



Volume 38 • No. 1 • February 2015

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President's Message
Michelle Smith
2015 MCA President

Welcome to the first edition of the 2015 MCA Forum. As your newly elected President for the 2015 conference year I am looking forward to meeting many members at upcoming events. My goal while I serve as President will be to assist in any way I can all the great volunteers we have working on committees. MCA as an organization has remained strong due to the time and talents of its membership. I would like to first thank each of my committee chairs for agreeing to put in those extra hours at meetings and events so that all of our MCA members benefit from great training.

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Co-Chairs Amy Moeckel and Dan Raden

Education & Training Committee

Co-Chairs Ryan Busch and Nancy Johnson

Juvenile Justice Committee

Chair Richard Gardell

Legislative/Adult Justice Committee

Chair Mark Bliven

Legislative Liaison

Cal Saari

Membership Committee

Co-Chairs Dayna Burmeister and Dan Kempf

Nomination Committee

Chair Laura Anderson

Student Services

Chair Lori Korts

Technology Committee

Chair David Heath

Please take time to visit our MCA website for more details on committees, trainings and membership.

It will be my pleasure to visit with those of you who plan to attend the upcoming Spring Workshop on March 27, 2015. A big thank you to Lori Korts for organizing several career

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fairs throughout Minnesota working to promote Corrections as an excellent career choice.

As of this writing our 2015 Capitol Day was held. Many thanks to Cal Saari and all of those who assisted with making the event a huge success. Ensuring representation from our MN Legislative House and Senate provides for a great opportunity to our members to hear about the issues at the Capitol and what to look for in upcoming sessions and bills that may impact Corrections.

In closing I would really like to encourage members to contact us if you have ideas for trainings so that you get the most out of your MCA membership. This organization is built on working together, learning together, and teaching others about the great things Minnesota Corrections does.

Michelle Smith
MCA President
michelle.smith@state.mn.us

Education & Training Committee **MCA Spring Workshop 2015**

The Stolen Ones....
Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking
March 27, 2015 - 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Monticello Community Center
Monticello, MN

Sexual exploitation and trafficking are present – though often hidden – in every community in Minnesota. The Safe Harbor law, effective August 1, 2014, represents a paradigm shift in how Minnesota addresses this challenge, viewing exploited youth as victims and focusing on holding traffickers and buyers accountable. This session will provide corrections professionals with an understanding of this issue and Minnesota's response, with additional perspectives from law enforcement, prosecution, child protection, and service providers.

\$40 Member registration / \$75 Non-member registration
Exhibitor Opportunities also available.
Lunch is included in this full day training event.

For more details and registration, go to the MCA website at www.mn-ca.org

**Minnesota Corrections Association
Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers
Minnesota Community Corrections Association
presents:
Legislative Update Workshop 2015
April 1, 2015
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
DOC Central Office
Pung Rooms**

We are pleased to announce a collaborative MCA/MACPO/MCCA Legislative Update workshop. This forum provides members information on what is being addressed during the current legislative session. This is an excellent opportunity to ask questions about our state of affairs. We invite you to attend this notable event to find out what's in store and learn how various state departments, county agencies and other social services organizations are dealing with changes. What are the legislative actions that could affect the work we all do in the future? Come and join us, ask a few questions, find some answers and, help generate ideas and discussion.

**This is a free event, but you must register to attend – space is limited!
Go to the MCA website for more details and registration
www.mn-ca.org**

**Legislative Affairs – February 2015
CAL SAARI
MCA Legislative Liaison**



Report on Legislative Affairs:

This is intended to provide updated information on activities at the Legislature. As you all know, the new biennium opened on January 6, 2015, with 26 new Legislators. That appears to be about average in new members over the past several years. What was somewhat unexpected was the number of new members assigned to the House Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee chaired by Rep. Tony Cornish. He became the Committee Chair again this year with the Republican takeover of the House of Representatives in the last election. Several experienced DFL'ers on this Committee were not assigned to this Committee this Session, so almost half of the

House Committee are new, or at least new to this Committee. This has expanded our work somewhat this year with a larger learning curve for members not familiar with the work of this Committee. The DFL retained the majority in the Senate so the Senate Judiciary Division continues to be led by Senator Ron Latz, with Senator Warren Limmer serving as minority lead.

It has been a busy six weeks and the various committees has just really started scheduling hearings on introduced bills on a regular basis. As of today there have been 985 bills introduced in the House and 909 in the Senate. We have noted 78 of these bills to our legislative tracker system. All of these bills have been referred to the House Public Safety Committee or the Senate Judiciary Division. Some of the new proposals are bills we've seen in previous years, others are new in concept and responses to perceived new laws. I'm not going to spend a lot of time in this report summarizing these bills as you can follow the tracking of the bills on the MCA web site.

The second tracker report should be completed and posted later this week. I do want to mention one bill, however, as it's been getting a tremendous amount of media attention. SF 355, authored by Senator Champion, is the Voting Restoration bill, and it is scheduled for an early hearing this week on Thursday, February 19th, at Noon in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The House companion bill, HF 342 is authored by Rep. Cornish and 34 other House members have signed on as co-authors to date. I'd expect both bills to have hearings in the near future and move on to floor consideration in both Chambers.

Two other bills to put on your radar are SF 878 (Latz) and HF 849 (Cornish), which are companion bills and are called the Criminal Justice Finance Bill. They are comprehensive spending bills for the new budget that hopefully will be passed prior to adjournment in May.

I'd like to use the remainder of my space for this issue to report on the results of our 2015 Corrections Capitol Day event which was held last week on Monday, February 9th at the Kelly Inn. We had about 100 attendees at this breakfast meeting in which we had twelve different presenters, including seven Legislators. We heard from representatives from our partner organizations, MACCAC, MACPO, MCCA, and also from Commissioner Tom Roy. Mark Haase provided a brief overview of the Juvenile Justice 21 survey conducted recently under a grant to MCA from the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee.

Most of the morning session was devoted to hearing from various Legislators who accepted our invitation to present. Presenting extensive comments were Rep. Tony Cornish,(R) Chair of the House Public Safety Committee, Rep. Brian Johnson (R) a law enforcement officer representing the Cambridge area and Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee, Rep. Ryan Winkler (DFL) , a fifth term Legislator from Golden Valley, Rep. Raymond Dehn (DFL) from Minneapolis who also serves on that committee and two DFL Legislators who previously served on the Committee, Rep. Carly Melin from Hibbing area and Rep. Joe Mullery, a long serving representative from Minneapolis, and Senator Warren Limmer (R) from Maple Grove and minority lead on the Senate Judiciary Division. Each of these Legislators provided us with their very candid perceptions of the current legislative session and discussed some of the needs they wanted to pursue.

There were a couple of themes we all experienced from these presentations. Several of them talked about the political polarization we've experienced in Minnesota in recent years and the feeling that this definitely had an impact on the election this past November. They all clearly indicated the need to cooperate and work together for the "good of the state". Collaboration on both

sides of the aisle is something that's been missing in recent years, and folks that day emphasized the need to work together. To show as evidence to this effort is the large number of bipartisan bills we've seen introduced with co-authors coming from both major parties.

The second theme from our speakers was their desire to hear more from their constituents. We've emphasized this to our members and it was nice to have this mentioned by all of the Legislators that really wanted and look forward to meeting with and hearing from people who live in their districts. Many of us were impressed with the sincerity and candid observations of the Legislators. Our thanks to them and everyone who were present that helped make this another very successful "Corrections" day with Legislators. All of the comments I heard from attendees were very positive. However, we would still like to have feedback from everyone. I've asked the MCA Administrative Manager Deb Beltz to send all the meeting participants an evaluation form and we'd appreciate your comments as we strive to provide you all with meaningful legislative updates. If you have any questions or comments please make contact with me.

Calvin Saari
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Techie Talk



Best of the 2015 CES

By David Heath - Technical Committee Chair

The Consumer Electronic Show (CES) is the premier technology show in the USA. The 2015 CES show wrapped up in January of this year, and was the largest show in history. There was over 2.2 million net square feet of exhibit space, featuring more than 3,600 exhibitors, including a record number of startups.

It is a huge event, presenting every gadget and high tech device emerging in the modern world. Many organizations pick their favorite items at the show, based on a variety of different criteria. This year, I found Digital Trends Awards link below to be a good one, sorting out the complete information overload that is presented at the show.

<http://www.digitaltrends.com/ces/top-tech-of-ces-2015-award-winners/>

Some of the more notable products I liked in the Digital Trend link are:

Sling TV: This product won Best of Show, and is an Internet TV service for \$ 20 per month that brings in many of the same channels as satellite or cable TV. Some of the channels are ESPN, CNN, TNT, TBS and others streamed live across the internet. Combine this with Netflix for movies, and maybe you can cancel the expensive cable/dish bills and stream all your video across the internet.

Home Video: LG's 4K TV lineup, including the EG9900, a 77-inch flexible 4K OLED TV with a curved or flat screen display. 4K TVs have 4 times as many pixels as HDMI 1080P. Our eyes might be the limitation here though, in actually spotting the detail difference between 4K and HDMI.

Mobile: LG's G Flex Phone 2 was the fast phone Digital Trends tested, and had great graphics and a curved frame, making it easier to hold and use. Here is a quote I came across from a user. "The curve, especially at 5.5-inches, does almost everything better. Simply using the screen is more comfortable, since your thumb naturally arcs outward when scrolling, and the slight curve draws your attention inward instead of just being a blank slate. This phone has been in my pocket for about five days now, and honestly it just feels like pure future"

Smart Wearables: Definitely the big trend at the show, and if you can wear it, someone is trying to make it smart. Do some research, and you will find a plethora of different smart watches with built in GPS, UV Ray warnings, all forms of fitness monitoring, all the way to the weird technology of a Smart Belt, that will tighten or loosen before and after a big meal. Digital Trends liked the smart eyeglasses and thought they actually looked pretty good too. When you hear the buzz words, "Internet of Things", smart gadgets like these, all connected to the internet, is what people mean. Gartner has projected 25 billion internet attached devices by the year 2020. This will give network administrators nightmares trying to control what rides on the company network for that internet access.

Home Appliance: Samsung Active Wash. A new washing machine with a sink built into it. This would be great for a tiny laundry room without a wash tub nearby.

Computing: Dell's new XPS 13 comes as close to the ideal Windows experience as any notebook we've seen for entry MSRP of \$799.

Automotive: Available on the 2016 Q7, the Audi Tablet is the first of its kind, and serves as both an infotainment device and next-level automotive tool. Constructed to automotive standards, it can endure both extreme heat and car crashes. The Audi Tablet isn't just useful in-car; owners can take the tablet with them and control their car remotely ... or just use it as a normal tablet. Hacking car computers has been in the news recently. Hopefully Audi has that part covered, but I wouldn't count on it. It will probably be a constant ongoing battle of hackers exploiting automotive software updates, just like we see with regular office computers and Windows updates.

Sports and Fitness: Cerevo XON Snow-1. This product uses technology in the bindings to capture snowboarding analytics. It tracks things like board flex and weight distribution. The Snow-1 smart bindings may not necessarily make you a better snowboarder, per se, but they will let you see where you went wrong when it comes to mastering snowboarding tricks.

Cool Tech: Thync Mood Enhancer - Digital Trends gives out three awards for technology that does not fall into the other categories. Thync is a mind-altering drug for the digital age. It's a wearable device which either replicates the calming effect of a glass of wine at lunch, or gives the energy boost of a double espresso; using electrical stimulation delivered directly to your brain. It was developed by neuro scientists and hooks sensors to your temples. Digital trends tried it and said it works, and is available in 2015.

This product seemed creepy to me, messing with our brains. Maybe it's just me, but I would rather have a real glass or wine or cup of coffee, and also loosen my own belt if needed. Where this technology is all going and the imagination driving it is amazing.

Maybe Rod Serling said it best long ago, in his famous TV show introduction:

“There is a fifth dimension beyond that which is known to man. It is a dimension as vast as space and as timeless as infinity. It is the middle ground between light and shadow, between science and superstition, and it lies between the pit of man’s fears, and the summit of his knowledge. This is the dimension of imagination. It is an area which we call ... The Twilight Zone.”

In the future, this will no doubt be a sound document, emitting the Twilight Zone sound as you read his quote.

I am providing a 2nd link to Engadget, who is the Official Awards Judge at the show, and who they liked the best. There are many amazing products here, too. Take a peak for a 2nd opinion.

<http://www.engadget.com/2015/01/08/best-of-ces-2015-winners/>



Save the Date

October 20-23, 2015

Student Services Career Fair – October 20

MCA Annual Training Institute – October 21-23

**Verizon Wireless Center
Mankato, MN**

Recidivism Risk Assessment: What Correctional Professionals Need to Know

By Jerrod Brown & Jay P. Singh

With the jail and prison population of the United States having risen over 500% in the past 30 years and the significant costs associated with community supervision, the assessment and subsequent management of recidivism risk has become a public safety priority. Once an inexact science that used markers of cultural deviance to predict recidivism – for example, tattoos and mohawks – the field of risk assessment has grown rapidly over the past several decades and currently has a major impact on criminal justice and forensic mental health systems throughout the country. Given that the majority of states have implemented an evidence-based risk assessment protocol, it is important that correctional officers and administrators, parole board members, correctional mental health therapists, and release planners be aware of developments in this field. To aid in this mission, we present below four fast facts that all correctional professionals should know about recidivism risk assessment:

- 1. Absolute vs. Relative Thresholds of Risk.** Recidivism risk assessments can establish an absolute threshold of risk, a relative threshold of risk, or a combination of both. An absolute threshold of risk is established using historical information that will not change over time. This form of risk may be useful in making initial classification decisions, but may not be helpful in rehabilitation planning or monitoring. A relative threshold of risk is established using dynamic information that could change over time. This form of risk may aid in the identification of treatment targets to reduce recidivism risk, but necessitates that a client's risk be re-assessed on multiple occasions to measure changes. Research has shown that a combination of both absolute and relative risk estimates produces the most accurate recidivism predictions.
- 2. Criminogenic vs. Non-criminogenic Needs.** Recidivism risk assessments are most useful when used to identify and address those risk factors most likely to lead to acts of recidivism. For example, imagine there are two offenders convicted of domestic violence, one who only harmed his wife when drunk and the other who harmed his wife regardless of whether he was intoxicated or not, substance use treatment should be prioritized for the first man but perhaps not the second. In other words, rather than targeting just any risk factor, treatment for risk factors most likely causally linked with recidivism should be prioritized.
- 3. The Importance of Responsivity.** Responsivity refers to the consideration of individual differences during risk assessment and management. By tailoring classification and rehabilitation strategies to individuals, the likelihood of these strategies being successful improves dramatically. For example, imagine we were working in a correctional facility where there were two forms of Anger Management Treatment being offered – the first is one-on-one with a case manager and the other is group-based. Now say we have a new offender enter the facility who is quite shy and introverted – it would make sense that they would do better in a one-on-one setting than if asked to open up or share with a group.

4. Use Risk Assessment Tools. There is currently agreement that unstructured professional judgments of recidivism risk are both unreliable and inaccurate. The past several decades have seen the development of structured instruments designed to improve the transparency and consistency of the recidivism risk assessment process. Research suggests that these risk assessment tools produce significantly higher rates of reliability and accuracy, with no single instrument performing best. For assistance in determining which of the over 400 risk assessment tools has the best “goodness of fit” with your jurisdiction, contact the independent consultation team at the Global Institute of Forensic Research (services@gifrinc.com).

Biographies

Jerrold Brown, MA, MS, MS, MS, is the Treatment Director for Pathways Counseling Center, Inc. Pathways provides programs and services benefitting individuals impacted by mental illness and addictions. Jerrod is also the founder and CEO of the American Institute for the Advancement of Forensic Studies (AIAFS) and the lead developer and program director of an online graduate degree program in Forensic Mental Health from Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota. Jerrod is also currently pursuing his doctorate degree in psychology.

Jay P. Singh, PhD, is the founder of the Global Institute of Forensic Research, specializing in providing cutting-edge research, training, and software solutions to mental health, correctional, and legal professionals working in both general care and forensic settings around the world. To receive comprehensive summaries of every recidivism risk assessment study published each month in a podcast version that is eligible for Continuing Education credit, check out the Global Institute of Forensic Research’s Executive Bulletin service available at www.gifrinc.com/services/bulletin

About the MCA FORUM

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

Articles may be submitted to the 2015 *FORUM* editor **Marc Bloomquist** at marc.bloomquist@state.mn.us. Articles should not be of the nature of a commercial solicitation of products or services; rather, they should be informative on topics of interest to MCA membership at large.

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