples counseling where appropriate.

The Wilder Domestic Abuse Program is unique in many ways by comparison to other domestic programs throughout the country. In the men's program, for example, over 90% of the male perpetrators are mandated by the courts to attend counseling. The majority of these involuntary clients are resistant to counseling and would not attend unless mandated. However, due to the excellent cooperation and coordination with the court service personnel (i.e. Ramsey County Probation Officers, Domestic Relations Workers, etc.) and the skills of our counseling staff, over 79% of the men that start, complete the program.

The women's program also has a high completion rate (73%) even though most of the women are voluntary and are usually in high crisis while attending the

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Patt Adair is New Genesis II Director

Patt Adair will be the new director of Genesis II for Women in Minneapolis.

Patt was also recently elected to the MCCA Board of Directors.

Bruton Replaces Green on Adult Release

Minnesota Corrections Commissioner Orville B. Pung has named James H. Bruton as executive officer of adult release for the state department of corrections. Bruton has worked in the field of corrections for 19 years, most recently as assistant to the warden at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Oak Park Heights since 1983. He also served as internal affairs investigator at Oak Park Heights. From 1979 to 1982 he was a member of the Minnesota Corrections Board and was elected vice-chair of the board in 1981. Previously, Bruton was a probation and parole agent for Ramsey County for nine years. From 1967 to 1970 he worked as a children's supervisor at Ramsey County's Woodview Detention Home. He also served in part-time positions as a jail intake screener for the municipal and district courts in Ramsey County, as a juvenile officer for the state fair police department and as an instructor in the field of corrections of Lakewood Community College. Bruton earned his bachelor's degree in education at the University of Minnesota and his master's degree in counseling from the College of St. Thomas. "We are fortunate to have a career corrections professional like Jim Bruton in this position. His valuable experience on the board as well as his extensive background as a parole agent and as an institutional staff member give him unique qualifications for the job," Commissioner Pung said. Bruton replaces Leslie R. Green who has resigned to enter the private sector. From 1974 until his appointment as executive officer, Green was a member of the state corrections board, serving as chairman for three years. Prior to that he was a college instructor and was on the staff of the St. Cloud Children's Home. (from DOC "Hotline")

Request Nominations for MCA Awards

The Awards Banquet of the Minnesota Corrections Association (our sister organization) at the Fall Conference is one of the most enjoyable portions of the Conference. A chance to bring public attention to one of our peers.

As you all know, Corrections tends to be a negatively oriented profession and little acclaim is given to the people who are in the trenches daily throughout the year.

The MCA awards are one chance for us to "Honor" our peers. We have talked to several individuals who have received such awards in the past and they all said it was a very meaningful experience.

We want to take this opportunity to alert you to the fact that this process will begin in the near future. We're sure many of you have thought that you would submit a nomination, but for one reason or another never have sat down and done it. It will only take you a few minutes. Please take this opportunity to acknowledge a peer in 1986!

A nomination form will be included in the next issue of the *MCA Forum*, or you can call Dennis Avery, 348-4227.

Hennepin Probation Retires Three

By the end of this summer, Hennepin County District Court Probation will have retired three of its staff with a combined experience of sixty-eight years.

Bob Leach was the first of the three to begin his permanent summer vacation, leaving the department after twenty-nine years. Bob joined the staff at the County Home School in July, 1957, working as a vocational shop teacher and group living supervisor. In 1970 he transferred to juvenile probation.



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Fine, Lavelle Named To New Corrections Bureau

Two Veteran County Managers will head major components of Hennepin's new Bureau of Community Corrections.

Sigmund Fine will be director of the Department of Institutional Services, which will include the Juvenile Detention Center, the County Home School and the Adult Corrections Facility.

Thomas Lavelle will direct the Department of Court and Field Services, including probation services, Parole Field Services, Domestic Relations and Guardians Ad Litem.

Their appointments were approved by the Joint Committee of Community Corrections, which is made up of four county commissioners and four judges. The joint committee will oversee operations of the bureau.

The new bureau consolidates the former Corrections Department, which was operated under the direction of the County Board, and the former Court Services Department, which was the responsibility of county judges.

(The Corrections Department included the Adult Corrections Facility and Parole Field Services. The Court Services Department included the Juvenile Center, the Home School Domestic Relations and probation services.)

Fine and Lavelle will report to Mike Cunniff, who in December was appointed associate county administrator in charge of the bureau.

Fine joined the county in 1977 as head of the Adult Corrections Facility. Later, as director of the Corrections Department, he also was responsible for Parole Field Services.

Lavelle, a county employee since 1966, had been serving as acting director of the Court Services Department since Ken Young retired as department director in 1985.

The units that make up the new departments headed by Fine and Lavelle are expected to remain intact.

The units that compose the new bureau have some 600 employees and a total 1986 budget of about \$33 million.

The Joint Committee on Community Corrections is headed by Judge Robert Schumacher. Other judges on the committee are Peter Lindberg, Allen Oleisky and Chief Judge Robert Forsythe. Commissioners on the committee are Mark Andrew, John Derus, John Keefe and County Board Chair Sam Sivanich.

(From *Hennepin County Newslines*)

Committees Do More Than Build Camels

If it's true that a camel is a horse built by a committee, MCCA committees don't fit that image. The real work of the MCCA, like most organizations, is accomplished in the smaller groups of hard-working people. Because the MCCA is a voluntary organization of interested professionals, the members do the work. The activities of the organization are varied so there is likely something to meet the interests of any member. Anyone who likes to feel wanted will get satisfaction from work with an MCCA committee.

Training Committee, chaired by Mike McGrane (221-0048), continues its outstanding efforts to organize the monthly training sessions available to MCCA members. The committee arranges subjects and speakers and evaluates each session.

Newsletter Committee, chaired by Dale Fisher (348-4293), is responsible for the bi-monthly publication of *The Happenings*. Writing for the newsletter is a great opportunity to meet others and find out what's happening in community corrections. Vast (or any, for that matter) journalistic experience is not required.

Ad Hoc Committee on Current Issues is chaired by Janet Entzel (642-3040) and Jim Cyson (St. Cloud 355-5071). Committee members will study legislation and other concerns to inform our members and recommend community education and lobbying efforts.

Conference Committee has already begun planning for the 1987 Winter Conference, to be held at Wilder Forest on February 12-13, 1987. The committee, chaired by Laura Sissala (522-6689) and Dale Fisher (348-4293), will select the speakers and make all arrangements for our increasingly popular annual gathering.

Membership and Nominating Committee, led by Barb Emer (870-7227) Patt Adair (Shakopee 445-3717), are working to extend the membership and participation in the MCCA.

With such a variety of possibilities for involvement, how can anyone resist calling on the committee chairs? Whether you want to join or just have a suggestion your call will be welcome.

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We Want You To Know



By Rod Johnson, President MCCA

Change is a fixture of life in the 80's and we all have to make our peace with its unrelenting pace. A speaker at a corrections conference, a number of years ago, made a few good points about change that bear repeating.

Because change is a natural process with a momentum of its own, we can't stop it, but we can shape its course. The reality of corrections today was shaped in the past and our actions today shape its future. If we view change as an opportunity and a challenge, we can have creative impact on our correctional system in the years to come.

On the other hand, if we see change as disruptive and seek only stability, we are doomed to react to forces that seem to be beyond our control. So the choice is ours—accept change and become a participant or reject it and become its victim.

I believe this concept relates to MCCA and each of us as correctional professionals. As we again face tight money,

overcrowding-in local institutions, shifts in the type of correctional clients housed in community based programs, attention to crime victims, attempts to improve programming for female offenders, the juvenile court debate, new emphasis on correctional processing for DWI's, and domestic assaults, and other emerging issues; we must be a participant in the process that leads to tomorrow's correctional practices.

MCCA intends to be a participant and we would welcome your input. Our Current Issues Committee will be working on developing MCCA position and methods for having input as these issues are discussed. Contact Jim Cyson (1-255-5071) if you want to join this committee.

We would also like to welcome 3 new program members to MCCA: Mission Creek Boy's Ranch, Pine City; Ascension Place, Inc., Minneapolis; and Centre, Inc., Fargo, ND. We may have to change our name!

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

NAME: _____
 PROGRAM AGENCY: _____
 WORK ROLE: _____
 WORK PHONE: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 ADDRESS SHOWN _____
 IS: _____
 _____ HOME STUDENT/VOLUNTEER MEMBERSHIP _____ \$ 5
 _____ WORK _____ \$ 100

Make checks payable to MCCA

ASCENSION PLACE: Helping Women Rise Above

By Mary Casey
Development Director

Ascension Place was established as a supportive living community for women in March 1981, in response to the housing needs of low income women coming from oppressive societal systems, such as prostitution, divorce, physical and sexual abuse. It is located in a former convent in North Minneapolis.

Today, Ascension Place is home to thirty low income women, 18 years and older, of all races, economic situations, and life issues. The women stay an average of 6-12 months. Women are referred here by probation officers, mental health and county social workers, chemical treatment programs, counselors from various health centers and shelters. Women are accepted into Ascension Place based on an interview with the Program Administrator and staff consultation.

Most of our women are on some kind of financial assistance, General Assistance, Work Readiness, SSI or other sources of income. Women who do not meet the qualifications of the above programs for financial assistance are eligible to apply for a Resident Assistance fund which Ascension Place offers. This is considered an emergen-

cy fund used as a last resort for women who would otherwise be turned away.

The goal of Ascension Place is to empower women to take control of their lives and attain independent living. The structure of Ascension Place is designed to provide a safe, supportive and autonomous environment. Private rooms, meals and emergency transportation provided.

Roseann Giguere, the Executive Director, prior to coming to Ascension Place spent seven years in prison ministry at Shakopee and Plymouth. Once at Ascension Place Roseann recognized the services and supportive living environment of Ascension Place as being a very good transitional place for women who either were just released from prison or were waiting their trial date.

Ascension Place offers women referral services to job training program, counseling programs, day treatment programs for mental health issues and chemical dependence as well as job services. Ascension Place feels that offering a supportive environment plus these kinds of community services, provides women an excellent opportunity to re-enter the community with a sense of in-

dependence. For the woman awaiting her trial date it provides some ways to spend that time in constructive activities.

Along with the community referral services, Ascension Place offers each woman a staff advocate who helps her set goals and objectives while at Ascension Place, and lectures which cover issues and skills related to independent living.

Ascension Place is funded through grants, donations and the county. Our resident Assistance Fund comes directly out of our fund raising efforts.

In conclusion, Ascension Place's philosophy is based on the belief that self growth and healing are nurtured in an environment that is physically safe, holistic in approach and rooted in hope.

If you are interested in learning more about Ascension Place please feel free to contact Roseann Giguere or Mary Casey at 588-0861.

Reentry Plans New Women's Program

By Tom Gothman

Reentry Services is currently in the process of establishing a new women's residential program. The purpose of this program is to provide referred adult female offenders and ex-offenders transitional care and work-release services in a supervised residential environment, which will facilitate and support their efforts to successfully re-enter the community. The facility is located at 444 West Lynnhurst in St. Paul, and the anticipated date of operation is August 1, 1986. The target population identified for residential placement is: 1) Women who are on probation, parole, work-release, pre-trial status, 2) Women who have no suitable residential alternatives, and 3) Women who need a structured environment.

Reentry Services began serving female clients in May 1979, thus becoming co-correctional. Recognizing the unique needs for correctional women, an advisory board was formed to help identify and understand those needs. In the fall of 1983, Reentry Services expanded and moved into Reentry West at

855 West 7th Street. This enables the agency to place women in a more preferable setting, namely their own building at 847 West 7th Street. Currently, the women's house at Reentry West has a capacity of 12. Because of its size, closeness to the 28 bed male facility next door, and its location, a decision was made to seek a larger, more centrally located building.

The facility, located at 444 West Lynnhurst in St. Paul, was operated by New Connections of St. Paul. It provides a comfortable atmosphere for a women's program. There is sufficient room for programming, and space for women with children. The house is located in a pleasant neighborhood, borders Iris Park, and is a 3-block walk to Merrian Park, which has a community center and an elementary school. The house is one block south of University Avenue, which is a major bus route, and one and one half miles from the St. Paul-Minneapolis city line.

The program will offer a structured,

supervised living environment for up to 27 women and some children for three to six months, and will provide the following services: 1) 24 hour per day, 7 days per week access to referred women, 2) Individualized needs assessment, goal setting, and progress evaluation through one-to-one assignment, 3) Visitation for children, 4) Task oriented groups to address special issues such as self esteem, confidence, dependency, problems solving, sexuality, relationships, etc., 5) Long term housing options upon re-entry into the community, 6) Strong networking in the community that provide specialized services to women and their children, and 7) Independent living and parenting skills.

Major emphasis will be placed on utilization of existing resources in the community, which provide special services for women. Some of these are Wilder Community Assistance Program, Genesis II for Women, Women for Sobriety, and the Y.W.C.A.

Midway Hospital Center For Domestic Abuse

The Midway Hospital Center for Domestic Abuse (CDA) was established in 1983. The program was designed to provide therapy and advocacy for abusive men and battered women, and community education services. Start up funding was obtained from several foundations by the Baptist Hospital Fund, and initial staff was hired during August of 1983. The original goals for the staff at CDA were to prevent and stop domestic abuse, and to promote healing and self empowerment for all involved.

The program has enjoyed steady growth during the past three years. The original staff of four has been increased to 15, including four male therapists and 2 female therapists. In 1985, CDA served 94 women and 96 men, and had more than 2845 clients visits. An extensive children's program and couple therapy has been added, and the community education is provided to many different groups. CDA has earned an excellent reputation in the community, and hopes to continue program growth.

CDA provides therapy to all people who are affected by domestic abuse. The program provides abusive men battered women and children from abusive

families with services which include evaluation, education, support, self esteem building, skill building and other psychological services. Also included are couple and family therapy.

The men's portion of the program includes two groups which run for 16 weeks. In these groups sessions, abusive men are able to learn acceptable alternatives to violence. They are also taught appropriate ways of expressing anger while working on improving their self-esteem. At CDA, violence is seen as a learned behavior which can be modified. Abusive men are expected to take responsibility for their behavior and for developing acceptable non-violent ways of expressing feeling for the future.

Also provided for abusive men are weekly groups for men waiting to enter the program. These groups provide education and support for the abusive men on a less formal basis.

The women's program, as well as the men's, provides a supportive environment. The women are taught how to change behavior roles and to protect themselves from future abuse. The women are encouraged to increase feelings of self worth, and to become self

empowered. They are taught and supported in making responsible choices in their lives and carrying them out. As Pamela Harris, CDA Therapist explains, "We give women goals to take care of themselves."

In an 8 week program, children from abusive families are helped to deal with their emotions and experiences, and are helped to increase self esteem. They are taught non-violent ways of resolving conflict, and interacting with others. Mandatory educational sessions are being implemented for the parents of children in the program.

Establishing and maintaining a social service agency during a time of diminishing human services resources has not been easy, but in less than three years, Midway Hospital Center for Domestic Abuse has established a well managed domestic abuse service. Future goals for CDA include continued development of couple and family therapy, addition of a parenting component, and an increased emphasis on development of alternative funding services.

Ramsey Truancy Project Keeps Kids In School

The Intensive Truancy Project was created through the combined efforts of Bernard Dailey, St. Paul Schools; James Hayes & Michael Stephens, Ramsey County Community Corrections. The project is aimed at reducing the number of out-of-home placements for habitual truants who continue truanting despite school and regular probation intervention.

Once identified, the juvenile's case will be staffed in the probation office for project consideration. The staffing will include input from school personnel, probation staff, and Human Service personnel. If deemed appropriate, the juvenile would be brought to Court and Court-ordered to participate in the project. Once ordered into the project he/she will be monitored for an average of sixty (60) days of school. There are

currently three Intensive Truancy Specialists, one assigned to each of the Probation Branch Offices.

The Truancy Specialist will verify that the juvenile is receiving proper educational needs and begin daily monitoring of the juvenile's school attendance by an in-school visit. If absent from school, the Truancy Specialist will try to locate and return the youth to school. If the juvenile continues truanting, the Truancy Specialist may impose a variety of consequences in lieu of out-of-school suspension, in order to maximize the youth's school attendance. Some consequences are: 1) loss of project completion credit; 2) supervised study time; 3) periods of house arrest (1-7 days); 4) community service work; 5) temporary placement (4-8 weeks) in an alternative school program provided by St. Paul

Schools; 6) return to Court for extended time in project and/or short-term, out-of-home placement.

The Truancy Specialists also use positive reinforcement for youths who cooperate with project rules; the most common is verbal recognition, praise, and support. Juveniles may also earn back lost credit by 1) voluntarily doing make-up work (verified & accepted by the teacher); 2) voluntarily participating in supervised study time.

It is the goal of the Truancy Specialists to help habitual truants change truant habits into regular school attendance without out-of-home placements. Since the project began in November, 1984, and up to April, 1986, there have been 173 referrals, 70 have successfully completed the project, 67 have been placed, and 36 are still active.

Family Service Of Greater Saint Paul Family Violence Program

This is a program for persons who have experienced violence and who wish to eliminate the use of abusive behavior in their relationships.

Participants are evaluated to assess their needs, then seen in groups. Individual counseling, if appropriate, will run concurrently with groups.

The women's and children's groups are on-going and may be entered at any time. The men's group is closed and may only be entered every six weeks.

The initial assessment is usually done within one week of request. Chemical dependency evaluations are included as needed.

Women's groups are conducted in two phases:

Phase I

This groups offers education and support to women who are or have been in abusive relationships. Women are assisted in dealing with crises, taught a protection plan and educated on abuse.

Phase II

After completing Phase I, women may join this groups to learn assertive behaviors for partnerships, parenting and careers. Time and stress manage-

ment will also be discussed.

The men's groups run on a 12 week cycle. This is a therapy group for men who are abusive either physically or verbally. The goal is to stop the abuse and help men find non-violent ways of resolving issues.

Children's group is on-going. This is a group for children ages 6-10 who have witnessed or experienced physical violence in their family. The focus is on building and encouraging children to express their feelings.

All groups are held in the evening. Fees are based on ability to pay.

Family Violence Outreach Program

The outreach component of the Family Violence Program entails a trained Family Service therapist having regularly scheduled office hours in seven community centers. One of the main functions of this program is to provide domestic violence assessments and intervention to victims of family violence in their own neighborhood and at no cost. Other facets of the program involve the provision of training seminars involving family violence issues and ongoing case consultation with community center staff.

The Bakery To Move to 1900 Chicago

The Neighborhood Probation Service (AKA "The Bakery") will move in July to The Multi Resource Center (MRC) building at 1900 Chicago Avenue South in Minneapolis.

The Bakery was opened in January 1973, as a branch office of Hennepin County Court Services. The office was created with funds from the law Enforcement Assistance Act as an experiment in reaching out to the counter culture and other clients in south Minneapolis.

The office was unique in combining professional and paraprofessional staff working together. Half of the dozen original staff of the Bakery were Model City residents, familiar with the community they served. Under the leadership of Gary Meitz, the staff emphasized peer support and supervision and used many of the techniques that have since been touted for prevention of burnout.

Over the years, staff at The Neighborhood Probation Service have offered numerous services in addition to supervision of probationers from Municipal and District Courts. Alcoholics Anonymous groups found a home at The Bakery for several years. Staff have provided specialized services to prostitutes and violent offenders. A special program helped traffic offenders resolve barriers to obtaining drivers licenses.

In the early years, The Bakery was a source of community information about the court system and many "drop-ins" were aided in the often-confusing journey through the court process.

In 1975, the county received an award from The National Association of Counties for innovative programming at the Bakery.

Today, The Neighborhood Probation Service continue to provide probation supervision through the Hennepin County Municipal and District Courts. Specialized counselling is still offered to violent offenders. The Photography Program, which began in October 1982, continues to offer basic instruction in black and white photography and dark room processing. The staff, supervised by Jerry Benson, includes Municipal Court PO's Betty Jo Curry, Corky Galloway, Ron Hannula and Ardamae Wickre, District Court PO's Dale Fisher and Ron Sundell, and receptionist Virginia Schouville.

Retires cont. from page 2

In July 1978, Leach transferred to District Court Probation. On May 8th Bob's coworkers and friends honored him at a retirement reception in the Government Center.



Don Spencer joined the Department in October 1963, as a Social Worker-Probation Officer in the Juvenile Division. Two years later he transferred to the County Home School, where he stayed until June of 1970, when he transferred to the District Court Probation Division.

When Edna Latson retires in July, she will conclude sixteen years with the department. In 1970, Edna joined the

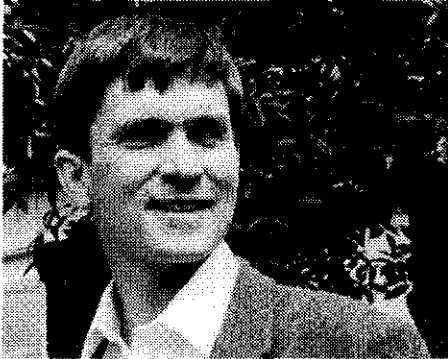


Domestic Realties Division as a Support and Collection worker. Two years later she joined The District Court Division as a Case Aide and for the past three years has served as a restitution worker.

From Norway To Study Our Methods

W Dale Fisher

There's nothing particularly unusual about a Probation Officer in Minneapolis with a Norwegian heritage. Except this P.O. was from Norway. The personable visitor introduced himself as Hans-Jorgen Wallin Weihe, a mouthful for us less formal Americans. He was tolerant when we referred to him as "Hans Weihe", but he did remark on our practice of shortening names.



The Chief Probation Officer of Oppland County, Gjøvik, in south central Norway, Hans is spending this spring and summer in the United States and Canada. His main purpose is to study the treatment of sex offenders and other violent offenders. Hans spent two months at the Program in Human Sexuality at the University of Minnesota and visited several other programs in the areas, including the treatment programs at Lino Lakes, Oak Park Heights, Alpha House, and REM-Lyndale, to name a few.

Hans expects the problem of sex offenses to become an issue in the future in Norway. In 1982, there were only 679 sex offenses investigated by Norwegian police, resulting in 186 criminal sentences, only one of which was for incest. Hans observed that the low numbers may be partly due to the absence of a mandatory reporting law. Norway's handling of child and domestic abuse differs from ours. There has been little criminal prosecution of such behavior. Rather, child protective services may intervene, often placing the children in foster homes. However, the women's rights movement has resulted in increased openness regarding abuse and Hans expects an increase in prosecution of such cases. There is now almost no treatment for sex offenders. One private psychologist in Oslo has begun such a program.

Hans also observed that Norway's puritanical attitude toward sex and Midity result in less probation supervision for minor sex offenses. Norwegian voyeurs and exposers are more likely to receive suspended sentences without supervision.

If you've heard that the Scandinavian

countries are tough on drunk drivers, its true. In Norway the legal blood alcohol limit is .05 percent, half that in Minnesota. A violator will lose his license for two years and his freedom for at least three weeks. And a third conviction can result in a "permanent" revocation of one's drivers license (which in practice may mean five or six years). Rather than overcrowding the jails with drunk drivers, Norwegian Courts often house them in less secure reserve military facilities. These same consequences also apply to juveniles.

The handling of juvenile offenders in Norway is also quite different from our system. Offenders over the age of 14 are handled in adult court. Younger violators are referred to the child protection system. According to Hans, Norway has no juvenile correction institutions. They used to have them, but the young inmates were too unmanageable without the stabilizing influence of older inmates and the separation by age was abandoned.

Hans-Jorgen Wallin Weihe came to Minnesota because of our reputation for leadership in corrections, but also because of similarities between our state and his country. Our populations are similar size and we have comparable geographic areas, except that Norway stretches out a distance from Minneapolis to Anchorage, Alaska. Hans did find some other differences in Minnesota. While 8.9 out of 1,000 Minnesotans are under authority of the corrections system, only 1.07 per thousand Norwegians are on probation or in prison.

From a Norwegian's point of view our jails are excessively secure (and costly) for our usual prisoner. He did, however, acknowledge that less security results in more problems and a need for more staff. Norway's prisons do permit conjugal visiting but the practice results in greater drug abuse in the prison.

Hans said he was impressed with our offender rehabilitation programs, especially those for sex offenders. He observed that our nation's larger, more diverse population as well as private initiative results in a greater variety of services.

The brief time we spent with Hans was a delightful opportunity to see our system through the eyes of a very observant outsider. In many ways Hans fit in readily in our area. He commented that people he met wanted to speak Norwegian almost as often as English. He also shattered some of my stereotypes, turning down a cup of coffee in favor of tea. Hans even admitted to being half Swedish, which makes some of the people he met more Norwegian than he is (sort of).

Wilder cont. from page 1

program. The majority of the women make great strides in protecting themselves and their children from future violence. They are very successful in rebuilding their lives without violence and developing strong networks for themselves.

In our children's program, we work with children as young as three years old in groups, to deal with abuse issues. Our parenting, couples, and aftercare programs are for clients who have completed the primary program. Our newest adventure is the adolescent male perpetrators group. In this program we work with adolescent males between the ages of 15-18 who are abusing their mothers or girlfriends. The majority of these males are also court mandated.

Another unique aspect of our program is that we co-facilitate both of our men's and women's groups with male and female counselors. Although this is still controversial in domestic counseling, our experiences show very positive results. For the past year, we have had select individuals who had previously completed the program, to co-facilitate groups with our staff. We will continue to experiment and research different counseling approaches and programming in years to come. It is our belief, that the verdict is not yet in on what counseling techniques and approaches work "best" for clients who are experiencing violence in their homes.

The Community Assistance Program also offers other important services that are available to our domestic abuse clients:

- * Vocational Assessment, Employment Counseling and Placement
- * Driver's Licensing
- * GED Preparation and Educational Skill Development
- * Financial Management Skill Development

In addition to providing direct counseling services to clients, we also do professional and community training. We are expanding our training program and have trained professionals from California, Canada and Israel, in addition to interns and local professionals, in the area of domestic abuse.

If you have any questions about our counseling or training services, please feel free to contact us at 221-0048.

Legislation Reviewed in "Training"—Then Relax

The July 9th MCCA Training Program will examine the corrections-related legislation passed this year. Legislative staffers Emily Shapiro and John Houstad will review the new laws and speculate on future issues.

The August 20th session will bring us out to Wilder Forest for an afternoon (1:30-4:30) of learning to relax and "manage our stress." We know the setting is very conducive to a successful outing with this subject.

The November 12th training, "Clear Writing" has been extended to four hours, to run from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This has been a very popular program and those wishing to attend should plan ahead.

All MCCA training sessions begin a 10:00 am at the Wilder CAP Building, 666 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul. Cost is free to MCCA Individual Members, \$5.00 for staff of Program Members agencies and \$10.00 for non-members. Pre-registration is requested. Please call Mike McGrane at 221-0048 to register or for more information

Revised Board Of Directors Meeting Schedule For 1986

June 18—666 Marshall Avenue St. Paul

August 20—1800 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis

September 17—666 Marshall Avenue St. Paul

October 15—1800 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis

November 19—666 Marshall Avenue St. Paul

December 17—1800 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis

All meetings are held at 2:30 p.m. and any MCCA member is welcome to attend.

Happenings

A publication of the Minnesota Community Corrections Association, 666 Marshall Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104 — 292-1131.

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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- Tom Gothman**
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- Tim Peterson**
Ramsey Co. Community Corrections

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