

Terry Martinek

President – National Juvenile Detention Association (NJDA)

2012-2014



Mr. Martinek began his career at the South Dakota State Training School as a Cottage Counselor. He earned a promotion to the Group Leader Position within 12 years. During this time, Mr. Martinek also served as President of the South Dakota Corrections Association.

In 1982, Mr. Martinek assumed the position of Assistant Director of the Berrien County Juvenile Center (BCJC) in Michigan. At the BCJC, Mr. Martinek was in charge of the Residential Treatment Program until he was asked to go to the Detention Unit and put a structured, positively focused program in place. The Rational Behavior Training (RBT) program which was successfully implemented in Dupage County (IL) and Calhoun County (MI) was selected as the preferred program and the team proceeded to implement and improve upon it at the BCJC. During his career at the BCJC, Mr. Martinek was also very involved in the Michigan Juvenile Detention Association (MJDA) serving on the Advisory Council and Board of Directors.

After the RBT program in Berrien County was well established, Mr. Martinek was asked to help implement the RBT based Cognitive Behavior Training (CBT) program at the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center in Chicago. He and several other consultants provided RBT/CBT training and coaching to the facility staff throughout the implementation of the new programming.

In addition, Mr. Martinek has provided training and technical assistance to numerous other juvenile justice agencies during his career.

For many years, the Director of the BCJC was involved with the National Juvenile Detention Association (NJDA) and encouraged Mr. Martinek to become involved. He indicated that Michigan has had more Presidents of NJDA than any other State including Dave Roush, Leonard Dixon, Wayne Liddell and himself (the current director of BCJC). In 2004, Michigan hosted the National Symposium on Juvenile Services. He attended and really liked what he saw and

heard. Mr. Martinek then became an active member of several different committees. He was elected President of NJDA in 2012.

NJDA set the standard of operation for many facilities across the nation. The Association was called upon for leadership, training and technical assistance on many different topics relevant to the field. Mr. Martinek felt that he needed to continue the leadership by way of being active on the NJDA's Critical Issues Committee and addressing the issues of far too many mentally ill youths being detained with delinquent youth with no services being provided for them. Another critical issue that was addressed was the use of mechanical restraints for behavior management.

Along with those issues, Mr. Martinek sought to address the membership fees of the Association with Michael Jones, Managing Director of the National Partnership for Juvenile Services (NPJS).

Research seemed to indicate that close to 50% of youth being detained were youth with mental health issues and with no services for them or their families. The NJDA/NPJS members were able to come to some agreement that these youths should be provided services or be removed and placed out of the detention system.

Mr. Martinek stated that the development of Position Statements dealing with Mental Health issues and Mechanical Restraints plus the use of Tear Gas in Detention were significant accomplishments since he was president.

Mr. Martinek believes that being able to provide services and support for all Detention Facilities and the programs that operate within each Center such as education, recreation, etc. will be the most critical issues in the future.

Some final thoughts from Mr. Martinek . . .

Mr. Martinek feels the youth in facilities are really no different than any other youth. He believes that practitioners need to remember that the youth are basically all the same no matter where they grow up. The influences they encounter are the same across the nation. Practitioners need to listen to the youth and then find the root causes to the issues they are dealing with that affect their behavior.

Further, Mr. Martinek believes that the NPJS/NJDA needs to constantly look for ways to draw people into the field and understand that the youth of our world need the field's attention.

Mr. Martinek would also like to see some form of scholarships for Past Presidents so they could attend the annual NPJS National Symposium on Juvenile Services.