



From the President

Great to see everyone at this year's Annual Training Conference (ATC) in California. The location, venue, and weather were perfect. This was the first time for many of us to be in person with our peers. The host committee did an excellent job, and we cannot thank them enough for all the work that went into making the conference a success. We had a large turnout and with California allowing a good portion of their staff to participate, we had over 300 people in attendance. A special thank you also goes out to the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) for their support. Our relationship continues to excel, and they truly support the mission of this association. APAI is looking forward to the continued growth in conference attendance for 2023. Kansas is working on next year's conference in Kansas City and the group is making a lot of progress. The theme "Balancing Hope, Fairness, and Accountability for Stronger Communities" reflects the climate of our current time and is indicative of the interest shown from paroling authorities around the world. Please be sure to register for the conference and hotel as soon as possible, as we are anticipating a strong turnout for the upcoming 2023 session.

It is an honor to be serving as your new President. David Blumberg did an excellent job during his tenure, which laid an excellent foundation for our future. He will continue to serve our Executive Committee as Immediate Past President. Cyndi Mausser served her term as Immediate Past President with great knowledge and leadership. She has continued to help on several items, and we are fortunate to have her dedication to APAI. There have been several changes to our Executive Committee. As you

know, Ashley Koonce is now back with us as the Executive Director, and since the conference Kecia Rongen has been appointed Vice President and Laura Pisaturo as Treasurer. APAI has a commitment to continuing to have strong, reliable leadership in these positions. I am confident that all of these individuals, along with the rest of our Executive Committee and Committee Chairs will assist the organization in working through any challenges we face by bringing their individual talents and experience to the forefront.

The transition to this new year which started in July has been a busy one. The first order of business was the separation from Correctional Management Institute of Texas at Sam Houston State University. With the help of many on the Executive Committee, the transition was without any major setbacks for the Association. We hope to partner with another entity in the future, but for now association business is running smoothly and being operated internally.

APPA held their conference and APAI was well represented in Chicago, Illinois. The session was informative and there were several takeaways. The 5th World Congress of Probation and Parole was held in Ottawa, Canada, which came with an opportunity for APAI to deliver a presentation on quality collaborations resulting from APAI. Included in the presentation team were myself, Ashley Koonce, Jennifer Shaffer, and Sylvie Blanchet. APAI highlighted specific experiences from California and Canada. We also made several connections and sparked interest from the 35 countries in

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TO-DO IN 2022

- RENEW APAI MEMBERSHIP
- SERVE ON APAI COMMITTEE
- URGE FELLOWS TO JOIN APAI
- MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE 2023 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE IN KANSAS CITY
APRIL 16 – APRIL 19, 2023

MEMBERSHIP FEES*

INDIVIDUAL	\$65
ORGANIZATIONAL	
(UP TO 8 MEMBERS)	\$375
(9 TO 13 MEMBERS)	\$475
(14 TO 20 MEMBERS)	\$575
ALUMNI	\$40
ASSOCIATE	\$40
STUDENT	\$15

*Fees are on a per year basis.

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attendance. The Parole Board of Canada was the host for this conference, and they made good on their theme of "No One Left Behind: Building Community Capacity."

If that all was not enough, APAI was awarded a Cooperative Agreement from NIC to host the Community of Practice (CoP) for the Structured Decision-Making Framework (SDMF). The SDMF tool was created by Dr. Ralph Serin of Carleton University. It is a validated model for helping parole boards make high-quality decisions. NIC developed specialized technical assistance for parole boards to help them integrate the SDMF into their current practices. The CoP brought 11 sites together to participate first in virtual sessions and then in a final in-person session to share knowledge and improve practices in real time by interacting with others. By bringing the SDMF CoP group together, members can improve their efficacy in using the tool. An additional benefit to the SDMF is the assistance

to parole boards in avoiding "project drift" where practices/changes from the original model. Fidelity will steadily increase as we continue to work together to gain a better understanding of how to utilize this valuable tool.

As you can see, there has been a lot happening within our association, with big plans underway for the future. Please continue to share your thoughts and ideas as we look to create and fulfill opportunities that will lead to the enhancement of our craft and organization.

Feel free to reach out at any time at president@apaintl.org.



Jonathan Ogletree
APAI President

APAI Award Nominations are Open

The field of parole is both complex and demanding. Those of us who work in the field often do our work in quiet and unnoticed ways. Naming a peer for an award is one of the highest honors we can give, signifying that the person's contributions to the field have not only been exemplary, but also noticed. The APAI Annual Awards Luncheon is undoubtedly one of the best parts of the Annual Training Conference. There is nothing quite like watching our incredible members get to honor each other with these recognitions, and of course, it is even more exciting when it is such a surprise to the recipient!

Award nominations are now open for each of APAI's distinguished awards. Last year, our then President, David Blumberg urged each of our members to honor and recognize their peers and the charge is just as applicable this year:

"To be recognized by one's peers is the highest honor

an individual can receive. The field of parole is no different. Each year, individuals in our field perform some of the greatest work and are never quite rewarded or recognized in the ways that they deserve. Each year, we know that there are many deserving of these awards, far more than the awards committees are made aware of. I ask that each of you consider submitting a name to be considered by the appropriate committee for at least one of the five categories below. There are tremendous opportunities to recognize our colleagues, peers, and friends for the great works they do. Even if you aren't personally nominating someone, I encourage you to pass the nomination information along to other members of your board."

Nominations for awards are due February 1, 2023.
www.apaintl.org/awards.html

5th World Congress on Probation and Parole

by: Jennifer Oades, Chairperson – Parole Board Canada



Pictured above: Jennifer Shaffer, APAI Western Region Vice President & Executive Officer of California Board of Parole Hearings; Jonathan Ogletree, APAI President and Chair of Kansas Prisoner Review Board; Jennifer Oades, Chairperson, Parole Board of Canada; Sylvie Blanchet, APAI International Vice President and Executive Vice Chairperson, Parole Board of Canada; Ashley Koonce, APAI Executive Director

The 5th World Congress on Probation and Parole was held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, from September 28 to October 2, 2022. Over 330 participants from 35 countries participated. The theme of the Congress was No One Left Behind: Building Community Capacity. The Congress included a number of keynote presentations and there were various workshops which shared knowledge, good practices and challenged our thinking in how we become more responsive to diverse populations.

Keynote Addresses

Dr. Frank Porporino gave the opening keynote address and he challenged us to make community options more effective by reducing our reliance on control, scaling down the breadth and reach of probation, and scaling up the depth and width of support. He provided some excellent examples of what seems to be working, including “peer mentoring” in the community. Another keynote speaker was Robert S. Wright, who spoke about dismantling systemic racism and referred to four

principles to address systemic racism: understand that it exists; know the history of the affected people; understand the impact on the individual; and create individualized responses. He challenged us to acknowledge there are concerns with actuarial tools that are “gender/race neutral.” Both keynote speakers were outstanding in their respective analyses and thought-provoking ideas and challenges.

Workshops

Many workshops were held throughout the Congress and most of them addressed various populations and the challenges in meeting their unique needs (the aged, Black and Indigenous peoples, Women and Girls, Victims, and so forth). Various jurisdictions shared their research and their strategies in addressing these needs.

The Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI)

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5th World Congress on Probation and Parole — continued from page 2

was well represented at the Congress and President Jonathan Ogletree, along with Jennifer Shaffer, Sylvie Blanchet and Ashley Koonce presented a workshop on Professional Collaboration: A Success Story for Discretionary Parole. The workshop presented highlights of how successful partnerships, created through the APAI, result in improved community outcomes and risk-based parole decisions. The presentation focused on the evolution of the structured decision-making framework over the last decade in Canada and 10 states in the United States.

Summary

In summary the Congress was an enormous success. The energy of all the participants spoke to the importance of “in-person” events. The learning opportunities were endless and all enjoyed the networking occasions. The Congress was organized by the Canadian Criminal Justice Association in collaboration with the Confederation of European Probation, the Parole Board of Canada, the Correctional Service of Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the International Corrections and Prisons Association. The 6th World Congress will be hosted by the Netherlands and details on dates and times will be announced shortly.



Member Spotlight

Mark Keating,
Kansas Prisoner Review Board

by: Ashley Koonce, Executive Director, APAI

Mark Keating began his career in corrections on March 2, 1992, for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a Parole Officer in Dallas, Texas. He managed a variety of different caseloads, specializing in working with persons with sexual offenses and the revocation process. It was during this early part of his career that being a member of a Parole Board became his career goal. In 1997, he was promoted to hearing officer for the Texas Board of Pardons and Parole, where he conducted administrative release/parole preliminary and revocation hearings.

Mark returned to Kansas (his home state) in 1999, as a Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) Parole Officer in the Kansas City Parole Office. Mark worked at all levels of parole before accepting the position of Director of Sex Offender Management for KDOC in 2005. He returned to parole services in 2008, to accept the then newly created position of Deputy Director for the KDOC's Northern Parole Region. He was promoted to the position of Parole Director of the Northern Parole Region in 2013, overseeing 10 parole offices that were responsible for the supervision of more than 2,500 released individuals in the northern half of Kansas. Mark joined the Prisoner Review Board in January 2016, where he continues to serve as a member. All told, in March 2022, Mark surpassed 30 years of experience working in corrections/criminal justice.

Mark grew up in Overland Park, Kansas. He attended Baylor University where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. He continued his education at Indiana State University, where he earned his Master of Science in Criminology.

Mark has been a member of APAI since Spring of 2016, almost immediately after he joined the Kansas Prisoner Review Board. Kansas has long been active, and it was a priority of Mark's to get involved as well. Mark currently serves as the Chair of the Standards/Resolutions Committee. The focus of this committee more recently has been on updating the By-Laws and Consti-



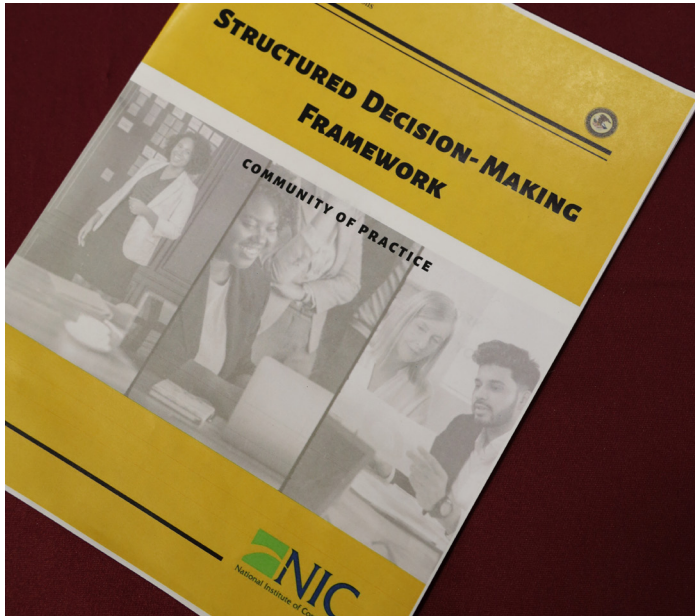
Mark Keating, Kansas Prisoner Review Board

tion to keep up with the ever-changing needs of APAI and the members and countries it serves. Mark stated that APAI continues to be progressive and forward-thinking in its positions on parole practices, strengthened by its partnerships with other national organizations and being open and receptive to data supported trends. He also noted that being a part of this committee helps him to appreciate the devotion and tireless hours spent by the Leadership and Executive Committee in creating an environment focused not only on the professional growth of its members but also being a positive impact on the criminal justice system on an international scale.

The hardest part of the job for Mark is taking comments from the general public, both in support and in opposition, regarding upcoming Parole Eligible residents. In the field of parole, we commonly hear, "I would hate to have your job." Some decisions are harder than others, for sure. Often times, the right decision has to be made instead of what's popular in the eyes of the public. For Mark, being a Board Member was his career goal, and the job hasn't failed him. He strives daily to act justly, with compassion, and humility, in making those right decisions. In the field of parole, he hopes to help restore public trust and confidence in the system, that decisions are being made objectively, fairly, and with integrity. He also wants to focus on improving transparency, efficiency, and consistency in the parole decision-making process.

Structured Decision-Making Framework Community of Practice

by: Timothy Flanagan, Michigan Parole Board



Michigan Parole Board Chairperson Brian Shipman, Board Members Tim Flanagan, Adrienne Van Langevelde, Crissa Blankenburg, and Manager Tammy Wakley recently attended the Structured Decision-Making Framework (SDMF) Community of Practice (CoP) in New York City hosted by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) in partnership with the APAI. This three-day workshop included representatives from 10 states that employ the SDMF model as well as representatives from the Parole Board of Canada.

The SDMF is an empirically validated model for helping parole boards make high-quality parole decisions. The SDMF model was developed and validated by Dr. Ralph Serin of Carleton University, Ontario. More than a decade of work has gone into the development and improvement of the SDMF. As its name suggests, the framework provides a structure to the high-stakes parole decision-making process. It does this through the use of relevant factors, which are conditions or behaviors determined by evidence-based research to influence a person's propensity to engage in crime after release. Because the framework relies on evidence rather than subjective criteria, it can help parole boards demonstrate a commitment to making objective, non-arbitrary release decisions.

Each year, the NIC provides select paroling authorities across the country with expert technical assistance to help integrate the SDMF into their practices. This work combines readiness assessments, implementation planning, training, and coaching to ensure parole boards have the capacity and ability to use the tool. In 2020, Michigan was selected for inclusion in the NIC implementation project. Over the past several years, Michigan Parole Board Members and staff have worked closely with consultants from the NIC and the Center for Effective Public Policy (CEPP) to strategically plan for the implementation of the SDMF and to get coaching and sustainability assistance. Parole Board Members and analysts were trained on the SDMF and have received several refresher trainings.

To foster fidelity, ensure positive outcomes, and maintain ongoing examination of the tool among practitioners, the NIC, in partnership with the Association of Paroling Authorities International, has established a Community of Practice (CoP) model amongst SDMF users. The Michigan Parole Board was thrilled to join this unique professional community to connect, learn, and grow with the other states approved to use the SDMF. In September, the first in-person CoP training event was held in New York City. Key SDMF paroling authority leadership engaged in a series of discussions on enhancing the fidelity of the SDMF tool and release decisions. Over two and a half days, approximately 50 participants from the SDMF states received training and engaged in important discussions about implementation science, risk assessments and SDMF research, and how to move forward with outcome performance measures related to the SDMF. These face-to-face sessions were preceded by virtual sessions and are part of an ongoing professional collaboration between SDMF paroling authorities.

The Michigan Parole Board attendees found the CoP event to be an important learning experience and are grateful to APAI and NIC for the opportunity to participate. Since returning from this event, Michigan has begun to strengthen our relationships with other CoP members and to review policies, pro-

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Structured Decision-Making Framework Community of Practice — continued from page 6

cedures, processes, and practices related to the implementation and continued fidelity of the SDMF. The Parole Board has established an outreach plan to engage internal and external stakeholders, established an ongoing implementation team, started meeting with Connecticut's research team about how to best track and measure outcome data, re-designed their

SDMF coding form and training manual, and have essentially re-committed as an organization to ensure that SDMF principles permeate the culture in every aspect of their operations. The Michigan Parole Board looks forward to continuing to work with all CoP membership.



Pictured above: Michigan Parole Board Member Crissa Blankenburg, Michigan Parole Board Chairperson Brian Shipman, Michigan Parole Board Member Timothy Flanagan, Michigan Parole Board Member Adrienne Van Langevelde, and Michigan Parole Board Manager Tammy Wakley



2023 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI • APRIL 16-19, 2023

Balancing Hope, Fairness, & Accountability for Stronger Communities

APAI Officer Nominations are Open

Vice-President and Secretary Nominations Sought



As the annual conference approaches, it is time to think about the upcoming officer nominations and elections. The official election will take place during the Annual Training Conference. Elected officers are announced at the Annual Business Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023. The business meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual Awards Luncheon.

The APAI Constitution states that elected officers shall serve two-year terms and may not serve for more than two elected consecutive terms in the same office. The office of Vice President and Secretary shall become vacant on odd numbered years (2023). Newly elected officers will assume their duties of office on July 1, 2023.

The APAI bylaws state

"The Vice President shall, as directed by the President, be responsible for coordinating the activities of the Regional Vice

Presidents and shall perform such other tasks as the President may assign."

The bylaws also state

"The Secretary shall be responsible for taking and distributing all minutes from meetings of the Executive Committee and the Annual Business meeting. The Secretary shall report all vote tabulations to the Executive Committee and Membership, unless otherwise noted in official Association documents. The Secretary shall serve as Executive Committee liaison to the Membership Committee and shall perform such other tasks as the President may assign."

The Executive Committee currently meets on the third Friday of each month. If you know of a co-worker or a professional colleague you have gotten to know over the years who would be a perfect fit, please contact APAI Executive Director or anyone on the Executive Committee. We look forward to your involvement.

If you would like to nominate someone for either position or have an interest of your own, please reach out to:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR / David Blumberg / david.blumberg@marlyland.gov

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / Ashley Koonce / koonce@apaintl.org

NOMINATIONS WILL CLOSE FEBRUARY 18, 2023
Nomination forms available online at www.apaintl.org/officers

Executive Committee

President
Jonathan Ogletree
Kansas

Vice President
Kecia Rongen
Washington

Executive Director
Ashley Koonce
Texas

Past President
David Blumberg
Maryland

Treasurer
Laura Pisaturo
Rhode Island

Secretary
Francis Abbott
Louisiana

Northeastern USA
Matt Degan
Rhode Island

Western USA
Jennifer Shaffer
California

Central USA
Alicia Handwerk
Ohio

Southern USA
Benita Murphy
West Virginia

International Section
Sylvie Blanchet
Canada

International Section
Thando Tsetsewa
Africa

International Section
Alistair Spierling
New Zealand

International Section
Martin Jones
Europe

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