



# ASSOCIATION OF PAROLING AUTHORITIES INTERNATIONAL

APRIL 2014

## FROM THE PRESIDENT:

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### THINGS TO DO IN 2014

- **Renew APAI Membership**
- **Serve on an APAI Committee**
- **Convince a colleague to join APAI.**
- **Make plans to attend the 2014 Chairs Meeting and Annual Training Conference in Denver , CO May 18-21, 2014**

Dear APAI Members,

It's that time of year, again. We are approaching our Annual Training Conference This year's conference will be in beautiful Denver, Colorado at the foot of the famous Rocky Mountains. It will be held Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup>. For those of you who haven't had the opportunity to visit this great state and city, I strongly encourage you to do so along with what we believe will be a very robust conference.

The Colorado Host Committee led by Board Member Joe Morales and APAI'S Chief Program Officer , Jeralita Costa, along with Secretariat, Natalie Payne, and the APAI Conference Planning Committee, have put together an informative, educational, and fun Conference. Please access the APAI website to review the program and activities, which include tickets and transportation to the Colorado Rockies baseball game at downtown Coors Field on Tuesday night May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Your APAI Executive Committee and our Association committees, especially the Public Relations/ Communications, Crime Victims, Membership, and Resolution Committees have been hard at work this quarter advancing their charters and addressing their related goals within APAI's Strategic Business Plan. APAI's Chief Administrative Officer, Keith Hardison, has begun a systematic review of our Business Plan, which we will report-out on later this year. I'm encouraged to say, that we have realized and are realizing many of our strategic goals in several area with more work to be done in others.

We are always in need of committee members and I encourage you to take advantage of an opportunity to pursue an area of specialization

and/or interest and sign-up. It's a great way to become more active in APAI and committee work is vital to our success as an Association. In particular, the Professional Development, Standards, and Resolution Committees are looking for members.

APAI in partnership with the National Parole Resource Center [NPRC] has and is pursuing several training and technical assistance projects. Those of you who received scholarships to attend our joint training session in Huntsville, Texas in February on Offenders with Mental Health Disorders led by Dr. Fred Osher, experienced an exceptional two days of information and education on this topic . We look forward to NPRC presenting at the ATC on and gathering information from you in regard to working with the Media and other key stakeholders.

As APAI President, I along with Southern Regional Vice President, Shannon Jones, continue to be involved with NIC's Community Corrections Collaborative Network. Shannon is attending a two day meeting in Washington, DC April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> along with the other correctional associations who make-up this Network. They are meeting with key policymakers and legislators to carry our agenda of "Safe and Smart Ways to Solve America's Correctional Challenges" forward by focusing our efforts and resources on community corrections.

I will see you in Denver where we can renew old friendships and begin new ones.

Sincerely,

Jeff Peterson  
President,  
Association of Paroling Authorities International

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: NEW ZEALAND PAROLE BOARD

BY: JUSTINE TURNER, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

The New Zealand Parole Board is an independent statutory body, established on 30 June 2002, under the Parole Act 2002, replacing 17 District Prison Boards and the National Parole Board. The Board is not part of, or influenced by, the Government.

Chaired by Hon. Warwick Gendall QC, the Board has 37 members; half are judges while the rest are non-judicial members. Vacancies on the Board are advertised, with appointments made by the Governor-General, on the recommendation of the Attorney General. Under the Parole Act 2002, members need:

- ◆ knowledge or understanding of the criminal justice system; and
- ◆ the ability to make a balanced and reasonable assessment of the risk an offender may present to the community when released from detention; and
- ◆ the ability to operate effectively with people from a range of cultures; and
- ◆ sensitivity to, and understanding of, the impact of crime on victims.

Members consider cases in panels of three, made up of a convener and two lay members at the 18 prisons around New Zealand or by video conference. In addition every two months the Board convenes an extended board, with four members. This board considers offenders serving life and preventive detention sentences and is generally convened by the chair or deputy chairperson, joined by at least two community members, including a forensic psychiatrist.

*New Zealand Parole Board conducting a hearing*



The Parole Act 2002 requires the Board to consider cases where offenders are eligible for release on parole, compassionate release, and release at their statutory or final release date. It also considers cases where, either the Department of Corrections or police, have applied to have an offender released on parole, recalled to prison. An offender released on parole can have their progress monitored by the Board.

The Board does not consider the release of offenders on short term prison sentences of two years or less, unless an application for compassionate release is made to the chairperson.

The most important consideration for the Board is community safety. In New Zealand public interest in parole is high. The Board's approach is one of openness and transparency, with media coverage almost always positive and accurate. The Board offers training sessions on parole and the hearing process for newsrooms and justice reporters, while a number of journalists have been afforded the opportunity to attend and report on specific hearings. Public understanding of the Board's process grows as a result of media coverage.

Continuing education and development is critical for the Board's members. The Board has a director of education who works together with the Board's education and training committee, to develop and improve induction training for new members, as well as give on-going support to existing members. The Board holds two conferences a year, with one specifically focused on education and training.

## CMIT HOSTS NATIONAL PAROLE BOARD TRAINING

BY: BETH KUHLES-HEINEY, COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, SHSU

Parole board members from across the country gathered at Sam Houston State University to learn more about offenders with mental health and substance abuse issues.

The Correctional Management Institute of Texas (CMIT) hosted the seminar presented by the National Parole Resource Center (NPRC), involving 36 representatives of paroling authorities from Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota,

Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

The program was convened and moderated by NPRC Director Peggy Burke and included an overview of the challenges and barriers of working with these populations, particularly within the correctional system. The event provided an overview of research-based practices, and participants discussed how this information might assist in making individual case decisions

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## CMIT HOSTS NATIONAL PAROLE BOARD TRAINING

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and how it could help to share overall policies by parole authorities.

“We hope our members gain a better understanding of how and what they can do to impact the success rate of offenders with mental health problems or substance abuse issues,” said Keith Hardison, Chief Administrative Officer for the Association of Paroling Authorities (APAI) International – a partner in the National Parole Resource Center.

Research shows that offenders in prisons and jails have significantly higher rates of mental health issues than the general population. While 5 percent of the general population suffers from serious mental illness, a study in New York and Maryland jails found 17 percent of inmates had serious mental health disorders. Three-quarters of those offenders also had co-occurring substance abuse disorders.

“There is an overrepresentation of people with mental health and substance abuse issues in the correctional system,” said Dr. Fred Osher, Director of Health Services and Systems Policy for the Council of State Governments Justice Center, who spoke at the seminar. “There are three to five times the rate of mental health disorders and four to eight times the rate of substance abuse disorders in our jails and prisons.”

The problem is compounded because of higher arrest rates due to limited access to health care, a low utilization of evidence-based practices, longer prison stays, higher recidivism rates and more risk factors for committing crime.

But while correctional facilities experience higher rates of mental disorders among offenders, the majority of those individuals end up in jails or prisons for reasons unrelated to their mental illnesses, said Dr. Osher. However, once they enter the criminal justice system, they have a much harder time exiting it, he added.

With shrinking state budgets, many parole agencies are faced with how to address these populations as part of their mandate to keep the community safe and to reduce recidivism among offenders. Participating parole board members shared information on the challenges presented by this population, and on innovative and promising approaches that they were implementing in their own jurisdictions.

The NPRC, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance, was created to support paroling authorities across the country and to

provide information, training and technical assistance to support their mission, increasing public safety and reducing recidivism.

The seminar faculty outlined the following as emerging best practices for paroling authorities – and discussed how each might be interpreted in dealing with offenders with mental health and substance use disorders.

- ◆ Use empirically-based assessment tools to measure risks for committing new crime and to identify behavioral health issues. While specialized mental health assessments are particularly important with this population, empirical assessments of risk to reoffend remain equally important.
- ◆ Develop evidence-based policies, practices and tools to address the goals that each paroling authority is mandated to pursue—which typically include assuring even-handed punishment, protecting victims, and protecting community safety.
- ◆ Develop partnerships with correctional institutions, agencies involved with community supervision, and other state-level and community stakeholders.
- ◆ Use their decision-making authority to focus institutional and community resources on the criminogenic needs of medium and high risk offenders.
- ◆ Consider for release at the earliest stage possible – in light of statutes and other sentencing interests – offenders assessed as low risk.
- ◆ Use parole interviews, hearings and reviews as an opportunity to enhance offender motivation to change—particularly to encourage participating in risk reduction programming.
- ◆ Fashion conditions to minimize requirements for low risk offenders.
- ◆ Develop policy-driven, graduated responses to parole violations.
- ◆ Support parole members by providing opportunities to strengthen and develop good decision-making practices.
- ◆ Develop and strengthen agency level capacity for the development of strong policies and performance measures.

Doug Dretke, Executive Director of CMIT, praised the parole board members for their participation in the session.

“The work you do is so, so important,” Dretke said. “Studies show that those that go back to the community under parole supervision are more successful than those who don’t.”

## PROMOTING VICTIM-RELATED OBSERVANCES IN APRIL 2014

BY: ANNE SEYMOUR, NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS ADVOCATE

As always in April, crime victims and those who serve them join together to observe three national commemorations that honor crime victims and survivors:

- ◆ National Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)
- ◆ National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), April 6 – 12, 2014
- ◆ National Child Abuse Prevention Month (NCAPM)

APAI offers its members ten tips to collaborate with victim assistance professionals to promote these national victim-related commemorations, along with information about how to access national resources specific to each observance.

### Ten Tips to Promote 2014 Victim-related Commemorations in April

1. Identify potential partners in your state or jurisdiction that will be promoting each commemoration, for example:

- ◆ **SAAM:** rape crisis centers, anti-trafficking organizations and coalitions, and system-based victim assistance agencies
- ◆ **NCVRW:** all community- and system-based victim assistance programs, allied criminal and juvenile justice agencies and, if applicable, your agency's victim assistance program
- ◆ **NCAPM:** children's advocacy centers, child protective services, schools and youth-serving organizations

2. Provide them with a link to your agency's website, and ask them to include it in their victim and public awareness outreach in April.

3. Proactively seek invitations to participate in panel discussions and workshops during April to bring information about parole-based services to targeted audiences.

4. Include brief messages about each commemoration in social media messages from your agency's website or social media platforms.

5. The 2014 NCVRW theme encourages people to consider the profound and powerful impact of the 1984 passage of the *Victims of Crime Act*, which has provided consistent funding for victim services for three decades. Learn all you can about VOCA and, if your agency has received VOCA funding, promote this during NCVRW. You may also want to contact your state's VOCA Administrator to join in his/her agency's promotion of 2014 NCVRW. For an overview of the *Victims of Crime Act* and VOCA funding, please visit the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA) website at <http://www.navaa.org/budget/index.html>. To identify your state's VOCA Administrator (with a link to each state's website), visit

<http://www.navaa.org/statedirectory.html>.

6. Consider the 2014 NCVRW theme in promoting your own agency's history of victim assistance. What has changed over the past 30 years? How have victim services across the parole process improved in your state? You can develop a one-page fact sheet that highlights your accomplishments to disseminate during NCVRW.

7. Visit the Office for Victims of Crime NCVRW Resource Guide website at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2014/index.html>, and download the 2014 Theme Poster and three public awareness posters to display in your offices.

8. Use the resources available in OVC's NCVRW Resource Guide to write an opinion/editorial column or simply a letter-to-the-editor that promotes the 2014 theme and highlights parole-based victim services, for publication during NCVRW (April 6 – 12, 2014).

9. Collaborate with sexual assault prevention and rape crisis programs in your state to publicize PREA and your efforts to prevent sexual violence of people under any form of correctional supervision.

10. Work with child victim agencies in your state to highlight your efforts to supervise offenders who have been convicted of crimes against children, and/or any programs your sponsor for children of parolees.

### Sexual Assault Awareness Month April 2014



The 2014 SAAM campaign focuses on healthy sexuality and young people. The National Sexual Violence Resource Center has developed myriad victim outreach, education and public awareness resources – available in both English and Spanish – to help commemorate SAAM. These include:

- ◆ Healthy childhood sexual development resources for community members, parents, advocates and educators
- ◆ Child sexual assault prevention information packet
- ◆ Strategies and sample documents for traditional and social/new media outreach
- ◆ Camera-ready artwork

APAI members can also visit the SAAM website to sign up for the SAAM blog to receive periodic updates and additional resources.

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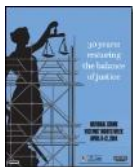


## PROMOTING VICTIM-RELATED OBSERVANCES IN APRIL 2014, CONT FROM PAGE 4

SAAM website in English: <http://www.nsvrc.org/saam/sexual-assault-awareness-month-home>

SAAM website in Spanish: <http://www.nsvrc.org/es/saam>

### 2014 National Crime Victims' Rights Week



NCVRW is scheduled for April 6 – 12, 2014. The 2014 theme, **“30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice,”** offers the opportunity to highlight the many accomplishments resulting from the passage of the *Victims of Crime Act* (VOCA) in 1984, as well as the immense progress made in the victim assistance field over the past three decades – including corrections- and parole-based victim services.

The Office for Victims of Crime within the U.S. Department of Justice has published the 2014 NCVRW Resource Guide, which features a variety of tools to enhance communities' public awareness efforts regarding victims' rights and services. The Resource Guide contains sample speeches, statistical overviews, customizable public awareness posters, camera-ready artwork in black and white and in color, and the 2014 NCVRW Theme DVD, which underscores this year's theme. You can access the NCVRW Resource Guide at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2014/index.html>. APAI members can also visit the 2014 NCVRW website at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw/> to sign up to receive the free theme poster and theme DVD.

### National Child Abuse Prevention Month April 2014



April is also National Child Abuse Prevention Month. While the Child Welfare Information Gateway of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (CWIG) has not yet published its online Resource Kit for 2014, there are excellent resources available from 2013 that can be easily adapted to this year's commemoration, including:

- ◆ Preventing Child Maltreatment and Promoting Well-being: A Network for Action 2013 Resource Guide
- ◆ “The Six Protective Factors”
- ◆ Tip sheets for parents and caregivers (available in English and Spanish)
- ◆ History of NCAPM
- ◆ Sample proclamations
- ◆ Sample media resources (social media messages, press release, public service announcements)

These resources can be accessed at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth/>

The American Humane Association offers child abuse prevention tips for families, friends, neighbors and communities, along with a tip poster and desktop background, at <http://www.americanhumane.org/children/programs/child-abuse-neglect-prevention/child-abuse-prevention-month.html>.

The National Children's Alliance has statistics about child abuse and neglect, along with national data about their clients, available at <http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/NCANationalStatistics>.

President Obama's 2013 proclamation for NCAPM can be accessed at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/03/29/presidential-proclamation-national-child-abuse-prevention-month-2013>.

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**CMIT HOSTS NATIONAL PAROLE BOARD TRAINING ,  
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Peggy Burke addresses the workshop participants



Workshop participants gather in small group sessions to exchange ideas.



Dr. Fred Osher provided the subject matter expertise on mentally ill offenders.

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