

APPA COMMUNITY AWARENESS THROUGH MEDIA AWARD

MATFORCE YAVAPAI COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

Prescott Valley, AZ

MATForce is Yavapai County's (Arizona) substance abuse coalition, and Community Counts supports a variety of collaborative projects, such as the Yavapai Reentry Project, the Community Garden in Prescott Valley, Motivational Interviewing training (conducted by trained/certified probation officers and paid for by MATForce/Community Counts), and the annual Recovery Celebration.

Although MATForce has existed in Yavapai County for several years, the momentum has begun to generate national interest due to its success. MATForce has built a strong, trusted and enduring relationship with community stakeholders who join with them in working to reduce substance abuse and crime and to make our communities safer. They sponsor training for Community Coaching and Motivational Interviewing, providing materials, announcements and flyers for professionals, agencies and anyone in the community who is interested in learning to be a positive force in the community.

All of the work performed by MATForce has been accomplished with and through use of media outlets. MATForce maintains a website with information regarding their programs, educational opportunities and drug disposal events. A print and online newsletter is published monthly. Local newspapers in the Verde Valley and Prescott areas also publish frequent articles about programs and successes. Local radio in both areas of the County have been utilized to announce Dump the Drugs events, Lunch and Learn programs as well as personalized interviews with various MATForce workers. MATForce also has several videos on You Tube. Local Cable One programs have featured interviews with MATForce Board Members detailing their programs and statistics provided by Arizona Criminal Justice which indicate the need for a continuing effort to combat the problems involved with Doctor Shopping, etc. Pamphlets and posters are provided for doctor's offices, hospital emergency rooms and pharmacies to increase awareness of the dangers of drug abuse.

This award was presented at the Opening Session of APPA's 2014 Winter Training Institute on Sunday, January 12 at 6:00 pm.

APPA AWARDS

RECOGNIZE. ACKNOWLEDGE. CELEBRATE.

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION

NEIGHBORHOOD OPPORTUNITY NETWORK (NEON)

New York City Probation Dept.
New York City, NY

Commissioner Vincent N. Schiraldi, who assumed leadership of the NYC Department of Probation in 2010, and his staff began looking at where their clients lived and identified a handful of neighborhoods that were home to large numbers of probation clients. In most cases, these neighborhoods were far from the Court-based offices where clients were required to report. This wasn't just inconvenient for them; it also made it much harder for probation officers to develop relationships with the community-based organizations that were best equipped to provide their clients with the services they need and to leverage those relationships for the betterment of public safety and client outcomes.

One of Commissioner Schiraldi's first priorities was making DOP's depressing and counterproductive waiting rooms more welcoming and useful. In this effort, the agency was guided not only by research showing that improving waiting rooms can have a significant positive impact on the attitudes and receptiveness of those who are waiting, but also by a Waiting Room Improvement Team (WRIT) comprised of external partners and DOP staff members throughout the chain of

command. They examined the current state of the waiting rooms; looked at examples of other, more effective public spaces; and, together, envisioned a different kind of setting for their work with clients and the community.

DOP has also adopted an evidence and strengths-based approach to supervision that recognizes and builds on the clients' strengths rather than focusing on the clients' shortcomings and mistakes. To complement a strengths-based approach, DOP has also undertaken training in motivational interviewing. These reforms are being implemented agency-wide, but they are especially well-suited to the work being done in the NeONs.

NeON-specific outcomes are hard to come by since many of the NeONs are in their first year of operations and two are yet-to-open. But during this time period, the program had a 45% reduction in the probation violation rate. According to state data, DOP's violation rate is 3% annually compared to an 11% violation rate in the rest of the state. Likewise, the successful completion rate is 79% compared to 65% statewide, even though NeON comprises a much larger proportion of people on probation for felonies. Additionally, the early discharge rate has grown from 3% to 17%.

This award was presented at the Opening Session of APPA's 2014 Winter Training Institute on Sunday, January 12 at 6:00 pm.



SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY AWARD

KIRSTEN LEWIS

Senior Adult Probation
Officer - Staff
Development Division
Maricopa County Adult
Probation
Phoenix, AZ

Kirsten R. Lewis, M.Ed., is a probation officer with the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department, (AZ). With a background in research and over 23 years experience in community corrections, Kirsten spearheaded a ground-breaking research study examining secondary traumatic stress in probation officers as a result of working with criminal offenders. Her research was recently published in the American Journal of Criminal Justice. In addition, the lead article in APPA's Winter 2013 Perspectives on the topic of secondary trauma was authored by Kirsten. Through her research, articles, and popular trainings, Kirsten has provided the community corrections field with new information and greater awareness regarding the personal impact of working with criminal offenders. She shares this information with intelligence, sensitivity, and an insight that is immediately recognized by fellow

practitioners. Kirsten has provided useful strategies to preserve the well-being and effectiveness of community corrections officers, and in her own compelling way, she urges the profession to take action.

Kirsten conducts a variety of trainings on the topic of stress management and employee wellness with criminal justice agencies around the country and has presented her work at conferences throughout the United States and abroad. She has presented at least 20 trainings for community corrections personnel at county, state, and federal agencies (outside the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department). In addition, Kirsten has presented numerous workshops at conferences, including six (6) workshops at APPA conferences and nine (9) workshops at county, state, or regional conferences for judicial staff or community corrections personnel.

This award was presented at the Plenary Session of APPA's 2014 Winter Training Institute on Monday, January 13 at 8:30 am.

APPA AWARDS

RECOGNIZE. ACKNOWLEDGE. CELEBRATE.



JOE KEGANS AWARD FOR VICTIM SERVICES IN PROBATION AND PAROLE

LINDA SORENSON

Victim Advocate
Sixth Judicial District
Department of
Correctional Services
Cedar Rapids, IA

Linda Sorenson was 39 years old and employed at the cosmetic counter at Armstrong's department store in Cedar Rapids when her life was forever changed. In May 1989, she sent the oldest of her four children, 17 year old Leah Wara, on to her high school prom. The girl, who Linda calls her "little angel", and "special gift", never came home. Her decomposing body was found by police two days later (on her birthday), stuffed under a pile of blankets in a stifling closet in the apartment of a 19 year old stranger she'd apparently met at a party that fatal night. She'd been raped and strangled to death. As a result of that experience, Linda dedicated her life's work to ensuring that what had happened to her would never happen to another person, not if she could help it. Linda was a founding member of the Survivors of Homicide Program as she found no resource to help her through her horrific experience. The 6th Judicial District was honored when she made the decision to take the

position as Victim Advocate; she was the first Advocate in any community based corrections agency in Iowa.

Operating since 1999, Linda is the staff liaison to two Victim Advisory Committees which were developed to represent the best of the Restorative Justice philosophy – making victims as whole as possible by involving them in the process of how corrections does business. In 2009, these committees won the Iowa Corrections Association's Victim Assistance Award for outstanding services to victims. Linda was a strong voice in the development of the following goals which defined the work of these committees:

- Organize the voice of victims and create ways for them to be involved in the criminal justice system.
- To educate victims about how the criminal justice system works.
- To educate the criminal justice system and community about victims' needs.
- To advocate and implement victim sensitive practices within the criminal justice system and community.
- Recognize positive involvement of the victims and the criminal justice system.

This award was presented at the Plenary Session of APPA's 2014 Winter Training Institute on Monday, January 13 at 8:30 am.

SCOTIA KNOUFF LINE OFFICER OF THE YEAR



TIFFANY WERNETTE
Probation Officer II
Coconino County Probation Dept.
Flagstaff, AZ

Tiffany is a true leader with a heart for helping others and advancing the field. Her professionalism and desire to improve supervision services for the sake of the offenders she supervises is a rare and impressive quality. She has a positive attitude, an incredible work ethic, a kind heart and a wonderful ability to build rapport with her clients. It is because of this that Tiffany was named Probation Officer of the Year for the State of Arizona; an award voted on by all Arizona county chiefs and directors. Tiffany is a Force for Positive Change and models the ideal of what we ask of community corrections professionals.

In addition to her duties as a standard officer, Tiffany volunteers her time to facilitate MRT (Moral Reconciliation Therapy) in the evenings for probation clientele. She actively uses the skills in her case management, which is evident from the outcomes that she sees.

Hi everyone! My name is Tiffany Wernette. I work for the Coconino County Adult Probation Department in Flagstaff, Arizona. I work in a standard supervision field unit, and my caseload is primarily in the city. In addition to my regular duties, I enjoy being a Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) Facilitator, assisting with the DUI Impact Panel, and coaching my peers in the use of Effective Practices in Corrections Settings (EPICS II). I am attending this conference with the love of my life, who is also a probation officer in my Department. We have a couple of dogs whom we love dearly, and I also love increasing my running stamina by participating in local races.

I feel extremely honored to be receiving the Scotia Knouff Line Officer of the Year Award. I am very grateful for the recognition I have received for the work and dedication I give to my clients on a daily basis. My involvement in Epics II has strengthened my abilities as a probation officer and has shown me the power of change. This award could not have been achieved without the inspiration I have gained from my supervisor, Karen Madden and my colleagues, from whom I have derived the strength to challenge myself and work toward becoming an agent of change. I sincerely thank everyone in my Department for helping me achieve this incredible milestone. I feel blessed to have crossed paths with so many remarkable criminal justice practitioners, contributors and probationers.

**THIS AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE OPENING SESSION ON
SUNDAY, AUGUST 3 AT 6:00 P.M.**

NOMINEES FOR THE SCOTIA KNOUFF LINE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Patricia Allen
Parole Officer
GA Board of Pardons and Paroles
Atlanta, GA

Michael Cotignola
Correctional Probation Specialist
FL Dept. of Corrections
Tampa, FL

John Harlan
Parole/Probation Officer
Multnomah County Dept. of Community
Justice
Portland, OR

Jeffrey King
Correctional Probation Specialist
FL Dept. of Corrections
Tampa, FL

Barbara McDowell
Correctional Probation Sr. Officer
FL Dept. of Corrections
Tampa, FL

Carmen Peek
Correctional Probation Sr. Officer
FL Dept. of Corrections
Tampa, FL

Tamika Ross
Probation and Parole Officer III
OK Dept. of Corrections
Tulsa, OK

Dennis Stickley
Sr. US Probation Officer
US Probation Dept.
Central Islip, NY

appa awards



WALTER DUNBAR MEMORIAL AWARD

RONALD SCHWEER
Chief US Probation Officer
Kansas City, KS

Ron Schweer has over 29 years of experience in criminal justice, corrections and law enforcement. He has served in the federal system since 1990 and previously held the position of Court Services Specialist in charge all juvenile and adult probation programs for the Kansas Supreme Court, Office of Judicial Administration. Ron was also a Chief Court Services Officer for the Seventh Judicial District in Kansas.

In 1998, Ron was the recipient of the Paul J. Weber Award presented by the Kansas Correctional Association for his contributions to the field of community corrections. He has also received recognition as an EXCEL Award recipient by the U.S. Courts and has held a position as an adjunct faculty member at a local community college.

In April 2004, then Deputy Chief U.S. Probation Officer, Ronald G. Schweer (Eastern District of Missouri) completed a three week temporary duty (TDY) assignment with the Office of Probation and Pretrial Services to commence the process of creating a new hazardous duty reporting system. This project resulted in the eventual development of the Safety Information and Reporting System (SIRS). This data base system went live for the nation in April of 2009 and remains the central depository for hazardous duty information for the federal probation and pretrial system.

I am very proud to be associated with the name and memory of Walter Dunbar. He was one of the true leaders in the field of community corrections. It is indeed a pleasure to be recognized for a career of service that has been such an integral part of my life, the lives of my colleagues and co-workers, and in particular my family. The APPA has been a cornerstone in my career and to this organization I extend my humblest thanks and sincere gratitude.

THIS AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE OPENING SESSION ON
SUNDAY, AUGUST 3 AT 6:00 P.M.



APPA MEMBER OF THE YEAR

**DEBORAH
MENARDI**
Deputy Probation Administrator
Nebraska Supreme Court Office of Probation
Administration
Lincoln, NE

Deb is an amazing visionary for probation and community based supervision in general. She is regularly called upon to create new and innovative training or programming to assist her agency's officers in better serving clients. She is constantly seeking out new ways of doing things, so that staff can be leaders in the implementation of EBP. Her commitment to improving the lives of community members through improving the lives of the individuals served is exemplary.

She consistently pushes staff to raise the bar when it comes to investigations and supervision. Her vision helped to create the Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision program in Nebraska, which was recognized by APPA with the President's Award in 2010. Her leadership has influenced not only Nebraska, but other states through her service as a Regional Representative on the APPA Board of Directors.

As a member of APPA, and now as a board member, Deb refers people to the services that APPA can provide. She also is a strong advocate for membership in APPA within our system and beyond. Deb has made important strides in giving APPA a much broader reach both within Nebraska as well as nationally.

Being recognized by those that you admire is one of the most honored experiences you can have. As someone who always has something to say, I ironically find myself struggling for the perfect words to express my overwhelming joy in receiving this award. I am surrounded daily by people who inspire me. To think that I have inspired others is as much a gift to me as it is to them. I am proud to say I am a "lifer" when it comes to serving the courts and probation. Probation was the career I chose in college and still love it today. APPA has been foundational to me as a professional. When I was young to the organization I aspired to be like the leaders I watched. Having grown-up in the organization I now try to ignite a spark in others to appreciate what this amazing organization has to offer. Joining the ranks of those who have received this award before me is truly a privilege and one of the highlights of my career. Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you!

THIS AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE APPA LUNCHEON ON
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5 AT 12:30 P.M.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

NAPA COUNTY PROBATION DEPT

Evidence Based Practices Initiative

Napa, CA

*Accepting the award will be Mary Butler,
Chief Probation Officer*

The Napa County Probation Department (NCPD) implemented an evidence-based approach to supervision prior to the passage of SB 678 in 2009 and has continued to use and expand these practices to help address issues facing its local justice system. For example, in 2005, faced with an overcrowded jail, the NCPD reached out to its justice system partners, including the county administration office and the board of supervisors, in an attempt to resolve this problem without building another jail. As a result, the county board of supervisors adopted the goal of having an evidence-based criminal justice system and to this day, Napa County has effectively managed its offender population without building another jail. Under the direction of Chief Probation Officer Mary Butler, the NCPD has prioritized the implementation of evidence-based practices with the help of SB 678 funds. A summary of the NCPD's progress in each of the five categories of EBP implementation, as measured by the AOC's Annual Assessment survey, shows the department's success.

It is an honor to be selected as this year's recipient of the APPA President's Award. Having attended the conference for many years I have seen the caliber of the awardees. It is humbling to be among this group. Napa County Probation has been implementing evidence based practices for the past nine years. It has been a culture shift and learning process. While accountability is still a major focus of our work, rehabilitation has become an equally important focus. Probation Officers and Juvenile Hall Counselors have been trained in Motivational Interviewing and over half of the staff has volunteered to become cognitive behavioral group facilitators. We implement a number of programs run by staff. The culture change has had a positive impact on the probationer – probation officer relationship. Officers are now seen as helpers rather than only disciplinarians. The implementation of a risk/needs tool has given the Department the ability to reduce caseload size and assure the appropriate services are offered to the probationer. We want to thank Mark Carey for nominating our department and thank APPA for recognizing Napa County Probation.

THIS AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE PLENARY SESSION ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 4 AT 8:30 A.M.



American Probation and Parole Association

**A FORCE FOR
POSITIVE CHANGE...**

www.appa-net.org



A Force for Positive
CHANGE