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DEPARTMENT REMAINS BUSY IN GOVERNOR SNYDER'S FIRST 180 DAYS

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) has been very busy during the first 180 days of Governor Rick Snyder's tenure. The Governor recently asked each state department to share their successes over the past six months. The MDOC can be proud of its efforts over that time. In no particular order, these are some of the more significant accomplishments of our Department since January 1. Employees are commended for their hard work and their ability to get the job done.

- Daniel Heyns was named Director on June 1, 2011. He installed an Executive Policy Team with a wealth of experience that will lead the department and implement effective, evidence-based correctional policy.
• A new 10-member Parole Board was established in April. The Chairperson is Thomas Combs, a long-serving department employee.
• The total number of prisoners past their earliest release date has declined by 257 since January 1.
• The department successfully closed Florence Crane and Muskegon correctional facilities without incident.
• The department recognized Corrections Officer Roy Doades as Corrections Officer of the Year and presented Deputy Regional Administrator Beverly Smith with the Director's Award for Professional Excellence.
• The department has reduced the number of prisoners on essential program waiting lists from 4,240 to 1,524. This decline reflects the department's commitment to delivering programming before the prisoner's earliest release date and prior to parole consideration. The delivery of evidence-based programming increases the opportunity for a positive parole action and enhances the likelihood of offender success during parole.
• Supply Chain Transformation is continuing to be implemented department-wide, creating lower operational costs and enhanced efficiency in a number of key areas.
• Statewide cost and service parameters are being established for the pris-



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**ACCOMPLISHMENTS** (from page 1)

oner re-entry program.

- Mi-Dashboard for the department has been adopted and the department is pushing the tool into work units throughout the department. The department is in the process of identifying key measures in each of the administrations and work units within each administration.
- The department has implemented reforms involving pharmaceutical distribution to prisoners. These reforms have saved \$3.49 million from January through June 2011 when compared with the same six-month period last year.
- The department and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) entered into an agreement in June for mutual funding of pilot transitional housing projects in the Detroit and Muskegon areas.
- FOA has taken the initiative to establish special caseloads for offenders who are veterans of the U.S. armed forces in order to match these offenders with agents knowledgeable about the needs of veterans and the unique resources for them. These agents will net-

work with one another and with representatives of veteran service organizations in order to become familiar with benefits for veterans and application procedures in order to provide expert guidance to offenders who are veterans.

- With increasing experience and success in the collaborative approach to case management, FOA agents have contributed to a downward trend in the return of parolees to prison as technical violators as well as the number of offenders sentenced to prison as probation violators and parolees with new felony convictions.

The department continues to focus on finding ways to improve service, reduce recidivism, and protect the public while ensuring fiscal responsibility. MDOC employees are dedicated to keeping prisons and Michigan's citizens safe.

NEW LEGAL AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATOR ANNOUNCED

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) is pleased to announce that Daphne Johnson will be the Department's new Administrator of the Office of Legal Affairs effective July 10, 2011. Ms. Johnson currently works with the Office of the Attorney General. She previously worked for the MDOC as a labor representative and in the Field Operations Administration so it's likely that some of you have worked with her in the past. If you know Ms. Johnson, please welcome her back to Department.

DIRECTOR HEYNS THANKS DIRECTOR MCKEON FOR HIS SERVICE

Director Richard M. McKeon, who served as Director from January to June this year, and then graciously stayed on through June to help Director Heyns transition into the position, has returned to private life. McKeon came out of retirement at Governor Snyder's request and led the Department during the transition.

Director Heyns said of McKeon, "Dick was extremely helpful to me as I entered this position. I will always be in his debt for his good counsel and hard work. To be an acting Director during a transition period is an extremely difficult job and he handled it with skill and grace."

**RE-ENTRY ROUNDTABLE:
SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS &
BETTER CITIZENS**

Re-Entry Roundtable is a continuing column that provides news, facts, and program successes within the prisoner re-entry program.

RE-ENTRY RESPONDS TO COMMUNITY EMERGENCY

The Memorial Day holiday weekend in Battle Creek was not an occasion for picnics and celebrations when a storm system swept through the community on May 29, damaging 1,100 structures and leaving 36,000 residents without power. Local authorities and Governor Rick Snyder issued Emergency Declarations in response to the extensive damage.

When massive amounts of storm debris needed to be removed, MPRI volunteer participants, program staff and MDOC Agents responded to the community's need. Working in 90 degree temperatures, they removed and stacked fallen limbs and branches to be removed by city, county and MDOT crews.

MPRI partnered with volunteers from Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief. These individuals come to stricken communities with chain saws and safety equipment to cut up and remove fallen trees. While they did the cutting, MPRI provided the muscle to clear sites more rapidly.

Donald Bezeau of Monroe, MI was the team leader of a group that MPRI worked with. He and the other volunteers had worked the Katrina disaster in Louisiana and had been on the "chain saw team" for 5 years.

When asked about the MPRI participants he said, "These guys are fantastic!" and was impressed by their work ethic and enthusiasm.

Volunteer projects like these, which are an integral component of the Calhoun County MPRI program, allow parolees to "give back" to the

community and are included on their employment resumes. The projects benefit the community partners as well. Bezeau said that working with the parolees to help the community was "a great witness for us and a great witness for them."



L to R: MPRI participant Michael Caldwell and Agent Tom Johnson share some heavy lifting.

Community projects can have unexpected dividends as well. While working at a site in Battle Creek, a local businessman stopped his car and inquired about what was going on and who the workers were. Upon finding that they were MPRI volunteers working with the Southern Baptist crew, he said he would return shortly.

When he returned, he brought pizza, bottled water and pop for the workers as his way of supporting their efforts towards the community's recovery.

This article was written by Mike DeBoer, MPRI Community Coordinator for Calhoun County.



In the Spotlight

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: RECORDS SUPERVISOR DEBRA BEMISTER

On Wednesday, May 25, 2011, Debra Bemister was presented with the Department's Professional Excellence Award by CFA Operations Administrator Edward E. Mize.

After working many years in Lansing's Grandview Plaza, Ms. Bemister's position was re-assigned to the Central Records Section building. This building was once the State Prison of Southern Michigan, the world's largest walled prison, where Ms. Bemister started her career with the Michigan Department of Corrections as a limited term Captain's Clerk in 1987. She has also held positions as a Clerk Typist, Secretary, and Department Technician with the Parole Board, and as a Data Processing Assistant with DCH, before becoming an Office Supervisor with Records/CFA.

Ms. Bemister is the Office Supervisor of the Record Retention Unit of the Central Records Section. She and her staff are responsible for the storage of prisoner files subsequent to the parole or discharge of a prisoner and the field file subsequent to the discharge from parole. This includes Central Office files, Record Office files, Counselor files, Education files, Medical files, Audit files and FOA files. The number of files in storage is staggering at over 1,062,300!

The reassignment to Jackson was required for Ms. Bemister to oversee the removal of over 500,000 files from MDOC's outside storage vendor, Iron Mountain. MDOC ended its contract with Iron Mountain saving the state several hundred thousand dollars per year and ensuring the files are obtained and managed in the most accurate method possible.

Ms. Bemister oversaw the removal and placement of the files from Iron Mountain to the Jackson Record Retention Unit. Where and how to store these files had to be determined; how to coordinate the removal, transport, and final storage had to be deter-

mined; and how to maintain a tracking system for all these files had to be determined. Due to her relentless efforts to achieve the task within a very short time frame, it was successfully accomplished. The physical movement of the files began in July, 2010 and was completed in December, 2010. Every

Wednesday MSI on a return delivery would stop at Iron Mountain and pick up 30 or more pallets, each pallet holding 40 boxes of files (1,200 boxes per trip at least). The semi trailer would be delivered to the Jackson Record Retention Unit and Ms. Bemister with her staff and an SAI Corporal with a work crew would empty the semi trailer on Thursday and Friday. Each box was to be identified using a spreadsheet

and then each box was placed in the proper numbered sequence so the process could be repeated again the following week. All of this was in addition to keeping up with the normal day to day activities of retrieving and sending out requested files and accepting and storing file deliveries.

Ms. Bemister thoughtfully and very thankfully acknowledged the assistance of her staff, the Regional Maintenance staff, Michigan State Industries staff, and the SAI staff with their prisoner work crews. All those involved assisted her in this achievement and she is very grateful for their support.



Debra Bemister (at center with award) is flanked by Diana Judge, Ed Mize and three coworkers.



Over 1 million files!



RESIDENTIAL RE-ENTRY PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS DONATE TO LOCAL CHARITIES

In late 2009, Lake County Residential ReEntry Program (LCRRP) Agent Renee McGlue requested donations of yarn and knitting supplies from various coworkers, friends and family members across the state for the female residents at LCRRP to use. An outpouring of support came from around the state and the supplies donated lasted approximately six months. In addition, an article appeared in the Baldwin STAR newspaper that generated public donations from the local area residents.

In January 2011, Agent McGlue sent out another "LCRRP Yarn Drive" request to various offices, organizations and individuals across the state. This time the most generous donations came from the Battle Creek Salvation Army store, who donated several boxes of yarn to the LCRRP program. Mason County Community Corrections and various staff in offices across the state also donated yarn.

Between programming classes, the female residents at LCRRP enjoy participating in various arts and craft activities. Many are extremely talented and can crochet and knit from memory without patterns. They enjoy sharing stories of how they learned to crochet/knit from their mothers and grandmothers and they in turn teach younger residents how to make scarves and baby blankets.

All items made by the female residents at LCRRP are donated to local charities within Lake County, such as the Luther Lions, the Lake County DHS and Grand Oaks nursing home. On Valentine's Day this year, the ladies presented over 30 blankets to residents of the Grand Oaks nursing home in addition to passing out Valentines Cards to the elderly. Many of the female residents of LCRRP cried as they passed out the blankets and cards and were genuinely humbled by the experience.

Agent McGlue truly believes this is a worthwhile project for the female offenders at LCRRP. They quickly learn that small acts of giving and kindness can be very rewarding and that making something from the heart and passing it on to others as a gift is to be treasured. A sense of community spirit and pride is truly evident when the females share their projects.

Recently, Agent McGlue was speaking with Sister Barbara from Heartline in Detroit and she indicated that Heartline had an abundance of yarn and toiletries. Sister Barbara generously donated the yarn and toiletries for use by the female residents at LCRRP. In return, LCRRP gifted the Heartline transitional housing program with 6 blankets and will send more as they are made!

Keep up the great work Agent McGlue!

OFFICER OLIVO CONTINUES RECOVERY, RECEIVES RECOGNITION FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Officer Sam Olivo, critically injured during a prisoner escape attempt in December of 2009, received his 25-year service pin from Deputy Warden Tony Trierweiler on June 21, 2011. Officer Olivo has returned to work at Carson City Correctional Facility and was very appreciative of the recognition. He enjoys sharing in the valuable work that our correctional employees do.



Officer Olivo still remains very humble about his efforts to stop the escape that day; efforts which included overcoming significant physical injuries, breaking free from a barricaded storage shed and trekking 1/2 mile to get help and report the incident. His heroic actions stopped a work crew prisoner from committing further violence and very likely saved several lives.

**FIELD AGENT HELPS CRASH VICTIMS**

On June 2, 2011, Field Agent Christina Guster was finishing a home call at an offender's residence when she witnessed two vehicles careen into each other. Metal, plastic, and glass hurtled through the air as one of the vehicles rolled three times before coming to rest on its roof near the intersection. The driver of the rolled vehicle unbuckled her seatbelt and exited the vehicle. She immediately cried for help, voicing concern for her three children, who were still strapped into their car seats and hanging upside-down inside the car. Agent Guster quickly entered the vehicle through a broken window and with two other bystanders, helped remove the children from the vehicle. She also supervised the children until emergency personnel arrived.



Thankfully, none of the occupants of either vehicle were seriously injured. Agent Guster's composed demeanor and quick response helped calm the situation and helped ensure that the aftermath of the accident did not get worse. Guster's professionalism and caring reflect positively on her and the Department.

GOWARD MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING IS AUGUST 5

The 9th Annual Ric Goward Memorial Golf Scramble will be on Friday, August 5th at 10 a.m. at the North Star Golf Course. Goward was an employee at St. Louis Correctional Facility and actively deployed to Iraq. He was killed in April 2003, when his vehicle crashed during a military transport. Proceeds from the golf outing go to the Goward family in support of his two children.



Cost is \$55 per person/\$220 Per Team (Limit 36 Teams). Entry fee includes hot dogs at the turn and steak dinner following the event. There will be cash prizes for the team with lowest score. There will be a prize drawing as well. Other prizes include: Closest to the Pin, Longest Putt, Men's Longest Drive, Women's Longest Drive, Money Hole on #17 and a 50/50 Raffle.

For information or registration, please contact Gary Miniard 989-681-6444 (ext. 7463) or Ray Sholtz 989-445-0082.

SUPPORT THE TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The Michigan Department of Corrections' primary charity is Special Olympics - Michigan (SOMI). Each year the Department participates in the Central Run, a route from Copper Harbor in the Keweenaw Peninsula to Sterling Heights in metro Detroit. Shawn Young is the 2011 Team Captain for the MDOC Central Route Team. You can support SOMI by donating today. Visit the site below for more information.

<http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/shawnyoung/centralroutemdoc>

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAMS WELCOME STATE EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES



Once again, three of Michigan's minor league baseball teams have set aside dates for state employees, friends and their families to relax and enjoy great baseball and other festivities.

West Michigan Whitecaps (Grand Rapids): Sunday, July 24, at 1:00 p.m.

Contact Dean Exoo at (616) 726-7071 or for team information go to http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcs/State_of_Michigan_Day_2011_Whitecaps_354884_7.pdf.

Great Lakes Loons (Midland): Saturday, August 13, at 7:05 p.m.

Go to http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcs/State_Employee_Day_Flyer_354885_7.pdf or contact Eric Ramseyer at (989) 837-8788.

Lansing Lugnuts: Friday, August 26, at 7:05 p.m.

Go to http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcs/Youre_Invited_8-26-11_Lugnuts_354883_7.pdf or contact Chris Arth at 517-485-4500 X246.

All ball parks are offering special events exclusively for state employees and their guests, including early admission and pre-game activities.



PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

MARKSMEN SWEEP STATEWIDE EVENT

On Saturday, June 11, 2011 at the 7th Annual Law Enforcement Survival Pistol Competition hosted by the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police Department, Michigan Department of Corrections staff took the top 3! Jim Loxton, Ordnance Unit, took first place; Jake Poindexter, FOA, took second place and Craig Radala, SMT, took third place.

The competition was open to anyone in the law enforcement field, corrections, police officers, parole and probation agents, bailiffs etc. There was a total of 10 stages and 27 competitors (mostly police officers). Jim Loxton had the best time on three of the 10 stages, Jake Poindexter had the best time on three stages and Craig Radala came had the best time on four stages. Only 3.8 seconds separated the top three positions. Fourth place was about 50 seconds behind the third place finisher.



L to R: Jim Loxton, Jake Poindexter, and Craig Radala.





**GOVERNOR SNYDER SEEKS NOMINEES FOR
“GOVERNOR’S SERVICE AWARDS”**



Governor Rick Snyder is requesting nominations for the 2011 Governor’s Service Awards. The awards acknowledge the commitment of individuals, organizations and businesses to their communities through service and volunteerism. This is the 19th year of the program.

“Michiganders always are generous with their time when it comes to helping their communities and each other,” Snyder said. “I know we’ll have a strong field of nominees to consider for these awards.”

Eight awards will be presented in the following categories:

- Governor George Romney Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteerism – honors an individual who has taken volunteer service to the highest level year after year.
- Corporate Community Leader Award – honors corporations and businesses that excel in community involvement.
- Outstanding National Service Program Award – honors programs that excel at engaging national service members in programs across the state.
- Outstanding Volunteer Program Award – honors organizations or clubs that make a difference in community life.
- Mentor of the Year – honors an individual who has made a significant difference in a child’s life through mentoring.
- Senior Volunteer of the Year – honors individuals who are 65 and older.
- Volunteer of the Year – honors an individual who strives to improve the lives of neighbors, friends, community or congregation.
- Youth Volunteer of the Year – honors individuals who are age 21 or younger.



The finalists will be recognized at a celebration this fall. The Governor’s Service Awards are coordinated by the Michigan Community Service Commission, the state’s lead agency on service and volunteerism.

The nomination form is available on the Michigan Community Service Commission’s website at www.michigan.gov/volunteer. Nominations must be postmarked by July 26. For more information, contact Kathie Vasilion Robinson at (517) 373-4200 or robinsonk13@michigan.gov.

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

