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DIRECTOR HEYNS: PSV AND RUO ACTIONS ARE NECESSARY

Over the past several weeks, I have received a great deal of emails critical of cost containment measures being implemented. In particular, they argue the abolition of the RUO position and perimeter vehicles is unwise and dangerous. It would have been impossible for me to respond to all of these messages, so allow me to respond here.



When I accepted this appointment, the most pronounced criticism of the Department was the size of the budget. The Legislature and the public that elected them were unhappy with the two billion dollar price tag. This unhappiness was reflected in a 2012 budget that I inherited which included negative appropriations. These negative appropriations amounted to tens of millions of dollars and required me to find cost savings at targeted amounts.

Since June 1, 2011, we have made huge strides to cover these negative appropriations. Some of the measures include savings in facility closure, transportation, pharmaceuticals, unfilled vacancies, inmate clothing, store consolidation, workers compensation, and staffing efficiencies, to name a few. But these measures alone were not enough to meet our budget targets. In addition, although contract negotiations were productive, the concessions did not match the rises in post-employment pensions and benefits.

Faced with these budget pressures, I was forced to look at other options. The elimination of the RUO designation and random patrols by perimeter vehicles were proposed by the workgroups tasked with offering solutions. These work groups were composed of mid- to upper-level managers with intimate knowledge of the security functions of our institutions. They proposed and I agreed these functions can be realigned and performed in more cost effective ways. I do not have the luxury of maintaining the status quo.

COST CONTAINMENT (Continued on page 2)



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**COST CONTAINMENT** (Continued from page 1)

First, let's discuss the Resident Unit Officer position. After studying the history of its creation and witnessing firsthand the duties, I value their contribution to the stability of the institutions. But the legislative and public criticism which persists is, MCO bargaining unit members are paid more than other corrections officers in adjoining states. As we work together to preserve pay and positions, the role of Michigan corrections officers must evolve. It can no longer be solely about custody and security; it must include a role in programming and rehabilitation. We can no longer afford the dual roles of custody and housing staff. The two roles must be melded together. Given our continued successes in recidivism, the defense of pay and benefits is compelling. But to convince people outside the Department of the value we bring to the State, we must take a new tack.



Perimeter vehicles are extremely labor intensive and fail to offer numbers to support their continuation. Institutional security rises and falls at the front gate. More contraband comes in the front door than comes in over the fence. We need to rededicate ourselves to scrutinizing procedures as they apply to visitors, inmates and staff. The cost of perimeter vehicles does not generate sufficient interdiction numbers to justify the expense. We can work together to accomplish safer perimeters via technology, arming the front desk and reconfiguring our surveillance strategy. The current model is obsolete. Please work with me to develop our new and better model.



As we work together to reinvent MDOC along with Michigan, we can either do this as adversaries or as partners. We can resist change or embrace it. I think my record is clear; safety for the public, staff and prisoners is top priority. The introduction of Tasers and chemical agents into our force continuum is evidence of my commitment to safety. With your help, we can use logic and prudent changes to defend our budget. The Governor's Executive recommendation for the FY2013 budget (as drafted) is a better budget than FY 2012. My hope is that trend will continue and end the instability this organization has struggled with for several years. Let's work together to restore fiscal responsibility and stability to the MDOC.



UPDATE: LEGISLATIVE BUDGET PROPOSALS TAKING SHAPE

The Senate Corrections budget has moved out of the Appropriations Committee to the Senate floor and the House Corrections budget has moved out of subcommittee to the House Appropriations Committee. The next step for the House budget would be for it to be passed by the House Appropriations Committee and to be sent to the House floor for consideration. The House and Senate versions of the FY 2012-13 Corrections budget contain several differences and if they are passed by each chamber with those differences, the bills will be reconciled in a conference committee. Once an identical bill is approved by both the House and the Senate, it will be submitted to Governor Snyder, who can sign it into law as is, or he can veto line items within the bill or the entire bill completely. There are still several steps in the process prior to the bill becoming law.

Summary of the Senate Bill:

The Senate authorizes a \$60.59 million increase in the Corrections budget, but the recommendation is \$67.32 million less than the Governor's FY 2012-13 executive recommendation for the Corrections budget. Significant changes include:

- \$58 million savings through the elimination of 580 FTEs at individual facilities;
- \$55.28 million savings through full-year contingency plans associated with the closure of Mound Correctional Facility and reduction in Field Operations Administration FTEs, competitive bidding of specific departmental functions and work units;
- \$1.4 million reduction in prisoner reentry funding;
- \$19.18 million funding for special equipment for security enhancements, closed facility maintenance, TASERs, surveillance cameras, personal protection devices, and cell phone detection technology;
- \$4.5 million funding for Cities in Distress initiative designed to alleviate jail overcrowding in high-crime areas;
- \$128.56 million in economic adjustments; and
- \$1.23 million for one-time technology enhancements.

Here is a link to the Senate Fiscal Agency Summary:

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2012-SB-0951>

House Budget Summary:

The House of Representatives authorizes a GF/GP Corrections budget of \$1.945 billion. This is about \$37 million less than the Governor's executive recommendation and \$5.48 million less than current year funding. Significant changes include:



- \$42.25 million savings from the closure of the Michigan Reformatory in Ionia, MI;
- \$12.75 million savings through the reduction in funding to the Cost Efficient Housing Initiative aimed at exploring public-private partnerships to reduce the overall cost of prisoner housing;
- \$20.14 million savings by imposing an across-the-board cut to all correctional facilities;
- \$2 million savings from funding adjustments to the County Jail Reimbursement Program;
- \$5 million in health care savings;
- \$13.2 million savings through the elimination of 114.4 FTEs for perimeter security patrols;
- \$2.2 million savings in shifting direct observation duties for suicidal and self-injuries prisoners from staff to trained prisoners;
- \$2.4 million savings through elimination of 32.8 FTEs throughout the department;
- \$34.2 million in full-year savings from closure of Mound Correctional Facility;
- \$7 million increase in funding for bed space needs at operational facilities as a result of facility closures;
- \$4.3 million increase in funding from prisoner phone revenue;
- \$11.36 million funding to finance security-related capital outlay projects, including personal protection devices, TASERS, ballistic vests, security cameras, and contraband detection equipment;
- \$4.5 million funding for the Public Safety Initiative to assist distressed communities with jail space concerns;
- \$3 million increase in funding for new corrections officer training;
- \$3.5 million to maintain closed correctional facilities;
- \$2.4 million increase in funding for information technology management and development; and
- \$4.85 million savings from a reduction in residential housing and prisoner reentry funding for parolees, and elimination of additional correctional facility FTEs.



The House Corrections budget information can be found at the following link:

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2012-HB-5383>

SPECIAL ALTERNATIVE INCARCERATION CREWS HELP WITH DEXTER TORNADO CLEANUP

On March 15, 2012, a tornado (measured as an F3 or moderately strong) ripped through the northern part of the village of Dexter then continued east, destroying or damaging about 400 homes in a newer subdivision just east of town. At least two homes were completely destroyed and several more were damaged beyond repair and were torn down. By the next Monday morning, blue tarps covered hundreds of roof tops throughout the small valley of homes, local law enforcement limited access to the area and hundreds of people descended on the area ready to help.



Some of the people who showed up ready to work Monday morning were motivated offender work crews from the Special Alternative Incarceration (SAI) program in neighboring Chelsea. Over the next five days, about 20 SAI offenders, supervised by corporals from the facility, spent the days cleaning up debris, chipping branches and brush, and raking up broken glass, splintered 2x4s, chunks of drywall and wisps of insulation. They picked articles of clothing and aluminum sheeting out of tree branches and cleaned community parks, streets and neighborhood back yards so that people in the town could start feeling "normal" again.



Along side the SAI crews were other cleanup crews, insurance adjusters, catastrophe and disaster preparedness teams, construction restoration companies, Dexter village workers, citizens and law enforcement - all working together to accomplish one mission: stabilize the community and make life more palatable.



While cleaning up brush and fallen trees on Monday afternoon, one contractor commented on the work ethic of the SAI crew members, saying he would hire them in a minute and that they were hard workers who got the job done. It was a nice compliment that meant a lot to the crew members, giving them hope that they have value, that they can change their lives and find employment when they complete the program.



The Department is thankful to the village of Dexter for enlisting the assistance of the SAI work crews. This collaborative effort helped out the people of Dexter and gave the work crews a sense of value and purpose. It is a great example of Governor Snyder's "Relentless Positive Action" and another reminder that with the proper motivation, the offenders in this program can make a positive difference in the lives of others.



Photos Top to Bottom: 1.) An excavator tears down a wall to an unsalvageable home. 2.) An SAI work crew rakes a park littered with glass, insulation and construction debris. 3.) An SAI work crew cleans up a yard while, remarkably, an undamaged camper sits in the foreground. 4.) Crew members work together to get the job done. 5.) Corporal Peete and a Dexter Public Works employee supervise chipper operations.



APRIL MARKS THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

April is the [Month of the Military Child](#), a time to recognize the sacrifices made by military families and their children. In support of children whose parents are serving in the military, Michigan State University Extension is part of Operation: Military Kids (OMK), an effort sponsored by Army Child, Youth and School Services in collaboration with National 4-H Headquarters, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, American Legion, Military Child Education Coalition, National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies and other state and local organizations to help military children and youth meet others like themselves. Children and youth whose parents have been deployed live with uncertainty and concern for their parents on a daily basis. Many families learn to be flexible, but long deployments can be difficult for military children, and many have seen their parents leave multiple times.

Military children look the same to teachers, friends and the community after a parent deploys, but their lives have changed dramatically. Through OMK events, military youth can connect with other youth in similar situations and to other youth in the community. Operation: Military Kids is a national effort to support children of deployed soldiers from all branches of the military including [Guard](#) and [Reserve](#). Activities for military kids are ongoing throughout the year and throughout Michigan.

OMK needs help celebrating the Month of the Military Child and showing support for military families. Michigan Operation: Military Kids is participating with many other states across the United States for the second annual [PURPLE UP! For Military Kids!](#) Everyone across the state of Michigan is encouraged to wear

purple on Friday, April 13 as a visible way to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. OMK hopes everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate these young heroes.

The goal is for military families to actually see the support of their community. Ideas include:

- Ask local, regional, and state officials to wear purple on April 13;
- Spread the word by inviting newspaper and media outlets to feature a story about Purple Up! For Military Kids;
- Involve area schools, sports teams, youth organizations and clubs, afterschool programs and recreation departments;
- Engage the Chamber of Commerce, fraternal organizations, social clubs and Rotary groups;
- Request local businesses post a Purple Up! message on their roadside signs and ask employees to wear purple; and
- Ask stores and restaurants to offer a discount to all patrons who wear purple. Invite family, friends, coworkers, members of the spiritual community, exercise class or sports leagues to join in showing support for the military youth in town.



OFFICER OF THE YEAR BANQUET APPROACHING



The Michigan Corrections Officer of the Year Banquet is quickly approaching. This year the event will be on May 9, 2012 at 6 p.m. at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing, MI. The banquet will formally recognize Officer Robert McGaffigan (left) and Investigator David Sharp (right) as the 2012 Corrections Officers of the Year. It will also recognize the other three finalists and Officers of the Year from each correctional facility throughout the state. To get tickets, please contact Jai Deagan at deaganj@michigan.gov or 517-636-6115 or Cindy Kogut at



Michigan Corrections Organization 517-482-3310. Please join the Department and Michigan Corrections Organization as we recognize these officers for their tremendous accomplishment.

**BENEFITS FOR LIFE OPEN ENROLLMENT NOW AVAILABLE**

The 2012 *Benefits for Life** Open Enrollment period ends April 13, 2012.

Eligible employees who wish to enroll during this time or need further information can visit www.benefitsforlife.org or call the *Benefits for Life* toll-free call center at 888-825-8395, Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. ET.

Benefits for Life plans:

- Accident Insurance
- Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D)
- Critical Illness Insurance
- Discounted Auto and Home Insurance from Liberty Mutual
- FREE Discount Plan
- Legal Plan
- Supplemental Term Life Insurance
- Universal Life Insurance

New for 2012: You can enroll or increase your coverage in Supplemental Term Life Insurance

up to \$300,000 for employees and \$70,000 for spouses, without having to answer any medical questions.

Additional information regarding the 2012 *Benefits for Life* program, plan descriptions, and enrollment instructions are available by reviewing the [2012 *Benefits for Life* bulletin](#). You can also review plan materials at www.michigan.gov/employeebenefits, by selecting 'Voluntary Benefits (Active Employee)' from the left menu.

Important: If you are currently enrolled in the Discount plan, you must **re-enroll** to obtain a new Discount Code. Your previous Discount Code will expire in July, 2012.

Non-career and Special Personal Services (SPS) employees are not eligible for this benefit.

* The *Benefits for Life* insurance program is an optional insurance in which employees pay 100% of the cost of coverage.

2012 **benefits** for life

LAW ENFORCEMENT NIGHT AT COMERICA PARK

This year the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial Fund is proud to partner with Major League Baseball's 2011 American League Central Champion Detroit Tigers for a special Law Enforcement Appreciation Night on Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 7:05 p.m.

To order tickets, contact Kate Walker at the Detroit Tigers (313) 471-2233 or kate.walker@detroittigers.com. Tickets are \$39 and include a special edition Law Enforcement/Detroit Tigers Challenge Coin, along with a food/beverage voucher. \$10 from each ticket will be donated to the National Law Enforcement Museum!



Please help the Detroit Tigers as they host the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial Fund to honor Michigan's law enforcement professionals with a special event that will support the National Law Enforcement Museum. This event is open to all law enforcement personnel, non-sworn law enforcement employees, family, friends and anyone who respects and honors law enforcement and their service to our communities.



PEEPING TOMS CHECK IN AT MUSKEGON FIELD OFFICE

None of these peeping toms have been convicted of a crime, and none wore a tether, but that didn't stop them from visiting the Muskegon Parole Office last week. These turkeys were definitely not jailbirds - but they were fun to "supervise!"



PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

LIFESAVING AWARD PRESENTED TO OFFICER

Warden Robert Napel presented the Department's Lifesaving Award to Corrections Officer Scott Binkley. Officer Binkley attempted to save the life of a friend who went into cardiac arrest while camping on September 3, 2011. Officer Binkley and another responder performed CPR for nearly 40 minutes until EMS arrived. Although the victim passed away as a result of the heart attack, Officer Binkley displayed dedication, professionalism and heroic efforts in a very stressful situation and is truly deserving of receiving the Department's Lifesaving Award.



ROCK RUNNERS RUN FOR MID-MICHIGAN RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

On Saturday March 24, the Ionia Rock Runners ran for the Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Michigan. The Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Michigan is a home-away-from-home for families of seriously ill children who are hospitalized or receiving treatment at Lansing area hospitals and clinics. Everyone is welcome to join us on any of our runs, and remember that the Susan G. Komen run is on April 29 in Lansing. Hope to see you there.



Pictured L to R: M. Wojcik, C. Snook, E. Elliott, Ronald McDonald, F. Goodrich, J. Oviedo, J. Kotowicz.



REENTRY ROUNDTABLE

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

Kent County Prisoner Reentry Uses Local Employment Resources to Employ Ex-Offenders

For three years, the Inner City Neighborhood Project helped those facing numerous barriers to reintegration through a community based model of transitional work experience, volunteering and positive social activities. A steering committee of Prisoner Reentry service providers such as Hope Network, Goodwill Industries, Women's Resource Center, and Jubilee Jobs together with community leaders in reentry like the Grand Rapids Police Department, the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Grand Valley State University, Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, Prisoner Reentry Coordinator and MDOC Parole staff came together to implement the project.

Although the Community Project was limited in scope and ended on September 30, 2011, many lessons were learned. Goodwill recognized that there were a number of very positive aspects and took the best of this project combined with stronger employability skills training and business connectivity to continue supporting the reintegration of returning citizens.

To meet the ever present need of immediate work for our returning citizens, Goodwill developed a partnership with the Kent County Recycling Center to provide a 60-day transitional work experience in addition to work readiness training, case management and positive social activities such as CLEAR (Coalition Leadership Education And Rehabilitation), a peer mentoring and support group facilitated by the Grand Rapids Police Department.



The Community Re-entry and Recycling Project is a collaboration of the business, non-profit and government sectors to successfully reintegrate returning citizens in a work-based program. The Grand Rapids Community Foundation oversees the project and it's being managed by Goodwill Industries.

Returning citizens participate in intensive job readiness training and work 60 days in paid transitional work at the Kent County Recycling Center. Through the leadership of Cascade Consulting (Kelley Losey) and Butterball Farms (CEO Mark Peters), we are expanding the base of businesses supportive of hiring individuals with criminal backgrounds. The project commits to supporting the individual in employment for at least one year after placement working in close partnership with the employer. We will be tracking outcome data for two years after placement. This project is a great example of communities coming together to leverage important

resources critical to the success of those returning home.

This article was written and submitted by Yvonne Jackson, Kent County Prisoner Reentry Community Coordinator.