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# Carlton County

County-wide newsletter brought to you by the County Coordinator's Office



Issue 02 April / May / June 2017

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## Carlton County Honored by Commissioner's Visit



*Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services Emily Johnson Piper and Carlton County Public Health & Human Services Director Dave Lee*

Carlton County Public Health & Human Services was honored to be visited by Emily Johnson Piper, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services and Santo Cruz, Deputy Commissioner for External Relations, on June 21, 2017. Commissioner Piper and Deputy Commissioner Cruz selected Carlton County Public Health & Human Services as a site visit to learn more about current programs, initiatives, and county and regional trends in health and human services. They were given a tour of the Carlton County Community Services Building and had the opportunity to meet Public Health & Human Services staff.

Carlton County Public Health & Human Services Director Dave

Lee and supervisory staff met with Piper and Cruz to highlight the following initiatives and workgroups:

- Arrowhead Regional Quality Council
- Regional MnCHOICES Workgroup
- Carlton County Assertive Community Treatment
- Interagency Jail Team
- Opioid treatment/MAT
- Telepresence innovations
- Suicide prevention efforts
- Joint programming with the Fond du Lac Band

Commissioner Piper and Deputy Commissioner Cruz were impressed with the county, regional, and state leadership on a variety of initiatives and complimented Public Health & Human Services on the innovative, integrated, and collaborative partnerships that have been developed across the state.

The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner welcomed and engaged in dialog on current and proposed legislation and how it may impact the citizens of Carlton County. They noted that they look forward to further communication and feedback from Public Health & Human Services.



*Deputy Commissioner for External Relations Santo Cruz visits with the Carlton County Administrative Team*

## Employee Service Awards



**Kelly Church**  
(PHHS)  
10 Years

**Arnold Lofgren**  
(Transportation)  
20 Years

**Duane Brownie**  
(Veterans Services)  
20 Years

**Fred Petite**  
(Sheriff's Office)  
20 Years

# Carlton County Jail Overcrowding History

*As described by Paul Coughlin, Jail Administrator*

Carlton County has a Jail overcrowding problem that began in approximately 2003. The cost of boarding prisoners has varied greatly over the years. The yearly cost varied between a high of \$352,712 in 2012 and a low of \$33,175 in 2015. The average cost over the 10 year span from 2006-2015 was \$161,538.

The real issue surrounding the Jail is the significant change in trends that show the risk as well as the needs of the inmates booked into the Jail. While the Jail staff and Carlton County have adapted what they could, these changes in inmates have strained the Justice System in Carlton County.

In 2007, 421 felony offenders were booked into the Carlton County Jail. This number has more than doubled and in 2016 a total of 855 felony offenders were booked. While the policy changes have allowed for some offenders of low risk to be released, the physical plant layout of the current Jail is not designed to handle the current makeup of high-risk, high-need inmates.

This trend of increased use is not restricted to felony offenders alone. All intakes into the Carlton County Jail have also continued to climb. In 2007, there were a total of 1,124 bookings. By 2016 this number has climbed to an all-time high of 1,695 bookings. This is the highest number seen in our data for the Carlton County Jail.

Because of the trends, the concern is highlighting the current structure of the cell blocks and lack of space that is adjustable to classification needs of this changing inmate population. While there are seven cell blocks, three are designed as a dormitory, which best house minimum-security inmates. This leads to issues related to the need for individual cells that inmates can be separated into. Of the 48 beds located in the Carlton County Jail, only 14 of them are single bed cells and three are double bed cells. With the increase in female inmates, the need for more space for them is displacing space that was previously used for male inmates.

While there is a holding cell, it only has one bed. Because of the increase in booking intakes, this holding cell is severely undersized not allowing for any separation of combative inmates and those that are simply arrested on warrants or non-violent crimes. The Jail also has one single bed isolation cell. This is utilized for severe medical needs, suicidal persons, mental health needs as well as segregation due to violent outbreaks. Once this cell is occupied with one of the above noted needs, others that would normally be placed in this cell are left in one of the other single cells located in a cell block. These inmates are without the continuous

supervision of correctional officers outside of rounds. This is because of the Jail's linear design; no sightlines exist that allow for direct supervision of inmates housed in cellblocks.

While the previous data is the back story of some of the current Carlton County Jail issues, we will review the following seven characteristics of the problem. When utilizing the seven characteristics of a problem to review this situation, I assessed the following as a result of each characteristic.

### 1. Magnitude of the problem

The magnitude of the problem is larger than the Carlton County Jail. Because the Jail is the melting pot of the needs of the rest of the Carlton County Justice System, the Jail's inability to properly hold and deal with inmates has a wide-spread effect on public safety. The magnitude of issues is mostly centered on the high cost of incarceration because of the cost of boarding inmates at other counties. It also has a large effect on the probation department and dealing with those that are failing in the community under community supervision.

### 2. Rate of change

As noted in the opening, the rate of change has been steady and is continuing on an upward trend. The current opioid epidemic has led to further issues due to lack of treatment and the escalation of mental health issues due to untreated inmates because of lack of mental health beds in the community.

### 3. Seriousness

The seriousness of the issues continues to compound each time that inmates are released back to the community untreated, and it centers in on the lack of services available. This leads to creation of more victims from the new crimes and placing the inmate back into the criminal justice system with more charges due to new criminal activity, which fosters a vicious cycle of recidivism and problems for the practitioners to deal with each time there is a new encounter between the released inmate and the justice system. As this offending circle continues, costs mount as the Justice System tries to bring about a successful outcome. This speaks directly to public safety as space availability has crept into decision making and decisions on who is held in the Jail. Best practices would seek considerations that only hold someone in jail based solely based on risk and needs that the inmate presents to the public. Not on if the Jail is big enough to hold the inmates.

### 4. Geographic/location aspects

Geographically, this situation is playing out in several of our surrounding counties. This Jail bed

## Continued Jail Overcrowding

shortage has covered a large swath of Northern Minnesota during the last five years. This causes transport issues for Carlton County as we are forced to drive long distances further increasing cost surrounding the boarding of inmates out due to the lack of jail beds in Carlton County.

### 5. Temporal aspects

The sheer volume and extended length of the issues shows that this is not a temporary issue and has been ongoing for 14+ years. While the effects of arrest vary throughout the year, there are noted times of increase in jail use. Best practices for jails builds this fluctuation into its design as well as the space available. The needs for beds are usually accounted for by having space available to include enough space for the highest fluctuation of inmates. Because we are pressed for space, this need is transferred to costs for the boarding out of inmates.

### 6. Persons involved

While the people involved in this issue change as arrestees move through the criminal justice system, ineffective actions by one system are transferred to various members of the criminal justice system. Practitioners are then forced to deal with issues that sometimes are out of their scope or areas they normally would deal with. This complex problem was first addressed with the creation of a coordinating council known as the Carlton County Justice Partners. It has been in operation since roughly 2013 and has helped the system make adjustments and changes

that have greatly reduced some aspects of the overcrowding. Most of the “low hanging fruit” have been identified with the aid of several visits and studies done with the aid of the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) which are noted in the next section.

### 7. Previous responses

Several previous responses have worked on this issue for Carlton County. The NIC was here for a site visit in 2006 which generated a report and list of responses that were recommended. There was a study done on the courts in 2012 by Kenneth Schoen showing issues in relation to case processing. In February of 2015 Carlton County staff attended “Planning Of a New Institution” (PONI) at the NIC offices in Colorado. This was in preparation for the discussion related to the need for a new Jail. In June of 2015 a completed report on the Jail and Justice System Assessment was completed by April Pottorff and Karen Albert. Lists of recommendations were created by this system assessment as well. As a result of this information, a request for proposal (RFP) was drafted and released in August of 2016 for a Jail Needs Assessment. In December of 2016 Carlton County entered into a contract with WOLD Architecture and Justice Concepts Inc. and Dr. Allen Beck to complete a Jail Needs Assessment. At this point, Carlton County is awaiting the list of recommendations from that assessment.

## Carlton County's 2017 Aquatic Invasive Species Program Officially Launches



Josh Carlson is returning for his third season as a Level 1 Inspector. Josh will be inspecting the landings at Park, Sand, Hay, and Bob Lakes this summer. In the past, he has inspected Bear and the Hanging Horn Lakes as well as the Cromwell area lakes.

In partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, on May 13, 2017 Carlton County's 2017 Aquatic Invasive Species Program officially launched with seven Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors stationed at various boat landings throughout the county including Chub, Big, Park, Sand, Hay, Bob, Hanging Horn, Little Hanging Horn, Bear, Island, Eagle, Tamarack, Cole, and Moosehead Lake as well as the landing on the St. Louis River in Cloquet. Inspectors are typically at the landings on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 AM to 4 PM. This is the fourth year of the county's inspection program. The goal of the program has stayed the same: to educate watercraft users on the importance of keeping aquatic invaders out of our lakes by practicing proper watercraft protocols. Inspectors are to educate all lake users on proper boat preparation methods and to inspect incoming and outgoing boats from public landings around the county. Last year, over 1,600 boats were inspected! Keeping the message on aquatic invaders going is paramount to keeping our lakes healthy and clean. We've partnered with Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! (SAH!) to make sure our message on aquatic invaders is concise, informative, and easy to spread (mimicking a key trait of the things we're trying to prevent). Help us spread the word by telling your friends and family and posting something on your social media accounts on aquatic invaders. Visit [stopaquaticitchhikers.org](http://stopaquaticitchhikers.org) for information and campaign materials. Remember: Clean. Drain. Dry.

**2017 Carlton County Board of Commissioners**



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\*Board meetings are held at the Transportation Building on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 8:30 a.m. and the 4th Monday of every month at 4:00 p.m.

## Carlton County Justice System Work Session is Held

As reported earlier, on November 28, 2016 the Carlton County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to approve entering into a contract with Wold Architects and Engineers for work related to a Carlton County Jail Needs Assessment. Wold Architects proposed bringing in a national consultant, Dr. Allen Beck from Justice Concepts, Inc. of Kansas City, Missouri. The needs assessment was requested to develop a comprehensive review into the inmate population of the jail, the needs for programming and treatment, and a look into the type and size of jail facility that may be needed in the future in Carlton County that would best serve the needs and address public safety concerns.

Since the end of December 2016, Dr. Allen Beck has been working with the Carlton County Justice Partners in gathering current and historical jail data, court data, and probation services data, as well as having phone and in-person interviews with many of the stakeholders in the Carlton County criminal justice system. He also engaged in several weeks of additional analysis, follow-up, and development of supportive documents.

On June 14, 2017, an invitation went out to over 50 of these stakeholders on behalf of the Carlton County Board of Commissioners, Sheriff Kelly Lake, and County Attorney Thom Pertler, to attend a formal Justice System Workshop at the Carlton County Transportation

Building. Stakeholders included representatives from the County, the State, and Fond du Lac Reservation. Different disciplines invited included law enforcement, jail, prosecutors' offices, public defender's offices, restorative justice practitioners, treatment providers, public health, social services, probation services, courts, judges, as well as two Carlton County Commissioners.

Dr. Allen Beck facilitated the workshop, which was a full day, split into two components. In the morning session, Dr. Beck presented information on positive cognitive programming and the importance of this element in re-entry and positive adaptive behaviors for inmates. The afternoon was structured with different small workgroups focused on identifying, discussing, and prioritizing necessary justice system improvements, and also looking at action items and timelines toward implementation.

With the culmination of this justice system workshop, Dr. Beck will be compiling all of the data, along with his months of analysis, and is expected to provide a final report of the Carlton County Jail and Criminal Justice System Planning Document in late July/early August. A comprehensive study of this nature will enable Carlton County to make an informed decision on the best use of resources to meet the needs of its residents.

## 2017 Farm Family of the Year

The Farm Family Recognition Program has existed for over 30 years and honors farm families from throughout Minnesota for their contributions to the agriculture industry and their local communities. The Barb and Tim Dahl family, along with all of the honored farm families, have made significant contributions to Minnesota agriculture and their communities.

Both Tim and Barb grew up on dairy farms that eventually converted to beef operations, Tim in the Cromwell area and Barb in the Sawyer area. They both had employment in town, as well as running a beef farm in order to maintain a rural landscape allowing them to raise their family on a farm, instilling in them a good work ethic and appreciation for our environment.

They are farming Tim's family's farm in Wright where they have a small beef herd along with hay production for livestock and marketing. Their three children, Valerie, Allen and Amy all benefitted from growing up on a farm. Allen has his own farm by Pine River where he has a beef operation as well.

Barb and Tim have been involved in many community organizations over the years. These include volunteering at Cromwell-Wright basketball games, the local Historical Society, Dollars for Scholars, the Bethany Lutheran Church, Ruby's Pantry, and 4-H leadership. Barb has served on many county boards including the Extension Committee, the Soil and Water Conservation Board and at their church. She attended the Farm to School Conference in Washington, D.C. and helped bring that program to the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School. One of Barb's fondest memories was when she was Northeast Dairy Princess and ran for Princess Kay of the Milky Way at the State Fair. Please join us in congratulating the Dahl Family, the 2017 Farm Family of the Year!



## Carlton County Committee's

### Building Committee -

2nd Tuesday of the month immediately following the County Board meeting (Transportation Building -TB)

### Committee of the Whole -

1st Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. (TB)

### Diversity Committee -

3rd Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m. (PH&HS)

### Finance Committee -

1st Tuesday of the month at 2:30 p.m. (TB)

### Policy Committee -

3rd Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m. (Law Enforcement Center - LEC)

### Management Team -

1st Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. (TB)

### Supervisors Committee -

3rd Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m. (Varies)

### Wellness Committee -

1st Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. (PH&HS)

For a more detailed Carlton County Committee list [click here](#).



Are you interested in submitting an article in the next Carlton County Newsletter? Email, mail or fax your articles and pictures by the September 22, 2017 deadline to:

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\*Please note that all submissions are subject to editing, as needed.

## "Let's Get Acquainted" with the Carlton County Engineer



Carlton County Engineer  
JinYeene Neumann

Please help welcome our new Carlton County Engineer JinYeene Neumann.

### What role do you play at the County?

I was recently hired as the Carlton County Engineer, which oversees the Transportation Department. We are responsible for approximately 485 miles of county roads, 91 county bridges, 341 miles of township roads, 43 township bridges, several pedestrian/bicycle routes and 2 municipal airports. We provide for the efficient planning, design, construction and maintenance of these facilities.

### What work experiences and education led you to a career at Carlton County?

I graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. My first "real" job out of college was for Johnson County, Iowa which is the Iowa City area. I was an Assistant County Engineer for Johnson County for almost ten years. I then moved directly to the west and became the County Engineer for Iowa County, Iowa. I served as the Iowa County Engineer for five years before moving back to Minnesota and taking a job as the Public Works Director/County Engineer in Cottonwood County, Minnesota. Four years later...I decided that it would be nice to move back to northern Minnesota to be closer to family and friends. I will be completing my Master's Degree in Public Administration at the end of August.

### Tell us a little about yourself.

I grew up in Hibbing, Minnesota where my mom still resides. I am one of four children, of which three of us are adopted from Korea. I have 3 nephews, 2 nieces (one of which shares my birthday), 1 great niece, and ten honorary nieces and nephews. I have one fur baby, named Cali, who just turned 16 years old this year. I have lived in two states, Iowa and Minnesota and have spent the majority of my adult life in Iowa. I have lived in five cities in MN: Buhl, Hibbing, Minneapolis, Windom, and now Cloquet.

### Tell us three things most people might not know about you . . .

1. I tend to speak really fast and when I get excited or nervous I speak faster...I once got a NC (Non Commendable) in conduct in grade school because I talked too much.
2. I am terrible at simple math but for some reason can do calculus...thus my engineering degree.
3. I have two birthdays...the day I was born and the day that my family picked me up from the airport...which my mom still celebrates in some form to this day.

## New Handicap Access Door System Installed at the Courthouse

In June, the Carlton County Courthouse truly became handicap accessible with the installation of a new handicap access door system on the east door across from the Law Enforcement Center entrance. The new door looks great, operates smoothly and will provide years of service to those needing an automatic door for entering the courthouse.



"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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