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GOVERNOR SNYDER VISITS JACKSON AREA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Governor Rick Snyder visited the Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center (RGC) on Friday, May 11. The Governor wanted to get a firsthand look at daily operations within Michigan’s correctional system.



Governor Rick Snyder (at center) discusses programming aspects of the facility with Warden Heidi Washington (at right).

RGC is the intake facility for all adult male felons entering into Michigan’s prison system. While at the facility, prisoners are screened for medical, dental, and mental health concerns. They are classified for security and management and programming needs as well as for educational and vocational aptitude. The prisoner receives an intake COM-PAS. This assessment tool is a multi-faceted risk/need tool that allows the Department to provide programming and resources necessary for a prisoner to successfully transition back into the community upon the completion of their prison sentence.

RGC also contains the 152-bed Duane Waters Health Center. The center provides medical attention to prisoners within the system who do not require hospitalization but have a medical need requiring 24-hour care.

During the tour, the Governor traversed the facility grounds, visiting the intake processing area, quartermaster, chow hall, a cell block and Duane Waters Health Center.

Warden Heidi Washington provided insightful answers to questions posed by the Governor. Governor Snyder valued her familiarity with the intake process and more importantly, the reentry component that begins when a prisoner arrives at the facility.

The governor expressed his appreciation to the facility’s staff for their constant professionalism in such a challenging work environment, adding that “they do an outstanding job of keeping us safe and their work is important to all of us.”



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MDOC FINISHES SECOND IN GROUP COMPETITION; SLUSSER TAKES FIRST IN INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

The Michigan Department of Corrections finished second overall in West Virginia's 2012 Mock Riot Skills Competition. The team finished first in the Low Light Active Shooter drill, second in the Restore Order drill and third in Search and Clear, Team Pistol Shoot and Team Obstacle Course. No other team had top-three finishes in every drill of the competition, demonstrating Michigan's competence in every area being tested. Lee County Florida's team finished first overall and Brevard County Florida finished third overall. The competition had thirteen teams from all across the country participating this year.

Team participants included: Aaron Patrick, Team Leader, Michigan Reformatory; Clint Slusser, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility and the SuperSWAT Champion for 2011 and 2012; Scott Grinnell, Michigan Reformatory; Erik Nielsen, Ionia Correctional Facility; Jay Whitman, Thumb Correctional Facility; Joel Wiard, Muskegon Complex; Kris Maddox, Muskegon Complex; and Jacob Poindexter, Isabella County Parole.



Front Row L to R: , Jacob Poindexter, Aaron Patrick, Kris Maddox and Clint Slusser.

Back Row L to R: Jay Whitman, Erik Nielsen, Scott Grinnell and Joel Wiard.

For the second year in a row, Clint Slusser of Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility took first place in the SuperSWAT individual competition. Slusser overcame some adversity this year. During part of the competition, he accidentally struck a metal object, causing a large laceration across the top of his head. After quickly getting bandaged up and regaining his focus, Slusser completed the competition - earning first place and several surgical staples to close the gash. Joe Wiard finished 10th and Kris Maddox finished 16th in the individual competition - both posting finishing times under 10 minutes.



Clint Slusser accepts his Overall First Place Award in the SuperSWAT Individual Competition.

The participating ERT members continue to showcase the level of talent, proficiency and professionalism that are ever-present in Department employees. Their efforts are a positive reflection on the reputation and national status of the Michigan Department of Corrections. Nice Job!



MDOC BUDGET IS COMPLETE

The Michigan Legislature and Governor Snyder have agreed on a fiscal year (FY) 2012-13 budget for Michigan government. The Department of Corrections budget for FY 2012-13 is \$1,941,485,600, about one-half percent less than the current year budget. There are 14,695 positions funded in the FY 2012-13 budget, down 874 positions from FY 2011-12.

Budget highlights include:

- \$10.8 million for prison and reentry center restructuring. Ryan Correctional Facility will be repurposed as a reentry center. Tuscola Residential Reentry Center will be closed and Muskegon Correctional Facility will reopen, providing the Department much needed secure parole violator beds in the Metro Detroit Region.
- \$10 million in savings from a plan to use retired corrections officers to fill custody positions and reduce overtime usage by current officers.
- \$11.85 million in savings by reclassifying the Resident Unit Officer 10 classification to Corrections Officer 9.
- \$15.6 million in savings through targeted use of perimeter security vehicles and the elimination of 24/7 perimeter security vehicle operation.
- \$2.3 million in savings through reduction in funding of \$80,400 and one FTE at each correctional facility.
- \$4.9 million in savings through prison operations savings initiatives.
- \$2 million reduction in program funding to the County Jail Reimbursement Program.
- \$2.9 million reduction in funding to clinical complexes to reflect actual costs.
- \$2.2 million in savings through the use of trained prisoners rather than correctional staff to conduct direct and continuous observation of prisoners at risk for self-injury or suicide.
- \$2.4 million in savings through the elimination of 32.8 FTEs at Correctional Facilities Administration regional offices.
- \$1.1 million reduction in funding for state-issued prisoner clothing. This includes exploration of outside vendors to provide clothing at a more competitive cost than internally manufacturing the items.
- \$34.1 million in full-year savings from the closure of Mound Correctional Facility in Detroit.
- \$11.3 million in savings by reducing 125 parole/probation positions in the Field Operations Administration that are no longer necessary due to decreased offender caseloads.

FINAL BUDGET (Continued on page 4)

**FINAL BUDGET** (Continued from page 3)

- \$1.1 million in savings through the expansion of offender telephone reporting and through relocation of the Outer District Parole Office.
- \$10.1 million in savings through competitive bidding of health care and mental health care services. The plan could impact 1,948 FTEs currently funded in the budget.
- \$4.5 million increase to implement the Governor's announced public safety initiative related to local corrections. Funding would assist distressed communities, particularly Flint, in purchasing needed jail bed space.
- \$3.5 million increase in funding for training new custody staff. The funds support training for up to 350 new custody staff.
- \$2.4 million in funding for technology maintenance and development. The funding supports contractual development of IT programming as well as the addition of six additional support staff for maintenance of existing MDOC IT systems.
- \$3.9 million reduction to prisoner reentry programs. Reentry programming still received \$51 million in FY 2012-13 with \$3.1 million supporting corrections program coordinators at the facility level.
- \$36.3 million in economic adjustments including salaries, wages, retirement, building occupancy, worker's compensation, food, fuel and utilities.

Boilerplate language in the budget law:

- Requires the competitive bidding of the Special Alternative Incarceration program, prisoner stores, food service and up to 1,750 prison beds;
- Requires the Department maintain sufficient perimeter security measures at prison facilities to ensure the safety of surrounding communities;
- Prohibits the Department from restricting access to programming or a qualified person providing programming because of the faith-based nature of the programming;
- Requires the Department to create and annually update an information packet for families of incoming prisoners to be made available on the MDOC website;
- Requires the Department to accept in-kind services and equipment donations to facilitate the addition of a cable network that provides programming to address prisoner religious needs at no extra cost to the state.

For more information on the Corrections Budget, please visit:

[FY 2012-13 Corrections Appropriation](#)

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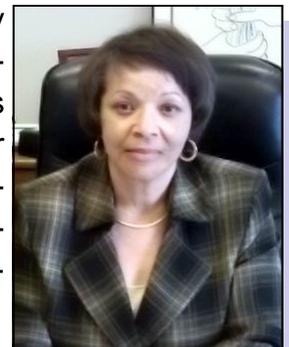


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**WARDEN BURT WILL TAKE OVER MUSKEGON
CORRECTIONAL FACILITY SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

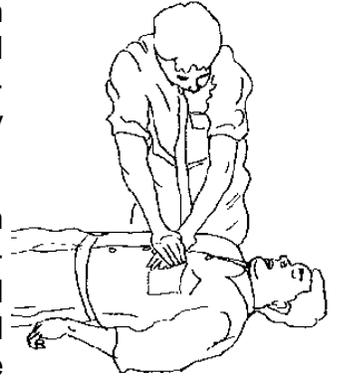
Warden Sherry Burt, currently the Warden at Cooper Street Correctional Facility (JCS) and Special Alternative Incarceration (SAI), will become Warden of Muskegon Correctional Facility effective September 30, 2012. Warden Burt has been a Warden since 1989 and has been assigned to Jackson area facilities for the past 15 years, including the past two at JCS/SAI. She has served on a variety of Department initiatives during her career including the Department's Leadership Training Council. Please congratulate Warden Burt on the new assignment.





CENTRAL MICHIGAN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY STAFF RESPONSE IS COMMENDABLE

On May 25, 2012, a call for medical assistance came from Central Michigan Correctional Facility's F-unit to the Control Center via mobile radio indicating a prisoner was unresponsive and not breathing. Responding health care and custody staff began CPR immediately.



All responders conducted themselves with professionalism and integrity - some providing medical attention to the prisoner; others maintaining order in the unit. Nurses Fortier and Kreamsreiter, and Officers Cooley, Salinas, Whitford, Stahl and Waldron worked flawlessly together in an attempt to save the prisoner's life.

Officers Cooley, Whitford, Stahl and Salinas conducted CPR as a team, utilizing the AED appropriately and applying lifesaving techniques learned in MDOC training. These individuals and their actions provide a great example for our Department and Central Michigan Correctional Facility. Their efforts are commendable.

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

FOA STAFF RECEIVE SCRAM AWARDS

On Tuesday May 22, 2012, in a small ceremony held at the Macomb Probation Office, SCRAM (Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor) Awards were presented to those agents in the Metro Region that had the highest offender compliance rates in the Metro Region.

The Agents receiving SCRAM awards are (left to right): Aletha Gardner - Pontiac Parole; Rebecca Milstone - Waterford Parole; Brian Harmon - Macomb Probation; FOA Regional Administrator Michael Alexander; Malinda Thomas - Macomb Parole; and Jennifer Weatherwax - Lawton Parole.



Individual awards were presented to each agent by their supervisor, with acknowledgment to the outstanding work and professionalism of all those who received awards.





MDOC REPRESENTS JACKSON'S PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS IN ROSE FESTIVAL PARADE

Two members of the Jackson Complex Emergency Response Team represented the Michigan Department of Corrections during the Rose Festival Parade in Jackson on June 3. Jeff Reasoner, who also serves on the Department's Honor Guard Unit, and Konita Luma promoted the Department on a parade float with other public safety professionals. The parade had a public safety theme this year and the float (pictured at right) definitely fit the theme.



PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

MDOC EMPLOYEES HELP KICK OFF SPECIAL OLYMPICS AT TORCH RUN CEREMONY

The Michigan Department of Corrections partnered with Special Olympics Michigan and other law enforcement agencies throughout Michigan on May 31 at the State Capitol to help kick off the Special Olympics Summer Games. During the ceremony, several supporters, including MDOC Director Dan Heyns, spoke to participants in attendance, offering encouragement and well wishes.



To the cheers of Special Olympians, the torch was then lit and passed among all law enforcement officers and supporters before being handed off to a pair of runners who started the trek to Central Michigan University - the home of the Summer Special Olympics.

MDOC staff and hundreds of fellow law enforcement employees and volunteers help out during the three-day Olympic games. Their efforts help make a difference in the lives of Special Olympians who spend countless hours training and preparing for the games.

Special Olympics Michigan has been the Department's primary charity for many years and MDOC employees are proud to support the cause again this year through torch runs, polar plunges and various other fund-raisers.

Above: Special Olympians listen intently to a speaker. Below: Director Heyns with Corrections Officer Rennia Funches of G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility. Officer Funches sang the National Anthem.





REENTRY ROUNDTABLE

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

Kalamazoo Partnership Offers Creative Writing Project

Individuals paroling to Kalamazoo have an opportunity to participate in weekly creative writing workshops through a partnership with KPEP and the Mary Jane Underwood Stryker Institute for Service-Learning at Kalamazoo College. Students from Kalamazoo College currently organize and offer two workshops each week at KPEP's Chicago Avenue facility. One workshop is for women, the other is for men. The program operates through the school year, from September until June.

Erin Donevan, Civic Engagement Scholar at Kalamazoo College, coordinates the program and took time to describe it for me. Participants are not required to have any writing experience. The biggest challenge for potential writers is to get over their reluctance to write and share their work. In the friendly, small-group atmosphere, that usually does not take long.

Most sessions begin with a short period of sharing, where each person discusses the highs and lows of the week. The Kalamazoo College students then provide writing prompts to help focus the participants' efforts for the evening. For example, one recent prompt was to describe a place that was not your home and is not where you currently are residing.

For many, the writing takes the form of poetry. Others write journals or memoirs. One participant is working on a novel. After 30-45 minutes

of writing, those who wish are invited to share their work aloud. The group then provides feedback, often commenting on a line or phrase that they found moving or interesting.

Each year, the Kalamazoo College students compile a Chap book (a small printed collection) that includes writings from participants who are willing to have their material published. The book for this year is in progress, with plans to engage participants in decisions regarding typography and presentation. Copies of the book will be available to interested program participants.

Participants sometimes have to leave the program because they find employment which conflicts with the workshop schedule. If these individuals wish to continue to participate, they will be given the weekly prompts and can write on their own time. Students are currently exploring whether arrangements can be made for writers to share their work with a broader community at an open microphone program at the Fire Historical & Cultural Arts Collaborative.

Erin was quick to point out that she believes everyone is benefiting from the program. Participants are finding a voice to share. The sessions are relaxing and enjoyable. Kalamazoo College students have an opportunity to interact with people they would not ordinarily meet and to learn from the perspective of those who participate.

This story was written by Kalamazoo Prisoner Reentry Community Coordinator Antonio Mitchell and Kay Perry.

Prisoner Reentry

