

# Corrections Connection

An aerial photograph of a coastline at sunset or sunrise. The sky is a gradient of dark blue at the top, transitioning through orange and yellow near the horizon. The water is dark, and the land is visible as a lighter, textured area in the foreground and middle ground. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

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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 **Noah Nagy**, warden at G. Robert Cotton 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).





## Partnership with Wheels to Work helps break transportation barriers for offenders

**F**or Michigan's returning citizens, landing a job after release can be a key component to success.

But having reliable transportation to get to that job, and keep it, is also crucial. It's a problem Muskegon County Parole Supervisor Jason Carlson was well aware of.

Some returning citizens supervised in Muskegon have relied on family members to get them to and from work, but a lack of consistent transportation has "tripped up" many, he said.

A program called Wheels to Work was one option

to resolve that problem.

Wheels to Work is a ride-to-work program through the West Michigan-based Hope Network. It exists to provide those with transportation barriers, like returning citizens, with a reliable and affordable way to get to their jobs.

It launched in Muskegon County in December with a new transportation hub at the Muskegon County Parole Office and KPEP, a residential program for offenders, to make it easier for those under supervision to get to work.

Routes currently run to Tyson Foods and West Michigan Molding.

"If I can say 'hey, there are jobs at Tyson Foods, and I know a way to get you there and back that doesn't really cost anything, that really knocks down the roadblocks,'" Carlson said.

The program launched in Muskegon after a Offender Success advisory council meeting for Region 4, which covers a portion of West Michigan, identified transportation as a major barrier to





Pictured: Sierra Rolling, a probationer in Muskegon, prepares to ride with Wheels to Work to a job at Tyson Foods.

employment, particularly in counties like Muskegon, Ionia, Montcalm and Newaygo. “We just started brainstorming, how can we get things going here,” said Angie Sprank, a community coordinator for Offender Success in an area of West Michigan that includes Grand Rapids and Muskegon. She, Carlson and others met with Wheels to Work, and Carlson offered the Muskegon County Parole Office as a transportation hub site. The effort took off from there, she said. Sierra Rolling, who uses the service and is on probation in Muskegon, said she appreciates having dependable and affordable transportation to her job at Tyson Foods. Not having to deal with inconsistencies in transportation or worry about covering the cost of owning a car has made getting to work easier to manage, she said. Debbi Coleman, a business development specialist for Hope Network who often worked with returning citizens, also recognized that many of them faced transportation barriers. “I could get people hired, I could

get them into good-paying jobs, but either I couldn’t get them to work, or I couldn’t get them home from work because public transportation was not available where jobs were available,” she said. Knowing Hope Network offered transportation, she pitched an idea for the nonprofit to help provide transportation to workers using employer support. A pilot of the program launched in Grand Rapids four years ago. Participating employers can choose a transportation strategy that works for them and opt for door-to-door pick up and drop off of employees, or to pick up from areas identified as transportation hubs, like the Muskegon County Parole Office. Employers help cover the cost of transportation for their employees, who sometimes share a small portion of that cost. Most employers charge \$3 or less per trip to employees using the service, and some cover the full cost of transportation. All employers have paid the full cost of transportation until employees pocket their first

paycheck, Coleman said. Wheels to Work also requires employers to be willing to hire returning citizens in order to participate. At least 21 returning citizens utilized Wheels to Work in Kent County in 2019, Sprank said. Those numbers are expected to grow as the program branches out into additional counties in West Michigan, including Ionia and Newaygo. The hope is that more employers will see the benefit in using the service to help their employees get to work, particularly those with transportation challenges, and decide to sign on. Carlson said he hopes the handful of individuals under supervision in Muskegon currently participating will grow to 20 or more. “It would mean we’re putting people to work and they still get to live (in the county) where they want to live,” he said. Wheels to Work also plans to transport returning citizens to and from an upcoming job fair in Kent County on April 30, and has participated in resource fairs at correctional facilities for prisoners nearing their parole date. Coleman said it’s important for returning citizens to have access to resources like transportation that can help them be successful. “They have every right to contribute to society and have a successful life,” Coleman said. “They just made a bad decision and they paid for it.”

**For more  
information on  
Wheels to Work,  
click here.**



# Special Alternative Incarceration program in Chelsea to be consolidated and relocated to Cooper Street

The Special Alternative Incarceration program in Chelsea will be consolidated and relocated to its parent facility, Cooper Street Correctional Facility in Jackson.

SAI operations are expected to be fully transitioned to Cooper Street by March 7.

SAI will have its own unit at Cooper Street, which already shares an administration with SAI.

This relocation and consolidation will allow the department to continue operating the alternative sanction program, while saving taxpayer resources and creating greater efficiencies in operations.

Moving this program to the parent facility will also allow us to reduce the number of employee vacancies at other facilities, including Cooper Street. About \$10 million in savings is expected for the 2021 fiscal year through this move.

The consolidation and relocation will not impact the programming offered at SAI, as the female version already operates successfully as part of the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility.

The department is fully committed to supporting

staff in every way through this transition.

Human Resources will be working to determine transfers, bumps, and potential initial layoffs, however, the MDOC has held open positions at surrounding facilities to help reduce the impact of this relocation and consolidation on staff. The MDOC's Wellness Unit will also be available to assist any employees affected by this relocation and consolidation.

Those with questions about the relocation and consolidation can send an email to [AskMDOC@michigan.gov](mailto:AskMDOC@michigan.gov).



## HAVE YOU HEARD?

Check out these other great episodes of the Field Days Podcast

- [The Field Days Podcast crew cover everything the department accomplished in 2019 in this episode highlighting the high points for the year.](#)
- [Listen in to this episode for a sneak peek at the Strategic Plan Progress Report and the statistics behind the steady and safe decline of Michigan's prison population.](#)
- [Hear Andrea Rachko with Special Olympics Michigan and Macomb Correctional Law Enforcement Torch Run volunteers Robert Leduc, Frank Sgambati, and Karen Solgot share details on upcoming fundraising events and volunteer opportunities.](#)



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PODCAST

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# A look ahead at 2020

## STRATEGIC PLAN



In 2019, the department released its newest Strategic Plan. There was so much that was accomplished in the first year and the department will soon release a progress report highlighting work on all the objectives within the plan with target dates in 2019.

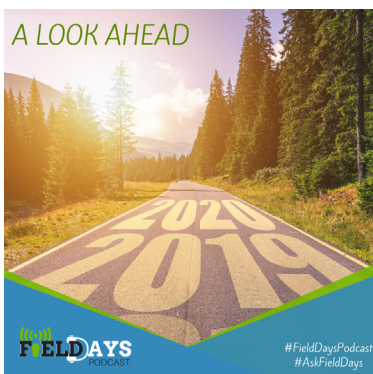
The department is expected to open its first Vocational Village for women, and third statewide site, later this year at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility.

Construction on the site began in 2018. The new Vocational Village will include training in computer coding, 3D printing, and cosmetology, among other trades.



Late last year, the department announced the launch of a new medication-assisted treatment pilot at three prisons as part of the state's efforts to combat the opioid epidemic. Central Michigan Correctional Facility, Carson City Correctional Facility and Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center will be the first facilities to pilot medication-assisted treatment this year. The Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility will be added as a fourth site for the program.

Formalized mentoring programs for staff and for returning citizens are expected to kick off in 2020. A formal mentoring program for employees will have the ability to aid in the growth and success of staff across the department. Mentoring for parolees can help them adjust to life in the community in a positive way. A coaching-style model of supervision that empowers staff to use their expertise to model pro-social behavior is also in the works for 2020.



For more on what's ahead for the Michigan Department of Corrections, [click here](#), or the image at the left for an episode of the Field Days podcast highlighting what is on the horizon.





# New field agents join the MDOC

The Michigan Department of Corrections welcomed 20 new field agents and field service assistants as members of the Denise Allsberry Class.

An oath of office ceremony was held on Jan. 10 in Troy. Field Operations Administration Deputy Director Russ Marlan, class namesake Denise Allsberry and other FOA leaders were on hand to congratulate graduates and answer questions. “You are coming in and working for the most innovative corrections department in the U.S.,” Allsberry told new agents. “We are a role model for community corrections. You are working for a department that is only going to continue to innovate.”

Allsberry worked for the MDOC for more than 41 years and retired in 2018 as Assistant Deputy Director of the Office of Parole and Probation Services.

New field staff included:

Abigail Bennetti — Washtenaw County Probation Office  
Jarrett Clarke — Wayne County Court Services Unit

Kristin Costigan — Pontiac Probation Office  
Jon Groesser — Monroe County Parole and Probation Office  
Michael Grys — Ionia County Parole and Probation Office  
Tashie Hawkins — Greenfield District Probation Office  
Devin Jackson — Greenfield District Probation Office  
Alexander Kalka — Ingham County Parole Office  
Caitlin Kato — Berrien County Probation Office  
Shane Kirk — Washtenaw County Probation Office  
Cassandra Lindberg — Tuscola County Parole and Probation Office  
Kevin McCartney — Monroe County Parole and Probation Office  
Matthew Moffit — Ingham County Parole Office  
Meghan Niestroy — Pontiac Probation Office  
Shera Novak — Washtenaw County Parole  
Quochawn Parker — Greenfield District Probation Office  
Ashlee Payne — Muskegon County Probation  
Britney Robinson — Greenfield District Probation  
Gregory Sands Jr. — Monroe County Parole and Probation Office  
Jeremiah Shilling — Genesee County Parole and Probation Office

## New agent hopes to make a positive impact on others

Criminal justice has interested Matthew Moffit for years.

He studied the subject starting in high school and looked up to relatives, including his father, who served in law enforcement.

“My whole family is in law enforcement and it’s always been a passion of mine,”



Moffit said. “I wanted to get out there and make something happen in the world.” As he continued his studies through college, he became interested in parole and probation and

landed an internship with the Ingham County Parole Office in the summer of 2019.

Then, in January, he re-joined the office this time as an agent, after completing training in the Denise Allsberry Class. “It was the best thing to happen,” Moffit said of joining the department as an agent after graduating from Ferris State University with a degree in criminal justice.

He said the training he received through the department helped him further build his skills and he values what he learned, especially in regard to Motivational Interviewing.

He said he hopes to make a positive impact in the lives of others during his career.

“You work with more people and you can connect with them more,” Moffit said of his interest in becoming an agent. “If I’m able to make an impact in their life and steer them down a better path, that’s my goal.”





# Curtain Call

## Genesee County agent appears on Disney+ show “Encore!”

It had been decades since Genesee County Probation Agent Jacob Desgrange had performed on stage. His theater class at Flint Central High School was once something he looked forward to, before he stepped away from the performing arts as a teen. That was until a former classmate approached him about rejoining his former high school theater cast for an episode of the Disney+ show “Encore!” on their 1992 production of *The Sound of Music*.

The show is a reality series that reunites the cast of high school musical productions years later to recreate the performance. “I made a joke that if they could find the guy who played the Captain (von Trapp), I would do it,” Desgrange said. When the show began preparing for production in the Flint area, Desgrange said he was initially hesitant about joining the cast, but his wife convinced him to step out of his comfort zone.

Once he rejoined the cast, he said he quickly reconnected with former classmates and his love of acting. Desgrange was even prepared to

assume his original role as Max Detweiler in the production of the musical but was asked instead to play Captain von Trapp. “I was honored to do it,” Desgrange said. “When they told me they wanted to make me the captain, I almost turned it down. I was ready to play my old role, but I was very appreciative of getting that role.”

Desgrange said the cast had five days to prepare for the performance and spent at least 8 hours each day practicing. When the curtain rose for the final production, his family was there to watch.

“They couldn’t believe I did it,” he said. “They definitely got a kick out of it.”

He said he enjoyed the experience and if he hadn’t joined the show, he would have never considered getting back into theater.

Now, he and his daughter are looking for a local production they can appear in together. “It felt like going home,” he said of being on stage again. “It felt really comfortable. All these memories came flooding back of being on stage.”



Pictured: Agent Desgrange (third from right) with cast members of Flint Central High School's 1992 production of *The Sound of Music* for the Disney+ show “Encore!” (Photo by: Disney+/Jean Whiteside)

## New Employee Engagement Survey to kick off March 2

The State of Michigan needs to hear from you — its valuable state employees.

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 45,000 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.

State employees also submitted their ideas for poster designs promoting the 2020 survey. Staff across state government had the chance to vote on their favorite design until Jan. 17. More information on the survey will be available as it gets closer.

## MDOC vs. MCO hockey game held January 31

The MDOC Black Knights will take on the MCO Enforcers in the second annual Corrections Cup hockey game. The game will be held at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 31 at the Summit Sports and Ice Complex in Dimondale.

Tickets are \$10 per person and children 12 and younger are free.

Proceeds from the game will benefit the MCO Military Members Committee.





# Diving In

G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility employee honors son through support of Special Olympics

Many people might have reservations about leaping into an icy lake. But for Lorelai Royalty, the Special Olympics Michigan Polar Plunge has become an important annual event.



About a year and a half ago, a former colleague at Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center reached out to her about getting involved in Special Olympics events. She had been looking for a way to honor her infant son who passed away after being diagnosed with a chromosomal condition called Trisomy 18.

She quickly developed a passion for Special Olympics and didn't hesitate to get involved in events, including the Polar Plunge and Law Enforcement Torch Run Central Route. The physically-challenging Central Route run is a more than 750-mile relay across the state that involves each runner completing 5 miles every 12 hours.

She said the memory of her son, her team and support from the community kept her going. "People would show up and run with you," she said. "The whole community would come out

— children, seniors, people of all ages. It melted your heart to see complete strangers come together to support us."

Royalty, who transferred to G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility in 2018 as a general office assistant in the warden's office, currently serves as the Special Olympics team captain for the facility and has enjoyed getting her colleagues involved. "The fact that so many people are willing to jump in an icy lake to benefit other people is amazing," she said. "It makes you not think about the cold so much."

She hopes to help raise \$40,000 this year.

Between running long distances and jumping into frigid waters, Royalty said she wouldn't hesitate to do it all again.

"There's that positive, elated feeling you get from doing something so much bigger than yourself that's benefitting other people," she said. "There is so much positive that comes out of all of it."

She said getting involved in supporting Special Olympics has been a life-changing experience and she encourages others to get involved.

"There are so many people who are just there to help other people," she said. "You don't have to jump in with both feet. If you want to do more, there are people who will take your hand and show you."

**[Want to show your support? Click here to donate to team JCF or see other Special Olympics Polar Plunge teams here.](#)**

## Officer sentenced for drug smuggling, staff reminded to stay vigilant

Earlier this month, James Parr, a former corrections officer at Chippewa Correctional Facility, was sentenced to 23 months to 20 years in prison for delivery of a narcotic and conspiracy to deliver a narcotic.

The sentence stems from Parr's arrest in April of 2019 for bringing narcotics into Chippewa Correctional Facility, while working there as an officer.

The department is thankful to Chippewa County Prosecutor Rob Stratton for taking this case seriously in moving forward with prosecution, and to Chippewa Correctional Facility Inspector Terry Wilkins, Warden Connie Horton and the UPSET drug team for their incredible efforts.

Introduction or attempted introduction of contraband into MDOC facilities is a serious safety and security issue that cannot be taken lightly.

When dangerous contraband, like controlled substances, are brought into facilities, it can jeopardize the safety of staff, prisoners and visitors.

We'd like to remind everyone of the importance of staying vigilant and reporting potential drug smuggling.

We will continue to fiercely combat the introduction of contraband and will continue to seek prosecutions for anyone who brings or attempts to bring contraband into any MDOC facilities, including staff and the public.

We know there are many honorable and hardworking employees across the department and the actions of this officer do not represent the majority.

We will continue to pursue prosecution on any and all drug smuggling cases. Please remain vigilant and remember to report any suspicious activity.



# Sandy Simon retires as Director's Executive Management Assistant, served every director since Gus Harrison

Sandy Simon, who served as senior executive management assistant for every MDOC director since Gus Harrison, retired from her role on January 1 with nearly 40 years of service to the department.

Simon joined the MDOC in 1980 as a secretary in Central Office. In 1985, she was named executive secretary and then took on the role of senior executive management assistant to the Director. Her calm demeanor, positive outlook and



wealth of knowledge were a tremendous asset to the many MDOC employees who worked with her through the years.

Employees across the department who knew her had an opportunity to sign squares in a quilt for her and wish her well in her retirement.

Edna Plath, who worked for Budget and Operations Administration deputy director Lia Gulick and has been with the department since 2014, is now serving as executive management assistant in the Director's office.

Pictured left: Sandy Simon receives a quilt signed by many MDOC employees who worked with her as a retirement gift.

## EPIC Section Specialist retires

Kathy Keiffer, who worked as a specialist in the department's Effective Process Improvement and Communication Section, retired January 1 from the MDOC.

Keiffer began her career with the department in 1992 as a word processing assistant at Carson City Correctional Facility. She joined the EPIC Section in 2014. She played a key role in



many of the department's employee initiatives. In addition, she helped facilitate many EPIC teams through the years.

She was designated as a point of contact for the Employee Engagement Survey and MDOC online store and had a tremendous hand in the success of the department's revived Employee Recreation Day events. In addition, she often organized many statewide employee engagement activities, securing discounted tickets to professional sporting events for MDOC employees or drawings for getaways.

## Department names new acting assistant deputy directors, acting wardens

New leaders have been named to top roles at the MDOC following the recent retirements of Assistant Deputy Director Lloyd Rapelje and Baraga Correctional Facility Warden Dan Lesatz.

- Jeremy Bush, who was warden at the Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center, will serve as acting assistant deputy director for the southern region of the correctional facilities administration.
- Shawn Brewer, who was warden at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility, will serve as acting assistant deputy director for operations.
- Scott Yokom, deputy warden at Richard A Handlon Correctional Facility, will serve as acting warden of Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center.
- Jeremy Howard, deputy warden at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility, will serve as warden of Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility.
- Sarah Schroeder, acting deputy warden at Baraga Correctional Facility, will serve as acting warden of Baraga Correctional Facility.
- Dave Shaver, assistant deputy warden at Richard A. Handlon

Correctional Facility, will be acting deputy warden at the facility.

- Russ Rurka, acting assistant deputy warden at Lakeland Correctional Facility will be acting deputy warden at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility.
- Troy Chrisman, inspector at Lakeland, will be acting assistant deputy warden at the facility.
- Dennis Peterson, assistant deputy warden at Baraga, will be acting deputy warden at Baraga.
- Steve Niemi, resident unit manager at Baraga, will be acting assistant deputy warden.

The retirements of Rapelje and Lesatz are effective February 1.

Rapelje started his career in 1987 as a corrections officer at Huron Valley Correctional Facility. In 2014, he was named assistant deputy director of the northern region of the Correctional Facilities Administration and was later named ADD for the southern region.

Lesatz began his career in 1992 as a corrections officer at the Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center. He was named warden of Baraga Correctional Facility in 2017.

Ed Mize, who formerly served as assistant deputy director for operations in the Correctional Facilities Administration also retired January 1.



# Recycling Tip: The 5 R's of Zero Waste

Your waste doesn't just disappear. It ends up somewhere, and more often than not, it's in places you did not intend it to go.

You've probably heard of the three R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, but there are two more that are equally important.

**REDUCE** – Find ways to reduce your consumption and save resources; try to reduce daily waste; purchase quality products that will last;

**REUSE** – Try to reuse, repair or mend items instead of buying brand new; find creative ways to repurpose items (there are tons of ideas online); opt for a *reusable* water bottle, coffee cup, straw (or no straw), shopping bags, produce bags, food wraps or pouches

**RECYCLE** – Use curbside recycling if offered! Educate yourself on the PROPER way to recycle common items like plastic, paper, glass and metal; research alternative options for hard to recycle items such as light bulbs, batteries, electronics, clothing, tools, books, cookware, Styrofoam

**REFUSE** – Choose to refuse things you don't need and say no to items you didn't ask for; Avoid single use plastics and paper products by saying no thank you and opting to use your reusable options instead

**ROT** – Compost your food scraps to create nutrient rich fertilizer for your garden or worm bed or find a food scrap drop off center (farmers' market or community garden) near your house

Those who strive toward zero waste do their best to follow the 5 R's and actively attempt to reduce their carbon footprint in the world.

[For more recycling tips and information, check out the department's recycling manual here.](#)

*Submitted by  
Kristy Holso,  
corrections  
program  
coordinator  
and recycling  
coordinator at  
Oaks Correctional  
Facility.*



## Save the Dates

### 2020 Employee Recreation Days

Royal Scot, Lansing: June 26th

Bay Mills Resort, Brimley: September 18th



# CORRECTIONS OFFENDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



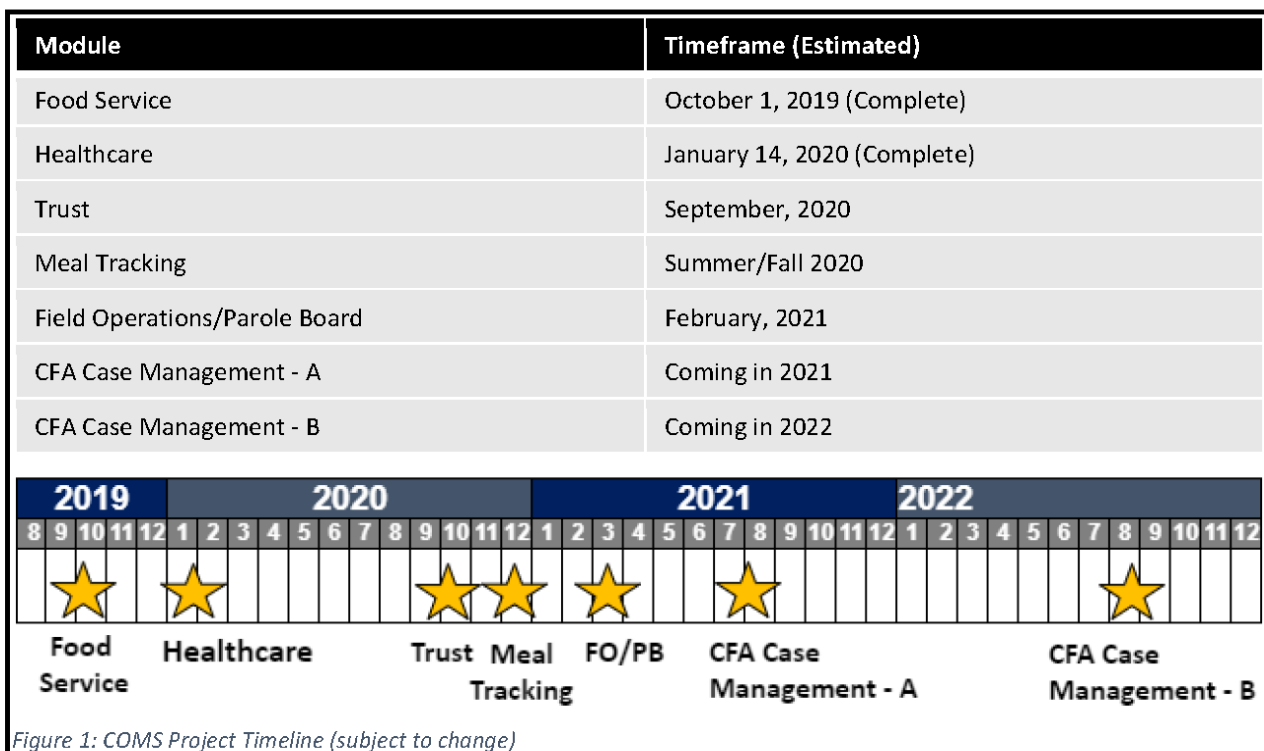
## Looking Ahead at COMS in 2020

The COMS Project is off to a strong start for 2020 with the statewide implementation of the Healthcare module on January 14. COMS Healthcare brings long-desired functionality to healthcare staff such as a complete Electronic Medical Record and the ability to electronically transmit prescriptions and therapeutic diets. Healthcare staff have reported positive responses to the system, and they are looking forward to future enhancements including electronic Medication Administration Records.

Also on the roadmap for 2020 are implementations for Trust and Meal Tracking. The Trust module is specifically designed to manage offender funds and trust accounts. The Meal Tracking module will add additional features to the Food Service module, which will further enhance the benefits already realized in the Food Service module released in 2019. Since it will primarily impact Food Service staff, the OCM team will reengage with Food Service Change Champions to once again help with the transition. Employees who are impacted by these changes can expect more information in the months leading up to the Go Live dates.

In 2021 the Field Operations and Parole Board module will bring a host of improvements for case management, as well as for offender data storage and retrieval. COMS will improve the capability to support the entire continuum (sentencing, probation, incarceration, parole, and public safety) of correctional services in a single integrated system. The COMS case management tool enables MDOC to have a centralized system that provides a comprehensive view of offenders at any point in their state supervision. Using the COMS central information system enables MDOC to make more informed decisions and to be more responsive to the demands of the governor, to the legislature, and to other state and department leaders. To assist with the changeover to COMS, the COMS Project team has begun the development of a Change Network for Field Operations and Parole Board. The team meets monthly with a group of managers who will be acting as Change Champions.

Do you like learning more about COMS? You can find information about the project through a variety of communications channels: posters, flyers, and news publications at your facility, Field Days podcasts, and the COMS Project website located at <https://stateofmichigan.sharepoint.com/teams/insidemdoc/work/coms>



# The Extra Mile

MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



In October, Blake Butler was on assignment as the Central Office security officer when he was notified a pedestrian had been struck by a car at a nearby intersection.

He secured his assignment, responded to the scene and called 911.

He established scene control in a busy intersection, assessed the victim and stabilized the victim's head and neck until emergency medical services arrived.

His quick actions and ability to draw on his training as a first responder and firefighter earned him the department's Lifesaving award.

In July 2018, a prisoner at Thumb Correctional Facility began having a seizure while playing basketball on the yard. He fell and hit his head on the pavement and became unresponsive. Facility staff, including Sgt. Marc Schrubbe and Corrections Officers Michael O'Kelly, Julie Whitney and Edward Keller, immediately responded to assist. Sgt. Schrubbe brought an AED and administered shocks as advised and Officers O'Kelly, Whitney and Keller continued CPR until the prisoner began breathing again and became responsive. They continued to provide aid until emergency medical services arrived. Their actions earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.



In October, a prisoner at St. Louis Correctional Facility was found unresponsive in his cell. Corrections Officers Jason Andres and Michael Stempek responded and checked the prisoner's vital signs. Officer Stempek brought an AED and administered one dose of Narcan. When the first dose was unsuccessful, Officer Stempek administered a second dose. The prisoner began convulsing and Officers Andres and Stempek helped prevent the prisoner from injuring himself. Thanks to their quick actions, the prisoner survived. Their conduct and professionalism during the incident earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.



Nicole Ardt, a Corrections Transportation Officer at Central Michigan Correctional Facility, was at home in August 2018 when she heard a loud crash.

She immediately called 911 and responded to the scene, where she found a woman lying in the middle of the road with severe head injuries as a result of a car and motorcycle collision. She began performing CPR on the victim until emergency medical services arrived to take over.

Her conduct and commitment to helping others in need earned her the department's Citizenship Award.

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# The Extra Mile continued...

In August 2018, a prisoner at Central Michigan Correctional Facility collapsed on a softball field on the yard. Corrections Officers Erick Stinson and Benjamin Hill responded and started performing CPR on the unresponsive prisoner. Corrections Officer Sarah Morgan brought an AED to the scene and Officer Craig Miller placed it on the prisoner. No shock was advised, as a heart rhythm was detected. Registered Nurses Mary Koutz-Mikek and Stanley Kingsley and Licensed Practical Nurse Cortney Crawford arrived and assumed medical supervision and determined the prisoner was experiencing a life-threatening



asthma attack. Emergency medical services were called and Officers Terry Teenier and Joshua Obaga provided transportation coverage, while Lieutenants James Schriber and Dawn Livermore played a pivotal role in the control center, as the prisoner was transported to the hospital for further treatment. Their actions and outstanding commitment to helping a prisoner in distress earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.

Additionally, in January 2019, Corrections Officer Adam Bieri responded to a call for assistance for a prisoner who fell to the ground and began having a seizure on the basketball court. Officer Bieri started chest compressions while Registered Nurse Mary Koutz-Mikek provided rescue breaths. Officers Christopher Delsio, Benjamin Hill and Joshua Obaga also responded to assist with CPR. Emergency medical services then arrived and began providing care to the prisoner.

The exceptional teamwork and commitment to helping a prisoner in distress earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.

In July 2018, Agent Nate McConnell was driving home from work at the Lake County Residential Reentry Facility when he noticed a man and woman who appeared to be fighting. McConnell, who is a Bridges Domestic Violence Prevention Program facilitator, stopped at the scene and saw the man had the woman in a headlock and was pulling her toward a house. Knowing the woman was in danger, he asked the man what he was doing and ordered him to stop. The man began yelling profanities at Agent McConnell. When Agent McConnell identified himself as an MDOC parole agent, the man let go of the woman and ran. Agent McConnell then called 911, and Lake County Residential Reentry Facility Agent Dustin McJames, a Lake County Deputy and another civilian stopped to assist. McConnell posted at the exterior of the building until sheriff's deputies arrived and McJames stayed with the victim until emergency medical services arrived. Agent McConnell and Agent McJames' immediate actions in a time-sensitive situation earned them the department's Citizenship Award.



# The Extra Mile continued...



In January 2019, Agent Philip Gray was traveling near his home when he saw a person lying on the side of the road. He stopped and discovered a 70-year-old woman who had fallen and broken her leg while trying to retrieve her mail. She was not dressed for the cold weather and was showing signs of hypothermia.

He immediately covered the woman with his coat and called 911. When he was informed an ambulance was 30 minutes away, he contacted a neighbor for help, who covered her with more coats and heat packs.

When emergency medical services arrived, he retrieved her

house keys and went inside to check on her dog and find a phone number for her daughter to tell her what had happened.

His attentiveness and care for the woman earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.

Michigan State Industries Promotional Sales Agent Chad Guthrie received a coin from MSI Administrator Chris Kamrada for his dedication and commitment that has helped MSI improve operations and fulfill needs. He helped make improvements to MSI's officer uniform fitting and production process, and expanded sales to county jails.

He also stepped in as MSI's business manager and assisted in sign shop operations when an employee left unexpectedly. His exceptional efforts and positive outlook are greatly appreciated by MSI and the MDOC.



The MDOC received the Diamond Award from Special Olympics Michigan for raising more than \$153,000 for the organization in 2019 to support Special Olympics athletes. Macomb Correctional Facility also received the Ruby Award for raising more than \$10,000 in 2019.



Baraga Correctional Facility Physical Plant Supervisor Wes Pietila received a Good Government Symbol of Excellence Coin for his work to apply for and ultimately be granted an energy rebate from Efficiency United, which offers energy rebate programs.



## Corrections Quiz

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.

## Alger Correctional Facility donates to U.P. Honor Flight

Earlier this month, staff at Alger Correctional Facility presented a check for \$1,100 to Scott Knauf with Upper Peninsula Honor Flight. The facility sold pumpkins painted by prisoners to raise funds for Honor Flight.

Honor Flight transports veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of men and women in the Armed Forces.

[You can find more information on Honor Flight here.](#)

Thanks to both staff and prisoners for supporting our veterans.



## December Quiz Recap

Name this utility company the MDOC partnered with to complete energy efficiency upgrades across the state.

**Answer: Consumers Energy**

Congratulations to **Kristy Holso**, corrections program coordinator at Oaks Correctional Facility, for being the first to correctly answer the December Corrections Quiz. Great job!

## Success Story: Damon Jackson

Damon Jackson was the first student to graduate from the Vocational Village's CDL Truck Driving program.

Today, he is on the road with Kuperus Trucking and has received additional training through the FCG Truck Driver Training School and assistance from West Central Michigan Works! He excelled throughout training, earning his permit and landing interviews.

His employer said he is doing an outstanding job and they are thankful to have him on the team.



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# SNAPSHOTS

## A look at life around the MDOC



A group of 40 criminal justice students with the Muskegon Intermediate School District's Career Tech Center visited Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility in December as part of the Helping Others Pursue Excellence Youth Deterrent Program. Students heard from six prisoners who shared their personal stories.



Carson City Correctional Facility staff adopted two families during the holidays and raised \$3,000, including a donation from the Prisoner Benefit Fund. Each child in each of the families received winter gear, clothes and items from their wish list. Parents received household items and gift cards.



The Lahser District Probation Office participated in the North-End Youth Improvement Council Adopt-A-Child Annual Christmas Program by adopting a family and collecting clothes, hats, gloves and toys for a family with four children. Word Processing Assistant Rosetta Brown spearheaded the collection. The donations were distributed at the annual event at Cobo Hall by Agent Carolyn Reedy.



MDOC staff in Jackson participated in Shop with a Cop in December, helping area children in need shop for gifts and pick up items they could use.

## Corrections in the News

**Shakespeare in Prison teaches inmates radical empathy** — The Detroit News

**Opinion: Restore financial aid to Michiganders in prison** — Traverse City Record Eagle

**Michigan to swap out 4,000 ankle monitors for ones with upgraded technology** — MLive

**Michigan spends \$4.6 million to upgrade parolee ankle monitors statewide** — Michigan Radio

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

## Seen on Facebook...



Michigan Department of Corrections

January 22 at 6:46 PM · 🌐

Warden Bauman and members of our education staff are proud to announce that the new welding trailer is up and running at Newberry Correctional! This mobile facility will give prisoners in vocational education programming a chance to learn and hone new, in-demand skills. Welding is a versatile trade that allows skilled workers to adapt and succeed in changing job markets.



To see more, like the MDOC on [Facebook](#)

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# November New Hires

Anderson, Keven  
Bolesky, Delbert  
Bynum, Larry  
Clay, Latreesa  
Daniels, Heather  
Dean, Sarah  
Dehetre, Kevin  
Duncan, Ashley  
Dunham, Michelle  
Fink, Joel  
Flores, Julie  
Graham, Sherry  
Jackson, Brittany  
Johnson, Amy  
Jones, David  
Kato, Caitlin  
Kavanagh, Karagan  
Kelley, Chelsie  
Lewis, Katrina  
Merren, Alexander  
Mills, Preston  
Novak, Shera  
Popiel, Elizabeth  
Ricks, Chelsea  
Sayles, Martha  
Scully, Craig  
Thornton, Laresha  
Town, Angela  
West, Katherine  
Wright, Jessica

Licensed Practical Nurse, Cooper Street Correctional Facility  
Industries Production Leader, Michigan State Industries  
Cook, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center  
Registered Nurse, Detroit Reentry Center  
General Office Assistant, Corrections Central Office  
Accounting Assistant, Jackson Central Region  
Cook, Woodland Center Correctional Facility  
Dental Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center  
General Office Assistant, Alger Correctional Facility  
Licensed Electrician, Oaks Correctional Facility  
General Office Assistant, Central Michigan Correctional Facility  
Registered Nurse, Macomb Correctional Facility  
Departmental Technician, Detroit Reentry Center  
Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility  
Licensed Electrician, Lakeland Correctional Facility  
Field Agent, Berrien County Probation Office  
General Office Assistant, Carson City Correctional Facility  
General Office Assistant, Corrections Central Office  
Storekeeper, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
Cook, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility  
Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility  
Field Agent, Washtenaw County Parole Office  
Librarian, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility  
Word Processing Assistant, FOA  
School Teacher, Michigan Reformatory  
Cook, Ionia Correctional Facility  
Teacher Aide, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
Cook, Carson City Correctional Facility  
Registered Nurse, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility  
Registered Nurse, Marquette Branch Prison

# November Retirements

Ballard, Ronald	Licensed Electrician, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Barber, Charlie	Field Agent, Macomb County Parole Office
Barker, Thomas	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Beard, Stacey	Corrections Program Coordinator, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Beaulieu, Timothy	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Berry, Tammie	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Brehmer, Richard	Corrections Transportation Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Burke, James	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Crawley, Joseph	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Cusick, Joseph	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Dauphinais, Todd	Corrections Transportation Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Dinehart, Robin	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Falor, Tracy	Departmental Analyst, Corrections Central Office
Fedorowicz, Paul	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Galbraith, Lori	Accounting Technician, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Greenia, Joginder	Field Agent, Genesee County Probation Office
Hackenburg, Paul	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Hanks, Debbie	Secretary, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Hendricks, Phillip	Corrections Transportation Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Henkel, Robert	Industries Production Leader, Michigan State Industries
Hilliard, Dianne	Field Agent, Arenac County Parole and Probation Office
Hollingshed, Keith	Field Agent, Detroit Reentry Center
Jason, Christena	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Johnson, Ryan	Field Agent, Lawton Parole Office
Johnson, Shawn	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Kummer, Joseph	General Office Assistant, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Lacey-Malone, Isabell	Corrections Field Service Assistant, FOA
Leonowicz, Steven	Maintenance Mechanic, Macomb Correctional Facility
London, Terese	Financial Specialist, Corrections Central Office
Lounds, Ronald	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Lyman, Sheryl	Departmental Technician, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Mattson, Mark	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
McCray, Lawrence	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Noom, Duane	Corrections Officer, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Norman, Michael	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Onufer, Karen	Special Education Teacher, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Randall, Mary	General Office Assistant, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Randolph, Carol	Registered Nurse, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Redeemer, Desiree	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Rodgers, Richard	Food Services Supervisor, Ionia Correctional Facility
Rosebrock, Steven	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Schmidt, Jerry	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Thompson, Shane	Resident Unit Manager, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Tincknell, Darryl	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Walls, Donald	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Wright, Cheryl	Licensed Practical Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center