

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections

# 2018 Accomplishments

*State Prisons, Community Corrections, Parole Supervision*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

This has been quite a year for all of us at the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. We started off the year by celebrating yet another decrease in our inmate population – the fourth consecutive yearly decrease.

We continued in our work to consolidate like resources and services between the DOC and the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, which was no small undertaking.

But this work and success means nothing when one of your own is killed in the line of duty and at the hands of an inmate.

Everything stopped for us on February 15, 2018, when SCI Somerset Sergeant Mark Baserman was severely beaten by an inmate. He was simply doing his job and was in the right place at the wrong time. Sgt. Baserman died on February 26. As a system, we were shaken to our core. We all struggled following this tragic death. The first such murder of an employee in nearly 40 years, it reminded every one of our employees just how dangerous this field of corrections can be and how your life can be taken from you in a second and for no reason. As a prison system, we immediately surrounded Sgt. Baserman's family and coworkers to support all of them and to help them through the tragedy. Even today, we continue to help in the healing process.

Another major undertaking was to coordinate the move of an entire state prison's inmate and employee population from a century-old prison to a new, state-of-the-art prison literally yards away. Hundreds of employees from across our system played important roles in the successful move, which was completed in only a matter of a few days.

It wasn't long after this successful prison relocation that in the western part of our state, we began to see many employees and inmates being taken to local hospitals for treatment due to exposure to newer, more potent drugs and chemicals that had made their way into our system. So, we locked down the system. Essentially, for the first time in the history of our agency, we locked every state prison down at the same time for a period of 14 days. We needed time for everyone to calm down and to take advantage of the lockdown to provide training to employees. We also began our work to quickly shut down all paths by which drugs could be smuggled into our system. The changes were not easy to implement, and some were greatly disliked by inmates and their families and friends, but our mission is to operate safe and secure prisons. And that's what we are doing.

Sometimes corrections is like a roller coaster. It has its highs and lows, ups and downs. We all have chosen to be on this ride together. Teamwork and support is what makes it all happen. We plan for the worst and hope for the best. This year certainly has shared major ups and downs with all of us, but we've made it through due to our resilience, professionalism and caring for each other.

I thank all of our employees for the work they do every day in the name of public safety and hope that future years have more highs and lows.



**John Wetzel**

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## Our Mission

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections operates as one team, embraces diversity, and commits to enhancing public safety. We are proud of our reputation as leaders in the corrections field. Our mission is to reduce criminal behavior by providing individualized treatment and education to inmates, resulting in successful community reintegration through accountability and positive change.

## Eliminating Drugs, Improving Safety

On August 29, 2018, the department took the extraordinary step of initiating a lockdown of all state correctional institutions after a series of staff exposures to synthetic drugs and other illegal substances. The lockdown was lifted on September 10, 2018.

During the lockdown, the Wolf Administration enforced a statewide mandatory training on the donning and doffing of gloves, and special team members were trained in the detection, containment and removal of hazardous materials. Additional safety measures included:

- Immediate elimination of mail processing at facilities. All incoming mail is sent to a third-party vendor that processes all non-legal inmate mail.
- Improved safety precautions used when opening legal mail in front of inmates.
- Increased staffing in all visiting rooms.
- Temporary modifications to visiting rooms involving vending machines and inmate photos.
- Stricter visiting suspensions for visitors and inmates caught introducing contraband via visiting rooms, including indefinite or even lifetime bans for visitors.
- A bolstered library system and a centralized processing center for all ordered/purchased/donated inmate books.
- Expansion of drone detection software and capabilities.
- Enhanced inmate commitment/reception protocol.
- Expanded use of body scanners.
- Additional and improved electronic drug detection devices.
- Implementation of a drug hotline where individuals can report information about drugs inside state facilities.
- Creation of a central security processing center for incoming publications and books.



**On September 5, 2018, Gov. Tom Wolf met privately with DOC employees at SCI Greene to discuss safety concerns amid the spate of staff exposures to unknown substances at several DOC facilities.**

Due to these changes, the DOC's employees and inmates are experiencing fewer drug exposures.

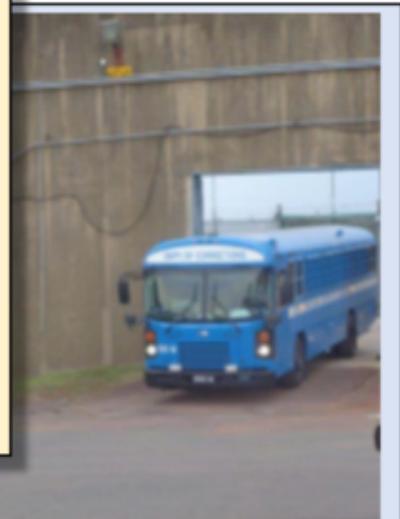
## Relocating an Entire Facility

Between July 11 and 15, 2018, department officials successfully moved 2,637 inmates and 1,094 employees from SCI Graterford to SCI Phoenix. The new, state-of-the-art prison was constructed a quarter mile away as a replacement for SCI Graterford.

SCI Graterford officially ceased operation at 5:42 p.m. on July 15.



Department of Corrections officials officially dedicated SCI Phoenix on June 1. In attendance were several hundred people, including lawmakers, stakeholders and state officials.



The last busload of inmates departs SCI Graterford heading for SCI Phoenix.

## Making the New Prison Tobacco Free

In anticipation of the move from Graterford to Phoenix, and to ensure the new facility would never have tobacco products inside of it, DOC officials announced their decision to transition Graterford to a tobacco-free facility which began April 1, 2018.

## Consolidating Agencies

On October 19, 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP) resulted in the combining of the agencies' similar, shared and overlapping resources and functions.

Under the MOU, both agencies remain separate from each other; yet community supervision of parolees and all other reentry services were combined under a new, centralized chain of command. The MOU consolidated and improved reentry tasks, such as but not limited to, inmate/parolee records, inmate/parolee reentry planning, parolee placement and supervision and parole violation management and return process.

The MOU also consolidated the agencies' business administration offices, internal affairs and investigative offices and communications/public information offices. Through previous MOUs, the agencies' information technology and the management of data and research were already consolidated.

The parole board remains independent and has continued to exercise its exclusive and independent decision-making role regarding decisions to parole, re-parole, commit and recommit for violations of parole and to discharge persons sentenced by any court at any time to imprisonment in a correctional institution.

Additionally, the Office of Victim Advocate, Firearm Education Training Commission and the Sexual Offenders Assessment Board remained independent from DOC as well.

Soon after the signing of the MOU, on October 23, 2017, the management teams of both agencies met to begin to address the many functions and areas affected by the consolidation. During the month of November, listening sessions were held across the state to hear any concerns employees had about the consolidation.



**In March 2018, 63 men and women graduated from the 131<sup>st</sup> Basic Training Academy of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and were assigned to district parole offices and prisons throughout the state. This was the first class of new parole agents under the Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Probation and Parole.**

### Meeting Held to Unify Community Corrections, Parole Supervision Team

Agency officials held a two-day meeting for DOC community corrections and Parole field supervision employees in February. The theme of the meeting is "One team, One dream."

"While I had visited every parole district and regional office and also met regionally with all staff, I believed it was important to pull everyone together at one location," said Deputy Secretary for Community Corrections and Reentry George Little. "We needed to get everyone in the same room, so they could all hear the same message at the same time. And that message is that we are now one large team sharing the same, large goal of helping individuals return home from prison as successful, law-abiding citizens."

Speaking to the group, in addition to Deputy Secretary Little, were Corrections Secretary John Wetzell and Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal. Both provided the team with expectations and guidance about how to move forward in a consolidated manner.

In addition, Deputy Secretary Little recognized two parole agents who were on scene during the recent incident in which US Marshall Christopher Hill was killed in Harrisburg, Pa.

During the afternoon session of the first day, a networking activity was held that mixed community corrections staff with parole supervision staff. Employees introduced themselves to each other and worked to learn about one another. Later officials called upon attendees to answer questions about themselves and share information about those that they met. Leading this group exercise was Kim Helton, director of the Office of Administration's Bureau of Talent.

The two-day meeting ended with a renewed sense of team.

"This meeting has played a major role in helping everyone to understand that we all work on the same team and all have the same goal in mind," Deputy Little said. "One Team, One Dream."

A steering committee was established to manage the consolidation effort on an ongoing basis. This steering committee served as the hub of activity between meetings of the larger management group. This steering committee was also charged with the evaluation of the change recommendations made through each of the committees that were formed.

Each committee formed was led by two co-chairs: one from PBPP, the other from DOC. The committee members included volunteer representatives from both agencies regardless of position. The committees formed were:

- Budget
- Org Chart Development
- Human Resources and Labor Relations
- Training
- Programming
- Policies/Procedures/Standards
- Physical Plant/Location Analysis
- Internal Affairs
- Communication/Messaging
- Inmate/Parolee and Family Messaging
- Grievances
- Records
- Special Teams
- Transportation
- Assessments
- Inmate/Parolee Needs
- Reentry Operational Process
- Institutional Operational Process
- Staff Wellness
- Innovative Practices (BetaGov)
- Sentinel Events

The co-chairs of each committee met in mid-December 2017 and three joint committee sessions were held in February and April 2018. Individual committee recommendations were made to the steering committee in June 2018.

Soon, officials will announce major accomplishments achieved because of the consolidation.

**First Gathering – Ever – of FAST Team**

In March 2018, DOC parole supervision officials held their first Statewide FAST Agent Meeting. FAST stands for Fugitive Apprehension and Search Team – FAST.

The meeting was called to discuss special equipment and other resources needs of the agents.

Markl and Point Blank Enterprises were present to discuss some of their body armor options, an AFSME representative was present to discuss union support, and FOP representatives discussed lodge membership and the legal defense plan they offer.

Deputy Secretary Christian Stephens called for this statewide meeting following the incident in which a US Marshal was killed in Harrisburg during a fugitive apprehension, as FAST agents were part of the team.

The purpose of this first ever statewide FAST agent meeting was to bring everyone together to address concerns and to foster greater team work and unity throughout the state. Deputy Secretary Stephens' goal is to ensure his FAST agents are properly equipped in the field.

Throughout the day Executive Deputy Secretaries George Little, Tabb Bickell and Shirley Moore Smeal stopped in to show their support.



**FAST Agents – March 2018**

## Operating According to National Standards

Eight facilities were issued reaccreditation certificates by the American Correctional Association (ACA) at the January 2018 Winter Conference. The facilities, which were audited in 2017, leading up to the conference, included seven state correctional institutions and one Bureau of Community Corrections center.

During 2018, 13 facilities received successful ACA audits and are expected to be reaccredited at the 2019 ACA Winter Conference. Those facilities included seven SCIs, the Quehanna Boot Camp, the DOCs Training Academy and five community corrections centers.

## Complying with Federal PREA Standards

This year, the governor certified that Pennsylvania has adopted and achieved full compliance with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards. PREA requires the governor to annually provide a written response to the United States Department of Justice regarding PREA compliance or face the diversion or loss of designated federal funds. PREA compliance signifies that affected audit prisons, community corrections facilities and juvenile facilities operated or contracted by agencies under the Governor's purview are deemed compliant.

The DOC's PREA Compliance Division (PCD) and respective department facilities worked diligently during the second year of the second audit cycle providing technical support to local compliance managers and collaborated with other state agencies under the governor's jurisdiction, including the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, the Pennsylvania State Police and the Bureau of Juvenile Justice to assure the Commonwealth's overall compliance with PREA standards applicable to each agency.

Eight state prisons and five community corrections centers were found compliant during their PREA audits during the second year of the second audit cycle, bringing the total of compliant facilities to 26 entering the final year of the second audit cycle.

## Supporting Transgender Inmates

Standards, Audits and Accreditation Director Carole Mattis and PREA Coordinator David Radziewicz co-authored an article titled *A Best Practice Approach: Providing Support Services to Transgender Inmates*; which was published in the July/August edition of *Corrections Today*. The publication of the article coincided with the second anniversary of the formation of the Transgender Support Group. The support group continues to be a nationally recognized model for correctional agencies to address the needs of a vulnerable population through an innovated approach.

Recognizing the unique needs of trans men and a growing number of individuals who identify as trans men, TransCentralPA and Alder Health Services expanded their efforts to begin providing additional support services to the trans-male populations at SCI Cambridge Springs and SCI Muncy.

## Partnering with County Prisons

In response to a growing need for specialized PREA training for county prisons, the DOC's PRA Compliance Division (PCD) partnered with the DOC's Office of County Inspections to host county prison personnel in two key training areas -- transgender issues and investigations.

In January, a one-day training held at the department's Training Academy focused on issues relative to the housing and management of transgender inmates. Topics ranged from LGBTQI 101 to the diagnosis and treatment of Gender Dysphoria. The training featured a presentation on the origin of the transgender PREA standards from the director of Policy for the National Center for Transgender Equality, Harper Jean Tobin.

The PCD opened its semi-annual specialized PREA investigator's training to county personnel for the first time in June 2018. While the training primarily focused on the department's investigative procedures, portions were tailored to meet the standard based requirements for county prison sexual abuse investigators. Open enrollment for county prison investigators is planned for future trainings.

## Properly Retaining Records

Organized in December 2016, the Records Retention and Archives Work Group members in the Central Sentence Computation Unit and Bureau of Health Care Services reported that inmate records in their respective areas have transitioned from massive paper file storage to an electronic format.

The State Archives collection of corrections items increased in 2018 to include chapel log books, photographs, reports of what governed facilities before they became state correctional institutions and historical accounts. This important historical information, is now preserved for families, staff members and researchers. The State Archives received a copy of the printed program from the memorial service activities for SCI Somerset Sgt. Mark J. Baserman, who died as a result of injuries received in the line of duty.

While identifying the items for the archives, the work group oversaw the review and destruction of more than 15.5 ton of Central Office records that had exceeded their retention schedule periods.

## Improving Audit Process

In 2018, the DOC's Psychology Office implemented a streamlined quarterly audit schedule and process that was predicated on identifying the varying needs, missions, specialized housing units, mental health populations and front-line staffing complements rather than arbitrarily dispensing valuable resources to all sites. However, the new approach still provides that all SCIs will continue to receive four quarterly audits per year plus the annual management audit. The major change is found in the number of mandatory on-site visits required of the regional licensed psychologist managers (i.e., the number of on-site visits is now determined on the above noted criteria). The department is able to realize this new efficient process in sum due to the promulgation of the electronic health record (i.e., audits can now be completed remotely prior to or in lieu of completing the on-site visits).

## Collaborating Internally to Improve Staffing

The Psychology Office completed an internal staffing analysis to determine how many licensed psychologist managers were needed at each site. As a result, additional needs were identified at numerous SCIs and an agreed upon complement of LPM FTEs was established for each SCI. The next step was to determine how to bring these professionals to our system. Consequently, the Psychology Office collaborated with the DOC's Bureau of Health Care Services to proceed with recruiting licensed psychologist managers through a contract vendor, MHM Solutions. In the first six months alone, the DOC has hired seven new LPMs, several of which were at institutions which had LPM vacancies for several years.

## Creating Specific Orientation, Onboarding Procedures

The Psychology Office created Psychology Office Specific Orientation and Onboarding procedures to introduce new licensed psychologist managers and all other psychology staff members to the mission and culture of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and to prepare the new staff member for internal, local and specialized training directly related to their role in their respective Psychology Department at each SCI. The goal of this initiative was to enhance licensed psychologist recruitment efforts and enhance the DOC's ability to retain these individuals once hired.

## Fighting the Opioid Crisis

The Department of Corrections, in partnership with Pennsylvania State Police, received \$996,408 from the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance via the “Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Program grants.” With this funding, DOC will focus on persons reentering the community who are high frequency utilizers of services across systems, such as criminal justice, healthcare and social services. Efforts will focus on improving data sharing across relevant entities in the Commonwealth, with formation of a stakeholder team to advise on naloxone distribution, data-sharing systems, and administrative protocols.

## Placing Narcan Boxes Throughout Facilities

Since Gov. Tom Wolf signed an opioid disaster declaration in January 2018, the DOC has placed Narcan throughout its facilities, including its Central Office. The purpose of these placements is for quick response to an overdose and/or accidental exposure to opioids. The specially-marked boxes are located with regular first aid boxes and AEDs, and staff has been trained in the use of the administration of Narcan. Web based training also will be offered to staff, and the boxes will be regularly inspected to ensure fresh doses are always ready for use.



## Granting MAT Assistance to Counties

In July, at a conference on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), DOC officials announced the availability of \$3 million in state funds for counties seeking to purchase Vivitrol to treat incarcerated individuals with substance-use disorder. The grant funding announcement represented the second round of state funding for MAT for county jails. In 2017, 11 counties received \$1.5 million in grants for Vivitrol treatment.

The DOC began providing Vivitrol for female inmates at SCI Muncy in 2014. Vivitrol is now available in at all state correctional institutions. Vivitrol is a non-narcotic medication indicated for the treatment of alcohol use disorder as well as opioid use disorder.

The Non-Narcotic Medication Assisted Treatment solicitation was established by the DOC to increase opportunities for counties to provide long acting non-narcotic, non-addictive medication (Vivitrol), combined with comprehensive substance abuse treatment, to eligible offenders upon release from county correctional institutions.

## Streamlining Medical Assistance Access

Earlier this year, the DOC announced its partnership with the Department of Human Services and the Pennsylvania Justice Network to streamline the process for applying for medical assistance (MA) coverage for inmates returning to the community within the state.

The DOC releases approximately 20,000 inmates annually, of whom a small subset (10 percent) qualify for medical assistance because of chronic medical or mental health diagnoses and/or substance use disorders. Despite the relatively small number of applications submitted, the MA application process has proven both labor intensive and time consuming.

Prior to March 19, 2018, the DOC applied for MA benefits via the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Application for Social Services (COMPASS) portal for those returning to the community.

With implementation of the intra-agency data exchange, the process for applying for MA benefits was automated for all reentrants who consent to the application submission, regardless of health conditions or substance abuse history.

One specific group of reentrants for whom MA coverage will be extremely beneficial is those who have voluntarily enrolled in the Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) program. Medical Assistance is secured for these individuals to reduce the likelihood of relapse to abusing opioids upon release from incarceration.

Ensuring reentrants are enrolled in Medicaid upon the day of release will assist with continuity of care for those with medical or mental health illnesses as well as those who struggle with addiction. Continuity of care is critical for this population as they assimilate back into the community.

The DOC will also share notification of newly-received inmates with DHS, which will prompt DHS to suspend any benefits upon incarceration, thus helping to reduce the potential for benefits fraud.

## Reducing Inmate-Related Medical Costs

In 2018 the DOC announced that it reduced medical costs for inmates by \$14.5 million over the preceding two years – while maintaining or improving care. This was accomplished by leveraging federal and state programs and innovative partnerships, according to the Governor’s Office of Transformation, Innovation, Management and Efficiency (GO-TIME). The department estimates an additional \$20.5 million in savings over the next two years.

Inmate health care costs in 2017-18 totaled about \$300 million or 15 percent of the department’s \$2.1 billion budget.

Under a partnership with the Department of Aging, inmates age 65 and over are now receiving medication coverage through PACE, the program for older Pennsylvanians supported by lottery funds. The program not only pays for older inmates, it also ensures that these individuals continue to receive medications upon release.

In partnership with Temple Health, the DOC refers inmates diagnosed with HIV for outpatient medical services through Temple Health telemedicine program. The program allows inmates with HIV to see a doctor quarterly via video conference, eliminating the need for transportation and staff costs that would be incurred if an inmate needed to travel to a doctor’s office or hospital.

The Temple Health partnership also allows the DOC to purchase the required HIV drugs at reduced prices and ensures Philadelphia area inmates have access to Temple medical staff upon release, improving their successful reentry into the community.

Because of Gov. Wolf’s decision to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act to a greater number of eligible residents, the DOC has been able to access federal Medical Assistance for inmates requiring inpatient hospital stays greater than 24 hours. This have offset the need for state funding.

## Exploring Housing, Health Care Needs

The DOC’s Office of Health Care Systems Advocate is working with the Department of Human Services to explore the feasibility of collaboration potentials in addressing housing and health care needs of the DOC’s older population beyond incarceration, prior to max out. The DOC has a burgeoning aging population experiencing comorbidities of behavioral health disorders, physical illness and/or serious mental health conditions.

## Advocating for Inmate Mental Health

### WRAP® expansion continues

The Office of Mental Health Advocate (OMHA) has certified 53 staff as WRAP facilitators with a goal of conducting two additional seminars to ensure that drug and alcohol treatment specialists are certified to deliver WRAP in therapeutic communities and other programs. The WRAP program has offered staff an opportunity to address their own wellness and utilize an evidenced based tool to help mitigate stress in the workplace or one's personal life. Staff are now certified in all facilities and can facilitate the seminar with their peers. The Copeland center, founder of WRAP, hosted an international webinar promoting the work the DOC is conducting to promote staff wellness. This webinar was attended by more than 230 participants.

### Certified Peer Support (CPS) Accomplishments

- The Department of Human Services' (DHS) Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services is now requiring certification with the Pennsylvania Certification Board (PCB) for CPSs. The reason this is being established is to formally recognize the value of this service in the workforce. DHS will be paying for the certification fee which is \$50 per person through August 31, 2019. Any current or new CPSs until that date will be grandfathered in. This is an advancement in the credentialing and value of the CPS program. This credentialing will offer CPSs an opportunity to be certified like a barber or electrician and will advance career opportunities upon reentry. This is also an example of the collaboration between DHS and DOC and is a cost savings to the department.
- OMHA has certified 23 CPSs from five state prisons as WRAP facilitators. This initiative will continue until all CPS programs have representation from each prison. This will further enhance the marketability for CPSs who will return to the community seeking employment in this capacity. The certification is recognized and widely used in the mental health community. A CPS who seeks employment with this credentialing will have an enhanced level of skills as WRAP facilitators and can also facilitate WRAP seminars inside DOC facilities.
- A new cadre of CPS instructors have been certified. Nine staff have been certified under Recovery International to provide CPS certification training. This achievement aids OMHA in meeting the need to ensure an adequate number of CPSs in each facility who can provide peer support to other reentrants. Additionally, OMHA implemented a CPS supervisor course certifying 21 additional CPS supervisors across the state.

- OMHA and the Reentry Office met with retired law professors from Dickinson Law School to provide an overview of DOC initiatives relating to reentry and mental health. Members of this coalition are community advocates for the criminal justice population.
- OMHA represented the DOC at a DHS Capacity Building Institute event. The initiative, which is possible through a Center for Medicaid grant, awarded an Administrative Program to DHS to collaborate and build capacity. OMHA was invited to discuss and enhance community partnerships which would serve the reentrant population who have special needs upon release. Members included representatives from residential treatment facilities, managed care companies, county programs and providers. The DOC was invited to attend as a speaker to address services including advocacy, transitioning and peer support for individuals with mental health and intellectual/developmental needs.
- OMHA completed an evidenced based suicide prevention training for all CPSs. The program, Question, Persuade, Refer (Q.P.R.), provides skills on how to recognize and prevent an individual from attempting and completing suicide. As new CPSs become certified, the training will be provided to continually assure that the CPSs understand the steps to take when a peer is contemplating suicide. Additionally, all CPSs will continue to be trained in Mental Health First Aid.
- In partnership between the DOC's Office of Psychology, and through an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Harrisburg City Police Department and DOC, OMHA conducted multiple trainings to certify all Harrisburg City Police in Mental Health First Aid. This was a cooperative agreement to provide insight into recognizing and engaging with individuals who encounter law enforcement. The participants also included law enforcement who parole the housing authority for Harrisburg and who often encounter families experiencing symptoms relating to mental illness.



## Tracking, Responding to Inmate Grievances

- The Secretary's Office of Inmate Grievances and Appeals, in conjunction with the DOC's Bureau of Information Technology, is nearing completion of a more user-friendly inmate grievance tracking system. This system will replace two grievance tracking systems that are currently used as well as multiple excel worksheets that track grievance information. The anticipated completion date is January 2019.
- In conjunction with the DOC's Office of Chief Counsel, the Secretary's Office of Inmate Grievances and Appeal is in the process of reviewing and modifying the grievance policy to ensure that it is clear, concise and more user-friendly for staff, inmates and the courts alike.

## Enhancing Inmate Visits

On October 29, 2018, and following several years of research and development, the DOC began providing inmate family members and friends with yet another way to stay connected with their incarcerated loved ones ... Video Visitation.

This step was taken because officials realize that individuals may have difficulties traveling long distances to our prisons.

Now every state prison and the community corrections regional office in Philadelphia have video visitation equipment to help those who can't make the long trips to connect with their incarcerated loved ones.



## Continuing to Prepare “Juvenile” Lifers for Potential Release

The 2014 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Montgomery v. Louisiana* ruled that every “juvenile” lifer in Pennsylvania has the right to file a Post-Conviction Relief Act petition. A juvenile lifer is an individual who was under the age of 18 at the time they committed their crime and were sentenced to life without parole. The phrase “juvenile” lifer does not apply to the individual’s current age.

### Juvenile Lifers Facts

- 337 resentenced
- 72% parole rate
- 155 released

There were 522 initial juvenile lifers identified, but three died while in prison prior to their release, leaving 519 active cases.

Since this ruling, DOC officials have worked to ensure juvenile lifers in the state prison system were fast-tracked into treatment, education and reentry programs to help them prepare for their possible release from prison.

Regular meetings and group sessions have been and continue to be held to respond to concerns this specific inmate population has about potential release. In addition, former juvenile lifers have been brought back to state prisons to talk to inmates about their transition home following incarceration.

### ***A “Juvenile” Lifer Talks About Life After Prison***

*“Having been incarcerated for nearly forty years, I chose to make the best out of a bad situation, while maintaining a positive attitude, I did strive to become involved in educational and artistic pursuits, and I did live vicariously through television and outside contacts, helping me to remain positive and hopeful; Faith, hope, and the right attitude prepared me for life in society.*

*When I was informed there may be hope for juvenile lifers for parole, I began to outline a plan for living outside prison walls. Also, I had been writing to a woman my age, Mariann, then began calling by phone. We were communicating for about eight years. When I found out about being resentenced and an opportunity for parole, we decided to be exclusive.*

*Mariann has been extremely helpful in my adjustment out here. She showed me around Scranton, helped in social situations, and we enjoyed many things together like bike riding in the summertime. She helped me find places like the library, the Colts bus terminal, and the Career Office, explaining how to get there, as she wanted me to gain confidence and some independence. Mariann has been a positive influence in my life and I’m very happy that we are a couple now.*

*Before being released from prison in November 2016, I made the decision not to go directly to an approved home plan, but to stay at a community*

*corrections center, or halfway house, for several reasons. Reasons I felt would benefit me and make this adjustment to rejoin society easier. I would be around other residents with similar situations and be able to attend meetings there to help with life direction. Also, Mariann lives here in Scranton and would always pick me up for dinner, to attend Mass, or wherever we wanted to go.*

*I was able to utilize more resources from downtown Scranton than if I chose to stay with my cousin in Conygham, Pa. One of the first things I did was purchase an android smart phone, a great invention which helps me find out how to get anywhere by the quickest route. The residents at the halfway house showed me many things in learning to use my phone. I adapted at a nice easy pace, and now I couldn't live without my phone!*

*My next goal was to obtain a driver's license. I did have one in 1978 that expired decades ago, so I took the test again and got a driving permit. That was the easy part, the driver's test was another story! Things sure had changes, and I struggled with re-learning how to parallel park. Finally, I passed after eight months and four attempts of taking the driving test. I was working and had some money saved, and with the help of my family, I was able to purchase a 2006 Volkswagen Jetta. After only a short time, it was like I was never away from driving. Although Scranton's transit system is great, there's nothing like the freedom of owning my own car.*

*My next step was to seek out a reasonably priced apartment. I have had a place of my own since late August. After eight months I felt it was time to move on from the halfway house to have some privacy and it gives me some peace of mind and quiet time. I was ready to take on the responsibility of paying rent and my own utilities.*

*Last, I would like to discuss my experiences with employment. It has been somewhat of a roller-coaster ride with ups and downs. As my first attempt to apply with a building company was rejected, I realize not everyone would be comfortable hiring a 55-year-old man with a felony on his record. But I did not let this discourage me. I continued applying to a multitude of different jobs. Less than two months after my release, I was hired by a tool company in January 2017. They paid only \$9 an hour but I viewed the job as experience. Having some electrical background, I soon left the tool company and began working for a home builder. I now make \$11.50 an hour as a sheeter until the company began losing permits and made several company layoffs in late August.*

*Since then I worked a few temporary jobs. I filled out many applications and have been on a few interviews, but, often, the background check makes all the difference in being hired or even interviewed.*

*The funny thing is, many job applications that I have filled out ask if you have been convicted of a felony in the past seven to 10 years. I can honestly answer 'no,' but then if they do a background check, well, we know what the answer will then be. Perhaps I should change that answer to "will discuss at interview." Then, I perhaps may pique their curiosity and maybe at least have the opportunity at an interview, where they will hopefully see my positive qualities and strong work ethic. That's where I hope to leave a strong impression with them. So, I remain positive, optimistic and determined and not let rejection deter me. Sometimes we have to figure different ways of getting our foot in the door, and if one way isn't working, then we must be clever and figure another way.*

*All in All, to summarize, for my first year of freedom, I feel I have done well for myself. I have a checking and savings account with a credit score of 700. I began with a secured credit card and now have an unsecured platinum card. Not too bad for someone who has spent nearly forty years in institutions. My freedom means everything to me. Even when I'm having a bad day, I think about where I've been and how extremely fortunate I am to have this second chance at being a productive member of society. I have adjusted quiet well. I owe a good deal of that to my family, friends, and girlfriend, Mariann. They have been very supportive of me by helping me over some hurdles, but still allowing me the independence to learn so much on my own.*

*There are still a few steps I need to process. It can be difficult explaining my background and past at times. But I try to allow people I meet to get to know me who I am today before telling them of the messed-up kid I was more than a lifetime ago. I look forward to my future. Hopefully I will obtain a full-time job that I enjoy and pays well. Mariann and I have a great relationship and have talked about marriage. I do believe that is in my future.*

*I only hope whoever reads this may benefit by getting some idea of what it is like to readjust to society. But more importantly, to reconnect with people and potential employers as well. This can be as easy or difficult as you make it. One has to learn to trust the right people and be open and honest where needed. You must put prison life and experiences behind you and move forward each day. Though I'll never forget my own experiences, the effects of prison life weaken within myself each day. I'll never take my freedom for granted and do my best each and every day to realize how fantastic life truly is out here in society."*

*-Joseph*

## Issuing Debit Release Cards

On July 2, 2018, the Department of Corrections began **issuing** Debit Release Cards to individuals being released from all state correctional institutions. The DOC has partnered with JPAY, a Securus Technologies Company, to provide this service. The DOC has been providing electronic money transfer through JPAY since 2003. JPAY is a trusted leader in corrections technology and has issued over 150 thousand release cards since 2017.

Debit release cards are easy to use, completely secure and MasterCard branded. Only the cardholder sees the actual 16-digit card number. Cardholders have immediate access to the funds as the cards are active immediately once they are issued. There is 24/7 customer support by calling 866-777-5729, or online card management at [releasecards.jpays.com](https://releasecards.jpays.com). Cards are accepted nationwide and internationally anywhere MasterCard is taken. Cards are even reloadable by cardholder. Most importantly, DOC Debit Release Cards are fee-free, as long as they are used in the MoneyPass ATM network (fees may be charged if used at an ATM outside the MoneyPass network). The only fee is a \$3 monthly inactivity fee after 90 days of issuance if the card is not used.

Individuals being released from a state correctional institution will be notified of the nearest MoneyPass ATM to their SCI upon release. Additional MoneyPass locations can be found by going to <https://www.moneypass.com/atm-locator.html>. There are over 25,000 locations across the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

DOC officials believe that the implementation of the Debit Release Card program will assist released individuals with reintegrating into society, gain money management skills and establish credit history. Information can be obtained from the DOC's website at [www.cor.pa.gov](http://www.cor.pa.gov)

## Celebrating 50 Years of Community Corrections

Community Corrections. The name doesn't reflect the true work that occurs within this bureau that falls under the umbrella of the Department of Corrections. As the director of the Bureau of Community Corrections for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I have learned that we do so much more than just provide housing for those coming out of our state correctional institutions.

In today's fast paced society, everyone must adapt and remain relevant in their particular areas. Community corrections is no exception. DOC Secretary John Wetzel has been clear that our reentrants need to return to the community better off than when we first received them. Those improvements don't stop when released from the institution. The staff at community corrections centers takes his words to heart when working with this population.

The Bureau of Community Corrections began 50 years ago this year and managed pre-released individuals that were identified as doing well while incarcerated. They were still considered inmates but were approved to live and work within the community. Pre-release was eliminated in 2013, as community corrections continues to be transformed.

Community Corrections provides housing for those that the Parole Board has deemed appropriate to return to the community and do not have a home plan. In addition, we also provide specialized services to many of those reentrants that need additional support.

Assistance with obtaining identification, connecting with medical, employment and housing, are a few of the services we provide. The Department of Corrections has identified and implemented nearly a dozen programs to support reentrants. They are:

- |                             |  |                                      |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Day Reporting</i>        | <i>Housing Assistance</i>                | <i>Workforce Development</i>         |
| <i>Family Reunification</i> | <i>Batterers' Intervention</i>           | <i>State Intermediate Punishment</i> |
| <i>Outpatient (AOD)</i>     | <i>Mental Health Treatment</i>           | <i>Sex Offender Treatment</i>        |
| <i>Mentoring</i>            | <i>Cognitive Behavioral Intervention</i> |                                      |

Each of these services assist with the successful return of reentrants into our communities. We have a long history of working with community partners and stakeholders in order to meet the needs of these individuals.

Last week I had the opportunity to meet with an individual that had been incarcerated for 40+ years and was recently paroled. The positive impact that the community corrections center had on him was evident. Having spent a short time in a center prior to returning home, the temptations on the outside were causing him to slip back into his old ways. He willingly returned to the center in order to have increased accountability, support services and additional structure.

His success has enabled him to become a mentor to others. This is a testimony to the combined efforts of many -- facility staff, counselors, monitors, social workers, directors, security personnel, parole agents and stakeholders in the community. All of these individuals serve a vital role in the rehabilitation of these reentrants.

The gentlemen offered up these words, *“Without the staff here and the support I have received, I would possibly have fallen back into hard times and landed back in prison, but their support and willingness to take me back has enabled me to get back on my feet and I am once again looking forward to what the future has to offer.”*

The Department of Corrections has a dozen state-operated community corrections centers across Pennsylvania, but we also work with private contractors to provide specialized and group home housing. There are facilities that focus on the needs of individuals with mental health concerns, drug and alcohol issues, dual diagnoses as well as those reentrants that are considered hard to place. We provide booster programs to address anger management and address the criminogenic needs of this population.

Community corrections transitioned approximately 15,000 admissions through its doors in 2016 and another 12,000 in admissions in 2017.

What generally goes unrecognized is that the reentrants are already giving back on a regular basis to their communities; collectively performing tens of thousands of hours of community service yearly. Whether it be mandated hours or volunteer opportunities such as assisting churches with setting up chairs, cleaning up parks and preparing ball fields for spring-time activities are just a few community service examples.

Our Wernersville center has performed community service for municipalities and non-profit organizations within a 10-mile radius. West Reading Public Works Official Dean Murray took Wernersville up on their offer and responded to their efforts by stating:

*“West Reading truly appreciates the assistance of Joe Hofer and his group of reentrants from Wernersville CCC for cleaning up our entry way to the Borough... The 200 block of Penn Avenue looks 1000 times better already. We want to thank you for your company and your assistance provided.”*

BIG Vision Foundation, whose mission is to “develop today’s youth into tomorrow’s leaders through sports and community service,” recently thanked our Wernersville volunteers by saying,

*“We at BIG Vision Foundation would like to take a moment to thank you for your recent support of assisting us at our sports complex in Leesport... All of us here at BIG Vision Foundation appreciate you and the men that were deployed to help us, and we will speak highly of your program.”*

A local pastor, after assisting him with set-up said,

*“On behalf of the entire parish family of Saint Francis de Sales, I want to offer my many thanks and much appreciation to the 18 men and the supervisors who helped to unload, move and set up the 240 brand new chairs and kneelers for our worship space. Watching these men at work gives proof, once again, how God always provides THE BEST! God's choicest blessings be upon them for their time and service to the community”.*

There are testimonies like these from all over the Commonwealth, from Pittsburgh to Scranton, Erie to Philadelphia and multiple locations in between.

The Bureau of Community Corrections, is maybe more fittingly titled the Bureau of Community Support and Reentry Services. Regardless, these centers have had an amazing impact by donating toys and crafts made by our reentrants across Pennsylvania to kids in local hospitals. These men and women have done everything from cleaning up streets and parks to even hosting an Easter egg hunt for kids that needed a well-kept large yard to experience the joy of the season. They have collected food donations for local charities as well as donations for animal shelters. Community corrections is vested in our communities.

“Community” is a vital part of our title, our 50-year history and our foundation.

The Bureau of Community Corrections wishes to be as supportive to the residents in our centers as well as those that live in the surrounding community. The individuals that reside in these centers have made mistakes, but many of them have become positive assets in their communities and continue to redefine their futures. It serves us all well to recognize the positive things that the reentrants within community corrections centers are doing within our communities and give them the support and second chances that they, as we all, deserve.



Specific Bureau of Community Corrections accomplishments include:

- Increased efficiency of the BCC Management Operations Center (MOC). MOC lieutenants transitioned to a 12-hour schedule thereby increasing services that include: Statewide PREA reporting line for all county jails; department-wide JNET ODIN tracking; department-wide CodeRED notifications; and bureau-wide CCC monitor staffing and scheduling.
- During the last quarter of 2017, BCC conducted a thorough review of the State Intermediate Punishment (SIP) Non-Residential (NR) program. The review discovered BCC could more effectively transition reentrants onto NR status (being supported at home) by making slight changes to the furlough process. At the time, BCC managed 107 out of 506 eligible reentrants on NR status, equal to 21 percent. As of October 19, 2018, BCC was managing 304 out of 468 eligible reentrants on NR status, equal to 65 percent. By encouraging/allowing reentrants who successfully completed Phase 2 Inpatient to furlough directly home in Phase 3, BCC was able to open up approximately 200 beds for parolees throughout the state. This initiative created a cost savings of more than \$5.1 million for the year (using \$70 dollars a day).
- Through the bureau-wide implementation of the Reentry Focus Plan at the CCCs, Wernersville Community Corrections Center dramatically increased employment rates. The Reentry Focus Program ensures that reentrants are provided every opportunity to obtain and maintain employment. Wernersville exceeded the standards of the program by accomplishing the following: providing transportation for reentrants when needed; working closely with employers to maintain positive working relations and address any concerns quickly; and matching reentrants with a compatible employer through the CCC's employment counselor (by assessing the reentrants' specific skills, work experience, and determining if the reentrant is planning on re-locating in the area). The counselors work to obtain acceptable identification, although most employers have agreed to accept the SCI Photo ID or the Wernersville CCC ID, and to meet the demands of the job, whether these are skilled or general labor positions.

The rural location of Wernersville has long posed a challenge to finding long-term meaningful employment for reentrants, mostly due to limited transportation. The success of this program relies heavily on open communication and realistic expectations from the employer, the reentrants and staff. Wernersville staff often work together with the employers to find viable solutions to some of our logistical issues. Wernersville CCC has become crucial for some of the local employers as the CCC has been able to fully staff their shifts by utilizing center residents. Some companies have gone to the extent of hiring close to 60% of a shift from our center. Due to the great relationship Wernersville CCC currently has with

these companies, some of the companies have been able to change shift hours to accommodate the center's transportation schedule and be more lenient with background checks. With this initiative, Wernersville has substantially increased employment rates, averaging 14 new work placements per week and saw a decrease in absconder rates. This program and the benefits it provides also helped the center realize zero overdoses at Wernersville, reduced issues with contraband and helped achieve a huge upbeat in morale for reentrants and staff alike.

- With the closing of SCI Pittsburgh in 2017, the BCC Region 3 office was mandated to relocate. This presented many logistical challenges to ensure the new office was centrally located and could accommodate the growing needs of BCC in the western region. Regional Director Morris Richardson led this extensive and time-consuming initiative, and the Region 3 Office was successfully relocated to the Greentree section of Pittsburgh. The Region 3 Office was also able to accommodate other displaced department staff from operations, health care, information technology and human resources. This site was also chosen for the Video Visitation initiative, which will go live at this location in 2019.

## Reducing the Inmate Population

In early 2018, DOC officials announced that the 2017 total DOC inmate population dropped from 49,301 to 48,438, a decrease of 863 inmates or 1.8 percent over 2016. After decades of growth that more than doubled the number of prisons in Pennsylvania, the inmate population has declined by 6.4 percent, or 3,319 inmates, since June 2012, allowing for the 2017 closure of SCI Pittsburgh and accompanying significant cost savings.

The decrease, combined with the crime rate decline, indicates that a broad range of bipartisan criminal justice initiatives being undertaken across Pennsylvania are working and that further reductions in the inmate population, lower agency costs and decreases in the crime rate, are possible as the agency continues its memorandum of understanding/consolidation with the Board of Probation and Parole and the second round of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative.

## Educating Inmates

- The Bureau of Correction Education (BCE) continues to upgrade its education related computer labs into virtual desktops, which allow computers to be used for multiple lab purposes. The software in these labs has been updated to directly relate to the current GED 2014 computerized test. Students will have the opportunity to not only learn important content that is on the test but to also practice utilizing the same computer applications that will be used when officially testing.
- Pennsylvania's state prisons continue to maintain an excellent GED passing rate. During Fiscal Year 2017-2018, state prison inmates had an 87% rate, which is higher than the national pass rate of 79%. BCE continues to update curriculum so that students continue to learn utilizing materials more relevant to the current 2014 version of the test.
- Pennsylvania has the distinct honor of having all adult institutions accredited by the Correction Education Association (CEA), with eight achieving reaccreditations in 2018: SCIs Benner, Chester, Coal Township, Fayette, Forest, Houtzdale, Laurel Highlands, and Pine Grove.
- In 2018, BCE provided a recertification training for those instructors whose OSHA certification was expiring. Seventeen instructors successfully completed this course. Due to staff retirements/reassignments, BCE is planning to offer another certification course for new instructors during the Spring of 2019.
- During 2018, all institutions have implemented the Pathway to Success course as a replacement to the Pre-Voc course previously used. This course is designed to educate inmates regarding their vocational aptitudes and the pathways of study that may be available to them. The course includes an O\*Net test, job searches, labor and wage information, soft skills trainings, resume preparation, and mock interviews. There are also several sessions with the employment coordinator, parole staff, and staff from the local CareerLink.

### 2017-18 Educational/Vocational Statistics:

- 345 GEDs were issued between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018
- 472 CSDs were issued
- 43 barber licenses and 12 cosmetology licenses were issued
- 6,952 total vocational certifications were issued
- 167 warehouse certifications
- 586 carpentry certifications
- 47 welding certifications
- 714 custodial maintenance certifications
- 57 fiber optic certifications
- 374 Ward Flex Gas Piping certifications
- 2,999 flagger certifications
- 905 OSHA certifications

## Building Career Pathways

With support from the U.S. Department of Education Improving Reentry Education grant, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) is spearheading an effort to build sustainable, employer-driven career pathways that prepare inmates with in-demand skills while incarcerated, and that connect those individuals to jobs, support services, and ongoing education upon release. Successes in this area include:

- Policy Memo released to SCI Superintendents detailing the Career Pathways framework
- Pathway to Success (updated curriculum) – offered at all 25 SCIs as of January 2018
- Piloted referrals to PA CareerLink for reentrants at two SCIs
- Inmates started registering in PA JobGateway prior to release
- Articulation Agreements – Gap Analysis started to see how DOC’s vocational programs align with the Pennsylvania Department of Education task grid
- Evaluability Assessment completed with six pilot SCIs and Central Office staff to gauge the readiness of DOC and pilot SCI to engage in an evaluation once the program is fully implemented
- Process Evaluation completed to determine if the Career Pathways framework is being implemented with fidelity at pilot SCIs
- Held two Offender Workforce Development Specialist trainings throughout the Commonwealth
- Conducted in-person visits to all 25 SCIs to discuss the Career Pathways framework
- Held six regional Laying the Groundwork meetings for non-pilot SCIs to develop Action Plans on how their SCI will implement the Career Pathways framework
- Participated in the Capitol Regional Employer Fair for Harrisburg-area employers to discuss the benefits of hiring reentrants
- Meetings held with School Principals, Eastern Region Superintendents, DSCS/CCPMs

## Promoting Food Service Training

In 2018, five nine-week Culinary Arts Program classes were held, graduating 44 male inmates. Held at the DOC’s training academy, this program was highlighted at the 2018 Pennsylvania State Farm Show, with plans to do the same in 2019.

In addition, the program was expanded to one of the state’s two female prisons, SCI Muncy. The first class of eight inmates graduated in September, and a second class will graduate in December.

## ***DOC Culinary Academy Promotes Food Service Training at Pennsylvania Farm Show***

*On January 12, 2018, the DOCs Inmate Culinary Academy, which trains inmates for careers in the food service industry, was highlighted at the 2018 Pennsylvania Farm Show.*

*As part of the popular PA Preferred Culinary Connection food demonstration program, Chef Instructor Todd Lewis presented his recipe for “Bacon Wrapped Pork Tenderloin with Brandied Apples” during the show’s “Pork Day” with help from a graduate of the program.*

*Since its founding in 2003, the nine-week Inmate Culinary Academy has trained almost 300 inmates in basic food service skills that prepare them for jobs following their release.*

*Chef Instructor Todd Lewis explained the curriculum he designed provides intensive instruction in food handling and preparation techniques that translate into jobs in the food service industry.*



***Chef Todd Lewis, with the assistance of a Culinary Academy graduate, demonstrates the preparation of a special meal at the 2018 Pennsylvania Farm Show.***

*“It gives me great pleasure to hear from former students that they are working in the field or applying to culinary school,” said Lewis. “It lets me know that I am helping these students make a future for themselves and their families.”*

*Students in the Culinary Academy:*

- *Develop basic skills for preparing, soups and stocks, starches, vegetables and proteins.*
- *Learn essential techniques in bread baking, cake baking, and decorating.*

- Are selected through a competitive program that requires a high school diploma or GED
- Receive a ServSafe® Certificate.

*Graduates of the Culinary Academy are now working as line cooks, prep cooks, kitchen managers and chefs at a variety of restaurants and institutions.*

## ***Prison Holds Restaurant Trades Open House***

*On June 14, 2018, SCI Muncy held an open house for its newly-established Restaurant Trades vocational program, at which an extensive cross section of staff enjoyed an array of homemade cookies made from scratch by the eight culinary students.*

*Restaurant Trades Instructor Robert Wheeler III kept visitors engaged by explaining the construction of the commercial kitchen -- from the newly-poured seamless floors and the stainless-steel countertops to the new commercial gas range. Wheeler undoubtedly knows the importance of this program. He started his career over 23 years ago, first serving as a food service instructor and then as a food service supervisor at SCI Muncy for the past 16 years. He gave emphasis that this vocational program is the groundwork for a fulfilling career if the reentrants take the knowledge learned and apply it when released.*



*Mirroring that of SCIs Camp Hill and Waymart, the students must meet specific requirements to be considered for the program, after which the students are on a probation period and must pass the ServSafe test to continue.*

*The hands-on learning is sequentially structured to cover basic kitchen equipment safety, stocks and sauces, pan sautéing, baking and much more. SCI Muncy also will incorporate a restaurant hospitality component and cake decorating to the curriculum.*

*The first round of students was given the task of naming the culinary space. Superintendent Wendy Nicholas commented that "Second Chance Café" was befitting and views the Restaurant Trades vocational program as just that, a second chance to a new beginning.*

## Western Pennsylvania Facility Accomplishments

### Albion

- Celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a ceremony that included legislators, former superintendents and local dignitaries.
- Coordinated a holiday talent show and an annual community day for inmates housed in the Residential Treatment Unit (RTU).
- Facilitated meetings between the prison's inmate Think Tank – description of the think tank here – with criminology students from Mercyhurst university, Edinboro University, members of the Erie County Parole Board and with several juveniles who are currently on probation in Erie County.
- Hosted Voices Behind the Walls Seminars for inmates about suicide prevention and for employees, who were able to earn continuing education units, if eligible. Dr. David Pugh from Edinboro University was the keynote speaker for the employee session.
- Began the prison's first Inside Out class with Gannon University, which allows eight inmates to meet with students every Wednesday to discuss a variety of societal issues. This class is entitled "Inside Out: Reducing Prejudice," and is intended to a way to reduce prejudice among the inmate population.
- Offered, through the Chaplaincy Department, a 13-week Grief Share Program for inmates who have suffered the loss of a loved one.
- Had the Susan Hirt Hagen Center for Community Outreach, Research and Evaluation (CORE) -- which located within PSU -- provide mentoring training to the youth mentors in conjunction with the Mentoring Partnership of America. Monthly meetings continue, and they provide mentoring to not only youth but to all inmates now.
- Hosted its first "A DAY UNDER COVER" event. The C.O.V.E.R. committee brought in guest speakers, including Secretary John Wetzel, to discuss topics aimed at improving staff wellness. After the educational component was provided to staff, members were given the opportunity to "blow off some steam" at the Car Bash Event set up outside. The Car Bash was designed to provide a positive and healthy outlet for staff members who deal with the daily stressors within the DOC. With the help of the local Albion Fire Department, Bish Automotive, Erie Mobile Crises Vet Center, and the various committees and individuals within the institution, the event was a huge success.

### Cambridge Springs

- Raised nearly \$12,000 for charitable organizations through the State Employees Combined Appeal (SECA) campaign.
- Provided, through the prison's Braille Program, more than 100 books to the Crawford County READ Program and approximately 70 books, pamphlets,

hymnals and publications to various schools and organizations across the Commonwealth.

- Installed additional razor wire on fencing throughout the facility.
- Facilitated eight successful intern placements this year in the areas of social work, psychology, medical and human resources.
- Supported the prison's C.O.V.E.R. Committee, which was extremely active during the 2018 calendar year, offering a wide variety of events and activities for staff to participate in as follows:
  - Statewide C.O.V.E.R. Apparel Sale
  - Self Defense Workshop
  - Remember Everyone Deployed (RED) Apparel Sale
  - Local Showing of "Suicide: The Ripple Effect"
  - C.O.V.E.R. Event @ Army National Guard Stryker Base
  - Suicide & Mental Health Crisis Intervention Training
  - Hero Box for Deployed Staff
  - 100,000 Step Fitness Challenge
  - C.O.V.E.R. Lunch for Staff
  - Breast Cancer Awareness Apparel Sale
  - Mental Health Awareness Poster Contest
  - Anger Management Video Training with Dr. Christian Conte
  - Ruck the Bay 10K Event with SCIs Albion and Mercer
  - Veterans Day Parade
  - Thanksgiving at Liberty House for Homeless Veterans

## Fayette

- Conducted its annual CEVAC meeting in which various trades from the local career and technical schools were represented along with a Fayette County commissioner. At the meeting, numerous topics, including the prison's vocational programs, were discussed.
- Continued to facilitate two "Inside Out" programs – one that involves 16 University of Pittsburgh students who come to the prison to attend class alongside 16 inmates, and one that works with Duquesne University and the Pittsburgh Police Academy that allows police cadets to attend a criminal justice class alongside inmates. Topics taught include writing for a change, criminal justice and black masculinity.
- Held its 14th annual graduation ceremony where 17 inmates earned their GED, 14 earned their CSD, and 120 other inmates completed vocational courses in business, carpentry, cosmetology, custodial maintenance, fiber optics, HVAC and welding.
- Facilitated the prison's inmate job fair that focused on reentry services that dealt with employment opportunities, education, financial aid, probation guidelines, housing and outside mental health resources, just to name a few. Coordinated by the prison's Education Department, more than 200 inmates attended the fair and

received reentry information from a number of outside organizations, companies and agencies.

- Celebrated its 15th anniversary through a variety of staff-related activities and events.
- Unit Manager and Mental Health First Aid Instructor Lou Bozelli conducted two training sessions for Fayette County. Bozelli trained and certified more than 60 Fayette County employees including judges, the chief of juvenile probation, juvenile and adult probation officers along with other court and county employees.
- Arranged for the local district magistrate to conduct local hearings at the facility, which resulted in saving officer over-time for transport and for community safety.

### Forest

- SCI Forest was selected as one of three SCIs to receive and begin using the Doron 550 Truck Plus Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Simulator, which is designed to provide a dynamic training environment for a wide variety of commercial truck applications. Inmates will be able to complete all of the necessary course work to obtain their CDL and will only need to complete the driving test upon release from prison in order to obtain their CDL. This will provide reentrants with a marketable skill that will transition to a family-sustaining income.
- Replaced lighting in all three dining halls, gymnasium, administration building, along with the perimeter and parking lot with light emitting diode (LED) lighting, which will provide for a longer bulb lifespan, better concentrated light beam angle, instant turn-on without run-up or delay, and a significant reduction in maintenance costs. Long-term savings are expected to be approximately \$68,000 in operating costs per year.
- Prepared for and organized a successful American Correctional Association (ACA) audit in July 2018.
- Opened its Reentry Services Office, which is a program designed to specifically address reentry needs. The RSO has specific components designed to connect incarcerated veterans with services that will assist them when they parole. Unit Manager Michelle Crowther and Corrections Counselor 2 Sarah Lewis have been instrumental in getting the program off the ground. The RSO has computers with limited internet access where inmates can search for jobs, look up PennDOT information and create resumes.

### Greene

- Revised capital case unit policies and procedures to afford the capital case inmate population congregate activity. This involved a massive number of physical changes and construction projects within the housing unit and yard areas to provide a minimum of 21 hours out-of-cell time per week. Staff training was also necessary to ensure adherence of the procedural changes.

- Relocated the Therapeutic Community Program to another housing unit within the facility, which required a number of coordinating efforts and is expected to provide a more suitable therapeutic setting for the program.
- Installed Video Visitation equipment within the Visiting Room areas of the facility.

### Houtzdale

- Hosted Pennsylvania's 53rd Adjutant General Anthony Carrelli, along with Deputy Adjutant General Michael Regan and Command Sergeant Major Harry Buchanan III as they toured the prisons Veterans Services Unit. Local, regional and national media covered the event.
- Expanded the prison's Pell Grant program by doubling the number of inmate students and increasing its computer room to facilitate 14 computers, which will allow the prison to continue its agreement with the Indiana University of Pennsylvania to offer post-secondary education for a second year.
- Replaced all perimeter and high-mast lights with light emitting diode (LED) lights. This change provides for a longer bulb lifespan, better concentrated light beam angles and significant cost savings.
- Experienced growth of the prison's Reentry Services Office (RSO). Though program enrollment has remained consistent, workshops offered have grown to 18. The RSO's eight community partners have assisted participants by providing a wide-array of information geared toward helping them make a successful reintegration into the community for 60 RSO participants. It should be noted, during the 2018 calendar year seven inmates completed a nine-session training program in which they were trained to facilitate a Pennsylvania Housing and Finance Agency sponsored workshop to RSO participants.
- Dedicated the prison's "Memorial Wall Park" which is a tribute to those individuals who have passed away and worked in law enforcement, served our country and worked at SCI Houtzdale.

### Laurel Highlands

- Opened the "New Life New Beginning" Opioid Therapeutic Community in an effort to combat the opioid crisis. The program is a 50-bed, four-month residential treatment program designed for inmates with major substance disorders that focus on Opioid Use Disorder. The therapeutic milieu remains the same as traditional therapeutic communities but offers specific treatment for opioid disorders. In addition, participants have the opportunity to utilize Medicated Assistance Therapy. The first class graduated in August 2018.
- Continued to experience great success with the Vivitrol Program. Since its inception in 2016, 263 inmates have received injections. In addition to Vivitrol, oral Naltrexone is now available to inmates participating in the Opioid Therapeutic Community. Oral Naltrexone is similar to Vivitrol but rather than an injection, it is administered daily. There are currently 22 inmates receiving Naltrexone. The success of this program is due to medical, social work and Alcohol and Other Drugs employees.

- Completed the enormous task of archiving all SCI Pittsburgh medical records for the State Record Center. This enormous task was accomplished ahead of schedule.
- Fully integrated the use of an electronic health records for inmates' medical records.
- Continued the service of the Limited Privilege Housing Unit (LPHU) pilot program through 2018. This program was designed and initiated at SCI Laurel Highlands to reduce segregation of non-violent misconducts by using a step-down system to ease inmates out of disciplinary custody housing. Employees who work in the restricted housing unit are committed to the LPHU and have made the pilot a success by implementing the principles of the program effectively.
- The prison's C.O.V.E.R. committee organized and held its first, all-day symposium that featured a variety of speakers who presented about employee wellness issues/topics. The committee also hosted a two-month post-traumatic stress group which resulted in employees believing it assisted them in both their work and personal lives. Finally, through C.O.V.E.R., prison employees have been involved in an ongoing service project where they volunteer in flag folding ceremonies at the Flight 93 Memorial. Prison employees raise flags up the flag pole, allow them to fly, then bring them down, fold them and place them into bags. These flags will then be sold in the gift shop or can be ordered online and shipped all over the world.

## **Mercer**

- Completed several maintenance projects, such as camera upgrades and road paving. Another major project that will take a year to complete is the kitchen expansion project. So far, this project included construction of two decks outside of the food service area to hold a temporary freezer and cooler received from SCI Pittsburgh. This freezer will save the facility \$19,000 and eliminates the need to rent the equipment during construction. Also, part of this project is the moving of the trash compactor and installation of a new dish machine.
- Celebrated 40 years of operation. On July 10, a ceremony was held and included legislators and a former superintendent. Employees also prepared a time capsule which was sealed and will be opened on the prison's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2038.
- Participated in the highlighting of the prisons Veterans Services Unit. PennLive visited the prison to film and take photos for a Veterans Day documentary.
- Donated nearly 23,000 ears of prison-grown corn to nearby state prisons and to two local food banks.
- Supervised many inmate donation activities. In 2018, inmates raised and donated more than \$8,100 to the following:
  - Shenango Valley Children's Transplant Fund - \$500
  - Breakloose - \$250
  - Mercer County Children and Youth - \$1,200 worth of children's pajamas
  - Shriners Children's Hospital - \$500
  - St. Jude - \$500

- ENVISION Blind Sports - \$2,020
- Global Giving (Hurricane Florence) - \$750
- Paralyzed Veterans - \$750
- American Cancer Society - \$750
- Mercer County Children and Youth - \$750
- Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation - \$139
- Employees supported a number of community projects, including the facility's Run-a-thon, CARE Prison Puppy program, the Together Journey Canine program, Community Work Crew (CWP), and during the holidays, the Food Drive for a local food bank and Treasures for Children toy drive in conjunction with the Sharon Salvation Army.
- Provided more than 5,300 hours of service through the prisons Community Work Program. Projects completed by the CWP included washing/waxing fire trucks; painting and general labor work at the Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department; PennDOT road clean up in Mercer County on I-79, I-80, and Routes 58 and 62; monthly loading of trucks at the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank in New Castle; preparing the grounds for the Mercer Grange Fair as well as clean up afterwards; and much more too numerous to list.

### **Pine Grove**

- Completed several Maintenance Department projects: replaced the roof top unit on building 4; replaced two sets of heating boilers; moved CCTV to Control; installed LED lighting; installed two UPS units; and repaired the roof over the administration building.
- Hosted Quarters Back for Life speaker and former Pittsburgh Steeler Rocky Bleier, who visited and spoke with inmates and staff about ways in which people can turn their lives around and achieve great things.
- Provided tours for local college classes, local Legislators, juvenile probation officers from Bucks County and local media.
- Sent 10 employees to Cheshire Department of Corrections in Connecticut to learn about their young adult program, which is called T.R.U.E. -- Truthful, Respectful, Understanding and Elevating. While SCI Pine Grove has operated its own Young Adult Offender program for many years, officials continue to learn about other similar programs in an effort to keep their own program fresh and effective.
- Hosted a quarterly blood drive thru the American Red Cross with 24 approved donors (six included Power Reds) and four were deferred. Overall, the blood drive was a huge success.
- Held its annual volunteer banquet to honor civilians who visit the prison regularly to provide valuable services to inmates. Rev. Dr. Daryl S. Jeffers, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Clymer, Pa., was named the 2018 Pine Grove Volunteer of the Year.

- In the area of inmate reentry, SCI Pine Grove:
  - Held an inmate reentry fair that included 38 vendors who provided information to inmates who soon would be released from prison.
  - Hosted DOC Bureau of Community Corrections Program Manager Julian Rubeo as he visited the prison's Transitional Housing Unit. At the THU, Rubeo provided inmates with reentry information, such as mentoring, family reunification, workforce development and housing assistance. During Rubeo's presentation, the inmates also were able to "tour" a community corrections center in their home region using virtual reality equipment.
- Supervised inmate organization "Beyond the Fence," as they held a Run-A-Thon to raise money for Indiana County Children and Youth Services.
- Participated in various SCI Pine Grove Committee events -- Employees Association, Empowering and C.O.V.E.R. -- to raise funds for these committee and to donate funds to local charities throughout Indiana County.

### Quehanna

- Achieved reaccreditation by the American Correctional Association with a score of 100% for mandatory standards and 100% for non-mandatory standards.
- Designated a housing unit as an Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) Therapeutic Community (TC) in April 2018. By July we integrated some of the OUD programming on all other TCs.
- Replaced the main building roof, which was no small task due to the amount of rain this year.
- Worked with Gautier Steel in Johnstown to provide employment opportunities to successful Boot Camp graduates.
- Continue to hold reentry and career fairs annually.
- Worked with outside entities -- such as Penn State University Parenting; Children's Aid Society does Healthy Relationships and Parenting; Kathy Snavely of Harrisburg Area Community College does a small business class; and Becky MacDicken of PA Department of Banking does a financial seminar-- to offer other programming to inmates.
- Implemented Peer Tutors and Certified Peer Specialists (CPS) programs.
- Offered certification in Certified Fiber Installer, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Custodial Maintenance, NCCER Core Curriculum, Landscape Maintenance, PennDOT Flagger, Aerial Work Platform, NCCER Construction Site Safety Orientation (CSSO).
- Added three self-study certification programs: ServSafe Food Handler through the National Restaurant Association, Certified Washroom Technician (CWT) through the Association for Linen Management and Certified Linen Technician (CLT) through the Association for Linen Management.
- Expects a GED projection of 100+ receiving their GED by the end of 2018. Quehanna has the 25% pass rate for all of DOC.

- Vivitrol Injections – the facility is projecting a new record high number of injections. As of the end of September 2018, 215 injections were given, and 36 individuals were excluded for a total of 251 interested individuals. Additionally, we have had 48 participants on oral Naltrexone.
- Established a C.O.V.E.R. Committee, with the facility's first C.O.V.E.R. event being held in September.
- Trained five employees to conduct WRAP. The first inmate session was held in October, and a staff session was conducted in November.

## Central Pennsylvania Facility Accomplishments

### Benner Township

- Opened the Veterans Service Office in August 2018.
- Passed the American Correctional Association (ACA) accreditation audit in September 2018, with a score of 100% for mandatory standards and 99.31% for non-mandatory standards.
- Hired a contract Vivitrol social worker to oversee the Vivitrol Program. The facility gave its first inmate a Vivitrol injection on October 5, 2018.
- Installed of the WAVE Plus System in August 2018. This system provides duress alarms for personnel. As soon as a duress alarm is triggered, the WAVE Plus System instantly transmits a detailed alarm message over the radios carried by the officers. Officers can respond immediately without any dispatch delay.
- Replaced all perimeter lighting with High Efficiency LED lighting. As a result, SCI Benner Township received a rebate of approximately \$13,000.
- Held a Book Drive was held in conjunction with Christ Community Church in February 2018 to benefit the Centre County Youth Service Bureau, the Centre County Juvenile Detention Center and the children of incarcerated individuals at SCI Benner Township.
- Held a pajama drive in March 2018. Pajamas collected were provided to children when they are being removed from their homes and placed in foster care. SCI Benner Township staff donated more than 150 pairs of pajamas for children up to age 17.

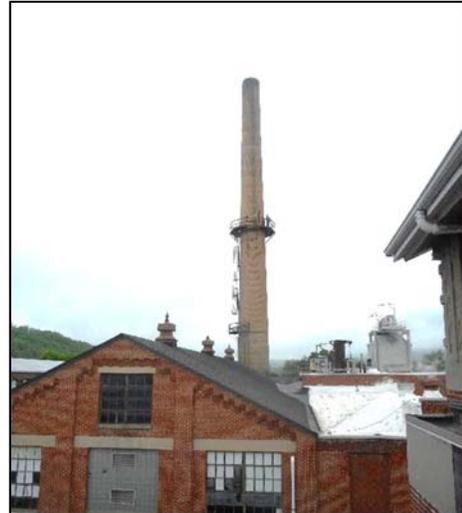
### Camp Hill

- Passed ACA audit in October 2018.
- Implemented storeroom security enhancements and refined the inspection process for all supplies and deliveries coming into the institution. Maintenance staff constructed a device for storeroom staff to use to enhance the inspection process and properly screen items for contraband. The factory representatives for the cell sense towers liked the design and asked if they could copy it for their own marketing use.
- Housed approximately 300 inmates from VT from June 2017 – October 2018 and safely processed and coordinated the transfer of 217 inmates out of the institution.

- Completed the following security enhancements: Perimeter Intrusion Detection System (PIDS) upgrade, drone detection system was added and body alarm system upgrade.

## Huntingdon

- Dismantled the prison's smokestack, which had long been part of the skyline since 1928 and had been in operation until July 1, 2013.
- Certified another medical employee to teach first aid and CPR to staff, and continue to track medical staff who can provide PREA training to medical staff.
- Recovered one of the prison's largest drug finds from a single inmate in a dry cell. The value of the drugs recovered would have wholesaled at close to \$50,000.
- Hosted a C.O.V.E.R. event held with guest speakers and which had a positive impact on employees who attended.
- Handle the statewide lock down with minimal to no major issues, considering the prison has no air conditioning and it was two of the hottest weeks of summer. The teamwork between departments was second-to-none.
- Gave three Vivitrol injections to inmates. The program began on April 1, 2018, with the first injection being given on May 29, 2018. Twenty-six inmates are on the waiting list for the injections and simply are awaiting their release dates to begin the process. outpatient groups and to individuals during a one-on-one session as needed.
- Arranged a Tree Tenders training program which was developed by PA Horticulture Society in partnership with DCNR and Penn State Extension. The training teaches inmates the basics of trees, including the benefits of trees, tree biology, how to care for trees and stresses on trees.
- Community Work Program (CWP) crews CWPs assisted various organizations throughout the area with flood cleanup, debris removal, fieldhouse cleaning and sanitation along with moving and setting up bleachers and picnic tables.
- Both CWP crews have been working at St. Paul's Yellow Creek Cemetery in Bedford County, which has 50 graves of soldiers from the Revolutionary War, two from the War of 1812, as well as many from the Civil War, World War I and World War II. The cemetery was purchased on June 5, 1762, by James Piper for \$4. The CWP crews have reset multiple head stones using concrete, and they will this project of resetting more headstones beginning in May 2019.
- Implemented Video Visitation (VV). After receiving training by the DOC, employees have providing local training to staff who are assigned to the visiting rooms. SCI Huntingdon has two VV stations in the outside visiting room, two VV



stations in the inside visiting room and two VV stations in the modular housing unit. This implementation was truly a team effort involving multiple disciplines within the institution, including maintenance staff, information technology staff, unit management staff and security staff.

- The prison currently has 21 active Certified Peer Specialists in the institution, all of which are certified in WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) and Trauma Informed Care and have state certification through the PA Certification Board. The prison recently provided the recommended 20 CEUs (continuing education units) for 2018. Training topics for the year included ethics, many topics involving mental health signs and symptoms, and skills on providing therapy as a CPS.
- Facilitated an Impact Workshop entitled Shining Light April 18 – 29, 2018. After an interview and selection process, 31 inmate participants worked with a team of professional performers to create a production with a message of truth and hope. The participants learned about trust and learned the value of others. There were many positive remarks from inmates and staff alike.
- The Altar Rock Jaycees, an inmate organization, has given several donations this year:
  - \$500 was donated to the Canine Partners for Life, the puppy program at SCI Huntingdon, for the purchase of dog food, toys and various items needed to keep the program operational.
  - \$2,000 was donated to the Warren E. Smith Mental Health System in Philadelphia and was the result of the Mental Health Awareness Run-a-thon conducted on May 29.
  - \$1,000 to Vietnam Vets of America
  - \$1,000 to a local a community worship center
- The Pennsylvania Lifers' Association donated \$2,000 to the Pennsylvania Prison Society.
- SCI Huntingdon held the Annual Education Graduation Ceremony in September, where:
  - 55 vocational students recognized for their achievements in earning certifications in the barber school program, print school and the warehouse program.
  - 30 students were honored for earning a Commonwealth Secondary Diploma and 15 were honored for earning a GED certificate.
- Opened a new Veterans Service Office in August.

## Muncy

- Opened the infirmary annex
- Implemented a new Restaurant Trades program
- Opened a female Veterans Service Unit, the first of its kind in the DOC and even the nation.

## Rockview

- Passed ACA accreditation audit.
- Repaved the interior road ways.
- Constructed the new RHU Unit
- Finished new group rooms and relocated parole to a new building
- Installed the amalgam separator and purchased digital x-ray cameras in the dental department.
- Partnered with Penn State University for an end of life computer-based training pilot project.
- Completed an outside recreation area for long term infirmary patients
- Began a Vivitrol program for those pending release
- FCDP-Boldin was nominated and was awarded DOC Chaplain of the year.
- Implemented a Reentry and Veteran's Service Office
- Completed building renovations which gave treatment specialists new office and group space
- Partnered with DCNR to hold inmate arboriculture tree pruning training
- Farmed 500 acres of field corn, soy beans, wheat, sweet corn and potatoes
- Remodeled inmate bathrooms at the Forestry Camp.

## Smithfield

- The Education Department awarded the following:
  - GEDs - 17
  - Commonwealth Secondary Diplomas - 13
  - Vocational Certificates - 40
  - Flagger Certifications - 114
- Started the new commercial driver's licensing vocational program, including installation of a CDL simulatr.
- Renovated the library.
- Held its second Inside Out college class with Juniata College, in which 10 inmates and 10 college students studied South African history.
- Achieved an 86% average pass rate on all areas of the GED test, that being the 4<sup>th</sup> highest among all of the state facilities.
- Conducted its first WRAP Training.
- Facilitated its first CPS Inmate WRAP Training.
- Installed attorney telephone rooms in each unit.
- Installed video visitation equipment.
- Installed a new kitchen room.
- Supported SCI Somerset during the Sgt. Baserman lockdown.
- Several employees joined the United Way in installing smoke detectors – Day of Caring.

- Several employees participated in the Walk Out of the Darkness-Suicide Prevention Walk.
- Established FERT team as a HazMat Response Team for illicit drug decontamination.
- Partnered with local FEMA for HazMat training.
- Completed an anti-drug video, in conjunction with the local district attorney, to warn visitors about the consequences of bringing drugs into department facilities.

## Eastern Facility Accomplishments

### Chester

- For the second year in a row, the prison took in dogs that had been saved from after southeastern US hurricanes.
- Since April 2017, the prison's dog training program – WAGS -- helped adopt more than 280 dogs (and two cats) that had been cared for and trained by inmates at the prison.

### Coal Township

- Upgraded the CCTV system and upgraded control panels in housing units and Central Control. Work continued on the Utility Plant upgrade, with completion expected in 2019.
- Completed mural paintings in a number of housing units.
- Assisted in the successful relocation of county prison inmates from the prison to the county's newly-built prison, thus ending the 45-month joint venture between the DOC and Northumberland County Prison.
- In the programming and educational departments, Coal Township's accomplishments for 2018 include:
  - Reentry initiatives and Reentry Service Office's expansion to include Job fair, CareerLink van visits for outside clearance inmates and guests' presentations on financial and technology topics.
  - CPR certifications - In 2018, so far, 95 inmates have been certified in CPR by the Red Cross.
  - Career Pathways - 49 inmates completed the program in 2018.
  - Graduation 2018 - 48 inmates graduated in 2018. Their courses included GEDs, High School Diplomas, HVAC, Automotive, Building Trades, Computer- Aided Drafting Design and three inmates completed Correspondence Courses.

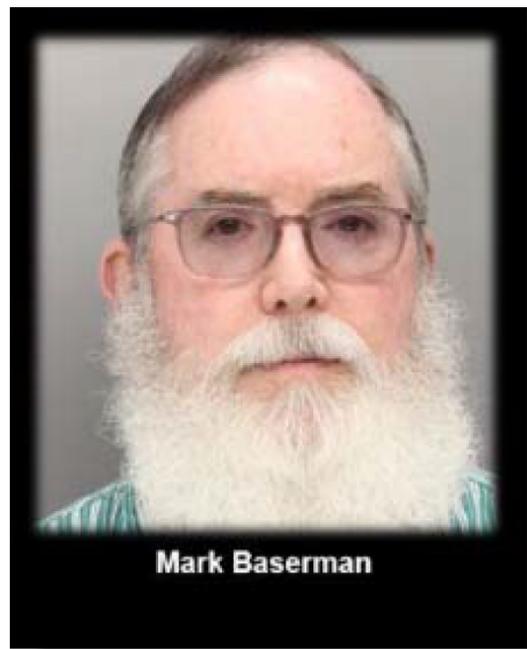
### Mahanoy

- Celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an event that involved current and former employees, state legislators, local dignitaries and a former superintendent. The event, which was covered by local news media, was followed by a luncheon.

## Retreat

- Ordered and placed Narcan throughout many vital areas of the institution to ensure the quickest response for both staff and inmates if an exposure would occur.
- Retreat's Therapeutic Garden produced approximately 6,000 pounds of produce in 2018. Approximately 3,000 pounds of that produce was donated to local charities. Flowers grown in the garden also beautified the facility. The garden provided employment for eight inmates and a therapeutic environment for the entire general population.
- Rebuilt the showers on E-Unit, which was necessary due to the heavy use and poor design of the original showers. Staff incorporated building materials that would withstand heavy use. The project was completed entirely in-house utilizing a wide range of tradesman with engineering design work provided by Central Office Bureau of Operations and inspected by Labor & Industry.
- The Education Department notes several accomplishments as follows: 27 students earned their CSD (Commonwealth Secondary Diploma), six students earned their GEDs, 53 students received their NCCEER (National Center for Construction Education and Research), five students earned their Barber license, 162 students earned the PA DOT Flagger Certification and 37 students enrolled in college courses through Wilkes University.
- SCI Retreat's Recovery Unit has been up and running for one year.

## ~ In Memoriam ~



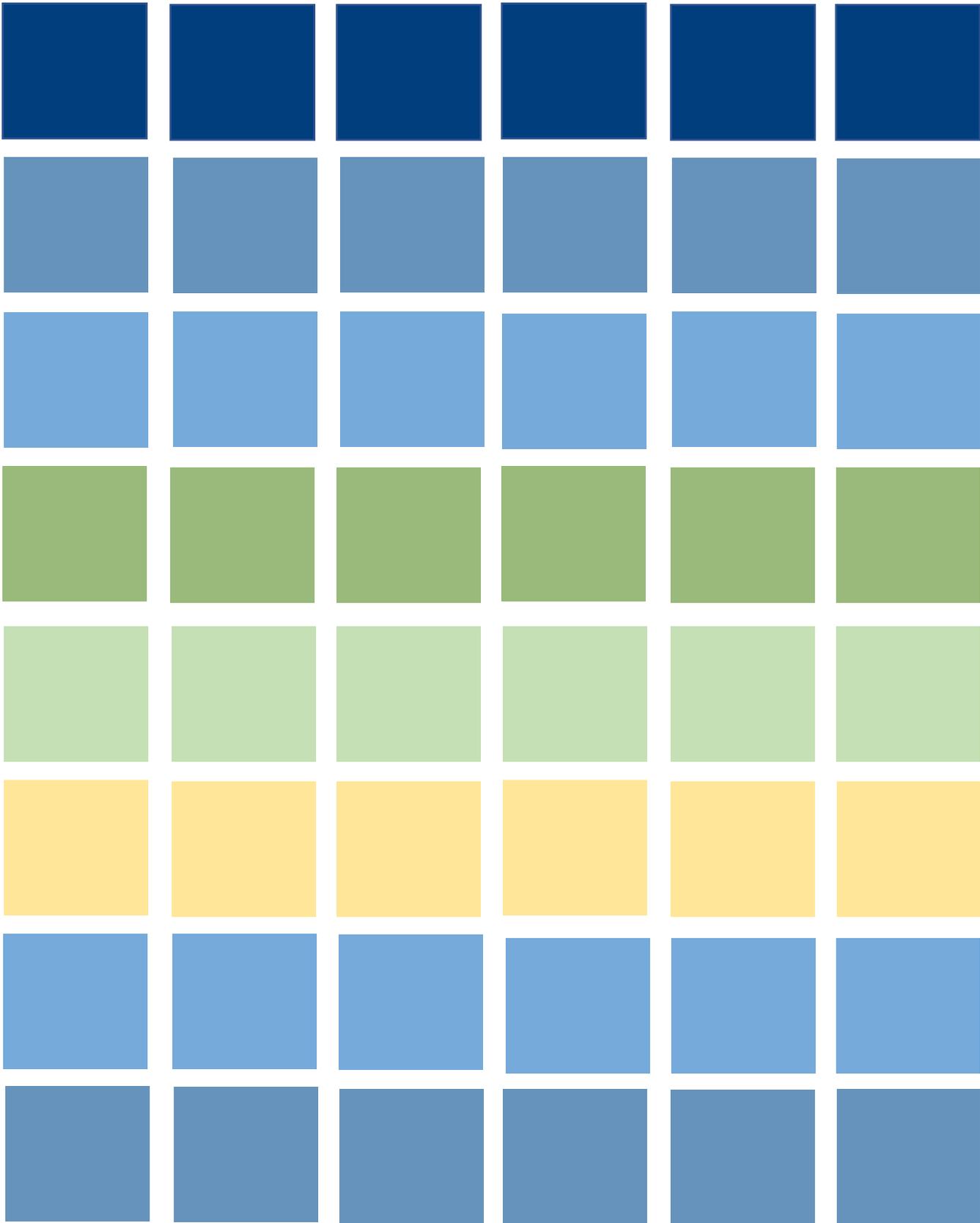
On February 26, 2018, SCI Somerset Sergeant Mark Baserman died as a result of injuries sustained on February 15, 2018. He was assaulted and beaten by a single inmate in a prison housing unit.

A memorial ceremony was held on March 7, 2018, at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. It was attended by thousands of individuals who wished to pay their last respects to Sgt. Baserman.



## Removal of Timberland-Style Boots from the System

As a result of the murder of SCI Somerset Sgt. Mark Baserman and the fact that the inmate who killed Sgt. Baserman repeatedly kicked the sergeant while wearing such boots, Department of Corrections officials removed all hard-soled, work/Timberland-style boots from the inmate population and discontinued their sale through the commissary system. Inmates were instructed to either turn in their boots or send them home by a specific date. This was accomplished without much negativity from the inmate population.



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