

# MCA FORUM

Volume 47 No. 1

January & February



## BRRRR...ING ON THE NEW YEAR

[mca-mn@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.mn-ca.org)

### In This Issue:

President's Message

Technology Update

Sponsorships

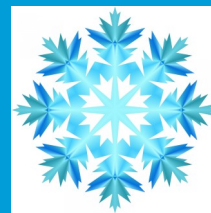
Training Updates

Member Article—Book Review

Legislative Update

Board Election Results

... and more!



# Join MCA Today



## President's Message

*Carter Diers, 2024 MCA President*

Thank you for the honor of serving as your MCA President for 2024. Also, thank you to outgoing President, Mark Groves, who has lead MCA through 2023 with vision and energy. A big thanks to Laura Anderson and Jane Schmid, who are both leaving the Executive Board this year and have also both spent many years dedicated to MCA. All of these folks are great examples of servant leaders.

Congratulations to re-elected Treasurer Robin Wood and re-elected Secretary Latonya Reeves. Also, welcome and congratulations to President-Elect TamiJo Lieberg and Vice-President Debra Schmid. Having known your energy and abilities, I look forward to your individual and collective talent to move MCA forward.

What a year it has been. Following a head-spinning legislative session, we as corrections professionals are now challenged with implementing an ambitious leap forward in the way we do business. From the Minnesota Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act (MRRA) that promises to revolutionize the role of correctional institutions to the new funding for community services along with its many reforms; the future is exciting.

So, where does MCA fit into all of this? MCA has and will always be the place we come to gather and move this profession forward. A place where we can have a collective voice. A place that we can contribute and realize our purpose.

Where do you fit? These are exciting times, so be a part of it. Be a member, but also get involved. Take some time and look at MCA's many opportunities to serve and be an active participant in this exciting time.



GET IN TOUCH!



**Behind every number is a person and a story.  
Everyone needs help sometimes. Amicus will be there.**

For more than 50 years, Amicus has been a healing force in our community, helping justice-involved people find a safe home, jobs to begin building anew, and the comforting fellowship of community belonging.



Serve **1,222** people through supportive re-entry services



Support **1,002** adults with transportation



Provide **227** men and women with volunteer mentors



Provide **197** individuals with winter clothing and toiletries



Assist **176** people as they find permanent employment



Help **50** individuals find stable housing



Support **45** women as they transition from prison to community



Attain **7.6%** three-year recidivism rate for participants

[voamnwi.org/amicus](http://voamnwi.org/amicus)

 **Volunteers of America**  
MINNESOTA AND WISCONSIN

 **Amicus**  
Real change starts on the inside.

# MCA ELECTION RESULTS



PRESIDENT-ELECT  
(Serves as President 2025)  
Tami Jo Lieberg



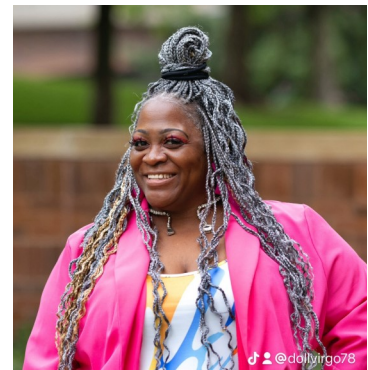
VICE PRESIDENT  
(2-year term 2024-2025)  
Debra Schmitt



TREASURER  
(2-year term 2024-2025)  
Robyn Wood



SECRETARY  
(2-year term 2024-2025)  
Latonya Reeves



## Congratulations!!!!



# Adult & Teen Challenge Minnesota

## Comprehensive Drug and Alcohol Addiction Treatment and Recovery Services

### General Service Overview

- SUD and Mental Health services
- Same day assessments and intakes, pending space availability
- Transportation provided in Minnesota
- Client centered trauma-informed care
- Opioid-specific program – medication management and withdrawal (MAT friendly)
- Treatment and services:
  - Withdrawal management, addiction medicine, and psychiatric services, including MATs
  - Residential licensed treatment (high intensity; faith-based track available, upon request)
  - Faith-based long Term recovery program (12 month residential)
  - Out-patient & Telehealth services – chemical assessments, licensed treatment, mental health services
  - Aftercare residential program and services
  - PRSS Services.
- Other information:
  - No smoking – all facilities are tobacco free. Smoking cessation support provided, as needed.
  - No cell phone – clients have access during dedicated times.
  - Family support – professional counseling, if needed.
  - Accept most major insurances (i.e. commercial insurance, PMAP, BHF – MN residents).
  - Long Term Program funded through GRH and private donations.

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### To Make a Referral

1. Fax or email most recent full Chemical Health Assessment and any updates.
  - If assessment is needed, please call Admissions to schedule assessment via telehealth or in person.
2. Indicate preferred center location on coversheet or in email subject line:
  - Men – Minneapolis, Rochester, Brainerd, or Duluth.
  - Women – Minneapolis or Rochester.
  - Adolescent Boys (14 – 18) – Buffalo.

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### Contact Points

- **Minneapolis** Admissions Supervisor - Paige – 612-238-6158 - Fax: 612-823-4913
  - **Rochester** Admissions Manager – Morgan – 507-218-3481 - Fax: 855-545-2217
  - **Brainerd** Treatment Director – Jamie Lange 218-833-8758- Fax: 218-833-8778
  - **Duluth** Admissions Supervisor Laura – 218-740-5547 - Fax: 218-740-4330
- Call Center 612-373-3366 to speak with an Admissions Representative.
  - Email: [admissions@mntc.org](mailto:admissions@mntc.org) or [info@mntc.org](mailto:info@mntc.org).

Walk-in assessments available Monday – Friday 8am – 12pm.  
Same day Admission based on funding and space availability.

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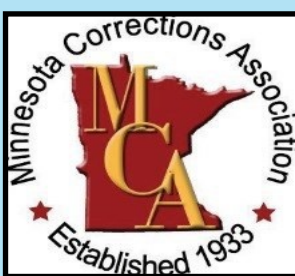


5th Annual MCA / MACPO  
Juvenile Justice Conference

April 18th

Maplewood YMCA Community

Accepting Presenter Proposals until March 1st



[Click here for Presenter Proposal form!](#)



**NUWAY**  
*Alliance*

NUWAY Alliance is a nonprofit organization created to provide overarching leadership and management to NUWAY®, Cochran Recovery Services, The Gables, and the NUWAY Recovery Foundation, The NUWAY Alliance treatment programs provide extended care programming including medium-intensity residential treatment, intensive outpatient with recovery residence support, and outpatient continuing care. All NUWAY Alliance programs serve adults and are co-occurring, GLBTQIA+ safe and friendly, trauma informed and medication-assisted treatment & recovery friendly.

With locations throughout the state of Minnesota, we offer an affordable extended care treatment continuum. Our clients often struggle with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders, lack supportive recovery environments and need extended care to establish their recovery in the community.

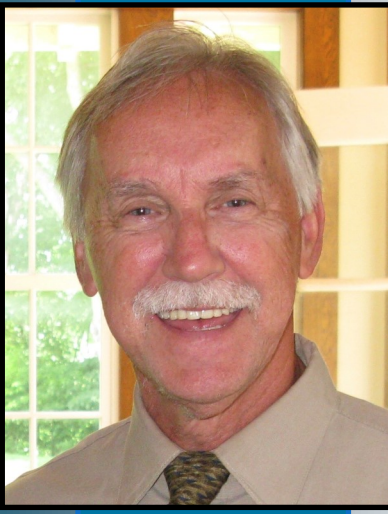
The NUWAY Alliance organization strives to remove barriers for clients accessing treatment. Direct Access allows individuals to choose where they would like to access treatment. The NUWAY Alliance team will provide a comprehensive assessment, help with transportation assistance, offer no cost drug testing, peer support services, care coordination, recovery management skills, all while using evidence-based modalities. NUWAY intensive outpatient clients have the option to live in independently run recovery residences located in the community of their choice and have their housing program fees subsidized while they attend treatment. This option removes any housing barrier in early recovery for clients as well as providing them with a safe and supportive sober environment. Clients can remain in sober living regardless of receiving services. This empowers client's self-efficacy and choice and allows clients to work and/or go to school all while following best practice.



**NUWAY**  
*Alliance*

# Past President Message

**Mark Groves - 2023 (and 2018) MCA President**



It is truly hard to believe a whole year has passed since I became your MCA president. It was certainly a busy year, which is probably why it passed in the blink of an eye.

I'm happy to report we met the objectives we set forth at the beginning of the year.

## Goals as 2023 MCA President

- Support MCA Committees and Chairs; champion initiatives.
- Continue to invest in MCA (website, newsletter, sponsorship, membership, exhibitors, etc.).
- Increase membership.
- Continue to provide monthly Education & Training events.
- Continue to develop our presence and influence regarding Juvenile Justice.
- Continue to promote and champion MCA as a destination for membership in corrections, community corrections, human services, et al., by initiating and developing formal collaboration and partnership with other associations (MACPO, MACCAC, MARRCH, MSSA).
- Make a BIG SPLASH at our 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Institute in Duluth.
- Continue working with DOC and MARRCH to advance partnerships, projects, and demonstrations with Substance Abuse Disorder programs; Practitioners; Minnesota Department of Corrections; County Community Corrections and Rehabilitation Departments; Community Corrections programs; Faith-based service providers; Resources; and Mentors to support a successful post release transition into the community.
- Develop the 60/30 Retirement Plan.

My hat's off to the great work of our committee chairs and our members. We hosted our 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Institute in Duluth, affording members excellent, fun-filled networking opportunities and informative professional development sessions from industry leaders. A big SHOUT OUT to our new Annual Conference Institute chairs: Dan Besser and Becki Erickson; and our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Chairs: Jane Schmid and Dan Raden.

We honored our award recipients for their efforts in representing our profession at the highest levels. We also awarded scholarships to two post-secondary students. Both of these programs are very important initiatives for MCA.

It takes a collective effort to make an association like ours possible. I think it is fitting that special thanks goes out to all the volunteer members on our Executive Committee. Their contributions ensured we were always on the right track as we moved MCA forward. Of course, our continued success would not be possible without Debbie Beltz for providing the foundation and support needed for us to meet, accomplish our duties and enjoy our successes. Thank you, Debbie!



# Past President Message - Continued

Mark Groves - 2023 MCA President

I want to thank the 2023 Board of Directors. It was through their leadership, time and talent that we are able to identify, create, plan, coordinate, promote and execute a first-class association for you, our members. This group of professionals works well together and gave freely of their time to ensure meaningful initiatives were in place for us all to enjoy, learn from and be inspired by. Thank you all!

Our committee chairs and their committee members give new meaning to the words “leadership,” “dedication” and “volunteerism.” Our committees were enormously creative in implementing our initiatives by providing high quality services and activities for you: our members. I could write forever about the work of each committee but that would just take up way too much space. Our financial position is testament to the quality of their work and the value you, our members, place on their activities.

I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

And, of course, I would be totally remiss if I didn't thank our great and dedicated sponsors. With their support, we are able to provide the number and quality of events for you. Their sponsorship, monetary and in-kind, allows us to bring events to you at a reasonable price. So, speaking on behalf of the entire association, thank you!

And last, but certainly not least, to our members: *You are the lifeblood of MCA.* Without you, we have no purpose. Thanks for letting us know how we can best serve your professional needs . . . and for permitting us do that.

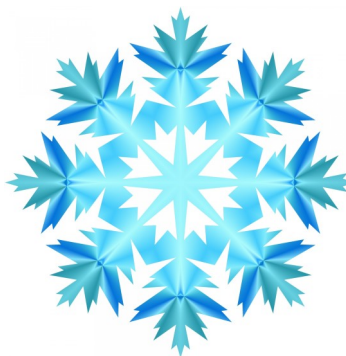
As you can see, I have been fortunate to work with a superb group of leaders in our industry. Their ability to work together to create and deliver meaningful opportunities for you is awe-inspiring. I look forward to working with our 2024 President, Carter Diers, and the 2024 Board. I'm confident you will enjoy getting to know them and work with them as well.

I thank you all – the members of MCA – for allowing me to serve you as president over the last year. It has been an honor, a joy, and an experience that I will always cherish. I have met many new friends and colleagues, schmoozed with life-long pals, and enjoyed it to the fullest. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming MCA events in 2024.

Sincerely,

*Mark Groves*

Mark Groves  
2018/2023 MCA President



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## ACA COMMUNICATIONS &amp; PUBLICATIONS

## BOOKSHELF



### The High-Performance Correctional Facility: Lessons on Correctional Work, Leadership, and Effectiveness

Written by Gary F. Cornelius, Civic Research Institute, 2022, 272 pp.

#### REVIEWED BY

Roger Baburam, MPA. Baburam is a retired Corrections Program Director at MN Department of Corrections.

Ten years ago, correctional training programs would not have included topics such as video visiting, transgender inmates, or social media etiquette. Gary F. Cornelius' training manual, *The High-Performance Correctional Facility: Lessons in correctional work, leadership, and effectiveness*, includes all these contemporary issues, in addition to the more traditional topics of security, safety and legal liability of correctional facilities. Focusing both on the "what to do" and the much neglected "why," the book is a resource for jail and

prison administrators and trainers interested in staff development and professionalism. An experienced jail supervisor and trainer, Cornelius is particularly interested in incorporating his training lessons at Roll Call, the beginning of every Correctional Officer Shift. He emphasized the "common sense" approach in addressing correctional situational scenarios. The brevity of his chapters, coupled with his real-life examples, is well suited for such training.

Part I addresses the fundamentals of jail and prison operations: security and safety. Chapters include the understanding of inmate manipulation and how to address it, key and tool control, introduction of contraband ("one of the most important subjects for roll call training," [p.3-1]), the ubiquity of gangs in jails and prisons, etc. Cornelius writes, "For correctional officers, no duty is more important than preventing escapes" (p.2-1) and that all inmates should be seen as escape risk and the importance of all officers having a working knowledge of their facilities' Escape Prevention Plan. Next to security/safety training, according to the author, training in sexual misconduct is the most important due to high levels of inmate manipulation. It is imperative that non-uniform staff be given security and safety training, also.

Part II focuses on the management of inmates. Historically, jail/prison management focused more on physical controls: confined movement, video surveillance, etc. However, it is important that staff understand the realities that incarceration brings to the

inmates: the experience of overcoming the initial shock of incarceration, their adjustment to prison, experiencing pain and deprivation, and finally finding a "niche" or comfort zone. Cornelius writes, "Understanding what it is like for inmates to do time is a skill every correctional officer must learn" (p.10-1). Showing empathy to their plight has practical benefits: it will elicit the cooperation of inmates. Staff have shown resistance to new technologies, such as video visiting and the use of tablets for educational purposes. However, the author writes, "The Information Age in terms of inmate management has come to stay (p. 11-3)" and training programs should focus on the "buy in" by staff as the new technology benefits the management of jails: positive activity, paperwork reduced, inmates paying for their video visiting, etc. The author, at the same time, is not oblivious to the fact that new security problems do emerge with the new technology, such as manipulating tablet devices to get on the internet, etc.

Perhaps no part of the book delineates more the "why" of training than Part III on "Special Populations" (mentally ill, elderly, transgender, culturally diverse inmates, etc.). The fact that jails and prisons are the de facto mental health facilities given its high percentage of inmates with co-occurring disorders, COs need to understand why mentally ill inmates acquire more disciplinary infractions and that the experience of isolation (administrative or disciplinary segregation) results in their



decompensation; or the recent scrutiny by courts on "solitary confinement" and why proper medical care, clean bedding, etc. are essential; or the very important duty of recognizing and responding to the risks of suicide (the leading cause of inmate deaths in jail). Regarding transgender inmates, COs and management must adjust to realities of "gender fluidity" and the medical condition of "gender dysphoria" dealing with this category of inmates. They need to understand the higher risk for suicide, high risk for inmate sexual assault, etc., regardless of their personal attitudes about the subject. The need for cultural competence is readily self-evident, as Cornelius states, "Quite simply that the inmate population is a 'potpourri' of nationalities and ethnic groups" (p.17-2). Even women and juvenile inmates are briefly addressed.

Part IV focuses in "Avoiding Liability." The courts have deferred to the judgement of correctional administrators and the judicial concept of "deliberate indifference" (significant staff negligence) must occur before correctional staff are held accountable. Notwithstanding this, staff must be aware of the receptiveness of the court to poor conditions of confinement, excessive use of force, abuse of the use of isolation (a new area of concern), etc. With the advent of the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA), where inmates must exhaust local remedies first before resorting to the court, the grievance mechanisms in jails and prisons have taken on renewed significance. Therefore, it is critical that COs "buy in" to the procedures and practices of the grievance system, even if the complaint appears trivial. He does not neglect the

rights of pre-trial detainees. The author reviews several seminal court decisions regarding Eight Amendment concerns about cruel and inhumane treatment, due process safeguards for disciplinary administrative hearings, etc. Cornelius adds that COs must be taught that it is not their role to "punish" inmates and to understand that the sentence they are serving is the punishment.

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**This book is an excellent resource as a training guide for new and veteran correctional jail staff.**

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The concluding Part V deals with the values of proper ethics training, as staff's moral compass will be tested daily; ability to identify stressors and positively cope with stress; applying the mantra of "fair, firm and consistent" in exercising authority; and the importance of pass-on communication between shifts, etc. Chapter 34 addresses the most contemporary of topics: social media etiquette and being a public employee. The author reminds readers that there is no First Amendment protection for ill-considered remarks on social media about his/her agency or supervisors and warns that: "A posting that takes 30 seconds to write can end a 20-year career" (p. 34-7).

This book is an excellent resource as a training guide for new and veteran correctional jail staff. It is very commendable that in almost all the of the 34 Chapters, Cornelius emphasized "common sense" as a best practices approach, whether it is proper tool control, not abusing strip

searches, not belittling the important grievance mechanism, or being cognizant of "social media stupidity." He periodically employs two noted examples of what not to do in running an efficient correctional administration: Baltimore City Detention Center from 2009–2013 and Clinton Correctional Facility in New York in 2015. These are textbooks cases to discuss with staff about inmate manipulation, contraband introduction, sexual misconduct and, in the case of Clinton, inmate escapes. Cornelius brings in his personal experience as a supervisor, advocating for "Roll Call" training. Roll Call, which is often used as a check list for attendance and the passing-on of information between shifts, can serve as an opportunity to provide and reinforce training daily. Appendix A is an excellent resource on the benefits and tips of Roll Call training.

Cornelius states, "Policy has been slow to keep pace with the changing times, but there is a clear trend away from old school methods based on convention and prejudice and towards a more empathic, nuanced, and safety-focused set of principles and practices." (p.22-6). Historically, Corrections — perhaps typical of para-military organizations — has focused on the proper procedures and practices, much to the neglect of the "why." The author's emphasis on the "why" can achieve that "buy in" that he so frequently talks about. Discussions on social, cultural, and technological developments in areas, such as transgender inmates, video visiting, mental health and legal concerns about inmate isolation, can certainly compliment the "what to do" training in overcoming staff resistance. I highly recommend this book. ♦



# MCA ANNUAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

## SAVE THE DATE

*Partnerships for Progress:  
Collaborating Across Sectors*

October 23-25, 2024

Awards Ceremony Tuesday Evening (10/22)

Mankato, MN

Presenter Proposals Being Accepted

[Click here](#) for submission form

Submission Deadline May 31st



## Annual Training Institute

**Becki Erickson, Co-Chair**

**[rebecca.erickson@state.mn.us](mailto:rebecca.erickson@state.mn.us)**

Welcome to 2024! As I have enjoyed taking a few breaths of air to relax after all our festivities from the fall conference, it has given me some time to reflect on my first year as a co-chair of the fall conference. In this past year I have met some truly amazing people! Working in the field of corrections is never easy but it becomes just a little easier when you find good company to get you through.

Thank you to the amazing members of our committees for putting in countless hours to make the conference a success. From organizing a schedule that included 51 presenters, hosting hundreds of attendees at our networking and hospitality nights, raising over \$700 for local charity, getting to know 45 exhibitors, and being forever grateful to our 26 sponsors, we couldn't have done it without all our committee members!

This year we are looking forward to the addition of members to a variety of committees and seeing what magic we can create for our 2024 conference! Our theme this year is Partnerships for Progress: Collaborating Across Sectors and you better believe that we already have some great plans in store for October!

It is also never too early to start thinking ahead. Think you might have a great topic/ story / presentation for the conference? Please reach out, we would love to get you an application to present at the conference this fall! We look forward to sharing more exciting updates of what we have in store for October in upcoming forum articles, so stay tuned to learn more of what we have up our sleeves!





"He brought me up  
out of the pit of destruction,  
out of the mud;  
And He set my feet on a rock,  
making my footsteps firm."  
Psalms 40:2 (NASB)

**Reentry  
Assistance to the  
Incarcerated of  
North America**

RAIN Homes Network  
1315 Portland Ave S  
Minneapolis MN 55404  
john@rainhomes.org  
612-889-9610

Since 2008, RAIN of North America has provided reentry housing options throughout MN, while helping to create networks of welcoming churches, employers, and landlords in five other US states and now Mexico. Our vision is to see men and women to be set free through the application of Biblical principles as they cross over to become valued members of the community. Since 2017 of the 170+ adults that were served in Moorhead – NONE who have chosen to stay 12+ months have returned to jail/prison.

RAIN has grown to 97 beds in Duluth for adult men and women, with additional homes for men added in St. Cloud (in both Sherburne & Stearns County), as well as Coon Rapids and Northeast Minneapolis. All RAIN homes are locally owned, locally operated, and locally supported.

- ❖ Recovery Homes (over 60 in MN)
- ❖ Transition Resource and Employment Referrals
- ❖ Mentoring and Navigator support
- ❖ Community Awareness Education
- ❖ Permanent housing and Home Ownership tracks available.

*RAIN of North America is not affiliated with an outside organization, church, or specific recovery group and is governed only by its own board of directors.*



**COLLABORATIVE** *for* RECOVERY  
REENTRY  
RENEWAL

**Providing an online resource directory  
and monthly networking meetings that highlight  
organizations within the reentry community  
that provide support and connections  
for men and women coming out  
of incarceration or treatment.**

**612-781-0816**





## CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW MCA VICE PRESIDENT

(2-year term 2024-2025)

Hello Minnesota Corrections Association! My name is Debra Schmitt, and I am excited to serve as your Vice President for MCA for the next two years. I am looking forward to getting more involved with MCA and learning more about this incredible organization. I have been involved with MCA by serving on the training committee in the past, however I have never served on an MCA board.

I am currently employed through Mower County Correctional Services as an adult probation officer for Mower County, where I started my career as a probation officer in 2000. I currently supervise a variety of Gross Misdemeanor and Misdemeanor level of offenses. However, I appear to have a special gift of working with those who struggle with addiction. I guess I have been a good student over the years by learning from my clients. This has helped me become a better probation officer by understanding addiction and learning that recovery is 100% possible. In addition to my caseload, I facilitate a variety of cognitive behavioral groups, such as Decision Points, Driving With Care and Beyond Trauma. I started Coffee Connection, a recovery-based support group, in Mower County in October 2017. I also work with incarcerated individuals in the Mower County Jail by providing programming to those who are incarcerated. It is my hope to expand programming to that population as they seem to be a very captive audience when offering programming. I am a trainer for Decision Points, Thinking for a Change and Motivational Interviewing I and II.

Since starting my career in 2000, I have seen a huge shift in the Corrections field. When I first started in Corrections, it appeared to be more of a cuff, and stuff approach. You did the crime and now you can do the time. However, that approach does not appear to serve anyone well. It essentially made our jobs more difficult and turned into the cat and mouse game – catch me if you can. In looking back, I think how ineffective I was as a probation officer. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to learn and grow with the Corrections field and truly understanding what it means to be an agent of change.

In my spare time, I am a fitness coach at the YMCA- Austin Community Recreation Center where I have been employed since October 2006. I also recently obtained my 200-trauma informed yoga teacher training and was one of the hardest things I have ever done. It felt as though I was literally back in school again for four months of my life. I hated it so much that I am now looking into a 300-hour yoga teacher training to earn my 500-hour yoga teacher training. Yoga has become a huge part of my life and seems to not only benefit me as a person, but also for those who I am able to share the knowledge with. My suggestion is if you cannot touch your toes, you can still do yoga!

Thanks for allowing me to serve as your MCA Vice President for the next two years. I am looking forward to this opportunity to grow and learn as your Vice President. May 2024 serve you and your family well.

# Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD):

## More Than the Winter Blues

As the days get shorter and there is less daylight, you may start to feel sad. While many people experience the “winter blues,” some people may have a type of depression called seasonal affective disorder (SAD).

The first step is to determine how much your symptoms interfere with your daily life.

### Do you have mild symptoms that have lasted less than 2 weeks?



- Feeling down but still able to take care of yourself and others
- Having some trouble sleeping
- Having less energy than usual but still able to do your job, schoolwork, or housework

### These activities can make you feel better:



- Doing something you enjoy
- Going outside in the sunlight
- Spending time with family and friends
- Eating healthy and avoiding foods with lots of sugar

If these activities do not help or your symptoms are getting worse, talk to a health care provider.

### Do you have more severe symptoms that have lasted more than 2 weeks?



- Social withdrawal
- Oversleeping
- Gaining weight
- Craving foods with lots of sugar like cakes, candies, and cookies

### Seek professional help:



- Light therapy
- Psychotherapy (talk therapy)
- Medications
- Vitamin D supplements

For help finding treatment, visit [nimh.nih.gov/findhelp](https://nimh.nih.gov/findhelp).

If you or someone you know is in immediate distress or is thinking about hurting themselves, call or text the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at **988** or chat at [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org).



National Institute  
of Mental Health

[nimh.nih.gov/sad](https://nimh.nih.gov/sad)

NIMH Identification No. OM 22-4320



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**SUPPORTIVE**

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Email: [contact@valleylakeboyshome.org](mailto:contact@valleylakeboyshome.org)  
Website: <https://valleylakeboyshome.org>



## CONGRATULATIONS TO RE-ELECTED MCA SECRETARY

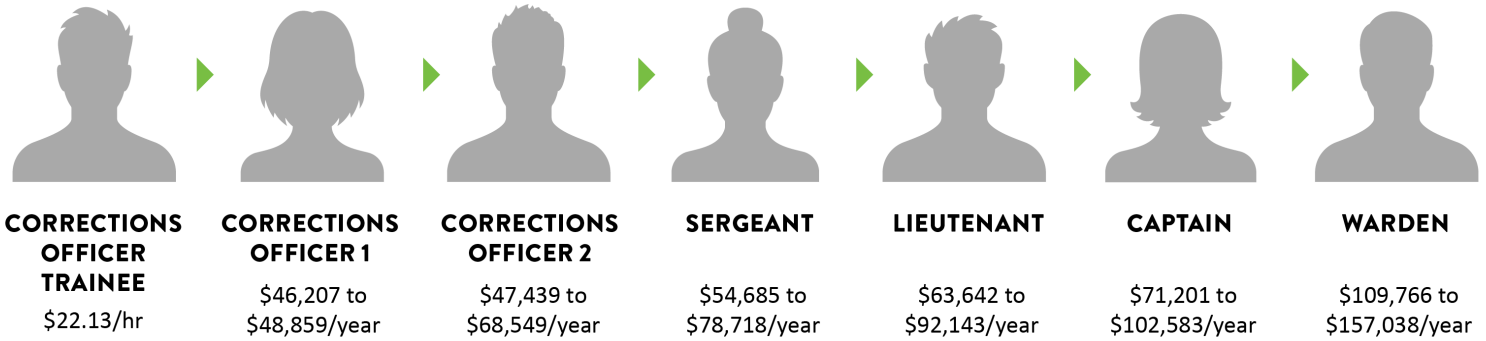
(2-year term 2024-2025)

My name is Latonya Reeves, and I am a Career Probation Officer in the Adult Probation Supervision Services Division of the Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation, supervising Adult Level 3 Predatory Offenders and Traditional High Risk Clients. I have a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Minnesota in Political Science and Sociology of Law, Criminology and Deviance, a Master of Science in Public Service Leadership in Criminal Justice, have completed all coursework for my PhD in Criminal Justice., and am working on my degree in Social Work. I am a 2023-2024 Hubert H. Humphrey Policy Fellow at the University of Minnesota, and am a Commissioner on the MN Sentencing Guidelines Commission. I am President of the American Federal of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 5 Local 552 Probation and Parole Bargaining Unit. I was elected to serve on the MN Council 5--AFSCME Executive Board as the Vice President, and am President of the AFSCME Hennepin County Policy Committee. I also serve as the current Secretary on the Executive Board of the Minnesota Corrections Association, am a member of the Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties and the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers.

I was appointed by the Minneapolis City Council to sit on the Community Commission on Police Oversight, and was elected as Vice-Chair. I am the Co-Founder of the Elite Dollz of Faith based in Atlanta, GA, a non-profit 501c3 organization rooted in giving a hand up in communities across the United States. I am a member of the Midtown Atlanta Chapter of the National Women of Achievement based in Atlanta, GA, and am a member of the Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society. I am the Communications Director for the People of Color Employee Resource Group as well as their Strategic Plan Chair of Collaborative Relationships. I also work on the Sexual Assault Multidisciplinary Action Response Team (SMART) as well as the Labor Management Health Care Committee. I sit on several committees and workgroups including the Innovation and Inclusion Committee, the Eliminating Racial Disparities Workgroup, the Workplace Safety Engagement Team for APSSS, and worked previously on the DOCCR Out of Home Placement Redesign. I am the recipient of the Rick Scott Political Activism Award in 2019 from the MN AFL-CIO/AFSCME Council 5, and serve as a Chair of the Minnesota Civilian Public Safety Commission.

I enjoy learning in my chosen field to build on the practices of racial disparity reduction and best practices in Criminal Justice. I enjoy working on projects that will make the lives of agents in the field better. I've seen a positive shift in disparity reduction efforts in corrections and am happy to see agencies across the state are finding innovative ways to reduce this burden. I love to travel in my personal time and continue to learn. I look forward to serving the next two years!

# CORRECTIONS OFFICER EXAMPLE CAREER PATH



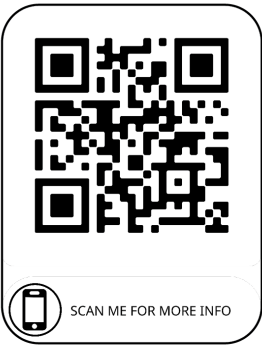
This diagram illustrates one possible path

### CORRECTIONS OFFICERS

- No degree or experience needed
- Paid training
- Optional early retirement at 55
- Pension and deferred compensation plans
- 15 days paid military leave (up to 5 years unpaid)
- Amazing insurance (health, dental, vision, life)
- Vacation (8-18 hours per month)
- Sick leave (8 hours per month)
- 11 paid holidays +1 floating holiday, shift exchange
- AFSCME union benefits
- Apply online: [mn.gov/doc/careers](http://mn.gov/doc/careers) or scan code with your smartphone camera

### MANY OTHER OPPORTUNITIES EXIST INCLUDING:

- Case Managers
- Educators
- Employee Training
- Food Services
- Field Agents
- Maintenance
- Nursing and Mental Health
- Program Directors



Scan this code with your smartphone camera to begin your career or connect directly with a recruiter!

The Minnesota Department of Corrections is an AA/EO and Certified Yellow Ribbon employer. Veterans, women, racial/ethnic minorities, individuals with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ+ community are strongly encouraged to apply.





## Happy New Year from the MCA Technology Committee!

Jason Mereness, MCA Technology Committee Chair

[jason.mereness@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:jason.mereness@co.ramsey.mn.us)

Greetings and Happy New Year to all our MCA friends, fellow change makers, and technology enthusiasts!

I am happy to report that the MCA Technology Committee has made great strides towards our goals this past year. In the last edition of the MCA Forum, you read about our successful technology workshop at the 2023 MCA Annual Training Institute. Special thanks to those of you who were able to join us in-person, some of whom are joining the committee in 2024! We look forward to hosting an even better technology workshop in Mankato for the 2024 MCA Annual Training Institute. Stay tuned!

One of the most exciting goals we have already met for this coming year was expanding the number of committee members from seven to eleven. It is my privilege to share their names with you here:

Jason Mereness (Chair) | Ramsey County Community Corrections  
Aric Walsh | Goodhue County Court Services  
Brent Tilley | Minnesota Monitoring  
Brian Maturi | MN Department of Corrections  
Christen Donley | MN Department of Corrections  
Dan Traun | MN Department of Corrections  
James Edin | Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation  
Jonathan Kemp | Metro Transit Police Department  
Mark Groves | MN Department of Employment and Economic Development  
Michael Noel | Precision Kiosk Technologies  
Philip Denny | Denysys Corporation



As you can see, we have diversified and expanded our membership to have more perspectives at the virtual table and to be more available to the various MCA efforts happening throughout the state at any given time. It is one of my hopes as the Chair of the MCA Technology Committee that this group of committee members will result in the most informational and timely technology-focused MCA Forum articles for each of you to read in the months to come.

In 2023 I was personally tasked with assisting MCA in developing a new website. These efforts have been fruitful, and you should see a live version of the new website soon. The MCA Technology Committee will continue to provide technology support to the MCA Board and this website as it is implemented.

Our focus remains the same, to examine technology designed to facilitate evidence-based and promising supervision practices and to promote the use of technology for justice reform within the corrections industry. This committee shall provide information regarding the applicable use of applied and emerging technology in the field of corrections. The committee will also strive to promote ethical standards in the use of technology and data.

Our goals will be built upon our focus and continue to drive our efforts. These goals aside from the technology workshop, membership growth, and website support goals already shared above are:

- Identify technological needs from the membership.
- Promote integrity in the application of technology and dissemination of information.
- Identify and review applied and emerging technology in the corrections field.
- Promote evaluation of technology used in corrections.
- Share knowledge about technology and its application in corrections.

As we come together and tackle everything noted above, let us know if you have any corrections technology happenings, needs, or ideas! If you simply care to provide us with feedback on this write-up or our ongoing efforts, please email MCA Technology Committee Chair, Jason Mereness at [jason.mereness@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:jason.mereness@co.ramsey.mn.us).



Food Service | Employment | Mentoring | Affordable Housing

## **Al Maa'uun Means "Neighborly Needs" Mission & Organizational Overview**

Inspired by the teaching of the Holy Qur'an and housed in Minneapolis' historic Mosque of the Light, Masjid An-Nur, Al Maa'uun partners with neighboring organizations, faith communities, and individuals to meet the needs of our neighbors in North Minneapolis.

Al Maa'uun represents a new chapter in the history of Minnesota faith communities uniting to meet local needs. Our story began in June 1996, when we started working as a partner organization in an interfaith effort, "Congregations in Community." Along with the McKnight Foundation, three major Christian organizations, and the Jewish Community Relations Council, we formed a coalition to engage people of faith in volunteering. We continue this tradition today as a volunteer-led nonprofit which was formally incorporated in 2009.

The dynamic collection of neighborhoods surrounding Masjid An-Nur is our primary area of service. Often referred to as Near North Minneapolis, it is home to the historic African American community in Minneapolis and much of Minnesota. Historical, social, and environmental challenges such as systemic racism present barriers to building economic stability. We have a high percentage of unemployed working-age adults which offers opportunities for business development and economic growth in the community.

From culturally relevant food offerings to support for people leaving incarceration, Al Maa'uun honors the dignity of each individual we serve or partner with. This deep respect for the nuance of neighbors' needs and aspirations lies at the heart of Al Maa'uun's collaborative programming. Similar to North Minneapolis itself, we build on a strong legacy—and we are just getting started.

"History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not to be lived again." – **Maya Angelou**

1729 Lyndale Ave N., Minneapolis, MN 55411  
Office: (612) 326-5851 | Cell: (612) 715-4617 | Fax: (612) 521-1282  
[www.almaauun.org](http://www.almaauun.org)



MERIDIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

**NOW ACCEPTING  
DIRECT ACCESS &  
PERFORMING A  
COMPREHENSIVE  
ASSESSMENT UPON  
ADMITTANCE.**



**Please call 877-367-1715 to contact our Access Team or email directly to [CARC@meridianprograms.com](mailto:CARC@meridianprograms.com) for any Admission questions.**

Residential Treatment Facilities

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Cedar Ridge Men's Program – Stillwater     | Oakridge Men's Program – Rochester, MN         |
| *Twin Town Men's Program – St Paul         | Lake Shore Men's Program – Mahtomedi, MN       |
| Douglas Place Men's Program E. Grand Forks | Douglas Place Woman's Program – E. Grand Forks |
| New Beginnings Men's Program – Waverly     | New Beginnings Woman's Program – Waverly       |
| Tapestry Women's Program – St Paul         | Meadow Creek Women's Program – Pine City       |
| Latitudes LGBTQ Program – St Paul          | Bridge Recovery Men's Program – Sauk Rapids    |
| Beauterre Recovery Institute – Owatonna    | New Beginnings of MN IOP Program – 8 locations |

**7 Men's Programs, 4 Women's Programs, 1 LGBTQ Program, 1 Professional's Program**

**ABOUT MERIDIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

Based in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Twin Cities area, Meridian Behavioral Health is one of the fastest growing, leading behavioral healthcare platforms in the country. Meridian provides mental health and substance use treatment services across a broad continuum of care, which includes in-patient, residential, out-patient and medication-assisted treatment. Today, Meridian has 3 brands with over 19 locations throughout Minnesota. For more than 27 years, Meridian has developed and refined an innovative, evidence-based, "addictive disease" care model. And this innovative care model, treatment center network and corporate infrastructure have allowed it to rapidly expand, positioning the company and our communities well to continue to reach those in need.

*\* Twin Town accepts level 3 predatory offenders on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the director. Population served policy states we only accept up to Level 2 yet the director can approve beyond that if clinically warranted.*



NATIONAL  
MUSEUM of  
AFRICAN  
AMERICAN  
HISTORY &  
CULTURE

Smithsonian

NINA  
*sang.*

ALVIN  
*danced.*

GORDON  
*photographed.*

LORRAINE  
*wrote.*

MAYA  
*spoke.*

SO, I CAN

---



CELEBRATING THE BRILLIANCE OF BLACK VOICES IN THE ARTS

# BLACK ART

AWAKEN. REVOLUTIONIZE. TESTIFY.

- Week 1, Feb. 1-4: Literature and Poetry
- Week 2, Feb. 5-11: Performing Arts
- Week 3, Feb. 12-18: Visual Arts
- Week 4, Feb. 19-25: Music
- Week 5, Feb. 26-29: Digital Arts

1. Maya Angelou, 1970. Photograph by G. Marshall Wilson. 2. Gordon Parks, 1993. Photograph by Fred Watkins Jr. 3. Nina Simone, ca. 1967. Photograph by Monroe Frederick II. 4. Lorraine Hansberry, 1959. Photograph by Moneta Sleet Jr. Johnson Publishing Company Archive. Courtesy J. Paul Getty Trust and Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture



## Legislative Affairs

Calvin Saari, MCA Legislative Liaison

[sisuwithsaari@aol.com](mailto:sisuwithsaari@aol.com)

218-969-0151

Best wishes in the New Year to everyone! This legislative update comes as we prepare for the beginning of the second year of the biennium, which is scheduled to open on February 12th. This is the "short session" of the legislature, beginning in mid-February and adjourning by May 21st, and what is traditionally known as the bonding year. The Legislature reconvenes following an epic session in 2023. The DFL possesses "the trifecta" being in control of both the House and the Senate as well as the Governorship. With that control in the last session, they pretty well spent the enormous budget surplus, leaving an uncertain speculation of the future. Current budget projections are still showing some surplus, but depending on your political persuasion, many feel the State is going to be facing budget deficits in another year. There will be a budget surplus as the Session begins, but it will be a more difficult spending year for Legislators in 2024, so this leaves the bonding issue in question even though the funding requests continue to increase.

Look for the Legislature to address several problem areas resulting from new legislation passed in 2024, but not a lot more. We again have a major election cycle coming up this fall, including all seats to the House. We are already hearing announcements from several sitting legislators who will not seek re-election this fall. There is also a high probability that the Senate will be evenly divided, making it very difficult to get anything passed in the Senate. This all leads to the importance of the fall elections, and being a Presidential election year should bring out higher than usual voting population which will most likely impact the election of our State office holders.

Our focus currently is on preparation for the new legislative session and getting our legislative agenda in the hands of key Legislators who are in a leadership position to impact our agenda items. With that in mind, we will present the 2024 Corrections Capitol Day via a virtual session. This event is co-sponsored by MCA, MACPO and MACCAC and will allow us to present our legislative priorities to Legislators and give us an opportunity to hear from them on their perspective and expectations from the 2024 Session, so mark your calendars now and plan to participate.

**2024 Capitol Day**

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024**

**1-430 p.m.**

Finally, the 2024 MCA Board of Directors have retired my services as Legislative Liaison as of March 31, 2024 and have retained the legal firm of Pol & Haas to do its legislative work. I will make some departing comments on my 20 years with you in the March issue of the FORUM.

Calvin Saari



# Justice Involved Veterans Program

The Minnesota Assistance Council For Veterans (MACV) offers services to Veterans and former Servicemembers who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

If you are a Veteran or Former Servicemember with active justice involvement who needs a place to stay or is afraid of losing a place you have, MACV's Justice Involved Veterans (JIV) team may be able to help!

## **MACV JIV Program Services Include:**

- Guidance in navigating conditions of release
- Assistance with finding a suitable place to call home
- Reducing the amount of community supervision violations
- Connections to MACV legal, housing, and employment services
- Referrals to other community partners and supports

**Have Questions?**

Email us: [jiv@mac-v.org](mailto:jiv@mac-v.org)

**Call the JIV Team!**

844-675-5900

# Legislative News!

“Hello from Nancy Haas and Courtney Jasper. We are a lawyer/lobbyist duo from Poul Haas and are excited to be representing the Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) at the Capitol. We look forward to getting to know the MCA membership and working with you in the coming year. Our knowledge of the legislative process and strong relationships with legislators and staff will serve you well. Do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions about the legislative process.”

Nancy Haas • Attorney



POUL ■ HAAS  
Government Relations

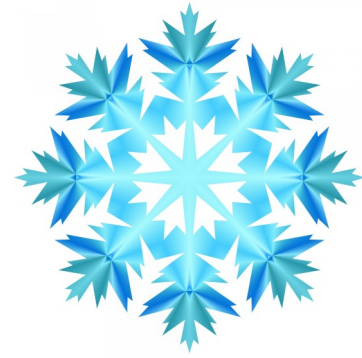


Courtney Jasper has an enthusiasm for the legislative process that helps her to identify solutions to challenges that may arise while working with the legislature. Courtney has been working as a lobbyist for two years and has been working in the government relations profession for eight.

Courtney's work focuses on legislative representation, lobbying, political consulting, and monitoring legislation for her clients. She represents clients before the Minnesota Legislature, the Governor's Office, State Agencies, and among stakeholder groups. Her practice spans across many issue areas including education, transportation, energy, capital investment, healthcare, procurement, nonprofit, and state government.

Passion for her work can be seen in the way she advocates for her clients and prioritizes relationship building. Courtney is proud of the work she has done to pass standalone bills in divided government to increase access to healthcare and clarify insurance requirements for design professionals. She has also worked to get client bills included in multiple omnibus bills.

Prior to being a lobbyist at Poul Haas, Courtney was a lobbyist at Messerli Kramer. Before she became a lobbyist at Messerli Kramer, Courtney learned the ins and outs of the legislative process working as a Legislative Coordinator. Courtney worked at the Department of Administration where she helped to plan the award-winning Minnesota Capitol Grand Opening alongside the Commissioner, policy makers, and influential Minnesotans. She has also managed local campaigns and worked as a law clerk at Barna, Guzy & Steffen, Ltd.



## Courtney Jasper • Attorney



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## Call Today. Begin Today.

- Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- Intensive Outpatient Treatment
- Outpatient Treatment
- Chemical Health Assessments
- Mental Health Services
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Sponsored Housing
- Peer Recovery Support
- Risk Need Responsivity Programming
- Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT)
- Criminogenic Needs Treatment
- Alumni Group

## Telehealth Option Available for all programming including SUD group!

Partners offers individuals with substance or alcohol use a convenient way to access treatment services. With the addition of telehealth programming, we are expanding our reach and helping rural populations overcome shortages of specialized behavioral healthcare and resources. It is a convenient solution for individuals with transportation limitations or a lack of childcare.

### SPECIALIZED PROGRAMMING FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS

Partners Behavioral Healthcare offers cognitive behavioral interventions in conjunction with substance use treatment. 80% of programming is evidence-based and includes Decision Points, Trauma, Illness Management & Recovery (IMR) and Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT). Decision Points curriculum meets corrections requirements, which is what individuals often need to complete upon release. In addition, licensed instructors clinically train counsellors through Decision Points authors, LLC.

### MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Evidence-based care for trauma, anxiety, depression and other presenting needs. Co-occurring disorders are diagnosed at Partners Behavioral Healthcare in conjunction with other health professionals.

### MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT

Partners Behavioral Healthcare offers Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in our goal to provide a "whole patient" approach to the treatment of substance use disorders. MAT bridges the biological and behavioral components of addiction. Research indicates a combination of medication and behavioral therapies can successfully treat substance use disorders and help sustain recovery. MAT has been shown to assist patients in recovery by improving quality of life, level of functioning, and the ability to handle stressors. MAT is evidence-based and is a recommended course of treatment for opioid addiction.

### INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT TREATMENT

Intensive outpatient treatment is a primary treatment program that can be recommended by a clinical comprehensive assessment. Clients participate in group and individual therapy, while working on an individualized treatment plan. Treatment is supported by a multi-disciplinary team including LADC's, Mental Health Therapists (if needed), Peer Recovery Specialists and Case Workers. Intensive outpatient programs occur in non-residential settings and consists of more treatment hours per week than traditional programming.

### OUTPATIENT TREATMENT

Outpatient treatment offers more flexibility than intensive treatment and allows participants to maintain work, family, and personal commitments. Participants can attend sessions in the mornings or evenings and are able to pursue their personal recovery goals without explanation of a prolonged absence. Length of time in treatment depends on a variety of circumstances that are unique to the participant, however most clients remain in programming for 12 to 24 weeks. Once in our program, our clinical professionals will perform ongoing assessments and provide referrals for additional service as needed.

### PEER RECOVERY

We provide every participant with a Peer Recovery Support Specialist who has experienced addiction and are experiencing recovery. Peer Recovery Specialists offer mentoring, assist with housing, transportation, employment, and guidance in navigating community support systems.



Virtual Event

Watch for Registration Information



# 2024 Capitol Day

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

1p.m. - 4:30 p.m.



MORAL RECONATION THERAPY® - MRT

# TARGETED OFFENSE PROGRAMS

*\*Programs will meet all requirements of Minnesota Statute 5188.02*



**DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE**



**SHOP-  
LIFTING**



**ANGER  
MANAGEMENT**

[WWW.PHOENIXRISECOACHING.COM](http://WWW.PHOENIXRISECOACHING.COM)

## Community-based addiction treatment throughout Minnesota

NUWAY Alliance is a nonprofit organization that provides leadership and management to NUWAY®, Cochran Recovery Services, The Gables and the NUWAY Recovery Foundation. With locations throughout Minnesota, we provide a continuum of extended care, including medium-intensity residential, intensive outpatient with recovery residence support, and outpatient. The NUWAY Alliance removes barriers to help people from all walks of life access evidence-based addiction treatment.

**NUWAY**  
Alliance

### All NUWAY Alliance programs

- Serve adults
- GLBTQIA+ safe and friendly
- Trauma informed
- Medication-assisted treatment & recovery friendly
- Accept Medicaid (i.e. PMAP), Medicaid-eligible and commercial insurances

For more information  
contact [info@nuway.org](mailto:info@nuway.org)

[nuway.org](http://nuway.org)





# 2024 MCA Monthly Trainings

Welcome to 2024 from your Education & Training Chairperson, Pat Gerbozy. As the presentation schedule for our monthly workshops is developing for 2024, there are two exciting things happening this year!

First, MCA has been approved for CEU's for the Board of Social Work (starting with the February 16th workshop) and is working with the POST Board to be certified and offer CEU POST credits.

That leads us to the second exciting thing for 2024! MCA will begin hosting in-person training sessions again! They will be held at the **DOC Central Office Location, 1450 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul, MN.** Watch the MCA registration announcements for the locations of those training event. We are working on offering a virtual option as well so watch for more information on the workshops registration becomes available. **Our first in-person workshop will be held on February 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**February 16th – Ethical Issues in Case Management and Counseling**

**March 15th - “Ten Years in the Making – The Evolution of the Treatment of Winona County” ~ *via Zoom***

**April 19th – “ Promoting Equity in the Criminal Justice System; Addressing and Acknowledging System Biases”**

**May 17th – Thrivent Financial Services - North Star Advisor Group**

**Workshops are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month from 9:00 a.m. – noon.**

**[Click here](#) for the link to the MCA Registration Section for all MCA Events**

If you have topic suggestions, please reach out to Pat Gerbozy at [patricia.gerbozy@state.mn.us](mailto:patricia.gerbozy@state.mn.us).

*The Education and Training Committee is looking for committee members. We meet via TEAMS/ZOOM ever couple of months to discuss future speakers or topics to present to MCA members. We are also the host to our monthly presenters.*



Empowering people  
to improve their lives.



P  
PARK AVENUE CENTER

Minneapolis • 612-871-7443  
www.parkavenuecenter.com

## Substance Abuse Treatment

*With our extraordinary team, we provide a full array of services within our facilities.*

**Park's Designated Physicians** provide telehealth services including physicals, medication prescriptions and evaluations, Suboxone, and MAT prescriptions.

**Park's On-site Mental Health Clinic** provides diagnostic assessments, psychological and cognitive functioning testing, individual therapy, and family therapy. Clients can continue to see our mental health team even if they are not in treatment.

**Park's Licensed Social Workers** help clients secure long-term housing, medical insurance, state issued ID, social security card, and needed clothing.

**Park's Registered Nurses** facilitate health education groups and work individually with clients assessing health needs, help secure medications, and help clients connect with primary care, dental and vision services.

**Park's Registered Dietitians** facilitate daily nutritional related groups and work individually with clients identifying and working through needs. They also go to the store with clients transitioning theory into daily practice.



**Celebrate Black History Month in Minneapolis!**

[Black History Events](#) are published on the Meet Minneapolis Web-



**Celebrate Black History Month at the MN History Museum!**

[Black Citizenship in the age of Jim Crow](#) will be on view at the MN History Center February 3rd through June 9th.



### **Article and photo courtesy of the MN Department of Corrections**

On January 8, 2024, ISR Agent Gary Wilfahrt was awarded the Non-Sworn Law Enforcement Professional Service Award at the MN South Central Investigator's Coalition (MSCIC) conference in Mankato. He was nominated by Alex Nelson, who is an agent with the River Valley Drug Task Force. Gary received this award for his collaborative relationship with the Drug Task Force and law enforcement as a whole in his supervision area. Because of Gary's involvement, the task force was able to take down an individual known to be trafficking large volumes of fentanyl and cocaine from the Twin Cities Metro area to the greater Mankato area in late 2022 into early 2023. The task force believed this individual's drugs were involved in numerous overdose deaths, but couldn't prove it.

With the help of Agent Wilfahrt, task force agents and deputies with the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office were able to make contact with Gary's client when he was coming back to Mankato with a large volume of fentanyl and cocaine. This was on Friday, March 10th, 2023 near the midnight hour, when most probation agents would say, "Send me the reports, I'll deal with it on Monday." Agent Wilfahrt showed up after deputies arrived at a scene to check on suspicious behavior involving Gary's client. Gary came to conduct a thorough probation check including a search of his client. The client was subsequently arrested with 790 fentanyl tablets and over 2 ounces of cocaine which Agent Wilfahrt located on his person. Task force agents later located and seized \$22,000 in drug proceeds. Agents were able to identify the client's source of supply and the MN BCA later arrested him as well. Both were federally indicted by the United States Attorney's Office on Possession and Conspiracy to Traffic Controlled Substances and are currently in federal custody awaiting sentencing.

Special Agent Nelson stated "Without the help of Agent Wilfahrt, the task force would likely still be working this case and dealing with countless drug overdoses. Agent Wilfahrt does not manage his clients behind a computer screen at a desk. Agent Wilfahrt is a pro-active probation agent who is not afraid to work, is active out in the field and is well deserving of this award. Agent Wilfahrt's work ethic aligns with the very motto of the MSCIC Group; "Power is in sharing information."

**Congratulations, Gary, on this special award!**

We offer a simple way to  
help people  
struggling with  
addiction.

freedom from addiction starts here.

#### **EASY INTAKE PROCESS**

- Substance Use Disorder treatment provided in a structured therapeutic community; work with our admissions team to complete an assessment.
- Full continuum of care:
  - Residential Treatment
  - Long Term Recovery
  - Outpatient and Telehealth
  - Ongoing recovery and transitional care
- Direct access available
- Transportation provided

#### **APPLY OR MAKE A REFERRAL**

- Fax in a completed assessment or contact admissions
- Complete an assessment via telehealth (by phone or by Zoom)
- Walk-ins available by location
- Contact our Admissions Team: 612-373-3366



*Photo Credit: Lee Kloos  
Members of the "Hags" follow the Vikings to Atlanta, their 20th stadium in 20 years.*

Former MCA President and DOC Agent Pat Booker was recently featured in a story by Kare 11's Boyd Huppert. The group of friends have traveled to 20 stadiums in 20 years.

They have shared many memories over the years and enjoy both wins and losses. They are true fans, but their love for each other has given them so much more.

You can read about their adventures by [clicking here](#).





Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance MMS Lab Services specializes in providing electronic monitoring systems Alcohol Kiosk Testing, Lab Services and Drug Testing Products for law enforcement, Drug Courts, Health & Human Services, and County corrections. Midwest provides a significantly different approach to the monitoring of clients. Midwest provides high-quality, high technology remote offender monitoring, alcohol testing, tracking, and surveillance products. Midwest offers multiple systems and virtually unlimited flexibility to Law enforcement, Drug Courts, Health & Human Services, and County corrections A “true alternative”; Midwest provides a very high level of practical experience, know-how, and technological integration to provide for low cost, effective and efficient methods of monitoring, and holding offenders

accountable. Midwest works with our customers to create the services that will fit customer needs. Midwest monitoring provides a 24/7 call center and will do client installs 7 days a week. Midwest Monitoring works with the counties helping to maintain public safety. For more information you can contact

Char Wilson  
612-590-9839

[Char.wilson@midwestmonitoring.com](mailto:Char.wilson@midwestmonitoring.com)

Or visit our web site <http://www.midwestmonitoring.com/>



[rseden.org](http://rseden.org)  
651-287-1600

RS EDEN Corrections Services operates three community corrections facilities to serve men and women. Utilizing evidence-based practices and gender responsive programming, we provide a safe environment for clients to make internal changes to promote rehabilitation, while ensuring public safety.

RS EDEN Supportive Housing plays an active role in the development and operation of affordable, safe, and supportive housing throughout the Twin Cities. We oversee nine distinct projects serving youth, singles, and families.

RSI LABORATORIES specializes in drugs of abuse testing for corrections, chemical dependency, and human service agencies. Our lab is accredited by the College of American Pathologists (C.A.P.) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (C.L.I.A.).

RS EDEN Recovery Services has a reputation of working successfully with people who have substance use disorders. We offer inpatient and outpatient programs, specializing in serving culturally diverse, poly-drug addicted adult males and females.

Since 1971, RS EDEN has been a leader in delivering effective community human services in Minnesota. Our mission is to provide a spectrum of care—recovery and support services—to facilitate self-sufficiency for individuals, families, and communities. We believe that with structure, stability, and accountability people can and do change.

Learn more about available career opportunities at [rseden.org](http://rseden.org).



[rsilaboratories.org](http://rsilaboratories.org)  
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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](mailto:Tara.Rathman@state.mn.us)

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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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