

## MSBA CORRECTIONAL REFORM SECTION COUNCIL

### Minutes of Meeting of January 12, 2010

Members Present: Michael Berlin, Phil Dantes, Angela Eaves, Arnold Hopkins, James Johnston, Pat Lesnick, Scott Oakley, and Paulette Wirsching.

Guests Present: Monique Dixon, Open Society Institute

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:35pm by Secretary Scott Oakley.

### Review of Minutes of Meeting of November 11, 2009

The minutes of the meeting of November 11, 2009 were reviewed. Paulette Wirsching made a motion that they be approved without change, Arnold Hopkins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### Paul Davis Award

On November 20, 2009 Roland Knapp circulated by e-mail proposed announcement and nomination materials for the Paul Davis Award and requested comment. Scott Oakley responded on November 23, 2009 with a “re-worked” version. There was no other comment circulated. After discussion Phil Dantes made a motion to go forward with Scott’s re-worked version, having the “Call for nominations” printed on Council stationary, and having an e-mail address (Wendy Hess’s was suggested) added to the mailing address and fax number for the receipt of nominations. Pat Lesnick seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. It was suggested in the course of further discussion that the final printed materials should be distributed to the Council members for further dissemination, and that the members might emphasize in their solicitation of nominations that candidates for the award can come from anywhere within the fields of corrections and criminal justice, from rank and file uniformed and support personnel to chief executives.

### Spring Event

Arnold Hopkins agreed to take the lead as Chair of an ad hoc committee in developing an event that would feature U.S. Senators Cardin, Webb, and/or Specter in a forum on S.714 proposing the National Criminal Justice Commission Act and S.495 proposing the Justice Integrity Act. Michael Berlin and Scott Oakley agreed to assist as needed. It was contemplated after discussion that Arnold would attempt to determine the preliminary availability of the Senators, seek co-sponsors of the event (e.g. UB Law, the MSBA, and Coppin State, among others), seek a venue, and determine the feasibility of conducting the event before the end of this academic year to ensure good attendance by students. Pat Lesnick made a motion that the Council grant Arnold full authority to proceed in the next few weeks, James Johnston seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. It was suggested in the course of further discussion that Arnold should keep Wendy Hess apprised of developments.

### U.S.D.C. Attorney Panel

Wendy Hess sent an e-mail on December 23, 2009 about a discussion she had with the Pro Se Clerk's Office at the U.S. District Court in Baltimore concerning the development of a program similar to one she was familiar with in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania by which a prisoner civil rights attorney panel was developed and trained to accept appointment by the court in prisoner civil rights cases. Pat Lesnick agreed to take the lead in obtaining more information about the program from Pennsylvania. Phil Dantes suggested the need for guidelines in such a program to protect participating attorneys from undue burden (e.g., a Baltimore attorney being involuntarily assigned to represent a Virginia prisoner). There was general agreement that the Council should be actively involved in an effort with the Pro Se Clerk's office to develop such a program, including the development of appropriate training for attorney participants. Pat Lesnick will report on her findings at the next meeting.

### Maryland Legislative Session

There was discussion concerning the need to act quickly on legislation of interest during the upcoming session if the Council is to take a formal position, and there was general agreement that individual Council members should report to the Council via the ListServ any legislative developments of particular interest of which they become aware. Pat Lesnick agreed to be the "Legislative Liaison" to the MSBA Board of Governors. Scott Oakley will pass along to Pat MSBA materials distributed last year concerning the Legislative Liaison function.

### Website, Council Member Bios, ListServ

Michael Berlin has agreed to continue his efforts with Wendy Hess and Amanda White to bring more and better content to the Council Website. It was suggested that a new solicitation for bios should go out to Council members, so that bios can be posted with or without photos. It was also suggested that some of the new content might consist "current events" and links to other websites with content of interest to the Council.

### Storybook Project

It was reported that Warden John Wolfe at the Jessup Correctional Institution is cooperating in an effort to establish the project at JCI.

### Maryland Parole Commission Matrix Scoring System

There was general interest in the content of the new Maryland Parole Commission Matrix Scoring System. It was suggested that this system was a matter of public record and that materials concerning it ought to be publicly available. Monique Dixon indicated that she had some materials that she would provide to Wendy for distribution to Council members. Phil Dantes also indicated that he had some materials he could share. There was general discussion of the increasing willingness of the states in these difficult fiscal times to consider moving offenders from prison confinement to community supervision.

### DPDS Kaizen

There was no report on the latest efforts to tie up the loose ends following the DPDS Kaizen exercise.

### Maryland Bar Journal Correctional Reform Issue

There was general interest in pursuing a “Correctional Reform Issue” of the Maryland Bar Journal. There was discussion about the probability that such an issue would realistically be more than one or two years in the future and the need to obtain commitments from individuals for several articles, and Michael Berlin and James Johnston expressed interest in writing articles. Michael agreed to approach the editorial staff of the Maryland Bar Journal to ascertain the details of such a project and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

### MSBA Annual Meeting Presentation

There was general interest in developing a Correctional Reform presentation at the MSBA Annual Meeting in June, 2010. Pat Lesnick suggested that even though the formal deadline for proposals has already passed the MSBA should still be willing to entertain a proposal as they often come up short for programming. Any concrete ideas for such a proposal should be floated ASAP.

### Marv Robbins Vacancy

It was unclear whether the vacancy left by Marv Robbins’ resignation is still available. Scott Oakley agreed to discuss with Wendy Hess and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

### Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Michael Berlin, seconded by Angela Eaves, and passed unanimously, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05pm.