



Contents:

Officer of the Year
Banquet is May 92

Senate Budget3

House Budget4

Department Awards6

People Make the
Difference.....9

Reentry Roundtable10

Social Sites Help
Share Information11

MDOC TO CONVERT NEWBERRY FROM LEVEL II TO SECURE LEVEL I

The Michigan Department of Corrections has recently reviewed programming and security needs of its prisoner population. As a result of this review, the Department has determined that there is a decreased need for Level II beds throughout the system and an increased need for Secure Level I beds.

To meet these needs, Newberry Correctional Facility (NCF) will be reclassified from a Level II correctional facility to a Secure Level I correctional facility effective October 1, 2012. Enhanced programming for prisoners being classified into this prison will also be introduced at the facility. Once complete, Newberry Correctional Facility will continue to house approximately 1,100 prisoners.

Level II and Secure Level I correctional facilities share similar security features and requirements, so there will be no changes in security protocols at the facility. The difference between the two security levels relates to the management level of prisoners and which prisoners actually qualify for placement in Secure Level I.

- Prisoner classification reviews and transfers will begin immediately. The prison will be transitioned to the new security level by October 1, 2012.
- The reclassification of Newberry Correctional Facility will result in an anticipated \$3-5 million savings which is attributable to staffing reductions at the facility. Some savings will be reinvested to support additional programming staff at the facility, but the reclassification will still result in an overall net savings.
- It is anticipated that about 50 FTE positions at Newberry Correctional Facility will be affected as a result of this action. The Department will work with the Office of State Employer and collective bargaining units to assist any employees affected by the prison reclassification.



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NEWBERRY (Continued from page 1)

sification. It is anticipated that nearly all employees will be placed in existing vacancies within the Michigan Department of Corrections.

- It is anticipated that the additional programming will help the Department address the number of prisoners past their earliest release date (ERD). The Michigan Parole Board considers completion of necessary programming an important factor in determining parole eligibility.

Newberry Correctional Facility opened in 1996 and is located in Pentland Township, Luce County, on M-123. It was formerly part of Newberry Regional Mental Health Center. The facility has 289 FTE positions, 189 of which are corrections officers. The facility has an operating capacity of 1,068 prisoners. The facility consists of an administration building, educational building, several prisoner housing units, maintenance buildings and a warehouse. All housing units are double bunked. Programming at the facility includes Adult Basic Education and GED completion, Vocational Trade, Violence Prevention, Sex Offender Therapy and Thinking for Change. Security at the facility includes two sixteen-foot fences with rolls of razor-ribbon wire, electronic detection and surveillance systems.

2012 OFFICER OF THE YEAR BANQUET IS MAY 9 AT MSU'S KELLOGG CENTER

The Michigan Corrections Officer of the Year Banquet is quickly approaching. This year the event will be on Wednesday, 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 the Officers of the Year from each correctional facility throughout the Department. The deadline to get tickets is Monday, April 30. To get tickets, please contact Jai Deagan at deaganj@michigan.gov or 517-636-6115 or Cindy Kogut at Michigan Corrections Organization 517-485-3310. Please join the Department and Michigan Corrections Organization as we recognize these officers for their tremendous accomplishment.



SENATE PASSES FY 2012-13 MDOC BUDGET

The Michigan Senate passed SB 951, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-13 Corrections budget on April 24. The proposed budget is \$1,991,921,200, nearly \$23 million below the current FY 2011-12 Corrections budget and it is \$72,576,700 under Governor Snyder's Executive Recommendation for Corrections.

The bill includes:

- \$58.76 million in savings from the proposed elimination of 580.0 FTEs at individual facilities, including assistant resident supervisors, secretaries, and librarians;
- \$32.5 million in savings associated with the Mound Facility closure, \$10.0 million in savings by eliminating 115 vacant field operations positions, and \$11.1 million in savings from competitive bidding of health care, mental health, and the Woodland Facility;
- \$1.41 million reduction to Prisoner reentry funding which is a 2.7% overall decrease;
- \$11.97 million funding for increased settlement payments, training of 210 additional corrections officers to replace retirees, and IT system support;
- \$5.95 million in technical adjustments and transfers including \$1 million for swift-and-sure sanctions to Judiciary and \$250,000 for the Legislative Ombudsman to the Legislature. The parole/probation fee shortfall was offset using \$800,000 GF/GP funds and \$500,000 was included to pay local agencies to temporarily hold parole violators. State restricted and Federal funding was adjusted down by a net of \$5.2 million;
- \$3.98 million in funding to reverse FY 2011-12 adjustments on unclassified positions and Prisoner Stores;
- \$19.18 million for the Special Equipment Fund (SEF) and Capital Outlay projects including security upgrades, cell phone detection technology, TASERs, and post-closure maintenance;
- \$4.5 million in funding for the Public Safety Initiative - Cities in Distress. These funds will help free up space in crowded jails in high crime areas by leasing beds from counties with vacancies;
- \$50.64 million in Economic Adjustments; and
- \$1.13 million for one-time technology acquisition.



The Senate Bill and the House Bill must still be reconciled prior to being passed by both chambers in identical content and then sent to Governor Snyder for his signature, making the bill a law.



HOUSE PASSES FY 2012-13 OMNIBUS BUDGET INCLUDING CORRECTIONS BUDGET

The Michigan House of Representatives has passed HB 5365, the Omnibus Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-13. This bill includes the Corrections budget (HB 5383). The proposal is \$2,025,246,200, nearly \$11 million above the current FY 2011-12 Corrections budget and it is \$39,251,700 under Governor Snyder's Executive Recommendation for Corrections.

The bill includes:

- Closure of the Michigan Reformatory saving \$42.3 million and eliminating 339.9 FTE positions;
- A \$12.76 million reduction in funding for the Cost Effective Housing Initiative. This would include the exploration of public-private partnerships to find the most cost-efficient housing or prisoners;
- Savings of \$20.1 million through a 2% across-the-board cut to each correctional facility;
- A \$2 million reduction in funding to the County Jail Reimbursement Program which would place funding closer to current expenditures;
- \$1.2 million reduction in funding to Community Corrections planning and services;
- \$5 million reduction in prisoner health care funding;
- \$13.2 million in savings from the elimination on 114 FTE positions related to staffing full-time perimeter security vehicle patrols;
- \$2.4 million in savings from a reduction of 32.8 FTE positions in correctional facilities and regional offices;
- \$1.1 million in savings from a reduction in prisoner clothing issuance;
- \$34.1 million in full-year savings from the closure of Mound Correctional Facility;
- \$6.98 million funding for increased staff and beds at existing facilities as a result of recent closures;
- \$4.3 million in prisoner phone revenue to be placed in a Special Equipment Fund;
- \$11.36 million in capital outlay funding through the Special Equipment Fund to purchase and upgrade personal protection equipment, facility security equipment and contraband detection equipment;
- \$7.32 million in savings through competitively bidding prisoner health care services impacting 1,100 FTE positions;
- \$2.5 million in savings through competitively bidding prisoner mental health services impacting approximately 500 FTE positions;



HOUSE BUDGET (Continued from page 4)

- \$1.34 million savings through competitively bidding Woodland Center Correctional Facility;
- \$4.75 million in funding to support the Public Safety Initiative which assists local distressed communities with jail bed space needs;
- \$3 million in funding to train up to 400 new corrections officers;
- \$3.5 million in funding for post-closure facility maintenance, security and demolition;
- \$5 million in additional funding for the Neal settlement which specifies a \$20 million payment in FY 2012-13;
- \$2.45 million in funding for IT support, system development and maintenance;
- \$4.8 million in savings related to decreased need for residential programming beds, elimination of assistant deputy wardens, and the reduction in resident unit managers;
- \$5.5 million in funding as a result of budget revisions regarding competitive bidding of Special Alternative Incarceration and mental health services and Central Office reductions;
- \$37.3 million in funding for economic adjustments including personnel costs, building occupancy; and
- \$14.35 million for one-time funding of digital imaging equipment and lump sum payments to state employees.

The House of Representatives version of this bill and the Senate version must be reconciled prior to being presented to Governor Snyder. This reconciliation generally occurs in a conference committee comprised of members from both the House and Senate. Once the bill is identical, it is passed by each chamber of the Legislature and presented to Governor Snyder for his signature, making the bill a law. The Governor also has the authority to veto lines within the bill or the entire bill itself. You can review the Senate version of the bill by clicking on this link: [SB951](#). The House of Representatives version of the bill is contained in a single Omnibus Budget bill [HB5365](#).

Governor Snyder has a self-imposed deadline of June 1 for the FY 2012-13 budget to be completed. Final completion of the bills will not come until the May 16, 2012 revenue estimating conference. Depending on the estimated revenue for FY 2012-13, legislators could amend the bills to provide more funding to items within the budget; or if it appears there will be less revenue, legislators could reduce funding levels of the department budgets for the coming fiscal year.

For more information on state budgets and the budget process, please visit the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget at: <http://michigan.gov/budget/0,4538,7-157-11462---.00.html>.





DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY EFFORTS

Michigan Department of Corrections employees consistently carry out courageous and selfless acts in the assistance of others. These include saving lives, rising above the call of duty, acts of valor and good citizenship. They do it because it is in their nature to assist. They do it because it's the right thing to do. They do it simply because they care. Here are some recent examples of Department employees at their best.

Meritorious Service:

On November 14, 2011, Corrections Officers Colby and Pearson of Woodland Center Correctional Facility were escorting a prisoner on a medical detail at a local hospital when the prisoner suddenly lunged at Colby, pinning him against a wall. The prisoner attempted to gain control of Colby's pistol, but Colby used handgun retention skills to combat the attack. He then prepared to control the prisoner with his chemical agent. Fortunately, Officer Colby and Officer Pearson were able to control the prisoner without having to use the chemical agent. For their actions in controlling a dangerous prisoner and diffusing a potentially lethal situation, Officer Colby and Officer Pearson have been awarded with the Department's Meritorious Service Award.



Citizenship: Officer Jessica Acha of Carson City Correctional Facility earned the Department's Citizenship Award for assisting victims of a motor vehicle collision on October 22, 2012. Acha arrived on the scene and helped another responder with first aid on an injured motorcyclist until EMS personnel arrived. Officer



Acha's compassion, quick response and regard for the well-being of others were recognized by Michigan State Troopers and bystanders at the scene.

Lifesavers:

On June 16, 2011, three corrections officers from Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility earned the Department's Lifesaving Award for saving a prisoner who was attempting suicide. Officer Skrodenis, Officer Roddy, and Officer Sherrill responded to a call for assistance after a staff psychologist observed a prisoner attempting to hang himself with a bed sheet. Together, the three officers cut the sheet, provided first aid to the prisoner and escorted him to health care for further medical attention. The prisoner survived as a result of their efforts.

On October 24, 2011, Lieutenant Riley of Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility was at a local gymnasium where he observed a man collapse. He rushed to the victim and determined the need for CPR. He requested EMS and the facility's Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). Lt. Riley continued CPR until EMS transported the man to a local hospital where he was treated for his life-threatening heart condition. He earned the Department's Lifesaving Award for his actions.



On November 8, 2011, Officer Cook of Carson City Correctional Facility saw a prisoner who appeared to be choking in the dining hall. Cook responded immediately, providing several abdominal thrusts to the victim, dislodging the ob-

AWARDS (Continued on page 7)

**AWARDS** (Continued from page 6)

struction. The prisoner was cleared by health care and returned to normal daily duties as a result of Officer Cook's quick and decisive actions. His actions resulted in a Departmental Lifesaving Award.

On December 7, 2011, Officers Amend and Krummel of Woodland Center Correctional Facility responded to a prisoner who was choking. The prisoner approached Amend and collapsed into Amend, who escorted him to the floor and began first aid. Officer Amend delivered several abdominal thrusts to the prisoner who was now unconscious. Officer Krummel immediately called for assistance and the AED. He found the prisoner had food lodged in his mouth. Officer Krummel worked to clear the food from the prisoner's airway with occasional finger sweeps while Amend and health care staff continued CPR. Their swift and appropriate actions saved the prisoner's life and earned them both the Department's Lifesaving Award.



Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor Holben of the Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center earned the Department's Lifesaving Award for intervening in a suicide attempt by a prisoner. On December 21, 2011, while sending prisoners to chow, Holben noticed a prisoner with a sheet around his neck hanging from the cell bars. He ran onto the first gallery of the cell block and untied the sheet from the prisoner's neck. He and a unit officer called for assistance and the prisoner was treated at Duane Waters Health Center and then a local hospital where he survived.

On December 24, 2011, Corrections Officer Houtz of Lakeland Correctional Facility found a prisoner unresponsive in a prisoner restroom

area. She summoned for immediate assistance and the AED. Officer Pollins arrived and the two officers started CPR. The AED was applied and a series of shocks were administered. The prisoner was transported to a local hospital for cardiac care. For their actions, Officers Houtz and Pollins received the Department's Lifesaving Award.



L to R: Director Heyns, Officer Pollins, Officer Houtz, A/Warden Hoffner, and Regional Prison Administrator Bruce Curtis.

On January 13, 2012, two corrections officers who work at St. Louis Correctional Facility responded to assist one of their own who was injured in a car crash. Officer Irvin works as a volunteer firefighter and responded to the crash in that capacity. Upon arrival, he realized that Officer Jolley was assisting the crash victim. As Irvin began assisting with the extraction of the victim, he realized it was a coworker from St. Louis Correctional Facility. Jolley continued talking with the coworker, keeping him calm and alert while Irvin and other first responders removed both passenger doors and the roof of the car. Jolley did a great job helping the victim through the extraction and Irvin volunteered to ride with him to the hospital. While in the ambulance, the coworker went into cardiac arrest and Irvin assisted with CPR while paramedics got the AED applied and together they got a pulse. The victim received treatment for his most immediate injuries and then was transferred to a regional trauma center to receive further treatment. Officer Irvin and Officer Jolley proved to be integral in their coworker's survival. Their commitment on the scene and their ability to remain calm un-

AWARDS (Continued on page 8)



AWARDS (Continued from page 7)

der stressful conditions while delivering lifesaving aid to their coworker is commendable and for their efforts, both officers received the Department's Lifesaving Award.

Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor Warr of Baraga Correctional Facility recently saved a coworker who was choking. Warr was eating lunch when he saw the coworker having trouble breathing. Warr delivered the Heimlich maneuver to the employee, dislodging the food item. Warr said his annual training allowed him to calmly react and provide necessary first aid to the victim. For his actions, Warr earned the Department's Lifesaving Award.



ARUS Warr (left) receiving the award from A/Regional Prison Administrator Curley.



On January 18, 2012, the same day ARUS Warr saved a coworker from choking, Officer Bailey of Carson City Correctional Facility saved a prisoner who was choking. Bailey checked the prisoner's ability to breathe and realized he couldn't. Bailey provided abdominal thrusts to the prisoner who was treated and fully recovered. His actions and pro-

fessionalism under stress earned him the Department's Lifesaving Award.

Steve Anson, an employee at Michigan State Industries Distribution Center in Jackson, earned the Department's Lifesaving Award for coming to the aid of a seven-year-old boy who had been hit by a car while preparing to board the morning school bus on March 22, 2012. Steve's daughter witnessed the crash and alerted her father, who immediately rushed to the scene and delivered first aid to the young victim. Realizing that the injuries were severe and that the child may also have internal injuries, he stabilized the victim and prepared to deliver CPR while controlling traffic at the scene. Upon EMS arrival, he helped them prepare the child for a life flight to an area trauma center.



After repairing some broken bones and internal injuries, the youngster will need some physical therapy, but is expected to make a full recovery. This is not the first lifesaving effort by Anson, who also provided first aid to his 92-year-old neighbor when she was struck by a car on the same road while retrieving her mail.

The Department is proud of the effort each of our employees makes every day. Their actions reflect positively on our agency and make a difference in the lives of others. If you believe someone deserves recognition in the form of a Department award, please submit a nomination through your chain of command.

MSI HAS GREAT GIFTS FOR SUMMER FUNDRAISERS

Are you looking for a GREAT fundraising idea? Let Michigan State Industries (MSI) assist with your next BIG EVENT!! We can create a unique product with your logo and message for your school or 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization. It's as simple as 1,2,3,...send MSI your artwork, or we can design one for you! Raise money for your favorite program while displaying your team spirit. We are more than just license plates! MSI offers a variety of fundraising products including Embossed Booster Plates, Booster Plate Clocks, Standard Booster Plates and Beverage Coasters. For more information on MSI products, please visit www.michigan.gov/msi or the MSI Facebook page by searching [Michigan State Industries](#).



HONOR GUARD MEMBERS CONQUER TOUGH MUDDER COURSE

Three members of the Michigan Department of Corrections Honor Guard recently completed the Tough Mudder - Michigan/Ohio challenge. Commander John Cordell, Assistant Commander John Fleenor and Member Clinton Bradley participated in the April 14 event.



Above L to R: John Cordell, John Fleenor, and Clinton Bradley stand drenched after completing an obstacle.

Tough Mudder is a 11.5 mile course with 27 obstacles designed by British Special Forces and billed as "probably the toughest event on the planet." The three Honor Guard members faced obstacles with names like Mud Mile, Trench Warfare, Cliffhanger, Walk the Plank and Everest. After the first mile on the course, competitors were never dry again. Mud and water obstacles, combined with a 55°F overcast day and water temps around 45°F, had many competitors fighting not only the course but hypothermia as well. Cordell, Fleenor, and Bradley completed the event in just over four hours and toward the end spent nearly every ounce of energy just to keep moving forward. When asked to describe the experience, they used words like "brutal" and "insane" to describe the experience. Yet when asked if they would do it again, all responded affirmatively.

Below: At the finish line fighting fatigue and hypothermia, the Honor Guard members sport their Tough Mudder headbands, which are reserved only for those who complete the course.

A portion of their entry fee as well as any donations to their team support the Wounded Warrior Project, a non-profit charity that provides support and programming for wounded veterans who are transitioning back to civilian life. Beyond supporting the project, the event was a team-building exercise for the Honor Guard members, who all said they would not have made it through the course without the assistance and encouragement of their teammates, other Mudders and spectators.



PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

OCF TO HOLD NINTH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF OUTING

Ojibway Correctional Facility will hold its ninth annual scholarship golf scramble at the Gogebic Country Club on June 9, 2012 starting at 8:30 a.m. It is a four-person team scramble and costs \$40 per team member. For registration information, contact Micki Sorensen or Mary Lynn Veda. If you have questions about the course, please call Kurt Zazeski at 906-364-4380 or the Gogebic Country Club. All proceeds from the event support scholarships for area youth.





REENTRY ROUNDTABLE

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

Staying Home

Field Agents have a critical role in offender success. Within the three-phase Prisoner Reentry model, agents are responsible for supervising parolees and encouraging them to make choices that will result in their “staying home”. Several agents from Washtenaw and Livingston counties recently discussed how their role has changed (and stayed the same) since the inception of Prisoner Reentry. They also weighed in on their relationships with community providers, what they viewed as the benefits for offenders, and areas for continued improvement.

When asked how Prisoner Reentry has assisted agents in their role as the primary case manager and their role in enhancing public safety, the agents cited the importance of the increased availability of community resources.

Ed Jones has served as a Field Agent with the Michigan Department of Corrections for 17 years. As a result of Prisoner Reentry he finds that “instead of having to be a jack of all trades - a counselor, an employment specialist, a housing specialist - and juggle all those roles, now those resources and services are being provided for you. Prisoner Reentry has helped increase public safety by meeting basic needs. If a parolee doesn’t have ID or transportation, he can’t get a job and it is a challenge to report. When a parolee is provided with basic needs like food, shelter, ID and transportation, it helps him/her avoid reverting back to criminal activity to meet

those basic needs.”

Julie Moore, another long-standing Field Agent with 16 years of service, notes that “What we can do has changed, and our options have changed. Our role was more punitive. We are more available to parolees now than before. Resources may have been available for housing

and transportation, and contacts with Michigan Works! Agency and Michigan Rehabilitation Services, but we weren’t always aware of them.”

And, according to Deborah Plamer, one of the first Institutional Parole Agents who later transferred to Ann Arbor Parole as a Field Agent, “More resources and programming help the agent better assist the parolees in meeting their needs. When their needs are met, they commit less crime. Parolees come out feeling helpless and hopeless. Washtenaw County has always had a lot of resources. Now we know how to reach out and connect parolees

with those resources.”

But Agent Moore also qualifies this sentiment. “Ultimately, it depends on the parolee. Some can be offered all of the services, and not succeed. It depends on when they make an internal decision to change. How I present, if I lead them in the right direction, and point to available services to open doors is important. But they choose whether to go through them. We can’t make them do it.”

Field Agents bear a tremendous responsibility as both primary case managers for parolees, and

STAYING HOME (Continued on page 11)





STAYING HOME (Continued from page 10)

“enforcers of MDOC policies and procedures.” And although many things have changed since the inception of Prisoner Reentry, some things remain the same. Deborah Palmer states, “We are ultimately the one who supervises. We take the good with the bad. The outcome may change, but we remain ultimately responsible. We always have, we always will. That will never change.”

Agent relationships with community providers has been both broadened and strengthened through Prisoner Reentry. Agent Palmer notes, “We now have the resources available to us. Prior to that, we had to seek it out. Now we have choices to help make our decisions based on parolee needs. The biggest example is housing. Our housing provider is extremely beneficial. In the past, parolees went to the shelter.” She feels that the Resource Specialists have been particularly helpful. “I can go to my Resource Specialist and request assistance with individual cases. I still have the ultimate say in the final decision, but parolees benefit from getting assistance from Resource Specialists.”

Agent Jones concurs. “It has broadened our ability to know what resources are available. Prisoner Reentry staff and providers give us information that might have taken months and months to collect – now it is readily available.

We are aware of many more resources than in the past. It gives the client a sense that somebody cares about their needs – and are concerned that they become successful. It’s not just their agent, but a collaborative team trying to assist them.”

Agents also acknowledge that there is still room for improvement. “We can always improve on communications with providers and agents. We are doing the best we can with what we have.”

Each agent interviewed believes that the increased services available through Prisoner Reentry staff and providers has provided them with additional tools to help parolees “stay home” after their release back to the community. For example,

Agent Moore is currently supervising a parolee who is a “J” prefix.

This time out, he has received assistance with housing, eyeglasses, counseling, and employment. She is cautiously optimistic. “He just might make it this time.”

This article was submitted by Mary King, the Prisoner Reentry Community Coordinator for the Washtenaw Site.

Prisoner Reentry



MDOC FACEBOOK PAGES ECLIPSE 1,600 “LIKES” TWITTER ON THE RISE

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) Facebook page just garnered its 800th follower and the MDOC Honor Guard page is “liked” by 830 people. We would love to see both over 1,000 supporters so if you are on Facebook, search for us and click the like button on each page! It’s a great way to interact and get some positive information about what’s going on in Corrections. And don’t forget about Michigan State Industries. You can “like” them too!



Twitter is on the rise too. You can find the MDOC Twitter account by searching for MichiganDOC. We need more followers and we promise to be more active with our tweets!