



.....*Working to Build a Safer Community.*

## **the Informant**

### **East Central Regional Juvenile Center**

**15-Year Joint Powers Agreement Set to Expire in 2012**

*By Todd Benjamin, Juvenile Center Superintendent*

On September 8, 1997, the East Central Regional Juvenile Center (RJC) opened in Lino Lakes. Anoka County entered into a fifteen-year Joint Powers Agreement with ten surrounding counties to operate the 36-bed maximum security juvenile detention center. The facility is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Corrections as a short-term detention and residential treatment facility. Although the majority of youth admitted to RJC are on detention status, this licensure allows post-adjudicated youth to be court ordered to the facility for up to 90 days. Due to the volume of detention admissions, the average length of stay for residents at RJC is generally about seven days.

- Member county reserved beds have been reduced from 33 to 24.
- Facility will remain licensed for 36 short-term beds.
- Anoka County now has full membership rights of withdrawal and termination.

This partnership with the member counties has infiltrated the entire Juvenile Center campus in Lino Lakes. RJC member counties have first rights to open beds in both the Anoka County Non-Secure and Secure programs. As Anoka County continues to manage this facility for the membership, challenges include:

- Reduced rates of juvenile crime impacting lowered detention rates.
- Limited or tightened resources for out-of-home placement funding.
- Expanding “least restrictive” or community-based alternatives.

**Original Member Counties**

- ❖ Anoka
- ❖ Benton
- ❖ Chisago
- ❖ Isanti
- ❖ Kanabec
- ❖ MilleLacs
- ❖ Pine
- ❖ Sherburne
- ❖ Stearns
- ❖ Washington
- ❖ Wright

This facility is unique because it is budget neutral for Anoka County. All expenses are covered by child care day per diems from member or non-member counties. If there is a budget shortfall, the members are obligated to reconcile the difference at year-end. However, since opening in 1997, the budget has reconciled each year without a shortfall. Most years result in revenue reconciliation, meaning member counties receive a rebate or additional funds are dedicated to our insurance, operation, or capital reserve accounts.

With the 15-year Joint Powers Agreement set to expire next September, the Advisory Committee asked Anoka County to draft a replacement Joint Powers Agreement reflective of the current circumstances of membership counties to begin January 1, 2012. After a year and a half of negotiations, rough drafts, and research, on June 20, 2011, the membership agreed on a new Joint Powers Agreement with the following changes:

- Five-year term + automatic five-year renewal (10 years).
- Membership includes the original counties sans Benton and Stearns.

#### **Inmates boarded in Sherburne return to Anoka** **By Mike Roff**

In a display of collaboration, the Anoka County Community Corrections Department and the Sheriff’s Office are working on a cost-savings measure by returning Anoka County inmates from Sherburne County back to the Anoka County jail.

Female inmates are scheduled to return on August 2nd, with male inmates moving back in early fall.

With the loss of the U.S. Marshals’ contract, moving our inmates back to the Anoka County Jail will eliminate the cost of boarding and will utilize the jail space vacated by federal inmates. Added savings will be realized by eliminating daily transportation costs to and from the Sherburne County Jail.



## *The Silver Tsunami of 2011*

*By Carole Javner, July 1*

As I sit at my desk, the quiet is somewhat deafening, as I am sure it is in many other Anoka County departments. No, it is not due to the state shutdown, but rather to the absence of a number of long-standing, experienced, hard-working, and competent employees who took advantage of the voluntary separation program. They are already missed!! Little wonder, as they carried 240 years of experience among them!

We celebrate the work, the experience, and the day-to-day relationships that the nine Corrections employees ending their careers gave us every day of their many years:

### **Dan Ceynowa, Director of Institutions, 38 years**

Dan started as a probation officer and went up from there! When he decided to retire, he had the opportunity to be the sole Corrections director. Dan chose the better option of spending time with family and living the retired life – but he leaves an awesome and unbeatable legacy that will never be forgotten!



### **Fred Zmuda, Juvenile Field Services Supervisor, 34 years**

Fred was the original supervisor of the Juvenile Center, and has supervised the Juvenile Field unit for the last 23 years. His ability to integrate the details into the bigger picture will be missed. His familiar corner office (and his shoes) will be hard to fill!

### **Linda Furan, Financial Supervisor, 34 years**

Linda was the behind-the-scenes guru of all things financial in Corrections. She successfully led the dual directors thru the budgeting process each year in addition to managing the many other duties of her position and making sure that the rest of us got paid bi-weekly!



### **Bruce Anderson, Workhouse Coordinator, 30 years**

Bruce was the first to exercise a voluntary separation agreement, and most likely has been out on the lake fishing since his last day on April 29! He juggled a variety of duties at the Workhouse, and was the “right-hand man” of Gary White, facility administrator. Bruce’s expertise will be sorely missed!



### **Debbie Christenson, Office Support Assistant, 27 years**

Visitors and staff alike were always greeted with a smile and a helpful attitude by Debbie at the front desk of the Juvenile Office in Anoka — and often with a candy sucker as well! Debbie had an innate ability to meet the needs of everyone she came in contact with. She provided service with a smile in every interaction. What we all will do without Debbie remains to be seen.

### **Joni Mulhern, Correctional Officer, 20 years**

Joni enjoyed working with the adult offenders throughout her Workhouse career.

### **Tom Schai, Probation Officer/Counselor, 20 years**

Tom worked his entire Corrections career at the Juvenile Center as a probation officer/counselor. He worked in the non-secure and Walker Cottage, but spent the majority of his years working with the sex specific youth program in the secure building. Tom was an expert in the use of cognitive behavioral therapy with the youth, and was an example to staff with his knowledge of treatment modalities.

### **Ken McDermott, Correctional Officer, 19 years**

Ken was also a long-time correctional officer at the Workhouse who enjoyed his work, but is now enjoying fishing!

### **Marie Gerads, Principal Administrative Secretary, 18 years**

Marie was crowned *PowerPoint Queen* at her June 30 reception, and deservedly so! Even though Marie was not technically a Corrections employee, she was the glue that effectively held meetings, advisory boards, reports, and comprehensive plans together. Marie’s abilities, and the ease with which she implemented them, seem irreplaceable!



**We wish them all the very best !!!**