



MAPSA MATTERS

EDITOR: KELLY KALLA

OCTOBER 2007

SAVE
The 2008
MAPSA
conference will
DATE!

be held
Thursday
April 17, 2008
at the **Historic**
Landmark
Center in St.
Paul, MN.

More details to
come.

Visit us at
www.mapsa.us
for more
Information.

President's Letter

As another autumn approaches in Minnesota, I hope that everyone enjoyed their summer and survived another year. It's hard to believe that it's already been six months since we all were together last April at our conference. We've set the date for the 2008 conference and the planning process has already begun.

There have been some interesting things happening in the area of Pre-trial, both supervision and diversion. The first is the change in the property crimes dollar amounts for offenses committed after August 1, 2007. Individuals have to be accused of stealing, damaging or receiving property in excess of \$1,000 in order to be charged with a felony. The old limit that stood for years was \$500. The impacts from this new law will become apparent gradually over the next months, but I know my agency, Operation de Novo, is already noticing the changes.

Also, the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA) just completed their annual conference in Cleveland, OH a couple weeks ago and all the reports I've heard is that it was one of the best yet. We're hoping to take some of the ideas and challenges discussed at NAPSA to develop new and exciting workshops for our conference. If you know someone who made the trip to Cleveland, encourage them to share their conference information with you.

You may be receiving a phone call or an email in the next month or so, asking if you want to help in the planning process for our 2008 conference. The Board really wants to get as many ideas as possible concerning topics and themes so that our training is beneficial and interesting to all. If you are able to become involved, please consider joining our conference planning committee. You'll see all the details soon.

So, enjoy the leaves as the colors change and let's hope for a few more warm weeks before that dreaded white stuff starts falling.

Tim Gothmann
MAPSA President



Meet the Board

MAPSA Matters has added a new feature. We are going to be profiling our board members each edition so you can get to know us a little better. We would also like to know more about our members. If you would like to nominate a member to be profiled please contact your region representative or email mapsa@mapsa.us.



Nicole Schroden
US Pretrial Services

MAPSA Secretary: Nicole Schroden

What is your current job title and where do you work?

U.S. Pretrial Services Officer - Minneapolis U.S. Courthouse

What is the most interesting thing you have done in the past year?

I recently participated in a six week long new officer training program in Charleston, South Carolina. 90+ degree humid weather in full uniform every day - need I say more? Seriously it was a tremendous experience! Some of the activities included testing my driving skills on a skid vehicle course saturated with water and the fact instructors controlled our breaks! I think it was to my advantage that it hit all too close to home! Reminded me of winter driving in the ice tundra we have here in Minnesota. The non-emergency operations course had 11 stations with cones all over - we were timed getting in and out of spaces such as alleyways, 's' curves, backing in and out of confined areas... I managed to only smack one orange cone parallel parking -but I made it in under 5 minutes!

If you could be a super hero, who would you be?

Tough question - probably would have to pick batman. He's been my all-time favorite since the 60 series reruns on TV land (remember the old 'smack'; 'pow'; 'sock', 'ouch' words that would pop on the screen to simulate fighting) - those were the days! Love the villains; he had a great car, cool house and the red 'magic' phone in commissioner gordon's office was a classic!

What is your favorite TV character or favorite show?

Grey's Anatomy...

What did you want to be when you grew up?

(Think way back...) Sounds crazy but it was a toss up between an attorney or a mortician.





Lessons from a First-timer

My first NAPSA experience was great. The networking and learning about how diversion and pretrial are practiced so differently in each state was eye-opening. I went to trainings about self-defense and compassion fatigue, which we all experience at times in our field of work. My favorite training called The Magic of Gumbo: Surviving a Natural Disaster. It dealt with the aftermath of hurricane Katrina and how the probation offices still had a job to do. There were no phones and many of the staff were displaced as were the offenders. The speaker explained what steps it took to get their office running after a natural disaster. In spite of great obstacles they faced, there were still able to locate nearly all of the offenders. We also got a recipe of Louisiana Gumbo.

I wanted to say a special thanks to Operation de Novo for giving me the opportunity to attend NAPSA this year.

– Angela Shepherd, Juvenile Diversion Case Manager/Screeners for Operation de Novo.

What did I learn from my first NAPA conference. Well where do I start? I learned that Indians fans are pretty brutal. At least twice they chanted “Detroit sucks” while I was at the game Tuesday night (scalping tickets is legal in Cleveland), I learned that I am not as good of a bowler as I once thought (although no one seemed to mind), and I learned that Mr. James Brown knows pretty much everyone and has done an excellent job promoting not only Operation de Novo but diversion on a national level.

All kidding aside, after attending the 2007 NAPSA conference I realized how very lucky I am to be involved with Operation de Novo. In talking with others, it amazed me that certain counties or states don’t really have any type of diversion program, let alone one that allows clients to complete without having been formally charged (juvenile cases) or convicted (adult cases).

I realize that although I have my complaints about the system as a whole, Minnesota and the metro area in particular are pretty forward thinking in our approach to pretrial and prevention services. I found a lot of like-minded people who care deeply about their role in the pretrial services but who are also frustrated with funding and other issues which we all face, no matter which state we are from. This was such a wonderful opportunity to not share ideas with others but also to relax and reflect on what is my role in the criminal justice system.

I was also very impressed by not only the attendees but the caliber of speakers and presenters at the conference. OAPSA and NAPSA did an excellent job in putting together a great conference. I had the honor of attending this year on a scholarship and I can only hope to be one of the few that will be sent by my organization in the future. I am excited to take back my new knowledge to MAPSA as well as to others I may encounter along the way. Thanks to NASPA and a special thanks to Central Regional Director Sherri Carrier for taking me under her wing and for making this a wonderful experience!

-Kelly Kalla, Juvenile Diversion Case Manager/Screeners for Operation de Novo



MAPSA NEEDS YOU!

The MAPSA Board is looking for input in planning next years conference. We understand that you may not have time to attend conference committee meetings (although they are open for all and we encourage participation). We hope however, you will take a minute to drop an email or make a phone call with your thoughts. We are looking for ideas on workshop topics, potential presenters and anything you feel has been missing from trainings you have attended in the past. The board is only as good as it's members and we want to make the 2008 MAPSA Conference another engaging and exciting event.

Please contact your regional representative or any board member with your thoughts. We look forward to hearing from you in the coming months!



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