



MACPOST

Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers



Fall 2016

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From the President

Jonathan Schiro, Brown County Probation

I hope everyone enjoys their time between eating all the left over Halloween candy before they indulge in a little turkey, potatoes, and stuffing. I, for one, have been putting a few extra miles in walking off the extra candy so I can enjoy a second turkey leg!

The MACPO Executive Board and Committees have been busy preparing for the 2017 season. The MACPO Legislative Committee has finalized the 2017 Legislative Platform, which will help prepare MACPO for the upcoming legislative session. The Membership Committee continues their outreach to local colleges ensuring upcoming professionals in corrections are aware of the wonderful opportunities MACPO has to offer. The Communications Committee is working tirelessly at updating our website. The Directors Committee continues to take on challenging issues facing MACPO, while the Training and Education Committee has been busy preparing for the 2017 Spring Conference. We have some very dedicated professionals ensuring MACPO continues to be a leader in Corrections.

We are extremely excited for our upcoming spring conference, as we will be celebrating 60 years of training excellence. The Training and Education Committee is working hard to ensure the training will once again be educational, beneficial, and exciting. We also have some great prizes and events planned for this milestone. A big thank you to Williams Diamond Center of Mankato, MN, who partnered with MACPO by donating a 14K white gold chain, which will be our grand prize drawing at the conference. Don't miss out on your chance to attend some great training, participate in fun events, and a chance to win some fabulous prizes. We hope to see you there!

Also, don't forget to take some time to nominate those who are deserving of the annual awards offered by MAPCO. Visit MACPO.net to submit your nominations.

Have a great holiday season and we look forward to seeing you at the MACPO 60th Spring Conference at wonderful Breezy Point in May 2017.



“Well, it’s common for folks to feel a sense of doom in the fall. The shorter days, falling leaves, dank weather can all trigger a case of the blues.”

County Highlight: Jackson County

Robert Jirele, Jackson County Director of Court Services

Jackson County Court Services is located off Interstate 90 in Jackson, Minnesota in beautiful Southwest Minnesota. Jackson County has a population of 10,079. The two main industries in the county are manufacturing and agriculture. Jackson County Court Services consists of the Director, one full time agent, and one part-time support staff. We are fortunate to be housed in the historic Jackson County Courthouse which opened for business in 1909.

Jackson County Court Services supervises all non-felony adults sentenced by the Court, as well as all of the juvenile cases. In January 2016, this office commenced an aggressive pre-trial supervision program for all clients ordered with release conditions. One unique program offered in Jackson County for juveniles is the YCC (Youth Coordinating Council) Program. Juveniles are ordered by the Court to participate in YCC. The child and their parent meet on a weekly basis with school staff, probation, and social services as a group to track the juvenile’s progress and to share ideas as to how a child might best succeed. This collaborative effort is a great example of different agencies with limited resources working together in rural Minnesota.



Let's meet the staff:

Director of Court Services Robert Jirele:

"I began my career in corrections in 1988 when I was hired as an agent at Rock-Nobles Community Corrections Department. I worked at RNCC for 27 years until I began my duties as Director of Court Services in Jackson County on November 2, 2015. My duties consist of administrative work, supervising an adult caseload, and overseeing the pre-trial release program. I have been married 27 years to my wife, Mara. My daughter, Emma, attends the University of Minnesota and my son, Matthew, attends Mount Marty College in Yankton, South Dakota. I previously served 8 years on the Worthington Area YMCA Board, followed by serving 7 years on the District 518 School Board. My personal interests include biking, running, and reading. "



Senior Agent Danni Bristol:

"I have worked for Jackson County Court Services since June of 2012. My caseload primarily consists of all of the juvenile cases although I also assist with some adult cases in the office as well. I have been married to my husband, Cody, for 3 years. We have one daughter, Annabelle, who celebrated her first birthday on October 31, 2016. I am involved with the Jackson County Action Team, Addiction Prevention and Safety Coalition, Jackson County Child Protection Team, and the Youth Coordinating Council. Outside of work, I volunteer as Secretary of the Southwest Crisis Center Board. I am also a member of the

Lakefield Women of Today and on the Advisory Board for the Big Buddies Program. My personal interests include: photography, fishing, volleyball, spending time with family, and playing with our black lab, Titan."



Legislative Committee

Margaret Munson, Wright County Court Services

Legislative followers...

The election is over and if for no other statement I have, happy the ads are off TV. Our lobbyist, Lisa Frenette, reports...

The elections came as a surprise to many, including the Republicans here in Minnesota. The House Republicans were projected to lose anywhere from 2 to 4 seats and the Senate Democrats were expected to keep their majority. Instead, House Republicans picked up three seats. The margin is now a 76 - 57 Republican majority, with a special election to be held next February to fill the seat vacated by a former Republican legislator up in the Chisago area. In a stunning defeat, Senate Democrats lost the majority and the Senate Republicans now hold a one seat majority for a 34 a 33 split. This parity will make the next four years interesting. Depending on the issue, you could see legislators flipping their vote to another side.

Leadership in the four caucuses was decided at the end of last week. Speaker Daudt remains the House Republican leader; Senator Paul Gazelka was elected Senate Majority leader; Representative Melissa Hortman is the new House Minority leader; and and Senator Tom Bakk was nominated as the Senate Minority leader.

Rep. Cornish will most likely retain his chair with the Public Safety Committee. The newly elected Senate Majority won't finish assigning its committee chairs until mid-December. It remains to be seen whether Senator Limmer stays as the Judiciary Chair or, as speculated, will take over as the Chair of Taxes. Political pundits are also waiting to see what the Senate does to align Senate committees up with the House committees.

As always, stay tuned!

Thank you Lisa for the great work you do. We on the committee are looking forward to seeing what this session brings. We are planning the 2017 Capital Day in February with our other corrections partners – stay tuned for a date. The good news is the Capital is open again so we will return to the Kelly Inn. If you are interested in seeing your legislator before that, let us know and we will set you up with the materials you need. Otherwise, we are more than happy to come with you.



Communications Committee

Jess Mott, Chisago County Program

With the beautiful, calming weather that is occurring in our beautiful state of Minnesota, the Communications Committee has decided to add that calming effect to our website as well. We have started the remodel process to our website, with the first change being changing the color scheme and layout. We have also uploaded MACPO's new logo! The website is still available for use; however, we respectfully ask you be patient as this process will take some time. Stay tuned for the fully remodeled website in the near future.

We have revamped the process of applying for the scholarship and completing award nominations by creating fillable PDF forms. These forms allow you to complete them online and either print or save to your computer. Our website has directions on what to do once you have completed the forms.

MACPO President is looking for photos from **any** and **all** MACPO events that have been taken over the years, no matter how far back they go. Please email them to president@macpo.net.

We continue to post jobs, upon request, from agencies all around Minnesota. We frequently utilize our social media accounts with Facebook and Twitter. Follow and like our social media pages!!

The Communication Committee is always up for suggestions, so please feel free to email communciation@macpo.net with any great ideas on how to make the website more user friendly!



Membership Committee



Amber Chase, Pine County Probation

Nicole Kalow, Waseca County Court Services

Happy Fall everyone! As the leaves are turning and winter is quickly approaching, your Membership Committee is busy! As we write this, Amber Chase, Joe Rubado, and Rachel Miller are sitting at the MCA Fall Conference at Grandview in Nisswa, and talking about ideas we have for our Spring Conference. We just need winter to hurry up and come and go so we can get back up here for the 60th MACPO Spring Conference. The Membership Committee is working on finding a great registration gift for the conference to celebrate our 60 years. We will also have some new clothing available to purchase this year. You will likely see a survey come out soon asking for opinions on what people would like to buy. Our goal is to pay our membership back for all of their support. As always, we're also working on more student outreach, and we may reach out to the members to help us accomplish some of the goals. If you'd like to join the Membership Committee, we're always looking for fresh faces and new ideas.

Get your scarves and mittens out so you survive the winter and can join us when spring rolls around!



Training and Education Committee



Deanna Ruffing, Nicollet County Probation

Landi Dulas, Waseca County Probation

Greetings from the Training and Education Committee!

In October, our committee recently organized the Annual Support Staff Conference in St. Cloud, as well as a Regional Training that was held in Chaska. We had 58 support staff attending the conference, who spent the day enhancing their "Out of This World" customer service and focusing on co-worker relationships. We especially thank committee member, Jenny Tonjum of Steele County, for her hard work with this training.

There were 25 individuals that attended the "Leave it to Beaver Meets Twitter: Bridging Generational Differences in the Workplace" Regional Training. This training provided a historical concept in understanding the differences in generations and the dangers of stereotypes. A special "shout out" to Sara Prigge in organizing this training.

We are already busy planning the very exciting 60th MACPO Spring Conference!! Please mark your calendars now for May 24-25, 2017 as you won't want to miss out on this memorable event in the history of MACPO!! The Training and Education Committee is collaborating with the 60th Planning Committee to make this conference the **"BEST MACPO EVER!"**

If you have any interest in spending time with some amazing individuals, there is always room for great ideas on the committee! As always, we welcome any possible training ideas you have or wish to see... please contact myself or Vice-Chair, Landi Dulas of Waseca County.

CPO Director's Committee

Richard Molitor, Nicollet County Probation Director

Hello and good day to you my fellow MACPO enthusiasts.

Welcome to Fall in Minnesota!

I am writing today as my tenure as MACPO Directors Chair is nearing the end. I wanted to take this time to point out a few observations that stuck with me over the past two years. In my 27 plus years of working in the field of corrections/probation, I have not worked with a more dedicated affiliation of Directors and Supervisors who sit on the MACPO Directors Group. Please know that this group of folks are passionate about MACPO, the CPO delivery system, and their obligation to represent you. Many serve on numerous committees representing MACPO at the highest levels on a weekly or monthly basis. Their dedication to MACPO and corrections in general is demonstrated by their willingness to serve for the greater good of all of us, not just the county of which they work.

Ok, more praise to come... The representatives that you have elected to serve on the MACPO Executive Board are equally impressive. The "behind the scenes" work that these folks accomplish is truly amazing. Please know that they are all working diligently on many projects and topics, none more important and exciting than the 60th MACPO Conference being put together for Spring 2017. This conference is shaping up to be the "Best MACPO Ever!" Great speakers, education opportunities, vendors, and entertainment await us this May.

If you are reading this as a probation agent in the field, or other criminal justice partner in the trenches of criminal justice system, know that it is you and the extra efforts that you make each day that makes the difference in an individual's life. This could be a probationer, coworker, or an individual you encounter during your day. Your time and attention may impact that person's day and beyond. Make it count... It is you that make the MACPO and probation world go round. Be safe, proud, and productive.

Starting 2017, Amy Chavez, Chisago County Probation Director will be representing us as the MACPO Directors Chair. She attended Concordia in St. Paul and received her Master's in Criminal Justice Leadership. She began her career at the Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Center in 1992. Later, in December of 1995, she started in Ramsey County as an Agent, then a Supervisor, supervising the Intake and Predatory Offender Units. In June 2014, she became the Director in Chisago County. Thanks Amy for your service.

With gratitude,

Rich Molitor Nicollet County Probation Director



15th Annual MACPO Clerical Conference

Michelle Pramann, Wright County Court Services

The much anticipated 15th Annual MACPO Clerical Conference was held on October 11, 2016, at the Holiday Inn, St. Cloud. This conference was well attended, with clerical staff traveling from Olmsted County, Anoka County, and Wabesha County - just to name a few.

All the way from Dallas, Wisconsin, this year's presenter was Rick Olson. "Are you fun to work with?" Mr. Olson spoke about stress, how to remain calm in a stressful situation, and how to add a little fun to the office. He also presented on customer service and the importance of it. He kept everyone alert, entertained, and laughing. He shared his own personal experiences to keep us more engaged.

He got everyone out of their comfort zones by encouraging them to speak to their neighbors (those sitting at the table behind them). One of the more memorable activities he had everyone participate in was the pig drawing. Everyone had to draw their own pig and then go around the room to show off their pig to several people. Once everyone had returned to their tables, he gave meaning behind each of the different parts of a pig. For example, the size of the ears illustrated how good of a listener you are. I can look at the pig that I drew and know I could've drawn a better pig. It was definitely interesting to see all the different ways people draw pigs and compare.

In my own opinion, and from clerical staff point, having presenters like Mr. Olson makes it very easy to be away from the office. I would say he was one of the best presenters we have had.

Unfortunately, Les Schultz was not able to be our host as he was "super busy in the office." Your secret is out Les! The committee members gave you up. ☺ All in all, we did miss you and your jokes. We hope you had a fantastic trip and hope to see you next year.

Below is a picture of Rick Olson during the conference.



Where's the Pony?

Matt Booth – Professional Speaker and Attitude Expert, Mattitude

As a speaker and storyteller, I feel that it is important to tell original stories and equally important to tell stories that are attributed to or made popular by someone else. One of my favorite stories is about twin boys that have completely different attitudes.

This is an old story that Ronald Reagan used often when he was president. Members of his staff said he told it hundreds of times. The story is about 6-year-old twin boys. Worried that the boys had developed extreme personalities, one was a total pessimist, the other a total optimist, their parents took them to a psychiatrist.



First the psychiatrist treated the pessimist. Trying to brighten his outlook, the psychiatrist took him to a room piled to the ceiling with brand-new toys. But instead of screaming with excitement, the little boy burst into tears. “What’s the matter?” the psychiatrist asked, baffled. “Don’t you want to play with any of the toys?” “Yes,” the little boy cried, “but if I did I’d only break them.”

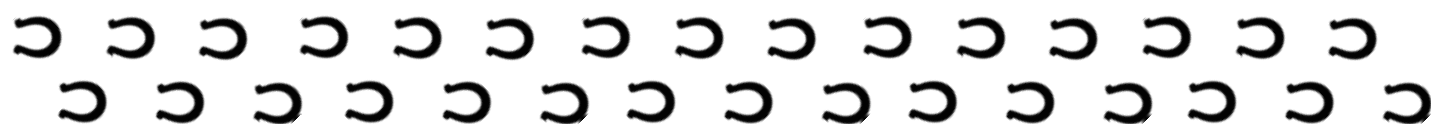
Next the psychiatrist treated the optimist. Trying to dampen his outlook on life, the psychiatrist took him to a room piled to the ceiling with horse manure. But instead of wrinkling his nose in disgust, the 6-year-old optimist screamed with delight and climbed to the top of the pile, dropped to his knees, and began joyfully digging out scoop after scoop with his bare hands. “What do you think you’re doing?” the psychiatrist asked. “With all this manure,” the little boy replied, “there must be a pony in here somewhere!”

Your outlook on life is determined by your underlying beliefs about life. Whether you call yourself an optimist or a pessimist is a matter of perspective but the facts of the situation are the facts of the situation. What you emphasize in the situations you encounter will determine the nature of your experience.

Again, it’s not so much what happens to you that matters, it’s how you handle what happens to you.

It has been said that Ronald Reagan told the story so often in the White House that it got to be a battle cry. Whenever something would go wrong, somebody on the staff was sure to say, “There must be a pony in here somewhere.”

Where’s your pony?



State Requires New Ignition Interlock System with GPS Data Collection Possible

10/05/2016 – Jay Kolls, KSTP Channel 5 News

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) has issued a new rule that requires DUI offenders to install new ignition interlock systems and some have the capability of collecting GPS data.

One of the state's vendors that installs these new interlock systems opposes the DPS decision.

On its own website, Smart Start MN, said, "These wireless modems capture, record and transmit GPS data on each event that occurs. The state has access to your location when you use your vehicle."

DPS declined an on-camera interview, but told 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS in a statement that the agency is not requiring the new interlock system to have GPS collection capability and DPS also said it will not "collect, or house the data."

The collection and storage of the data, DPS said, will rest in the hands of the private companies that manufacture the equipment and "they have data protection systems in place."

This affects thousands of Minnesotans who are required to have an interlock system, or have chosen the interlock system as part of their sentence for their DUI convictions.

Opioid Epidemic Taking Toll on U.S. Children, Teens

11/01/2016 – Curt Mills, Staff Writer, U.S. News

Opioid poisonings among young people have skyrocketed in recent years, a new study says.

The number of teens and children hospitalized due to opioid poisonings has nearly tripled in recent years, a new study finds.

The finding adds another layer to the opioid epidemic that has rocked the U.S. of late. The issue has drawn increasing congressional attention, and has become a campaign-season issue in states like West Virginia and New Hampshire.

From 1997 to 2012, the annual rate of opioid poisoning hospitalizations among children and teens ages 1 to 19 rose by 165 percent, according to the study.

Most painkiller poisonings were accidental among children under 10, said the study's lead researcher, Yale University postdoctoral fellow Julie Gaither. According to HealthDay, Gaither warned of young children "eating them like candy."

This is largely seen as an adolescent problem or an adult problem," Sharon Levy of Boston Children's Hospital told NPR. "But this paper really highlights that this really knows no age boundaries."

Gaither said that among teens, most poisonings resulted from accidental overdoses, although suicide attempts also occurred. Prescription opioid medications are often used "to get high, just like they would use any recreational drug," she said, according to HealthDay.

"Opioids are ubiquitous now," Gaither told NPR. "Enough opioids are prescribed every year to put a bottle of painkillers in every household. They're everywhere, and kids are getting into them."

The CDC has said the U.S. has seen the number of opioid deaths nearly quadruple since 1999, leading to around 78 daily overdoses.

President Barack Obama is among those who have addressed the issue in recent months.

When you look at the staggering statistics in terms of lives lost, productivity impacted, costs to communities, but most importantly, cost to families from this epidemic of opioids abuse, it has to be something that is right up there at the top of our radar screen," Obama said in March at the National Prescription Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit in Atlanta. "I think the public doesn't fully appreciate yet the scope of the problem."

You're in Recovery and Your Significant Other Drinks. Three Tips for Staying Sober

10/24/2016 – Ruben Castaneda, Staff Writer, U.S. News

When Emily Sadler quit drinking eight years ago, her boyfriend was initially interested in her recovery from alcoholism. Before long, his attention to her recovery program waned, and he continued to drink heavily, Sadler says.

"He was my best friend and my drinking buddy. We would go out and get drunk together and have these dramatic fights," Sadler says. "We had this fiery relationship. Then I got sober, and I was no longer dramatic. Instead, I went to support-group meetings."



Sadler outgrew her boyfriend and learned how to take care of her two adolescent boys, from a failed marriage, by herself. "I was on this path of spirituality and recovery, I was changing, and he wasn't," Sadler, 42, recalls. "I became less dramatic and volatile, which had been part of our connection. I knew I

could never drink safely again, but he kept drinking right in front of me.” For two years, the Scottsdale, Arizona, couple cycled through breakups and reconciliations before they split up for good. Her boyfriend wasn’t going to change, while she was evolving, Sadler says.

The situation Sadler faced is common for people who are new to sobriety. Kicking alcohol or drugs, or both, is difficult for anyone. For many people, getting sober is complicated by the fact that they have a spouse or significant other who drinks or uses drugs, often abusively, experts of alcoholism and addiction say. “I’ve seen this happen to thousands of people, with many, many couples,” says Nicki Nance, a master addiction counselor and assistant professor in the psychology department at Beacon College in Leesburg, Florida. The dilemma can be even more complicated if the couple have children.

The partner who continues to drink may put his or her loved one's recovery at risk without intending to, says Dr. Shanthi Mogali, director of psychiatry at Mountainside Treatment Center in Canaan, Connecticut. “Many times, a partner who is still drinking and who doesn’t think they have a problem doesn’t understand the impact they have on the person seeking treatment,” Mogali says. For example, for a person in early recovery, watching someone they used to imbibe with drink alcohol could trigger cravings that could lead to a relapse, Mogali says.

When one half of a couple stops drinking or using drugs while the other continues to indulge, it puts their relationship into “disequilibrium,” Nance says. “If one person is in recovery, he or she is getting better, while the other one who is still drinking or using drugs is getting worse,” Nance says. She noted that alcoholism is a progressive disease that affects tens of millions of people – about 16 million people in the U.S. drank heavily and 27 million people used illicit drugs, mostly marijuana – according to the 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

Couples who have similar drinking patterns report being happier than those with dissimilar imbibing habits, according to a study published in July in *The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Series*. Couples in which both partners drank or both abstained were happier than couples with different drinking habits, the study said.

A 2013 study by researchers from the University of Buffalo's Research Institute on Addictions found that nearly half of the marriages of 634 couples ended in divorce when only one spouse drank heavily while their partner did not drink or indulged occasionally. The research indicated the dissolution rate for couples who were both heavy drinkers was 35 percent. Couples that did not engage in heavy drinking or did not imbibe at all had a divorce rate of 30 percent.

People who are in recovery and have a significant other who is still drinking or using drugs need to be aware of the risks this dynamic can pose to their sobriety, experts say. There are specific steps they can take to protect their sobriety:

Put your recovery first. Make sobriety your priority, and do whatever you must to safeguard it, says Anita Gadhia-Smith, a psychotherapist who practices in the District of Columbia and Bethesda, Maryland. That means counseling appointments and support-group meetings take precedence over spending time with a significant other, she says. If you are involved with someone who’s negatively affecting your emotional, spiritual, professional or physical well-being, that’s a sign that you are putting your relationship ahead of your recovery, and you need to adjust your priorities.

Develop a sobriety support network. Make friends with people who are in recovery and spend time with them, Nance says. People who join Alcoholics Anonymous are strongly encouraged to find a sponsor,

someone who can help guide them through their journey in recovery. Your partner may not become part of your support network, especially if he or she is still drinking or using drugs. “Think of yourself as falling out of a building,” Nance says. “You want as many people as possible holding the net. The person you love may not be one of the people holding the net.”

If your partner is sinking, try to help, but don’t go down with the ship. If your significant other’s drinking or drug use is getting out of control, try to help by suggesting he or she join a support group or get treatment, Gadhia-Smith says. If someone is in dire condition and needs immediate help, you can organize an intervention by family members and friends, urging the person to get treatment. Employers can do this, too. Do all you can to help, but if your significant other continues to deteriorate, think seriously about leaving.

Sadler says she’s never regretted breaking up with her ex, who she is still friends with. She now runs her own business, an employment agency, and in 2014 appeared in “Lipstick & Liquor,” a documentary about suburban women who abuse alcohol. Sadler says she could not have progressed if she had stayed with her ex, and the positive changes in her life since she got sober “take my breath away.”

Why and How to Improve Mental Health Services for Youth

9/23/2016 – Jeffrey Lieberman, Contributor, U.S. News

In recent years I've noticed I become sad in September. It's not because September signals the end of summer, the further recession of my wayward youth into the past or some precursor of seasonal depression. Rather, it's because September is when our youth return to school, and, being a psychiatrist, I become acutely aware of the challenges they will face growing up in today's world, and dismayed at our inaction in helping them.

Mental health professionals have long known that youth is the sweet spot for mental illness. This is because most mental disorders manifest their first signs early in life, meaning from childhood to young adulthood. One in five people experience a mental health condition before age 25, and 75 percent of all lifetime mental health conditions begin in the first quarter century of life. Here's why:

Your genetics and early environment greatly influence your chances of developing mental illness. The largest and most rapid maturational changes in the brain occur during childhood and adolescence, making it more vulnerable to trauma, stresses and toxins, and creating more opportunities for things to go wrong during these periods.



The environmental pressures that are associated with growing up – social and academic pressures, the Internet, social media and recreational drugs, to name a few – have become greater in the modern age.

Growing up has never been easy, but it seems more hazardous now. Statistics bear this out. A 2013 survey by the American College Counseling Association found that 25 percent of students arrive on campus already taking psychotropic

medication. It also found that nearly all student mental health service directors think there are more students seeking help for serious mental problems, more on-campus physical and sexual assaults, and more frequent high-risk and self-harmful behaviors.

Rates of mental disorders – including depression, addiction, suicide, psychological trauma, eating disorders, attentional disorders and learning disabilities – are rising in their respective age groups. This may be due in part to the idea that millennials are more sensitive and less resilient than past generations; or alternatively, that the complexities of growing up in the modern age are more challenging. While both reasons may be true to an extent, our society also needs to be more aware and better able to treat mental disturbances than in the past.

But we are not. In the course of my career, I have seen many young people whose education and lives were derailed by mental illness that was not accurately diagnosed and adequately treated in a timely fashion. In the worst cases, this oversight can lead to irreparable damage in their lives, lifelong disability and even suicide. In rare instances, this lack of action can also result in violent assaults on the victim's family members or random acts of violence toward total strangers.

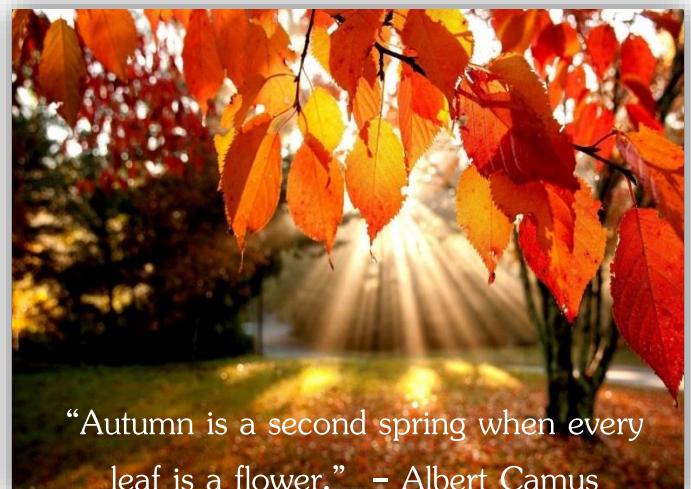
How and Where We Can Intervene

When asked why he robbed banks, the notorious Willie Sutton famously responded, "Because that's where the money is." Similarly, if we want to interdict mental disorders before they harm young people, we should focus on settings that make sense – namely, in pediatricians' offices and schools.

However, we have failed to take advantage of this opportunity. While pediatricians ruefully acknowledge that 40 percent of their practices involve dealing with mental and behavioral problems, they receive a woefully inadequate amount of child psychiatry training. Even when pediatricians take the initiative to acquire specialized expertise in child mental health, they do not have the time to provide adequate care. Nor can they readily refer patients to a specialist, since there is a serious shortage of child psychiatrists. While it would be ideal to embed or co-locate mental health professionals in primary care settings (aka "collaborative care"), this model is only infrequently implemented.

We also need major improvements in schools. Most educational institutions neither want the responsibility nor are prepared to meet the mental health needs of their students. They also lack adequate – much less, optimal – resources to provide good mental health care. Primary and secondary schools have limited health care personnel on site and usually rely on referral networks of clinicians that vary in quality and scope. These schools have neither the budgets nor the incentives to provide better mental health services.

At universities, where students are residing for four years, and not just attending for several hours a day, the most common form of treatment provided by student mental health services is crisis counseling and psychotherapy. University administrators, meanwhile, only began accepting the responsibility of developing comprehensive and state-of-the-art mental health services for students when increased behavioral incidents including suicides, sexual assaults and trauma, binge drinking and drug use forced them to. Their delay and reluctance is partly due to cost, but also to liability.



However, to provide the right types of evaluation and treatment, universities must employ and provide students access to an array of treatments administered by trained personnel, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and substance abuse counselors. Institutional officials, along with students and parents, also need to make complex decisions about when students can receive treatment at school, and when they need to take a leave of absence to seek outside care. In the case of the latter, when recovered, the affected student needs to be seamlessly transitioned back to the school's student health service upon resuming their education.

There are other more proactive and comprehensive strategies in mental health care that could be adopted to achieve the desired goals of improving overall mental health of this population, and that could reduce the consequences of mental illness. These include:

Screening students for cognitive impairments beginning in primary school and referring them for diagnostic testing and treatment.

Providing on-site evaluations in schools of any students exhibiting behavioral problems or showing signs of untoward mental function, and referring them to qualified outside clinicians when necessary.

Educating students and families about mental illness and substance abuse through in-person, web-based or print materials.

Implementing a system for monitoring, following up with and continuously assessing the outcomes of students who received treatments while they were in school, on vacations or leaves of absence.

To attack mental illness in its sweet spot, we should adopt a public health approach to providing mental health services through our primary care and educational systems. The reality is that this health problem is "low-hanging fruit" and does not require rocket science to fix. But it does require the social and political will, which I hope we will muster before next September.

Mission

Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers is dedicated to promoting quality correctional practices through professional growth, leadership, education, communication, and support.

Vision

Providing a voice for the probation profession and leading the promotion of sound correctional policy toward the principles of evidence based practices, restorative justice, community involvement, public protection, victim restoration, offender accountability, and competency development.

Executive Board

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MACPO 2014-2015 Elected Officers

Contact MACPO Secretary, Jill Ferretti - Brown County Probation, for the location and time of MACPO Board meetings.

Executive Board Goals:

- Review the vision statement on an annual basis at the Steering Committee meeting.
- Use MACPO's APPA Affiliate Membership to send our President (or assigned representative) to the national conference to maintain/promote our presence on a national level, to be reviewed annually.
- Continue to solicit input from MACPO membership regarding nominations for awards: Al Reker, Excellence in Corrections, Outstanding Performance, and Memorial Scholarship, as well as officer-elect positions.

Election of all officers shall be held at the annual meeting. Officers shall be elected by a simple majority at such meeting when a quorum of the voting members in good standing is present at the time of balloting.

Absentee ballots will be accepted or counted in any election and will be distributed by the Secretary at least 21 days in advance of election. Ballots to be returned three (3) days before annual meeting to the Nominating Committee Chair.

The Nominations/Awards Committee shall meet at least 60 days in advance of the annual meeting. The Nominations/Awards Committee shall contact candidates and potential candidates from among the voting membership of the association and shall prepare a list of such candidates and the offices for which they are candidates.



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