The MASCA CONNECTION

President's Corner

President's Corner

Welcome to another edition of the MASCA Connection. I hope you will enjoy this quarter's edition. Everyone knows about MASCA Conferences and the quality training provided at our conferences (not to mention the food, exhibits, social events, and networking with peers from around the region) and I hope you are saving the dates for our 2012 conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania beginning June 17th through 20th. There are



President Henry Alexander

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Corner

2 Get Involved Delaware 3 District of Columbia Maryland 4 MASCA Word Search 5 Contact Us 2012 Conference Update 6 6 Polar Bear Plunge 7 New Jersey New York Pennsylvania 9 MASCA Scholarship 10 11 National News 12 MASCA Award Nomination Form

Second Chance Act:

MASCA Board of Trustees

Grant Opportunity

links to the conference information in this edition of the MASCA Connection.

In my message this time, I wanted to call your attention to two other articles that highlight MASCA programs that don't draw as much attention as our conferences. The first article follows up on a prior MASCA scholarship winner, April Brown, and how MASCA helped her earn her degree and then move out of the clerical pool and into a position as a community supervision agent. MASCA awards two \$1000.00 scholarships each year to members, or spouses or children of members, who are enrolled in a degree program that can lead to a career in the field of corrections. I think there are a lot more students out there who are eligible to apply for a MASCA Scholarship, so read about April's success and spread the word to your colleagues who could qualify for a scholarship award.

The second article concerns the MASCA Blue Gills, our Polar Bear Plunge team that is raising money to donate to the Special Olympics. In addition to the silent auction for charity held at each annual conference, the MASCA Board voted in 2011 to contribute to a worthy charity in each of our 7 jurisdictions each year. The Board will contribute \$300.00 to each state's fund raising effort. Maryland is supporting the Special Olympics, but we need more help, both in terms of team members and donations. Look for information about the fund raising efforts in other states in future editions of the MASCA Connection.

MASCA is more than training, although that is our best known activity each year. Scholarships and charitable donations are also an important part of what we do to make life better for everyone in our communities.

I hope everyone has a good start to 2012. I'll write again in the next edition.

Henry

13

14

Henry Alexander, President

Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association

PAGE 2 THE MASCA CONNECTION

Get Involved—MASCA Committees

The Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association (MASCA) is looking for talented members to come out and share their knowledge and skills by volunteering to participate on one or more of our committees. For more information, contact a committee chair via e-mail.

Finance & Audit Committee

Chair: Sean Ryan srryan@co.bucks.pa.us Membership Committee Chair: LaVonya Douglas Lavonya.Douglas@csosa.gov

Policy & Procedure Committee

Chair: Marigold Henderson Marigold.Henderson@csosa.gov **Publications & Communications**

Chair: Dawn Pearson dawn.pearsons@gmail.com

Delaware

Delaware Launches Justice Reinvestment Initiative

by

William Burrell

In his 2011 State of the State address, Governor Jack Markell announced that Delaware would pursue a Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the state's public safety efforts. Supported by funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and with technical assistance from the Vera Institute, the JRI will involve a thorough review and analysis of data about Delaware's sentencing and correctional policies and criminal justice system operations. The analysis will be shared with key stakeholders to support their review and assessment of current practices and the development of recommendations for improvements.

The JRI is being led by the Justice Reinvestment Task Force, an 18 member bi-partisan group that represents all three branches of Delaware state government. Lt. Governor Matt Denn chairs the JRI Task Force.

The data collection and analysis has been completed and is being presented by the Vera institute staff to the JRI Task Force in a series of meetings. In these meetings, Task Force members and other criminal justice stakeholders will develop recommendations and a report to be presented to the Governor, the Chief Justice and Senate President by January 31, 2012.

The Delaware JRI is one of more than 20 initiatives underway across the country at both the state and local levels. The Justice Reinvestment model is based on a bipartisan approach, objective analysis of criminal justice system

performance data and the development of consensus based recommendations designed to protect public safety and make optimal use of public funds.

For additional information on the Delaware JRI, see: http://www.governor.delaware.gov/news/2011/1107july/2011072
5-publicsafety.shtml

For more information on the Justice Reinvestment effort, see: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/topics/
justice-reinvestment.html



Catania Salutes Department of Corrections, Unity Healthcare for Award

Medical Program at D.C. Jail Named "Program of the Year"

Washington, D.C. - Councilmember David Catania (At-Large) recently congratulated the D.C. Department of Corrections and Unity Healthcare for receiving the National Commission on Correctional Health Care's (NCCHC) "Program of the Year" award. The award has been given each year since 1993 and recognizes programs of excellence among thousands of accredited jails, prisons, and juvenile facilities. In 2006, the DOC and Unity Healthcare implemented a community-oriented discharge process that links medical services received during incarceration with those received after discharge. The NCCHC honored this innovative approach to correctional healthcare at its National Conference on Correctional Health Care in Chicago, Illinois.

"The District's correctional health care program is a national model," said Catania. "All of those involved in the DOC and Unity, especially Director Brown and Vincent Keane, are to be congratulated for this prestig-

District of Columbia

ious award."

Catania played an instrumental role in the development and design of the DOC's current medical and HIV/AIDS testing programs. In response to a scathing report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and growing community concerns regarding health services at the D.C. Jail, in June 2005 Catania and Councilmember Phil Mendelson held a joint oversight hearing on the subject. At the hearing, 25 public witnesses testified and urged the government to identify an alternate model of care. Among the issues cited with the previous system were irregular and potentially dangerous conditions of discharge, overwhelming bureaucratic barriers to care, difficulties with consistent medication administration, lack of coordination between the healthcare provider and District health agencies, and insufficient treatment for mentally ill inmates.

In the aftermath of the hearing, Catania was the driving force behind the adoption of a "community oriented" model of health care. Unity Healthcare, which operates the largest number of health care clinics in the city, was selected to provide medical services to inmates. Upon discharge, inmates can visit any of Unity's 30 community health centers and even schedule appointments with the same

doctor they saw while incarcerated. The model has resulted in substantially high numbers of inmates keeping doctors' appointments after their release.

"Prior to the beginning of our work in 2005, there was absolutely no connectivity between health services provided to inmates while incarcerated and those provided outside the jail," said Catania. "The DOC and Unity have worked exceptionally hard to increase the number of inmates who are provided health care after they leave the jail. It is a difficult proposition, but if done correctly, it can make a major difference in the health outcomes of this population."

Earlier this year, the DOC received accreditation from both the NCCHC and the American Correctional Association. It marked the first time in the 32-year history of the D.C. Jail that it had been simultaneously accredited by both major accrediting institutions. In addition, the DOC recently received an "A" in the D.C. Appleseed Center for Law and Justice's Annual HIV/AIDS Report Card. The department was singled-out for its automatic testing program. Currently, the DOC is responsible for over one-third of all HIV/AIDS screenings that occur in the District.

http://www.davidcatania.com/content/view/312/68/

PAGE 4 THE MASCA CONNECTION

Maryland

Transgender Incarceration: New Directions

Written by Dana LaRocca

On January 9 key leaders of the Maryland transgender community met with Gary Maynard, Maryland's Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services at the Secretary's office in Towson, to discuss improving the safety and quality of life of transgender persons who are incarcerated. *Baltimore OUTloud* has been following these developments since this past August, when community activist and former City Council candidate, Odette Ramos, offered to coordinate efforts between the Secretary's office, the transgender community, and the Mayor's office.

In August, Owen Smith, Field Organizer for Gender Equality Issues at Equality Maryland, received complaints about alleged police harassment in Lower Charles Village and a complaint about harassment of a transwoman at Central Booking during these same incidents. In that particular incident, the transwoman was released the next day without charges, but overnight she was harassed while locked up with males. Those reports led to a meeting several weeks ago with the Northern District Police that resulted in some positive outcomes as reported in our last issue of Baltimore OUTloud, but the incarceration issues had to be addressed with state officials, since the facility is run by the state.

The January 9 meeting had been planned over the past two months. In November, Odette Ramos contacted Secretary Maynard with concerns about the treatment of the trans-

gender population.

The transgender community was represented by Owen Smith, of Equality Maryland, Dr. Dana Beyer, Executive Director of Gender Rights Maryland, and Monica Stevens, from Women Accepting Responsibility (WAR). The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services was represented by Secretary Maynard, John Michael Stouffer, Deputy Secretary for Operations, Rick Binetti, Executive Director of Communications, and Wendell France, Commissioner of Pretrial Detention and Services. The Mayor's office was represented by Sheryl Goldstein, Director of the Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice, and Kevin Cleary, Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods. The issues discussed arose from concerns in Baltimore City's Central Booking, which is run by the state. Secretary Maynard suggested that policy changes made at that facility could work as a pilot program that could be extended to other state facilities. Owen Smith brought documentation of policies in place in other states and an agreement was reached that Secretary Maynard's office would take the lead on researching those policies with the assistance of Mr. Smith and Sheryl Goldstein.

The group recognized that policy changes would require training of corrections officers and other facility staff. Secretary Maynard said that he believed the National Institute of Corrections might be able to provide training of that sort. His office will work with the supervisor of the Baltimore city and county facilities with a view toward local pilot program that could later be implemented statewide.

"I am hopeful and very encouraged by

the eagerness and honest willingness with which Secretary Maynard approached this critical issue," Equality Maryland's Owen Smith said, "I believe Secretary Maynard truly wants to make real change happen to address the very real violence faced by transgender people in the criminal justice system." He added.

Community activist Odette Ramos said that she thought the meeting went very well. "I was happy to see that the Secretary and his staff were sensitive to the issues raised by the group, and committed to work with us to come up with good solutions, both at the internal policy level, and at the training level," she said. Others shared her view that the presence of both Sheryl Goldstein and Kevin Cleary, representing the Mayor's office, "heightened the importance of what we were talking about."

"I was honored to have facilitated this connection and look forward to the on-going discussions," she said. Secretary Maynard has more than 30 years of correctional experience, is the author of a book, Correction Officer, and a retired Brigadier General with the Oklahoma Army National Guard. He holds a Masters Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Oklahoma State University and a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from East Central State College in Ada, Oklahoma.

Story can be found at: http:// www.baltimoreoutloud.com/lgbtnews/local-news/item/1008transgender-incarceration-newdirections? tmpl=component&print=1

Commissioner of corrections named to new position of deputy secretary of operations. If you are unable to access this hyperlink, copy and paste the following link into your web

browser: http://articles.herald-mail.com/2011-11-30/news/30461262_1_stouffer-parole-and-probation-jon-p-galley

MASCA WORD SEARCH

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Call for Presenters

Carl Robinson Award

Conference

Corrections

Criminal Justice

Founders Award

Healthcare

Juvenile Justice

MASCA Blue Gills

Parole

Polar Bear Plunge

Probation

Public Safety

Re-Entry

Ronald McDonald House

Sal Russoniello Award

Scholarships

Special Olympics

Treatment

CONTACT US

Contact us at: MASCA@correctionsmail.com

Visit us on the web at: http://masca.corrections.com/

To apply for our MASCA Scholarship by May 1, 2012 visit us at: MASCA Scholarship.

PAGE 6 THE MASCA CONNECTION

2012 MASCA Conference Update

by

Henry Alexander, MASCA President

Remember to mark your calendars for our 74th Annual Conference. MASCA is partnering with PAPPC to present another excellent conference. The dates are June 17 through 20, 2012 and the location is the Hershey Lodge, in the sweetest place on earth, Hershey, PA. Some of the confirmed training topics are: PTSD, Gang Awareness, Designer Drugs, Polygraph, Veterans Issues, and Justice Reinvestment. Confirmed Speakers include Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Secretary John E. Wetzel and Acting Pennsylvania Parole Board Chairman Lloyd White. There will be tours of Milton Hershey School offered as well as a silent auction to benefit the Hershey Ronald McDonald House, several social events and networking opportunities. The program committee is still accepting workshop proposals. If you or someone you know would be interested in presenting, please complete the "Call for Presenters" form and return it as soon as possible. Click this LINK for the Call for Presenters form.

In addition to the speakers and workshops, the full conference registration fee will also include 3 breakfasts and 2 lunches, as well as a complimentary reception on Sunday evening to kick off the conference! Check the conference pages on the MASCA and PAPPC websites for more information as it becomes available. The Conference registration forms will be posted soon.

MASCA Awards

Each year MASCA presents three awards to deserving individuals in the field of corrections, the Founders Award, the Carl Robinson Award, and the Sal Russoniello Award. The Founders Award recognizes exceptional efforts to promote professionalism in the fields of probation, parole, juvenile justice and/or corrections. The Carl Robinson Award recognizes extraordinary leadership and made significant contributions to the field of corrections. The Sal Russoniello Award recognizes outstanding contributions to MASCA's training and educational mission. To nominate a colleague for an award, please complete a nomination form and submit it by April 8, 2012. The Award Nomination form can be found on page 12.

16th Annual Maryland State Police – Polar Bear Plunge

The 16th Annual Maryland State Police—Polar Bear Plunge will be held at Sandy Point State Park on Saturday, January 28, 2012. Come out and join the MASCA Blue Gills for a dip in the Chesapeake Bay. To join our team or submit your donation, visit us at the MASCA Blue Gills'. If you are unable to access this link, copy and paste the link listed below into your web browser.

http://plunge2012.kintera.org/faf/search/searchTeamPart.asp? ievent=484131&lis=1&kntae484131=D944EEF79AC749A0B11D37408B5AB0C5&team=4895450

New Jersey



New Jersey Reentry Plan Released

by

William Burrell

Governor Chris Christie recently released his plan to improve the outcomes of the reentry process, helping offenders in need gain access to critical services and improve the efficiency of agencies and programs that service offenders who are returning to the community.

This cross-department initiative has five major components: expanding the state's successful drug courts, developing a program assessment component to evaluate and improve services, creating a real-time recidivism data base, establishing a cross agency Recidivism Reduction Task Force and appointing a Re-entry Coordinator in the Governor's Office to spearhead the efforts.

The drug court expansion will explore the changing the requirement that an addicted offender volunteer for admission to drug court. Working with the state Judiciary, the Task Force will seek to establish a pilot project in two court vicinages (districts) to determine the viability of this change.

The program assessment component will evaluate all re-entry programs, establishing performance benchmarks and working to improve outcomes and effectiveness. This work will support the operation of the real time recidivism data base, to be developed in conjunction with

the state's Office of Information Technology, Rutgers University and state correctional agencies.

The Governor's Office Coordinator for Prisoner Re-entry is Lisa Puglisi, Esq., who has served in both the State Parole Board and Department of Corrections. She will as the principle policy adviser to the Governor on re-entry and recidivism reduction policy. Day-today implementation of the Governor's initiative will be led by the State Parole Board Chairman Plousis, including the ongoing elements of the proposal such as collecting and analyzing performance data from various state departments for budgeting, programming and procurement purposes.

By executive order, Governor Christie established the Governor's Task Force for Recidivism Reduction, which is chaired by Puglisi and Plousis. The Task Force is composed of representatives from the Department of Corrections, the State Parole Board, the Motor Vehicle Commission, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health and Senior Services, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Department of Law & Public Safety, the Juvenile Justice Commission and the Department of Community Affairs. The Task Force will develop recommendations for the Governor regarding how best to ensure the effectiveness and success of New Jersey's efforts towards recidivism reduction.

The Governor's plan reflects some

of the recommendations made by the Manhattan Institute in their report *Prisoner Reentry Services in New Jersey: A Plan to Reduce Recidivism.* That report was made available in conjunction with the release of the Governor's reentry plan.

To learn more, see the Governors Plan and Executive Order at: http://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/552011/ approved/20111128c.html

To read the Manhattan Institute report, go to: http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/
Pris-oner Reentry Services in New Jer sey.pdf

PAGE 8 THE MASCA CONNECTION

New York



New York Governor seeks to realign juvenile justice system

by JEANETTE MOLL

Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York recently unveiled his budget plan to policymakers, and included significant juvenile justice reforms in the plan.

After previously closing some of the state's juvenile lockups due to their ineffectiveness, Governor Cuomo is now asking lawmakers to close additional facilities and to send lower risk youths from New York City to facilities back in their hometown.

New York's juvenile facilities are expensive and they often don't work. Right on Crime has previously noted the extraordinary recidivism rates for youth exiting state lockup facilities in New York: over 80% return to a facility of some sort within ten years, and costs stretch over \$250,000 per year.

Under Governor Cuomo's plan, youth currently in non-secure facilities would begin receiving programming closer to home in the next biennium; in the 2014-2015 biennium, youth in limited-secure facilities would be transitioned closer to home.

Not only would this plan reduce the high costs (with few effective outcomes) of state lockups, but research shows that delinquent youth in programs closer to home are generally more effective.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City, who would be responsible for working with the state to create the community-based facilities for youth returned to the City, issued a statement supporting the plan.

http://www.reclaimingfuture s.org/blog/new-yorkgovernor-seeks-realignjuvenile-justice-system

Upcoming Events

American Probation & Parole Assoc. 2012 Winter Training Institute San Diego, CA February 26–29, 2012

Central Coast Gang Investigator Association (CCGIA) Gang Conference 2012

San Jose, California March 5 - March 7, 2012 American Jail Association's 31st Annual Training Conference & Jail Expo!

Reno, Nevada April 22–26, 2012

2012 MASCA / PAPPC Conference

Hershey, Pennsylvania June 17–20, 2012 2012 ACA Congress or Correction

Denver, CO July 20-25, 2012

Association of Women Executives in Corrections (2012) Annual Membership Training Institute

Little Rock, Arkansas September 14 – 16, 2012

Pennsylvania



DOC Officials Appoint Two Regional Deputies Harrisburg

John Murray and David Pitkins have been appointed as regional deputy secretaries, Secretary of Corrections John E. Wetzel announced today.

"John and Dave are professionals who are experienced in a variety of correctional operation areas, as well as valued and respected by their co-workers," Wetzel said.

"With more than 54 combined years of knowledge, they will add a fresh perspective to the regional team and continue the department on its course of increasing efficiencies and reducing costs while maintaining safe and secure facilities," Wetzel added.

Murray will supervise the central region of the state, which includes 10 state

institutions: Benner, Cambridge Springs, Cresson, Houtzdale, Huntingdon,

Muncy, Pine Grove, Quehanna Boot Camp, Rockview and Smithfield.

During his 31-year career with the department, Murray has worked his way up through the ranks from corrections

facility
management. In 2010, he was
named superintendent of SCI
Camp Hill.

officer and counselor to unit and

Pitkins will supervise the western region of the state, which includes nine institutions: Albion, Forest, Fayette, Greene, Greensburg, Laurel Highlands, Mercer, Pittsburgh and Somerset.

During his 23-year career, Pitkins moved from chaplaincy program director to deputy superintendent for centralized services and deputy superintendent for facility management. In 2009, he was named superintendent of SCI Laurel Highlands.

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/p ortal/server.pt/directory/2012_r eleases/178335?DirMode=1

Ex-cons can no longer be boxed out of jobs

If you are unable to access this hyperlink, copy and paste the following link into your web browser: http://articles.philly.com/2012-01-12/news/30620180_1_employers-new-law-box

Join the Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association (MASCA)

For more information, visit us on the web at http://masca.corrections.com/

Or, Apply for membership using your Smartphone.

For membership, visit us at:

MASCA Membership





PAGE 10 THE MASCA CONNECTION

MASCA Scholarship Dennis R Martin Memorial Scholarship Program

MASCA's Dennis R Martin Memorial Scholarship program provides \$1000.00 scholarships to deserving college students who are pursuing degrees that will lead to a career in the field of criminal justice, juvenile justice, community supervision, or corrections. April Brown was working in a clerical position with the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation while attending college to earn her degree in 2008 when she received a MASCA scholarship. The MASCA connection asked April what has happened since she received her scholarship. Her story appears below. Congratulations on your promotion, April!



MASCA Scholarship Winner

April A. Brown, Parole and Probation Agent I

Maryland Community Supervision

Northwest Field Office - Region II

Over the past years, my academic learning experience has been an extraordinary contribution to my professional development. I have taken courses that have prepared me for career advancement to Parole and Probation Agent with the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Maryland Community Supervision. I began my career with the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services in 1998 as an Office Secretary. Throughout the years, I attended numerous on the job training courses, which expanded my knowledge of the Criminal Justice System.

In an attempt to further my education, I enrolled in the University of Maryland's Bachelor of Science Program in 2004, while still working for the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. At that time, I developed an academic plan which allowed me to successfully complete my educational goal to successfully complete the program at UMUC. The support of MASCA's scholarship program was a great financial resource and has assisted me with the achievement of my educational goal. I currently hold a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management Studies with a minor in Criminal Justice. I graduated from the University of Maryland in 2010, Dean's List. In June, 2011 I was promoted to Parole and Probation Agent through the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Maryland Community Supervision. I currently work at the Northwest Field Office. I would like to thank MASCA for its dedication to the criminal justice system as well as its support to individuals such as myself.

For scholarship opportunities, visit our website at: http://www.corrections.com/masca/scholarships.html.

For our <u>scholarship application</u>, visit our website at: http://www.corrections.com/masca/pdf/Masca_Scholarship_App.pdf

National News

OJJDP Releases Four Fact Sheets on Delinquency Cases in Juvenile and Criminal Courts

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has released four fact sheets on delinquency cases in juvenile and criminal courts:

Juvenile Delinquency Probation Caseload, 2008 presents statistics on delinquency cases resulting in probation between 1985 and 2008.

Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Court, 2008 presents statistics on delinquency cases processed between 1985 and 2008 by U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction for public order, person, and property offenses and drug law violations.

Person Offense Cases in Juvenile Court, 2008 presents statistics on person offenses (including assault, robbery, rape, homicide, and other crimes involving force or threat of force against persons) handled by juvenile courts between 1985 and 2008.

Delinquency Cases Waived to Criminal Court, 2008 presents statistics on petitioned delinquency cases waived to criminal court between 1985 and 2009.

Resources:

"Juvenile Delinquency Probation Caseload, 2008" (NCJ 236478) is available online at www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/236478.pdf.

"Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Court, 2008" (NCJ 236479) is available online at www.ojjdp.gov/ pubs/236479.pdf.

"Person Offense Cases in Juvenile Court, 2008" (NCJ 236480) is available online at www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/236480 .pdf.

"Delinquency Cases Waived to Criminal Court, 2008" (NCJ 236481) is available online at www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/236481
.pdf.

http://www.ojjdp.gov/

A Force for Positive CHANGE.

Visit us on the web at :http://masca.corrections.com/

PAGE 12 THE MASCA CONNECTION



MIDDLE ATLANTIC STATES CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION

NOMINATIONS FOR 2012 AWARD RECIPIENTS

• CARL ROBINSON AWARD:

Presented to a person who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and made significant contributions to the field of corrections.

• MASCA FOUNDERS AWARD:

Presented to a person who has demonstrated exceptional efforts to promote professionalism in probation, parole, juvenile justice and/ or corrections.

• SAL RUSSONIELLO SERVICE AWARD:

Presented to a person who has demonstrated extraordinary devotion to advancing the educational mission of the Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association.

NOMINEE: _	
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MAILING AD	DRESS:
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NOMINATIN	G PERSON:
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Please attach a brief written justification for your award nominee with his/ her biographical profile by APRIL 8th to:

Debbie Walter Awards Committee Chairperson c/o Montgomery County Juvenile Probation 102 York Road, Suite 202

Willow Grove, PA 19090

Email: dwalter@montcopa.org

Plan now to attend MASCA's 2012 Annual Conference
Co-sponsored by PAPPC
Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA • June 17 - 20, 2012
"Working Together: The Keystone For Success"

masca.corrections.com

Second Chance Act—Grant Opportunity

Second Chance Act Demonstration Field Experiment: Fostering Desistance through Effective Supervision

Grants.gov number assigned to announcement: BJA-2012-3115

Due date: February 23, 2012, 11:59 p.m. eastern time

The Bureau of Justice Assistance, in a collaborative effort with the National Institute of Corrections and the National Institute of Justice, is seeking proposals to implement an innovative intervention using a desistance approach as part of a Demonstration Field Experiment (DFE) on prisoner reentry. This multi-site project will also provide a rigorous test of this reentry model intended to; 1) improve offenders' motivation to change; 2) address cognitive and behavioral functioning regarding crime-prone thoughts and behaviors; and 3) address core factors that affect offender performance while under community supervision following release from prison.

DFE sites will be selected based upon their commitment to building knowledge and implementing the reentry program model with fidelity, adhering to the requirements of the randomized controlled trial, and aiding in the collection and analysis data in an automated fashion. For this project, offenders released from prison and under community supervision will be recruited to participate in this study. This model will only focus on offenders who are assessed as moderate- to high-risk for re-offending and, to ensure that the resulting research is valid, each site must be able to assign at least 500 parolees over a 30-month period to the project.

Sites selected to participate in the DFE are expected to have a reentry program in place that includes assessing offenders and using the results to tailor reentry plans to individuals with a particular focus on continuity of care from prison to the community. By participating in this project local, state, and tribal partners will have an opportunity to participate in a state-of-the-art effort to build new evidence in a critical area and to at the same time receive extensive training, coaching, and funding support for staff and programming.

BJA anticipates that it will make awards to up to four sites of up to \$1 million each for a 12-month project period, with a start date of August 1, 2012. With the 180 day start-up period, applicants must commit to fully implementing the DFE no later than February 1, 2013. Supplemental funding for the second and third years of this project will be available to those sites that implement the model with fidelity. BJA is requesting that funds awarded under this program cover no more than 75 percent of the total costs of the program. Applicants may satisfy the match request with either cash or in-kind services.

For full text, see: http://www.ojp.usdoi.gov/BJA/grant/12SecondChanceDFEsol.pdf

The Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association (MASCA) is a professional organization comprised of members from Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and the District of Columbia for those working, supporting or studying for a career in institutional and community based corrections.

MASCA is a regional affiliate of the American Correctional Association (ACA), the American Probation & Parole Association (APPA), and the American Jail Association (AJA).

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