

Heyns steps down from role as MDOC director

Four years ago, I had the honor of being asked to lead the Michigan Department of Corrections. When I accepted this appointment from Governor Snyder in 2011, I made it clear my main priorities were to keep the public safe, find more efficient and cost effective ways to run the department, and build on our efforts to rehabilitate individuals so they do not reoffend.

Together, we have made some great achievements and as I look back on my tenure with the MDOC I can say with confidence that we accomplished these goals and others.

- We have lived within our means and found creative ways to reduce costs without sacrificing the safety of the state's citizens, bringing our budget under the \$2 billion mark.
- We reduced the recidivism rate to 29 percent—the lowest in state history and one of the lowest in the nation.
- We created the Detroit Detention Center and Detroit Reentry Center, which has had a positive impact on the city of Detroit and the criminal justice system.
- Our statewide Employee Engagement Survey results have been remarkable and in this year's survey, the MDOC had the largest increase in engagement of any department or agency in the state.
- Lastly, we implemented the department's first-ever strategic plan, and the majority of the objectives within it came from input we received from our employees.

I am grateful for all of your hard work that allowed us to reach these goals, and I have always been impressed by the dedication, compassion, honesty and integrity you bring to your demanding jobs each day.

I am proud of all the department has been able to accomplish in the last four years, and now as I step aside, it is time for a new generation of leaders to stand up and continue moving the MDOC forward.

I am confident Warden Heidi Washington will do an excellent job in her new role leading the department as its director, as I look to help coordinate the Governor's efforts on statewide criminal justice reform.

As warden of the Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center, Warden Washington runs one of our busiest and most complex facilities, while also overseeing the Duane L. Waters Health Center. I've always been able to count on her, and I know the rest of you will be able to as well when she takes the helm.



Warden Heidi Washington named MDOC director

Heidi Washington has worked with the Michigan Department of Corrections for 17 years and has served in a number of leadership positions during her career with the department.

She has served as warden of the Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center (RGC) since 2009, and is also responsible for the Duane L. Waters Health Center.

As warden of RGC, she manages a facility responsible for the intake and processing of all adult male offenders sentenced to prison, and oversaw an annual budget of \$52 million, as well as more than 600 employees. She has also stepped in as acting assistant deputy director for 19 prison facilities as needed in the last six years.

Prior to becoming warden of RGC, Washington served as warden of Robert Scott Correctional Facility and administrative assistant to the department's executive bureau, where she provided oversight for the department's Legislative Affairs office and represented the MDOC before the legislature. She joined the Department of Corrections in 1998 as a legislative assistant after working for state legislators for five years.

She continues to serve as the corrections liaison to the Michigan Women's Commission.

Her goals for the department include enhancing security and the use of technology, building upon efforts to reduce recidivism, educating offenders to prepare them for release, redefining healthcare strategies, stabilizing the MDOC's workforce and improving the department's image.

Washington will assume her role as director starting July 1, and will work with Director Heyns on the transition.

Washington holds a degree in political science from Michigan State University, and a law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

