



## 2016 Annual Committee Reports October, 2016

### Annual Training Institute

Shannon Fette, Co-Chair

Amy Moeckel, Co-Chair

Dan Raden, Co-Chair

#### Arrangements:

Tom Redmond, Co-Chair

Tom Jungmann, Co-Chair

#### Program:

Jolene Rebertus, Co-Chair

Sherry Bohn, Co-Chair

#### Members:

Gary Atkins

Pat Leibel-Beiring

Tom Beiring

Dustin Bohn

Keith Craft

Cynthia Doty

Stephanie Duhme

Amanda Evenski

Margit Heald

Hal Pickett

Chuck Hughes

Jessica Johnson

Lisa Jones

Merlin Kath

Shelli Monio

Marabelle Morgan

Brent Sharon

#### Registration:

Vicki Lanners, Co-Chair

Jean Wipper, Co-Chair

#### Members:

Paula Anderson

Arti Cunningham

Collin Gau

Michelle Johnson

John King

Dora Krogh

Andrew Leiffort

Rico Lopez

Mark Ehlenz

#### Resource Fair:

Tom Paitich, Co-Chair

Jason Mereness, Co-Chair

#### Vendor Hospitality/Networking:

Raul Sanchez, Co-Chair

Christine Schweich, Co-Chair

This year the Annual Fall institute Training will be held at Grandview Lodge in Nisswa, MN. The training will be held for 2.5 days on October 26-28, 2015.

The committee did a great job of putting together a well-rounded training that will supply attendees with new perspectives and skills. Many sponsorships this year created evening networking events that are sure to bring in a crowd. Attendees at the conference are continuing to grow and currently around 375.

2017 Fall Institute will be at Grandview Lodge, Nisswa, MN October 25 through October 27 then 2018 in Duluth, MN.

**Awards Committee**  
**Michelle Smith, Past President 2015 - Chair**

**Committee Members:**

Monique Drier      2014 MCA President  
Karen Evans        2013 MCA President  
Deb Anderson      2012 MCA President  
Terry Fawcett      2011 MCA President

The awards committee selected winners in each category after careful consideration of numerous nominations. There are so many staff in corrections doing outstanding things. It was my pleasure to serve as the chair on this committee and I look forward to next year.

We'd like to thank everyone who took time to nominate a co-worker.

Congratulations to all the 2016 award winners!!

**Corrections Person of the Year**

Terry Carlson, Assistant Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Corrections

**Professional Achievement Facility**

Lynette Wold, Corrections Manufacturing Specialist  
MCF-Shakopee

**Professional Achievement Field Services**

Chad Christofferson, Corrections Agent  
Minnesota Department of Corrections  
Grand Rapids Field Services

**Technology Award**

ODocS Team  
Barbara Blackburn, Tracey Gardner, Kristina Politoski  
Minnesota Department of Corrections

**President's Award**

Damascus Way  
Rochester

**Board of Director's Award**

MCA Fall Institute Committee

**Thank you to 180 Degrees, Inc.**  
**for sponsoring the pre-award ceremony social hour!**

## Education & Training Committee

Jon Rowe, Co-Chair

Ryan Busch, Co-Chair

### Committee Members:

Nancy Johnson	DOC-Martin County Probation
Ryan Busch	Wright County Probation
Sarah Eischens	DOC – Mankato
Karla Henrichs	Blue Earth County Corrections
Jon Rowe	DOC – Marshall
Katie Campbell	DOC – Faribault County Probation
Jenny Guse	Blue Earth County Corrections
Dennis Karp	Olmsted County
Cory Felda	MCF-Stillwater
Jeff Passari	St. Louis County

The MCA Education and Training Committee held its Annual Spring Workshop on March 31, 2016 at the Rasmussen College in Mankato, MN. [Emerging Drug Trends: What is Happening from Use to Treatment....](#)

We had an excellent turnout for the training with 74 individuals and 17 vendors registered. There were multiple speakers that presented at a high level and positive comments about the topic, venue, and speakers was well received. Our net income from this event was \$5,378.10.

The MCA Education and Training committee is very thankful to all of the speakers, vendors, and attendees that made this training day very pleasant for all. We are thankful to have support for break sponsors Teen Challenge and Rasmussen and could not do this training without the support of MCA.

The MCA Education and Training Committee is also currently in the process of planning our 2017 Spring Workshop and you Save the Date for March 23, 2017, in Rochester, MN. We are narrowing down topics, speakers, and venue. Continue to look for further details in the future on the 2017 Spring Workshop as well as further training options for 2017.

Thanks to all of the committee members for your continued efforts to make these trainings a success!!

## Juvenile Justice Jane Schmid, Chair

### Committee Members:

Fred Bernard - Washington County  
Julie Duff - Olmsted County  
Andrea Emery - Goodhue County Court Services  
Richard Gardell - Retiree  
Rick Gieseke - Rice County Community Corrections  
Mark Haase - MCA JJ21 Project Manager  
Kathy Halvorson - MCF-Red Wing  
Bryan E. Harris – Cass County Probation Dept.  
Sherry Johnson - Pine County Probation  
Keri Lorenz - Scott County Community Corrections  
Mike McGrath - Washington County Community Corrections  
Laraine Mickelson - MCF-Moose Lake  
Jackie Nichols - Carver County Court Services  
Jennifer Nimps - Scott County  
Keri Pelton - MCF-Red Wing  
Hal Pickett Headway Emotional Health Services  
Dorie Rose - MCF-Stillwater  
Shon Thieren - MCF-Red Wing  
Monty Vikdal - DFO Community Corrections

MCA JJC meets monthly, every second Thursday of the month at the DOC Central Office in St. Paul. Thus far in 2016, our committee has held eight meetings addressing a variety of juvenile justice issues detailed below.

One of our committee's major goals for 2016 involves a commitment to a follow-up to the JJ21 (Juvenile Justice) Project coordinated by Mark Haase in 2014. The 2014 JJ21 Project consisted of eleven forums held throughout the state, inviting stake holders (PO's, SW's, attorneys, judges, school personnel, legislators, etc.) for their input on issues needing attention in juvenile justice. Findings from the 2014 JJ21 Project determined six significant issues in juvenile justice across the state (see JJ21 2014 Report). As a follow-up to the 2014 project, JJAC agreed to fund efforts to create a tentative working plan for JJ21 in 2016, outlining an Advisory Group (consisting of JJC and JJAC members, meeting 2-4 times in 2016, including input via email/phone). At the initial advisory group meeting in February 2016, the group selected two of the six issue areas to address in 2016; deciding 1) *Mental health*—improving and expanding mental health and chemical dependency diagnosis and treatment and 2) *Crossover youth*—improving collaboration between juvenile delinquency and child welfare systems to support youth and their families jointly. Two forums were held in May 2016, discussing mental health/substance abuse and crossover youth research, trends, and tool kits for practitioners in the field. Findings from the forums and additional surveys to stake holders are planned to present models for addressing mental health/substance abuse and crossover youth resulting in a report, which would later be submitted to the legislature. The JJ21 2016 Project is projected to be a three year project, addressing all six juvenile justice issues, two each year, with finding reports to the legislature.

Also this year, JJC collaborated with MCA Adult Legislative Committee to review and provide input on juvenile issues in the legislative agenda draft for 2017. JJC supports elimination of the mandatory sentence of LWOP for juveniles, revision of the juvenile POR, 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. This year one of our committee members proposed looking into talks at the DHS level regarding placement beds around the state. We are finding our juvenile clients are on extensive waiting lists for (6-7 months) residential treatment and (2-3 months) for corrections programs. We are experiencing particular struggles with juveniles who have significant mental health issues with aggressive behaviors. Agents are having to seek 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.

## Legislative Liaison Cal Saari

2016 was the second year of the biennium and as we reported, we didn't think much would happen in the Legislature and proved to be the case. Legislative sessions did not start until March and it was a very quick session. At the start of the year, we attended several joint sessions of the House Public Safety Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee as they were looking at changes in the sentencing guidelines. Another group, the Prison Population Task Force, also conducted hearings and looked at various solutions to the prison population issues. During the Session however, neither the House nor the Senate showed much interest in moving any of the proposals forward. Everything kind of lingered through the Session and in the final few weeks a group got together and eventually agreed on some changes to the sentencing guidelines, particularly as they impacted drug sentences. In fact, our Legislative Update Workshop at the Fall Institute on Wednesday afternoon will feature key people in that compromise language work group. Commissioner Roy, Mark Haase and Sarah Walker will lead the discussion and talk about the impact thus far of that legislation.

Other than that, it was pretty much a "do nothing legislative season". The polarization within the two party system led to gridlock at the end of the Session and the Legislature wasn't even able to pass a bonding bill even though this was the typical year for passage of a bonding package. Instead, the party leadership of both major parties pointed fingers at one another and decided to go home and campaign for re-election! Even several attempts to bring about some agreement on a bonding package through a special session fell through, until finally it was just too late in the year to make that effort possible.

Another high note took place on March 1st at the DOC Central Office where we held a Legislative Update Session that included presentations from several Legislators from both parties, and the leadership of the House Public Safety and Senate Judiciary Committees. This session was very well attended and overall feedback was very positive. We did hear from a number of folks though, that although this format worked well, they hoped we would return to a special breakfast meeting during the Session as we have done in the past. The MCA Legislative Committee has also had this discussion and that this point I think we may return to the breakfast session sometime early in 2017.

2017 will be the beginning of a new biennium with the Legislature reporting on January 3, 2017. The November elections will be upon us shortly and we anxiously await for the results to see which party will control the chambers of the House and Senate and work with the DFL Governor Mark Dayton. A new biennium brings new people to the floor of the Legislature, and a certain enthusiasm to those of us who work on your behalf at the Legislature. The MCA Legislative Committee will be presenting our 2017 Legislative Agenda at the Fall Institute where we look for feedback from our membership. Once the agenda is finalized and approved by the MCA Board of Directors, I will begin my personal contacts with Legislators, particularly those who will serve on Public Safety/Corrections/Judiciary Committees to assure that they are well informed of our organization and what our priorities are.

I want to thank MCA, its Board of Directors, and the many committee members for giving me the opportunity to work on legislative issues on your behalf. I'm excited again to have another new Legislature in our future and with your continued support, we'll aggressively continue this work on behalf of our members. Contact me at any time with your comments or concerns. I hope to have the opportunity to talk with many of you at the Fall Institute!

Calvin Saari  
Legislative Liaison  
[sisuwithsaari@aol.com](mailto:sisuwithsaari@aol.com)

## **Nominating Committee**

**Laura Anderson, Chair**

### **Committee Members:**

Deneen Clemons - MCF-Oak Park Heights  
Monique Drier - Hennepin County  
Paul Gammel - MCF-Rush City  
Lloyd Grachek - MCF-Stillwater  
Frank Jackson - MCF-Lino Lakes  
Mary Karl - DOC Field Services  
Thomas Jensen - Freeborn County Corrections  
Rich Molitor - Nicollet County Corrections

### **Report:**

On Friday, February 19, 2016, the Nominating Committee met to discuss potential candidates for the 2017 Executive Board. Several names were submitted to the Board for approval. The names were reviewed, approved and the potential candidates were contacted by the Nominating Committee. A biography and profile picture of those interested in running was requested.

In August, a voting e-blast was sent to current MCA members. The 2017 Executive Board Officer Ballots came to a close on Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> and 112 responses were received. The votes have been tallied and the winners will be revealed at the Annual Membership Business Meeting at Grand View Lodge on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. A promotional flyer was created to encourage attendance at the meeting in order to find out the results.

The following are the Executive Board Positions and the candidates who ran:

**President-Elect (will serve as president in 2018):** Lori Korts (MN DOC – Victim Assistance and Restorative Justice), Mark Groves (MN Dept. of Employment and Economic Development) & Connie Hartwig (MN DOC – MCF-Red Wing)

**Vice President:** Ryan Busch (Wright County Court Services), Monique Drier (Human Services and Public Health Dept. - Hennepin County) & Robyn Wood (Dodge-Fillmore-Olmsted (DFO) Community Corrections)

**Secretary:** Gina Evans (Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge), Rebecca Fratzke (MN DOC – Reentry Services) & Sarah Wittenberg (MN DOC – MCF-Lino Lakes)

**Treasurer:** Jennifer Guse (Blue Earth County Probation) & Melissa Paquette (MN DOC - MCF-Faribault)

## **Sponsorship/Membership Committee**

**Mark Groves, Co-Chair**

**Dayna Burmeister, Co-Chair**

**Dan Kempf, Co-Chair**

### **Members:**

Susan Norton

Ruth Harleen

Lisa Olson

Tyler Grandstrand

Michael Durham

Tammy Cortes

Connie Hartwig

Heidi Novack

### **Goals for 2016:**

- The Committee will promote current incentives of being a MCA member on the MCA website and in the Forum and continue to develop additional incentives for members.
- The Committee will work with the Training & Education committee to develop more training opportunities for current MCA members and promote MCA at trainings.
- The Committee will develop new ways to recruit new members/sponsorship and build MCA membership base and sponsorship opportunities.
- The Committee will staff the MCA booth at the Annual Fall Conference and future Corrections conferences.

The Membership committee and Sponsorship Committee joined forces in order to make a more concerted effort to broaden membership through recruitment of new sponsors and members. The goal is to increase awareness of MCA in the facilities and to target public and private-sector agencies/businesses to grow membership & sponsorship and provide additional member benefits. The MCA booth will be staffed for the annual MCA Fall Institute. There are currently 642 active MCA members going into October 2016.

## **Student Services Committee**

**Mary Oberstar; Chair**

### **Committee Members:**

Amanda Anthony, DOC MCF-OPH  
Lloyd Grachek, DOC MCF-STW  
Mark Groves, DEED  
Melissa Holthaus, Wright County  
Sarah Kedrowski, DOC Field Services  
Nathan Miller, Wright County  
Sarah Miller, Blue Earth County  
Wendy Ortiz, DOC Field Services  
Natalie Radich, DOC MCF-OPH  
Sherrise Truesdale-Moore, Minnesota State University – Mankato

Mary Oberstar was announced as the new chair in 2016; Chair Lori Korts was unable to continue as the Student Service Chairperson.

This past year the Student Services Committee has discussed plans for building & maintaining relationships with students & schools throughout the State. Areas discussed and to move forward with are:

- Speaker bureau flyer – speaking at colleges and high schools
- Internship coordination
- Student mentors
- Checking with colleges for their needs from us
- Reviewing membership form for revisions such as adding a spot for area of interest vs yes/no for interest for mentors, and any other relevant information for the form

We staffed booths at career fairs at:

- Century College
- Fon Du Lac Tribal and Community College
- Winona State University, Normandale Community College
- Normandale Community College (in partnership with Concordia University)
- LEO in Brooklyn Center

Several new items for the display were requested and received. A couple committee members thoroughly reviewed all booth display items and revised, revamped, renewed, and/or removed what needed changes.

The members of the committee stepped up to the plate and covered these important events, working around busy schedules & other things that life throws at us to ensure events were covered! They are very much appreciated!

# Technology Committee

## David Heath, Chair

### Committee Members:

Victor Wanchena - DOC – Current assignment Assistant Warden – MCF-Stillwater  
Mary Dickinson – Volunteers of America  
Dan Bick – Minnesota Department of Corrections (MNIT)  
Dennis Doffing – Satellite Tracking of People LLC  
Joseph Ventre – MFC – Faribault  
Jason Sampair – MFC – Stillwater  
Bryan Milliron - MCF-Stillwater  
Mark Groves – Dept. of Employment & Economic Development

### Guest members:

Gary Kalstabakken – Product Manager - MN Justice Information Services  
Jeff Schultz – Former member – Chisago County Probation

### Report:

#### **Technical Work for the MCA board:**

The two primary projects for the board this year were:

1. Locating a company that could scan MCA archive documents into an electronic format. This was completed by Sheldon Printing in Duluth and the archival data was burned to DVDs.
2. Setting up a Technical booth at the 2016 MCA Conference as a resource for members to ask questions and present information that has potential value to MCA members.

### Forum Articles:

#### **Six technical articles were submitted to the Forum this year.**

1. December 2015 Issue – Drone No Fly Zones
2. Feb. 2016 Issue – Best of 2016 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas
3. April 2016 Issue – Security Robots
4. June 2016 Issue – GPS Bullets
5. August 2016 – Issue – Mobile Public Safety Video System
6. October 2016 – Issue – Cell Phone Forensics – University Lab Help

### Technology committee members:

We lost a few members this year and added others. Some members had to resign due to job constraints while others were recruited. We are currently running nine members in the Technical Committee and also have a couple of guest members. We have a very good cross section of technology skills and work environments within the group. Our discussions have been very good and with a larger group, we hope to have enough attendance to hold a meeting most months. Technical meetings are scheduled every month and we averaged just a bit over bi-monthly meetings. We have a few recently recruited new members bringing considerable knowledge to the table and hope to have excellent discussions in 2017.