



2016 Accomplishments



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Message from the Secretary of Corrections

At the end of each year we reflect upon our work to ensure we accomplished what we had planned for that year.

Our goals as a corrections agency are to protect public safety while:

- Begin transparent and fiscally responsible;
- Working to reduce inmate-on-inmate and inmate-on-employee violence within our prisons;
- Testing concepts and practices that allow for the reduced use of restricted housing/administrative segregation;
- Increase the likelihood of a reentrant's successful reintegration through the use of evidence-based treatment and educational/vocational program; and
- Providing employees with the skills needed to safely and successfully work in a prison environment while dealing with a wide range of individuals, including those with mental health issues.



These accomplishments, along with the many more that are highlighted in this document, are only brought to life thanks to the more than 15,000 dedicated and highly-trained employees that are the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. It is thanks to their long hours and hard work that our agency is beginning to see a steady, year-after-year reduction in the inmate population, programs that actually change individuals and a safer prison system. These employees have many ideas that they suggest for testing, and many are proving successful. We listen to our employees because they are the ones in the prisons, they are the ones in the blocks working day-to-day in a challenging environment.

I hope you take time to review this document to learn about what these amazing employees do for a living. I believe that you will agree that the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections has become a progressive agency that works to return individuals to their communities as better people than when they were first committed to our system. Returning better citizens makes for a safer society... and that's what we are all about.

On behalf of the DOC's executive team, I would like to thank each and every one of our employees for what they do on a daily basis for the citizens of Pennsylvania.

John E. Wetzel
Secretary

Pennsylvania Issues Grants to Fight Opioid Use Disorders -- The DOC awarded \$1.5 million to human service agencies serving 11 counties to provide Medication Assisted Treatment to inmates for substance use disorder. The counties receiving funding are: Allegheny, Bradford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Huntingdon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Northampton, Pike and Schuylkill. The awards will help more than 150 people fight opioid use disorder and re-enter the community as healthier and more productive citizens. The grants are aimed at reducing relapse, recidivism and overdoses by providing Vivitrol, a long-acting injectable form of naltrexone that blocks certain receptors to prevent a ‘high’ and removes the craving for drugs or alcohol. The non-narcotic medication assisted treatment grant program was authorized by Act 80 (SB 524)

Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) – The second phase of the JRI initiative involved a number of meetings of a working group that is comprised of bi-partisan members with representation from all levels of the criminal justice system in Pennsylvania. This working group focused on strategies related to the “front end” of the state’s correctional system pertaining to initial crimes and arrest tactics, diversionary sentencing, pretrial decision making tools, programs and treatment to lower recidivism, and methodologies related to probation and parole. In December, the working group adopted all recommendations and now will work with legislators and policymakers to enact them. The recommendations include:

1. Support public safety for victims by serving more people, more efficiently
2. Improve pretrial decision making to increase public safety and decrease county prison costs.
3. Revise policies to guide sentencing decisions to reduce recidivism
4. Increase the use of effective probation interventions to lower recidivism
5. Make short prison sentences more predictable and less expensive
6. Improve recidivism results for parolees by targeting resources and responses

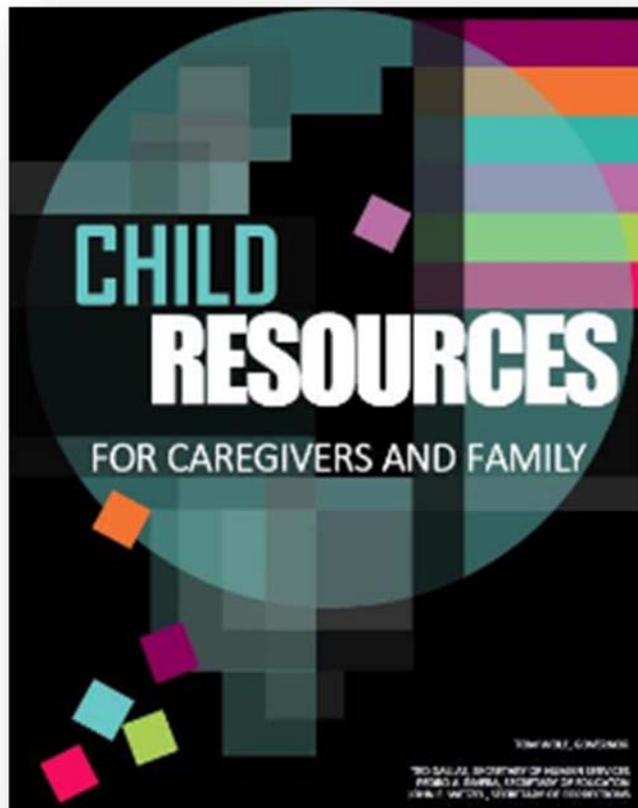
Administrative Segregation/Violence Reduction Initiative - the DOC continued a department-wide initiative begun in 2015 to examine its policies and practices surrounding the use of solitary confinement and ways to reduce in-prison violence. The goal of this initiative is to reduce the use of solitary confinement and reduce in-prison assaults and other forms of violence that lead inmates to solitary confinement in the first place. This initiative is a staff-led effort, involving employees from all ranks and job positions across all of the department’s 26 state correctional institutions (SCI).

Joining the DOC in assisting this effort is a team of researchers from BetaGov, an organization funded by philanthropic foundation to provide technical assistance to agencies and to support practitioner-led research, at no cost. BetaGov works with many state departments of corrections around the country to promote the use of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) for testing ideas and policies. An RCT is considered the “gold standard” of research because it is the best way to test whether something is working.

A number of DOC facilities are testing a variety of concepts with the help of BetaGov. One – SCI Somerset – was recognized for its work. As a part of the DOC’s commitment to reducing the use of solitary confinement, SCI Somerset became the first facility to implement a “Swift, Certain & Fair” initiative in one of its housing units, an approach that was commended by the Swift Certain Fair Resource Center. The model responds to low-level misconducts with lesser sanctions that can be implemented on the spot by any staff member. Preliminary feedback from staff alludes to higher staff morale, fewer misconducts and an overall more positive atmosphere on the unit. Superintendent Trevor Wingard has been leading the SCF charge which is expanding both within SCI Somerset as well as across the state prison system. The prison has been visited by several other state DOCs and shares information about this successful initiative. Detailed information can be obtained on the DOC’s website -- Administrative Segregation & Violence Reduction Initiative.

Child Resource Centers – at several events across the state in 2016, officials from the Department of Corrections and Department of Human Services announced the placement of Child Resource Centers at each DOC facility. The announcement of the resource centers also highlighted the importance of funding for Pre-K education. With approximately 80,000 children of incarcerated parents in Pennsylvania, many are cared for by individuals other than their actual parents. The resource centers provide caregivers with information about various services in one easily accessible place.

Crisis Intervention Team Training – Earlier in 2016, the DOC successfully trained 1,000 employees in crisis intervention. By the end of 2016, that number had risen to 1,260. Having made significant improvements to the way it delivers mental health care to its inmates, the DOC uses this training to provide employees with skills necessary for them to respond quickly and appropriately when a mental health crisis happens. Doing so helps to ensure proper care de-escalates a situation so that potential violence and harm to inmates or prison staff is averted.



U.S. DOJ Closes Investigation -- Citing significant improvements made to policies and practices intended to protect prisoners with serious mental illness and intellectual disabilities from the harmful effects solitary confinement, the U.S. Department of Justice, earlier this year, closed an investigation into the DOC. The federal department opened its statewide investigation into the use of solitary confinement on prisoners with serious mental illness and intellectual disabilities in May 2013 after finding a pattern of constitutional violations and violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Justice Department said in closing the investigation that the DOC demonstrated its commitment to reforming its use of solitary confinement by working closely with the department and beginning improvements at the outset of the investigation. Since then, the DOC has worked to ensure that inmates with serious mental illness and/or intellectual disabilities are no longer subjected to solitary confinement and are instead provided with specialized treatment to meet their individual needs.

Specialized Center Opened to Provide Services to Seriously Mentally Ill Reentrants – Housed at the DOC’s Wernersville Community Corrections Center, the DOC has opened the Pathways Transitional Wellness Center, which focuses on highlighting treatment programs for those with serious mental illness who are preparing to return to the community. It is the first and only state-run center solely dedicated to helping individuals with serious mental illness re-enter society. Residents at Pathways receive all of the resources they need to succeed in one supportive environment. A committed staff of counselors, social workers, psychiatrists, psychologists and certified peer support specialists work with reentrants to provide a range of services such as mental health and substance abuse counseling. The center also offers educational opportunities and employment counseling and facilitates job opportunities while reentrants are in the program.

Reducing Inmate Transportation Costs – The DOC is saving more than \$500,000 a year in transportation costs by temporarily relocating inmates receiving radiation treatment to a single facility. In 2015, the DOC began consolidating inmate radiation treatment cases at the State Correctional Institution at Somerset. Relocating inmates from throughout the DOC to this prison during the course of their radiation treatments reduces the costs associated with transporting inmates to various medical facilities across the state.

Through an agreement with Somerset Hospital, the DOC inmates are transferred from other state prisons to SCI Somerset where they are then transported - on an out-patient basis - to the local hospital to receive their radiation treatments, resulting in a cost savings for taxpayers.



DOC Inmates Rank Higher than National Average on GED Test --

For the third straight year, inmates in the Pennsylvania state prison system scored higher than the national average on GED high school equivalency tests. Attaining higher education levels and improved vocational skills can lead to reduced recidivism. In 2016, 1,016 inmates took the test with 828 passing, for an 82 percent pass rate, compared with the national overall rate of 76 percent.



U.S. Department of Education's Second Chance Pell Pilot Program -- Four Pennsylvania institutions of higher learning were among those selected earlier this year to participate in a national pilot program to allow inmates to access post-secondary education with the goal of helping them get jobs and support families when they are released. Bloomsburg University, Lehigh Carbon Community College, Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Villanova University were among 67 colleges and universities awarded federal grants under the U.S. Department of Education's Second Chance Pell pilot program. The awards will provide funding for 115 inmates at six correctional institutions (SCIs Frackville, Graterford, Houtzdale, Mahanoy, Muncy and Pine Grove) to access college-degree or certificate programs at the participating schools. The \$30 million Pell pilot program is designed to test whether participation in high quality education programs increases after expanding access to financial aid for incarcerated individuals.

DOC Introduces Interactive Maps – In 2016, the DOC introduced, on its website at www.cor.pa.gov, connected and interactive maps allowing citizens to track the numbers of inmate admissions and releases by committing county, which supports Gov. Tom Wolf's commitment to government transparency. The maps also can assist providers of community-based services to estimate the need and the number of returning citizens they can service.

Energy Savings Pilot Project – The DOC announced implementation of a new energy savings pilot program that will reduce utility costs at SCI Dallas by more than \$1.7 million over five years. This initiative is part of the Governor's Office of Transformation, Innovation, Modernization and Efficiency (GO-TIME). The Guaranteed Energy Savings Act (GESA) provides an innovative financing technique that uses cost savings from reduced energy consumption to repay the cost of installing energy conservation measures. The DOC expects significant utility savings from a reduction in facility water and electrical usage. The project also includes other energy conservation measures that will result in energy savings. The savings for the five-year period beginning in October and ending in June FY 2020/21 is expected to be \$1,725,000. The project plan involved replacing existing interior and exterior lighting with new light emitting diode (LED) lighting to improve the quality of lighting as well as reduce its energy costs and enhance

security. The LED power supplies have a 100-year life expectancy that will significantly reduce maintenance costs, allowing electricians to fulfill other maintenance needs throughout the institution.

Partnership Saves Costs, Improves Post-Incarceration Medical Care -- A unique partnership between Temple University Hospital and the Department of Corrections is realizing significant savings and improving the health of hundreds of inmates returning to the community. More than 600 inmates are currently being served and the program is expected to save more than \$21 million over five years. In mid-2015, the DOC joined with Temple to provide health care services for state prison inmates with infectious diseases by taking advantage of a federal program for reduced-cost pharmaceuticals. Under the 340B program, drug manufacturers are required to provide outpatient drugs to eligible health care organizations at significantly-reduced prices. The program also enables covered entities to better leverage scarce federal resources, reach the optimum number of eligible patients and provide comprehensive services. During the two-year period ending in fiscal year 2016-17, the program will yield a savings of approximately \$4.2 million for the Commonwealth. Over five years, the projected savings are expected to total more than \$21.6 million. The program is currently serving more than 600 inmates diagnosed with infectious diseases with the expectation that more will be served in the future. With 40 percent of DOC reentrants returning to the Philadelphia region, this local program ensures that they have an established patient status with a practitioner in the area and therefore provides continuity of care upon reintegration into the community.

Expansion of Drug Interdiction Unit – Following the graduation of five new handlers and their K-9s, the DOC's Drug Interdiction Unit, which began in 1995 with four handlers and k-9s, was expanded to 25 handlers, three supervisors and 30 K-9s. The DIU is responsible for searching 26 DOC institutions, 64 community corrections centers and assisting with county jail requests as needed. In addition to alerting to organic drugs, DIU K-9s are now able to detect synthetic drugs and cell phone batteries.



DOC Holds Fourth TEDx Event – In December, the DOC hosted its fourth TEDx event.

TEDxChesterStatePrison was a huge success, focusing on the impact of incarceration and families. Held inside the prison and attended by more than 300 people, the daylong event featured speakers from both inside and outside the prison, as well as inmate performers. Among the outside speakers was state Auditor General Eugene DePasquale, who spoke of his own father's incarceration and a new music video by "the Lady Lifers" at SCI Muncy. Prevent TEDx events have been held at SCIs Graterford, Muncy and Pittsburgh.



DOC's First Chance Initiative – Children of Incarcerated Parents (COIP) – At the December TEDx event, Secretary John Wetzel announced that the DOC was looking for House and Senate legislators who are interested in sponsoring what he calls "First Chance" Initiative.

With more than 85,000 Pennsylvania children whose parents are incarcerated in the state prison system, Wetzel hopes the "First Chance" initiative will help break the intergenerational cycle of crime – as COIP are more likely to end up in prison at some point in their lives just simply because they have an incarcerated parent.

Highlights of this First Chance Initiative are:

- Create legislation to authorize "The First Chance Act" that will allow the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to create a public charitable trust that benefits disadvantaged youth.
- The trust will be funded not only by private, tax-deductible donations, but also through a small percentage of profits contributed from our large, public PA DOC service contracts, both existing and new.
- Monies from the trust would be distributed – by a board chaired by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency - for scholarships and programs to benefit at-risk youth in an effort to derail their involvement in the justice system.

- Expansion of nurse family partnerships – a one-stop prevention program for low-income, first-time parents and their children.
- Access early childhood learning – a broad range of education programs and environments for young children of incarcerated parents.
- Promotion of personal mentoring – relationships that build character, provide stability and offer real life guidance for work and education.
- Encouraging regular family visits – restoring and maintaining the vital relationship between incarcerated parents and their children.

In closing the TEDx event, Wetzel said, "I don't care what you do, but do SOMETHING for these kids. Let's partner together to help children of incarcerated parents."

PREA Compliance -- All 26 state correctional institutions and all 13 DOC-operated community corrections centers were certified as compliant as the full audit cycle reached its conclusion in August 2016. PREA, having been enacted in 2003, has set the expectation for states to make every effort to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

DOC Discards the Use of Discriminatory Terminology – Earlier this year Secretary John Wetzel recently authored an op-ed that appeared in The Washington Post committing to referring to individuals returning to society only as “reentrants” rather than “felons” or “offenders.” The move is part of a commitment by the DOC to encourage successful reentry of individuals and to limit discrimination that often impedes reentrants’ ability to gain employment, housing and other important aspects of returning to Pennsylvania’s many communities.

Juvenile Lifers -- Of the 514 “juvenile lifers” in the PA DOC, 85 percent have completed reentry-related programs in anticipation of possible resentencing that could result in their release from prison at some point in the future. When the DOC began closely tracking program completion in March 2016, 67 percent had completed their prescribed programs. That number had risen each month throughout the course of 2016. Year-to-date, seven juvenile lifers have been released from prison by the courts, and 49 have been resentenced to a term that results in their eventual release from prison. Of the 49 resentenced inmates, three have transitioned from prison to a DOC community corrections center in order to complete the reintegration process. Another 25 are on the schedule to appear before the PA Board of Probation and Parole. The DOC’s website has additional information on this issue.

Incarcerated Veterans – The DOC has approximately 3,300 incarcerated veterans, and it has special housing units at three prisons that are designated for them. In 2016, the DOC hired a full-time veteran’s coordinator whose role it is to identify all veteran inmates in the DOC and assist them with reentry efforts, coordination of benefits and acquiring pertinent documentation, including the DD 214, Social Security card and birth certificate.

INDIVIDUAL DOC CENTRAL OFFICE BUREAU/OFFICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Bureau of Administration

- DOC overtime costs for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 was under \$99.7 million, which is more than a 6% reduction from the previous year.
- This office was instrumental in arranging for a natural gas pipeline to be installed (over a distance of five miles) to SCI Waymart. The original cost was more than \$4.4 million with a payback of approximately five years. Through negotiations with UGI, the cost was lowered to \$3.3 million. In Oct. 2016, UGI presented a rebate check of \$660,000 to the DOC thereby lowering the final cost further and reducing the payback period to approximately two years.

Bureau of Community Corrections

- Reentry contracts recently were streamlined and published by the PA Department of General Services. These contract lots use consistent pricing and a minimal amount of line items to accomplish the work to make invoicing more efficient. The DOC also moved to a pricing sheet where the DOC defined what prices it is willing to pay for the lots. This is a change from the previous contract as the providers would tell the DOC what they were charging. The old process made the invoicing process very difficult and complex for BCC staff who had to manually verify each provider's rates. The DOC also is moving from a standard best value bid to an ITQ which will allow the DOC to add providers at any time.
- Virtual Reality technology was implemented by the Bureau of Community Corrections (BCC) to help reduce the stress and anxiety for Juvenile Lifers and assist with their reentry into selected community corrections centers. The DOC contracted to film up to 20 centers that would house the Juvenile Lifer population once they were paroled or their sentence was commuted. BCC has met with every Juvenile Lifer in the DOC and continues to meet with every one of them that is being released, whether to a center or to a home plan. If they are being released to one of the designated centers, they are afforded the opportunity to view that center through 360 virtual reality tours. Footage of the centers is loaded onto a Samsung device and, using an Oculus headset, is shown to the individual so they can become familiar with where they will be living, what the building looks like -- both inside and outside -- through a virtual guided tour. This has proven to be a benefit to the reentrants. The DOC also is expanding its use of Virtual Reality by partnering with BetaGov and SCI Muncy to use virtual reality as an incentive program. This pilot will be implemented in the early part of 2017. Expansion of virtual reality also has resulted in using this technology on inmates with mental health issues and on hospice cases, both having positive outcomes.

Bureau of Correction Education

In addition to the excellent GED pass rate mentioned earlier in this document, the DOC's Bureau of Correction Education in 2016 contracted with Accreditation, Audit and Risk Management System (AARMS), which allows for Correctional Education Association (CEA) audits to be completed on-line. Pennsylvania is the first state to move toward electronic audits with CEA standards.

Bureau of Correctional Industries

PennDOT and the DOC's Bureau of Correctional Industries (CI) have paired to establish a memorandum of understanding that provides CI with the opportunity to utilize PennDOT repair facilities for its vehicles. These repair shops will perform preventative maintenance, repairs, PA state inspection and emissions testing, etc., for the CI's 97 vehicles. Labor and parts will still be costs for CI, but PennDOT offers zero mark-up on the work.

Office of Equal Employment Opportunity

- Early on in 2016, this office made significant improvements in the efficiency of the Equal Employment Review Certificates (EERCs) process by moving to an electronic submission. This not only streamlined the process and shortened the turnaround time, but also did away with paper files. All EERCs are now processed and responded to within 24 hours of receipt. Lastly, the existing databases were updated to more accurately capture data and information for reporting.
- In 2016, the Office of Equal Opportunity increased its efforts in minority recruitment. Staff attended monthly diversity forums sponsored by the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg and worked closely with Central Office HR in hiring a diversity recruiter. The office, along with leadership staff from the institutions, participated in multiple Access and Opportunity Series, a program that focuses on recruiting, retaining and developing a diverse workforce. The year-long effort in promoting a diverse workforce culminated in a job fair organized by staff from the Office of Equal Opportunity.

Secretary's Office of Inmate Grievances and Appeals

- There were 5,128 grievances filed so far this year. There were nearly 5,850 inmate grievances filed in 2015. Final figures for 2016 won't be known until January.
- The first two stages of a 10-stage development for the new grievance tracking system was completed in 2016. A new system is needed to replace two systems and an excel spreadsheet into one efficient system. The project completion is set for 2018.

Bureau of Health Care Services

- In July 2015, the DOC and the PA Department of Aging's PACE program entered into an inter-agency agreement to cover medication costs for PACE program eligible inmates. For fiscal year 2016, this program has saved the DOC \$2.4 million dollars.

Food Services Division

- Food Procurement and Food Management Software System Contract – In 2016, the DOC transitioned from a number of facility bids and contracts to a single vendor system that has the vendor supply and deliver all food and beverage items. This change is expected to result in an estimated saving of \$8 million per year once fully implemented. The change includes a software component that will allow the DOC to better capture food use and waste and make further cost savings initiatives for the DOC's food service program. The first facility, SCI Camp Hill, will be transitioned early in 2017.
- The DOC updated its food services policy revising food handling and sanitation practices. A major change in policy was the elimination of food loaf and behavior modified meal terminology. It is now referred to as Alternative Meal Service and is strictly a bagged meal modified to address harmful behaviors in maximum security housing.

Bureau of Human Resources

- Since March 2016, the DOC has appointed 718 corrections officer trainees, bringing vacant officer positions statewide to under 200 for the first time since November 2009. This initiative also helps to reduce overtime.
- The DOC developed a strategy to reduce the number of employees out on long term injury because of inmate-related injuries. The DOC identified groups of cases and sought full settlement of those claims with the result that DOC will save \$6.2 million dollars in salary, benefits and overtime in a two-year period and nearly \$100 million over the projected life of the claims.

Bureau of Information Technology

- Over the past year, the Bureau of Information Technology has deployed security servers which has enabled a mobile workforce for both the Department of Corrections and the Board of Probations and Parole. These servers create a secure bridge between the virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) servers at the Enterprise Data Center and the internet. This allows users to connect to their work environments easily and securely from nearly anywhere, any time. Not only has this solution allowed for both agencies to reduce their VPN accounts, but it has an estimated annual savings of \$150,000.

- Implemented a video sharing and archive solution that replaced an antiquated process. This new solution enhances staff efficiencies and higher levels of security.
- Implemented a Comprehensive Data Web Service, improving the DOC's data sharing capabilities.
- As part of a Governor's Office initiative, the DOC has partnered with Office of Administration/Office of Information Technology (OA/OIT) and is providing population data via the Pennsylvania Open Data initiative.
- An executive dashboard was developed to give all DOC executive and leadership team access to facility, regional and state level information at their fingertips. This information is available on both desktops and mobile devices only for internal use by DOC officials.
- A combined DOC/PBPP dashboard was deployed recently which provides PA Board of Probation and Parole and DOC data jointly and provides the public with the information associated with specific measures that impact both DOC and PBPP population.

Mental Health Advocate

- All certified peer support specialists (CPS) have been trained in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), which increases the department's efforts at recognizing the signs and symptoms related to mental illness and effective skills to assist. All CPS' have also been trained in Question, Persuade, Refer (Q.P.R.), which is an evidenced based suicide prevention training course which equips CPS' with the skillset to help their fellow peers who are experiencing a psychiatric crisis, ultimately increasing the ability to save lives.
- The DOC created and piloted, in December at SCI Smithfield, a trauma informed approach course for CPS to equip the CPS' with skills to identify and appropriately refer their peers that exhibit trauma related signs in order to ensure psychological counseling when needed.
- Successfully advocated for behavioral health community support for juvenile lifers and developed a protocol with Reentry and Transitional Services Office to ensure continuity of care and intervention as needed.
- In 2016, the Office of Mental Health Advocate addressed an increasing number of inmates to ensure quality of mental health care.

Bureau of Operations

- The DOC negotiated with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop an Administrative Compliance Order (ACO) for burning coal at SCIs Graterford, Houtzdale, Rockview and Waymart. A new EPA regulation required that the emissions from coal fired boilers be processed and controlled to reduce particulates and hazardous gas by-products by March 2014. The equipment needed to bring the DOC plants into compliance would require an authorized and funded capital project, which would have taken a minimum of several years to accomplish. The ACO includes a one-year extension to the compliance deadline (from March 2014 to March 2015), which provided time needed for the DOC to develop a long-term compliance strategy. This was achieved by using a "Limited Use" program reducing coal usage to 10% of the full rated capacity of each boiler.
- The DOC's Safety Division, in conjunction with the Office of Administration's consultant Compliance Management International, developed a 35-hour training program for DOC safety managers. The training consist of 23 modules that outline job functions for safety management. Each module outlines a policy or multiple policies which are developed through federal, state and local laws, regulations and standards. There is added significance to this accomplishment in that many of these modules will be used as a training program for other state agencies.

Office of Population Management

Working with the Bureau of Information Technology, a special project called the Lehigh Inmate Assignment Project was completed. It is an inmate assignment decision tool that will allow the Office of Population Management to electronically assign inmates to the most appropriate DOC facility that meets their programmatic, educational, security and/or medical needs. Based upon bed availability and resources at all institutions, subsequent moves of inmates from one prison to another also will be managed by this tool. This process is currently done manually and takes a very long time. With the new process, assigning inmates will take seconds.

Reentry and Transitional Services

- Financial Education Initiative - Collaboration between Department of Banking, PA Housing Finance Agency, PA Dept. of Insurance, PA Credit Union Association, Department of Corrections (SCI and BCC) and PA Board of Probation and Parole to improve the financial education and understanding of the population which we serve. The first round of designated DOC and PBPP staff have been trained to conduct the Building Your Financial House program at select SCIs and Parole District Offices. This program has been piloted at SCI Dallas (completed in September) and is currently being piloted at SCI Houtzdale and Coal Township. This is an intensive financial education program which consists of eight sessions spanning approximately eight months. The department also has recently piloted

the Credit and Banking Basics (one-hour course) at SCIs Mahanoy, Albion and Cambridge Springs and two community corrections centers (Harrisburg and Erie CCCs). The next step is to roll out the one-hour course through the diagnostic and classification centers at Camp Hill and Muncy beginning in January 2017. This course also may be incorporated into the Transitional Housing Unit/Reentry Service Office workshop offerings in the future.

- Inmate Identification – In September, improvements were made to the training, tracking and reporting of release identification both for Juvenile Lifers and other releasing inmates. Since these revisions, the average percentage of inmates released with identification rose to greater than 75% statewide. Previous institutional percentages ranged from approximately 34-88% across the state.
- Monthly Reentry Informational Sessions -- Monthly web-based informational sessions were conducted to allow for greater communication opportunity between Central Office reentry and institutional staff. Sessions conducted discussed identification, THU training and ICMA access.

Security Division

- As mentioned earlier in this document, the DOC expanded and reorganized its Drug Interdiction Unit. In addition, through work with Westchester University, Security staff are now able to identify and detect 14 different types of synthetic cannabinoids. All unit canines were imprinted with the synthetic cannabinoids as well. Two handlers have started training with U.S. Customs and Border Protection to become trainers, several new procedures have been put into place and a state-of-the-art kennel was completed in December.
- Begun this year and continuing into 2017, Security Division staff continues to participate in specific Incident Command System training in order to become certified as instructors, 18 of which will continue to train and maintain the DOC's compliance with the National Incident Management System.

Office of Special Intelligence and Investigations (OSII)

- In May 2016, DOC policy was updated requiring all Human Resource Offices to submit background investigation requests to OSII for all prospective new hires prior to their conditional offer of employment. This update resulted in the elimination of applicant backlogs at the facility level and the Training Academy. It will also reduce overtime because employment backlogs were eliminated and facilities are now properly staffed.
- OSII stepped up drug interdiction efforts at the beginning of 2016 in response to an increase of inmate drug overdoses which resulted in 22 arrest of visitors, inmates and staff as of the end of November 2016. This aggressive approach to eliminate drug smuggling has had a positive impact and awareness of the consequences associated with illegal activity in our facilities.

- The OSII Intelligence and Gang Unit and the Information Technology Department have collaborated on a new Intelligence Management System (IMS) that will be launched in March 2017. The IMS will fundamentally change and significantly transform the gang intelligence gathering program in Pennsylvania. No other state corrections department will have the capability to seamlessly collect and disseminate actionable intelligence as quickly and effectively as the PA DOC. The IMS will benefit the federal, state and local law enforcement responses to gang activities inside and outside of prison.

Bureau of Standards, Audits and Accreditation

PREA Compliance Division

Governor's Assurance – The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requires agencies to enforce zero tolerance policies for sexual abuse and sexual harassment that include: training for inmates, employees, volunteers and contractors; proscriptions of cross-gender viewing and searches; risk screening assessments; reporting and investigation of sexual abuse and sexual harassment allegations; medical and mental health care for inmate victims; and data collection and review.

Affected institutions must be audited by a PREA certified auditor at least once every three years and to pass the audit, the institution must be 100% compliant with all applicable PREA standards. On October 13, 2016, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was able to declare full compliance, due in part to the successful completion of PREA audits at all of the department's facilities under the operational control of the Governor. The department first promulgated its PREA policy in 2014 and successfully concluded audits of its facilities by August 20, 2016, the end of the first audit cycle.

Transgender Support Group -- Beginning in July 2016, the PREA Compliance Division partnered with members of TransCentral PA and Alder Health Center to facilitate a monthly transgender support group, via video conference, to institutions across the department that house transgender inmates. The support group continues to grow from humble origins of providing information and answering pre-formulated questions to a community that provides supportive and affirmative interaction among its participants. This group is a firm demonstration of the department's leadership and commitment to providing innovative support services to its vulnerable populations.

Circular Auditing Consortium -- In 2016, the DOC solidified a circular auditing agreement with Maryland, Michigan and Wisconsin for the purpose of providing and receiving audits under the Prison Rape Elimination Act. The first audits under this agreement took place at SCIs

Mercer and Mahanoy in October 2016. This agreement provides PREA audits to the DOC for the costs associated with delivering an audit in a consortium member state, saving the PA DOC the costs associated with private contracting services.

Office of County Inspections and Services

- This office completed 36 inspections of Pennsylvania county correctional institutions under PA CODE Title 37, Chapter 95 during the 2016 calendar year.
- The office successfully completed a significant project that created and implemented a standardized inspection manual that creates more consistency and transparency throughout the inspections.
- In collaboration with the DOC's Training Academy, this office developed a new Title 37, Chapter 95 basic overview web-based training course that is in the production stages. An overview of Title 37, Chapter 95 is required for all new county employees to aid in understanding the basic regulations guiding the county correctional institution's operations.
- Additionally, the office provided a Title 37, Chapter 95 inspection training at the Pennsylvania Prison Wardens' Association 2016 Fall Conference, and is facilitating several sessions of Prison Rape Elimination Act Basic/Refresher training for the counties.

Standards, Policies and Internal Audits

The American Correctional Association's Commission on Accreditation for Corrections rendered nine state prisons and two community corrections centers 100% compliant with all mandatory standards in 2016 during the recent audit cycle. These facilities were SCIs Pittsburgh, Houtzdale, Retreat, Dallas, Laurel Highlands, Somerset, Fayette, Pine Grove and Coal Township and Philadelphia Centers #2 and #4. This accomplishment is due in part to the rigorous internal audits and operations inspections that occur by different bureaus/offices on an ongoing basis department-wide to ensure safe operational practices for staff and inmates alike.

Training Academy

- The Training Academy launched the Assault Management Applications in Corrections (AMAC) defensive tactics training in its Basic Training course in January 2016. Since then more than 1,500 staff have been equipped with essential lifesaving skills. The AMAC program leaves staff with the confidence necessary to avoid the uses of force by de-escalating crisis situations and the skills to minimize harm for everyone involved when force is unavoidable. The inclusion of a team-based strategy and the adaptation of cutting-edge martial arts

techniques poises the DOC to set the standard with the most effective and ethical "defensive tactics" solution available. Early feedback indicates that AMAC related skills are having a positive impact and the skills are being deployed to minimize uses of force and reduce injuries when an assault occurs.

- In 2016, the Training Academy graduated 903 corrections officers from its basic training program.

Bureau of Treatment Services

- The DOC continues to implement gender-responsive treatment programs in place of gender-neutral programs in order to more effectively address the needs of female inmates. In 2016, Living Safely without Violence and the Living Safely Booster Program were implemented in place of Violence Prevention and the Violence Prevention Booster Program in DOC facilities, including community corrections centers.
- While maintaining the Central Diagnostic and Classification Center (DCC) at SCI Camp Hill for all new male commitments to the state prison system, the DOC opened two additional male DCC's -- one in the Eastern Region at SCI Graterford and one in the Western Region at SCI Pittsburgh. This has allowed for expedited intake processing of short-min inmates, as well as expedited admission to recommended treatment programs, thereby shortening the duration of the time those individuals spend incarcerated in SCIs. It should be noted that there is only one DCC for female inmates, SCI Muncy.
- The DOC is expanding implementation of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) utilizing the drug Vivitrol (Naltrexone for extended-release injectable suspension). Vivitrol is currently offered at SCIs Cambridge Springs, Chester, Graterford, Mahanoy, Muncy, Pittsburgh and Quehanna. Effective December 2016, the Bureau of Treatment Services is expanding access to SCIs Dallas, Laurel Highlands, Retreat and Waymart. Eligible reentrants receive their first injections inside the SCI just prior to release. They then are eligible to receive up to 11 injections in the community (as determined at the discretion of the prescribing physician), in conjunction with Alcohol and Other Drug treatment. The DOC has taken steps to significantly increase reentrants' access to Vivitrol by contracting with a mobile Vivitrol unit (Positive Recovery Solutions). This will afford individuals access to this type of treatment in areas where MAT and related resources may be scarce.

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INDIVIDUAL FACILITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Albion

- During 2016, Albion's inmate organization donated \$ 37,113.14 to a number of local charities.
- Albion's Suicide Prevention Committee sponsored three different presentations throughout the year in an effort to educate employees about suicide prevention. In addition to presentations from outside speakers, employees also heard from inmates who had previously attempted suicide.
- In February 2016, SCI Albion opened a new training facility located on institutional grounds. The new training facility can accommodate large groups for local and regional trainings.
- In July 2016, SCI Albion held its annual "Day of Responsibility" for 120 inmates and community guests, including Erie County DA Jack Daneri. Topics included suicide prevention, youth at risk, a reentrant's point of view, as well as a victim's perspective. The event produced several local initiatives with some of the prison's long-term inmates.
- A reentry fair was held for more than 180 inmates in November. The event included a number of outside agencies from across the state.
- The institution has begun to install internet protocol cameras. This project is being completed in phases and is state of the art in terms of video surveillance.
- Prison employees provided gifts for 90 needy children as part of its annual Gifts for Kids Program in December.

The Guardian Pledge

I, _____ hereby pledge to be a Guardian for those struggling with thoughts of suicide, and an advocate for those without a voice. I will seek to gain the knowledge needed to understand and assist those in pain. With this knowledge I will be equipped to recognize the warning signs of someone who may be contemplating suicide and with it I will...

- Watch after those who feel that no one else is watching
- Be the one to hear them when no one else will listen
- Provide hope to those who feel as though all hope is lost
- Be a light for anyone when all they see is darkness
- Understand the pain that hides behind their smile
- Not be afraid to ask if someone is contemplating suicide
- Report and ask for assistance when someone threatens to harm themselves or take their own life
- Encourage them to seek help
- Do what is necessary to save the lives of those who feel as though their lives aren't worth saving
- Show compassion and understand that I can make a difference in someone else's life

By signing this I am taking the first step towards preserving the lives of those around me and selflessly give this part of me to anyone in need.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Witness: _____ Date: _____

Benner Township

- In May 2016 facility staff and inmates participated in a news segment for CNN. This segment highlighted the ongoing work in the area of treatment of the mentally ill inside correctional agencies, particularly the deployment of Mental Health First Aid Training and how that training is utilized daily. The work of Certified Peer Support Specialists was also highlighted in this news segment.
- In May 2016, inmates from the facility submitted 26 nominations for SCI Benner Township Employee of the Year. All of these employees were recognized alongside the employee-nominated Employee of the Quarter recipients and other staff who were nominated by their peers and recognized for their demonstration of exemplary service to the department. Unit Manager Melissa Urbanick received the overall inmate nomination for Employee of the Year for 2016 and was recognized for her exemplary service to the inmate population and SCI Benner Township.
- The prison's employee Empowerment Committee hosted an employee open house in September 2016. More than 200 staff members and their family members attended this event that allowed staff to show their family members what they do inside the facility each day and their role in the overall mission of this facility and the agency.



- The prison's maintenance department actively pursued a material only change order with the state Department of General Services to address ongoing issues with the delivery of hot water inside the housing units. This change provided a 125% increase in hot water capacity and decreased the recovery of hot water during high usage times.
- Pennsylvania Correctional Industries (PCI) laundry at the prison successfully transitioned four facilities to the department's centralized laundry service. With the addition of these customers, PCI laundry at this facility has resulted in a profit.
- During this year, the prison increased the complement of Certified Peer Support Specialists from 15 to 30, allowing the deployment of these peer specialists to every area inside the facility
- Staff implemented an inmate Community Work Program in July 2016. The work crew consists of 10 inmates who provide services to non-profit or government organizations within the local community.
- Staff initiated the Elastography/Sheerwave program for inmates diagnosed with Hepatitis C to receive an ultrasound. This process takes the place of the invasive, more costly liver biopsy that was previously conducted prior to the implementation of this program.
- In November, the prison held its first annual inmate career fair. All vocational students and teachers were able to network with outside agencies such as Career Link, Veteran's Affairs, South Hills Business School and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.
- The prison expanded the mural project throughout the facility. Blank walls that were previously sterile in appearance have come to life in honoring our veterans, in promoting treatment and allowing inmate's to express their artistic ability.
- The facility ended fiscal year 2015-2016 with a balanced budget.
- Staff worked to establish an inmate organization -- Inmates Helping Our Prison Environment. This organization provides a variety of services to the inmate community and has identified non-profitable organizations for receipt of charitable donations through this inmate organization.

Cambridge Springs

- SCI Cambridge Springs worked with Pittsburgh Tribune-Review Reporter Doug Oster on a story about the vegetable gardening program for inmates at SCI Cambridge Springs. The reporter and photographer were on site in early July and early September to gather information, interview staff and inmates and photograph the garden. This story conveyed a positive message to the community, giving kudos to the Penn State Master Gardeners for their volunteer work within the facility.



- As a result of this year's inmate run-a-thon at SCI Cambridge Springs, more than \$13,000 was raised and donated to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Organization.
- Also in 2016, prison employees showed support for a fellow staff member who was diagnosed with cancer in 2016 and is currently undergoing treatment. A spaghetti dinner benefit was held in the fall which raised more than \$10,000 for this employee and her family to offset traveling costs. All classifications of employees came together during this time of need to help their DOC family member.
- Prison employees assisted the local Helping Hands Organization with The Angel Tree Project by purchasing and donating Christmas gifts to nearly 50 children from 17 different families in the local community.
- The prison's Activities Department coordinated a donation of 240 teddy bear packages for local children in need this Christmas season. The bags included a fabric hand-painted bag completed by the inmates, a folded teddy bear hand towel, a body wash and poof, a lip balm, hand sanitizer, lotion, cookies and a knit or crocheted hat by the inmates. The \$2,300 project was made possible by funds provided by the Phoenix Inmate Organization. The bags were given in conjunction with the prison's employee Angel Project gift donations. The entire CBS family (inmates and staff) provided their time, talents and treasures to provide a memorable Christmas for the community's less fortunate children this year.

Camp Hill

- Celebrated the prison's 75th Anniversary in March 2016 and held several activities throughout the year to celebrate.
- In an effort to improve communications between staff and inmates, the prison held two roundtable discussions with Certified Peer Support Specialists and employees.
- Reduced the prison's corrections officer vacancies from 50 to 13, and reduced the total number of staff vacancies from 115 to 71.
- Completed the RFP process to implement Phase 1 and Phase 2 of establishing an extensive security camera network throughout the institution.
- SCI Camp Hill is piloting the use of LIVE SCAN, which is an automated fingerprinting system. Only SCI Camp Hill and SCI Muncy are currently doing this for new commitments at this time, with parole violators being added later in the pilot.



Chester

- As mentioned earlier in this document, in December SCI Chester hosted the DOC's latest TEDx event. Preparing for such an event is a monumental task, especially when you consider that the prison's employees only were given approximately nine weeks from inception to production. During that nine-week period, inside and outside talent was selected and rehearsed,



guest lists were reviewed and processed and the visiting room was transformed. An important part of the logistics included the prison's Food Service Department preparing a Philadelphia themed menu for more than 350 attendees.

- The reformation of the facility with murals in every single housing unit and along other parts of the facility.
- Zero vacancies in H1 staff

Coal Township

- In 2016, SCI Coal Township implemented its Restricted Release Stepdown Program, which is in conjunction with the department's initiative to reduce the use of segregation.

- Developed a Mural Painting Committee whose objective was to create a "sense of community" while enhancing the facility. The Visiting Room was painted with larger-than-life sized cartoon characters. Due to the success and positive feedback, a



playground unit was purchased for the patio area and renovations made to the children's play area wall to allow inmates the ability to interact with their children during visits. The Mural Committee also improved the Medical Department's psych observation area with season-themed wall paintings. And, most recently, the committee has begun painting the unit that houses the dog-training program with cartoon canine-themed paintings.

Dallas

- In December, SCI Dallas' "Hounds for Heroes" canine program was begun and involved a small group of three puppies. The prison, in conjunction with the American's VetDogs program, is working to ensure these service dogs provide support and motivation to veterans to help them to tackle new challenges with the assistance of these remarkable dogs.



- SCI Dallas hosted its First Kid's Corner Program in April. SCI Dallas partnered with the Luzerne County Head Start Program and Penn State Extension to present the Kids Corner Program which targets parents of pre-school age children, ages 2 – 6. It provides workshops and instruction to parents in early childhood development. The program also consists of quarterly "family days" in the visiting room. Both parents attend workshops while the children participate in educational activities with staff and volunteers.

Fayette

- The SCI Fayette Mural Arts Program was tasked with creating a series of murals for the Special Needs Unit, with a goal of providing a calming atmosphere for inmates. A 30-section scenic tour of Pennsylvania was selected, and the largest of the murals encompasses 18' x 50' of wall space and depicts Cucumber Falls at Ohiopyle, PA. Smaller murals also were painted on walls between the cells.



- This year, the prison hosted its 6th local employee symposium. Sponsored by the prison's employee empowerment committee and attended by employees from the prison and those from SCI Greene, Laurel Highlands, Pittsburgh and Somerset, several guest speakers spoke of the loss of a daughter, planning for life and a variety of issues.

Forest

- In 2016, SCI Forest began implementation of a perimeter lighting conversion project to LED lighting. This project will reduce the energy consumption for the prison's 76 perimeter lights by 62% while providing significantly enhanced lighting of the secure perimeter. It is expected that the electric bill will be reduced by approximately \$18,000 as a result of this initiative. The prison also will receive approximately \$22,000 in rebates due to this initiative.
- During 2016, SCI Forest's PAWS program reorganized in cooperation with AB Canine and Beaver County Humane Society to enhance the training experience. Rescued and shelter dogs are being provided enhanced training and evaluation for not only adoption but for potential placement into further therapy dog and courtroom/victim advocacy training programs. Through the first round of initial training, two dogs moved onto further training, with the remaining dogs being found adoptable and provided worthy homes.



Frackville

- SCI Frackville's FIDOS Canine Program began on April 12, 2016. Four puppies were initially brought into the institution by volunteers from Brierwood Kennel and Cattery. The puppies are housed with their handlers and are taught basic obedience skills for four to six weeks. Once training is completed the puppies will be available for adoption.

- The prison's Behavioral Management Unit (BMU) Program, which began in February, teaches inmates with personality disorders a variety of behavioral modification and socialization skills with a goal of transitioning the inmates into general population. To date three inmates graduated the program and adapting well in general population. In addition, the BMU program began pilot testing the use of aromatherapy on the unit to determine its calming and soothing effect on the entire BMU housing unit.

Graterford

- Revitalization of the Transitional Housing Unit (THU) was accomplished by assigning a strong team of employees who are led by an OWDS certified unit manager. Together they expanded capacity and created additional programming space, which now allows transitioning inmates the opportunity to be housed together in one unit rather than being scattered throughout the prison. In addition, a formal reentry office was created that allows for on-the-unit programming and that has a computer lab that allow inmates access to reentry-related websites and information as they prepare for their release from prison.
- Supported a Fathers and Children Together (FACT) inmate group that works to support and maintain inmate fathers and their relationship with their children during incarceration. In 2016, a special Father and Child Reunion was held, where the inmates and their children at the opportunity for a special visit that allowed them to dance, eat, sing and play games. This will become an annual event.



Greene

- Completed high mast and perimeter LED lighting upgrades to increase visibility and reduce energy costs.
- Held the prison's second Canine Partners for Life (CPL) graduation ceremony.
- Designed and painted murals within the Secure Residential Treatment Unit and the Diversionary Treatment Unit to create a more therapeutic

environment within our Mental Health Units and the General Population visiting room to create a relaxed and family oriented atmosphere.

- Raised more than \$1,000 during an inmate Run-a-Thon to benefit Greene County Parks and Recreation Youth Day Camps.
- Staff and inmates raised approximately \$800 to benefit the American Heart Association by participating in the Hot Shots Basketball Challenge.
- Held a charitable Basketball Tournament and raised approximately \$900 for the American Cancer Society.
- Increased awareness for the prison's Juvenile Lifer population and transgender inmates by conducting various informational sessions to include various guest speakers.
- Opened an additional pod within the Diversionary Treatment Unit (DTU) and increased programming and therapeutic activities.
- Constructed and opened a Secure Residential Treatment Unit fashioned with polyethylene beds, restart chairs and provided Crisis Intervention Team Training for staff primarily assigned to these units.

Houtzdale

- The Veterans Service Unit at SCI Houtzdale opened its doors in May 2016. With the assistance of community-based partnerships, incarcerated veterans have received numerous hours of training that will assist with re-entry needs.
- In July, the prison opened a 30-bed Co-Occurring Therapeutic Community called "Recovery Road." The program is designed to address both substance abuse disorders and mental illness. The first Recovery Road class of eight inmates graduated in November.
- 2016 was a year for change in the restricted housing unit/diversionary treatment unit (DTU) at SCI Houtzdale. Changes include assigning a captain to oversee both areas; the use of "restart chairs" to provide necessary accommodations to facilitate out-of-cell activities; installation of additional audiovisual equipment; and painting of numerous murals in the DTU.

Huntingdon

- During 2016, SCI Huntingdon maintenance staff built an addition to the restricted housing unit property room for use as a group room for the diversionary treatment unit inmates. The room has several TV monitors, and the walls are painted with colorful beach scenes. Out-of-cell activities, including movie night, bingo, treatment groups, school and church, are provided six days a week.
- The prison also completed a major electrical upgrade in 2016, which modernized the electrical service to the cell blocks improving lighting and electrical service to the cells.

Laurel Highlands

- In January 2016, SCI Laurel Highlands partnered with Canine Partners for Life's service dog program. This non-profit corporation provides certified service dogs to people with disabilities. They were established the service dog program in 1989. They first brought the program to prisons in Maryland, then expanded to PA prisons in 2002. SCI Laurel Highlands is the 8th prison in PA to implement the program.
- SCI Laurel Highlands' Limited Privilege Housing Unit (LPHU) pilot project is achieving the primary goal of Administrative Segregation Reduction. The LPHU has provided for more than 1,600 days of AD SEG reduction since the project began in March 2016. The model for the LPHU was formulated by a committee of line staff at the prison. The staff/inmate interaction has become more positive as a result of the manner that the assigned housing unit staff provide direction and input of the daily operation of the LPHU. The key to the success of the LPHU has been the outstanding performance of staff assigned to F-Unit where the LPHU is located.



- The Blue Room, completed on September 6th, is a designated area within SCI Laurel Highlands which features nature imagery to aid in calming an inmate who is in a more agitated state. The Blue Room includes a nature scene painted on the wall, video footage of nature scenes, and synthetic plant life. The purpose of the Blue Room is to decrease an inmate's stress, promote a more safe and secure environment for both staff and inmates and reduce violence. Officers can use this room as a de-escalation tool when an inmate behavior is becoming disruptive. Certified Peer Support Specialists also have been trained to use the Blue Room to help an agitated inmate calm himself. The Blue Room is not intended to be used as a substitute for receiving mental health treatment and is not utilized if an inmate is in a state of crisis but is to be used as a preventative measure to avoid a crisis situation.
- In celebration of SCI Laurel Highlands' 20th Anniversary, staff enjoyed a picnic lunch on September 23, 2016, which was served in the staff dining hall by Superintendent Luther and department heads. Food was provided by the Employee Association and the Empowerment Committee.
- On November 17, during National Prison Visiting Week, Laurel Highlands hosted 13 community members from Somerset County and elsewhere in western Pennsylvania, including Allegheny County Judge John Zottola, representatives from area businesses, mental health facilities, non-profits and academia who had the chance to interact with jail staff and inmates, observe group activities and learn about the current state of incarceration. The day was coordinated by the Vera Institute of Justice, who sought to educate the public nationally about incarceration.

As the 2016 year comes to a close, there are some projects and efforts that the reentrants in the THU at Laurel Highlands participated in that are noteworthy.

- During the month of March, the Transitional Housing Unit in conjunction with members of the Phoenix Group, participated in a presentation and tour with staff from the Drug Free Communities Coalition from Somerset County and Twin Lakes Center during which a monetary donation was given to the Drug Free Coalition that would assist in the purchase of drug and alcohol prevention and educational materials that are utilized in the area school districts for middle school and junior high school-aged children.
- National Reentry Week was recognized in May with multiple community agencies visiting making presentations, successful reentrants sharing their inspirational stories as well as a reentry poster contest for the reentrants.

- As the Transitional Housing Unit implemented the Technology workshop in 2016, the prison began the utilization of the Kindle Fire and a ghost smartphone which was for some first time hands on experience with this type of equipment.
- In September, with the assistance of Johnstown Federal Credit Union and students from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, reentrants participated in a budget simulation in which they were allotted a certain amount of money equivalent to a one month life sustaining salary with the task of managing their budget effectively while experiencing unpredictable life events throughout the process.

Mahanoy

- The Puppies Unleashing Progress (P.U.P.) Program that started at SCI Mahanoy in July, has proven to be a welcomed addition to the institution, bringing smiles to both inmates and staff. In six short months, 14 inmate handlers have had the opportunity to work with the puppies from Brierwood Kennels. They have learned everything from basic grooming and commands to life saving pet CPR. With the help and assistance from Brierwood Kennel owners and prison staff, the inmate handlers and puppies participate in two training sessions a week. The inmates were asked what impact the program has had on them. Several of the handlers mentioned that they have learned a new sense of responsibility caring for their dogs and have gained more self-worth. They felt that, like themselves, the dogs are being given a second chance, and helping the dogs become more adoptable is a huge accomplishment to experience.

Mercer

- In March 2016, SCI Mercer's Education Department provided a career/reentry fair for general population inmates. Employers, post-secondary education institutions, mental health and health care providers were present to discuss options for the reentrant upon his release. Several reentry facilities were represented as well. More than 37 outside agencies were involved and provided valuable information to more than 200 reentrants who all were within a year from their scheduled release date.
- In September, employees and inmates participated in a school supply drive that benefitted the Connellsville Area School District, which suffered severe damage from flood waters in September. Several backpacks were filled with school supplies, and \$417 was collected and donated to the school district.

- The facility hosted a Day of Responsibility for 111 general population inmates in October. Six outside speakers participated in the day's events, which included hearing from a reentrant who shared his story of success upon his release from prison.
- This year's inmate walk-a-thon raised more than \$816 for the Community Food Warehouse of Mercer, Pa. Twenty-eight inmates participated and walked a combine total of 687.5 miles to support this charity.
- In April, the inmate activities organization held a candy fundraiser to bring awareness to the effects of drugs. Information pamphlets were provided, and a speaker was scheduled. Approximately, 200 inmates ordered candy. Fifty inmates attended the program and received their candy at the end. The proceeds from this fundraiser amounted to \$1,521.50 and was donated to AWARE, Inc. during the National Crime Victims' Rights Week. AWARE is a victim services agency dedicated to eliminating domestic/sexual violence in Mercer County.
- Acquired the dewatering press that will save approximately \$10,000 a month. The dewatering press will compress liquid sludge (a by-product of the wastewater treatment procedure) into a dry powder like material which will then be disposed of in a conventional landfill. The dewatering press will replace the very costly procedure of having liquid sludge transported to an approved sludge processor. Not only should there be a substantial cost savings but is a more environmentally friendly process.



Muncy

- Completed an Inside/Out college classes with both Bloomsburg and Bucknell Universities
 - Bucknell University offered a “Positive Psychology” course in the Spring and Fall. A total of 24 SCI Muncy inmates completed this college course.
 - Bloomsburg University offered a “Women and the Criminal Justice System” course in the fall semester. A total of 10 SCI Muncy inmates completed this college course.

- SCI Muncy hosted its first Staff Wellness Day event in November. The day focused on improving employee physical, emotional and mental well-being. SCI Muncy's Staff Wellness Committee set up seven different stations -- Critical Incident Stress Management/SEAP, Geisinger Wellness Booth, Mindfulness Training, Lawn Dice, Bean Bag Toss, Shuffle Board, and Free Throw Contest. Approximately 115 employees participated. The event improved staff morale, reduced stress, shared helpful information and encouraged teamwork among those who participated.
- SCI Muncy treatment specialists completed "Living Safely Without Violence" training in May 2016. This enabled SCI Muncy to fully transition its standardized programming to gender-responsive, trauma-informed curricula to better address the needs of female offenders. This important implementation recognizes the unique issues that female offenders face as a result of their involvement with the criminal justice system. It targets women's pathways to crime and acknowledges the differences between male and female offenders.
- Muncy is piloting the use of LIVE SCAN, which is an automated fingerprinting system. Only SCI Muncy and SCI Camp Hill are currently doing this for new commitments at this time, with parole violators being added later in the pilot.
- Project IMPACT 30th Anniversary Celebration was held in August, celebrating the small, home-like visitation center for inmate mothers and their minor-aged children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews and siblings visit. As part of the celebration, 12 inmates received visits by 12 caregivers and 21 minor-aged children. Activities included craft-making, picture-taking, face painting, visiting four carnival stations and participating in "roving magic" performed by a local magician.



- The prison's central kitchen lowered the overall food cost by \$1.08 per meal from 2014-2015 to 2015-2016. This ranked SCI Muncy the second lowest overall food cost in the DOC for 2015-2016.
- Domestic Violence Awareness Day was held at the prison in October. This event, which drew attention to the impact of domestic violence on individuals, families and communities, took place in the chapel and the visiting room. The day consisted of seven speakers and three presentations in the morning and four workshops in the afternoon. Participants in the House of Hope Program and two community survivors of domestic violence inspired and touched the audience with their honest sharing about their past trauma and about the steps taken to heal and to move forward in their lives. More than 80 inmates participated in the day's events.
- A mural was painted in the entire DTU pod of the RHU. The mural was painted by Inmates Walter and Tharp to give the pod a more therapeutic environment.
- A fish tank was installed in the SRTU by the maintenance department. This was suggested by Deputy Nicholas and approved by the Superintendent. The fish tank has provided a calming effect to the inmates while in the group room.
- L unit received tentative approval for an elliptical machine for its common room due to the large number of inmates residing on the unit that currently participate in physical therapy. The unit manager worked with the Medical Department to develop guidelines for use by those in need of additional physical therapy.
- Muncy's Alcohol and Other Drug program was designated as the pilot program for the new curriculum roll outs for both the general population therapeutic community (TC) and the co-occurring disorders TC for the entire DOC. Muncy employees were trained in February 2016 in the CODTC curriculum and implemented the new program from March through May 2016. From September through November 2016, Muncy staff rolled out the new GPTC curriculum.
- Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialist Supervisors Mary Finck and Danielle George were tabbed to facilitate the department wide training for the new curriculum for the General Population Therapeutic Community. They facilitated this training in November at the Training Academy.

Pine Grove

- In 2016, SCI Pine Grove began preparing for a new housing unit that would help maximum-security inmates step down to lower security levels helping them to become appropriate for general population placement. The unit will be called the Positive Outcome Restructuring Through Assessments and Learning (PORTAL) Unit. A multidisciplinary team will use evidence-based practices and programs with a goal of phasing the inmate into general population after housing in a maximum-security unit. It is tentatively set to open in early 2017.

Pittsburgh

- In June, SCI Pittsburgh was the host facility for the Corrections Peace Officer Foundation's (CPOF) Project 2000 XXVII, which is a four-day gathering for corrections officers and their families. The focal event for every Project 2000 is the National Memorial Ceremony to honor those men and women in the corrections profession who lost their lives in the line of duty. SCI Pittsburgh's honor guard proudly and with precision performed the rifle volley for this ceremony that was attended by multiple other PA DOC honor guards as well as other honor guards from other state DOCs from across the country. As part of this gathering, a tour of the prison was provided to 124 individuals.
- In September, SCI Pittsburgh held its annual Run-A-Thon and raised \$800 that was donated to the Wounded Warrior Project.
- SCI Pittsburgh is the host facility for Duquesne University's Inside Out "Think Tank." This project involves inmates, Pittsburgh City police officers, volunteers and Duquesne University professors working collaboratively in discussion groups that address criminal justice issues. The goal of this group is to develop a manual for implementing the Inside Out Program which is aimed at involving inmates, university students and police officers in a classroom setting. All of the current 'Think Tank' discussions are audio archived for reference.
- As mentioned earlier in this document, a Diagnostic and Classification Center was activated in June 2016 at Pittsburgh. The DCC is specifically focused on classifying designated short minimum inmates within a relatively close proximity to their committing counties. Since the DCC's inception, approximately 40 inmates are classified and placed into general population, awaiting program placement, per month. The DCC process has been averaging less than 30 days for these designated short minimum inmates.

- In October 2016, SCI Pittsburgh underwent ACA accreditation, which was the prison's first ACA audit since re-opening in 2007. The last time SCI Pittsburgh was accredited was in 2001. This was a remarkable achievement for the 134-year-old facility, especially considering this was its first ACA audit in 15 years. Due to age of the facility and physical plant, some of the non-mandatory standards could not be met. However, the preliminary rating scores reflected a 100% compliance rating for the 61 mandatory standards and a 98.13% compliance rating for the 468 non-mandatory standards. SCI Pittsburgh's ACA accreditation is expected to be confirmed in January 2017. During the audit, the two most senior auditors (who had both conducted 100+ audits) commented that SCI Pittsburgh "is the busiest facility with the most expansive and diverse programming that we have ever visited."

Quehanna

- As part of the DOC's Vivitrol Program/Medication Assisted Treatment that began at the prison in June 2016, the facility administered 40 Vivitrol injections to help reentrants combat heroin and alcohol addiction.
- In 2016, 58 inmates received their GEDs, 19 inmates achieved their Adult Commonwealth Secondary Diploma and six earned their Commonwealth Secondary Diploma.
- The facility hosted an apprenticeship day with trade unions (cement masons, carpenters, steamfitters, steel workers, laborers, etc.) from Western Pennsylvania to assist reentrants with potential employment opportunities. The prison also continues to sponsor career fairs with local businesses and educational institutions to provide additional resources to the inmate population.



Retreat

- Inmate artists designed and painted murals within the housing units, visiting area and recreation center in order to provide a more therapeutic/relaxed atmosphere for our mental health population, general population, visitors and employees.
- Goose Dogs - Hope and Joy. Not only serving to chase geese from inside the prison's perimeter, these dogs also provide a therapeutic and relaxed atmosphere for inmates and staff. The dogs live with two inmate handlers and are well trained by the inmates. Hope and Joy also visit various housing units and yards. They also are permitted at employee work stations.



Rockview

- Made major upgrades to the facility's firearm range and hostage rescue training team's training facilities at the prison's shooting range.
- Experienced major cost savings with the replacement of three major roofs both inside and outside the facility -- culinary roof, coal shed roof and state garage roof.
- Created a specific private hospice room in the infirmary.
- Created a specific cell in the RTU for those inmates who are prone to self-harm.
- Completed IQ testing for all inmates who scored below 70.

Smithfield

- A new management team was instituted within the restricted housing unit which resulted in a 54% reduction in misconduct reports, a 69% reduction in extraordinary occurrence reports and a 72% reduction of inmate grievances.
- SCI Smithfield commenced an ongoing mural project to include the visiting room, behavior management unit (BMU), general population housing units and gymnasium.
- In 2016, SCI Smithfield completed an outside perimeter project to enhance security by installing new LED lighting.
- Smithfield opened BMU, which includes programs that teaches inmates with personality disorders a variety of behavioral modification and socialization skills with the goal of transitioning inmates into general population. Although there have been no graduates to date, several individuals are progressing nicely toward that goal.

Somerset

- In 2016, SCI Somerset piloted and then implemented and expanded Swift, Certain and Fair, which provides punishment for housing unit based, lower-level infractions swiftly – showing inmates that there are consequences for their actions. The concept empowers corrections officers on the SCF unit to have a role in the discipline of the inmates. When an infraction occurs the officer immediately communicates the action(s) to the inmate, documents the infraction and then reports the incident to the unit sergeant. The unit sergeant then administers the discipline immediately and the inmate is informed of the level of punishment. The unit manager oversees all infractions and subsequent sanctions. As a result of this new program, the number of infractions and inmate grievances on the two SCF units compare favorably to the other units in the facility. Moreover, the staff on the SCF units report it has increased communication with the inmates and reduced their stress levels. Lastly, the inmates report they believe the program is a fair way to administer discipline. SCI Somerset's plan is to continue expanding SCF throughout the entire facility by the end of 2017. Since beginning the program, Somerset has welcomed visitors from Nebraska, Illinois, the Philadelphia County Prison system and many PA DOC facility administrators. More visits, including DOC representatives from Washington State in January 2017, are expected.

- During 2016 the “inmate muralists” continued to move around the facility painting impressive murals in staff and inmate areas. Thus far they have completed 63 different murals and have donated some of their work to the local Humane Society.



- SCI Somerset continued to partner with Canine Partners for Life to train puppies to become service dogs. This program has received overwhelming support from the staff and inmates at Somerset, with nearly 20 employees volunteering to assist with the puppies and 15 inmates assigned as inmate handlers.
- Facility maintenance in 2016 included converting copper lines to fiber, replacing broken underground fiber lines, remodeling a cart wash room making it water tight, preparing for installation of a cardboard bailer and installation of a maintenance sally port.

Waymart

- The prison initiated an inmate organization called “Wings” in June 2016. Since its inception, the organization has successfully planned and completed a food sale through the inmate population with proceeds benefitting a local charity. Additional sales and charitable contributions will continue throughout 2017.
- A dog training program called “Furever Friends” began at the prison in October 2016. The program works with the True Friends Animal Rescue out of Montrose, Pa., to train “hard to place” dogs in basic obedience skills in an effort to make them more adoptable.

www.cor.pa.gov