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DETROIT REENTRY CENTER'S YOUTH DETERRENT PROGRAM

STRAIGHT TALK - NOT SCARED STRAIGHT

On May 31, 2013, the Detroit Reentry Center (DRC) held its largest Youth Deterrent Program (YDP) session. There were 41 male youth from Metro-Detroit, Flint and even Toledo, OH. Three Toledo Police Officers made the trip from Toledo to Detroit to bring eight at-risk youth who are a part of their youth guidance program. Also in attendance was Referee Kellie Ramsey from the Wayne County Juvenile Court. Referee Ramsey was very impressed with the program and promised to require all troubled male youth seen in her court, to have to attend the YDP as part of their probation sentencing. The Toledo Blade's Deputy Editorial Page Editor, Jeff Gerritt, attended as well. Mr. Gerritt has been a supporter of the program since his tenure at the Detroit Free Press. A news article in the Toledo Blade on the positives of the program is forthcoming.

"This program is nothing like 'Scared Straight'," says HRD Jeffrey Allison who is the coordinator of the program. "It focuses on educating the youth on the traps which lead to incarceration, while guiding them towards more positive choices and lifestyles," says Allison. Eight prisoners represent the Youth Deterrent Committee members. Each are trained in conflict resolution, role plays and critical thinking. The program concludes with a "Peace Pledge," admonishing the youth to stay in school, respect authority, and avoid drugs, guns, and gangs.



Other agencies in attendance who brought youth to the program in May were Genesee and Macomb County Probation, Southwest Solutions, Mount Zion Baptist Church and Vista Maria. The program is run every last Friday of each month. The DRC Youth Deterrent Program has assisted other MDOC correctional facilities to develop a similar model of the DRC program.



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## MDOC COLLABORATES WITH OTHER AGENCIES AT GANG INTELLIGENCE SEMINAR

Collaboration within our Department as well as with local, state, and federal agencies provides enhanced offender management which promotes a safer Michigan. On June 13, 2013, seventeen employees from FOA and CFA joined with other law enforcement agencies in attending the first annual Midwest Gang Investigators Association (MGIA) Security Threat Group Training Seminar hosted by the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office. The Michigan Chapter of the MGIA was formed through the collaborative efforts of local, county, state and federal law enforcement and criminal justice professionals who are dedicated to the prevention of gangs and suppression of gang-related activity within Michigan. With the aid of resources such as the MGIA, our employees are able to provide continuous monitoring of gang related activities while offenders transition in and out of our prisons and communities. For more information on the MGIA, or to become a member, you may visit their website at [www.mgia.org](http://www.mgia.org).



**Back Row (L to R):** Brock Simmons (CFA), Todd Bechler (FOA), Walt Wysopal (FOA), Gene McKinstry (FOA), Matt Wieas (FOA), Kyle Forrest (FOA), Kevin Zwicker partially hidden (CFA), Sean Wiltenburg (FOA), Stephanie Vink (FOA), Brian Shipman (FOA).  
**Front Row (L to R):** Adam Long (CFA), Tamela Lail-Monday (FOA), Melissa Brandt (FOA), David Morales (FOA), Thomas Mize (FOA), Paul Schreiber (CFA), Charles Wright (FOA).

## TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR OUTLOOK ACCOUNT TODAY!

To facilitate greater communication, all employees across state government must have an email address. Having a functioning Outlook email account is important so that employees can begin receiving communications regarding the upcoming employee survey as all invitations will likely be delivered via email.

- By now, all MDOC employees should have a State of Michigan Outlook email account with a unique address specifically for that employee.
- All employees should be familiar with how to access their email account, and have current, active passwords. Their password needs to reset if it has expired.
- All employees should be afforded access to their work email account while at work according to practices established at their work location.
- All employees should be frequently checking their email accounts. Important departmental and State of Michigan communications are distributed via email.
- All employees will need access to their Outlook email in order to participate in the Employee Survey.
- All employees can remotely access their Outlook account by going to [www.michigan.gov/outlook](http://www.michigan.gov/outlook) and providing their domain\username (e.g. - SOM/username) and password.



If you are having issues accessing your Outlook account, please contact the DIT Service Center through the website at [www.michigan.gov/ditservice](http://www.michigan.gov/ditservice) or 800-968-2644.



## VERA, W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION SUPPORT PATHWAYS FROM PRISON PROJECT

The Vera Institute of Justice has announced that Michigan will participate in its [Pathways from Prison to Postsecondary Education Project](#), which aims to demonstrate that access to postsecondary education during and after prison, combined with supportive reentry services, can increase educational credentials, increase employability and earnings, and reduce recidivism.

Michigan's participation is made possible through funding awarded to Vera by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. As a result, Michigan will receive \$1 million in incentive funding to pilot educational programming and reentry support services in two correctional facilities as well as in Pontiac and Kalamazoo, communities to which many participants are scheduled to return.

"The W.K. Kellogg Foundation is proud to support the Pathways from Prison to Postsecondary Education project, especially given the fact that our home state of Michigan was selected as one of the three pilot states," said Alandra Washington, director, Family Economic Security, W.K. Kellogg Foundation. "The foundation's new partnership with the Vera Institute will help test and prove innovative methods for not only helping the formerly incarcerated reenter the workforce, but also for re-engaging with their families. Many of these parolees are parents and this project represents yet another avenue for the foundation to improve the life outcomes for disadvantaged kids."



W.K.  
KELLOGG  
FOUNDATION

"The data on successful offender re-entry is very clear. Improving postsecondary educational opportunities for offenders is critical for their success," said Daniel Heyns, director of Michigan's Department of Corrections. "This grant affords us additional resources to enhance our educational programming. We could not be more pleased to partner with Vera to this end."

The Pathways Project encourages participating states to create a continuum of education and reentry support services that begins in prison and continues in the community after release until the students have achieved a degree or professional certification. The project is unique not only for its emphasis on coordination between pre- and post-release programming, but also for the partnerships that participating states are required to form with and between state and local officials, corrections and parole agencies, schools of higher education, employers, and community-based service providers.

In Michigan, participants at pilot facilities will have the opportunity to complete college-credit courses provided by Jackson and Oakland Community Colleges which will be transferable to those colleges upon release. Kalamazoo Valley Community College will be partnering in providing post-release services. Project participants will continue to receive academic assistance during their reentry period and will be linked to needed support services provided through partnerships with community-based human services and workforce development organizations.

## SHARE YOUR POSITIVE PERSONAL STORIES

Personal Portrait is a new addition to F.Y.I. that shares the personal accomplishments and actions of our employees. If you know about something an employee has done that deserves some praise or credit, let us know! Email the information, with pictures if you can get them, to me at [cordellj@michigan.gov](mailto:cordellj@michigan.gov). We will share their story with the rest of the MDOC family.





**EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Q & A  
FIELD AGENT CARY WALKER**



**In the  
Spotlight**

We are going to try a new feature in FYI where we profile some of our remarkable staff who have done an outstanding job serving the citizens of Michigan. I absolutely recognize that our employees are the greatest asset to this organization and key to the Department's success. I know from my visits across the state and interactions with many of you that this agency is filled with extraordinary people with inspiring stories to tell. I am hopeful that some of you find these employee showcases meaningful and a worthwhile addition to the FYI.

Thank you,  
Director Heyns

**EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT - CARY WALKER, 45**

- *Current Position:* Parole/Probation Agent in



Alpena County

- *Started with the MDOC:* May 1992 as a Corrections Officer at Standish Correctional Facility

- *College:* Northern Michigan University – Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice
- *Hometown:* Oscoda
- *Family:* Married with 4 children (3 daughters and 1 son)

After working for 20 years in the Correctional Facilities Administration (CFA), Cary Walker recently took a job in the Field Operations Administration (FOA).

**Q: What positions have you held within the Department?**

**Agent Walker:** I hired in as a Corrections Officer at Standish. I was promoted to Prison Counselor, Resident Unit Manager (RUM), Administrative Assistant to the Warden and Assistant Deputy Warden (ADW) – all at Standish Correctional Facility. When Standish closed, I bumped into an ADW position at Saginaw Correctional Facility. However, when the Department reduced the number of ADW positions, I was bumped again to Administrative Assistant to the Warden at the Thumb Correctional Facility in Lapeer. In order to be closer to my family, I interviewed for a parole/probation agent position in Alpena and started in March 2013.

**Q: Was it hard transitioning to FOA after 20 years with CFA?**

**Agent Walker:** Yes it was. I knew everything about running a prison, but now I am dealing with parolees, probationers, judges, prosecutors, police, different reports and supervision in the community – it's a whole different world. I like working in FOA, but there is so much to learn after having worked so many years in CFA. I feel like I went back to being a green tag officer.

**Q: What advice would you give somebody starting with the MDOC today?**

**CARY WALKER** (Continued on page 5)



**CARY WALKER** (Continued from page 4)

**Agent Walker:** Have a sense of humor. This can be a very stressful job and having a sense of humor can really help with the difficulty of the work we do. I would tell someone starting today to keep your partner safe and keep the citizens safe, but have fun – don't take things too seriously. The Department has a lot of really funny people. I have never laughed as hard as I have with MDOC people at work.

**Q: What was your best day with the Department?**

**Agent Walker:** It was the day we had a walkaway from Standish. The Warden was away at training, and I was a rookie ADW. It was a high pressure moment and a really big deal. The media was showing up at the facility and asking questions while we were setting up a command center and trying to catch the guy. However, I felt like I really stepped up and everything came together perfectly. All the training we received paid off that day, and we caught the guy the next day. I remember going home and feeling really good about how I handled the situation that day.

**Q: What was your worst day with the Department?**

**Agent Walker:** The day Personnel showed up at Standish to tell everyone where they would be going to work after the facility closed. I was an ADW then and I stood right outside the Personnel Office and talked to everybody after they came out. I did whatever I could to try to make people feel better, but it wasn't easy. There were a lot of tears that day and a lot of very sad personal stories about the impact the closure would have on children, people's homes and family. Experiencing that pain up close and personal was extremely difficult.



**Q: What is the most favorite part of your job?**

**Agent Walker:** The difference you can make in offenders' lives. We have very powerful positions, and if done right, you can really impact public safety and positively influence people's lives. That's very rewarding.

**Q: What is the most favorite part of your personal life?**

**Agent Walker:** Being with my family. After driving and staying in Saginaw and Lapeer during the week for the past three years - being able to see my kids every night is the most favorite part of my personal life.

**Q: What are your hobbies?**

**Agent Walker:** Boating, fishing, hunting, grilling out. Really, any outdoor activity.

**Q: What do you see as the major differences between CFA and FOA?**

**Agent Walker:** When you work in a prison, you have 300 people you can go to for help, assistance or just to talk to. In the field, there are far less. You have to learn to solve your own problems and make your own choices without much advice.

In prison, it feels like a much tighter family – officers, shift command, records office staff, school employees, health care staff, transportation officers, etc., all working for the MDOC and looking out for each other. Camaraderie is more difficult in the field. You spend a lot more time by yourself in the field, and communication is quite different. In my office, we do a lot of texting between agents. In the field, your family is more outside people like judges, prosecutors, police officers, etc.

**CARY WALKER** (Continued on page 6)



**CARY WALKER** (Continued from page 5)

In the field, working with the offender's family is encouraged - which can be very helpful. The family knows more of what's going on and can help me get the parolee or probationer going in the right direction. In prison, that's not typically the case. I think CFA could do a better job of incorporating the family - I feel they would get much better outcomes with prisoners if they did.

Also, supervisors in prison manage a lot of people and do much more "supervising." In the field, supervisors are far more hands-on. There are a lot more ways to get in trouble in the field, and I feel supervisors are there to really help you - to protect you.

**Q: What surprised you about working in the field?**

**Agent Walker:** You have a lot of authority in the field. When I wrote my first Presentence Investigation Report, my supervisor asked me if I wanted to recommend any jail time with the probation. I didn't know. My supervisor asked me to sit down and really think about it. I went back to my office and reviewed the offender's record to see if he had done jail time in the past and whether it had an impact on him. I looked at how jail time would affect his family and his employment. I looked at all the variables and ultimately did not recommend jail time. My thinking was I could ask for jail time if he violated any of the conditions of probation.

I think time moves much faster with less supervision in FOA. In the field, there is also much more change with new laws and supervision techniques.

**Q: What suggestion would you have to improve the Department?**

**Agent Walker:** Better communication between CFA and FOA. CFA could use OMNI more to tell FOA what's going on with offenders before they come out. PERs (Parole Eligibility Reports) are

pretty generic. More info would help FOA. CFA wouldn't have to log something every day, but maybe just the bigger, more significant things. Communication is improving between CFA and FOA, but it could get even better.

**Q: What would you tell a class of college students about to graduate with a degree in criminal justice?**

**Agent Walker:** Nobody grows up wanting to be a corrections officer. You either want to be a police officer or a fire fighter. I would tell them to think about becoming a corrections officer. Corrections has become a lot more professional. This has been a very good career and Corrections has been very good to me. I consider this field a profession - not what you see in the movies.

**Q: You took a demotion and a pay cut to go to work in FOA. Why did you do that?**

**Agent Walker:** I like change in my career and new challenges. Also, at this point in my life my family is the most important thing. After several bumps in CFA, I was spending a lot of time away from my family. Now, I go home every night and can do much more with my kids. I love that. When I first came to the Department, I wanted to work in probation/parole. I interviewed a couple of times, but didn't get hired. A warden at the time told me there was more opportunity for promotion in CFA, and he was right. But I always wanted to see the other side. The pay cut was difficult, but money isn't everything.

**Q: Final thoughts?**

**Agent Walker:** I've worked with a lot of great people at the MDOC who really care about the job they do and the people they work with. I truly appreciate everyone who has helped me along the way.





**RETIREMENTS - MAY 2013**

The Department would like to offer best wishes and a happy retirement to all of the employees who dedicated their working lives to public service. Their efforts helped make the Michigan Department of Corrections a model for other agencies throughout the United States.

**PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**

- Akin, Timothy D..... Carson City Correctional Facility
- Aldrich, Bruce D. .... Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
- Anderson, Raymond ..... Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
- Baldwin, Wendy M. .... Cooper Street Correctional Facility
- Balmes, Bernard A..... Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
- Bennickson, Lloyd A. .... Cooper Street Correctional Facility
- Bowerman, Brian D..... Michigan Reformatory
- Copenhaver, Marie K. .... Field Operations - Calhoun County
- Deschaine, William N..... Carson City Correctional Facility
- Dixon, Eric M..... Macomb Correctional Facility
- Ellingsen, Richard N. .... Marquette Branch Prison
- Fettig, Nola M..... Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
- Holloway, Lynette J..... Central Office
- Jados, Joyce A..... Central Michigan Correctional Facility
- Janke, Bryan T..... Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
- Kaupp, William J. .... Kinross Correctional Facility
- Koernke, Gerald O. .... G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
- Kubik, Joni L. .... Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
- Lepola, Debra J..... Baraga Correctional Facility
- Lyons, Michael A..... Ionia Correctional Facility
- Maurin, David..... Field Operations - Pontiac Probation Office
- Mumby, Kevin B..... Thumb Correctional Facility
- O'Brien, James K. .... Lakeland Correctional Facility
- Olson, Kirk A. .... Central Michigan Correctional Facility





**MAY RETIREMENTS** (Continued from page 7)

Payton, David J.....	Macomb Correctional Facility
Race, George L.....	CFA Southern Region - Ionia
Raiford, Adrina C. ....	Field Operations - Metro Region
Rohn, Richard L.....	Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Rossland, Andrew J.....	Marquette Branch Prison
Rudolph, Gerald.....	Parnall Correctional Facility
Schrauben, Florence C. ....	Central Office
Sears, Stephen H.....	Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Simmon, Katherine A. ....	Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Stahl, Robert L.....	Pugsley Correctional Facility
Strange, Alan D.....	Pugsley Correctional Facility
Tedrow, David R. ....	Saginaw Correctional Facility
Thielen, Thomas .....	CFA Southern Region - Jackson
Trasko, Shawn V.....	Macomb Correctional Facility
Vreeland-Lindsay, Gaye L.....	Lakeland Correctional Facility
Vukusich, Karen A. ....	Ojibway Correctional Facility
Wandel, John C. ....	Michigan Reformatory
Ward, Michael A.....	Oaks Correctional Facility
Washington, Donald.....	Thumb Correctional Facility
Wesner, David W. ....	Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
White, Donald G.....	St. Louis Correctional Facility
Wilcox, James E. ....	Oaks Correctional Facility
Williams, Diane .....	Field Operations - Metro Region
Woodward, Rocky J.....	Chippewa Correctional Facility
Wright, Karen M.....	Pugsley Correctional Facility
Zbiciak, Martin L.....	Thumb Correctional Facility

**PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**



## VIDEO CONFERENCING - A CASE STUDY

The use of video conferencing technology to allow remote participation in courtroom proceedings is becoming more common. The 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court in Kalamazoo continues to expand the use of video conferencing. Every Courtroom, as well as each private attorney conference room, is equipped with video conferencing capabilities. Below are some examples of how video conferencing has been beneficial for the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court and others.

- A Probation Violation Hearing was held via video conferencing with the defendant appearing from Las Vegas. The Judge and all parties assigned to the case agreed to have the defendant appear by video. The Judge assigned to the case enjoys leveraging technology to reduce cost, add efficiencies and reduce security concerns.
- An Application to Set Aside Conviction was held via video with the petitioner appearing from Tennessee. After receiving a written request from the petitioner and with the Judge's approval, the Technology Unit coordinated the connection efforts with the remote location. The petitioner was able to use the local courthouse's video conferencing equipment at no cost.
- A Neglect proceeding was held in which two fathers were in Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) custody. They were able to connect with both of them via video conferencing, each in a separate prison, with no problems. These were arranged through Writs prepared by our Court Services staff. Once the Judge approved them, they were emailed to MDOC's Central Records Unit where arrangements were made and connection requirements were coordinated with the Court's Technology Unit.
- A Criminal Sexual Conduct (CSC) Sentencing and re-sentencing was held with the victim appearing from Nevada. She wanted to give an impact statement and watch the sentencing. The visiting judge approved her request to

appear via video to save her and the County the travel expense. The Office of Prosecuting Attorney (OPA) Victim/Witness Unit helped her find a video conferencing location near her and then coordinated the connection requirements with the Court's Technology Unit.

- Multiple civil motions have been held to accommodate attorneys who are on the other side of the state. The Judge approves these to save them time and travel, the savings of which could then be passed along to their clients. The attorneys submitted a Request For Use Of Communication Equipment two weeks ahead of time, and it was then presented to the Judge for approval and given to the Court Technology Unit to test the connection before the hearing.



- Department of Human Services (DHS) along with a local police agency used their Interactive Video Technology (IVT) equipment to conduct a forensic interview with a juvenile who is currently placed in Iowa. They were able to see his body language and conduct a meaningful interview without having to travel out of state or make arrangements to have the juvenile moved. The probation agent made arrangements with the Court's Technology Unit to set up a date and time to use the equipment.

- During the H1N1 virus scare, the Court conducted a Hearing with a Juvenile who was possibly contagious via video conferencing. The juvenile remained at the juvenile home while the Hearing Officer and other parties on the case were located in the Hearing Room at the Courthouse.
- On numerous occasions they have conducted trials and other hearings involving representatives from the Michigan State Police Forensic Crime Labs throughout Michigan. Parties on the case allow video testimony and the arrange-

**VIDEO CONFERENCING (Continued on page 10)**



**C.O.P.S. DAY IS JULY 24 AT THE IONIA FREE FAIR**

On July 24, the Ionia Free Fair is again hosting C.O.P.S. Day. The Michigan Corrections Organization and Michigan One Credit Union are sponsoring the public safety appreciation day by opening a hospitality center from noon - 8 p.m. If you have a badge or I.D., you can purchase \$12 all-day wristbands for the entire family. The wristbands are good for unlimited rides on all participating rides along the midway from 1 p.m. until the midway closes.



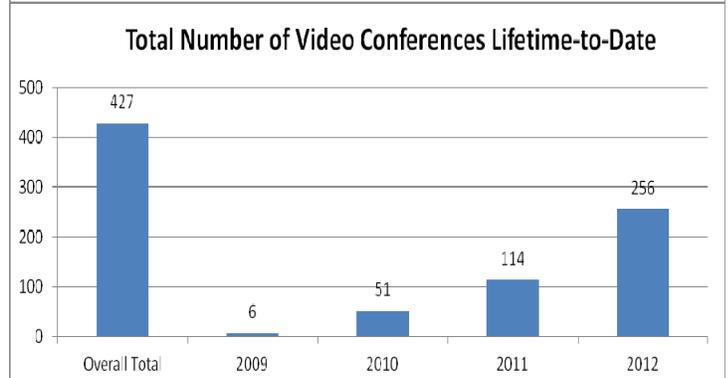
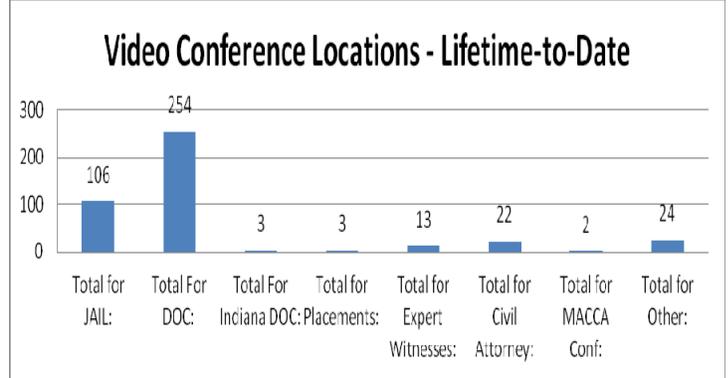
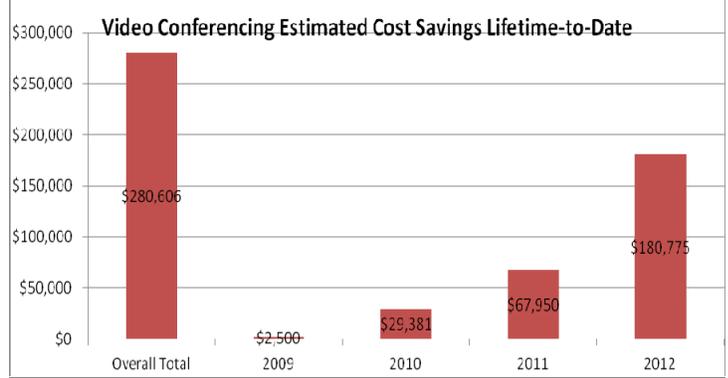
The hospitality center (free fair administration building) is located toward the back of the of the fair beyond the track and exhibit buildings. Corrections employees, police, fire, public safety, sheriff's office staff, court employees, EMS and military employees and their families and guests are all welcome. (I.D. is required to enter the hospitality center and to purchase wristbands for rides.)

**VIDEO CONFERENCING (Continued from page 9)**

ments are coordinated with the Court's Technology Unit to secure the video connection. This process is efficient and offers cost savings to the Court and State of Michigan by reducing adjournments and wasted time by having lab experts travel to various locations.

- An Appellate counsel who resided in Kalamazoo and was appointed by other counties used the video conferencing capabilities in Kalamazoo to consult with her clients in Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) custody; saving her the cost of travel expenses.

Public safety and cost savings are intertwined with the incorporation of videoconferencing services. Greater use means greater savings. Overall, in the 9th Circuit Court there have been over 400 video conferences by at least eight different entities saving nearly \$300,000. The majority of savings came in 2012, when video conferencing was fully embraced by the MDOC, the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department and the courts. In 2013, savings are expected to be the same or even greater as all entities become more familiar with the technology.





## **REENTRY ROUNDTABLE**

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

### **HELPING PEOPLE STAY C.L.E.A.R. OF TROUBLE**

When Prisoner Reentry first began at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility (IBC), part of the process included an orientation which introduced parolees to the services that were available to them within Kent County. Lieutenant Mason, from the Grand Rapids Police Department, and Officer Terry Dixon were part of the IBC Orientation Team. This evolved into a separate workshop with various police officers and the Kent County Friend of the Court supervisor, Terry Novakoski. The workshop consisted of meeting with individuals and providing them with information regarding the resources available in their community.

When Officer Dixon and the other officers would arrive in uniform, offenders tended to be apprehensive at first, but soon would come to realize that the officers were truly invested in making their parole successful. The next step was bringing parolees and discharged parolees back inside to try to connect with offenders prior to release into the community. This connection has proven to be very informative for those involved and it has provided the prisoners with real life examples of guys who were in their shoes, and who are making it.

As the workshops progressed, Lt. Mason (now retired but still involved) and Officer Dixon started to see the need for support once the parolees were back in the community. They began discussing the possibility of forming a system to stay connected to the offenders after they were released. They approached Warden Kenneth McKee, who supported the idea and involved the IBC InReach Facility Coordinator, Jay Kimble who has since retired, in the process. Out of the

discussions and collaborations, the **Coalition Leadership Education Advise and Rehabilitation (CLEAR)** group was born. The group initially met at the Reentry Village in Grand Rapids, but soon out grew that venue and relocated to its present home at Bates Place Ministry. Pastor Bryan Blakely joined the efforts and has since become an essential member of the group.

## **Prisoner Reentry**



The partnerships continued to grow, and CLEAR became involved with Goodwill Industries in getting jobs at the Kent County Recycling Plant. CLEAR has now become a place to network for employment

and other available services. Also, members have assisted Mother's on a Mission, which is a group of mothers who have lost children to street violence.

The CLEAR group and its relationship with the Grand Rapids Police Department is unique and continues to grow and assist both parolees and the community. There have been a wide range of guests, including Director Heyns, the Deputy Directors, Parole Board Members, and the Grand Rapids Police Chief, Kevin Belk. Recently, Allegan County Sheriff Koops, parole supervisor Julie Clark, and several staff members attended a CLEAR meeting as well. It is collaborations and programs like CLEAR that make a genuine difference in people's lives and are a shining example of a successful relationship between the Department and the community.

*This article was submitted by Kevin Miller, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility (IBC)*