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In this issue:

- **President's letter**
- **Legislative update**
- **Student Services Career Fair**
- **Spring Workshop**
- **Public Safety**
- **Tips on Buying a Home Computer**
- **Research Corner**
- **Details at 10**
- **BCA Training**

president's letter

Deb Anderson, MCA President

Greetings MCA Members:

2012 started out with new changes and challenges for the MCA Board of Directors. The MCA Executive Board, as well as the Board of Directors was busy preparing for the new year. In November 2011, the Executive Board reviewed the standing contract with Non-Profit Solutions (NPS), the association management team for MCA. After many board discussions, the Executive Board and Board of Directors voted to discontinue the standing contract with NPS for 2012 and pursue other options. After a Request for Proposal process and interviews, Debbie Beltz was offered the MCA administrative manager position on January 18, 2012. Debbie has been a member of MCA since 1998 and has served in one capacity or another during this time. She most recently served as the co-chair of the Fall Institute committee. Debbie brings to MCA a strong organizational commitment, willingness and desire to assist with administrative services, ongoing public communication, ongoing membership building, programs events, and conferences. Returning to an administrative manager will strengthen MCA as an organization and promote a "personal touch" that will help MCA grow toward a robust future.

Please join me in welcoming our new Administrative Manager, Debbie Beltz. MCA has a new telephone number and address, so please update your information:

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As you may have noticed, the website for MCA has not been functional. During Fall 2011, the website was hacked multiple times resulting in immediate shutdown. I am happy to announce a new website is in the process of development. Debbie Beltz is tenaciously working and advocating for a website that is current and ensures MCA is up and running with a new look and solid user-friendly format.

I would also like to take this time to introduce the 2012 Board of Directors: Karen Determan, President-Elect; Jennifer Guse, Vice President; Michele Wilson, Secretary; Dayna Burmeister, Treasurer; Terry Fawcett, Past President; Mark Hass and Cindy Kragebring, Legislative Co-Chairs; Jon Rowe, Education & Training Chair; David Heath, Technology Chair; Shannon Marks, Student Services Chair; Monique Drier, Fall Institute Chair; Michelle Smith, Nomination Chair; Travis Gransee, Juvenile Justice Chair; Amy Cushing and Tim Cushing, Sponsorship Co-Chairs; Mark Groves, Membership Chair; and Calvin Saari, Legislative Liaison. Thank you for your volunteerism and dedication to MCA. If interested in joining a committee, the chairs always look forward to new members.

The Education and Training Committee presented the Spring MCA workshop on March 29, 2012. The workshop was a combined effort between the Education and Training Committee and the Rasmussen College Mankato location. The workshop was a success and I thank everyone involved for their continued commitment to provide quality training to MCA members, students, and fellow colleagues. The Education and Training committee hopes to facilitate an additional event later this year. The Fall Institute Committee has been busy planning training for 2012. The fall conference is returning to Duluth for 2012. [Mark your calendars for October 24-25, 2012!](#)

MCA needs continued support from members to maintain and improve services and produce an effective voice as an organization. I encourage current and former members to renew your memberships. I also challenge you to recruit one new MCA member this year. Volunteer to serve on a committee...many members, year after year, step up and do great work for the organization. I understand many of you are busy...balancing your job and home life can be consuming. We continue to need more volunteers, so if you are new to corrections and want to be involved here is a perfect opportunity. For membership information, please contact Mark Groves (mark.groves@state.mn.us) – he is waiting to hear from you.

Deb Anderson
MCA President
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legislative update

CAL SAARI, MCA Legislative Liaison

On February 14th we were happy to have collaborated with our sister organizations in another successful Capitol Day event at the Kelly Inn in St Paul. After a very slow registration period, we did end up with more than 40 participants that day. We heard comments from Senator Warren Limmer and Rep. Ron Shimanski, who chair important Public Safety Committees in their respective chambers, and many of us also had an opportunity to visit with them informally during the breakfast event. We also heard extensive comments and support from Commissioner Tom Roy. The lobbyists from our respective organizations gave our "take" on the current legislative session. Feedback was very positive and we were pleased to be able to put a very meaningful get together with some legislators.

MCA has been maintaining a tracking report of legislative bills this legislative session and doing an update every week to keep current. We are still working on a method to get this to our members through use of the state legislature bill tracking system. Previously we used our web site to get this to everyone, but with that still in transition, we're working on another way to produce this report without having to produce a completely new document with every update.

I have spent another five days at the Legislature during the month of February observing Committee hearings and in conversations with various legislators on issues of interest to our MCA members. Our emphasis has been on two items, HF 876/SF 602, the proposal on juvenile privacy protection which has been carried and promoted by Mark Haase. We are still working right to get the legislative leadership to give us a hearing on this bill which has proven to be a monumental task even though Mark has obtained a large number of legislators to co-author this. The other major issue we have been pursuing is juvenile sex offender registration. We have found Senator Limmer to be quite supportive of this but the House refused to hear any sex offender bills this legislative session. HF 1428 (Emily's Law) was again given a hearing, scheduled for March 1, 2012, however no testimony was taken. MCA will need to closely monitor this bill for progress.

The new economic forecast was released which shows the State with a small \$323 million surplus, however, the surplus are dollars borrowed last year from education, so it's impact is diminished. It does show, however, the State is making economic progress and things are looking better. Bill deadlines are coming up later in March so this will be another busy month, followed by another legislative break for Easter week, then back to try to resolve all the outstanding issues hoping for a speedy adjournment.

The MCA Legislative Committee held a regular meeting on March 8, 2012. It was a spirited meeting involving a good discussion about activities at the Legislature and current activities on bills of interest to MCA's Legislative Agenda. We also discussed our efforts in collaborating with our Corrections partners, and how we have really been working as a unified group on some key juvenile issues this Session. .

Tracker Report: The latest Tracker Report dated March 25, 2012, contains 40 different bills pertaining to our membership and/or related to our own legislative agenda. This time of the year things move suddenly and often without a lot of advance warning as legislators lobby their leadership for hearings on bills they authored in an effort to obtain Committee action prior to the legislatively mandated deadlines. Bills not receiving positive Committee action by March 23, 2012 are not normally in a position for further consideration in the current Session. We anticipate a lot of action these next few days prior to the Legislature Easter break, which will begin later next week. The Legislature will not return until April 16, 2012, when they tie up loose ends and try to adjourn as many are suggesting.

Legislative Contacts: I spent an additional five days at the Legislature during the month of April as we ardently worked for the Juvenile issues passed through Committee. March 20, 2012, was a very significant day for bills, HF 876 and HF 2623, which we and our partners collaborated for approval. These bills were approved by the House Committee but the Senate refused to hear them, making it very difficult for passage this year. We had weekly contact with either the Legislators or their Committee Administrators in order to keep apprised of planned progress. This will certainly continue into the month of April.

Calvin Saari
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student services 2012 criminal justice career fair

Shannon Marks, MCA Student Services Committee Chair

The MCA Student Services Committee along with the Criminal Justice Association of St. Cloud State University sponsored the 12th Annual Criminal Justice Career/ Internship Fair at St. Cloud State University on 03/14/2012. The career fair was postponed from 02/29/12 due to inclement weather. Approximately 75 students attended representing six different colleges. Twenty vendors from various aspects of the Criminal Justice system were also represented. Thank you for all who attended!!

Shannon Marks
Student Services Chair
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spring workshop

Jon Rowe, MCA Education & Training Committee Chair

On March 29, 2012 MCA held their Spring Workshop at Rasmussen College in Mankato, MN. Presenters Anna McLafferty presented on Responding Effectively to People with Mental Illness and Kari Fletcher presented on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) & Legal Trouble-Working Together to Reduce Secondary Disabilities.

The MCA Education and Training Committee would like give Special Thanks to Rasmussen College for hosting the training and providing a great lunch and goodies for the breaks. We also to want to thank all of the participants (130) and vendors for attending the workshop and making this a successful event. The vendors were, MN Teen Challenge, Midwest Monitoring, Medtox, MCF–Togo/Thistle Dew Programs, MCF–Red Wing, Concordia College, Anoka County Community Corrections, and Centre Care.

Jon Rowe

Education & Training Chair

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public safety

Travis Gransee, MCA Juvenile Justice Committee Chair

Public Safety?

It is time for change in the Juvenile Justice System.

Increasing public safety is a premise in the field of Corrections and to that point the Minnesota Corrections Association includes “protect the public interest and safety” within its mission statement. For many, increasing public safety is closely linked to longer sentences, harsher sanctions, and increased restrictions. With each new “get tough on crime” law the public is led to believe they will see a proportional increase to their safety within the community. However, the perspective most offered is in regard to short-term public safety and often times long-term public safety considerations are mute. In general it appears more acceptable to legislate getting tough on criminals than advocating for increased rehabilitative efforts with offenders. As Corrections professionals we recognize the importance of finding balance when addressing ways to increase public safety. It is imperative we hold offenders accountable while finding ways to increase their capacities which will, in theory, reduce their risk to public safety in the future. Currently, several statutes carry collateral consequences which impact offenders in many ways and although they may create an incremental increase of short-term public safety they also have an impact on long-term public safety by creating barriers for offenders attempting to make positive and pro-social change. The Juvenile Justice Committee recognizes the need for some legislative change in an effort to find a better balance between short-term and long-term public safety.

In 2012 the Juvenile Justice Committee provided two position papers to be included in the MCA Legislative Agenda. We believe it is time for change regarding Public Records and Sex Offender Registration for juveniles and our position papers regarding these two topics follow.

Public Records for 16 and 17 year olds

Background/Current Situation

A law enacted in 1986 states, “The court shall open the hearings to the public in delinquency or extended jurisdiction juvenile proceedings where the child is alleged to have committed an offense or has been proven to have committed an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult and the child was at least 16 years of age at the time of the offense, except that the court may exclude the public from portions of a certification hearing to discuss psychological material or other evidence that would not be accessible to the public in an adult proceeding.” This means the resulting records also become public. Even when the original felonies are later dismissed or amended to reduced charges, the public can access these permanent records.

Under the same law, its intent is defined: “The purpose of the laws relating to children alleged or adjudicated to be delinquent is to promote the public safety and reduce juvenile delinquency by maintaining the integrity of the substantive law prohibiting certain behavior and by developing individual responsibility for lawful behavior. This purpose should be pursued through means that are fair and just, that recognize the unique characteristics and needs of children, and that give children access to opportunities for personal and social growth.”

Over 2,500 felony level delinquency petitions are filed for 16-17 year olds in Minnesota each year (in 2010, 2,646 were filed). It is common practice for prosecutors to aggressively charge in anticipation of plea negotiations, which generates additional and unnecessary juvenile public records. While the public has a right to be informed of serious/violent criminal activity, the rapid growth of electronic data systems and aggressive data mining/selling practices have led to long-term, serious, and unanticipated consequences for youth. The result is an increased risk of recidivism and impairment of pro-social adjustment for years.

There are currently 16 states including Minnesota that allow the public to attend juvenile court hearings based on the juvenile’s age, alleged offense and/or the juvenile’s prior delinquency. As a result of these hearings, the juvenile’s court records are made public as well. There are seven states including Maine and Nebraska where juvenile court hearings and their subsequent records are deemed confidential and as a result are only accessible to Court personnel, law enforcement agencies, and the juvenile and parent/guardian. The remaining 27 states allow for the juvenile court to make the determination regarding the release of records for various reasons including public safety concerns and if the court feels it is in the best interest of the juvenile.

Rationale for Change:

Changes to the current law would be smarter and safer. Public notification of criminal behaviors should be linked to the serious nature of the crime and the involvement of the youth rather than the initial allegations of behaviors. It is smart to balance the public's need to know with the long term impact of having data accessible to the public. Public access to records results in barriers to housing, education and employment, contrary to the intent of the law. Anything we do that results in homelessness, lack of education and unemployment must be carefully scrutinized as they predict future criminal behavior which decreases public safety.

Changes to the current law would also be cheaper. Amending the law would prevent prison costs while supporting pro-social, well employed citizens who pay taxes. In addition, in response to the current law's repercussions, juveniles may pursue expungement of their felony records, but this process is ill defined in statute, often time consuming, and most significantly always after the data was irreversibly made available to the public.

Proposed Change:

Amend the current statute to limit public hearings to certification and extended juvenile jurisdiction proceedings, which are the most serious cases, and to other 16 and 17 year old juvenile felony cases where the court determines that the benefit to public safety outweighs the potential consequences for the juvenile. The proposed changes are as follows in bold font:

*"The court shall open the hearings to the public in **certification or extended jurisdiction juvenile** proceedings where the child is alleged to have committed an offense or has been proven to have committed an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult and the child was at least 16 years of age at the time of the offense, except that the court may exclude the public from portions of a certification hearing to discuss psychological material or other evidence that would not be accessible to the public in an adult proceeding. **The court shall open the hearings to the public in other delinquency proceedings where the child is alleged to have committed to an offense or has been proven to have committed an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult and the child was at least 16 years of age at the time of the offense, if the court determines that, due to the violent or serious nature of the alleged offense, the benefit to public safety of holding an open hearing outweighs the potential consequences for the child to the resulting public record.***

Note: Victims' rights to access hearings would not be impacted, and records maintain current availability for Department of Human Services background studies, corrections, law enforcement, schools, parents, and all positions requiring a background check to work with children.

Juvenile Sex Offender Registration Policy

The Minnesota Corrections Association supports amending current predatory offender registration laws for juveniles in order to increase public safety while maximizing rehabilitative interventions that decrease recidivism.

Background / Current Situation

Public safety is enhanced when the system is responsive to the specific risk and needs of offenders. Immediate public safety is enhanced when high risk offenders are under supervision, when their whereabouts are known and authorities are able to track them. Long term public safety is enhanced when offenders can be treated, rehabilitated, and effectively transitioned to productive, pro-social lives. Minnesota's current practices around registration for juveniles fall short of increasing short and long term public safety.

Under Minnesota law, juveniles are required to register as a predatory offender if they are adjudicated delinquent of committing an offense as outlined in Minn. Stat. 243.166. This casts a wide net and does not allow for managing offenders according to public safety. Currently, attorneys and judges are reluctant to adjudicate some juveniles as delinquent in cases that require registration and instead are offering stays of adjudication or continuances for dismissal. These strategies result in avoiding registration, create inconsistencies in prosecution, and limit the length of probation supervision and rehabilitative interventions thereby reducing public safety. Additionally, the statutes do not offer any legal criteria for court regarding who should be adjudicated and registered as a predatory offender. The lack of legal criteria results in different jurisdictions responding differently to the same public safety risk. Lastly, Minnesota does not differentiate in any way a juvenile from an adult when requiring predatory offender registration. This mandate runs contrary to the purposeful differences appropriately created between the delinquency and criminal court systems.

Currently 16 states and the District of Columbia do not require adjudicated juveniles to register as sex offenders. Of the remaining 34 states, 22 allow courts to determine whether or not a juvenile should be required to register as a sex offender. The State of Minnesota is one of 12 states that require juveniles to register as predatory offenders without legal criteria to guide courts. Finally, Minnesota is one of seven states that requires adjudicated juveniles to register as predatory offenders, does not provide registration criteria, and has no differences between registerable offenses for adults and juveniles. Based on these findings it would appear that Minnesota law regarding predatory offender registration of juveniles should be amended. The amendments proposed would increase public safety by maximizing rehabilitative interventions that decrease recidivism.

Recommended Strategy Items

Amend Minnesota statutes 243.166 to require predatory offender registration for all Extended Jurisdiction Juvenile offenders who commit a predicate offense. Rewrite the statute to provide legal criteria based on public safety for the juvenile court to review in determining if a juvenile adjudicated delinquent for a predatory offense should be required to register. Furthermore, registration could be ordered upon a finding of guilt rather than an adjudication of delinquency, and this change would result in much greater consistency amongst jurisdictions and no longer limit probation supervision and rehabilitative interventions both of which increase public safety.

The proposed amendments specifically require registration for all Extended Jurisdiction Juvenile offenders who commit a registerable offense. Additionally the amendments would provide the Court with legal criteria to require registration upon a finding that the juvenile has committed a predatory offense and that registration is in the interests of public safety. The need for registration/interests of public safety determination can be made at any time from the point of disposition to case closure but must be made no later than 60 days prior to case expiration.

To determine the interests of public safety the following factors could be considered:

1. The **seriousness of the offense** in terms of community protection, including the use of a weapon, the impact on the victim and the existence of any aggravating factors recognized by the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines.
2. The **culpability of the child** in committing the offense, including the level of the child's participation in planning and carrying out the offense and the existence of any mitigating factors recognized by the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines.
3. The **child's prior record of delinquency**.
4. The **child's programming history** including the child's participation and performance in sex offense specific treatment.
5. The **child's estimated risk** for committing additional criminal sexual conduct offenses as determined by a therapist or evaluator with experience in treating or evaluating juveniles who commit sexual offenses.
6. The **child's progress** during the course of probation supervision as measured by their success in complying with the conditions of probation.

Travis Gransee
Juvenile Justice Chair
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Tips on Buying a Home Computer

David Heath, MCA Technology Committee Chair

Shopping for a home personal computer can be loaded with many different options. Making a smart decision with your dollar does not have to be guess work while the sales person spews high tech mumbo jumbo at the confused buyer. This can result in a higher purchasing price for sales person, and a PC which has processing power the buyer will never utilize. With that being said, it is a good idea to put some thought into what you want to use the computer for. You should do this before venturing out on the shopping trip, avoiding an impulse purchase you might regret. A few basic questions should be answered in advance.

Do you want to be mobile or work from a fixed location? Laptops are great for mobility, but they are harder to fix and they are definitely more subject to mishaps. Two common accidents are the laptop getting dropped on the floor and beverage spills shorting them out. Also, when the screen burns out, you can't just buy another cheap monitor to replace it like on a desktop. Theft is also more common as they are in cars, hotel rooms, coffee shops and most anywhere people want to take them. In general, desktops are easier and cheaper to fix. Adding memory down the road is usually easier and cheaper too on a desktop.

What software do you intend to run on the computer? If it is just going to be Microsoft Office and web browsing, you do not need the processing power of a high end PC. However, if you intend to get into applications that can take advantage of the processor, the more power the better. Some examples of high end applications might be desktop publishing suites, engineering software, or graphic demanding gaming software.

Which Operating System (OS) do you want? The choice here is normally Microsoft Windows or the Macintosh operating system. Do you need to transfer data between Microsoft and Apple products? There is has not great compatibility between the operating systems in the past but it might be getting better. A recent advertisement I read stated:

If you make the move to Mac, rest assured you can bring your PC files with you. OS X comes with built-in support for the most common file types, such as .doc, .xls, .mp3, .jpg, and .pdf. And you can preview Word, Excel, and PowerPoint documents even if you don't have Microsoft Office for Mac installed. Just select the file, press the Space bar, and Quick Look — a feature of OS X — displays the document on your screen.

I recently purchase Adobe In-Design software and they asked me whether I wanted the Macintosh version or the Windows version, so I believe a lot of software is still machine specific. I have also used a white Mac Book for several years now and simple things you do on a Windows PC are not always so simple on a Mac. File handling could be an example of this; Windows Explorer is not present on the Mac, so everything is completely different.

Also, be aware Windows is still far and away the most common system in the business office. It might be a factor in your purchase decision if you hope to get more computer savvy at work by owning a home system. The exception to that rule is probably Graphic Designers that often seem to prefer the Macintosh in the business world. They are fairly common in many Marketing departments for instance.

From a home computer standpoint, if you mainly want to browse the internet at home, not moving files between work and home applications, an Apple Mac Book can be a good choice. They are kind of expensive, but they have some real nice features. They are a nice clean sleek white (now aluminum cased) laptops, with the Apple logo backlit on the top case and look great laying around on the coffee table when not in use. They also have some cool things, like the magnetic power attachment, Safari web browser, built in movie theatre trailers, and a fun camera system. The downside might be the learning curve of the Apple OS, if you're used to a Microsoft OS for system setup, file handling, and things like that.

Which processor should you buy? Computer processors are falling into three pretty common choices these days in the home market. They are the I3, I5, or I7 with the I7 being the fastest. The I7 is also the most expensive may not take advantage of some software applications. For example, a Microsoft Word document may not perform much differently with an I7 than an I5, but additional memory might be more important on a huge document. Like a 300 page book with graphics for instance. The I3 will also work pretty well for low end applications like Word, but I personally recommend I5's, as the price point is usually pretty close and starting on the low end of fast moving technology is usually not a great idea.

When you jump to the I7 world, you are normally paying quite a bit more and might be better off loading up on memory in an I5 with the extra dollars. Especially, if you are not running software that can take advantage of the extra I7 processing channels. This leads me to Microsoft operating systems.

Windows 32 or 64 bit OS? If you elected to go with Microsoft over Apple, I would recommend getting a Windows 7 Home Premium 64 Bit OS. Generally, people do not have a network in their home, so this is just fine. The 64 bit OS handles files faster and has much higher memory limits than a 32 bit OS. A 32 bit system can only “see” about 3 gigabytes (GB) of memory. The 64 bit OS is virtually unlimited for memory, and is pretty much just limited by how much you want to spend on memory. However, there are limits to what the application can use, so typically 8 to 16GB is a good general amount

If you need **direct** network domain access, you should get Windows 7 Professional which is the typical purchase for a large organization and more expensive. An example of this might be a laptop you are taking into work and plugging into an office meeting room. This would be a rare scenario for a home PC, as generally these are deemed “work” computers and usually purchased and setup by the companies IT department.

What software applications do you want? When it comes to a common software application, Microsoft Office Professional vs. Microsoft Office Standard is the usual choice. If you don’t plan on using Microsoft Access, buy the cheaper Microsoft Office Standard version. There are some other differences between the two, but Access is usually the defining factor. So, if you have some database programming needs (Access), you might want to consider the Professional version.

What about memory? Selecting a PC with plenty of available memory slots is a good question to ask a sales person. The memory usually costs more the higher GB you go for the memory module. For example, two 4GB memory modules are typically less than one 8GB module. Or, four 4GB modules totaling 16GB is normally less than buying one 16GB or two 8GB modules of the same memory chip specifications. So, a system with four or more available memory slots gives you more purchasing options than a system with one or two. You can buy cheaper memory and use the available memory slots to get the amount you want to have.

General Recommendation: A 64 Bit Windows 7 I5 processor with 8 to 16GB of memory can handle most applications very good. You can always add more memory later if you need to. If you think you can use the I7 processor with the software you intend to use, go for it. Personally, I would rather have the extra memory if the application was not an obvious choice requiring a top end processor.

One more thing, don’t rule out the Mac, especially if you know very little about computers and just want to browse the Web and have some fun. There is not much of a learning curve in this scenario as everything will seem new. This is one reason why the Apple has done well in the home computer market. People with an open mind toward the OS, like novice computer users and lots of computer geeks, generally love them. There great if you can afford them and don’t need to do “work-work” on them so to speak. I even just heard this on CNBC radio recently: ***The CNBC...Reporter, who interviewed Chairman of Ferrari North America, was discussing the result of the interview with a co-anchor. When asked which was the most popular color, contrary to popular belief, it wasn’t red, but was white. When asked why, the top executive relayed...It’s the Apple effect...Ferrari feels that the halo effect of ‘all of the Apple products’ effected people’s decisions as to the car’s color. Does this mean future Ferrari’s will be brushed metal?***

I’m not sure what this actually means, but maybe Macs are the best and fastest computers. The sports car of the computer market so to speak. They also cost a lot of money kind of like a Ferrari too.

Bottom Line: Avoid impulse buying and do your homework. There are many things to consider and you don’t want to spend money for hardware or software you will never use. So, hopefully a few of these tips will make the purchasing a computer a little less confusing when your old PC finally has its last reboot and meets the great PC recycler.

David Heath
Technology Chair
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Research corner

Barbara Carson, Ph.D.
Sociology & Corrections
MSU, Mankato

Dr. Kimberly Greer was named MCA’s Corrections Person of the Year at the last MCA training so I thought it might be appropriate to review one of Dr. Greer’s research projects described in a publication “When Women Hold the Keys: Gender, Leadership, and Correctional Policy.” I believe her findings in this project are important to all members of MCA. So here’s what she did.

Dr. Greer first interviewed 25 women in corrections leaderships positions throughout the country, including Commissioners (or directors), wardens and those in leadership positions in community corrections. Then she worked with the national Association of Women Executives in Corrections to develop a questionnaire that was sent to their membership and she received 61 responses.

Her research questions are:

- 1) Does gender influences leadership styles, and if so, how?
- 2) Does having women in leadership positions impact changes in correctional policy and if so, how are these policies different?

Dr. Greer found that women in correctional leadership positions report that they believe gender does influence leadership styles. They reported that their styles are primarily collaborative, participatory, and democratic rather than directive or authoritarian. They felt that women leaders focus on outcomes instead of placing emphasis on status or power that could be gained from their position. Relatedly, they believed that they were motivated by problem solving as opposed to seeking prestige.

So, does having women leaders impact changes in correctional policies? Well, there were some differences of opinion here. Some felt that having female leaders did not result in different policy because "good correctional policy was good correctional policy" (p. 9) irrespective of who recommended it. However, most stated that since women tend to interact differently with their staff members, the implementation of corrections policies was influenced by gender. From inspection of the data, Dr. Greer proposes that if management styles are different than policy development may also be different. Through a more collaborative and inclusive approach to decision making, it is likely that the resulting policies would be different than those achieved through a more authoritarian or hierarchical process.

Dr. Greer does a good job of summarizing the implications of her research, "Given the challenges corrections professionals face with rising prison populations, skyrocketing supervision caseloads, increasing technological advances, diminishing budgets, and recruiting a multigenerational workforce, it would seem wise for correctional leaders to recognize both the current and potential contributions made by women leaders and to support opportunities for their continued professional development" (p. 10).

Read more of the details at "When Women Hold the Keys: Gender, Leadership and Correctional Policy." (2008) Kimberly Greer, Ph.D., Department of Sociology and Corrections, Minnesota State University, Mankato. Publisher: MTC Institute, Management & Training Institute, Centerville, UT.

details at 10

MARK GROVES, M.S.Ed., LADC, MCA Membership Committee Chair

News Flash!

"Kids making trouble had been an issue before mall shooting."

"A nation at arms; Guns have changed tone of urban life."

"Northside shooting of child has neighborhood looking for answers."

We are a society of instant gratification, fast-paced consumerism and thrill-seeking. The media reflects our culture, conditioning us to accept drug and alcohol use and violence as being part of it. The spread in the use of illicit drugs in the population represents one of the most striking instances of social change that we have seen over the past quarter century.

Culture of Comfort and Convenience

Of course, it is certainly a pleasure to be a resident of the U.S. of A. which provides each and every one of us life, liberty and justice for all – put another way, the right of individual gratification. We are afforded the inalienable right to pursue happiness. We are a culture of comfort and convenience.

Consequently, goods and activities that exist are meant to provide us with easy pleasure. Young people growing up in America draw on many sources of information in making decisions about important life issues. Decisions about whether and how to use alcohol and drugs are influenced by family, friends, school, church, and the mass media.

For too many children, these decisions have significant, sometimes fatal, consequences. The mass media plays a critical role in defining our culture and behavioral perceptions, beliefs and norms. I assert the media is the message!

News Flash!

"Stray bullet kills Minneapolis 3-year-old."

"Drug raid nets 7 arrests, 3 assault weapons."

"Editorial: Don't relax in fight against violence."

Thank goodness we are in the 21st century, as in two-thousand. I rather enjoy the strides we're reaping due to yesterday's blood, sweat and tears. Those stuff-shirts of yesteryear with their old-fashioned puritanical ideals of valuing hard work, self-sacrifice and building character sound awfully stuffy, wouldn't you say?

Progress, technology, and the pursuit of fun that reverberate those cute, catchy, little jingles: "Just do it?"; "Gotta have it!"; "Looks good, feels good!"; and "Be what you want, but always be you!", stands head-and-shoulders above those boring adages: "Time is money." Or, "Early to bed and early to rise makes us healthy, wealthy and wise." *Borrriiiiiinnnnngggggg!*

After all, those outdated guiding principles of social order were far too constricting, calling for accumulating money for some distant, obscure goal, planning to improve our station rather than self-actualizing and, me-oh-my, getting ahead in the world devoid of frivolity.

Thankfully, our ancestors subscribed to the “self-sacrifice” role for me. Because their culture emphasized production, our culture can embrace consumption. I get all teary-eyed when I realize that being an American in this great experiment of ours symbolized the “Land o’ Abundance.” It’s good to be *alive*; to heck with postponing pleasure. All work and no play does not make Markie a better person. No ma’am. It just burns him out and makes him grumpy. Forget the rainy day limerick!

News Flash!

“Court rampage follows verdict in Grand Marais.”

“Eagan man accused of punching son after basketball loss.”

“Violence casts a pall over state’s courtrooms.”

Okay, let’s take a little breather here and check out what side of the road you’re on. Which of the following terms appeals to you? (Be honest now): Work, limited, self-sacrifice, normal, typical, hinder, postponement, careful, hard, good, sensible, considerate, caution, practical, average, exist. Or these: plenty, play, leisure, recreation, self-fulfillment, dreams, pleasure, immediate gratification, personality, publicity, celebrity, excitement, enthusiastic.

Are you a party-pooper that transgresses the “Thou shalt have fun” commandment inherent to the United States of (let the good times roll) America? Or a party animal realizing that we must seize the moment (here today, gone tomorrow)? Let’s take a quick peek at how our pursuit of fun has shifted our mores.

As you are (subliminally) aware, this epic transformation is a direct descendent of economic growth. Those magical industrial expansion years of the late 19th and early 20th centuries provided us with disposable income that had to be disposed of if production was to endure.

The continued well-being of the economy became dependent on the cornucopia of consumer goods. Our frivolity was good and necessary. Advertising annual model changes, rapid turnover and multiple options guaranteed high volume consumption. Our newfound temples became our beloved department stores, supermarkets and those ever-lovin’ shopping malls (trivia: Minnesota created the first enclosed mall – Southdale, and we’ve got the largest mall – Mall of America).

And of course, the best invention of them all are those glorious little machines that we simply cannot do without! Fortunately they are mass-produced in order to manufacture those wonderful ways to stay connected, communicate with each other, and see sights and sounds unheard of 20 years ago. You know what I’m talking about. Personal electronics (Cell phones)! They’re everywhere. Without these marvelous contraptions, how would we ever know what we are missing out on? Thus, the advent of instantaneous mass communications where we can not only see crazy stuff happening around the world, but . . . we can actually catch the images ourselves and share it with absolutely everyone, everywhere.

News Flash!

“Boy’s death verifies others’ worries – we hear gunshots here all the time.”

“If troubled kids aren’t bipolar, then what is troubling them?”

“Self-defense claimed in killing of wife who was stabbed 63 times.”

Mass media presents us with a world filled with unlimited opportunities for mobility, pleasure, personal rehabilitation, and fun. Hollywood’s happy endings show us the good life is within our reach. Television and movie moguls figured out how to arouse our excitement through the development of the star system.

Our movie, TV and recording stars are glamorous and larger-than-life. They populate our dream-worlds. As we gaze at their images, we are briefly distracted from our immediate circumstances. We are allowed to indulge in crime, danger and the pleasures of transgression safely, knowing what we are seeing and experiencing is only a movie and that, in the end, good prevails, society is saved, and crime does not, indeed, pay.

Television has certainly surpassed all the other mass media to the point of our literally being dependent on it – a kind of addiction, mind you. Our living and family rooms are arranged around the television as its centerpiece. By golly, there’s even one in our bedrooms watching over us. TV is available at the touch of a button, during all hours of the day. Its range of choice mirrors American freedom, and best of all, it’s (was) free! We’re so enamored with TV that we don’t hesitate to pay an extra hundred bucks a month for cable or satellite programming.

In Freudian terms, the “Boob tube” expresses an unconscious connection with regressive oral dependence; a dependence that is training for adaptation to consumer society.

News Flash!

“Oakdale deaths are double murder, suicide.”

“While we point fingers, kids are pointing guns.”

“After kids slain, a call for unity in Minneapolis.”

Children are entranced by television. They watch about 28 hours of it per week, whereby, significant learning results (if you add portable devices, the time spent skyrockets to more than 53 hours a week). From early childhood through high school, television viewing consumes more time than any single activity except sleeping. Children use TV to learn about aspects of life they have yet to experience. Parents cannot regulate the speed with which their children are exposed to adult issues. Television educates our children about health and social issues and provides both intended and unintended instruction about alcohol, drugs and violence.

TV (and video games) often glamorizes the use of alcohol and presents such behavior in a non-problematic way: especially through beer commercials. Children's ability to recognize commercials and recall the brands of beer advertised is uncanny. Beer commercials dominate televised sporting events. The alcohol industry used cartoon and animal characters to attract young viewers to alcohol in the 90s with frogs, lizards and dogs, which were overwhelmingly admired by youth. It is not surprising that underage drinkers consume about 25 percent of all alcohol in the United States.

Young peoples' perceptions and beliefs about beer consumption are more in line with the commercial reality of fun and good times than the public health reality of caution and risk. They often believe beer consumption is cool and macho and they have moderate to high expectations to drink as an adult. Television ads drive home the point that commodities can be relied on for "fast relief" (especially over-the-counter medications).

News Flash!

"Rochester mom with five kids in her car crashes."

"Mankato teen dies after night of drinking."

"Police: Driver in fatal crash was texting with friends at underage drinking party."

Those of us who grew up in the 50s were the first to be reared in the dominion of the TV set. We grew up expecting limitless affluence, hoping to live in this brave new world of consumer plenty and infinite satisfaction. The youth (sub) culture of the 60s ushered in a strong edge of generational rebellion. Drugs spread rapidly and became common. Marijuana use moved onto LSD, then to more exotic psychedelics, cocaine, crack, methamphetamines, and even heroin.

Drugs were popular in Vietnam. Wave upon wave of youth turned to drugs because they were reputed to be pleasurable (which they are), were readily available (which any kid knows), peer pressure made drug use a token of membership in the immediate group (which we desire), and it was also a sign of rebellion (right on!). We learned to associate drug and alcohol use with pleasure.

Ours is a drug culture. American culture promotes the ideal that the self is realized through consumption. The pursuit of private pleasure has high standing; the widespread use of licit drugs for stimulation, intoxication and fast relief is a part of our larger set of values and activities. The media tends to selectively amplify and reinforce those tendencies that are already at work in the larger culture.

The media is a showcase for our high-consumption way of life that is not easily within our reach. The up-tempo pacing and rapid montage of television, movies and music generates an environment of constant stimulus (resulting in our kids forever whining: "I'm bored! There's nothing to do." And us telling them to go outside to play – hah, get real!).

News Flash!

"Can you text 'draconian' while driving?"

"Inver Grove woman pleads guilty in crash that killed friend."

"Drunken Gummi bears no laughing matter."

Advertisers dominate programming decisions. The priorities of television and motion pictures cultivate expectations of sensory gratification that cannot be met in actual life. For some portion of us, the glamorous representations of drugs add legitimacy to their use. Even though movies and TV show drug dealers to be involved in murder and mayhem, alcohol and drug use is routinely shown to be an integral way of life of partying and glamour. The direct and specific images of drugs and violence, whether positive or negative, play an independent part in accelerating drug use and violence. Because of this, the media deserves our closest, possible, public scrutiny.

Amid the media's steady, everyday appeal of instantaneous pleasure, we must conduct a concerted assault on the social and cultural conditions that stimulate drug use and violence. We must encourage those methods and principles that teach values as honesty, respect and moral courage. We need more examples of good habits and behavior. Whatever happened to our real heroes (Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio)? The only heroes we have now are either sports celebrities or sandwiches.

Science, education, healthy public policy and community activism will all be required to ensure that the children of America gain the type of knowledge necessary to contradict media influences. Our course of action must be developed through increased public discussion, greater citizen involvement, and increased access to community mass media. In order for any of these far-fetched ideas to work, (you must respond before midnight tonight). This offer is limited. No refunds or exchanges. No shirt, no shoes, no service. But, wait if you call now, we'll double your order!

News Flash!

"Coon Rapids SPA students win in debate."

"Northfield school district helps kids thrive by knowing them well."

"South school briefs: Students honored for outstanding writing."

"West metro school briefs: Teens honored in scholarship program."

"Merit awards go to 5 metro students."

"Glenn Jeffrey: Want to help our children? Be a mentor."

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2012 BCA criminal justice users conference

Mark Your Calendars! The 2012 Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Criminal Justice Users Conference is just five months away – and it includes some big changes. Of course, this is the place for TACs, IT staff, records clerks – those who work in Law Enforcement, Corrections, Supervision, County/City Attorney or Public Defense – to learn about criminal justice applications, policies and other hot topics. Plus, we've added a track for investigators and patrol personnel to get the latest information that applies specifically to the work you do every day.

Registration begins May 1.

Just some of the Topics Covered:

- ✚ **Strategic Thinking: Making the Best Use of Technology in an Ever Changing World**
 - criminal justice agency personnel face unique demands, from investigative advances in physical and psychological evidence, to electronic record management. Our plenary session speaker guides attendees past negative expectations and help them embrace change
- ✚ **Learning From Each Other's Audits** – fixing common FBI and BCA audit issues
- ✚ **Missing Persons** – how Brandon's Law affects your agency, and the FBI requirement local agencies often miss
- ✚ **Simplify DWI Stop Paperwork With eCharging** – cut your agency's DWI stop time from 75 minutes to 15 using this new tool
- ✚ **Data Practices** – what you can't provide and what you must provide when the public or the media come calling
- ✚ **Computerized Criminal History** – sealing and expungement rules
- ✚ **Predatory Offender Registry** – track offenders effectively and conduct thorough investigations of registry violators
- ✚ **Reading a Criminal History Record** – locate and interpret criminal history information
- ✚ **FBI Security Policy** – how security policy requirements impact your agency
- ✚ **Suspense Reconciliation** – simple things your agency can do to reduce files in suspense

BCA Criminal Justice Information Users Conference September 11-12, 2012

River's Edge Convention Center – St. Cloud

Cost:	\$100 per attendee for registration by 7/13/2012; \$125 from 7/14/2012 to 9/11/2012
Fee includes:	Breakout and plenary sessions All conference materials CLE and POST credit hours Continental breakfast both days; lunch both days
Accommodations:	Blocks of discounted hotel rooms are reserved for conference attendees at two adjacent hotels.
Registration:	Registration begins May 1, 2012. Watch your email for details from the BCA.

The 2012 BCA Criminal Justice Information Users Conference is a forum to exchange ideas and information about integrated information services, vendors and best practices. Session content will address business concerns of a wide audience that includes all criminal justice agencies.

about FORUM

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