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President's Message
Sarah Eischens,
2017 MCA President

Greeting MCA Members,

I hope everyone is surviving this cold winter. I certainly question every year in January why I live in Minnesota. They say cold weather builds character, so we must have a lot of character in Minnesota. The truth is the people in Minnesota are great and worth the harsh winters. I am honored to have been elected and to serve as your MCA president for 2017. I am hoping for a great year with MCA as we continue to strive as an organization.

MCA is a long standing organization formed in 1933 and still going strong. The organization continues to flourish due to its dedicated members and volunteers. I first became a member of MCA in 1998. A few years later a co-worker talked me into joining the Education and Training Committee. MCA has been a rewarding asset to my career in Corrections. It has offered me the chance to do something different and creative. I have developed positive relationships and been able to network with members. It got me out of my office and provided me an opportunity to see what else is going on in Corrections throughout Minnesota.

MCA has a unique quality to offer collaboration for its members across treatment programs, field services and institutions. I have seen the great diversity in its members and their willingness to bring ideas and services together for the greater good. MCA offers an opportunity for its members to build and foster relationships with other members and agencies. My hope is that if you have not been involved in MCA in the past, that you take a chance and join a committee or volunteer your talents.

MCA has a training opportunity, Combating Organized Crime Trends, coming up on March 23, 2017, at the International Event Center in Rochester. Please look for more information on the MCA website. Stay safe and warm,

Sarah Eischens



Mn Adult & Teen Challenge



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Legislative Affairs **Cal Saari,** **MCA Legislative Liaison**

As I prepare this article, the Legislature begins its fourth full week. Committee work by and large, has been dedicated to informational hearings from the many state agencies and bringing new committee members up to speed on basic information. As of January 23, 2017, there have been 385 bills introduced in the House and another 327 in the Senate. Out of that number, we have identified 21 House bills and 11 Senate bills which have referred to the House Public Safety and Senate Judiciary Committees; none of these appear to be of significance to our own agenda, but will be tracked as they secure committee hearings. We still have not obtained any trends from the leadership on their priorities, but expect to have more information in the next few weeks. **I am now in the process of preparing a Legislative Update Report and bill tracker for our membership, which will be updated every two weeks, or as needed. You will find this document on the MCA Website.**

This is also a great opportunity to announce the MCA Board overwhelmingly approved a plan to form a **PAC FUND** (a political action committee). We will be soliciting funds from our members for political purposes. **This is a totally voluntary contribution.** This fund will be overseen by the MCA Legislative Committee, which will report to the Board of Directors.

Our first priority is to find someone who has an interest in serving as the Treasurer of this fund. If interested, please contact me or Mark Bliven, Chair of the MCA Legislative Committee. I will provide further details on what the PAC entails in a future article, but feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Capitol Day is Wednesday, February 22nd at DOC Central Office. Please see our Capital Announcement page in this issue of the Forum.

This year's legislative session will go until May 22nd, so we'll see lots of action in weeks to come.

Calvin Saari
MCA Legislative Liaison
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Amy Moeckel, Co-Chair

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Dan Raden, Co-Chair

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Jane Schmid, Chair

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Mark Bliven, Chair

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Best of 2017 Consumer Electronics Show

by David Heath

Technical Committee Chair

Each year, I report on the Consumer Electronic Show (CES) in Las Vegas which ran this year from January 5th through January 8th. As usual, the show had some unusual winners and always provides insight on emerging technologies. For those unfamiliar with this show, it is considered the premier technology show in the USA. It pretty much covers every kind of electronic device on the market. This year it was touted as the biggest Technology Show on Earth, and a company called Engadget served as the official show judge. Open the hyperlinks under each category to see more product information.

Some of my favorites this year were:

Best of the Best: LG OLED W-Series

This is probably a preview of the 1st OLED quality stick on wallpaper TV. LG says the 65-inch model weighs just 17 pounds, while the 77-inch model clocks in at 27-pounds. Many people believe this is the future of TV's and will come down in price significantly as the technology develops. In a separate review by CNET, another big player reviewing the show, they said it will cost around \$ 8000.00 and mount with magnets. Basically a very large stick on wall mount TV easily moved with unsightly cables and ports and the processor mounted in the sound bar below it. Here are a few pictures of it in the link below.

<https://www.engadget.com/2017/01/04/lg-w-series-oled-4k/#/>

Best Automotive Product: Honda Riding Assistant

This technology will keep a motorcycle upright with nobody on the bike. It defies gravity and is useful to balance a large heavy bike at very slow speeds. Balance mode is not needed at high speeds. The motorcycle will automatically switch into balance mode at slow speeds. Checkout the videos on the link below. This will save some bike tip overs in the future.

<https://www.engadget.com/2017/01/05/hondas-amazing-self-balancing-motorcycle-defies-gravity/>

Best Offbeat Product: Fisher-Price Smart Cycle

This is a little plastic exercise bike for toddlers which hooks up to an IPOD or tablet mounted between the handle bars. When the child pedals the bike, the game monitor displays the game. Essentially the idea here is to exercise the mind and body at the same time. It is available this year for about \$ 150.00 with more software coming. An interesting idea if they still actually get outside and play as well. The thought is, if they are going to have indoor screen time anyway, at least they get some exercise too.

<https://www.engadget.com/2017/01/04/fisher-price-smart-cycle-kid-exercise-bike-tablet-games/>

Best Connected Home Product: Zera Food Recycler by WLABs of Whirlpool Corporation

This is a product that sits next to your kitchen counter and can make garbage waste into fertilizer in about a week. Kind of a mini composter it looks like. Great for the urban gardeners. Unfortunately, it is pretty expensive at 1,999.00, for a limited time it is selling for \$ 699.00. Could be a good device for the expensive apartment in a major city reducing trash as well. You also need some disposable income to afford it too.

<https://www.engadget.com/2017/01/05/whirlpools-zera-food-recycler-easily-turns-food-scrap-into-com/>

Best PC: Dell XPS 13 2-in-1

The Dell XPS is an ultraportable convertible laptop. The screen can fold all the way back so it can be in tent mode or used like a regular laptop or tablet. It is also very powerful and does not have cooling fans so it is quiet. The XPS 13 2-in-1 is light, weighing 2.7 pounds and costs about \$979.00 to \$1799.00 depending on how you configure it. If you want an I-7 with a 512 Solid State Drive (SSD) and a great screen you're at the high end. You can get an I-7 for about \$ 1200.00 with a 256SSD too. The low end price is an I-5 processor with a 128GB SSD. This product became available at Best buy and other stores on Jan. 5th.

<https://www.engadget.com/2017/01/02/dell-xps-13-2-in-1/>

Here is another better review of the laptop in my opinion.

<http://www.laptopmag.com/reviews/laptops/dell-xps-13-2-in-1>

Here are all the official show CES 2017 show winners:

<https://www.engadget.com/2017/01/07/presenting-the-best-of-ces-2017-winners/>

Meet your MCA Committee Chairs



Calvin Saari
Legislative Liaison

A Native of Hibbing, Minnesota, Cal has now been involved in the field of Corrections for the past 54 years. He graduated from Hibbing High School in 1960, where he was a friend of Robert Zimmerman (Bob Dylan). He was Student Body President at Hibbing Junior College where he was also a member of the basketball team, and was granted a A.A. Degree in 1962 and transferred to the University of Minnesota, Duluth, where he was involved in student government, and received a B. A. Degree in Sociology and Psychology in 1964. He completed his undergraduate work in March that year and started as a Probation Officer for St. Louis County on March 29, 1964, assigned to the Hibbing and Virginia district offices. In 1982 he was named supervisor of the Hibbing District from which he retired in October 2003. After being retired for only a few weeks, he was recruited to the MCA Legislative Committee and a year later was given a contract to be the Legislative Liaison for MCA, where he continues to serve.

Cal has always been involved in community affairs. He served twelve years on the Hibbing School Board, during which time he advocated for and was instrumental in starting the POST approved Law Enforcement Program which is now nationally recognized. He was elected the Program's first Chairman of the L.E. Advisory Board and continues to have been the only Chairman of this program which will conduct its 40th graduation class this spring. He has been politically active throughout his career, having served on numerous special committees and task forces related to Corrections and Public Safety under the Rudy Perpich administrations. He is a former Governor of Toastmasters, and is currently a Lt. Governor of the Mn-Dak Region of Kiwanis Int'l. He is also currently an elected Supervisor of the Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation Board (SWCD)

Most of his time currently, is devoted to serving MCA and Corrections members as their spokesman working with the State Legislature, where he assures that the MCA Legislative Agenda receives proper attention from Legislators. Cal and his wife Barb currently reside in Nashwauk. They have four adult children, three granddaughters about to begin college and one grandson serving in the U.S. Marines.



Jane Schmid Juvenile Justice Committee Chair



Jane Schmid is beginning her second year as the chair of MCA's Juvenile Justice Committee. She has been a long-standing MCA member and a Juvenile Justice Committee member since 2012. Jane is employed at Brown County Probation as a Career Agent supervising the Juvenile ISP (Intensive Supervision Probation) caseload, as well as a recently added adult Group Supervision caseload. She has been employed with Brown County Probation since May 2008. Prior to her current employment, Jane was a Licensed Social Worker having worked as a county Children's Mental Health/Child Protection case worker for nearly ten years. She also has experience working in residential settings with Sheriff's Youth Programs and Bridge for Runaway Youth. Jane is passionate in her work with youth and families. She is dedicated to doing a job to the fullest extent, as well as working hard to create respectful relationships with her clients.



Mark Bliven Legislative / Adult Justice Chair



Mark Bliven has worked in the Risk Assessment/Community Notification (RA/CN) Unit of the Minnesota Department of Corrections since March of 2002 and has been director of the unit since April 2014. The duties of the RA/CN Unit involve issues of sex offenders who have been committed to the Commissioner of Corrections in Minnesota. This also includes review and assessment of those committed to prison in other state or federal jurisdictions who plan on residing in Minnesota. Areas covered within the RA/CN Unit include treatment recommendations, risk assessments prior to release, preparation of material for sex offender life sentence review, review for civil commitment forwards to county attorneys, assistance on community notification, and training of those involved with supervision, monitoring, and treatment of sexual abusers. He works closely throughout the state with those involved in sex offender issues whether on day to day operation or longer range policy concerns. As we find so often, policy choices on a myriad of specific issues may have far ranging effects on many aspects of correctional service.

Mark's prior work history included rules coordination and pre-service education coordination with the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST Board). He also spent two years with the Wisconsin State Assembly as Chief of Staff to the minority leader. Although a native of North Dakota he graduated from High School in East Grand Forks, Minnesota and has made his home in St. Paul for most of his life. His college years were spent at Macalester College in St. Paul and William Mitchell [now Mitchell/Hamline] School of Law along with graduate work at the University of St. Thomas and the University of Minnesota.



A Shift in Supervision Strategy: Implementing a Practice Model

by Bridget Letnes, MNSIRR Project Supervisor

[Practice model classroom] In July of 2016, Anoka, Dakota, Isanti, Dodge, Fillmore and Olmsted counties were selected to participate in leadership readiness and serve as pilot locations for a new practice model. This marked the beginning of a shift in strategy with regard to how we supervise offenders in the community.

A practice model is an integrated set of evidence-based practices and principles (EBP) an agency engages in which result in better public safety outcomes when done with fidelity by its officers. A practice model describes the practices that line staff should follow to reduce crime, promote the social and human capital of the people under supervision, and provide structure to continuous quality improvement activities.

“Without a structure in place to improve the way we work, we are setting ourselves up for failure in aligning with evidence based correctional practices and reaching our goals on recidivism reduction.” said Deputy Commissioner Ron Solheid when discussing the importance of a practice model.

The Minnesota Statewide Initiative to Reduce Recidivism (MNSIRR) funded the project to implement a practice model and began engaging stakeholders. The first step in the implementation process was to form a steering committee. This committee was made up of a diverse group of people from the DOC, Ramsey County (which piloted its own practice model in 2012), and was rounded out with MACPO and MACCAC representatives. Enlisting the help of Brad Bogue, and the team at the Justice Statistics and Training Group (J-SAT), the MNSIRR collaboration has to this point focused on organizational readiness.

Once the pilot counties had been selected, they were required to construct teams made up of administrators, managers, supervisors, and EBP leaders within their organizations, and commit to participation in four phases of implementation.

Team members play a vital role in aligning their agency’s policies and practices with what the research suggests is most effective in changing criminal behavior. They have gone through extensive assessment, coaching and training on results to provide actionable perspectives on how to improve team communication and ultimately outcomes. Teams have used a number of implementation and EBP driver tools to help assess and prepare sites for practice model implementation, and site visits were conducted where agents were observed interacting with clients and provided feedback for improvement using EBP strategies. Team members practiced coaching and providing feedback to peers as a way to sustain the fundamental practice model components and soon will be providing J-SAT with a coaching tape and get their own feedback for improvement.

Implementation Science has been introduced to assist all teams in understanding their individual competencies and organizational alignment for both technical and adaptive change. Pictured above, team members are working hard to make sure they are creating a realistic practice model for their agency which is grounded in research, supported with quality assurance, and sustained using manageable resources.

Phase 4 of the Practice Model will take place in March. The steering committee will continue to support the teams with their implementation of practice models and we hope to spread the opportunity for additional counties and supervision districts to jump on board.



Membership Spotlight



Collin M. Gau

Warden, Minnesota Correctional Facility – St. Cloud

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Warden Gau holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice from the University of Minnesota and a master's degree in Criminal Justice Administration from St. Cloud State University. He will celebrate his 45th Anniversary with the Minnesota Department of Corrections on May 15, 2017 and has been a member of MCA for **almost all** of those 45 years of service!

He began his career in corrections in 1972 as a Case Manager at MCF-St. Cloud. He moved into a Program Director position for several years, where he managed living units. He also held the position of

Associate Warden of Administration (AWA) for 12 years and Associate Warden of Operations (AWO) for seven. He is currently the Warden at the St. Cloud Correctional Facility, completing his fifth year in the position.

In addition to the positions listed above, Warden Gau served as the department's classification officer, and with the assistance of two other staff and the NIC, helped create the department's current classification system in the late 70's, prior to the opening of MCF-OPH. He chaired the committee that developed COMS in an effort to provide the department with an automated offender database to be used in offender program planning. Committee members often referred to him as the "Father COMS."



Seven Lessons from the Inside Out...a Chaplain's Perspective

By Reverend Marty Shanahan
MCF-Stillwater Chaplain

Reverend Marty Shanahan, MCF-Stillwater Chaplain shares "Seven Lessons from the Inside Out" when he works with community volunteers and organizations about his philosophy. No matter your religious beliefs, we can all believe in the power of change, just as the DOC mission states – "To reduce recidivism by promoting offender change..."



People are people and everyone hopes that their life has meaning and purpose. In my years serving as a Chaplain in the Department of Corrections, I have learned a great deal about humanity and about myself. Everyone, and I mean everyone, hopes in some way, shape or form that their life has meaning, impact and purpose. We all want to be "known" for something, and most of us want to be "known" for some positive impact we have had on the world. Incarcerated people are no different. Most of them do not want to "known" by or even "known" as the crime that landed them here. Like every one of us, incarcerated people want to make some positive impact on the world.

Probably 90% of what people read, think and believe about Prison Life is incorrect or misunderstood. I have watched many shows about incarceration. Most of them deal with the spectacular or sensational side of life and or death, or gangs and prison life. My experience is that Prison life is much more like our everyday lives on the outside. We all get up, eat, go to work, take breaks, try to exercise, try to find time to enjoy life a little bit between the hectic schedules of everyday life. Not much is different in here except that the room may be yours today and someone else's tomorrow. Your entire life must fit in two 22 gallon totes, and there are consequences for not following the schedules. Yes it is and can be dangerous, but for the most part, it is not tremendously different than our lives.

I don't believe it is anywhere in any of our Christian stories that we should "lock someone up and throw away the key." I firmly believe in the quote from Sr. Helen Prejean from the movie Dead Men Walking...who says: "No one should exist being known by the worst thing they ever did." Redemption, forgiveness, hope, healing, peace, transformation are all possible. I have seen it and I know it is possible. Does it happen to and for every incarcerated person? No. But redemption, and rehabilitation does happen and can happen. I do not believe any person is a waste of God's resources. I have witnessed tremendous compassion, outstanding selflessness, courage and fearlessness all happen right before my eyes. Prison is a microcosm of the larger society. It is a very intense microcosm, but I am of the firm belief that grace always triumphs in the end.

Yes, often the experience of Prison can lead a person to a deeper relationship with God. Every crisis in our lives brings us to the edge of liminality; that place where we question our lives, our understandings, our hopes, dreams and visions, and the place where we question

our God as well. At that point, where we are pushed to the edge, we either fall into despair, or we begin to claw our way back to new meaning and purpose in our lives. Prison is often a place where an incarcerated person has enough time, safety and support; that they can reach out to begin a deeper encounter with their God. Does it last? Sometimes it does, and other times, life and the temptations we all experience win out and God takes second place.

One thing everyone can do is to pray for all those who are incarcerated. It does make a difference! Want to lower recidivism and re-offense? My response is to begin to pray, intentionally, every day, for those who are incarcerated, their families, their victims and their families, for a world where peace and justice are the hallmarks. No matter what you want to believe, I too have witness a legal system that is not always “just” and often not “fair.” Prayer does change things and as a person who is “inside” every day, I know I and all my colleagues, from Officers to support staff and Administrative professionals, teachers, counselors and psychologists....we all could use the support of your prayer and the Offenders could as well. Want to make a difference? Pray...please!

Just imagine 9x13 feet which includes your desk, bed, living room, sink and toilet and two 22 gallon totes. If you want to get a real flavor of life inside. Put out some masking tape on the floor of your room and see how 9x13 feels after you put a bed, sink, desk, chair, and toilet all within that space. Now realize that one side of that space is just bars so you see and hear everyone and they see and hear you. Two 22 gallon totes....most of us couldn't fit two days of clothes in two 22 gallon totes, but everything....I mean everything, your TV, radio, pictures, any papers, anything and everything except your guitar must fit into those two totes. Now imagine that three or more times a day....some stranger comes walking past, and asks you to show him or her your ID. Think you might find it to be a bit stressful.

God is here. Despite what most may think, God really is here. Prison isn't a God-less zone, it really can often be a grace filled zone. It does have darkness, evil, and sin, but so does the world. It may be more intense here, but the grace is as intense as well. Incarcerated people are people, and I believe they deserve compassion, care, accountability, respect and even in some cases, admiration.

I close with a sign on my office door:

Pray big prayers, and Dream big dreams!



Juvenile Justice Committee

Jane Schmid, Chair

The Juvenile Justice 21 (JJ21) Forum on Mental Health and Systems Collaboration held on January 20, 2017 at Wilder Center in St. Paul exceeded attendance expectations, bringing together key stakeholders in addressing the needs of youth mental health and collaboration.

Sue Abderholden, Executive Director of NAMI Minnesota and Bill Wyss, Deputy Director of Children's Mental Health with MN Department of Human Services spoke on the history of mental health and where we need to be in MN. The forum also hosted three panels convened to present on three different delivery systems of crossover youth collaboration programs in MN. The goal of appropriately addressing the needs of youth in the juvenile justice and human services arenas is a vast goal, and forums like JJ21 on Mental health and Systems Collaboration is not only key in making the necessary changes but also an important platform for motivating and organizing this needed change.



MCA looks forward to the continued development of a JJ21 "working plan" for MN counties in addressing Mental Health and System Collaboration change.



A sincere thank you goes out to our sponsors, Headway Emotional Health Services, Cambia Hills, Woodland Hills, and Neighborhood Youth Services, and Prairie St. Johns for their support and generosity. Funding for this project is provided by a Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act grant through the MN Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee and MN Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs.

**For more information contact Mark Haase, MCA Project Manager,
mahaase@gmail.com**

Juvenile Justice 21:

Mental Health and Systems Collaboration Forum

Held on Friday, January 20th at the Wilder Center in St. Paul





“15 Key Points” to consider when discussing TBI in the criminal justice system.

By Jerrod Brown and Jeff Louie

The following are 15 key points that you should consider when discussing the topic of TBI in the criminal justice system.

1. **Criminal Justice Statistics.** TBI is significantly over-represented and under-identified in criminal justice and forensic settings. The rate of traumatic brain injury has been estimated at 60% in adult offender populations and 30% in juvenile offenders versus approximately 8.5% in the general population. As such, professionals working within these settings should become familiar with the topic of TBI and its impact on criminal justice-involved populations.
2. **Correctional Settings.** Incarcerated individuals with a history of TBI may experience enormous challenges within correctional settings. Unfortunately, TBI is often under-addressed in correctional settings. Correctional staff who knowingly or unknowingly interact with inmates impacted by TBI may misinterpret problematic behaviors as willfully defiant and resistant. As such, all correctional professionals should receive training on the identification of TBI and interventions for this issue within confinement settings.
3. **Defendant Populations.** Defendants with a history of TBI who are proceeding through the various stages of the judicial process warrant the attention and consideration of justice professionals. In particular, TBI may impair a defendant's competency to stand trial (CST) abilities. As such, a comprehensive CST evaluation should be strongly considered. TBI may also have reliance to the sentencing phase of the trial process.
4. **Community Re-entry.** Community care providers and re-entry correctional professionals should be aware of the impact of TBI on offenders re-integrating into the community from confinement. The likelihood of poor outcomes is increased by the absence of TBI identification and treatment among criminal justice and forensic populations. In some cases, the released individual with a history of TBI may be required to complete probation or parole. Problematic

outcomes may also be enhanced when probation and parole officers lack an appropriate awareness and understanding of TBI among individuals on their caseload.

5. **Family Conflict.** TBI can have a significant impact on the entire family system. In fact, spouses of persons with TBI frequently report extreme distress following the event. These instances of extreme distress may result in family violence either perpetrated by the person with a TBI or by other family members. As a result, it is imperative for family members to become educated about the complexities of TBI and its impact on the entire family system.
6. **Domestic Violence.** Domestic violence is a significant cause of TBI in the United States. There is also some evidence to suggest that male perpetrators of intimate partner violence and other forms of criminal aggression may have elevated rates of TBI. TBI should routinely be screened among individuals seeking services from domestic abuse shelters. Moreover, individuals with a history of domestic violence offenses may also benefit from routine screening for possible TBI.
7. **Victimization.** TBI can lead to impaired decision-making abilities, substance misuse, memory dysfunction, and a reduced capacity to detect unsafe situations. Additionally, TBI can impact various executive functioning skills, including the ability to plan, assess behavior risk, organize, remember, and connect consequences to actions. As a result, these factors and many more may increase the likelihood of victimization among some individuals impacted by TBI.
8. **Suicide.** Rates of suicide are higher among individuals with a TBI than the general population. Similarly, suicidal ideation is also a major concern for some individuals with a TBI. As such, additional training and awareness in the area of suicide risk screening, assessment, and intervention is crucial for clinicians serving individuals with a history of TBI.
9. **Memory Deficits.** TBI-associated memory deficits can have a detrimental impact on individuals involved in the criminal justice system. One such impact is a limited capacity to comprehend and remember rules and directions, which may result in infractions and other forms of punishment in both custodial (e.g., jail and prison) and community (e.g., probation and parole) settings. Another area of impact is performance on tasks requiring memory such as interrogations, testimony, or even assessments. Further, these memory deficits may confer a vulnerability to suggestibility and confabulation, which exacerbates the issues described above.
10. **Misinterpretation of Behaviors.** Incarcerated individuals with a TBI may engage in negative behaviors that appear deliberate to correctional professionals. Further, some of these behaviors may lead to sanctions and rules violations within confined settings. This may be especially true when the TBI has not been properly identified and treated. As such, it is vital that

correctional staff have at least a basic awareness and understanding of TBI in offender populations.

11. **Importance of Identification.** Considering the high rates of TBI among criminal justice-involved populations, correctional professionals should regularly screen for the presence of TBI among all new admissions. Identification and subsequent treatment of offenders impacted by TBI may reduce the likelihood of later maladaptive behaviors. Hence, accurate and reliable screening of this population is a clinical, forensic, and research priority.
12. **Juvenile Detention.** Juvenile detention officers should be aware of the possibility of TBI when working with adolescent offenders. The identification of incarcerated juveniles who have experienced a previous head injury may create additional opportunities for treatment and rehabilitation. As such, a greater awareness of TBI in adolescent offenders may serve as a way to help at-risk adolescents avoid future involvement in the criminal justice system.
13. **Legal Considerations.** TBI can result in a range of legal issues including Tort cases, criminal prosecution, disability claims, negligence issues, guardianship, estate planning, competency and capacity concerns, and wrongful death lawsuits.
14. **Importance of Early Identification.** Increasing evidence indicates that adolescent males who sustain a TBI early in life may be more likely to engage in offending behaviors during adulthood. Early identification and intervention for adolescents who experience a TBI may prevent future criminal justice involvement and promote prosocial behaviors.
15. **Risk of Future TBIs.** Increasing evidence suggests that offenders are more likely to experience multiple TBIs during their lives. In some cases, this may contribute to continued involvement in the criminal justice system, especially in the absence of appropriate identification, supports, and services.

For more information on this topic, contact Jerrod Brown by e-mail at:
Jerrod01234Brown@live.com



The Impact of Organized Crimes and Combatting the Trends

Date: March 23, 2017

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Place: Rochester Event Center – Rochester, MN

Join us in learning more about the Gang Reduction and Intervention Program (GRIP) reentry/rehabilitation empowerment for youth to leave or avoid gang life; and also about violent extremism/domestic terrorism/infiltration sovereign society.

Registration is NOW Open!

Lunch will be provided

Early Registration Rates (for registrations paid by 3/8/17):

\$35 members

\$75 non-members**

\$25 student members

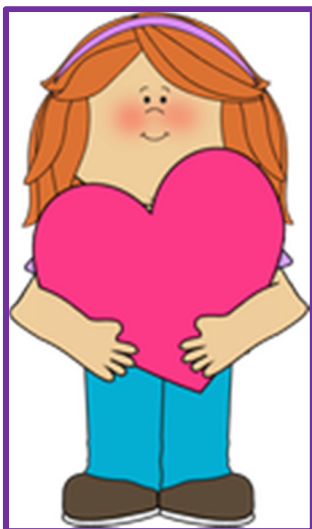
**** Become a member for \$35 and you can register for \$35**

Rates increase \$25 after 3/8/17

Exhibitor and Sponsor Opportunities

Exhibitor fee \$250-early registration rate

Sponsor Options – contact the MCA office at mca-mn@hotmail.com



MCA Sponsor

How MINNCOR works with women offenders

By Rose Widell and Amanda Evenski, MINNCOR Industries

Since 1911, Minnesota has housed all of its female offenders at a facility in Shakopee. In 1986 the 85 offenders in custody were marched across the street from the old “women’s reformatory” building to the modern correctional facility that is there today. Subsequently, the population at MCF-Shakopee has grown to over 600 offenders.

A recurring question is, “What kind of work do you have for women?” In 2016, MINNCOR averaged over 110 assignments in the areas of textiles, safety products and subcontract labor. Both part-time and full-time work opportunities are available depending on the offender’s other responsibilities.

Work is an opportunity to learn skills and help the community in unexpected ways. Moon Light Pillow is a small, local company that has been a successful partner with MINNCOR Industries for eight years. The company, which subcontracts with MINNCOR for sewing, creates pillows, in the shape of a moon, for women battling breast cancer.

While the pillows seem easy to make, the round seams and hand-sewn closures require an extra level of consistency and skill that women at the MCF-Shakopee have been able to provide throughout the years.

As a thanks for always providing a quality product, the staff and offenders at Shakopee received a warm thank you from the Director of Moon Light Pillow in November.

Happy Thanksgiving! I wanted to thank you for your wonderful work. As I pack the Moon Light Pillows, I am grateful that I can always trust the high quality product that you consistently create for all of the patients who receive them. As you know, the people who are getting these lovely soft pillows are really struggling with the painful challenges of breast cancer. Having something soft to hang on to while going through breast cancer really makes a big difference in their comfort. It's important for me to be proud of my pillows and I simply couldn't deliver such a beautiful pillow without you. Your consistent high quality work is much appreciated. Thank you!

The work at Shakopee isn’t just changing the lives of the women incarcerated there; it’s also bettering the lives of women across the country.



Capitol Day!



SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS - MCA – MACPO - MACCAC

**Capitol Day will be held at the DOC Central office on
Wednesday February 22, 2017, from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Continental breakfast provided.**

**This is a free event for MCA/MACPO/MACCAC Members
See MCA Website for Registration Details
Register now as space is limited**

**Several legislators are expected to participate.
This will be an opportunity to meet with some of our legislators,
ask questions, and find out about key issues being considered
in this legislative sessions.**

**To be considerate of the time our legislators have available
to spend with us, we will start promptly
at 8:30 a.m.**

**DOC Central Office is located at: 1450 Energy Park Drive,
Itasca Room (lower level) - St. Paul, MN 55108**

MCA Sponsor



The **DULUTH BETHEL**

Helping put lives back together

Bethel re-dedicates beacon to signal hope

Treatment centers to share bed-space availability through 211 in 2017

[Rob Karwath](#) | [North Coast Communications](#) | 218-343-9418 | rob@northcoastcommunications.com

A year after illuminating the bright green beacon atop its building for the first time in decades, the Duluth Bethel re-lit the light on December 31st as a New Year's symbol of hope for those suffering from substance abuse in the Northland.



Officials from the Bethel, a 143-year-old nonprofit center for chemical-dependency treatment and community corrections, also announced their participation in a new initiative with detox and other treatment centers in the region to provide current information about bed-space availability for individuals seeking help with addiction.

In 2017, the Bethel will participate in a service that will allow those seeking help, or their friends, families or medical providers, to call the 211 resource

center operated by the Head of the Lakes United Way to learn about bed space availability and other services.

"The 211 service will be a central resource where professionals and community members can immediately get an updated list of openings at detox and treatment centers," said Dennis Cummings, Executive Director of the Bethel. "The sooner we can get people services, the sooner the help and healing can begin. This will be a tremendous asset to provide hope for those with substance-abuse issues, as well as family members, friends, health professionals and anyone looking for help."

The project was a recommendation of the Northeast Minnesota Opioid Abuse Response Strategies (OARS) work



group, a collaboration of individuals and organizations committed to addressing addiction to opioid narcotics and other substances. The group includes treatment providers, detox centers, law –enforcement agencies, the St. Louis County Attorney’s Office, court personnel, the St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services Department, Essentia Health and other health-care professionals as well as members of the recovery community.

Verne Wagner, a member of the OARS group, attended the Bethel event and shared a New Year’s message of hope. Others highlighted the importance of more accessible public information about treatment through 211 at a time when the Northland, like much of the U.S., has seen an increase in addiction issues, largely stemming from abuse of opioid narcotics.



“This is a serious type of drug abuse that we are seeing, but the feelings of fear and hopelessness that today’s addicts and families confront are the same ones that caused the Bethel to open in the Twin Ports 143 years ago,” Cummings said. “Addiction is powerful and insidious, but our message for 143 years has been that there is hope. That is why we re-lit our beacon as we prepare for the New Year. We want to remind our community, and especially anyone suffering, that recovery is here and within reach. Any day can be the start of a new beginning.”

A year ago, the Bethel lit the beacon for the first time in more than 50 years. Prior to going dark, the distinctive green light atop the building at 23 Mesaba Avenue had shined as a symbol of hope. In addition, before advances in radar and other navigational tools, ships on Lake Superior would use the beacon’s prominent light to help sail safely into the Duluth harbor.

“We hope this beacon can be a light to guide people to get help if they need it, here or elsewhere in our community,” Cummings said. “Now, that help can come from a simple call to 211.”

The re-lighting ceremony was followed by a celebration and dinner for the recovery community with food provided by US Foods, Sysco and Hoffbauer Family Farms.

About 90 men and women live temporarily at the Bethel at any given time. Many are there to receive treatment and to find recovery from abuse of drugs or alcohol. Others participate in work-release or other community corrections programs. Former offenders receive help and assistance to make the transition from jail or prison back into society. Many programs are designed as community-based alternatives to incarceration. The Bethel also offers outpatient treatment for chemical dependency and other services.

For more information about the Bethel, go to duluthbethel.org

CALL FOR PRESENTER PROPOSALS



It's not too soon to start thinking about MCA's Annual Fall Institute – being held October 25-27, 2017 @ Grandview Lodge in Nisswa, MN! The program committee is looking for a wide variety of workshops to make this conference an excellent professional development opportunity for our members.

We're gathering proposals a little differently this year. If you're interested in submitting a presentation proposal for the institute, here's what you can do:

- The MCA website at <http://www.mn-ca.org/> will have a link to submit a proposal.
- Contact one of the program chairs, listed below.
- Contact one of the program committee members, listed below.

Sherry Bohn, Co-Chair
MCF-Oak Park Heights
sherry.bohn@state.mn.us

Jolene Rebertus, Co-Chair
MN DOC Central Office
jolene.rebertus@state.mn.us

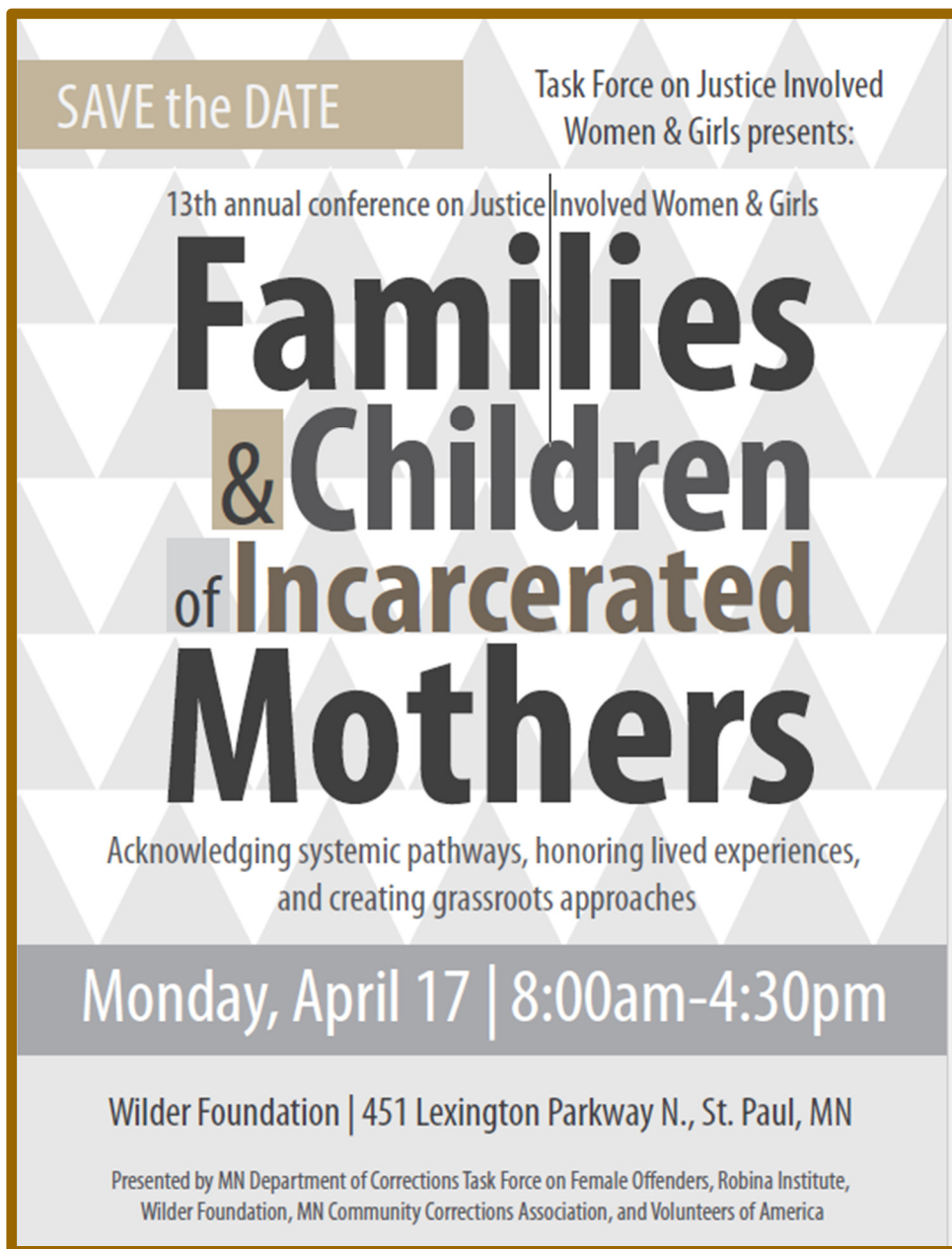
Mary Oberstar, Co-Chair
MN DOC Central Office
mary.oberstar@state.mn.us

Committee Members:

Gary Atkins - MCF-Stillwater
Tom Beiring - MCF-Rush City
Pat Leibel-Beiring - MCF-Moose Lake
Stephanie Duhme - Rice County Corrections
Amanda Evenski - MINNCOR Industries
Margit Heald - MCF-St. Cloud
Chuck Hughes - MCF-St. Cloud
Jessica Johnson - MCF-Lino Lakes

Lisa Jones - Hennepin County
Shelli Monio - MCF-Oak Park Heights
Marabelle Morgan - DOC Central Office
Kayla Perkins, MCF-Red Wing
David Potter, MCF-Stillwater
Hal Pickett - Headway
Brent Sharon - MCF-Oak Park Heights

For any other questions related to the call for presenters, please feel free to contact one of the chairpersons listed above.



Training Opportunity

The Conference on Justice Involved Women and Girls is thrilled about the upcoming conference, Families & Children of Incarcerated Mothers.

What is the impact on children and families when mothers are incarcerated?

This conference acknowledges systemic pathways, honors lived experiences and creates grassroots approaches to tackle the issues. We will harness our collective knowledge and wisdom to create concrete strategies and build coalitions. We have an amazing line of up speakers and we hope you will join us!

For more information or to register, please click the following link:
[2017 Conference on Justice Involved Women and Girls](#)



The Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) will be celebrating 84 years in 2017 at the Annual Training Institute located at Grandview Lodge in Nisswa, MN from October 25th -27th



If you have interest in being part of the Annual Training Institute Committee, contact the MCA office at mca-mn@hotmail.com or 651-462-8320.

About the MCA FORUM

FORUM is published six times a year by the Minnesota Corrections Association, a nonprofit professional association incorporated in Minnesota. Articles submitted by our membership do not express the views of MCA or the board of directors.

Articles may be submitted to the 2017 *FORUM* editor Tara Rathman at tara.rathman@state.mn.us. Articles should not be of the nature of a commercial solicitation of products or services; rather, they should be informative on topics of interest to MCA membership at large.

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