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DETROIT DETENTION CENTER OPENS

On August 1, Governor Rick Snyder, Mayor Dave Bing, Director Dan Heyns and other criminal justice officials opened a new central detention center created to enhance public safety for the citizens of Detroit.

Creation of the Detroit Detention Center (DDC) on the grounds of the former Mound Correctional Facility (which closed in January 2012) will allow for the closure of five city lockups operated by the Detroit Police Department (DPD) and will free up 40 to 50 police officers for street patrols.

The DDC at Mound Road and E. Davison in Detroit will be operated by the Michigan Department of Corrections under an interagency agreement with the city of Detroit. The collaborative effort will establish one central lockup within the city of Detroit, decreasing transportation costs and increasing efficiency for processing arrestees and conducting court arraignments. It will serve as an initial detention center for anyone arrested in the city and will house up to 200 detainees. The facility will begin accepting arrestees on August 5.



"This unique and innovative partnership will enhance public safety and create a more efficient criminal justice system in Detroit," the governor said. "Safe communities are essential to economic recovery and this exceptional city and state collaboration will help drive the continued turnaround of our largest city, which is critical to making Michigan great again."

"This partnership agreement between the city and the state is a significant one that will allow Detroit police officers currently assigned to the lockups to return to neighborhood patrols," Bing said. "In addition, this new arrangement will improve the conditions for police detainees, which is an important aspect of DPD's restructuring plan and could have a favorable impact on the city's consent decree with the U.S. Department of Justice."

"We are excited to be a part of this very special joint venture that will maximize government resources to create a safer Detroit," said MDOC Director Dan Heyns. "This relationship will provide improved services to the citizens of Detroit by allowing both of our agencies to do what we do best and returning additional police officers to neighborhood patrols."



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WARDEN ASSISTS WITH COMPLEX AND ARDUOUS MEDICAL EVACUATION

Michigan State Police Trooper Bill Witt of the Wakefield Post had high praise for Warden Mitch Perry, who recently assisted with a difficult and complex medical evacuation.

Trooper Witt said, "I would like to take this opportunity to pass along to you our sincere appreciation of assistance provided to Ontonagon County law enforcement agencies by Warden Mitch Perry of the Newberry Correctional Facility."



Late on Friday July 19, 2013, staff Rangers at the Porcupine Mountains State Park (located in the western U.P.) received a 911 call for medical assistance. A female backpacker was extremely ill and required immediate transportation to the nearest hospital. Park staff formulated a plan where Rangers and area law enforcement personnel, including Trooper Witt, would be transported 12 miles via watercraft on Lake Superior to a trailhead located in a remote section of the park. There they would hike two miles inland to the campsite where the woman awaited medical help.

Rescue personnel arrived at the trailhead after dark, and they were met by Warden Perry and another member of his camping party (Rudyard School District teacher Chad Smith). Warden Perry volunteered his services and assisted the search-and-rescue party in transporting much needed medical equipment approximately two miles inland to the campsite. Upon locating the victim, Warden Perry then assisted in transporting the victim two miles back to the lakeshore where she was transported via watercraft 12 miles to a waiting ambulance and medical treatment at the nearest hospital.

"Warden Perry is a shining reflection of the fine officers of the Michigan Department of Corrections and we are very grateful for his assistance," said Trooper Witt.

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE




Employee Survey 2013
My Voice, MI Future

Mark the dates! The 2013 State of Michigan Employee Survey will take place from September 9 - 23, 2013. We are counting on each of you to step up and speak out!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Q & A



In the Spotlight

This new FYI feature profiles 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 Charles Levens, 43



Current Position: Lieutenant with the Absconder Recovery Unit (ARU)

Started with the MDOC: 1994

College: Baker College - Bachelor's Degree in

Business Management

Hometown: St. Charles, MI

Family: Married with two daughters

Q: *What did you do before you came to the MDOC?*

Lt. Levens: I was in the Army full time, followed by the Army Reserves and the National Guard. I was also selling stereos at Best Buy for \$7 hour and I loved that job.

Q: *How did you end up coming to work at the MDOC?*

Lt. Levens: My platoon sergeant in the National Guard was Kelly Goheen who worked for the MDOC. He talked to me a lot about the Department and it sounded like a great job. However, at the time the MDOC wasn't hiring, so I took a job as a Forensic Security Aid (FSA) at the Huron Valley Center to get my foot in the door. After three months, the Department was hiring and I got accepted into the Academy in September of 1994.

Q: *How did you like working as an FSA?*

Lt. Levens: I didn't. There were a lot of assaults there and because the population was mentally ill, they were not typically held responsible for their actions. However, I will say that working there really taught me how to communicate with people with mental health issues. And that skill has proved valuable in the other positions I have had with the MDOC.

CHARLES LEVENS (Continued on page 4)



LEVENS (Continued from page 3)

Q: What positions have you had with the MDOC?

Lt. Levens: I started as a Corrections Officer at Standish Correctional Facility. I promoted to Resident Unit Officer and then Sergeant at Standish. I lateraled to St. Louis as a Sgt. when it opened to be closer to home. I then went to Pine River as an Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor and Sgt. In 2002, I went to the Field Operations Administration as a Sgt. at the Buena Vista Corrections Center in Saginaw. In July of 2004, I started as an Absconder Recovery Unit Investigator and was promoted to ARU Lieutenant in 2012.

Q: How did you end up with the ARU?

Lt. Levens: I first started working with the ARU when I was a Sgt. at the Corrections Center. I would occasionally go out with the ARU team and it was great. I loved it and knew that's what I wanted to do.

Q: It appears you like what you do?

Lt. Levens: I haven't used a sick day in 10 years and would love to do this job until I'm 60. I have found my niche within the Department - I absolutely love my job. I like catching bad guys but we're not Dog The Bounty Hunter. One of the best parts about my job is helping people and families. I try to talk to the people we come into contact with and offer advice and assistance whenever I can.

Q: Chasing bad guys in the community can be dangerous. Does your family worry?

Lt. Levens: My wife was initially scared and very nervous when I took this job. Now that I've done it for so long, she doesn't worry as much. I just have to say that I couldn't do this job without my wife. She is very supportive, understanding and patient. I'm a very lucky man!

Q: How do you prepare every day to maximize safety?

Lt. Levens: Sometimes we have a game plan for the day and have the opportunity to create a tactical plan. However, things happen very quickly and sometimes you don't have that opportunity. I learn from the other members on our task forces and use our instincts. We have been assaulted a few times, but fortunately, I have never been shot at.

Q: What would you tell your best friend who might be thinking about working for the MDOC?

Lt. Levens: Actually, I have a friend who is trying to get a job with the Department right now. I told him the MDOC is a great place to work and that he will experience both good and bad employees. And that he should learn from both, but follow what the good employees do. I told him to be his own person and not to leave his values at the door. I told him to always do the right thing, especially when nobody is looking.

Q: What do you like to do on your time off?

Lt. Levens: Hanging out at my pool with my family and enjoying bonfires with friends on the weekend. I am also a firefighter and I teach at the Saginaw County Fire Academy.

Q: What advice would you give the person who replaces you someday?

Lt. Levens: I would tell them that they represent the Department and that they should stay positive and helpful when dealing with outside agencies. The image and reputation of the Department didn't used to be so good with outside law enforcement agencies. However, it is getting much better now.

I would also tell them to treat their staff fairly and respect them. I have worked for people in the Department who didn't do that. They would talk

LEVENS (Continued on page 5)



LEVENS (Continued from page 4)

down to you because of their position. It wasn't fun at all working for people like that. I know every one of my guys would take a bullet for me and I would do the same for them.

Q: You have worked for all three Administrations within the MDOC, which one is the best?

Lt. Levens: I can't say that...One good thing about working in all three Administrations is that I now have good contacts across the Department. For example, now that the ARU is under the Correctional Facilities Administration, we are bringing Emergency Response Team members out with us on warrant sweeps. This has really helped with building relationships and improving our image with other law enforcement agencies. Another example is that when we were under the Operations Support Administration (now the Budget and Operations Administration), Deputy Director Treacher significantly improved the training and resources we received. Up until about two years ago, we got absolutely no training whatsoever. Now, ARU has training on defensive driving, interviewing techniques, arrest laws, meth labs, investigative practices, etc. We also now have shotguns and more appropriate vests.

Q: What are some of your professional goals?

Lt. Levens: I would like to have every member of the ARU on some form of task force across the state. Being a part of task forces with other law enforcement agencies helps enhance our experience, training and safety.

Personal fitness is another goal. This is important not only for your own individual benefit but for the overall good of the Department.

Q: Do you have any ideas on how the Department can make work more fun?

Lt. Levens: Maybe organize more group activities with employees outside of work. Things like

baseball games, bowling, picnics, etc., so people have the opportunity to get to know each other. Obviously everyone won't show up, but I think many will. Also, if supervisors within the Department allowed people to be themselves and speak freely - while maintaining respect - it would make work more fun.

Q: How could the Department make your job easier?

Lt. Levens: Get ARU investigators certified as police officers.

Editor's note: The Department is currently working on this.

Q: Final thoughts?

Lt. Levens: Yes. Appreciate the job that you have. If you hate coming to work, try another line of work. There are many people behind you waiting to take your place.





AWARDS AND RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING ACTS

Professional Excellence

Department Manager Rick Tischer has been awarded a Professional Excellence for successful development and delivery of scenario-based training. Tischer has been the driving force behind development of the concepts for the training and for combining topics that resulted in cost savings. Rick demonstrates a “hands-on” inclusive leadership style that has been lauded by his supervisors and his peers. Tischer’s professional conduct and his successful efforts to provide employees with quality training products is commendable. His sincerity, commitment and work ethic enhance the Training Division and the Department as a whole.

Warden Heidi Washington of the Charles Egler Reception and Guidance Center has received a Professional Excellence Award for consistently upholding Department values. As Warden at the facility, she also oversees the Duane Waters Health Center and two secure hospital units. During her roles in various positions, Washington has implemented numerous programs. Her role as a Department leader has enhanced morale and public opinion. She serves as an inspirational role model to others, excelling in every arena she enters while making significant improvements as well. Washington’s success in her various departmental roles and her achievements in her current role as Warden are commendable. She has helped foster a positive image for the Department, leading by example and making it a desirable career for motivated professionals. The Department has benefitted greatly from her devotion, loyalty and hard work.

Building Trades Instructor Bruce Aldrich of the Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility earned a Professional Excellence Award for his dedication to quality and his commitment to the De-



L to R: RPA Bruce Curtis, Dep. Director Jeri-Ann Sherry, Rick Tischer and Director Dan Heyns.



L: to R: Director Heyns, Warden Heidi Washington and RPA Bruce Curtis.



L to R: Director Heyns, Daria Aldrich (Bruce’s wife), Bruce Aldrich (Retired in May 2013), and Warden Ken McKee.

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AWARDS (Continued on page 7)



AWARDS (Continued from page 6)

partment and local communities. Aldrich produced over 80 sets of cabinets for Habitat for Humanity in 2012. In addition to the cabinets, Aldrich's shop produced high-quality cutting boards, chairs, picnic tables and other products used by non-profit organizations for fund-raisers. Aldrich runs an operation that has always been able to complete last-minute projects and meet deadlines. Through his example, he has demonstrated the value and benefits of giving back to the community. The prisoners Aldrich instructs and the community organizations he supports have benefitted greatly from his skills and leadership.

Citizenship

Marniece Hammon (pictured below with Director Heyns, RPA Bruce Curtis and Warden Millicent Warren) organized and implemented the December 15, 2012 "Shop with a Cop" event for the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility. Marniece's efforts helped 20 children served by the Washtenaw County Office of the Department of Human Services celebrate the holidays with a \$125 Walmart gift card and an additional donation from Walmart. Marniece encouraged other staff to volunteer during the event as well. Her efforts demonstrate the positive personal qualities the Citizenship Award is about.



Julie and Michael West (pictured below

with Director Heyns) received Citizenship Awards for helping locate a small aircraft that crashed near their home on November 12, 2012. Julie and her husband Michael contacted the local airport and law enforcement, searched for the plane and led law enforcement to the crash site. Unfortunately, the pilot died in the crash. Their actions to become involved and assist responders during the emergency is commendable.



Lifesaving Awards

On July 21, 2011, at Macomb Correctional Facility, a prisoner attempted suicide. Officers Richard Pratt and Daniel Laing responded to the situation. Officer Laing saw the prisoner attempt to hang himself from a tree branch with a t-shirt. Laing quickly lifted the prisoner up to release pressure from his neck while Officer Pratt untied the shirt and helped lower the prisoner to the ground. Laing and Pratt, along with other staff, then provided medical treatment and escorted the prisoner to health services for observation and additional treatment.

On October 7, 2011, Macomb Correctional Facility Officer Howard Freeman saw a prisoner in distress on a walkway near a housing unit. Freeman immediately determined the prisoner couldn't breathe and began abdominal thrusts until he dislodged an airway obstruction. The prisoner began breathing again and

AWARDS (Continued on page 8)

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AWARDS (Continued from page 7)

sustained no serious injuries as a result of the medical issue.

On October 30, 2011, Officer Christopher Forstner of Macomb Correctional Facility was in the dining hall when he saw a fellow officer choking. He immediately assessed the situation and began abdominal thrusts, dislodging the object.

is a testament to his character and the Department is proud to have him as an employee.

Officer Christopher Shah of Macomb Correctional Facility earned a Lifesaving Award on March 23, 2012 for saving a choking child in the visiting room. Shah was working in the visiting room when he saw a prisoner's daughter begin choking on a piece of candy. Shah called for

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MRF's Lifesavers Front Row L to R: Howard Freeman (retired), Daniel Laing, Richard Pratt (retired), Darnell Mandy, and Warden Ken Romanowski. **Back Row L to R:** RPA Bruce Curtis, Marlon Thomas, Christopher Shah, Timiya Butts, Dep. Director Tom Finco, David Getter and Joe Furtah. Not pictured - Christopher Forstman.

The officer started breathing on his own and sustained no significant injury as a result of the incident.

On January 9, 2012, Officer Marlon Thomas of Macomb Correctional Facility was making rounds on the midnight shift when he noticed a prisoner through a cell window who didn't appear to be acting right. He started talking to the prisoner, then observed that he had slashed his wrist in an apparent suicide attempt. Thomas immediately called for assistance and provided emergency first aid. The prisoner was taken by ambulance for outside medical treatment. Thomas' instincts and observation resulted in the prisoner's life being saved. His conduct

medical assistance and immediately provided first aid. Shah gave the child several abdominal thrusts, dislodging the obstruction and no further medical attention was required. Shah's conduct is an excellent example of assessing a situation and acting decisively to save a life.

On May 27, 2012, Officers David Getter, Darnell Mandy and Timiya Butts were on duty when Officer Mandy found an unresponsive prisoner in his cell. He immediately called for assistance and began first aid, rendering CPR with Officers Getter and Butts who responded to the call for assistance. The three officers continued CPR until EMS personnel ar-

AWARDS (Continued on page 9)





AWARDS (Continued from page 8)

rived on the scene and took over health care of the prisoner.

On January 5, 2013, Joe Furtah, a maintenance technician at Macomb Correctional Facility was traveling home with his wife through an intense snow storm when they spotted a snowmobile in a ditch near the roadway. Furtah stopped to investigate and found the driver of the damaged snowmobile lying in the snow. He then called EMS and rendered first aid to the victim until they arrived. The snowmobiler was transported to the hospital for further treatment. Furtah's actions showed sincere concern for the well-being of others in an emergency situation. There is no telling how long the person would have endured the horrible weather and their injuries had Furtah not stopped. In doing so, he saved the person's life.

On November 28, 2012, Officer Moes of the Gus Harrison Correctional Facility was making rounds when he saw a prisoner hanging from the bars of his cell window using braided shreds of a sheet. Moes immediately called for assistance and opened the cell to check on the prisoner.

He was unresponsive as Moes began to release him from the sheet. A/ARUS Stephen Braman, RN Joyce Kisner, Officers Scott Marriott, and Julie West responded to assist. As her fellow employees lifted the prisoner up to release pressure on his neck, Officer West cut the makeshift rope noose from around the prisoner's neck. After an assessment that found no breathing or pulse, the employees started CPR. After several minutes of CPR, the prisoner gave a shallow gasp and a faint pulse was observable. The employees monitored the prisoner until EMS arrived and took over the delivery of health care and he was transported to a local hospital. The actions of these employees is commendable. Their attention to duty and concern for fellow human life shows outstanding dedication and professionalism. Their actions saved the prisoner's life.



L to R: Director Heyns, Julie West, Scott Marriott, Joyce Kisner, Stephen Braman and H. Moes.

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LCF AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO COLLEGE-BOUND KIDS

The Lakeland Correctional Facility Employee Club recently gifted scholarships to graduating seniors of their employees. Each of the eight deserving recipients was presented with a \$100 gift card.

Pictured L to R: Warden Bonita Hoffner, Officer Karen Kimble, her son and Employee Club President Officer James Knack.



DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS? IT'S EPIC!

The Michigan Department of Corrections is changing the name of its improvement process from Corrections Operations & Services Transformation (COST) to Effective Process Improvement and Communication (EPIC). This change emphasizes a more comprehensive approach to operational effectiveness and improvement.

In an ongoing effort to increase your voice in the decision-making process, Director Daniel Heyns and the Effective Process Improvement and Communication (EPIC) Leadership Team created the EPIC Development Team.

The EPIC Leadership Team is comprised of the following:

- Chief Deputy Director Randall Treacher
- Deputy Director Thomas Finco
- Deputy Director Jeri-Ann Sherry
- Deputy Director Charles R. Sinclair
- Operations Administrator Edward Mize
- EPIC Administrator Duncan Howard
- DTMB Chief Procurement Officer Jeff Brownlee

The EPIC Development Team is a cross functional group of employees comprised of the following:

- James Blakley
- Karmen Bussell
- R Cole Bouck
- Lori Gidley (Team Leader)
- Trever LeBarre (Initiative Manager)
- Matthew Macauley
- Destinie Shipman

- Beverly Smith
- Willie Smith

The Development Team has been asked to develop a coordinated, efficient network of process improvement with uniform application throughout the Department. The goals of the team are to:

- Lead a cultural change by promoting communication;
- Provide a structured, efficient opportunity to foster a process improvement culture by promoting inclusion, engagement and employee enrichment;
- Ensure teams are comprised of employees at all levels;
- Enhance open direct lines of “real time” proactive two-way communication between leadership and staff;
- Structure a coordinated method of collecting employee suggestions and providing timely feedback;
- Create a measuring tool and method to ensure continued implementation of EPIC process improvement teams;
- Foster diversity and cross-functionality while increasing efficiencies and reducing costs; and
- Coordinate with the Training Division/ Training EPIC team to ensure consistent application and training requirements are developed.



If you have any questions about EPIC Development please contact Lori Gidley @ GidleyL@michigan.gov or Trever LeBarre @ LebarreT@michigan.gov.

CHIPPEWA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY TO PILOT LEADER DOG TRAINING PROGRAM

Chippewa Correctional Facility will begin a pilot program with the Leader Dogs for the Blind based out of Rochester, Michigan. The facility has been selected to raise four puppies to be housed in the facility's level I housing unit.

The Leader Dogs for the Blind program has deemed that the prisoner-raised puppies are most likely to succeed in providing a decade of enhanced mobility, independence, and quality of life for the visually impaired clients. According to Leader Dog representatives, puppies placed in homes experience a 40% success rate in being placed with a client while puppies raised in a prison experience a 65% success rate of being placed with a client.

In a coordinated effort between staff and prisoners, the facility will receive the puppies at seven weeks old and will train the dogs for approximately one year in social and obedience skills necessary for future placement with a blind person. Chippewa Correctional Facility will be the first prison in Michigan offering the Leader Dog for the Blind Program.

The program is supported by the Leader Dogs for the Blind along with outside sponsorships. For more information about the program, visit: <http://www.leaderdog.org/>.



L to R: Rob Batho, "career-changed" leader dog Tripp, Deb Donnelly - Leader Dogs for the Blind Puppy Development Supervisor, future leader dog Strider, Tammy Bartz - Leader Dog Puppy Counselor, future leader dog Harper, Patti Brehler - Leader Dog Puppy Counselor, future leader dog Dutch, Paula Bardsley and Dave Bardsley.

MSI TEAM MEMBER RECOGNIZED WITH REGIONAL AWARD

The Office of Employment Readiness - Michigan State Industries (MSI) would like to congratulate Robin Stinson on receiving the 2013 NCIA Staff Award (Central Region). The Staff Award recognizes the superior performance and supervisory excellence of a correctional industries staff member other than the industries director/administrator who has made a significant and sustained contribution to a correctional industries program. Robin was nominated for the Central Region by MSI Business Manager Dave Downs. Robin is currently a Departmental Analyst with MSI.

At Right: Robin Stinson accepting congratulations from MSI Operations Manager Jay Ketcik.





REENTRY ROUNDTABLE

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

Second Chances

Reestablishing yourself back into your community after years away can be a challenge. It can be much more difficult if you add a recent parole into the equation. For a parolee, it can be extremely stressful with the added responsibility of supporting his or her family. The Muskegon Area Prisoner Reentry Steering Team understood this and set out to find additional resources to help parolees returning to Muskegon, Ottawa, and Oceana counties. They did this by applying for and receiving a 2nd Chance Grant from the federal government's Second Chance Act Adult Demonstration Reentry Grant Program. Now in its third year, the West Shoreline 2nd Chance Connections grant program is designed to connect medium to high risk felony-convicted offenders who are parents with children 17 years of age and younger to their communities, families, and jobs upon release from prison or jail. The goal is that paroled parents will not be reincarcerated for committing new crimes or violating conditions of parole/probation within 12 months of release.

For Alfred, a recent parolee, participation in the Prisoner Reentry 2nd Chance program has been life changing. When Alfred was paroled to Muskegon, he was referred by his Agent, Marcus Wallace to Goodwill Industries of West Michigan's Prisoner Reentry 2nd Chance program for employment services. There he received assistance with his resume, job search and interview skills, budgeting and financial management. He was also provided with a four-week paid work

experience with Goodwill Industries. Once hired, Alfred received help with work clothing and gas cards to help offset the cost of traveling to and from work until he received his first paycheck. In working with the program, his employer was able to take advantage of wage reimbursements that helped offset the cost of training Alfred and also utilize the Work Opportunity Tax Credit that provided a tax credit for hiring an individual newly released from prison. Alfred has been working at his job for over a year now. "I want to be a good role model for my 13-year old son; to let him know that his father is hard-working,"

said Alfred. "I want him to see that everything in life doesn't come easy. You have to set goals and work toward them."

Agent Wallace comments that "Alfred has enrolled in his first semester in college classes at a local community college. He is doing this while continuing to work full-time. His actions have been all positive and I think he is an evolving example of what 'Rehabilitation' is."

Since the grant program started in October 2010, 635 individuals from Ottawa, Oceana and Muskegon counties have been provided an array of services helping to ensure they do not return to prison or jail.

And to think all it took was a 2nd Chance.

This article was submitted by Sharon Whalen of West Shoreline Correctional Facility and approved for publication by the Correctional Facilities Administration Reentry Program.

Prisoner Reentry

