

2016

APPA AWARDS

Recognizing Accomplishments

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY AWARD

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2016; 5:30 PM
LOCATION: GRAND BALLROOM III AND IV

CHRISTOPHER BERSCH

Senior US Probation Officer
Greensboro, NC

BRAD WHITLEY

Supervisory US Probation Officer
Winston-Salem, NC

Christopher Bersch and Brad Whitley are authors of the article titled, "Driving Evidence-Based Supervision to the Next Level: Utilizing PCRA "Drivers," and Effective Supervision Techniques". This article was published in the Federal Probation Journal in December 2014 and re-published in APPA's journal, Perspectives, in the Spring 2015 issue. The authors were able to draw on their experience working with offenders to bring a true to life description of how risk-based supervision can be effective.

This article does an exceptional job of defining the complexity of the dynamic risk factors and the rewards of providing proper risk-based supervision.

Partly as a result of this article, Brad and Chris have been asked to participate in a number of advisory groups and to provide training to supervisors and officers across the country. They have presented at numerous professional organization conferences including APPA and the International Community Corrections Association. The article was used to help train faculty of the Federal Judicial Center and is required reading for districts applying for the training, Supervising Officers in an Evidence Based Environment.

JOE KEGANS AWARD FOR VICTIM SERVICES IN PROBATION AND PAROLE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2016; 5:30 PM
LOCATION: GRAND BALLROOM III AND IV

LYDIA NEWLIN

Director
MN Dept. of Corrections Victim Services and Restorative Justice Program
St. Paul, MN

In her capacity as a national leader, Lydia Newlin simply inspires her peers to do right by crime victims; to be victim-centric in all they do; and to focus attention on the fact that victims, as well as convicted offenders, are truly "clients" of institutional and community corrections. She approaches her mission and work with a truly restorative justice focus that holds offenders accountable and recognizes their potential as contributing members of society, and ensures that the voices of victims and survivors are heard and validated. She also created the "reentry victim impact statement" for victims that is different from the standard VIS, in that it focuses intensely on victim safety when the offender returns to the community under supervision, and offers victims and survivors great autonomy in how they want to be involved in the overall reentry process.

Lydia has a keen sense about the field of corrections and community supervision, always focused on providing an opportunity for victims to participate in the criminal justice process, while at the same time recognizing that successful offender re-entry and integration into society is a significant part of the victims movement.

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016; 8:30 AM
LOCATION: GRAND BALLROOM III AND IV

FELONY ALCOHOL INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Tarrant County Community Supervision and Corrections Dept.
Ft. Worth, TX

Felony Alcohol Intervention Program (FAIP), changes attitudes and behaviors of felony DWI offenders. FAIP provides an opportunity for those who choose to change their lives and teaches the participants to be accountable and self-reliant instead of dependent on alcohol by having them engaged in treatment programs and a support group in order to provide them with tools to be successful long after their probation is over.

With a success rate of 87%, FAIP is the most successful drug and or alcohol program in Tarrant County. Since its inception in 2006, 380 offenders have been admitted to the program. FAIP takes men and women who would go to prison and receive little or no substance abuse treatment and provides them with the opportunity of true rehabilitation. The program at its core provides a structure that promises strict rules, swift consequences for violations of the rules, and most importantly, real supervision.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS THROUGH MEDIA AWARD

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016; 8:30 AM
LOCATION: GRAND BALLROOM III AND IV

LAST WEEK TONIGHT WITH JOHN OLIVER

HBO's Last Week Tonight with host John Oliver presented six stories on the criminal justice system over the course of 2014 and 2015. Major broadcast media outlets, whether cable or network, rarely provide this type of in-depth coverage to criminal justice policy issues, and it is rare to have one program devote extended airtime for six such stories within a little more than a year's time.

The stories are substantive, in-depth examinations of major issues in criminal justice. Devoting an average of more than seventeen minutes in a one-half hour show is a substantial commitment of airtime. The stories were well-researched, factual and objective, not the sensational, fear-mongering type of stories which dominate both cable and broadcast news.

John Oliver's show reaches an audience that rarely is exposed to in-depth policy analysis on justice related issues. While the issues he explored in these six stories may be familiar to justice system professionals, those outside the field do not have the opportunity to gain this type of knowledge. This access to the public arena makes the programs real news for those who are rarely exposed to such well-documented issues.

JUDGES' ROUNDTABLE LUNCHEON

Monday, February 1; 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Stanhope, 1st Floor

Judge Patrick Sebesta (239th District Court, Brazoria County, TX), Chair of the APPA Judiciary Committee, and a member of the Atlanta judiciary will lead a roundtable discussion of integrating evidence-based practices in the judicial process. The discussion will include both national trending issues and local issues as they relate to community corrections. As Justice Reinvestment has been a top priority in Georgia, the agenda will also make time for any members of the Georgia Judiciary in attendance to discuss their views on the topic. There will be a brief presentation followed by open discussion. *Sponsored by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and the Correctional Management Institute of Texas (CMIT)*

The discussion will focus primarily on the following:

- Applying Risk/Needs Assessments in shaping the terms of supervision – a judicial perspective.
- The use of creative incentives and sanctions in the supervision process.
- Specialty court issues.
- Justice Reinvestment

All APPA judicial attendees are invited to participate in this discussion with fellow colleagues.

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Scotia Knouff Line Officer of the Year Award

MARTHA MAYS

Adult Probation Officer
Maricopa County Adult
Probation Dept.
Phoenix, AZ

Martha Mays is an outstanding Maricopa County probation officer. Her vibrant career in probation spans 25 years during which time she has developed considerable experience and skill working one-on-one with probationers as an agent of positive behavioral change. Martha currently supervises a caseload of homeless probationers and she has discovered that her passion is helping these individuals build a better life.

Martha's entire caseload resides at Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS), a large homeless shelter in Phoenix for single adults that serves over 4,000 individuals per year. CASS is located on Maricopa County's Human Services Campus, where faith-based, non-profit, government, private and community agencies provide comprehensive and supportive services to assist the homeless.

A former client writes, "She talked to me about the future and she knew I would not get anywhere in life unless I had a home to live in. She helped me talk to the VA and I got into a housing program and now I am no longer a homeless person. The next step was to find a job. Martha knew about a program called Smart Justice that was held at her office. Through the program I enrolled into school to become a truck driver. Martha wrote to the Judge and was able to get me off probation early. Today, I have a home, I am going to school, and I have my health back. I also have a lot of gratitude for my old probation officer, Martha Mays."

THIS AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE OPENING SESSION ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 28 AT 5:30 PM.

Congratulations to the Other Nominees for the Scotia Knouff Line Officer of the Year Award!

SUSAN BARNES

Probation and Parole Officer
OK Department of Corrections
Oklahoma City, OK

NORMAN BRODERICK

CSO III Mental Health Officer/Probation Officer
Georgia Department of Community Supervision
Atlanta, GA

NATALIO SABAL

Juvenile Probation Officer
Cochise County Juvenile Court Services
Bisbee, AZ

JEFF SMITH

Probation Officer
18th Judicial Probation Department
Littleton, CO

ELIZABETH STARCK

Probation Officer
Clark County Probation
Jeffersonville, IN

2016 APPA AWARDS

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Walter Dunbar Memorial Award

MICHAEL NAIL
Commissioner
Georgia Department of
Community Supervision
Atlanta, GA

Working in community corrections for over 27 years, Commissioner Nail has consistently implemented innovative community corrections programs to help positively transform the lives of offenders and their families, employers, and the criminal justice system.

Commissioner Nail's leadership, knowledge, commitment, and experience position Michael as one of the nation's top practitioners. His innovative style of management and commitment to next- and evidence-based practices, as well as his dedication to transforming the field at a national level, has positioned Michael as one of the nation's thought leaders in community corrections.

Over the past year, he has led the development of Georgia's newest state agency as the Commissioner of the Department of Community Supervision. Now, at the pinnacle of his profession and poised to leave a broad-reaching legacy of positive change in Georgia's criminal justice system, Nail is a deserving recipient of the Walter Dunbar Memorial Award.

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Member of the Year Award

MICHAEL KRAFT
Director of Court/Board/
Field Services
GA Dept of Community
Supervision
Atlanta, GA

Michael Kraft's dedication to advancing the mission of APPA is abundantly clear this year. In addition to providing leadership within Georgia's newest state agency, the Department of Community Supervision, he served as the Local Host Chair for APPA's 2016 Winter Training Institute in Atlanta. Moreover, Michael has shown consistent dedication to strengthening involvement in APPA and promoting its values at the core level of his agency's work.

Michael has worked tirelessly to help offenders succeed and bring credit to the profession during his 26-year tenure in community corrections. In his current role as Director of Court/Board/Field Services for the Georgia Department of Community Supervision, Mike oversees the planning, implementation, and oversight of programs and services offered to offenders under DCS supervision. The programs under his purview are evidence-based and proven to reduce recidivism. This includes M.O.R.E. (winner of the 2015 APPA Award for Excellence in Community Crime Prevention).

In addition to serving as the Local Host Chair in Atlanta, Michael has participated in APPA over the course of his career. He has been a co-presenter on panels at the 2014 and 2015 Summer Training Institutes. He has also served as President of the Georgia Probation Association and is a current member of the Georgia Professional Association of Community Supervision.

For these reasons, Michael Kraft serves as a spirited advocate of APPA's mission and vision and is a worthy recipient of the 2016 Member of the Year Award.

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

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University of Cincinnati Award

RONALD CORBETT, ED.D.

Adjunct Faculty
School of Criminology and
Justice Studies, University of
Massachusetts-Lowell
Lowell, MA

In addition to being named the 2001 Walter Dunbar Memorial Award honoree, Ronald Corbett has been the recipient of several other prestigious awards recognizing his accomplishments in the field of probation. Formerly a lecturer and now working as adjunct faculty at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell School of Criminology & Justice Studies, Dr. Corbett has made many scholarly contributions to the field of community corrections and specifically to the field of probation. His most recent article published in the Spring 2015 issue of the *Minnesota Law Review* is the most recent example of his efforts to provide leadership and identify serious challenges facing the future of probation. His article on “The Burdens of Leniency: The Changing Face of Probation” is but one more example of his serious contribution to the critical thought necessary to advance probation practice. Dr. Corbett is a most worthy recipient of this prestigious award.

Dr. Corbett served as the Second Deputy Commissioner of the Massachusetts Probation Service, having previously worked as a Probation Officer, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Regional Director, and as Director of Training & Development. He is Past-President of the National Association of Probation Executives (NAPE). Dr. Corbett has published widely, including articles in *Federal Probation*, *Corrections Today*, and *Justice Quarterly*. His publications include *Transforming Probation Through Leadership: The “Broken Windows” Model*, published by the Manhattan Institute. He served for several years as editor of *Perspectives*, the journal of the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA), and co-editor of the “Up to Speed” column in *Federal Probation*.

THIS AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE PLENARY SESSION ON MONDAY, AUGUST 29 AT 8:30 AM.

APPA President's Award

NEBRASKA PROBATION PEER SUPPORT TEAM

Lincoln, NE

Peer support is about people helping people. Training Peers are highly valued by colleagues in that they understand the work culture, are easily accessible, and can provide confidential support in a variety of circumstances. Peers are often the first to notice subtle changes in a colleague's behavior or demeanor and can respectfully inquire about the colleague's wellbeing in a low-key manner that is not intrusive.

In 2015, the Nebraska State Probation System established the Peer Support Team as an organized approach to support Nebraska State Probation personnel during times of personal or professional crisis. This program was developed to ensure probation personnel are provided with intervention and available resources to treat the immediate effects of a traumatic incident. The mission of the Nebraska State Probation Peer Support Team is to provide probation staff education, leadership, training, consultation, resources, and referrals to lessen the impact of a critical incident and to support ongoing wellness and resiliency. One of the most important responsibilities of a team member is the promotion of trust, anonymity, and confidentiality for employees who seek their assistance.

The Peer Support Team consists of 15 volunteer employees composed of probation officers, supervisors, support staff, and specialists from across the State of Nebraska who have been fully trained in crisis intervention and self-care. During 2015, the team created policies, procedures, and protocols for the Peer Support program and created materials to help market this service to its nearly 900 employees statewide.

This invaluable service to Nebraska Probation employees is a worthy recipient of the APPA President's Award.

THIS AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE PLENARY SESSION ON MONDAY, AUGUST 29 AT 8:30 AM.