TEXAS IN SPOTLIGHT AS CONGRESS SEeks ANSWERS TO INCARCERATED MENTALLY ILL “EARLY IDENTIFICATION KEY TO SUCCESS” BEXAR COUNTY SHERIFF TELLS PANEL
by: Rosanne Hughes, Change Management Specialist, Bexar County Sheriff’s Office

As federal lawmakers seek answers to the challenges of mental illness in the criminal justice system, one community is being hailed as a “beacon of success.”

Bexar County Sheriff Susan Pamerleau was asked to testify before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on February 10 because the county has been seeing favorable outcomes in recent years.

“The key to the county’s success with this population has been collaboration with all of the stakeholders,” Pamerleau said. Bexar County leaders developed an overarching system over the past 10 years to address mental health issues. The focus is on specialty courts that divert the mentally ill from jail and into treatment centers. There has also been an emphasis on ensuring mental health screenings take place at the point of arrest — prior to magistration. Bexar County Sheriff’s Office also mandates Crisis Intervention Training for all deputies, which has resulted in a drastic drop in use of force claims.

“We knew we needed to identify those with mental illness early in the process,” she said.

Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), who invited Pamerleau, said, “By screening people with mental illness and diverting them to evidence-based treatment instead of jail, Bexar County has saved millions of dollars per year, reduced crime rates, increased public safety, and given mentally ill individuals a chance to break the cruel cycle of their illness. That model for mental health treatment has become a beacon of success.”

Pamerleau said the costs of incarcerating the mentally ill are not merely financial.

“Jails are not the place for those suffering from mental illness,” she said. “Had we identified them early, the first time, think about the human capital we could have saved. Most have not committed serious crimes, but are in jail because of untreated mental illness. That first brush with the law could have been turned into treatment as a condition of pre-trial release, rather than being caught up in the criminal justice system over and over again.”

Click here for a video of the testimony.
I hope you have plans to attend the NAAWS conference which is now just a few weeks away. The conference committee, headed up by Cathy Linaweaver, has worked diligently to put together a quality conference. Sessions are designed to be thought provoking and relevant to the current issues, utilizing subject matter experts from across the country and multiple jurisdictions.

This is our first trip to Oklahoma and it promises to be a conference to remember. You will have the opportunity to see old friends and to make new ones. We are going to have a great time, and I look forward to seeing you there!

- Cherry Lindamood, NAAWS President

**NAAWS LEADERSHIP**

**Cherry Lindamood, President**  
South Central Correctional Center (CCA), Tennessee

**Seth Smith, 1st Vice President**  
Louisiana Dept of Corrections

**Robert Welch, 2nd Vice President**  
Ohio Dept of Rehabilitation & Correction

**Gaylon Lay, Secretary**  
Arkansas Dept of Correction

**Richard Alford, Sgt-at-Arms**  
Texas Dept of Criminal Justice

**Tanisha Matthews, Sgt-at-Arms**  
Louisiana Dept of Corrections(retired)

**Fr. Richard A. Deshaies, Chaplain**  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts Middlesex Sheriff’s Office

**CALLING ALL WARDENS & SUPERINTENDENTS!**

Numbers do talk, and we can help jail administrators, wardens, and superintendents have their rightful voice in corrections if our membership increases.

Collectively, we can set goals and achieve results that make a difference when it comes to jail and prison operations and the status of wardens in our field.

Do you think that the American Correctional Association needs to respond more aggressively to the needs of jail and prison administrators?

If your answers are yes; this is your opportunity to join the only wardens’ organization that has members from coast to coast and throughout Canada and the United States.

Collectively, we can set goals and achieve results that make a difference when it comes to jail and prison operations and the status of wardens in our field.

Visit us at www.naawsonline.org to join today
TIME IS RUNNING OUT!
REGISTER NOW FOR THE
2016 NAAWS CONFERENCE

It’s time to make plans to attend the 2016 NAAWS Annual Conference April 12-14, 2016. Our conference theme, “Facing the Future Together” promises many exciting opportunities, starting with the conference’s host city! It will be our FIRST visit to beautiful Tulsa, Oklahoma. Make your reservations now at the Doubletree by Hilton in downtown Tulsa. The hotel number is 918-587-8000, and be sure to use the code NAA to get the NAAWS room rate of $104 a night + tax. This great rate is only guaranteed through March 25, 2016, so don’t procrastinate. Conference registration is open on the NAAWS website, or mail your registration to Gail Heller. If you need registration information please refer to our website or contact Gail at 614-736-9676 or gheller214@columbus.rr.com Early registration ends March 31, 2016, so register now!

We are also excited about this year’s conference agenda. We have lined up panel presentations which will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday on great topics including: Correctional Hospice Care, Innovative Strategies for Jail Administrators, Managing LGBTI Inmates, Using Gang Intelligence to Improve Prison Management, Minimizing the Potential for Staff Suicides by Increasing Staff Hardiness, A Correctional Leader’s Role in Assisting the Silent Victims of Crime, and more. In addition, we have two great speakers lined up for our luncheons on Tuesday and Wednesday, and on Tuesday night, we will enjoy the fantastic Oklahoma tradition of Native American dancing presented by the championship team from the Muskogee Creek Nation. A NAAWS conference wouldn’t be complete without an opportunity to tour some of the local facilities, so please plan to join us on Thursday for a visit to the Dick Conner Correctional Center and the Tulsa City Jail.

Don’t miss this year’s wonderful opportunity to network with and learn from the best.

For more information on this year’s conference, please email our program coordinator, Cathy Linaweaver, at clinaweaver@yahoo.com or call her at 816-213-3784.

CONGRATULATIONS

to the Awardees of the
2016 WARDEN OF THE YEAR!

For the first time ever, NAAWS has awarded the Warden of the Year to not one, but two very deserving wardens. Congratulations to Warden Alan Lazaroff and Senior Warden James L Jones

Warden Alan Lazaroff
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections

Senior Warden James L Jones
Texas Department of Criminal Justice Correctional Institutions Division

WARDEN OF THE YEAR BANQUET
AUGUST 8TH, 2016
Time and Location will be announced in next Grapevine and on the NAAWS website
COLLEGE SUCCESS FOR SVC MENTEES

By: Brittney Daniels, Social Media & Marketing Coordinator, Silent Victims of Crime

ZAY’S STORY

“Where are we going?!” “College!” That’s the call and response Silent Victims of Crime Executive Director, Paulette Pfeiffer, better known as Tinkerbell, evokes with her mentees each week when she picks them up on their way to team mentoring excursions. This is the story of one mentee in particular. For the sake of privacy, let’s call him Zay.

Zay had been waiting 2 years to join Silent Victims of Crime and waited outside each time Tinkerbell (Tink) came to pick up his sister for their weekly outings. Finally when he was 6 years old he was able to participate and sat quietly between his peers not sure what was going on when they shouted, “College.” Tink noticed and pulled over her van and asked him why he was being so shy? He just stared back blankly and so they practiced and when they got back in the van she repeat, “Where are we going?!” and only Zay shouted “College!” Then Tink asked why do you want to go to college? He stopped confused and replied, “Because everyone else is.” There began Zay’s journey to higher education.

When Zay was 7, he found out he was the child of an inmate. After school one day he overheard his aunt discussing ‘his father’s’ upcoming release from prison. He didn’t fully understand at the time, but one thing he knew for sure was that the man that raised him, who he knew and loved as a father, was not his ‘real dad.’ Tink, also unaware of this revelation, came over once she got off the phone with Zay and together everyone sat down as a family to discuss how best to move forward.

A month later his father was released. After awhile and with permission from his mom, Tink took Zay to meet his dad. He was working at the local Zaxby’s and as soon as they made eye contact, there was an immediate familiarity between father and son. Years later he reflected that that experience and continued relationship, although strained at times, helped him to own who he is and know who and where he came from, it enabled him to believe in himself and the man he hoped to become.

Backtracking a little, to when Zay was in middle school, Tink noticed how he was always first to lend a hand in the kitchen and as he got older during school break retreats he would prepare full breakfast spreads for his peers and mentors. Jump to 2014, and Tink has expanded Silent Victims of Crime to Miami and Zay is a youth counselor at Teen Leadership Miami’s 2nd Annual Summer Camp. In Miami several of his peers whom he got acquainted with via PenPals are also aspiring chefs. For SVC’s summer birthday club he and Teen LEADER, Dennis, prepped and served an entire meal for everyone from scratch.

This year Zay graduated high school with honors and invited his biological dad as a surprise for Tink, without whom father and son may never have had a relationship. Zay received a scholarship to cover books, and he’s currently living in New York City applying for more scholarships and saving so that he can attend culinary school next year.

SUNNY’S STORY

As information continues to be highlighted, regarding the negative impact of mass incarceration, especially how it affects children of inmates, we bring you the hopeful story of Sunny*. Her family became involved with Silent Victims of Crime (SVC) back in 2003.

Sunny, her mother, and sister were visiting Anderson County Library and noticed this tiny lady setting up a display in honor of the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade. Her mother walked over and introduced herself and that’s when Sunny’s family met SVC’s Executive Director, Paulette Pfeiffer (Tinkerbell).

Tink went on to tell them about her organization, which focuses on children of inmates, and how each year the youth in her program participate at the Annual MLK Jr. Day Parade. Sunny’s mom became teary-eyed expressing to Tink how she has been hoping for years to get her daughters involved with a group that focuses on their specific situation.

Sunny’s father had been incarcerated for murder and since his arrest her grades were falling. Her mother did her best at the time to continue supporting her family but the oldest daughter seemed to be giving up on herself. Tink immediately began mentoring her mother and Sunny joined SVC’s Annual Call Me MISTER Summer Camp that same year. By the following year, Sunny’s grades began to improve and her mother divorced her father and she enrolled herself back in school.
During these years Sunny thrived and in 2012 when Tink moved to Miami to expand SVC, the staff and volunteers in Anderson made sure to be there for all of Sunny’s milestones, including graduation in 2014. At this time Tink surprised her with a summer vacation to Miami as a graduation gift. This also coincided with SVC’s 2nd Annual Teen Leadership Miami Summer Camp and Sunny was all too happy to speak with her peers in South Florida about her experience having a father serving life in prison and how Tink and her team gave her hope for herself.

Sunny is now working while in her Sophmore year at Anderson University and is getting ready to embark on an incredible adventure with her school. Next year her class will be taking a tour of Italy. At first news of this opportunity, she and her family didn’t think this was even feasible, but SVC’s Anderson Director Evelyn stepped in and Sunny’s school agreed to cover more than half of her travel expenses and went a step further offering her grants to cover her overall tuition.

This young lady’s story is only one of many that we feel need to be highlighted as proof to the world of what is possible when these children are given even the slightest opportunity to succeed instead of being stigmatized. If we want to stop this intergenerational cycle of incarceration we have to open our hearts and see these youth for the future they truly are.

Look out in future issues for more success stories like Sunny’s and Zay’s. If you have one of your own to share email us at svc@silentvictimsofcrime.org

The Creative Corrections Education Foundation (CCEF) started in 2012. The 501c non-profit organization began as a vision of Percy Pitzer, retired Warden, and his wife. Sununt. CCEF provides scholarships to children whose parents are incarcerated. Since its inception, CCEF has provided an extraordinary opportunity for young people to change their life’s path and avoid second, sometimes third generation incarceration.

The Creative Corrections Education Foundation is currently active in 28 states, and to date, 103 scholarships have been awarded. Applications are accepted on-line by the CCEF, and each $1,000.00 scholarship is paid directly to the college, university or accredited vocational school. Students who remain in good standing are eligible to receive re-occurring scholarship funds each year. Additionally, CCEF sponsors the Right Path program in Beaumont, Texas and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. To date, the Right Path program has funded 53 students to attend technical training in their communities. Of unique interest, is the inmate donations being made to the Creative Corrections Education Foundation. To date, inmates have contributed approximately $43,000.00 in scholarship funds. In accordance with the 501c by-laws, 100% of all funds donated by inmates must be used solely for scholarship monies in their state. Additional information is available on their website at www.ccefscholarships.org.

The Creative Corrections Education Foundation has the potential to not only decrease our prison population, but to change the lives of many young people who deserve and seek a life different than what they learned at home. NAAWS is proud to be a sponsor of CCEF.

The Correctional Management Institute of Texas in partnership with NAAWS

WARDENS PEER INTERACTION PROGRAM

May 23-27, 2016 • Huntsville, Texas

Contact Ashley Koonce at koonce@shsu.edu or 936-294-1706
apply at www.cmionline.org

Silent Victims of Crime
“Children of Incarcerated Parents”

Silent Victims of Crime is an organization devoted to empowering children of incarcerated parents through positive mentoring and educational enrichment while cultivating a national awareness. Visit them at: www.silentvictimsofcrime.org
1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS, 3:04PM
President Cherry Lindamood opened the meeting and all participants introduced themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 9, 2015 AND AUGUST 17, 2015
Minutes for these meetings were published in The Grapevine. Minutes from all future meetings will be published in The Grapevine.
MOTION: To approve minutes from the February 9, 2015 and August 17, 2015 meetings (Grande, Welch)
MOTION APPROVED

3. EXECUTIVE TREASURER’S REPORT
All meeting participants received a copy of the financial report for the period August 14, 2015 through January 17, 2016 which was reviewed in detail by Executive Treasurer Gail Heller. The association continues to do well financially and has a current balance in all accounts of $55,135.46 as of January 17, 2016.
MOTION: To accept the financial report as presented (Linaweaver, Welch)
MOTION APPROVED

4. PRESIDENT’S REPORT
President Lindamood reported that Past President Todd Thomas was sorry to miss the conference due to health issues. His health is improving.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
a. Executive Director Gloria Hultz reported that there were three (3) submissions for Warden of the Year resulting in two (2) awards. This is the first time for co-awardees. The Wardens of the Year are James Jones of the Huntsville Unit in Texas and Alan Lazaroff of the Mansfield Correctional Institution in Ohio.

b. There were no Medal of Valor nominees. Director Gary Mohr of Ohio will address this on NAAWS behalf with the members of ASCA. President Lindamood added that there needs to be a mechanism to increase participation and with Director Mohr taking this to ASCA it will help. Melody Turner suggested that members could call their commissioners as a reminder. During discussion it was offered that both paper and email methods be used to solicit nominees with a letter notifying directors of the change in the process. An article in the ASCA newsletter would be beneficial along with a photo of the Warden of the Year. Nominations are accepted September 1 through December 15 and email reminders are being sent out.

6. CMIT UPDATE
a. Doug Dretke introduced Ashley Koonce who is the CMIT Project Coordinator.

b. He gave an update on the Wardens Peer Interaction Program (WPIP) collaboration between NAAWS and SHSU. The program has sold out the last couple of years and continues to grow. All participants become members of NAAWS for one year after completing the program. A suggestion was made to recognize new members at each NAAWS conference.

c. Dretke reminded everyone that CMIT doesn’t write The Grapevine, only publishes it. He has started to ask WPIP participants to write an article based on their projects. Mel Williams asked that consideration be given to adding some of the articles to A View from the Trenches. CMIT does check on copyright issues before publishing.

d. The old web address redirects users to the new site. He asked that members review the website and make suggestions for improvement. A future discussion item will be vendors and the website – pricing, criteria, how income is generated, etc.

7. MEMBERSHIP REPORT
Membership Chair Mike Graziano reported that there are 1192 current members with 46 who are past due in their dues. He recently deleted 114 individuals after receiving no response to a reminder letter. He is sending welcome letters to new members with a lapel pin. A suggestion was made to remind WPIP participants that NAAWS is not just for wardens.

8. TULSA CONFERENCE SUMMARY
a. Conference Coordinator Cathy Linaweaver indicated that the committee is holding monthly conference calls. The program contents are confirmed. There will be an Honor Guard from Oklahoma, a singer for the national anthem, and Native American dancers for after dinner entertainment. There is not yet an off-site event planned, however the committee is looking to see what is available. The Tuesday lunch speaker will be from the Oklahoma DOC and facility tours are scheduled for Thursday.
9. OLD BUSINESS
Pat Perry stated that the quality of the material submitted for the student poster session in Indianapolis was very poor. Students did not come to the conference even with their registration paid. There were three (3) students at this conference, one from Baton Rouge and two from New Orleans. The students expressed concern regarding funding. Pat is working on ideas to help with this. A scholarship may be tied to a presentation. He is also looking to see if grant dollars are available. Rather than sponsoring a student to attend ACA, attendance at NAAWS could be considered. Chuck Albino offered a $500 personal contribution to sponsor a student.

10. NEW BUSINESS
a. A hotel in Olive Branch, Mississippi submitted a proposal to host a NAAWS conference. Deb Schumann is checking it out but is open to other venues. A location for the 2018 conference has not been determined. One state has offered to coproduce a conference. Deb stated that if NAAWS is considering this, she would strongly encourage the association to have a detailed contract that includes NAAWS holding the funds.

b. Cathy Linaweaver gave a brief description of the Creative Corrections Education Foundation. It began in 2012 and gives scholarships to the children of inmates. To date inmates have contributed $43,000 toward the scholarships. Creative Corrections sponsored Miss America at the 2012 Warden of the Year banquet.
MOTION: To make an annual contribution to the Creative Corrections Education Foundation of $2,000 to support two (2) $1,000 scholarships (Keohane, Turner)
MOTION DENIED
MOTION: To approve $2,000 for 2016 to support two (2) $1,000 scholarships and to vote for approval each year thereafter. (Albino, Turner)
MOTION CARRIED

c. Chuck Albino reported on Make a Smile. They currently have money but no crisis. Some communities are handling problems before Make a Smile can get to them. Make a Smile tries to go to areas where correctional families are affected.

d. Pat Keohane stated that more member participation is needed in the hospitality room including helping out.

e. Executive Director Hultz indicated that Charlie Benson is being considered for Life Membership. He is an 83 year old former federal warden who was recognized at the NAAWS conference in Kansas City.
MOTION: To grant Life Membership to Charlie Benson (Schumann, Linaweaver)
MOTION CARRIED

f. Pete Grande would like to see a current board members list added to the newsletter along with officers.

11. ADJOURNMENT
MOTION to adjourn (Schumann, Turner)
MOTION CARRIED

From the desk of...

The Executive Director
Gloria Hultz

We had another successful meeting at the ACA Winter Conference and NAAWS was very busy.

On Sunday we met and selected our Warden of the Year and this was a very difficult decision. We were at a stand-still, and we all felt the same so we voted on giving the award to two outstanding wardens; Warden Alan Lazaroff from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections and Senior Warden James L. Jones from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Correctional Institutions Division. Both of these men are amazing! You will hear more about them in our June issue. They will be honored at the Warden of the Year Banquet in Boston on August 8, 2016.

We appointed a NAAWS Chaplain, Fr. Richard A. Deshaies, S.J., who is the Catholic Chaplain for The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Middlesex Sheriff’s Office. He accepted and we welcome him aboard.

Our Tulsa, OK, conference is set and the entire committee has done an outstanding job! Hope you all can make it.

The Wardens Peer Interaction Program is going well, and we will be having another class. The dates are May 23 – 27, 2016, in Huntsville, Texas. Visit the website and take a look. We’d love to have you participate. It is a great program for Wardens and Superintendents.

Membership is growing and we need to stay active and make sure we are part of the decisions being made today for Criminal Justice.