



# F.Y.I.



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## DIRECTOR RESPONDS TO DETROIT FREE PRESS SERIES ON PAROLEES

*Below is a letter to the editor of the Detroit Free Press from Michigan Department of Corrections Director Dan Heyns which ran on November 11, 2012. The Director responded to a recent series by the newspaper regarding supervision of offenders in the community. He highlighted recidivism success rates, described the Department's supervision enhancement plan and defended MDOC employees who are doing a difficult and courageous job throughout Michigan. It reads:*



I am writing in response to the recent Detroit Free Press series that unfortunately mischaracterized an increase in crime by the offenders the Michigan Department of Corrections supervises and misled readers into falsely believing we are paroling more prisoners.

In 2010, the MDOC Parole Board approved just over 12,000 prisoners for parole. Last year, that number was almost 1,000 less, and the number is even lower this year. Statewide, the number of parole violators sentenced to prison for committing new crimes has also continued to decline. In 2008, the number was 2,025. Last year, the number was 1,524, and current projections indicate 1,418 this year. The number of probationers and parolees convicted of murder or manslaughter has declined significantly between 2000 and 2010.

In addition, Michigan's recidivism rate continues to drop and is one of the lowest in the country. In 1998, 45.7% of prisoners released came back to prison within three years. Currently, the figure is 31.5%.

In fact, Michigan was recently highlighted in a national policy brief from the Council of State Governments Justice Center for advancements in reducing recidivism. Seven states were noted in the report, with Michigan showing the largest decline. A low recidivism rate means less crime, fewer victims and safer communities.

Early on in my tenure as director, I developed a specific plan to take additional

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steps toward improving our parolee supervision across communities. The motivations for this plan were my personal observations and doing everything possible to ensure public safety -- not a result of any Free Press "investigation," as the series suggested. It was crafted based on three decades of experience and focuses on aggressively pursuing parole absconders, increasing collaboration with law enforcement, creating additional custody bed space to allow for swift and sure sanctions for parolees, and reinstating thorough caseload audits of all parole/probation officers.

The early results are showing tremendous returns. We've decreased the number of parole fugitives by almost 18% since January 2011. Embedded parole officers with local law enforcement agencies in Detroit, Pontiac, Flint and Saginaw are leading to increased information sharing and additional arrests. This partnership has also allowed us to significantly step up compliance checks of offenders at night and on weekends. We've begun monthly inspections of all caseloads with a full audit every year. And we have repurposed the Ryan Correctional Facility, which is providing hundreds of additional custody beds to house parole violators.

This Corrections Department has a steadfast mission of protecting the citizens of Michigan. It employs some of the most dedicated, compassionate, honest and hard working people I've ever known. Every day, they deal with the worst of the worst of Michigan's citizens. They have extremely difficult jobs but have the training and expertise to professionally handle virtually every situation. The overwhelming majority of employees within the MDOC work tirelessly every day to meet that expectation.

You cannot have a strong and vibrant Michigan without ensuring the safety of our citizens. My top priority is, and will always be, protecting the public and making Michigan communities safer. Free Press readers deserve the facts and actual numbers to see how we're working to ensure that is a reality.

*Daniel Heyns, Director*

## **FOCUS GROUPS BEGIN**

The 2012 Employee Engagement Survey results for the Michigan Department of Corrections have been out a few months now and the Department is moving ahead based on the results. The document offers an overview of the data collected and detailed information on how surveyed MDOC employees feel about their connection with their jobs. There is a great deal of information in the report, which will lead to changes within the agency. The survey results, as well as the Department of Corrections Heat Map, are still available for employees to review on the Department's newly created intranet at the following link: <http://intranet.mdoc.state.mi.us/survey/> .



Employees will also find items such as the State of Michigan Dashboard, the Public Safety Dashboard, the Department of Corrections Scorecards and Good Government resources. The general public can find the Scorecards and Good Government resources by going to: [www.michigan.gov/corrections](http://www.michigan.gov/corrections) and clicking on the left links.

This week, diverse focus groups began meeting to provide input. The input from those groups will help the Department move toward achieving the benchmarks of a high-performing organization.



## RGC NURSE COMPLETES IRONMAN

Congratulations to Brad Doane, RN BSN of the Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center (RGC). After nine months of high endurance training, self discipline and strict diet, Brad competed in the Ironman competition in Arizona on Nov 18, 2012. His race (with stage completion times) consisted of a 112-mile bike ride (6:56:27), a 2.4-mile swim (1:31:12) and a 26-mile marathon (5:49:11) for a total course time of 14 hrs 38 min and 9 seconds. The staff at RGC are very proud of Brad and offer their congratulations for a job well done on this feat of endurance and personal achievement.



PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

## TORCH RUN KICK OFF CONFERENCE IN JANUARY



In 2013, the Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) for Special Olympics will be celebrating its 32<sup>nd</sup> year as the movement's largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle. The Torch Run raised over \$42,000,000 for Special Olympics Programs around the world in 2012. More than 85,000 law enforcement officers carried the Flame of Hope across 35 nations, raising awareness and funds for Special Olympics.

In Michigan, law enforcement officers and corrections employees coordinate a multitude of events that raise money for the athletes. The money raised by the Law Enforcement Torch Run® in Michigan benefits over 19,000 athletes. In 2012, the LETR has already raised more than \$1,000,000 to directly benefit the athletes of SOMI. Money raised goes toward athlete uniforms, sports equipment, facility usage, housing fees and coaches training.

We invite you to become part of this amazing movement and celebrate our tremendous success by joining us at the LETR 2013 Kick-Off Conference & Awards Banquet on January 10-11, 2013 at the Comfort Inn, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. There is no fee to attend this conference and anyone within Law Enforcement or Corrections is invited to attend. Attendees will experience interaction with athletes, fellow officers and law enforcement officials as well as work together to strategically plan the 2013 calendar year. Please contact Andrea Rachko at [Rachk1am@mich.edu](mailto:Rachk1am@mich.edu) or call **989.774.3911** for more information.





## **SOUTHERN REGION BUSINESS OFFICE AND TIME COMP UNIT HELP THOSE IN NEED**

The 'elves' in Jackson's Time Computation Unit and Southern Region Business Office have been very busy lately. Their offices adopted twenty foster children from Operation Good Cheer in addition to donating to the Cascade Humane Society, the residents of the John George Home and the Toys for Tots program. Donations included gifts ranging from pajamas and shoes to toys and bikes.



**PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**

## **NOMINATE A DIFFERENCE MAKER FOR A PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD TODAY!**

Nominations for the 2012 Professional Excellence and Director's Awards are due by December 31, 2012. There are qualified employees throughout the Department who deserve to be recognized for outstanding performance and professionalism in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of their position. The nomination form number is CAJ-041 and is available in DAS. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dave Silsbury at (517) 373-1968. Take some time and recognize one of your fellow employees with a nomination today!



## **SALLY'S RIDE RECOGNIZES FALLEN OFFICER**

Sally's Ride, recognizing fallen corrections officer Sally Paajanen, celebrated its 10th anniversary with a charity ride on September 15, 2012. Organizers raised \$5,334 for UPAWS - the Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter - in its efforts to promote the protection of horses. Their efforts in the past 10 years have provided over 70 horses with homes.

For the past ten years, riders of all talents and ages have honored Paajanen, a talented young corrections officer who worked for Alger Correctional Facility at the time of her murder, by having a 8-12 mile trail ride through the forests and meadows of the U.P. This year's event also featured a treasure hunt, poker run, silent auction, and equine soccer event.



**EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR EFFORTS**

As reported in an earlier edition of the F.Y.I., here is a photo of FSL Nelson receiving his Lifesaving Award from Director Heyns.

On April 20, 2012, Food Service Leader Mike Nelson of the Tuscola Residential Reentry Program was working out at his local gym when he saw a man collapse. He had stopped breathing so Mike and another bystander started CPR while another person retrieved the gym's AED. The attached AED delivered three shocks prior to the arrival of EMS. The man was transported via life flight and treated for a life-threatening heart condition. Nelson received the Department's Lifesaving Award for going above and beyond in his tremendous efforts in saving the man's life.



*From Left: Director Heyns, A/Supervisor Keith Koger, Sgt. Steve White, Food Service Leader Mike Nelson, and Program Services Manager Julie Goldman.*

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

**PHYSICAL PLANT PROVIDES ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR 4-H FOUNDATION'S KETTUNEN CENTER**

The Department's Physical Plant Division recently put their talents to work, volunteering to make Tustin's Kettunen Center more energy efficient. The Kettunen Center, operated by the 4-H Foundation, has been a valuable resource for the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC). It has been an ideal location for training, meetings and conferences. The Physical Plant Division has held their annual conference at the center for several years.

Since the facility is a "non-profit" entity, MDOC staff have provided support in many forms in the past. In that tradition, Physical Plant Division employees recently offered their assistance in the form of labor. Ed Vallad, with assistance from Medler Electric and Consumers Energy, performed an Electrical Energy audit for the Kettunen Center in September 2012. As a result of the audit, the Kettunen Center purchased over \$4,000 of materials for lighting improvements. Gary Keiffer, Paul Tefft, Tom Vogel and Ed Vallad then used a combination of annual leave and community leave to help the center's sole maintenance employee install a variety of electrical energy saving components. These upgrades include new and retrofit fluorescent and LED lighting and motion sensing devices.



As a result of this installation, the Center will realize annual savings of \$1,738 on their electrical bills. The work has also qualified the Kettunen Center for Utility Incentive Rebates in the amount of \$1,009. These funds can be used by the center for additional equipment to expand on their utility saving goals.





## **THE COST TEAM HELPS CREATE EFFICIENCIES IN OFFENDER ELECTRONIC MONITORING**

In October 2011, several MDOC colleagues were called together to form the Electronic Monitoring Corrections Operations and Services Transformation Team (EM COST Team) to create efficiencies and identify cost savings opportunities in both the field and the Electronic Monitoring Center. The team set a stretch goal to reach a 30% savings, in both hard and soft dollars, from the current Electronic Monitoring budget.

Presently, the team has been divided into sub-teams that are working towards creating efficiencies and dollar savings in the following areas: detainer lodging process, an electronic LEIN cancellation process, offender fee collections, and LEIN warrant entries as it relates to offenders placed in LEIN for specific GPS alerts.

Further, the team is involved with the development of what has been called "Middleware" which is a computer application program that will merge our current electronic software applications with OMNI which will allow for back and forth communication between the applications. This program will lessen the amount of duplicated data entries that field staff often finds themselves making in our various applications. It is the goal of the team that all MDOC used vendor software applications will be merged into the Middleware program.

Additionally, with the implementation of BI's Total Access software program for radio-frequency (RF) tether, alert notifications are no longer being faxed. This will reduce the amount of paper purchased by the MDOC in addition to repair costs associated with the wear and tear of fax machines.

The committee has also reached out to several local municipalities to gage their interest in contracting with the MDOC to use MDOC-owned RF tether equipment. This may lead to additional revenues collected by the MDOC. The EM COST Team also will be instrumental in the future development of the Request for Information (RFI) and Request for Proposal (RFP) for electronic monitoring contract bids as the existing vendor contracts are scheduled to expire in 2013.



## **INTERESTED IN PLAYING A LITTLE HOCKEY?**

Officer Chris Bolan Of Gus Harrison Correctional Facility is looking for hockey players to form a team comprised of MDOC employees. They would play in tournaments and the D League at the Arctic Coliseum in Chelsea. For more information and to discuss participation, contact Officer Bolan at:

[mducicehockey@gmail.com](mailto:mducicehockey@gmail.com).





## FIELD AGENT'S PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD IS WELL DESERVED

Agent Kelley Gorham's work ethic, attention to detail and positive attitude influence others in the work place. She presents herself as a positive role model not only for the offenders but also for employees, "raising the bar" for the whole office. Protecting the public has always been the Department's foremost goal. Agent Gorham takes this to heart in her work, while showing a great deal of compassion for people. While some view "showing compassion" to clients and "enforcing compliance" as contradictory in our work, Agent Gorham balances these two roles simultaneously as an effective way to motivate offenders, enforce conditions, and protect the public, successfully putting the offender's focus of struggles and violations square on the offender's own behavior. Agent Gorham excels in GPS monitoring and addressing issues specific to the sex offender caseload. She fully utilizes the sex offender Case Management Team to collaborate with other professionals to enhance offender supervision. She does an excellent job of balancing goals of effective supervision, compassion, enforcement, and rehabilitation.



*From Left: Field Operations Deputy Director Charles Sinclair, Agent Kelley Gorham, and Director Heyns.*

## ARU HELPS APPREHEND HIGHLY WANTED FUGITIVE

Dog the Bounty Hunter came to Jackson a few weeks ago looking for fugitive Ricky Wheeldon who had a \$500,000 bond for his capture. Dog went home empty handed – but the Lansing Area United States Marshal's Service (USMS) Fugitive Task Force didn't!

On October 24, 2012, members of the Lansing Area USMS Fugitive Task Force, which includes Michigan State Police and the Michigan Department of Corrections Absconder Recovery Unit (ARU) team members, located and apprehended him.

While Wheeldon was currently not on parole, he was highly sought after by law enforcement agencies. Wheeldon was in possession of a gun and what appeared to be illegal drugs when he was apprehended.

ARU members Ken Hatfield, Phil Smith, Paul Raymond and Dave Sharp were part of the task force.



*Fugitive Ricky Wheeldon probably wishes Dog the Bounty Hunter had captured him instead of members of the Lansing Area USMS Fugitive Recovery Team.*

**RETIREMENTS: SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2012****September 2012**

Anderson, Susan..... Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
Austin, Larry W..... St. Louis Correctional Facility  
Beebe, Steven L..... Ionia Correctional Facility  
Blick, David R..... Cooper Street Correctional Facility  
Bradley, Mark A..... G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility  
Bradley, Michael A. .... Saginaw Correctional Facility  
Brechtling, Joseph W. .... Carson City Correctional Facility  
Burdett, Harry C. .... Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center  
Buskirk, Grace E. .... Kinross Correctional Facility  
Case, Joseph R..... Newberry Correctional Facility  
Collins, William G. .... Parnall Correctional Facility  
Custard, Lewis E. .... Parnall Correctional Facility  
Daws, Donald L..... Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center  
Faulks, Roberta L..... Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
Ford, David L..... Cooper Street Correctional Facility  
Gendernalik, David R. .... Woodland Center Correctional Facility  
Giuliano, John E..... Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
Griffin, Thomas..... Richard Handlon Correctional Facility  
Grulke, Lee E. .... Kinross Correctional Facility  
Hays, Vada M..... Gus Harrison Correctional Facility  
Hogan, Susan J..... Carson City Correctional Facility  
Kimble, Jay D. .... Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility  
Knieper, Michael J..... Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center  
Koenigsknecht, Thomas..... Carson City Correctional Facility  
Lawrence, Robert L..... Lenawee County Probation  
Mayer, Darel K. .... Ojibway Correctional Facility  
Mcneal, Robert W. .... West Shoreline Correctional Facility

*RETIREMENTS (Continued on page 9)*

**RETIREMENTS** (Continued from page 8)

Meagher, Barbara J. ....	Michigan Reformatory
Merrill, David B. ....	G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Miilu, Gywen E. ....	Michigan Reformatory
Nobles, Scott A. ....	Detroit Reentry Center
Probst, Stephen C. ....	G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Rodgers, Clifford R. ....	Macomb Correctional Facility
Shaw, Tracie S. ....	Saginaw Correctional Facility
Smith, Linda ....	Detroit Reentry Center
Smith, Robert D. ....	Oaks Correctional Facility
Soli, James R. ....	Baraga Correctional Facility
Taylor, Ronald A. ....	Parnall Correctional Facility
Thomas, Katie M. ....	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Turnquist, Joan L. ....	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Waite, Randall R. ....	Ionia Correctional Facility
Williams, Joel B. ....	Lakeland Correctional Facility
Winchester, Mary A. ....	Lakeland Correctional Facility
Winters-Hall, Peggy ....	Thumb Correctional Facility
Wolf, Mark S. ....	Alger Correctional Facility
Wright, Karl D. ....	Gus Harrison Correctional Facility

**October 2012**

Barker, Deborah ....	Macomb Correctional Facility
Barrett, Deborah ....	Detroit Reentry Center
Black, Patricia A. ....	Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Boltjes, Pamela S. ....	CFA Southern Region Office
Bracey, Lisa M. ....	Carson City Correctional Facility
Bradley, Vicki ....	Earnest Brooks Correctional Facility
Curtice, Vicki L. ....	St. Louis Correctional Facility
Czarnecki, Robert ....	Carson City Correctional Facility
Fears, Marquerite J. ....	Detroit Reentry Center

**RETIREMENTS** (Continued on page 10)

**RETIREMENTS** (Continued from page 9)

Fill, Verland E .....	West Shoreline Correctional Facility
Friedt, Timothy R.....	Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Gable, Jerry A .....	Michigan Reformatory
Greene, Frank .....	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Green, Victor J .....	Richard Handlon Correctional Facility
Ingram, Lyle M .....	Livingston County Parole/Probation
James, Jeffrey W .....	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Jerrell, Barbara A .....	CFA Southern Region Office
Kalisek, Susan M .....	Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Krick, Kendall R.....	Michigan Reformatory
Kurta, Frank L .....	Ojibway Correctional Facility
Livingston-Long, Christeena .....	Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Macmillan, Elizabeth M .....	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Marshall, Cyndi K.....	Grandview Plaza – Central Office
Maslo, Emil A .....	Alger Correctional Facility
Mcclarty, Ray V .....	Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Miller, Joseph F.....	Tuscola Residential Reentry Program
Montgomery, John .....	Detroit Reentry Center
Moon, Richard J.....	Kinross Correctional Facility
Proctor, Kenneth H.....	Tuscola Residential Reentry Program
Ruby-Floyd, Kimberly A .....	Kinross Correctional Facility
Russell, Michael J. ....	Pugsley Correctional Facility
Sanders, Annae .....	Detroit Reentry Center
Schultz, William K .....	Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Sowa, Steven C .....	Alger Correctional Facility
Spragg, Richard A.....	Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Terry, Kenny T .....	Pugsley Correctional Facility
Warden, Susan .....	Carson City Correctional Facility
Woodley, Stephen A. ....	Macomb Correctional Facility



## REENTRY ROUNDTABLE

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

### Re-building Lives Through Community Service

Imagine walking through the doors taking your first step out into an unfamiliar world after several years of incarceration. You have racing thoughts spanning out over your new future. "I know Prisoner Reentry will house me, but for how long? They can provide me with some assistance. How will I support myself? I have nothing to my name and no money. How soon will I get a job? I am so nervous, what will happen to me? What will people think of me? Will they look at me differently, disassociate themselves with me, they won't hire an ex-offender. What will I do!? How do I get reconnected with the community that I will be living in?" These thoughts race through many ex-offenders' minds as they take that first step out the doors to freedom. Something they have not felt or had in a long time. A good start is connecting with the community by way of community service activities.

Thumb Region's community service project was set in motion in Lapeer County. Parole agents took on the undertaking and made connections with Thumb Correctional Facility and the court house for community service projects. Offenders were conducting cleanup and basic yard work. It became a requirement for offenders, in Prisoner Reentry funded housing, to perform

community service activities as a way of giving back and reconnecting with the community. The program prospered and mentors became involved. Ex-offenders were engaging in projects funneled through their mentors, and working alongside each other in the community garden.

Parolee Dan and his mentor Ed Ikes volunteer every week at the Community Garden. The garden is part of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lapeer. Plots are available to the needy of the community, and plants are donated from local nurseries, Thumb Correctional Facility, and Community Corrections via their horticulture program. Dan and his mentor maintain the garden's upkeep weekly.



*From Left: Parolee Dan and his mentor Ed Ikes at the Lapeer County Community Gardens.*

Dan stated "community service gave me the opportunity to learn new skills and even obtain part-time employment through my mentor." Dan tends to his own garden plot as well as maintain plots for other community members. Dan's mentor, Mr. Ikes, had indicated that mentoring and community

service is a very rewarding experience, "it is what God wants me to do." Agent Lange from Lapeer stated that, "the individuals participating in this project have become more motivated to seek their own community service, and in the process of their searching, some have even been able to obtain employment. Community

**REENTRY** (Continued on page 12)

**REENTRY** (Continued from page 11)

service projects have not only motivated these individuals but have also helped build self confidence for the participants.”

As part of their volunteer experience, ex-offenders were able to acquire new skills and knowledge, gain a sense of satisfaction in serving their community, meet new and interesting people, and establish a supportive network to aid in their transition into the community. Many offenders have demonstrated improved demeanor and a sense of accomplishment from participating in community service projects, as well as having doors open to employment opportunities. Community service provides an opportunity for ex-offenders to reestablish community social ties, potentially leading to employment and permanent housing. Also, it enhances their ability to be law-abiding and productive citizens and re-establish trust and a positive status of offenders in the community. It is a win-win situa-

tion for the community and the ex-offender.

It was apparent that community service had a positive impact on the offender’s successful transition into the community. The project was further developed in St. Clair County. Outreach was made to the local Ministerial Alliance groups. Operation Transformation, Thumb Region’s mentoring contractor, the local parole office, community shelters and housing providers are huge supporters of the community service project, and helped make connections with local area churches. Several churches have requested volunteer services from Reentry Offenders. Ex-offenders have been performing community service by cleaning up debris and basic landscape work. Opportunities continue to present themselves on a regular basis. It is Thumb Region’s goal to expand the project to the remaining counties.

*Written and submitted by: Paula Keena, Thumb Region Prisoner Reentry Community Coordinator*

**FLU SEASON IS HERE: GET YOUR SHOT TODAY**

Health officials are concerned that the 2012-13 flu season may be starting earlier than normal and could be harsher than last year. Several schools and community-living centers in Michigan have already seen early outbreaks of flu-like illnesses.

The Michigan Department of Corrections has been proactive in offering employees flu vaccination clinics at worksites throughout the agency. Many employees have taken advantage of this service; however health officials are urging all who work with high-risk populations in communal living areas to be vaccinated.

Because children are also very susceptible, health officials are recommending that all children over six-months-old receive the flu vaccination each year.

Influenza virus can cause severe symptoms (see highlight) and even death. Be prepared. Get vaccinated today!

**SYMPTOMS**

- Fever of 100° F or greater
- Fatigue - sometimes to the extreme
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Runny nose
- Body aches and chills
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting