

TOGETHER

Michigan Juvenile Detention Association



MJDA Executive Committee

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Muskegon County Juvenile Center*
- Melissa Strong -Vice President,
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- Richard Gentry - Treasurer,
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- Lisa Greco - Secretary,
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New Facility For Kalamazoo

With a ribbon cutting ceremony and Open House on June 9th and occupancy shortly thereafter on June 24th Kalamazoo County opened their new 85,000 square foot, 64 bed facility. The project now moves into the final phases with the demolition of the old facility, construction of parking and landscaping. The project, while slightly behind the original schedule, will be completely wrapped up in a little over three years since the millage vote in 2006. An aggressive schedule as they say in the construction world.

To say we are pleased with the new facility would be an understatement. The transition has gone as smoothly as any of us could have hoped for. The staff has responded to all the changes and challenges we faced as we “moved down the hill”. Beyond what the new technology has contributed in making it safer, more secure environment the physical design has enhanced our behavior management and programming in ways we could not have anticipated. Smaller groups of residents, increased space for activities, the ability to group residents by classification and a centralized intake area have been major improvements.

The expansion to 64 beds has also expanded the range of services found in the new building. We will continue with detention ser-

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President's Message

Submitted by: Matt Kaley
Muskegon County Detention Center

Greetings from the great west side of the beautiful state of Michigan. Summer (a very cold summer) is rapidly drawing to a close and everyone is gearing up for another school year. The educators in all of our facilities have formed an Association called MEAAY and they will be having their annual conference on November 5 and 6, 2009 at the Causeway Hotel in Lansing. Check out their website at www.michiganeaaay.org for further details and to learn more about their organization.

The MJDA website www.mjdaonline.org is there for your perusal also and to keep you up to date on what is happening in our Association. Thank you to the fine folks at Washtenaw County for their efforts in this area.

The MJDA Annual Conference at Higgins Lake was a big success and we had a great turnout. The evaluations have been compiled and we received a great deal of positive feedback and suggestions for future topics as well as ways to improve future conferences. The Advisory Committee did a very nice job with the Best Practices portion of the Conference and we all look forward to their future involvement with our association and the contributions they will bring to us. Those of you who attended, I hope you came away refreshed, inspired, and re-dedicated to the important jobs that we all have.

Nationally, there has been a keen awareness of the importance of Youth Mentoring and that recognition has resulted in millions of dollars being awarded recently to support this effort. There may be some efforts in your community in this area and I would urge you, and perhaps your facility to support these efforts. We are in the process of beginning a Mentoring program between our facility and the Family Court through the local MSU Extension program. There is an abundance of research that validates the importance of one person taking an interest in the life of a particular youth and the positive impacts that can result from this. In many ways we are all mentors for the youths in our facilities. They watch our every move and they know who is there to make a positive impact in their lives. Do not underestimate the importance you have in the lives of each of the residents that walk through your doors. You may



not have gone through formal mentoring training but you are a positive adult role model that they all need in their lives. Keep up the good work and inspire the staff and residents you work with every day.

Several of us from Michigan will be attending the National Symposium on Juvenile Services next month in Indianapolis and I am sure we will come back with some great information on what is happening at the national level. Everyone is being forced to look at budget cuts or perhaps staff reductions thus it is all the more imperative that we share information, training, and resources during these difficult times. That is one of the great things about this wonderful organization called MJDA. We are all in this TOGETHER trying to consistently improve what we do both in our individual facilities and statewide to positively impact the residents that we serve.

Enjoy the rest of summer. Have a great autumn and How About Those Tigers??

MJDA

MACH 5 Arrives in MJDA

One of the unfortunate realities of our profession is the occasional need to physically restrain a youth in our care. Most MJDA facilities go to great lengths to verbally de-escalate tense situations, but some youth are either unwilling or unable to peacefully manage their anger. In these cases it becomes necessary to place hands on the youth for their protection, the protection of staff, other residents and property.

A recent survey found that a number of different physical management systems are in use across MJDA facilities, with Handle with Care and the Nonviolent Crisis Intervention program from the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) being most common. The Berrien County Juvenile Center (BCJC) has been using CPI for over 15 years with mixed results. They found the verbal de-escalation portion of the program to be highly effective at resolving the vast majority of escalating emotional situations before they became physical. However, CPI does not make provisions for applying mechanical restraints or taking the youth to the floor, so in these cases the staff are left up to their own ingenuity. In 2008 the BCJC experienced an unusually high number of physical restraints which resulted in a high number of staff injuries.

In an effort to reduce injuries and provide staff with the skills needed to be safe and effective, the BCJC turned to the Controlled FORCE Corporation for training in their MACH 5 program. MACH stands for Mechanical Advantage Control Holds and the 5 refers to the 5 basic holds within the system. MACH 5 is a non pain compliance/no strikes system which allows staff to use body movement, leverage, joint manipulation, and mechanical advantage to effectively control a youth regardless of either's size or strength. The system also teaches how to safely take a youth to the floor, apply and remove restraints, to physically manage a youth in close spaces such as a cell or room and to apply team restraint techniques.

On July 8, 2009 six members of the BCJC (George Eddy, Adam Fechner, Christopher Hatcher, Emma Payne, Kurt Struss and Nate Teitsma), along with two members from the Allegan County Juvenile Center (John Morris and Kristen Schauss) and one member from Jackson County Youth Center (Michael Jones) began an intensive two day training program to become certified MACH 5 trainers. The following week the BCJC began a three week program in which all staff members were trained in the MACH 5 program to include cooks, maintenance and clerical.

Since implementing the new program on August 1st, the BCJC staff have engaged in six restraints, all highly successful. Once the youth were placed in the various holds, they realized that continued resistance would be useless; they stopped struggling and allowed themselves to be escorted to their rooms. Since starting the program there have been no injuries to either staff or residents and no damage to property. Needless to say, the BCJC staff have become enthusiastic supporters of the program.

2009 MJDA Annual Conference

The annual conference at Higgins Lake was another great training opportunity for staff and was well attended, with 92 registered participants. The Advisory Committee (comprised of line staff/supervisors/program managers) kicked off Wednesday afternoon's session by examining detention best practices. Advisory/Training committee members divided conference attendees into four groups and examined best practices in four specific areas: medical treatment, suicide prevention, gang issues, and restraint methodology. On Thursday, two concurrent workshops were held. Detective Dan Adams from the Grand Rapids Police Department walked staff through "Investigations, Interrogations, and Report Writing." Detective Adams provided staff with an overview of how to ask open-ended questions and how to evaluate body language so as to detect untruthful behavior. Ciro Sotello from Chicago, Illinois, presented "Hispanic Youth – Trapped Between Two Cultures." Friday's closing session was again presented by the Advisory Committee – concluding the Best Practices discussion. Aggregate data from Wednesday's opening session was presented in a power point presentation and gave staff a "snapshot" perspective on what each facility can do to implement "best practices" in each of the areas discussed on Wednesday.

The highlight of the conference was the awards ceremony – which was particularly moving when Lenewee County posthumously recognized Charlie Paulsen as the Child Care Worker of the Year from their facility. Kim Johnson from Jackson County was recognized as the State Child Care Worker of the Year, while Alex Goodman from Calhoun County was recognized as the State Child Care Worker of the Year for a detention program.

Staff enjoyed networking in the evening down at the lake and despite a bit of a scare about "swimmers itch," a great time was had by all!

Submitted by Melissa Strong



Ottawa County Announces Changes

Bob Alward has been promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Detention in Ottawa County, replacing long-time Assistant Superintendent; Kathy Cleveland effective October 1, 2009. He began working for Ottawa County in 1991 as a Relief Worker. He was hired on as a full time Youth Specialist in 1995 and was a Group Leader in the Treatment Program for a short period of time before becoming a Shift Supervisor in 2000. His most recent promotion was to an interim position as an Acting Assistant Superintendent for six months in 2008. Bob comes to this new position with a great deal of experience and skill. Ottawa County and the staff of the Detention Center are very happy to have him working for us in this capacity.

Hope, Perseverance and Personal Responsibility

Ronald D. Bachman (Ronnie) President and CEO of [Walk This Way Foundation](#) spoke to the youth and staff at the [Washtenaw County Youth Center and Daybreak Residential Program](#) last spring. He understands the challenges youth face growing up and he understands the importance of overcoming those challenges. Bachman lost his legs as a toddler and has had to overcome many obstacles. He uses his challenges and experiences to encourage and motivate others. "His message was one of hope, perseverance and personal responsibility in the face of great personal challenge" says [Lisa Greco](#), Director of the Youth Center.

Bachman spoke to the youth about the effects of bullying and being teased and about diversity. He told those who attended to "never give up, always take two steps forward instead of three steps back". He shared some very personal experiences he endeavored as an amputee, which touched the hearts of all those in the room.

"As I looked at the faces of the youth during Ron's talk, they were all very intent on what he was saying. They were also smiling and connecting with stories of being in tough situations and having to count on just yourself sometimes to make good decisions" said Lisa Greco.

Here's what some of the youth who attended Ronnie Bachman's presentation had to say when asked "**What did you learn from Ron and what will you take with you**"?

- *"I learned that it doesn't matter what you see on the outside as much as what you feel on the inside. When I leave juvenile detention, I have decided to show care and concern to all people and not just a select few".*
- *"I learned that you should always forgive someone who has hurt you, but you may never forget".*
- *"I learned that you can do anything you set your mind to and not to settle for anything less".*

"All of the youth said they were proud to have met Ron and were impressed at how brave and courageous he is to be able speak to so many people about his life and what he has gone through" said [Judy Coleman](#), Youth Counselor at the Juvenile Detention Center, who is responsible for initiating and organizing this event.

Ronnie Bachman was inducted into the [Energizer Hall of Fame](#) and the 2008 [Energizer "Keep Going" Hall of Fame Winner](#)! He travels all over the world speaking with children and adults about many different topics. Even though he normally speaks in front of audiences as large as 4,000, he was still willing and eager to speak, free of charge, to our intimate group at the Youth Center. There were approximately 27 youth and staff who attended this event.

The [Washtenaw County Youth Center](#), a division of [Washtenaw County Children's Services](#), is

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2009 MJDA Child Care Worker Award

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Secure</u>	<u>Non-Secure</u>	<u>Support Worker</u>
<i>Allegan County Juvenile Center</i>	<i>Steve Schmucker</i>	<i>Dustin Peck</i>	
<i>Bay County Juvenile Home</i>	<i>Debbie Walker</i>		
<i>Berrien County Juvenile Center</i>	<i>Adam Fechner</i>	<i>Megan VanKoevering</i>	
<i>Calhoun County Juvenile Home</i>	<i>Alex Goodman</i>	<i>Stacey Evans</i>	<i>Mic Grigg</i>
<i>Eaton County Youth Home</i>	<i>Lowell Daniels</i>	<i>Elizabeth Grounds</i>	<i>Jason Fiser</i>
<i>Genesee Valley Regional Center</i>	<i>Antonio Forte</i>		
<i>Ingham County Youth Center</i>	<i>Charles Milner</i>		<i>Scott Sigman, Dale Seibold, & Victor Charley</i>
<i>Jackson County Youth Center</i>	<i>Sharmaine Balcita</i>	<i>Kim Davis</i>	<i>Sue Gilbert</i>
<i>Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home</i>	<i>Paul Molica</i>		<i>Troy Byrd</i>
<i>Kent County Juvenile Detention Home</i>	<i>Barb Collins</i>		<i>Jackie Kraai</i>
<i>Macomb County Juvenile Justice Center</i>	<i>Willis Peavy</i>	<i>Bryan Decker</i>	
<i>Maurice Spears Campus</i>	<i>Christopher Pappas</i>	<i>Kelly Judson</i>	<i>Charlie Paulsen</i>
<i>Monroe County Youth Center</i>	<i>Judy Michrina</i>	<i>Felicia Hotchkiss</i>	<i>Dawn Kurtz</i>
<i>Oakland County Children's Village</i>	<i>Rochelle Finney</i>	<i>Mark Wheeler</i>	
<i>Ottawa County Juvenile Detention Center</i>	<i>Elizabeth Biesecker</i>		<i>Heather Potter</i>
<i>Saginaw County Juvenile Detention Center</i>	<i>Josh Bailey</i>		<i>Linda Campbell</i>
<i>St. Clair County Juvenile Center</i>	<i>Crystal Pontack</i>	<i>Alan Emerich</i>	
<i>Washtenaw County Youth Center</i>	<i>Judy Coleman</i>	<i>Johnny Epps</i>	<i>Connie Garmany</i>
<i>Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility</i>	<i>John Blackstone</i>	<i>Tisha Walt</i>	<i>Jason Thirdkill</i>

State Winner's





State Winner - Alex Goodman



State Winner - Kim Davis



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responsible for providing temporary custody and care for juveniles in a safe and secure setting. Juveniles that are placed in the Youth Center are temporarily detained pending disposition of court programs, or often awaiting transfer to another facility or placement. “One word can change a person, and the kids we handle can be redirected, and that’s our goal here at the Youth Detention Center” said Judy Coleman.



Hat’s off to Ronnie Bachman who shares his story and inspires those around him, and to the staff at the Youth

Rob The Drummer

By Lindsay Nelson



There wasn’t a sound to be heard in the Juvenile Detention Center on Saturday, March 28th. That is, no sound other than Rob Gottfried, aka Rob The Drummer, playing his drums and speaking to the residents. You might ask, as many of the residents and staff did, who is Rob The Drummer? He is an accomplished musician as well as an incredible drummer who teaches drums and performs professionally. The “Rob The Drummer” Program is an interactive educational program and performance that is about changing the way you feel through positive ways such as the arts and sports. It delivers matters regarding the importance of practice in anything you do, bullying, substance abuse, and self-reliance through inspirational, non-preaching speaking and through drum playing. Rob has appeared on National and Cable television programs such as MTV, Nickelodeon, Sesame Street, Entertainment Tonight and numerous others. He has won the Best Drummer of Connecticut and Rhode Island competition and achieved highest honors in Los Angeles competing for the Best Rock Drummer of the United States. He has performed four times for the President and First Lady and 25,000 children at the White House in Washington, DC.

From the second Rob walked out to perform, he cap-

tured the attention of all residents and staff in the room. You could feel his energy and emotion. Rob started off his performance instructing everyone to get rid of any inside or outside talk going on with them as he banged on his gong which intrigued the audience even more. He continued with a rhythm on his massive drum set; a sound that echoed throughout the building. After each stint on the drums, Rob expected applause, teaching the residents about the importance of giving back after someone has given to you. As he proceeded with his program, he stressed the importance of practice to the residents. Through practice, he stated, you can become great. He communicated to the residents how important it is to “find your own natural way to change the way you feel”. He also spoke about the importance of stopping bullying. He reminded them that people don’t forget how they were treated or how they felt. He added that if the residents feel the need to let their emotions go, to do it in a positive way, such as beating a drum.

Rob had residents actively participating in his program. Two residents had the opportunity to sing their own lyrics to a beat that Rob played and others had the chance to create a beat on his controller guitar, copying a rhythm that Rob played first. Further, he

sat and talked with the residents in groups and individually on a more personal level after the show while his crew took down his set. Here are some of the things residents said about Rob and his performance/program: “you inspire me to be famous”, “I learned it is good to give back when someone helps you out”, “I learned that bullying can make a big negative impact on someone’s life”, “I learned that there’s positive ways to feel better than just using drugs”, “you have to work hard and practice to get better”, “music doesn’t have to be affiliated with drugs”, and “if you work hard enough at something you can become great someday”.

These are pretty powerful lessons and Rob was a pretty powerful individual. So even if you weren’t given the wonderful opportunity to listen to Rob’s message and drum playing, I will leave you with what he left us, “Find your own natural way to change the way you feel!”

Advisory Committee Update

The Advisory Committee had its second quarterly meeting on June 19th, at the Kent County Juvenile Detention Center in Grand Rapids. Committee Chairman, Rich Dama informed the members that the MJDA Board of Directors approved the Committee’s charter at their April 15th meeting, so the Committee is now an official arm of MJDA.

Getting right down to business the Committee approved Amy Harding (Saginaw Co.) to chair the Training and Professional Development Subcommittee, and Bob Alward (Ottawa Co.) to chair the Best Practices Subcommittee.

The rest of the meeting was spent discussing plans for members of the Advisory Committee to lead discussion groups and an informational summary/panel discussion at the upcoming Higgins Lake Conference in August.

Before adjourning the meeting, Kent Co. Supervisor Penny DeMario led the group on a detailed and informative tour of the Kent Co. Facility.

The next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for September 17, at the Washtenaw County Youth Center at 9:00 am. Please contact your facility representative or Rich Dama (269-471-2831) with agenda items.

vices, detention education, Day Treatment programming and the Intensive Learning Center alternative education program. The addition of the On-Trac residential treatment unit fills in the only gap we had in our continuum of care and is scheduled to begin accepting residents in early September. We are truly excited at the range of services we have available for the youth of Kalamazoo. Combine our spanking new, state of the art facility with a highly dedicated, well trained, invested staff and I believe we have a recipe for success.

In closing, I invite any of you that have not been to Kalamazoo to see the new facility. Just let us know when you'll be in town and we'd be pleased to give a tour.



