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Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

CEA-W State Conference Had Something for Everyone

Once again the CEA-Wisconsin State Conference held on May 3, 2010 at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake provided a great opportunity for members to network. We had members representing from a variety of locations including county jails, state prisons, detention centers, and technical colleges. We were happy to have a delegation from Ohio join us, including National CEA president Denise Justice. We were honored to have Region II's Norris Williams join us from Virginia and Executive Director, Stephen Steurer from Maryland.

The variety of sessions insured there was something for everyone. Gene Bartman gave a presentation on *Terminology in Criminal Cases*, giving all who attended a better idea of what happens to students before they enter our classroom. Susan Nell helped us recognize the environment our students come from with her presentation on *Understanding Poverty*. Jail instructors from a number of counties gave us insight into their innovative programs. John Dowdell challenged us to stretch our minds with CEA online classes, while Norris Williams challenged us to save the environment and look at ways we could "Go Green." There were also sessions on a variety of academic areas. No matter what session members attended there was one common thread – each person walked away with a new idea they would be able to apply in their workplace.

During lunch there was plenty of time to visit with friends as well as celebrating the accomplishments of Wisconsin Teacher of the Year, Susan Butcher.

As in years past, the ever-popular Silent Auction was full of a wide variety of items for people to bid on. A big thank you goes out to everyone who donated an item for the auction, all the winning bidders, and board member Jerry Bednarowski who takes the time to organize all of our Silent Auctions.

We are always looking for ways to improve the CEA-Wisconsin State Conference. If you have any suggestions, please contact any board member with your input. We can't wait to see you next year!

by: Margaret Done, CEA-W President

Few Changes on CEA-Wisconsin Board

At the CEA-Wisconsin State Conference in Elkhart Lake on May 3, President-Elect Margaret Done assumed the office of President of the State Chapter. President Mary Stierna has chosen to stay on the CEA-W Board and serve as President-Elect.

Margaret has been a teacher at the Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility and Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center since 1999. She teaches GED, Parenting, and Re-Entry classes and coordinates the tutoring program. She is helped plan and has presented workshops at several CEA conferences. Margaret is a Board member on the Wisconsin Institutions Literacy Council.

All of the CEA-W Board members up for election this year were unopposed and will be returning for another term. Continuing on the Board are:

- Secretary - Sharon Neemann, WRC**
- Treasurer - Ray Schlesinger, OCI**
- Maximum Security Representative - Mike Breszee, WCI**
- Medium Security Representative - Peter Garetson, OSCI**
- State Agency Representative - Peggy Meyers, WTCS**
- At-Large Representative/Newsletter Editor - Jerry Bednarowski**

At the May CEA-W Board Meeting, the new Board members assumed their offices.

The Minimum Security Representative office on the board continues to be vacant. Anyone interested in serving as Minimum Security Representative on the CEA-Wisconsin Board may contact Mary Stierna at mary.stierna@wisconsin.gov

Save this Date

2010 GED/HSED & Adult Literacy Conferences
October 12-14, 2010
Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton, WI

Executive Officers		<p>The CEA-W News Review is published by the members of the Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin Chapter. The opinions herein are entirely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the executive officers, the Department of Corrections, or the body as a whole.</p> <p>It is our hope that this newsletter will be used to communicate information concerning activities, special events, new directions and policies of CEA-W and DOC.</p> <p>Articles for publication may be submitted to the CEA-W News Review Editor Jerry Bednarowski at:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">W6443 Old Highway Road Menasha, WI 54952 920-734-5902 jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com</p>
President	Margaret Done, REECC	
President-Elect	Mary Stierna, WRC	
Secretary	Sharon Neemann, WRC	
Treasurer	Ray Schlesinger, OCI	
Executive Board		
Maximum Security	Mike Breszee, WCI	
Medium Security	Peter Garetson, OSCI	
Minimum Security	Vacant	
Juvenile	Holly Audley, SOGS	
State Agency	Peggy Meyers, WTCS	
Local Educational Agency	Chuck Brendel, MPTC	
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Member at Large	Jerry Bednarowski	
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Black River Corr. Center Hosts Job Fair

On Monday, May 10, Black River Correctional Center hosted their first ever Job Fair. Fahrner Asphalt Sealer, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Interstate Roofing, Mathy Construction Company, Wisconsin Job Services, Office of Veteran Services were just a few that participated.



Mathy Construction Company with inmates



Inmates meeting with Wisconsin Job Services

They met with 100 inmates anxious for the time when they will be released. Anxious to know, can a felon get a job? Anxious to know, can I get a job? Questions were answered with a few moments of conversation, some literature, and job applications. Inmate after inmate reported they really appreciated the opportunity to talk with the guests. So many fears were put to rest at the Job Fair. "It really felt good to know there are employers willing to hire felons."

Staff worked hard to contact employers and assist with the event. Twelve businesses and services participated in the Job Fair. A lunch was served and a tour of the facility was offered.

Black River Correctional Center is a boot camp style minimum security facility that houses 100 inmates. It is a positive program in which all the men undergo intensive drug and alcohol treatment, criminal and rational thinking treatment, education, physical training, work experience, and military bearing in a 6-month earned release program. Preparing inmates for re-entry back into the community is incorporated in all phases of the program. All inmates complete an employment workshop in which they learn to prepare a resume, job application, interviews, and appropriate job seeking strategies.

by: Linda Heller, BRCC Teacher

Committee Begins Exploration of Male Juvenile Correctional Programs

On April 8, Governor Doyle appointed a citizen committee to review the status of the boy's Juvenile Correctional Institutions: Ethan Allen School (EAS) and Lincoln Hills School (LHS). Over the past years the population at the boy's institutions has continued to decline. Since 2001, the average daily population for boys has declined more than 35% and arrests for boys have decreased by 22%.

The Juvenile Correctional Institutions are funded largely through daily rates charged to counties for placements. The Division of Juvenile Corrections is projecting a deficit of nearly \$25 million over the next two years. The committee is charged by the Governor with exploring how best to serve juvenile offenders in the future while reducing costs -- which could include consolidating the populations of EAS and LHS or other options. The committee, co-chaired by Greg Lewis, St. Gabriel's Church (Milwaukee), and Jim Moeser, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families toured both facilities, gathered input from key stakeholders, and analyzed data to come up with recommendations for the Governor.

RECAP Links Education and Treatment

The Rock County Education and Criminal Addictions Program (RECAP) began in 1993 with a goal to provide education and rehabilitative services to Rock County Jail inmates. RECAP is a cooperative program among Blackhawk Technical College, Rock County Sheriff's Office and CESA #2.

Clients are sentenced to the program by the Court or referred to the program by the Department of Corrections. Inmates may also be accepted into the program on a voluntary basis as space permits. To date, over 2140 inmates have participated.

RECAP is a 5-month treatment program focusing on chemical abuse, cognitive skills programming, restorative justice, academic and vocational education, in addition to preparation for release into the community. Each individual receives extensive hours of group programming along with individual counseling. Inmates graduate from the program after satisfactorily completing all program requirements. Completion times vary based on individual ability, effort and behavioral issues.

In a 2001 study completed by the University of Wisconsin, the recidivism rate for RECAP completers was 17.2% lower than the normal jail population.

Staffing

- Program Administrator (Rock County)
- Treatment Counselor (CESA)
- Site Supervisor (CESA)
- Education Staff – 1 full-time, 3 part-time (BTC)
- Probation Liaison (DOC)

Program Components

AODA

All RECAP inmates with suspected or known alcohol or drug related issues attend a minimum of 22 AODA classes designed to enable the offender to achieve lasting abstinence from substance abuse. Offenders learn the necessary skills to function independently in their community while managing their recovery from addiction.

Cognitive Interventions

This 15-lesson program is designed to restructure offenders thinking patterns. Offenders discuss the "vicious cycle" of behavior that resulted in their incarceration. They acquire knowledge about the beliefs/thoughts -> feelings-> behaviors -> consequences cycle. The goal is to discover the pattern of thinking that leads to inappropriate behavior, and develop alternative reactions that will bring desirable results.

Anger Management

Anger Management is a 12-lesson course with the goals of prevention, containment, and problem-solving. The course is designed to help clients understand and gain control of their anger by understanding the connection between feelings and ultimately their actions.

Education

All RECAP participants, regardless of diploma status, enter Adult Basic Education to strengthen skills. All students participate in 8 hours of ABE classes per week including math, reading, writing, parenting, employability skills, computer basics, and financial literacy. Achieving a diploma equivalent is a program requirement, if the student is academically capable. GED testing is done by BTC. Over the past five years, an average of 50 students per year completed their GED/HSED.

Financial Literacy

Financial Literacy is a 13-week course designed to provide students with the knowledge to make informed decisions in financial matters. Topics include budgeting, goal setting, banking basics, and understanding credit. Financial Literacy is taught by a credit counselor certified through the National Foundation for Credit Counseling. In 2007, the instructor received the Governor's Financial Literacy Award.

Employability Skills

This is a 13-week course focusing on skills needed to procure employment. Offenders learn how to search for employment, complete job applications, write a resume, successfully interview, and retain a job. The course includes a field trip to the Rock County Job Center

Parenting

The parenting curriculum encompasses ten units of instruction focusing on parenting from a distance and other family issues. RealityWorks Baby Simulators are used to give the students hands-on experience caring for an infant.

Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice is a rehabilitation program that encourages offenders to take action to repair the damage done by their crimes. This is done through community services projects, volunteerism, and course work. Offenders spend time reflecting on their crimes and how their actions affected their victims and society. Through this program offenders spend time in the community "giving back" and they also learn numerous trades to enhance their employability. Each RECAP participant is required to complete a minimum 85 hours community service, but inmates often achieve 200-400 hours during the busy summer season. In 2009, 62 non-profit organizations throughout Rock County were served and 13,821 hours of community service were completed.

Education Staff Contact Information

- Carol Seichter, Lead Instructor – csiechter@blackhawk.edu
- D.W. Hahn, Parenting/Reading Instructor – djailtchr@yahoo.com
- Erica Svejda, Employability Instructor – esvejda@blackhawk.edu

Resource Materials from 2010 Juvenile Justice Conference Now Available

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families 2010 Juvenile Justice Conference, *Fulfilling the Promise of Juvenile Justice: Shaping the Future Begins Now!* was held in Madison on March 30-31 and attended by 150 professionals from across the state. Registrants received a flash drive with conference materials as well as a host of other materials related to the issues covered in the conference. For those of you unable to attend, you can check out/access conference materials on the www.wccf.org web-site.

The conference was supported by the Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission and the Public Welfare Foundation.

Available resources related to reentry include:

- Desktop Guide to Reentry For Juvenile Confinement Facilities
- The Dimensions, Pathways, and Consequences of Youth Reentry
- The Three "R's" of Reentry

If you have any questions, contact Jim Moeser by at jmoeser@wccf.org or phone 608-284-0580, ext.316.

To join CEA go to: www.ceanational.org

Wisconsin 2010 LSTA Grant Projects

Among the LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) projects approved for funding in Wisconsin in 2010 is a Dane County Library Service grant for Outreach to the Dane County Jail System. The \$7,622 grant will address the diverse literacy needs of those incarcerated in the Dane County Jail.

The objectives of the grant are:

1. To encourage literacy among the inmates in the Dane County Jail System by purchasing a collection of high interest/low level reading books and magazines in English and Spanish for a targeted population of 805.
2. To provide a monthly book discussion group for a targeted population of 100 inmates.
3. To increase the awareness of public library resources for reading and independent learning by providing a targeted population of 150 Dane County Jail residents with LINKcat online catalog training sessions and access to library information and card applications.
4. To increase staff understanding and sensitivity to inmates by attending the Returning Prisoner Simulation Workshop sponsored by the Madison-Area Urban Ministry.

The grant will provide the Dane County Library Service with a framework of training and materials that will support the literacy needs of inmates incarcerated in the Dane County Jail System.

Because many of those incarcerated at the Dane County Jail struggle with learning disabilities, it's important to provide access to literacy material tailored to a variety of abilities. The current jail library holdings consist entirely of random donated materials which fail to meet the needs of the diverse jail population. The LSTA grant will increase the number of high interest/low level reading materials available to inmates. The grant will also address the lack of Spanish language materials available for inmates. By providing materials that are tailored specifically to meet the diverse needs of inmates, the grant will make literacy accessible for a larger population of those incarcerated in the Dane County Jail.

Dane County Library Service will collaborate with the Jail Library Group and the Madison Metropolitan School District to provide a monthly book discussion group at the Dane County Jail. Book Discussion groups will provide motivation to read and allow inmates a chance to sharpen their literacy skills. Book Discussion Groups provide a sense of community as they allow inmates a chance to relate with others through the exchange of opinions and ideas.

LINKcat online library catalog training will be offered to inmates who are currently working on receiving their high school diploma from the Madison Metropolitan School District. These students will be offered an opportunity to apply for a library card and a library information packet.

The grant will provide inmates at the Dane County Jail a wide array of literacy materials and educational support. Literacy skills are a key component in determining inmate recidivism. Studies have consistently shown that the risk of recidivism diminishes incrementally with the amount of education that inmates receive while incarcerated. The LSTA grant will support educational achievement through collaboration with Madison Metropolitan School District. The grant will also provide an overview of free public library resources that are available to inmates to take advantage of upon their release back into the community.

Conference Handouts Available on Website

2010 CEA Region III & IV Conference Co-Chairs AnDee Flohr and Ruth Stadheim have announced that a list of conference attendees and presenter handouts and other session materials from the April 8-9 conference held in Bloomington, Minnesota are available on the Minnesota CEA website. The Minnesota CEA website may be found at <https://forums.doc.state.mn.us/site/mcea/default.aspx>. Once at the site, you will find "2010 Regional Conference Handouts" listed under Documents.

Workshop Seeks to Help Offenders Become Better Parents

The Parenting Special Interest Group of the Correctional Education Association is pleased to announce that we have contracted with Deborah McNelis to present a one-day training workshop entitled **“It Takes Attention to Change the Brain: Helping Offenders Become Better Parents.”**

Deborah has a BS Degree in Early Childhood Education and a Masters degree in Adult Education. She is an award winning author, professional speaker, educator, and founder of braininsights®. Deborah’s company is dedicated to increasing the awareness of the importance of the early years. Her goal through braininsights® is for *everyone* to gain an understanding of brain development, its impact, and the ways we can all make a difference

“It Takes Attention to Change the Brain: Helping Offenders Become Better Parents” will be held on Monday, September 27, 2010 at Moraine Park Technical College in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Early registration before September 1, 2010 is \$25 for CEA members and \$50 for non-CEA members. After September 1, 2010, late registration is \$50 for CEA members and \$75 for non-CEA members.

For more information on this Parenting Workshop or to register, go the www.ceawisconsin.org website and click on the July/August issue of the Parenting Connection newsletter or contact jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com

Careers Conference Call for Proposals

The leading national conference dedicated to lifelong career development and career education is seeking quality proposals for concurrent, roundtable, and showcase sessions. Share your experience ... honor the past ... and advance the future of career development and career education at the exciting 25th Annual Careers Conference, *The Future is Here*. The deadline for proposals is September 10, 2010.

Highlighting lifelong career development and preparation, the Careers Conference 2011 connects practitioners from across the country and beyond with information about practices, strategies, and programs that address important issues in a changing global economy. The conference is hosted by the Center on Education and Work of the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Proposals are encouraged in these areas:

- Advising and Counseling
- Career Assessments
- Career and Labor Market Information
- Career and Tech Education
- Career Clusters and Pathways
- Diverse Populations
- Reform Issues and 21st Century Skills
- Employability and Job Seeking
- Evaluation and Accountability
- Professional Development
- Resources and Tools
- School-to-Work

Benefits of Presenting:

- Share your expertise with others
- Receive recognition for your work or program
- Make a positive contribution to the field of career development
- Make contacts with leaders in your field
- Get feedback on your program or topic
- Interact with colleagues and peers
- Play a key role in a leading national conference
- Receive 20% off conference registration fees
- Build your professional portfolio!

For more information or to submit a workshop proposal, go to: www.cew.wisc.edu/careersconf/call-for-proposals.aspx.

President's Message

"The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual."
- Vince Lombardi

Thank you, thank you, thank you to every one of you who attended May's CEA-Wisconsin State Conference. It was a day filled with learning new things, meeting and visiting friends, old and new and celebrating correctional education. I left the day revitalized and ready to face my daily challenges with a fresh, new perspective.

Thank you to the planning committee as well. Without your hard work and dedication, we would have never been able to have such a wonderful day.

With Summer (sadly) winding down, please take some time to have some fun and revitalize yourself before the (dare I say it) snow starts to fall again.

Margaret

Learn All About CEA-Wisconsin at:
www.ceawisconsin.org

CEA-Wisconsin News Review
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