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COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS REPORT RECOGNIZES DEPARTMENT

The Michigan Department of Corrections has been nationally recognized for its efforts to reduce recidivism. The Department started the Prisoner Reentry program in 2005 and has been a leader among state correctional systems in reentry policy for several years.

The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center’s National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC) released a policy brief on September 25, 2012 highlighting a number of states reporting significant reductions in recidivism. The states profiled in the report show significant declines in their three-year recidivism rates based on data tracking individuals released from prison in 2005 and 2007. Texas and Ohio reported reductions of 11 percent, while the Kansas rate fell by 15 percent and Michigan’s rate dropped by 18 percent. Incorporating data through 2010 (and in some cases, through 2011), the report provides the most recent multi-state information available on recidivism.

Prisoner Reentry



Strong federal support has helped create a climate that has propelled the work of state and local governments in reducing recidivism. Under the federal Second Chance Act, state and local governments and their community-based partners have been able to support new reentry initiatives and expand existing efforts.

The brief, “[States Report Reductions in Recidivism](#),” highlights strategies that states like Michigan, Ohio, and Kansas have used to reduce recidivism:

- Ohio uses a validated risk assessment instrument to focus limited treatment and supervision resources on high-risk offenders.
- Kansas reentry leaders used performance-based grants to improve post-release supervision and enhance housing and workforce development services to better meet the needs of people coming out of prison.

REENTRY(Continued on page 2)



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- Michigan officials invested in the state's Prisoner Reentry program, prioritizing funding for housing, employment, and other transition support services in order to provide the most effective community-based programming for released individuals.

The Department found that participants in reentry programming are 38 percent less likely to return compared to baseline expectations. The three-year recidivism rate for 2007 parolees in reentry programming fell to just 33 percent, an 18 percent decline from the three-year period prior to the adoption of prisoner reentry programming in Michigan. For the 2007 parolee group, there were 862 fewer returns to prison when compared with baseline expectations.

Governor Rick Snyder said of the Department's Reentry Program, "We know that the majority of those incarcerated will be rejoining society and their successful reentry is as critical to public safety as a sentence served. Effective prisoner reentry is an important component of smart justice. Michigan's prisoner reentry program has been a major contributor to lower recidivism rates for the state."

LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN TEAM FINISHES STRONG

Lt. James Dennis of the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility leads one of the Department's most important teams. It doesn't have anything to do with security or prisoner rehabilitation. It won't streamline work or create savings, yet it remains at the forefront of our Department each year. Lt. Dennis leads the MDOC Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) Team, an entity that helps raise money for the Department's signature charity, Special Olympics – Michigan.



The 743 mile statewide journey starts in Copper Harbor, MI and finishes in Sterling Heights. The Michigan Department of Corrections, Michigan State Police and Michigan Fraternal Order of Police each sponsor relay teams that complete the statewide route. This year, the Department's team consisted of Dennis, Co-Captain Eric Cottrell, David Katz, Jason Perry, Kari Cope, Michelle Risley, and Matthew Roznowski. They are well on their way to the goal of \$11,000 in donations for the athletes of Special Olympics - Michigan.

Dennis said the Torch Run was an incredible experience for all involved, although, they suffered through injuries and a nasty cold virus that worked its way through the entire team. In the end, the team proudly ran next to Special Olympians, completing the final leg of a nearly 750 mile journey.

Next year, Lt. Dennis will turn the Captain's duties over to another team member who will step into some very important running shoes and lead the MDOC Torch Run Team across Michigan. The Department is proud of its Torch Run Team and all of the people who donate their time, energy, and money to support Special Olympics - Michigan and the LETR. Their combined efforts have a tremendous positive impact on Michigan's Special Olympians.

NEW CORRECTIONS OFFICER CLASS COMMENCES

On September 17, 200 new recruits started eight weeks of classroom and skill-based training to prepare them for their career as a corrections officer in the Michigan Department of Corrections. The class, named after retired Correctional Facilities Administration Deputy Director Dennis Straub, will be assigned to facilities throughout the prison system.



Training consists of a variety of courses including: health care, CPR and first aid, chemical agent use, collaborative case management, custody and security, disturbance control, ethics, fire safety, hostage awareness, offender management - communication and physical skills, managing stress, mental health, perimeter security, searches, physical training, prisoner discipline, transportation, restraints, segregation, suicide prevention, and workplace safety. The new recruits must also complete a skill-based exams, a physical fitness exam, and three written exams.

In the next several weeks, the new recruits will not only complete all the training mentioned above and more, but they will also be visited by Department leaders; they will receive necessary vaccinations; they will be issued uniforms; and they will prepare for their graduation which will be held on November 9.

Once they successfully complete the training, the recruits will graduate and continue on-the-job training which includes: shotgun and rifle qualification, perimeter security practical, mentoring, and specialized programs like managing youthful offenders and vital differences in managing women prisoners (for staff assigned to specialized facilities).



Upon successful completion of their on-the-job training, new officers will be able to work all assignments that are not considered single-officer prisoner contact assignments (i.e. - food service, M.S.I., education building). After their first year is completed, they may be assigned to these other positions within the facility.

The new officers are needed by the Department. There are currently over 400 officer vacancies across the Department and the opening of Muskegon Correctional Facility on October 1 will magnify the need for new officers. For more information and updates on the class, visit our Facebook page, search Michigan Department of Corrections.

If you are interested in a career with the Michigan Department of Corrections, please review job postings at: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/michigan/default.cfm> or call 888-820-7129 for more information.



RYAN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY GIVES AT-RISK YOUTH A HELPING HAND

For the past several years, Detroit and Flint have been recognized as two of the most violent cities in the United States. However, Michigan and city leaders are taking bold steps to change. Prisoners from the Ryan Correctional Facility's (RRF) Youth Deterrent Program (YDP) are trying to make a difference as well. Fourteen at-risk youth from both cities recently visited RRF. The young men participated in a four-hour program designed to teach valuable lessons regarding choices, peer pressure, gang involvement and the subsequent consequences of criminal behavior. More importantly, the youth learned the importance of education and positive lifestyles. Eight prisoners who serve as co-facilitators shared their stories regarding the

poor choices which led them to prison.

In addition, Benny White, an Assistant Basketball Coach at Eastern Michigan University (EMU) attended the program, encouraging the youth to "stay in school and off the streets." Two EMU students and basketball team members also attended, serving as mentors for the youth. The program concluded with Warden Raymond Booker and program facilitator Jeffrey Allison giving the kids backpacks loaded with school



Warden Raymond Booker (left rear), Officer Margie Roston (right front), Victor Muhammad (right rear), Community Agency Staff, Probation Agents and participating youth with backpacks.

supplies purchased by the Prisoner Benefit Fund. The YDP prisoners hope the backpacks will serve as a positive reinforcement for the youth to remember the program they attended and stay on the path to success.

SRF CELEBRATES AT-RISK YOUTH SUCCESS

Saginaw Correctional Facility (SRF) held its first At-Risk Youth Deterrent Program in July and it was a resounding success. Working in partnership with Operation Reach, and state, county and local agencies, SRF provided a monthly workshop to at-risk males, ages 14-18. For this first workshop, the young men got first-hand experience of what prison life is like through powerful prisoner mentor testimonials. Program Coordinator Audette Crain developed the program and trained six mentors for two months to ready them for the impactful presentation.

The four-hour program is patterned after Ryan Correctional Facility's well-established At-Risk Youth Deterrent Program, and embodies the same purpose - to deter youth from criminal thinking and behavior, to educate youth on prison life and its consequences, to encourage and reinforce education, to encourage appropriate life choices, to provide alternatives to criminal behavior, to promote self-respect and respect for authority and to encourage resistance to negative peer pressure.



Deputy Warden Tom Winn addresses attendees at SRF's first Youth Deterrent Program.

MUSKEGON RE-OPENED OCTOBER 1

Muskegon Correctional Facility re-opened as a level II facility on October 1, 2012 after being closed for about three years. Warden Sherry Burt has been preparing the facility for incoming staff, who started Monday. The facility re-opens with a full complement of staff and the expectation is that the facility will begin receiving prisoners on October 8.



The majority of staff are transferring into MCF from the two currently operational Muskegon facilities, and facilities in Ionia. The remaining positions were filled from transfers and appointments throughout the Department. The facility will also pilot 12-hour shifts, a condition agreed to as part of the re-opening.

When fully operational, the facility will employ 239 employees including 130 officers. It will house 1338 prisoners and is expected to provide the Muskegon area with a positive economic impact.

The facility most recently housed prisoners from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections on a contractual basis. Prior to that it was a Level II prison and the first in Michigan to be accredited by the American Correctional Association. It originally opened in 1974.

RECRUITS SEARCH AREA PRISON

Recruits from the recently graduated Carol Howes Class searched Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility (IBC) on August 14. Employees at the facility assisted with the mass shakedown, which included two Level IV housing units and common areas accessible to prisoners. Facility staff and the new officers collaborated for a very successful search and affirmed a concept of "team" that will carry on to those recruits who are now permanently assigned to IBC.



Warden Ken McKee addressed the group after the shakedown and thanked them for their help and encouraged them to be the best of the best when they start at their facilities.

GOVERNOR APPOINTS NEW TRAINING COUNCIL MEMBER

Governor Rick Snyder recently appointed Diane Earls, of Lansing, to the Michigan Correctional Officers Training Council. The eight-member council develops minimum standards and requirements for state correctional officers. Earls is the senior executive assistant to the Michigan Civil Service Commission's state personnel director, a position she has held since 2001. She brings nearly 40 years of human resources experience, having served in various capacities with the commission. Earls will serve the remainder of a three-year term that expires March 29, 2014, and her appointment is not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.



JULY AND AUGUST RETIREMENTS

JULY

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Alexander, Georgia A.	West Shoreline Correctional Facility
Anderson, Alan L.	Baraga Correctional Facility
Bailey, William N.	Lakeland Correctional Facility
Bennett, Sharanne K.	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Bourdow, Michael J.	Saginaw Correctional Facility
Burton, Ronald J.	Marquette Branch Prison
Carter, Owen C.	Marquette Branch Prison
Chmielewski, Charles D.	Lakeland Correctional Facility
Chye, William J.	Oaks Correctional Facility
DeBruyne, William J.	Bellamy Creek / Ionia Correctional Facility
DeLong, Dennis J.	Chippewa Correctional Facility
Doucet, Willard	Ryan Correctional Facility
Dougherty, Chris L.	Kinross Correctional Facility
Dutcher, Harvey	Michigan Reformatory
East, Darryl F.	Kinross Correctional Facility
Eaton, Forrest C.	Thumb Correctional Facility
Freeman, Howard R.	Macomb Correctional Facility
Gibson, Gerald K.	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Glance, Sharon.	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Gordon, Jack J.	Macomb Correctional Facility
Harrison, Laurie M.	Saginaw Correctional Facility
Hensley, Karen M.	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Horning, Joseph P.	Oaks Correctional Facility
Hummer, Herb J.	Eastern Dist Probation Office
Jackson, Robert.	Lakeland Correctional Facility
Jeffreys, Timothy J.	Chippewa Correctional Facility
Kimble Moore, Patricia A.	Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Lafler, Nancy E.	Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Lafler, Robbin K.	Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Lamb, James R.	G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
McAllister-Walker, Valerie	Carson City Correctional Facility
McCallum, Daniel C.	Bellamy Creek / Ionia Correctional Facility
McKerchie, Lawrence H.	Kinross Correctional Facility





PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

- McMaster, Larry D. Central Michigan Correctional Facility
- Messer, Miranda L. Special Alternative Incarceration Program
- Richardson, Cheryl L. Chippewa Correctional Facility
- Ritz, GERAL J. West Shoreline Correctional Facility
- Rosenberger, Sue A. Region III Offices
- Ruthig, Milton F. Carson City Correctional Facility
- Severance, Steven C. Kinross Correctional Facility
- Shockley, Michael A. Oaks Correctional Facility
- Smith, VaughnLakeland Correctional Facility
- Taylor-Doucet, SandraRyan Correctional Facility
- Thomas, Gary J.Lakeland Correctional Facility
- Thompson, Franklin A.Lakeland Correctional Facility
- Wilson, CharlesCharles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
- Wood, Randolph D. Oaks Correctional Facility
- Zakalowski, Kenneth A. Ryan Correctional Facility
- Zalud, Murl J. Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
- Zofchak, George C. Thumb Correctional Facility

AUGUST

- Ackerson, Kurt Bellamy Creek / Ionia Correctional Facility
- Baird, Jeffrey T. Parnall Correctional Facility
- Brousseau, Henry J. Newberry Correctional Facility
- Bryant, Juanita..... Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility
- Campbell, Darnell D. Ryan Correctional Facility
- Chick, Connie L. Bellamy Creek / Ionia Correctional Facility
- Crist, Mark D.....Lakeland Correctional Facility
- Dudley, Curtis E..... Ryan Correctional Facility
- English, Tim A. Central Michigan Correctional facility
- Fletcher, Isabella M. Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
- Foote, Phil H..... Cooper Street Correctional Facility
- Gebhardt, Mark R. Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
- Gelispie, Randle B..... Michigan Reformatory
- Grigsby, Suzanne A.....Lakeland Correctional Facility
- Grove, Jerry L.....Lakeland Correctional Facility
- Hardeman, Linda H. Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility
- Hodge, Scott J.Lakeland Correctional Facility





PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Ishmael, Keith.....	Ryan Correctional Facility
Johnson, Geraldine A.....	Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Johnston, Shirley M.....	Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Kauffman, Terry L.....	Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Keener, Alex M.....	Parnall Correctional Facility
Kisser, Kenneth F.....	Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Konrad, Cherie A.....	Alger Correctional Facility
Lapine, Mark S.....	Baraga Correctional Facility
Ledesma, Rebecca J.....	Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Lewis, Jeffery L.....	G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Link, Warren L.....	Lakeland Correctional Facility
Long, William L.....	Central Michigan Correctional Facility
MacKay, Peter D.....	Macomb Correctional Facility
Massie, Mark J.....	Baraga Correctional Facility
McNish, Gregory.....	Thumb Correctional Facility
McWhirter, Brian D.....	Parnall Correctional Facility
Miller, Robin.....	Michigan Reformatory
Morris, Daniel J.....	Marquette Branch Prison
Mull, Shawn L.....	Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Nazar, James J.....	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Pittman, Glen L.....	Newberry Correctional Facility
Rainey, Carol A.....	Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Schilling, Dale R.....	Earnest Brooks Correctional Facility
Schultz, Kurtice F.....	Lakeland Correctional Facility
Sigman, James D.....	Oaks Correctional Facility
Simpson-Gokee, Patricia.....	Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Stanley, Thomas.....	Genesee County Probation Office
Sukup, Brian K.....	West Shoreline Correctional Facility
Town, George M.....	Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Washington, Sylvester.....	Thumb Correctional Facility
Watson, Debra S.....	Carson City Correctional Facility
White, Phyllis D.....	Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility
White, Terry D.....	Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Williams, Arlo C.....	Lakeland Correctional Facility
Williams, Terry L.....	Michigan Reformatory





REENTRY ROUNDTABLE

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

Do you believe in redemption? Have you ever debated as to whether a person coming home from prison deserves a second chance? If so, it's only because you have never had the pleasure of meeting Kim. Coming to the Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit Flip the Script Program in February 2011, Kim spoke about how she wanted to change her life. More than anything else she stated, "All I need is a chance." Goodwill staff never knew the reason Kim went to prison, since at the Flip the Script Program they tell their participants, "We don't care where you've been, what we care about is whether you are ready for change."

Kim participated in an extensive employment training/personal development program. Never late nor missing a day of training, she understood the "show up for your life" model they preached daily. Upon completion Kim was placed in a transitional employment position at Oglesby Janitorial. Each week Goodwill received calls asking if they had any more trainees like Kim. Kim set the bar high with outstanding leadership, all of the trainees in her group felt compelled to do the same, and they did so effortlessly.

Prior to completing her transitional work assignment, Kim was hired permanently at the company. Although she still faced the daily challenges most parolees face in regards to housing and overall re-integration transition, Kim continued to press on. When new employment positions opened up, staff at Flip the Script knew who earned the chance at permanent long-term employment. In 2012, Kim was placed at Good-

will Green Works, a Detroit-based subsidiary of Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit. Green Works is a green energy recycling plant that offers cost-saving, environmentally friendly asset recovery services and is the first stand alone free enterprise venture undertaken by Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit. In the past there were no women in this plant. Today it is full of women from Flip the Script Prisoner Re-Entry program.

In May 2012, a Women's Empowerment Summit was held to highlight the phenomenal success of the women in Prisoner Reentry. Kim was the Keynote speaker. Two hundred fifty women heard her life story for the first time. Business leaders, City Council members and friends shared in her amazing success in spite of what she has experienced in life. Kim has changed the minds, hearts and thoughts of many who previously said "I don't know if I want to work with that population." Always smiling, bright, articulate, immaculately dressed and soft-spoken, Kim is living proof that stereotyping should be abolished. The staff at Goodwill is proud to have met her through the Prisoner Reentry program.

Prisoner Reentry



*This article was submitted by Carmen R. Thomas,
Wayne County Community Coordinator*