



MACPOST
#MACPOST

Fall 2024

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From the President

KEVIN, GLASS, ITASCA COUNTY PROBATION



Greetings and Happy Fall!

Fall in Minnesota brings anticipated change to the State from the migration of birds to the leaves changing to the vivid yellow, orange, and reds that bring out the photographer in all of us. Anticipated change is also nothing new in the probation field because we know we can always improve and with that comes change.

Speaking of change (this might be a trigger word for some), there are some changes coming to the probation field in the very near future that will impact probation across Minnesota. As a result of the Minnesota Statute 401.17 Community Supervision Advisory Committee that took effect in 2023, there are several “deliverables” that will impact probation supervision across Minnesota.

One of these “deliverables” is having an agreed upon risk and needs assessment tool by CCA and non-CCA jurisdictions. The LS/CMI has been the agreed upon tool and is now in the process of being validated for the population we serve in Minnesota. Once validated, we can then have standardized supervision levels. With these changes we want to get it right the first time, so we want to take our time to ensure we do not miss anything.

This work is all being done as a collaborative effort with MACCAC, DOC, and MACPO. All three delivery systems have been aligned with several legislative platforms as well. Being fully funded is a top priority for all three delivery systems. The reasonable retirement of age 60 or 35 years of service could be a reality this next legislative session, but we will need support to get this passed. The next townhall meeting will be on 11/20/24, via Zoom, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you can attend, please do so.

Lastly, I am very proud and honored to represent MACPO as the President. Thank you, Jon Schiro, for your leadership as President this past year and to all those that volunteer on committees and are on the MACPO Executive Board. MACPO is a very strong resilient association because of members like you, thank you!

Legislative Committee

NICOLE GRAMS, WASECA COUNTY PROBATION

The MACPO Legislative Committee established the below 2025 Legislative Priorities:

1. Fully funding Minnesota's community supervision services through the recently implemented single funding formula to deliver core supervision services. This includes critical biennial funding updates to account for inflation, population changes and fees.
2. Probation officers to have an opportunity to secure an unreduced reasonable retirement after reaching 60 years of age or 35 years of service. This option of reasonable retirement after 60 years of age or 35 years of service will help maintain a vital, productive, and safe probation, parole, and supervised release workforce in Minnesota.
3. Increased funding for the mental health continuum of care for youth and adults in the justice system including increased early youth intervention, long term treatment and housing, and supports for youth and adults experiencing severe mental illness.

Progress continues with drafting a new bill to support unreduced reasonable retirement. Watch for a future announcement to attend a Town Hall meeting set for November 20, 2024, to be held by Zoom over the noon-hour to hear the latest updates and have an opportunity to ask questions. You will receive notice by email blast from MACPO.

Communication Committee

JOANNIE GONTAREK (CHAIR), OTTER TAIL COUNTY PROBATION

DEVIN PETERSEN, PINE COUNTY PROBATION

We are in the most beautiful seasons of the year – FALL.

The Communication Committee has been hard at work maintaining the MACPO Website and current needs. The Juvenile Resource Guide is available on the website under Resources.

Membership Committee

MARK HENDRICKSON, CHISAGO COUNTY PROBATION

There was not an update available at the time of the completion of this newsletter. Please watch for an update on the next newsletter.

Training and Education Committee

MICHELLE NISTLER, CASS COUNTY PROBATION

JILL FERRETTI, BROWN COUNTY PROBATION

The Training and Education committee is busy working on finding engaging presenters for our annual conference.

Mark your calendars for May 7 – 9, 2025, Breezy Point Resort at www.breezypointresort.com.



Our committee would like to welcome our new members Kay Wimmer, Taylor Gustafson and Britney Brown from Pine County, as well as Rachel Deck and Travis Fisher from Cass County.

Safety Committee

AMY HERTZOG, WRIGHT COUNTY COURT SERVICES (CHAIR)

RACHEL DECK, CASS COUNTY PROBATION (VICE CHAIR)

There was not an update available at the time of the completion of this newsletter. Please watch for an update on the next newsletter.

CPO Director's Committee

JON SCHIRO, WASECA COUNTY COURT SERVICES

Although the weather may not always feel like it, Fall is here, and it won't be long before we have to dust off the shovels. I hope everyone enjoys the changing of the seasons, and we see some vibrant colors before the ground is covered in white fluffy stuff!

Over the past year, the Director's Group has continued to navigate through the changes from the legislative session. I'm sure most have heard of the Community Supervision Advisory Council (CSAC). CSAC is a legislatively formed committee that is tasked with creating statewide policy surrounding community supervision. MACPO has three representatives on CSAC: Director Schommer and Director Schiro as the MACPO Directors representatives, as well as Director Glass as the EBP Advisory Committee representative. These directors serve MACPO well in their respective capacity. We also have representatives serving on the many committees that report to CSAC. The first CSAC draft report should be ready to submit to Commissioner Paul Schnell mid-November.

Along with all the work surrounding the legislative changes, MACPO Directors have supported the work of the Option 60/35 Reasonable Retirement Committee. Don't forget about the upcoming townhall meeting on November 20, 2024, over lunch. We are hoping to have a bill drafted by this upcoming legislative session. This impacts all of us! So, remember to stay informed and attend the town hall meetings.

Jackson County Court Services
Court Services Director - Robert T. Jirele
Jackson, MN 56143



Jackson County Court Services is located on the bottom floor of the beautiful and historic Jackson County Courthouse. The Courthouse was built in 1909. Jackson County (population 9892) is located in southwestern Minnesota bordering Iowa and on the Interstate 90 corridor.

Jackson County recently broke ground on a new jail and administrative building at a cost of nearly 30 million dollars. The jail will house up to 24 inmates. This new jail will replace the current 18 bed jail, which was built in 1976. Completion of the new jail is scheduled to be the summer of 2026.

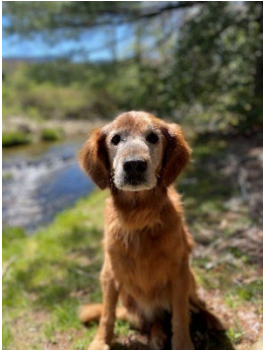
Jackson County Court Services is a 2 agent office with a part-time support staff.

The Director is Robert Jirele. Mr. Jirele worked at Rock-Nobles Community Corrections for 27 years prior to being hired as the Jackson County Court Services Director in November 2015. Mr. Jirele will be retiring in the spring of 2025. The job will be posted on the Jackson County website and also the MACPO employment site. This is a great opportunity for a seasoned agent to receive supervision experience while also maintaining an adult caseload. If anyone has questions regarding this position please call Mr. Jirele at 507-847-5660.

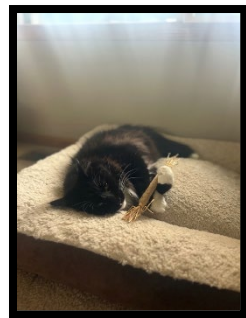
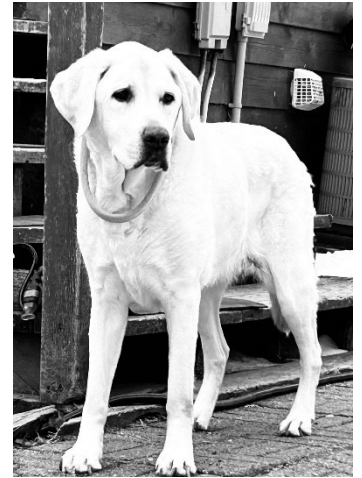
Jackson County Court Services welcomed Agent Addie King to the staff in February 2024. Previously, Ms. King worked for 5 years as a Victim Advocate for the Southwestern Minnesota Crisis Center. Ms. King has a juvenile caseload and she also supervises truancy cases in the county. This past summer Ms. King completed the New Agent Academy at the Department of Corrections.

Jackson County Court Services part time support staff is Trudy Miller. She began working at Jackson County Court Services in 2017. Ms. Miller also works on a part time basis at the Jackson County Attorney's Office and the Jackson County Family Services Network.

For the Love of Pets



Thank you to those who submitted



Legislative News: Lawmaker calls for House hearings on drugs arriving in prison mail, sending workers to hospital

By Liz Collin – September 26, 2024

<https://alphanews.org/lawmaker-calls-for-house-hearings-on-drugs-arriving-in-prison-mail-sending-workers-to-hospital/>.



A Minnesota state representative is calling for House hearings after dangerous drugs arriving in the mail have been sending correctional workers to the hospital and possibly killing at least two inmates in recent months.

State Rep. Paul Novotny from Elk River doesn't believe the issue can wait until January's session. He is a former police officer and sergeant for the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office.

[Nine workers at the Stillwater prison](#) were hospitalized last week after they were exposed to synthetic substances. Another inmate [also died at Moose Lake last week](#). Again, sources told Alpha News drug-soaked paper sent in the mail is suspected in that death.

"The drugs are being infused in the paper, the paper is soaked in the drugs. As we've seen with some of these synthetic opioids like fentanyl, they are so strong ... it's enough to cause some pretty serious effects," Novotny said.

"They're weaponizing these drugs. This is a very serious issue. Obviously, the loss of life for the inmate that overdosed is serious. But now that this could be used against the correctional officers or the employees at these facilities, this is very serious and this will only continue if nothing's done," he added.

Novotny said legislators have been asking the [Department of Corrections](#) what it is doing and noted that money in the state budget should have addressed this by now.

"The governor's budget had requested almost a half-million dollars specifically for mail security improvements. The omnibus bill that went out, I believe, was 1.9 million per year. So almost \$4 million for security improvements overall. We don't know where that's going. We've known that the mail has been an issue for a while and we're supposed to be rolling out these scanning plans to scan the mail so that they don't have direct access to the mail," Novotny said.

As Novotny explained, Stillwater is photocopying some of its mail as part of a pilot program, but they haven't been photocopying legal mail. Now, legal mail has increased dramatically as a result, Novotny said.

“Why are we still on a pilot program at one facility? We've got multiple facilities where this has been an issue. This is not something that we can wait and try and analyze and, you know, death by a thousand meetings. There has got to be some sense of urgency. That's what we're hoping to get and force that issue,” he said.

“We could have a lot of deaths and a lot of injuries in the meantime if we keep waiting,” he added.

Novotny has been publicly critical of Gov. Tim Walz in the past and he also shared a message to voters ahead of November.

“This mail is just a microcosm of the bigger picture ... the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. We're going down the wrong path,” Novotny warned.

The Rise of Cannabis Products in Liquor Stores: A New Retail Trend

<https://www.tallcopsaysstop.com/blog/rise-cannabis-products-liquor-stores-new-retail-trend>.



We are currently witnessing a growing trend of cannabis normalization in alcohol-specific outlets and retailers, as well as its infusion into various products. While the association between cannabis and alcohol is not new, what is changing is how and where these products are being sold, along with their labeling and marketing.

Years ago, I noticed alcohol products infused with "hemp seed oil," some of which had subtle cannabis references on the label or in the product description. Those days seem to be over. Now, I'm seeing seltzers, sodas, and other non-alcoholic beverages sold in liquor stores—places you'd typically expect alcohol products, not cannabis. Many of my current and former class attendees have also shared similar observations. One mentioned, “Not sure if you've seen these, but they were found at our local Texas chain liquor store in Houston.”

Recently, I visited a large chain liquor store in Florida and noticed an entire end cap dedicated to cannabis products. This shift in branding, quantity, and the location of these products in liquor stores is significant. Traditionally, liquor stores have focused on alcohol, but it seems clear that cannabis products are making their way into these spaces. Most people on this newsletter likely don't visit cannabis dispensaries but do frequent liquor stores. Now, these cannabis-infused products are becoming more accessible in places where your average consumer might shop for alcohol.

The products on offer today are far beyond the old "hemp seed oil" options. We're now seeing items like Delta-8 and Delta-9 THC. Can we expect more? Absolutely! More products, more brands, and eventually lower prices as these items flood the market. It raises the question: at what point will 10-20% or more of liquor store offerings be cannabis-based?

One of my key observations during community scans is that these products are more common in private liquor states versus controlled states. For those unfamiliar, controlled liquor states are jurisdictions where the government directly regulates liquor sales. If you're curious about your state's liquor rules and policies, this link from the NABCA provides a list of controlled states: [NABCA Control State Directory](#).

As always, drug trends and regulations vary by state, and I am sharing what I observe firsthand in retail establishments.

Kratom: The Biggest Drug You've Never Heard Of

By: [Sophie Levine](#)

<https://www.swiftcurrie.com/the-first-party-report-fall-2023-Kratom-The-Biggest-Drug-Youve-Never-Heard-Of>



If you stop by any gas station or convenience store around Georgia, you are likely to see a sign advertising kratom. Kratom is not sold in big-box stores, but it is a billion-dollar industry in the United States.

The uninitiated may wonder, what is kratom? Kratom is a substance derived from the *Mitragyna speciosa* tree (or Kratom tree), native to Southeast Asia. Kratom leaves contain two known psychoactive ingredients, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, which produce stimulant effects when consumed in low doses and sedative effects in high doses. It can allegedly lead to psychotic symptoms or

psychological and physiological dependencies. Kratom has a long history of use in Southeast Asia but has only gained popularity in the United States over the last decade. Though not approved by the FDA for any medical use, it is used recreationally and to alleviate drug withdrawal symptoms, treat pain and manage mental health problems. It comes in many forms – users consume kratom as a capsule, powder, by mixing kratom powder into food or drinks or taking liquid kratom extract. Kratom is currently illegal in six states, regulated in 11 states and legal in the remaining 33.

In Georgia, the Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KCPA) has regulated how kratom may be sold and packaged since 2019. Under the KCPA, sales of kratom to minors is prohibited and kratom packaging must be labeled with ingredients, directions for use, manufacturer contact information, disclaimers and warnings. In the absence of federal regulations, these state-wide consumer protection acts are band-aid solutions in what is still the wild, wild west kratom industry. Because the substance remains unregulated and legal in the vast majority of states, most distributors and sellers are not held to any labeling or warning standards typical for regulated substances like alcohol and cigarettes. This precise gap in the law has led to a recent spate of wrongful death lawsuits concerning kratom throughout the United States.

It is a new area of litigation, but kratom cases are starting to pick up momentum. In July 2023, a judge awarded a Florida family \$11 million in a wrongful death lawsuit against the company who made kratom that allegedly led to 39-year-old Krystal Talavera's death. One month later, a jury awarded \$2.5 million to the Washington State family of Patrick Coyne, a 39-year-old man who died after using kratom. In the Florida lawsuit, The Kratom Distro and its owner, Sean Michael Harder, were held liable for Ms. Talavera's death because the product was sold and marketed as an all-natural supplement with no warning labels or dosage recommendations. Similarly, in the Washington State suit, the jury found Society Botanicals, LLC, and its owner, Wendi Rook, liable for not placing proper warnings on its packaging.

These lawsuits are a few among many to have been filed and are currently pending against kratom manufacturers, distributors and sellers. This new wave of litigation harkens back to the dram shop laws that were codified in Georgia in the 1980s. O.C.G.A. § 51-1-40 allows victims of drunk driving accidents to hold sellers of alcohol liable if the seller sold alcohol to a visibly intoxicated person who the seller knew would soon be driving. These so-called dram shop laws opened liability for alcohol-related accidents far beyond what was previously possible. Because kratom is sold at convenience stores and gas stations, a dram-shop type law for kratom would leave these shops open to similar litigation. It is too soon to know how kratom cases will continue to play out, but stores that sell kratom and the insurers who insure them must be aware that this new legal fight is coming.

IS GALAXY GAS A DANGEROUS DRUG?

HEALTH RISKS OF NITROUS OXIDE

September 9, 2024 (part of article)

<https://gofflawdfw.com/is-galaxy-gas-a-dangerous-drug-exploring-the-health-risks-of-nitrous-oxide/>



Nitrous oxide, often sold under the label of Galaxy Gas, is a substance that has garnered attention for both its legitimate applications and its troubling misuse. While it is commonly used in medical settings for pain relief and in the culinary world for creating whipped cream, its recreational use has become prevalent, raising significant health concerns. In the following article, we'll take a closer look at what Galaxy Gas is and how it is affecting young people around the globe.

What is Galaxy Gas?

Galaxy Gas is the brand of the company that primarily sells nitrous oxide, but it has become synonymous with slang terms like trippy whip, N2O, and nags.

According to the company's website, Galaxy Gas is a whipped Cream Charger and stainless-steel canister filled with nitrous oxide (N2O) gas. Nitrous Oxide helps cream form into a froth for use in culinary settings.

Galaxy Gas is popular on social media, especially among young people, because of the strong effects of nitrous oxide. In some states it is now considered a recreational drug or outright banned.

What is Galaxy Gas Used For?

Galaxy Gas is designed for culinary settings to create whipped cream. However, the company has flavored its nitrous oxide with various flavors such as mango, tropical punch, and blue raspberry. But why is a product used as a propellant and aerating agent in whipped cream dispensers flavored?

Some would argue that it's because wild flavors and colors appeal more to a younger audience hooked on the high Galaxy Gas produces. However, there is no dispute that the mind-altering effects of the high are intoxicating and can be addictive.

What Does Galaxy Gas Do To The Brain?

Galaxy Gas Trippy Whip has nitrous oxide. This gas works as an anesthetic. When inhaled, it is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream. It travels directly to the brain and the rest of the body, creating a euphoric high. Users report feeling like they're floating and excited. For every inhale they take, the feelings last approximately one minute. When used in a dental or medical setting, the effects are mildly sedative and reduce pain.

Recent reports indicate that inhaling nitrous oxide from whipped cream can cause severe physical and mental health issues.

Short-Term Nitrous Oxide Health Side Effects

- Euphoria
- Disorientation
- Dizziness
- Pain Relief
- Numbness
- Altered Perception
- Accidents Caused by Intoxication

Long-Term Health Side Effects

- Memory Loss
- Psychosis
- Vitamin B12 Depletion
- Numbness in Extremities
- Incontinence
- Potential Birth Defects
- Ringing or Buzzing in The Ears
- Weakened Immune System

Whipped cream nitrous oxide usage is also impossible to detect on a drug screening, fueling the concern many parents have regarding abuse and addiction.

Watch Warning Here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfIdkBOuC6A/>

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Nexus - Mille Lacs - [CLICK HERE](#)

We provide short- and long-term treatment programs at our residential facilities for kids who need intensive support and care. Specialize in behavioral and mental health issues like: depression, anxiety, trauma, oppositional behavior, ADHD, borderline personality, bi-polar conditions relational problems, attachment issues, parenting support, family conflict, sexually problematic behaviors, and emotional/physical/sexual abuse.

Lakeview Behavioral Health - [CLICK HERE](#) [1-866-316-4038](tel:1-866-316-4038)

Lakeview Behavioral Health provides behavioral health care services for adults, adolescents, and children in need. We offer outpatient mental health, substance use, psychiatry, and co-occurring services across our six office locations and via statewide telehealth. Lakeview's offices are conveniently located in Uptown Grand Rapids, Downtown Grand Rapids, Hibbing, Virginia, Brainerd and Duluth.

Northwestern Minnesota Juvenile Center- [CLICK HERE](#) (218) 751-3196

Licensed through the Minnesota Department of Corrections, Northwestern Minnesota Juvenile Center incorporates three distinct units (non-secure detention unit, residential treatment unit, and secure detention) within the building, as well as community-based satellite (foster) homes. The Center offers 35 day evaluations, community service and restitution work programs, 30/60/90 day programs, and detention services.

Prairie Lakes Youth Programs - [CLICK HERE](#) 320-231-1729

Prairie Lakes Youth Programs is a children's residential facility located in Willmar, Minnesota. Through our non-secure, group home, and secure environments, we provide individualized, trauma-informed, and culturally relevant care and treatment including: substance use disorder addiction recovery, pet therapy, individual therapy, group therapy, family therapy, truancy support, CHIPS support, and so much more.

Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance - [CLICK HERE](#)

(952) 435-9310

Serving criminal justice and human service partners by specializing in electronic monitoring, supervision, and alcohol & drug testing. Fully understand the needs of agents and agencies in correctional environments because it is owned and managed by experienced law enforcement and correctional professionals.

MCF - Red Wing - [CLICK HERE](#)

651-267-3600

Minnesota Correctional Facility–Red Wing (MCF-RW) is a juvenile residential facility operated by the Department of Corrections. The facility’s licensed bed space capacity is 88. Each general population living unit can house 16-24 youth and the secured unit can house 30 youth. The secured unit serves as facility’s intake unit and discipline unit, as well as providing secure detention bed space for counties. Other buildings include a school, main kitchen, administration building, and a variety of maintenance and storage buildings.

Northstar Behavioral Health Network - [CLICK HERE](#)

651-487-4987

Northstar Behavioral Health Network provides services focusing on supporting individuals diagnosed with stimulant use disorder and opioid use disorder. These services include inpatient residential care along with outpatient services focused on client-centered care. NBH also proudly offers mental health services, including individual, group, and family counseling.

Village Ranch - [CLICK HERE](#)

(320) 286-2922

Residential care with Minnesota locations in Annandale (female residents between the ages of 12-18), Cokato (male residents struggling with a range of mental health and behavior issues), Hutchinson (male residents between the ages of 15 & 19), and Rochester (group home for male residents between the ages of 15 & 19).

West Central Regional Juvenile Center - [CLICK HERE](#)

(218) 299-5150

Providing residential services for juveniles with behavioral, protection, dependency, and delinquency issues. Programming includes secure detention, secure residential, non-secure detention/social service emergency placement, 30 day evaluations, sexual therapy, and community living independent programming and skills.

Kyros - [CLICK HERE](#)

612-900-2233

We're addressing the treatment gap by increasing the access to recovery services, starting with creating professional support opportunities for people in recovery. Peer Providers offer critical support to people in early recovery through their lived experiences in recovery – find out how you can start offering support now.

Meridian Behavioral Health- [CLICK HERE](#)

612-454-2014

Meridian has twelve residential programs and eight outpatient programs located throughout Minnesota. We offer specialized drug and alcohol addiction programs as well mental health services for male-identifying, female-identifying, professionals and the LGBTQ community.

Evergreen Recovery - [CLICK HERE](#)

651-252-6070

Evergreen Recovery offers a variety of services to assist those seeking services from start to finish. This includes (but is not limited to) assessments, individual sessions, group sessions, mental health therapy, medication management, and coordination of services.

Intoxalock - [CLICK HERE](#)

(844) 899-6211

Serves multiple locations throughout Minnesota for ignition interlock devices. They make it affordable, easy to use, and convenient to customers while also offering 24/7 customer support.

Nationwide Interlock Minnesota- [CLICK HERE](#)

866-694-6099

Ignition interlock device is the most commonly used technology to prevent drunk driving. A nationwide interlock customer service representative is ready to answer your questions and walk you through the process step by step.

MACPO would like to give a huge thank you to all our sponsors.

Please watch our website and future newsletters for new advertising for our sponsors. Logos and links to all our vendors can be found on our website, www.macpo.net.

MACPO 2024-2025 Elected Officers



Executive Board

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Lyndon Stinson, Freeborn County Probation
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Terry Fawcett, Pine County Probation
terry.fawcett@co.pine.mn.us

Member at Large

Traci Green, Wabasha County Probation
tgreen@co.wabasha.mn.us

Contact MACPO Secretary, Devin Petersen, Pine County Probation, for the location and time of MACPO Board meetings.

