

# 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 Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@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 Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov).



# Ending Addiction

Pictured: Physician Janak Bhavsar, Psychologist Manager Linda Bresette, Nurse Practitioner Ronald Drinkert and ADW James Malloy review Medication-Assisted Treatment information to prepare for implementation of the program at RGC.

## Michigan Department of Corrections launches Medication-Assisted Treatment at Correctional Facilities

Like many of his fellow inspectors across the state, Mike Desco spent much of his time focused on keeping substances like Suboxone out of prison. So when it was announced in 2019 that the department would launch a Medication-Assisted Treatment program in its prisons that included the controlled use of buprenorphine, also known Suboxone, Desco's colleagues at Central Michigan Correctional Facility expected him to balk at the idea. Instead, they were surprised by his response. "I really didn't think it was a bad idea," said Desco, now an acting assistant deputy warden. "If we can take away the illegal Suboxone issues and treat them with a

qualified mental health professional and get them the treatment they need, it will make facilities run a lot more smoothly. It gives us another tool to use."

Medication-Assisted Treatment, or MAT, is a treatment approach that will combine the use of prescribed medications, cognitive behavioral therapy and recovery support to help prisoners identified as having an opioid-use disorder overcome their addiction. Central Michigan Correctional Facility, Carson City Correctional Facility, and Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center will be the first facilities to pilot Medication-Assisted Treatment with implementation expected in March. Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility will be added as a fourth site after the initial rollout of the pilot, which is expected to be expanded statewide in mid-2020.

### **A growing health crisis**

Opioid use disorders have been recognized by the medical community as a serious chronic health issue impacting millions of people nationwide. Implementing MAT is an important step in efforts to combat the state's opioid epidemic. In 2018 alone, Michigan had more than 2,000 opioid-



Pictured: Dr. Carmen McIntyre Leon, the MDOC's Chief Medical Officer, talks to MDOC health care providers about Medication-Assisted Treatment during a recent training session.

related overdose deaths and more than 7,000 Michigan residents lost their lives in the last five years to the opioid epidemic.

It's why Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in November announced a goal to cut opioid-related overdose deaths by half in five years.

"This epidemic touches all areas of our state and is one of the greatest health crises of our lifetimes," Whitmer said as the state announced a slate of steps to combat the opioid epidemic, including the launch of MAT at correctional facilities. The implementation of MAT was also done at the direction of Director Heidi Washington and included in the department's new Strategic Plan, released in 2019.

In addition, Gov. Whitmer declared February 24-29 Opioid Use Disorder Awareness Week to continue to elevate the conversation around the opioid epidemic and efforts to fight it.

Growing opioid use in Michigan communities is also being seen at correctional facilities, where more than 20 percent of incarcerated individuals have been identified as having an opioid-use disorder. Those leaving prison are 40 to 120 times more likely to die of an overdose within two weeks of release.

Access to MAT can help prevent overdose deaths and improve outcomes for prisoners who had struggled with substance use. Prisoners are eligible to participate in MAT if they have been identified as having a substance use or opioid use disorder, have symptoms of opioid withdrawal or recently experienced an opioid overdose. Treatment medications are expected to include buprenorphine, naltrexone and methadone. Assessment and treatment will start when offenders come to prison and will continue through parole, under clinically-based treatment plans. The MDOC plans to add 30 qualified mental health professional positions to support MAT, and also received funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies to facilitate the implementation of the treatment program.

"If we're treating this specific condition according to the standard of care, it's going to make it more likely they will stay on a positive and productive track," said Ronald Drinkert, a nurse practitioner at Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center, or RGC, which is a pilot site. "Things that are new and not how we've always done it can be scary. It doesn't mean it's not something that's going to be more

useful and helpful."

### **Gaining momentum**

While system-wide availability of MAT for opioid use disorders is new to the Michigan Department of Corrections, it's an approach that has already been successful in other states.

The New York City Department of Correction has provided MAT since 1987. States including Rhode Island, California, Vermont, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Washington have also launched MAT programs and are seeing positive results.

After Rhode Island implemented MAT for both its jail and prison systems, overdose deaths after release fell by 61 percent. In California, prison rule violation reports fell by 58 percent for prisoners participating in MAT. States using MAT have also reported fewer cases of contraband introduction, less illicit substance abuse, fewer incidents of violence, a decrease in HIV and hepatitis C transmission and better outcomes for offenders post-release.

"Medication-Assisted Treatment, along with additional substance abuse treatment services, increases the likelihood of long-term recovery, reducing the chance of recidivism," said Marti Kay Sherry, administrator for the MDOC's Bureau of Health Care Services.

### **Overcoming objections**

Though there is support in the medical community for MAT and research shows its success, resistance to it and questions about it are not uncommon, especially in correctional settings.

Beth Boyd, Substance Abuse Services manager for the MDOC, said it is important to keep in mind that addiction changes a person's brain in a harmful way. Long-term opioid use even alters brain chemistry and leads to uncontrollable cravings and intense feelings of despair. Medications used in MAT move the healing process forward.

“These medications help heal the brain, help the person engage in treatment and help them live their life in a productive way as they work through therapy and have more and more clean time,” Boyd said.

Buprenorphine, or Suboxone, also has a ceiling effect that prevents users from continually experiencing highs from it, she said. Those with opioid-use disorders who take suboxone don’t experience any high from it, but withdrawal symptoms are decreased.

RGC Assistant Deputy Warden James Malloy said he was initially apprehensive about MAT, but learning more about it helped him see the benefits.

“The more we look at it as a prescription like any other we give out to take care of a particular disorder, the better off we will be,” he said. “We want to give everyone an opportunity. At the end of the day, we just want a safer Michigan and less people coming to prison.”

Acting Assistant Deputy Warden Desco said when colleagues approach him about MAT, expecting to hear his reservations, it has instead given him an opportunity to share the benefits of the treatment approach.

When the discussion ends, his colleagues often walk away with a more supportive view of MAT.

“Right now we’re seeing prisoners testing positive and getting misconducts,” Desco said. “These guys are telling us ‘I know it’s wrong, but I can’t get off this.’ It’s sad and I’m glad this will give us another solution for taking care of them.”

Janak Bhavsar, a physician at RGC, said continued discussion and a collaborative effort between medical and mental health providers and custody staff will be important to the success of MAT.

“Talking to medical providers, no one is saying ‘why are we still doing this?’” Bhavsar said. “Our focus is how are we going to do it, so we can do it the right way.”

Additional training for staff will also be important and plans to train staff statewide are in the works.

“People think this is replacing one addiction with another addiction, but they don’t understand the science behind it,” said Linda Bresette, a psychologist manager at RGC. “That’s why training is so important. I think people who are involved in any addiction are miserable in their addiction. We’re providing them with a safe space for treatment.”

Drinkert said MAT fits the department’s mission to protect the community, while helping prisoners change their lives.

“The mindset that prison is punitive doesn’t go anymore,” Drinkert said. “There are others who genuinely need help and this is one way we can do that.”

**Want to learn more about Medication-Assisted Treatment?**  
**Click the images below to hear Bureau of Health Care Services Administrator Marti Kay Sherry, Substance Abuse Services Manager Beth Boyd and Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Carmen McIntyre Leon talk about MAT on the Field Days Podcast.**

## HAVE YOU HEARD?

Check out these other great episodes of the Field Days Podcast

- [Hear Deputy Warden Karri Osterhout discuss gender responsive programming and services at Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility.](#)
- [OPT Psychologist Adriane Foster shares the steps the department has taken to become trauma-informed and the training available on trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences.](#)
- [Absconder Recovery Unit Lt. Charles Levens talks about the recent apprehension of prisoner Talleon Brazil, who was improperly released from an Ohio county jail.](#)



Listen to us on



# Commitment to Community

## Officer with passion for giving back is named 2020 Corrections Officer of the Year

James Sims, a corrections officer at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility in Jackson, has been named the 2020 Corrections Officer of the Year for his exceptional service to the State of Michigan and dedication to giving back to his community.



“We’re proud to have outstanding corrections officers, like James Sims, on our team,” said Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington. “His extraordinary commitment to making his community, and the State of Michigan, a better place to live serves as a positive example for all of us. I’m excited to congratulate Officer Sims on his selection for this prestigious award.”

Officer Sims began his career with the MDOC in 1997 at the former Southern Michigan Correctional Facility. He has served as a positive role model for both staff and prisoners. He has worked as a field training officer for new corrections officers at the corrections officer training academy and is trained to support his peers through the Traumatic Incident Stress Management Program.

“James has always been a dedicated Member of MCO through his advocacy for veterans, MCO members and Special Olympics,” said MCO President Byron Osborn. “He is well deserving of this award. I would also like to

say congratulations to all of the finalists and Correctional Officers of the year throughout the state.”

Officer Sims is dedicated to serving his community through a variety of organizations and charitable efforts. He is an active member of the LGBTQ community and has attended numerous LGBT Criminal Justice Professionals conferences across the country and abroad.

He regularly participates in and coordinates fundraising events through the Special Olympics Michigan Law Enforcement Torch Run, Shop with a Hero, Harvest Gathering, State Employees Charitable Campaign and Relay For Life, and is a charter member of the Jackson Lions Diabetes Service Club. He is also a U.S. Army veteran, who served in Operation Desert Storm and in Somalia, and is an active member of his church, Edgewood United Church of Christ in East Lansing.

Officer Sims said he was humbled to be selected for the award and considered his fellow finalists outstanding officers.

“It’s very humbling to begin with to even be nominated for officer of the year at the facility,” Officer Sims said. “Though it’s humbling, I’m very proud.”

The Michigan Correctional Officers’ Training Council, a group comprised of representatives from the MDOC, Michigan Corrections Organization, law enforcement and higher education, chose Officer Sims for the honor from a pool of five finalists.

“I’d like to congratulate all of our Corrections Officer of the Year nominees and finalists,” Washington said. “Their hard work, and the hard work of corrections officers across the state, helps make Michigan a safer place to live.”

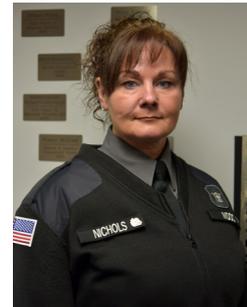
# 2020 Corrections Officer of the Year Finalists

**Carlos Cook**, is an investigator with the Absconder Recovery Unit.



He has worked for the department for 23 years and remains resilient and positive, even while working under stress. He is a mentor to new investigators and is known for his calm demeanor and ability to de-escalate situations.

**Brenda Nichols**, a corrections officer at Oaks Correctional Facility, has worked for



the department for 23 years and is always looking for ways to uplift her colleagues and improve operations. She serves on the Traumatic Stress Incident Management Team and often steps up to help other areas of the facility.

**Kacy Datema** is a corrections officer at Michigan Reformatory. He has worked for the



department for 24 years and leads by example, going out of his way to help his colleagues. He has been the head wrestling coach at Carson City Schools for 10 years and was recognized several times as coach of the year.

**Robert Mills** is a corrections officer at Kinross

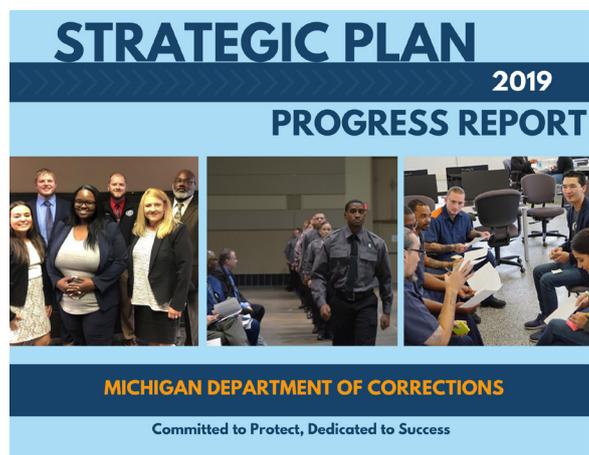


Correctional Facility, who has worked for the department for 17 years. He is a great mentor to new staff, is a SCBA trainer and he has been active in recruiting efforts. He also is active in his community and has served on the Kinross Township Board.

# From the Director's Desk: Strategic Plan Progress Report showcases your hard work, where we're headed

In 2018, we released a progress report that offered details on all the work that was done to accomplish the goals of the department's first Strategic Plan. When we released our new Strategic Plan in the beginning of 2019, we knew there was a lot of work ahead. With your hard work and commitment, we were able to tackle all of the 2019 objectives. Now, I am pleased to provide you with an update on our progress.

Our new Strategic Plan challenged us to find new



ways to improve the lives of those we serve, and in the first year we accomplished so much.

We made strides in our efforts to attract the next generation of corrections professionals, established a wellness program and expanded opportunities for offenders to be successful, among other achievements.

[When you click here, you'll see details on all the Strategic Plan objectives that had target dates in 2019.](#)

Going forward, we will be producing an electronic report like this one each year to show you our progress on objectives laid out within the plan. Our work will continue in the years ahead with objectives on the horizon designed to support you in your career, help offenders lead better lives and keep our communities safe. I look forward to partnering with you in our efforts to achieve all our goals as we move forward.

Heidi E. Washington  
Director

## New appointments, retirements announced in Correctional Facilities Administration

New leaders have been named to top roles at the MDOC in preparation for the upcoming retirements of Assistant Deputy Director Bob Napel, Kinross Correctional Facility Warden Jack Kowalski, and Senior Executive Management Assistant Miffer Griffin, and following the retirement of Detroit Reentry Center and Detroit Detention Center Warden Doug Smith.

- Effective February 9, Woodland Center Correctional Facility Warden Jodi DeAngelo serve as warden of Detroit Reentry Center and Detroit Detention Center until further notice; Woodland Center Deputy Warden Sonal Patel became the Acting Warden at Woodland; and Woodland Center Captain Melissa Godfrey became the Acting Deputy Warden at the facility.
- Effective February 7, Kinross Correctional Facility Assistant Deputy Warden Mike Brown became the Acting Warden at the facility.
- Effective February 23, Baraga Correctional Facility

Acting Warden Sarah Schroeder will become the Acting Warden at Alger Correctional Facility; and Marquette Branch Prison Assistant Deputy Warden Kris Taskila will become the Acting Warden at Baraga Correctional Facility.

- Effective February 28, Correctional Facilities Administration Northern Region Business Officer Cindy Dodds-Dugan will become the Acting Assistant Deputy Director for the Correctional Facilities Administration Northern Region; and Assistant Business Officer Brenda Bonnee will become the Acting Business Officer for the northern region.
- Effective March 1, Senior Executive Management Assistant Angela Lamphere for Field Operations Administration Assistant Deputy Director James Blakely will become the Acting Senior Executive Management Assistant for Correctional Facilities Administration Deputy Director Ken McKee.

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

# Settlement announced in Doe vs. Michigan Department of Corrections case

On Thursday, the MDOC and Attorney General's office announced a settlement in the Doe vs. Michigan Department of Corrections case.

MDOC Director Heidi Washington released the following message to employees:

Today, the Attorney General and I announced a settlement in the Doe v. Michigan Department of Corrections case.

This case involved juveniles who alleged they were victims of sexual assaults, and various other harms, while they were housed in adult prisons under the custody of the MDOC after being charged, convicted and sentenced as adults.

The case, originally filed in 2013, was a class action lawsuit filed on behalf of more than 1,300 youthful prisoners.

Under the settlement agreement, the state will pay a total of \$80 million in installments over the next three years.

We will also implement a youth offender policy within six months that will address segregation, discipline, use of force, staff training and the reporting and tracking of incidents of sexual abuse and harassment above and beyond the protection of federal law.

Our current policy prohibits retaliation against

anyone for participating in a lawsuit against the Michigan Department of Corrections or individual staff member. As a further reminder, staff are cautioned from discussing the legal claims, the lawsuit, or settlement, including conduct or communications that would identify members of the class as having participated in the lawsuit or settlement.

Today's announcement is certainly going to generate headlines in the media, but I don't want you to see this as a reflection on you and the important work you do, because it is not. This lawsuit was almost entirely about alleged prisoner-on-prisoner abuse. I know our staff do amazing work every day and that you change lives every day.

It is our mission as a department of corrections to correct behavior and improve the lives of those we supervise. That is a mission we all take seriously, we take to heart and do every day and do incredibly well. When you look at nearly every metric, the MDOC ranks amongst the best in the nation.

Today's announcement brings closure for everyone involved. I am glad we could come to mutually agreeable terms to end this case which has gone on for so long.

## Secretary of State, Kansas Department of Corrections visit Vocational Village

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and representatives from the Kansas Department of Corrections recently toured the Vocational Village at Parnall Correctional Facility. They had the opportunity to see the program firsthand and learn more about how the department is helping prepare prisoners for successful and stable lives in the community through education and training.



# Alger Correctional Facility holds Combat Shoot event

The Alger Correctional Facility Combat Shoot was a success with teams from eight other facilities joining the competition on February 8. The facility will host another shooting event in July at the Manistique Rifle and Pistol Club. Results from the event are as follows:

Service Auto  
 1st — Jason Hubble, Alger Correctional Facility  
 2nd — Al Makela Marquette

Branch Prison  
 3rd — Isaiah Hope, Kinross Correctional Facility  
 Open Auto  
 1st — Jason Andres, St. Louis Correctional Facility  
 2nd — Jon Archambeau, St. Louis Correctional Facility  
 3rd — Matt Mann, Alger Correctional Facility  
 Open Revolver  
 1st — Jason Hubble, Alger Correctional Facility  
 2nd — Cody Turnwald, St. Louis Correctional Facility

3rd — Matt Mann, Alger Correctional Facility  
 Top Female Shooter: Jen Cornish  
 Top Male Shooter: Jason Hubble



## Correctional Leaders Association accepting applications for Susan M. Hunter Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for the Susan M. Hunter Scholarship. High school seniors and college students who are children of current, retired or deceased full-time employees of a corrections agency that are members of the Association of State Correctional Administrators are eligible to apply. All applications and corresponding paperwork must be turned in no later than March 31 in order to be considered.

Scholarship winners will be notified by phone and will receive a follow-up email. New recipients will be awarded \$1,500 and renewals will receive \$750.

To submit an application, or for more information on the application process, [click here](#).



## Get Ready! Employee Engagement Survey set to begin on March 2

The 2020 Employee Survey will arrive in inboxes March 2 and will be open until March 23.

To foster a statewide culture where employees are engaged, empowered and recognized for their contributions, the Office of Good Government has surveyed all state employees on a regular basis. Research shows that improved engagement leads to better performance, higher citizen satisfaction, and more trust in government. The State of Michigan is a recognized leader in employee engagement.

Survey responses are confidential and will help shape the future of the department and state government, and will help create an even better work environment for employees across Michigan. State employees also submitted their ideas for poster designs promoting the 2020 survey, and posters are now being distributed statewide.

More information on the survey will be available as it gets closer.

## Former MDOC Director Patricia Caruso appointed to Lake Superior State University Board of Trustees

Governor Gretchen Whitmer appointed former MDOC Director Patricia L. Caruso to the Lake Superior State University Board of Trustees.

Her appointment term begins February 7, 2020 and expires January 27, 2028. Caruso served as the director of the Michigan Department of Corrections from 2003 to 2011 and she spent many years working for the Department in various capacities including warden of the Chippewa Correctional Facility.

# CORRECTIONS OFFENDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



## COMS User Stories

With the new Corrections Offender Management System (COMS) now being used statewide by Healthcare staff as of January 14, 2020, the COMS Project team checked-in with several new COMS users for a first-hand report on how things are going. The consensus is that COMS is easy to use and has great functionality, and that staff felt well supported by the Project team throughout the transition. While the system continues to evolve for Healthcare, and for Food Service which has been using COMS since October 1, 2019, we want you to hear directly from some Healthcare users about their experience.

We heard from Primary Care Physician Dr. Charles Jamsen at Women's Huron Valley, Health Unit Manager Jan Nixon at Thumb Correctional, and Health Information Manager Hunter Miracle at Cooper Street about the COMS Healthcare module. Dr. Jamsen has been using COMS since December 2019 when it was piloted at Women's Huron Valley, while Jan Nixon and Hunter Miracle didn't transition until the statewide release in January 2020. These users believe that COMS is on target to deliver the efficiencies and value that the department sought when selecting a modern offender-management system designed specifically for the corrections industry.

Ease of use is a key value whenever a new information system is implemented. After just a few short weeks of use, HIM Hunter Miracle told us that "as time goes on, the program has become easier to navigate and documenting in this system is fast." Hunter enjoys being able to process release-of-information more quickly and being able to scan records into the system so that the entire medical record is at hand. Others agree, with clinic staff reporting that processing is faster than in the legacy system and HUM Jan Nixon agreeing that she likes the speed of COMS.

Dr. Jamsen has begun to notice aspects of the system that are more efficient, such as dealing with more *electronic* records and fewer *paper* records. The digital, real-time functionality in COMS means that he can complete his work more quickly, and that patient information is available to him when he needs it. For example, he now receives test results directly in COMS. This group agrees that the reporting options are much improved and they have the ability to run reports in COMS with ease.

Preparing staff to use a new system is critical to a successful implementation. To that end, MDOC has invested hundreds of hours on the development of training materials and 'how-to' videos. Dr. Jamsen and HIM Hunter Miracle both commended the training, with Dr. Jamsen saying that "the subject matter of the training was good" and Hunter Miracle relaying that "our training sessions before rollout were great. I feel that most had a positive training experience." Healthcare users will soon be able to access training materials and videos from the COMS Project website, similar to what has been available for Food Service since shortly after their Go Live last fall.

Users felt supported after the implementation, as well. COMS has a Help tab and a ticketing system built-in, which allows users to easily look up help topics and to directly report issues. Project and business leaders arranged conference calls with groups who needed training reminders or additional instruction, and email was used to send targeted messages to clarify procedures when needed. Dr. Jamsen also noted that having trainers and superusers onsite throughout the first week was helpful.

Regarding the upcoming implementation of the COMS TRUST application, users can count on the same level of preparation and support as they move forward towards the release scheduled for early this summer. If Food Service and Healthcare experience is any indication, employees will continue to enjoy the benefits of using a modern system that offers real-time access to accurate, relevant data as COMS becomes available to more staff across the Department of Corrections.

# Recycling Tip: Think before you throw with proper recycling practices

Even well intentioned recyclers can inadvertently send items meant to be recycled to the landfill instead. Proper recycling is important because when soiled items



end up in the recycling bin, or the wrong item does, it can contaminate the load and make the contents too costly to process. Greasy

pizza boxes and plastic grocery bags are among the most common offenders, getting stuck in sorting machines.

To recycle right, follow these tips:

- No food, liquids, single-use straws or materials contaminated with food waste should be recycled.
- Empty and rinse plastic, glass or metal containers before recycling them.
- Be aware of what kinds of recyclable materials are accepted.
- Check out the MDOC's [Recycling Manual here](#) for more information on department recycling practices.

## Success Story: Mark Mollhagen

Mark Mollhagen struggled with addiction for most of his life. He has been to prison, jail and rehabilitation programs numerous times.

But after years of battling substance use, Mollhagen graduated from Saginaw County's Drug Court on February 10. He said he wanted his family and his freedom back and he has now been sober for 22 months.

You can [click here](#) or the image below to hear more about Mollhagen and his journey to sobriety in a story from WNEM-TV.



## Chaplain Lloyd Scharer gives invocation in Michigan Senate

MDOC Wellness Unit Chaplain Lloyd Scharer had the opportunity in late January to give the invocation at the start of the Michigan Senate session. Scharer was the guest of State Sen. Tom Barrett. MDOC Director Heidi Washington and the Wellness Unit team were there to support Chaplain Scharer. The Wellness Unit provides professional and confidential wellness services to employees, retirees, and eligible family members. More information on the [Wellness Unit is available here](#).



# The Extra Mile

MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



In October, Corrections Officer Michael Stempek was working at St. Louis Correctional Facility when he received a call about a prisoner found unresponsive in his cell. Officer Stempek immediately responded with an AED and administered a dose of Narcan to the prisoner. When the prisoner did not respond, Officer Stempek placed the AED pads on the prisoner's chest and then administered a second dose of Narcan. The prisoner survived and Officer Stempek's quick actions and professional conduct earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.

Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center and Duane L. Waters Health Center Corrections Officer Dave Altenbrendt was recognized with a Warden's Coin for his professionalism, excellence and years of exceptional service to the MDOC. Officer Altenbrendt has been with the department for more than 36 years.



Kinross Correctional Facility health care staff were recently recognized for their hard work with the recent COMS conversion. They put in long hours and their hard work and dedication made for a smooth transition. Registered Nurses and COMS superusers Wendy Ball and Dawn Eicher received Good Government Symbol of Leadership coins. Paula Parkinson, MRE and COMS superuser also received a Good Government Symbol of Leadership Coin. Pharmacy Technician Shannon Ayers, Registered Nurses Jessica Knack, Trisha Kubont and Joe Damron (not pictured), Licensed Practical Nurse Jody Krause (not pictured) and Secretary Sharolyn Stevens received Warden's Coins. Health Unit Manager Cindi Jenkins received a Good Government Symbol of Teamwork Coin.

# The Extra Mile continued...

Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility Prison Counselor Eunice Reed was recognized with a Warden’s Coin by Acting Warden Jeremy Howard for her continued commitment to preparing prisoners for the Parole Board.

Parole Board member Sonia Warchock sent a letter to A/Warden Howard praising Reed’s work and the work of facility staff.

“I would like to take this time to acknowledge your facility and the staff who helped with the interview process this week,” Warchock wrote. “I know there are many people at the facility behind the scene that help offenders make changes in their life through programming, reflection and getting ready for parole. I interviewed 35 women this week, while some were finishing up, there were none that had not been given the opportunity to engage in core programming. All of which helps the Parole Board evaluate risk and their potential to return as productive citizens. It is appreciated. I would like to provide a special acknowledgement to PC E. Reed. This week had unusual accommodation requests before the interview week and during the week. She was very gracious and willing to do extra work to accommodate the changes and help make the interview process run smoothly. She is very professional and ready to start on time every day. Her understanding of the Parole Board interview and its members stand out at WHV. Watching her interaction with offenders show she has a straight forward but compassionate demeanor. She is able to provide instruction and helps calm the offenders to allow for a more interactive interview. To me this shows how much your staff cares about public safety and the well-being of offenders that are returning back to the community.”



Lakeland Correctional Facility Acting Captain Christina Tagett was recognized with an Office of Good Government Customer Service Coin for her hard work to raise more than \$1,500 for Special Olympics Michigan through her participating in the Polar Plunge.

Corrections Officer Jared Riker received was recognized with

a Warden’s Coin by Warden Bryan Morrison for his efforts to ensure the safety of Lakeland’s visitors and visiting room. He takes pride in his job and has played a significant role in helping to combat the introduction of contraband.

Human Resource Manager Greg Olson received a Warden’s Coin from Warden Catherine Bauman for his 30 years of exceptional service to the MDOC.



## Corrections Quiz

## January Quiz Recap

Name this book written by former MDOC Director Perry Johnson.

Who was the first African American Director to lead the MDOC?

Send your answer to Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@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.

**Answer: Robert Brown**

Congratulations to **Bob Napel**, assistant deputy director for the Correctional Facilities Administration northern region, for being the first to correctly answer the January Corrections Quiz. Great job!

# MDOC staff show support for Special Olympics Michigan

Staff showed their support in big ways for Special Olympics Michigan.

Jackson County Probation Secretary Vicki Bertke and her colleagues supported the Jen Meade Family and Friends Team and finished as the top fundraising team at the Polar Plunge in Jackson County. The team raised \$3,736, and additional fundraisers were held which raised a total of \$792. In addition, teams from Alger and Newberry correctional facilities took home top fundraising honors for raising more than \$2,000 for the first-ever Munising Polar Plunge. The Detroit Reentry Center team was recognized as the top fundraising team at the Wayne County Polar Plunge, bringing in \$7,434, and the team from Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility was recognized for the best costumes. Team WHV raised \$3,000.

The Macomb County Polar Plunge raised more than \$75,000 with the help of the Macomb Correctional Facility team, which raised nearly \$16,000.

Thumb Correctional Facility was honored with a Ruby Award for raising more than \$15,000 for Special Olympics Michigan.

You can [click here](#) to see a photo gallery of MDOC staff supporting Special Olympics Michigan through a variety of events statewide.



# SNAPSHOTS

A look at life around the MDOC



Director Heidi Washington speaks with new corrections officers at the corrections officer training academy in the Upper Peninsula. Recruits will graduate on March 6.



The National Lifers of America chapter at Muskegon Correctional made a number of blankets that will be donated to a local nursing home. The facility also recently completed a food drive benefitting the Muskegon Rescue Mission. Sequita Jackson, Jodi Delo and Leticia Smith were organizers of the food drive.



Mercedes is a 1-1/2-year-old Terrier mix that is participating in Alger Correctional Facility's shelter dog rehabilitation program. She is a special needs dog and is completely deaf. Mercedes will be taught basic obedience with hand signals.



The Greenfield District Probation Office has opened its new Oasis of Tranquility room, as part of its focus on staff wellness and employee engagement. It offers a quiet place for staff to go to relax and decompress during breaktimes. It was created following a conversation between an employee and supervisor.

## Corrections in the News

[In Detroit, both the city and former offenders find new hope, purpose](#) — USA Today

[Bloomberg Philanthropies announces more opioid grant spending](#) — Traverse City Record Eagle

[A Look inside Michigan's license plate plant](#) — WOOD TV

[Ex-offenders struggle to find housing in Grand Rapids' hot market](#) — MLive

[State Rep. Jeff Irwin, MDOC official among speakers at forum to prevent recidivism](#) — MLive

[Creating a "Path of Achievement" through Education in Corrections: Q&A with Heather Gay](#) — Council of State Governments Justice Center

Spread the word about some of the great things happening at the MDOC and share these stories with friends, family and coworkers.

## Seen on Twitter...

MichiganDOC Retweeted

**Heidi Washington** @HeidiWashington · Feb 7

Final stop of the day...convocation for the @Calvin\_Uni CPI students. Great day of celebration and accomplishment. Looking forward to May where we will celebrate the value of education and our first bachelor's Degree graduates! Can't wait.

To see more, follow the MDOC on [Twitter](#).

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

# December New Hires

Allen, Kelsi	Accounting Assistant, Corrections Central Office
Baccus, Tameca	Licensed Practical Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Becker, Kristy	Secretary, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Boike, Staci	Registered Nurse, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Brege, Hope	Word Processing Assistant, Kent County Probation Office
Brown, Karyn	General Office Assistant, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Champine, Miriam	Psychologist, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Chisholm, Peter	Storekeeper, Marquette Branch Prison
Coburn, Kimberly	Registered Nurse, Parnall Correctional Facility
Cook, Crystal	Licensed Practical Nurse, Thumb Correctional Facility
Denman, Josi	Registered Nurse, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Diiacovo, Natalia	Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Doyle, Anita	Registered Nurse, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Duda, Chad	Food Services Supervisor, Marquette Branch Prison
Eaddy, Anna	Registered Nurse, Detroit Reentry Center
Earnshaw, Lisa	Licensed Practical Nurse, Thumb Correctional Facility
Fosburg, Roxanne	Registered Nurse, Carson City Correctional Facility
Frinkle, Gary	Cook, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Garlock, Amanda	Secretary, Mackinac County Parole and Probation Office
Ginwright, April	Licensed Practical Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Goll, Melinda	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Grzena, Sue	General Office Assistant, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Hagen, Connor	Maintenance Mechanic, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Hahn, Michael	Cook, Thumb Correctional Facility
Hampton, Kimberly	Psychologist, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Harvey, Michael	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Hedger, Daniel	Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Hofstetter, Karie	Registered Nurse, Parnall Correctional Facility
Houseman, Amanda	Cook, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Johnson, Allison	Registered Nurse, Thumb Correctional Facility
Johnson, Chad	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Korson, Barbara	Registered Nurse, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Lewis, Kaelie	Registered Nurse, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Lutz, Melanie	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Melinowski, Allison	Registered Nurse, Carson City Correctional Facility
Melton, Theresa	Registered Nurse, St. Louis Correctional Facility
O'Neil, Erin	Procurement Technician, Corrections Central Office
Papist, Patsy	Cook, Newberry Correctional Facility
Reynolds, Tari	Accounting Technician, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Sheen, William	Storekeeper, Marquette Branch Prison
Sivyer, Kaitlyn	Occupational Therapist, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Teagle, Ashley	Pharmacy Assistant, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Tello, Sarahlynn	Domestic Services Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Turner, Ronald	Food Services Supervisor, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Wilson, Bradley	Maintenance Mechanic, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Young, Pamela	Licensed Practical Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Zajac, Matthew	Laborer, Corrections Central Office

# December Retirements

Altoft, Thomas	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Anderson, Cameron	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Baker, Michael	Administrative Manager, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Bongard, Dennis	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Busse, Ritchie	Corrections Shift Supervisor, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Calhoun, Adura	Field Agent, Greenfield District Probation Office
Damuth, Ronald	Industries Supervisor, Michigan State Industries
Deshano, Alan	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
English, Robert	Equipment Operator, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Gorden, Donald	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Gross, Scott	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Humphrey, Audrey	Field Agent, Troy Probation Office
Kapustka, Thomas	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Carson City Correctional Facility
Keiffer, Kathy	Departmental Specialist, EPIC Section
Kellogg, Richard	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Knuutila, Michael	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Litwiller, David	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Luna, Teresa	Disability Coordinator, Correctional Facilities Administration
Martineau, John	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Mize, Edward	Senior Policy Executive, Corrections Central Office
Molina, Carlos	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Mullen, Brett	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Oliver, Edward	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Piggee, Margo	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Plath, Barbara	Registered Nurse, Carson City Correctional Facility
Porath, Thomas	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Randle, Ronnie	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Russell, Randall	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Russell, Sharon	Field Agent, Lahser District Probation Office
Sampson, Sherman	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Sanchez, Cheryl	Accounting Technician, Corrections Central Office
Saur, Thad	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Oaks Correctional Facility
Schmus, James	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Schneider, Paul	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Simon, Sandra	Senior Executive Management Assistant, Corrections Central Office
Smith, Kelvin	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Smith, Kenneth	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Snipes, Tommy	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Detroit Reentry Center
Walters, Sarah	Corporal, Special Alternative Incarceration Program
Wanless, Ronald	Field Agent, Tuscola County Parole and Probation Office
Wieland, Scott	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Williams, Carylon	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Macomb Correctional Facility
Wilson, George	Field Agent, St. Clair County Office
Wray, Randy	Maintenance Mechanic, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Yon, Michael	Deputy Warden, Chippewa Correctional Facility