



MACPOST

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY PROBATION OFFICERS

From the Desk of Evonne Westcott
MACPO President



SPRING 2012

Greetings!!

MACPO is busy! Congratulations to our Legislative committee, Lobbyist Sherry Muryn, MCA and MACCAC for another successful and well attended Capitol Day in February. The Training and Education committee is already finalizing details for MACPO's Spring Conference. Mark your calendars for a great training and collaboration at Breezy Point Lodge from May 23 – 24, 2012!

Watch for the Membership Committees award nomination forms coming soon! Please take a few minutes to nominate your co-worker to be recognized for a job well done! A lack of recognition for good work and inadequate support from an agency contribute to probation stress (Finn and Kuck, 2003).

Also, as we continue to strive to use EBP, agent stressors may also increase. There is greater emphasis in the agent's ability to engage and connect with offenders, a move from passive monitoring to actively being involved in the behavioral change process, system demands vs. needs of offenders, etc. (White, Gasperin, Nystrom, Ambrose, and Esraey, 2005). As agent's level of burnout continues increasing more than other human service fields, we need to take care of ourselves, recognize stress in our co-workers and learn from each other. We hope all folks from across the delivery systems will consider attending the spring conference and continue working and sharing together.

Please remember National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 22 – 28, 2012. In our ambiguous roles, remember our three main purposes, 1) holding offenders accountable, 2) making positive changes in offender behavior and 3) protecting the rights of victims and the larger community. Collaborating with crime victim groups and service providers is essential to serve our communities well!

I hope to see many of you at the spring conference! Take care of yourselves, your co-workers and be safe!

Mission

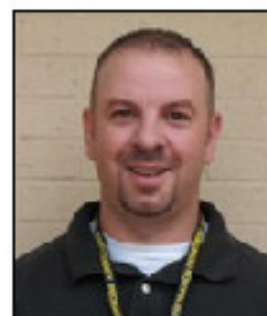
Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers is dedicated to promoting quality correctional practices through professional growth, leadership, education, communication and support.

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.

TRAINING & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

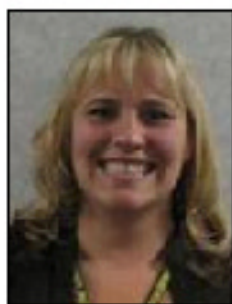
The Training and Education Committee has been very busy. No sooner had they finished the Support Staff Conference when they began the EBP Booster Extravaganza and regional trainings. There were 50 registrants for the March 2nd training! Now the speakers and training is pretty much set for Spring Conference in May and despite our limited budget, it should be another great year for MACPO!



Jason Vande Kamp
Isanti County Probation



Debbie Lawrence
Isanti County Probation



Rachel Miller

Isanti County Probation



Randy Baker

Brown County Probation

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Greetings all MACPO Members and MACPOST readers! We hope that this mild winter hasn't gone to your heads, and you still know how to be a real Minnesotan, tough as nails. However, this Spring-like weather does make a lot of us anxious for the upcoming Spring Conference! Remember to keep the dates of May 23rd & 24th open so you can join us.

The Membership Committee has had a busy winter traveling to different colleges and getting students involved in our organization through career fairs and speaking engagements. We've visited MN School of Business, Rasmussen College, St. Cloud State University and Mankato State University, just to name a few. Our student membership is higher now than it's been in the last several years, and we hope to help it grow. Remember that the deadline for our \$750 academic scholarship is due 4/1/12, so if you have anyone in mind who would like to apply, visit www.macpo.net for the application.

We are always open to new ideas on how to increase membership, and new committee members are always welcome. There will be information on how to join a committee when you visit us at the Spring Conference, or just contact rachel.miller@co.isanti.mn.us or randy.baker@co.brown.mn.us for more information.

COMMUNICATIONS



Christopher Maas
Sherburne County
Probation Department

Continue to visit the MACPO website for updates for the annual Spring Conference in May 2012. Feel free to let me know if you have any corrections or would like something added to the website.

Christopher.Maas@co.sherburne.mn.us or 763-765-4564



Tammy Thompson
Meeker County
Court Services

FINALLY the long awaited MACPOST! We are looking towards Spring now with the conference coming up, despite the recent snow and High School State Tournaments.... I am really new to the Executive Board and am amazed at all of the hard work these members put forth. You should be very proud of them! We have pulled together some articles for you to read, trying to offer some for adult and juvenile agents. There are also alot of great trainings out there to look over. With the recent upgraded revenue forecast for Minnesota, let's hope these tough times are on their way out so we can take part in more training. We are excited that Woodland Hills staff have offered to write some future articles for the MACPOST, sharing their expertise and gathered research on juvenile topics. If you have any areas of interest that you would like to see or hear about, please let us know.

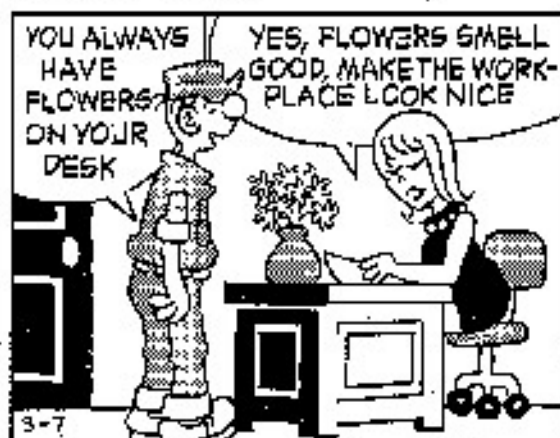


Defendant left a voice message indicating she was supposed to have gone to court today, but it was cancelled because she was "incoherent." Umm, we sent a memo cancelling the hearing because she was "in compliance" not incoherent.

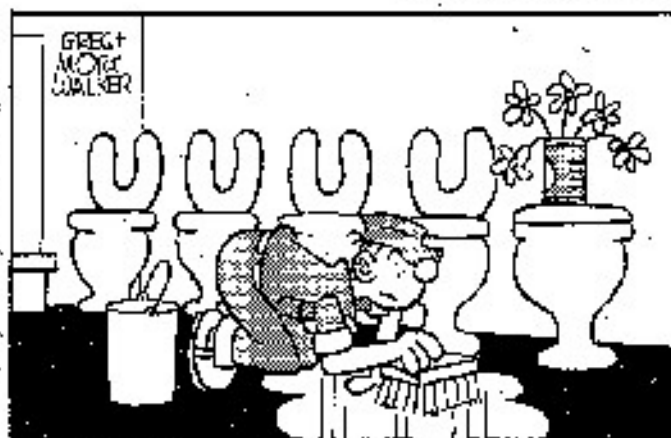
Denise Mies, Process Specialist, Stearns County

During 5th hour Science, the boys started talking about what names mean and what names are in the Bible. Wyatt stated that his name was in the Bible, the other boys stated, "no it isn't". Wyatt then states, "Yes it is, Wyatt Earp killed Moses".

Beetle Bailey



By Mort Walker



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Hello from the Legislative Committee!

While the campaigning for next year's Presidential and numerous other federal & state elections ramp up, the 2012 session of the Minnesota Legislature has started.

We have been meeting and have our legislative position statement and initiatives done & approved by the E-Board.

We held our Capitol Day on February 14 at the Kelly Inn in St. Paul. Once again we joined with MCA & MACCAC for this event. We had a fairly good turnout. There were about 30 people there from the various associations, as well as Senator Limmer, chair of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee, and Representative Shimanski, chair of the House Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee. Both Senator Limmer and Representative Shimanski addressed the group, as did DOC Commissioner Tom Roy.

We have been meeting with the legislative chairs from MCA, MACCAC, MICA, & MCCA to discuss issues where we might have common interests. We have also been meeting with the Juvenile Policy Advisory Group. There are a number of issues that may come up in the area of juvenile corrections and MACPO has been able to work with these other groups to provide a more united front for some initiatives.

We are going to be pursuing an amendment to MS 260B.198 Subd. 7, to lengthen continuances for juvenile cases from 90 to 180 days.

MCA & MACCAC are going to pursue legislation limiting predatory offender registration for juveniles so that the least serious cases would not have to register and have to deal with the myriad of collateral consequences.

There has been discussion of the age at which juveniles can be certified as adults "Emily's Law". We have experienced people representing MACPO's interests at these meetings, and I will keep you all informed.

Now that the session has started, this may not be the best time for you all to try and meet with your state representatives and senators. They are going to be on recess from April 6th through the 16th, so you can certainly call and invite them to your office for coffee & cookies some afternoon when they are available. You can discuss what's going on in your offices, and let them know how recent budget adjustments have impacted your office. Also let them know you are available as a resource if they have questions about issues that arise during the session. Once the session is over they will all be running for election, so they will be very eager to meet with constituents.

This session will be short do to the fact that all the seats in both chambers are up for election. Those that are running for re-election want to get home to their districts to start campaigning. The big issues this year are going to be the Vikings stadium, the Governors bonding requests, certain Constitutional amendments like voter ID and to require a 2/3 majority to pass tax increases, and numerous other policy issues. This is not a budget year, and the November projections showed a modest surplus so the budget shouldn't be a huge issue. However, projections are that there will be a deficit in the next biennium so who knows.

Our committee will continue to monitor the goings on in St Paul, and will keep you all informed as best we can.

2012 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Approved by the MACPO Executive Board on 01.25.2012

The MACPO Legislative Committee developed the following initiatives, which were approved by the MACPO Executive Board on:

- *Secure State reimbursement of 50% of probation officer salaries in non Community Corrections Act Counties as provided for in Minnesota Statutes 244.19 Subdivision 6, in order to maintain core probation services
- *Secure increased funding for the statewide Probation Caseload/Workload Reduction Grant program
- *Monitor "Retirement Plan Design Study", and Pension Committee actions
- *Increase the length of continuances allowed to the Juvenile Courts from two 90 day continuances to two 180 day continuances.

CHAIR

Bruce Hagstrom
Chisago County Court
Services



VICE CHAIR

Margaret Munson
Wright County Court
Services



The View From Canada



[Debra Parkes](#) is a professor of law at the University of Manitoba.

November 15, 2011

In Canada, we take a different approach to collateral consequences of criminal conviction.

Most Canadian laws that denied civil rights to people convicted of crime have been repealed or declared unconstitutional by the courts. Perhaps most notably, Canada's Supreme Court decided in 2001 that any ban on prisoner voting violates our Constitution.

The court held that to deny even those serving sentences for serious crimes this basic right of citizenship was counterproductive to the government's professed goal of promoting civic responsibility and respect for the rule of law. Three years later, the South African Constitutional Court reached a similar decision, rejecting any ban on prisoner voting as unjustified, particularly given that country's history of denying civil rights on the basis of race.

At the same time, there is strong support in Canada — at both a popular and a judicial level — for collateral consequences that are targeted to the crime, including lifetime bans on the possession of firearms for many violent crimes or serious drug offenses.

There is no serious opposition in Canada to the idea of banning guns from individuals convicted of violent offenses.

These laws are part of a broader federal gun control policy that requires all gun owners to be licensed and all guns to be registered. While it should be noted that support for the registry is weaker in rural areas and a bill currently before Parliament proposes its repeal, there is no serious opposition to the idea of banning guns from individuals convicted of violent offenses.

Conceptually and legally, there are key differences between voting restrictions and firearms prohibitions as consequences of criminal conviction. There is no Canadian equivalent of the Second Amendment. Unlike voting rights, which are clearly guaranteed to all citizens, gun ownership is a privilege, not a right.

Furthermore, the harm caused by firearms is readily apparent and significant evidence backs up the government's claims that firearms prohibitions promote public safety. When it comes to defending criminal disenfranchisement laws, governments resort to symbolic arguments that, at root, reveal a desire to look "tough on crime" without having to spend a dime to address crime or its root causes.

Topics: [Law](#), [criminal justice](#), [gun control](#), [guns](#)

Financial Stress May Lead Older Adults to Drink and Smoke More

Financial stress may lead older adults to drink and smoke more, according to a study of more than 2,300 adults over the age of 65. Men and people with less education appear to be most likely to drink and smoke in response to money worries, according to *ABC News*.

Between 1992 and 2006, the researchers found 16 percent of study participants had increasing financial problems. Three percent of participants reported increases in heavy alcohol consumption (more than 30 drinks a month), while one percent said they smoked more during this period.

Men who had financial concerns were 30 percent more likely to begin drinking heavily, compared with men without money worries. Women, and those with higher education levels, were more likely to reduce their drinking when they were troubled about finances.

"If the current global financial crisis leads to increases in experiences of financial strain among older adults, alcohol and smoking problems can also be expected to increase in this population," the researchers write in the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*.

Financial problems can be particularly stressful for older adults, lead author Benjamin Shaw said in a news release. "They are out of the workforce, and they might feel like they have less time to recover or generally have less control over their financial situation."



♪ The Lazy Song - Bruno Mars



Super Bass - Nicki Minaj



Many Songs Popular with Teens Promote Alcohol

One in five songs that are popular with teens have explicit references to alcohol, and one-quarter of these songs mention a specific brand, a new study finds.

Alcohol references are most common in rap, R&B and hip hop, *HealthDay* reports. The songs' lyrics often portray a luxury lifestyle that includes risky behavior and partying.

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh analyzed 793 songs that were popular among youths between 2005 and 2007. They conclude that frequent exposure to alcohol brand names in songs may act as a type of advertising, and could encourage substance abuse among teens.

In a news release, the researchers note the distilled spirits brands found in music, such as Patron Tequila, Grey Goose Vodka, and Hennessy Cognac, are the same ones that are increasingly named as favorites by underage drinkers, especially young women.

They say most instances of brand-name references in song lyrics appear to be unsolicited and unpaid for by advertising companies. Their findings appear in the journal *Addiction*.

Frequent exposure to alcohol brand names in popular music may act as a form of advertising and could contribute to the early start and continuation of substance abuse among teens, the researchers noted in a journal news release. However, they added that, in most cases, the references to these brand-name products appear to be unsolicited by advertisers.

♪ Party Rock Anthem - LMFAO ♪

Capital Day: A Day on the Hill....



Representative
Ron Shimaneki



MACPO participated in Capitol Day on February 14th in conjunction with MCA and MACCAG. Bruce Hagstrom opened the morning with introductions. Commissioner Roy shared a few words and remained around to answer questions and network with everyone who attended.

Representative Ron Shimaneki, Chair of the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee addressed the group outlining some of his committee's priorities. Senator Warren Limmer was present as well to share the Senate side of the Judiciary and Public Safety committee. Representative Tony Cornish, who was at last year's Capitol Day, was unable to join us at the last minute.

Later, Deputy Commissioner, Rich Crawford, spent additional time at the MACPO Director's meeting where there was a presentation on samples of proposed statewide probation agreements that the committee has been working on this past year.

Everyone received a great hand out of firearms legislation/restrictions as it applies to our probationers.

Lastly, there was a lively discussion regarding the increasing collateral consequences we've been seeing and MACPO's position on proposed changes.

For the rest of the day, everyone either dispersed to visit their legislators and distribute MACPO's Platform or attended a variety of hearings that were going on that day.

Department of Corrections
Commissioner, Tom Roy



55th Annual MACPO Spring Conference

May 23rd & May 24th, 2012

Breezy Point Resort

MACPO
DATE SAVER!

SAVE THE DATE

Check the MACPO website for online registration soon!

We need nominations for
MACPO awards!
Please think about submitting a
nomination!



The Conference: "Inclusion of Diverse Communities: Conversations on Disability, Racism, and Where We Are Today"

Thursday, March 22, 2012

9 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Southwest Minnesota State University

Conference Center Lower Ballroom

Marshall, MN

No Charge or Registration is Required

CONFERENCE ON WOMEN OFFENDERS

The eighth annual Conference on Women Offenders is April 30 at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center. It will include a welcome by DOC Commissioner Tom Roy and guest speakers addressing the effects that past trauma and abuse have on the female correctional client's view of the world and her response to trauma. For more information and to register, visit www.mnmcca.com/womenoffenders.

Family and Youth Engagement Training - March 20th from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

This training is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Education and held at the MN Department office in Roseville.

Research consistently shows engaging families and youth in a positive manner results in better outcomes for justice involved youth. JJC surveys identified this topic as a top concern for professionals working within Minnesota's juvenile justice system. It sounds simple. But how do you engage families and youth in your day-to-day operations in a system that may be seen as adversarial and intrusive, crosses multiple disciplines and has limited resources? This day long event brings together area experts to provide a set of practical tools and strategies to create a more welcoming and supportive physical environment and guide development of policies and practices for working with youth and families. The presenters include Donald Gault, Ramsey County Public Health, to discuss how the evidence-based Wakanheza Project framework can apply to the juvenile justice system; a panel of parents and youth to share their personal experiences and recommendations on system improvement; Mark Robinson, Black Launch Consulting, to discuss breaking down barriers to involve all families in the process and area experts on youth engagement to promote youth leading their own success.

Registration is filling up fast. Cost for this training is only \$10. Registration includes a continental breakfast and lunch. To register go to <http://community.jjcmn.com/training-events>.



MCA SPRING WORKSHOP

MARCH 29, 2012



Rasmussen College
130 Saint Andrews Drive
Mankato, MN 56001

8:30 am - 9:00 am
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Registration
Session 1
Lunch On-Site provided by Rasmussen College
Session 2

Responding Effectively to People with Mental Illness

Speaker – Anna McLafferty

Information about the relationship between mental illnesses and the criminal justice system. An overview of the major mental illnesses, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety disorders and borderline personality disorder. Specific de-escalation and other strategies to respond more effectively to behaviors that may be symptoms of a mental illness. These strategies blend smoothly with and augment motivational interviewing practices.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) & Legal Trouble- Working together to reduce secondary disabilities

Speaker - Kari Fletcher

FASD is an often invisible disability that affects 1:100 individuals in our region and impacts every system in the community, including the justice system. 60% of people with FASD aged 12 and older will be involved with police, charged, or convicted of a crime. 40% of adults with FASD have experienced incarceration. This workshop will explore the connection between challenging behaviors and the brain impairment caused by prenatal exposure to alcohol. Alternative strategies for responding to these behaviors will be considered along with opportunities for families and area professionals to work together to reduce negative life outcomes for affected individuals.

About the Speakers:

Anna McLafferty, MPP, Criminal Justice Director: Anna leads NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) of MN which seeks to build collaboration between the mental health and criminal justice systems to prevent incarceration when appropriate, reduce recidivism and improve the lives of individuals living with mental illnesses and co-occurring disorders. Specific efforts include advocating for mental health courts and other diversion programs, correctional training and jail discharge planning. Before NAMI, Anna consulted for the CA HealthCare Foundation and was health policy project manager for the Center for Governmental Studies in Los Angeles. Anna received a UCLA Master of Public Policy for Public Affairs, where she studied health care, local economic development and program evaluation.

Kari Fletcher: Kari Fletcher of Mankato works for the Adoption Support Network of MN, providing consultation to adoptive parents. She previously served as a trainer and local resource for families for the MN Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (MOFAS). Kari and her husband Mike have six children, four "homemade" and two adopted from the foster care system. Kari and Mike were licensed foster parents for 16 years and their two adopted children have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). Kari is passionate about educating others about this disability and has been training parents and professionals in MN and nationally since June 2005. Kari and her husband Mike were awarded the congressional Angels in Adoption award in 2009 for their commitment to adoption and children in care.

REGISTRATION (Please print and mail with payment to address below)

Name: _____ Address: _____
Agency: _____ Telephone: _____
Email: _____ I am: MCA Member Non-member Student

Cost: (Lunch is provided)
\$20.00 MCA Member
\$40.00 Non-member

Payment Options:
County Voucher (Enclosed) \$10.00 Student
Check (Make checks to MCA)

Registration due by March 15, 2012. After this date, a late fee or same day registration of \$10 will be charged. You will receive a verification of registration via E-mail.

For registration or questions contact: Jon Rowe, MCA Registration, 601 Hwy 59 N, Marshall, MN 56258, 507/537-7104 ext 110, Jonathan.lee.rowe@state.mn.us

Articles of Interest

Truth and Consequences Fact Sheet

The National Juvenile Justice Network published a new fact sheet summarizing recent research showing incarcerating young people is ineffective, and processing them formally in the juvenile justice system does not reduce delinquency.

http://www.njjn.org/uploads/digital_library/NJJN-Truth-about-Consequences_Fact-Sheet-FINAL_Jan23-2012.pdf

A Legal View: Why Juvenile Life Without Parole Sentences are a Mistake

The author presents the legal case against sentencing youth to life without the possibility of parole.

Link to the article:

http://www.reclaimingfutures.org/blog/legal-view-why-juvenile-life-without-parole-sentences-are-mistake?utm_source=Weekly+Blog+Digest&utm_campaign=a85cb6fe9a-12-7-2011&utm_medium=email

The Role of Families in Supporting Incarcerated Youth in Ohio

Ohio's Department of Youth Services is the first juvenile justice agency to implement the Juvenile Relational Inquiry Tool statewide. Link to the article:

http://www.reclaimingfutures.org/blog/role-families-supporting-incarcerated-youth-ohio?utm_source=Weekly+Blog+Digest&utm_campaign=a85cb6fe9a-12-7-2011&utm_medium=email

"The Lives of Juvenile Lifers"

The Sentencing Project released a new report that explores the lives of juveniles serving life without parole (JLWOP) and presents findings from the first-ever national survey of this population. A comprehensive look offers new perspectives on people who committed crimes before the age of 18, and some as young as 13. More than 2,500 people are currently serving these sentences in the United States.

The Sentencing Project study found:

- ~Juveniles sentenced to life without parole – there are more than 2,500 in the U.S. – 97 percent male and 60 percent black.
- ~The proportion of blacks serving life for killing a white person is much higher than the proportion of whites sentenced to life for killing blacks.
- ~Of those incarcerated, the vast majority comes from violent homes, and nearly half had experienced physical abuse.
- ~Forty percent of all JLWOP prisoners had been in special education classes, and less than half had been in school when they committed their crimes.
- ~More than a quarter had a parent in prison, and 60 percent had close relatives in prison.

Link to the full article: <http://www.sentencingproject.org/template/index.cfm>

County expands program for testing convicted drunken drivers

STEVEN VERBURG | Wisconsin State Journal | sverburg@madison.com | 608-252-6118 | Posted: Wednesday, December 28, 2011 3:35 pm

Dane County is expanding the use of blood tests to make it harder for convicted drunken drivers to go back to the bottle undetected, officials said Wednesday.

In the first year of a pilot "biomarker" testing program, begun in 2010, almost half of the 100 high-risk drivers who were tested continued heavy drinking after an arrest, and half of those denied that they were drinking, program consultant Pamela Bean said.

After the blood tests signal that someone has relapsed, counselors push them to undergo more mental health therapy, alcohol abuse treatment or participation in sobriety groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous.

"With the test results, the assessor calls the driver and says, 'You are falling off the wagon and you need to go to more AA meetings and stop drinking, and we will see you again in 30 days,'" Bean said. "Seventy percent of the time we do that brief intervention of two minutes on the phone, and the next test is negative. It allows you to focus your resources on those who need it the most."

The blood tests can detect alcohol use weeks after it is ingested, compared with days for conventional urine tests, making it more difficult for drunken driving convicts in monitoring programs to beat the system, Bean said.

Dane County is one of three counties in Wisconsin using advanced testing techniques, she said.

Under state law, drunken drivers must undergo an assessment, which may lead to classes on the effects of alcohol abuse or more intensive treatment as a requirement of a court sentence and a prerequisite for regaining driving privileges.

The county-funded Journey Mental Health Center performs about 2,300 assessments annually, Bean said.

The blood test program started in March of 2010 with \$15,000 from the county and continued with an identical grant in 2011. The money will be combined with a \$50,000 state grant in 2012 to increase the number of participants to 300, Bean said.

"This innovative approach also helps offenders in the program find a meaningful path to recovery," said County Executive Joe Parisi.

~February Forecast Released~

The big news of the past week was the release of the February forecast. State Finance officials announced last week that the state has a \$323 million surplus in the current two-year budget cycle. This surplus is in addition to the \$876 million surplus announced in the November forecast, which, by law, was dedicated to filling the state's budget reserve and cash flow account. Similarly, the entirety of the \$323 million surplus announced last week is already dedicated in statute: \$5 million needs to be placed in the state's reserves, while the rest is to be used to begin paying back the K-12 Education shift passed last legislative session.

Long term, however, the state still faces significant challenges. Minnesota's projected budget deficit for the FY 2014-15 biennium is \$1.1 billion, and the state still owes schools \$2.4 billion as a result of recent funding shifts.

In the week ahead, committees have scheduled long hearings as the Legislature heads toward the first committee deadline of March 16.

Introducing the TruTouch Guardian

Alcohol Breathalyzer Just One Breath
No Sample Bottle or Air Pump
Completely wireless and
No Supervision Required
No Breathalyzer
No Computer Cost
No Calibration or Maintenance



TRUTouch

TECHNOLOGIES

TruTouch eliminates breath, blood, urine tests for booze

New Mexico Business Weekly by Kevin Robinson-Avila, NMBW Senior Reporter

Date: Thursday, January 5, 2012, 2:38pm MST

TruTouch Technologies Inc. has received a U.S. patent for use of its alcohol-detection device in automobiles and machinery.

The Albuquerque company markets a proprietary tool that uses a flash of light to detect the presence of alcohol in individuals, eliminating the need for invasive and time consuming blood, breath or urine tests.

It's been working for more than a year to adapt that technology to a built-in sensor in automobiles to block ignition if a driver's alcohol levels are above the limit. It demonstrated the feasibility of that application in a phase I study funded by the Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety (DADSS) research program, which is a partnership between the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Automotive Coalition for Traffic Safety.

TruTouch partnered with TK Holdings Inc., a subsidiary of the global automotive components manufacturer Takata Corp., on a phase II project with \$2.25 million from DADSS to place the new technology directly in automobiles.

The new patent, titled Apparatus and Method for Controlling Operation of Vehicles or Machinery by Intoxicated Individuals, discloses several aspects of the new technology that enables it to verify that results of alcohol tests come from a person seeking to operate a vehicle, said TruTouch CTO [Trent Ridder](#) in a news release.

Ridder said TruTouch's technology effectively stops drivers from trying to circumvent the test.

"[It] offers employers, individuals and society in general an improved method for ensuring safe operation of vehicles and machinery, whether in the workplace or on public roads," Ridder said.

TruTouch has received \$7.5 million in private equity since launching in 2005, much of it from the **Verge Fund**.

[Dave Durgin](#), general partner with Verge and a TruTouch board member, said the company received another small round of internal funding last fall. It's now working on a new round of funding that is expected to close within 60 days.

"The goal is to have a working prototype [of DADSS] with a system installed in an automobile in 12 to 14 months," Durgin said. "I think we're on track to achieve that."