

MCA FORUM



Volume 43 No. 3

Summer 2020



WELCOME SUMMER!!

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

In This Issue:

- The President's Message
- Technology Article
- Legislative Update



GET IN TOUCH!





President's Message

Mary Oberstar, 2020 MCA President

Dear MCA Members & Colleagues:

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones well.

There are a couple things I want to remind you of:

1. We're still planning for 2020 MCA Awards! During these challenging times, more than ever, we want to recognize those who you feel stand out for their contributions to the field of corrections. We know things are different – who do you know who's making great contributions during this crazy year? Please see the page in this issue for information on the various awards and deadline. We all know many who are deserving; we look forward to you nominating one of the amazing people we work with!
2. Voting for a new president-elect will be happening soon. Your voice matters – please vote when you receive the email with your candidates.

Thank you Vice President Laura Anderson, Secretary Kaylee Henson, and Treasurer Robyn Wood for your willingness to extend your board position a year so we can keep continuity during this period of time. What a commitment to the association and our members!

On a sad note, this past week has seen a number of layoffs and eliminated positions within the agency I work for. My heartfelt thank you to each of you for all you've done and continue to do, and hope for landing better than ever goes out to each of you.

It feels as if we're settling into our new normal. Yet we know there's still so much going on – changes to how we live our lives based on what's going on in our world – near and far. We shall persevere!

On a positive note; we're working on putting together virtual finance training topics for you. This training will be provided by one of our amazing sponsors. Stay tuned for emails announcing this. Now is a great time to take a look at our financial outlook.

Stay safe. Support each other. Find pleasure in the simple things in life.

Don't let the hard times overtake the happy times!

With Gratitude,

Mary Oberstar
2020 MCA President
mary.oberstar@state.mn.us

2020 Event Cancellations

Regrettably, your MCA board has made the decision to cancel in-person training events in 2020. This difficult decision was made with the safety of attendees and presenters in mind.

As soon as we're able, we'll be back in full force, bringing you the phenomenal training and networking opportunities you've come to expect!

Spring Workshop – originally scheduled for March 26, was rescheduled for September 17, 2020. However, the decision to cancel the alternative date until we can safely attend together was made.

Juvenile Justice Conference – originally scheduled for April 23, was cancelled without an alternative date.

MCA Fall Institute – scheduled for October 27 – 30 has been cancelled.

Monthly Training – the Education and Training Committee is exploring ways to bring you valuable learning opportunities.

Sincerely –

MCA Board of Directors

MCA Membership Extended!

ALL MCA MEMBERSHIPS EXTENDED TO 12/31/2021



While our opportunities to network and provide training have been virtually non-existent, please know that MCA is still here, working for you through continued reviews and research on best practices, following & reporting on legislative action, and through other means.

As our way of sending our positive thoughts and apologies to our members, all current (paid) memberships and those who become a member in 2020 will have their membership extended through December 31, 2021!



AWARDS



Do you know someone deserving of an award??

There are individuals and groups across the state of Minnesota who are making outstanding contributions in the field of corrections every day and especially during this CRAZY YEAR!!!!!! Now is the opportunity to nominate your favorites!!!!!!

2020 MCA AWARDS will be presented in a creative way this year!

Submit your nominations to Connie Hartwig at connie.hartwig@state.mn.us
Submissions are due by August 3rd!

Corrections Person of the Year: This award is given for outstanding contribution in the field of corrections in Minnesota by an individual in any employment. It could be clergy, judge, legislator, group home parent, etc., as well as a correctional professional.

Corrections Officer of the Year: This award is inspired by Minnesota Corrections Officers Joseph Gomm and Joseph Parise, who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the performance of their duties. This award will be given to a uniformed officer who demonstrates extraordinary character; who has gone above and beyond the scope and responsibilities of their position to ensure the safety and security of their colleagues. The recipient of this award will be nominated for their standard of professional achievement.

Professional Achievement Award-Field Services This award is given to two correctional staff persons who have demonstrated achievement over a period of time, but shall not exclude professionals new to the field who have displayed outstanding achievement.

Professional Achievement Award-Correctional Facilities This award is given to two correctional staff persons who have demonstrated achievement over a period of time, but shall not exclude professionals new to the field who have displayed outstanding achievement.

President's Award: This award is given to programs, resources or facilities working in the broad field of corrections and criminal justice, which demonstrate creativity, resourcefulness, effectiveness and innovation.

Technology Award: This award is given to individuals, programs, resources or facilities working with technology in the broad field of corrections and criminal justice, which demonstrate creativity, resourcefulness, effectiveness and innovation.

Board of Directors' Award (chosen and voted by Board of Directors): This award recognizes exemplary service to MCA members through participation in association activities.

[Click Here for Nomination Form](#)



Photos courtesy of MCA Photographer Jessica Raptis, along with photo submissions by Cece and Lila Lang



George Perry Floyd Jr.
October 14, 1973 – May 25, 2020



Legislative Affairs



Calvin Saari

MCA Legislative Liaison

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The Second Special Session occurred around July 12th when the current Executive Order expired. At the end of the regular 2020 Legislative Session, the House Public Safety Committee had a strategic comprehensive bill in place for consideration by both chambers. That bill did not have everything we were pursuing on our legislative agenda, but did contain a good number of items we would have been very please with. In the closing days and final hours of the regular Session, the Republicans in the Senate took a stand that they would not accept any legislation for passage unless bills were also agreed upon that would address the COVID legislation. In addition, the leadership of both the House and the Senate made an agreement on a bonding bill had amounted to close to one billion dollars. At the last minute, Governor Walz had the House leadership add a number of items that he was endorsing that were not included in the negotiation and when this information became known, that agreement fell apart as well.

So....in a Special Session that Minnesotans were looking for legislation to provide a bonding bill, acceptance of the comprehensive bills of the other major Committees such as Agriculture, Education, Transportation, Public Safety, and others, absolutely nothing got accomplished! They were so close on so many items but Senate President Paul Gazelka had made an arbitrary decision to adjourn the Senate on Friday Night, which he did, making any possibility of bills passing on to the Governor, impossible.

So, here's where it's at! Another special session commenced because the Governor legally has to do this in order to extend or change his executive orders, in order to give the Legislature an opportunity to weigh in on this. What most people don't realize is that every time he issues another executive order because of the pandemic, the State receive further federal funding like at around \$50 million each time. Word within the legislative halls is that another Bonding proposal amounting to \$1.35 billion has been agreed upon by the leadership of both parties; however, the Republican Senate and a caucus of People of Color and Indigenous have what is believed to have at least 21 members, are bound and determined to block passage of any legislation unless their concerns brought forward as a result of the George Floyd incident are included in any legislation (which have been attached to the Public Safety bill. Yes, a Legislature that is going in ten different directions without clear leadership, and we wonder why nothing gets done! There are so many angles to cover here that it is almost impossible to have a clear picture of what's in store.

Although this brand new culture we're dealing within has left us all outside of the legislative chambers and making it very, very difficult to discuss issues with specific Legislators, we have all continued to work on a daily basis with Legislators and legislative aides we have come to know well, what's in the hopper next. For not spending a lot of time at the Capitol this year, I've never worked harder this year! And so, the saga continues and we'll report to you again when we have updated news. Thank you everyone, for your support! Stay safe and stay positive!!



Hello from Cambia Hills of East Bethel, a program of The Hills Youth and Family Services!

We have created a new level of care called Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF). It raises the bar for children's mental health services by creating a physical environment that invigorates the therapeutic milieu, that brings the outdoors into the facility, and that integrates residential, recreational, educational, and therapeutic services in an unprecedented way.

The Cambia Hills of East Bethel hopes to profoundly impact mental health and substance abuse services for children in Minnesota in four ways:

- **Adding intensive, secure, in-patient services to the continuum of care.** There is need for longer term, in-patient psychiatric services for children in Minnesota. The model provides the individual care and length of stay flexibility many children need to successfully transition to lower levels of service. Our trauma-informed approach uses the most up to date evidence-based and best practices. The program is funded through MA, PMAP, and some commercial insurances.
- **Unique focus on innovation and outcome evaluation.** Rapid and effective application of new knowledge takes expert planning. Toward that end, Cambia Hills has created a *Blue Ribbon Research and Clinical Practices Advisory Board* to assist in the design of clinical metrics, to evaluate research opportunities, and to help identify promising advances in mental health treatment.
- **Piloting a child-centered environment.** Residential treatment is a frightening prospect for most people and especially for children and teens. The Cambia Hills of East Bethel seeks to lessen those anxieties by providing an environment that will surprise and delight them, including: * A colorful, contemporary design that is relentlessly non-institutional, yet secure. * Living rooms with expansive views and vaulted ceilings. * Cozy, heated window seats in every bedroom. * Direct courtyard access from every residential suite. * A 37 acre site with space to accommodate walking and riding trails, therapeutic gardening, animal husbandry, and other outdoor activities.
- **Integration of therapeutic and educational services.** Intermediate School District Metro 916 will be providing on-site educational services for the facility's patients. ISD 916 fully participated in the design of the educational spaces, philosophy, and service design. * A focus on social-emotional learning and positive behavioral supports. * Integration of clinical and educational staff * Ten 750+ SF classrooms to ensure small (six or fewer) * Direct courtyard access from every classroom
- **Learn more about our agency:** * Take a look at our facility through a [Virtual 3D Tour and drone video](#) * Join our contact list (email ljacobson@cambiahills.org) * Like our [Facebook](#) page * Read about us in our Star Tribune [article](#)!
- **To make a referral:** Contact our admissions (763)-762-5555 directly at or email us at eastbetheladmissions@cambiahills.org * Website: cambiahills.org

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

WE ASKED AND YOU VOTED!!

Due to Covid-19, the Board felt that it would be appropriate to have our Secretary, Kaylee Henson and our Vice President, Laura Anderson serve one more year in order to appreciate their full responsibilities on the Executive Board.

Our Board brought a VOTE to our members who agreed to have the Vice President and Secretary positions terms increase to 2-year terms commencing in 2021 and moving forward. This is consistent with the Treasurer position.

Our President Elect Position will remain a three-year term. This year, we have three amazing candidates who have agreed to run for President Elect.

Finally, our membership voted in change to add the Board Liaison position as a permanent position to be appointed by the current President each year.

This year: Mark Groves will be the Board Liaison.

Please feel free to reach out to me at connie.hartwig@state.mn.us if you have any questions.

**Stay tuned for details & voting instructions for
President-Elect! COMING SOON!**

Executive Board

President: Mary Oberstar

President-Elect: Mark Bliven

Vice President: Laura Anderson

Secretary: Kaylee Henson

Treasurer: Robyn Wood

Past President/Awards: Connie Hartwig

Administrative Manager: Debbie Beltz

MCA Liaison: Mark Groves

About the MCA *FORUM*

The **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 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. Articles may be submitted to the FORUM editor Tara Rathman at Tara.Rathman@state.mn.us or Elana Brunner at Elana.Brunner@state.mn.us.

OUR MISSION:

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

To contact MCA, join a committee, sponsor us or to get involved, please contact:

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GET IN TOUCH!

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MCA Board of Directors

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MCA Committees and Co-Chairs:

Adult Justice/Legislative: Brian Collins
Annual Training Institute: Shannon Fette,
Amy Moeckel & Dan Raden
Nominating / Awards: Connie Hartwig
Communications: Tara Rathman & Elana Brunner
Education & Training: Cheri Humphrey &
Melissa Peterson
Juvenile Justice: Jane Schmid & Kari Boser
Legislative Liaison: Calvin Saari
Membership: Wayne Niles
Safety: Wayne Niles
Sponsorship: JoAnn Brown
Spring Workshop: Ryan Busch & Katie Campbell
Student Services/Research: Melissa McCann
Technology: David Heath & Joe Ventre
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