

fyi



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“Expecting Excellence Every Day”

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A new name for HMTU

The Handlon Michigan Training Unit (above) has been renamed the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility. Other prisons have had some name changes, too. For the story see page 2.

Manns acting bureau administrator

Gary E. Manns, personnel director for the MDOC since 1996, has been selected acting administrator for the new Bureau of Human Resources. As such, he becomes a senior management executive and a member of the Executive Policy Team.

The new bureau was created last year as a way to improve operational efficiency.

It contains the offices of Equal Employment Opportunity, Training and Recruitment and Personnel Services. The position responsible for employee discipline and CS-138 contract administration is also within this bureau.

Manns, who has been with the department since 1985, began his career as a corrections officer at the Riverside Correctional Facility. In 1986 he was chosen to head up recruitment for the department, a post he held until 1991 when he was chosen as a labor relations representative.

In 1992, Manns went to the Thumb Correctional Facility where he was in charge of personnel operations.

A graduate of Central Michigan University, Manns earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1983.



Manns



Returning prisoners from jails expected to reduce layoffs

The department began returning state prisoners from county jails late last week in an effort to reduce the number of layoffs of corrections officers.

About 230 prisoners, who are parole violators or prisoners being returned from community residential programs, are being returned through Thursday of this week to One Block at the Charles Egeler Correctional Facility. Blocks two and three will be double-bunked to allow the return.

In the past, it was necessary to house offenders returning to prison in county jails until beds opened in the state system. This was caused, in part, because of a consent decree prohibiting double-bunking at Egeler and several other facilities.

“It came down to whether we should spend \$3 million for housing prisoners in county jails or use that money to keep 25 COs working,” Director Bill Martin said.

A total of 97 officers were laid off as of Jan. 7, and personnel officials are looking into recalling enough officers to fill the new positions.

Michigan Training Unit changes name

The Handlon Michigan Training Unit (HMTU), managed from the time it opened in 1957 until 1985 by the late Richard A. Handlon, has been renamed the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility.

Handlon, who died in 1999, was warden at HMTU for 28 years until his retirement. When he was warden, the prison was called the Michigan Training Unit and, when it was opened, was the most modern facility in the state. At the time, the only other prisons in the state were the Michigan Reformatory, Marquette Branch Prison, the State Prison of Southern Michigan and Cassidy Lake Technical School.

In 1988 Handlon’s name was added to the prison’s name, making it the Handlon Michigan Training Unit.



Now the Huron Valley Correctional Facility.

In other prison name changes, the Huron Valley Men’s Facility is now called the Huron Valley Correctional Facility.

(Continued on page 3 -- See Change)

Employees serve country on active military duty

Jan. 17, 2002

A number of MDOC employees are currently on active military duty as a result of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. At least one is serving at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Those employees, as reported to FYI, are:
Louis Eiseman, Alger Maximum Correctional Facility

Gary Blow, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility

Gerald Erskine, Carson City Correctional Facility

Josh Moser, Charles Egeler Correctional Facility

Mark Drefke, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility

Arthur LeBombard, Kinross/Hiawatha correctional facilities

Laura Palmer, Lakeland Correctional Facility

Kevin Kolar, Macomb Correctional Facility

William DeHart, Michigan State Industries

Gregory Garner and Jason Miller, Riverside Correctional Facility

Scott Balderstone, Standish Correctional Facility

Harry Hartunian, Western Wayne Correctional Facility

Ida Johnson, Ojibway Correctional Facility

Brian Greene, Boyer Road Correctional Facility



Change: Prison name changes announced

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Four other prisons, often referred to only by the last name of the person after whom they were named, are now to be called by their full names. They are:

- Charles Egeler Correctional Facility (named after the former warden of the State Prison of Southern Michigan)
- Robert Scott Correctional Facility (named after a former state Corrections Commissioner)
- Earnest G. Brooks Correctional Facility (named after the state's first Corrections Commissioner which is equivalent to the job of corrections director)
- G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility (named after a former state Corrections Commissioner)

LEIN boss out to get her man (or woman)

Jolene Austin, the department's LEIN (Law Enforcement Information Network) guru at the Electronic Monitoring Center (EMC) in Lansing, takes the task of getting escapees and absconders back into custody very seriously.

She and 27 operators at the center, who also monitor all offenders on electronic monitoring, make sure that law enforcement agencies can check on the validity of MDOC warrants 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and that all escapees and absconders are put on the LEIN system in a timely fashion.

LEIN is an electronic database of those wanted on outstanding warrants and other offender information which can be accessed by law enforcement officers whenever they stop someone for a traffic violation or make an arrest. LEIN is connected to the National Criminal Information Center (NCIC), which allows the exchange of criminal histories between states.

One of the ways Austin helps law enforcement officers find offenders is by "packing" a warrant with extensive information about the offender.

She does this by checking all available databases including the FBI, the Michigan State Police, CMIS and the Secretary of State's license plate databases.

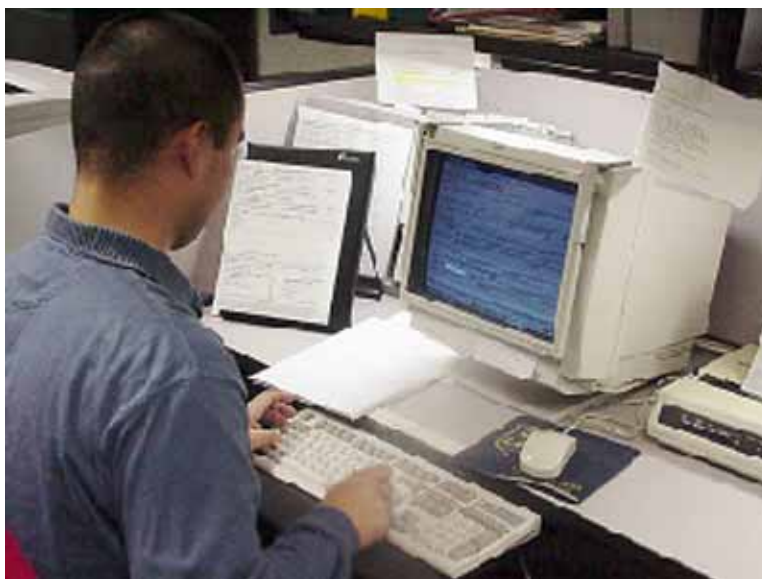
When a warrant for an absconder or escapee is placed on LEIN, the warrant is likely to include every bit of information the department can gather about the offender, including aliases as well as scars and tattoos.

Packing a warrant with the 50-some aliases of a prison escapee, allowed police in New

(Continued on page 5 -- See LEIN)

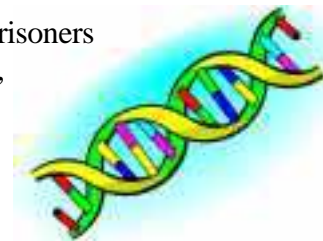
Michigan Department of Corrections

Tony Bardy, right, is one of 27 operators at the Electronic Monitoring Centers in Lansing who place information on LEIN for the department. Every month about 700 to 800 offenders are added and removed.



DNA collection to become part of annual physical

The department has decided to collect DNA samples from prisoners at the time of their annual health screening rather than wait for parole, Community Residential Program (CRP) placement or discharge. Gathering the samples is expected to start in March or April.



By taking the sample during the annual physical, the state's entire stock prison population will have had DNA samples taken within a 12-month period.

Richard McKeon, executive assistant to Director Martin, said even though this isn't required by statute, "expediting tests will be of great assistance to prosecutors and law

(Continued on page 6 -- see DNA)

LEIN: MDOC staff take pains to notify police

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York to find the woman who had been gone from the system for many years, said Austin.

Prior to Austin's arrival at the LEIN entry operation in 1998, this type of extensive information gathering had not been done on all warrants.

The operators at the EMC, which is managed by Field Operations Administration (FOA), go out of their way to make sure offenders who have been arrested on warrants aren't released.

Sometimes, said Austin, that means finding a jail cell and transportation for the offender.

She has known operators to go beyond the call of duty when they weren't able to reach an agent, a supervisor or the Absconder Recovery Unit, and when the arresting police agency did not have a facility in which to lock up the offender.

"We just can't let them go," she said.

All LEIN warrants are entered at the Lansing location, which provides consistency in preparing the warrants and in keeping track of active and canceled warrants, said Austin. It also gives police one 800-number to call when checking on the status of a warrant.

Austin is careful in providing the kinds of information that help police catch offenders, and she is equally careful in making sure that all warrants on the LEIN are active and that the LEIN information agrees with the department's CMIS entries.

Making sure that CMIS and LEIN agree on whether an offender has an active warrant involves elaborate checklists and a monthly confirmation with all FOA agents to make sure the information on LEIN and CMIS is correct.

"It's a highly demanding job," said Richard Irrer, manager of the Electronic Monitoring Operation and the LEIN function. "It requires precision and attention to detail – a commitment to thoroughness and accuracy – two qualities that certainly describe Jolene."

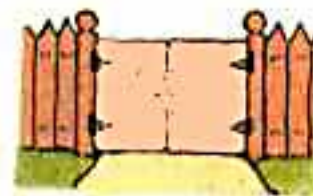
As of Jan. 9, there were 2,096 warrants on LEIN. About 700 to 800 offenders are added and removed every month.

Gatekeeper savings allow treatment of more offenders

More than 1,000 offenders being supervised in the community who have serious substance-abuse problems have been treated in residential treatment facilities because of the efficiencies gained through use of a gatekeeper program.

A total of 3,826 offenders received residential treatment during the 2001 fiscal year, up 33 percent over 2000. This was made possible through a reduction of 3.5 days in the average length of stay in residential treatment facilities. The reduced length of stay resulted in savings totaling nearly \$700,000.

Gatekeeper services are provided by Comprehensive Behavioral Care Inc. (CompCare), a private vendor with offices in West Bloomfield.



CompCare carefully tracks the offender's progress in the program to ensure timely completion, said Cheryl Walker, administrator of the Office of Substance Abuse Program Section. "The gatekeeper finds the most effective treatment for these offenders allowing them to complete the program in the optimum time," she said.

CompCare also provides "one-stop shopping" for agents seeking residential treatment services for their offenders, said Tom Combs, community resource manager for the Field Operations Administration, who coordinates the program with the Substance Abuse Section. "Agents no longer have to call various programs to determine if they have an opening and if they will accept the offender," he said.

The gatekeeper determines whether the offender needs residential services based on national criteria and finds the best residential treatment program in which to place the offender based on the person's needs, something the agent doesn't always have the time or expertise to do.

(Continued on page 7 -- See Gatekeeper)

DNA: Samples to be collected during physicals

(Continued from page 5)

enforcement in solving outstanding crimes."

He said the department will continue to check at parole, discharge or CRP placement to make sure a sample has been taken, but that number should steadily decrease as the annual gathering concludes.

Under Public Acts 84-91 of 2001 all prisoners leaving the system through parole, discharge or release to CRP must provide a DNA sample, collected by the department and sent to the Michigan State Police.

Field Operations Administration has been gathering DNA samples from all residents of CRP.



Going to jail to fight Muscular Dystrophy

Above left, Lagretta King, the litigation coordinator, and Sandy Dorer, Prisoner Services secretary, from Florence Crane Correctional Facility, are “jailed” as part of the annual Lock-Up for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The two women raised more than \$500. Above, right, Kathy Gose, the personnel officer for the Oaks Correctional Facility, was “apprehended” by a Muscular Dystrophy Association representative. She raised more than \$1,053 from Oaks staff and members of the local community. MDA is the world’s largest non-governmental sponsor of research seeking the causes of and effective treatments for neuromuscular diseases, sponsoring some 400 research projects annually.

Gatekeeper: Allows more offenders treatment

(Continued from page 6)

The offender is screened for sex offenses, arson and other aspects of their criminal past before placement.

“Because of the gatekeepers’ special expertise and knowledge, they are often able to find services for offenders who, in the past, could not have been helped,” said Combs.

Public safety remains the key goal of the program, Combs said. The gatekeeper has been instructed to place prisoners first, then parolees and finally probationers as beds become available.

“This altered the previous system in which placements occurred depending on which agent called a program first following a vacancy,” he said.

In addition, the gatekeeper has been able to work with the Department of Community Health to get beds quickly for offenders who might otherwise be turned down or put at the bottom of the list if a regular corrections placement isn’t available.

National studies show that those offenders in substance-abuse treatment are less likely to commit crime while in treatment.

The gatekeeper program started in March of 2000 in Regions II and III and expanded to Region I in late 2000.

530 probationers use automated reporting kiosks

For 530 low-risk probationers, reporting usually means stepping up to a computer, logging in with a thumb print and answering questions about jobs, police contacts and other probation issues electronically.

Those probationers are under supervision in Ingham County and the Southwest District Probation Office in Detroit.

They are taking part in a pilot project to test the efficiency of using electronics for routine reporting by certain types of offenders. The goal is to reduce caseloads of probation agents so they can focus on offenders who need more supervision.

The computers and related equipment are located in kiosks, or cubicles, at the probation offices.

Low-risk, employed and non-assaultive offenders who are in compliance with their probation orders are the service population.

According to Yvette Seaton-Croom, the probation manager in the Southwest District, the advantages so far have been a reduction in waiting-room traffic, fewer complaints from probationers about long waiting times to see their agents, more flexibility in reporting for the probationer who is doing well, and more time for agents to deal with problem offenders.

In Ingham County, Steve Siegrist, the manager, said the kiosk makes it easier for the offender to arrange probation reporting around employment schedules.

Reporting to a computer doesn't relieve the probationer from the usual monitoring process nor from any financial responsibilities. Offenders are prompted by the computer to answer questions pertaining to employment, residence, police contacts and other conditions of probation.

The agent can give individual instructions on the computer requiring that the probationer leave an employment or treatment verification with the receptionist. The offender may be instructed to see the substance-abuse technician and provide a urine sample.

Probationers pay a fee for use of the kiosk, which covers the cost of the equipment, as well as their regular fines, court costs, restitution and supervision fees. The agent continues to



Kiosk agent Abigail Callejas (right) from Ingham County helps a probationer use the electronic reporting system.

Jan. 17, 2002

Thumb employees celebrate diversity, donate food



Employees of the Thumb Correctional Facility donated non-perishable food and cash to the Caro Women's Shelter and, in return, were served breakfast prepared by the TCF Diversity Committee. At right, from left: Kathleen Marthrel, Michele Walker, Kim Neumann and Kathy Jones. Mark Keeler also assisted in cooking but is not pictured.



Kiosk: Electronic reporting lowers caseloads

(Continued from page 8)

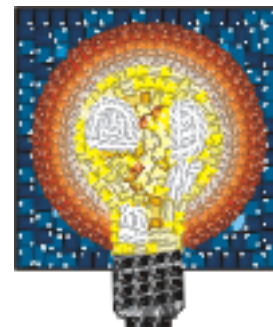
monitor the offender's residence through home visits and other verifications.

Offenders report to the kiosk computer for two months, then to the agent supervising the kiosk caseload.

Siegrist said one issue for continuing and future use of such equipment is the interface between the database used for the kiosk and OMNI, which is the department's offender database.

"We'll need to resolve this, plus some periodic technical problems, to make the kiosk reporting method really effective," he said.

The kiosk reporting system has been in place in Ingham County since April of 2000 and in the Southwest District Probation Office since February of 2001.



Public support project ideas sought

Michigan's representative on an ACA committee is asking for ideas from MDOC employees for projects that will gain support from the community and lawmakers.

Connie Baldwin, probation manager for the Greenfield District Probation Office in Detroit, is a member of the Correctional Involvement in the Community Committee.

That committee, said Baldwin, is looking for help in generating interest and support from community leaders and the public.

What is being sought is:

- An idea to gain the attention and support of local lawmakers, including county commissioners, state legislators or members of Congress.
- An idea to generate positive press coverage of a correctional program.
- An idea for a community service project that will engender good will with a community or community group.

The ideas should be replicable and inexpensive and must have actually been tried and found successful.

Chair of the committee -- Carol Rapp Zimmerman from the Ohio Department of Youth Services -- said the ideas selected will be used as a "cookbook for our peers in the corrections field who are always struggling to find ways to educate the public and the decision-makers about the value of our work."

For more information, contact Baldwin at (313) 927-6447.



Honoring a lifesaver

Deputy Director Robert Steinman, left, presents an employee Lifesaving Award to Ritchie Busse, a corporal at the Special Alternative Incarceration Program. Busse is believed to have saved the life of a prisoner who was choking on meat he was eating at dinner. Summoned to the dining table by three trainees, Busse found the offender unable to breathe or speak and holding his throat. Busse administered three abdominal thrusts, dislodging the food and allowing the man to breathe. The trainee was then taken to Chelsea Community Hospital for treatment and release. SAI Administrator Gene Borgert said he believes Busse's actions saved the trainee's life.



Baraga walkers

Employees at the Baraga Correctional Facility took part in the 2001 Walk America for the March of Dimes by donating nearly \$300 to the organization. Employees purchased the 'Toy Soldiers' pictured on the wall. The 2001 walk team (above) was honored as the Keweenaw Chapter's 'Rookie Team of the Year.' From left: Joanne Clement, Kerry Sherbinow, Pennie Chappell, Tanya Etelamaki and Randy LaLonde.

Field agents, FOA staff donate food to help UP needy

Field agents and office staff of the Field Operations Administration in the Upper Peninsula recently donated food to the Salvation Army for further distribution.

Area Manager Laura Young said the donations were made in light of the declining economy and rising unemployment in the Upper Peninsula.

Besides the UP staff, donors included Deputy Director Steinman and Regional Administrator Noreen Sawatzki.



Wheels for Wishes ride set for July 20

Department employees who are also motorcycle enthusiasts are planning their second charity ride for July 20. The location is Clare from which riders will Circle Tour the area and return for a lunch and program.

In 2001, riders from throughout the state raised more than \$1,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. It was organized by Clare County probation/parole agent Tim Jelenek.

In 2002, riders will raise money for the Children's Brain Tumor Research Foundation.

Jelenek said those who participated in the 2001 ride are working to put together a charter for a motorcycle club for MDOC employees. The tentative name is the "Insiders" and the group hopes to have the charter ready for the July 20 ride.

For more information, contact Jelenek at (989)-539-2458.