

MARS BUSINESS MEETING November 7th, 2003

Sherburne County

Members Present: Jim Sweeney, Al Wieme, Vic Moen, Kevin Mettler, Clarice Peterson, Mark Allen, Brenda Guidinger, Crystal Steinkamp, Kris Gross, Alec Holman, Andrea Cooper, Dottie Bartels, Becky Stanoch, Amy Hertzog, Heidi Arbuckle, Truda Boler, Betsy Zwicke, Jessica Pelzel, Jill Hady, Kathy Poslusny, Tim Boraas, Wayne Wendel, Kevin Titus.

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by President Vic Moen at 9:37 a.m. at the Sherburne County Government Center. Welcome and introductions were made.

2. Approval of minutes: Becky Stanoch made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 2nd meeting. The August 8th, meeting minutes could not be approved due to a low attendance. Amy Hertzog seconded and the motion carried.

3. Treasurer's report: Becky Stanoch the MARS Association Treasurer's report was submitted by Becky Stanoch. Becky reports 11 membership renewals and a current balance of \$1,472.65. Jim Sweeny made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Alec Holman seconded the motion and the motion carried.

4. Old Business: President Vic Moen began a general discussion about budget related issues, and updates from individual counties.

A. Wright County: No significant restrictions regarding travel or training.

B. Anoka County: No significant restrictions regarding travel or training.

C. Nicolett County: No significant restrictions regarding travel or training.

D. Steele County: Not aware of any restrictions at this time.

E. Blue Earth County: No significant changes, but county employees are not allowed to attend overnight conferences.

F. Brown County: No significant changes, with travel or organizational attendance. However, it was reported that the loss of the restitution grant has made a large impact on repayment of juvenile restitution.

G. Dodge County: Reports they have lost the juvenile restitution grant. Further, they have encountered similar circumstances as Brown County.

H. Olmstead County: Reports they are restricted from attending overnight conferences, they also have lost their juvenile restitution grant. They have doubled their community work service fees and also implemented a late fee. They also have added a ½ time juvenile crew leader. Also discussed the county allows offenders to work off their fine at \$10.00 per hour.

I. Pine County: Reports they did not lose any staff as a result of the budget crunch but have cut back training hours.

J. Ramsey County: They report no major budget changes, due to the collection of fees related to their services. However, they no longer replace retired employees. Alec also noted that the work crews do not accept assaults to work off their hours.

K. Goodhue County: Reports that they lost one probation agent position, and as a result they have endured increased caseloads. She also reports that they file revenue recapture on all restitution, fines, and fees and charge a \$20 fee for their STS Crew.

L. Stearns County: Reports that all training in her county has been stopped. However, the community work service program is not in jeopardy. She further reports that Stearns County Jail is overcrowding, and they are currently charging \$65 for CWS.

M. Sherburne County: Kathy reports that they are currently running one juvenile crew and 2 adult crews that began at various times of the

day. They have a \$50 adult work crew fee and also charge for various in house programs for juveniles i.e. PERT Theft, and alcohol awareness classes.

N. Itasca County: Lost 1 position and a juvenile crew foreman. However, due to the prior cuts, the department did not lose any further budget items. In an attempt to recover lost revenue they have began charging fees for urine analysis and diversions. Updated MARS organization of cuts made on the Arrowhead Region.

O. Wadena-Todd County: Reports jail overcrowding, as a result they have been running the STS Crew 6 days a week.

General Discussion regarding the State

A. Arrowhead Regional Corrections cut all CWS workers, some were relocated and some were laid off.

B. State of Minnesota cut 4 crew leaders.

C. Central Office cut 100 different individuals.

6. New Business – Elections

A. Vice President – Kathy Poslusny was reelected vice president by a unanimous vote and will be serving a 2 year term.

B. Secretary – Kevin Titus was reelected secretary by a unanimous decision and will be serving a 2 year term.

Website Updates:

A. Discussion surrounding the addition of the MARS CWS form, MARS Membership form as an interactive portion of the MARS website.

B. What would be the cost of such additions?

MARS 20th Anniversary

1. What's working well?

a. Community work service directory

b. MARS uniform community work service referral forms.

- c. Endorsed the revenue recapture process and the stipend grant.
- d. Valuable network of information and support in the community work service referral process.

Future goals:

1. Possibly changing the acronym MARS from Minnesota Association of Restitution Services to Minnesota Association of Restorative Services.
2. Possibly update community work service directory.
3. Contact vendors or recipients of MARS services and ask for feedback regarding our services.
4. What can we do to accomplish our goals?
 - a. Establish a platform on issues pertaining to our organization.
 - b. Offer a power point presentation on our website?
 - c. Establish a speakers' bureau to inform members on pertinent issues.

Meeting Schedule for 2004

1. It was decided to continue with 4 meetings per year.
 - a. 2/6/04 9:30 a.m. St. Cloud
 - b. 4/30/04 9:30 a.m. Red Wing
 - c. 8/6/04 9:30 a.m. Mankato
 - d. 11/5/04 9:30 a.m. Sherburne County

2. Also discussed hosting an OSHA Training during one of our future monthly meetings. Meeting adjourned 12:13 p.m.

Next meeting 2/6/04, located in St. Cloud at the County Administration Building. Directions posted at www.co.stearns.mn.us on the left hand portion of the screen there is a button for maps, double click on that and then click on directions to county campus.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Kevin Titus
MARS Secretary