

The MASCA Connection

President's Message

Spring has arrived! Is it "April already" or "finally April" for you? Personally, I can't wait for the warm weather to get here and stay, so "finally April" seems to fit. But for those of us planning MASCA events and programs "April already" is also appropriate. We have been busy over the Winter planning our Spring events. And we have a lot going on.

Planning for the 75th Annual MASCA Conference in Ocean City is entering the home stretch. We have an outstanding line-up of workshops and are in our final negotiations with keynote speakers. There is more in the newsletter about the conference, so I won't repeat it all here. Be sure you plan to be in Ocean City from June 9 to 12, 2013 for a great conference and some quality beach time too.

MASCA also has a variety of scholarships and awards available this spring. We need applicants for the Dennis Martin Memorial Scholarships, our two \$1,000.00 college scholarships. To apply for a scholarship one must be a member of MASCA, or a member's spouse or child, and enrolled in a degree program that can lead to a career in one of the correctional fields. Complete instructions are on the MASCA website. MASCA is also awarding a scholarship to the APPA Leadership Institute to a deserving member. Complete details about both the Leadership Institute and

the scholarship are also on the MASCA website. Be sure to apply by May 1 for these scholarships. Our scholarship committee will select the scholarship recipients and the winners will be announced in Ocean City on June 11, 2013.

MASCA has four awards to recognize outstanding performance by corrections professionals. These awards are the Carl Robinson Award, MASCA Founders Award, Sal Russoniello Award, and Harold Miller Award. Each recognizes someone for a different facet of our field. Complete details and descriptions are on the MASCA Conference website. The recipients of these awards will also be announced in Ocean City on June 11, 2013.

MASCA has also announced that we are replicating our "Hope and Help for Justice Involved Veterans" conference on May 8, 2013 at the VA Medical Center Upstate in Albany, NY. This conference was given great reviews by attendees when it was held in Maryland last November. For the Albany conference, we have the same topics covered and customized to the New York and Connecticut areas. I hope to see many of you there.

If all of that isn't enough, MASCA elections are being held this spring. MASCA has an outstanding slate of candidates for our officer and Board positions. Please return your completed ballot after you receive it.

Finally, don't forget National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 21-27, 2013). The 2013 theme—New Challenges. New Solutions.—reflects the increasingly complex mission of victim advocates today. As corrections professionals, we all are responsible for treating victims with respect, dignity, and helping in the effort to make the victim whole, by doing things like collecting restitution or enforcing "no contact" conditions of community supervision. Advocates face emerging challenges, such as globalization, changing demographics, immigration, human trafficking, terrorism, new types of crime, and the use of technology both to commit and solve crimes. Victims' rights are not universal and often not enforced. Victims do not always receive the dignity and respect they deserve. Victims often absorb the physical, emotional, and financial costs of crime largely by themselves.

MASCA supports efforts to assist victims. I encourage all MASCA members to remember that victims deserve our full attention and energy whenever a victim's issue arises during our workday.

I'll write again in the Summer newsletter.



President Henry Alexander

Inside this issue:

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Get Involved	2
Join MASCA	2
Connecticut	3
Conference Workshops	4
Delaware	5
District of Columbia	6
Maryland	8
New Jersey	9
New York	10
Conference Information	11
Upcoming Training	12
Funding Opportunities	12
Pennsylvania	13

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

Many Ex-Inmates Eligible for Health Care Via Medicaid Next January

Starting in January, many of the 650,000 inmates released from prison each year will be eligible for health care via Medicaid, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, reports Stateline. A sizeable portion of the nearly 5 million ex-offenders who are on parole or probation at any given time also will be covered.

The expansion of Medicaid, a key provision of the health care reform law, is the main vehicle for delivering health insurance to former prison-

ers.

Researchers and those who advocate on behalf of ex-convicts hail the change as monumental, saying it will help address the generally poor health of ex-offenders, reduce medical costs, and possibly keep them from sliding back into crime.

"It potentially revolutionizes the criminal justice system and health system," said criminologist Faye Taxman of George Mason University. "We

now have a golden opportunity to develop and implement quality interventions to both improve health outcomes for this population and also reduce the rate of criminal activity."

New York, Oklahoma, Florida, Illinois, and California are among states that already have pre-release programs aimed at connecting at least some outgoing prisoners with Medicaid.

Full story can be found at: [Stateline](#)

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 3

Connecticut

CORRECTION COMMISSIONER ARNONE TO RETIRE FOLLOWING 39 YEARS OF STATE SERVICE

(HARTFORD, CT) – Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced that he has received notification from Department of Correction (DOC) Commissioner Leo C. Arnone of his intention to retire from his position effective April 1, 2013, following 39 years of service with the State of Connecticut.

“Commissioner Arnone has served the State of Connecticut for nearly four decades, providing his expertise in helping ensure safety, security and order for the people of our state,” Governor Malloy said. “As commissioner of the correction department, he has particularly been respected and admired, not only within Connecticut, but throughout the country for turning our correctional facilities into a nationwide model. While I will miss his dedication to state service, I know that on a personal basis

this is the right decision for him at this time, and I am grateful to have had him as a member of my administration.”

Arnone was first appointed as Commissioner of DOC by Governor M. Jodi Rell in 2010 and then re-appointed to the position by Governor Malloy upon his inauguration in 2012. DOC is responsible for oversight and administration over the state’s correctional facilities.

“I have served this great state for almost 39 years, making this decision very difficult,” Arnone wrote in [a letter to the Governor](#). “My family has been the support, providing the strength that has helped sustain my career throughout the years. They never questioned the long hours, lost weekends, and 24-hour on-call that comes with this type of work. It is time to repay those years of dedication by spending quality time with my wife and family.”

Starting his career at DOC in 1974, Arnone rose through the ranks as a Correctional Officer to a Correctional Captain. Subsequently from 1988 to 1993, Arnone served as the Deputy Warden and Warden at the Hartford Correctional Center, a high-security, 1,000 bed pre-trial facil-

ity. From 1993 to 1995, he was regional director with the department.

From 1995 to 2007, Arnone served in the Judicial Branch, first as the Superintendent of the Hartford Juvenile Detention Center, and then later as the Deputy Director of Operations for Juvenile Detention Services. In 2007 until being appointed DOC Commissioner, he served as Bureau Chief at the Bureau of Juvenile Services within the Department of Children and Families, where he had oversight of the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, five privately-operated residential training schools, parole and reentry programs for children and specialized community mental health programming.

Governor Malloy said a nationwide search for Arnone’s successor, which will be led by Under Secretary for Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Mike Lawlor, will begin in the coming weeks.

Story from: <http://www.governor.ct.gov/malloy/cwp/view.asp?A=4010&O=518246>



MASCA One Day Conference

[Hope & Help for Justice Involved Veterans](#)
May 8, 2013

Albany Veterans Hospital
113 Holland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Linda Schwartz
CT Commissioner of
Veterans Affairs



More News

[Can Washington get vets off the streets? Tens of thousands homeless despite billions in spending](#)

[New Leash on Life](#)

[DJS' Dwain Johnson Wins National Award for Service to Children and Youth](#)

[Pennsylvania Study Finds Halfway Houses Don't Reduce Recidivism](#)

[State of Maryland Suspends the Construction of New Baltimore City Jail For Youth Charged as Adults](#)

[Suspects Caught With Help of GPS Ankle Bracelets](#)



The MASCA Connection

MASCA 2013 Conference Workshops

“ACA, AJA, and APPA Leaders Panel”	“Improving the Community Supervision of the DUI/DWI Offender”	“The Americans with Disabilities Act and Corrections: Legal Requirements Translated into Practice”
““Baby Steps” Improving Outcomes with the DWI Offender One Step at A Time”	“Job Coaching for the Incarcerated Veteran”	“The Leadership Compass”
“Balancing What Works with Practice Realities”	“Justice Reinvestment”	“The Mask I Wear: Exploring Managerial Courage and Its Different Faces”
“Beyond Behavior Management Creating Safe and Successful Female Facilities”	“Latino-isms—Uncovering the Mystery and Debunking the Myths of the Latino Culture”	“The New Workforce: The Generation of Now”
“Cognitive-Behavioral Effectiveness with Offender Re-entry”	“Leadership and Traps: Avoiding the Landmines”	“The Prison Rape Elimination Act– Overview”
“Conducting Cell Phone Investigations in Corrections”	“Leadership Workshop– I Am in Charge Now What”	“The Prison Rape Elimination Act– Adult Session”
“Deadly Encounters – Case Study: The Murder of C.O. Jeffrey Wroten”	“Managing the Multigenerational Workforce”	“The Prison Rape Elimination Act– Juvenile Session”
“Ethics: It’s Everybody’s Business”	“Offender Employment Retention: A Conversation with the Experts”	“The Three Cs of Adoption of Evidence-Based Practice: Utilizing Consideration, Communication, and Cooperation”
“Female Offenders in Search of Strength, Courage, and Wisdom”	“Offender Reentry: Bettering the Community Impact Through a Systems Approach”	“Understanding and Working with Female Offenders with Trauma Essential Strategies for Correctional Professionals”
“From Booking to Parole and All Points in Between”	“Phase One: Case Management”	“Western Correctional Institution VetDogs Puppy Program”
“From Corrections Fatigue to Fulfillment”	“Probation– A Critical Stakeholder in Statewide Efforts to Address Impaired Driving”	
“From Retirement to the Classroom: Lessons Learned, Lessons Taught”	“Sensitivity and Awareness Training for Working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Offenders “	
“Gender Responsivity and Workforce Development: Female Offenders Succeeding in the Workforce”	“Teen Challenge Adult Drug & Alcohol Rehab Center”	

For more information, [workshop descriptions](http://www.masca.us/workshop-descriptions) can be found on our website at <http://www.masca.us/workshop-descriptions.html>

Volume 2, Issue 3

Delaware

Coupe sworn in as Commissioner of Department of Correction

Robert M. Coupe was sworn in by Delaware Governor Jack Markell as Commissioner of the Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) during a ceremony held at the DOC Administration Building in Dover. Coupe was joined by his family and was surrounded by friends, former colleagues and special guests.

After taking the oath of office alongside his wife, Pamela, and their children, Jocelyn and Tyler, Coupe expressed his thoughts on assuming leadership responsibilities for the second-largest Executive branch agency in Delaware and, with more than 2,500 employees, the largest law enforcement agency in the State.

"I am humbled as I stand before you today," Commissioner Coupe stated during his remarks. "It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve you as the new Commissioner of the Delaware Department of Correction. I accept the responsibility of the position and pledge my commitment to serve with dignity and honor befitting the integrity of the Department. I am excited as I join the leadership team of the Department of Correction and look forward to the opportunity to proudly serve alongside the dedicated men

and women of the Department."

Coupe also took the opportunity to unveil an overview of his leadership plan for the DOC. He shared five areas of concentration:

1. To create a climate of trust through open and honest communication, both within the Department and externally.
2. To prepare for and anticipate change, and not be surprised by it.
3. To have a succession plan that includes developing future leaders for their opportunity to lead.
4. To have transparency in the decision making process.
5. To create a culture of accountability and generate unity throughout the Department.

"I am confident that my leadership plan will reinforce the positive efforts of the employees of the Department of Correction while enhancing the public's confidence in the Department," said Coupe.

Coupe, recently retired from the Delaware State Police after almost 28 years of service to the Division, was nominated as Corrections Commissioner by Governor Jack Markell on March 1 and confirmed by the Delaware Senate on March 13. At the time of his retirement, Coupe was

the Delaware State Police Superintendent Colonel.

Governor Markell, during his comments before the swearing in, highlighted Coupe's past success heading the Delaware State Police and commended his ability as a leader.

"He is truly an extraordinary leader," Governor Markell said of Coupe. "He is open, transparent, forward-thinking and has a sense of urgency."

As Commissioner of the Department of Correction (DOC), Coupe will work with the bureaus of Management Services, Correctional Healthcare Services, Prisons, and Community Corrections, to supervise approximately 6,500 individuals incarcerated in prison, more than 1,000 offenders serving a sentence within a community corrections facility, and approximately 17,000 probationers living in the community.

A video from the ceremony is available on [YouTube](#).

Story from:

<http://news.delaware.gov/2013/03/19/coupe-sworn-in-as-commissioner-of-department-of-correction/>



Volume 2, Issue 3

District of Columbia

Reentry Reflection Hopes To Brake Recidivism

By Steve Lilienthal

Women are walking across the stage in the basement auditorium of a church in southeast Washington, DC, wearing fashionable attire.

Other women, seated, clap enthusiastically.

It could be a fashion show staged by a church's women's club. It isn't.

The women onstage and in the seats are clients of CSOSA, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) that handles parole and probation for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and have been in prison. Now, they are struggling with life on the outside.

"Lifetime Makeover: Reclaiming My Life" is part of "Reentry Reflection," a series of events held in January and February 2013 that helps to address the needs of citizens returning from prison.

Women on this Saturday hear experts addressing issues such as "Why Mental Health Is Not A Negative Term," how to "triumph" over trauma, and how to achieve better relationships with their partners.

Too often women facing difficulties with dysfunctional fami-

lies and intimate relationships become enmeshed in the criminal justice system due to problems such as substance abuse. Roles of criminal and victim are often interchangeable.

CSOSA mental health program administrator Ubx Husen tells the women that two-thirds of people in prison need medication. But only 17% "keep up with treatment" upon leaving. She emphasizes that there is no shame in discussing problems openly and in obtaining treatment for them.

Lamont Carey, a former prisoner who has his own entertainment company, talks about how being raised in a dysfunctional family led him to prison. Women, he stresses, should set "realistic" standards for partners.

One audience member, Margie Draper, talks proudly about her experiences. In an interview, Ms. Draper insists being "locked up doesn't mean I can't move forward with my life."

"Lifetime Makeover" was held to address the challenges facing women returning from prison. Women more likely had been taking care of children before leaving for prison, and they wish to reunite with them. They are less likely to have committed violent crimes. Often, their crimes are substance abuse and property crimes, frequently driven by their abuse problem.

Not everyone appreciates the concentration on intimate relationships. Ms. Asantewaa Nkrumah-Ture expresses discontent with the forum, insisting it should address important issues. Many lack permanent housing, are even homeless, and experience great difficulty finding work. She also wants discussed the local drive to "ban the box" that asks people to declare criminal records on job applications. Checked boxes often lead to tossed applications.

Kemba Smith, author of the book *Poster Child*, speaks to the women at lunch about her experiences in and out of the criminal justice system. Smith compliments CSOSA for having "put on a program like this" promoting community resources and that addresses "intimate issues that are important to women."

Leonard Sipes, CSOSA senior public affairs specialist, says his agency has forged partnerships with employers and nonprofits to help people returning from prison with jobs and housing. But CSOSA's first goal is to help

Story from:

<http://www.corrections.com/news/article/32624-reentry-reflection-hopes-to-brake-recidivism->

Continued on page 9



CSOSA's Nancy M. Ware and Kemba Smith

The MASCA Connection

District of Columbia

Reentry Reflection Hopes To Brake Recidivism

(Continued from page 8)

former inmates to stabilize their lives through “dealing with core issues” so they can better maintain steady employment and obtain stable housing.

Asked whether this event would have been held forty years ago, Sipes, with over forty years experience in criminal justice, says no.

Then, recidivism was expected. Now, with greater awareness of how unresolved past difficulties can lead to recidivism, CSOSA stages Reentry Reflection events, to help publicize the treatments, mentorships and partnerships aimed at encouraging more successful reentries.

Public/Private Ventures in its “Call to Action: How Programs In Three Cities Responded To The Prisoner Reentry Crisis,” issued midway through the last decade, cites Washington, as one of the “pioneers” in grappling with the “prison reentry crisis,” particularly through the partnership forged between CSOSA and DC’s faith community.

Then-CSOSA director Paul Quander, testifying in 2005 before the US House of Representatives Government Reform Committee insisted: “Effective community super-

vision is not just the prevention of wrong-doing, it is the encouragement of right-doing.”

This belief helped lead to the development of Reentry Sunday and its spin-off, the partnerships between CSOSA, the faith-based community, and non-profits in mentoring and assisting DC residents who have just left prison.

CSOSA, in 2001, under the leadership of Jasper Ormond, then CSOSA’s interim director, had been thinking of ways to help to reintegrate DC’s returning prison population.

Rev. Donald Isaac, executive director of the East of the River Clergy, Police, Community Partnership (ERCPCP), participated in CSOSA’s efforts in 2001 to consult the city’s faith community. Participants believed that if Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were alive, the imposing rate of incarceration and recidivism, particularly for African-American males, would rank high on his agenda.

The first Reentry Weekend in 2002 was held in concurrence with the holiday commemorating Dr. King’s birthday to help alert the city to the problem of returning prisoners and to help erase the stigma families felt of having loved ones in prison. Because January had become the newly declared National Mentoring Month, participating houses of worship were urged to recruit mentors for the re-

turnees from prison. In Isaac’s view, more mentoring was taking place in prisons than on the outside.

Now, the one day event has evolved into a series of events spread over forty days this year.

Diane Kincaid, deputy director of the American Probation and Parole Association, says other communities stage similar efforts.

Nancy La Vigne, director of the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute, asserts that events such as Reentry Reflection have value. “It makes sense to try to engage the community,” she says. “The community has a vested interest in helping people become law-abiding citizens.”

Isaac says housing and jobs remain difficult obstacles to surmount for DC residents returning from prison. Yet, in Isaac’s view, thanks to CSOSA’s engagement of DC’s community, “We’ve made a lot of progress.”

Stephen Lilienthal is a freelance writer who lives in Washington, DC. He is the author of the recently published Library Journal article, “Prison and Libraries: Public Service Inside and Out,”

Story from:

<http://www.corrections.com/news/article/32624-reentry-reflection-hopes-to-brake-recidivism->

The MASCA Connection



Maryland

Deborah Richardson nominated as new county corrections director

By Jon Meoli

Veteran Baltimore County Department of Corrections administrator Deborah Richardson has been tapped to become the department's director, County Executive Kevin Kamenetz announced Tuesday.



"I am delighted that Deborah Richardson is willing to accept this new responsibility," Kamenetz said in a statement. "She brings a wealth of experience combined with a firm but compassionate approach to public safety."

Richardson's appointment is pending approval from the county council. Richardson, who has served

as deputy director under the retiring Jim O'Neill for the last decade, has worked in corrections for 33 years. A graduate of UMBC with a master's degree in management from Johns Hopkins University, Richardson began working with the state Division of Corrections as a correctional officer/specialist/counselor in 1979.

According to the announcement, Richardson was key in the process of developing new policies and procedures for the county's detention center in Towson, and was responsible for both consolidating and expanding the facilities.

"I am very pleased and honored to take on this new leadership position," Richardson said in a statement.

"Everything we do contributes to enhancing public safety and working to prepare offenders for release in a manner that reduces the likelihood of them re-offending.

"I'm especially eager to work with our excellent correctional staff to continue using technology to improve operations by implementing video arraign-

ment procedures, establishing electronic medical records, and maximizing the benefits of computer-aided training," she said.

Richardson is a regional representative to the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission and tutors underprivileged children, volunteers at libraries, and directs her church's youth ministries. Richardson will replace long-time administrator O'Neill, whom Kamenetz said in a statement "is an outstanding professional whose philosophy of collaboration and partnership has successfully led this important public safety agency through significant transitions and established the County's Detention Center as one of the most effective in the region."

Story from:

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-county/towson/ph-tt-corrections-director-0220-20130212.0,1889427.story>

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 for more information.

A Force for Positive
CHANGE.

Volume 2, Issue 3

New Jersey

N.J. among leaders in reducing juvenile lock-ups, report says

by Michael Symons

Only four states reduced juvenile incarcerations at a faster rate than New Jersey between 1997 and 2010, according to a [report](#) issued by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The study says the national confinement rate is at a 35-year low but that juvenile crime hasn't surged while kids — many of whom committed nonviolent offenses — have been treated more humanely and governments spent less money dealing with the issue.

The Casey Foundation in part credits New Jersey's decline to the state's participation in the foundation's [Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative](#). The project focuses on cutting the number of youth confined in county detention facilities but has also led to fewer long-term incarcerations in state facilities as well.

"This has been, arguably, one of the most significant successes to benefit New Jersey youth over the past decade," said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey. "Today, we have a juvenile justice system that largely uses detention for only the most serious offenders. This has resulted in a juvenile justice

system that is smarter, safer and saving taxpayer dollars."

New Jersey was selected as an official replication site for JDAI in 2004 and was awarded an annual grant of up to \$200,000 by the Casey Foundation. By that time, detentions of juveniles had already dropped by 13 percent in the previous four years. It fell by another 39 percent between 2003 and 2010.

JDAI started in five counties and now operates in 16 of the state's 21 counties: Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Union and Warren.

New Jersey's lock-up total was measured at 1,179, a rate of 123 per 100,000, in 2010, the most recent year for which state-by-state data is available. That rate was down 53 percent from 261 per 100,000 in 1997, where 2,250 juveniles were confined in New Jersey.

Tennessee (66%), Connecticut (65%), Arizona (57%), Louisiana (56%) reduced their juvenile confinement rates more than New Jersey between 1997 and 2010. Nationally, the rate declined by 37 percent in that 13-year period.

The study analyzed [federal data](#) about juvenile detentions that is recorded every one to three years.

Of the 1,179 juveniles locked up in New Jersey in 2010, nearly 93 percent were males. Sixty-nine percent were black, 19 percent Hispanic and 12 percent white.

Thirty-nine percent had committed a violent crime, including 33 murders, 48 rapes, 210 robberies and 171 aggravated assaults. Other significant categories of nonviolent offenses included 135 property crimes, 117 drug crimes, 120 weapons violations and 270 technical violations.

Story from:

<http://blogs.app.com/capitol-quickies/2013/02/27/n-j-among-leaders-in-reducing-juvenile-lock-ups-report-says/>



Volume 2, Issue 3

New York

Be Our Guest: With innovative approaches to Correction, New York City has become a national leader in reducing its incarceration rate

By Vincent Schiraldi

Over the past decade, while the incarceration rate has risen 6%, New York's rate has fallen 32%, thanks to creative parole and probation programs

It is now common knowledge that New York is America's safest big city. However, many people don't know that it's also one of the least incarcerated. As Mayor Bloomberg noted in his recent State of the City address, "While the incarceration rate across America has increased by 6% over the past decade, here in New York City, we've reduced it by 32%."

This isn't just good news for New Yorkers — it should also serve as a wake-up call for communities across the country. The United States currently has the world's highest incarceration rate, with state prison budgets topping \$46 billion and one out of every eight state workers employed in corrections. In today's tough fiscal environment, we simply can't keep wasting money on unnecessary incarceration.

So how exactly did New York City manage to reduce both crime and incarceration? Smart policing certainly had a lot to do with it, and the New York City Police Department

has been at the forefront of driving down crime. But something more is happening in the Big Apple. Specifically, the city is targeting supervision and services to people with criminal records who pose a high or moderate risk of reoffending, while redirecting precious resources — including incarceration — away from those who are much more likely to stay on track.

For example, the city's network of treatment-oriented courts has been diverting incarceration-bound defendants from jail and into treatment, with positive public safety outcomes. An employment program targeted at parolees returning to the city from prison successfully reduced re-offense rates by helping them get jobs. And the city's Probation Department has significantly increased the rate at which people on probation complete their term by going the extra mile with clients who are having problems and requesting early discharge for clients who have performed well.

The reduction in incarceration has saved taxpayers a bundle without jeopardizing public safety. If New York City's incarceration rate had risen over the last decade at the national rate of 6% instead of declining by 32%, approximately 21,500 more city residents would be locked up right now, costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

In his "Person of the Year" interview for Time magazine, President Obama noted that a

"great huge chunk" of America's prison cells, and the costs associated with them, are consumed by non-violent offenders. He also lamented that "If you look at state budgets, part of the reason that tuition has been rising in public universities across the country is because more and more resources were going into paying for prisons, and that left less money to provide to colleges and universities."

On the other side of the aisle, the conservative organization "Right on Crime" issued a statement endorsed by Newt Gingrich, Jeb Bush, Grover Norquist, and other prominent conservatives urging moderation in the use of incarceration in favor of evidence-based practices that, "Align incentives with our goals of public safety, victim restitution and satisfaction, and cost-effectiveness, thereby moving from a system that grows when it fails to one that rewards results."

New York City is proud to be the leading promoter of a simple idea that is transcending political ideology: Public safety is measured not by how many people you lock up, but by how many crimes you prevent.

Vincent Schiraldi is Commissioner of Probation for New York City.

Read story at:

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/guest-new-york-leader-reducing-incarceration-rate-article-1.1277102>



MASCA One Day Conference

[Hope & Help for Justice Involved Veterans](#)

May 8, 2013

Albany Veterans Hospital
113 Holland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Linda Schwartz
CT Commissioner of
Veterans Affairs



The MASCA Connection



MASCA 2013 Annual Conference and Training Event—Details

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.

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:

Enter your Group ID: 1874

Enter your Password: 37000875

CONTACT US

Contact us at: masca.connection@gmail.com

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

Volume 2, Issue 3

Upcoming Events and Training Opportunities

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

May 5 -9, 2013
Grand Rapids, MI

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

[Hope & Help for Justice Involved Veterans](#)

May 8, 2013
Albany, NY

[APPA 38th Annual Training Institute](#)

July 28 – 31, 2013
Baltimore, MD

[NAAWS 2013 Training Conference](#)

May 29-June 1, 2013
Columbus, Ohio

[ACA 143rd Congress of Correction](#)

August 9 - 14, 2013
National Harbor, MD

[2013 CTA Annual Technology Summit](#)

June 2 - 5, 2013
Phoenix, AZ

[AWEC's 17th Annual Membership Training Institute](#)

September 27-29, 2013.
Phoenix, AZ

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

June 9–12, 2013
Ocean City, MD

[AWEC The Emerging Executives \(E2\) Training](#)

September 27, 2013
Phoenix, AZ

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

[World Congress on Probation](#)

London, UK
8-10 October 2013



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 3

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania will offer incentives to combat recidivism

By Paula Reed Ward

Based on a new study that shows high recidivism rates in Pennsylvania, state officials will offer financial incentives to community corrections facilities to improve their performance.

The report released Thursday, which includes data going back to 2000, shows that statewide, the percentage of people who commit new crimes or are sent back to prison for parole violations is 59.9 percent.

In Allegheny County, that number is 61.9 percent, ranking third behind Dauphin and Philadelphia counties.

Allegheny County Common Pleas Judge Jeffrey A. Manning, who oversees the criminal division, said that rate is disheartening.

"We call it the Department of Corrections, and apparently, it's not correcting anything," he said.

The judge said the most important things in reducing recidivism include drug and alcohol and mental health treatment, as well as job training.

"There are only two answers to a 60 percent recidivism rate," Judge Manning said. "And those are to release an improved inmate into society or keep them all locked up forever. And the first one is cheaper than the second." In his introduction to the report, Corrections Secretary John E. Wetzel said that under the Cor-

bett administration, the focus to reduce crime will be driven by data and quantifiable results.

"Citizens of the Commonwealth should have every expectation of a corrections system that actually helps people correct themselves; one that is based on research, not on anecdotal stories and innuendo," he wrote.

Moving forward, the results of the recidivism study will be used as a benchmark to measure the success of programs, said Bret Bucklen, the director of planning, research and statistics for the state Department of Corrections.

For example, under new legislation passed last year, those facilities billed as "community corrections centers," are having their contracts rebid this year.

Using the recidivism report as a baseline, the facilities that win contracts must meet at least the minimum recidivism rate – 60 percent – to continue their relationship with the state.

"They'll be required to maintain that baseline and will be incentivized if they reduce [recidivism,]" Mr. Bucklen said. If a facility is able to reduce reoffense rates by 10 percent, it will get paid more per offender.

"We want to measure performance. We want quantifiable performance," Mr. Bucklen said.

The measurements will be conducted by the state, which will collect and compare all data. The new contracts being awarded are for three years,

and the first measurement will be done after one year, Mr. Bucklen said.

"We want to force the system to think hard on how to reduce the recidivism rate."

In Pennsylvania, there are 4,313 beds available in community corrections centers, sometimes characterized as half-way houses. In Allegheny County, there are 581.

Although these facilities have long been used to help transition people leaving prisons back into society, they are now also being used to house parole violators, instead of sending those people directly back into a state institution, Mr. Bucklen said.

"Research has shown in other places these community corrections facilities can work," he continued. "We really believe, philosophically, there's a lot of potential."

They typically cost \$60 to \$70 per day per inmate. The cost to house a person in a state prison is \$90 per day.

In looking at as many as 4,500 people, that difference in cost is significant, Mr. Bucklen said.

"Obviously, anything that improves an inmate in any way before he's released full-blown back into the neighborhood is beneficial," Judge Manning said. "Maybe we should be pleased that four out of 10 people aren't committing another crime."

"I'm not."

Story from: <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/state/pennsylvania-will-offer-incentives-to-combat-recidivism-677391/?print=1>

