



ASSOCIATION OF PAROLING AUTHORITIES INTERNATIONAL

OCTOBER 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

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THINGS TO DO IN 2011

- **Renew APAI Membership**
- **Attend the Annual Training Conference, May 15-18, 2011, San Antonio, Texas**
- **Run for APAI Office**
- **Serve on an APAI Committee**
- **Contribute to the APAI Blog**

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I would like to start by thanking all of you who took time from your busy schedules to travel to beautiful Louisville, Kentucky for our annual Chairs Meeting/Training. I know how difficult travel permission is to come by with current budget constraints in most states. I often hear about the level of bureaucracy that parole personnel must go through to get permission to attend events such as this. We are honored that you chose to make the extra effort to attend an APAI event.

I must thank all those who made this event possible. Our friends and colleagues at NIC provided generous support of our speakers, presenters and a facilitator. The National Parole Resource Center sent Peggy Burke to update us on the working of that organization.

I must give special thanks to Chairman Verman Winburn of the Kentucky Parole Board and Southern Regional Vice President Caroline Mudd, also of the Kentucky Board, for agreeing to host the event at the elegant Marriott Louisville Downtown. Kentucky Parole Board staff members Melissa Chandler Clark and Ambie

Ingram worked diligently to see to it that the event went off flawlessly.

You can read more about this event later in this newsletter. We will continue to strive to make next year's meeting an equally valuable and informative mix of education, discussion and information exchange.

Parole Board Chairs and Releasing Authority Directors serve an invaluable role at APAI. The Council of Paroling Releasing Authorities (COPRA), under the guidance of Chair Rissie Owens of Texas, is tasked, pursuant to our constitution, with providing advice and counsel to the Executive Committee as it sets the course for the association. Participation from our chairs is critical to a successful and responsive association.

This is an exciting time at APAI. Many of you have agreed to serve on our various committees, including the Professional Development Committee and Standards Committee, which will begin work soon. We thank you and appreciate your commitment to professionalism. Stay tuned for the announcement

of other important committees at APAI.

As you will read later in this newsletter, we, along with our partners at the National Parole Resource Center, are beginning exciting work with four learning sites. Friend and colleague Dr. Ralph Serin is beginning work at two APAI member sites on research designed to teach us how to improve our decision making process. NIC is adding additional trainings for new board members and is ready to pilot the training for new parole chairs. This is certainly an exciting time at APAI.

Last, but certainly not least, we look forward to seeing all of you on the Riverwalk in beautiful San Antonio Texas, May 15 - 18, 2011, at our 27th Annual Training Conference.

With sincere appreciation for all you do,

Charles Traughber
President, Association of
Paroling Authorities
International

2010 APAI CHAIRS MEETING

On September 22nd and 23rd Parole Board Chairs and Releasing Authority Directors from around the United States and Canada gathered in Louisville, Kentucky for the Association of Paroling Authority's Annual Chairs Meeting/Training. The participants were treated to a combination of facilitated discussion and educational sessions made possible by the generous support of our colleagues and partners at the National Institute of Corrections and the National Parole Resource Center.

The sessions were facilitated by Tom von Hemert, a criminal justice planner from

Charlottesville, Virginia. The meeting began with a rousing keynote address from APAI President Charles Traughber who used his 40 plus years of correctional experience to put today's budget crisis in context. He reminded the participants of the need to be constantly striving to tailor our practices to those that have been found to work by the evidence and research that currently exists.

The participants then spent some time in small groups discussing the specific issues that they are facing in their agencies. This discussion was meant to create an environment throughout the rest of the meeting,

both in session and out, in which the participants could make use of the over 500 years of criminal justice experience that was present amongst the 22 participants.

Cathy Banks, Correctional Program Specialist, from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), discussed the current state of affairs at NIC concerning parole, including the current development and pilot testing of a curriculum for training new board chairs. The participants were treated to examples of some of the innovative and thought provoking segments NIC now uses to train new board members.

The participants then heard about a joint initiative of APAI and the Association of State Corrections Administrators (ASCA) to develop a set of principles to guide productive collaboration between state correctional agencies and paroling/releasing authorities. ASCA executive committee members AT Wall, Director of Corrections in Rhode Island and Brian Fischer, Commissioner of Corrections in New York State, discussed ASCA's interest in developing these principles. APAI Executive Committee members described the history and process of this initiative. There was a period of open discussion for the participants to air

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NEWS OF INTEREST

The National Institute of Corrections is offering training for new parole board members in 2011. The session originally scheduled for August of 2011 has been cancelled. However the session scheduled for June 7 - 10, 2011 is still on. The face to face portion of the training will be in Aurora, CO and NIC will pay all expenses for participants. There will be pre and post training assignments and on-line sessions. The deadline for application is March 8, 2011. For eligibility requirements and application

instructions visit www.nicic.org or contact Cathy Banks at cnbanks@bop.gov or 202 -514-0058

..... Four sites have been chosen by the National Parole Resource Center to serve as "Learning Sites." Seventeen states applied to participate in this project. After a rigorous review process, Georgia and Connecticut were chosen to receive assessments and technical assistance focused on the policies and practices of their paroling authorities

relative to release, condition setting and revocation decision making. Two other sites, Pennsylvania and South Dakota, will receive assessments and technical assistance in the same areas, but will receive additional technical assistance, in collaboration with the Urban Institute, focusing on their supervision practices and policies. The work will focus on "Ten Practice Targets for Effective Parole Decision Making" and in Pennsylvania and South Dakota will also focus on

"13 Strategies for Successful Supervision." For more information about this project visit www.nationalparoleresourcecenter.org or www.apaintl.org and review the presentation materials from the 2010 Parole Chairs Meeting/Training. The National Parole Resource Center is a partnership between the Center for Effective Public Policy and APAI and is funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

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NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SECTION, BY RENEE COLLETTE

The International Section was well represented at the Chair's Training/Meeting held in Louisville, Kentucky September 22-23, 2010. Those in attendance were Denis Couillard, Regional Vice-Chairperson of the Québec Region of the Parole Board of Canada (formerly called the National Parole Board) on behalf of Harvey Cenaiko, Chairperson, who could not attend, Arnold Galet, Chairperson of the Ontario Parole and Earned Release Board and myself. The meeting was very interesting and the discussions will certainly support APAI as it continues to grow and embrace the international community. I also attended the Executive

Committee meeting which was held the day before and continue to make sure that the interests of our Section is represented.

The international academic community was also well represented during the training portion of the meeting. Dr. Ralph Serin of Carleton University in Ottawa Canada made a four hour presentation to the group. Dr. Serin, who formerly served with the Correctional Services Canada, and currently does parole decision making training in Canada and around the world, talked about his one of a kind decision making laboratory and the state of

the current research about parole. He also discussed her current initiative to spread the structured decision making work he has done with Parole Board of Canada to the US states.

Finally, I would like to say "Kia Ora" to our colleagues of the New Zealand Parole Board and we at APAI hope the **Annual Conference of South Pacific Paroling Authorities** which was held in Roturua, New Zealand October 26 - 29, was a huge success. The conference theme was "**Dealing with Diversity**" and looked at the challenges that face Boards in the South Pacific which consider

parole in the context of divergent culture, religious and gender related issues. This is certainly an important theme and one that challenges every Parole/Releasing Authority.

2010 APAI CHAIRS MEETING, CONT.

their views on the draft set of principles. The group was then guided through a series of exercises designed to "test drive" the principles, to see if they could be translated into achievable and measurable action steps.

The next morning the participants heard from noted Canadian researcher Dr. Ralph Serin of Carleton University. He shared the latest news about his criminal justice decision making lab and the promise that holds for parole practitioners. He discussed the latest research relevant to

parole decision making and unveiled the research he is going to conduct in two US sites, Ohio and Connecticut.

In the afternoon Peggy Burke updated everyone on the latest activities of the National Parole Resource Center, including the selection of four learning sites. She shared with us the 10 practice targets that these sites will be focusing on and which the Center will promote and encourage. Finally the participants received an inside view of the operations of APAI and all that we have to offer

member agencies and practitioners. The chairs were challenged to support APAI and assist us in ensuring the sustainability of this organization.

In addition to the wealth of knowledge that was shared, the participants experienced the warm southern hospitality of the Kentucky Parole Board made possible by Chairman Verman Winburn, Southern Regional Vice President Caroline Mudd and the staff of their Board. APAI would like to thank all who made this event possible.

[APAI has a BLOG!!!](#)

[Make sure and check out the APAI Blog with up-to-date articles and news from around the world!](#)

www.apaintl.blogspot.com

conducted by Canadian researcher Dr. Ralph Serin. As previously reported, The National Institute of Corrections (NIC) and APAI teamed up to locate two sites in the US to participate in research conducted by Dr. Serin into the validity of the Canadian Structured Decision Framework as applied to parole decision making in US jurisdictions. Ohio and Connecticut applied and have been chosen to participate. Two investigators from Carleton University will travel to the sites and provide a workshop and training regarding the application of the Structured Decision Framework. The research will review parole

decisions against a model reflecting evidence-based practice; hence, the parole agency will be in a position to evaluate the extent to which current decision procedures reflect contemporary practice. The practice guidelines that will be the focus of this research could potentially, if adopted, insulate an agency from criticism in the event of parole failures. For more information about this project visit www.apaintl.org and review Dr. Serin's presentation material from the 2010 APAI Chairs Meeting/Training. All of us at APAI eagerly await the results of this research.

Last, but certainly not least, APAI and the Texas Board of Pardons and Parole, lead by Chair Rissie Owens will host the 27th APAI Annual Training Conference at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio located on the Riverwalk in beautiful and historic San Antonio, Texas, May 15 – 18, 2011. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. The theme for his year's conference is **Collaborations & Partnerships: the Keys to Success**. A call for presenters will go out soon. Back by popular demand is a session on Sunday afternoon geared toward Parole Board Directors and Administrators. Hope to see you there.



**ASSOCIATION OF PAROLING
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