



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 28, 2012

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DEPUTY COMMISSIONER RETIRES FROM CORRECTIONS

St. Paul – A national leader in innovating programs to reduce recidivism will retire after 38 years of service in the corrections field. Rich Crawford is leaving as the deputy commissioner of the Community Services Division for the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) on August 31. Crawford has served as deputy commissioner since March 14, 2011.

Crawford’s innovations in the field include his work on evidence-based practices (EBP) and providing expertise and assistance to organizations exploring EBP applications for diversion, reentry, court and community services. In 1995, Crawford was selected by the Minnesota Corrections Association as the Corrections Person of the Year. He received the Director’s Award for Outstanding Leadership in the United States Courts in 2008.

Crawford says the field of corrections is ready to continue the work that needs to be done to make communities safer.

“We have research that tells us what works to diminish recidivism,” he said. “I’m going out with a sense that because we have greater knowledge, we will do better things.”

He has also given back to the field in various forms including teaching as an assistant professor in criminal justice at Bemidji State University, and as an adjunct faculty at Moorhead State University and North Dakota State University.

Crawford describes his career as both rewarding and interesting. He graduated from Dilworth High School in northwestern Minnesota and then went on to study at Minnesota State University Moorhead.

His career began in 1974 as a juvenile probation agent, working his way to adult felony agent and court services director in Clay County. He then became field services supervisor for the Minnesota Department of Corrections in Bemidji. Rich went on to get his masters in probation and parole studies from Fordham University in the Bronx, New York in 1988.

From 1998 to 2005, he was the chief U.S. probation and pretrial services officer in the District of North Dakota, and from 2005 to 2010 Crawford served as the chief U.S. probation officer for the District of Hawaii.

Crawford retired from the federal probation system in 2010, and went on to become a private consultant for community corrections and court agencies.

“Rich has promoted a very strategic philosophy regarding the implementation of programs that make a difference,” said Commissioner Tom Roy. “His mature affable leadership style has won him respect and friends. We wish him well in the next segment of his life.”

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