

# The MASCA Connection

Volume 3 Issue 4

July, 2014

## President's Message

By the time this newsletter goes to print MASCA would have already held its 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Institute in Washington D.C. We hope those of you that attended enjoyed the many workshops offered, the excellent speakers and the cultural experience that is Washington, D.C. MASCA works very hard every year to bring members in and outside the Mid-Atlantic region great training experience. We take pride in our mission of educational and professional development and on behalf of the Board of Trustees I thank everyone who attended for the support. If you missed the conference this year, next year the MASCA conference is planned in partnership with the New Jersey Chapter of the American Correctional Association, for Atlantic City, New Jersey from June 16-19, 2015. The theme is "Collaborating for Success in Criminal Justice: Correction, Probation, Parole, and Community Programs." So please start making your plans now!

Well, summer is finally here! While the commitment to the important work that you do never stops, The summer months allow us time to enjoy the outdoors, spend time with family and maybe even travel to those destinations that we

dream of.

MASCA would like to welcome new Board members Jennifer Lopez, Chief of Chester County Probation and Parole and Christopher Duncan, from the D.C. Superior Court Social Services Division. Both come to the organization with lots of experience in the field and a desire to help MASCA grow.

As we close out this 76<sup>th</sup> business year MASCA will continue to build on the organizations mission, work to increase membership, become more visible in member states, and develop our strategic plan. MASCA would not exist without the support we receive from membership. We continue to seek your support, input, and participation, and as always we welcome written articles related to the various criminal justice disciplines, and what's new and possible in your state. Have a great summer!

Marigold Henderson,  
President

Middle Atlantic States  
Correctional Association



### Inside this issue:

Get Involved	2
Who We Are	2
Join MASCA	2
Connecticut	3
Delaware	4
Advertise in MASCA	5
Newsletter Schedule	5
District of Columbia	6
National News	6
Maryland	7
New Jersey	8
New York	9
Survey	10
Pennsylvania	11

## Get Involved—MASCA Committees



The Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association (MASCA) is looking for talented members to share their knowledge, skills, and abilities by volunteering to participate on one or more of our committees. For more information, please contact the committee chairperson for the committee of interest. The MASCA

Committees and Chairpersons are:

### Finance & Audit Committee

Chair: Larry Glover  
glover200v@gmail.com

### Membership Committee

Chair: LaVonya Douglas  
lavonya.douglas@cscosa.gov

### Policy & Procedure Committee

Chair: William Payne  
wpayne@hvc.rr.com

### Publications & Communications Committee

Chair: Dawn Pearson  
dawn.pearsons@gmail.com



## MASCA Who We Are

Visit us on the  
web at  
[www.masca.us](http://www.masca.us)

MASCA is the leading regional interdisciplinary organization for professionals in the related fields of institutional corrections, community corrections, and juvenile services. We are your regional affiliate for both the American Correc-

tional Association and the American Probation and Parole Association.

Our membership includes professionals at the state, county, and federal levels, primarily in the seven member jurisdictions, but we

welcome criminal justice professionals and students from anywhere in North America. We are committed to providing the best training opportunities in our region and are looking for other ways to serve our membership as well.

## Join the Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association

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

[MASCA Membership](#)

Or apply using your smartphone



**“Join MASCA”**

## Connecticut

### Connecticut Department of Correction celebrates 156 new officers

By  
[Luther Turmelle](#),  
New Haven Register



Members of the state Department of Correction class of 2014 prepare to march into their graduation program at the Malony Center for Training and Staff Development Tuesday.

Peter Casolino — New Haven Register

CHESHIRE >> Famed forensics expert Henry C. Lee urged the state Department of Correction's latest graduating class to be "true professionals."

"It's not a job; it's a profession," the 77-year-old Lee told the 156 members of the class during a ceremony at the Maloney Training Center Tuesday. "You can go anyplace to get a job. You must have knowledge

in your mind, courage in your body and honesty in your heart."

Lee told the graduates of the 10-week officer training program that life is made up of winners and losers. He urged them to strive every day to be winners "Winners are ones who have the answers, who make the impossible become possible," he said. "The losers are just part of

the problem."

By virtue of being a member of the graduating class, Robert Petrolito considers himself to be winner. The 56-year-old Rocky Hill resident has been trying to start a career in law enforcement after spending the past 34 years working for Zygo Corp. in Middlefield.

His son, also named Robert, got the call from the Department of Correction first and graduated from

the program in March. Shortly after his son graduated, the elder Petrolito got the call that he had been accepted into the program. The two were together on stage Tuesday, with the younger Petrolito pinning his father's newly earned badge on him.

"There are just no words that can describe it," a beaming elder Petrolito said later of sharing the moment with his son. The younger Petrolito, an Iraq War veteran, described the experience "as one of the top moments I've had, next to becoming a Marine."

The idea of having both her husband and her son working in a risky profession makes Lucy Petrolito a little nervous.

"But it's what they both want to do, so I just pray and hope for the best," she said following the ceremony.

Tuesday's graduating class was the fourth this year at the Department of Correction with a fifth scheduled to graduate in September, said Karen Martucci, acting director of external affairs for the agency.

"These are the numbers we need to keep up with the amount of our people that are retiring on a regular basis," Martucci said. Many of those corrections officers now retiring have worked 20 years in order to retire with a full pension. Martucci said those joining the department now have to wait for 25 years in order to collect a full pension.



Story from: <http://www.nhregister.com/general-news/20140702/connecticut-department-of-correction-celebrates-156-new-officers>



## Delaware

### Criminal Justice Council Names Executive Director

**Date Posted:** *Tuesday, July 8th, 2014*

**WILMINGTON, Del.** – Lieutenant Governor Matthew Denn, Chairman, is pleased to announce that the Delaware Criminal Justice Council has unanimously confirmed the appointment of Christian L. Kervick as Executive Director. Mr. Kervick, who had been serving as Acting Executive Director was already leading the statewide criminal justice planning agency after former Director Drewry N. Fennell took a position as policy advisor to Governor Jack Markell in March 2014.

The Delaware Criminal Justice Council is an independent agency committed to leading the criminal justice system through a collaborative approach that calls upon the experience and creativity of the Council, all components of the criminal justice system and the community. As the State Administering Agency, the Criminal Justice Council plans, implements and administers more than \$30 million of state and federal criminal justice dollars.

In announcing the appointment, Lt. Governor Denn stated “Chris Kervick has worked for the CJC for over

16 years, including two stints as Acting Executive Director. During that time, he has gained the confidence and trust of the CJC members, the federal government, and the organizations with whom we work because of his integrity and work ethic. He has been a great steward of the federal grant dollars that the CJC is trusted with. The board members were thrilled to have the opportunity to select him unanimously as Executive Director”

During his career with the Criminal Justice Council, Mr. Kervick has served as Deputy Director under the two previous Executive Directors as well as Acting Executive Director. Among his many roles at the Council he has also served as Director of Programming and Juvenile Justice Specialist. Mr. Kervick is also a member of the Board of Directors of the National Criminal Justice Association and has chaired the Northeast Region of the NCJA for the past three years giving Delaware a voice at the national level of criminal justice policy development.

CJC board Vice Chair, the Honorable Chandlee Johnson Kuhn, Chief Judge of the Family Court, had this to say about Kervick’s appointment: “as the Juvenile Justice Specialist Chris was recognized at the National level with the Coalition for Juvenile Justice 2010 Tony Gobar Outstanding Nation-

al Juvenile Justice Specialist award. Chris’ experience and passion for the criminal justice system in Delaware is unparalleled. I look forward to working with him and his team in addressing the serious problems facing our communities, especially in the area of juvenile violence prevention.”

On his appointment, Mr. Kervick says: “The criminal justice system is currently facing several complex issues. I am honored to serve as Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Council and look forward to working with our Council to implement effective programs that will improve our system, provide appropriate services to our neighbors in need and to increase the overall safety of the citizen’s in our state”.

Mr. Kervick holds a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice from St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, PA.

(Story from: <http://news.delaware.gov/2014/07/08/criminal-justice-council-names-executive-director/>)

#### Additional Delaware News:

[Judge's ruling backs harsher penalty](#)

## Interested in Advertising in the MASCA Connection?

Advertising will be accepted for the MASCA Connection from organizations.

### The size of the ad will be:

Full page,  
Half page, or  
Quarter Page



### Costs for four consecutive issues:

Full Page – \$400.00  
Half Page – \$200.00  
Quarter Page – \$100.00

### Costs for a single issue:

Full Page – \$125.00  
Half Page – \$75.00  
Quarter Page – \$50.00

It will be the responsibility of the advertiser for submitting quality proofs in the proper electronic format.

For additional information, please contact Dawn Pearson at [masca.connection@gmail.com](mailto:masca.connection@gmail.com).

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## MASCA Connection Schedule

The MASCA Connection is the Newsletter for the Middle Atlantic Sates Correctional Association.

We invite you to share your stories. If you have a story you are interested including in our publication,

please forward it to [masca.connection@gmail.com](mailto:masca.connection@gmail.com). All submissions should be in word format.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

[masca.connection@gmail.com](mailto:masca.connection@gmail.com).

Please see MASCA's schedule for specific dates regarding newsletter submissions.

Month of Newsletter	Content Due Date
January	12/01/14
April	03/01/15
July	06/01/14
October	09/01/14



## District of Columbia

### DC DOC First Corrections Agency in Metropolitan Region to use NexTalk Video Remote Interpreting Services

(Washington D.C.) The District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DCDOC) has deployed six NexTalk laptops to its facilities and is now the first corrections agency in the local Metropolitan region to use video remote interpreting services (VRI). The laptops provide instant access to live sign language interpreters for American, English, and Spanish sign languages and are part of an

agency-wide effort to afford better access for deaf and hard-of-hearing inmates. This March, DCDOC began conducting training for fifty (50) staff members and contractors to use the NexTalk VRI services. As of April 4, the Department has placed laptops in locations within the Central Cell Block, the Central Detention Facility, and the Correctional Treatment Facility, with four of the six available for portable use throughout the facilities. Once logged into the laptops, individuals are able to connect to a live interpreter via the web-based service, allowing for greater access to sign language interpreters for inmates.

“Although VRI technology isn’t new, providing it in a correctional setting is,” said Sarah Rand, DOC Risk Man-

ager and ADA Coordinator. “DCDOC should take great pride in that.” Director Tom Faust agrees. “We are excited to have this program available for our deaf and hard-of-hearing inmates. It further demonstrates the District’s commitment to serving the hearing impaired and DOC’s commitment to providing a safe, secure, and humane environment for those individuals in our custody.”

The Department will still have TTY services available to anyone contacting the agency in need of assistance.

Story from: <http://doc.dc.gov/release/dc-doc-first-corrections-agency-metropolitan-region-use-nextalk-video-remote-interpreting>

## National News

[Report: More prison inmates released with no supervision](#)

[Most Ex-Inmates Arrested Within Three Years of Release, Says New Federal Study](#)

[Jail Inmates at Midyear 2013 - Statistical Tables](#)

[When States Can't Control Violent Youth, Is Prison The Answer?](#)

[First Woman Charged on Controversial Law that Criminalizes Drug Use During Pregnancy](#)

[Obama Administration Releases National Drug Policy Strategy Emphasizing Public Health Approaches to Nation's Drug Problem](#)

[State Officials Rethinking Use of Solitary Confinement](#)

[Juvenile Prisons; Plus, Former Secretary Of State Hillary Clinton](#)

[Moving Toward a Public Safety/Public Health Model](#)

[In Labor, in Chains: The Outrageous Shackling of Pregnant Inmates](#)

[“Housing First” Helps Keep Ex-Inmates Off the Streets \(and Out of Prison\)](#)

[Fallen parole officers remembered](#)

A Force for Positive  
CHANGE.

## Maryland

### Camp Hope brings together fathers, children



**TOWSON, MD** –Western Correctional Institution (WCI) a maximum-security facility near Cumberland, MD, is wrapping up a summer camp that allows children to spend time with their incarcerated fathers. Hope House, established in 1998 in Washington, D.C., runs the program. This year, nine children and their fathers are participating.

Inmates who participate in

Camp Hope are carefully screened and must meet stringent criteria, including remaining infraction-free for an entire year. Sexual offenders are not allowed to participate. Participants are also required to take part in parenting classes before and after the camp.

“For many of our families this is the first time in their lives they have ever had one on one time together,” said Hope House’s Carol Fennelly. “The relationship building, forgiveness, and bonding that occurs during that time together is magic. Fractured relationships and broken hearts begin to heal and kids know they are loved and not abandoned.”

During the week-long program, the children meet with their fathers daily for arts and crafts, lunch and other camp activities. The children stay at a local campground for the week, augmenting their experience.

WCI is the second maximum security facility to host Camp Hope. According to WCI’s Assistant Warden Denise Gelsinger, “This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and children to spend quality time together reestablishing parental ties to guide the future.”

(Story from: [http://news.maryland.gov/dpscs/2014/07/18/camp-hope-brings-together-fathers-children/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=camp-hope-brings-together-fathers-children](http://news.maryland.gov/dpscs/2014/07/18/camp-hope-brings-together-fathers-children/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=camp-hope-brings-together-fathers-children))

#### Additional Maryland News:

[Inmate grasses and wildflowers bloom in vacant Baltimore lots](#)

[Wounded Veteran Visits Inmates Who Trained His Service Dog](#)



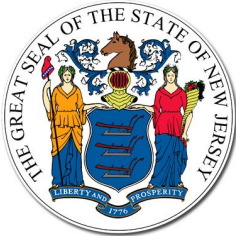
## Save the Date — MASCA 2015 Annual Conference

MASCA’s 2015 Annual Conference and Training Event will be held in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The conference location and dates soon to be announced.

Please visit our website at [www.masca.us](http://www.masca.us) periodically for updates..





## New Jersey

### Christie signs bill to increase penalties for some NJ sex offenders



Gov. Christie, shown in this file photo, today signed the Jessica Lunsford Act to require long sentences for sex offenders who target children under 13. (Andrew Mills/Star-Ledger)

By Matt Friedman/The Star-Ledger The Star-Ledger

TRENTON — Sexual predators who target children will now face long mandatory prison sentences. Gov. Chris Christie today

signed the Jessica Lunsford Act ([A892](#)), his office said.

The law, which takes effect immediately, will require judges to sentence those convicted of aggravated sexual assault against children under the age of 13 to at least 25 years in prison without parole.

The bill — which had 72 sponsors and co-sponsors — is named for a nine-year-old Florida girl who was raped and murdered by a sex offender.

Jessica Lunsford's father, Mark, came to Trenton in 2011 to push for passage of the bill, which was modeled after a 2005 Florida law.

The law does include a way for such sex offenders to reduce their sentences. Prosecutors could, "in con-

sideration of the interests of the victim," offer plea deals to defendants in which they'd be sentenced to no less than 15 years without parole.

Story from: [http://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/05/christie\\_signs\\_bill\\_to\\_increase\\_penalties\\_for\\_certain\\_nj\\_sex\\_offenders.html](http://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/05/christie_signs_bill_to_increase_penalties_for_certain_nj_sex_offenders.html)

#### Additional New Jersey News:

[Christie-backed constitutional amendment to allow NJ judges to deny bail advances](#)

[NJ is 'maxed out' on lengthy prison sentences: Editorial](#)

## New Jersey

Paul Lagana was presented with a certificate of merit from the Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association at his retirement celebration. The event was held on May 25, 2014 at the Stone Terrace Restaurant in Hamilton, New Jersey.



From Left to right: Thaddeus Caldwell, William Anderson, and Paul Lagana at the Stone Terrace Restaurant on May 25, 2014



## New York

### New Study Reveals Health Crisis of Bronx Re-Entry Populations

*58% Released to Bronx from State Prisons Have Major Chronic Conditions; 38% Never Lived in the Bronx*

**Released:** 17-Jul-2014 6:00 AM EDT

**Source Newsroom:** [Health People](#)

Newswise — NEW YORK, July 17, 2014 – More than 58% of parolees and those released from prison who are sent to the Bronx from New York State prisons have major chronic conditions, including substance abuse and mental issues, AIDS, and hepatitis C, according to a new study by Health People: Community Preventive Health Institute to be released today at The Bronx Re-Entry Working Group's annual forum to be held at Hostos Community College, The Savoy Room, 120 East 149th Street, from 10 a.m. to 3p.m.

The study, "Health Gaps Survey of Bronx Re-Entry Populations," sponsored by the Elton John AIDS Foundation, also found that, despite state policy that says prison releases should return to the area where they lived prior to prison, 38% of those surveyed who had been sent to the Bronx by the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision said they had never lived in the Bronx.

"Concentrating this number of people with major health needs in a targeted area is very self-defeating," said Chris Norwood, Executive Director of Health People and lead author of the study. "It does not enable the releases to integrate back into the communities they know and it starts to overwhelm the poor neighborhoods where they are sent in such high concentrations."

"The forum is designed to give help and hope to the re-entering populations of the Bronx," said Ramon Semorile, Co-Chair of the Bronx Re-Entry Working Group. "We are working together to overcome these challenges and make re-entry a success."

The study also documented major barriers to re-entry populations receiving appropriate care. For example, 58% said they did not have a Medicaid card on leaving prison and almost two-thirds (64%) were not given a basic package of their medical records.

These results of the survey were based on interviews with 151 Bronx prison releases, most of whom had been sent to shelters and other temporary housing in the South Bronx. Overall, 58% reported having substance abuse problems, 17% mental health problems and 13% said they were in treatment for HIV/AIDS – more than six-fold higher than the 2% HIV rate of Bronx adults.

"This study certainly underscores a crisis in health for prison releases which must be addressed," said Norwood. "We are hopeful Governor Cuomo's new Re-Entry Task Force will seriously address both the concentration of ill releases in targeted areas and the barriers to their care"

About Health People  
Health People is a groundbreaking peer education, prevention and support organization in the South Bronx whose mission is to train and empower residents of communities overwhelmed by chronic disease and AIDS to become leaders and educators in effectively preventing ill health, hospitalization, and unnecessary death.

Established in 1990 as women's AIDS prevention and support program, Health People has grown, using its peer-education model, to provide a full range of HIV/AIDS services for men, women and families. It also has conducted community asthma programs, New York's first diabetes peer-educators program, and a community smoking cessation program. Health People's Junior Peer program, Kids-Helping-Kids includes teens who are mentors for younger children with sick or missing parents.

(Story from: <http://www.newswise.com/articles/new-study-reveals-health-crisis-of-bronx-re-entry-populations>)



## Survey—Sex Offenders and Sex Offender Management Policies

Dear APPA Member,

Virginia Commonwealth University's (VCU) School of Government and Public Affairs Criminal Justice and Public Policy programs are interested in understanding the attitudes of professionals toward sex offender management policies. As such, we are conducting a research study for which you are being invited to participate. The title of this study is "Sex offender management policies and their unintended consequences: A national survey of the perceptions of professionals". You are being invited to participate in this research study because of your membership in either the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) or the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA). Both of these organizations have agreed to assist in this research by providing this invitation to participate in the study to their members. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) of VCU has also approved this research.

The aim of this study is to explore the attitudes and perceptions held by professionals about sex offenders and sex offender management policies. This research will allow for greater insight into the attitudes held by professionals about a growing offender population and the policies in place to manage that population.

If you volunteer to participate in this study, you will be asked to complete an online survey consisting of questions about your perceptions of sex offending and sex offender management policies. The online questionnaire is hosted on an external site, SurveyMonkey, and should take approximately fifteen minutes to complete.

While the likelihood of risk is minimal, due to the topic of this study, you may feel uncomfortable answering some of the questions asked. You may choose not to answer any questions that make you feel uncomfortable. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary.

If you choose to complete the online questionnaire, the data will be stored on SurveyMonkey. Once data collection is complete, the data will be transferred to a secure computer and password protected, at which point, all data will be removed from SurveyMonkey. All information you provide will be treated confidentially. No reference will be made that could link you to this study in any written or oral materials created as a product of this research.

I would be happy to answer any questions you have about this study. You may contact me by phone at (804) 827-0901 or through e-mail at [jagordon@vcu.edu](mailto:jagordon@vcu.edu) or [callc@vcu.edu](mailto:callc@vcu.edu) if you have any study-related questions or problems.

Thank you for considering participation in this research project. If you would like to participate, please click the link (or copy and paste the link into your web browser) below to connect to the questionnaire.

Link to survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GN5G8KJ>

Corey Patrick Call  
Doctoral Candidate  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
School of Government and Public Affairs



## Pennsylvania

### Pennsylvania State and Local Agencies Partner to Help Offenders Beat Drug and Alcohol Addictions, Succeed in Society

*Information contained on this page is provided by an independent third-party content provider. WorldNow and this Station make no warranties or representations in connection therewith. If you have any questions or comments about this page please contact [pressreleases@worldnow.com](mailto:pressreleases@worldnow.com).*

SOURCE Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole

#### Reentry Program Uses Key Principles of Effective Drug Courts

HARRISBURG, Pa., June 12, 2014 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- State and local officials today announced a partnership that will help offenders with drug and alcohol programs successfully transition from prison to their community.

"Drug and alcohol addiction and abuse are barriers for many offenders to successfully complete parole and turn their lives around," Parole Board Chairman Michael C. Potteiger said. "This partnership with Allegheny

County continues the emphasis on meaningful reentry efforts under the leadership of Gov. Tom Corbett to decrease the number of offenders who return to the criminal justice system."

The partnership is a court-based Reentry Program with the PA Board of Probation and Parole and Allegheny County Court to decrease recidivism, increase public safety and reduce correctional costs.

The Reentry Program provides intensive supervision and oversight to higher risk offenders with a history of substance abuse and it does so in a unique way by having a Parole Board Member and Common Pleas Judge meet with the offender on a monthly basis in the court room.

President Judge Jeffrey A. Manning of the Fifth Judicial District stated:

"For many years, our Court has made a commitment to support the successful reintegration of offenders released from the Allegheny County Jail. This collaboration with the state completes this commitment by the incorporation of the Board of Probation and Parole in devoting the necessary resources to offenders returning from state incarceration to our community to make them better equipped to serve as productive citizens."

The program includes a case management team to provide individually tailored continuity

of services for each parolee, maximizing their ability to succeed in the community. To be eligible, offenders must have been convicted in and returning to Allegheny County and have at least 18 months of parole supervision remaining on their sentence.

The Allegheny County Reentry Program will include Board Member Craig McKay, Judge Anthony Mariani, parole Board staff, county drug and alcohol case managers, mental health services and supports, and other agencies as necessary to help the offender to be successful.

The Board currently has Reentry Programs operating in Berks, Dauphin, Lackawanna and York counties. The Berks, Lackawanna, and York county programs, which have been operating the longest, have a 23, 17 and 17 percent one-year recidivism rate, respectively. Of those offenders who graduate from the programs, over 80% have not been recommitted since program completion.

(Story from: <http://www.wnem.com/story/25762422/pennsylvania-state-and-local-agencies-partner-to-help-offenders-beat-drug-and-alcohol-addictions-succeed-in-society>)