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DIRECTOR HEYNS DISCUSSES TASER® IMPLEMENTATION

Director Dan Heyns recently discussed with F.Y.I. the implementation of electronic control devices or Tasers® as a security enhancement for the Michigan Department of Corrections. Here is his viewpoint on their implementation.



Each and every day, the hard-working men and women of our department are faced with potentially dangerous situations. These are not isolated incidents, but daily occurrences throughout the state. Many of these events often involve our staff being outnumbered by dangerous and unpredictable prisoners. The Michigan Department of Corrections is not alone in its attempt to meet the challenges of managing a difficult and frequently violent population and maintaining officer and inmate safety. Correctional facilities across the nation have been faced with these same challenges. Many correctional facilities have responded to these challenges by introducing the Taser® or Electronic Control Device (ECD) as an additional non-deadly use of force option.

ECD technology has existed for approximately 42 years and has been utilized by law enforcement for the last 37 years. In the late 1990s, major developments were made in the ECD technology and a growing number of law enforcement and correctional agencies started purchasing and utilizing them as an alternative to guns, batons, pepper spray, or empty hand techniques. The ECD moved from a regulated weapon to an unregulated tool. Today at least 12 corrections systems across the county utilize ECDs within the secure perimeter of their correctional facilities. In addition, 43 states allow citizens to purchase, carry and use ECDs as a personal protection device.

Despite having been in existence for decades, many people are not familiar with the ECD technology and its effects. Basically, the ECD is a hand-held device, powered by the same type of battery that would run a digital camera. The ECD delivers a jolt of electricity through a pair of wires propelled by compressed air. The jolt stuns the target by confusing the body's central nervous system until the trigger is released, causing those hit with it to lose all control of their motor functions, regardless of an individual's pain tolerance, mental focus, or drug-induced dementia. After the subject is brought under control and the ECD removed, the individual quickly returns to normal bodily functions. The target suffers no significant injury or any long-term lasting effects.

Physical contact with the disruptive subject is not necessary because the tool is designed to be used at a distance. Undoubtedly, the jolt causes pain to the subject;

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RETIREMENT PLANS ARE CHANGING: EMPLOYEES URGED TO REVIEW AND SELECT PLAN THAT FITS

Changes that affect employees under the State of Michigan Defined Benefit (DB) retirement plan were recently signed into law and options regarding selection of a future retirement plan are now available. The new law provides employees the choice to voluntarily pay 4 percent of their salary to remain in the DB pension plan. By not making the choice, an employee would automatically be assigned as a participant in the Defined Contribution (DC) plan for future years of service beginning April 1, 2012.



Beginning **Tuesday, January 3, through 5 p.m. EST Friday, March 2, 2012**, employees currently in the DB retirement plan will be able to select their retirement plan option. Log into *miAccount* to view information about the available choices and choose one of the following plans.

Voluntarily choose to remain in the DB plan and contribute 4 percent of your annual compensation to the pension fund until you terminate employment.

Voluntarily choose to remain in the DB plan and contribute 4 percent of your annual compensation to the pension fund until you reach 30 years of service, and then continue service under the DC plan.

Choose not to pay the 4 percent and therefore become a participant in the DC plan for future service beginning April 1, 2012.

These choices are available to DB retirement eligible employees only until 5 p.m. EST Friday, March 2, 2012. If the employee does not make an election by then, they will automatically become a participant of the state's Defined Contribution plan on April 1, 2012.

Go to www.michigan.gov/orsstatedb and review the legislative summary and frequently asked questions for full details. Please note that ORS call agents are not able to provide financial advice; employees are encouraged to consult with a financial planner as they review their options.

TASERS® (Continued from page 1)

however, this is the advantage of the device. Its mere presence is a deterrent to suppress and prevent disruptive behavior.

The ECD has been proven to be a beneficial security enhancement. It is a useful and effective piece of equipment that can help to de-escalate potentially violent situations, prevent or minimize injury, and reduce the extensive costs associated with injuries sustained in response to a prisoner's disruptive behavior. Recently, the Michigan Department of Corrections, using trained staff, began using the Taser® or ECD as a pilot program in some of our correctional facilities. We have already seen tremendous results. In several incidents over the Holidays, our staff quickly halted these episodes while avoiding physical confrontation with offenders by utilizing the ECD. Quite simply, these devices will make our facilities a safer place for both staff and prisoners.



I truly appreciate the tremendous work performed by all employees of the MDOC. I also understand the very difficult circumstances you are placed in while serving the citizens of this state. I will continue to explore and implement new and creative measures to maintain and enhance the safety of our facilities. I will do whatever I can to ensure you are protected at work and go home to your families every night.

HOLIDAY DONATION MAY BE THE GIFT OF LIFE FOR SEVEN-YEAR-OLD BOY

What gifts did you give your loved ones for Christmas this year? An iPod or iTunes card? How about perfume or a golf club? Jackson County Probation Agent Anthony Yandura gave the gift of life this holiday season as part of the **National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP)**.

Tony joined NMDP's *Be The Match Registry* in 2010, and was recently selected as a marrow donor match to a 7-year-old boy with a form of Adrenoleukodystrophy or ALD. ALD is a genetically determined neurological disorder affecting boys with symptoms that progress rapidly and is considered terminal.

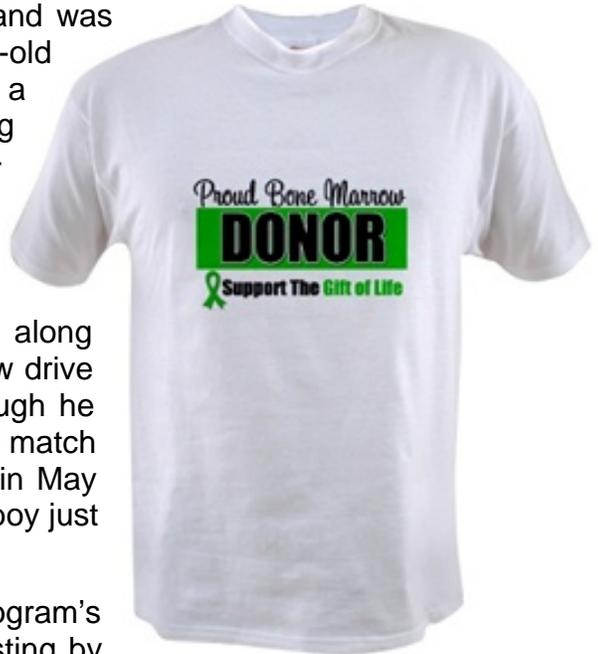
Tony's willingness to give of himself in this incredible way honors the memory of his niece Amy Brown and her hard-fought battle with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Tony, along with his sister and brother, participated in a bone marrow drive in the hopes he could be a donor for his niece. Although he helped his niece in many ways during her long illness, no match could be found and Amy lost her battle to the disease in May 2011. Tony had the opportunity to donate for this young boy just in time for Christmas.

Once he decided to join the National Marrow Donor Program's *Be the Match Registry*, Tony underwent very simple testing by providing a swab of his cheek cells. The registry tissue typed the sample he provided and later determined him to be a possible match for the child. Tony participated in an informational session and a physical examination prior to being scheduled for the marrow cell collection in late November. Tony advises the registry covers all associated costs of travel and overnight lodging if necessary. He stated the cell collection procedure took approximately six hours from the time he arrived at the hospital until he left; he experienced very little pain, but had some fatigue afterwards.

Tony's selfless donation could potentially offer a cure (and a second chance at life) for the boy, who without a transplant will not survive. After a period of time set by program guidelines, the *Be the Match Registry* will facilitate a meeting between Tony and his young marrow recipient.

Normally a person who shies away from the limelight, Tony agreed to let us to tell his Christmas story to hopefully inspire others to consider giving one of the most precious gifts of all, the gift of life.

To obtain further information on joining the **National Marrow Donor Program** contact:



**NATIONAL
DONOR
MARROW
PROGRAM®**

http://marrow.org/Join/Join_the_Registry.aspx.



DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES EMBRACE THE SPIRIT OF GIVING DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Employees of the Tuscola Residential Reentry Program adopted two families this year for the holiday season. Staff purchased gifts, hygiene and household items for both families who also received two large boxes of food items for their holiday meals (*pictured at right*). It is nice to know your co-workers can put the needs of others before their own needs. It sure is nice to play Santa!



PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

The prisoner population at the Ojibway Correctional Facility (OCF) was in a giving spirit this holiday season. Several months ago, representatives from the prisoner population inquired about finding a local charity that they could donate to this year.



The local Domestic Violence Shelter (DOVE) was chosen as a wonderful organization that would benefit from their generous donation. Warden Tribley delivered the prisoners gifts along with a letter from the population to the DOVE shelter. Representatives from the shelter expressed their gratitude to the prisoner population at Ojibway for their generosity and compassion during this season.

The OCF population also worked with the Department of Human Services to sponsor a needy child this holiday season. They were able to provide boots, basketball shoes and a gift card to Dunham's Sporting Goods to help make this a joyous season for a local fourteen-year-old boy. In total, the OCF Prisoner Benefit Fund donated nearly \$750 to the local charity organization and a needy child this holiday season.

Vern Hankinson is the Special Activities Director at Cooper Street Correctional Facility and the supervisor of a group of prisoners who crocheted numerous items (hats, scarves, gloves, blankets, etc.) that were donated to Jackson's Abused Women's Assistance and Resources (AWARE) shelter. In addition, the JCS Employee Club donated a check for \$170. Numerous boxes of crocheted items were also presented to the Jackson Interfaith Shelter on behalf of the JCS prisoner crochet group.



L to R: Leslie Kaatz, Megan Hennessey, Karri Franklin and Vern Hankinson.





RETIREMENTS: OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2011

October 2011

Abbott, Kenneth D.....	Field Operations Administration Outstate Region
Beadle, June E.....	Central Office
Charleston, Sandra K.....	G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Chartrand, David.....	Alger Correctional Facility
Clewley, Richard R.	Carson City Correctional Facility
Crawford, Craig.....	Lakeland Correctional Facility
Crouch, Gregory E.....	Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Cunningham, Rainelle M.....	Mound Correctional Facility
Densmore, Michael C.	Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Douglas, Deborah J.	Parnall Correctional Facility
Ettinger, Randy	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Fletcher, Portia A.	Mound Correctional Facility
Gilger, Mark P.....	Lakeland Correctional Facility
Gleton, Lenora M.	Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Godwin, Larry V.	Mound Correctional Facility
Hammond, Dennis R.....	Pugsley Correctional Facility
Harju, Calvin N.....	Baraga Correctional Facility
Hartman, Frederick P.....	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Helm, Mark L.....	Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Hemmila, Keith B.	Marquette Branch Prison
Hopkins, Martin J.	Pugsley Correctional Facility
Johnson, Scott D.....	Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Kerr, Peter B.	Ryan Correctional Facility
Kimble, Donald L.....	Saginaw Correctional Facility
Litrenta, John N.....	Pugsley Correctional Facility
Mann, Terry R.	G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Marble, John G.	Kinross Correctional Facility
Mccomb, Patrick D.....	Pugsley Correctional Facility
McGill, Richard.....	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
McMillan, Larry.....	G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Metzmaker, Ricky L.	Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Mitchell, Karla L.	Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Monroe, Kevin.....	Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility

RETIREMENTS (Continued on page 6)

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE





PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

RETIREMENTS (Continued from page 5)

Moore, Martha A.	Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Morgenthaler, Jeffery	Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Myles, Marva I.	Ryan Correctional Facility
Negendank, Linda	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Nunez, Lincoln	Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Parker, Vernithia	Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Plath, Melodee	Carson City Correctional Facility
Raines, William A.	Chippewa Correctional Facility
Robinson, Richard J.	Ernest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Sarata, Valerie L.	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Schorfhaar, MaryAnn	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Searles, Kenneth W.	Chippewa Correctional Facility
Skoog, Linda M.	Parnall Correctional Facility
Smith, Kevin R.	Thumb Correctional Facility
Sobiegray, Carol L.	Lakeland Correctional Facility
Sponaas, Roy.....	Ernest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Spycher, James S.	Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Stephenson, William G.	Parnall Correctional Facility
Stephens, Robin L.	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Straub, Dennis M.	Central Office
Talcott, Mark	Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Taylor, Paula Y.....	Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Teague, Derrick S.	Mound Correctional Facility
Verderese, Dominic.....	Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Wadsworth, Philip	Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Walls, Gwendolyn	Ernest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Webb, Raymond L.	Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
White, Judy K.	FOA Outstate Region
Wickham, Marc O.....	Lakeland Correctional Facility
Witgen, Paul J.	Carson City Correctional Facility

November 2011

Akuezue, Hyginus	Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Anderson, Lavern.....	Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Banfill, Gary.....	Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Begley, Mitzi K.	Lakeland Correctional Facility
Burke, Kathleen A.	FOA Metro Region

RETIREMENTS (Continued on page 7)





RETIREMENTS (Continued from page 6)

Burt, James M.	Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Cancler, Lee C.	Ernest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Carroll, James E.	Carson City Correctional Facility
Cloud, Jacqueline L.	Michigan Reformatory
Cosgrove, James A.	Carson City Correctional Facility
Daniel, Jerry R.	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Embry, Ronald T.	Ionia Correctional Facility
Fountain, Steven R.	Kinross Correctional Facility
Gaul, Robert G.	Saginaw Correctional Facility
Gibson, Charmee A.	Saginaw Correctional Facility
Goldberg, Richard L.	Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Green, Douglas H.	Parnall Correctional Facility
Green, Keith E.	Macomb Correctional Facility
Griffus, Robert E.	Saginaw Correctional Facility
Hulbert, Thomas	Correctional Facilities Administration Southern Region
Hutchison, Kevin D.	Kinross Correctional Facility
Jackson, Rhonda M.	Ernest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Johnson, Kenneth L.	Alger Correctional Facility
Kelley, John.	Ionia Correctional Facility
Kemppainen, John S.	Baraga Correctional Facility
Kidd, Gwendolyn R.	Central Office
Martin, Joseph.	Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility
McMillan, David S.	Kinross Correctional Facility
Moran, Sean C.	Alger Correctional Facility
Mosqueda, Roberto.	Ernest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Mullins, James W.	Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Nippa, Stan E.	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Prucha, Paul C.	Chippewa Correctional Facility
Sartorelli, Steven J.	Baraga Correctional Facility
Simon, Lagaia B.	CFA Southern Region
Solka, Robert J.	Ojibway Correctional Facility
Stadtlander, Frederick W.	Lakeland Correctional Facility
Stephenson, Tony M.	Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Unold, Deborah	Lakeland Correctional Facility
Westerlund, Eric L.	Ernest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Zerbst, Keith B.	Baraga Correctional Facility

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



REENTRY ROUNDTABLE

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

PRISONER REENTRY GIVES HOPE TO PAROLEE

Bernard, an MDOC parolee and a 2nd Chance Connections participant, knew what it was like to be “locked up” both in prison and the county jail. However, during a recent nine-month stay in the Ottawa County Jail, he accomplished something that changed his outlook and perspective about himself and his community.

Supported with Michigan Department of Corrections and U.S. Department of Justice grant funds, 2nd Chance Connections is a demonstration project to test a more effective and different approach to assisting offenders transition out of prison/jail to their community. This integrated system of community-based services and support addresses criminal risks by connecting felony-convicted parents to their community, families, and jobs. The program currently serves over 230 individuals.



L to R: Bill Raymond, Executive Director of Ottawa County Mich. Works, Bernard's fiancé Josie, GED teacher Jenny DeLeon, Community Coordinator Roxanna Heartline, Bernard and in the front row are Bernard's son and Josie's son.

Bernard, who on October 10, 2011, re-entered the Holland community and was reunited with his fiancé and their 5 children, obtained his General Education Diploma (GED) and is currently employed full-time through New Day Staffing. He is interested in attending college to pursue an education in business entrepreneurship and would like to start a program similar to the ones that have helped him. In his letter “Living Better Now,” Bernard shares his personal story of his “second chance” at success:

LIVING BETTER NOW

“My life was in ruins! Incarcerated and separated from my family, friends, children and my home. I was broke and a financial burden to those I swore to protect and provide for. I was undereducated, full of questions and frustrations. My faith was tested and my hope was fading fast. My future uncertain, I prayed with everything in me for the Lord to show me his purpose for my life.

“Those prayers were answered. My faith and hope was restored! The answer to my prayers came to me in the form of Steve Machiele and Jenny DeLeon. Who by GODS good grace came into my life and renewed my self-worth and reenergized my motivation. They told and showed me I had the potential to achieve dreams (that seemed lost to me at that time in my life) by educating me and challenging me to better myself in every aspect. Applying what they had taught me and appreciating the faith they had in me, together we achieved every goal we set forth to accomplish at the time.

Steve who had recently taken over the GED program in Ottawa County Jail had his hands full with the restoration of the chaotic GED program he had

BERNARD (Continued on page 9)



BERNARD (Continued from page 8)

inherited; it was truly a fixer upper! I must say he handled it with much style and grace. The first time I went to see what the GED program was all about, I must say I laughed to myself thinking "wow they sent this one little man to educate all of us," a task entire school systems nationwide couldn't seem to manage, wow! As I sat and observed this man bring order to that unruly bunch, I instantly admired him and by the end of the month Steve didn't seem so small after all. I had seen large men try fruitlessly to intimidate him; Steve continued teaching without breaking stride. I witnessed a grown man breakdown in tears from frustration right in front of him. Steve, with care and patience, took his time to instruct and motivate this man to continue learning at his own pace. Steve would break lessons down to the simplest forms so that this man could grasp what he was being taught. I was proud at those moments to know Steve. I personally would have struggled in certain subjects without the one on one time Steve spent with me. He helped me and many others really make sure we truly understood what was being taught. If I had teachers like Steve Machiele all my life I sincerely believe I would be living better now.

"The day Steve introduced Jenny DeLeon to our class I was like, wow! they really like to send little people to do these big jobs. But knowing what Steve had accomplished, I couldn't wait to see what amazing feats this woman would perform. Jenny utilized the momentum Steve had propelled me into to take me to a whole new level. Sure Steve and I worked hard to acquire my GED, I was proud of us both. But Jenny had me thinking not just about jobs, now she had me thinking college, a career, being a business owner. All were in my reach; dreams that were lost were all at hand. Jenny not only encouraged and faithfully walked me through my work keys assessment (which I got silver, gold and platinum scores on), she herself lives what she taught and spoke to us about. I remember the day Jenny and Mrs. Rosema made

sure we all had the opportunity to take the work keys test. She truly seemed to feel a genuine joy herself that we made it to that point. I knew that day there were real people out there in our community that cared about us and would support us in our efforts to better ourselves.

"Not only did Steve and Jenny help me during my time in Fillmore (County Jail), they were there for me when I returned to society. Jenny and my fiancée, Josie, helped me fill out job applications and I have been employed fulltime ever since. Jenny encouraged me to take a tour of local college campuses and helped me fill out my applications to Baker, Grand Rapids Community College and Muskegon Community College. She found me housing and recommended Building Men for Life and 70x7 which I am also involved with today. Jenny made most of my life time goals a reality, now I can live a better life, be a better man, a better husband and better father. That little woman did some very big and amazing things for me and others I know.

"I know that the success I witnessed with Steve and Jenny in the lives of so many helped save and shape countless futures in such a positive way. If these two individuals can accomplish so much with so little, imagine what could be done if given the proper recognition and support. I must say thank you, Steve and Jenny for everything! I am on my way to living better now."

- Bernard F.

For more information regarding the 2nd Chance Connections program, please contact Roxanna Hartline, Prisoner Reentry Community Coordinator at rhartline@ocmwa.org or Kellie Oom, Grant Coordinator at koom@ocmwa.org.