

# The MASCA Connection

## President's Message

Happy New Year to Everyone:

I hope 2013 has started well for you. MASCA has big plans for 2013. As you know, the 2013 MASCA Annual Conference will be our 75th Anniversary conference. The program is taking shape nicely and we expect to finalize it on or about the first week of March. There are more details about the conference and program inside the MASCA Connection.

Part of each MASCA Conference is recognizing members through scholarships and awards. We are continuing to review our scholarship program and hope to offer more opportunities for members in the future. MASCA is also reviewing our awards program. Watch for new about both scholarships and awards in all-member emails and future newsletters.

MASCA had a very successful one-day conference on November 13, 2012, on the theme of "Hope and Help for Justice Involved Veterans". Please see the story about it on page 8. As part of our outreach to members and recruitment of new members, MASCA hopes to present more of these one-day conferences on an important topic in corrections and criminal/juvenile justice throughout the MASCA region. Your membership helps support our ability to provide this type of training and networking opportunity.

Looking ahead a bit, I want to remind everyone that March is National Criminal Justice Month. In 2009 the United States Congress established March as National Criminal Justice Month in part because the criminal justice system touches the lives of nearly every American in some form or another. Most directly impacted by the system are the millions of individuals who have been victimized by crime; the millions who are incarcerated, or on probation or parole; and the nearly three million Americans who are employed in the justice system. The purpose of National Criminal Justice Month is to promote societal awareness regarding the causes and consequences of crime, as well as strategies for preventing and responding to crime. Corrections professionals can take pride in their work. Crime rates have generally dropped since the early 1990s. However, according to the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, most Americans continuously believe the crime rate is increasing. Roughly half of all Americans (46%) frequently or occasionally worry about their home being burglarized. Just under half of all Americans (47%) have avoided certain places or neighborhoods they might otherwise want to visit out of fear of crime (Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, 2010). All of us in our field need to educate our communities about our successes and to help direct public focus toward the continuing need to

make our criminal justice system as effective as possible. Awareness is the first step. Please do your part to spread recognition and consideration of criminal justice practices by recognizing and promoting March as National Criminal Justice Month.

I'll write again in the next edition of the MASCA Connection

Henry

Henry Alexander,  
President  
Middle Atlantic States  
Correctional Association

### Williams Institute Training Opportunity

MASCA, APPA, and the Williams Institute for Ethics and Management have teamed up to provide two excellent training programs in our region. **Communicating With Values: Being Effective in Difficult Conversations** will be presented on April 23 and 26, 2013. **Ethical Decision Making: Empowering People to go from "I Can't" to "I Won't"** will be presented on April 22 and 25, 2013. Each class will be presented once in Montgomery County Maryland and once in Bucks County Pennsylvania. Please visit our website at: [www.connections.com/masca](http://www.connections.com/masca) for more information.



President Henry Alexander

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

## The MASCA Connection



### Get Involved—MASCA Committees

The Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association (MASCA) is looking for talented members to 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: Larry Glover  
glover200v@gmail.com

#### Membership Committee

Chair: LaVonya Douglas  
lavonya.douglas@cscosa.gov

#### Policy & Procedure Committee

Chair: Marigold Henderson  
mari-gold.henderson@cscosa.gov

#### Publications & Communications Committee

Chair: Dawn Pearson  
dawn.pearsons@gmail.com

### MASCA Donates to Hurricane Sandy Relief by Henry Alexander

Hurricane Sandy had a devastating effect on all of the MASCA states. Some of our membership was hit hard by the storm. In response to

the hurricane's destruction, MASCA donated \$1,500.00 to the American Red Cross for their disaster relief efforts in our region. MASCA hopes

our donation will help restore lives that were altered by the storm.



### MASCA Supports National Legislation by Henry Alexander

On November 8, 2012, MASCA a national letter of support for the [Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act of 2012](#), which reauthorizes the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA). To improve and extend this important initiative, Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) and Rep. Richard Nugent (R-FL) plan to introduce the reauthorization bill in the coming weeks to help jurisdictions create collaborative programs to address the needs of individuals with mental illnesses who are involved with the criminal justice system.

The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act:

extends the MIOTCRA for five years; encourages the expanded use of evidence-based practices; authorizes a grant program to support veterans treatment courts, which serve arrested veterans who suffer from PTSD, substance addiction, and other mental health conditions; supports the development of curricula for police academies and organizations; increases focus on corrections-based programs, such as transitional services that reduce recidivism rates and screening practices that identify inmates with mental health conditions; and supports grants for communities to develop model interventions

targeted at identifying high utilizers and reducing the public services they consume.

As of December 28, 2012, nearly 200 agencies and organizations nationwide had signed this letter of support. MASCA is proud to be part of the effort.

## Volume 2, Issue 2

### Connecticut

#### State Plans Nursing Home For Disabled Prisoners, Mental Patients In Rocky Hill

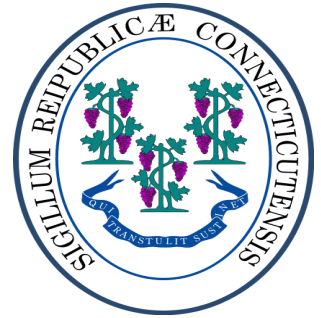
ROCKY HILL, Conn. (AP) -- State officials are planning to open a 95-bed, specialized nursing home for severely disabled prisoners and mentally ill patients in Rocky Hill.

[The Hartford Courant reports](#) the facility will be owned and operated by a private contrac-

tor on the site of the former Haven Health Care Center. State officials hope to have the home open in February. Officials say the facility will accept patients who do not pose a threat to staff or the community and patients will live in locked units closely monitored.

Mayor Anthony LaRosa said the facility would be near 150 to 300 residents. He vowed to stop the project. The proposed nursing home is designed to reduce long-term care costs for prison inmates and other institutionalized people.

Information from: [The Hartford Courant](#)



#### 2013 Maryland Polar Bear Plunge by Henry Alexander

The Polar Bear Plunge was held on January 26, 2013 at Sandy Point State Park on the Chesapeake Bay near Annapolis, Maryland. The water temperature was 34 degrees, the air temperature 32 degrees, and the wind chill factor was 25 degrees. A perfect day for a beach festival! The MASCA Blue Gills, all 3 of us,

were on hand for the fourth consecutive year. Actually, Dawn Pearson demonstrated the intelligence and foresight that makes her team captain by deciding it was way too cold and didn't plunge. That left Joe Clocker (Maryland DPSCS - Community Supervision) and Henry Alexander (MASCA President) as the plungers.

The team raised \$1,340.00 for the Special Olympics. This was our best fundraising year ever. Thanks to MASCA for the \$300.00 donation to get us started and to all of our other supporters who donated over \$1,000.00 to the cause!



#### MASCA 2013 Conference Registration Information

[Registration](#) is open and the cost is as follows:

General Registration: \$250.00 (February 1, 2013 through April 30, 2013)

**Late Registration:** \$275.00 (May 1, 2013 and after)

##### Daily Registration

General Registration: \$140.00 (February 1, 2013 through April 30, 2013)

**Late Registration:** \$160.00 (May 1, 2013 and after)

For more information, please visit our website at [www.masca.us](http://www.masca.us)



## The MASCA Connection

### MASCA 2013 Conference—Tentative Workshop Topics

“Assistance to Veterans in the Criminal Justice System”	“From Booking to Parole and All Points in Between”	“Teen Challenge Adult Drug & Alcohol Rehab Center”
“Balancing What Works with Practice Realities”	“From Retirement to the Classroom: Lessons Learned, Lessons Taught”	“The Americans with Disabilities Act and Corrections: Legal Requirements Translated into Practice”
“Changing Minds... Changing Behaviors”	“From Corrections Fatigue to Fulfillment”	“The Authentic Leader: What Do You See In the Mirror?”
“Cognitive-Behavioral Effectiveness with Offender Reentry”	“Gender Responsivity and Workforce Development: Female Offenders Succeeding in the Workforce”	“The Leadership Compass”
“Cognitive Behavior Approaches for Treatment Resistant Clients”	“Job Coaching for the Incarcerated Veteran”	“The Mask I Wear: Exploring Managerial Courage and Its Different Faces”
“Correctional Coaching Supporting the Evolution of Corrections: The Art of Transitioning Knowledge into Practice”	“Justice Reinvestment”	“The New Workforce: The Generation of Now”
“Deadly Encounters – Case Study: The Murder of C.O. Jeffrey Wroten”	“Leadership and Traps: Avoiding the Landmines”	“The Prison Rape Elimination Act”
“Ethics: It's Everybody's Business”	“Leadership Workshop”	“Trauma Recovery with Offender Populations”
“Female Offenders in Search of Strength, Courage, and Wisdom”	“Managing the Multigenerational Workforce”	“Virtual Reality Training”
	“Offender Employment Retention: A Conversation with the Experts”	
	“Reading the Tells – Learning How to Read Body Language”	

### Join the Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association

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](#)



## Volume 2, Issue 2

### Delaware

#### Delaware Opens New Halfway House for Federal Offenders

by William D. Burrell

The reentry process for federal offenders returning to Delaware from prison just got a boost. Community Solutions, Inc. has opened a Residential Reentry Center under a contract with the federal Bureau of Prisons. Located in Wilmington, the center will serve federal inmates returning to Delaware from correctional facilities from around the country. Most federal sentences include a transition phase to assist the inmate in making the transition to life in the community. Until now, federal inmates from Delaware had to be placed in a reentry center in Baltimore. This was a less than optimal location for those inmates seeking to resume their lives in Delaware. Some placements were available in a state halfway house, but state

inmates received priority for those slots.

With the opening of the center, 34 beds (29 male and five female) are available to serve returning inmates and some offenders who are facing violation of probation charges and could use a more structured setting to facilitate their adjustment. The center will provide a full range of services, including drug and alcohol treatment mental health services and vocational assistance.

The reentry center is operating under the direction of Jack McDonough, the former Chief United States Probation Officer for the District of Delaware. McDonough is a great believer on the value of transitional facilities like the Residential Reentry Center in reducing recidivism. The facility will focus on moderate and high risk offenders, consistent with the latest research on effective correctional services. These offenders comprise about 60% of the fed-

eral inmates released to Delaware.

The Center will be staffed 24/7 to monitor the resident's activities and provide appropriate structure and accountability. One unique feature of the Center is a garden in the back yard, which the residents will tend and the produce will be used in the facility's kitchen.

The new Residential Reentry Center provides a valuable resource to assist the inmates, their probation officers, the federal courts and the community in making the transition from prison to the community a successful one.

**Source:** O'Sullivan, Sean. (2012) "Released Federal Prisoners Getting Place to Start Over in Delaware" *The News Journal*, November 27.



### MASCA - Who We Are

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 Correctional 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.

Visit our website at [www.corrections.com/masca](http://www.corrections.com/masca) for more information.



## Volume 2, Issue 2

### District of Columbia

#### Volunteer board struggles to keep an eye on D.C. inmates

by Justin Moyer

In its 2012 annual report, the D.C. Corrections Information Council refers to its office as “a cubicle in the Wilson Building.” But cramped quarters are just one of the problems it has faced over the years.

As the city agency charged with monitoring conditions affecting 9,000 D.C. inmates, the three-member council had *no members* from 2005 to 2012, which made it quite impossible to monitor anything.

Now, it’s back in business, thanks to three appointments made last year by Mayor Vincent Gray and the D.C. Council after pressure from inmate advocates, although its mission, if not impossible, is exceedingly difficult by any standard.

In a city where three out of four African American men will serve time in prison, two-thirds of its inmates are housed in 100 different federal Bureau of Prisons institutions from Pennsylvania to California. And over 1,000 of them are more than 500 miles from the District, in places such as Tucson, Coleman, Fla., and Yazoo City, Miss.

The council, commonly called the CIC, with its volunteer board, one full-time staffer and a budget of about \$130,000, is charged with keeping an eye on all of them. “The whole point behind the Corrections Information Council

is for a representative of D.C. to go into these facilities where average D.C. resident can’t,” said Michelle Bonner, whom Gray appointed the CIC’s chair in July. She is director of legal services for Our Place D.C., a nonprofit that serves formerly incarcerated women.

The CIC’s mandate is a difficult one. As a municipal agency, it has no authority to inspect federal prisons or make “unannounced” visits, which the D.C. Code says should be conducted whenever possible.

“We have no enforcement power,” Bonner said. “We report what we see.”

But the CIC has not been idled by these challenges. Since it started functioning again in mid-2012, it has established relationships with advocates and support groups for returning offenders, hosted monthly public meetings and tried to the community know that it was open for business.

Part of its message has focused on its independence. “We are an independent monitoring body,” said Rev. Samuel Whittaker, pastor of Contee AME Zion Church and a CIC board member. “We don’t want to give the impression that we’re hooked up with the mayor.”

That fewer than 10 people showed up at a CIC meeting at Martin Luther King Jr. Library earlier this month underscored its challenge.

Since last year, CIC members have toured facilities where D.C. inmates are housed in Hazelton, W. Va., and Cumber-

land, Md. They have reported concerns about video visitation at D.C. Jail and at a maximum security facility in Florence, Colo. where D.C. inmates are housed. And they have visited Hope Village, one of the District’s halfway houses. A report on the visit may be issued as soon as March.

Even with its limited capacity and power, advocates have high hopes for the CIC.

“We’re looking forward to great things from the Corrections Information Council,” said Louis Sawyer Jr., co-chair of the Re-Entry Task Force, a group that works with former D.C. prisoners and advocated for re-establishment of the CIC. A “returning citizen” released in 2009 after 25 years in prison, Sawyer said that the group should work more closely with ex-offenders and hold public meetings east of the river.

For Tara Libert, executive director of Free Minds, a reading and writing program that serves youth who will be tried as adults, it’s hard not to welcome anyone trying to shine a light into the complicated world of D.C. Corrections.

Story from:

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/volunteer-board-struggles-to-keep-an-eye-on-dc-inmates/2013/01/21/eb380470-5e75-11e2-a389-ee565c81c565\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/volunteer-board-struggles-to-keep-an-eye-on-dc-inmates/2013/01/21/eb380470-5e75-11e2-a389-ee565c81c565_story.html)



## The MASCA Connection

### US: Injustices Filling the Prisons Record

(Washington, DC) – The enormous prison population in the [United States](#) partly reflects harsh sentencing practices contrary to international law, Human Rights Watch said today in its [World Report 2013](#). The sentencing practices include disproportionately long prison terms, mandatory sentencing without parole, and treating youth offenders as adults. The US maintains the world's largest incarcerated population, at 1.6 million, and its highest per capita incarceration rate.



Human Rights Watch research in 2012 found that the massive over incarceration includes a growing number of elderly people whom prisons are ill-equipped to handle, and an estimated 93,000 youth under age 18 in adult jails and another 2,200 in adult prisons. Hundreds of children are subjected to solitary confinement. Racial and ethnic minorities remain disproportionately represented in the prison population.

"The United States has shown little interest in tackling abusive practices that have contributed to the country's huge prison population," said [Maria McFarland](#), deputy US program director at Human Rights Watch. "Unfortunately, it is society's most vulnerable – racial and ethnic minorities, low-income people, immigrants, children, and the elderly – who are most likely to suffer from injustices in the

criminal justice system."

In its 665-page report, Human Rights Watch assessed progress on human rights during the past year in more than 90 countries, including an analysis of the aftermath of the Arab Spring. The willingness of new governments to respect rights will determine whether the Arab Spring gives birth to genuine democracy or simply spawns authoritarianism in new clothes, Human Rights Watch said.

The World Report chapter on the United States covers human rights developments related to US criminal justice and immigration, as well as issues related to health, labor, and the rights of women, children, people with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. It also addresses abuses related to the United States' deeply flawed counterterrorism policies.

Human rights developments within the United States over the past year include:

- Connecticut joined 16 other states and the District of Columbia in abolishing the death penalty. However, 33 states continue to allow it;
- In May, the US Department of Justice issued final standards under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) to detect, prevent, and punish prison rape. The standards are immediately binding on

all Justice Department facilities;

- In fiscal year 2012, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deported a record 396,906 non-citizens. A dramatic increase in federal prosecutions of immigration violations, and in the number of immigrants in detention, has fed a nationwide detention system that includes more than 250 facilities;

- Illegal re-entry into the US has become the most prosecuted federal crime. In 2011, prosecutions for illegal entry and re-entry into the US surpassed 34,000 and 37,000 respectively. Many of those prosecuted for these crimes have minor or no criminal history and have substantial ties to the US;

- The US Senate, in December, failed to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Sixty-one of the 100 Senators voted in favor, but 66 votes were needed for passage. Several senators have promised to make another attempt to ratify the treaty in early 2013;

- In April, the Labor Department withdrew new regulations proposed in 2011 that would have updated, for the first time in decades, the list of hazardous agricultural tasks prohibited for children under age 16;

(continued on page 8)

## Volume 2, Issue 2

### US: Injustices Filling the Prisons

(continued from page 7)

- Congress failed to renew the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the primary federal law providing legal protection and services to victims of domestic and sexual violence. Sexual assaults remained underreported and poorly investigated in many jurisdictions. Certain groups, such as unauthorized migrant farmworkers, face particular challenges to seeking justice;

- In June, the US Supreme Court upheld the Affordable Care Act, which significantly expands many citizens' access to health insurance and medical care;

- HIV infections continued to disproportionately affect minority communities, men who have sex with men, and transgender women. Many states have failed to protect HIV-positive people from discrimination or to provide adequate funds for HIV prevention and care; and

- For the first time anywhere, popular votes in two states and the District of Columbia legalized same-sex marriage.

However, federal law continued to bar recognition of same-sex marriage while offering no protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Both the Obama administration and Congress supported abusive counterterrorism laws and policies, including



detention without charge at Guantanamo Bay, restrictions on the transfer of detainees held there, and prosecutions in a fundamentally flawed military commission system.

Attacks by US aerial drones were carried out in Pakistan, Somalia, Yemen, and elsewhere, with important legal questions about the attacks remaining unanswered.

The administration has taken no steps toward accountability for torture and other abuses committed by US officials in the so-called "war on

terror," and a Justice Department criminal investigation into detainee abuse concluded without recommending any charges. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence completed a more than 6,000-page report detailing the CIA's rendition, detention, and interrogation program, but has yet to seek the report's declassification so it can be released to the public.

"The Obama administration has a chance in its second term to develop with Congress a real plan for closing Guantanamo and definitively ending abusive counterterrorism practices," McFarland said. "A failure to do so puts Obama at risk of going down in history as the president who made indefinite detention without trial a permanent part of US law."

(Story from: <http://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2013/01/31-2>)

Full report can be located at:

(<http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2013>)

Register now for the Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association's Annual Conference and Training Event!!

Visit our website at [www.masca.us](http://www.masca.us) for more information.



## The MASCA Connection

### Maryland



### HOPE AND HELP FOR VETERAN OFFENDERS

by Margaret Chippendale

On November 13, 2012 nearly 200 criminal justice practitioners and employees of state and federal Offices of Veterans Affairs met at Perry Point Veterans Medical Hospital in Perryville, Maryland for a one-day conference devoted to the needs of veteran offenders. Secretary Gary D. Maynard, Maryland Department of Public Safety and

tations on the current status of veteran offenders in Maryland and nationally.

James Haskell, Re-entry Specialist with the Veterans Justice Program in Baltimore delivered a most informative presentation entitled "From Booking to Parole and All Points in Between". Mr. Haskell showed two enlightening videos depicting the needs of veteran offenders and what we are currently doing in Maryland to assist veterans. Sean Clark, National Coordinator for the Veterans Justice Program in Washington, D.C. provided statistical data on the national front.



on topics of homelessness, female veteran offender issues, the medical needs of veteran offenders, re-entry services and veterans court.

The conference culminated in a panel discussion including three veteran offenders currently under parole supervision and service providers from Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania. Conference participants were able to ask questions of the panel and enter into a dialogue.

MASCA is proud to have been able to host this event and hopes to conduct similar conferences in other states within the Mid-Atlantic region.



Correctional Services and Secretary Edward Chow, Jr., Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs opened the conference with exciting presen-

Baylee Crone, Director, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, Lela Campbell, Executive Director, A Step Forward Inc., Richard Hohner, Suicide Prevention Coordinator for Coatesville VA Hospital in Pennsylvania, Bill Payne, Parole Re-entry Coordinator for Rensselaer County, New York, and Matthew Stiner, Director, Justice for Vets facilitated workshops

## Congratulations to the Baltimore Ravens



MASCA congratulates the Baltimore Ravens on their Super Bowl championship.



## Volume 2, Issue 2

### New Jersey

#### New Jersey Juvenile Correctional Population Declines as part of National Project

by  
William D. Burrell

In 2004, five New Jersey counties joined with the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC), the state judiciary, the Attorney General's Office and the Office of the Public Defender to be part of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The JDAI is a comprehensive, system-wide effort to reduce the use of secure detention for youthful offenders. Since the initial five counties began their JDAI work, an additional 11 counties have joined the program. The Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) recently released a report that documents the stunning achievements of JDAI in the Garden State.

The use of secure detention is down – a 55% reduction in average daily population for the juvenile detention centers and a 60% reduction in detention admissions. The use

of detention has declined so markedly that four counties have closed their detention facilities and contracted with neighboring counties to provide that service. Detention is expensive, costing approximately \$200 per day per juvenile. Reducing the populations to the point where facilities could be shuttered has been estimated to save the counties some \$16 million.

One of the traditional drivers of juvenile detention population has been youth charged with a violation of probation (VOP), often for non-compliance with the conditions of probation and not a new crime. The Family Courts and probation divisions have worked hard to minimize the number of detention admissions for VOPs, resulting in a 65% reduction.

Not only is utilization of county-based juvenile detention down, the commitments to secure custodial facilities of the state JJC have also declined significantly. Commitments are down 61% since JDAI began. A bed at a JJC facility costs an average of \$136,000 per year, so the reduction in commitments

leads to substantial costs savings.

Advocacy of alternatives to secure custody often result in concerns about accountability and community safety. Such concerns do not appear to be valid in the case of JDAI in NJ. Juvenile arrests are down 33%. Juveniles who were diverted to detention alternatives completed all of their requirements in 83% of the cases. Only 3% of the juveniles recidivated while in a detention alternative.

The ACNJ report paints a picture of a true win-win-win scenario. Fewer youth are being detained or incarcerated, the counties and the state are saving money and the community is not placed at risk. The long term benefits of less involvement with the justice system for youth, families and the community have been well-documented. It appears that the JDAI is proving an effective means for realizing more of those benefits for the citizens of NJ.

To read the full report, go to:  
[http://www.acnj.org/  
admin.asp?  
uri=2081&action=15&di=23](http://www.acnj.org/admin.asp?uri=2081&action=15&di=23)



Plan to attend our 2013 Conference and Training Event – June 9, 2013–June 12, 2013 at the Princess Hotel and Conference Center in Ocean City Maryland. Please remember to reserve your hotel room.

Visit our website at [www.masca.us](http://www.masca.us) for more information.

## Volume 2, Issue 2

### New York

#### Close to Home program kicks off in New York as youth in upstate facilities transfer to community this month

**About 250 kids will serve time in local facilities, to be near parents**

New York's juvenile justice system is slowly being overhauled under [Gov. Cuomo's](#) Close to Home initiative, with about 250 city youth in upstate facilities slated to be transferred to the city's care by the end of the month.

In an interview with the Daily News, Gladys Carrion, commissioner of the Office of Children and Family Services, said the young offenders will be transferred from non-secure facilities to programs run by the city Administration for Children's Services.

"The idea was really to ensure that young people are in their community, that their families are more readily available to visit them," said Carrion. "There is a lot of transition planning for re-entry into the community."

Youth in limited-secure facilities are scheduled to be transferred in 2013.

An ACS spokesman confirmed that the agency is near completing the transfer process.

The spokesman added that they would be partnering with the Department of Education "to provide these young people with individualized educational services" when they come back.

In 2001, there were 2,229 youth admitted to 19 juvenile facilities run by OCFS, which includes secure, non-secure, limited secure and voluntary agency-operated facilities.

As several facilities have closed, and an emphasis has been placed on alternative-to-incarceration programs, that figure dropped to 934 youth last year.

Carrion said a "vast majority" of juveniles - who are low-level nonviolent offenders - do not belong in hardened youth prisons like Tryon Residential Center, a dangerous facility probed by the federal government for brutal conditions and lack of adequate mental healthcare.

Cuomo decided to close it down after taking a tour in 2010.

"When I visited the Tryon facility, I found an empty and deteriorating building where taxpayer dollars were going to

waste," Cuomo said in a September press release. The building is being turned into a commercial incubator that will create jobs.

Carrion said these closures, along with a decrease in juvenile crime, contributed to the shrinking youth inmate population.

"We've shrunk the juvenile system, and we anticipate with Close to Home, additional facilities will close," she said. "I think what will remain as part of the state's juvenile justice system...will be facilities designed to meet the needs of those young people that are serious offenders and pose a serious risk to public safety."

The department still faces a high recidivism rate: Of 2,000 youth released from OCFS facilities in 2008, half were rearrested within a year, and nearly 70% were rearrested within two years.

Story from: <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/bronx/close-home-gov-cuomo-overhaul-juvenile-justice-system-article-1.1224726#ixzz2KoMhIBGQ>

More News:

[Parolees Tempted by Cover of Blackout Are Warned](#)



[Exhibitors register now for the Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association's Annual Conference and Training Event!!](#)

Visit our website at <http://www.masca.us/vendors.html>

## The MASCA Connection



### MASCA 2013 Annual Conference and Training Event

MASCA's 2013 annual conference will be held at the Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel and Conference Center in Ocean City Maryland from Sunday, June 9, 2013 through Wednesday, June 12, 2013. The theme for our conference will be MASCA's 75th Anniversary: "Looking Toward Tomorrow, Building on Yesterday".

#### Conference Registration

[Registration](#) is now open and is as follows:

#### General Registration:

\$250.00 (February 1, 2013 through April 30, 2013)

#### Late Registration:

\$275.00 (May 1, 2013 and after)

#### Daily Registration:

\$140.00 (February 1, 2013 through April 30, 2013)

#### Late Registration:

\$160.00 (May 1, 2013 and after)

#### Exhibitor Registration

[Exhibitors](#) please click [here](#) to register for our conference.

#### MASCA Scholarships

[Academic Scholarship Applications](#) can be located if you click [here](#).

#### MASCA Awards

If you would like to nominate, someone from your agency for a [MASCA Award](#), click [here](#) to submit an electronic application.

#### MASCA Membership Application

To join MASCA, you can submit your [electronic membership application](#) if you click [here](#).

For more information, please feel free to visit our website at [www.masca.us](http://www.masca.us).

#### Hotel Reservations

[Hotel: Princess Royale Hotel and Conference Center](#)

Hotel Reservations can be completed online at [The Princess Royale Hotel](#) website and rates are as follows:

#### June 9 – June 13, 2013

Ocean View/Pool View:  
\$140.00

Ocean Front Suite: \$180.00

2 - Bed Condominium:  
\$475.00

3–Bedroom Condominium:  
\$565.00

#### June 7– June 8, 2013

Ocean View/Pool View Suite:  
\$229.00

Ocean Front Suite: \$289.00

2–Bedroom Condominium:  
\$475.00

3–Bedroom Condominium:  
\$565.00

**Hotel Group Code: 1874**  
**Hotel Password: 37000875**

[Princess Royale instructions to reserve your room online:](#)

Step One:  
Click the reservation icon on the left side of the page

Step Two:  
Click "sign in"

Step Three:  
Click "groups"

Step Four:  
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Enter your Password:  
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## CONTACT US

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Visit us on the web at: <http://www.masca.us/> or <http://masca.corrections.com/>

To nominate someone for our Awards visit us at: [www.masca.us](http://www.masca.us)

## Volume 2, Issue 2

### Upcoming Events and Training Opportunities

[6th Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health](#)

March 21- 22, 2013  
Chicago, Illinois

[NCIA's Enterprise 2013 National Training Conference](#)

March 24 - 27, 2013  
Charlotte, NC

[National Institute of Corrections, Jail Administration](#)

April 1-5, 2013  
Edneyville, NC

[NCCHC's 2013 Spring Conference](#)

April 20 - 23, 2013  
Denver, CO

[National Institute of Corrections, Women Offenders: Developing an Agency-wide Approach](#)

April 23-25, 2013  
Aurora, CO

[AJA 32nd Annual Training Conference & Jail Expo](#)

May 5 -9, 2013  
Grand Rapids, MI

[National Institute of Corrections, Executive Excellence Program](#)

May 5-17, 2013  
Aurora, CO

[Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association Annual Conference and Training Event](#)

June 9-12, 2013  
Ocean City, MD

[National Institute of Corrections, Operational Practice in the Management of Women's Prisons](#)

June 17- 20, 2013  
Aurora, CO

[National Institute of Corrections, Correctional Leadership Development](#)

July 8 -18, 2013  
Aurora, CO

Correctional Health Care Leadership Institute  
Las Vegas, NV  
July 19 -20, 2013

Correctional Mental Health Care Conference  
July 21 - 22, 2013  
Las Vegas, NV

[National Institute of Corrections, Orientation for New Parole Board Members](#)

Jul. 23 - 25, 2013  
Aurora, CO

[APPA 38th Annual Training Institute](#)

July 28 - 31, 2013  
Baltimore, MD

[ACA 143rd Congress of Correction](#)

August 9 - 14, 2013  
National Harbor, MD

[National Institute of Corrections, Orientation for New Probation and Parole Chief Executive Officers](#)

Sep. 15 - 20, 2013  
Aurora, CO

[National Institute of Corrections, Parole Board Chairs - A Training Program](#)

Sep. 24 - 26, 2013  
Aurora, CO



### Funding Opportunities

A few funding opportunities available with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) are:

[Hosting the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center \(NLECTC\) System's Small, Rural, Tribal and Border \(SRTB\) Regional Center](#)

[Applied Technology Research and Development to Optimize Criminal Justice Use of Social Media in the "Web 3.0" Environment](#)

[The Impact of Safety Equipment Modalities on Reducing Correctional Officer Injuries](#)

[Applied Technology Research and Development for Criminal Justice Purposes](#)

[The Impact of Probation/Parole Officer Home Visits on Offender Outcomes](#)

For more opportunities, visit NIJ's website at: <http://www.nij.gov/nij/funding/current.htm>



## Volume 2, Issue 2

### Pennsylvania

#### Corrections Population Decrease is Largest One-Year Drop Since 1971

##### *Prison Reform Efforts are Showing Results*

**Harrisburg** – Secretary of the Department of Corrections John Wetzel announced that the agency ended the calendar year with a population of 51,184 inmates.

“This is a decrease of 454 inmates from last calendar year,” said DOC Planning, Research and Statistics Director Kristofer Bucklen. “This also was the largest one year drop in our population since 1971, and only the third time in the past 40 years that our population has shown an annual decrease rather than an increase.”

“Our declining inmate population shows that we are on the right track to improving our corrections system,” Wetzel said. “Gov. Corbett began leading this reform by ordering the corrections system to analyze and improve ourselves.”

“This is a strong indication that the Corbett Corrections Reform is starting to yield results for the citizens of Pennsylvania. At the same time, the Governor initiated the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI), in which he set the benchmark by urging JRI members to reach their goals in only a matter of months. In other states, similar efforts take years. Tak-

ing a bi-partisan, participatory planning approach, this process should allow us to build on the progress we’ve made within the administration.”

This population decrease was a joint accomplishment involving many in the criminal justice continuum, especially the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, Wetzel said.

Fewer court commitments combined with policy changes that enable Pennsylvania to both reduce spending and increase public safety are beginning to take shape, Wetzel added.

“Gov. Corbett instructed state government to improve performance,” Wetzel said.

“System efficiencies are reducing backlogs in the parole process, enabling more people to be reviewed by the Parole Board.”

“In this short period of time, we have seen the percent of parole board inmate interviews increase from 58 to 83 percent, which is the highest percentage of docketed cases ever seen historically,” Wetzel said.

In addition, new court admissions were down 154 inmates, compared to 2011, and parole releases were up by 1,176 inmates.

Wetzel also pointed out that “short min” inmates – or those inmates committed to the DOC who have less than

one year to serve until they reach their minimum sentence expiration date – are being classified quicker by DOC staff.

“This increase in the classification process means that ‘short min’ inmates are more likely to be prepared for parole at their minimum sentence date rather than months beyond that date,” Wetzel said. “In 2012, the average time for classification of a short minimum sentenced inmate dropped from 75 days to 30 days (a drop of about a month and a half).”

“These indicators of progress are a credit to all staff across all agencies that we are doing what we need to do,” Wetzel said. “We are heading in the right direction thanks to everyone’s efforts. I especially want to acknowledge the leadership of Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal, who has headed up the internal improvement efforts.”

Wetzel also said that his agency plans to release a new landmark recidivism report within the next few months which will become the benchmark for reporting recidivism and crime reduction resulting from corrections reform, as well as provide citizens the opportunity to measure the results.

Information from: <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/state/pa-prison-population-shows-largest-decline-669811/>



# HAROLD MILLER COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



This award is named in honor of Harold Miller (1918-2012) of Pennsylvania, MASCA's first President Emeritus, whose career included a strong personal commitment to give back to his community by volunteering his time to support the mission of the Salvation Army, the Wilberforce University Alumni Association, the United Negro College Fund, and the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Miller served in the U.S. Army during World War II and worked for the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole for 32 years. During his long and distinguished career, he was elected by his professional colleagues as president of the Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections (PAPPC) and the Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association (MASCA).

The Harold Miller Community Service Award will honor a criminal justice professional who exemplifies the spirit and example of Harold Miller by making a significant contribution to the betterment of the community at large.

Please send your nomination with a short narrative to MASCA Executive Director Tony Czarnecki before March 31, 2013 at [tony@chartwellgroup-usa.com](mailto:tony@chartwellgroup-usa.com)

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**NOMINATIONS  
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OF MASCA'S  
"HAROLD MILLER  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE AWARD"**

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