

Correctional Newsfront

The official newsletter of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections



2015 News ~ October to December

Week of Dec. 21...

SCI Huntingdon to Provide Meals to Huntingdon County Prison

Beginning in January 1, 2016, the State Correctional Institution (SCI) at Huntingdon will provide Huntingdon County Prison with inmate and employee meals at a cost of \$2 per meal, payable on a monthly basis to the Department of Corrections (DOC). This cooperative, one-year agreement is expected to save the county prison approximately \$260,000.

"This is the first time that the DOC has entered into this type of an agreement with a county prison," Corrections Secretary John Wetzel said. "We're already making food in large quantities, so adding several hundred more is not a huge undertaking. This cooperative arrangement makes sense and saves cents."

"I can't say enough about the secretary and everyone who was involved," said Huntingdon County Commissioner Jeff Thomas. "John (Sec. Wetzel) was amazing. This plan is good for the county, and it will really benefit the citizens of Huntingdon County. It was very gratifying to see the level of intergovernmental cooperation that made this happen. Good things happen when people work together!"

Food service staff and inmates at SCI Huntingdon will make meals as usual, based upon the DOC's rotating four-week menu cycle. The food will be delivered every day to the county prison daily using insulated transport containers provided by the county prison.

Should SCI Huntingdon be locked down for any reason which would affect food preparation, the agreement calls for the state prison to provide the county prison with brown bag meals. Menu substitutions also may be implemented automatically by SCI Huntingdon as driven by current market prices. The meals provided are analyzed for nutritional adequacy by the DOC's certified dietitian. Upon request, therapeutic or religious diet meals may be provided based on the department's therapeutic or religious diet menus and policy.

According to the agreement, the county prison will provide SCI Huntingdon with a meal count for each day as well as any needs for therapeutic or religious diet meals or bag lunches needed for that day. Once SCI Huntingdon delivers the food to the county prison, the county prison becomes responsible for any loss, damage or spoilage of the food. The county prison has the necessary refrigerators to store cold food properly and heating elements to keep hot foods hot. The county prison will maintain responsibility for all sanitary conditions at its facility.

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Coal Township Prison Employees and Inmates Send Christmas Wishes to Safyre

Everyone has seen or heard of Safyre Terry. When Safyre was 5, an arsonist set fire to her family's apartment stairwell in New York. Her father was killed in the blaze, as were her younger sister and two younger brothers. Recently an internet and TV news story went viral. Safyre, now eight years old, wished to fill a Christmas card tree that she helped her aunt put up for the holiday season.

A week ago an inmate approached a staff member mentioning the story he saw on the news about Safyre. As he held back tears, he requested permission for inmates to send Christmas wishes to Safyre, as that was her Christmas wish. The request was approved.

On December 18, a mailing containing more than 200 cards was sent to Schenectady, NY, addressed to Safyre. The package was filled with Christmas cards from staff and inmates. Most of the cards were personally hand made by inmates who wanted to wish Safyre Merry Christmas and offer get well wishes as well. Most said they were praying for her.

All cards were reviewed by staff for appropriate content prior to mailing.



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Blue Rescue



This is "Blue."

Everyone at SCI Forest knows Blue. Recently, Blue got himself into a bit of a pickle and was found lying at the bottom of the floor in the lift station.

Fortunately for Blue, SCI Forest's Fire Emergency

Response Team was having rope and rescue training that very day and assisted in his rescue.

Here are some pictures from his rescue...



Rest assured that Blue is now back where he belongs... in Building 6 training room waiting for his next assignment.

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SCI Retreat Employees Do Something “PAWS”itive for Christmas

SCI Retreat employees decided to spread Christmas spirit to the animals in need. Employees donated to the Blue Chip Farm Animal Refuge located in Dallas, Pa.

Blue Chip Farm does not practice euthanasia as a solution to the overpopulation, stray or unwanted animal problem. Their mission is “to provide a sanctuary where older, stray, abandoned, sick, or abused animals can wait to be adopted or simply live out their lives in safety and peace.”

If you are interested in adopting please visit their website at www.bcfanimalrefuge.org



Pictured, left to right: Corrections Officer 1 L. Stone, Blue Chip Farm Director Marge Bart, A-Fire Safety Manager Jim Cragle and Marilyn Semanski.

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“Boots On Ground”

On December 16th 2015, SCI Albion's Empowerment Committee hosted a guest speaker for staff. Ms. Venus Acevedo-Laboda is the founder of Boots on Ground and the President of the Erie Suicide Prevention Task force.

Ms. Acevedo-Laboda stated, “Boots on Ground is dedicated to raising awareness for and supporting our Warriors and their families who are struggling with and coping with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and to support and honor those who have lost their battle with PTSD. We are dedicated to demanding change within our communities and in our country.”

Mrs. Acevedo-Laboda spoke with staff about her personal battles of PTSD while growing up in a broken home and with a father who was a Vietnam War Veteran who had PTSD. At the time her family was unaware that her father was experiencing PTSD. What ultimately led her to start Boots on Ground is when her brother Phillip, a Navy Corpsman and Bronze star recipient, lost his battle with PTSD and took his own life.

Venus' mission in life is to help veterans, their families and anyone suffering with PTSD. She spoke with staff at SCI Albion not only about the effects of PTSD but also suicide prevention and intervention.

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Pine Grove Achieves CEA Accreditation

SCI Pine Grove received recognition from the Correctional Education Association (CEA) for attainment of excellence in the operation of education programs. Accreditation is awarded for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2018.

Presenting the certificate to Principal Jeffrey Dunmire is Deputy Superintendent Billie Heide. They are surrounded by the prison's education staff.



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Inmates Give Back to the Community

State Correctional Institution at Coal Township's inmate organization, Triumph, presented a monetary donation to the Shamokin-Coal Township Salvation Army this week. The donation comes from profits generated from a short term hoagie sale and long term ice cream sale this past summer. The donation was presented during the Triumph Executive Board meeting. Salvation Army representative Judy Orner accepted the \$2936.36 check.

Triumph was applauded for giving back to the community. Ms. Orner, a 14-year Salvation Army employee, stated that more than 600 families will pass through the Salvation Army's doors over the Christmas holiday. The donation from SCI Coal Township helps tremendously with feeding and supplying Christmas gifts to those families.



Inmates present donation to Salvation Army.

"I don't think we could do it without you," Ms. Orner said.

Ms. Orner stated that 100% of the Shamokin Chapter donations stay local, helping our neighbors and children with heating oil, food, clothes and toys. Some of the money is used for filling 200 monthly food boxes which contain one week's worth of food. Other support funded by local donations includes fire victim's assistance.

The process for receiving assistance includes verification of need and income to prevent misuse of the funds.

Over \$100,000 was donated locally through the red kettles and organizations and business in the area.

Triumph representatives thanked the administration staff at Coal Township for supporting this fundraising event which enables them to give back to the local community.

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Week of Dec. 14...

More Gifts Gathered

SCI Somerset employees also gathered gifts to be given to children from the Somerset Alternative Community Resource Program.



Pictured: Sandy Orr, Eric Huber, Melanie Pyle, Becky Costea and Tesa Deem

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Donations from the Boot Camp



On December 11, 2015, non-uniformed staff at Quehanna Boot Camp held a toy drive for Toys for Tots. Staff donned Christmas attire and donated a new toy.

Pictured is Superintendent/Commander Mary Natoli.



Quehanna Boot Camp staff collected clothing, blankets, games, paper products, toiletries and non-perishable food items for the Mechling-Shakley Veterans Center in Cowansville, Pa. The Mechling-Shakley Veterans Center is a transitive housing facility for displaced homeless veterans hoping to reintegrate into civilian society. Pictured above is Corrections Officer 1 L. Foster with a portion of the items collected. Officer Foster organized the collection.

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Pardons Board Officials Tour SCI Camp Hill

On Dec. 11, Pardons Board officials toured SCI Camp Hill in order to learn more about the daily operations of the prison.

Pardons Board Secretary Mavis Nimoh and Matthew Franchak, who is the chief of staff for Lt. Gov. Michael Stack, along with another staff member of theirs, toured all aspects of the prison, from reception to the chapel. Joining them were DOC Bureau of Treatment Services employees Steven Burk and Johnny Johnson, who both assist offenders with the clemency process.

Secretary Nimoh and Chief of Staff Franchak previously had visited the prison when conducting Board of Pardons personal interviews, but neither had ever had the opportunity to tour the prison.



During the tour, Superintendent Laurel Harry and her staff provided an explanation of each department and its designated areas of responsibility. Areas toured included the education building, the chapel and the religious services, R-Block and the assessment and classification process, specialized housing units and the mental health and support services provided. The tour also included the transitional housing unit and general population units, plus the van intake unit and initial processing upon an offender's reception at SCI Camp Hill. The last stop of the tour provided an opportunity to meet the dogs and their handlers involved in the canine training program.



Secretary Nimoh and Chief of Staff Franchak both expressed their deep appreciation for the opportunity to tour the facility, meet the corrections professionals employed at the institution and better understand the daily operations at SCI Camp Hill.

Secretary Nimoh indicated that while processing Confined Applications for Incarcerated Applicants she will now have more insight into the Department of Corrections and its programs and procedures. Chief Of Staff Franchak voiced his support of the dedicated staff and now has a better understanding regarding programming, procedures and the assessment and classification of male offenders.

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The Camaraderie of Training

From Training Academy Director Michael Dooley:

Class 728A at the Training Academy has had its presence felt already. There is currently a door decorating contest going on at the academy for the holidays supported by the Academy's Employee Activities Association. The team got together and not only decorated the door, but the entire classroom. It adds holiday spirit and some good comradery to the entire academy.

The class also had a fellow classmate who has fallen on some financial hardship. He hasn't been paid yet due to some unforeseen errors. The trainee is married and has three young children at home. The class again stepped up and collected several hundred dollars so he could pick up his uniforms and get back and forth to the academy. His family was very thankful. His wife and children made a card for the entire class expressing their appreciation. This is just another example of corrections personnel opening their hearts and helping each other in someone's time of need.

If this is an example of what the institutions are going to be getting as new employees, the DOC is going to be a great place to work for many years to come.

Thank you class 728A.

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Benner Township Employees Participate in Angel Tree Project

SCI Benner Township employees participated in the annual Angel Tree Project, which provides children from Cambria and Mifflin County Children and Youth Services with items that were identified on their Christmas Wish Lists.



The Angel Tree Project is organized by employees at SCI Benner Township, who are aware that there are children in our home communities who are affected by circumstances that are beyond their control. There is no greater joy than to make a child's life brighter during the holiday season.

Pictured are employees from SCI Benner Township and Cambria and Mifflin County CYS offices. CYS employees are pictured in the front and SCI Benner Township employees (in

the back), from left to right, are Michelle Vogt, Brenda Whitmyer, Nicolette Sayers, Jackie Burd and Lee Merva.

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"THANKS!"

The Morale Committee at SCI Huntingdon would like to thank employees for their generosity in helping to make the 2015 collection for Toys for Tots a huge success!



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Decorating their "Home"

Inmates on D Block, a housing unit at SCI Laurel Highlands made up of general population and personal care inmates, were permitted to decorate the housing unit in the spirit of the upcoming holiday season.

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Coal Township Prison Employees Participate in “Secret Santa” Program

SCI Coal Township employees have participated in Northumberland County Children and Youth Services “Secret Santa” program for 19 years. The county program provides services to more than 1,200 children each year.

Grace Piaseczny, a human resource assistant at the prison, has coordinated this event for the prison every year.

Staff at the institution, including administration, food service, non-uniformed and support staff, maintenance and corrections officers purchase and wrap gifts which are then delivered by Children & Youth staff to the families thorough out Northumberland County.

Again this year Coal Township PRIDE Motorcycle Organization has offered a monetary donation in support of the program.



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Albion Employees Provide for Needy Children



On Dec. 15, SCI Albion employees delivered Christmas gifts for 103 needy children in the Albion community today, as well as food donations for the Albion Food Pantry.

Pictured are SCI Albion employees Michele Tharp and Ashley Tatman.



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2015 Angel Tree Project

By Food Services Supervisor Susan Bryan

One of the best gifts you could give to someone during the holiday season is hope! The 8th Annual Training Academy Angel Tree Project was a huge success!

On Tuesday, December 15th the counseling office at Bear Creek Elementary School in Elizabethtown received gifts donated by Training Academy employees.

The school's counseling office was able to identify several families with children that legitimately needed help during this Christmas season.

In addition we were able to collect \$1,095 in gift cards for our charitable donation to West Shore Friends from our EAA Holiday party. In return West Shore Friends was able to provide an outfit and a coat/shoes for the 23 girls and boys we sponsored.

We are confident these children will be very happy when they open up their presents Christmas morning!

Take a look below and you will understand the magnitude of generosity that will reach these children this year!



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Drug Smuggling Attempt Thwarted!

How are drugs brought into our state prison system?

The most common avenues are through the mail or through inmate visits.

On Dec. 14, at SCI Rockview, visiting room staff noticed an inmate and his visitor acting oddly. They continued to monitor their activity and observed an exchange of drugs. Rockview employees seized 30 packet of heroin! PSP was called and the visitor was arrested.

That's not the way anyone wants to spend the upcoming holidays... in jail for attempting to smuggle drugs into a state prison.

So don't try to smuggle drugs into our prisons -- any time of the year.

We're watching.

Kudos to SCI Rockview's Visiting Room staff for a job well done!

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The Giving Continues...

SCI Rockview employees participated in their annual Angel Tree Project by donating items to Mifflin County Children & Youth Services for distribution.



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...And Continues...

The Empowerment Committee of SCI Retreat collected items for the Gino J. Merli Veteran's Center in Scranton. The Gino J. Merli Veteran Center is a 184-bed nursing home that provides residents with activities, meals and social interaction. Staff is available 24 hours a day so, if any emergencies occur, no matter the time, there will be someone ready to help.

SCI Retreat provided the residents with some items on their "Wish Lists" such as, clothing, personal hygiene items, DVDs and other electronic devices.

Merry Christmas to our local veterans!



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SCI Retreat Employees Donate to Toys For Tots

The Christmas season is upon us, and the employees of SCI Retreat chose to partner with the U.S. Marine Corps to collect brand new, unwrapped, toys for the Wyoming, PA Toys for Tots Program. The toys will go to families in need of the Wyoming Valley area. Toys were overflowing from the two huge boxes that were provided by the program.



Left to right: Volunteer Doug Neyman, CO1 Sam Wolfe (former U.S. Marine), CPL Roger Torres, Lt. Tom Serbin (former U.S. Marine) and Deputy Lloyd Kerschner (former U.S. Marine).

Left to right: Lt. Bill Robbins, Doug Neyman, CO1 Sam Wolfe, Cpl Roger Torres, Lt. Tom Serbin, Deputy Lloyd Kerschner and Parole Supervisor Penny Sines.



Week of Dec. 7...

Wisconsin DOC Visits Pennsylvania DOC



Following a recent corrections-related training conducted by the National Institute of Corrections in Colorado, Wisconsin DOC officials reached out to PA DOC to tour SCI Camp Hill's and SCI Rockview's housing units that focus on the delivery of mental health care services.

PA DOC employees were more than happy to show their sister agency how they have worked to improve mental health services for offenders.

As a result, in November, Wisconsin came to Pennsylvania. First they met with prison staff to be provided an overview of the prison and of the various mental health units it operates. They also heard about the PA DOC's settlement agreement earlier in 2015 with the Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania and the various changes the settlement set forth, as led by DOC Chief Counsel's Office. Also providing detailed information on the revisions to the DOC's mental health care system and newly developed segregation alternatives was Dr. Robert Marsh, director of the Office of Psychology and Dr. Lucas Malishchak, who is one of the DOC's evaluation supervisors.



Following the overview meeting, SCI Camp Hill officials, led by Superintendent Laurel Harry and Deputy Superintendent of Facilities Management Barry Smith, provided a tour of the diagnostic and classification center, the Diversionary Treatment Unit, Residential Treatment Units, Special Observation Unit and the Special Assessment Unit. Later Wisconsin officials met with inmate certified peer specialists to learn about the training involved and the work they conduct on the unit and in other areas of the prison.



In addition to touring SCI Camp Hill, the group also toured the Secure Residential Treatment Unit at SCI Rockview.

Pennsylvania DOC employees are proud of their work, specifically in the area of enhanced and improved mental health services, and they welcome visits like this to show off their accomplishments.



What types of special needs housing was toured by Wisconsin DOC?

Diversionary Treatment Unit. The DOC strives to avoid prolonged placement of inmates with a serious mental illness (SMI) and/or intellectual disability (ID) in restricted housing units (RHU). However, due to safety and/or security concerns, an inmate with a SMI or ID may need to be placed in a secure housing unit where he/she will continue to receive mental health care commensurate with his/her treatment needs. Inmates being considered for placement into the DTU do not meet commitment criteria according to the Pennsylvania Mental Health Procedures Act.

Residential Treatment Unit. The Residential Treatment Unit (RTU) is designed to provide structure, consistency and support to inmates who have been diagnosed with a serious psychiatric disorder and/or a serious impairment with psychological functioning. The RTU implements treatment strategies that rely on the Recovery Model, which is based on recovery principles that facilitate individual growth, hope, self-determination, overcoming obstacles, coping skills and re-connection to support systems. The Recovery Model is an evidence-based practice. The RTU is intended to provide opportunities for inmates and staff to establish a therapeutic alliance which is of the utmost importance for the recovery of the RTU inmate. The ultimate goal of the RTU is to maximize functioning within the department and to facilitate a successful community re-entry for relevant inmates.

Special Observation Unit. The Special Observation Unit (SOU) is unique to SCI Camp Hill and provides for close monitoring of individuals who are newly received by the department and who may be demonstrating symptoms of mental illness. The SOU is for short term purposes and allows clinical staff the opportunity to determine the most appropriate level of care needed for ambiguous presentations of symptomology and etiology.

Special Assessment Unit. The intended purpose and overriding mission of the Special Assessment Unit (SAU) is to conduct an in-depth and time limited

clinical assessment under the ultimate supervision of a licensed psychologist. Out-of-cell activities are encouraged and expected but solely for evaluation purposes as opposed to in-depth treatment efforts. The SAU enlists clinical assessments for the following reasons:

1. to determine the presence or absence of a serious mental illness;
2. to provide diagnostic clarification;
3. to determine the need for referral to a specialized program and housing status;
4. other treatment and housing recommendations; and
5. to determine reason(s) for Secure Residential Treatment Unit (SRTU) removal and proper subsequent placement.

Secure Residential Treatment Unit. An SRTU is a secure housing unit for mentally ill inmates who do not currently meet commitment criteria according to the Pennsylvania Mental Health Procedures Act and who require a secure setting due to their demonstrated problematic behavior in less secure environments. The unit is intended to provide focused staff interaction, programming and treatment for this select inmate population.

Individuals interested in learning more about the Pennsylvania DOC's mental health services can view the policy on the DOC's website at www.cor.pa.gov. Go to "policies" and then select "13.08.01, Access to Mental Health Care."

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Fulfilling Children's Wishes

SCI Laurel Highlands employees Joyce Shaulis and Karen Hillegass pose with wrapped toys for the Children's Aid Home in Somerset, Pa. Each holiday season the prison receives a "wish list" from the children at the home. Each employee chooses a child and buys gifts on their list. Games also were bought for the general use of all of the children at the home.

The prison also collects for Toys for Tots, and the box in this picture is filled with this year's donations.

SCI Laurel Highlands' employees are very generous.

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"Treasures for Children"

SCI Mercer employees participated in their annual holiday season "Treasures for Children" toy drive, which is sponsored by The Salvation Army.

Thanks go out to everyone who participated by purchasing gifts for the children!! Everyone's generosity and thoughtfulness will bless young children from the Shenango Valley community with a "TREASURE" to remember!

Happy Holidays to all from SCI Mercer!



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Laundry Truck Fire Skillfully Extinguished

SCI Retreat, through Pennsylvania Correctional Industries (PCI), operates a laundry operation where items are collected from various state agencies (such as other prisons or state hospitals) and then delivers the items to Retreat for laundering.

On December 8, a PCI truck – full of freshly laundered items ready for delivery back to the originating agencies – caught fire as it was parked outside of the prison’s perimeter fence. The cause is still under investigation.



Immediately, staff contacted the prison’s control center to report the incident, and Sgt. Cease and the prison’s Fire Emergency Response Team sprang into action. These highly trained staff donned their protective gear, mounted their mini fire vehicle, and were already engaging the fire before helpers from the Hunlock Creek Fire Department and Newport Township Fire Department responded to assist.

Although the fire was outside the fence, the flurry of activity inside and outside the secured perimeter caused responsive corrections officers to hustle to ensure all inmates returned to their housing units safely.

While putting out the fire, it was clear that the prison’s FERT was organized, looking out for each other and up to the task.

“Watching all of this this unfold, I am grateful for all staff who performed their duties in all areas of the institution to make sure the safety and security of Retreat was not compromised during this event,” said SCI Retreat Superintendent Theresa DelBalso. “This incident was yet another confirmation that Retreat staff are a team of dedicated, disciplined and prepared corrections professionals!”



Close to the fence...



Thanks to Hunlock Creek
and Newport Township Fire
Departments for
responding.

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Sending Christmas Wishes to Deployed Co-worker

SCI Coal Township employees are keeping in the spirit of Christmas. They donated Christmas ornaments to adorn a small tree that was sent to fellow employee, Registered Nurse Helen Frey-Lewis, U.S. Navy, who is currently stationed in Afghanistan.

Whether homemade, store-bought or personalized with a note, Helen's co-workers wanted to send holiday wishes to Helen to remind her that she is missed and appreciated for what she is doing for our country. Several employees sent additional Christmas care packages directly to Helen.

Everyone wants Helen to have the best Christmas possible while so far away from her family. Helen's family supports her and anxiously awaits her safe return, possibly this summer.



Letter from Helen:

Dear Superintendent Mooney,

I am writing for the acknowledgment of the exemplary staff that is working at SCI Coal Township. I am a RN in the medical department but I am currently deployed in Afghanistan until next summer. I have received the highest support from the staff member's in medical, dental, records, Human Resources and some from CO department with letters and boxes. Their support they have given me is above and beyond for my soldier/personal well-being. I found that their support, caring and dedication for helping to keep my fellow soldiers and my morale high during these very trying times are something I will never forget. I want to thank them all with the utmost appreciation to each of them for their time, support and dedication to me as a fellow co-worker and a soldier. I wish they all receive acknowledgement for making our deployment have important meaning to them as much as it does to us. I realize just how stellar the SCI Coal Township employees are and how much they support their military brothers and sisters on deployment. Thank you,

V/R 
MA1 (EXW/NAC) Helen M. Frye-Lewis, USN, RN

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DOC Launches Medication Assisted Treatment Approach to Help Addicted Offenders

In October, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections created a page on its website that is intended to educate citizens about Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).

In a video posted to the page, DOC Secretary John Wetzel says:

"In order to help offenders return home after incarceration and be successful with that reentry, we need to deal with offender addiction. Addiction is a problem facing all areas of our communities all across our nation.

Through assessment of inmates upon reception into the state prison system, we know that 65 percent of those offenders suffer from some sort of addiction.

While the DOC has always provided drug and alcohol treatment, we've always done it the same way for a long time. The disease is not the crime. For us to achieve our goal of having people leave our system better people and less likely to commit new crimes, we have to do better at addressing the disease of addiction.

For other, medical type diseases, like diabetes, medication is a normal part of their treatment, along with better diet and a change in behavior. Medication assists people in staying healthy.

For some reason, we haven't translated MAT into our approach with drug and alcohol addiction.

This is changing in our agency. No longer will we continue to do the same thing. We now are going to begin using a Medication Assisted Treatment approach to helping offenders break their addictions."

At a recent executive staff meeting at the DOC, Wetzel informed his team that the current Vivitrol pilot project will be "expanded significantly and quickly."

He said the reason for the expansion is because of the increase in the number of inmates coming to us with addictions.

Ten years ago six percent of new inmates coming into the state prison system were addicted to heroin. Today that number is 12 percent," he said.

Wetzel said that the traditional treatment programs provided to offenders aren't working.

"Addiction is a disease, and we are going to treat it as such and increase our Vivitrol pilot," Wetzel said.

"We need to get to the root cause of offenders' criminal behavior, and that is addiction. We need to help them AS they transition back to society by using MAT, which is now our new treatment module," he said.

And while addiction is a disease, Wetzel said that the disease is not the crime.

"It is senseless for people to die from detoxing because they aren't given the medication to assist them.

Our treatment plan will include MAT if it is clinically indicated.

The Vivitrol Pilot Project

In October 2013, the Department of Corrections – understanding the importance of medication assisted treatment to support an offender's reentry success – began piloting the use of Vivitrol to female offenders at the State Correctional Institution (SCI) at Muncy who were returning to Allegheny, Dauphin and Philadelphia Counties upon their release from state prison.

Vivitrol is designed to reduce cravings for alcohol and/or opiates, and it acts as an antagonist blocking the ability to get high or feel euphoria. The administration of Vivitrol immediately prior to release from prison may allow eligible offenders the ability to focus on immediate reentry needs without also having to struggle with drug craving and relapse.

Offenders eligible for the pilot project must volunteer to participate and must be committed to remaining drug-free and will participate in community-based treatment services while taking Vivitrol. They also must have successfully completed alcohol or other drug treatment during their incarceration, are at medium to high risk to reoffend, have alcohol and/or opiate abuse/dependency and do not have any medical conditions that would interfere with the use of the drug.

Vivitrol costs approximately \$1,000 per injection. The first injection is provided while the offender is still in state prison, and all follow-up injections are provided by a community provider

During the 2013 pilot, 10 SCI Muncy inmates received the Vivitrol injection prior to their release from prison. The injections were funded from by a Second Chance Act grant and totaled more than \$14,301. The offenders are being monitored, not for outcome purposes as it relates to Vivitrol use.

Expanding the Vivitrol Pilot Project

In April 2015, the DOC continued offering Vivitrol to female offenders at SCI Muncy, and it also expanded the project to include 175 male offenders at SCIs Chester, Graterford, Mahanoy and Pittsburgh – targeting offenders returning to Allegheny, Dauphin, Lehigh and Philadelphia Counties. The DOC is monitoring all individuals for an outcome evaluation that will help the DOC to determine the efficacy and impact of Vivitrol on recidivism for offenders diagnosed with opioid and/or alcohol addiction issues.

No state monies will be used for the expansion of this project due to funding from a federal grant.

Expanding the Vivitrol Project (Again)

Due to an increased number of individuals with heroin addiction entering the DOC (the number increased from 6% of the inmates 10 years ago to 12% today), DOC officials have decided to use a new approach to helping addicted offenders and that is through the use of Medication Assisted Treatment.

The Vivitrol Pilot Project will be expanded once again – using the same eligibility criteria as mentioned previously – to SCIs Dallas, Laurel Highlands, Retreat and Waymart and expands the targeted “return to” counties to include Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties.

Department of Corrections Facilities	“Return To” Counties
Dallas Chester Graterford Laurel Highlands Mahanoy Muncy Pittsburgh Retreat Waymart	Allegheny Dauphin Lackawanna Lehigh Luzerne Philadelphia

In addition to Vivitrol, a number of medications will be provided and could include buprenorphine, methadone, naloxone, naltrexone, suboxone or subutex and/or any combination thereof, as prescribed by a physician.

Additional information about the DOC’s Medication Assisted Treatment program and its approach, procedures, eligibility and various protocol can be obtained by visiting the DOC’s new MAT webpage at www.cor.pa.gov. Go to the “Administration” drop down menu and then select “Medication Assisted Treatment.”

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Read to your Child/Grandchild

"I love that I can see my dad in the video. I miss him."

"I love you, Dad, and the book."

"I love the story and I especially loved seeing my dad. I haven't seen him in a long time."

These are comments children have made about a program at SCI Greene.

Because employees care about whether the programs they deliver work or are appreciated, employees at SCI Greene sent questionnaires to individuals who serve as caregivers/guardians for children whose fathers are incarcerated at the prison.

The questionnaire was specific to a program called "Read to Your Child/Grandchild," which has been in operation at the prison for several years but was temporarily ended around 2010. The program was updated and restarted at SCI Greene in 2011.

In the program, inmates choose an age-appropriate book that they read while being video recorded. When finished, the book and the video are sent to the inmate's child or grandchild in an effort to keep the inmate involved in the child's life and also to encourage the child to read. In addition to the book and the video, each inmate completes an art project – a handmade card that is related to the theme of the book – that is sent home to the child.

Initially begun in the 1990s, the "Read to Your Child" program took a break for a while in order for it to be redesigned to incorporate a learning component for the inmate. It now is being provided at ALL facilities throughout the DOC.

The program is open to general population inmates. There are requirements to participate, and a commitment of two weeks is required in the afternoon. Families must agree to receive materials, and there is no cost to participate. The material for this program is provided for by the Inmate General Welfare Fund.

Comments from caregivers/guardians are:

"The program is fantastic. Both children love their books and have watched their DVD multiple times."

"The boys really, really were excited to get this in the mail. I think this is an excellent program from just the standpoint of the younger children who may not understand why they can't see their loved ones as much as they want. This way they have a keepsake to see their loved ones whenever they want."

"The DVD brought tears of joy to the family and a proud, big smile to Chris' face."

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Toys for Tots

The SCI Pine Grove Empowerment Committee, in conjunction with the Salvation Army and Toys for Tots, held a coat/hat/glove and toy drive. Toys were picked up for distribution by Sgt. Brewer representing the Marine Corps Reserve from Ebensburg, Pa. The coats/hats/gloves were delivered to the Indiana, Pa. Salvation Army Unit by Empowerment Committee member Kara Smeltzer.



Pictured, left to right: Empowerment Committee Chair Christina Smith and Sgt. Gary Brewer – Marine Corps Reserve.

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Helping the Hungry...

PA DOC Central Office employees donated 356 pounds of food to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank!

The food bank is committed to the vision that no one should be hungry. They partner with more than 800 organizations in 27 counties in PA and serve more than 60,000 people every week.

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Facilities Achieve CEA Accreditation

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, eight state prisons earned accreditation through the Correctional Education Association (CEA). CEA is an international professional organization serving educators and administrators who provide services to students in correctional settings.

Institutional state documents were submitted to the CEA Standards Committee electronically prior to the institutional audit. In addition, SCI Fayette was the first institution to submit all local standards electronically prior to their auditor's visit. Seven institutions were recertified and one institution conducted their first certification. Recertification were granted to SCI Chester, SCI Coal Township, SCI Houtzdale, SCI Laurel Highlands, SCI Pine Grove, SCI Fayette, and SCI Forest while SCI Benner received its first accreditation.

The performance standards for Adult and Juvenile Correctional Education Programs are comprised of 67 Standards in the four major categories of administration, personnel, program and students. To Be CEA accredited, there are 24 required standards and 43 non-required standards. An institution must receive a score of 100 percent on the required standards and a minimum of 90 percent on the non-required standards to receive accreditation.

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Secretary Wetzel Testifies About Merger of DOC & PBPP

On Dec. 7, DOC Secretary John Wetzel, along with individuals involved in various criminal justice agencies, testified before the House Judiciary Committee about the proposed merger of the DOC and PA Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP).



Secretary Wetzel's testimony follows:

"We are here today to talk about merging the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole.

This is about two agencies, with the same goal, working together to get better results from the same group of individuals.

Currently, one in every 10 crimes in Pennsylvania is committed by a person who spent time inside one of our state prisons. One in 33 crimes is committed by someone who is actively on parole.

The Department of Corrections has always had a reputation of being independent and forward thinking. This administration, like all others before, simply expects us to do our job – and that is to enhance public safety by creating an environment where inmates can leave our facilities with the tools to live a crime-free life.

We do our job.

And we do it very well.

In recent years, we have reduced the prison population by 1,391 individuals, or 3 percent, and we've reduced recidivism by 19 percent.

We've improved our methods for treating offenders, two-thirds of whom are coping with alcohol or other drug problems and one-fourth who suffer with mental illness.

We've improved our educational and vocational training programs to support the successful transition of parolees back into society, ensuring that they have the resources they need to find work, housing and social services.

For the first time, we demanded results from our community corrections centers – or halfway houses – by holding them accountable through outcome-based contracts and, as a result, significantly reducing the recidivism rate.

But we believe we can do better.

By merging the two departments that manage this group of individuals, we can create a more efficient system to supervise and support them - from their first day in prison through their last day on parole - resulting in better outcomes and safer communities.

For too long, the duplicative and overlapping use of resources to impact the same individuals, has resulted in increased spending and diminished returns.

By working in tandem with the Board of Probation and Parole, we can coordinate the efforts of talented people in two agencies who share the same goal. We estimate that combining our agencies can save the commonwealth more than \$10 million.

This is not a new concept. Merging the two agencies has been discussed in the past as a more efficient way to use taxpayers' money and improve outcomes.

Let's look at the facts: 90 percent of the people in our control will someday return to their communities - to your communities.

After they're released, the challenge becomes how do we supervise these people to make sure they are staying on the right track to be successful citizens?

First, by making our administrative efforts more efficient, we can channel those financial resources into the community by providing more parole personnel working in the field.

We estimate saving \$6.2 million by eliminating long-vacant positions and redundancies in both agencies. These will be solid, structurally sustainable savings.

Let me be clear, we are not recommending the elimination of any officers inside our facilities or parole agents in the field.

We estimate that with this savings we could fund a significant increase in the number of parole field staff.

Nor would this merger detract or impact the independent decision-making of the Parole Board or the important work of the Office of Victim Advocate and the Sex Offenders Assessment Board – other than to provide them with more efficient administrative and technological support services.

As we all know, convicted parole violators – those offenders that commit another crime – are returned to prison. This will not change under the merger.

What we propose to change is the management of technical parole violators – those persons who do not commit another crime, but still violate conditions of their release, such as a missed appointment, a failed urine test, failure to pay fines or not reporting a change in address.

We believe we can save an additional \$4.1 million by instituting a system known as "Swift, Certain & Fair," that imposes specific sanctions on a larger number of violators for a shorter length of time.

In the past, without predictable sanctions, violating parole is a gamble that parolees may be willing to take, hoping they will get off with just a warning, or two or three, before they are returned to jail or receive a meaningful sanction.

Under the "Swift, Certain & Fair" method, there is an immediate repercussion - maybe a week in a parole violation center or contracted county jail – a calculated sanction designed to deliver the message and get them quickly back on track.

What we're suggesting through the "Swift, Certain & Fair" program is to lay out the rules clearly and up front for everyone to follow. This will give parole officers the tools, strategies and resources to hold offenders accountable.

Pennsylvania's lawmakers apparently saw the wisdom in this approach to supervision based on past legislative efforts. The Justice Reinvestment legislation, unanimously passed by the House and Senate in 2012, enabled and encouraged county probation departments around the state to implement the same "Swift, Certain & Fair" approach to supervision.

To be clear, this approach will enhance, not change, the provisions of the Justice Reinvestment legislation.

Remaining intact will be the five categories of violations that result in an offender returning to custody. Specifically, those include: any violation that is sexual in nature, any violation involving assaultive behavior, any violation involving possession or control of a weapon, if a parolee has absconded and cannot safely be diverted to a community corrections facility, and, finally, if there exists an identifiable threat to public safety.

This approach allows parole officers to be more proactive in providing consequences for unacceptable actions before an offender's behavior rises to the level of committing a new crime or one of the five categories of violations that demand a return to custody.

Several other states across the country that have already adopted this sanctioning process have already reported not only significant cost savings, but a reduction in recidivism as well. Washington State, for example, has already reported a 20 percent reduction in recidivism and saved \$40 million.

Any additional savings that Pennsylvania reaps from this effort can be reinvested in other areas to make our communities safer and help our citizens become more successful.

We have done everything we said we were going to do to make Pennsylvania's corrections system better.

Now, let us combine our resources and, together, let us do more."

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Bowman Named DOC Chief of Security



Scott T. Bowman, an 18-year veteran of the Department of Corrections, recently was named major/chief of security for the state prison system. His appointment was effective November 22, 2015.

"I have known Scott for many years. In fact, our paths crossed for a bit when we both were younger and both worked at the Lebanon County Prison," Corrections Secretary John Wetzel said. "Scott is a very responsible, dedicated and security-oriented leader. I have great plans for Scott and his office and know that he is the right person to carry those plans forward."

As chief of security, Bowman is responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of security policies and procedures for emergency preparedness; critical incident management; conducting staffing surveys at all facilities; overseeing operation of the DOC's Drug Interdiction Unit and the DOC's special response and emergency teams; coordinating and monitoring external and internal inspections; and serving as a security resource for all statewide facility security offices.

Bowman, who graduated from Lakes High School in Tacoma, WA, and studied criminal justice with a minor in psychology at Illinois State University and Harrisburg Area Community College, began his corrections career as a corrections officer at the Lebanon County Correctional Facility in February 1991.

From 1995 through 1997, he served as a firefighter and later as a lieutenant at the Lebanon Station 25 Fire/Rescue.

Bowman began his career with the Department of Corrections in 1997, as a corrections officer trainee at SCI Graterford, automatically becoming a corrections officer in 1998. For six months, in 2002, he served as an adjunct training sergeant at the DOC's Training Academy, where he instructed a variety of courses as part of the DOC's basic training program.

From 2002 to 2005, he also served as sergeant at SCI Graterford, rising to the rank of lieutenant in 2005. In 2007 he remained at that rank, but transferred to the DOC's Security Division, where he served as assistant critical incident manager.

For one year, from 2009 to 2010, he transferred to SCI Waymart, where he served as shift lieutenant. In 2010, he returned to the DOC's Security Division, having promoted to captain. In this capacity, he was the DOC's critical incident manager coordinator and served as a liaison to external agencies interacting with the DOC during emergency situations.

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Residents Recognize Veterans

To commemorate Veterans Day and to recognize the sacrifices that veterans have made, Riverside Community Corrections Center (CCC) residents and employees donated to the Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania during the month of November.

The mission of the Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania is to provide essential housing, employment and vital support services to eligible local veterans, service members and their families with the goal of improving their self-sufficiency, sustainability and quality of life.

To assist in this mission, Riverside CCC collected and donated winter gloves/hats/socks, grocery gift cards and hygiene products.

“Giving back to the veterans is a humbling experience and an opportunity that Riverside CCC will certainly use in the future to aid in successful reintegration,” said Counselor Dan Coulehan.



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Bell Ringing in Crawford County

Various members of the SCI Cambridge Springs' administrative staff and department heads participated in the Salvation Army Bell Ringing within the local Cambridge Springs Community on Friday, December 4, 2015. This community project is something that employees enjoy participating in each year, providing benefit to the Salvation Army and the good works that they do.



Pictured, left to right, are: Barb Healy and Jamie Rodriguez.

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Correctional Industries Commissary Operation

Pennsylvania Correctional Industries operates a Commissary Division which is responsible for servicing approximately 50,000 offenders residing throughout Pennsylvania's state correctional facilities.

The pick and pack operation sells a variety of products, such as (but not limited to) apparel, food, footwear, electronics, hygiene, medical, miscellaneous and office supplies. Roughly 70-90 offenders are employed at each of PCI's three Distribution Centers, which are located at SCIs Albion, Houtzdale and Mahanoy.

To learn more about PCI, visit their website at www.cor.pa.gov/PCI



Pictured here is the commissary operation at SCI Houtzdale.

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Week of Nov. 30...

Greishaw to be Recognized by National Association

Earlier this year, the American Jail Association -- as part of its 35th anniversary celebration -- accepted nominations for young industry leaders. Called "35 under 35," the AJA was looking to highlight the best corrections professionals under the age of 35 who "are making a positive impact on the corrections profession early in their career."

Nominations were due in October, and selections were made in November. Among those set to be recognized in the January/February 2016 issue of *American Jails*, is Pennsylvania's Thomas Greishaw.

Greishaw, 34, is the director of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections' Office of County Inspections and Services. The office is responsible for inspecting Pennsylvania county prisons -- which are not under the jurisdiction of the DOC -- to ensure they operate in accordance with Title 37, the commonwealth's minimum operating standards for county prisons and jail.

"Tom truly is the epitome of a corrections professional," said DOC Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal. "Based on his conscientious determination, unwavering integrity and concern for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the operations, Tom's recognition as one of the 35 under 35 is well deserved."

Greishaw, who started college work-study with the DOC in 2001 and held an internship in 2003 from Gannon University, began his DOC employment in 2004 working for the Erie Community Corrections Center. He transferred to a Philadelphia CCC serving as a counselor in 2008. Later that same year, he transferred to the Harrisburg CCC. In 2009, he began working as the regional State Intermediate Punishment coordinator for the DOC's Bureau of Community Corrections. For a period of time in 2011, he served as an acting contract facility coordinator. He then served as staff assistant to the DOC's executive deputy secretary from 2011 until 2013, when he was appointed to his current position.

Greishaw, who is a DOC representative on the board of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, has received numerous letters of appreciation from county prison wardens in appreciation for his recommendations, direction and advice.

Nominated by his coworkers for the AJA recognition, Tom's nomination packet highlighted:

- Notable improvement in the approval ratings of the work and direction of his office.
- Successful and effective ways that Tom has assisted counties to ensure documentation for their inspections, which resulted in time savings for county staff and DOC inspectors.
- Ability to research and provide "best practice" resources for every county jail in Pennsylvania.

- Willingness to reach out to assist Pennsylvania county jails in their implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).
- Recognition for his assistance provided to Northumberland County Prison and the sharing of resources following a fire that completely destroyed their prison and resulted in the relocation of approximately 300 inmates.
- Willingness to assist counties within and outside of Pennsylvania via the Chief Prison Inspector's network.



Tom's coworkers surprised him with a congratulatory cake when they learned he would soon be recognized by the American Jail Association.

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Luzerne County Community College Visits SCI Retreat

On December 1, 2015, SCI Retreat Superintendent Theresa DelBalso welcomed students from Luzerne County Community College's Introduction to Corrections Class.

During their visit, the students had the opportunity to tour some areas of the institution, talk with staff regarding their job duties in corrections, and they also had the opportunity to meet three inmates.

The professor, who also is SCI Retreat's Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialist Supervisor Jeff Dengler, agreed that this experience was a great opportunity for his students to gain first-hand knowledge of corrections in Pennsylvania.



LCCC student Antonio Laezza thanks the inmate speaker for taking time to talk with them.



CO1 Jack Frederick takes time out of his busy day to talk with the students by showing them the control bubble on D-Unit.



Activities Specialist Charlie Maculloch enjoyed talking with the students and showing them the gymnasium and the weight room.

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SCI Coal Township Employee Receives Letter of Commendation

On Saturday, November 21, 2015, while assigned to an inmate dining room for the evening inmate meal, Corrections Officer Trainee Robert Brentano observed an inmate showing visible signs of distress. Officer Brentano responded to the inmate and determined he was choking. He immediately performed several abdominal thrusts on the inmate and dislodged the obstruction blocking his airway. The inmate was assessed by medical and returned to his housing unit without injury.

Officer Brentano's quick response and immediate action is a credit to his commitment to the corrections profession, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and SCI Coal Township.

Officer Brentano received his letter of commendation from SCI Coal Township's Major of the Guard Victor Mirarchi prior to his work shift while his fellow officers and administrative staff were present.

"Our men and women work the front lines every day, and whether it's behind these fences or on the street, actions such as Officer Brentano's need to be recognized. I commend each of you for your commitment," said Superintendent Vincent Mooney.



Pictured (L to R):

**Captain Long,
Superintendent
Mooney, Officer
Brentano, Major
Tripp, Major
Mirarchi and
Deputy
Superintendent
Luscavage**

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Bucklen Receives National Practitioner Research Award

Dr. Kristofer "Bret" Bucklen, director of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections' Bureau of Planning, Research & Statistics, recently was awarded with the Practitioner Research Award from the American Society of Criminology (ASC) Division of Corrections and Sentencing. Bucklen and his Chief of Research and Evaluation, Dr. Nicolette Bell, accepted the award on behalf of the DOC at a ceremony held in Washington, D.C.

"Since I began serving as DOC secretary in 2011, I have relied regularly and heavily on Bret's research and statistical knowledge and skills," Secretary John Wetzel said. "Bret and his team are adept at using the best statistical tools and research designs in order to determine criminal justice trends and evaluate outcomes. It is because of the work of his office that the Pennsylvania DOC continues to be a leader in many areas, specifically in the use of research to help determine, set and monitor corrections policies and practices."

The ASC award is granted for a specific publication or piece of research work. In Dr. Bucklen's case, the award involved a team effort for the DOC's State Intermediate Punishment (SIP) 2015 Performance Report.

Specific to the SIP report, the voting committee believed the report represented a well-executed piece of internal agency research that relied on sound outcome evaluation methods to assess the effectiveness and cost benefits of the SIP program. The research is directly relevant to informing program improvement and is presented in a clear and visually appealing format for policymakers to digest.

The DOC's State Intermediate Punishment Report can be viewed on the DOC's website at www.cor.pa.gov, under "Statistics" and then "Reports"; or by clicking [here](#).

Dr. Bucklen has been the director of the DOC's Bureau of Planning, Research & Statistics since 2011. He began his full-time employment with the DOC as a research and evaluation analyst in 2001. Prior to working for the DOC, he was employed in the Pennsylvania Management Associate program under the Governor's Office of Administration, where he worked for and rotated through the following state agencies: the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, the Pennsylvania State Police, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the Justice Network (JNET) Project. Dr. Bucklen received his M.S. in Public Policy and Management from Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz School of Public Policy, and his Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland.

The ASC is an international organization whose members pursue scholarly, scientific and professional knowledge concerning the measurement, etiology, consequences, prevention, control and treatment of crime and delinquency. Their membership includes students, practitioners and academicians from the many fields of criminal justice and criminology. The Practitioner Research Award is intended to recognize

an outstanding research effort that informs public policy by a researcher or group of researchers who work for a government agency.

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Week of Nov. 23...

On Nov. 23, DOC Secretary John Wetzel had the opportunity to speak to the Harrisburg service clubs, challenging them to focus on the most disadvantaged kids in our community. More than anything else, they need HOPE & OPPORTUNITY. Wetzel urged, "If you have either to give, please do!"

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Learning about Transgender Issues...

On Nov. 23, PA DOC officials gathered to hear from and speak with PA Physician General Dr. Rachel Levine about issues faced by transgender individuals in general and how such issues may reach into the prison system.

The reason for the presentation was to help the DOC as it reviews and revises its policies to better manage transgender offenders.

"This is a difficult and challenging topic in general, and I'm sure it's even more difficult and challenging in a prison setting," Dr. Levine said.

During her presentation, Dr. Levine provided definitions of a variety of terms including gender roles and gender identity. She also:

- provided information from a variety of studies that show this issue is not a matter of choice but is a development of the brain
- discussed what terms are acceptable to use and which ones are not
- mentioned the fact that gender identity and expression can change back and forth... that it can be fluid
- discussed the challenges transgender individuals face and what things are needed to be successful – family support, connection to others who are or who have transitioned, educational materials to read, etc.
- discussed the medical care standards, including hormone therapy

While Dr. Levine is very knowledgeable about this topic in general, she admitted she's not knowledgeable about the corrections field. She ended the session asking questions about the kinds of social changes that may be allowed in prisons:

- Will we give or continue hormone treatment?
- Will we allow transgenders to dress differently?
- Will we call the offender by the transgender name they choose?

She ended the hour-long presentation expressing her appreciation for our efforts, concern, regard and openness in this area.

DOC Secretary John Wetzel said this is not an easy or simple topic, and he said we need a lot of people with a lot of different perspectives to help us through the changes we need to make.

“We need to establish DOC values around this issues and reinforce the appropriate behavior when dealing with transgender offenders in our system. Today’s presentation is a step in the right direction.”

Dr. Rachel Levine's Bio (from www.health.pa.gov):

Dr. Levine is currently Physician General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the Penn State College of Medicine.



Her previous posts included: Vice -Chair for Clinical Affairs for the Department of Pediatrics and Chief of the Division of Adolescent Medicine and Eating Disorders at the Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital-Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

Dr. Levine graduated from Harvard College in 1979 and the Tulane University School of Medicine in 1983. She completed her training in Pediatrics at the Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York City in 1987 and then did a Fellowship in Adolescent Medicine at Mt. Sinai from 1987-88. She was in the practice of pediatrics and adolescent medicine at the office of Edward A Davies, MD from 1988-1993 as well as on the faculty of the Mt Sinai School of Medicine. She came to Central Pa. in 1993 as Director of Ambulatory Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at the Polyclinic Medical Center. She joined the staff at the Penn State Hershey Medical Center in 1996 as the Director of Pediatric Ambulatory Services and Adolescent Medicine.

Her accomplishments at the Penn State Hershey Medical Center include the initiation of a Division of Adolescent Medicine for the care of complex teens with medical and psychological problems. In addition, she started the Penn State Hershey Eating Disorders Program which offers multidisciplinary treatment for children, adolescents and adults with eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa. She is the Liaison for the LGBT community for the Office of Diversity at the Penn State College of Medicine. In that role, she has established a LGBT faculty and staff affinity group and is the facilitator for the LGBT student group.

Dr. Levine taught at the Penn State College of Medicine on topics in adolescent medicine, eating disorders and transgender medicine. In addition, she has lectured nationally and internationally on these topics and has published articles and chapters on the medical management of eating disorders.

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Red, White and Blue Days at the Training Academy



During the week of November 23-27, 2015, staff at the DOC Training Academy were asked to participate in wearing red, white and blue and to donate money to Operation Enduring Warrior.

Academy staff collected \$373 for the charity to purchase stockings for wounded soldiers in nearby hospitals during the holiday season.

Operation Enduring Warrior helps facilitate the physical, mental and emotional rehabilitation of our nation's wounded service members.

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Week of Nov. 16...

Annual Re-Entry Fair Held at Mahanoy

SCI Mahanoy held the Annual Re-Entry Fair on October 21, 2015. The event, chaired by Education Principal Chet Beggs, was a well-organized and orchestrated effort by many departments within the institution.

Representatives from 15 organizations attended from Dauphin, Lebanon, Luzerne and Schuylkill Counties. One hundred fifty inmates had the opportunity to view informational displays as well as multiple information and resources for business and employment opportunities, health care and mental health related services, education and ministry services.

Participants represented included:

- Berks Connection
- Federal Bureau of Prisons
- Career Link from Schuylkill County
- Employment Opportunity and Training Center
- Ex-Offenders Reentry Coalition
- Harrisburg Area Community College
- Jubilee Ministries
- Lebanon VA Representative
- Liberty Ministries
- Luzerne County Community Colleges
- Monroe Muffler
- Pinebrook Family Answers-what is it
- Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole
- Pennsylvania Prison Society
- Service Access and Management

Throughout the fair, the education staff received positive feedback from the participants, who were extremely impressed with the operation of the facility and how secure they felt while visiting. They were equally impressed when they learned SCI Mahanoy offers national and Commonwealth certifications related to auto mechanics, OSHA, warehousing and electronics.

By continuing our outreach and visits to local businesses and organizations, we hope to educate potential employers about the opportunities and advantages of hiring ex-offenders. Companies are helping the offender to become a productive and tax paying members of society.

Staff from SCI Schuylkill who attended the fair were very impressed with our vocational automotive program and returned to SCI Mahanoy on November 10th with their warden to observe it.

Our mission is to help educate and prepare offenders for successful transition back to their families and re-entry to the diverse and ever-changing world. Our job fair is just one way we can help to increase public safety, improve the health of the community, sustain families and improve the welfare of children and lower costly criminal justice expenses.



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Wernersville CCC Names EOQs

Wernersville Community Corrections Center (CCC) recently named its employee of the quarter (EOQ) for both the 3rd and 4th quarters of this year. The employees are:

Center Monitor Patrick Doyle

Doyle was selected as EOQ due to his positive attitude, commitment to excellence and willingness to lead by example. He has been employed by the DOC since January 2015. In his short time with the DOC, he can be counted to go that extra mile, is patient, takes the time to teach and learn new tasks, comes to work with an open mind, and is well respected by his fellow coworkers.



Center Monitor Joseph Kieffer



Kieffer was selected as EOQ due to his positive attitude, commitment to excellence and willingness to lead by example. He started his career in 2012 at Wernersville CCC. In that time Kieffer has proven to be an exemplary employee. He can be counted on to go above and beyond at all times. He is seen as a resource to new staff and has no problem going out of his way to show other employees the ropes on 10-6. He is well respected by his fellow coworkers and is a die-hard Philadelphia Eagles fan!

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Week of Nov. 9...

Wilkes University Students Visit SCI Retreat

On November 10, 2015, Superintendent Theresa DelBalso welcomed 10 criminology students from Wilkes University. The students had the opportunity to tour some areas of the institution, talk with staff regarding their job classifications in corrections, and also they had the opportunity to meet three inmates. According to their professor, Dr. Craig Wiernik, being able to talk with the inmates and being able to ask them questions, was the highlight of their visit.



Wilkes University students listen to Unit Manager John Ciocca as he explains the unit management team responsibilities with the inmates on his housing unit. Drug/Alcohol Treatment Specialist Supervisor Jeff Dengler was a staff escort who provided the students with the normal daily routine of SCI Retreat.

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Retreat Holds Employee Symposium

On November 5, 2015, SCI Retreat's Empowerment Committee held an Employee Symposium. About 45 employees were present, and there were four guest speakers. Regional Deputy Secretary Michael Wenerowicz opened the symposium by welcoming the employees of SCI Retreat. Sergeant Eric Kosakowski then followed with a presentation about Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT), and Lieutenant Jim Cragle gave a presentation about Fire Emergency Response Team (FERT). Presenters from outside agencies included Michalle White, L.P.C., who addressed the group about employee wellness and stress in the workplace. The symposium's closing presentation was from the Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services Inc. Representatives Cammie Anderson and Kori Britton talked about current drug trends in the community.



Michalle White, L.P.C, addresses vthe group.



Wayne Inniss asks questions during presentation as Ed Gower (left) and Joe Deluca (right) listen.



What a Team Retreat makes with Pam Smith, Laurie Golubieski, Charlie Maculloch, and Dave Baratta.



Kristen Nardone and Tara Hoey pose for a picture.



The presence of John Ciocca and Jane Kabuiku brightened up the symposium.

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Somerset Employees Donate to Veterans

This picture shows some of the supplies donated b SCI Somerset employees to The Homeless Veterans Program.



In addition to supplies, \$600 was donated.

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Huntingdon Honors Veterans

SCI Huntingdon's bakery produced these cakes to honor our veterans on Veterans' Day. Staff will have the opportunity to enjoy the cakes during their meal times.



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Pine Grove Honors Veterans

The SCI Pine Grove's Employees Association (EA) honored veterans on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, with special guest speakers Colonel Douglas Lengenfelder (Retired USAF) and SCI Pine Grove's Records Specialist Jeffrey D. Kaylor (Deputy Commander 20th District Dept. of Pennsylvania America Legion).

Also attending were VFW Department Service Officer, VA Veterans Service Officer, 21st District Commander Pennsylvania American Legion – Andy Stowell and Indiana County Veterans Affairs – Brenda Stormer.



The EA is selling poppies for \$1 each and hanging them in the hallway. All proceeds will go to the Indiana County Veterans Relief fund. Pictured is Leslie Bradley CT3.

Andy Stowell –
Colonel Lengenfelder
– Jeff Kaylor – Brenda
Stormer

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SCI Greene Holds Citizen's Liaison Committee Meeting & Legislative Open House

SCI Greene held its Citizen's Liaison Committee Meeting and Legislative Open House on November 6, 2015. The attendees are pictured here with the facility superintendent and major of unit management.



From left to right: Major Dan Caro; Joy Eggleston; Nate Regotti; Blair Zimmerman; Senator Camera Bartolotta; Superintendent Robert Gilmore; Representative Pam Snyder; Bruce Shipe; Loreen Bencie; Jeff McCracken; and Rudy Marisa.

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Riverside CCC Collects for Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

Because the month of October was Domestic Violence Awareness, Riverside Community Corrections Center (CCC) residents and employees collected for the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh.

Founded in 1974, the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh (WC&S) was one of the first six shelters in the United States for battered women. Since that time, WC&S has been at the forefront of the Battered Women's Movement, creating and implementing innovative and effective programming aimed at preventing domestic violence and providing services to domestic violence victims. Each year, WC&S serves nearly 7,000 individuals through their programs and services.

As you can see from the pictures, Riverside CCC residents and employees collected and donated items deemed to be essential WC&S, such as: diapers, women's undergarments, winter gloves, hygiene products, cookware and gift cards. The gift cards alone totaled more than \$160.

"This is the second year in the row that Riverside CCC has contributed to the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh during Domestic Violence/Abuse Awareness Month (October)," Corrections Counselor Daniel Coulehan said. "We will continue to lend our services and generosity to such a great cause."



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Honoring Veterans

On November 5, 2015, SCI Frackville held its Veteran's Day Ceremony, and this image was part of the program for the day's events.

The event honored the 200-plus past and present military veterans that represent this proud institution and all DOC veterans and their families for their service.

Veteran's Day is truly about remembering America's veterans who have been willing to risk all so that others might continue to live in freedom.

This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.

We salute all of America's veterans!

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2015



This Veteran's Day, we honor those who have so bravely served this country.

America is founded on the principle of freedom, justice and liberty for all. Our nation's Armed Forces serve every day to protect our country and its ideals.

On this Veteran's Day, we take a sacred moment to remember those who sacrificed their lives every moment to achieve peace and democracy.



One-Day Conference about "Justice Involved" Veterans

On November 12, 2015, officials gathered for a one-day veterans conference held at Fort Indiantown Gap in Annville, Pa.

The conference -- "Honoring the Sacrifices Partnership to Support Justice Involved Veterans" -- was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the PA Department of Human Services, the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association (MASCA).

The purpose of the conference was to bring together state leaders, county partners and local veteran heroes to discuss challenges, strategies and opportunities to help the justice-involved veteran.

Speaking at today's event was Pennsylvania DOC Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal. She spoke about the DOC's veterans initiatives and the agency's work in establishing linkages to the community.

Honoring the Sacrifices

Partnering to Support Justice Involved Veterans
A Free One-day Conference
Thursday, November 12, 2015

Lunch Provided

Fort Indiantown Gap
National Guard Training Center
1 Garrison Road
Building 8-80
Annville, PA 17003

Registration: 8 a.m.
Program: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To register: <http://www.masca.us>
Click the "Veterans" tab to the right

Who Should Attend?

- Department of Corrections
- State & County Probation/Parole
- Criminal Justice Advisory Boards
- Pretrial Services
- Reentry Services
- Behavioral Health Providers
- Case Managers
- Law Enforcement
- Veterans Affairs Staff

Topics Include:
VA eligibility & Services, Trauma Treatment, Traumatic Brain Injury, Homelessness, & more!

Sponsored By:
The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency
The PA Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
The PA Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
The Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association

Logos for Pennsylvania Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, MASCA, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, and Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency are included at the bottom.

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Recognizing Our Veterans

Veterans of Graterford, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 466, commemorated all veterans on November 11th with a celebration for the 33rd year in a row.

Following the posting of the colors by the Color Guard, guest speakers included State Senator Daylin Leach, Judge Jeffrey Sprecher and former U.S. Senator and U.S. Navy three-star Admiral Joseph Sestak.

The event ended with the playing of Taps and a candle lighting ceremony in remembrance of those that have lost their lives.



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SCI Dallas Employees Attend Connecticut DOC Veterans Day Unit Dedication

On November 9, 2015, SCI Dallas Superintendent Lawrence Mahally, Unit Manager Bart Josefowicz and Counselor Frank DePiero (SCI Dallas Veterans Unit) attended the Connecticut DOC Veterans Services Unit Dedication at Cybulski Community Reintegration Center.

Numerous staff from the Connecticut DOC visited the SCI Dallas' Veterans Service Unit (VSU) in April 2015 to observe the operation of the unit and to acquire information and exchange ideas for implementing the first VSU in the Connecticut Department of Corrections.

During the dedication of the CT DOC unit, special acknowledgement and thank you was given to the PA DOC SCI Dallas Veterans Service Unit for serving as VSU advisors for CT DOC.



From left to right: SCI Dallas Corrections Counselor 2 Frank DePiero, Connecticut Commissioner of Corrections Scott Semple, SCI Dallas Supt. Lawrence Mahally, Connecticut Warden John Tarascio and SCI Dallas Unit Manager Bart Josefowicz.

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York CCC Residents Donate Food



Pictured here are the 104 food items the residents of the York Community Corrections Center residents donated to the York County Food Bank this month as part of the Thanksgiving food drive.

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Showing Support through Bowling

On October 25, 2015, Somerset County's law enforcement joined forces to participate in a bowling event where proceeds benefitted a county prison officer who has cancer.

Thirteen teams participated, with each playing three rounds of bowling. The event ended with SCI Laurel Highlands' team taking first place.

- 1st Place – SCI Laurel Highlands: 2743 pins: 56 strikes
- 2nd Place- Somerset County Jail A: 2615 pins: 57 strikes
- 3rd Place - Sheriff's Office: 2449 pins: 35 strikes
- 4th Place - Probation A: 2342 pins: 38 strikes
- 5th Place – PSP: 2145 pins: 36 strikes
- 6th Place - SCI Somerset: 2069 pins: 26 strikes
- 7th Place - District Attorney's Office: 1880 pins: 27 strikes
- 8th Place - Somerset County Jail B: 1868 pins: 39 strikes
- 9th Place - Dress to the Nines: 1824 pins: 31 strikes
- 10th Place - Somerset County Jail C: 1725 pins: 21 strikes
- 11th Place - Domestic Relations: 1687 pins: 20 strikes

12th Place - Probation C: 1665 pins: 22 strikes
13th Place - Probation B: 1580 pins: 16 strikes



SCI Laurel Highlands ~ 1st Place Team ~ from left to right: Karl Kist, Vickie Vish, Donna Platt, Gary Zankey, and Cary Latuch. Erin Kelley is missing from the team picture.

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Fayette Holds Memorial Service

On November 10th the employees of SCI Fayette participated in a Memorial Service for their veterans. Superintendent Jay Lane presented SCI Fayette's Honor Guard with a wreath to place beside the Memorial that was set in place several years ago. Deputy Superintendent Eric Armel and Chaplain Lewis presented the short program and conducted a moment of silence for those who served and for those who are currently serving.



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Week of November 2...

Governor Wolf Announces Million Dollar Federal Grant to Improve Prison Education System, Implement Career Pathways

(Nov. 6) – Governor Tom Wolf and Department of Corrections Secretary John Wetzel today announced the awarding of a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education to DOC. The DOC will use the grant funds to prioritize adult offenders aged 25 and younger who are medium to high risk of reoffending.

“In order to truly make our system fairer and less costly, we need to create opportunity for young offenders to keep them from re-entering the system,” Governor Wolf said. “These funds will help Secretary Wetzel and Department of Corrections to bolster their efforts to reduce recidivism and prepare offenders for the world outside their walls.”

One of nine awardees nationwide and the only state corrections entity to receive the *Improved Reentry Education* award, the \$1,084,522 grant covers a three-year period and is the largest single grant DOC has ever received. Ninety percent of the grant -- \$976,301-- is direct federal money, and DOC is matching that with \$108,221 of in-kind funds



“We are extremely excited with the prospects that this grant offers our agency and our offenders,” Secretary Wetzel said. “We plan to partner with a number of agencies and organizations and use their input along with the federal funds to restructure the delivery of educational, training and workforce programs to prepare offenders to have the skills and abilities to obtain and retain employment once released.”

Wetzel noted that the goal is to address the issue of underemployment for ex-



offenders and to bridge the gap between prison and community-based education and training programs post incarceration.

“Education can be the one true equalizer, and with the growing focus on the improving people’s transition from prison to their communities, providing knowledge and skills will ensure our neighbors’ transition back to our

communities prepared to contribute to the commonwealth and themselves. This initiative means Pennsylvania can set the standard,” Pedro A. Rivera said.

This grant will allow the DOC to reengineer how it assesses offenders and will provide the tools to help set offenders up for success.

“Ninety percent of state prison offenders return home. With help from this grant, the DOC now will work to incorporate a career pathways approach through better program delivery and assessment of offender education levels, skills and career interests. That assessment will help us to enter offenders into programs that are geared toward careers that best suit those levels and skills and that also meet employers’ recruiting needs,” Wetzel said.

“We need to provide offenders with the education and skills that fit the employer needs in the communities to which they will return after prison,” said PA Department of Labor & Industry Secretary Kathy Manderino. “Helping them to gain and maintain employment is in everyone’s best interest. We look forward to continuing our cooperative relationship with the Department of Corrections and are excited by this new opportunity to positively impact public safety.”

Partnering with state agencies, higher education institutions such as community colleges and universities, local workforce development boards, employers/labor management and criminal justice representatives, the DOC expects the following outcomes:

- Improved integration and quality of corrections education services.
- Decreased overall recidivism rates.
- Increased education and industry recognized credential attainment for DOC students.
- Increased employment placement and retention for state offenders.
- Increased earning potential for ex-offenders allowing for a continued payment by them of court costs, fines and restitution.

- Establish a continuum of education that promotes in-reach and transitional support into the community.

According to Wetzel work in this area is necessary because:

- 42 percent of state offenders have completed less than 12th grade education.
- Average reading levels for male offenders is slightly below 8th grade; and for female offenders it is slightly below 9th grade.
- 81 percent of state offenders report as having no skills/being unskilled.
- 73 percent of offenders aged 25 and under will most likely be re-arrested or re-incarcerated within three years from time of release.
- 1 in 28 adult Pennsylvania citizens are either incarcerated in a state prison or county jail or are under some form of supervision (probation & parole).

“We have always said that the more educated an individual is, the less likely he or she is to reoffend or commit new crimes. That is the goal of this agency, to help offenders change their ways so they don’t commit new crimes. Education is a component of this important recidivism reduction strategy,” Wetzel said.

Reengineering the DOC’s education system involves developing an assessment system at the front end that will evaluate each offender’s aptitude, interest and ability and then will use all that information to create an individualized plan to help the offender to have a successful career after release from prison. Wetzel said that this work will involve an advisory board of experts in the areas of higher education and businesses that will help guide DOC officials in this area.



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The DOC’s Current Educational Offerings...

Adult Education**Commonwealth Secondary
Diploma****Special
Education**

Albion	Coal Township	Camp Hill
Benner	Dallas	Coal Township
Cambridge Springs	Forest	Forest
Camp Hill	Houtzdale	Houtzdale
Chester	Muncy	Muncy
Fayette	Pine Grove	Pine Grove
Frackville	Retreat	Quehanna Boot Camp
Graterford	Somerset	Retreat
Greene		Somerset
Huntingdon		
Laurel Highlands		
Mahanoy		
Mercer		
Pittsburgh		
Quehanna Boot Camp		
Rockview		
Smithfield		
Waymart		

Special Education Placement Programs are provided at the following facilities: Coal Township, Dallas, Forest, Houtzdale, Muncy, Pine Grove, Somerset and Retreat.

Specialized Sites that offer special education are Camp Hill and Quehanna Boot Camp.

Current Vocational Education Programs...

Bureau of Correction Education

Vocational Education Programs: Report 3-27-15

	ALB	BEN	CBS	CAM	CHS	COA	DAL	FYI	FRS	FRA	GRA	GRN	HOU	HUN	LAU	MAH	MER	MUN	PNG	PHI	QUE	RET	ROC	SMI	SMR	WAM	Total
Auto Mechanics/Technology						BC			C							C	C					1					5
Barber/Cosmo	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C	C	C	C			C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C			20
Bus Ed	Q	FQ	Q	Q		Q	Q	Q		FQ					FQ	Q	Q		Q		Q		F	Q	FQ		17
CADD					G		F					G						1	1							5	
Carpentry				D			DW			D			D		D				D						D	DW	8
Compt RPTech	1																									1	
Cons Ctr					DRW	DAW		D		D	DA					DW							D	D		9	
Custodial Maintenance	DUA	DU	DUAW					DUW	DUW	A			UA				DUAW	DUW		DA	DAUW			DUA		12	
Electricity (Electrician)		DW						D				D									DW		D			5	
Electronics					DJV				DJW			D		DJSV	DJWF												5
Home Economics																	O										1
Hort/Landscaping						F																					1
HVAC				PH	DAW	DHMA		DMXA	DMA		DXAW							DMAW					DAW	DA		9	
Machine Shop																	UV										1
Masonry								D														D					2
Optical Assistant			Z																								1
Plumbing		DA																							DA	2	
Print				L									L													FL	3
Restaurant Trades			O																							FO	2
Warehouse Operations	KWY									KWY		KY	KY		KY												5
Welding					DT	DT																D					3
Trade Certificates %	97%																										
Trade Certificates	4	5	4	5	3	6	5	6	7	4	4	3	6	5	3	6	4	5	3	4	1	2	6	4	4	4	113
Voc Programs / SCI	5	5	4	5	3	6	5	6	7	4	4	3	6	5	3	6	4	6	4	4	1	3	6	4	4	4	117

CERTIFICATIONS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Ward Flex B Mobile Air Conditioning Society (MACS) C State Licensure D National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER) E Certified Braille Transcribers thru Library of Congress F National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) G American Drafters Designers Association (ADDA) H ESCO (1-11) I Fluke Multimeter J Electronics Technicians Association (ETA) K Eastern Forklift Company Certification L Printing Industries of America-Graphic Arts Tech Foundation (PIAGATF) M Environmental Protection Agency Refrigerant Handling & Removal (EPA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) O ServSafe Hazard Analysis/Critical Control Point/Serving Safe Food Certification Course P Geothermal - Ferris State University Q International Computer Driving License (ICDL) R Cooper Bussman Electrical Safety S Federal Communications Commission (FCC) T American Welding Society U Technical Publishing Company (TPC), Telemedia Corporated V Fiber Optics W Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) X EPA Section 608/609/610/410 Technician Certification Y Material Handling Industry of America (MHIA) Z American Board of Opticianry 1 No Nat/Trade Cert. |
|---|--|

Updated 3/27/15

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Providing Info to New Leaders

Currently, 20 newly-appointed deputy superintendents and superintendents are attending training at the Department of Corrections' Training Academy in Elizabethtown, Pa.

Secretary of Corrections John Wetzel kicked-off the training by speaking about the value of leadership. Over the course of the next few days, each DOC Central Office bureau/office director will provide overviews of their areas in an effort to educate the new leaders about the various duties they perform and the assistance they provide to the facilities.

The training, which is offered periodically as new leaders are appointed to superintendent or deputy superintendent positions, is a great method of presenting the many facets of the department.



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Breast Cancer Awareness



The Department of Corrections Training Academy employees recently honored Breast Cancer Awareness month by wearing pink. All training participants and staff were encouraged to wear pink in support of those that are fighting or have fought as well as families that have lost someone to breast cancer. The training participants and staff have also been collecting money to be donated to Breast Cancer Awareness. The total collected to date is \$246.00. The collection will continue through the first week of November.



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Week of October 26...

Keeping Watch

On October 22, 2015, SCI Mercer's Critical Incident Manager Lt. James Cyphert, who is also a captain with the Volunteer Fire Department in Jamestown, Pa., took part in keeping watch over a steel beam from one of the towers of the World Trade Center.

Weighing 1,500 pounds and measuring 13 feet long, the beam was being transported by pickup truck and trailer from JFK airport in New York to its new home in Decatur, IL, where it will be the focal point of a 9/11 memorial.

The driver contacted the fire chief, asking if the beam could be kept at the fire department overnight. Fire Department Captain Cyphert had the truck pull into one of the fire truck bays so that the beam would not be disturbed overnight.

According to Captain Cyphert, local residents learned very quickly by Facebook and word of mouth that the 9/11 beam was at the fire department. Residents and local news media came to see the beam, to touch it, and to take pictures.

Pictured with Captain Cyphert is Fire Department Lieutenant Eric Dell, as they draped a US flag over the beam. Cyphert explained that every time the driver stops during the trip, a flag is draped over the beam as respect to the fallen victims of 9/11. The driver also had a large vinyl panel that was placed on the back of the trailer at each stop for visitors to sign. The panel will be incorporated into the Decatur 9/11 memorial.

The beam stayed overnight at the fire department and left the morning of October 23rd for the next leg of its journey. Captain Cyphert stated that taking part in this 9/11 beam's journey to its new home in Illinois was a once-in-a-lifetime privilege.

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Retreat Holds Graduation Ceremony

SCI Retreat held its annual Graduation Ceremony on October 28, 2015, in the gymnasium. Twenty-six inmates participated in the event, where 15 inmates received various vocational certificates, and 31 inmates earned their scholastic diplomas including one inmate who earned his doctorate.

Also in attendance were 22 family members and/or friends of the inmates, the prison's education faculty and several prison employees.

Guest Speaker was Dr. Marie Andreoli, who earned her doctorate in psychology.



Above: Dr. Marie Andreoli addresses the graduates.

Left: Superintendent Theresa DelBalso and Principal Berger administer the awards.

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“Calling Audibles”

Recently, DOC Secretary John Wetzel participated in a leadership event sponsored by “Governing Magazine.”

At the event, held in Camp Hill, Pa., was the first-ever Pennsylvania Leadership Forum. Open to public sector employees and free for them to attend, the event brought together leaders and experts from around the nation and across Pennsylvania to discuss the visionary and practical aspects of leadership. At the event the sharing of current issues facing Pennsylvania were reviewed. Best practices and innovative strategies to address current challenges were provided as well.



The agenda included a number of individuals from public and private organizations who spoke about leadership issues such as:

- how society can work better for more people
- transforming the Commonwealth for the 21st Century
- outcome-focused health and human services
- getting the financial house in order
- economic development and community revitalization
- public private partnerships
- innovation to transform government
- managing the 21st century public workforce
- digital demands on businesses

Speakers included local, state and federal government officials, consultants, attorneys and representatives from private organizations and companies.

Wetzel delivered the closing keynote speech about leadership game planning and what he refers to as “calling audibles.”

Wetzel, who is a former college football player, former semi-professional player and college offensive coach, used football analogies to describe leadership challenges. He spoke of how a quarterback is the leader of the team on the field during the game.

"They have a plan for their team," Wetzel said. "But when it's time to execute 'Plan A,' the quarterback can recognize signs that the play may not work. As a result he calls and audible – (Check! Check!) Sending an audible signals to his team that he's changed his mind and that now he's leading the team to use 'Plan B,'" Wetzel said.

Wetzel spoke of how everyone does this every day, whether they realize it or not.

"As leaders we have to have more than one play in our play book, because what you may think it the one way to do something may not necessarily be the right or only way and you may have to change your plan," he said.

He put this into perspective when he spoke of the plan that was used when the DOC decided to announce its closing of two prisons several years ago.

"It was a bad play, and I should have called for a different play," he said. "I didn't and I am sorry that I didn't."

He told participants that everyone, as leaders, needs to "read the field" and do what's best for employees and be flexible enough to change the plan on a moment's notice.

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Release of Federal Inmates

On Monday, November 2, 2015, NPR's "Morning Edition" will include an interview with DOC Secretary John Wetzel. During the interview, Secretary Wetzel discusses how communities will be affected by the release of federal inmates and how they need to prepare for their return.

Check for local stations or listen at www.npr.org

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Career/Reentry Fair Held

On Thursday, October 22, 2015, all 513 State Intermediate Punishment and Boot Camp inmates at Quehanna Boot Camp participated in a Career/Reentry Fair, which was held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the facility's gymnasium.

Participating agencies included: Penn State Cooperative Extension, FiberOptic.com, National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Veteran's Affairs, Lowe's, AmeriHealth, Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC), Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and Westmoreland County Community College.



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Pennsylvania Department of Corrections mailroom employees play an important role in keeping contraband items, including drugs, out of our prisons – which makes our prisons safer for the inmates who live in them and the employees who work in them.

In recent years, officials have seen increasingly clever ways people have tried to send drugs to inmates using the mail system.

Without going into specifics and risking security, DOC officials have decided that – **beginning November 1, 2015** – greeting cards that arrive in colored envelopes no longer will be accepted/permitted as part of incoming inmate mail.

Only white envelopes will be permitted.

Any greeting cards received in colored envelopes will be stamped "Unacceptable mail" and returned to sender.

The DOC will continue to monitor and track the use of greeting cards as instruments used to introduce contraband for the next several months.

Should greeting cards continue to be used to introduce contraband, ALL greeting cards WILL be banned.

The DOC understands the benefits of family support and contact and the use of cards to send well wishes; however the safety and security of staff and inmates must be a priority at all times.

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Week of Oct. 19...

Continuing Networking Efforts

Graterford's superintendent, Cynthia Link, recently organized a dinner in King of Prussia for participants of the 2014 Women Working in Corrections and Juvenile Justice. Female staff from Graterford and Chester were invited to the event in an effort to continue the networking and the support established at the conference last year, in Pittsburgh. The affair was attended by more than 30 women.

The next WWICJJ conference will be held in Louisville, Kentucky in 2016.



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Quehanna Boot Camp Holds Apprenticeship Day for Offenders

The Quehanna Boot Camp, in conjunction with the Builders Guild of Western PA and members of the Western Pennsylvania Joint Apprenticeship Training Centers (JATC), held an Apprenticeship Day event on Thursday, October 15, 2015, for the nearly 500 male and female offenders incarcerated at the Quehanna Boot Camp in the State Intermediate Punishment and Boot Camp programs.

Throughout the course of the day, representatives from the Builders Guild of Western PA, Ironworkers Local #3, Bricklayers Local #9, Cement Masons Local #526, Western PA Laborers Union, IBEW Local #5, Steamfitters Local #449, Sheet Metal Workers Local #12, Roofers Local #37 and Carpenters Training Center gave brief presentations on career paths and opportunities in the union building and construction trades industry. Offenders then had an opportunity to stop at each union's table to obtain additional information and applications.

The Apprenticeship Day event is part of Quehanna Boot Camp's reentry initiative to assist offenders with obtaining meaningful careers upon their release.



Jason Fincke, executive director of the Builders Guild of Western PA, discusses career opportunities and expectations with Quehanna Boot Camp offenders during Apprenticeship Day event on October 15, 2015.

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Graterford Goes Pink



Thanks to the efforts of Officer Barbara Davis and Marcia Roberts, SCI Graterford was raising awareness in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

During the week of October 19th, employees were permitted to wear pink ties, t-shirts, wrist bands, pins and ribbons. Raffles were held; wrist bands, pins, key chains and pink ribbons were offered for donations.

Food Service staff decorated the Staff Dining Room with pink tablecloths and centerpieces. A special cake and other baked treats were prepared for staff enjoyment. Representatives from various cancer and breast cancer organizations were distributing pamphlets.



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SCI Coal Township Employees Donate to Local Food Pantry

SCI Coal Township recently held its annual food drive to benefit Manna for the Many, located in Shamokin. Various food items were delivered to Manna on October 22.

Manna for the Many is a local food pantry established through the Shamokin Area Ministerium to serve those in need in the Shamokin/Coal Township area. Manna opened its doors in 2000 and is supported entirely by private donations and staffed solely by volunteers.

Pictured with some of the donated items are SCI Coal Township employees Amie Newman and Meagan Zarkoskie.



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Confer Named EOQ for 3rd Quarter

Kyle Confer, RN/ICN was recognized as SCI Coal Township's Employee of the Quarter for the Third Quarter 2015.

Kyle was nominated by his fellow employees.

Recently Kyle came to the aid of a staff member by restraining an inmate who was assaulting her. His dedication, selflessness and quick reaction prevented a more serious incident from occurring.

Kyle displayed a positive attitude and proficiency in the after-care and treatment of this individual. He is committed to ensuring a safe work environment for all staff.

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Donations for the "Treasure Chest"

In September, SCI Fayette employees participated in a book drive for children receiving treatment at Children's Hospital (Pittsburgh) Oncology Department. The 163 books were placed in the Oncology Department's "Treasure Chest." Staff and Doctors often encourage and/or reward their patients with a special gift (from donations) for being so strong and courageous during their treatment. The book donations were made in honor of Kendal Skrobacz who is currently receiving treatment there. Kendal is the daughter of Corrections Officer 1 J.E. Skrobacz.



Individuals in the photos are Lt. Parker, Captain Walker and Unit Manager Buzas.

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PA DOC Hosts Multi-Agency K-9 Training

From Oct. 14-16, 2015, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections officials, in cooperation with Pennsylvania Police work dog Association and the North American Police Work Dog Association, hosted a specialized training for 65 K-9 team members from up and down the east coast and two officers from California.

Co-sponsored by the North American Police Work Dog Association, the training focused on narcotics, cell phone and explosives detection, along with police work.

Held at the DOC's Training Academy, located in Elizabethtown, the 24-hour training involved trainers from Pennsylvania, California, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Virginia and New York.

"This is the second year for this training, where we work to give back to our communities by sharing training skills that are used to improve overall public safety," said Capt. D. Scott VanGorder, who is in charge of the PA DOC's Drug Interdiction Unit.



Open to corrections and law enforcement from across the nation, the training included patrol dog/utility training, as well as search and detection of drugs, cell phones and explosives hidden in Training Academy buildings and vehicles that were towed to the academy specifically for use in the training. Officials also offered continuing education classes on ligament and joint health, as well as K-9 nutrition.

"We appreciate Training Academy officials allowing us the use of their facilities for this training," VanGorder said. "The various buildings provide for a real life training environment, which helps dogs to hone their skills."

VanGorder said he believed the training went extremely well. It allowed 28 teams to achieve their required annual certifications and other teams to enhance their problem-solving techniques.

The PA DOC's Drug Interdiction Unit was begun in 1995. Since then the unit has grown to include 21 drug teams and three cell-phone detection teams. In addition to working to keep drugs and contraband out of Pennsylvania's state prisons, VanGorder has trained and assisted the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the New York City Department of Corrections with their policies, trainings and lesson plans where the use of K-9 teams in and around prison environments are concerned.



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Perusing Prison Passages

Ensuring the Security of Underground Tunnels

By Susan McNaughton

The June 6, 2015, escape of two inmates from the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, NY, resulted in one of the largest manhunts in recent history. A variety of things combined to allow the escape to happen – staff smuggling items into the prison, alleged fraternization, policy deficiencies, accountability issues and so much more. The New York escape sent a wave throughout the state DOCs. Everyone was reviewing their prison structures, especially their tunnels.

Here in Pennsylvania, Secretary John Wetzel and Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal, along with their regional deputy secretaries, immediately sent notice to their superintendents to ensure review of a number of areas that helped the escape to happen. And they also sent specific direction to prisons with tunnels... inspect your tunnels!

As prison employees, many of you have heard stories about tunnels under your prisons. Not all prisons have them, but some, especially the older ones, do. Not many prison employees have the authority to go into the tunnels, but some do. And those that do did so immediately upon receiving the direction from Central Office.

Some of our prisons have tunnels because they are former state hospitals and as such, the tunnels were used to move patients from

one part of the hospital to another without having to take them outside during inclement weather. Other prisons have what some may consider to be more like basements with huge rooms connected by huge tunnels that are more like large, concrete hallways that could accommodate small vehicles. Others, especially at some of our prisons that were built prior to the 1900s have *Tunnels*... you know, the kind you dream about or see in movies. They are dark, hot and made of old stone. They are so small that you can't stand in them, and they have water dripping down the walls or pooled under pipe connections.



At SCI Huntingdon, only one of their cellblocks has a "basement." Here you can see the original foundation. This is technically more of a basement walkway than a tunnel system, which the prison has elsewhere.



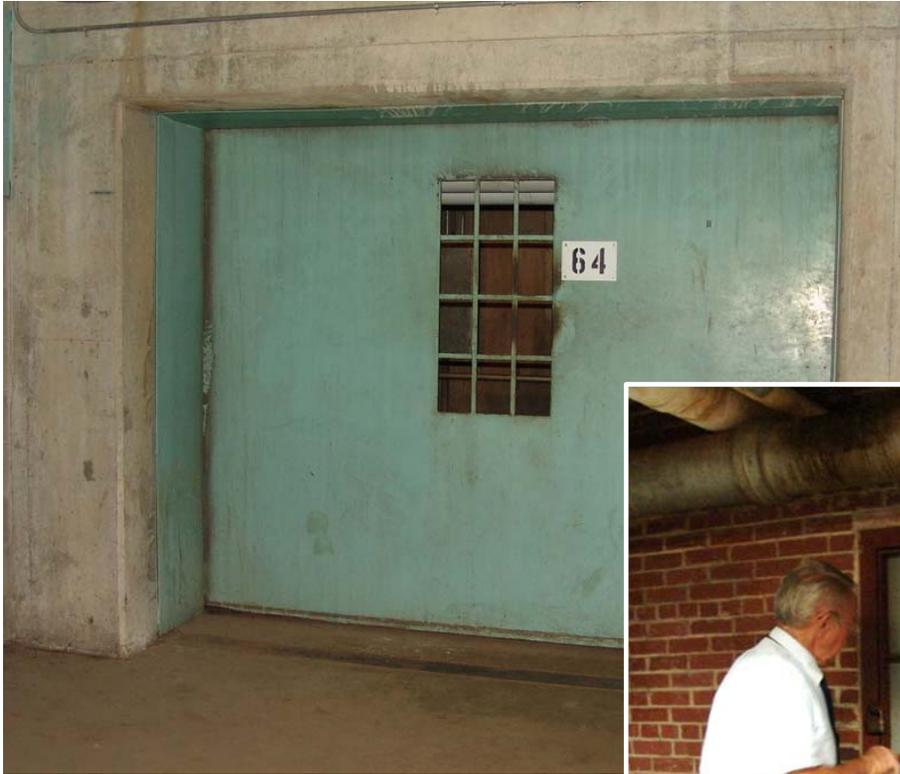
Above: SCI Dallas's Facility Maintenance Manager 2 stands next to a pipe to help show its size.

Right: A tunnel at SCI Huntingdon. Throughout most of the tunnel system, you must crouch.



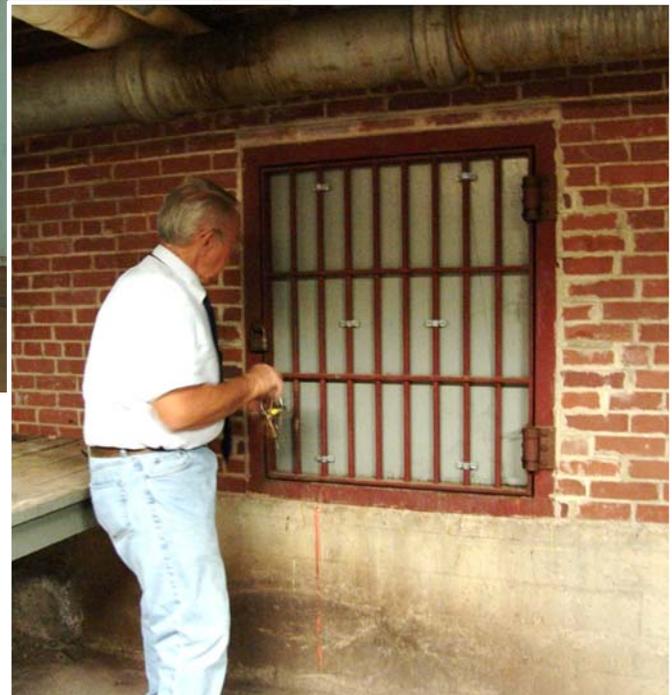
Tunnels are used mostly to move steam, water, electricity and sewage from one part of the prison to another.

All of our tunnels have a great amount of security built into them, even those that are old. There are so many gates and doors and locks that while an inmate could get into a tunnel, they would be extremely limited as to where they could go within the entire tunnel structure, making escape to the outside world from the tunnels very difficult.



Above: A huge door in the tunnel area at SCI Dallas.

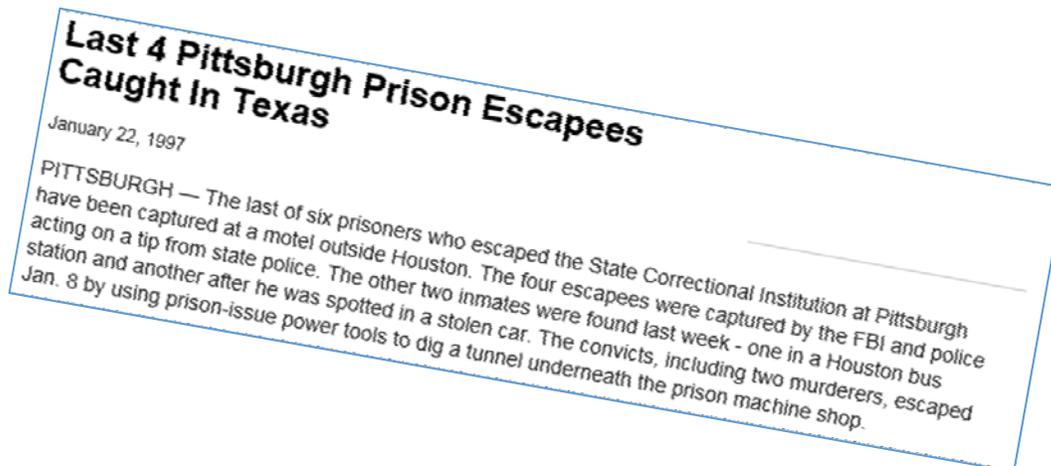
Right: Huntingdon's Facility Maintenance Manager Bruce Ewell opens the access door to the tunnel.



Obviously, due to security concerns, we can't give you all of the details, but what citizens should know is that we have reviewed our tunnels and continue to review them on a regular basis and that we have a great amount of security protecting our tunnels.

While the escape in New York was an unfortunate situation for them, many used it as a learning experience.

And while most employees may not ever get to tour one of our prison tunnels, if you spend enough time working at a prison with tunnels, you will become familiar with the sounds that come from the tunnels – sounds made from steam or water moving through the pipes. But if you ever hear a sound with which you are not familiar, make sure to report it. Unfamiliar sounds could mean that something is going on that needs to be checked.



If you recall our own history, we experienced an escape from SCI Pittsburgh that was similar to the one in New York. In 1997, six inmates, who had spent a great deal of time tunneling under the wall of the prison that was opened in 1882, was a wake-up call for our DOC. Investigations revealed issues with tool control, inmate movement and accountability, inmate clothing, blueprint control and more. In the end, everyone was recaptured, with the final four caught in a hotel in Texas. And, eventually, the tunnel they had dug, was filled with concrete.

Stay vigilant.



This photo was taken from a doorway from the Dallas tunnel. As you can see, it is still within the perimeter of the prison; however, the door cannot be opened without a key.

Interesting Facts Learned While Researching the Article:

-- 10 of the state's 27 prisons have tunnels; 3 of those prisons (Laurel Highlands, Retreat and Waymart) are former state hospitals.



A tunnel at SCI Waymart, formerly Farview State Hospital

- Why aren't tunnels included in modern-day designs of prisons? For several reasons. One is the cost – they are costly to construct. Another reason is because the tunnels run to/from boiler plants that mostly are located outside of the prison perimeter and could provide a direct route out of the prison. Finally, direct burial or double wall pipe was invented. Using that was cheaper and easier to use for the purpose of steam/utility distribution; thus, the need for tunnels was greatly reduced.

- SCI Huntingdon was built before indoor plumbing existed. In fact, huge tanks of water were maintained on the top of the cell blocks that were used once or twice each day to flush inmate toilets all at once.

- Part of Huntingdon's underground tunnel system serves to provide fresh air to inmate cells while removing used air out of the prison. An elaborate system using flues brings fresh air into each cell via an individual air conduit. This system is still in use today.



The flues as seen from an exercise yard

- Underneath SCI Huntingdon, near the locked doorway to enter the tunnels, is an area where it looks as though time has stood still. Here is where the parts area was operated. Each part had its own location, and the operated this area needed no paperwork to keep track... he knew where every individual part was kept.



- SCI Pittsburgh's superintendent and deputies tour the prison's tunnels. The prison is situated along the Ohio River and has flooded many, many times since its construction.



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Education Brings Opportunity

On October 14, 2015, SCI Greene held a graduation ceremony, where the prison's Education Department recognized 64 inmate graduates for their education accomplishments.

This year's graduation theme was "Change Brings Opportunity."

A total of 21 family members from across the state attended the ceremony.



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Week of Oct. 13...

Saving Lives During an Epidemic

By Susan McNaughton ~ October 2015

The heroin epidemic has reached crisis levels in our communities across our nation, and it also reaches into our community corrections centers (CCCs).

Realizing that our center staff faced the potential of dealing with heroin overdoses, and also realizing that time is of the essence when it comes to saving the life of such a person, DOC officials in May 2015 made the decision to provide each DOC-run center with Naloxone and required each contracted center to do the same. All CCC employees completed their web-based training that focused on the administration of the drug, and by May 26, the drug was in place at each center and was ready for use.

The placement of the life-saving medication in our centers is vital to helping offenders as they transition home from prison. Ninety percent of DOC offenders go home, and many have a variety of issues they have to overcome to be successful in that transition. Keeping them alive should they overdose on heroin is important. Many are still trying to overcome their addictions, and sometimes they slip up and take the drug while they are living in our centers. Should any of them overdose, we now have given this important tool to our staff.

"I liken it to the movement a few decades ago when people were working to place artificial external defibrillators (AEDs) everywhere," DOC Secretary John Wetzel said. "Today no one bats an eye when they see AEDs everywhere. They are vital in saving lives. So is this medication and its placement in our centers, where some people who are vulnerable to their addictions live while they return home from prison. It is simply the right thing to do."

Wetzel also pointed out that naloxone can be obtained by citizens from certain national drug store chains. In September, CVS announced that it was stocking naloxone on the shelves in stores in Pennsylvania and 11 other states. A prescription is not necessary. In 2014, a law allowed PA police officers, emergency response personnel and firefighters to carry the medication. Gov. Tom Wolf, also in September, encouraged all school districts to obtain the medication.

"This shows the seriousness of this epidemic," Wetzel said. "We need to place this medication everywhere that it can be used, and that includes our half-way houses."

Naloxone, also known as Narcan, is a medication that is used to reverse the effects of opioids especially in overdose. It is administered through the nose and works within several minutes. Sometimes multiple doses are required to prevent a fatal overdose. After its use, emergency follow-up care is required at a hospital.

At what cost to taxpayers?

The DOC pays its pharmacy contractor just more than \$33 for each 2mg/ml syringe that is used as a spray and another \$8.40 for each nasal atomizer.

"How can you put a price on saving someone's life," Wetzel asked. "To pay less than \$42 to save someone... that's well worth the expense."

To date, five offenders' lives were saved throughout the DOC's community corrections system thanks to the availability of the medication.

Within the past six months and as recent as in September, ADAPPT community corrections contract facility experienced two inmate overdoses that required the use of Naloxone.

Operations Manager/Security Director Christopher Lynn was there for both cases, but speaks mostly about the most-recent incident.

Center employees, while conducting routine security checks of the center, found a female resident lying on the floor.

"She had a bluish tint to her skin and was barely breathing and barely had a pulse," he said.

Christopher said she looked exactly how the computer-based training said a victim would look.

Christopher immediately jumped into action without even thinking. He took the syringe and the nasal atomizer out of their individual sterilized wrappers and immediately gave her the initial dose.

"She was on her side, so a lot of it came back out of her nose," he said.

Staff worked to reposition the resident and tilted her head back in order to administer a second dose of ½ of the syringe amount in each nostril.

"You could hear her trying to swallow," he said.

By the time the second dose was administered, EMT and police had arrived. After the second dose, she still was not coming around and a third dose was required and administered by the EMTs.

"After the third dose, you could feel her irregular heart beat become regular and her breathing improved," Chris said. "Eventually she became combative, because that's one of the things that happens with overdose patients when you give them this medication. But you realize that it's just their body's reaction, they aren't trying to assault you."

She was then immediately taken to the hospital for further treatment.

After treatment, the resident did return to the center and then was immediately sent to rehab for treatment. However, Christopher was able to ask her some questions. He said that she said she was scared and that she admitted to using heroin.

What advice would Chris give to anyone facing this type of situation?

"It is scary, but you have to remember that residents are people who have families," he said. "Don't second guess yourself. Do the training and then when faced with the situation just go with it... Don't think."

Christopher said the best advice he got from the EMT was this, "The drug won't hurt them, so just give it. You could save someone's life."

Christopher, who is from the Frackville, Pa., area and has several family members who work for the DOC, has worked in community corrections for five years, starting as a security monitor on second shift at Min-Sec Hazleton. He serves as the security director now at ADAPPT, which is located in Reading, Pa.

Another account of using the medication is provided to us by Harrisburg CCC Monitor Stephanie Pitts, who is the first DOC CCC employee on record as having provided the medication. Here is her account of that incident:

"On July 7, while working the metal detector, I was alerted by two offenders that there was a resident that was turning blue and unresponsive. After responding to the room, I found the offender, who was lying in a top bunk, not responsive and appeared to not be breathing.

After calling control and requesting staff assistance to the room, I checked his pulse which was almost non-existent, and he was making gurgling sounds. He was immediately carried off of the top bunk to the floor for safety precautions.

Recognizing the symptoms as a possible heroin overdose from training, I then quickly administered 2mg of Naloxone Hydrochloride into the offender's nostrils -- (1mg in each nostril). After administering the Naloxone, the offender began to get color back to his face and his pulse was getting stronger. Shortly after, EMS arrived and administered another dose of Naloxone. Once the second dose was given by the paramedics, the offender opened his eyes and began to vomit, becoming somewhat alert. He was then transported to the hospital where he stayed for three days before being released."

Pitts recalls that one of the paramedics mentioned to her that had the medication not been given when it was the offender would not have survived.

"That shows the importance of the medication," Pitts said. "Quick response and teamwork, along with Naloxone is what saved this offender's life. Had it not been for my coworkers responding quickly to assist, I'm not sure the outcome would have been the same."

Pitts, who has been a monitor at the center since May 2011, says that when it comes to someone's life at stake, you do what you can to help them.

"It's a scary situation to be a part of, but you do what you can in the moment and don't second guess yourself," she said.

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SCI Rockview Passes ACA Audit

Bellefonte, PA – Three American Correctional Association auditors from Florida, Massachusetts and Kentucky audited SCI Rockview on September 21-23, 2015.

The auditors reviewed all aspects of the operation including but not limited to: medical, education, mental health, safety/sanitation and the quality of life for all inmates.

SCI Rockview achieved 100 percent compliance on the 62 mandatory standards and 98.9 percent compliance on the 463 non-mandatory standards. SCI Rockview anticipates receiving their accredited status by January 2016.

“The results are outstanding considering we are a 100 year old facility,” said Superintendent Mark Garman. “This successful audit is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of the staff at SCI Rockview.”

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Reducing Violence at SCI Forest and Beyond

By the end of August 2014, officials at SCI Forest noticed that they had experienced an alarming increase in staff assaults and inmate fights/assaults. All of this culminated on August 23, 2014, when a violent staff assault happened.

Prison officials, led by Superintendent Michael Overmyer, decided that something had to change. And change happened.

A Violence Reduction Committee was established – comprised of all employee classifications – and was tasked with researching and developing what the prison called a violence reduction strategy for the prison. The committee’s mission – to reduce violence and promote a safe and secure facility for staff and inmates.

After basing their strategy on a Washington State DOC program that successfully reduced their violent acts by 50 percent two years after its implementation, Forest officials sought approval of their Violent Reduction Strategy from the PA DOC’s Central Office.

Upon approval, Forest employees called together various inmate group leaders or inmates who had influence over other inmates and explained the plan. Four “prohibited violent acts” were identified, and it was explained to the group what would happen each time such acts happened.

Officials had learned that the standard reaction to an incident of locking down the entire facility, searching the facility and sending the involved offenders to the restricted housing unit simply wasn’t effective any longer. Officials explained the immediate and focused response that would take place with every infraction that met the “prohibited violent acts.”

Those inmates went back to their prison communities and shared the message.

And in addition to swift, certain and meaningful consequences, the prison’s strategies included procedures for completing risk/need reviews and risk

minimization plans to help identify risk, needs and to collaborate with the offender to work toward goals to minimize the risk for future incidences of violent acts. This was in the form of programs specific to the risk issue and also took place in a step down unit to help transition the offender from disciplinary custody or long term administrative custody status to general population.

Since the Violence Reduction Strategy pilot was implemented at SCI Forest, there have been 21 prohibited violent acts that met the criteria as defined in the procedure and that generated an enhanced response that included locking the involved housing unit down for a period of 36 hours. This allowed the rest of the prison to continue its normal operation and places the punishment directly on the involved area and its offenders.

SCI Forest and DOC officials have reviewed a variety of statistics to see if the strategy is successful. Comparing January to August 2014 statistics to those of the same period for 2015, results show fewer misconducts for assaults, fighting and threatening employees. Overall for this period, the prison experienced a reduction in the number of extraordinary occurrences, from 349 in 2014 to 245 in 2015. Officials also see fewer employee and inmate medical incident/injury reports. In fact the number of employee reports decreased from 822 from January to July of 2014, to 536 for the same period in 2015.

These results are impressive, and people are taking notice.

"We have an impact on the violence in our facilities," DOC Secretary John Wetzel said. "SCI Forest's work in this area is proactive and it is good security work. It allows us to use our resources in a positive way that brings positive outcomes."

Wetzel said this impressive work conducted by Forest will be examined and considered by a DOC committee that is looking to reduce violence throughout the state prison system.

"Stay tuned. We've got a lot of good ideas coming our way," he said.

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Lane Appointed Acting Superintendent at SCI Fayette

Effective October 13, 2015, Jay Lane has been appointed to serve as acting superintendent at SCI Fayette.

Raised in Huntingdon County, Lane graduated from Tussey Mountain High School. He began his corrections career as a corrections officer in 1993 at SCI Graterford. Over the years, he rose through the officer ranks having served as sergeant, lieutenant, captain and major before being promoted as a deputy superintendent back at Graterford. In addition, he worked for four different deputy secretaries for the western region while serving as a staff assistant at the DOC's Central Office.

Lane returned to SCI Graterford in May 2010 as the deputy superintendent for centralized services (DSCS). He worked as the DSCS for approximately eight months and then was switched to the DSFM, a position he held for five years until recently returning, once again, to the position of DSCS.

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Wetzel and Graterford Inmates Interviewed

DOC Secretary John Wetzel was recently interviewed for a segment on mass incarceration on ASPIREist TV, a news magazine show aimed at millennials that will debut on MSNBC and the popular social media platform Flipboard in January. The show is dedicated to tackling important social issues in a way that not only informs but also motivates viewers to get involved in positive change.



In addition to Wetzel, several lifers were interviewed. Each discussed their age when they were convicted, what life is like in prison, whether there is hope for inmates sentenced to life – life in Pennsylvania is just that ... there is no parole for a life sentenced inmate.

Finally, an official with an inmate advocacy group visited with her brother, who is serving a sentence at Graterford. They

were interviewed as well about his childhood, his siblings who also are in prison and how he ended up in prison.

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Alex's Dad is in Prison

According to an article in Prison Legal News, Sesame Street now has a muppet character whose father is in prison.

Alex is part of Sesame Street's online teaching Kit, "Little Children, Big Challenges: Incarceration."

According to Sesame Street's website (www.sesamestreet.org), "The incarceration of a loved one can be very overwhelming for both children and caregivers. It can bring about big changes and transitions. In simple everyday ways, you can comfort your child and guide her through these tough moments. With your love and support she can get through anything that comes her way."

The website offers a number of kits to help children through a parent's incarceration.

PA DOC visiting rooms for several years have made the kits available in their visiting rooms.

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Week of Oct. 5...

Dallas Hosts Reentry Event

In October, SCI Dallas held its first ever reentry fair. Several outside agencies from surrounding counties were invited to participate. Each agency had a chance to speak and explain their services, and offenders then visited the tables to gather information and ask questions. General information about reentry and educational opportunities were also provided to the offenders.

The teaching staff set up displays of the various vocational offerings given to offenders and projects they have completed. The food service department contributed light refreshments, again highlighting the culinary skills offenders have obtained while at SCI Dallas.



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Run-a-thon Proceeds Donated to Charity

The annual SCI Fayette Run-a-thon was held on October 6th, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The entry fee was \$3 per inmate participant, and the prison also conducted a “pick-your-prize” auction to raise additional money for charity. A total of \$1,000 was donated to the inmate-selected charity – the Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA, from which four representatives attended the day’s event.

There were 194 inmate participants, 34 committee members and 12 institutional band members that were in attendance. Three employees participated all day with a few other staff members doing a few laps here and there throughout the day.

There was music playing all day by the institutional band and CDs when the band wasn’t playing. Gatorade and fruit was available all day for participants, and a bag lunch was provided at mid-day. All in all, the event was a success.



Pictured is SCI Fayette Activities Manager Jeff Bigam presenting a check to representatives from Domestic Violence Services.

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Bake Sale Benefits Local Food Bank

SCI Fayette's Activities Department held a bake sale August/September 2015, where inmates ordered items and items were purchased through the Grindstone Foodland.

Profits from the bake sale – a total of \$1,123.71 -- were donated to an inmate-selected charity -- the Fayette County Community Action Food Bank.

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Bloomsburg Fair

For the second year in a row, SCI Dallas' horticulture class instructor April Gromel entered some of her inmate students' items into the Bloomsburg Fair. One took second place in the creative floral design category, and the other took third place in the dried wreath category.



3rd Place, Dried Wreath Category

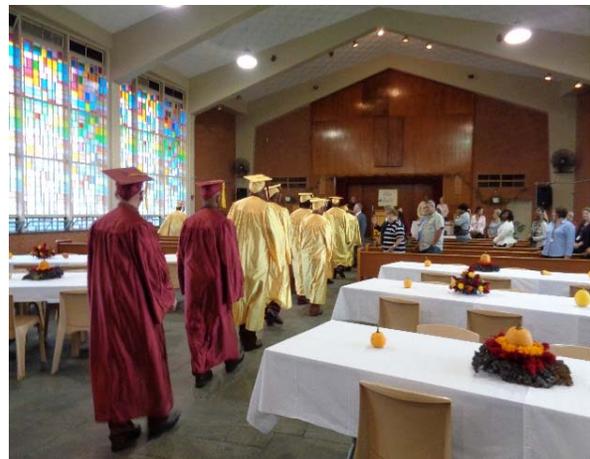


2nd Place, Creative Florial Design

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Dallas Holds Graduation Ceremony

SCI Dallas' Education Department held its 34TH annual graduation ceremony on September 30, 2015. There were a total of 38 inmate students acknowledged for their accomplishments, with 26 of these students attending the program. Six students received their GED diplomas; one of the 26 achieved his GED with honors and also was named valedictorian of the class; and three others earned their Commonwealth Secondary Diplomas. Included were 26 students earning vocational honors. Two were recognized for earning associate degrees from two local community colleges through correspondence courses.



Congratulating the graduates were speakers Superintendent Lawrence Mahally, Deputy Superintendent for Centralized Services Norm Demming, School Principal Karen Oliver-Rider, along with guest speaker Maxwell Brown, re-entry expert, motivational speaker and workshop leader. Many of the students' families and friends were in attendance to celebrate their achievements.

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Caring for Troubled/At Risk Youth

During the month of September 2015, Riverside Community Corrections Center (CCC) residents and employees collected items to donate to Familylinks. Familylinks operates a number of residential programs for youth ages 13-21 who are involved with the child welfare system or are homeless. On any given day, they have approximately 40 youth in their care, many of whom are struggling with the impact of abuse, neglect, domestic violence and other traumatic experiences. Providing vulnerable clients with opportunities to develop healthy ways to cope with their feelings is one of Familylinks' top priorities.

Riverside CCC donated items that could enhance coping skills and provide a relief for these at risk youth and adults. Art supplies, playing cards, board games and some winter clothing are just some of the goods Riverside CCC collected and donated to this noble organization.

"We look forward to continuing to work with Familylinks, as providing Riverside residents the opportunity to help those in need is another step closer towards change and successful reintegration," said Counselor 2 Dan Coulehan.



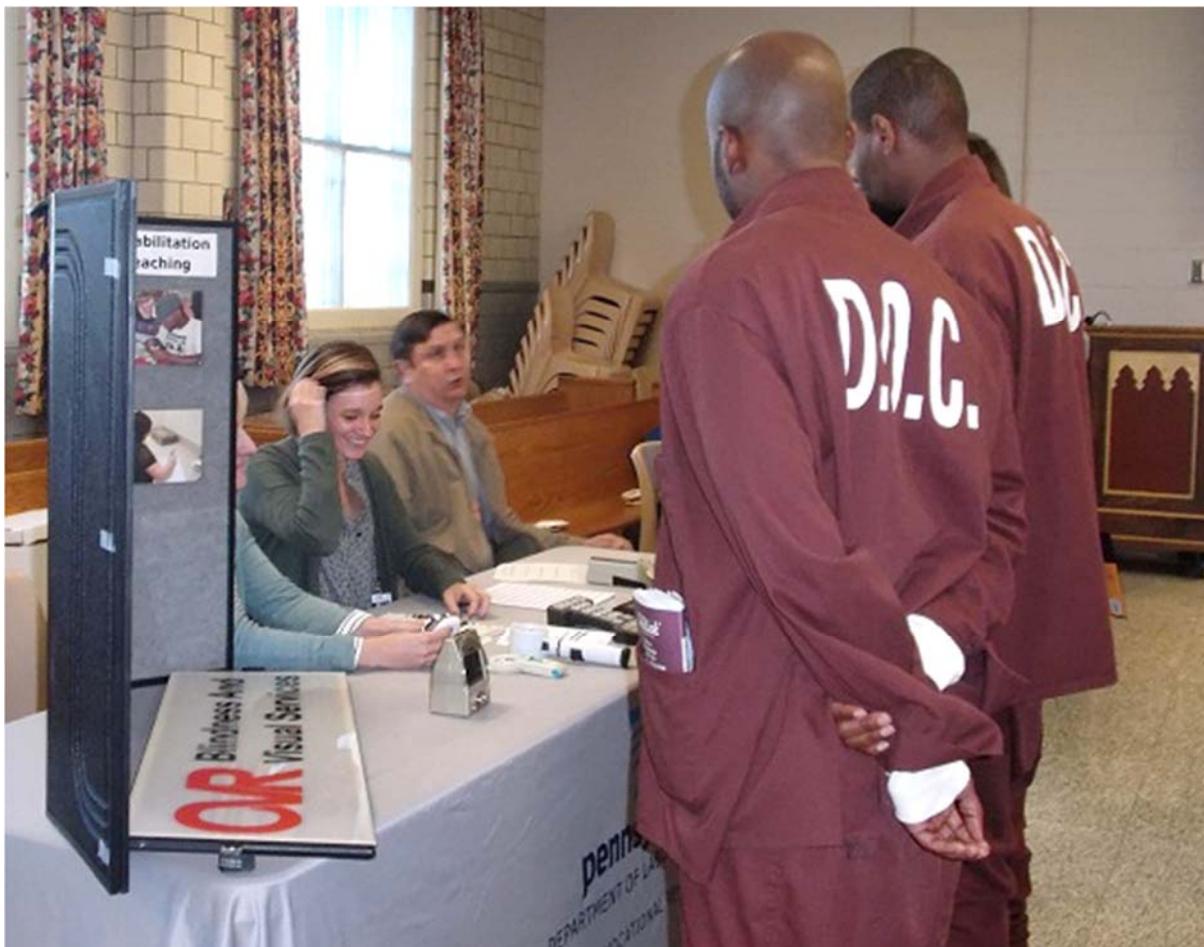
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Job Fair Held at Laurel Highlands

On Monday, October 5, 2015, SCI Laurel Highlands' Transitional Housing Unit (THU) and Education Department held its Annual Job/Career Fair.

This year more than 100 inmates attended the event and had the opportunity to gather information from vendors who voluntarily visited the institution such as OVR, CareerLink, Renewal Inc.'s GETPAID program, Williams Flagger Logistics, Healthcare Navigators and Mon Valley Initiative, to name a few.

Additional information from other resources/agencies was also provided to include Community Kitchen Pittsburgh, Trade Institute of Pittsburgh, Fair Shake and West Penn Rural Fair Housing. Mock job interviews and interviewing tips were provided throughout the event by members of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown's Criminal Justice Club.



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