

MCA FORUM

Volume 46 No. 4

July / August



REFLECT & REFOCUS

mca-mn@hotmail.com

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

MCA website: www.mn-ca.org

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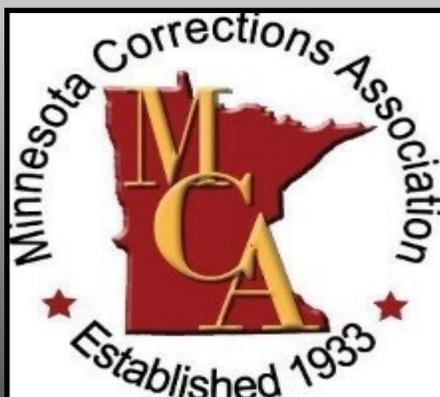
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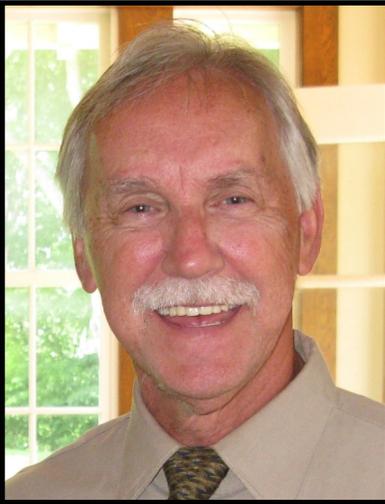
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Join MCA Today



President's Message

Mark Groves, 2023 MCA President

Howdy! Well, . . . I am half-way through my 2023 MCA President role. It is a special honor and a privilege to serve you as president of MCA. I am especially grateful with our talented Executive Committee (Laura Anderson, Debbie Beltz, Carter Diers, Latonya Reeves, Jane Schmid, Robyn Wood).

I am even more gratified and motivated by all that we are accomplishing with our 2023 MCA board chairs and committee members. Together, we accomplish so much more.

MCA Picnic

We are looking forward to a fun-filled afternoon at the MCA picnic on August 10th. Our Executive Board will meet followed by a shortened Full Board meeting, followed by the picnic.

MCA is ordering a variety of wrap sandwiches; the MCA Board Chairs are providing a variety of salads, side dishes, appetizers, desserts for a food frenzy. This MCA Committee Annual Picnic is an opportunity to show appreciation to all our committee volunteers. These committee members volunteer selflessly and without expectation of being recognized. Their dedication is appreciated and MCA is forever grateful to each of them for sharing their time and talents with us!

Interested in finding out more about volunteering? [Click here](#) to check out the document that describes all our committees and what their goals are. There is also a committee volunteer form on the website to submit with your interests! We hope to spark your interest in becoming involved with MCA!!

2023 MCA Annual Training Institute

Mark your calendars for our 90th MCA, Annual Training Institute, October 24-27, 2023, at the DECC in Duluth. [Click here](#) for our event flyer and links to register as an exhibitor or attendee. Early Rate deadlines end September 1st! Check back on our website www.mn-ca.org for updated information about the conference as we are finalizing our program schedule.

MCA Award Nominations - 2023

Here's your opportunity to recognize the dedication, successes, and outstanding work being done throughout corrections! We invite you to nominate colleagues, programs, volunteers, organizations! The MCA Past Presidents group reviewing the nominations will help you determine which category best fits the great work that is being done for:

President's Message Continued

The MCA Past Presidents group reviewing the nominations will help you determine which category best fits the great work that is being done for:

- ~ Corrections Person of the Year ~ Corrections Officer of the Year ~ Professional Achievement: Facility ~
- ~ Professional Achievement: Field Services ~ President's Award ~ Technology Award
- ~ Board of Directors' Award ~

Don't wait until the July 31st deadline ~ Send in your nominations today!!

[Click here](#) for nomination form. You do Not need to be a member to submit a nomination or receive an award. As always, award recipients will be recognized at the MCA Annual Training Institute Awards Ceremony in Duluth on October 24th. For more information on the Awards Committee, Award Categories, a List of Past Award Recipients - [click here](#) or scan the QR code:



Big Changes at DOC

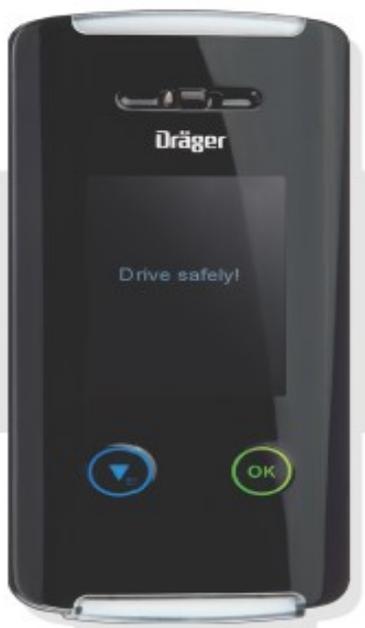
- The Facilities Safety and Security Division will be led by two Assistant Commissioners: Warden Eddie Miles and Associate Warden Jami Doeden to serve as Assistant Commissioners overseeing the division.
- Kelly Mitchell will serve as Assistant Commissioner of Community Services and Reentry Division,
- Jolene Rebertus, will serve as Assistant Commissioner of Health, Recovery, and Programming.
- Nan Larson will serve as Deputy Commissioner Client Services and Supports and will assist the Commissioner in the overall management of operational divisions.
- Replacing the Assistant Commissioner of Education position previously held by Daniel Karpowitz, will be a new Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Teaching and Learning – a position that is currently posted for competitive hiring.
- Safia Khan is promoted to Deputy Commissioner and will continue as Chief of Staff.

MCA is looking forward to a continued, successful collaboration, partnership with DOC.

The Retirement Option 60/30 Pension Project continues to move forward. We've reached out to PERA to get the names of actuarial firms that could help us to understand the numbers and to put together a successful and informed legislative proposal. PERA gave us the names of four firms that they frequently use. We are soliciting proposals; once we have proposals to present to the group, we think a meeting with the committee to review the proposals, ask questions, and discuss the next steps would be in order.

As you can see, MCA has a lot of initiatives occurring simultaneously. I am certainly having fun working with our fine assortment of corrections, community corrections professionals. Feel free to drop me a line if you have suggestions, comments, etc.: mark.groves@state.mn.us.

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."



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- Nutrition Group
- Independent Living
- Suicide Prevention Group
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- Not A Number Group

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Phone: (218) 643-4036
Email: contact@valleylakeboyshome.org
Website: <https://valleylakeboyshome.org>

A few corrections recollections...

Submitted by Tom Roy

Former Commissioner of Corrections

When asked to put a few of my thoughts together for this MCA Forum I thought it would be an easy task. After 43 years of work and 4 years of retirement I guess I can offer a few bits of insight into my experience. I do recall my first day on the job in 1975. I was hired into a new grant position in Duluth as a Pre-trial Release Agent. At that time the Feds were funding bail reform initiatives and supporting alternatives to prison. (Yes, those efforts have again found a renewed life). That first day would now be called "onboarding". I don't think such a word existed back then, nor did any formal training process. I was handed a copy of the grant, given a few Bic pens and a yellow legal pad.



A brief introductory tour of the courthouse staff and then left in a conference room to read. After a few minutes in the room, one of the PO's that I met returned and motioned for me to follow him back to his office. We entered. He closed the door and without pause said, "Don't trust any of these son-of-bitches." (Referring to management). A 5-minute tirade followed. Obviously, it was an awkward moment for the new kid! I thanked him for his thoughts and left. I discerned he was having a bad day or...life in general. I grin a bit now thinking that I became one of those SOB's!

That first grant job was a blessing for my future work. I had to do hundreds of arraignment interviews over three years and work with scores of attorneys, judges, jailers, victims and treatment providers. The primary purpose of the grant was to get low risk offenders out on pretrial supervision and get them engaged in treatment or meaningful employment so that their posture was improved for a future sentence. It was also my introduction into formal risk assessment since the project used the VERA/Manhattan risk tool. Also, there was a resident scholar who was doing an evaluation of program efficacy determining if releases were returning to court or getting into further trouble. Releasing freshly arrested individuals was not a popular notion with many but it gained support after positive results were demonstrated. It was evidence based! 40 years later VERA came into our DOC work with the Solitary Confinement reform.

After those years in pretrial I moved into juvenile and traditional adult probation and parole. In those positions I did hundreds of PSI's. My longest duty as an officer and supervisor was in my home of Carlton County. Following was a couple of decades as Chief Probation Officer and Director at Arrowhead Regional Corrections.

As I think of those years in review, I can relate what has changed or been introduced over the course of those decades.

A few corrections recollections... continued.

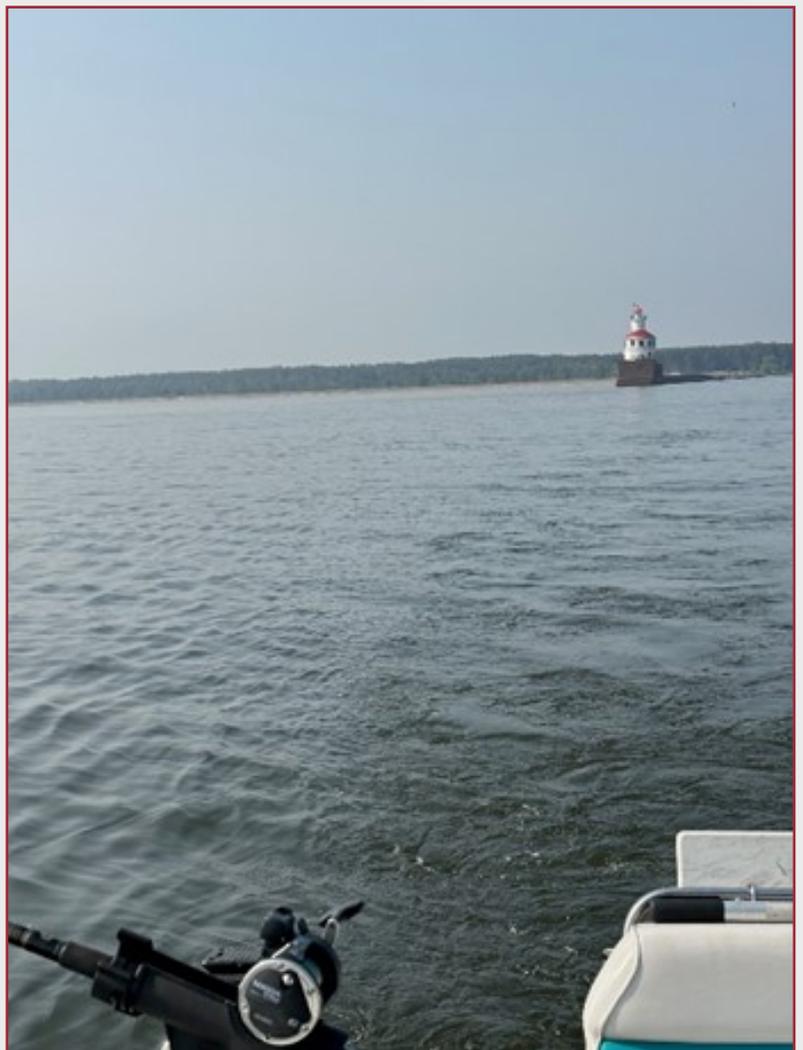
In no particular order; Sentencing Guidelines, Community Corrections Act, Domestic Abuse Policy, Evidence Based Training and Practices, Unified Court System, Victim Rights, Sentence to Service, Specialty Courts, Formal Diversion Programs, Desk top computers, DNA testing, Field drug and alcohol testing, Internet/Automated statewide case management/record search, video visitation and education, smart phones/tablets, Tele medicine, Juvenile detention alternatives, Kiosk reporting, pepper spray, GPS monitoring, caseload stratification.

These initiatives brought a variety of policy and introductory work efforts while the “normal” work of corrections had to go on. One would hope that these “improvements” have yielded better results. The jury might still be out in some areas. Much of my work through those years was in committees hashing out the issues.

MCA as a professional organization has had a key role in many of these policy areas by providing a venue for discussion and training as well as encouraging and developing legislative proposals. The committee work brings diverse professionals to the table to share common concerns. My work on the board and technology committee created opportunities for me at the national level with APPA and NIJ. Those experiences allowed me to contribute Minnesota’s expertise and bring back national perspectives.

I think MCA is the only organization that allows for different disciplines within all MN Corrections agencies to meet and train together. As a young probation officer in northern Minnesota the conferences were my first opportunity to rub elbows with prison staff, other county staff, and service providers. Years later, those associations were extremely helpful when I became Commissioner in 2011,

Additionally, the value of MCA Awards can’t be underestimated. In government service there are few ways we can acknowledge exemplary individuals and groups. To be recognized by peers might even be better than a free weekend in paradise. I think the awards ceremony is the highlight of the conference.



A few corrections recollections... continued

I was also asked to offer advice for new staff to consider:

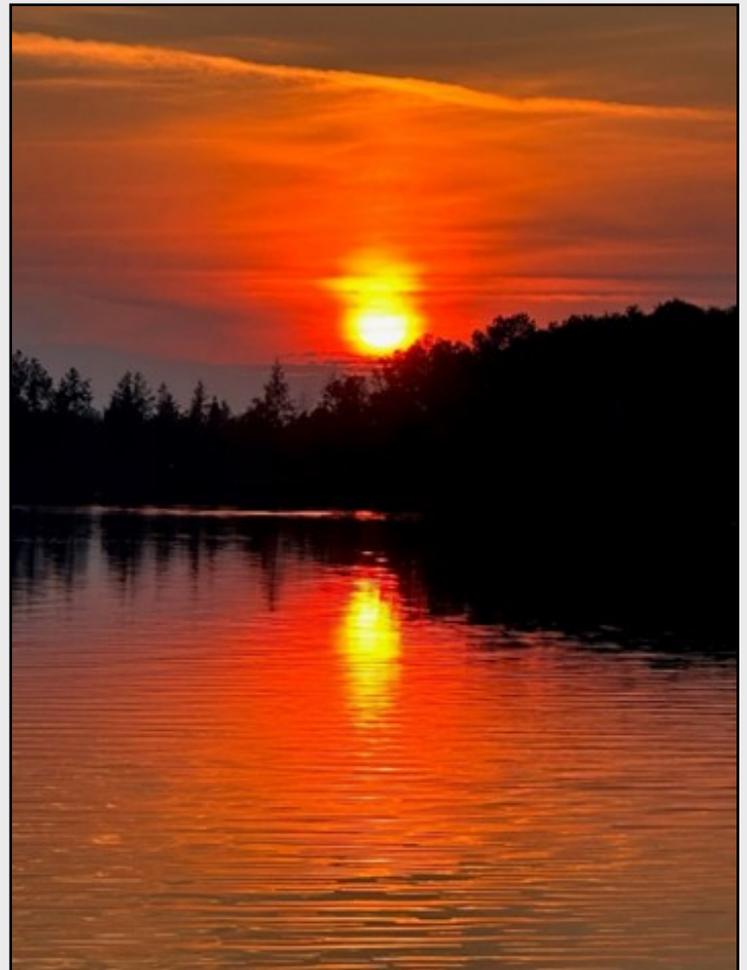
- Believe that the work you do makes a difference in the lives of others. No matter the job title, it is honorable and important work. You should be proud to have been chosen to do it.
- Continue to learn. Stay ahead with a daily read of professional information.
- Speak up! (But know your topic). Listen! (When others know more). Question! (When it just doesn't sound right).
- Maintain professional distance in a friendly, respectful way.
- Use social media conservatively. (Many careers have crashed).
- Seek out opportunities and make your interests known to the boss.
- Volunteer. (Even for the ugly stuff). You will be an influencer by your example.
- Leave your personal baggage at home. Work can offer help, but the solution is most likely elsewhere.
- If you are miserable at work, consider a change. If you are not miserable, avoid those that are. They love company. (See above SOB reference).
- Follow policy. It will save your career.

My comments on retirement could easily fall to the usual: I miss the people but not the work. Actually, I do miss both, but this new life stage is pretty satisfying. I was never one to focus on "getting out". In all honesty though, there were those bad days when a distant island had some appeal.

I have enjoyed good health and still regularly snowboard and snowshoe in winter and in summer get on the boat most days. Lake Superior is my spiritual destination even when the fishing stinks. Living on a lake offers lots of fun and work.

I am a decent carpenter and DIYer. I just finished my third bathroom refit and I'm looking at a list that will keep me busy well into the future. COVID limited our travel, but we are now thinking and planning.

My best advice: Don't hurry it. It comes quicker than you think. Live your working days to the fullest and your retirement memories will be without regret.



Blast from the Past

1895: The state hired agents to supervise juvenile offenders at the Reform School.

The State Reform School was renamed the Minnesota State Training School for Boys and Girls. The typical juvenile offender at Red Wing was 14 years old, relatively illiterate, and committed for larceny.

In 1923, the Sauk Centre Home School for Girls had 168 new commitments. The offenses were:

- Incurriability - 37
- Truancy - 2
- Immorality - 126
- Assault - 2
- Forgery - 1

Solitary confinement was the standard method of punishment. Almost every day, one to four inmates were placed in solitary for offenses including:

- gazing at visitors
- refusal to work
- lapses in cleanliness



Minnesota's version of the boot camp prison opened at Willow River in 1992



Inmates and guards in the dining room of the Stillwater State Prison in 1900



The prison band at the Stillwater State Prison in 1907

In 1897, the state legislature authorized a person being released from Stillwater State Prison to receive:

- A payment of \$25
- A serviceable suit
- A suit of underclothing
- An overcoat (if released between October 1 and March 1)

Blast from the Past



The recreation department initiated a boxing program in 1975 that included matches between the prisons and boxing clubs

1916: Warden C.S. Reed said, "The success of any correctional institution is not measured in dollars and cents, nor by any extravagant claims of success, but by the lessening of the number of human wrecks found in the wake of it's



Wool hat worn by officers until the 1950s

1911: The State Board of Parole was established.

1937: The first training institute was at the University of Minnesota Center for Continuation Study of the General Extension Division in Minneapolis. The institute was held at the University from 1937 through 1958.

Prices and fees for the first training institute:

- Tuition - \$5
- Registration - \$3
- Double room without bath for one week - \$5/person
- Double room with bath for one week - \$6.25/person



The State Reformatory for Women at Shakopee in 1937



The Minnesota Correctional Facility-Oak Park Heights opened in 1982

90th Anniversary MCA Timeline

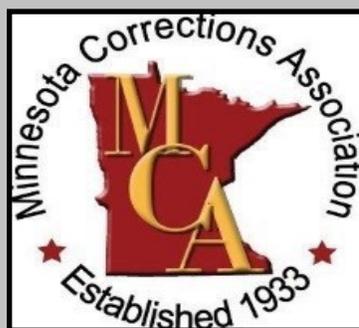
Happy 90th Anniversary!

In 1933, eleven (11) probation and parole agents recognized the importance of sharing ideas and methods to assist offenders.

They formed the Minnesota Probation and Parole Association (MPPA), which later became the Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA).

The organization evolved from a membership of eleven to over 1,000, representing all sectors of corrections.

MCA has played a role in the development and support of corrections programs in Minnesota for the last 90 years and has served as a forum for correctional issues.

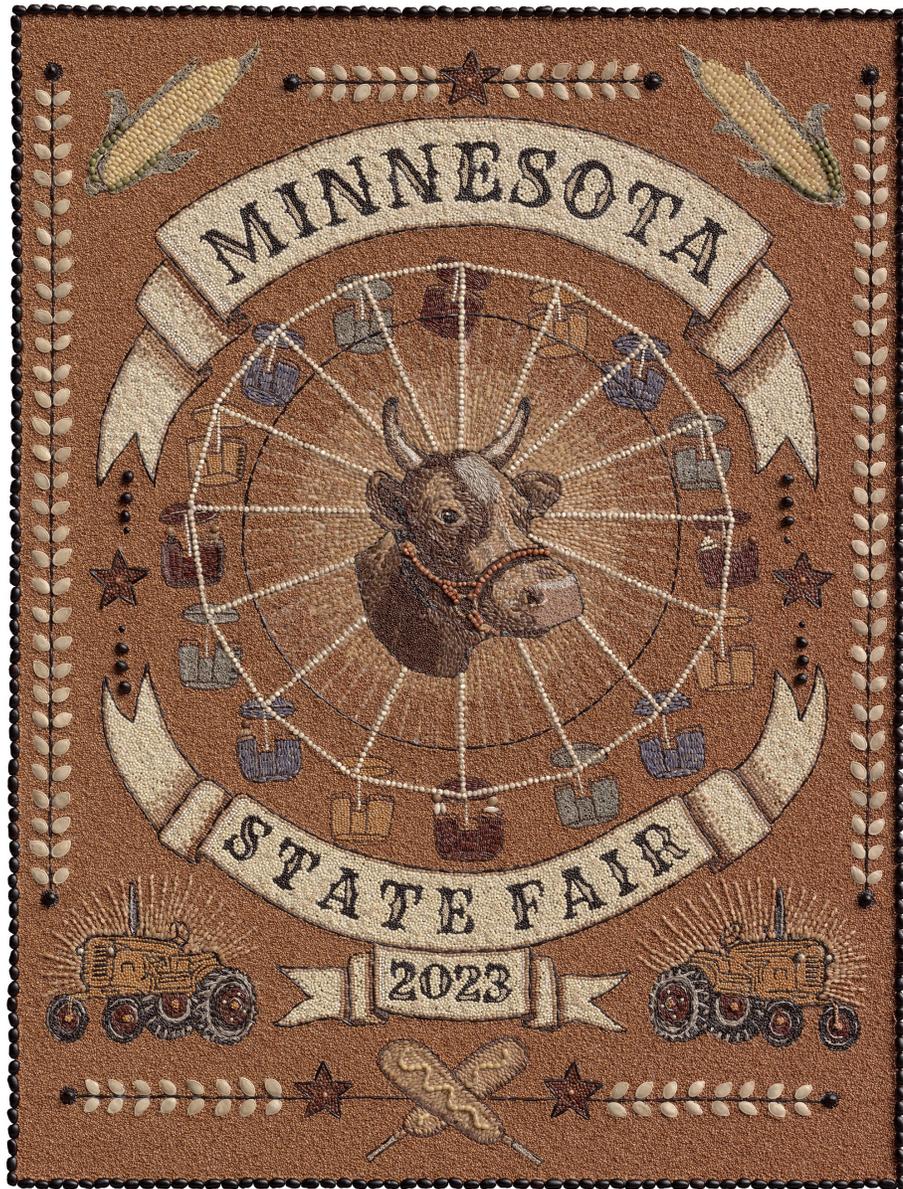


MCA is creating a timeline for the 90th Anniversary and could use your help. Since our last timeline for our 85th Anniversary five years ago, a lot has happened in corrections!

If you want to contribute events for possible inclusion in the upcoming 90th Anniversary Timeline, please reach out to our timeline editor / coordinator:

Aubrey Steckelberg - aubrey.steckelberg@state.mn.us

You can view the [85th Anniversary Timeline](#) on our website and make contributions to past events as well as those since the last publication. Thank you for your support of MCA!



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

The Great Minnesota Get-Together

Photo Credit: Minnesota State Fair. The Official 2023 Commemorative Art is entirely made of seeds and was created by Minneapolis crop artist Liz Schreiber. For more information about the commemorative art, visit mnstatefair.org/commemorative-art.com.

The 2023 Minnesota State Fair runs Aug. 24-Labor Day, Sept. 4.

According to the Minnesota State Fair website, notable events in history that took place at the Minnesota State Fair include: the first airplane flight in Minnesota history (1910); U.S. Vice President Teddy Roosevelt delivered his famous "Speak Softly and Carry a Big Stick" speech (1901); legendary pacer horse Dan Patch set the world harness racing record at the Grandstand (1906); and John Phillip Sousa composed "Minnesota March" and performed it at the fair (1927).

The Minnesota State Fair is older than the State of Minnesota with the first territorial fair dating back to 1854 and has been held in its present location (mid-way between Minneapolis and St. Paul) since 1885.

The Minnesota State Fair History & Heritage Center at West End Market showcases the competition, entertainment, agriculture, food, merchandise, attractions and Minnesota industry that have been the heart of the fair for a century and a half.



"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)

612-889-9610
john@rainhomes.org

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

RAIN opened new locations in October (St. Louis County), November (Sherburne County), December (Stearns County), and January (Anoka County).

RAIN is a faith-based 501(c)(3) that also helps create networks of welcoming churches, employers & landlords in six US states and soon Oaxaca, Mexico, for adult men & women in recovery. 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
- ❖ Home Ownership Track 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.



“Riding the Wave of Technology”

Jason Mereness, MCA Technology Committee Chair

jason.mereness@co.ramsey.mn.us

Disclaimer: The content in this write-up is purely informational for MCA members and not an endorsement of any one company or product by MCA or this writer.

I authored this month's MCA Forum write-up from the 2023 Corrections Technology Association (CTA) Summit in Fort Myers, FL. One of the first decisions I made as the new MCA Technology Committee Chair in 2023 was to find a way to partner with the Corrections Technology Association (CTA). CTA's website describes themselves as "...a public, non-profit network of professionals actively involved in leveraging technology in the field of Corrections..." [<https://www.correctionstech.org/about-cta>].

Along with our shared interest in leveraging technology, partnering with CTA was done to optimize the MCA Technology Committee's efforts, reach, and influence in the overall corrections technology space. More importantly, I wanted to ensure that emerging and applied technology information was ever-present for all MCA members. Our members deserve to know what's possible when it comes to corrections technology.



CTA has been an industry leader in corrections technology since 1999. The theme of this year's technology summit was "Riding the Wave of Technology," which grew out of the devastating Hurricane Ian that hit the Fort Myers area in September 2022 (reminders of this storm litter the coastline to this day). The theme was further described as a metaphor by current CTA President Zacc Allen (Virginia Department of Corrections) during the Opening Address on 6/19/23. Zacc explained how some waves are large, and some are small, much like challenges in corrections. Waves all require patience, can be destructive, and despite our best efforts, will never stop/will just keep coming. However,

technology serves as a medium to "ride" the waves/challenges we face daily in corrections.

One of the first "wow" moments at the technology summit was hearing that within 36 hours of Hurricane Ian hitting the Fort Myers area, the Florida Department of Corrections was able to contact and account for all 7,500 people on supervision (utilizing things like drones, phone, video, and electronic monitoring devices). What a fantastic feat! Florida Department of Corrections Deputy Secretary, Richard D. Comerford, shared that leveraging technology was the only way this was possible.

During the technology summit, I met with at least 30 different exhibitors, countless industry experts and attended three days' worth of timely sessions on all things technology in corrections. The cross-pollination of ideas and daily conversations were second to none. Special shoutout to Dan Kuntz, Director of Technical Services with Minnesota IT Services/Minnesota Department of Corrections. Running into fellow Minnesotans in faraway places is always fun, and I thoroughly enjoyed the time I spent talking to him about technology efforts in our very own state.

One thing that surprised me at the technology summit was hearing so many exhibitors/companies talk about the theories and purposes behind the use of their technology, along with the social causes they are involved in because of their technology efforts. This was especially evident during the "Tech Showcase" on 6/20/23. For example, Simon Bonk, Chief Research Officer and Director of Business Development at Telio shared info on their "Connecting Hearts" foundation, which was created to "promote social responsibility". "Connecting Hearts" gives back to organizations that benefit the children of incarcerated individuals.

“Riding the Wave of Technology” - Continued

At times, the technology itself is secondary. I found this surprising and interesting as a “boots on the ground” person (as most MCA members are) who is often focused on “what’s new?” or seeking out the next “shiny new tool”. This summit reminded me that these efforts are much bigger than the technology itself. It is about creating ways to help people and benefit society.

It would be impossible to share everything from the technology summit. Based on everything I heard, I could write a year’s worth of MCA Forum write-ups! For this write-up, I will focus on showcasing some emerging technology on display at the summit. I trust that we will find other ways to share more of this information with you all in the coming months.

Emerging Technology at the 2023 CTA Summit:

Augmented reality headset from Telio

Website: https://tel.io/en_DE/info/products



While this product has yet to be available on the Telio website, there is plenty of reason to be excited about its emergence and potential. I had a chance to test out the headset and was instantly amazed. This headset allows you to see everything in your physical space (as if looking through glasses), with the added visuals added by the device virtually. In my testing of the product, I was able to look at an event attendee, and say, “Take a picture”, and the picture immediately popped up in my line of vision (an image in real-time of what I was just physically looking at). I was able to grab that photo with my hand (virtually) and drag it/save it for future reference. I also was allowed to pull up a virtual circuit breaker and practice using it. It was as if a real circuit breaker was before my eyes but with the freedom to manipulate it without risk of damage or error. There is a ton of potential here for the future training of agents and the people we supervise, as well as day-to-day supervision.

Virtual reality headset from Accenture

Website: <https://www.accenture.com/us-en/services/technology/extended-reality>

Similar to the augmented reality headset (Accenture also offers augmented reality headsets), this virtual reality headset allows the user to enter into a totally virtual space (you cannot see your actual physical location). In testing out this device, I found myself in someone’s home, sitting at a table with a mother and conversing about her son. I was given three response options at the bottom of the screen to choose from; I read aloud the response option I chose. You got a different response from the women at the table with each response. I made sure that my responses were empathetic and understanding, as I could instantly tell by the look on her face that she was upset. This was not a digitally created home. It was an actual home where I could look around and see the entire room. Tons of potential here for FTO’s, CO’s or PO’s, and those under our supervision. I have heard great things about institutions already using VR to help individuals transition back into the community (imagine being able to visit a grocery store while in custody or learning how to use a modern ATM).



“Riding the Wave of Technology” - Continued

SecureView tablet from Securus Technologies:

Website: <https://www.securustablet.com/>



If there was one piece of technology that dominated the exhibitor halls and breakout sessions, it was the tablet. Countless states, agencies, etc., have or are rolling out tablets in their institutions. Securus Technologies shared stories about how the State of Texas has rolled out tablets to almost all of its inmates. It was interesting to hear about how they are building incentives into these tablets to promote their use, care for the devices, and good behavior in the institutions. Individuals can earn more access or applications based on their behavior and efforts in custody. Plenty of concerns were shared by attendees around rolling out these tablets to institutions, including the fact that some individuals are “jailbreaking” the devices, allowing them to gain access to information they shouldn’t have access to. So, the implementation and conversation on tablet use continues. Overall, I see tablets as a fantastic opportunity to reshape how we supervise individuals in-custody and use strength-based approaches to promote real behavior change.

Here are a few more pieces of emerging technology, please click the links to check them out!

Rugged laptops and tablets by Durabook Website: <https://www.durabook.com/us/>

Non-wearable cell detection sensor by Reassurance Solutions Website: <https://reassurancesolutions.com/>

SmartWatch by Smart Communications Website: <http://www.smartcommunications.us/>

Translation assistant by Lexmark: Website: https://www.lexmark.com/en_us/solutions/lexmark-cloud-services/translation-assistant.html

Before leaving Fort Myers, I found time to visit the Historic Edison & Ford Winter Estates



<https://www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/>

I was blown away not only by the rich history and stunning beauty of the estates but also by the sheer ingenuity and innovation that was on display (not dissimilar to the modern technology at the summit). In 2023, and as the MCA Technology Committee Chair, I am humble enough to admit that I'd have no idea how to build or use some of these innovations they made in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. So don't feel bad if you are still trying to figure out how to use your agency's technology office suite in 2023. If you ever visit the Fort Myers area, I'd highly encourage you to visit the Historic Edison & Ford Winter Estates; you will leave inspired!

"I have not failed. I've found 10,000 ways that won't work." -Thomas Edison (1,093 U.S. patents and former Fort Myers resident)

After my experiences in Florida at the technology summit and the Historic Edison & Ford Winter Estates, I feel compelled to point out to my MCA peers that even the most successful innovators have a longer list of failures than successes. This is important to remember as we all continue to serve populations that often struggle to succeed, and as we face the waves/challenges in our profession, especially with technology. The failures are just part of the journey to future success.

“Riding the Wave of Technology” - Continued

I hope you found this write-up informative and inspirational. With technology as our "partner," there is no limit to our potential successes, and we have many reasons to look forward to "riding" the waves/challenges we may face. Thank you, MCA, for supporting this partnership and attendance at the CTA 2023 Summit.

As always, the MCA Technology Committee invites you to provide feedback on this write-up. Please email MCA Technology Committee Chair Jason Mereness at jason.mereness@co.ramsey.mn.us. We are always interested in any corrections technology happenings, needs, or ideas that other MCA members may have!

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Join MCA!

Celebrate 90 years of MCA



Duluth 2023



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

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



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.



rsilaboratories.org
612-287-1654

Congratulations Shannon!

Shannon Olean was recently presented with the MACACC President's Award

Shannon serves as a committee member for MCA and is actively involved in recruiting and maintaining sponsorship for MCA.



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

MN Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act (MRRA)

Minnesota Department of Corrections Commissioner Paul Schnell issued a memo to all DOC staff regarding the passing of the Minnesota Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act. He states that after years of hard work and advocacy, the Department of Corrections (DOC) is pleased to announce the Minnesota Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act (MRRA) has passed through the Minnesota legislature and become law! At its core, MRRA is about moving away from looking at the length of time someone spends in prison to measure success, and instead looking at how they spend their time.

Know that we will work diligently and take time to responsibly establish the policy and procedures that will govern eligibility for MRRA. MRRA does two important things:

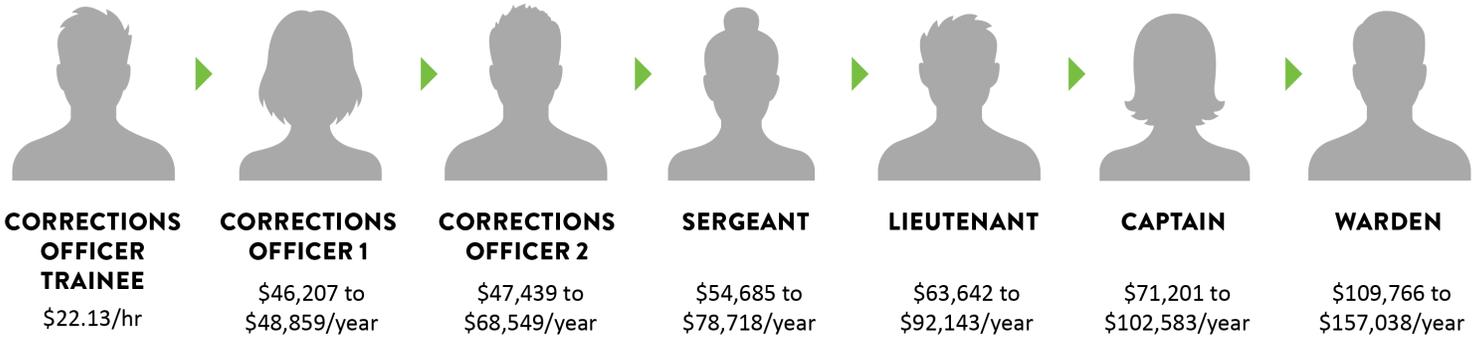
1. Requires DOC to conduct assessments and develop an individualized rehabilitation plan for everyone committed to the commissioner of corrections who has 365 days or more remaining before their supervised release date as of January 1, 2025; and
2. Provides incentives for program participation and good behavior through earned incentivized release credits and supervision abatement status.

The MRRA is a new approach to Minnesota's sentencing that allows individuals to earn early release and earned supervision abatement by successfully completing goals identified in their Individualized Rehabilitation Plan. The MRRA is unique, and it will be the focus of considerable attention across the nation.

The DOC anticipates a period of 18-24 months before being ready to implement MRRA. Policies need to be fully in place before the DOC can work with individuals to determine if they are eligible for earned early release or supervision abatement. The DOC is required to consult with a variety of stakeholders, including victim coalitions, faith groups, public defense, prosecution, and law enforcement associations to develop the policy governing MRRA. The Commissioner indicates the DOC is also planning policy development consultations and feedback sessions with incarcerated, formerly incarcerated people, their family members and community advocacy organizations.

Under MRRA, people committed to the Commissioner of Corrections will undergo a comprehensive assessment and be assigned a team to work with them to create a person-centered Individualized Rehabilitation Plan. The plan may include programming such as substance use disorder treatment, sexual offender treatment, mental health therapy, cognitive behavioral skill programming, and/or secondary or post-secondary education. If an individual successfully completes the goals in their plan and remains discipline free, they may earn credits to reduce their prison term – serving as little as 50% versus the current two-thirds (67%) or their sentence in prison.

CORRECTIONS OFFICER EXAMPLE CAREER PATH



This diagram illustrates one possible path

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- Pension and deferred compensation plans
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MANY OTHER OPPORTUNITIES EXIST INCLUDING:

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- 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.



Free Phone Calls - Family Stabilization and Support

Minnesota Department of Corrections Commissioner Paul Schnell issued a memo to all DOC staff regarding the passing of free phone calls to incarcerated individuals. He states, This past session, the legislature appropriated funding to the Department and required us to provide incarcerated people in Minnesota state prisons with free phone calls and prohibited the DOC from receiving revenue or commissions from any future phone or video service contracts as of July 1, 2023.

Implementation Planning and Timeline:

Our leaders have been working diligently with our vendor, ViaPath, to ensure this service will be free by July 1, 2023.

Current DOC policies and facility management protocols that might limit access to phones are to stay in place while we monitor the implementation of the new law and identify gaps or areas where revision is necessary. I anticipate that DOC will need to develop additional written policy – or revise current policies – to address how and when phone calls will be available considering the expected increase in demand.

The Assistant Warden / Shared Managers and Captains groups have been gathering information on anticipated impact of this change and thinking through ways to manage this shift. Please continue to share questions and concerns with these groups as we monitor needed policy changes.

There is still a lot of work to be done, but understandably, we have already received numerous questions from staff, community members, and incarcerated individuals. Please read on to review the DOC's responses to the most common questions asked. We will provide you with further information as the policies are developed

Frequently Asked Questions:

Will there be time-limits placed on phone calls? Yes. There will time limits on the length of phone calls but not the number of calls a person may make during the times when phones are available. Phone call length will be set at 15 minutes. The reason for this limitation is that we want as many people as possible to be able to access the phones that are available in the living units. If no one is waiting, the person can call right back, which commonly occurs today because the length of the calls is already limited.

Will people be permitted to purchase additional minutes? Since the number of frequency of calls is not limited, there is no need to purchase additional minutes because all calling is free.

Are international calls free? Yes, though, there may be additional policy development in this area as we monitor its impact.

Is this for everyone incarcerated in a state prison facility or are there exclusions for people serving life sentences? There are no exclusions in the language the legislature passed. There may be some confusion between free phone calls and other new laws. For instance, individuals with life sentences are excluded from MRRRA, but they have no limitations on phone calls.

Do people on Seg status (restrictive housing) get free calls? If a person in restrictive housing gets access to phone calls, those phone calls are free. Nothing in the law allows people to get access to phones privileges if they don't have that privilege already.

I heard that phone time money paid for numerous things that were provided in DOC facilities. With that money now no longer coming in, where will those funds come from? The legislature provided funding to cover the loss of revenue from commissions in the appropriation it gave the DOC. Leadership is tracking the financial impact of this legislative change and the variety of issues that go along with the new law.

Why is this happening so quickly? The mandate by the legislature is that phone calls will be free for incarcerated people by July 1 in the state of Minnesota. The legislative branch of government are our state's policymakers. We are an executive branch agency, meaning that it is our role to implement the legislative policies they enact.

I am concerned about security issues that may come up with the increased demand and attempts to control phone use. Are policies being developed to address this? Yes. There will be far more robust work done on identifying areas of policy to ensure the broadest access to calls, particularly considering the positive impact phone communications can have on someone's rehabilitation (e.g., arrange for housing or treatment, contact with loved ones). Policy language, protocols, tracking, and data metrics will all be part of implementing this new law.

Restoration of Voting Rights

Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 201.014, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 2a. Felony conviction; restoration of civil right to vote.

An individual who is ineligible to vote because of a felony conviction has the civil right to vote restored during any period when the individual is not incarcerated for the offense. If the individual is later incarcerated for the offense, the individual's civil right to vote is lost only during that period of incarceration.

Effective July 1, 2023, the law governing voting rights for those convicted of a felony will change and the right to vote will be restored during any period the defendant is not incarcerated for the offense.

Since the adoption of Judicial Council Policy 522 and the appended Standard Conditions, condition 10 has stated:

- Do not register to vote or vote until discharged from probation and your civil rights are fully restored.

That language in MNCIS will change effective Friday, March 17, 2023, to instead state:

- Do not register to vote or vote until July 1, 2023. On that date, you have the right to register to vote and to vote during any time you are not incarcerated for this offense.



July is National Cell Phone Courtesy Month

August is National Eye Exam Month

July is National Blueberry Month

August is National Peach Month

July is Hitchhiking Month

August is Child Support
Awareness Month

July is National Hot Dog Month

August is American Artist
Appreciation Month

July is National
Grilling Month

August is National Sandwich Month

July is Beans, Corn
and Eggplant Month

[Courtesy of National Today Website](#)

August is Family Fun Month

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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.

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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

nuway.org



Marijuana Legalization in MN:

What does it mean now for corrections?

Submitted by Mark Bliven, MCA Legislative Committee

Cannabis possession and home cultivation will be legalized on August 1, 2023. No more concerns about the use of marijuana, right? Not so fast. While legalization goes into effect on August 1 that doesn't mean that employers and those in corrections simply ignore the issue.

Marijuana will likely still be barred in situations where it may affect work or supervision conditions much as is done with the issue of alcohol. Clearly though cannabis use policy will have unique elements not directly transferable from alcohol use policy. What we do know is that work or supervision standards need to be revised to reflect these changes. In anticipation of legalization these standards are being discussed and revised by individual employers, the courts, and supervision agencies so the real answers may not be available until just before August 1. We can also expect continued revisions as we all get used to the repercussions of these changes.

The key concept to keep in mind is that revised employment policies and revised supervision conditions must reflect how the issue of cannabis will be handled in individual work or supervision settings after August 1. Expect that workplace and supervision rules will not be affected as dramatically or cleanly as legal consequences.

The Cannabis Expungement Board will also be established to review past charges for sale or possession that will no longer be a crime after August 1. Convictions could be vacated, charges dismissed, records expunged, or the person could be resentenced to a lesser offense. The board will be composed of five members one designated by each of the following: The chief justice of the supreme court, the attorney general, the commissioner of corrections, and a public defender and a public member both designated by the governor.

This will be in addition to automatic expungements as designated by the new Minnesota Statute 609A.055 that will attempt to expunge the records for charges that did not result in convictions or were misdemeanor convictions for possession of marijuana (Minn Stat 152.07, subd. 3 or 4). This automatic expungement will be based on notification from the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) on such identified cases.

Expectations are that a perfect review is not possible so individuals will need to confirm that their case has fallen within the automatic expungement and has been identified for that expungement. The BCA has identified about 66,000 cases for automatic expungement so far but has over 200,000 records that will need to be individually evaluated. Full evaluation will probably take another year before most of those records are removed from public records.

The Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) will also be established and will begin creating the infrastructure for licensing. This licensing process will likely take some time but Indian tribes may be able to sell to adult consumers sooner than standard licensees that need to be approved by the OCM.

The OCM website <https://cannabis.state.mn.us> is already up and provides information on this legalization process.

Adult Justice / Legislative Committee Article - Continued

Key points

- The regulatory framework will take time to develop and will require input from communities throughout the state. More information for businesses interested in participating in Minnesota's adult-use, medical and lower-potency hemp edible markets will be posted on this website when available.
- The legislation proposes that retail sales for adult use cannabis in Minnesota begin in the first quarter of 2025.
- Beginning Aug. 1, 2023, the legislation will allow Minnesotans to possess and use certain amounts of cannabis and cannabis products.
- The legislation allows adults age 21 and older to possess or transport up to 2 ounces of cannabis flower, 8 grams of concentrate and 800 milligrams of edible product (including low-potency hemp-derived product). An adult may also possess up to two pounds of cannabis flower in a private residence.
- Minnesota will continue to have a Medical Cannabis Program, which will move from the Minnesota Department of Health to the Office of Cannabis Management effective March 1, 2025.
- Lower-potency hemp edibles will continue to be sold. Regulation of these products will move to the Minnesota Department of Health, and then transfer to the Office of Cannabis Management on March 1, 2025.

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Awards—Trainings—Employment—Policy—Networking



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- Retiree \$50 lifetime
- Student membership \$10.

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2023 MCA Monthly Trainings

Registration
Now Open!

July 21st

MN Peer Support

Sponsor Spotlight: Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance

August 18th

Legislative Re-Cap

September 15th

Hearings and Release

Mark your calendars for the third Friday of the month MCA trainings!

The education and training committee is always looking for suggestions for subjects or speakers for our monthly presentation. Please contact Pat Gerbozy at patricia.gerbozy@state.mn.us if you have any ideas.

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.

Click [here](#) to register for these Workshops!

Free for Members
or Non-Member Registration fee which includes a membership!

**Must be logged into website to register*

Stay Safe with Air Quality Alerts

Canadian wildfire smoke continues to cause a record number of air quality alerts. So far, wildfires in Canada have burned more than 18.7 acres, which is roughly equal to 1/3 of the state of Minnesota. Ongoing air quality issues are expected until the fires are extinguished. Until then, air quality is dependent on weather pattern changes. You can find important notices about air quality in Minnesota and sign up for alerts by visiting the [MN Pollution Control Agency](https://www.mn.gov/airquality) website.

Particulate Matter

Airborne particles such as **smoke, dust, dirt, soot, and salt**. The sources of these particles are numerous—including vehicles, factories, fires, and any other natural or human activity resulting in the addition of particulates into the air.

Ground Level Ozone

Ground level ozone is not directly emitted into the air, but forms when **nitrogen oxides (NOx)** emissions react with other **volatile organic compounds (VOCs)** in the presence of heat and sunlight.

Air Pollution



Emissions from industrial facilities and electric utilities, motor vehicle exhaust, and chemical solvents are some of the major sources of NOx and VOCs.



weather.gov/airquality

Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Numerical Value	Meaning
Good	0 to 50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	151 to 200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.
Hazardous	301 to 500	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.

AQI table courtesy of airnow.gov





**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



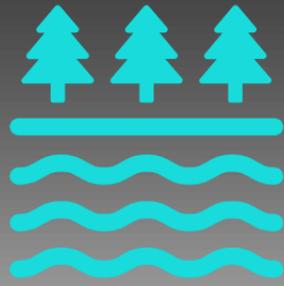
Attain **7.6%** three-year recidivism rate for participants

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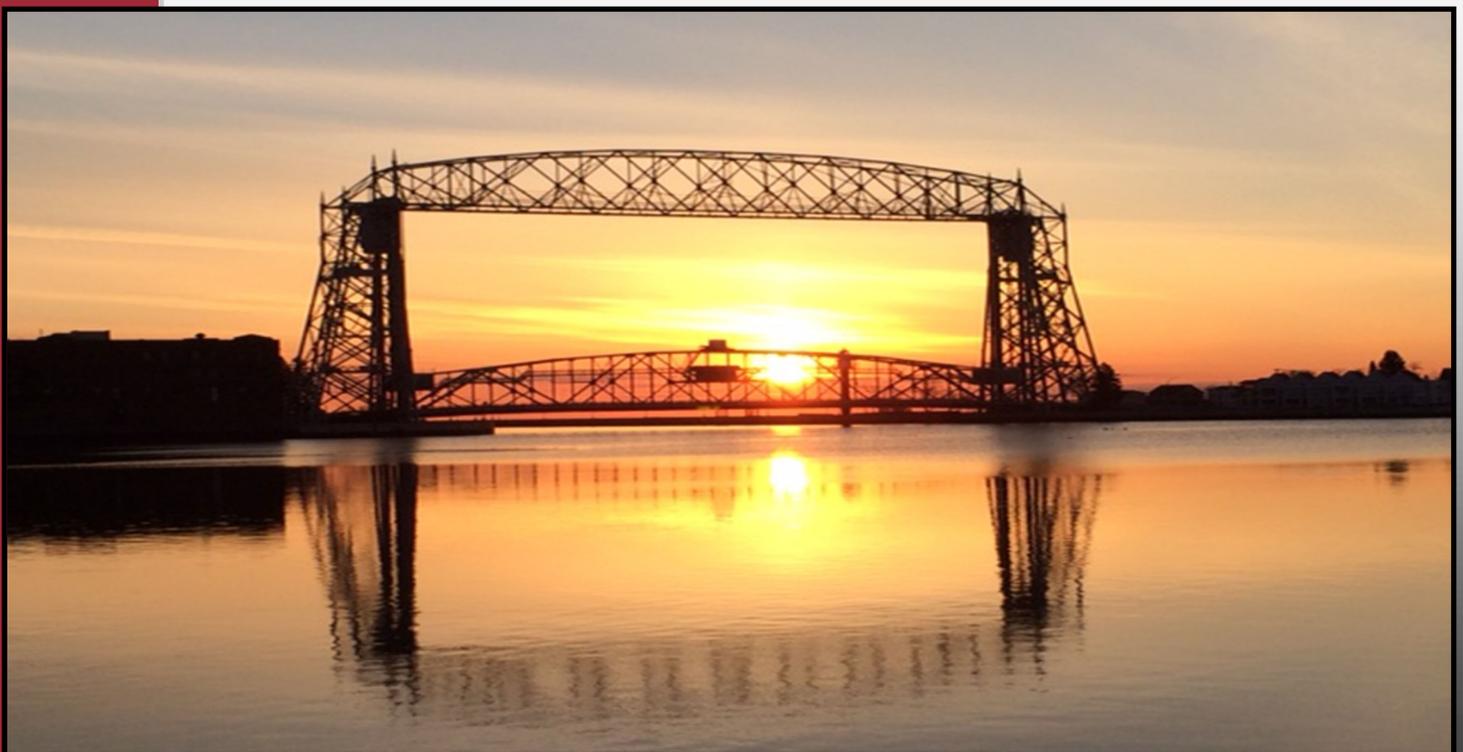
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Shaping Our Future**

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October 25-27, 2023**

**Tuesday Evening (10/24)
Awards Ceremony**

Sponsored by
Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance
Duluth Entertainment Convention Center

Exhibitor and Attendee Registration Now Open!





October 25th Keynote:

Mark Mayfield

It's pretty simple what Mark Mayfield does: he talks about very serious stuff in a very funny way.

He has one of the most diverse backgrounds in the speaking industry having owned and operated several businesses ranging from livestock production to golf instruction, and spent ten years as a lobbyist for a Fortune 500 company. He co-owns a comedy writing service and is one of the rare individuals in the world who is equally adept at performing comedy shows or high content speeches.

Mark has received rave reviews sharing the stage with a wide variety of celebrities like Peter Frampton, Rachel Platten, Walk The Moon, Colin Powell, and Bob Newhart and has introduced the President of the United States on a live, nationwide television broadcast. He is the author of several business books and two jokebooks, and has spoke to virtually every type of corporation, convention, and trade association in America. He has received the CSP designation from the National Speakers Association and been inducted into their Hall of Fame. A national convention planner recently called Mark "one of the very few, really funny, inspiring men in America today". Mark's mom also said that once after a

Joe Nayquonabe, Jr. is an American Indian business professional that has spent his career reimagining and reinventing how American Indian tribal economies grow and prosper.

He spent over a decade as a marketing executive growing the Grand Casino brand before ascending to CEO of the Mille Lacs Band's Corporate Commission where he created several companies including Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, which manages the entire business portfolio of the Mille Lacs Band; 2020 Brand Solutions; Maadaadizi Holdings; Wewinabi Inc., and Makwa Global. He has also kept Grand Casino at the forefront as one of the most valuable brands in Indian Gaming.

In addition to his work, Nayquonabe is a member of YPO (formerly Young Presidents' Organization). He also serves on several boards including: the National Diversity Advisory Board for the University of Minnesota, the American Indian Advisory Board for St. Cloud State University, Herberger School of Business Advisory Board for St. Cloud State University, the American Red Cross Minneapolis Region, the Initiative Foundation, Visit Saint Paul, Saint Paul Downtown Alliance, Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation, Great River Passage Conservancy, Metropolitan State College, the Minnesota Historical Society, Mille Lacs Health System, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis – Advisory Council.

Nayquonabe has a bachelor's degree in marketing from St. Cloud State University, a master's degree in business administration from the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management and a master of tribal administration and governance degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth

He and his wife, Chris, live in Onamia with their daughters, Bella, Phoenix-Rose, and Xiana. In his spare time, Joe enjoys running marathons, studying the Ojibwe language, and reading.



October 26th Keynote:

Joe Nayquonabe



October 27th Keynote:

John Kriesel

During John's presentation he will describe his decision to join the military at 17 years of age, and his overseas deployments. He will discuss in detail the tragic events of December 2, 2006, and his thoughts and feelings as he laid on a dirt road in Iraq, nearly bleeding to death. He will describe what it was like when he woke up from an 8-day coma in the United States to begin his recovery. John's story, sense of humor, and positive outlook on life will leave our audience inspired.

The guy who wasn't supposed to survive and was told he probably would be in a wheelchair the rest of his life walked out of Walter Reed Army Medical Center after nine months. His transition from military to civilian life offered many challenges, but his amazing support system, positive attitude and sense of humor allowed him to bounce back stronger than ever.

John travels throughout the country sharing his story, inspiring and motivating others. His intensely positive attitude infects every person he shares his story with from students to senior corporate executives as he relays lessons learned overcoming extreme tragedy.

In 2010, he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives but decided not to seek re-election when his family said they wanted to spend more time with him. He is director of veterans services for a County in Suburban Minneapolis, MN, a part-time personality on KFAN Radio, motivational speaker, and co-author of the book, "Still Standing: The Story of SSG John Kriesel," winner of 8 national book awards.

Attendee Conference Registration Rates

\$325 - Member Early Rate – if paid by September 1st (If not paid by 9/1, increases to \$450 non-early rate)

\$360 - Non-Member Early Rate – if paid by September 1st (If not paid by 9/1, increases to \$485 non-early rate)

Exhibitor Registration Rates

\$815 – Exhibitor Registration Early Rate – if paid by September 1st (If not paid by 9/1, increases to \$900 non-early rate)

Sponsor Registration

Current Sponsors log-into the Exhibitor Registration for the complimentary exhibit space registration. Our Sponsorship Team will also be reaching out to Sponsors for registration assistance.

Interested in being a Sponsor that includes free exhibit space – contact JoAnn Brown, Sponsorship Chair for more details!

Hospitality and Networking

Wednesday: An exciting hospitality event is scheduled at The Garden Event Center (425 Lake Ave S). This is an excellent opportunity for networking with exhibitors.

Thursday: An evening with food, activities, and music will take place at the 310 Pub – 310 S Lake Ave. Come celebrate MCA's 90th Anniversary!

Evening Shuttle Service is being Sponsored by Intoxalock

Hotel Blocks – Ask for the MCA Conference Block

Holiday Inn \$126/night 218-722-1202

Pier B \$145/night 218-481-8888

The Suites Hotel at Waterfront Plaza \$126/night and up 218-727-4663 or 800-794-1716

Canal Park Lodge \$149/night 218-279-6000

The Inn on Lake Superior \$159.99 Poolside / \$169.99 City view 218-726-1111 888-668-4352

Registration Payment Process:

SEPARATE INVOICES WILL NOT BE SENT TO YOUR AGENCY FOR ANY PAYMENT PROCESSING.

Attendee is responsible for giving invoice to agency for payment processing.

Early Rates must be paid by September 1st to apply.

Cancellation Policy:

Cancellations must be e-mailed to the MCA office at mca-mn@hotmail.com.

*In lieu of refund you may send someone else in your spot.

100% refund before 09/01/23

50% refund from 09/01/23 to 10/01/23

No Refund starting 10/02/22 and after



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- 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.



Overview of 2023 Public Safety Legislation

Calvin Saari, MCA Legislative Liaison
sisuwithsaari@aol.com
218-969-0151

As everyone is now aware, this past legislative session was historic, unique, and simply different than any session we have experienced in the past. With a DFL "trifecta" in place (complete DFL control of both the House and the Senate and the Governor's office), they handled their agenda without a lot of fanfare. They moved many bills through committee and eventually developed an omnibus bill that included Public Safety, Judiciary, and some Civil Law. This resulted in a bill (Chapter 52) of 352 pages which contains more than 120 bills from the session which were each heard in committee. The size of the omnibus bill, and knowing several committee bills were encompassed, created a chapter of new legislation never seen before.

Several of our members have expressed interest in the details of the legislation and we can understand the frustration of some in trying to learn the details. There's an old saying that "the details are in the pudding". And that saying rings true here. Every aspect of this legislation requires some research in defining the legislation and how it affects us. A detailed summary of the bill would be much too long to send in written communication. With that in mind, Mark Bliven has taken on the challenge to do a three-hour MCA workshop via Zoom on Friday, August 19th where further details to various aspects of the new policies and legislative action will be provided. I will also be assisting Mark in the presentation. So, for the purposes of this report, I will provide you with some financial data showing where the Legislature committed its finances, and a general overview of new provisions. Understand this is an overview and not to be considered "all-encompassing". Some finer points may not be included here but will be discussed at the August workshop.

We all know the Legislature had a historic surplus of more than a \$17 billion. As such, you saw funding increases almost everywhere. Within this division, we find that funding increases amounted to \$880 million in the net general fund.

Appropriations for the Department of Corrections was set at \$1.62 billion. Of that, \$3 million was assigned to the Sentencing Guidelines Commission

- \$175.2 million for the Office of Justice Programs, of which \$22 million for crime victim/witness advocates
- \$10 million for crime victim services focused on underserved communities
- \$8 million for youth restorative practice programs
- \$7.7 million for youth intervention grants, and
- \$5 million for Ramsey County juvenile placement homes, among others.

There was extensive added gun legislation which will be detailed in later reports.

Several new offices were included:

- Office for Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls
- Office of Restorative Practices
- Clemency Review Commission
- Supervised Release Board

Legislative Affairs - Continued

Some Policy Provisions include:

A new law establishes the Minnesota Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act effective August 1, 2023. This act will require the Department of Corrections to develop personalized rehabilitation plans for every incarcerated person with at least one year left to serve. Personalized rehabilitation includes substance abuse treatment programs, sexual offender treatment programming, medical and mental health services, vocational programming, employment and career programming, educational programming, and other rehabilitative programs. These programs could reduce an incarcerated person's sentence by up to 17%. *Note: Incarcerated individuals serving life sentences will not be eligible for this program.*

Effective August 1, 2023, a new process is created to simplify operation and payment of post-release community supervision based on an agreement reached with all 87 Counties the County Probation Officers, the DOC, and Corrections Act Counties. This assures increased funding to this formula.

Some other provisions effective August 1, 2023 include:

- new language on expunging records (further details will be discussed at the 8/19 workshop)
- creation of a carjacking crime and established penalties, and
- creation of a crime of organized retail theft with established penalties.

Effective January 1, 2025, a new law establishes an automatic expungement process for certain non-violent offenses, removing the requirement of a court process.

Effective May 25, 2023, the State is prohibited from using private prisons.

Effective January 1, 2024:

- restrictions on strip searches of detained juveniles and a prohibition of the use of isolation as a form of discipline
- expansion of the crime of assault motivated by bias
- first degree drug possession will equate the possession of fentanyl with the possession of heroin
- expansion of Sentencing Guidelines Commission by adding two more members
- prohibiting employers from asking job applicants about past pay history
- prohibiting sentences of life without the possibility of parole for individuals who commit a homicide prior to their 18th birthday, and providing a possibility of release after 15, 20 or 30 years for all individuals who committed offenses as juveniles.
- limiting the length of probation to five years for most felony offenses and making that change retroactively.

And finally, effective July 1, 2023:

- the State shall pay all costs of medical examinations for criminal sexual conduct victims
- establishes mental health pilot programs in county jails
- encoding into Statute the Interstate Compact for Juveniles.

This is not all inclusive but gives you a good overview of results of the Legislative Session for 2023.

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- ▶ Real-time reporting & photo verification.
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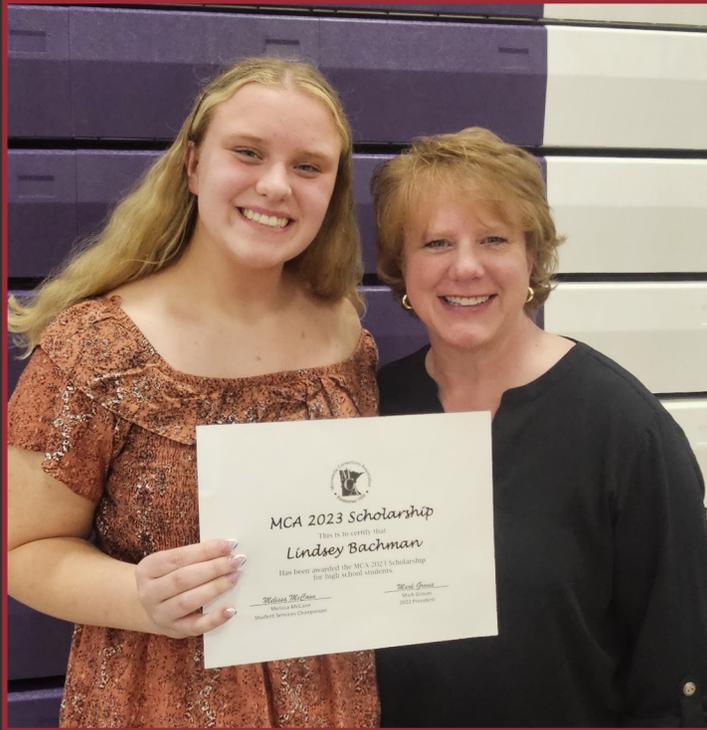
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Scholarship Announcement



Lindsey Bachman and Tracy Bachman

The 2023 MCA High School scholarship award winner was Lindsey Bachman. Lindsey is the daughter of MCA member Tracy Bachman. Lindsey will be attending South Dakota State University majoring in Nursing in the fall. She has career goal of working at Mayo Clinic as a Registered Pediatric Oncology Nurse. She indicated in her application, "I want to be a child's light when everything around them seems dark. I want to help children beat the odds and celebrate with them when they get to ring that bell! I want to watch them walk out of a hospital knowing that they have their whole lives ahead of them!" Lindsey graduated from Grand Meadow High School in 2023 and was involved in a variety of activities including Grand Meadow Mini Larks coach, National Honor Society, Superlark Volunteer Cord Program, and Art Club Treasurer. She also assisted in the community; completing over 182 community service hours for school based events, church events and non-profits such as Real Hope for the Hungry. She also worked in high school as a Certified Nurse Assistant and at Just for Kix Dance. Congratulations Lindsey and good luck in your future endeavors.



MCA awards one high school scholarship and one college student scholarship each year. Please watch for future postings for upcoming scholarship opportunities!



Melissa McCann and Lindsey Bachman



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 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.*

PERSONALIZED CARE FOR HEALTH AND HOPE

Every day, we dedicate ourselves to people, creating treatment plans that help them grasp meaningful, lasting change—the kind of change that can turn lives around. Our network is uniquely designed for those who may be struggling with alcohol or chemical dependency, mental or behavioral health concerns. Our team works across job titles and experience, disciplines, and expertise, applying proven therapeutic approaches to treatments that are as compassion-based as they are evidence-based. We share the same hearts, minds and ambitions, and an unwavering belief that we are truly at our best when those we treat are at theirs. Addictions are often as unique as the person who has them. At Meridian Behavioral Health, we take the time to get to know the patient's situation so we can understand how we can help. Working one-on-one with patients in a judgment-free environment, we develop a level of trust which can overcome even the most challenging circumstances. We then create a custom care plan for each patient, considering their individual needs and long-term goals.

EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES

Even as we develop a treatment plan appropriate for an individual situation, we apply the lessons learned helping others reach their goal to find long-term recovery. Clinical practices are scientifically based upon the evidence established by the effective treatment of previous patients. Our evidence-based approach to drug and alcohol treatment also considers the specific social conditions contributing to addiction. Experience has taught us that this can bring healing not only to the afflicted individual, but to their family and the broader community as well.

FULL CONTINUUM CARE

The scope of Meridian's network of affiliates provides a variety of disciplines and types of expertise to ensure patients get care appropriate to their needs. Our comprehensive array of services and specialties reach all levels and intensity of care, from residential inpatient to outpatient, from medically assisted treatment to group-based counseling. Our mental illness/ chemical dependency (MICD) care model is versatile enough to adapt along with our patients throughout their recovery.

INTEGRATING MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT FOR SUSTAINED HEALING

At Meridian Behavioral Health, we utilize a holistic approach to recovery, as drug and alcohol addiction affects both mental and physical health. We believe all are born with an innate state of mental health and wisdom that once lost, can be accessed, and reclaimed. By embracing this concept of innate well-being, we pull upon the power of inner strength and re-establish a sense of self-pride and self-worth. The result is positive thinking which leads to healthy choices and, therefore, positive behavior. We listen, we respect, we understand, and above all, we help make a lasting change. Our staff whole-heartedly believes in the power of personal touch and their passion helps transform lives every day.

Please visit us at <https://www.meridianprograms.com/>

**Please call 877-367-1715 to contact our Access Team or
email directly to CARC@meridianprograms.com**

About the MCA *FORUM*

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

Articles should not be of the nature of a commercial solicitation of products or services; rather, they should be informative on topics of interest to MCA membership at large.

Articles may be submitted to the FORUM editor Tara Rathman at Tara.Rathman@state.mn.us

OUR MISSION:

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

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

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www.mn-ca.org



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