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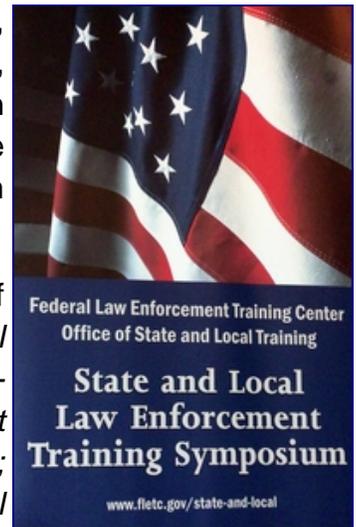
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MDOC CO-HOSTS THREE-DAY TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC), the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office (GTSO), and the U.S. District Attorney's Office for the Eastern and Western District of Michigan co-hosted the State & Local Law Enforcement Training Symposium (SLLETS) in Traverse City, MI, August 9-11.

The three-day symposium included a wide array of training programs including: *Terrorism - from Global to Main Street; Pain Behind the Badge; Human Trafficking; Use of Force, Myths and Realities; Asset Protection; Extreme Close Quarters Fighting Skills; Adaptive Leadership Behavior; and Ultimate Survival Instincts.*



Director Daniel Heyns addresses participants.

Over 400 law enforcement and corrections personnel from 40 states attended the federally grant-funded training. Staff from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glencoe, GA organized and supported the event itself, including site selection, training topics, presenters, and on-site logistics. MDOC Director Daniel Heyns provided the welcome and introductory remarks on behalf of the Department, stating that he felt the symposium was valuable for all in attendance. He also stressed the need for greater cooperation and teamwork between law enforcement and corrections agencies to maximize the resources at hand.

The symposium was a great opportunity for state and local criminal justice agencies to learn and network while enjoying the greater Traverse City area and supporting Michigan's tourism economy.

SLLETS and ALERRT (Continued on page 2)

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**SLLETS and ALERRT** (Continued from page 1)

Additionally, the Department and GTSO hosted the *Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training* (ALERRT). This program was open to MDOC and GTSO employees only and included staff from the Department's Emergency Response Team, Absconder Recovery Unit, Training Division, and Emergency Management Division.

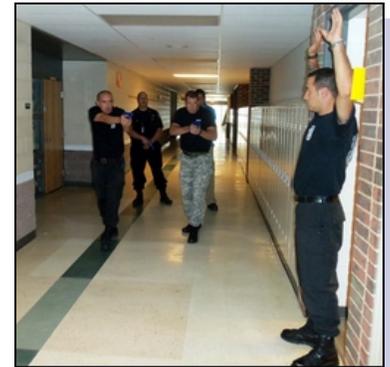


The ALERRT training was a two-day program that ran concurrent to SLLETS so participants could attend both programs as much as possible, while enjoying networking opportunities with fellow criminal justice professionals. The program familiarized emergency responders with concepts and principles for responding to a situation involving an active shooter. Participants learned how to discriminate between a hostage situation and an active shooter situation. They also learned some concepts for first responders to coordinate, move, search out, and engage an active shooter. Participants worked through many different scenarios and were critiqued about their performance in resolving the situation.



*At left: Participants complete a simulated training exercise including use of color-marking non-lethal ammunition to help determine threat neutralization.*

*At right: Participants control a compliant subject after encountering him on a building search.*



## HURRY!! OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR GROUP INSURANCE ENDS AUGUST 26, 2011

Group Insurance Open Enrollment is Monday, August 8 through Friday, August 26, 2011. New enrollments and any changes take effect October 2, 2011. If you do not make any changes, your coverage and covered individuals will remain the same.

During open enrollment, you will be able to review your current benefits online from your self-service account. You can also enroll or change your current enrollments and add or remove individuals. You must remove any individual who no longer meets the eligibility criteria. If you add individuals to your insurance, you must substantiate their eligibility.

If you do not have access to the Internet or need assistance, call the MI HR Service Center at 877-766-6447 (toll free), 517-335-0529 (Lansing area), or 711 (Michigan Relay Center for the Hearing Impaired), Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Click on the box below to go to the State of Michigan Civil Service Commission Benefits Web site.

[Insurance Benefits](#)

**EMPLOYEES EARN VALOR, MERITORIOUS SERVICE AND LIFESAVING AWARDS****VALOR AWARDS**

Corrections Program Coordinator **Terry Tincknell** of Marquette Branch Prison received a Valor Award for his actions on April 24, 2011. On that date, Tincknell saw a prisoner attack another prisoner in the auditorium. The assaulter was kicking the victim in the head and body and then began stabbing the defenseless victim in the head. Tincknell responded immediately, pushing the assaulter off the victim. His quick and decisive actions stopped the assault and likely saved the victim's life. Tincknell's behavior exemplifies the level of character and integrity for which the Department is proud.



Corrections Officer **Jason Daniels** of Thumb Correctional Facility was conducting a security round in the education building when he saw a teacher in a classroom suddenly assaulted by a prisoner. The prisoner had been hiding under a desk to prey on the teacher. Daniels immediately entered the classroom and gave the prisoner orders to stop. He complied and was restrained without incident. Officer Daniels saved the teacher from serious injury, assault, or death because of his actions while professionally controlling and de-escalating the situation.

**LIFESAVERS**

Livingston County Probation/Parole Supervisor **Daniel Chepeska** was recognized in March 2011 by the Farmington Fire Department for his efforts in helping save a gentleman who suffered a cardiac arrest. Dan is an avid hockey player and was playing in January, when the victim ba-

sically collapsed on the ice. Because of the CPR training given to the MDOC employees, Dan was able to administer the AED. He was assisted by a second person. His recognition is another testimonial that basic first aid and CPR training really does pay off. He is proud knowing he saved a life.



*Dan Chepeska (left) and the man whose life he helped save during a hockey game.*

About the incident, Dan commented to his co-workers, "I hope that none of you will ever have to use these skills

that we have been trained in over the years, but we should all be confident that we have this knowledge. It will happen in the least expected instances. Thanks again for all of your support."

**Dean Velmer**, a Corrections Officer from Baraga Correctional Facility, was attending a high school graduation ceremony on May 27, 2011 when he heard a mother crying that her baby had stopped breathing. Velmer immediately took the baby from the parents and performed first aid including back blows and chest compressions to dislodge an airway obstruction. Velmer's actions demonstrate the level of integrity and professionalism our employees can be proud of.

Officers **Torry Adamski, William Venegas, Zedrick Taylor, and Rodney Lee** responded to a suicide attempt at Woodland Center Correctional Facility on May 23, 2011. A prisoner was hanging from a door with a sheet around his neck. Officers used a pair of cutting tools to cut through the sheet and remove it from the prisoner's neck. The prisoner was examined by health care and transported to a local health

**RECOGNITION** (Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

care facility for treatment. The officers worked together to save the prisoner's life, demonstrating an intense level of duty, professionalism and integrity.

Corrections Officer **James Findlay** of Carson City Correctional Facility was assigned to the visiting room when a prisoner approached him with his young son, who appeared to be choking.

Findlay took the prisoner's son and administered abdominal thrusts. The action dislodged a piece of candy which had obstructed the child's airway, allowing the child to breathe again. Health care staff checked the child and determined he needed no further medical attention. Findlay displayed intense professionalism and compassion in the face of a stressful and life-threatening situation.



## MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

Officer **Earnest Skeans** of Oaks Correctional Facility is always on the lookout for ways to improve facility safety. He has been involved in multiple incidents over the last several months concerning the safety and security of the facility.

Late last fall, Skeans found a letter in a prisoner's possession describing plans for trafficking restricting medications. In December 2010, Skeans observed a prisoner acting oddly during a metal

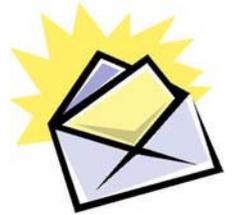


detector search, then searched the prisoner and found a weapon. In March, Skeans found that metal shelving units were being tampered with and weapons were being made from the missing pieces. The shelving was secured to ensure prisoners couldn't fashion more weapons. For his exemplary efforts, he received a Meritorious Service Award.

**Marlene King**, an employee at Woodland Center Correctional Facility received a Meritorious Service Award for her diligence in handling prisoner mail. King recognized a prisoner trying to

get other prisoners to conspire together in a lawsuit concerning testimony. The information allowed the Attorney General to dismiss the case in question. King's efforts demonstrate the level of integrity each employee should strive to achieve.

General Office Assistant **Jacqueline Massick** of Saginaw Correctional Facility received a Meritorious Service Award for her actions on May 4, 2011. Massick was working in the mailroom at the facility when she noticed an outgoing envelope that had a contraband stamp addressed to Governor Snyder. The letter indicated the prisoner would harm others to bring attention to himself and referenced anthrax. It included a white powdery substance that had the scent and texture of talcum powder and was determined to be non-toxic. Massick's calm demeanor and professionalism during this stressful and potentially life-threatening situation allowed her to handle the situation efficiently and stopped an unnecessary emergency situation from occurring in the Governor's Office.



Do you know someone whose actions may have earned them a departmental award for lifesaving, valor, merit or citizenship? Submit a nomination form to your administrator for review and consideration. Our employees deserve recognition for their exemplary efforts. Forms are available through your worksite administrator or DAS under forms. It is form CAJ-040.



## **REENTRY ROUNDTABLE**

*Reentry Roundtable is a continuing column that provides news, facts, and program successes within the prisoner reentry program.*

### **MICHAEL - A BAY COUNTY REENTRY SUCCESS STORY**

Michael, a Bay County parolee, now 24 years old had his first run in with the law at age seventeen. With a long list of felony charges which included assault with a deadly weapon on a police officer, Michael's prison term of 3 years and 7 months helped him realize that the life of crime that he had lead was not for him anymore. "I didn't get in any trouble when I was in prison, but I definitely didn't want to be there and I'll never go back."

Since his release, Michael has taken full advantage of his second chance. With no family support, Michael depended on Prisoner Reentry for assistance in his efforts to reintegrate. "Reentry helped me get housing, a bridge card, a bus pass and clothing. It was basically my foundation to get back on the right track." While Michael gives much credit to Prisoner Reentry, he has done his part as well. He has consistently reported to his agent and continues to follow all of his parole conditions without any problems. With a new attitude Michael has managed to secure a job. "Securing and maintaining a job has been my greatest success since paroling."

Michael believed that he would have another

chance at success although he knew his options were limited. Michael states that when he began to interview for jobs and in his efforts to try to gain community trust apart from his background his message was, "I learned my lesson, I paid the price and now I'm making a change, and no one should be held back for making a positive change." Michael is employed at MCG plastics in Bay City, MI where he patents designs and constructs molds for teeth impressions. Michael

feels that the team environment at his job has also helped him become more society oriented. Besides securing a job, Michael has purchased a house and his own car. Michael has a new attitude on

life and he feels very well off considering the current state of the economy.

Michael is excited about continuing his successful reentry and although there will always be barriers due to his background, Michael has positioned himself to maintain a decent life. He is truly a product of the Department's focus to enhance public safety through effective prisoner reentry. *This article was submitted buy Ronald Stanley the Community Coordinator for the Saginaw Area Prisoner Reentry Program.*

#### **Prisoner Reentry**



## **LAPEER'S FAMILY LITERACY CENTER GETS A MOVE AND A MAKEOVER THANKS TO REENTRY PAROLEES**

In April 2011, the Family Literacy Center of Lapeer sent out a request for assistance to the community. They were expanding into a larger building that would accommodate more programming for families in Lapeer County. The new location, while more spacious, needed significant remodeling. Carpenters, dry wall installers and movers were desperately needed to accomplish the task. Lapeer County Parole Agent Meegan Lange identified individuals who possessed some of the skills needed and contacted the Family Literacy Center staff to coordinate the volunteer effort.

*LITERACY CENTER MAKEOVER (Continued on page 6)*

**LITERACY CENTER MAKEOVER** (Continued from page 5)

The outcome was even more than the center staff could have imagined. Parolees Darin, Charles, and Dean worked many hours hanging dry wall and painting to build office space and meeting rooms. They moved books and other supplies from the old site to the new one. The team of workers also designed and built a bench and sitting area behind the building where staff and those at the center could take a break outside. Additionally the team built a ramp up to the main entrance of the building.

The parolees were honored for their contributions during an open house at the center in May. Mary Shelton-Wiese, the Executive Director of the program, praised the workers, stating "everything nice about the new office is due to their hard work."

Prosecutor Bryon Kenschuh, a board member for the Family Literacy Center, also expressed his appreciation on behalf of the center. He shared updates on the renovations with the local community collaborative group which meets monthly, giving recognition to the team of Reentry parolees who helped make the move a success.



*Meegan Lange, parolees Darin, Charles, and Dean, and Family Literacy Director Mary Shelton-Wiese.*

**MCA CONFERENCE IS SEPTEMBER 9 IN MT. PLEASANT**

The Michigan Corrections Association will hold its fall conference on September 9, 2011. The conference will focus on the future of corrections in Michigan including prisons, community supervision, courts, and jail operations.

Look for more information via e-mail or on the MCA website at [www.micorrections.org](http://www.micorrections.org). The conference will be held at the Comfort Inn in Mt. Pleasant, MI.

**ERT ASSISTS WITH JACKSON COUNTY MARIJUANA CONFISCATION OPERATION**

The Michigan Department of Corrections ERT – Jackson Region assisted the Jackson Narcotics Enforcement Team (JNET) with the seizure of more than 300 marijuana plants last week in Jackson County. Also assisting were the Michigan State Police and their Aviation Unit, and the Blackman-Leoni Township Department of Public Safety.

The plants were found in the Waterloo State Recreation Area and on private lands throughout the county. If you suspect you have located marijuana plants growing in an area, leave immediately and report it to local law enforcement authorities. These plantations or marijuana crops are often protected by armed suspects who would engage in hostile acts against individuals who have found an illegal marijuana growing operation.





## **ELIZABETH ARNOVITS: REMEMBERING A VALUED PARTNER**



It was with great sadness that the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) received news of the passing of Elizabeth Arnovits. As the long-time executive director of the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency (MCCD), Beth worked closely with the department, as an advocate, a partner and a close friend to many of us who worked with her. Her efforts helped transform the practice of corrections in Michigan and truly shaped the way this department operates today.



Beth's professional accomplishments are numerous. She created MCCD's Children's Visitation Program for children with mothers incarcerated in MDOC facilities. The program was one of the first of its kind in the nation and became a model for the expanding efforts throughout Michigan and the country to better address the needs of children and families affected by crime and incarceration.

Appointed by the Michigan House of Representatives Corrections Committee to serve on the Michigan Prison Overcrowding Project Policy Team, Beth helped design and successfully advocate passage of the Michigan Community Corrections Act (Public Act 511). The legislation established the Office of Community Corrections and paved the way for local communities to take an active role in developing and implementing community corrections plans. Under Beth's leadership, MCCD provided technical assistance to organize and train advisory boards in several counties, ensuring communities had the tools needed to create effective community corrections solutions.

Always focused on creating safer communities, Beth led MCCD's partnership with the MDOC and others on implementing Michigan's prisoner reentry initiative, nationally recognized for its success in reducing crime. As an unwavering proponent of community-driven solutions, Beth helped shape the vital role of community stakeholders in Michigan's reentry success and guided the department's new approach to collaboration with the communities we serve.

Her work and impact extended well beyond the department and adult corrections initiatives. Beth's vision and dedication put her at the center of successful campaigns to enact laws that banned the jailing of all kids and the detention of truant and runaway youth. She advanced campaigns to oppose the introduction of the death penalty in Michigan and served as a leader in the movement to improve Michigan's system for providing quality legal defense for those who cannot afford it.

Beth's significant accomplishments deservedly earned her recognition at the national and state levels for her public policy and planning efforts. But her impact reaches far beyond the services that she implemented or the policies that she worked to improve. Her legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of all of the corrections professionals she inspired, mentored and befriended that now carry on her mission of building safer communities.

**PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**





## CFA PRISONER REENTRY MANAGER NAMED TO BOARD OF LANSING UTILITY



CFA Prisoner Reentry Manager Anthony W. McCloud has joined the Lansing Board of Water & Light's (BWL) governing Board of Commissioners serving Lansing's Third Ward. His term expires on June 30, 2015. McCloud was appointed to the board by Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero. His appointment was recently confirmed by the Lansing City Council.

"Commissioner McCloud comes to our governing board at an exciting, historic time," BWL General Manager J. Peter Lark said. "With his guidance and that of his fellow commissioners, the BWL will build a \$182 million cogeneration facility in Lansing's Reo Town. This will be the BWL's first cogeneration plant – producing both electricity and steam. Our Board of Commissioners will be integral to the project as we move toward a 2013 completion date."

McCloud's career in Michigan Department of Corrections spans nearly 30 years. He holds a bachelor's degree from Spring Arbor University. He also attended the Michigan Department of Corrections Competitive Leadership Academy in 2001, and a leadership development program with United Way's Project Blueprint in 2007.

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

## HONOR GUARD RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICES

When the city of Hudsonville, MI found itself without its National Guard unit over the Memorial Day Holiday because of an overseas deployment, they turned to the Department's Honor Guard for assistance. A five-member voluntary detail provided ceremonial services at the event, which included presentation of the colors and a wreath honoring fallen heroes. Their services received compliments from city leaders, residents, state legislators and the Congressman representing the district. Nice work Honor Guard!



## F.Y.I. NEEDS YOUR STORIES

If you have something interesting and informative to share, please submit it to F.Y.I. for consideration. We can't put all of the articles in F.Y.I. but we try to get as many in as possible. Send submissions to John Cordell in the Office of Public Information and Communications at [cordellj@michigan.gov](mailto:cordellj@michigan.gov).



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