

MAPSA MATTERS

EDITOR: KELLY KALLA

FEBRUARY 2007

Upcoming Events:

11th Annual
MAPSA
Conference

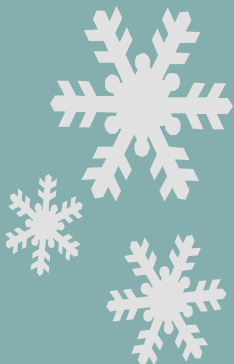
Thursday,
April 12, 2007

8:00-4:30pm

Landmark
Center

St. Paul MN

See inside for
more details
or visit us at
www.mapsa.us



President's Letter

Greetings from your MAPSA President,

Winter on the tundra is coming to a close. The days are getting longer, the average temperature is starting to rise and I have actually seen geese flying north. Also, the 11th Annual MAPSA Conference is right around the corner, which is a sure sign that spring is not far away. There is hope!

This year's conference promises to be another meaningful training event. Our Keynote this year is Tim Murray, the director of the Pretrial Services Resource Center in Washington D.C. Tim is going to talk about evidence based practices in the Pretrial field. EBP, as it is called, is a concept that seems so simple and common sense in nature that I find it hard to believe that it is new or even noteworthy. Having said that, the more I learn about EBP or the lack there of, the more I am convinced that we can not make real progress in the Pretrial arena or any other corrections based work without truly embracing the principles and the practice of EBP.

When we go to the doctor because we are sick, we are confident that they are diagnosing our symptoms using the best information that medical science has to offer. They take blood samples, run tests, and prescribe medication all based upon a body of evidence that indicates these are the right actions to take based upon studies and research.

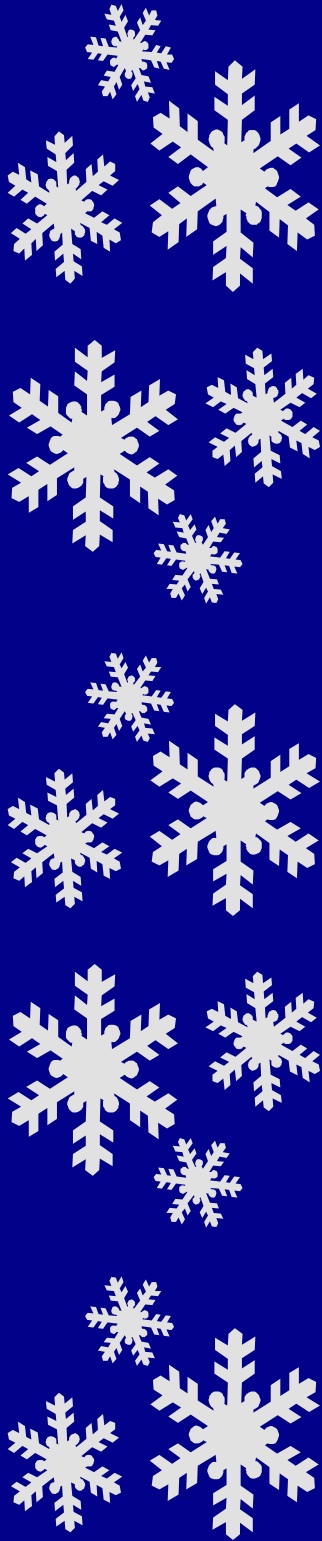
Sound Pretrial practice should be no different in its methodology than a visit to a trusted medical practitioner. Assessments based upon a body of knowledge, risk and needs determined by validation tools and decisions made based upon fact rather than past practice, political pressure or available resources.

So what are the best practices available based upon the EBP in the arena of Pretrial Screening, Pretrial Supervision and Diversion? If I knew the answer to that question, I would not be writing this letter between periods of a gopher hockey game. I would be the Director of the PSRC. So I guess you will need to join us at our annual conference at the Historic Landmark Center in St. Paul on April 12, 2007 to find out. Hope to see you then!

Sincerely,

Michael Gephart
MAPSA President





Diversion Receives \$150,000 Grant!

Recently I was able to sit down with James T Brown, the director of Operation de Novo. Operation de Novo is an adult and juvenile diversion program serving Hennepin County Minnesota. Mr. Brown discussed with me some of the recent and exciting things going on with diversion on a national level.

Mr. Brown has been the chair of the National Association of Pretrial Service Agencies (NAPSA) Diversion Committee since its inception. He served on the board as Central Regional Director from 1987-1991 and Vice President from 1991-1994. Mr. Brown also helped to establish the Minnesota Association of Pretrial Service Agencies (MAPSA) in 1996 and was the organizations first president.

After several years of hard work, the NAPSA Diversion Committee recently received a two year, \$150,000 federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The grant will be used to develop a monograph of best practices in diversion as well as a white paper reviewing the existing diversion standards. The monograph will be used to support existing programs as well as serve as a model for new and developing programs. The white paper will determine if current standards need updating as well as work on expanding the relationship between specialty courts and diversion.

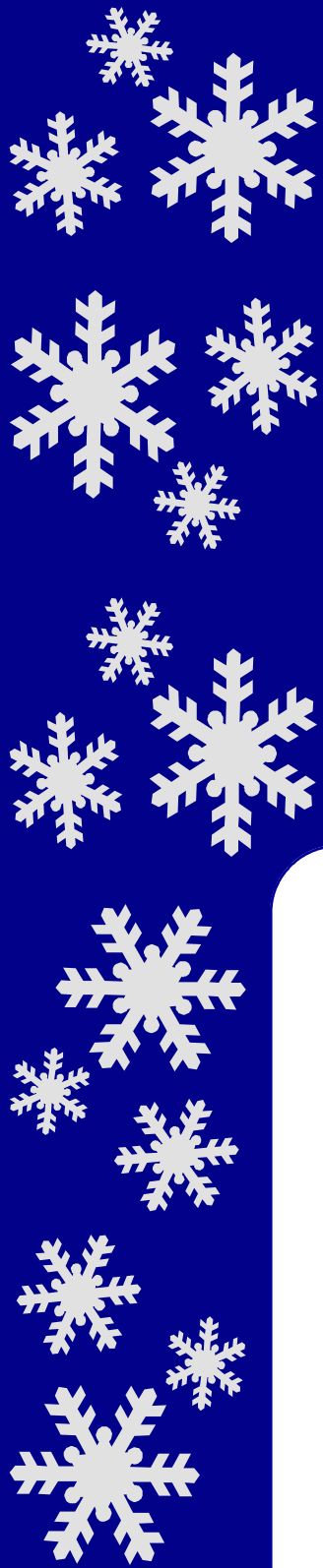
The Pretrial Services Resource Center has received a companion grant of \$175,000 to provide technical assistance to developing programs. PSRC is looking at other ways to be of assistance such as updating research on current case law affecting diversion.

Diversion is an increasingly integral part of the Pretrial world and Mr. Brown hopes that this grant will be the beginning of an ongoing relationship between diversion and not only specialty courts, but BJA as well.

Proposals have been taken from outside agencies to create the monograph and are in the final stages. Work should begin in the very near future. Please visit www.napsa.org for more information.

Kelly Kalla





Upcoming Conference Information

The 2007 Annual MAPSA Conference is coming up! The conference will be held at the Historic Landmark Center in St Paul Minnesota on Thursday April 12, 2007. Registration begins at 8:00am. The keynote speaker will be Tim Murray from the National Pretrial Service Resources Center in Washington DC. Workshops will include the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative, Internet education, Hennepin County Bail Evaluation tool, a panel from the Hennepin County Fatality Committee and our final presentation of the day will discuss the Reintegration of Veterans. Please visit our website at www.mapsa.us for more information, to request a brochure or to register.

Hope to see you there!

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