



Association of Paroling Authorities International

www.apaintl.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings APAI Members:

Happy New Year!! I hope that you all had a healthy and joyous holiday season. This past year proved once again to be a year of change and great accomplishment for APAI. We should all be proud of what APAI has achieved through the collaborative efforts of our membership.

Before I highlight a few of those accomplishments, I want to say goodbye and thank you to three of APAI's most cherished friends and colleagues. First, as was announced last month, Keith Hardison stepped down as our CAO to pursue other endeavors. Keith came to APAI at a time when strong leadership was needed and worked tirelessly over the past 6 years to advance APAI to the vital and relevant professional criminal justice organization that it is today. Keith created a foundation that has not only improved our day to day operations, but has increased our national and international recognition and involvement in important issues that affect our daily work. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I want to personally thank Keith for all of his support and dedication and wish him nothing but great success in the future. To say we will miss Keith is a true understatement.

Our new CAO is Ms. Monica Morris, probably known to many of you as Monica David. Monica served as a Florida Parole Commissioner from October 2000 through June 2012. During this time she served as Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary of the Commission, now known as the Florida Commission on Offender Review. She is a long time, active, member of APAI and served the Association as its representative to the American Correctional Association Commission on Accreditation for Corrections. Monica has been serving as our CAO since December 7th and is transitioning smoothly into the position. The Executive Committee has no doubt that Monica will maintain the excellent service established by Keith, and we look forward to a strong relationship with Monica moving forward.

I would also like to thank Shannon Jones, the former Chair of the Kentucky Parole Board for serving as the most recent Southern Region Vice President. Shannon has also stepped down and relocated to the state of Colorado. Shannon had been serving as the APAI representative on the Community Corrections Collaborative Network (CCCN) as well. Shannon's energy and spirit will be missed by the Executive Committee and again, we wish her all the best for her future in Colorado. I am pleased to announce that John Felts, Chair of the Arkansas Parole Board has agreed to assume the position of Southern Region Vice President. John has been a long standing member of APAI and is an excellent representative for the Southern Region.

Beyond APAI staff and the Executive Committee, the field of parole saw one of its long standing professionals and advocates retire at the end of 2015. Peggy Burke, Principal with the Center for Effective Public Policy, has been a leader in the field of criminal justice and has provided countless assistance over her lengthy career to practitioners as they implement change to strengthen their organizations and improve performance. Peggy served as Director of the National Parole Resource Center (NPRC) which has been a key partner with APAI in maintaining our foundation and providing important training and technical assistance to our membership. Peggy was a key member of the Center's extensive work on developing policy driven and evidence based responses to parole and probation violations, and has been widely published on these topics. I know that

many of us have benefitted greatly from the support and assistance Peggy and her team at NPRC have provided to us. Her leadership, counsel and support have been invaluable to those of us who have become leaders in the field of parole and releasing authorities, and who have tried to improve our practices. Our gratitude to Peggy is evidenced by the fact that APAI has twice honored her—in 2014, with the President's Award, and in 1997 with the Vincent O'Leary Award for her service to our organization. We should all strive to advance our field as Peggy has done. I would like to take this opportunity not only on behalf of APAI, but personally as well to express our gratitude for her service and wish her all the best in her retirement. It is certainly well deserved.

Regarding our accomplishments in 2015, there are a few I would like to highlight. Our Professional Development Committee, chaired by Central Region Vice President Danielle LaCost worked in collaboration with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) to incorporate mentoring into the Chairs' Training Curriculum. The training was held at NIC's training academy in Aurora, Colorado from September 23-25th. Participants indicated that the mentoring component was well received and appreciated the opportunity to develop a relationship with a seasoned Chair. We are grateful to those who volunteered as mentors and look forward to maintaining this component in the training. The Professional Development Committee has long sought to incorporate mentoring into the Chairs' training, and to see the program implemented was an awesome accomplishment. Thank you to all the members for your hard work in seeing this goal become a reality.

APAI members also participated in a summit in Washington D.C. that was a collaborative effort of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), National Governor's Association (NGA) and NPRC. The Summit was developed to bring together the leaders of states' corrections departments, paroling authorities and governors' criminal justice policy advisors to discuss the importance of parole in the criminal justice system and to public safety. The four states participating were Rhode Island, Utah, Iowa and Wyoming. Our four member organizations represented themselves very well and were very impressive in their knowledge of good parole practices. I would like to thank Matt Degan and Laura Pisaturo from Rhode Island, John Hodges from Iowa, Angela Micklos and Cheylen Arbon from Utah, and Dan Fetsco and Gary Mitchell from Wyoming for their participation and excellent representation of APAI.

Finally, we are very excited about the 2016 Annual Training Conference program. This year's location is sunny Daytona Beach, Florida which in and of itself will be a welcome change for those members who have to endure long, hard winters. We have once again secured speakers and workshop presenters on a wide variety of current and relevant parole and release topics. The host committee, like those in years past, continues to work hard on planning a fulfilling program agenda, and providing a conference experience that will be both educational and entertaining. We look forward to seeing you all in May!!

Warmest regards,

Cynthia Mausser
APAI President

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Things to Do in 2016

- Renew APAI Membership
- Serve on an APAI Committee
- Urge a fellow organization to join APAI
- Make plans to attend the 2016 Chairs Meeting and Annual Training Conference in Daytona Beach, FL May 15-18, 2016

APAI's Membership Fees

- Individual - \$65
- Organizational (up to 8 members) - \$375
- (9 to 13 members) - \$475
- (14 to 20 members) - \$575
- Associate - \$40
- Student - \$15



A PASSION FOR PREVENTION

BY: TENA M. PATE, FLORIDA COMMISSION ON OFFENDER REVIEW CHAIR

What are you passionate about? Is it your family, your faith, your career, a hobby, a charitable organization? Everyone is passionate about something and that something can inspire and motivate you to reach higher and farther than you ever intended or imagined.

Consider the passion it took Thomas Jefferson to write the Declaration of Independence so our country would live under its own laws and not those of another nation. Or the passion it took Martin Luther King, Jr. to stand up for civil rights in a time when African-Americans had to drink out of designated water fountains. Closer to home, victims advocate and friend of the Commission, Pat Tuthill, found her passion after losing her daughter to a brutal act of crime. Pat channeled her grief and loss into passion and formed the Peyton Tuthill Foundation to advocate for victims' rights issues in the hopes that other families don't become victims of crime.

Throughout my career, I have seen the damaging and lingering effects of crime on everyone it touches. The crimes that leave me the most unsettled are those committed by youth. These young offenders make life-altering choices that lead them down a path of crime and I always find myself asking, 'Why didn't anyone notice this child was struggling? Why didn't someone intervene or help? Why did this happen?'

A few years ago I stopped asking 'why' and starting asking 'what'. What are we missing? What can we do to help? What will it take to prevent these crimes all together? It was in one of these 'what' moments that I recognized the difference the Commission could make by using our weekly hearings to show youth the real consequences of crime before a crime was ever committed. This out-of-the box crime prevention initiative became my passion.

APAI MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MONICA MORRIS

BY: MONICA MORRIS, APAI CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



chosen field. Now I have been blessed to lead an organization of the world's greatest criminal justice professionals. What an honor to have been chosen to assist you with your chosen career paths.

We began with a letter to law enforcement and criminal justice professionals statewide suggesting that youth offenders come to a Commission parole hearing to witness first-hand what crime does to not only the offenders but their victims, families and the community as a whole. We advanced the initiative with a panel presentation at the Office of the Attorney General's Preventing Crime in the Black Community Conference and we also began inviting groups of youth to observe our hearings when we held them around the state.

Last month I was able to see what this passion for youth crime prevention had become when we welcomed at-risk youth from a DJJ program in Pinellas County to our hearings. The thoughts they shared with Commissioners Coonrod, Davison and I revealed that our efforts had made a difference and viewing the testimony of mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, children, grandchildren and so many others touched them in a way they had never considered before and they began to see crime in a new way.

Abolitionist Harriet Tubman said, 'Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.' Cultural Anthropologist Margaret Mead said, and this is one of my absolute favorites, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

My passion is all caught up in impacting and changing lives. What's yours?

I'm here for you; if I haven't already lived it, taught it or studied it I will be glad to learn something new for you. We are never too experienced to learn and that should be the driving force that keeps us all going. We all should strive to be the very best that we can be. On that note, that is why I have always been glad to be a part of APAI.

So who am I? A wife, mother, sister, daughter, etc. I have worn many hats in my lifetime. I am organized, helpful, fun loving, love the outdoors and traveling and most importantly to you, I believe in Parole. I truly know that people can change and a lot of the people we serve deserve a second chance in life. I have personally witnessed a good number of success stories over the years. I'm sure you have too and I would love to hear your stories.

As I bring this article to a close I'm remembering why I went into my chosen field. I knew there would always be crime and criminals and that I would never lack for work. I have not been disappointed. There is still much work to be done as we all attempt to make our society a better and safer place to live. I applaud you all for what you do.



APAI MEMBERS SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN PAROLE LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

BY: DAN FETSCO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, WYOMING BOARD OF PAROLE AND APAI TREASURER

In August of 2015, the National Governors Association (NGA) and the National Parole Resource Center (NPRC) announced a request for proposals from state paroling authorities to participate in a learning collaborative as key partners in achieving the criminal policy goals of their respective governors. Four states were to be competitively selected based upon a written proposal accompanied by a letter of support from the governor. The proposal was to address the state's leadership team, the authority and responsibilities of the paroling authority, objectives and challenges facing the paroling authority, and the respective state's readiness for reform and sustainment of future efforts.



In October of 2015, APAI members Iowa, Rhode Island, Utah and Wyoming were selected to participate in the learning collaborative. Once selected, the teams from each jurisdiction were invited to a two-day summit at the Bureau of Justice Assistance in Washington D.C., which was held November 19 - 20, 2015. At the summit, each team reviewed the latest research on best practices in parole, identified strategies for strengthening their respective parole systems, and explored opportunities for enhancing collaboration between the governor & parole boards.

Specifically, the states were asked to assess themselves in light of the NPRC's Self-Assessment Toolkit for Paroling Authorities. Each team evaluated their state with regard to 1) the use of good, empirically-based actuarial tools to assess risk and criminogenic needs of offenders; 2) the development of clear, evidence-based, policy-driven decision-making tools, policies, and guidelines that reflect the full range of the paroling authority's concerns; 3) use of influence and leverage to target institutional and community resources to mid and high-risk offenders to address their criminogenic needs, and 4) another practice target area self-selected by the respective paroling authority.

Each team then broke into separate groups with facilitators from NGA and NPRC leading the teams in action planning based upon each group's self-evaluation regarding each practice target. As an example, a common theme was a need for more training for board members in the use of actuarial tools, and the development of written policies to provide guidance for implementing, maintaining, and refining training on actuarial tools. With the different states operating under divergent laws, all possessing unique benefits and challenges, each team tailored an individual action plan to address weaknesses or areas for growth that were identified during the summit.

The next phase of the project entails members of the NGA and NPRC travelling to the participant states to provide technical assistance. The technical assistance will be delivered at a meeting of an expanded group of stakeholders and team members to explore and refine the recommendations that were developed during the summit. Ultimately, those recommendations will be submitted as a plan of action for the governors of the respective states. As this important parole collaborative continues to develop, APAI will keep its membership informed of the outcomes.

THE HISTORY OF NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

BY: TINA FOX, VICTIM SERVICES DIRECTOR, TENNESSEE BOARD OF PAROLE

In January 2004, the National Center for Victims of Crime launched National Stalking Awareness Month (NSAM) to increase the public's understanding of the crime of stalking. NSAM emerged from the work of the Stalking Resource Center, a National Center program funded by the Office on Violence against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, to raise awareness about stalking and help develop and implement multi-disciplinary responses to the crime. 2016 marks the 12th year of recognizing stalking awareness.

NSAM began in response to a 2003 call to the Stalking Resource Center from Debbie Riddle, the sister of murdered stalking victim Peggy Klinke. Riddle wanted to transform her family's painful tragedy into a force for good—and to help improve law enforcement's response to stalking and save lives. Riddle's call all led to a concurrent Congressional resolution on stalking; a national program on Lifetime Television, hosted by Erin Brockovich, featuring Peggy Klinke's story; and a Lifetime vid-

eo, "Stalking: Real Fear, Real Crime," to train law enforcement about the crime. In July 2003, the National Center for Victims of Crime, in partnership with Representative Heather Wilson (R-NM) and Lifetime Television, told Peggy's story at a Congressional briefing on Capitol Hill, which focused on strengthening law enforcement's response to the crime.

While legal definitions of stalking vary from one jurisdiction to another, a good working definition of stalking is a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. It is a pattern of behavior that makes you feel afraid, nervous, harassed, or in danger. It is when someone repeatedly contacts you, follows you, sends you things, talks to you when you don't want them to, or threatens you.

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2016 Annual Training Conference

**WAVES OF CHANGE,
*Oceans of Opportunity***

Association of Paroling Authorities International

May 15-18, 2016  Daytona Beach, Florida

VISIT WWW.APAINL.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER!



THE HISTORY OF NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

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6.6 million people are stalked in one year in the United States.

1 in 6 women and 1 in 19 men have experienced stalking victimization at some point during their lifetime in which they felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed. Using a less conservative definition of stalking, which considers any amount of fear (i.e., a little fearful, somewhat fearful, or very fearful), 1 in 4 women and 1 in 13 men reported being a victim of stalking in their lifetime.

The majority of stalking victims are stalked by someone they know. 66% of female victims and 41% of male victims of stalking are stalked by a current or former intimate partner. More than half of female victims and more than 1/3 of male victims of stalking indicated that they were stalked before the age of 25.

About 1 in 5 female victims and 1 in 14 male victims experienced stalking between the ages of 11 and 17. [Michele C. Black et al., "The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report," (Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011).] 46% of stalking victims experience at least one unwanted contact per week. 11% of stalking victims have been stalked for 5 years or more. [Katrina Baum et al., "Stalking Victimization in the United States," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2009).] Two thirds of stalkers pursue

their victims at least once per week, many daily, using more than one method. 78% of stalkers use more than one means of approach. Weapons are used to harm or threaten victims in 1 out of 5 cases. Almost a third of stalkers have stalked before.

Intimate partner stalkers frequently approach their targets, and their behaviors escalate quickly. [Kris Mohandie et al., "The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers," Journal of Forensic Sciences, 51, no. 1 (2006).]

Stalking can be done by someone you know casually, a stranger, or a past or current friend, boyfriend or girlfriend. Getting notes and gifts at your home, in your locker, or other places might seem sweet and harmless to other people, but if you don't want the gifts, phone calls, messages, letters, or e-mails, it doesn't feel sweet or harmless. It can be scary and frustrating.

Stalking is a crime and can be dangerous. The legal definition of stalking and possible punishment for it is different in every state. Contact a victim advocate or your local police to learn about stalking laws and your rights in your state or country.

The National Center for Victims of Crime
www.victimsofcrime.org

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