

Minnesota Association of Jail Programs & Services



August 2004

Summer Issue



From the Desk of the President

MAJPS Members:

Summer, great time of year, is shortly to come to a close. Have you seen the meteor showers or the northern lights? Both have been awesome this year. Another sign of summer that only comes every four years is the Summer Olympics. We've been watching the two-person volleyball, gymnasts, swimmers, etc. going head to head in world competition. It is amazing the effort and concentration of the competitors.

The concentrated effort of the various teams gets me to think about the effort and teamwork put forth by jail staff throughout the state. Our staffs give consistent effort daily to ensure public safety and work with offenders to inspire and teach them ways to make changes and become law-abiding citizens. Athletes log hours of consistent effort, fight adversity, boredom of repetitious effort, and fatigue to achieve their goals; correctional jail staff put forth the same type of concentrated effort.

Those who compete in athletic events have an advantage. They can see the results of their efforts. In this business, rarely do you see the results of your effort; but investing in helping others get their lives together is worth the long hours.

Switching gears... Two Executive Board members resigned: Member At Large Matt Bechel took a job with the Postal Service, and Vice President Tom Bush became a Correctional Deputy with Scott County. Both

will be missed. Dave Kieke the Resource Coordinator became the new Executive Board Vice President. We had an over complement of board members so only one position is open for election. We will vote for a new member of the executive board during the fall conference to finish out this election year. The person elected will serve from October of 2004 to the Spring Conference of 2006. The open position is the Resource Coordinator. The Resource Coordinator: "Serves as a member of the Executive Board; coordinates Fall Training Conference and resources; provides technical assistance to new and existing jail programs; assists with development of jail program training curriculum."

Keep up the good work and we'll see you in October. *Phil*

Upcoming Events

Dates and places to put on your calendar:

2004 Fall Conference:
Wednesday October 13.0800 - 1200
Benton County Jail – Foley, MN

Topics: Correctional Stress Mgt.
Cognitive Therapy Skills
Benton County Facility Tour after lunch. (Optional)

2005 Spring Conference:
Thursday – Friday April 14-15
Becker County (Detroit Lakes)

Transition from Prison to the Community

This article is found in the August 2004 issue of *Corrections Today*. This is a problem that we all face in the corrections field and I thought it would be interesting to share some excerpts with you.

At year-end 2002, the total adult correctional population, which includes incarcerated offenders and those under community supervision, reached a new high of more than 6.7 million offenders. Of this total, 4.7 million were being supervised in the community.

A subset of the record number of offenders is a record number of offenders released to the community (approx. 600,000 this year). Many states have reduced funding for offender programs, which help prepare inmates to return to their home communities. These reductions have occurred in both institutional and community settings.

Today's correctional system often does little to specifically prepare offenders for their eventual release to the community. Regardless of the method of release – mandatory release, maximum expiration or discretionary parole – offenders re-enter the community with many of the same needs and problems they had when first incarcerated.

NIC's Initiative

Working in partnership with Abt Associates, the National Institute of Corrections has developed a transition to the community model, which is designed to help states restructure their systems' transition practices to increase public safety, reduce new victimization and make better use of scarce correctional resources.

In 2001, the first year of the initiative, NIC and Abt Associates invited 35 correctional practitioners and academicians to help design the Transition from Prison to the Community Initiative (TPCI) Model. The primary objective of the TPCI Model is to safeguard the public from harm by offenders who return to their communities after their release from prison. To accomplish this, states use validated risk-assessment tools to identify offenders' criminogenic needs. In turn, states link these same offenders to interventions that will alter their criminogenic

needs and increase their chances for a successful transition from prison to the community.

Protecting the Community

To safeguard the public, corrections must consider the affect of returning an offender to the community from the time the offender enters the prison system. Likewise, it must continue this consideration throughout the offender's periods of incarceration and community supervision. This means a fundamental shift in the mission of correctional agencies and an equally fundamental shift in agencies' priorities, operating procedures, staffing and management practices.

For more details about the TPCI Model, visit the "Re-Entry Blog" at www.tpci.us.

RIDE-ALONG HUMOR

Fast Cars, Fast Women

Sitting on the side of the highway waiting to catch speeding drivers, a State Police Officer sees a car puttering along at 22 MPH. He thinks to himself, "this driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!" So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over. Approaching the car, he notices that there are five old ladies, two in the front seat and three in the back, wide-eyed and white as ghosts.

The driver, obviously confused, says to him, "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am," the officer replies, "you weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers."

"Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly twenty-two miles an hour!" the old woman says a bit proudly. The officer, trying to contain a chuckle explains to her that "22" was the route number, not the speed limit. A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask...is everyone in this car OK? These women seem awfully shaken and they haven't muttered a single peep this whole time," the officer asks.

"Oh, they'll be all right in a minute officer. We just got off Route 142."

Dakota County Jail Programs

The following article gives some information and background about a program that we started here about four years ago. Over time and some obstacles, it has evolved into the Inmates Motivated to Change (IMC) Unit. It has become a pretty successful concept and we are very proud of the unit and the inmates that take it to heart and get involved. If you have any questions about the program after reading about it, please feel free to give us a call.

Background:

The Normalized Living Unit concept was operating in the Dakota County Jail's 8100 unit from August of 2000 to September of 2002. The original concept was to utilize one of the units in our jail for inmates focused on making changes in their lives; consistent with our primary missions of running a safe, secure facility while managing inmate behavior and teaching inmates to remain law abiding upon release. Due to housing unit remodeling and a boarding issue it was shut down, with the intention of restarting after completion of the remodeling. A staff work group was established to review the parameters of reopening a similar unit.

The task force reviewed strengths and weaknesses of the old concept while considering boarding issues. The following changes and suggestions are the result of several weeks of effort by this team. Their recommendations are as follows:

Selection Process:

Open a new program in the 3100 unit, 2) name it the Inmates Motivated to Change (IMC) unit, 3) design it to house inmates who express a desire to change:

Inmate completes an application for the IMC unit, submits it to his/her housing unit correctional deputy. The document will include a section for goals. Each applicant must identify at least one change they would like to make while in custody.

Three correctional deputies from two different shifts sign off on each inmate application. If the needed signatures are not complete, jail supervisory staff can make the determination to move them to the 3100 unit.

Both Pre-trial and Sentenced inmates are eligible.

Pre-move and Post-move expectations:

After an inmate is approved to move to the 3100 unit a handout of the unit description and behavioral expectations are provided.

Upon arriving at the unit, the inmate receives Basic Orientation from the correctional deputy including housing unit behavior and special unit expectations. Finally an inmate representative provides a more detailed explanation of unit requirements and a review of the Inmate Handbook and unit rules.

A copy of the inmate handbook will be posted on the bulletin board. Additionally, a poster describing the following will be displayed:

Individual Development Time (IDT)

Job descriptions of the inmate elected and staff approved Inmate positions:

IMC Unit Representative
Coordinator

IMC Unit Representative
Committee Member

IMC Unit Maintenance
Coordinator

IMC Unit Welcoming Committee
Member

Boarding Handling Process:

We understand the importance of keeping the unit full. The first priority is to make sure inmates are selected and moved quickly. We designed the unit differently than the Normalized Living Unit (NLU). Key changes are the ability to move people out and new people in as well as having inmates set goals before moving to the unit. The jail staff can remove an inmate if they are not compliant with unit standards. This does not mean we remove some one without cause. Our staff will continue to use good correctional practices but if their efforts are not producing positive results the unmotivated inmate will be moved and a new replacement will be found.

When openings occur, program staff and deputies will review candidates for the IMC unit.

Administration as well as the jail sergeant will review selected Inmates.

Selected inmates are moved to the IMC 3100 unit.

Inmates Motivated to Change Unit Consequences:

All Inmate Handbook rules must be followed.

All inmates must be out of bed and involved in programs IDT time from 0800 – 1100, 1300 – 1600 (if involved in programs or lock-down from 1400 – 1500 hours).

All inmates must be working on set goals.

Removal from the unit is always at staff discretion.

Special programming for IMC: All units in the jail are eligible for jail programs but first priority is given to IMC unit participants. Inmates in the unit must be involved in Track 1 or Track 2 of jail programming (see attached). Track 1 must be completed first and all completion certificates presented to group leaders.

The unit will be separated into 3 groups. The new inmates to the unit will be automatically part of group one, the middle part of group two, and the last are part of group three.

Each Wednesday the 3100 housing unit deputy and program staff will review each inmate's goal progress. Any accomplishments during program class time or Correctional Deputy's signature of completion in Track 2 self-study or IDT time is reviewed.

After completing each program, jail staff will sign off on a completion certificate.

During weekly unit meeting, recognition of new certificates earned by inmates will be recognized.

Program staff will assign the Track 2 programming. Each week the new group to start on the track must attend the Psychology of Achievement tape series program. Classes are Monday 1300 to 1500 and Wednesday 1300 to 1500 hours in the group room (1164) in the programs area.

Conclusion:

The work group wanted to make it clear that this project can help our staff by focusing inmates on improving behavior. It assists our staff to focus inmates on setting goals to improve themselves. This should direct inmates in positive actions; reducing the time they spend being disruptive. Everyone in the group realizes it is not a cure all but another tool for use in running a safe and secure facility. Also, the group is pragmatic that the current structural parameters make it more difficult to operate. One of their suggestions was to set this project to be reevaluated in six months, make adjustments, and if the problems are not correctable then close IMC unit down.

The Parking Ticket

I went to the store the other day. I was only in there for about five minutes, and when I came out there was a motorcycle cop writing a parking ticket. So I went up to him and said, "Come on buddy, how about giving a guy a break?"

He ignored me and continued writing the ticket. So I called him a stupid idiot. He glared at me and started writing another ticket for having bald tires!

Then I really got angry with him. He finished the second ticket and put it on the car with the first. Then he started writing a third ticket!

This went on for about 20 minutes. The more I abused him, the more tickets he wrote. I didn't care. My car was parked around the corner.

Newsletter Items

I am still looking for items to put in the newsletter. If you have any good ideas about programs, recreation, volunteers, etc., please send them my way. Thanks. Loren

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Resource Officer

Open