



MACPOST

Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers

Fall 2017

In This Issue:

- 1 From the President
- 2 Care Corner Featuring: RSI Laboratories
- 3 Communications Committee
- 3 Legislative Committee
- 4 Membership Committee
- 4 Training & Education Committee
- 5 CPO Director's Committee
- 6 MACPO Scholarship
- 6 MACPO's 60th Annual Spring Conference
- 13 Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration...
- 15 Commentary: Our Work to Reform Juvenile Justice...
- 17 Time: The Most Precious Resource
- 18 Help for Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits
- 18 Mission & Vision
- 19 Executive Board Information

From the President

Eric Johnson, Carver County Court Services



Hello! On behalf of all MACPO enthusiasts, we hope you all had a great summer! As the summer comes to a close (ugh), we can reflect on the great year we've had so far. Of course, the much anticipated 60th MACPO Spring Conference was a great success! Carmen Rodriguez, our keynote speaker, made us laugh and challenged us in our work with clients and relationships with co-workers. Dick Beardsley closed the conference out with an inspiring message to take with us as we left the conference and headed back to our tough but rewarding work! We were further reminded that none of us can run 26.2 miles in 2:08. A huge thank you to the conference committee for putting on a great conference yet again. This Spring, we had another record breaking year for vendor attendance! Hopefully you all got your fill of valuable programming information, candy, and trinkets for the family.

As President Elect, I learned many things about MACPO. One thing I was unaware of is how hard committee members work and how dedicated they are to this organization. Many tasks are completed and decisions are made behind the scenes. Many thanks to these dedicated employees who are adding this work to their caseloads! Even though operations generally run very smoothly, these folks are still finding ways to improve procedures and, most importantly, training for our members. Thankfully, there will be very little turnover in these committees for the coming year.

In the coming months, look for more training on topics such as Peer Support, Collateral Consequences and Expungement, and the Support Staff Conference. MACPO's steering committee will meet in August to set goals and objectives for the coming year. Thank you to outgoing President Jon Schiro and Past

President Neal Heumoeller, both distinguished gentlemen, for their tutelage this past year! As President, I hope to give as much support to our MACPO committees and members as possible. I am looking forward to a very successful 2017-2018 MACPO season!

Care Corner Featuring: RSI Laboratories

Michelle Pramann, Wright County Court Services

RSI Laboratories is a forensic toxicology laboratory based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This facility is a division of RS Eden, which is a non-profit organization providing recovery, accountability, and support services. RSI Laboratories has been providing drug testing for over twenty-five years.

They provide drugs of abuse testing and urine collection programs for corrections and treatment based programs, as well as employers, social service agencies, and government entities. They offer customized drug testing solutions fit to individual needs of customers, such as: urine drug testing, employee drug testing, color code collection programs, 24 hour results reporting, online/email results, court testimony, and confirmatory testing.

If you would like more information or are interested in their services, please visit their website: <https://rsilaboratories.org/> or contact them at: 651-356-6350.



Communications Committee

Jess Mott, Chisago County Probation



The Communication Committee is currently working on updating our “Vendor” page to include logos and vendor levels. We are making it super fancy so that when you click on the vendor logos it will automatically bring you to their website☺. We want to send out a special thank you to all vendors who have worked with us and provided support.

The Communication Committee wants to thank all those who attended our 60th Annual Spring Conference in May. Jody Henkemeyer did a great job of capturing hundreds of photos from the Spring Conference. Our committee is working on creating a “Photos” page, which will include MACPO photos from the past to the present, along with several from the most recent MACPO conference.

The committee is proud to announce that Neal Huemoeller with Wright County has joined the committee on a more full time basis. He will be helping with behind the scenes tasks.

Hope you all enjoyed your summer!

Legislative Committee

Margaret Munson, Wright County Court Services



Happy Fall MACPO ...

As summer moves along, it is already time to start working on legislative issues. Our committee has started working on MACPO Legislative initiatives and platforms. We create these documents as a road map for our organization and other legislative partners to know what we support and what direction our organization is wanting to go. Those documents also allow our partners to work with us. Co-Chair Terry Fawcett and I will be attending AMC’s Policy Conference to present MACPO positions and initiatives for the 2018 session. I am also meeting with Cal Saari, MCA Legislative Liaison, and reviewing our platforms and looking at opportunities to work together.

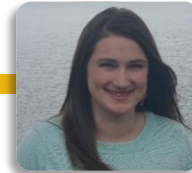
Please reach out to any legislative committee member if you have any issue you would like to have looked at or addressed. Also, keep us informed of any new issues that come up over the next year.

Things at the Capitol are quiet. What is great about the Capitol is the multimillion dollar three-year refurbishing is completed. I highly recommend that you make the trip to the Capitol, take a tour, and experience the amazing beauty of our great State of Minnesota’s Capitol.

Membership Committee

Amber Chase, Pine County Probation

Nicole Kalow, Waseca County Court Services



As the school year begins, the Membership Committee continues to focus on student outreach. Members of our committee will be speaking in classrooms to students at the colleges. If anyone has any interest in speaking in the classroom setting, please contact us for more information!

We are currently accepting applications for the MACPO Memorial Scholarship. Help spread the word to your interns and students in your lives! Applications will be accepted until 11/15/2017.

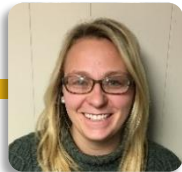
The 16th Annual Support Staff Conference is approaching quickly. At the conference, be on the lookout for our new merchandise! Shirts will be priced at \$40 during the conference. Don't forget...you can still purchase MACPO clothing on the website. This year's new apparel is all \$45 (which includes shipping). There is also apparel on the website from last year, which are selling for \$30 (including shipping).

If you would like to join the MACPO Membership Committee, please contact Amber Chase at amber.chase@co.pine.mn.us or Nicole Kalow at nicole.kalow@co.waseca.mn.us for more information. We are always looking for more talented individuals to join us and share new ideas!

Training and Education Committee

Deanna Ruffing, Nicollet County Probation

Landi Dulas, Waseca County Probation



Greetings from the Training and Ed Committee!

The annual spring conference was a successful one and we are already working on topics for 2018! If you have ideas, we would love to hear about them! Please reach out to a committee member with any topic ideas. Thank you to those of you who completed the survey providing feedback for the conference. Your thoughts and ideas are valued!!

Our committee is busy planning the annual Support "Hero" Conference on October 3rd, 2017 for support staff and have booked a speaker we think will inspire, motivate, and erupt a lot of laughter! In addition, support staff will have the opportunity to spend part of their day on office safety.

Save the Date for our partnered training with MCA scheduled for Friday, October 6th on Collateral Consequences and Expungement to be held in Carver County. This training is provided at no expense to all MACPO or MCA members (only one organization membership required). Please visit the website for more details.

We recently welcomed our newest committee members: Loren Nerison from Gerard Academy, Amy Hertzog from Wright County Court Services, and Cassie Schmidt from Mille Lacs County Probation. We want to extend our appreciation for the years of service Jeff Hansen from Nexus provided to our committee and his input and continued support of MACPO.

Enjoy the season as we transition to fall!

CPO Director's Committee

Amy Chavez, Director of Chisago County Court Services

Pine County Team selected for Prestigious Program at Georgetown University!

A Pine County team has been selected to attend the School-Justice Partnerships Certificate Program at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy in Washington D.C. The team is composed of: County Attorney Reese Frederickson, Probation Director Terry Fawcett, Health and Human Services Director Rebecca Foss, East Central Schools Superintendent Andrew Almos, and East Central High School Principal Stefanie Youngberg.

The nationally-recognized program provides schools and county leaders "with the knowledge and understanding necessary to address the immediate and long term needs of students known to, or at risk of entering, the juvenile justice system." After the week-long program in September, the team will implement a capstone project with the assistance of national experts, and will have access to a national fellows network of other juvenile justice leaders.

All team members were offered scholarships to help reduce the expenses of the program. The team's acceptance into this program highlights the county's strong partnership with the school districts, its recent juvenile justice initiatives, and its commitment to the county's citizens. The team's goals include substantially reducing truancy and out-of-home-placement costs, as well as implementing a cross system model to tackle delinquency.



MACPO Scholarship

MACPO is offering a \$750 scholarship to be used toward a Corrections related degree and/or internship. Application submission is now OPEN!!!

To view the MACPO Scholarship requirements and to complete the application, please visit www.macpo.net and select the “Education” tab.

Please share this information with any students you may know that would be interested in submitting an application. The application deadline is **November 15, 2017**.



MACPO's 60th Annual Spring Conference

Michelle Pramann, Wright County Court Services

Neal Huemoeller, Wright County Court Services

Jessica Mott, Chisago County Court Services

Since the last MACPOst Newsletter, MACPO's 60th Annual Spring Conference was held at Breezy Point Resort in Pequot Lakes, MN. There was nearly 100 registrants for the conference.

It was “ALL ABOARD!!!” for part of the conference this year. Past MACPO presidents gathered onto the Breezy Belle boat for an evening of fun. Neal Huemoeller said, “It was great getting everyone together.” Les Schultz, from Brown County, didn't disappoint anyone by wearing a captain's uniform to the gathering on the boat. Jessica Mott also mentioned most past presidents were excited to be back and able to catch up with old coworkers.



The award ceremony was a fun evening and attended by many, even by guests that are not Probation Officers.

Evonn Westcott (Brown County) was awarded the MACPO Superior Award (pictured to the right). This award is to recognize an individual, group or agency which has provided superior service to advance the mission and goals of MACPO.

The Rookie Agent of the Year is given to a new probation officer/agent who has demonstrated abundant potential and professionalism in their early career. They also have a strong desire to learn on the job, participate in training opportunities, and demonstrate enthusiasm and positive attitude. The MACPO Committee choose Kaylee Henson (Wright County Court Services) as this year's Rookie Agent of the Year winner. (Pictured below is Kaylee with her award.)



The next deserving individual is Bryan Harris (Cass County). He was awarded the Outstanding Performance Award (pictured to the right). Bryan has demonstrated professionalism and leadership within his county and field of probation.



There were two other awards presented that evening: the Excellence in Corrections Award and the Al Reker Distinguished Service Award.

The Excellence in Corrections Award is presented to a corrections' program that has shown outstanding leadership and development in probation. This year's award was presented to Ottertail County's DWI Court Program. Their picture is below on the next page.



Last, but certainly not least, was the presentation of the Al Reker Distinguished Service Award. An individual is recognized for their commendable contributions and dedication made over a sustained period of time to the field of probation. This award also recognizes someone who is well known in their community, shows strong commitment to their family, and serves as a role model for many.

The MACPO committee had the honor in presenting Brian (Abe) Abrahamson (Wright County Court Services) with this award that evening. Abe was able to celebrate this memorable moment with many of his coworkers, but more importantly, his family. He was honored to receive this award and was taken aback to see the support of his family. Pictured below is Abe holding the trophy and Wright County Court Services staff that were able to attend the conference. Those from Wright County that were not able to attend the conference recorded a short video for Abe, which was shown for him at the conference as well.



Please keep other individuals in mind to be recipients of any of these awards at next year's conference. Information will be sent out prior to the conference; otherwise, please contact one of the committee members for a nomination form.

The information on the next two pages describe the different breakout sessions that were held one day of the conference, broken up by color. The earlier part of the morning offered three different sessions to choose from. Another three topics were then presented from late morning until lunch. For the afternoon, participants attended one of the four sessions that is listed below.

The two main keynote speakers were Carmen Rodriquez and Dick Beardsley. Please continue to read on after the breakout session details to get more information about them and the topics they presented.

Detox Your Work Environment

- Presented by Carmen Rodriquez, Sr. Training Specialist for Illinois Cook County Probation
- Do you ever wonder why you feel so exhausted at the end of the work day? Dealing with toxic and difficult people can turn your time into a stressful situation. Come join us as we look at fun, insightful and revolutionary strategies to deal with toxic, energy-eating people who simply drain us.

Criminal History System & Probation Client Notification Updates

- Presented by Gary Kalstabakken and Carla Duellman, Dept. of Public Safety
- The CA-MNJIS provides the gateway to criminal justice information. This session will give updates on two information sources that probation officers use regularly. Probation Client Notification (PCN) is being expanded to include more messages to probation officers about new criminal justices activities of clients. The BCA-MNJIS is rewriting the Criminal History System (CHS) and this session will provide an overview of the changes in searches, filtering, readability and overall usability of the new CHS.

Go Fish Technology

- Presented by Joyce Knowlton, Special Investigator for MN Dept. of Corrections
- When it comes time to search cell phones, laptop computers, or other devices do you feel like you're just playing Go Fish? Learn how you can and cannot search for items on computers, cell phones or the cloud. How do you find their Facebook page, Snapchat, Instagram or Twitter accounts? How do you save all of that information for evidence? Finally we will discuss what is required for subpoenas and court orders and what you can and cannot do and/or receive as part of the process.

Linda, Listen to Me

- Presented by Michelle Nelson, Admission Manager for Woodland Hills & Training Consultant
- Learn about the granular details that lead to, create and escalate matters into crisis. Discover how rapport building, connecting, verbal interventions and stress management are the keys to avoiding unhealthy and unproductive conflict situations. This training can be applied in a variety of human service settings.

Current Drug Trends

- Presented by Nick Otterson, K-9 Handler, MN State Patrol
- This session will discuss the current popular drugs, their names (including slang), what each drug does to the body and signs of impairment. Information regarding seizures made in communities and along the highway with the assistance of K-9's will also be presented.

More than Just Motivational Interviewing Booster

- Presented by Karen Evans, Restorative Justice & Special Projects Agent, Wright County Court Services
- William R. Miller and Stephen Rollnick's new book "Motivational Interviewing Helping People Change" 3rd Edition is "more than just an update." The new addition has been fully restructured around the new four-fundamental process model of MI. Karen will provide an overview of what is different from the previous editions and how it can apply in corrections.

Intimate Partner Violence and the Technology Use

- Presented by Brian Hill, Vice President of Corporate Investigative Services, Computer Forensic Services
- From cloud computing to smart phones to Wi-Fi...everyday but ever-changing technology affects our obligations. Brian Hill alerts you to cybersecurity problems with ethics implications. In an effort to inform the attendees of current developments in the digital underground as well as provide realistic advice for cyber protection, Brian will discuss recent high profile cyber-crime events, including website breaches impacting retailers, banks and government agencies. The presentation is focused on intimate partner violence and stalking and the technology used in those cases.

Cross Cultural Learning Experience

- Presented by Safaa Salam, retired MSU-Mankato professor and Rachel Feros, Islamic Group Vice President
- Learn about the Muslim faith and culture and have the opportunity to ask questions that are important to you and the ever changing community you serve as well as be provided with valuable information and resources for increasing understanding, enhancing cultural competency skills and building relationships with American Muslim communities.

Situational Awareness and Threatening Body Language

- Presented by Mike Locher, Community Services Safety Administrator for MN Dept of Corrections
- Learn how to be more aware of one's surroundings and techniques to more effectively identify potential threats, dangerous situations and aggressive body language.

Growing Gen Y

- Presented by Michelle Nelson, Admission Manager for Woodland Hills & Training Consultant
- Trending now...people are talking about generational differences but are they talking about them in the right way? Developing and maintaining a strong driven workforce is critical to an organizations success. This training provides insight into how the culture of communication and generational differences impact people, the work environment and how we work together. Without this awareness, people are missing opportunities to increase engagement, satisfaction and productivity in the workplace. Working together is not a one way street of understanding. It is a two way street and anyone can benefit from this fun and informative session.

Carmen Rodriguez

“Becoming a Warrior: The Four Agreements,” “The Pursuit of Happiness,” and “Detox Your Work Environment

Carmen Rodriguez was born in Cidra, Puerto Rico and is the oldest of 12 children as a result of both of her parents being married multiple times. In 1964, her mother moved to Chicago when Carmen was only one year old. However, every year Carmen returned to Puerto Rico to spend summer vacations with her father and family. These visits to the island would ensure that Carmen remain bilingual in Spanish and English, and maintain a strong connection to the culture. She was raised on the north side of Chicago in the Humboldt Park area which was a predominantly Puerto Rican neighborhood with its issues of gang violence. Yet, despite the adversity of growing up in a gang-infected area and in a domestic violence home, Carmen was able to overcome these obstacles and be the first in her family to obtain a college degree.

Today, Carmen is the Senior Training Specialist for Cook County Adult Probation in Chicago, Illinois, where she has worked for the past 29 years. In her position, she works closely with the Director of Training in identifying, delivering and organizing training for a department of over 600 staff members.

Carmen is the Immediate Past President of the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA). She has been involved with APPA for the past 27 years. Prior to becoming APPA’s Past President, she served as President for a two year term, President-Elect for one term, Vice President for two terms, served as the State of Illinois Regional Representative, and served on the APPA Executive Committee as one of the At-Large Regional Representatives. Of the 27 years involved with APPA, she has over 15 years’ experience serving on the Executive Committee of APPA.

In addition, she has conducted several trainings for the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) on various topics such as Addressing and Preventing Staff Sexual Misconduct, Managing and Supervising Female Offenders, Orientation for New Probation and Parole Executives, Multi-Generational Workforce in Corrections, and a live satellite broadcast on Achieving Excellence in Correctional Victim Services through Collaboration.

Carmen is nationally recognized as a diversity and tolerance trainer. She truly believes that in order to effectively provide supervision to offenders, “one must culturally try to understand those they supervise and the community they serve.” She also conducts personal development trainings such as stress reduction, conflict resolution, team building, and personal goal setting through her private training/consultant company.



Currently, she lives in a Chicago suburb with her two wonderful children, Briana and Vincent. Briana her eldest graduated in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science (Magna Cum Laude) in aeronautical engineering with a concentration in aerospace propulsion. She will be pursuing her masters at the University of Michigan. In 2015 Briana was selected and completed a paid internship at NASA in Houston, Texas. Her son Vincent is attending the University of Southern California and is majoring in computer science engineering with a concentration on software.

Dick Beardsley

“Staying the Course”



Dick will share his life with your clients and they will leave knowing that anything is possible, despite any roadblocks or doubts. With perseverance and courage, your clients will know they can take the next step when they don't think that they can or have it in them. They will leave with the ability to believe in themselves and embrace life's challenges, no matter how daunting. They will leave inspired and he will bring your listeners to laughter, tears, the pinnacle, the bottom, and back up again. They will be walked through his exciting highs and his dark valley of despair and through the anguish to that great light of hope and redemption.



Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration by Keeping Mothers and Children Together

Rebecca Beitsch, ET – 9/13/2017

OKLAHOMA CITY — When Stephanie Petitt was arrested for violating probation for prior drug and robbery convictions, she learned two things: She was 16 weeks pregnant, and she would probably deliver her baby while incarcerated at an Oklahoma prison.

In most places, an incarcerated woman who gives birth almost immediately hands over her newborn to a social worker, who places the child with a relative or with foster parents. Petitt said she was told she would have an hour to hold her newborn.

Just a few states offer alternatives that allow mother and child to stay together longer. At least eight states have so-called prison nurseries where nonviolent female offenders live with their children for a few months to several years.

But in Oklahoma City, pregnant women who are facing imprisonment for nonviolent offenses can avoid doing time and stay with their children by participating in a program known as ReMerge. The program, which is also open to mothers who have already lost custody of their children, includes two years of intensive therapy, parenting classes and job training. Women who graduate have their charges dropped.



Similar pretrial diversion programs for expecting women and mothers are scattered across the country, many formed at the city or county level. It's difficult to determine exactly how many there are.

But the idea behind them is clear: Diverting women from prison and keeping families together can save money and help break the intergenerational cycle of incarceration. Researchers say separating children from their mothers causes significant distress, and that children are more likely to end up in prison if they have parents there.

And with the number of incarcerated women — and the cost of imprisoning them — on the rise in some states, the programs are drawing new attention.

Oregon began a pilot diversion program in 2015, basing it on a Washington state program that serves both mothers and fathers facing incarceration. This year, Oregon extended its program to pregnant women, too. Supporters say it will allow the state to avoid paying \$17 million to construct a new women's facility.

Oklahoma City launched its program in 2011, spurred by Oklahoma's high incarceration rate for women — the highest in the nation, both then and now.

Petitt was 27 and addicted to methamphetamines when she was arrested. She had already lost custody of her first two children, and planned on putting her next one up for adoption. But, she said, "As I sobered up, I felt the baby move and I wanted to keep it."

A judge sent her to ReMerge, and she had her baby while she was participating in the program.

“The whole time I was getting high, I wanted to stop and be a mom again, but I just couldn’t stop,” said Petitt, now 30. “This gave me a second chance at being a mom.”

Foundations interested in reducing the number of incarcerated women in Oklahoma pay for most of ReMerge, with the state covering the rest. The program serves up to 50 women at a time and costs \$17,000 a woman a year. That’s a bit more than the roughly \$15,000 it would cost to incarcerate each of them, but if the women were behind bars, they wouldn’t get the same level of treatment and support.

Program officials say ReMerge graduates have a 5 percent recidivism rate after three years, compared with about 13 percent for women who leave the state prison system. The low recidivism rates, however, don’t include the 30 percent of women who leave the program — many of whom end up back in custody.

Support and Rules

On one recent morning, 40 or so ReMerge participants sat in a florescent-lit conference room in the basement of a downtown building and started sharing personal details from their lives.

One woman with cherry-red hair cried as she described taking her 6-year-old son to the dentist to get several teeth pulled. Before she had custody of the boy, she urged his paternal grandmother, who was taking care of him, to make him brush his teeth. Now he’s missing so many it’s difficult for him to talk and eat. The woman next to her tried to comfort her by wrapping an arm around her shoulder.

From there participants scatter to a variety of parenting programs and therapy sessions. Women who need dental care get it. Those who smoke are enrolled in a cessation program. They also get help finding jobs. The women aren’t permitted to own a cellphone until they’ve spent a month in the program. All of the women without a high school diploma must work toward a GED diploma, and nearly all of them spend the first 90 days in supervised housing. Participants also are barred from seeing people who aren’t vetted by ReMerge staff until they are months into the program.

Dusty Tate, a formidable woman with excellent posture, several tattoos and bright blonde hair, is the onsite probation officer for all the women. She administers random drug tests and stays in constant contact with the women, texting at all hours. Some texts are good news — “I got a job!” — others are bad news — “I’m thinking about relapsing.”

Much of the program is geared toward helping the women beat their drug addictions. Nearly 60 percent of women in federal institutions are serving time for drugs, as are a quarter of women in state facilities. Others have committed crimes such as theft or prostitution to pay for a drug habit.

Preparing to Graduate

On Monday afternoon, after the rest of the women have gone home, about a dozen who are set to graduate from the program at the end of this month gathered for their hour-long weekly meeting. Most work full time and have regained custody of their children. Several came with them in tow.

Reuniting families is an emotional challenge as much as a legal one. Some children had to be reintroduced to mothers they had forgotten. Some mothers had to resist what they call “parenting out of guilt,” trying to make up for their absence by giving in to children’s demands.



But as they near graduation, they all say they've re-established bonds with their children and tasted a better life that will keep them motivated.

"I never had my own car; now I've got one in my name. I never had my own apartment; now I've got my own apartment. I went to cosmetology school. I had never had a job; now I have a career," said Kamber Caulkins, 34. "I knew I wanted it, but I had to start accumulating enough stuff that I wasn't willing to lose it anymore."

Commentary: Our Work to Reform the Juvenile Justice System is Not Yet Complete

Miriam Aroni Krinsky, Marcy Mistrett and Karl Racine, Special to Route Fifty – 8/3/2017

Dakota County, Minnesota, prosecutor James Backstrom, in his July 28 opinion piece, "America's Juvenile Justice System is Appropriately Balanced," affirmed many of the strongest arguments for ongoing juvenile justice reform. He recognized that "youth are fundamentally different from adults" and acknowledged that "[w]e now know that the human brain is not fully developed until the early twenties."

Backstrom also noted that the National District Attorneys Association "supports a balanced approach to juvenile justice which properly takes into consideration all relevant factors in deciding what criminal charge should be filed against a juvenile offender." These views reflect important research and corresponding positive movement by prosecutors in recent years.

Where we respectfully part company with Backstrom, however, is in his conclusion: That our work to reform the juvenile justice system is complete and that current practices for juveniles in the justice system are properly balanced.

In the wake of "tough-on-crime" prosecutorial enhancements in the 1980s and 1990s, many prosecutors began exploring the benefits of *smart*-on-crime juvenile justice reforms. Those reforms have dramatically reduced the number of youths in the adult system while educating judges, prosecutors, and public defenders on the unique needs and challenges of justice-involved youth. These research-based reforms are responsible for positive changes to the system—changes that the Campaign for Youth Justice and other groups have sought to advance for decades.

In 2007, there were an estimated 250,000 youths prosecuted as adults in the United States. The vast majority ended up in adult court because their state had an age of criminal responsibility below 18. Since then, nine states have passed legislation to raise that age to 18. According to a recent report by the Justice Policy Institute, after the first five states raised the age, the number of youth prosecuted as adults dropped by nearly half—even while youth crime fell. Recently, four additional states have passed legislation that will cut the number of youth automatically prosecuted as adults in half once again.

In addition to reforms raising the age of criminal responsibility, states have removed youth from adult jails and prisons, limited the pathways of transfer from juvenile to adult systems, and restored judicial discretion by limiting or eliminating prosecutors' role in transferring youth to the adult system.

States that have instituted evidence-based, developmentally appropriate juvenile justice systems have seen their costs, confinement, and youth crime rates fall even faster than the national average.

States have not made these decisions in a vacuum. As cited in Backstrom's piece, the U.S. Supreme Court has held that children are different than adults, and that these differences need to be taken into account. Indeed, the U.S. Department of Justice's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence unambiguously recommended that prosecutors, "[w]henver possible, prosecute young offenders in the juvenile justice system instead of transferring their cases to adult courts."

Research from across the country has universally concluded that youth prosecuted as adults are more—not less—likely to recidivate than youth who remain in the juvenile justice system. Further, they recidivate quicker, and through the commission of more serious offenses.

The more enlightened juvenile justice system Backstrom recounts in his opinion piece is not a reflection of the tough-on-crime laws of the 1980s, but rather the research-based juvenile justice reforms that have resulted in nearly 70 new laws in 36 states and the District of Columbia since 2005. These laws have been passed by bipartisan state legislatures, frequently endorsed by law enforcement, and signed into law by both Republican and Democratic governors.

While these recent reforms are significant, we believe that we are nowhere near the stopping point in juvenile justice reform that Backstrom believes we have reached. Being smart on juvenile justice requires continued use of research and evidence to improve outcomes for youth. It means mourning the youths in Texas and Louisiana who committed suicide while being held in adult jails. It means fighting to block cases like the 10-year-old who was charged as an adult in Pennsylvania, and the two 12-year-olds who were arrested in 2014 and who are still being tried and treated as adults in Wisconsin.

In every state and the District of Columbia, there are still multiple mechanisms that drive youth into the adult system or lock them away in adult facilities. There are still laws that exclude youth accused of "violent crimes" from the programming and supports of the juvenile justice system, even while the vast majority of these youth return to their communities in their early to mid-twenties without the benefit of evidence-based rehabilitative services.

Our system is not balanced if research continues to show that youth of color, particularly black males, are not only more likely to be prosecuted as adults, but more likely to receive harsher sentences than their peers. Our system cannot be deemed just or adequately focused on rehabilitation if we still give 15-year-olds 15-year sentences, or even life without parole—a sentence that still remains in place despite the Supreme Court rulings that require reconsideration of these cases.

In recent years, we've come a long way in making our juvenile justice system "appropriately balanced," and we should all applaud efforts by Backstrom and others to advance these changes. However, if our collective responsibility is to foster justice and public safety—as we believe it is—we have miles to go before we sleep. Our young people, and our communities, deserve no less.



Time: The Most Precious Resource

Adam Singer, The Future Buzz

The passage of time is concept that I've spent a great deal of effort trying to wrap my mind around. It is especially problematic because while time itself is a constant, it's perception in our minds is continuously in flux. It's worthwhile, if you're able to, to try and slow time down as much as possible and try to get the most out of each moment. Time itself is far more valuable than money, fame, possessions, etc. – probably the most important real or abstract resource there is.

Value itself can be measured in time, even more so than money, for if you can get people to devote time to your cause, this can in many cases demonstrate that they are even more interested in helping you/your cause than those who simply give money. The people who say 'time is money' are right to a degree, but I'll go a step further and say that 'time is more precious than money.' You can always get more money – but there is no way to gain extra time; only extend the experience and perception of it.

Time is so important because we only have X amount, where X equals moments in existence. You really can't stretch it much further than what our physical bodies were designed to handle (this does vary slightly based on genetics), but I would say more than a raw number, how you spend those moments (whatever you most intimately enjoy doing) make up the purpose and function of that time. Looking back on life with regret is only a waste of time if you didn't learn and grow from those experiences, and I do not believe you are ever wasting time if you are learning, growing and broadening your understanding of yourself, your interests and humanity itself.

Who you surround yourself with and what you do during the X amount of moments on earth speaks volumes for what exactly you represent, and even if you think or speak a certain way, how you spend your time will almost always reflect your true persona. People spend a great deal of time simply thinking about ways they can change their lives, and how "next year of my life" will be better – but this isn't true, and is an unfortunate squandering of time. Your life will never change and you won't all of a sudden start accomplishing your goals – unless of course you make a change right now, at this moment in time. Simply thinking about making a change will almost always result in no change.

Now is a powerful word, something many people have a hard time grasping. Everyone wants to make changes to their lives, but I've discovered that only those who act decisively and have the self-control to put something into action at will are the most successful human beings, and able to alter the course of their lives. We should all freely be enjoying our time while also respecting it, and using our time to mold ourselves like clay into an ideal self-image of what we want to be. This should be one of our most treasured goals in life, and I think we should all be using our time in this manner.



Help for Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits

Christopher Hrapsky and Steven Eckert, KARE – 9/18/2017

Congress moved closer Monday to approving help for tens of thousands of veterans exposed to toxic “burn pits” in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“It’s very exciting,” Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) told KARE 11. “Today the bill is passing.”

The military used jet fuel in open-air burn pits to try to dispose of everything from plastics to medical waste. The resulting smoke and fumes are suspected of causing serious illnesses and death.

Klobuchar co-sponsored a bipartisan measure that authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to create a special medical center of excellence of study – and treat – the health effects.

“We need to better understand and address the relationship between burn pit exposure and the health needs of our brave men and women in uniform, and this bill will help accomplish that,” Klobuchar said.

Senate passage of the bill is welcome news for veterans like Jeremy Wolfsteller. He served in Iraq and experienced the burn pits first hand.

“We didn’t want to breathe in this black, dark smoke,” he said. “It was an awful experience. It’s something I don’t wish upon anyone.”

The American Legion has warned that without a quick action to investigate the health impact of toxins released from burn pits, they could be this generation’s Agent Orange.

Health effects from exposure to chemicals found in burn pits may include cancer, neurological effects, reproductive effects, respiratory toxicity, and cardiovascular toxicity. Studies suggest that troops who worked in these areas are subject to higher rates of asthma, emphysema, and rare lung disorders.

“We don’t want to see a delay like the Vietnam veterans had,” Wolfsteller said.

The “Helping Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits Act” passed the Senate as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. The bipartisan bill still needs approval in the House.

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

President

Eric Johnson
Carver County Court Services
president@macpo.net

President - Elect

Carter Diers
Wright County Court Services
presidentelect@macpo.net

President – Past

Jonathan Schiro
Waseca County Court Services
pastpresident@macpo.net

Treasurer

Alex Hirman
Wright County Court Services
treasurer@macpo.net

Secretary

Jill Ferretti
Brown County Probation
secretary@macpo.net

Legislative Committee Chair

Margaret Munson
Wright County Court Services
legislative@macpo.net

Communications Committee Chair

Jess Mott
Chisago County Court Services
communication@macpo.net

Membership Committee Chair

Amber Chase
Pine County Probation
Nicole Kalow
Waseca County Court Services
membership@macpo.net

Training & Education Committee Chair

Deanna Ruffing
Nicollet County Probation
Landi Dulas
Waseca County Probation
trainingandeducation@macpo.net

MACPO 2017-2018 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.



Like MACPO on Facebook



Follow MACPO on Twitter