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January 15, 2020

Volume 1: Issue IX

## ocean newsletter

Overcoming Corruption Encouraging All Nations

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*In this 9th issue of the ocean newsletter we seek to collaborate with other organizations and individuals who know the truth about the Minnesota gulag. We then look at just how easy it is to get committed in Minnesota. Then we will look at who works at the gulag and examine how nepotism and double paychecks keep the system in operation. We then talk with one man who committed his crime when he was 15 and has been at the gulag for over 18 years. We will then end by thanking our many supporters.*

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If you have questions or comments, write to the ocean founders:

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You can also leave a voice message at:

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Ext. 70887 for rjh.

## A Call to Action!

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

We know that January is almost over. However, the issue of slavery and human trafficking is not.

If you suspect human trafficking call 1-866-347-2423.

If you need help, call 1-888-373-7888.

Learn how you can help to end trafficking at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/about/ways-endtrafficking>.

Use #SlaveryHumanTraffickingPreventionMonth to share on social media.

Learn how human trafficking is happening at [www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign](http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign).

ocean is not associated with the above cited organizations.

According to the International Labor Organization, there are approximately 40 million human trafficking victims worldwide. Through a variety of tactics including violence and threats, traffickers force their victims into forced labor or commercial sex against their wishes.<sup>1</sup>

January 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA).

The TVPA established a comprehensive framework for combating human trafficking by establishing prevention programs, creating victim protections, and advancing prosecutions under expanded criminal statutes to usher in the modern anti-trafficking movement domestically and globally.

In October 2019, the Department of Homeland Security initiated more than 800 investigations related to human trafficking and the Department of State launched its Human Trafficking Expert Consultant Network, comprised of survivors and other experts, to inform its anti-trafficking policies and programs. The department of Health and Human Services continues to provide funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and in Fiscal Year 2018 it funded victim assistance programs that provided benefits and services to more than 2,400 victims.

The Department of Transportation committed \$5.4 million in grants to the prevention of human trafficking and similar crimes.<sup>2</sup>

In honor of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, ocean would like to take time to discuss a concern that has recently come to our attention.

ocean does NOT condone any form of sexual abuse, molestation, rape, incest, mutilation, or harassment in any culture, location, or situation. ocean does not support lowering the age of consent, nor condones sexual activity between children and adults, or heinous sexual activities that violate state laws. We are not in alliance with these ideals at all. We are confined in an institution and have little access to information about organizations. Please let us know if you think we are unknowingly associated with organizations that support the beliefs we stated above.

As former offenders, we wish to bring a level of closure to those who have endured sexual violence. We feel real sorrow for our bad choices.

ocean is an acronym for "Overcoming Corruption Encouraging All Nations." This is the concept that drives us. We believe that we can overcome our impurities and in turn, others who also have struggled with, or may still struggle with uncomfortable sexual thoughts and habits, can overcome them too. In fact, the very low level of sex offense recidivism shows this to be true.

At a point in our lives, we made bad choices and we hurt innocent people. Now we regret and repent and seek to overcome our own internal corruption. As part of that process, we have found purpose in addressing external injustices as well.

We understand that we are defined by what we do as a result of what we believe. Therefore, as long as we defend our offensive past, we can justifiably be called "offenders." However, when we began to contemplate the experience of victims, we also began to fight against behaviors that caused their trauma. Thus, we have

become Defenders, rather than offenders.

When an offender labels a victim as a “survivor” he is potentially minimizing his misconduct. In our efforts to eradicate sex offender recidivism, we celebrate moments when victims identify themselves as survivors. However, as Defenders, we cannot apply the term “survivor” liberally. We will not refer to victims as survivors UNTIL WE ARE TOLD by an individual who wishes to be identified this way. To do otherwise would presume that those we have harmed have healed, when perhaps they haven't.

Do victims of sexual violence know of the punitive and draconian effects of msop? Are victims of sexual assault satisfied with the current “solutions” being used to address sexual violence?

Court of Appeals Judge Edward Randall dissenting in Eric Eischens case in June 2014, who said that MSOP is, “cruel and inhuman,” also said:

Our resources, the taxpayers’ money, would be better spent on real programming in prison and programming in the community... Where would all the money come from to ramp up what present programs there are in prison for sex offenders? Those funds dollars would come from the budget for MSOP... (comparing the expenditures for sexual violence treatment and prevention in the community with expenditures for msop commitments and concluding that three offenders could be treated in the community for the cost of one offender civilly committed.). Do the math: 698 at \$120,000 a year equals \$83,760,000; 698 at \$140,000 a year equals \$97,720,000. That is the present budget to warehouse people at MSOP. The number of “clients” is projected to increase to 1109 by 2020. (internal citations omitted) <sup>3</sup>

Do the victims of sexual assault in Minnesota know that several hundred sex offenders are locked up for life, without receiving treatment? Even Judge Randall uses quotation marks when he calls us “clients.” Perhaps many victims could care less—and they would be justified. However, is it just to lock up hundreds, under the cloak of treatment, at the expense of a couple thousand, being refused treatment?

One positive thing Judge Randall’s comments reveal is that we are not at the projected 1109 “clients” that was predicted by the OLA. We are closer to 740. This is good. Not because sex offenders should not be held accountable, but because they *should* be. We know that wherever those offenders are, they are more likely to receive the services they need, the further away from msop they are.

MSOP disgraces the profession of psychology by refusing treatment to the mentally ill. Instead of showing that offenders can change, and that the world can be a safe place, the message to the victim is, “The guy that hurt you is not fixable.” This narrative is a lie. However, msop would suffer greatly if they admitted this.

### Footnotes

1. <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-slavery-and-human-trafficking-prevention-month...>
2. [www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/news/prevention-month-2020](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/news/prevention-month-2020). Read the full proclamation at [www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-national-slavery-human-trafficking-prevention-month-2020/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-national-slavery-human-trafficking-prevention-month-2020/)
3. *Eric John Eischens*, 2014 Minn. App. Unpub. LEXIS 622, A14-0013, June 23, 2014.

“Here is the true meaning and value of compassion and nonviolence when it helps us to see the enemy’s point of view, to hear his questions, to know his assessment of ourselves. For from his view we may indeed see the basic weaknesses of our own condition, and if we are mature, we may learn and grow and profit from the wisdom of the brothers who are called the opposition.” -Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

## Ocean Needs to Collaborate with other Organizations and Individuals

ocean is always seeking alliances with individuals and organizations. We recently received a letter from a civilly committed man in Virginia. He wrote us a 14 page letter packed with great information, most of which will be applicable to our efforts. However, there was one message that stood out in his letter: "Focus on your Supporters." This has become sort of a mantra for us for the last few weeks since we received that letter. I [DAW] sometimes find myself in debates with those that disagree with ocean. I don't mean to argue with anyone. I don't even care to change other's perceptions when I defend mine. I just want to be understood. However, this contention is sometimes reflected in our ocean newsletters. But what this man from Virginia helped me realize is that ocean *is* understood, and we need to Focus on our Supporters, instead of those that refuse to consider what we have to say.

We do not have time to hesitate asking for help and support. We MUST network and utilize each other's resources. Emotional and moral support is great. However, we are civil detainees. ACTION is how we show real care and concern!

We understand the anger, fear and disgust that sexual assaults have caused. But the solution is in the facts—not the emotional reactions.

The public has the right to know all sides of this issue so that they can make informed decisions about how to address sexual abuse in Minnesota and nationwide. Transparency is how we will strengthen public safety.

Many want to shut down msop. But ocean is different. Instead, we seek reform. The difference is significant. Sex offender recidivism hovers around 1% to 3.5% depending on the study you're looking at. So although sex offender recidivism is the lowest of all other crimes, it still happens. Therefore, a secure treatment center may still be necessary. However, if msop was actually reformed, this would mean that many could potentially be released, opening bed space for others who need it. Currently, that bed space is being wasted on hundreds who do not need it and rejecting thousands that do.

Some of our peers at msop do not agree that msop should be reformed. They think it should be closed. However, we think this would be disrespectful to victims of sexual assault and to those that continue to struggle with unhealthy sexual thoughts and behaviors.

We encourage the public to connect the following professionals to the msop Reform Facebook page. As the discussion becomes more intense, it is essential that those who are making emotional attacks against msop clients are met with THE FACTS.

Hyperlink, email, Facebook message, call or write the following and let them know about the msop Reform Facebook page, the Change.org petition called "Stop unconstitutional confinement..." and [www.ajustfuture.org](http://www.ajustfuture.org) web page:

□ Eric S. Janus:

Prof. Janus says, in reference to MSOP: "What was touted as a genuine civil commitment program is, in fact, extended punishment."<sup>1</sup>

Eric S. Janus  
MITCHELL HAMLINE SCHOOL OF LAW  
875 Summit Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55105  
(651) 290-6345

Link: [eric.janus@mitchellhamline.edu](mailto:eric.janus@mitchellhamline.edu)

□ Ilya Shapiro:

Shapiro says: “Sex-offender laws have bored a hole in the nation’s constitutional fabric. As state and federal governments expand that hole, threatening to swallow other rights and others’ rights...”<sup>2</sup>

Ilya Shapiro  
CATO INSTITUTE  
1000 Mass. Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 842-0200

Link: [ishapiro@cato.org](mailto:ishapiro@cato.org)

□ Daniel Montaldi PhD:

Dr. Montaldi says: “Minnesota has one of the nation’s most draconian commitment laws.”<sup>3</sup>

Link: [dmontaldi@sprynet.com](mailto:dmontaldi@sprynet.com)

□ Dean R. Cauley Ph.D:

Dr. Cauley says: “Changes must be made to the Minnesota Civil Commitment statute in order to ensure that civil commitment is reserved for those people who have sexually offended who are truly the most dangerous and are at highest risk to reoffend... The MSOP program should be required to have formal accreditation, either by JCAHO, CARF, or another national/international accreditation agency.”<sup>4</sup>

Dean R. Cauley Ph.D., MBA  
3270 Yukon Drive  
Port Charlotte, FL. 33948-6130  
(941) 661-8895  
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Link: [DCauley@Comcast.net](mailto:DCauley@Comcast.net)

□ Ronald Sullivan:

Sullivan says: “Forty years of research has shown that moral panics can have profound and devastating effects on vulnerable populations.”<sup>5</sup>

Ronald Sullivan  
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
(617) 496-2054  
Link: [rsullivan@law.harvard.edu](mailto:rsullivan@law.harvard.edu)

□ Grant Duwe, Director of Research and Evaluation for the Minnesota Department of Corrections:

Duwe says: “Sex offenders who are petitioned for commitment... do not have the right to a jury trial in

Minnesota... all civilly committed sex offenders are housed in a high-security facility.<sup>6</sup>

Link: [grant.duwe@state.mn.us](mailto:grant.duwe@state.mn.us).

□ Melissa Hamilton:

Hamilton says: "The collaboration [of law and science] threatens not only the liberty and privacy interests of those who commit sex-based offenses. The potential exists for a contagion effect whereby interest groups might be encouraged to qualify all manner of criminal behaviors as distinct mental disorders. Accordingly, if the interaction between law and psychiatry continues in this manner, all criminals may be deemed to have mental disorders. This outcome makes no logical sense, undermines the core tenets of the law, infringes upon fundamental rights, and methodically destroys trust in the science of psychiatry."<sup>7</sup>

Link: [cpittson@law.pace.edu](mailto:cpittson@law.pace.edu).

□ Thomas K. Zander, Psy.D:

Dr. Zander says: "First and foremost, sex psychopath and sex offender statutes can best be described as approaches that have failed. The discrepancy between the promises in sex statutes and performance have rarely been resolved ... The mere assumption that such a heterogeneous legal classification could define treatability and make people amenable to treatment is not only fallacious, it is startling."<sup>8</sup>

Link: [DrTomZander@aol.com](mailto:DrTomZander@aol.com).

More links to connect to Facebook "MSOP Reform," [Change.org](http://Change.org) and [ajustfuture.org](http://ajustfuture.org)

□ Patrick A. Langan: U.S. Dep't of Justice. "Recidivism of Sex Offenders Released from Prison in 1994": <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/rsorp94.pdf>.

□ Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers & Sex Offender Civil Commitment Programs Network. "Civil Commitment: If It Is Used, It Should Be Only One Element of a Comprehensive Approach for the Management of Individuals Who Have Sexually Abused" (2015): <http://www.atsa.com/sites/default/files/%5BCivil%20Commitment%5D%20In%20Context.pdf>.

□ Communities of Support and Accountability (CoSA): Criminal Justice Ministries with EMO, Ecumenical Ministries: <http://www.emoregon.org/cosa.php>

□ Adam Liptak. "Did the Supreme Court Base a Ruling on a Myth?," *New York Times*, Mar. 6, 2017: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/06/us/politics/supreme-court-repeat-sex-offenders.html>

□ Rachel Aviv. "The Science of Sex Abuse," *New Yorker*, Jan. 14, 2013: <http://bit.ly/2rRFFF3>

□ Bill Mears. "Can Sex Offenders be Held After Serving Criminal Sentences?" *CNN*, Jan. 12, 2010: <http://cnn.it/2rRWppE>

□ The Editorial Board. "Sex Offenders Locked up on a Hunch" *New York Times*, August 15, 2015: <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/16/opinion/sunday/sex-offenders-locked-up-on-a-hunch.html?mcubz=0&r=1>.

## Footnotes

1. Eric S. Janus, Counsel of Record, Professor of Law, “Brief of Law Professors as Amici Curiae in Support of Petition for Writ of Certiorari,” *On Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the United States Court Of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit*, June 22, 2017, p.2
2. Ilya Shapir, Counsel of Record, “Brief for the Cato Institute and Reason Foundation as Amici Curiae in Support of Petitioners,” *On Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit*, June 22, 2017, p. 3
3. Daniel Montaldi, PhD, WILLIAM MITCHELL LAW REVIEW, “A Study of the Efficacy of the Sexually Violent Predator Act in Florida,”
4. Dean R. Cauley Ph.D., MBA, “EXPERT REPORT OF DEAN R. CAULEY, PH.D., MBA,” Court File No. 11-cv-03659 (DWF/JJK), December 5, 2014, p. 3
5. Ronald Sullivan, Counsel of Record, Fair Punishment Project, “*Amicus* Brief for Criminology Scholars and the Fair Punishment Project,” *On Writ of Certiorari of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit*, June 22, 2017, p. 3
6. Duwe, G., “To What Extent does Civil Commitment Reduce Sexual Recidivism? Estimating the Selective Incapacitation Effects in Minnesota,” *Journal of Criminal Justice* (2013), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2013.06.009>, pg. 3
7. Melissa Hamilton, PACE UNIVERSITY, *Adjudicating Sex Crimes as Mental Disease*, 33 *Pace L. Rev.* 536 (2013), Available at: <http://digitalcommons.pace.edu/plr/vol33/iss2/2> Electronic copy available at: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1989503>, Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.pace.edu/plr>, p. 598, 599
8. Thomas K. Zander, Psy.D., J.D., MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, “Civil Commitment Without Psychosis: The Law’s Reliance on the Weakest Links in Psychodiagnosis” *Journal of Sexual Offender Civil Commitment: Science and the Law*, 1, 17-82 (2005). Dr. Zander is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Marquette University Law School. Correspondence regarding this article may be e-mailed to him at [DrTomZander@aol.com](mailto:DrTomZander@aol.com). p.21

## Anyone Could get Committed to msop

The greatest power of the msop clinician is the ability to convince the client that he is somehow different than others. However, anyone is capable of getting committed, even msop clinicians:

...a clinical therapist at the Minnesota Sex Offender Program and former director of the MSU Women's Center is accused of repeatedly sexually assaulting a girl and threatening to kill her if she told. Wanda Lou Elizabeth Viento, 57 of St. Peter was charged with several felonies Friday afternoon... When asked if she would take a polygraph test, Viento [said] that polygraph testing is not reliable and she knew this because she used them at the treatment center.<sup>1</sup>

One may argue that this is only an allegation and that Mrs. Viento is innocent until proven guilty. However, that argument only holds in criminal court, not civil court. Mrs. Viento could have easily been civilly committed for multiple allegations of sexual assault, even if she was not charged with a crime.<sup>2</sup>

To get civilly committed in Minnesota it is not necessary to prove that a person is out of control, or that he is physically violent, but only that he was emotionally harmful to others. In court, hearsay is admissible. Allegations are admissible. Self-disclosed crimes, even admitted as part of treatment decades ago, are admissible. The person being considered for commitment does not have a right to a jury trial and a sex offense conviction is not necessary.<sup>3</sup> In fact, 12% of the men civilly committed at msop have either no felony convictions of any kind, or have an "unknown" criminal record. That means there are about 90 men without a criminal history, committed to msop.<sup>4</sup>

At page 21, the DSM-5 explains that an individual must display a "current presentation" (6 months for sexual disorders<sup>5</sup>) of their diagnosis for them to be considered having a "mental disorder." Most of the clients at msop are not currently displaying the traits of a mental disorder. msop knows this, so they tried to get around releasing clients by changing the legal status of the msop facility. Melissa Hamilton from Pace University School of Law explains what happens when law and psychiatry mix:

Fear of sexual predators has led society to adopt a law-psychiatry interface in which sexual offending is merged into a disease-based philosophy to justify various forms of punishment and preventive control. Sex crimes have become conflated with psychiatric disease. The multiple concerns expressed herein strongly suggest that the use of the psychiatric paraphilias in legal proceedings tends to undermine the independence and integrity of the legal and psychiatric professions... The widespread acceptance of mental disorders for sexual deviance, despite [the] substantial scientific problems, ignores significant issues of due process and equity considering they help dictate infringements on fundamental interests of defendants.

Unfortunately, it appears that law and psychiatry will remain complicit in adapting diagnoses of mental illness to criminal justice officials' desire to control sex offenders... The collaboration threatens not only the liberty and privacy interests of those who commit sex-based offenses. The potential exists for a contagion effect whereby interest groups might be encouraged to qualify all manner of criminal behaviors as distinct mental disorders. Accordingly, if the interaction between law and psychiatry continues in this manner, all criminals may be deemed to have mental disorders. This outcome makes no logical sense, undermines the core tenets of the law, infringes upon fundamental rights, and methodically destroys trust in the science of psychiatry.<sup>6</sup>

This "law-psychiatry interface" is in part, why msop has been able to get away with what they are doing. They maintain control of their scheme not with facts or science, but with confusion and technicalities of law and procedure. Minnesota Department of Corrections Director of Research Grant Duwe concluded that, "nearly two-thirds of these offenders [at msop] would be unlikely to be rearrested for another sex offense in their lifetime if they were released to the community."<sup>7</sup>

Commenting on Duwe's, conclusions, Professor Eric Janus says:

Applying this “false positive” rate to the 700-plus people who are committed, we can conclude that over 400 human beings are being held unconstitutionally because of the msop's intentional thwarting of the duration limits. Msop's failure to adhere to the duration limits is not simply a sign that the program is not working properly. It is an intentional design feature of msop that other states have eschewed. It represents an intentional rejection of the core constitutional marker of a genuine civil commitment scheme. The Court of Appeals' ruling allows no remedy for this misuse of civil confinement.<sup>8</sup>

We are fairly certain that the “intentional thwarting of the duration limits” refers to the variances that msop has applied to the treatment process. To understand how variances affect msop, see our article “Creating Civil Commitment Chaos” at the MSOP Reform Facebook page.

### Footnotes

1. Krohn, Tim. “Sex Offender Therapist Charged with Child Sex Crime.” *Mankato Free Press*, 27 Mar. 2015, [tkrohn@mankatofreepress.com](mailto:tkrohn@mankatofreepress.com)
2. Minn. Stat. § 253.D
3. James R. Nobles, Evaluation Report, Civil Commitment of Sex Offenders, Mar. 2011, OLA, Centennial Building, Ste. 140, 658 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55155-4708. [auditor@state.mn.us](mailto:auditor@state.mn.us), [www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us). (651) 296-4708. pp. 24-26
4. *Ibid.* at p. 7
5. American Psychiatric Association: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition. Arlington, VA, American Psychiatric Association, 2013, pp.685 – 705
6. Melissa Hamilton. “Adjudicating Sex Crimes as Mental Disease,” 33 Pace L. Rev. 536, Spring Is. 2013, © 2013 Pace University School of Law. pp 63, 64
7. Grant Duwe, “To What Extent Does Civil Commitment Reduce Sexual Recidivism? Estimating the Selective Incapacitation Effects in Minnesota”, 42 J. Crim. Justice 193, 201 (2013). (Doc. No. 427 (February 20, 2014 Order) at 67 n.48 (citing Doc. No. 410 ¶ 2, Ex. 1, at 8).)
8. “Brief of Law Professors as Amici Curiae in Support of Petition for Writ of Certiorari” pp. 12, 13.

## How msop Keeps the Murder Machine Running: Big Money & a Little Nepotism Goes a Long Way

The excessive power along with the absence of oversight at msop, has proved to be a deadly mixture for the clients. msop detainee, Raymond Messer committed suicide on Saturday, August 3, 2013. (*MPLS Star Tribune* 8/06/2013) Messer could no longer tolerate the madness of msop. msop client Chris Krych says:

My roommate Tim Yepma was a diabetic. He ate himself to freedom. I repeatedly reported to Clinical Supervisors, Tara Osborne, and Deb Thao, that intervention needed to happen for Yepma because he was killing himself. Tim Yepma died on Monday, January 28, 2019. There are also detainees who refuse to continue with terminal illness treatment. These are suicidal escapes from DHS Nepotism Hell.

Indeed.com is an employee review internet Web Site that provides a confidential forum for MSOP staff to voice their true feelings about msop.

“Helping others” is rarely mentioned on the site, because that is not what msop does. However, money seems to be a consistent motivation, repeated several times on the site. One Security Counselor says that at msop, “There is little to no opportunities for advancement, but it is a steady paycheck...”

A Recreation and Visit Supervisor at the St. Peter site, while employed at msop says, “... great benefits for employees and 55 retirement age...”

A Recreational and Visit Supervisor at St. Peter says “great benefits” working at msop.

A former Security Supervisor, says, “...Benefits are great.” (is there an echo in here?)

For most msop employees, it’s just a job. For instance, a Treatment Assessment Psychologist, who would be a lead authority at msop, states blatantly that msop is “A place to work... If you are looking for a job, this is a job...” This person was still employed at msop at the time he/she wrote this in April 2018.

A Security Counselor, and an esteemed “Lead Security Counselor,” both say that msop has, “good pay,” further reinforcing the general consensus that staff come to msop just for a pay check.

A Recreational Therapist from the Moose Lake site mentions that msop is “productive and rewarding.” That’s nice. However, this was not said in the context of his/her opportunity to help clients reintegrate back into society, which is, at least in theory, the point of treatment... isn’t it?

The next comment speaks directly about nepotism:

If you enjoy an environment of nepotism then this is the place for you. Terribly mismanaged. Most people use this as a stepping stone in their careers although may come out deeply damaged due to institutional abuse. The only good thing about this job is that it comes with state benefits... The funding is outrageous compared to that of victim services. This instruction goes to show how sad our state is where it is more lucrative to work with criminals versus assisting those victimized. By far working with management and co-workers was the worst. It was difficult to tell where the true evil was...

Another echoes saying:

...[if] you like to brown nose, try it. Better yet, if you are related to someone who works there, GO for it. Nepotism is alive and well there. But if you are educated, hardworking, have experience and are looking for upward mobility, forget it...many a person’s livelihood had been lost here...

On a positive note, one staff member, who works in the shop making signs, was kind enough to say, “I love working with both customers and clients.” Thank you anonymous msop staff member. However, I suggest you get out of here before the walls begin to really crumble.

Although the cohesion of money and family goes a long way when hiding corruption, there have been many msop staff members busted for many forms of abuse and misconduct at msop. For instance, guard Lindsay Wood got fired for having a relationship and getting pregnant by an msop detainee. (*Duluth Tribune* July 3, 2011).

Guard Andrew Rock also got fired for smuggling in a cell phone for two clients. (See *Pine Journal* 11/05/2015).

Clinician Amy Bronswick was fired for telling an msop client that she wanted to be his wife. (See *MPLS Star Tribune* 04/14/2013).

Guard Michelle A. Hoover got fired for having a relationship and getting pregnant by an msop detainee. Clinician Gemma Watkins was also fired for writing love letters and having a relationship with an msop detainee.

Recreation Staff Jenifer Lee Keur (AKA Jenifer Lee Rogan) got questioned December 2018 about her blatant relationship with an msop detainee, but left the facility before too much could be revealed.

Recreation Staff Marilyn Johnson got fired in 2008 for smuggling in a cell phone for an msop detainee.

Kristi L. Wagner and husband Joshua Robert Wagner work at msop. Joshua got fired along with Alyssa J. Fahlsing for having sex in the facility.

msop administration has a limited pool to hire from. Those who work here now are either new and likely to be leave when they figure out what this is, or they are the left overs of the left overs and have absolutely seared their own consciousness's to justify coming to work every day.

ocean thought it was essential to begin making a public record of the two most important elements that maintain msop's power: Money and nepotism.

Nepotism has become quite the norm at MSOP and is sort-of old news. However, we think these solid networks have significantly affected due process at msop.

In addition, the high salaries paid to msop staff for doing near to nothing, except shop online while they are "working," we also thought was worth documenting.

Anyone that has been working at msop for even a few weeks, probably knows the general intentions of msop staff. But if not, it will benefit them to know what prior, and even current employees, have said about msop.

Money and family seems to be the primary pillars of msop. The following information in this article concerning MSOP staff salaries comes from msop records made available to clients by the awesome power of the Freedom of Information Act. Whereas the information about staff relationships and nepotism comes from MSOP detainee, Chris Krych, a man who has been at msop for 14 years.

In 2010, Facility Director Kevin Moser's salary scale was listed as \$33.65 - \$48.25 an hour, for one position. In 2015 Moser is listed as having two positions with two salaries of \$52.22 and \$60.15 per hour with his only credential being "Certification." Then in 2017 his salary was \$54.87 and \$63.19 (still two checks). In 2019 his salaries changed again to \$46.87 and \$65.90 an hour (still two checks). We have no idea if Moser is getting paid for both of these positions simultaneously.

Executive Clinical Director Jannine M. Hebert had a salary scale of \$41.61 - \$59.61 an hour in 2010. By 2019 she was making \$70.68. How does a Clinical Director of a "treatment center" get a raise without producing results? We encourage Minnesota tax-payers to contact her and ask her what she does to deserve so much from them: (651) 431-4377 jannine.hebert@state.mn.us. 444 Lafayette Road North, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-0992

In 2015, Clinical Director Peter D. Puffer (that's right, we have two Clinical Directors) received \$60.15 an hour. He also received multiple paid increases and by 2019 he was making \$65.90 an hour. Should individuals be getting raises? Ask them how they justify this. peter.d.puffer@state.mn.us.

Louis Stender received a pay scale of \$33.65 - \$48.25 in 2010. By 2019 he was making \$57.23 an hour. Stender used to be a warden at the DOC Moose Lake prison. Moser was a Captain. Dennis Benson, who was once the Executive Director of msop was many things in the DOC, including a Deputy Commissioner. These guys stick together.

Terrance (Terry) K. Kneisel is Moser's Assistant Facility Director at Moose Lake. His wife, Christine M.

Kneisel works here, along with his brother, Louis Q. Kneisel. Terry gets \$53.20 an hour. Christine gets \$27.68 an hour. Louis gets \$22.34 an hour.

Richard J. O' Connor worked here with his son Richard J. O' Connor Jr., and only a high school diploma, got promoted to Security Program Manager with an over \$40.00 an hour salary for his last few months of employment (so he could retire with a fatter pension?).

Scott Gary Benoit has worked here since 2004. Scott's wife, Laurel June Benoit, used to work here with him. Laurel got \$40.72 an hour and Scott gets \$44.62 an hour.

Julie A. Johnson married Steven J. Sajdak and is now Julie Sajdak. Julie gets \$25.37, and Steven gets \$44.62.

Julie Rose and her husband Robert P. Rose work here along with son & daughter, Morgan and Michael respectively. Julie gets \$30.25, & Robert gets \$41.61, an hour.

Donald Melvin Geil Jr., and his wife Jessica J. Geil, work here too. Donald gets \$26.41, and Jessica gets \$51.41 an hour.

Julianna L. Beavens got her daughter, Leanna Beavens, a job here. Leanna and her boyfriend (another staff) both quit and went to work for the Feds after job training (many work here to get training hours for jobs elsewhere – using DHS lifers as training subjects). Julianna gets \$41.61 an hour.

Jennifer Louise Chesbrough used to work here and quit for a federal job at the Sandstone Federal prison, just like Leanna Beavens. Chesbrough use to date guard Troy Swartout. Many from the Swartout family have worked here and Brooke Swartout had recently gotten employed at msop.

Clinician Jaime L. Wuori (AKA Jaime Kozisek) found her husband Jeremy M. Wuori at msop. After she got her Social Worker License and a promotion to "Clinical Program Manager," she quit in 2019.

Tayah Marie Johnson married guard Benjamin Zuk and now is Tayah Zuk. Tracy Marie Zuk and Logan S. Zuk also work here and Tracy Zuk gets \$42.59 an hour.

Allison M. Ecklund married guard Brian Collins, who no longer works at msop. Allison Collins gets \$32.24 an hour. Jordon J. Collins works here too.

Amanda H. Torgerson and her husband Thorne M. Torgerson, both quit last year (2018). Amanda got \$29.70, and Thorne got \$39.89 an hour.

Jensina E. Rosen and her husband Tyler T. Rosen, both quit last year too. Jensina got \$31.98, and Tyler got \$23.41 an hour.

Husband and wife Cindy, K. Cherro, and Thomas L. Cherro employed at msop for over a decade.

Clinical Supervisor Courtney Jo Menten gets \$49.46 an hour and husband Darian Emmanuel Menten works here as well.

Keeping the flow of money elusive and confusing may be part of the scheme. Therefore, we asked our friend Randall Nelson to review msop's bank ledger. Nelson studied at Pipestone Technical Institute as well as the American Institute of Banking. He is licensed in all lines of insurance and holds an associate's degree in banking. After looking at msop's ledger, Nelson reported to ocean:

With what I have to consider at this time the following is to the best of my knowledge true and correct: The estimated calculations of the interest posted to the account indicate a variable interest is paid. Starting with November 2017 indicating a lower average collected balance and a higher return compared to December 2017 where the average collected balance was lower and the return higher. Even if the interest was variable it is highly unlikely that this would be as significant a change as indicated at least by my first review. It also appears as though this account was started with petty cash in response to a client demand, then propagated with a series of questionable deposits to satisfy the untrained eye. What is the number assigned to this account? Where are the funds kept? Why is it that since the start of this statement [and the 18 months duration of said] there has been no annual spend down and the amount has been either stagnant or varying slightly? Who posts the interests to this account? Why on June 13th of 2019 are there a total of 18 entries for the same vendor (Netflix) instead of one payment of \$852.12? Did the vendor receive 18 entries for the individual amounts? I noticed a payment of \$263.90 to the Star Tribune was posted June 19th, 2019. This appears to be an annual

subscription for our library and by itself looks innocent, however, no such payment was posted June of 2018, which makes this questionable. I would have expected to see an entry on June 19th (or thereabouts) of 2018 a similar payment for an annual subscription. No entry was indicated. On November 25th 2019 we questioned the department on the 13th of June expenditure of \$3,692.60 to "SWANK MOTION Inc." and they answered, simply, "This is an annual licensing agreement." in writing the department. However, when we look back on June of 2018 we noticed no payment was made to the company. The "New Account Transfer[s]" in November of 2017 were established very late in the game with regard to the operations of msop in general. Where were these funds transferred from and why?

Money issues like this just scratches the surface of some of the confusion at msop.

So this documents just some of the strong relational ties, as well as some of the motivations of those working at msop.

So, if you don't like helping people, and you do like money, come apply at msop; that is, if you have any family members already working here..

## Drop Interviews

Tim Coon is 34 years old. He has been at MSOP for over 13 years. Coon was recently granted Provisional Discharge (PD) by the Special Review Board (SRB). Receiving PD means that although Coon will wear a GPS device and will be supervised, he will likely be able to live in his own place. PD is essentially the last step to full discharge from the msop. "Before this," Coon said, "I had never filed for SRB. I had witnessed too many guys who I thought should get out, fail, so I never tried. It was the release of Jacob Rask, who is also a juvenile offender, however, with a more violent history than I, that motivated me. Jacob Rask is doing great out there. That's inspiring. I was thinking of filing for SRB when ocean encouraged me. This encouragement was the final tipping point to actually file."

Coon committed his sex offense in 2001, when he was only 15 years old. He was then sent to a juvenile facility called Mille Lacs Academy. At the age of 18 he was sent to Alpha House in Minneapolis for inpatient Sex Offender treatment in Minneapolis. He was unable to complete the Alpha program before he was committed in 2005 to the State Secure Hospital for mental illness. In 2006, he was committed to msop and has been here for 13.5 years. "In 2005 it was all about the politics" Coon says. Coon's offense was listed as a "nonviolent" crime and he has no other criminal record. Coon has thus been locked up, in total, for 18.5 years for the crime he committed when he was 15 years old.

When Coon came to msop, he participated in the msop treatment. He stuck with it for 5.5 years, trying his best to progress from the 1st phase. Coon says he was "getting nowhere with it." He stopped participating 8 years ago. We now know that Coon never needed treatment in the first place. Every time a client gets a new therapist, or they change the program, it is like the client has to start over from the beginning. This creates an environment of hopelessness and despair. More than 20 therapists have been assigned to Coon since he started treatment at msop. Also, in that time period, the program structure has changed at least 3 times. "Because we are here so long, compared to outpatient treatments, we end up with so many therapists. There are only about three therapists that are still here from 13.5 years ago, when I got here. They used to have 8 modules, then they split them up into 29 modules. I wasn't about to play the games anymore."

Coon had proposed a deal with the Attorney General (AG), who has the option of appealing the SRB's decision to grant Coon's Provisional Discharge. The deal was this: As long as the AG does not appeal the SRB's grant of Provisional Discharge, Coon will not ask the SRB for a Full Discharge. In addition, Coon asked for there to be a 180 day cap on the Provisional Discharge, meaning that in 180 days, Coon will be Fully Discharged from msop, with absolutely no conditions. He would be a free man. Even though the AG did not appeal the decision, msop Executive Clinical Director, Jannine M. Hebert did. This was a curve ball nobody saw coming.

ocean thought that that msop would support this deal because they know that Coon should have never been committed in the first place.

Coon was excited about getting out. Unfortunately, it looks as if he has more hurdles to jump before he is a free man.

Coon has never had a cell phone or a driver's license. If he does get out, he will need to adjust to the real world. There will be challenges. "I would need to get a routine down, but I would finally be able to go for a walk and not have to walk in circles, like we do in the facility. I would be able to see my sister. I'd be able to see my parents and grandparents more than once a month. I could play golf again. My clubs and shoes are still in my golf bag, where they were almost 20 years ago."

I asked Coon, "How do we get out of here?" Coon answered:

It varies on the person. Some need treatment, some do not. Some don't belong here at all and never did belong here. You can't just convince the clinical team that you don't belong here, you have to convince *everyone*... many who have made significant progress in the program have done a lot of treatment, but they are also juvenile offenders. This treatment needs to be fixed. It needs to be reformed for the clients. The clients need to have a say in the reformation of msop. We know what we

need.

Although Coon is not out, we are proud of him for making the efforts to get back to his family. Congratulations Coon. ocean is rooting for you.

## Thank You From ocean

ocean thanks Jim Blessings from the Civil Commitment Center in South Carolina. Jim wrote to ocean with encouraging words. Jim will be in our prayers along with our other fellow comrades. We plan to put at least parts of Jim's letter in our next newsletter. Stay strong Jim!

Thank you to Galen B. from Virginia Civil Commitment as well. Galen provided ocean with some valuable advice that ocean is taking very serious. A main gem we received from Galen, "focus on your supporters. Your supporters is where your energy will come from." We love that. We will be staying in contact with Galen.

Thank you to Leo F., a father of a man who will be at msop soon. Leo is very troubled about his sons situation. ocean is ready to help in any way that we can. Leo is quite a good dad. He has developed a support system for his son from outside these walls. This is quite impressive.

Thank you to all of our supporters. Your support helps us stay motivated for change, both internal and external. Blessings, - ocean

Correction in Issue No. 8

In our Thank You article, we cited 'David' Bowers. It should have read Wayne Bowers for CURE-SORT. Our apologies.

You are appreciated. [RJH]