

Accomplishments

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections

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2019 AGENCY WIDE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COMMUNITY & SYSTEM SAFETY

Parole Cases Reviewed

In August, DOC officials discussed results of an internal review of parole cases that involved recent homicides or attempted homicides. The goal of the review – which identified no evidence of misconduct or policy or rule violations that would have reasonably affected the outcomes in the cases reviewed -- was to determine whether there were any shortcomings in each case individually and to identify whether there are any themes or policies that should be modified to make such events less likely. The review resulted in the following recommendations, which are being implemented:

- Develop a domestic violence protocol to ensure consistent decision making.
- Increase, enhance information sharing with those who make recommendations to the Board of Probation and Parole.
- Establish protocol to ensure consultation with district attorneys when a parolee receives a new charge or is detained.
- Launch a database so that law enforcement and others may easily ascertain whether an individual is on parole supervision.
- Expedite parole absconder case assignment to the Fugitive Apprehension Search Team (FAST) Unit.
- Reassessment of technical parole violator cases prior to release to ensure proper level of supervision is assigned.
- Use the Violence Forecasting Model (also known as the Berk Tool).
- Issue an RFP for a new risk/needs assessment tool that pulls information for the risk assessment from existing data; and begin use of the new tool within one year.
- Formalize parole recommendation guidelines for superintendents that will be used to dictate what information shall be considered.
- Conduct semi-annual reviews of all critical incidents, with the review being co-chaired by the DOC secretary and chief counsel.
- Augment the DOC's Field Agent Training program.

Violence Reduction Strategies Implemented

State prisons across Pennsylvania implemented the Violence Reduction Initiative in May. This strategy is multidimensional and includes proactive planning and response strategies to prohibited violent acts that involve staff assaults, inmate fights/assaults with weapons, multiple inmate fights/assaults, fights/assaults with serious bodily injury. Prison leadership informed the inmate population of the new initiative and the procedures involved. The goal is to use inmate community pressure to reduce violence within state prisons.

Legal Mail Lawsuit Settled

Beginning April 6, DOC inmates were permitted to again receive original legal mail documents. The DOC had implemented changes to the legal mail process in September 2018 that involved scanning legal mail as part of sweeping new security measures undertaken to limit the flow of drugs into its facilities after a significant uptick in the number of staff exposures and inmate overdoses.

DOC Goes Tobacco Free

On July 1, the DOC made all of its state prisons tobacco free, no longer permitting tobacco products inside the secure perimeters of any state prison. Leading up to the July 1 deadline, inmates were offered smoking cessation programs and educational materials, and employees were reminded of programs available through their employee benefit trust fund. Prior to this ban, only SCIs Chester, Phoenix, Pine Grove and the Quehanna Boot Camp were tobacco-free. The transition was successful.

Graduation of the State's first Parole Agent K-9 handlers

In July, three parole agents graduated from the DOC's K-9 Academy following a 13-week K-9 handlers course, making them the first parole agent handlers in the commonwealth. The handlers – Brian Rosswog, Justin Parson and William Stidfole – returned to their respective parole regions to assist parole agents in searching community corrections centers and parolee residences when needed. These dogs also are the first corrections K-9s to be trained in human detection, in addition to traditional drug detection skills. The agents were trained by several DOC handlers who are certified as instructors by the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol in Front Royal, Virginia.



Continued Population Decline

In January 2019, officials announced the largest reduction at that time of inmates in the DOC since the prison system began keeping record. In 2018, the total DOC population dropped from 48,438 to 47,370; which is a decrease of 1,068 inmates (or 2.2 percent) over 2017. A major contributor to the decline was a significant decrease in prison admissions during 2018. New court commitments dropped by 617 inmates from 2017 to 2018 (a 7 percent decrease), while parole violator admissions dropped by 575 from 2017 to 2018 (a 6 percent decrease). The population decline news continued later in the year. In August 2019, officials announced that during Fiscal Year 2018-19, the DOC experienced a significant decrease in its inmate population of nearly 1,900, which is the largest one-year decrease in the department's history. In fact, the DOC's June 2019 inmate population was 46,482, which is nearly 5,300 inmates lower than its highest-ever prison population, which was 51,757 in June 2012.

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

This year, five state prisons (SCIs Camp Hill, Forest, Muncy, Phoenix and Pine Grove) and five community corrections centers (Philadelphia #4, Pittsburgh, Progress, Sharon and Wernersville) were found compliant during their PREA audits during the third year of the second audit cycle, bringing the total of compliant facilities to 36 at the conclusion of the second audit cycle.

The PREA Unit, this year, also developed a web-based specialized investigator's course for those facilities who have a change in investigators between the semi-annual trainings. A specialized investigator's training course is required to be completed prior to an individual being authorized to conduct sexual abuse investigations. Although the participants in the web-based course are required to take the full classroom training at its next offering, this stop-gap measure has allowed facilities to address staff turnover without interruption of investigatory services.

OPIOID CRISIS

Medication Assisted Treatment Program Expanded

In June, the DOC expanded its Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program to include new inmate receptions and parole violators returning to prison who already are on a verified MAT. The agency's work in this area continues by expanding the program to include oral naltrexone maintenance while inmates are in the specialized therapeutic communities (e.g., Albion, Cambridge Springs, Camp Hill, Chester, Laurel Highlands, and Quehanna Boot Camp), and then they are switched to Vivitrol prior to release from prison. This expansion now serves as an incentive to county prison wardens to continue MAT for those individuals they receive from the community who are on verified MAT programs. The DOC receives new commitments directly from county prisons.

It also should be noted that in April 2019, the DOC began a pilot project program offering Sublocade (buprenorphine extended-release) injections at SCI Muncy. Sublocade is the first and only once-monthly injectable buprenorphine formulation for the treatment of moderate to severe opioid use disorder. At Muncy, select parolees who are diverted to an SCI for a 14-day detox only placement are prescribed Suboxone induction and then a long-acting Sublocade injection prior to being continued on parole in an outpatient or inpatient treatment setting. Eventually, the DOC plans to gradually roll out this part of the MAT program to other state prisons. The DOC also provides methadone maintenance to pregnant inmates to protect their fetuses from withdrawal.

Other accomplishments in the MAT area included the DOC providing technical assistance to the Federal Bureau of Prisons and PA county jails for the implementation of MAT; hiring an addiction medicine board-certified physician to assist with MAT expansion; implementing an opioid-specific treatment program curriculum as a treatment track within the Therapeutic Community (TC) programming for the general population.

CAREER PATHWAYS

- Completed a gap analysis of DOC's vocational programs to determine how DOC coursework aligns with the PA Department of Education standards and where DOC falls short. Based on these results, officials spoke with the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) and chose two vocational courses -- Welding and Culinary -- that need the fewest changes. In addition, officials provided the current course curriculums to CCAC staff for review. Next, the DOC will pursue articulation agreements with CCAC. If that is successful, officials will move forward with additional community colleges.
- Updated Policy Memo released to superintendents detailing implementation of the Career Pathways framework for all 25 state prisons.
- Held an Offender Workforce Development Specialist training for 24 individuals from corrections, workforce and community partners.
- Provided workshops at various conferences (Criminal Justice Advisory Board, Pennsylvania Workforce Development Association, Correctional Education Association Region 1, and Reentry Coalitions) about the DOC's Career Pathways work and how to establish the same in other regions/states.
- Explored and chose a soft skills program and determined how the department can implement this in its current setting.
- Provided five webinars on the "Benefits of Hiring Reentrants" to Labor & Industry business service representatives.
- Purchased equipment for the Bureau of Corrections Education, which will enhance the vocational/educational curriculums at state prisons.
- Featured Career Pathways in an April 2019 special edition publication of the Coalition on Adult Basic Education on Prison Literacy.

- Continued updating and increased staff/inmate/reentrant awareness of “Resume Report,” a report of all inmate education, credentials and employment in prison that can be printed from an DOC’s internal inmate information system. This report can be pulled by education and reentry staff in the prisons and by community corrections and parole staff in the community.
- Expended all Career Pathways Grant funds as of September 26, 2019.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Represented the DOC on the Keystone Economic Development and Workforce Command Center, created by Executive Order 2019-02, to address workforce issues in the Commonwealth. The department brings the “voice” of reentrants to the table and assists with identifying barriers reentrants face.
- Created a Workforce Development Specialist position within the department to streamline the flow of information so that everyone (department staff, educators, employers, etc.) is informed of the various opportunities across the commonwealth.
- Met and spoke with various employers and training providers throughout the commonwealth to educate them about the programs offered inside state prisons, which will allow the DOC to better provide potential reentrant employees to interested employers.
- Participated in various employer fairs and informational roundtables throughout the commonwealth to discuss the benefits of hiring reentrants.
- Participated in a PA Chamber podcast to discuss the benefits of hiring reentrants and the opportunities available inside SCIs.
- Participated in a radio show in Philadelphia (“Looking Forward Reentry) to discuss the benefits of hiring reentrants and the opportunities available inside SCIs.
- Attended Reentry Coalitions and sat in on various employment sub-committees created in the coalitions.

AWARDS & TRAININGS

National Awards for CPS and MAT

Addiction Policy Forum officials formally recognized the DOC’s Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and the Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) programs as part of its Innovation Now Awards.

The CPS program has been operating in Pennsylvania’s corrections system for about eight years, starting with a successful pilot program that was expanded to all facilities. With more than 500 inmates having been trained



as CPSs, now there are 20 to 30 CPSs in each facility. They provide support services to their fellow inmates on different issues, including addiction. Using the peer-to-peer model makes this program similar to sponsorship in other recovery programs. CPSs also seek out other inmates who may need assistance and help them with their short- and long-term recovery goals, plus assist with helping maintain their recovery.

The DOC began its MAT program in 2014 with a small group of inmates receiving Vivitrol (Naltrexone) injections just prior to release and then monthly after release for up to one year to treat them for substance use disorder and help them to focus on reentry. By 2018, the program has been implemented at all of Pennsylvania's state prisons. Also, in 2018, the DOC converted six therapeutic communities (TCs) to opiate-specific therapeutic communities. The agency's work in this area continues by expanding the program to include oral naltrexone maintenance while inmates are in the specialized TCs, and then they are switched to Vivitrol prior to release from prison. In addition, for detoxing and pregnant inmates at SCI Muncy, Sublocade injections are being administered.

Governor's Excellence Award

In May, Governor Tom Wolf honored DOC Bureau of Operations Director Norman Klinikowski with the Governor's Awards for Excellence. The award recognizes commonwealth employees for exemplary job performance or service that reflects initiative, leadership, innovation and increased efficiency. Klinikowski was one of 49 state employees from eight agencies to be honored. He was nominated for having led several successful projects, including the closing of the former State Correctional Institution (SCI) Pittsburgh, saving the department millions of dollars and for overseeing the maintenance teams and general contractors working to complete construction of SCI Phoenix, which was a replacement facility for SCI Graterford in Montgomery County. The opening of SCI Phoenix entailed organizing resources, engaging contractors and implementation of more than \$2 million in projects within a compressed period.



Reaccreditation Awarded

Facilities that were awarded reaccreditation at the American Correctional Association's 2019 Winter and Summer Conferences in January and August 2019 included: SCIs Benner Township, Camp Hill, Coal Township, Forest, Laurel Highlands, Muncy, Rockview, Somerset, Waymart and the Training Academy. Community corrections facilities awarded reaccreditation this year included: Erie, Harrisburg, Progress, Sharon and York.

National Law Enforcement Award for BII employee

Earlier this year, Intelligence Analyst Tiffany Fackler was recognized by the International Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysts with its "Award of Excellence: Individual" for analytics work performed to assist the DOC with its drug interdiction efforts that began in 2018. Fackler developed a series of intelligence products – alerts, briefs and reports – that were used by DOC officials to overhaul the department's drug interdiction efforts. She also retrieved and reviewed documented drug seizures and methods and developed drug briefs and photo arrays outlining techniques used to smuggle drugs into the system. Fackler's intelligence products were helpful in educating employees in identifying illegal drugs and protecting themselves from unwanted exposure to fentanyl and other dangerous substances.

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Transgender Support Group, Special Trainings

DOC staff co-facilitated a workshop at the American Correctional Association's 2019 Winter Conference -- *A Best Practice Approach: Providing Support Services to Transgender Inmates*. The support group has been in operation for in excess of three full years and continues to draw an average of 30 to 40 participants per session from numerous facilities.

The DOC's PREA coordinator also was involved in two additional presentations regarding the management of transgender inmates. He also participated as a panelist for Just Detention International at the New Orleans conference and served as guest host for a special live webinar/podcast presented by Envisage Technologies.

WORKING SMARTER

New Pharmacy Contract to Save \$1 Million Annually

Earlier this year, the DOC entered into a new contract arrangement through the Minnesota Multistate Contracting Alliance for Pharmacy (MMCAP) to continue to purchase drugs through Diamond Pharmacy Services, a move that is estimated to save the commonwealth about \$1 million a year. Under the contract, which was effective February 1, the DOC is paying a reduced price for each prescription dispensing fee – the charge incurred for each prescription filled – and the agency will not have to pay transmission fee (the costs associated with getting prescription data from pharmacy to electronic health record). MMCAP, created in 1985, is a free voluntary group purchasing organization operated and managed by Minnesota's Department of Administration for government healthcare institutions. The contract also provides access to generic drugs whenever possible and offers same-day delivery to all prisons to ensure swift commencement of therapies prescribed.

Employees Provided with Early Learning Information

Nearly 300 parole agents, community corrections counselors, social workers, unit managers, county probation officers and other state employees attended a first-of-its-kind informational sharing event earlier this year where they learned about the importance of childhood education. The goal of the event was for the individuals to be able to share resource information with reentrants and their families. Officials believe that quality early childhood education, especially for high-risk children, is one of the best ways to break the cycle of recidivism. The collaborative effort was hosted by the Department of Corrections and the departments of Human Services (DHS) and Education's (PDE) shared Office of Child Development and Early Learning. There are approximately 81,000 children who have either a parent in prison or on parole supervision. This collaborative effort is another way that officials can help to break the intergenerational cycle of crime. The more educated a person is, including children at very young ages, the less likely they will be to commit crimes.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS

Innovate, Develop, Experiment, Adapt

The DOC launched Innovate, Develop, Experiment, Adapt (I.D.E.A.), which is a formal mechanism for staff to submit cost-saving and/or efficiency ideas to agency leadership. I.D.E.A. committee members review submissions to determine the best course of action, which could be working with BetaGov to test a concept or pass the submission long to the Governor's Office of Performance Through Excellence to be considered as a Lean initiative.

“Little Scandinavia” Underway

In 2019, SCI Chester managers and officers spent three weeks working in Scandinavian to obtain information and practices to replicate in Pennsylvania. SCI Chester officials purchased furniture and redesigned a housing unit with plans to begin operating the new unit in 2020. Scandinavia Public Television will document the project, which also is a research project involving Drexel University.



Arts & Crafts in Visiting Rooms



Following listening sessions for inmate family and friends that was hosted by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, DOC facilities began incorporating arts and crafts into visiting rooms to alleviate trauma children experience when visiting their incarcerated parents. Coloring books, markers, paper and other craft supplies are made available during visiting hours. All materials are kept in a secured location and

are used only in the children’s play area. A visiting room officer issues the supplies and monitors their use. Incarcerated parents can take the craft back to their cell immediately following the visit.

2019 INDIVIDUAL AREA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS, REENTRY AND PAROLE SUPERVISION

- Completed Motivational Interviewing Training for community corrections and reentry employees.
- Began new parolee orientation – in Altoona as a pilot and now expanded to Erie, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Scranton and Johnstown. BetaGov is designing a project with Philadelphia District.
- Began using Carey Guide Interventions with reentrants through the use of technology (Skype/FaceTime) to reduce transportation barriers for reentrants, and reduce costs for the agency.
- Began running SMART Recovery groups for reentrants in the district offices.
- Began holding the central region Juvenile Lifer support group and continued with the same group in Philadelphia.

- Partnered with Uplift Solutions partnership for paid training and then guaranteed employment for reentrants.
- ASCRAs partnered with Citizens Bank in Philadelphia to provide financial literacy courses to reentrants.
- In some areas, ASCRAs began utilizing Carey Guide Interventions in place of Cognitive Behavioral groups to focus the intervention on the individual's criminogenic needs
- Installed five additional body scanners at CCCs
- Conducted Bureau of Community Corrections basic training for contracted corrections facilities (CCF) staff. Since the commencement of the CCF Basic Training Program, almost 200 contract staff have successfully completed the basic training.
- BCC utilized GPS for sanctioning State Intermediate Punishment (SIP) cases, which will reduce the number of center and SCI beds that were utilized for low-level SIP sanctions.
- Experienced a 12 percent increase in BCC's employment rate. Wernersville alone went from 32 percent to 85 percent in 2019. This is partly due to utilizing transportation teams to get the reentrants to work and utilizing certain counselors to work primarily on employment opportunities for the reentrants.

CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES

- Recognized by National Correctional Industries Association for financial sustainability.
- Restored Huntingdon County Courthouse walnut doors that are believed to date back to 1882, and each weighing approximately 400 pounds.
- Restored 12 benches for the Blair County Courthouse.
- Sold furnishings to the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs or their Fort Indiantown Gap & Delaware Valley Veterans homes.
- Donated 40 personal care bags to the "Veterans Making a Difference Center," in Reading, Pa.
- Began selling Perfect Pour – a new line of portion measured cleaners, which are more economical and have a more accurate and controlled application.

EDUCATION

- The Bureaus of Correction Education and Information Technology continue to upgrade Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) technology through the installation of a new computer system that eliminates the need for individual scanners.
- Presented electronic audit materials to auditors, making the PA DOC one of the first states to complete CEA audits in this manner.

- Maintained a 90 percent GED pass rate while the national average remained at 79 percent.
- Saw successful Correction Education Association (CEA) reaccreditation of eight state prisons: SCIs Cambridge Springs, Camp Hill, Frackville, Mercer, Quehanna, Smithfield, Somerset and Waymart.
- Certified 22 new instructors to provide the OSHA 10 class to the inmate population. OSHA continues to be a certification that most employers look for when hiring in the construction industry, thus successful completion gives inmate students an added edge when looking for employment.
- Installed Commercial Driver's License (CDL) simulators at SCIs Forest, Mahanoy and Smithfield. The simulators are in automotive classes and allow students to become familiar with driving a delivery or tractor-trailer truck. It also prepares them to sit for the written exam upon release from prison.

2018-19 Academic/Vocational Statistics:

- 484 GED's issued
- 394 CSD's issued
- 65 barber licenses and 10 cosmetology licenses issued.
- 6,780 total vocational certifications issued.
- 229 warehouse certifications
- 596 carpentry certifications
- 55 welding certifications
- 699 custodial maintenance certifications
- 86 fiber optic certifications
- 475 Ward Flex Gas Piping certifications
- 2,890 Flagger certifications
- 733 OSHA certifications

FACILITY SECURITY AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS

- Created and implemented the new privileged correspondence application for use by all mailroom and security staff.
- Acquired equipment for use at the DOC's Security Processing Center (SPC) and trained all staff in equipment use procedures.
- Searched and logged nearly 500,000 items at the SPC, including six tons of religious materials.
- Assumed training coordinator duties for security division, which previously was provided by Training Academy staff.
- Coordinated body scanner installations and trainings for staff.
- Assisted in drone detection equipment installation throughout the DOC.
- Coordinated the pilot program use of a handheld containment unit which prevents secondary exposure to opioids and suspicious powders.
- Trained 61 CERT members in advanced CERT tactics and tactical decision making.
- Qualified 29 new operators as chemical munitions specialists and 26 new operators as tactical rifle specialists. Also recertified every facility chemical munitions specialist and tactical rifle specialist.
- Completed and coordinated Corrections Rifle Specialist Team (CRST) and K9 searches of SCIs Albion, Coal Township, Dallas, Forest, Houtzdale and Somerset.
- Conducted a basic CERT course for Centre and Clinton counties.

- Deployed team members to various facilities to assist the Drug Interdiction Unit with cell and inmate searches and to gather intelligence and helped resolve issues.
- Trained 75 new negotiators, including DOC, county and law enforcement officers, in basic HNT curriculum.
- Conducted a variety of training that covered preparedness, crisis intervention, cross training with community corrections centers and federal facilities and equipment use.
- Consolidated and reassigned the FAST Unit to the Bureau of Facility Security and Special Operations, and conducted several FAST sweeps to apprehend parole absconders.
- Reassigned the Field Tactical Training Division to the Bureau of Facility Security and Special Operations.
- Developed and delivered Incident Command System training.
- Coordinated and executed Radiological Emergency Response Team training.
- Improved and validated the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for the DOC's Central Offices.
- Assisted in the implementation of the DOC's Video Visitation program.

PSYCHOLOGY

- Developed a set of clinical supervision standards which align with the basic expectations of the State Board of Psychology regarding clinical supervision so that DOC policies addressed how clinical supervision of non-licensed psychologists occurred. This will result in the enhanced and improved delivery of mental health care in this system.
- Completed a large-scale revision and update to the DOC's Basic Training and Annual In-Service Suicide Prevention training programs – extending basic training from 2½ hours to four hours. Updates include updated statistics, eight key components to a suicide prevention program, role play and step-by-step instruction for properly documenting a non-emergent referral, among other components. Also, the in-service training program now includes a segment aimed at teaching all correctional employees the basic de-escalation skills necessary for crisis intervention.
- Completed research into inmate suicides that occurred over the past 13 years, of which the findings resulted in the changing of and better administration of single-cell housing for certain inmates.
- Developed a wellness monitors pilot project where incarcerated individuals are employed by their prisons to make continuous wellness rounds of all housing units. The goal is to learn if the wellness monitors help to reduce inmate suicides.
- Trained all psychology employees about the DOC's new suicide risk assessment tool which was built by Central Office staff under advisement from prison suicide expert Lindsay Hayes. The tool is now embedded within the electronic health record and is to be completed by psychology staff and viewed by other health care professionals like psychiatrists, on an as-needed basis. It is expected that

the development and implementation of this tool and its associated policy and procedures will better help staff to identify those individuals at highest risk of suicide.

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

- Certified WRAP certified peer support (CPS) facilitators in every state prison. The CPS program was recognized by the Centre County Take Note broadcast that aired earlier this year on WPSU radio.

OFFICE OF INMATE GRIEVANCES & APPEALS

- Deployed a new grievance tracking system, which replaces two outdated database systems that had been used.

STANDARDS, AUDITS, ASSESSMENT & COMPLIANCE

- Conducted annual performance audits of parole field supervision units.
- Aligned the audit schedule with DOC's audit schedule, based on a three-year cycle, with one third of locations being audited annually.
- Audited 900 records in 2019.
- Conducted 574 of Pardons Board applicant investigations.
- Processed nearly 140 commutation packets, of which 33 proceeded to public hearings. Of the 33 cases, 15 were recommended to the governor for commutation.
- Conducted more than 6,150 entries into the computer system modifying parolee absconder information that is accessible to law enforcement.
- Purchased an electronic file system for accreditation documentation management.
- Concluded its circular PREA auditing consortium with the Michigan Department of Corrections. Under the consortium, certified PA DOC auditors conducted audits of facilities in Maryland and Michigan in exchange for audits conducted by Wisconsin auditors. The circular auditing consortium provided the PA DOC with invaluable insights into the audit process and allowed the PREA Unit to enhance its policies and procedures to proactively address potential audit concerns within its own facilities.
- Made more than 35 policy revisions. In addition, more than 110 parole supervision and DOC policies were routed through the formal approval process during this calendar year.
- Disposed of 28 tons of Central Office records -- in accordance with records retention and disposition policies -- that had been stored on SCI Camp Hill grounds.

TRAINING ACADEMY

- Began using a file transfer protocol (FTP) server to disseminate DOC basic training lesson plan information to county prisons that are approved to provide local training, which results in saving time, money and computer storage space.

- Developed an archive of formal/written curriculum of trainings that are being and that have been taught during the DOC's basic training course to ensure consistency and integrity of instruction.
- Developed course descriptions/overviews, etc., of parole agent basic training lesson plans, including identifying subject matter experts for each training item.
- Began providing new corrections officer trainees, parole agents and community corrections employees with the same basic training curriculum before splitting them off into their own training track, which allows for more efficient use of resources.
- Performed a critical analysis of each basic training component offered to corrections officer trainees to improve the learning process, provide maximum opportunity to demonstrate proficiency with tools provided and decrease the number of adjunct instructors.
- Converted the former uniform warehouse into a tactical safety training center, which was named and dedicated after SCI Somerset Sgt. Mark Baserman who was killed in the line of duty in 2018.

TREATMENT SERVICES

- Developed Request For Proposal language for fourth-generation risk/needs assessment tool that can be used from initial classification upon reception in a state correctional institution through the completion of parole supervision. Officials are looking for a fall 2020 implementation of the new tool.
- Developed new tools and protocols for they violators receive the most relevant programming to reduce the likelihood of continued violations.
- Assisted in the merit reviews of commutation cases before the Board of Pardons by reviewing each pending list and determining if programming needs have been adequately satisfied.
- Processed more than 1,110 religious accommodation requests to ensure that all inmates, regardless of religious preferences, were given the opportunity to request and receive due consideration to diets and practices particular to their respective religions.
- Worked with the DOC's SPC to develop policy governing the admission of religious literature to facilities.
- Certified select staff as Motivational Interviewing (MI) instructors, which enables them to deliver both fundamental and advanced instruction in MI techniques to staff who work with inmates/reentrants.
- Connected 5,443 inmates with loved ones via video visitation, which is a program that provides convenient, non-contact visitation for inmates and approved visitors. This was a joint effort involving information technology, treatment and security staff, who planned and implemented the program, thus earning The Governor's Award for Excellence in Technology.
- Began using the Zoom platform for deathbed and funeral (video) visits, which eliminates security concerns, as well as significant costs to families.

- Implemented and delivered smoking cessation programming and free Nicotine Replacement Therapy to inmates prior to the system going tobacco free. This initiative was a coordinated effort between the Department of Health, Rutgers University and the DOC's Bureaus of Treatment Services, Health Care Services and facility staff.

2019 FACILITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ALBION

- Installed a Transaction Management System that documents inmate purchases that are made within the facility and account balances.
- Purchased an additional Point of Sales (POS) system which replaces the need for ticket sales.
- Opened new pharmacy in April.
- Facilitated a mentoring video conference between SCI Albion inmates who participate in the Inside Out New Destiny Think Tank and kids who are on probation in the Erie Juvenile Probation Department via Video Conference. The goal of the interaction was to prevent the kids from one day ending up in prison.
- Sponsored an inmate presentation entitled "Voices Behind the Wall," which focused on Post Traumatic Strength Development.

BENNER TOWNSHIP

- Participated in a "Mobile MRI" pilot project where inmates from all DOC facilities who need MRI imaging are sent to SCI Benner Township where a mobile MRI unit is used. This reduces the need for inmates all over the state to be sent for such imaging, thus reducing staffing needs and overtime and reduces the need for trips into the communities.
- Installed a dog wash station on the housing unit where dog handlers/trainers live.
- Received Nittany Greyhound, Inc.'s 2019 Foster Home of Year award.
- Constructed a yard observation tower/platform.
- Partnered with Mifflin County Children & Youth Services for the Giving Tree Project, and provided holiday gifts for 44 children.
- Provided backpacks full of school supplies to CentreSafe staff who then distributed the backpacks to families in need within the community.
- Held a pajama drive for April's Child Abuse Awareness Month. The pajamas were then distributed by the Office of Victim Advocate to Children and Youth Agencies across Pennsylvania.
- Began providing bus maintenance for the entire DOC bus transportation fleet.
- Installed an interactive TV in the Reentry Services Office.
- Upgraded equipment in the Staff Wellness Center.

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS

- Facilitated inmate organization donations of more than \$14,500 in monetary donations, as well as approximately \$1,120 in tangible donations and weekly vegetable donations, to the City Mission.
- Opened an Initial Intake Housing Unit in January.
- Implemented the Canines Achieving Miracles in Prison (C.A.M.P.) program by teaming up with the local Anna Shelter to teach dogs basic obedience and socialization skills to aid in possible adoption.
- Implemented a new flu vaccine procedure, providing more than 500 inmates with vaccines in just over a four-hour period.

CAMP HILL

- Accommodated the largest number (23) of commutation hearings in DOC history in September 2019.
- Closed the Mental Health Unit (MHU) and transferred all MHU inmates from SCI Camp Hill to SCI Waymart.
- Accommodated institutional tours for state senators, state representatives, judges, governor's office staff and other officials to ensure they had a better understanding of the diagnostic and classification process as well as institutional programming and security.
- Upgraded the prison's steam delivery system.
- Provided a reentry fair for the inmates.
- Continued upgrades to the camera system and to institutional lighting.
- Received and classified 335 Delaware inmates (from November 2018 to August 2019) and safely transferred 319 of those inmates to other state prisons.

CHESTER

- Hosted one day of The American Conservative Union's two-day event in November, where several hundred inmates were provided reentry.
- Partnered with Eastern State Penitentiary in a year-long project where inmates scripted and animated films about their lives. The project – "Hidden Lives Illuminated" – culminated in September with the showing of the films on the side of the historic site in Philadelphia.
- Piloted "Crisis Emergency Response Team" training for Certified Peer Specialist inmates to use in responding to violent and traumatic incidents that happen on a housing unit.
- Implemented its step-down program, which is in conjunction with the department's initiative to reduce the use of segregation. The purpose of the unit is to reinforce pro-social and positive behaviors for inmates transitioning from segregation back to general population.

- Trained its 400th dog for its “WAGs at Chester Program,” started a dog grooming program, and for the third year in a row, received dogs rescued from the hurricane-ravaged south.



COAL TOWNSHIP

- Upgraded the utility plant, including two new boilers and three new chillers with cooling towers.
- Completed renovations to a housing unit which previously had been used by the county prison following a fire that destroyed their prison.
- Certified 98 inmates in American Red Cross CPR/AED, bringing the total number of inmates that have attained certification since the inception of the program in 2018 to 246.
- Collaborated with a new trainer for the prison’s Fostering & Improving Dogs Obedience & Survival (FIDOS) program. So far this year, 40 dogs have entered the program, with 30 of them being adopted out. The program is in its fifth year of operation.
- Recognized 67 vocational students for their achievements in earning certifications in the Automotive Technology Program, Barber School Program, Computer Aided Drafting and Design Program, Custodial Maintenance Program, National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Program, and the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Program.
- Recognized 21 academic students for earning a Commonwealth Secondary Diploma, 14 students for earning a GED certificate, and four students for completing Correspondence Course Programs,
- Achieved a 96 percent average pass rate on all areas of the GED test.
- Awarded 282 PennDOT Flagger Certifications and had 143 OSHA Program completers.
- Hosted performances of “12 Angry Men,” which was done in conjunction with the prison’s Inside-Out Program with Bucknell University.

FAYETTE

- Continued to partner with the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University on the Inside-Out Prison exchange program, while adding West Virginia University to the program. A combined total of 60 students visit the institution weekly and share a classroom with inmates to earn college credits while addressing crime, justice and other issues of social concern.
- Recognized 169 graduates spanning both academic and vocational classes: 11 Cosmetology, 10 Electricity, 11 HVAC, 10 Welding, 50 Custodial Maintenance & Repair, 28 GED's, 11 Commonwealth Secondary Diplomas, 26 Carpentry and 12 Business.

- Facilitated inmate fundraising activities throughout the year that allowed inmates to raise and donate nearly \$9,400 to local charities.
- Sponsored the creation and donation of two military themed murals to a local facility for homeless veterans. In addition, Fayette's Employee Association donated \$500 to assist with the living expenses of the homeless veterans who are currently residing at the veterans' facility.
- Opened its step-down unit, which is part of the DOC's Violence Reduction Strategy. The purpose of the unit is to reinforce pro-social and positive behaviors for inmates transitioning from segregation back to general population.
- Facilitated 20 successful adoptions of dogs who were in the Developing Animals With Goals (DAWGS) program, which specializes in training dogs in basic obedience. Since the program started in May 2017, there have been 52 successful adoptions.

FOREST

- Opened a protective custody unit for inmates needing a higher level of security.
- Began construction on the Correctional Industries (CI) building, where CI will refurbish wheels and snowplows for PennDOT.
- Began a collaborative relationship with a University of Pittsburgh professor to hold cognitive restructuring groups for inmates that focuses on critical thinking and self-evaluation.
- Received a new welding vocational course and equipment that will be used by education and CI to teach inmates new skills to help with eventual reentry.
- Donated funds, on behalf of the inmate organization, to a number of charitable groups and organizations.
- Completed an upgrade of audio/visual and IT equipment in the chapel to facilitate outside speakers and programs.
- Celebrated the 15th anniversary of the prison through a variety of activities and events.
- Reduced overtime by \$1.4 million dollars by making changes to the prison's training routine.

FRACKVILLE

- Hosted Animal Planet's "Pit Bulls and Parolees" show as it filmed segments for a show featuring dogs brought to the prison's Dogs Achieving Wellness and Good Structure (DAWGS) program.
- Hosted four town hall meetings for inmates wishing to share comments or discuss concerns with administrative staff.
- Provided a facility tour to administrators from the Delaware Department of Correction.
- Hosted an inmate career fair, with 33 outside representatives providing inmates with information and guidance.

GREENE

- Revised capital case unit procedures to afford the capital case inmate population contact visiting opportunities and increased out-of-cell congregate activities per week. Also, prison staff installed additional tables in the dayroom of the capital case unit and mounted stationary telephones to the wall on each pod. They also reconfigured the yard into two large open recreation areas and began offering education services, activities and religious services regularly to the inmates on the unit.
- The first group of capital case inmates within the department received certifications to be Certified Peer Specialists. They will assist inmates at the institution who reside in the maximum-security housing unit complex.
- Increased the capacity of the Step-Down Unit from 12 to 24 beds.

HOUTZDALE

- Constructed a guard shelter near the inmate dining halls.
- Completed a mailroom construction project to mitigate potential exposure risk.
- Installed fixed furniture on the inmate housing units.
- Added raised officer platforms in the yard to provide officers with better visibility of the yard.
- Installed and began using updated drug detection machines.
- Added an out-of-cell contact room to the medical department for use with mentally ill inmates, which has increased communication between the psychiatric team and medical and security staff and the inmates. The room also can be used by many staff that require that type of setting.
- Hosted a career fair/job reentry event in which more than 100 inmates participated.
- Continued to operate as a Pell Grant facility in which 15 inmates are enrolled with and taking courses from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.
- Recognized inmates at an annual graduation ceremony for their educational achievements. There were 64 graduates, of which 14 earned GEDs and 47 earned CSD's.

HUNTINGDON

- Replaced the gym's 1930s roof, resulting in approximately \$90,000 in savings, which was accomplished through the use of a materials and equipment tracking document. This savings was put toward the cost to replace the auditorium stage roof and two other housing unit roofs.
- Switched the prison's heat source from coal and oil to compressed natural gas, which resulted in \$1,300,000 in savings.
- Used in-house labor to replace the prison's steam line to eliminate major leaks, which resulted in approximately \$40,000 in savings.
- Used in-house labor to extend the compressed natural gas pad, which is expected to save \$30,000.

- Successfully educated, trained and graduated 20 inmates from the Riparian Buffer Pilot program, which was a collaborative effort between the DOC, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PSU Extension and the Chesapeake Bay Alliance.
- Continued participation in a facility paving agility program with PennDOT, which resulted in \$50,000 in savings.
- Hosted an open house for 307 employees and guests.
- Closed three of four modular housing units that were located outside of the prison's perimeter. All inmates were moved inside the prison in one day, and outside work details were realigned to ensure the orderly and secure running of the facility.
- Began a reentry program where former inmates visit the prison to speak with inmates about pursuing trade union jobs upon release from prison.
- Completed a Certified Peer Specialist program training, increasing the number of CPS' to 39 inmates. Three of the CPS' were chosen to attend the Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) training held at another institution. This training will enable them to help other inmates develop and work on their own WRAPs.
- Disposed of old records and turned over a number of items and documents to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and State Archives.
- Continued community work project duties, including painting the interior of a fire station, installing pavilion roofs at a local park and working at area churches, a foodbank, state parks and area cemeteries.



LAUREL HIGHLANDS

- Organized several dates for employees to assist in flag flying at the Flight 93 Memorial. The flags are flown and then packaged for sale at the gift shop and online to benefit the Memorial or sent to the National Park Service to be used as a thank you gift.
- Participated in the annual tree planting event at the Flight 93 National Memorial.
- Established population-specific housing units -- such as an intake block for new receptions, cell restriction block and outside clearance housing unit -- to streamline facility operations.



- Facilitated an inmate organization's quarterly donation to local non-profit organizations.
- Recognized 10 inmates who completed Certified Peer Specialist training.
- The Barbershop passed inspection by the PA State Board of Cosmetology.
- Facilitated the Inside-Out Program with the Pitt Prison Exchange Project through the University of Pittsburgh.

MAHANoy

- Hosted Animal Planet's "Pit Bulls and Parolees" show as it filmed segments for a show featuring dogs brought to the prison's Dogs Achieving Wellness and Good Structure (DAWGS) program.
- Replaced two utility plant cooling towers, which were 25-plus years old, with newer, efficient ones.
- Converted perimeter lights to LED's, greatly enhancing security and reducing electricity use, resulting in cost savings.
- Opened a fourth Residential Treatment Unit within the facility and provided RTU staff with additional training.
- Trained and certified three Certified Peer Specialists in facilitating Wellness Recovery Action Plan groups. The WRAP plan is a way for individuals to take charge of their own wellness and develop their own plan to stay well.

MERCER

- Hosted a media event announcing the partnership with Guardian Angel Medical Service Dogs, Inc. SCI Mercer is the company's first program to be initiated outside of their Florida training headquarter and the first program of its kind to be initiated specifically for veterans in a correctional facility.



- Held its first Inside-Out class with Slippery Rock University.
- Transformed the Transitional Housing Unit into a Reentry Services Office.
- Provided PA Second Lady Giselle Fetterman with a tour of the prison.
- Began delivering inmate commissary to the housing units.

MUNCY

- Partnered with community volunteers to host a “Girls on the Run” program.
- Partnered with PennDOT to initiate facility paving agility project.
- Hosted a Career Fair for inmates.
- Provided PA First Lady Frances Wolf with a tour of the prison.
- Facilitated a commutation information session given to inmates by Board of Pardons Sec. Brandon Flood.
- Sponsored the third annual Staff Wellness Day hosting wellness activities, outside vendors and a special meal.
- Hosted an Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Day Event.

PHOENIX

- Participated in a prescriptive and custom incentives program under the PECO Smart Ideas for Your Business – energy-efficient lighting equipment was installed and reduces electricity use. The prison was awarded an incentive reimbursement for initiatives with energy efficiency.
- Closed the old SCI Graterford Outside Service Unit that continued to operate after transition to the new prison.
- Moved the Human Resources and Business Offices from the old prison’s administration building to the new prison complex.
- Converted a Transitional Housing Unit to a Reentry Services Office, which increased the number of inmates that can be served.
- Recognized inmates for their academic achievements: 14 students graduated from Villanova University; 33 students earned GEDs; 73 students earned certificates in the barber school, warehouse operations and carpentry programs.
- Facilitated an inmate organization’s donation of \$10,000 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. A second inmate organization also raised \$2,000, which was donated to the National Alliance on Mental Illness.
- Collaborated with criminal justice agencies from across the nation and worldwide, including provided tours of the new facility for guests from the Nebraska DOC, Kosovo and Thailand.
- Provided PA Second Lady Giselle Fetterman with a tour of the prison.
- Hosted Crime Victims Awareness Day activities for both staff and inmates.
- Coordinated with Shining Light Ministries, whose work concluded with a faith-based play involving inmates.
- Continued to support the prison’s Empowerment Committee as it hosted a Black History Program, an Hispanic Heritage Program and a Cultural Diversity

Luncheon. The committee also sponsored a 5K run to benefit pediatric cancer research and held a back-to-school drive for two local schools.

- Was recognized by ESGR with the Above and Beyond Award for support of employee Guards and Reservists.



PINE GROVE

- Began collaborating with Penn State University on research that studies the needs of the youthful and young adult offenders. The goal is for PSU to provide recommendations to improve the program and integrating services in the future.
- Facilitated an inmate organization to raise and donate more than \$3,000 to local charities.
- Graduated three inmates from the prison's PORTAL unit, which is a step-down unit from long-term segregation.
- Hosted WRAP II training for 15 Certified Peer Specialists, including seven inmates from Pine Grove.

QUEHANNA

- Conducted, in conjunction with PA Department of Banking and Securities and PA Credit Union Foundation, a "Financial Reality Fair," which helped prepare inmates for reintegration into society.
- Continued to hold annual reentry and career fairs.
- Worked with outside entities –Children's Aid Society, Harrisburg Area Community College the PA Department of Banking and Securities – to offer additional programming to inmates.
- Arranged for several speakers to discuss impact of crime.
- Increased the number of Peer Tutors and Certified Peer Specialists (CPS).
- Continued to offer 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 Masonry in 2019.

- Offered ServSafe Food Handler course through the National Restaurant Association.
- Administered 159 Vivitrol injections to 183 inmates and oral Naltrexone to 16 inmates.
- Supported four employees who were trained to conduct WRAP training.
- Performed nearly 5,700 hours of assistance to local government, local non-profit organizations and litter pick-up through the facility's Community Work Program, which only consists of six inmates.
- Supported the facility's Empowerment Committee, which has donated \$1,000 each year to a non-profit organization.

RETREAT

- Began operation of an Opiate TC Track in the co-occurring therapeutic community.
- Recognized inmates for academic and vocational achievements -- 19 inmates earned Commonwealth Secondary Diplomas, 13 earned GEDs and 45 NCCER Certifications were awarded. In addition, six students successfully passed the PA Barber Exam, six auto certificates were earned, four certificates were awarded in Business/Entrepreneurship, and 220 students earned their PA Department of Transportation Flagger certificate.
- Donated approximately 2,500 pounds of produce that was grown in the prison's Therapeutic Garden to local charities.

ROCKVIEW

- Harvested nearly three tons of produce grown at the facility nursery.
- Expanded volunteer programs to include an art program in conjunction with Penn State University.
- Completed the RHU expansion.
- Continued to improve the shooting range and the roadway to the range.
- Provided employees with a body alarm system that can be activated when the employee is in distress.
- Installed a state-of-the-art telephone system.

SMITHFIELD

- Recognized inmates for their academic and vocational achievements – 86 students earned GED's or CSD's and 50 others were awarded vocational certificates.
- Held its second Inside-Out College class with Juniata College, which involves 10 inmates and 10 Juniata College participants.
- Began teaching LEAN management principals to reduce waste.
- Procured a new oven, which greatly aids in the efficient production of a quality meal.

- Began using condiment packets in the inmate dining hall, which increases efficiency and movement of the inmate food line, as well as reduces waste.
- Began using electronic tool control forms instead of paper forms, which reduces storage needs.
- Reduced food service staff overtime mandates through a side letter agreement with the union that allows supervisors to fill in for subordinate staff if no union staff volunteered to work overtime. This increased morale and reduced the number of employee call offs.
- Cross trained employees to create a more well-rounded staff and to increase productivity.
- Added new workstations in the Correctional Industries' garment plant, creating 17 new jobs for inmates.
- Expanded resources available to inmates through the transitional housing unit.

SOMERSET

- Remembered Sgt. Mark Baserman on the one-year anniversary of his death with a plaque presentation from PSCOA, the officers' union. A time to reflect also was permitted later in the day for all employees.
- Held its first Annual Baserman Memorial Color Walk/Run on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, raising approximately \$5,000 for the Sgt. Baserman Scholarship Fund.
- Met the goal of \$50,000 in funds raise to create an endowment with the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown in the name of Sgt. Baserman.
- Continued the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, which students say has transformed the way they view themselves and the world.
- Ran two sessions of the Breaking Chainz cognitive thinking program. The sessions are 12 weeks long that consist of a two-hour class weekly. SCI Somerset's first group graduated 25, and the second group graduated 28.
- Whelped a litter of nine puppies in 2019, with the mother and babies staying at the prison being cared for by inmate handlers for anywhere from three to eight weeks. The pups were then evaluated to determine where they should go for the next step in the training process. In 2019, inmate handlers were trained to perform these evaluations which helps Canine Partners for Life prepare the pups for the next part of their training.

WAYMART

- Continued its Culinary Arts Program.
- Completed inmate-painted wall murals throughout the prison.
- Increased the number of Certified Peer Specialists from 17 to 31.
- Continued its dog-training program in partnership with New Hope Assistance Dogs, Inc.
- Welcomed three new puppies into the dog training program that benefits veterans and special needs children.
- Held its first Lead Based Paint Certified Renovator class for inmates.

- Partnered with The Stourbridge Project to have business classes students learn about and discuss entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Reinstated the Inside-Out Program in partnership with Keystone College.
- In partnership with USP Canaan, held a Law Enforcement Day where a variety of law enforcement agencies and DOC special teams informed local school students about careers in corrections and law enforcement.
- Conducted a back-pack drive, providing school supplies for kids through the Children and Youth of Wayne County, Victims Intervention Program, and the Office of Behavioral Health and Developmental Programs.