

# Corrections Connection

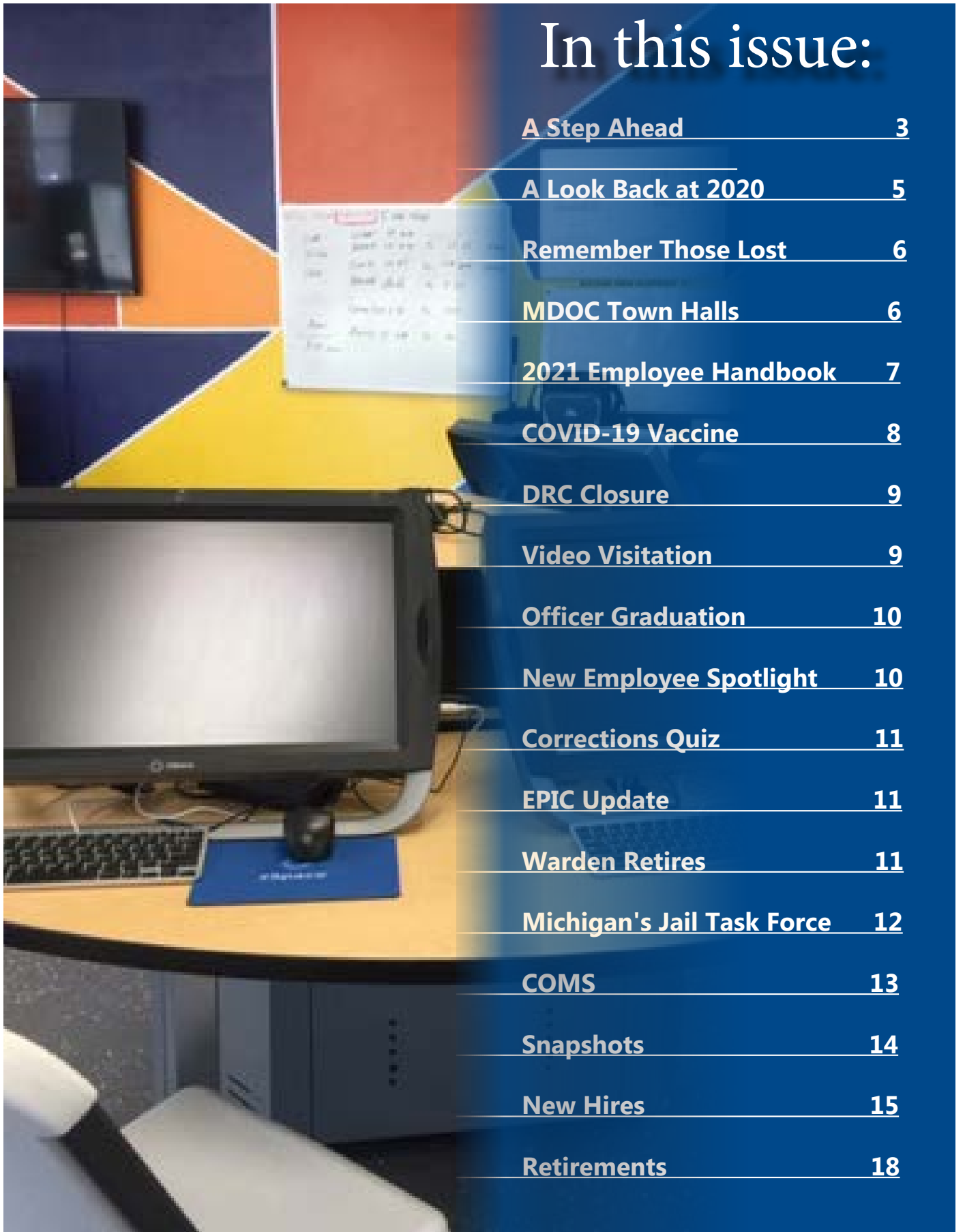


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**Corrections Connection** is a publication of the Office of Public Information and Communications. Story ideas, feedback and comments can be submitted to Joelle Craddy at [CraddyJ@michigan.gov](mailto:CraddyJ@michigan.gov). Like MDOC on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

The image on the cover was taken by Ray Closson, a corrections officer at Parnall Correctional Facility. For the chance to have your photo featured on the cover of the newsletter, email a high-resolution version of the image and a description of where it was taken to Joelle Craddy at [CraddyJ@michigan.gov](mailto:CraddyJ@michigan.gov).



## Program aims to help young adults under supervision succeed

**W**hen Amillio walked into a new program in downtown Saginaw, he walked in with skepticism.

“It was too good to be true,” he said, reflecting on his first meeting at Youth Development Corporation (YDC) – an education and jobs training program focused on supporting young adults facing barriers like homelessness, low educational attainment and prior criminal history. As he listened to each staff member share their own story on how they found positive change, his perspective shifted, and he connected with their

experiences.

“All I am looking for is change,” he said.

Amillio is one of 21 participants at YDC’s Saginaw site who is currently under MDOC supervision and is learning new skills through the program and its partnership with the department.

### **Breaking Barriers**

The program was created by Eric Eggleston, now its executive director, who wanted to bring skilled trades training to at-risk youths in urban areas, while also addressing other challenges they were facing, said Program Manager Angela Aday. They developed a skilled trades training model with NCCER accreditation, then partnered with Delta College to offer credits toward an Associate’s Degree. They collaborated with another organization to offer substance use counseling and cognitive behavioral therapies, developed a network of mentors and connected with the courts and the MDOC. The goal is for participants to leave with an education and job skills that prepare them for a career, and hopefully, a job in hand

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success



Pictured above: One of the Youth Development Corporation Center's pods for skilled trades training helps them learn about plumbing work.

before they leave.

The program earned the support of the U.S. Department of Labor, which awarded it a \$1.5 million grant in December 2019 to support its mission of education and skill development. The 8-month to year-long program serves those 16-24 years old who do not have high school diplomas or a GED, or are homeless, aging out of foster care or are on probation or parole. Some have been referred to the program by the courts as a condition of their sentence.

Aday said YDC was preparing to open in Saginaw when COVID-19 struck the state, requiring them to shift gears and put precautionary measures in place, including entrance screening, enhanced cleaning and sanitizing measures and encouraging social distancing. Some educational programming is delivered virtually, with participants still coming to the YDC center so they have the support of paraprofessionals.

Saginaw County Probation Agent Toni Narvais-Cooklin said four probationers under her supervision, including Amillio, are currently enrolled in the program and have been excited about what it offers.

The nonprofit program is also associated with YouthBuild, which offers construction training to at-risk youths and young adults. Participants have the chance to experience hands-on skilled trades training with partnering organizations and employers, giving them real-world work experience. That comes in addition to the training they receive at the center in designated STEM

Pods in areas including roofing, plumbing, dry walling, welding, masonry, window installation, electrical work and "Green Energy" installations like solar and wind power.

Ariz, who is on probation supervision and started in the program in June, said he has been intrigued to learn about all the available training and work opportunities. He has already had the chance to work on projects in the community, is now taking college courses and landed a job with a local employer.

Agent Narvais-Cooklin said she enjoys checking in on participants on site and

receiving regular updates on their progress.

"I am waiting for these next 38 weeks to go by so I can be there to congratulate these young people," Agent Narvais-Cooklin said.

### **Moving Forward**

Today, 20-year-old Amillio is working for a local labor union on a solar panel project in the Saginaw area that is helping him gain valuable work experience and a good wage to help him support himself.

Others Agent Narvais-Cooklin supervises who are involved in the program continue to make progress, she said. Many have already found jobs with local companies and others are making significant strides in their education. Though the program is new and in its early stages, some positive outcomes have started shining through. "We have definitely had more hills than valleys over the last couple of months," Agent Narvais-Cooklin said. "I still get excited to see smiling faces when I go there."

*\*Participants agreed to only first names being used in this story, in some cases, because of the nature of their sentences.*

**For more information on Youth Development Corporation, visit [ydcusa.com](http://ydcusa.com)**

# A Look Back at 2020

## January

Relocation of SAI to JCS announced.



## February

G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility  
Officer James Sims named  
2020 Corrections Officer of the Year.

## March

Recidivism rate hits lowest rate in state history at 26.7%. The department halts all in-person visits and the first MDOC employee tests positive for COVID-19.



## April

MDOC employees begin mass COVID-19 testing of prisoner population, later with the help of the Michigan National Guard.

## May

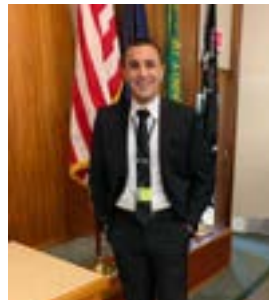
MDOC completes testing of every prisoner in the system and is the second state correctional department in the country to do so.

## June

Joint initiative with Michigan Department of State announced to help returning citizens by providing them with a driver's license or state ID upon their parole.

## July

Oakland County Agent Ahmed Bazzi selected as MDOC's 2020 Candice Dunn Parole/Probation Agent of the Year.



## August

First ever virtual Officer Recruit Training Academy graduation takes place.

## September

Portions of 1-94 designated in honor of fallen corrections officers and the department launches the new Peer Support Program to support the MDOC community. Closure of DRC is announced.



## October

Video visitation pilot for prisoners is launched and the department updates the mail policy to further prevent contraband.

## November

Oakland County Probation Agent Chanel Johnson represents Michigan in Miss USA Competition.



## December

First MDOC employees begin receiving COVID-19 vaccines.

# Remembering Mental Health Professional Karen Herington and Officer Ramiro Mata Sr.

Central Michigan Correctional Facility's Karen Herington, a Qualified Mental Health Professional, sadly lost her life to COVID-19 in December. Karen began her career with the department in August of 2018 after working in the community for many years with county jails and clinics. She was a well respected therapist and a wonderful individual who lit up a room with her enthusiasm and smile.



She was appreciated by everyone at STF; custody staff, healthcare co-workers, and prisoners alike. Karen will be greatly missed by her husband Terry, a retired corrections officer, and her children and grandchildren who were so proud of her for making a difference in the lives of so many. She will also be missed by her colleagues at STF and members of her community; many people felt privileged to have known such a wonderful individual.

Sadly, on January 9, the department also lost Officer Ramiro Mata Sr., the second shift Electronic Monitoring Officer at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility. Officer

Mata began his career at Southern Michigan Correctional Facility in Jackson in 2000 before

transferring to IBC in 2002 when JMF closed. Officer Ramiro was a great EMO, and was known for his calm and professional demeanor when notifying IBC staff of critical incidents over the institutional radio. He was honest, trustworthy, and a great listener who was always about doing the right thing. Officer was also a wonderful father and friend. He will be missed by his family, friends, and his IBC family. Please know that help is always available through the department's Wellness Unit by contact 833-DCBWELL (833-322-9355) or [mDOC-wellness@michigan.gov](mailto:mDOC-wellness@michigan.gov).



## MDOC Virtual Town Halls

In late Nov. 2020, the Michigan Department of Corrections began hosting virtual employee town halls to give both correctional facility staff and field office staff the opportunity to bring questions to leadership and learn more about the department's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other ongoing concerns. Following the initial MDOC Virtual Town Hall on November 23, the leadership team held an additional four events with Director Heidi Washington, Spokesperson Chris Gautz, Human Resources Director Jonathan Patterson and Deputy Directors Jeremy Bush, Lia Gulick, and Russ Marlan all taking part in the online discussion. Staff who took part in each of these meetings brought a lot of great questions to the table, and the department looks forward to continuing the virtual town halls in the new year. Staff who attended the 2020 virtual town halls asked a lot of great questions, and links to Q&A's from each town hall are available below. The department was also honored to have Governor Gretchen Whitmer join staff at the beginning of the Lakeland Correctional Facility and the Muskegon Correctional Facility town halls to thank them for the incredible work they do, and their ongoing commitment to public safety.

1. [Thumb Correctional Facility area Town Hall](#)
2. [Marquette Branch Prison area Town Hall](#)
3. [Parnall Correctional Facility area Town Hall](#)
4. [Lakeland Correctional Facility area Town Hall](#)
5. [Muskegon Correctional Facility area Town Hall](#)

# 2021 Employee Handbook

Some important changes have come to the department this year as it relates to discipline and the Employee Handbook. These include giving wardens and administrators additional authority at the local level to impose discipline for certain conduct, changes to the discipline grid, rescinding some work rules and adding changes to others.

These changes, which represent substantive and widespread changes, come from more than a year's worth of collaboration and listening to our employees, meeting with various stakeholders, union leaders and surveying staff. The MDOC established an EPIC team to help meet our Strategic Plan Objective 2.3 – "Explore ways to refine the department's employee disciplinary process."

Leadership and the EPIC team listened to what employees said about how the discipline process worked and where they felt it could be improved, and these changes represent a shift in the way the department will handle discipline going forward.

The 2021 MDOC Employee Handbook has been revised and takes effect January 15, 2021 for incidents occurring on or after that date. Copies have been sent to each facility for distribution and electronic copies have been emailed to employees working remotely.

The discipline grid outlined in PD 02.03.100 "Employee Discipline" have been revised. Revisions include changes to the discipline to be imposed for a first offense absent any aggravating or mitigating circumstances, as well as subsequent offenses.

Some work rules, such as Work Rule #13 "Enforcing Rules, Regulations, Policies, Procedures, Post Orders and Work Statements" have been rescinded, while others, have been consolidated or rescinded and moved to employment requirements.

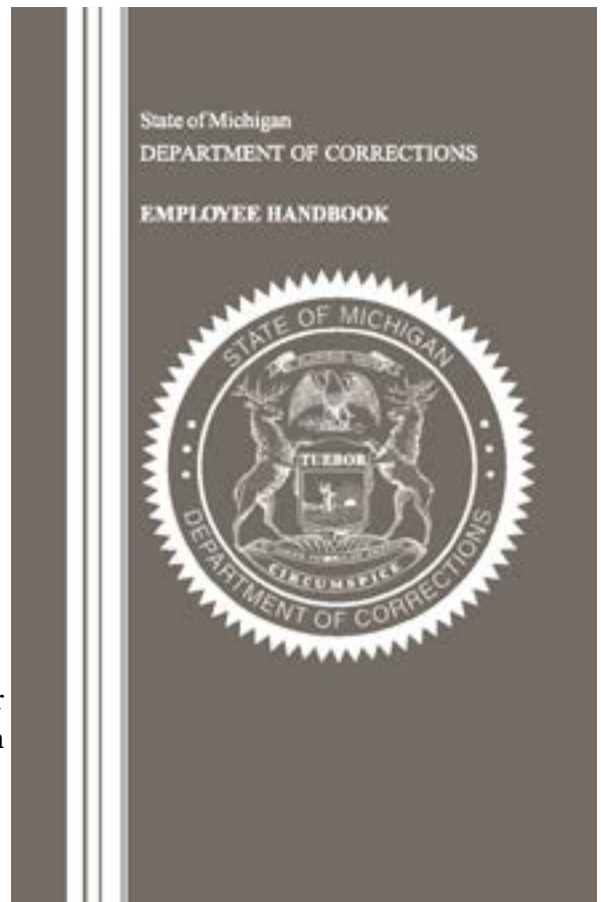
Other examples of work rules changes are as follows:

- Work Rule #5 has had language added that references social media activity and law enforcement contact as examples of "Conduct Unbecoming."
- Work Rule #11 "Searches While on Facility Property" has added language stating employees who avoid or interfere with a search will also be immediately suspended pending investigation.
- Work Rule #50 "Overly-Familiar or Unauthorized Contact" has been changed to add known acquaintances and the definition of immediate family member has changed.

There were several changes to employment requirements as well:

- For Employment Requirement #3 "Use of Leave," medical verification is required when an employee claims illness when notified of mandatory overtime.
- Employment Requirement #6 "Jail Time or Other Restrictions," employees will no longer be able to use leave while serving jail time or other restrictions. The employee may also be subject to non-disciplinary separation or disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

It is each MDOC employee's responsibility to read and familiarize themselves with the Department work rules and employment requirements. Employees are held to the standards as outlined in the handbook and are expected to maintain the highest level of professionalism.



# COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Begins

The time we have been waiting for has finally arrived. After dealing with the pandemic since March, the first MDOC employees began receiving the vaccine in December and the first prisoner vaccines began being administered in January. Cindi Jenkins, the health unit manager at the Kinross Correctional Facility became the first MDOC employee to receive the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine.

Jenkins has worked for the department for 30 years, and received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine at 7:45 a.m., Dec. 30 at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie.



Jenkins said once she learned the vaccine would soon be available to her and her staff, she did her research and consulted her medical provider, but in the end, it was a “no-brainer.”

“I’m a nurse. I believe in science. I believe vaccines save lives,” Jenkins said. “I have full faith in the medical community and science and research.”

Kinross Correctional Facility had the first recorded prisoner case in the department in mid-March, and then went most of the year without any cases until November when an outbreak occurred and about 80 percent of the prisoner population tested positive. There were also 119 employees who tested positive, included half of her healthcare team. Two of those employees are still off work.

“It’s been a rough nine months. We are all tired,” she said. “It feels like it has encompassed your life. It’s all we talk about.”

For Jenkins, she said her decision to take the vaccine, was not just about herself, but about keeping her co-workers, the prisoners and her family safe as well. She

said she seen older, sicker individuals pass away from the virus, but also otherwise relatively healthy people. “You don’t know if you’re going to be that person that this virus takes down. I’ve watched the repercussions. I’ve never seen anything like this,” she said. “If I can do anything to decrease the time, the work, the death and destruction this virus has done, I’m all in.”

To prepare to distribute the vaccine, the department sent surveys to both prisoners and staff to see if they wanted to take the vaccine. It is not mandated that either group take the vaccine.

About half of all employees who work in our prisons took the survey and half of those said they were willing to take the vaccine. About two-thirds of the prisoner population completed the survey and about two-thirds of those indicated they were willing to take the vaccine.

The vaccine began being distributed to prisoners at G. Robert Cotton, Gus Harrison, Newberry and St. Louis correctional facilities on January 27. Priority is first for prisoners over the age of 65 and then for prisoners age 18-64 with certain medical histories.

Per the state health department phased plan for vaccine distribution, MDOC healthcare staff who work in a facilities have now all had the ability to be vaccinated. And now, depending on the amount of vaccine available in the county the prison is in, the rest of the facility employees will have access to the vaccine.

MDOC Director Heidi Washington said this is a great and historic moment for the department.

“I look forward to seeing the vaccine be made available widely to our staff and prisoners in the New Year,” Washington said. (These) vaccinations are a step toward the end of this pandemic which has taken such a toll on so many.”

Michigan residents seeking information on the COVID-19 vaccine can visit the Michigan COVID-19 Vaccine website at: [https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178\\_103214---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_103214---,00.html)



# Detroit Reentry Center Closure Update

In September of last year, the department announced the closure of the Detroit Reentry Center amid a declining offender population and improvements to programs and reentry services statewide.



Immediately following the announcement of the closure, the department began working with staff and union leadership on bumping chains and transfer options with the goal of giving as many employees as possible the opportunity to fill open positions throughout the MDOC. Voluntary placement forms were sent out in October for MCO-represented employees, and planning began for necessary operational changes in

response to the anticipated January 2021 closure. On Jan. 9, DRC Warden Jodi DeAngelo reported that all prisoners had been transferred out of DRC by 9:21 p.m., and that the midnight shift would leave the facility at 6:00 a.m. the following morning. Of the 272 employees impacted by the closure, there were just nine layoffs and all of those individuals had an opportunity to stay with the department but chose not to.

The closure also assisted with the vacancies at several facilities, including Macomb and Woodland Center Correctional Facility, whose officer vacancy rates have been reduced to zero. MRF received 35 officers, WCC received 36, and WHV received 17 officers.

The department truly appreciates all of the hard work that has been done MDOC employees at the facility over the past eight years, and are happy that the majority of the employees assigned to DRC are continuing their career with the department at other locations. There are no immediate plans for how the site will be used going forward.

## Video Visitation Update

Progress continues to be made in the department's efforts to implement video visitation. The pilot project has been concluded and the MDOC has selected GTL to continue the expansion of video visitation to all remaining facilities. Work will now focus on the statewide rollout. One notable change in scope is a shift away from video visits in the Visiting Rooms. Instead, the video visitation will be activated in the Housing Units utilizing the GTL Flex Units which are already installed in facilities.

"Contact with friends and family is so important to the prison population, that's why we worked hard to explore new technologies that could allow them to connect with their loved ones during this time," said Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington. "This is one step we are taking to safely restore contact between prisoners and their families, while protecting the health and well-being of everyone at our facilities. Video visitation will not replace contact visiting in the future, but it is a safe option we can proceed with during the pandemic." This new plan ensures offenders at those facilities not included in the Pilot Project will be able to hold video visits sooner. Further information will be shared with staff and with the public on the Michigan Department of Correction's Video Visitation and Online Scheduling Medium page, which can be found [here](#).





## New corrections officers join MDOC

In early December the department welcomed the graduates of the Lower Peninsula Daniel Lesatz Officer Recruit Training Academy.

With masks and social distancing guidelines firmly in place, 133 new officers were welcomed to the Michigan Department of Corrections in a part virtual graduation ceremony that was shared with their friends and family through Facebook Live. Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington welcomed the graduates to the department, and class namesake, retired Warden Daniel Lesatz, addressed the graduates and their families and offered a few words of advice. "As you progress in this career, be sure to surround yourself with as many positive individuals as you can," he said. During the ceremony, MDOC Training Platoon Leader and Chaplain Dion Laing offered a class prayer, and Officer Mia Anderson of the G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility performed a beautiful rendition of the US National Anthem. Class speaker Officer Parker Foster, who had to overcome personal setbacks after a traffic collision to follow his dream of becoming a corrections officer, addressed his fellow graduates.

"Going through this academy has made me realize that wearing the grey and black is an honor I will carry with me," he said. Officer Parker, now with Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility, and his fellow graduates are currently completing on-the-job training at their assigned facilities.

We'd like to offer a special congratulations to the class award winners.

- Josephine B. McCallum Award - Officer Jacob Vandemoon
- Jack L. Budd Award - Officer Armand Clay Jr.
- Academic Achievement Awards - Officers Vishal Chaubal, Tyler Fidler and Joseph Oaks.

Click [here](#) to view a recording of the graduation ceremony.

## New corrections officer is ready to make a difference

When Corrections Officer Adam Gilpin thinks about his new career with the Michigan Department of Corrections he feels pride in his service to our state. Officer Gilpin joined the department following their graduation on Dec. 2 from the Daniel Lesatz Academy Class in Lansing.

"There's a sense of purpose and it's about changing people's lives," said Officer Gilpin, who joined the team at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility. "Being a Michigan Department of Corrections officer means I am a person involved in positive change."



Officer Gilpin, who previously worked for a corporate organization, said he became interested in joining the MDOC after learning more about the department's structure and its mission to help people change their lives for the better. He said he has learned a lot during the academy about communications techniques, department programs and the focus on helping those under MDOC supervision achieve success.

Officer Gilpin said he would tell new recruits who come after him to focus and rely on their training and never give up. "Remember you are here for a purpose and you are here to help," Officer Gilpin said. "You are here to make a difference in this world. Prisoners are people just like anyone else and most will be released back into society. You can make a difference in their lives and in the lives they touch."

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# Corrections Quiz

How many new officers joined the Michigan Department of Corrections with the Upper Peninsula Daniel Lesatz graduation ceremony held in November of last year?

Send your answer to Joelle Craddy at [CraddyJ@michigan.gov](mailto:CraddyJ@michigan.gov). The first person to answer correctly will receive a congratulatory shout out and the answer and winner will be published in the next edition of the newsletter.

## EPIC Update

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, various EPIC team continues to meet remotely to work on goals and objectives. Teams that have kicked off in the new year include:

- **Religious Beliefs and Practices:** Will review PD 05.03.150 Religious Beliefs and Practices of Prisoners and make recommendations for revisions.
- **Female Offender Programs:** Objectives include expanding investment in community-based female offender programs while acknowledging gender-based differences and the pathways through which females enter the criminal justice system while also identifying evidence-based programs that address risks, need, trauma, and cognitive issues specifically designed for the supervision and sanctioning of female offenders.
- **Risk Assessment EPIC Team:** With an objective to re-evaluate and employ assessment instruments with a focus on reducing offender risk.
- **Transgender:** Objectives include developing strategies for the management of transgender and gender non-conforming offenders both in prison and on parole or probation, review current policies and procedures and develop training for staff.

## October/November Quiz Recap

How many pounds of food were donated by facility and field office gardens in 2019?

**Answer: In 2019, facility and field office gardens donated more than 115,000 pounds of fresh produce to organizations that help put food on the table for hungry Michigan families.**

Unfortunately we didn't have any one guess the correct answer, but thank you to everyone who submitted a response!

## Muskegon Warden

### Sherry Burt Retires

Muskegon Correctional Facility Warden Sherry Burt retired from the MDOC on Jan. 1 after 44 years of service with the State of Michigan.

During her time with the MDOC, Warden Burt's



work and dedication changed lives for the better, both for prisoners under her supervision and a generation of MDOC employees she taught and mentored. Her legacy will live on and she will be missed by her colleagues and friends at the MDOC. The entire department wishes her all the best in retirement.

## Dogs Of MDOC Calendar

The Dogs of MDOC 2021 Calendar was a hit! The Employee Engagement team ordered 500 calendars, which quickly sold out in the lead up to the holidays. EPIC staff members processing the sales received a lot of positive feedback on this year's design. Profit from sales of the calendars will go back into the Employee Engagement Fund to sponsor engagement activities for all department staff members and to help support staff who have experienced family tragedies.



# 2020 Susan M Hunter Scholarship

The Susan M. Hunter Correctional Scholarship is named in honor of Susan M. Hunter, former Director of the Prisons Division at the National Institute of Corrections, as a lasting tribute to her commitment to the field of corrections.



Susan passed away in 2004 from breast cancer. CLA's Past Presidents' Committee had been working toward a scholarship program for children of correctional staff. In the wake of her death, CLA grieved the loss of Susan, and the Committee made a logical decision to name the scholarship program after Susan, who had embodied the ideals of an educated and enlightened correctional workforce. Her life's work continues in our memory of what she held dear, which is now expressed in our profession with contributions to deserving students whose parents labor in our Association's chosen field.

Eligibility Requirements for the Susan M. Hunter Correctional Scholarship:

- Students must be the son or daughter of a corrections employee (current full-time, retired, or deceased) within any CLA member Department of Corrections or jail/prison system.
- Vendor employees, correctional employees, their siblings, spouses, and grandchildren are not eligible.
- Incoming first-time freshmen, along with enrolled full-time college and graduate students, must have a minimum GPA of 3.3. Students may be working toward a degree in any area of study.
- Students must be enrolled full-time in an accredited two-year or four-year college or university, or an accredited graduate program.

For 2021, awarded scholarship amounts will be \$1,500 for undergraduate and graduate students and \$750 for individuals who had received a \$1,500 scholarship a prior year.

A list of scholarship FAQs is available [here](#) and any questions can be directed to [asca.scholarship@gmail.com](mailto:asca.scholarship@gmail.com). To apply, students can use the following link: [Susan M Hunter Scholarship Application](#). The application deadline is March 31st, 2021.

## 2021 Employee Rec Day Update

We are sad to report that the 2021 Lansing Employee Rec Day, originally scheduled for June 11, has been cancelled. The tentative date for the Brimley Rec Day, September 24, is unchanged at this time.

The Employee Engagement Committee will provide additional information on the Brimley Rec Day as it becomes available. Both the committee and the department look forward to the return of both Rec Days in the future, and the fun and camaraderie of a day spent with colleagues and friends.



# Michigan's Jail Task Force Update

At the request of several criminal justice stakeholders, the Governor, Supreme Court and Legislature the Pew Charitable Trusts was invited to examine Michigan's jail populations and related policies. While Pew issued multiple findings, but one of the most important was that a significant portion of the jail population in Michigan was composed of individuals charged with or convicted of non-assaultive misdemeanor offenses who were not a clear threat to public safety. In many of these cases, their time in jail was relatively short, but it was determined to often be disruptive to employment and other positives factors in these people's lives. As a result, Pew recommended a number of reforms to the criminal justice system, many of which focused on reducing the use of arrest and incarceration for non-assaultive misdemeanor and code violation offenses.

## **Public Act 393 of 2020**

Subject to certain limitations, this law requires law enforcement to issue appearance tickets for most non-assaultive misdemeanors or ordinance violations. Individuals would then need to appear in court to resolve the matter. This will reduce the number of arrests and time spent in custody for violations that are not viewed as direct public safety threats.

## **Public Act 394 of 2020**

This law makes several changes to the pretrial process that have the goal of reducing the use of arrest warrants for non-assaultive crimes in favor of systems that incentivize appearance before the court.

1. The law establishes that a person with a bench or arrest warrant for a non-assaultive offense be arraigned within 2 hours of voluntarily appearing at the court if a magistrate is available. If a magistrate is not available, the warrant must be recalled, and a future arraignment scheduled. This will result in fewer individuals being held in custody awaiting arraignment after arrest and will incentivize citizens to voluntarily resolve outstanding bench and arrest warrants.
2. The law also requires the issuance of a summons by the magistrate, rather than an arrest warrant, for non-assaultive offenses, unless it is believed that the individual will not comply with the summons, the individual is viewed as a risk to public safety, or the prosecutor requests an arrest warrant.
3. The law establishes that if an individual fails to appear for a hearing involving a non-assaultive crime, there is a presumption that they have 48 hours to appear before the court before a bench warrant can be issued. This presumption can be overcome if there is a belief a new crime has been committed, there is a risk to public safety if the warrant is not issued, the prosecution witnesses are present for the hearing or it is a sentencing hearing.
4. In cases where a person is arrested on a warrant issued by another county for a non-assaultive crime, the holding county and warrant-issuing county must make arrangements for the transfer of the individual to occur within 72 hours of arrest or the person shall be released with an appearance date in the requesting county.

## **Public Act 395 of 2020**

This law establishes a rebuttable presumption that an individual sentenced for a misdemeanor, other than a serious misdemeanor, should not be sentenced to a term of incarceration or probation and should instead be subject to fines, community service, or another non-jail sanction. The presumption against probation or jail in these misdemeanor cases can be overcome if the court states reasonable grounds for such a sentence on the record.

## **Public Act 396 of 2020**

This law changes the age eligibility criteria for individuals to be sentenced under the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act (HYTA). Currently, individuals aged 17-23 are eligible for HYTA status as allowed by law. Effective October 1, 2021, the age criteria will shift to those aged 18-25. The HYTA act is otherwise not impacted by the law.

**Public Act 397 of 2020**

This law makes several significant changes to felony probation, including:

1. Limiting the initial term of probation for non-assaultive felonies to 3 years, while allowing for two 1-year extensions. The maximum term for assaultive offenses remains 5 years.
2. Clarifies the process for early discharge from probation, which can occur once 50% of the sentence has been completed. The law now allows the court to discharge probation early without a hearing if there is not a registered victim (a hearing is required if there is a registered victim) and if the court decides not to discharge probation, they must offer the probationer a hearing to offer their reasons for early discharge and the court must state on the record what rehabilitation goals have not yet been met by the probationer.
3. Establishes caps on sanctions for technical probation violations (the law defines these as violations that are not a violation of law, are not a violation of a no-contact order and are not absconding from probation). For felonies, the first technical violation could result in up to 15 days in jail, second violation up to 30 days, third violation up to 45 days, and a fourth violation can result in a revocation of probation and a sentence to jail or prison. A court could not revoke probation for a technical violation unless it is the 4th or later violation and the earlier violations have been met with sanctions under the law.

**Public Act 398 of 2020**

This law establishes that the conditions of parole must be individualized, must address the risks and needs of the parolee, and must consider the needs of the victim. This will help ensure that parole conditions are focused on evidence-based approaches to public safety.



## COMS Field Operations and Parole Board Applications

Following the successful implementation of the Trust and Financial Services application in early October, the COMS Project team has been working full time on the COMS applications for Field Operations (FO) and the Parole Board (PB). To keep the business up to date with the work that is being done on these applications, the COMS Project team has been meeting each month with Field Operations and Parole Board management teams. These Readiness Calls are recorded and posted to the COMS Project website. Here are some of the highlights from those calls as they relate to the development of the application screens, testing, data cleaning and migration efforts.

MDOC is working in conjunction with our vendor Advanced Technologies Group (ATG) to create FO and PB applications in COMS. ATG has started providing the screens and the Project Team is reviewing them for functionality. Project staff are working on creating test cases and drafting Business Processes that will be utilized to test the system. To date, the team has created more than 2,200 test cases. Project staff are also busy reviewing the Legacy system to determine data that requires cleaning to prepare for the data to be migrated from OMNI to COMS.

If you would like to hear more about how this work is progressing, please visit the COMS Project website and listen to any of the Readiness Call recordings that are posted to the site. You can find the COMS Project website as follows: <https://stateofmichigan.sharepoint.com/teams/insidemdoc/work/coms>.

# SNAPSHOTS

A look at life around the MDOC



Thumb Correctional Facility Acting Warden Chandler Cheeks presented Officer Jeremy McGaffigan with a Warden's Coin of Achievement for his diligence and commitment to facility safety after Officer McGaffigan found and secured dangerous contraband that had been hidden in a housing unit.



Michigan Reformatory Food Service Supervisor Steve Clark was recognized in Nov. 2020 for his outstanding support of food service operations at Ionia Correctional Facility. FS Clark did a fantastic job providing strong leadership while lending his expertise and knowledge to the facility.



Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility Warden Shane Jackson presented Troy Probation PPO Agent McKinsey Golf with a Good Government Teamwork Coin and the LRF Warden's Recognition coin for his hard work and focused efforts while volunteering for shifts at the facility.

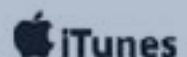
## HAVE YOU HEARD?

Stay tuned in 2021 for more episodes of the Field Days Podcast

On the latest episode of Field Days, founder and CEO of The Institute for Leadership Fitness Dr. David Chinsky discusses the great pause we are all experiencing during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how we can focus on adopting a growth mindset despite these challenging times.



Listen to us on



# June/July New Hires

Abdulla, Husam	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Ade, Nicholas	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Aho, Robert	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Alexander, Jalen	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Alvarez, Rosa	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Arogundade, Zikrullahi	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Barbee, Jasmine	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Bearden, Jay	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Benson, Zachary	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Bestman, Moses	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Bossmann, Lawrence	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Brannan, Joshwua	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Broughman, Devlin	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Campbell, Samantha	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Charbonneau, Robert	EMT/Paramedic, Charles Egeler Reception & Guidance Center
Chisholm, Chad	Maintenance Mechanic, Thumb Correctional Facility
Coleman, Kelsey	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Condon, Edward	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Conrad, Ian	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Corby, Justin	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Cyusa, Joyeuse	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Delaney, Brian	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Delaney, Tayler	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Derwin, Karla	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Dever, Daniel	Corrections Officer, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Dill, John	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Dunigan, Caleb	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Dutt, Melvin	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Frederick, Junior	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Garner, Stephanie	Resident Care Aide, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Garrison, Tara	Cook, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Gasper, Daniel	Licensed Electrician, Thumb Correctional Facility
Goldstein, Matisyahu	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Grady, Shay	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Graham, Shawn	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Greenfield, Dominic	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Griffin Jr., Ivory	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Griffiths, Garrett	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Guernsey, Steven	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Hall, Corey	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Ham, Jayme	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Harmala, Ryan	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Hicks, Joshua	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Hittle, Karen	Licensed Practical Nurse, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Hodgins, Shawn	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Hoeflinger, Bradford	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Horrocks, Dorothy	Cook, Carson City Correctional Facility
Jefferson, Charles	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Johnson, Johnathan	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility



# June/July New Hires

Johnson, Kenneth	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Keough, Grant	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
King, Dustin	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
King, Keyona	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Klein, James	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Kwao, Jeremiah	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Lane, Dylan	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Latham, Braedyn	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Leonard, Kendall	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Lester, Jeremy	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Lyons, James	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Marchi, Angela	Qualified Mental Health Professional, Parnall Correctional Facility
Mattson, Brett	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
McLaren, Dakota	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
McNutt, Ronald	Maintenance Mechanic, Thumb Correctional Facility
McQueen, Anita	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
McQueen, Jared	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Melton, Penny	Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Michelson, Michael	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Moe, Brendan	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Moore, Devin	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek, Correctional Facility
Mosier, Joseph	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Mukwada, Jasper	Registered Nurse Manager, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Nachtmann, Avery	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Novak, Brendan	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
O'Connor, Rachel	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Ogden, Travis	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Onwanibe, Remigus	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Overland, Calix	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Palm, Ryan	Food Service Supervisor, Marquette Branch Prison
Pape, Steven	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Parran, Kalah	Qualified Mental Health Professional, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Pastue, Andrew	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Patterson, Charles	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Peebles, Jamelle	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Pena, Rey	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Perez, Christopher	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Piach, Matthew	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Pollard, Shniya	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Rader, Zachary	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Ramey, Jordyn	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Reed, Noah	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Rickord, Gabe	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Rickord, Gavin	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Roberts, Adam	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Roossien, Adam	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Rowley, Joshua	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Russell, Amanda	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Ryan, Micheala	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility

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# June/July New Hires

Saye, Trevor	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Scott, Michael	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Sewers, Breeanna	Qualified Mental Health Professional, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Shea, Andrew	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Smith, Andrew	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Smith, Paul	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Smits, Marissa	Qualified Mental Health Professional, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Solis, Lauren	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Speelman, Ashley	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Spiessl, Micheala	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
St. Onge, Alex	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Sundlin, Jacob	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Suter, Lauris	Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Taylor, Megan	Corrections Officer, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Terrell, Ieshia	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Thomas, Nico	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Thompson, Rashad	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Trolla, Travis	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Vandermeer, Chris	Storekeeper, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Vanderson, Mark Anthony	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Vanhall, Carlynn	Registered Nurse, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Vansloten, Brady	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Vizina Dusincki, Francis	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Wesley, Wade	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Walter, Megan	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Wattley, Alden	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Weiman, Savanah	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
West, Zachary	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Williams, Larry	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Wilson, Andrea	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Wing, William	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Yoder, Kaitlynn	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility

# June/July Retirements

Adams, Dana	Medical Records Examiner, Charles Egeler Reception & Guidance Center
Allen, Gwendolyn	Qualified Mental Health Professional, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Allen, Vata	Parole Probation Officer, Field Office Administration
Appleton, Brent	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Barnes, William	Corrections Officer, Charles Egeler Reception & Guidance Center
Bean, Barry	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Berry, Devin	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Berry, James	Prison Counselor, Parnall Correctional Facility
Bodnar, Deanne	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Bosley, Robert	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Brand, Marc	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Brandt-Leduc, Robert	Inspector, Macomb Correctional Facility
Brink, Bryan	Parole Probation Officer, Field Office Administration
Broomfield, Lorrie	General Office Assistant, Carson City Correctional Facility
Broughton, David	Corrections Program Coordinator, Charles Egeler Reception & Guidance Center
Brown, Donna	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Burton, Dewayne	Warden, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Clark, Diane	Recreational Therapist, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Clark, David	School Teacher, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Coleman, Robin	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Coleman, Raymond	Corrections Officer, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Collins, Gary	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Carson City Correctional Facility
Cromell, Jeffrey	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Dege, David	Corrections Transportation Officer, Charles Egeler Reception & Guidance Center
Deliso, Christopher	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Diaz, Louis	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Evans, Scott	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Fedewa, Diane	Secretary, Electronic Monitoring Center
Foguth, Frank	Parole Probation Officer, Field Office Administration
Foor, Daniel	Parole Probation Officer, Field Office Administration
Fox, Robert	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Foy, William	Deputy Warden, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Fuerstnau, Donald	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Gable, Robert	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Gollnast, Charles	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Gordon, Bridgette	Secretary, Michigan State Industries
Griffes, Todd	Maintenance Mechanic, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Helzer, Charles	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Hubert, Roland	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Immel, Brian	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Irvin, William	Corrections Officer, Charles Egeler Reception & Guidance Center
Jajey, Scott	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Kidder, Daniel	Corrections officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
King, Jeffrey	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Kinnear, Rodney	Equipment Operator, Central Office
Koski, Todd	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Kowitz, Brent	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Lawrence, Jill	Psychologist, Charles Egeler Reception & Guidance Center
Lofdahl, Kimberly	Departmental Technician, Chippewa Correctional Facility

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# June/July Retirements

Loomis, Deborah	Corrections Officer, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Mars, David	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Martyn, Bradley	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
McCoy, James	Corrections Transportation Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
McWhirter, Michael	Qualified Mental Health Professional, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Middlebrook, Decarlo	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Miller, George	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Monck, Jeffrey	Corrections Program Coordinator, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Mood, David	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Nevills, Kevin	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Niemi, Steven	Resident Unit Manager, Baraga Correctional Facility
Nolan, Francis	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Norris, Rhoda	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Parsons, Donald	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Prieto, Keith	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Pushee, Jeff	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Robinson, William	Parole Probation Officer, Field Office Administration
Rosseau, Lisa	Medical Records Examiner, Baraga Correctional Facility
Sawaya, Ronda	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Schummer, Darrell	Corrections Office, Newberry Correctional Facility
Shaffer, Daniel	Corrections Officer, Charles Egeler Reception & Guidance Center
Signor, Scott	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Simmons, Lasaha	Resident Unit Manager, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Skeans, Earnest	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Smalley, Sandra	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Smith, Douglas	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Smith, William	Departmental Technician, Central Office
Smith, Curtis	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Soeltner, Patrick	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Alger Correctional Facility
Stump, William	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Thompson, Gena	Librarian, Parnall Correctional Facility
Treadway, Dennis	Corrections Program Coordinator, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Turley, Robert	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Walendzik, Michael	Trades Instructor, Macomb Correctional Facility
Walker, Michael	Storekeeper, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Walsh, Anthony	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Macomb Correctional Facility
Whitesell, Kristen	Parole Probation Officer, Field Office Administration
Willard, Patricia	Dietitian Nutritionist, Central Office
Witmer, Scott	Storekeeper, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Woldhuis, Robert	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility