

MCA FORUM



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December—2019



WINTER WONDERLAND

mca-mn@hotmail.com

Feel free to e-mail MCA to get in contact, join a committee, become a sponsor or to get involved!

MCA website: www.mn-ca.org

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GET IN TOUCH!





President's Message

Connie Hartwig, 2019 MCA President

Happy Holidays MCA Family!!!!!!

Oh my goodness, I cannot believe this is my last Presidential article for the 2019 Forum. This year has flown by so quickly and with it I have many wonderful memories of spending time with you all in many capacities. Seeing you at trainings, working with you on committees and in general feeding and renewing the wonderful relationships we have all fostered throughout the years has been such a wonderful time for me. Thank you all for your continued support of our wonderful Minnesota Corrections Association. You are a great group of people and I am so thankful you are part of the corrections family that commit your time and energy to effect transformation in your clients and strive for a safer Minnesota. It has been an honor and a privilege serving as your President.

Our Fall Institute in October was by far the best Conference that I have attended. And seriously, I am not saying that because I am your President. It all started off with our touching awards ceremony. Congratulations to all of the Award recipients. You are ALL well deserving. Thank you for the hard work you have done this past year and throughout your careers. Seeing a dozen men make the trek north from the Lifer Group was very emotional and encouraging. I feel blessed that we have people in our Association willing to reach out to ask our Board to recognize groups, people and organizations that would not otherwise be appreciated in our corrections communities in a public forum. I would also like to thank our Board for being flexible enough to make changes in adding recipients. With respect to our Conference, I feel the presenters did an amazing job with such a wonderful and wide range of subject matter. The atmosphere and camaraderie truly gave us pause and then opportunity to laugh and heal with each other after some tremendous heartache in the past years. Thank you to the Fall Institute Committee for coming through again. It was a great experience for us all.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to our Executive Board and full Board of Directors. Your commitment to this Association throughout the year made my position as President that much easier. I appreciate your generous spirits and your knowledge, hard work and willingness to take the time to help our Association continue to strive to be better.

Please be kind to one another and most importantly, to yourselves.

Warmest Regards,

Connie Hartwig

~ BCA NEWS ~

- Harassment Restraining Orders (HRO) are Now Available in Minnesota Hot Files -

We're happy to inform probation personnel that Harassment Restraining Orders (HRO) are now available in Minnesota Hot Files.

Any person search through Portals – e.g. QDP, QP, QPO – will return the HRO for the respondent or protected person and new HROs no longer need to be verified through the courts or sheriff's office. This includes new HROs and existing HROs edited after today.

While a person query using a QDP or QP message key in Portals will return the HRO hit with the basic information of the HRO, it will not include the PDF attachment link. A query in Portals using the QPO or QPOM message key includes a link to a copy of the full HRO as an easy-to-read PDF document including the full details and conditions of the HRO.

Again, this description is based on using Portals to run a person search. The PDF display for probation personnel running searches through a vendor-provided system will depend on your vendor's ability to display a PDF.

The plan for existing HROs

The Minnesota Judicial Branch is working on a plan to identify and enter all existing HROs into the new system and, therefore, into Hot Files by the end of June 2020. The BCA will notify probation personnel when this process is complete.

At this point, entry of an HRO into Hot Files does not trigger a probation client notice as OFPs and DANCOS do. We hope to have that piece in place by June 2020. We will keep you posted about that as well.

Training Available

The BCA Training and Auditing Unit has updated the Protective Order Training on CJIS LaunchPad to reflect the HRO changes. We encourage you and your staff to view this training for details on HROs – as well as on OFP and DANCOS protective orders.

Please contact the BCA Service Desk, bca.servicedesk@state.mn.us, 651-793-2500 or 888-234-1119, with any questions about HRO availability in Hot Files or about what your vendor must do to display the PDF in vendor-provided software used to query Hot Files.



Understanding Key Logger Hacks

By David Heath - Technical Committee Chair

As the world moves toward more Web Based clients, including future CSTS in my world, it made me think about key logger attacks. For those not familiar, these are usually malware introduced programs that copy every keystroke made on a device; computer, phone or tablet and send them to the hacker. Or, they could pick them up off a public computer's hard drive. In other words, they steal your User ID – Passwords – Credit Card numbers and that sort of thing. A big time popular hack method in identity theft and database breaches.

So, common sense can go a long way in protecting yourself. For example, do not type this kind of information any public computer including hotel lobby computers. It is safer in controlled environments behind a firewall. Most Key Loggers need to send that captured credential information back out through the PC's windows firewall and the network firewall to the hacker. Unfortunately, unsophisticated Key loggers can be used effectively on public computers, and unsuspecting people still use them.

With that being said, there are other things you can do.

First, be knowledgeable about phishing attacks and what they look like. Basically clicking on something you shouldn't and introducing the Key logger program to your computer in the first place. In St. Louis County, we educate users with this program as mandatory training: <https://www.knowbe4.com/>

I was really impressed with the content and tests in the course I took, and definitely learned some things. Kevin Mitnick is a famous convicted hacker who spent 5 years in prison in 1995, and is now on the good guy's side defending against hacks. He is KnowBe4's chief hacking officer. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_Mitnick

Besides knowledge and education against phishing attacks and other hacks, there are a couple more things that can be done. The link below gives a little history and explains more on defending against Key Logger hacks. It also, explains Multifactor Authentication (MFA) quite well. "MFA requires two of the three following identifiers: 'something you know' (username and password), 'something you have' (hardware, phone, computer), or 'something that you are' (biometrics)".

<https://blog.portalguard.com/blog/4-tips-to-prevent-and-protect-against-keyloggers>

Legislative Affairs

Cal Saari, Legislative Liaison

I thought for the last article for 2019 it would be appropriate to do an annual legislative review article. The 2019-20 Biennium of the Minnesota Legislature is the 91st Biennium. The 2019 Session opened on January 8, 2019, with a lot of hope by many, and determination by many legislators to make the Session a special one by a high level of collaboration and interest in serving the public good. There were 26 new Legislators and most echoed that priority that they wanted to make the Session count and getting the people's work done. Excellent goals, but almost always improbable, particularly within a divided government.

Democratic Governor Tim Walz began his term with the DFL being the majority in the House and in control of that body and the Republicans maintaining control of the Senate, creating another biennium of divided government. Things were very cordial for the first several weeks but as Committee assignments for the Session were made by Party leadership, dissension was evident and as in recent history, the Party leadership began to control the direction of the Legislature. The following four and one half months were filled with a lot of fanfare but very few results.

In the 2019 Session, the House introduced 2,938 bills, including 17 during the one day Special Session on May 24th. The Senate introduced 2,939 bills including 14 in the Special Session. That calculates to 5,877 bills in the hopper, with the end result being the Governor signed a total of 65 bills into law. Everything else remains on the table and could be revived during the 2020 Session.

The past Session did show some new approaches. As an example, the DFL House formed a Sub-Committee on Corrections under the House Public Safety Policy and Finance Division, with eight members chaired by Rep. Jack Considine, who has become a true advocate on Correctional issues. The final Public Safety Omnibus bill did actually contain 22 provisions recommended by the Corrections Sub Committee, but in the end, the Conference Committee really watered down the final provision with a limited number of concerns addressed.

We were successful, however, when the Legislature did put more money into Correctional institutional services to start to address the staffing shortages.

As we all know, the Legislature became non functional with a lot of political posturing in the final month, could not get their work done in a timely manner and required another Special Session to even adopt a working budget for the Biennium.

That leaves lots of work to be done starting again in January. Our MCA Legislative Agenda for 2020 is now in print and we will again pursue those objectives with key Legislators. The 2020 Session does not begin until February 11th and will be a short Session and historically dedicated as a "bonding year". That will make any major political issues a challenge as it will also be another election year for the entire Legislature in the Fall of 2020. They'll want to complete their Session as soon as possible and turn toward the Fall elections hoping their political party can gain control. We'll have our work cut out for us, but we will join our partners in presenting needs and issues to the legislature and provide them with the best practices knowledge and information we have to make good decisions. We'll now be working with our partners to set up another Corrections Capitol Day early in the Session, so watch for further information.

Calvin Saari, MCA Legislative Liaison

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Scholarship Winner

Kaitlyn Vold

LUTHER COLLEGE

I will graduate from Luther College (Nursing & Spanish) in May of 2023. I went into nursing because of my Grandfather. My Grandpa was sick and it was very difficult to watch. The helplessness I felt while watching him suffer and the inability to alleviate any of the pain was shocking for me. What helped ease my family's sense of helplessness and despair was the exceptional care he received from the nursing staff. The nurses were always kind and compassionate. At the time I saw them as caregivers who were somehow unique to the hospital, however, I have since come to learn that the field is staffed by like-minded nurses: people who are sympathetic, empathetic, and kind. That's when I decided that I wanted to be a nurse and to use my education to make others' lives better.

After I graduate I would either like to get a job at Mayo Clinic in Rochester and work my way up to being an ER, OR Nurse or go into Nurses Without Borders so that I will be able to travel the world while caring for people at the same time.

I participated in my first collegiate volleyball season so I kept busy with that and classes. After regular season is over I plan to start volunteering at the local humane society a few times a week as well as be a part of the Luther Nurses Association.

My dad is Cory Vold — Accounting Supervisor for MCF-Faribault and MCF-Shakopee — has worked for the Department of Corrections for just over six years.



Scholarship Winner

Ashley Long

Central Lakes College - Brainerd Campus



When I was younger I always liked helping people and thought it would be really cool to become a Police Officer. I could help people when they are in need and help to stop crime in the community. My biggest goal is to become a State Patrol Officer in the state of Minnesota hopefully in the near future. I hope to impact many

people's lives in a positive way by helping them when they are in need of help most and by protecting the people who aren't able to defend themselves. In my life, I haven't faced too many obstacles but one in particular was when my Mom passed away when I was seven years old. This has really shaped my life to live everyday to the fullest, because you will never know which one will be your last. Ever since that day I try to make my life be as positive as possible and other people's lives as well because you could make the difference in if a person's day was bad or good.

Outside of school I work about thirty-five hours a week at Mickey's Pizza and Subs in downtown Brainerd. At home, I am responsible for doing my daily chores and helping out watching my younger sisters.

I have a need for this scholarship because every dollar counts. I would like to not be in debt from college loans for a long time and would like to pay off my school as quick as possible in order to not be scrambling for money for the next decade. I am paying my way through school and would greatly appreciate any help I could get. All scholarship money will go towards my education at Central Lakes College.

This scholarship will assist me in preparation for my career in many ways. First, it will help me financially by helping me pay my way through college. If I didn't have to worry about how I am going to be paying for college, I could potentially be able to focus more on my school work. With this scholarship I could possibly not have to put in as many hours at my job and cut down to about 35 hours a week. Then I could have more time to focus on homework and studying for tests instead of working all the time. This scholarship would help me to be a better learner and to be possibly better at school. This scholarship will help me in preparation for my career by helping me to be more financially set when I become a Police Officer in the state of Minnesota. This scholarship will help me to be in less college debt once I complete my degree.



President—Elect's Message

Mary Oberstar, 2020 MCA President

As president-elect, I spent 2019 sitting alongside MCA's current president & the administrative manager, further learning MCA operations. As one of my goals as the 2020 MCA president, I've been exploring ideas on how to ensure MCA continues its forward momentum in providing enrichment services – educational and developmental – for its criminal justice and partner membership.

Finalization to MCA's anti-discrimination policy was done this year, with revisions made to the constitution and bylaws language to align with the policy.



Past President, Membership Chair, & MCA Liaison

Mark Groves, 2018 MCA President

2019 is proving to be a very busy and successful year for our MCA membership committee. MCA created a liaison position to cultivate new relations and improve current relationships with both government and non-government organizations. The goal is to make MCA stronger by growing membership; expanding a diversity of participation; and advancing communication through the collaboration with partner organizations.

I was appointed to this position. I am developing ongoing working relationships with: the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC), the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers (MACPO), the Minnesota Association of Recovery Resources and Chemical Health (MARRCH), the Minnesota Social Services Association (MSSA), and the Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC).

I joined both the MARRCH and MSSA annual conference committees and represent MCA providing leadership and direction delivering corrections- and community corrections-related expertise and workshops to both associations and annual conferences. All four of our associations similarly host a booth at our respective annual conference exhibitor fairs .



Vice President's Message

Laura Anderson, 2019 & 2020 MCA Vice President

Key issues and activities: During the 2019 term I've reached out to some of my contacts and others provided by our current President Connie Hartwig to increase our membership on certain committees. The executive board is trying to be creative and brainstorm new ideas on how to keep participants engaged in committee work. Moving forward I feel this should be a topic of discussion. Some of the connections I made were solidified by new active committee members.

Throughout the year I've tried to support the Communications Committee through the Chair, Tara Rathman and Co-chair, Elana Brunner. I wasn't able to attend any in person communications meetings, but tried to offer support by email follow ups. During the year I did write an article for the forum and offer any assistance from afar.

During this term, I worked on the construction of a MCA Liaison Board Member position for the operating manual. The goal of this position was to collaborate with partner organizations to increase membership, increase diversity, increase training opportunities and increase communications. Currently this position is being filled by Mark Groves and the hope is to sustain this position in the years to come.

Bylaw:

Motions/Requests for the Board

One of my primary responsibilities for the year was to track any changes to the operations manual and constitution and bylaws. In 2019 one bylaw change was proposed, voted on and approved by the executive and full board membership. This change was under Membership, Section 3: Withdrawal and Removal

At the Annual Business meeting this by-law change was voted on and approved by the full MCA membership.

ANNUAL INSTITUTE COMMITTEE

The conference was held at the beautiful Grand View Lodge in Nisswa, MN October 23rd through October 25th, 2019 with over 400 attendees. The conference “kicked-off” with a social hour and special awards ceremony the evening of October 22nd.

The Fall Institute Program Committee did an outstanding job laying out a diverse program that covered a wide range of training opportunities. There were three keynote speakers and over 30 breakout sessions offered this year. The program had a new look thanks to the hard work of the program committee. Furthermore, a decision has been regarding future programs. In 2020, MCA will be moving to the app only for the full program. This is an exciting change for 2020!

We welcomed about 60 exhibitors to the resource fair this year—and—many went above and beyond with sponsorships. This year MCA continued to offer Continuing Education credits (15 hours) and Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) credits (16 hours).

Wednesday evening networking event included a hospitality event provided by our generous exhibitors followed by DJ Electrifying Dynamics to end the evening in the Norway Center. This gave our exhibitors a chance to interact and connect with attendees. Thursday night kicked off a Taste of Grand View with four food stations followed by live music from The D-Boys.



In 2020, the Annual Training Institute will return to Mankato, MN

October 28th through October 30th at the Verizon Convention Center.

In 2021 and 2022, the Annual Training Institute will return to Grand View

before heading to Duluth in 2023 for the 90th Anniversary.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Social Media:

The communications committee has been working to be more active with our social media accounts in the past months. We continue to seek out things of interest to MCA members and post on behalf of our organization. As such, you will continue to see our monthly trainings highlighted, training from our partners and other organizations, accomplishments of our members, and upcoming events. We encourage our board members, committee members, and membership to contact us if you have something you would like us to post. We have increased our following on social media over the past year and that is mostly due to our outreach and drawing held at the 2018 Fall Conference. We would like to continue this effort and increase our social media following in the next year as well.

Forum:

The communications committee publishes a bi-monthly Forum, which is distributed to the membership on even months of the calendar year (ex: February, April, June, etc.). We continue to seek out topics of interest for members and incorporate sponsor highlights in each edition. In the upcoming year, more of our sponsors will be highlighted in each edition, which we hope will bring light to the hard work and accomplishments of those organizations that support MCA and its membership year after year. The Forum also highlights the work of our committees and upcoming events that are of interest to our members. We like feedback and would consider any suggestions on how to improve on the work we're doing.

Attendify App:

This was the third year MCA utilized an app for the Fall Conference. As we gain more familiarity with the app and how people use it during the conference, we continue to add more items of interest. This year, the meals were listed under lunch on the schedule. Additionally, the Board of Director nominees were listed, along with their bio. We tried to incorporate all of the social media sites for our sponsors and exhibitors. Two of the communication committee members have taken on this project and are charged with inputting all information in the app, in addition to making changes as they come. As such, we would like to take the feedback from the board and membership to consider ways we can make it better or cut back on the information contained within. In the grand scheme of things, it is far less expensive than the printed version, so knowing what is important and what is not as far as content, is essential for our committee. It is a fun way for people to communicate during the conference - in addition to before and after the conference as well. We will be reaching out to members via polls in the app and possibly outside of the app for those who are not present this year. We'd like to know what works and what doesn't.

Exhibitor Hall:

We made our presence, again! We will be continuing our efforts to engage people on our social media sites and download the app. This year, we incorporated a small game to allow our members and sponsors to interact. We will continue our efforts to get our members involved in MCA communications and will bribe you with prizes if we have to! Thank you to our sponsors for their participation and for the committee members who volunteered at our table and created the interactive piece for our members. We hope you played the game, enjoyed it, and had fun chatting with the sponsors.

SPRING WORKSHOP COMMITTEE

In 2019, MCA hosted their annual Spring Workshop in March, which was entitled: *I Need a Mental Health Day*. This workshop was hosted at the Community Center in St. Peter and provided information to corrections employees that promoted resiliency in their work, health, and home life.

Fellow correctional workers as well as mental health professionals shared their experiences and strategies to reduce stress and improve well-being. The day ended by hearing from motivational speaker, Gaye Hanson, who left the attendees feeling inspired and empowered to continue doing this great and challenging work.

Thank you to all the speakers and our committee members who made this workshop great, and thank you to MCA!

Stay tuned for details for MCA Spring Workshop 2020 that will be held in March!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The MCA Nominating Committee for 2019 worked diligently to provide names to the board for the officer positions of President Elect, Vice President and Secretary. Over the past several months names were compiled from committee members to strive for a diverse list of names from across the delivery system to include appropriate vendors. In addition, the committee worked on expanding the MCA membership. The result was well balanced list of names for the board to consider. The board was very pleased with the people that stepped up to considered running for the position as they were excellent candidates to fill the positions. The board had the difficult task to narrow the list down to three candidates for the election process.

Bios and photographs from the selected candidates were obtained and the elections were held. Candidates were:

President: Mark Bliven, Gina Evans, Melissa Peterson

Vice President: Laura Anderson, LuAnn Buck, Kevin Fors

Secretary: Jody Henkmeyer, Kaylee Henson, Nicole Kalow

A special thanks to all MCA Nominating Committee members for their work on providing the MCA board with a high qualified list of candidates to move MCA into 2020 with strong leadership .

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Technical Work for the MCA board:

The primary projects for the board this year was:

Emerging Technology research: I worked with a company named Susteen on a product called Data Pilot 10, which we are doing a one year long pilot study evaluation for future value in ARC Probation.

Technical Nominations were submitted for Project Remand to Mark Groves after discussion in our group. Project Remand was chosen as the Technical Award winner.

We discussed a variety of topics including 5G technology, video technology, changing CSTS technology and had open topics for Technical committee members needing help any help or advice in their work environments.

Forum Articles: Six technical articles were submitted to the Forum this year.

Technology committee members:

We had some turn over in membership in 2019. Steve Quradnik from DOC dropped off the group and Ann Flood from Court Call agreed to join the group. We did an internal analysis within the committee as to the technical topics involved in the committee after the turn-over. It was decided we will remain a MCA member focused group, attempting to add value to the MCA membership. We will continue with member informative forum articles and do product research, utilizing vendor webinars. 2020 will also bring in a new Co-Chair to split chair duty with me (Joe Ventre) in my final year before retirement. I would like to do some focus work next year in security of CSTS Web Based clients and how we might implement that within my own organization (ARC).

STUDENT SERVICES / RESEARCH

- Completed the colleges and universities contact lists along with the internship resources and loaded with the help of our MCA Admin. This has been a long standing project that is now totally completed. This website information has a dual purpose, to both get information about MCA to the contacts on the site and for our committee to make contacts.
- The Student Services Committee met in person three times during the last year at DOC Central Office. This has been a relatively new approach to meeting for this committee and it will be continued in the coming year. This has allowed members to meet face-to-face, but still allow for meetings and time to make contacts to colleges and universities.
- MCA Student Services committee assisted in the selection and awarding of two scholarships for 2019. This was the first year in which the committee participated and we have several members volunteer to assist. We are working on an ongoing basis to develop changes to the overall scholarship process through creation of a rubric for scoring.
- Fall institute scholarships were again budgeted for the year, college and university programs throughout the state were contacted regarding this opportunity. This year, the second year of the project, a formal application was added. At the time of this report, two students have been awarded the scholarship. We will again be asking to have this added to our committee budget in the coming year.
- We have continued to actively reach out to colleges/universities throughout the state. New members were asked to take on 3-4 contacts and current members were asked to do the same. This process continues to remain in progress. The project is time consuming and it will be imperative that over the next year we develop goals to engage with a point a contact at more educational institutions throughout Minnesota and surrounding areas. Staffing issues appear to be one of the issues we have encountered to making on-site visits with our educational contacts.



Winter Ends...



SPRING WORKSHOP

Criminal Minds

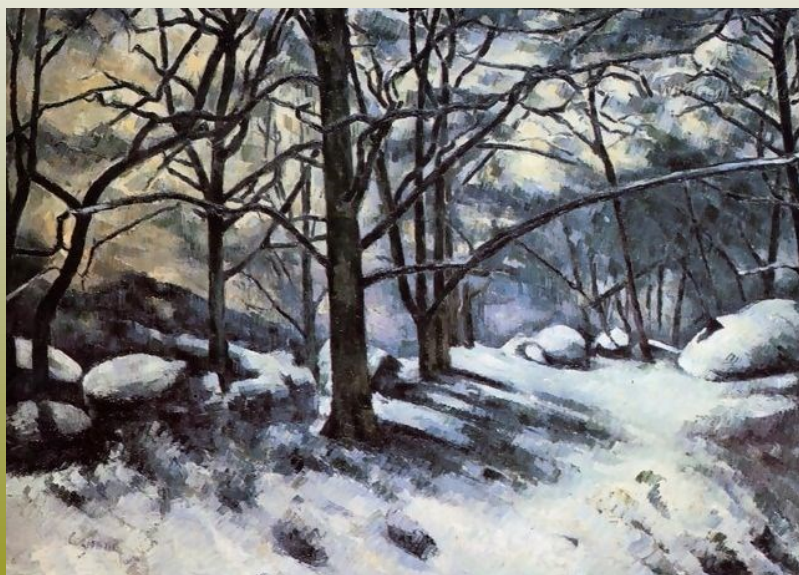
Supervising offenders with various mental health needs

Join us in Owatonna on March 26, 2020

Lunch and snacks provided – free parking!



Spring begins!



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In 2019, MCA teamed up with MACPO to offer joint trainings that were offered free for members of both organizations. The series was entitled: Surviving/Thriving in the Trenches. Part 1 was offered on March 15th. Part 2 of the session series was offered on October 11th .

Other free member workshops held this year were:

- 6/21/19 Diversion Inclusion: From Theory to Practice
- 8/16/19 Ethical Issues and Boundaries in Practitioner-Client Relationships
- 9/20/19 Domestic Violence - Stories from the Inside
- 12/3/19 Building Rapport While Maintaining Boundaries with Justice Involved Youth at MCF-Red Wing

ADULT JUSTICE / LEGISLATION

Two line of duty deaths in Minnesota correctional facilities in 2018 shaped much of the legislative debate this year. The governor and legislative leaders reached an agreement on the FY20-21 biennium, funding many of the critical needs within the Department of Corrections. The budget provided \$7.6 million to hire 67 correction officers by the end of FY21; and additional 11 officers will be hired by the end of FY2023. In addition to hiring, the budget provided \$2.6 million for recruitment and retention efforts.

Other investments included the reestablishment of the Offices of Ombudsman for Corrections, security infrastructure and technology, funding for the offender health care contract, inmate electronic health records, and juvenile justice reform. Several policy changes also occurred, including authorization to administer opiate antagonists for drug overdose and administrative segregation reform.

Looking forward to 2020, we are focused on five important legislative topics: (1) Needs of justice-involved adults and juveniles experiencing mental health and substance abuse; (2) Offender reentry; (3) Smart sentencing and supervision; (4) Staffing levels; and (5) Juvenile sentencing involving life without the possibility of parole.

Our legislative agenda is used to inform state legislators about funding priorities that impact correctional services in Minnesota, and serves as a guide for correctional professionals throughout the state.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

One of our committee's major goals for 2019 involves a commitment to a follow-up to the JJ21 Project coordinated by Mark Haase starting in 2014. The 2014 JJ21 Project initially began with hosting eleven forums in every judicial district throughout the state, inviting stake holders for their input on issues needing attention in juvenile justice in MN. Findings from the forums determined six significant issues in juvenile justice across the state (see JJ21 2014 Report). In 2106, Minnesota's State Advisory Group JJAC granted funds to create a tentative working plan for JJ21, outlining an Advisory Group (consisting of JJC and JJAC members, meeting 2-4 times in 2016, including input via email/phone and holding a JJ21 Forum on January 20, 2017 in St. Paul addressing Mental Health and Dual Status Youth. This was followed up with a statewide survey to stake holders addressing mental health/substance abuse and dual status youth issues in MN. From these actions, JJ21 created the following objectives: 1) Convene and facilitate a juvenile data advisory group, utilizing a guide recommended by the RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice Models for Change project; 2) Convene two meetings in greater MN with juvenile justice professionals to provide information and training on dual status programming and juvenile data sharing; 3) Increase stakeholder support for broadly supported juvenile justice policy recommendations, and 4) Strengthen efforts to provide more statewide juvenile justice networking, resource sharing, policy and practice reform and professional development

As a result of our 2017 objectives, we are proud to announce JJ21 has developed an executive summary report on Information Sharing and Juvenile Justice in MN. This report, along with a quick guide to help navigate information sharing in the field will be ready and shared at the 2019 MCA Fall Conference. Another committee goal for 2019 is to host a second Conference in 2020. In 2018, MCA collaborated with MACPO (MN Association of County Probation Officers) to host a first Annual Juvenile Justice Conference, which was held on January 17, 2019 in Eagan, MN. This conference proved to be quite successful with nearly doubling our anticipated attendee numbers and receiving positive feedback on our presenters.

Additionally this year, JJC again collaborated with MCA Adult Legislative Committee to review and provide input on juvenile issues in the legislative agenda draft for 2019. JJC supports elimination of the mandatory sentence of JLWOP (Juvenile Life Without Parole) for juveniles, revision of juvenile POR guidelines, and added language addressing juvenile issues in mental health and substance abuse.

Throughout our JJC meetings, committee members are free to discuss and propose juvenile justice issues deemed in need of attention. The issue of placement beds for juveniles around the state remains a concern. Agents are finding our juvenile clients are on extensive waiting lists for residential treatment and for corrections programs. We continue to experience particular struggles with juveniles who have significant mental health issues with aggressive behaviors, seeing a growing female population. Agents end up seeking out of state placements for youth or having to place youth in programs that are unable to meet their extensive needs, often resulting in more legal charges.

MEMBERSHIP

2019 is proving to be a very busy and successful year for our MCA membership committee. MCA created a liaison position to cultivate new relations and improve current relationships with both government and non-government organizations. The goal is to make MCA stronger by growing membership; expanding a diversity of participation; and advancing communication through the collaboration with partner organizations.

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Mark joined both the MARRCH and MSSA annual conference committees and represent MCA providing leadership and direction delivering corrections- and community corrections-related expertise and workshops to both associations and annual conferences. All four of our associations similarly host a booth at our respective annual conference exhibitor fairs.

SPONSORSHIP

The Sponsorship Committee once again worked towards securing financial support from various organizations that offer a variety of services within the criminal justice field. This year's financial target was \$25,000. We surpassed that amount by \$1,000. The committee worked diligently reaching out and following up with each sponsor ensuring logos, ads, and registrations were complete. Debbie also, was a huge help to the committee as she has been working in this capacity for many years and has great relationships with everyone involved with MCA. Go Debbie!

This year we added an Exclusive and Premier level of Sponsorship. Affording organizations at those levels more media exposure and greater membership benefits. Next year, we plan on reaching out to current sponsor much earlier in the 2020 calendar year and devising a plan to target new sponsor. We want generating more ideas on what more can be offer to encourage participation and to show our great appreciation. If you have ideas and are interested in join our team, contact JoAnn at JoAnn.Brown@state.mn.us.

We will be meeting every 2nd Tuesday monthly, 9:00-10:00 am at MINNCOR Industries, 2420 Long Lake Road, Roseville, MN 55113.

We are always looking for good people to help us make a difference.

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- MCA Student Services committee assisted in the selection and awarding of two scholarships for 2019. This was the first year in which the committee participated and we have several members volunteer to assist. We are working on an ongoing basis to develop changes to the overall scholarship process through creation of a rubric for scoring.
- Fall institute scholarships were again budgeted for the year, college and university programs throughout the state were contacted regarding this opportunity. This year, the second year of the project, a formal application was added. At the time of this report, two students have been awarded the scholarship. We will again be asking to have this added to our committee budget in the coming year.
- We have continued to actively reach out to colleges/universities throughout the state. New members were asked to take on 3-4 contacts and current members were asked to do the same. This process continues to remain in progress. The project is time consuming and it will be imperative that over the next year we develop goals to engage with a point a contact at more educational institutions throughout Minnesota and surrounding areas. Staffing issues appear to be one of the issues we have encountered to making on-site visits with our educational contacts.

LIFER GROUP RECOGNITION

In prisons, you see the best and the worst of the human condition. The best correctional programs can provide meaningful opportunities for those incarcerated, to make meaningful life changes. There is no neutral for those who come to work or are confined in prison. You either regress or move forward as a human being. Prisons are human stories about loss of liberty, the imperative of safety, and the realities of life and death. Under the best of possible conditions, prison is not a good place to be; loss of liberty never is. Under the worst of conditions, prisons can be hell on earth, both for those confined and those who come to work. The Lifer Group stands as a symbol of some of the best that happens in the work that is being done by the people of the DOC. Their lives mimic words that I heard from offenders so many years ago, "Redemption, Recovery, Forgiveness, Patience, and Hope." Men who have lived the term "Lifer," have the potential to understand fully the meaning of the term as they reach out to their fellow human beings in confinement. We would do well to fully appreciate what these men do for each other. It's about caring and feelings for each other. It is about transitioning to freedom one human being at a time. These men and what they do to support each other, are truly deserving of the MCA recognition of excellence.

Although the Lifer Group was not to recipient of this year's 2019 President's Award, Lou Stender reached out to the MCA Board of Directors and asked us to consider recognizing these men who are committed to each other and to supporting those incarcerated and their communities. The MCA Executive and Board members agreed that a special recognition would be well deserved.

Twelve Lifers attended the MCA Awards Ceremony on Tuesday evening to receive their award.



LIFER GROUP

From: LOU STENDER-Retired Associated Warden from MCF-Faribault

I was very pleased to see that The Lifer Group has been nominated for the MCA 2019 President's Award. I spent more than 33 years in the Department of Corrections. I worked in five corrections facilities and a transition program called Project Re-Entry. I have seen the best and sometimes tragic realities of prisons. Minnesota has a long and proud tradition in the delivery of quality Correctional Programs. The prison system that I first saw at Stillwater in 1974 was far different than the one that exists today. Years have passed and many things have changed. Dan Cain (President of RS Eden) saw a need and moved that vision forward in order to support Lifers coming out of prison. He has arguably done as much as anyone to create the possibility of successful transitions to the outside world. Working in prisons and corrections systems gives a person a different understanding of criminal justice. Living on the inside internalizes the true meaning of lost liberty. There are liberties that you cannot truly know until you have lived without them. It is important to know what you don't know. Assuming to truly know the loss of liberty within a prison without having lived it, is a mistake.

The men in this Lifer Group do more than support each other. They go back to the facilities that held them for so long to give hope to others. Their lives mimic words that I heard from offenders so many years ago, "Redemption, Recovery, Forgiveness, Patience, and Hope". Men who have lived the term Lifer, have the potential to understand fully the meaning of the term as they reach out to their fellow human beings in confinement. We would do well to fully appreciate what these men do for each other. It's about caring and feelings for each other. It is about transitioning to freedom one human being at a time. These men and what they do to support each other, are truly deserving of the MCA President's Award.

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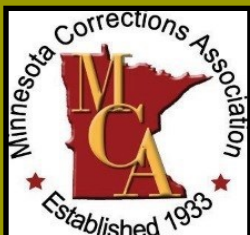
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TO PROMOTE THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WORKING IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE CORRECTIONS FIELD AND TO PROMOTE ETHICAL AND JUST CORRECTIONAL PRACTICE.

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