

MCCA

HOUSEKEEPER



A Publication of the METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 1

ISSUE 4

December/January '76-'77

MCCA CHALLENGES THE EVALUATION UNIT'S REPORT

Dear Community Corrections Co-Worker's,

The Metropolitan Community Corrections Association has developed a position paper reacting to the evaluation unit's report that was presented to the Crime Commission on November 30, 1976. Our response is to agree and support the Governor's Crime Commission's decision to not approve the conclusions and recommendations of the report and to request that an objective party such as the University of Minnesota re-evaluate the statistics.

Our position points out that the report stresses the negative factors and underplays the positive elements. The statistics demonstrate that (1) educational, vocational and employment rates increase considerably in programs; (2) occupancy rates are increasing (indicating more use by the courts); (3) program costs are equal to or lower than institutions; (4) clients pose no great risk to the community.

The comparison groups used to determine recidivism are, as pointed out by the Department of Corrections, poor measurements to make conclusive decisions for future programming. Even with this in mind, our programs are as effective as traditional methods.

A copy of our full position paper is available for distribution, from the MCCA office 2414 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, 871-0221 Ext. 218.

The Association has contracted with Walker and Associates, Inc., of Minneapolis to work with the programs on data collection and evaluation design. This action was taken prior to the unit's report. The Association's Evaluation & Standards Committee has been working on these issues for some time and would welcome any interested persons to join our committee.

1977 Membership dues are now being accepted. We look forward to seeing you at our January 26th meeting on Determinate Sentencing, The Matrix, and MAP Systems and their effect on community corrections. Elections for 1977 Board members will take place. Only paid members are eligible to vote. JOIN NOW, Renew for '77. It looks like an exciting and challenging year.

Cordially yours,

Tom Christian

Tom Christian, Director

Metropolitan Community Corrections Association

RESTITUTION CENTER TO CLOSE

The Department of Corrections has notified the Restitution Center that effective December 31, 1976, the residential component of that program will close. The MCCA wrote to Pat McManus, Assistant Commissioner, expressing its concern and asking for an explanation for this decision. The response was "basically it is felt that the Restitution Center has been a good experience and many things have been learned." Reasons given for the closing were: Cost of the program, excess of community corrections beds and a new organizational structure for restitution clients. Restitution staff will serve as brokers working with local agents throughout the state in developing contracts and setting up placement in programs. John McLagan is the Director of Restitution.

MCCA is concerned with the decision because the Restitution Center was one of the first community corrections programs developed and funded by the Department of Corrections. It has received national recognition in the literature and the concept fills a real need to repay the victims of crime. At this time, the program is working at near capacity and with more effort and support from the Department and Parole Board, could have worked at a much lower cost effective rate. The program was also beginning to operate more efficiently in terms of its goals and purposes and the amount of restitution and percentages or completion was improving.

We question how effective "on the street restitution" can be. Placing clients in other programs may or may not work.

We fear the Department's decision was based on cost factors period. Those questions could have been addressed without the elimination of the program. The decision appears to be too fast, and too fatal to community corrections.

WANTED!!!!!! YOUR MEMBERSHIP

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION
2414 Park Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

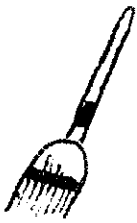
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ HOME PHONE _____
PROGRAM/AGENCY _____ WORK PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____
WORK ROLE _____

VOTING MEMBER ()
ASSOCIATE MEMBER ()

Working in Community Corrections
Interested in Community Corrections

MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$5.00 (Please Enclose Check)



Maintenance

MCCA CHAPLAIN

Father Stan Sledz presently serving as Chaplain to the Hennepin County Adult & Juvenile Facilities has agreed to be the Chaplain for our association. He is offering his services to any person in our programs. He is ecumenical in his approach. You can reach him at 348-3626 or 874-0312.

A NEW EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY HAS OPENED UP FOR COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CLIENTS - Center for Education for Non-Traditional Students (CENTS). This program is connected to Augsburg College. For information contact Poldi Gerard or Roger Simon at 332-5181 ext. 446.

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE. Next general meeting is Wednesday, January 19th, at 3:00 p.m. at the Multi-Resource Center, 19th & Chicago.

BOOKS AVAILABLE

15 LIBRARY BOOKS HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO OUR PROGRAM. CALL THE MCCA OFFICE IF YOU NEED BOOKS FOR YOUR PROGRAM.

PROGRAM COMPLAINTS

If anyone has a concern about a given program or policy, the association urges the individual to contact the program director and communicate the problem directly, or call the MCCA office and allow our association the opportunity to work on a solution. We are for better communication and more effective programs.

FINANCIAL REPORT - Present financial status \$203.81 in the checking account. These are monies collected from dues to be used for mailings, etc.

HELP!!!!!! THE MCCA'S NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE, THE ONES WHO DO THIS NEWSLETTER ARE IN DIRE NEED OF SOME ABLE BODIED SOULS TO HELP PRODUCE THIS NEWSLETTER. WE ARE DOWN TO TWO PERSONS, WHICH I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE WHEN READING THIS AND SEEING ALL THE WORK THAT GOES INTO YOUR NEWSLETTER, THAT WE DESERVE SOME HELP. PLEASE HELP US TO CONTINUE TO PRESENT A GOOD NEWSLETTER TO OUR MEMBERSHIP.

WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW

REFLECTIONS BE REFLECTIONS?

The annual Minnesota Corrections Association conference, held November 4th & 5th, provided professionals in the field with a forum for sharing ideas and exchanging information.

The two day conference included guest speakers, a resource fair, small workshops and lunchtime entertainment by Dudley Riggs Players.

The MCCA sponsored two workshops for the conference. One was put on by the Family of Nexus, entitled "Drama as Therapy". The other was a panel discussion centered around the theme "Community Corrections: Fact and Future". Members of the panel included Judge Allen Oleisky, Hennepin County District Court, Frank Woods, Warden Minnesota State Prison - Stillwater, Ken Young, Director Court Services Hennepin County, Lorraine Teel Eden House, and Tom Christian, Director MCCA. A tape of this presentation is available at the MCCA Office. Both workshops were well received and the cause of community corrections was well presented.

WELCOME NEW MCCA MEMBERS

WELCOME - BRENNNA BARRETT!!!!!! Many of you I am sure remember Carol Barrett from the Training Center. Carol and Tony Barrett are the proud parents of a new baby girl. Hope this means that Carol will soon be back with us.

Rodney J. Johnson, Bremer House
Chris Peterson, Team House
Stephen Levi, St. Stephen's Guild Hall
Stan F. Kano, H.I.R.E.D.
Fay Sleeper, Project Newgate
Pamela McCrea, H.I.R.E.D.
Frank Johnson, Retreat House
Matt Smerker, Department of Corrections
Carol Engel, Northside Court Services
Julie Shaw, Genesis II
Charlee Hoyt, Minneapolis City Council
Karole Williams, Associate Member
Harry Kramer, Ramsey County

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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404



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VOLUME 2

ISSUE 5

February/March 1977

Dear Community Corrections Co-workers,

A committee from our Association met with Robert Crew, from the Crime Commission and his evaluation unit, December 29, 1976, to dialogue on their unduly negative report on our residential programs. Communication was started to provide more cooperation between the Commission and our Association. The Crime Commission took out a membership and Robert Crew assigned Tom Reid, who also joined, as our liaison.

The Governor's Crime Commission lifted the moratorium on residential programs on January 27, 1977, and did not follow the recommendations of the evaluation report.

Robert Crew resigned his position effective April 1, 1977.

MCCA submitted a position paper on criminal justice to Governor Rudy Perpich prior to his February 15 talk in Rochester. We were encouraged with the Governor's approach to community corrections.

MCCA appeared before the Senate's Committee studying the Determinate Sentencing Bill SF 65, and presented a position paper on this issue. Through our efforts, the conditional release section has been broadened to two years rather than one, and probation time served earns one-for-one day good time.

MCCA is now administering the Minnesota Council on Ex-offender Employment program. We hope our work with this organization will strengthen our bonds with the business community and enhance employment opportunities for ex-offenders. The Peavey Company has a \$3,000 per year grant to aid these efforts. MCCA participated in the February 11 Conference on the Employment of the Ex-offender at the Sheraton Motor Inn.

The 1977 editor for this newsletter is Chris Bray from Women's Newgate. We welcome her and her staff: Juanita Dalton, Bruce Clendenen, Marilyn Krueger, Rick Kaufman, Dave Bealke and Steve Levi.

We would like to thank our 1976 editor, Jacqui Wong, and all those who worked with her during the year.

We look forward to seeing you at our general meeting on evaluation on March 31 here at 2414 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Cordially,

Tom Christian

Thomas F. Christian, Director
Metropolitan Community Corrections Association