

Correctional Newsfront

The official newsletter of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections



2018 News ~ January to March

Week of March 26...

SCI Mercer Celebrates Retirements

Last week SCI Mercer celebrated the retirements of three long-time employees who had a combined total of over 70 years of DOC experience and over 50 years of military service. Employees celebrated with each of the retirees by enjoying cake and snacks and sharing many great memories from their years of service to the Commonwealth.

Security Lieutenant Jimmy Arbogast began his 23-year DOC career at SCI Albion in June 1995. He then transferred to SCI Mercer in December 2008, was promoted to sergeant in December 2009, and lieutenant in September 2016. Lt. Arbogast retired from the Army National Guard as a Command Sergeant Major with 28 years. Arbogast is pictured with Capt. Jeffrey Wilson.



Giuseppe "Joe" Perrotta, Adult Basic Education and ESL teacher, began his DOC career in 1994 as a part-time evening ESL teacher for three years. He was then hired as the full-time ESL instructor in 1997, retiring with 21 years in that position. Joe is also a US Navy veteran, having served three years. Perrotta is pictured with School Principal James Oppman.

Registered Nurse Supervisor Patrick Quimby began his 23-year career with the DOC at SCI Mercer in March 1995. He also worked two years at the Torrance State Hospital. In addition, Pat served 20 years in the US Navy, retiring as Lieutenant Commander. Quimby is pictured with Deputy Supt. William Woods.



These exemplary employees, who displayed professionalism and dedication to their positions, each will be truly missed.

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to each retiree for a happy and healthy retirement.

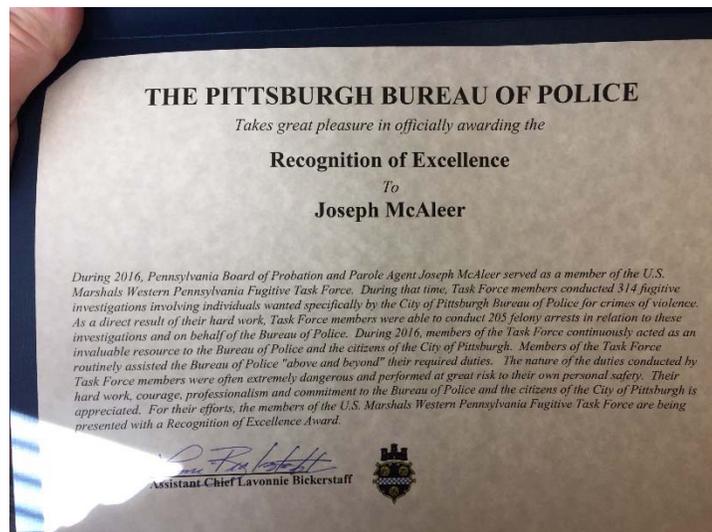
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FAST Agents Recognized for Excellence

On March 26, Fugitive Apprehension and Search Team (FAST) Agents Joseph McAleer and Geoffrey Long, along with all the members of the U.S. Marshal's Western PA Fugitive Task Force, were recognized by the City of Pittsburgh Police Department for their continuous efforts in fighting violent crime within the city.

The certificate said:

"As a direct result of their hard work, Task Force members were able to conduct 205 felony arrests in relation to these investigations and on behalf of the Bureau of Police. During 2016, members of the Task Force continuously acted as an invaluable resource to the Bureau of Police and the citizens of the City of Pittsburgh. Members of the Task Force routinely assisted the Bureau of Police "above and beyond" their required duties. The nature of the duties conducted by Task Force members were often extremely dangerous and performed at great risk to their own personal safety. Their hard work, courage, professionalism and commitment to the Bureau of Police and the citizens of the City of Pittsburgh is appreciated. For their efforts, the members of the U.S. Marshals Western Pennsylvania Fugitive Task Force are being presented with a Recognition of Excellence Award.



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Cabinet In Your Community

On March 26, Wolf administration cabinet officials were joined by community members for a Cabinet in Your Community event at the Community College of Philadelphia. This series of events gives community members the opportunity to talk with their state government officials and discuss issues important to the region.

"Since the Cabinet in Your Community events began in November, they have been extremely valuable to communities across Pennsylvania and to my administration," said Governor Wolf. "It is important that elected officials provide a platform for constituents to directly express their concerns and what they need from state government."



This event featured Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary Dennis Davin, Department of Education Secretary Pedro Rivera, Department of General Services Secretary Curt Topper, Department of Corrections

Secretary John Wetzel, and Department of Human Services Secretary Teresa Miller. The department secretaries provided information on upcoming initiatives in Philadelphia and responded to questions from community members.

The next Cabinet in Your Community event is currently scheduled for Tuesday, April 3, at the Lehigh Carbon Community College Tamaqua Campus. This event will be hosted by the cabinet secretaries of the departments of Education, Environmental Protection, Human Services, and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

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Inmate Thanks Staff for Job Fair

After attending a recent inmate Job Fair at SCI Waymart, an inmate sent the following note to the school principal:

“Thank you again for adding my name to the Job Fair list, it was extremely informative. I have been incarcerated since the age of 19. I am 51 years of age. My Minimum date is May 2019.

While attending the Job Fair, I had the opportunity to utilize “Virtual Reality” to visit area half-way houses. While the information was very helpful, I noticed that my anxiety decreased while using the virtual system. As you may understand, I have a great fear of social interactions up my release. Obviously, I’m used to a structured environment however, I’m very anxious about something as simple as walking down the street.

I believe that using the virtual system could assist myself and other long-term inmates in reintegration back into society. Even using the system to show us amid a crowd could be helpful. Maybe this is something that could be added to the Reentry Service Office classes.”

The principal said she would share the information with virtual reality administrators and wished the inmate the best of luck upon his release from prison.

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Inmates Donate to Charity

The Smithfield Inmate Organization (SIO) recently held a bake sale and is sending the profits of \$1,133.90 to the “Make-a-Wish Foundation.”

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Quehanna Boot Camp Annual Reentry Expo 2018

By Melissa Billotte, Superintendent's Assistant

The Quehanna Boot Camp held its Annual Reentry Expo on March 16, with 19 organizations represented.

The following organizations participated: Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Bureau of Community Corrections Regions 2 and 3, PA Board of Probation and Parole, Family Support Alliance, Mobile Veterans Outreach Van, PA Department of Banking, Children's Aid Society, AmeriHealth, Community Action, VA Social Worker, Vivitrol, South Hills School of Business & Technology, WIC, OSHA, Fiber Optics, Reentry Parole Agent, PA CareerLink, Federal VA Outreach Program and Impact Services.



Each organization had their own station designated with a sign made by our inmates where they displayed literature and met with the inmates to discuss the services they offer. A big hit was the Bureau of Community Corrections table where they offered "virtual tours" of the centers.

During the event, 283 male and female teammates in the Boot Camp program and 195 male and female State Intermediate Punishment program inmates were given information ranging from family services to educational opportunities to probation/parole.

This annual event is part of Quehanna Boot Camp's reentry initiative to assist reentrants with obtaining information that will be helpful upon their release. It is our belief that enlightened and fully-prepared individuals will be more successful with staying out of the prison system and obtaining gainful employment.

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Child Abuse Prevention Month

SCI Houtzdale staff chose to participate in the Child Abuse Prevention Month drive for PJs for Children and Youth. As an institution, we set a goal to collect 250 pairs of pajamas to be donated to the Office of Victim Advocate in supporting the CYS agencies across the Commonwealth. Staff not only achieved that goal but surpassed it by collecting 265 pairs. Employees were assisted in this endeavor by outside local organizations supporting our efforts as well.



SCI Benner Township employees collected 150 pairs of brand new pajamas for OVA. These new pajamas will be distributed to Children and Youth Agencies across Pennsylvania. The pajamas will be provided to children that are being removed from their homes and placed into the foster care system.



Pictured with donated pajamas is SCI Benner Township Social Worker B. Dunn.

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Ensuring Medical Assistance Coverage

The DOC is committed to ensuring inmates are afforded Medical Assistance when they are released from prison, and they are making this possible by beginning the application process no later than 15 days prior to the inmate's projected release date.

Prior to an individual's release, and depending upon the type of release, either parole staff or records staff will begin the process by entering the inmate's projected release date into the DOC's inmate computer system. The institution's medical staff reviews information that is received daily from the Department of Human Services and then uses that information to provide the inmate with his/her Medical Assistance Identification Number during his/her final visit to medical just prior to release from prison.

This process ensures that every inmate will now have the coverage they need to continue their medical care or program treatment immediately upon release from prison – thus, eliminating one of the barriers to a successful reintegration.

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Quarterbacks of Life

On March 15, SCI Greene hosted a "Quarterbacks of Life" program in its chapel.

Rocky Bleier and Rocco Scalzi spoke to the Quarter Back members from for an hour in the morning and to the "juvenile"



lifers and inmate veterans for an hour in the afternoon.

Rocky Bleier thanked all Vietnam veterans (staff and inmates) for their years of service. He also presented a lapel pin to staff and a certificate to inmate veterans.

Staff was permitted to wear Steeler gear and attend the presentations.

Learn more about this program at <https://beatingtheodds.org/quarterbacks-of-life>

According to the website, "The Beating The Odds Foundation, has pooled together with a unique group of motivated individuals called the Quarterbacks of Life.

These are men and women who chose to fight through incredible setbacks in life, and, in the end, won over adversity. And this is the key point of the Beating the

Odds Foundation: By never giving up, every person can design his or her own destiny. The Quarterbacks of Life® who have joined with the Beating the Odds Foundation travel around the country sharing their stories with America's youth to inspire and motivate them to achieve success in their own lives."



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SCI Mercer Hosts a Mentor Training Event

On March 21, SCI Mercer's Mentoring Committee held a training event for their 22 local mentors and mentees, coordinated by Lt. Vernice Phillips, local mentoring coordinator at Mercer.

The group reviewed the mentoring policy and were tasked with completing various team-building exercises throughout the day, including:

- An icebreaker paired the group into two's in order to ask each other questions to summarize "Who I Am," and then the pairs had to introduce each other to the group based off the answers to the questions.
- Each person created a face picture out of stickers. The pictures became a visual representation of the multitude of different personalities/traits that could be encountered in a mentoring relationship.
- Pairs of two went through a packet of pictures that were taken from throughout the facility and had to determine the exact location of each picture.
- Small groups were tasked with attempting to build the highest tower out of one marshmallow, eight pasta sticks, one piece of tape and one piece of string.

The highlight of the event was meeting Bob Allen, a well-known news reporter from KDKA Pittsburgh. Allen spoke to the mentoring group about his experiences as a mentor to 10 students from a high school in his community.



Bob Allen (center) with the Mentoring Group at SCI Mercer.

The event closed by discussing ways to promote the mentoring program at SCI Mercer in order to recruit additional mentors and mentees. The event was enjoyed by all.

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Closing of "The Fort"

On March 23, SCI Graterford employees held a ceremony to commemorate the closing of the facility. Staff and retirees were invited to attend. Photographs were shared highlighting the different physical changes the institution has gone through, as well as some staff photos. Following the brief ceremony, those in attendance mingled and reminisced, while enjoying light refreshments.



Acting Superintendent Laurel Harry listens as Superintendent Assistant Wendy Shaylor shares memories of her time at Graterford.



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Virtual Reality Filming Conducted at SCI Phoenix

On March 13, SCI Phoenix staff hosted the Nsenza production company to complete virtual filming of the facility.

The production team, accompanied by Bureau of Community Corrections Director Daniel McIntyre and Regional Director Rich Dreisbach, filmed footage of Phoenix, which will be used as a familiarization tool for inmates prior to their transition from Graterford to Phoenix. The footage



showed housing units, dining halls and the program service building. The crew also filmed some scenario scenes, using actors dressed as inmates, which will be used for training purposes.

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CDL Simulators Are Coming Soon!

The Bureau of Correction Education is excited to announce the addition of three commercial driver's license (CDL) simulators to our vocational training programs. There will be one simulator placed in each of the three regions across Pennsylvania's DOC. The simulators will be used along with classroom instruction to prepare the student to take the CDL licensure exam once they are released on parole or residing in one of our centers. The simulators are designed to give the experience of sitting in and operating a full-sized truck. It will be equipped with a digital steering system, three flat screen displays, fully adjustable side view mirrors, air ride seat, dispatch radio system, heavy duty manual transmission, 6 speed automatic transmission, as well as an instructor console with pre-recorded scenario descriptions and a full package of truck driving and CDL scenarios. These scenarios will show several different environments covering urban, suburban, rural and highway training. Instructors will be trained in the use of the system directly from the company and will then provide this training to our inmate students.

The Bureau's vision is that once a student completes this course, the information can be added to his/her reentry documents and a soft hand off to additional training and testing can be put into place prior to the inmate leaving the institution.

Stay tuned for an announcement letting you know where the simulators will be located!!

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April is National Counselor/Counseling Month

By Paul Ungerman

Corrections counselors in the DOC for years have been the backbone, along with other staff, on some of the most challenging, toughest blocks in the America. Often not fully recognized in the day-to-day business of the DOC, these men and women are critical to the smooth operation of the DOC, performing complex task and duties that help keep safety a top priority. Counseling is often a field that one is “called to”, knowing we are not going to earn big salaries or at times have any recognition.

In my many years as a counselor...through our hard work, I have seen lives literally saved, lives rebuilt and hope for the future restored.

Counseling is a therapeutic relationship. It's just as normal as anything else we do to maintain or improve our health and well-being: exercise, rest/relaxation, fun with friends, eating right. And it's equally as important. Because life doesn't come with an instruction manual. We face new or unforeseen obstacles at almost every turn of our personal journey. And sometimes those obstacles can't be moved. The coping mechanisms we develop along the way to help us navigate can sometimes end up hurting us.

Counselors are trained to identify and help correct the misguided or unnecessary thought patterns, emotions and behaviors that no longer serve us—those that create unrealistic expectations, fragile bonds to loved ones, depression, anxiety and so much more.

So, let's give thanks to all the DOC counselors during April National Counseling Month for all the great work they do every day for the DOC!

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Absconder Tip Pays Off

On March 25, a tip was received at the Parole Board's absconder email account indicating that a parolee, who was living with his girlfriend, was dealing drugs.

Parole agents went to the address provided by the tipster and located a large quantity of marijuana in the basement that had an estimated street value of \$70,000. The parolee was taken into custody.



Kudos to the tipster and to the parole agents on a successful return to custody.

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Week of March 19...

SCI Fayette Holds first Pittsburgh Police Academy Criminal Justice Class

Dr. Norman Conti, associate professor at Duquesne, launched an innovative Inside-Out program while serving as a long-term volunteer at SCI Pittsburgh. Distinctly differing from traditional "Inside-Out" programs involving inmates and college students taking college courses together, this program is comprised of inmates participating with Pittsburgh Police Cadets in discussion groups focusing on social issues and community policing.

Dr. Conti has worked with Pittsburgh Police Administration and Academy staff to develop and integrate this program into the Academy curriculum. This was SCI Fayette's first Academy Class held every Friday that started February 16, 2018, and ended on March 16, 2018.



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First Gathering – Ever – of FAST Team

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

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

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

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

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

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



FAST Agents – March 2018

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Remembering Sgt. Baserman

By Christie Schenck, SCI Somerset Public Information Officer

On March 19, Lt. Jason Dietrich of SCI Forest presented SCI Somerset with a beautiful plaque he personally had made by Custom Woodworking by Michael Polasky to honor Sgt. Baserman.

Lt. Dietrich told me he had ties to SCI Somerset even before he started at SCI Forest as he attended Marine Boot Camp with our Lt. Swank.

When I told him, I would do a small story to send to you along with the pictures he said, "You don't need to put it on the newsletter. To me, it not about notoriety. It's about coming together as a family."



Superintendent Hainsworth and Lt. Dietrich

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Mahanoy Employees Donate to Sgt. Baserman's Family

SCI Mahanoy employees – through a hoagie sale and basket drawing sponsored by the prison's employee, empowerment and mentoring committees – raised \$1,600 for Sgt. Baserman's family. AFSCME also donated another \$100 to the family.

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Training Graduate Now Trooper's Service Dog

Finn, a pure-bred German shepherd donated by an SCI Forest employee, is now a service dog for a PSP trooper who was injured in the line of duty. Finn is trained to open doors, walk beside the wheelchair, launch his own ball, be emotional support, get help when his person coughs, find help, get things, be aware of danger and much more. He was trained through the PAWS program at SCI Forest in conjunction with Paul Anthony of AB Canine.



This is restorative justice at its best – a law enforcement officer receiving a dog who was trained by inmates.

Through training, inmates are giving back to society and now the trooper is getting help as a result. The training of Finn for the trooper is just another example of what PAWS stands for: Second Chances.

The program saves abandoned, donated and high-risk pups, giving them second chances as well as giving inmates second chances to make amends to society. Inmates in the program frequently find that the program is much more than training dogs. A positive side effect of the program is they learn more about themselves than they ever thought possible. One inmate said, "We think we are teaching the dogs how to live, which we are, but in turn, we are learning how to live."

The inmates learn about goals, ambition, communication, conflict resolution, problem solving and most importantly that there is a world that exists outside themselves.

Since the PAWS program was reworked in August 2016, inmates have several dogs to be emotional support dogs, forensic courtroom dogs, service dogs for those with disabilities, and also Canine Good Citizenship for dogs to be more adoptable. The staff and inmates work in conjunction with Paul Anthony of AB Canine to make it all possible. Many hours of training are devoted to each dog, and each time everyone learns something new about themselves and about training. The program is constantly evolving to suit the needs of the overall mission as well as the dogs' recipients.

Finn and his new owner will make monthly follow up trips to SCI Forest for maintenance training as well as advance training/certifications.

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SCI Mercer Hosts News Media Tour

Although the morning of March 21, 2018, started off snowy and cold, making travel on the roads very difficult, news media from the local region made the trip to SCI Mercer to attend the facility's News Media Tour, which was the first of a series of tours to be held statewide. Superintendent Brian Thompson and his staff welcomed those who braved the weather and were excited for the opportunity to showcase SCI Mercer's operations and programming, in the institution's 40th anniversary year of operation.

Led by Superintendent Thompson, the tour was coordinated by Superintendent's Assistant and Public Information Officer Andrea Shiock, as a means to educate the public on what corrections staff and the inmates actually do on a daily basis. Assisting with the tour was Superintendent's Secretary Amanda Bistransin, Deputy Superintendent for Centralized Services William Woods, Deputy Superintendent for Facility Management Lee Estock, Classification Program Manager Lisa Graves and Major Shane Dady.



Reporters and crews from WKBN27 News Youngstown, WFMJ21 News Youngstown, Greenville Record Argus, KDKA News Pittsburgh and the Location Manager from Mindhunter in Pittsburgh attended.

Areas of the facility visited included the kitchen and dining hall, the Restricted Housing Unit, the Reception Unit, the Tertiary Medical Unit, the Chapel, a dormitory style housing unit, the Therapeutic Community Inpatient Substance Use Disorder housing unit, the Veterans Service Unit, the Transitional Housing Unit, the Education Department and Library, the Activities/Gym Department, the Barbershop, and the Yard area. Staff who oversee these areas gave the group an overview of their departments/units and the programs available to inmates.

The reporters and videographers gathered lots of information and many photos. They were able to see inmates at work, relaxed in their cells on the units, and also as they were participating in groups on the specialized units. The group got to meet the handlers and their dogs from the facility's two canine programs -- the C.A.R.E. (Corrections Adoptive Rescue Endeavor) trains dogs for adoption, and The Together Journey dogs are trained to assist people with disabilities (seizure disorders, diabetes, PTSD, MS, etc.).



Librarian Marilyn Fusco (right), Library Assistant Linda DeForest assist with news media.

The media group all agreed that it was not what they expected once inside and liked the uniqueness of the buildings and grounds of the facility. The group was surprised to learn that two of the buildings were repurposed -- the chapel building used to be a Stucky's Restaurant located on Route 19 near Interstate 80, and the Education Department building used to be the bowling alley in Meadville. Each were purchased by the department, torn down by the facility's maintenance staff and their inmate work crews, and then reconstructed inside the facility by the crews.

They also commented on the original housing units that are round in design, which they said also added to the uniqueness of the facility.

To add to the total day in the life corrections experience, the tour group was invited to lunch in the staff dining hall, having already toured the kitchen to



learn that all food served to inmates and staff is prepared by the inmates under the supervision of the dietary staff. The main entrée was chicken patty. The reporter from WFMJ21 News stated that it was similar to a school luncheon. After tasting the patty, he stated that it's not Chick-Fil-A, but it isn't too bad.



Major Shane Dady and CCPM Lisa Graves on with reporters on a dormitory style housing unit.

Favorable comments were made by all in attendance, although it was a lot to take in during a short timeframe.



Gerry Ricciutti, left, from WKBN27 Youngstown and videographers.

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Annual Leadership Centre County Tour

On March 14, SCI Rockview hosted the Annual Leadership Centre County Tour. Leadership Centre County runs a nine-month program that educates participants about the needs, available services, strengths, opportunities and current issues in our community. The overall goal is to increase the leadership pool within the county and to equip these future leaders with the tools and information necessary to meet the challenges of tomorrow. On Government Day the committee strives to expose class members to a myriad of topics and issues, adding to their knowledge about governance throughout our county and state.

The group toured housing units throughout the facility including old and more modern units. Following the tour Superintendent Mark Garman gave an overview of the facility. A peer support specialist then spoke about the therapeutic community rules, struggles and goals. Approximately 60 attendees participated in this event.

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Women's History Month

Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist Sam Colbert represented the DOC at the Women's History Month Capitol Walk on March 15, 2018.

Held at the Capitol Complex, the walk was to honor women who fight all forms of discrimination against women.

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In The Centers...

Reentrants Crochet Animals for Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

Reentrants at the Pittsburgh Community Corrections Center (CCC) have been working hard over the past few weeks to crochet animals and blankets to give to patients at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC for Easter.

Pittsburgh CCC reentrants have found unique ways to use their skills to give back to the local Pittsburgh community. In-house



crocheting at the center provides the reentrants with a relaxing alternative to some of the more fast-paced community service opportunities in the area. Crocheting has been found to reduce stress and improve fine motor skills. In addition to crocheting animals and blankets, Pittsburgh CCC reentrants have also collected crayons and coloring books to donate to the hospital.

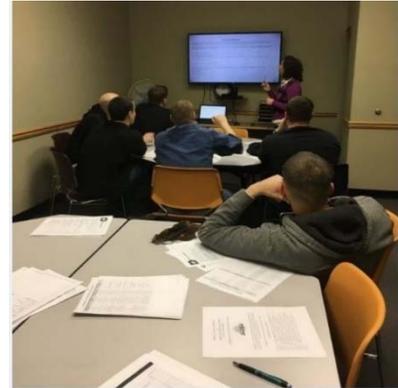
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, a hospital of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, is the only hospital in Southwestern Pennsylvania dedicated solely to the care of infants, children, and young adults. Located in the Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh, the hospital is just a short distance from Pittsburgh CCC.

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Let the Workshops Begin!

Harrisburg CCC is now providing workshops in employment, housing finance and orientation for reentrants. So far reentrant and counselor responses to the workshops have been positive.

Pictured is finance workshop facilitated by Counselor Doutrich.



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Parenting Classes Set to Begin at Sharon CCC

On March 7, Sharon Community Corrections Center (CCC) employees met with Capable Families Services via Family Support Alliance to discuss parenting classes for center reentrants.

Dan Merritt and Candice Bartosh came to the CCC and presented a Family Support Program that would be six to eight sessions long and address fatherhood, addiction effects on children and resuming and/or starting a relationship with their children.

Center staff is looking to also having non-resident reentrants attend (such as individuals who are serving the home phase of State Intermediate Punishment). Sessions are scheduled to start in April on Thursday afternoons prior to AOD programming at Gaudenzia. Sharon CCC employees look forward to providing this service to reentrants once again.

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Edinboro University Students Tour Erie CCC

The Probation, Parole, and Community-Based Corrections class from Edinboro University spent time at the Erie Community Corrections Center (CCC) learning about the real world of community corrections.

The picture at the right, taken at the Erie CCC, and the below article was featured in the Edinboro University magazine:

On Wednesday, February 28th, Dr. Courtright's CRIM 370 – Probation, parole, and community-based corrections class toured the state-run Community Corrections Center in Erie, Pa. This facility, operated by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, provides intermediary and temporary housing options for individuals who are either leaving state correctional institutions on parole who do not have approved parole plans to reside in the community, and/or State Intermediate Punishment (SIP) inmates who are being released from state prison as part of their sentence. Center Director Ebony Frith (a graduate of EUP's criminal justice program) and Lt. Jamie Harmon provided the students with a presentation about the purpose and role of the facility, offered the class a tour of the facility, then led a question-and-answer session to conclude the afternoon. The class also had the opportunity to hear from a reentrant regarding his personal circumstances and the obstacles he has encountered in his individual reentry effort.

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Recognized for Service

Patricia Smith, clinical supervisor of GEO ADAPPT Outpatient, was recognized for 20 years of service.

Patricia started her career as a counselor at Berks County Prison, a program run through ADAPPT.

Patricia is pictured with Contract Facility Coordinator Brian Elliott.

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Week of March 12...

In Honor of Sgt. Baserman

Over the past several weeks, the ways in which our employees have joined together to support each other and especially the family and co-workers of murdered Sgt. Mark Baserman have been shown in a variety of ways...

From SCI Cambridge Springs:

Employee donated \$1,400 to Sgt. Baserman's family.

From SCI Coal Township:

SCI Coal Township employees held a bake sale recently with proceeds being donated to the family of Sergeant Baserman.

Everyone was eager to donate and purchase baked items and contribute monetary donations.

A check for \$1,000 will be sent to Sgt. Baserman's family from SCI Coal Township.

Staff are shown purchasing some of the many donated baked items in the training room before the items were taken to the Officer Dining Room for staff to purchase throughout the day.



From SCI Mercer:

In honor of Sgt. Baserman, SCI Mercer's DOC flag has been placed at half-mast since February 27, 2018, until his interment.

In addition, Deputy Superintendent Lee Estock reports that on March 2, SCI Mercer's Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team - lead by Dr. Cynthia Wright - traveled to SCI Somerset to offer support to the staff on second shift.

Dr. Wright said that the staff at Somerset expressed their gratitude for all that was done. Mercer's Employee Association and Morale Committee through SCI Mercer's support sent cookies, fruit and vegetable trays for the staff that were working on March 2nd. Pictured are members of Mercer's CISM team with the donated food.

SCI Somerset's Superintendent Melissa Hainsworth expressed the following in an email to Deputy Estock:

"I just wanted to let you know we sincerely appreciated your staff and them going above and beyond to bring in the food they did. It was a nice break for our staff, and it also promoted interaction with the CISM members and our

staff. I just wanted to let you know how professional and caring your staff were. Thank you."

Deputy Estock also placed cards in the lobby for staff to sign. One card will be sent to Sgt. Baserman's family and the other card will be sent to his DOC family at SCI Somerset to let them know that condolences go out to them at this time of such a tragic loss. A monetary collection was also taken to benefit Sgt. Baserman's family, which will be added to the Go Fund Me account.

At the Administrative staff meeting on February 27th a moment of silence was held in honor of Sgt. Baserman.

The CISM team, along with Mercer's Honor Guard, also attended Sgt. Baserman's memorial ceremony on March 7.

**From SCI
Somerset:**

Superintendent
Assistant
Christie
Schenck saw
this as she was
leaving work
during the week
of February 26,
and wanted to
share it with
everyone.



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Cabinet In Your Community - Bloomsburg

On March 12, Secretary John Wetzel participated in the latest Cabinet In Your Community, which was held at Bloomsburg University.



In addition to Secretary Wetzel, leaders from the PA State Police, PennDOT, Department of Education and Department of Agriculture were joined by more than 100 community members and Bloomsburg University students to discuss current issues and agency accomplishments.

At the event, Secretary Wetzel spoke about the importance of education at all levels and how educating kids will keep them out of prison.

“Dropping out of school also increases an individual’s chance for a future of criminality exponentially. School retention is crime prevention,” he said.

He also spoke about the work the prison system’s employees are doing to help inmates return home as better citizens, workforce development in the DOC and Clean

Slate legislation.

Wetzel also discussed the opioid crisis and the DOC’s Medication Assisted Treatment, including grants to counties for MAT and how MAT must be part of the opioid crisis solution.

Cabinet In Your Community events are being held across the Commonwealth and are opportunities for communities to meet with members of Gov. Wolf’s cabinet and to talk about issues of importance to them in their region.

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New Parole Agents Complete Basic Training

On March 9, 63 men and women graduated from the 131st Basic Training Academy (BTA) of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and have been assigned to district parole offices and prisons throughout the state.



"This is the first class of new parole agents under the Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Probation and Parole," said Corrections Secretary John Wetzel. "We are excited to welcome these dedicated men and women into the corrections field as part of our unified mission."

The 12-week long training program focuses on a professional development curriculum critical to developing the skills of probation and parole staff in achieving the mission of public safety and reducing recidivism. The training program now includes:

- EPICS: Effective Practices for Community Supervision is designed to further incorporate evidence-based practices within the confines of a typical offender supervision contact;
- Up-to-date training by medical professionals on infectious diseases, drug and alcohol addictions and recovery programs and mental health issues;
- Enhanced defense tactics to ensure the safety of the agent and the offender;
- Recognition of gangs and other security threat groups;
- Specialized case management of sex offenders;
- Using risk and needs assessments to assist with successful offender reentry into the community; and
- Training to help assess domestic violence situations and responses to *Protection From Abuse* orders.

Executive Deputy Secretary for Community Corrections and Reentry George Little (pictured at the right) was the keynote speaker.

“We are beginning life as a new brand based on integrity, responsiveness and excellence,” Little told the graduates. “Together we will protect the public while turning lives around.”

In addition, Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal; Deputy Secretary of Field Services Christian Stephens and Deputy Secretary for Reentry Luis Rosa addressed the graduates. PA Board of Probation and Parole Chairman Leo Dunn administered the Oath of Office.



The graduates report to their new assignments this week.

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What's New with the MOU?

Pine Grove Holds Workshop

On March 1, at SCI Pine Grove, Parole Supervisor Mario Dirienzo and Superintendent Eric Bush held a workshop for members of the Institutional Operational Process Committee. This face-to-face workshop was a very positive experience for all participants, and it resulted in a lot of progress being made.



The gathering also allowed for chairs of the ICSA/Summarization Subcommittee and the Other Duties and Team Building Subcommittee to meet with their respective teams and collectively provided important and vital feedback. The goal for the two sub-committees is to develop a plan to immediately save IT issues and more importantly to immediately eliminate current redundancy between DOC and PBPP staff.

Those subcommittees are chaired by:

ICSA/Summarization Subcommittee - Parole Agent 2 and Counselor Melissa Reed

Other Duties and Team Building Subcommittee - Parole Supervisor Chris Habursky

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News from the Project Manager

I would like to thank the teams that have worked so hard over the past week and accomplished so much! Several committees had full-day workshops that were very successful and have solid plans for moving forward in the future. Institutional Operational Processes, Reentry Operational Processes, and the Training Committees found that the full day workshops went very well and are looking forward to more of them soon.

Highlights from the committees:

- Institutional Operational Process Committee - focus on the ICSA is moving along quickly, and the team soon will have a flow chart available with the suggested changes. The team had to refocus slightly as to not interfere with major changes to any legacy systems which would negatively impact work being done already by the Bureau of Information Technology.
- Staff Wellness is moving forward as they look into installing a gym at the Riverfront Office Center as well as adding a distressing room in the OVA space.
- Special Teams will hold a joint training/demonstration between HRT and FAST – the date has yet to be determined.

In addition to the committee highlights, I will begin sharing regular reports on the BetaGov initiative associated with the merger. Some highlights include: Savings plans for inmates, increasing library lending materials on inmate tablets, certified peer specialists for reentrants and staff and open carry for field staff. And so much more! In total, there have been 30 items that have been submitted for approval, and we look forward to seeing the outcomes.

Amy Schwenk, Project Manager
Special Assistant to Secretary Wetzel

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OVA Receives Grant

Victim Advocate Jennifer Storm announces that the Office of Victim Advocate received a grant via the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for \$1.1 million in federal Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA) funds.

"I am so excited to announce this news because these funds will allow us to hire four additional employees to assist with the increasing workloads," Jennifer Storm said. "The funds also will allow us to create a full time Victim Offender Dialogue Coordinator to eliminate a significant waitlist of victims waiting to meet with their offenders and develop a new partnership with the Office of Attorney General to ensure that victims whose cases fall under their prosecutorial jurisdiction receive the services they are afforded by law."

What is the Victim Offender Dialogue Program?

The Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD) Program offers a safe, secure and structured way for a victim/survivor to ask the offender questions about the crime, tell the offender how it affected their lives and can empower the victim/survivor to hold the offender directly accountable. The offender may also benefit by being able to accept responsibility and recognize the real person(s) they have affected. The offender's participation is voluntary and has no effect on their institutional or parole status.

The program includes extensive preparation for both the victim and offender by trained volunteer facilitators. The facilitators prepare both parties independently for the face-to-face meeting, are present during the face-to-face meeting and provide subsequent follow-up. The face-to-face meeting is held in the state correctional institution housing the offender or in a safe, private setting within the community (if the offender is on parole).

Either party has the right to put the case on hold or end the process at any time.

For those who are unable to or do not want to meet the offender face-to-face, "indirect dialogue" or letter writing is available. This form of dialogue utilizes the same preparation as with a face-to-face meeting. However, the facilitators assist each party with composing, exchanging and reading the letters. No letters will be sent directly to the victim or offender. Instead, the letters go through the Office of Victim Advocate.

Individuals interested in learning more about the Office of Victim Advocate or any program they offer, should call 1.800.563.6399 or visit www.ova.pa.gov

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“Juvenile” Lifers Share their Experiences

Recently three released “juvenile” lifers visited the DOC’s central office, so they could participate in a video conference with all currently-serving juvenile lifers. During the video conference, which was coordinated by project manager Robert Hammond Jr., the men spoke of their experiences leading up to and after release from prison and hoped that their experiences would help those who are seeking release from prison.

Highlights discussed included the importance of communication, having good interviewing skills, having proper identification and the importance of getting a mentor. They also talked about how technology – and the fact that it changes so fast on the street -- was one of their biggest challenges. They also talked about how every juvenile lifer has the right to redemption, but that it’s also up to every juvenile lifer to achieve it.

In 2012, the United States Supreme Court held in *Miller v. Alabama* that it is unconstitutional to sentence a juvenile offender to *mandatory* life-without-parole. The *Miller* Court did not determine if the decision should be applied retroactively, and left that question to the states. In 2013, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decided in *Commonwealth v. Cunningham* that *Miller* was not retroactive.

In January 2016, however, the United States Supreme Court disagreed. It held in *Montgomery v. Louisiana* that *Miller* should, in fact, be applied retroactively and thus apply to cases decided prior to the 2012 ruling.

In practical terms, this means that those juvenile offenders previously sentenced to mandatory life-without-parole can seek resentencing by the trial court.

There were 521 inmates initially identified as being juvenile lifers in the PA DOC; however, three died prior to their release from prison. As of February 28, 2017, 210 juvenile lifers have been resentenced, 105 have been released.



Pictured, from left to right, are: Henry Winbush (Mahanoy), Douglas Hollis (Mahanoy), Larry Washington (former inmate and mentor to juvenile lifers) and Juvenile Lifer Project Manager Robert Hammond Jr.

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Quehanna Staffer Receives DOC Basic Training Award



On February 16, the DOC graduated Basic Training Class #18-01 at its Elizabethtown Training Academy.

The Quehanna Boot Camp would like to recognize Corrections Officer Trainee Molly Jozefick who was awarded the Academic Achievement Award for Class #18-01.

Pictured, from left to right, are: Quehanna Boot Camp Captain Scott Carter, Corrections Officer Trainee Molly Jozefick and Critical Incident Manager Lt. Kelly Laird.

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QBC Female Inmate Donates Hair to Locks of Love

One of the requirements for both male and female inmates participating in the Boot Camp program is to have their hair cut. Males receive military style haircuts 1/8" in length and females receive military style haircuts approximately, but no shorter than, 3 inches off the scalp.

In December 2017, Superintendent Mary Natoli announced that Locks of Love was selected to receive hair donations for those who elect to do so. Locks of Love is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under age 21 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. Some of the guidelines for acceptable donations are: hair that is colored or permed is acceptable; hair that has been bleached is not usable; hair that is swept off the



floor is not usable because it is not bundled in a ponytail or braid; hair that is shaved off and not in a ponytail or braid is not usable; dreadlocks cannot be accepted; wigs, falls, hair extensions or synthetic hair cannot be accepted; layered hair is acceptable if the longest layer is 10 inches; curly hair may be pulled straight to measure the minimum 10 inches; 10 inches measured tip to tip is the minimum length needed for a hairpiece.

With a new platoon that began on March 5, four female pre-Boot Camp inmates volunteered to donate their hair to Locks of Love.

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Students Tour SCI Phoenix

On March 6, Regional Deputy Secretary/SCI Phoenix Coordinator Steve Glunt met with criminal justice students from Delaware Valley University. The students had the opportunity to tour both SCI Phoenix and SCI Graterford, and it was a chance for the students to view an older prison and its soon-to-be replacement.



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Employee Awarded Citizen of the Year

Records Supervisor John Wiekrykas Jr. was recently awarded 2017 Citizen of the Year by his fire company, Citizen Fire Company No 2 and Mahanoy City EMS. Wiekrykas is a lieutenant on Engine 454, and he was selected for the award due to his dedication to the company through responding to emergencies, participating with fundraising and other company duties/work. Wiekrykas is also the company's financial secretary. Congratulations, John!

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Dog of the Month

Reprinted with permission of Wayne Magazine



dog of the month

by Laurie Wightman

Meeet Finn, the new mascot of Wayne Magazine! This bundle of joy came into our lives the day before Thanksgiving, and life has never been the same. For all the Dog of the Month stories I have written for other people's dogs, which I have enjoyed thoroughly; this story might need to be my favorite for all the biased reasons you would imagine.

Have you seen those car magnets that have a paw print with the question of, "Who Rescued Who"? I've looked at those magnets in the past and have wondered exactly what it meant. I now know going through the process of rescuing a puppy; exactly what it means and I can tell you I believe little Finn may have possibly rescued me. The overwhelming amount of love and laughter that has filled our home since adopting him has been immeasurable. As my husband Michael repeatedly says, it's this new little spirit around the house that has made our family complete.

We adopted Finn or Finney (as I've nicknamed him), through the exceptional DAWGS Prison Program. I can't say enough about how wonderful the purpose of this program is, and the end result is beyond rewarding. DAWGS Prison Program rescues puppies and dogs from shelters and places them in a training program with inmates who provide the dogs with basic obedience training, socialization and most importantly, love. The inmates learn from professional trainers, Amy and Steve Eckert, to teach their partnering dog basic obedience commands over a period of 4 to 6 weeks. The dogs live with the inmates 24/7 through their training process and until they find their forever home. The puppies receive love possibly for the first time in their lives, and in return offer that love back to inmates who equally need it.

These last three months of my life have been some of the best days I can remember. Each morning feels like Christmas when I get to see that little fanny wiggle, and I'm greeted by oodles of kisses. Finn reminds me every single day to just embrace life, be happy and simply offer love to the world. It's funny how a dog has become my greatest teacher on how to live a better life.

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March is Women's History Month

Multiple state agencies will celebrate Women's History Month in March by sponsoring three free events for state government employees and the public. The following events were/are:

- Roundtable Discussion Forum featuring prominent female leadership in state government on March 13 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Forum Building, Green Room, 607 South Drive, Harrisburg. Light refreshments will follow for program participants and attendees. In the event of inclement weather, the event will take place on March 21. Please RSVP to nbair@pa.gov by 10:00 AM on March 12. (**This event is for state government employees only**)
- Women's History Month Capitol Walk on March 15 commencing at 12:00 PM. Walkers will gather at the PA State Library, 607 South Drive, Harrisburg, to walk the one-mile loop from the Museum, around the Capitol. State employees wishing to attend should either use their lunch period or annual leave. Please RSVP to nbair@pa.gov.
- Women's History Month Celebration featuring speakers on the theme, "Nevertheless, She Persisted" on March 20 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM in the Keystone Building Atrium, 400 North Street, Harrisburg. Light refreshments will follow the program for participants and attendees. In the event of inclement weather, the event will take place on March 22.

The Multi-Agency Women's History Month Planning Committee is made up of the following state agencies: Office of Administration, Pennsylvania Utility Commission, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, Departments of Banking and Securities, Community and Economic Development, Labor & Industry, State, Corrections, Education, Human Services, Health, Agriculture, General Services, and Transportation.

For more information regarding any of these events, contact Nicole Bair, Department of Banking and Securities nbair@pa.gov or Wesley Alexander, Department of Human Services wealexande@pa.gov.

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DOC Officials to Present at Upcoming Victims' Rights Conference

SCI Albion's PREA Administrative Officer Brenda Atkin and Mercyhurst College's Dr. Maria Garase have been chosen to present about PREA at the 2018 Victims' Rights Conference on April 26, 2018, at the Crime Victim Center of Erie County.

Their presentation will provide information on how federal and state legislation have come together to ensure the sexual safety of people who are incarcerated. They also plan to discuss the programs and resources available to victims of sexual abuse while incarcerated, along with the vulnerability and hidden victimization that occurs behind bars. They will also explain the resources available while incarcerated.

Keynote speaker at the conference will be Carol Finotte from the Crime Victim Center and founding member of the Northwest Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition.

Other topics to be discussed at the conference will include: Tension/Trauma Releasing Exercise; Flight. Flight. Freeze. Exploring the Common Response to Fear and Trauma Observed in Humans and Horses; Trauma and Addiction; Going to the Next Level: Supervising Clinicians and Providers Exposed to Vicarious Trauma; LGTBO Seniors: Understanding the Physical, Mental, Social and Cultural Struggles of the Aging LGBT Community; Medicine's Role in Caring for Victims of Violence; Sex Offender Grooming Methods for Child Sexual Abuse; Unpacking the PREA: Identification, Investigation and Resource Allocation to Vulnerable Inmate Population.

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Behavioral Therapist Does Time at Graterford



Dr. Christian Conte spent a couple of days at Graterford speaking to staff and the inmates. Dr. Conte is a behavioral therapist that has done work with the Department of Corrections in the past. He and Ray Lewis visited Graterford last year to record a podcast with a group of inmates.

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New Dish Machine Installed at SCI Mercer

Between February 22 and March 5, 2018, a new dishwashing machine was installed in the main kitchen area at SCI Mercer, replacing a HOBART-brand machine that had been in place since September 1998. Mercer's Maintenance Department maintained the previous machine for 20 years and was involved with tearing down the old machine.

The new Champion-brand dish machine was purchased as a fixed asset from Singer Equipment in Alverton, Pa. The Champion contractors, in conjunction with institutional maintenance staff and inmate work crews, installed the new machine. SCI Mercer's work crews made all of the electrical, plumbing and ventilation connections to the machine after the initial install.

Assisting with the tear down of the old and installation of the new machine provided the inmate crews with a working knowledge in the electrical, plumbing and ventilation fields, which they may use in gaining employment upon their release.

In addition, Mercer's maintenance work crews are also constructing two decks outside of the food service area that will hold a cooler and a freezer, each disassembled from SCI Pittsburgh after that facility closed. This repurposed equipment will be temporarily used during the major capital construction improvement SCI Mercer's kitchen will soon be undergoing. More photos will be provided once the equipment is in place.



Pictured, from left to right, are: Food Service Instructor Isaiah Irby, Electrical Trades Instructor William Roberts and Food Service Manager Dennis Sansotta.

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Correctional Industries Recognizes Employees

Earlier this month, during Correctional Industries' quarterly staff meeting, Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal and PCI Director Khelleh Konteh presented the following awards:



Cherese (Cher) Darhower
Administrative Assistant for Commissary
Employee of Quarter, 4th Quarter of 2017

Linda Rutz, Customer Service Supervisor
10 years of Commonwealth Employment



Vickie Coleman, Clerk 2 for Administration
15 years of Commonwealth Employment



Tracey McCullough, Sales and Marketing Manager
30 years of Commonwealth Employment



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Lt. Governor Visits SCI Phoenix

On March 1, Regional Deputy Secretary/Transition Coordinator Steve Glunt hosted Lt. Governor Mike Stack and Secretary of the Board of Pardons Steve Burk to a tour SCI Phoenix. The tour included many areas of the new state-of-the-art prison, including receiving/discharge, visiting, main control, medical, kitchen, program service building and housing units.



Board of Pardons Secretary Steve Burk, Lt. Gov. Mike Stack, and Regional Deputy Secretary/SCI Phoenix Transition Coordinator Steve Glunt.

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Cosmetology Program Graduates First Group of Students

By Carrie Holman

SCI Fayette's cosmetology program was approved in June 2017 and was the first all-male institution in the state to have a cosmetology program. The first students to take the program were the current licensed barbers. As licensed barbers they received 555 hours of credit towards the 1,250 required hours for program completion. All students were required to complete program curriculum and maintain a 75%, or higher, grade point average. SCI Fayette staff is pleased to report that the inmate students exceeded all expectations and maintained a 96%, and higher, grade point average. No one would have expected the program to be such a hit.

The second group of students started on March 2 and are off to a great start. Their anticipated complete date is March 2019.

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Meeting a Bestselling Author

On March 1, DOC Statewide Recruiter Paulette Smartschan and Statewide Diversity Recruiter Pedro J. Gratacos has the pleasure of meeting Lindsey Pollack at Millersville University as part of Pollak's "Creating Tomorrow's Leaders: How to Recruit, Retain and Engage Millennial Staff and Students" program.

Pollak is the New York Times bestselling author of "Becoming the Boss: New Rules for the Next



Generation of Leaders and Getting from College to Career: Your Essential Guide to Succeeding in the Real World."

Her advice and opinions have appeared in such media outlets as The TODAY Show, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, CNN and NPR. She appears on several lists of Best People to Follow on Twitter, including Mashable's list of top non-fiction authors. Forbes named her blog one of the Top 100 Websites for Your Career.

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Houtzdale's EOQ, 1st Quarter

Corrections Electronics Trades Instructor Jeff Murarik was named SCI Houtzdale's Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2018. Murarik has worked for the Department of Corrections for the last 9 years. He retired from the Air Force after 21 years of active duty, and he then spent 15 years in law enforcement.

Congrats, Jeff!

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Forest Announces Employee of the Month

SCI Forest Food Service Instructor Mary Steele has been named Employee of the Month for March 2018.



Pictured, from left to right: Superintendent Michael Overmeyer, Mary Steele and Food Service Manager K. Dittman.

Steele was nominated by her peers due to her professionalism and her work with inmates.

"You are constantly training inmates on cleanliness, how to follow the recipes, what to do if something does not work as planned, etc. You are punctual and have a "we're going to make it work" attitude. You are willing and able to complete any extra assignments that you are given," said Superintendent Michael Overmeyer in a letter to Steele.

Congratulations, Mary!

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Black History Month Celebrated at SCI Graterford

On February 28th, SCI Graterford held its annual Black History Month Celebration.

Once again, staff offered samplings of various food, including soul food. Along with the food, explanations were provided as to their origins.

Additionally, conversations, demonstrations and speeches were shared.



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Dr. Steals Addresses Inmates

In honor of Black History Month, SCI Cambridge Springs hosted motivational speaker Dr. Melvin Steals on February 22. The Cambridge Springs' auditorium was at full capacity as the inmates gave their undivided attention to Dr. Steals, who shared information about his roots, struggles and success.



Dr. Steal has a Ph.D. in education and has worked in different school districts in the greater Pittsburgh area. While his greatest impact on the community has been his passion for seeing that teachers do what they can to ensure that young people are successful in school at an early age, he is best known as a song writer. Under the names of Mistro and Lyric, he and his twin brother wrote the song *Could It Be I'm Falling in Love*, which was a Grammy-nominated hit performed by the *Spinners* in 1972. Dr. Steal concluded his presentation by performing his song, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

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An Update on WRAP

By Lynn Patrone, Mental Health Advocate

As my role as Mental Health Advocate for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, I have the distinct honor to direct the Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPS) program which includes approximately 500 inmate peers across 25 state correctional institutions, including the Quehanna Boot Camp.

As someone who has personally benefitted from a WRAP, and as I challenge us to continually raise the bar on the CPS program, I began to recognize the impact that

implementing WRAP groups in correctional settings could have not only for the individuals who are incarcerated but also for staff wellness.

Working behind the walls can be a very stressful career, and oftentimes we may not always promote our own wellness. We are committed to ensuring that there are holistic wellness tools available to promote mental wellness for everyone who lives and works behind prison walls and fences.

I am very excited to introduce how we are leading the way for corrections. The DOC will ensure that every CPS is certified in WRAP Seminar I and will also provide WRAP Seminar II to select CPS' in each state prison.

This is so very important because our staff and CPS' encounter daily crises, and our goal is to prevent a person from experiencing this level of distress. Pennsylvania has a significant rate of incarcerated individuals who have experienced trauma, and being exposed to prison life and the stress of incarceration is very often a trigger. This can lead to an imminent crisis, and it's our goal to prevent this from occurring. With a high prevalence of trauma, both incarcerated individuals and the staff alike are exposed to trauma and secondary trauma. In an institution where several thousand people live and work together daily, the risk of exposure to trauma is significant. This impacts a person's wellness, dignity and may limit positive coping options.

We are also implementing WRAP Seminar II for staff at each state prison in order to promote staff wellness and offer a supportive environment where staff can experience a strategy that assists in maintaining one's wellness.

Individuals with questions about WRAP or the CPS program can contact Patrone at lpatrone@pa.gov

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Dubois Vet Center Offers Counseling Services to Eligible VSU Participants

The SCI Houtzdale Veterans Services Unit (VSU) and community partner, Dubois Vet Center, have teamed up to offer readjustment counseling services to eligible VSU participants.

On February 26, Scott Winters facilitated the initial group which was attended by 15 VSU participants. The group is slated to take place on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month.

During the initial session, Winters gave participants some useful information that included several pamphlets from the Dubois Vet Center, an article on PTSD ("27 Things You Should Know about PTSD"), and a pocket card with easy to follow steps for preventing an anxiety attack.

"We're here to provide counseling services and assistance to all veterans, even those who would otherwise be looked past because of their current situation."

-Scott Winters
Dubois Vet Center

As the group progressed, Winters surveyed the participants to determine what their individual expectations for the group were. He explained that his experiences have shown him that people are challenged by different things. Because of this, he focuses on the specific needs of the group participants. Moving forward, he is more able to provide individualized readjustment counseling for the initial group of participants.

As the group came to a close, the general attitude was one of optimism on several fronts. Group participants were feeling validated that their service was being appreciated and they were not being forgotten. Additionally, participants were pleased that they would be learning skills from a trained professional who shared a common bond with them (combat veteran).



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SCI Coal Township Staff Recognized for Years of Service

Two SCI Coal Township employees were recently recognized and presented with certificates of service at the superintendent's meeting.

Pictured, from left to right, are: Corrections Officer 1 T. Behney, 20 years of service; Superintendent Tom McGinley, and Plumbing Trades Instructor K. Cook, 25 years of service.



Congratulations!

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Graterford Hosts FACT Reunion

SCI Graterford officials recently gathered graduates of Graterford's FACT program for a reunion. FACT -- Fathers And Children Together -- is Graterford's inmate organization that provides parenting skills to fathers to ensure they understand the importance of their roll in their children's lives.

Love Transcends All Barriers – Even Those Made of Prison Walls

From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on January 11, 2016, eight SCI Graterford inmates were given the opportunity to spend time with their daughters at a special event in the prison's visiting room. The evening was filled with hugs, food, dancing and lots of love.

The inmates recently completed two months of classwork as part of the prison lifers group called Fathers And Children Together (FACT). Inmate fathers at the prison, so long as they meet program criteria and are able to have general population visits, are able to participate in the program that stresses the connection fathers should have with their children.

FACT is a national model to resolve fatherlessness, intergenerational incarceration and the "school-to-prison pipeline" that provides an orientation session and workshops for fathers incarcerated at SCI Graterford and visitation with their children. The conclusion of the program is punctuated with a graduation ceremony where participating fathers receive a certificate.

Mothers of the children who are reunited with their incarcerated fathers also participate in an orientation session and a series of workshops. On alternating Thursdays and Fridays, on a weekly basis, the children are brought to SCI Graterford by their mothers and members of FACT's external team. While the children visit with their fathers, the mothers, along with members of FACT's external team, gather at a separate location for dinner and conversation. The relaxed environment provides the mothers with an opportunity to interact with each other and discuss any issues they may have.



Since the program's beginning several years ago, 120 Graterford inmates have participated. Some of the participants have since been released from prison, while others continue to parent from prison.

This was the first time that children of inmates were brought to the prison solely to participate in a special event that allowed them to spend quality time with their fathers, albeit in the prison's visiting room.

For a brief moment that evening, the inmates were just fathers... men who loved their children and who were proud to show it.

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Quehanna Employees Donate to EMS

Through the generosity of the Quehanna Boot Camp (QBC) staff, the QBC Empowerment Committee donated \$1,000 to Karthaus Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Funds were raised through raffles, hoagie/sandwich sales, etc. Each year, a percentage of the proceeds is donated to a charitable organization.



Pictured, from left to right, are: Major Frazer Blake; Billy Narehood, Karthaus EMS chief of operations; Sue Hoffman, Karthaus EMS secretary; John Hoffman, Karthaus EMS treasurer; Kim Ralph, QBC Empowerment Committee treasurer; and CCPM Jim Stover.

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Albion Olympic Decorating Contest

During the Olympics, SCI Albion held a decorating contest, where each housing unit received identical art kits to paint a mural with a theme of the "2018 Winter Olympics." Each depiction was to contain the Olympic Rings with a Winter Olympic event. Voting was institution wide, and SCI Albion staff cast 209 votes for their favorite murals! The winning blocks will receive an extra bingo session.

1st place



2nd and 3rd Place



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Central Office Holds Blood Drive

On March 9, employees of the DOC's Central Office held a blood drive. While only six of the more than 400 employees registered and donated blood, five pints were collected, and those five pints will save the lives of 15 local patients.

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Huntingdon Officers Speak at Local School Career Day

By Corrections Officer 1 Jared Johnson

Last month two SCI Huntingdon officers, CO1 Shane Weyant and CO1 Jared Johnson, were invited to the Juniata Valley High School Career Day. Arriving at Juniata Valley High School, the officers were welcomed with open arms. The students pointed them in the direction of the tables they had set out for their use. As CO Weyant and CO Johnson carried into the school most of the equipment that all officers use daily, the students started to gravitate in their direction.

The officers laid out contraband that was confiscated over the years on the tables, and immediately the students started asking questions such as, how do inmates get ahold of things like this. The officers also showed the students the large Plexiglas shield which is used for controlling an unruly inmate and for staff protection. Also, the students were very interested in the hand-held electronic immobilizing device, which is similar to a stun gun.

To end the day, the students asked many questions including what the officers' favorite things were about their jobs, to which the officers answered, "The pay, vacation and retirement are the biggest benefits to their jobs."

CO Johnson is a Juniata Valley High School graduate.

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SCI Mercer Recognizes 2017 EOQs

Superintendent Brian Thompson is pleased to announce those staff who were selected as SCI Mercer's 2017 Employees of the Quarter: Rhonda Jolley, Najee Easley, Shelby Miller and Christopher Fritch.

Nominated by their co-workers, these employees were then selected by the Employee of the Quarter Committee for their outstanding service and commitment to excellence. Superintendent Thompson presented each employee with a framed certificate of appreciation at the administrative meeting during the quarter that each was selected.

Pictured with the awardees is Superintendent Thompson and with the 1st and 3rd quarter awardees, the employee's supervisor, including Budget Analyst Jeffrey Sehman and Dr. Cynthia Wright, LPM, respectively. Pictured with the 4th quarter awardee is Deputy Superintendent Lee Estock and supervisor FMM2 Larry Boggs.



Congratulations are extended to the recipients for their exemplary work.

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In Your Communities...

The Return of "SAFE RETURN"

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SAFE RETURN

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For More Info. 267-765-6898 - Shuttle Available From Olney Transportation Center - Please Do Not Bring Children

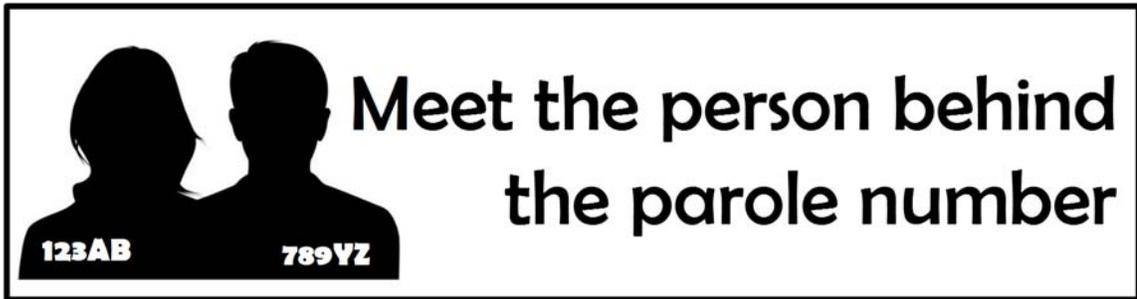
Lawyers will be on site to speak with you to determine if this is the right process for you.

<https://PHLSafeReturn.wordpress.com>

*This event is not intended for juveniles

Media inquiries about this three-day event should be directed to Maria Finn at the DOC Press Office at (717) 728-3533.

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Of the thousands of men and women currently on parole in Pennsylvania, each one has a story to tell. At the first reading, you might say, "isn't that what they are supposed to be doing while on parole? Following the rules? Staying out of trouble?" The answer to each of these questions is yes. However, for almost all of the 42,000 people currently on parole in the state, returning to the community is about changing attitudes.

Changing a lifestyle.

Controlling addictions.

Asking for help.

Recognizing that your past doesn't have to dictate your future.

This is one of the many stories behind the parole number as told by his parole agent:

Donny

I've supervised Donny since March 2016 when he was released from state prison. From the door, he has struggled dealing with his opiate use due to pre-existing back injuries. Donny never worked. He always said his back issues were holding him back from securing employment. He only talked about living off disability.

During the day he roamed the city only to find trouble and never a job. He was placed in a day reporting center to occupy what free time he had. Even with being directed to go, he was not going. No matter what I said or did, he did not appear motivated, and I did not think he was going to make it through parole.

By May 2016, his drug use had become so disruptive to his family, he was placed in an inpatient drug and alcohol facility by parole field staff. When he completed inpatient treatment in August 2016, he was placed back in the day reporting center and a local outpatient facility for aftercare. For the next couple months, he attempted to get his drug use under control with the help of his wife, the sole provider of the

house, but when she was at work, he would continue to abuse his medication.

In the spring of 2017, the parolee's drug use spiraled out of control again. Now his marriage and family were at stake as Donny was starting to destroy the last remaining support systems he had. Donny placed himself into another inpatient facility in March 2016.

While in the treatment facility, he found out that he had new minor charges filed against him back home. Apparently under the influence of drugs, he was going to a local business and breaking into their business and stealing minor things. Donny acknowledged his responsibility in these acts immediately when confronted by the police department.

In April 2017, Donny successfully completed treatment and then stood before the local magistrate and accepted responsibility in the charges. The magistrate reduced the charges to a summary offense. The victim in the case wanted to work with Donny and give him a second chance in the community.

Donny returned to the day reporting center for a third time. It was at this point I saw a change in Donny that gave me hope that something clicked for him.

He was walking six miles to get to the bus stop to make it to treatment services between two different cities. He was open and honest about this addiction and the excuses he made. He reached out to others to offer his help, often finding himself back in county prison, but this time as a volunteer to those struggling with AOD issues.

On March 6, 2018, nearing one year clean, surrounded by his family and his local police department, Donny graduated from the county day reporting center. He has successfully completed OPT AOD treatment and still attends NA weekly.

Knowing his family needed him more than ever, Donny has obtained full time employment at a drug and alcohol facility where he works as a clinical aid. He is working to obtain his GED and move forward with his goals of becoming a certified recovery specialist, so he can continue to help those that need it.

In addition to all of this, Donny has strengthened his family bonds.

The days of Donny being depressed, homebound, and angry have been replaced with what his family has called (jokingly) "annoyingly happy and positive."

It's an amazing feeling to see Donny turn his life around and become a productive member of society and his family. He is working hard every day to maintain his sobriety and help others with their struggles.

With the friendships he has built through the day reporting center, various recovery groups, and his amazing family, it is exciting to see where Donny will end up!

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Sharon CCC's Relationship with Sheepfold Ministries

W. Joel Murray | Center Director

Sheepfold Ministries is a religious organization founded and operated by Pastor Phil Roland and his family in Sharon, Pa. Pastor Roland bases his ministry on applying Christian lifestyle to all aspects of one's life and community. Sheepfold Ministries not only provides spiritual support to members of the Mercer County Community; but also facilitates anger management, addiction, grief, emotional health and family counseling to all those who need assistance.

Pastor Roland has been a longtime mentor and supporter of the reentrants residing in the Sharon Community Corrections Center (CCC) and continues to welcome them into his ministry.

The Sharon CCC recognizes the valuable services Pastor Roland provides the community and has offered support to Sheepfold Ministries by providing reentrants daily to support with facility maintenance, food bank assistance, clothing drives, assisting with furniture deliveries to families and a variety of other operational needs to support the variety of programs provided by Pastor Roland.

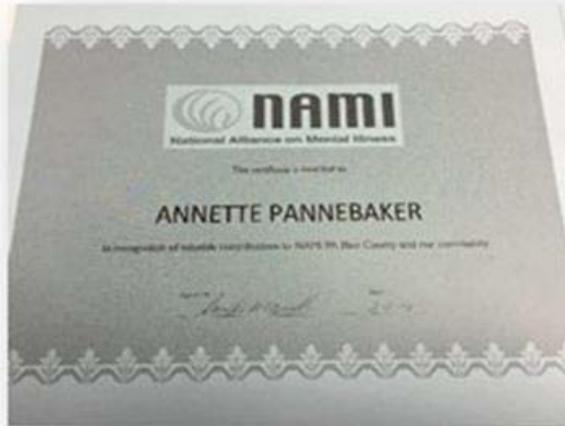
Reentrants from the Sharon CCC provided a total of 448 hours of community service in the month of January and 117 hours of community service in the month of February.

The Sharon CCC plans to continue the support they offer to Sheepfold Ministries and the local community.

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Pannebaker Recognized by NAMI

Annette Pannebaker, an ASCRA agent with the Specialized Services and Community Outreach Division, Bureau of Offender Reentry, recently attended the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Community Recognition meeting. At this meeting, she was recognized her for valuable contribution to NAMI PA Blair County and the community. She has conducted other Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) trainings in the community and for the PBPP.



Pannebaker and another ASCRA facilitate the PBPP Cognitive Behavioral, Employment and various other groups for the district. As a part of her duties, she works and collaborates with all of the community providers in the counties.

Prior to Pannebaker joining the Bureau, she was a specialized mental health agent and trained as a MHFA instructor for the board.

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Uplift Solutions

By Parole Manager 1 Javier Cintron

In Philadelphia we are currently collaborating with Uplift Solutions. They are located inside of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church at 2800 W. Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.

Visit their website: www.upliftsolutions.org/workforce

This workforce development program affords an individual with a criminal history an opportunity to receive job training, develop the skills necessary to cope with life situations, transportation assistance to make it to the training, and guaranteed employment after completing the six-week program at a local Shoprite. A weekly training stipend and catered daily lunch is also provided for the participants of this program.

I have personally attended several of their graduations, and it has been truly inspiring to see and hear the testimony of a reentrant talk about their new opportunity at life.

There are many resources such as Uplift Solutions in Philadelphia that contribute to a reentrant's success, and we hope to highlight them regularly in the newsletter.

Here are a few of the many articles that have made the news regarding Uplift Solutions:

<http://www.philly.com/philly/columnists/jane-von-bergen/Why-supermarket-Philly-CEO-likes-hiring-drug-dealers-reentry-prison-Browns-ShopRite.html>

http://www.philly.com/philly/business/labor_and_unions/lessons-learned-hiring-ex-offenders-supermarket-brown-reentry-20171127.html

<http://www.philly.com/philly/business/enon-church-helps-train-formerly-incarcerated-for-shoprite-jobs-20170517.html>

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Reentrant Completes Uplift Solutions Program

Reentrant Dan Mungin recently graduated from the Uplift Solutions Program and is now an employee at Shoprite. He is pictured with Parole Manager 1 Javier Cintron and Assessment/Sanctioning Community Resource Agent (ASCRA) Mea Williams. Williams is one of our newest ASCRA agents. She is assigned to the Countywide Division in Philadelphia and who provides cognitive behavioral, employment, violence prevention booster, anger management, drug and alcohol prevention, parole family education groups and seeks any community resource that is needed to ensure a reentrant's success.



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Former Reentrants Speak to “Juvenile” Lifer

On March 15, York Community Corrections Center (CCC) welcomed successful former reentrants Aaron Grice and Danny Cox to the center to speak to transitioning “juvenile” lifer Clarence Laudemberger. Laudemberger arrived at the center only two days earlier.

Grice and Cox have been involved with Life’s Beacon, and ex-offender group, and have created their own mentoring program called Ladder to the Light. Grice transitioned through the York CCC in 2012 and used his experience as a wake-up call to change his lifestyle.

Grice and Cox have met with the center’s other “juvenile” lifer, Hector Flores, and helped him to find employment during the first week he was at the center. They hope to help Laudemberger in the same way. They also provide transportation and support to center residents.

In addition to their work with “juvenile” lifers, Grice and Cox also visit the center’s weekly reentry groups on Monday evenings to speak to the entire house.



Pictured from left: York CCC Counselor Nelson Polite, York CCC Intern Matt Brondi, Aaron Grice, Danny Cox and “juvenile” lifer Clarence Laudemberger.

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City, Reentry Coalition Release Report and Open Data Set *Report and Data are Steps Toward Improved Analysis of Philadelphia's Recidivism Rate*

Efforts by the City and the Philadelphia Reentry Coalition to reduce recidivism among formerly incarcerated individuals reached an important milestone today with the release of the report, "Calculating a Unified Recidivism Rate for Philadelphia."

The report, authored by the Reentry Coalition and the Office of Criminal Justice (OCJ), was accompanied by the release of an open data set regarding people released from incarceration to Philadelphia in 2015, as well as an interactive visualization of the data for 2015.

"Tracking recidivism has been difficult because individual agencies generally only track people who are leaving or returning to their own system," said Sharon Rosenberg, Executive Director of Program Evaluation for Workforce Development for JEVs Human Services, who co-chairs the subcommittee which put together the report. "In this report, the Reentry Coalition identifies, for the first time, a unified recidivism metric that reflects Philadelphians returning from incarceration in both county and state custody."

"Calculating a Unified Recidivism Rate for Philadelphia" analyzes one year re-arrest rates for people released to Philadelphia by the Philadelphia Department of Prisons or the PA Department of Corrections, in addition to basic demographic information about who is being released.

"While no single measure of recidivism will tell the whole story, this metric will allow us to track recidivism more comprehensively," said Julie Wertheimer, the City's Chief of Staff for Criminal Justice. "In doing so, we can better track the success of the efforts of the City and its partners to improve the varied support systems and networks for returning citizens in Philadelphia."

Arriving at this definition allowed OCJ and Reentry Coalition partners to estimate that 33.9% of people released to Philadelphia are re-arrested in Pennsylvania within a year. According to the report, lowering the recidivism rate from 33.9% to 25.4% would equate to 2,000 fewer people re-arrested within a year of release from state prison or county jail.

"My administration remains committed to the Reentry Coalition's goal of reducing recidivism by deepening collaboration and strengthening partnerships," said Mayor Kenney. "This report and the new metric, along with the data set and the visualization, will now become tools in moving us closer to that goal, by allowing efforts to be data-informed and data-driven."

The open data set that accompanies the report shows how many returning citizens in 2015 were released to Philadelphia from county jail by the Philadelphia Department of Prisons (PDP) or state prison by the Department of Corrections (PA DOC) in 2015, along with their age, race, and zip code of reported address.

“We commend the Philadelphia Reentry Coalition for developing this first-of-its-kind recidivism analysis for the city,” said Department of Corrections’ Research Director Bret Bucklen, whose office provided support and data for the report. “With one out of every five releases from DOC custody returning to Philadelphia, the department benefits significantly by better understanding recidivism in Philadelphia and how to reduce it.”

For the 2015 data set, some of the key findings show that:

- Roughly 80% of people are released from local jail, 18% from state prison, and 2% from federal prison.
- Among the 98% released from either state or local incarceration, Black and Hispanic people were overrepresented, and Whites and Asians underrepresented, in comparison to the City’s total population.
- Only 15% of those released were female.
- A majority were under 40 years old. And most often, people returned to the zip codes 19134, 19124, 19140, 19132, 19143, and 19133.

The data set and visualization were created in conjunction with the Office of Open Data and Digital Transformation. For information about City data sets and others, go to OpenDataPhilly.org. Visit this resources page for video tutorials and links to tools to help analyze data. Follow @PHLIInnovation on Twitter to get alerts on future data releases, share how you plan to use open data with oddt@phila.gov, and join us on the public open data google forum.

The Philadelphia Reentry Coalition brings agencies and organizations working on reentry in Philadelphia together to collectively reduce recidivism. Its shared plan, Home for Good, focuses on increasing communication, facilitating collaboration, and building capacity among these stakeholder groups. The Coalition’s 103 members include local, state, and federal government agencies, community-based service providers, researchers, advocates, returning citizens, faith-based groups, and others who partner as Coalition members.

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Week of March 5...

Paying Last Respects to Sgt. Baserman

On Wednesday, March 7, 2018, the Department of Corrections held a memorial ceremony in honor of slain SCI Somerset Sergeant Mark Baserman. Baserman was brutally assaulted by an inmate on February 15; and he died as a result of those injuries on February 26.



Several thousand gathered to pay last respects to Sgt. Baserman at a ceremony held at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, whose officials donated their facilities at no cost.

Honor guards, consisting of more than 1,000 individuals, representing each PA DOC state prison, several county prisons, many states and even representatives from Canada were in attendance. Honor Guards lined the walkway leading into the venue as SCI Somerset employees arrived for the ceremony.

During the ceremony, the honor guards lined the center isle as Baserman's casket was carried to the front of the room.

In addition to the honor guards, Sgt. Baserman's family, all of SCI Somerset's employees and representatives from each state prison, prison motorcycle groups, county prisons, state police, other states, the local EMT community and Pennsylvania State Corrections Officer officials attended the ceremony, bringing the number of attendees to more than 3,500.





Serving as emcee for the event was Rev. Ulrich Klemm, who serves as the DOC's religious services administrator.

Following a radio check and moment of silence, the invocation was provided by SCI Somerset's facility chaplaincy program director Pastor Philip Maust.



Pastor Philip Maust

Speakers included PSCOA Vice President Larry Blackwell, Brian James from the Corrections Peace Officer Foundation, SCI Somerset Superintendent Melissa Hainsworth, East Hills EMS Paramedic Paul Bomboy and Corrections Secretary John Wetzel.

Flag folding and presentation, call to rise, rifle volley, Taps and EMS last call concluded the ceremony section of the event, which was then followed by an opportunity for attendees to address the casket.

Finally, the casket was carried to an East Hills EMS ambulance, which then departed the venue to deliver Sgt. Baserman to the station where he served as an EMT for several decades.



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Superintendent Melissa Hainsworth's Speech

"First, I would like to start by saying I am truly honored to be here in front of you today to celebrate the life of Sergeant Mark Baserman. Today, we have come together to honor a true hero who made the ultimate sacrifice in his service to others by enforcing the law inside of the fence.

In order to meaningfully convey to you how Mark fit into our family at SCI-Somerset, I must first

recognize the work and life of a corrections officer. Corrections is a difficult and demanding profession. There are long hours with the constant risk of danger and harm. Their job is not to just confine and provide for those who were found to have broken the law, but to treat and reform them in an effort to prepare for their return to society. A corrections professional cannot fear change, commitment, or danger. Despite the minimal praise at times and few tangible rewards, corrections officers take great pride in their work, making a positive difference every day, and remaining committed to keeping our communities safe.

Courage, fairness, respect, and being genuine are all required characteristics of a successful corrections officer. It's imperative to treat those incarcerated, their families, visitors, and others with dignity, respect, and consistency, despite the possibility of not receiving the same in return. A corrections officer must be dedicated to his or her job to do it effectively, dedicated to his or her fellow staff members with whom they serve to maintain trust and respect, to his or her family to risk their safety to provide for them, and to the community to keep them safe.

As a result of all of the above, the team of corrections professionals assigned the task of upholding the standards and expectations of a correctional facility becomes a family. A family that protects one another, supports one another, and defends one another. This inherent loyalty to each other is not limited to just those we are putting in our time with, but to all of their families outside of the fence also. When there is a tragedy, a need for a helping hand, a cause to be fought, an accomplishment to be celebrated, or a need for a shoulder to cry on, we are there for each other. I have personally witnessed this dedication to our corrections family over the past three weeks as individuals have rallied around us locally, within our own state, and nationally.



Sergeant Mark Baserman was the epitome of a successful corrections officer. In preparation for this opportunity to represent the SCI-Somerset family today, I asked for those who worked beside Mark to provide me with input regarding what message should be conveyed. When I would do rounds, Mark always made a point to greet me. He was always professional and courteous. He was the type of staff member who could be trusted to complete any assigned task without question and took pride in his work. Sergeant Baserman took his job as a corrections professional seriously, enforcing the rules, while remaining fair, consistent, and respectful. He was described as genuinely caring for people and was a sincerely kind person. He was gentle and easy to talk to. Mark would go out of his way to make a new employee feel welcome by befriending them upon their arrival. He would share stories of his time in the military, as an EMS worker, and of his dogs. Mark would faithfully check in with all of the staff on his unit upon him assuming his post, to include the non-uniformed staff. He would go above and beyond his responsibilities as a corrections officer by supporting his corrections family. He expressed his concern for their professional and personal well-being – reaching out to them and offering an ear to listen or a helping hand. In addition to his dedication to his chosen profession, he took care of his family at home – providing for them in many ways.

Mark was a true hero in many aspects and will be dearly missed by not only his family at home, but also by his corrections family. There is no ceremony or words that can ease our pain we all feel today. However, we must continue to honor Sergeant Mark Baserman – his courage, strength and kindness he exuded each day. Mark embraced his profession as a corrections officer. His ultimate sacrifice was for a far greater purpose than himself. We must honor Mark by continuing our mission in maintaining our dedication to the profession and conducting ourselves in a respectful manner - caring for and supporting one another – just as he did. Be mindful of our families and friends and appreciate all of their support expressing our gratitude to them for all that they do. I ask that each of us do this to honor Mark who will always be with us in our hearts.



Rest easy Sarge, we have the watch from here....."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Secretary John Wetzel's Speech

"America has a sacred covenant with its guardians. Around this room, you are guardians of America.

Three weeks ago, that sacred covenant was broken without cause, without purpose. An inexcusable act.

Our families loan us to the Commonwealth and to the country to protect them. That covenant is a two-way street.

So, to Sgt. Baserman's family, thank you for loaning your hero, our hero, to us.

This job is thankless, but thank you, thank him.



To the first responders, Officers McDowell, staff at Somerset, the EMS folks, the folks at the hospital, thank you for your heroic acts.

Winston Churchill, in the midst of the war, said that sometimes our best isn't good enough and sometimes we must do what is required. You all did what was required. We're all saddened and shaken to our core that this tragedy occurred.

That this hero died for no reason.

And when I say no reason I say that because its causeless, but what he stood for is a life of service to this country, service to his community and service to this commonwealth. Every citizen in this commonwealth benefited from this man's heroic service.

We grieve deeply.

Deeply.

When someone gets put behind that wall we forget about them. The citizens forget about them.

But every day our staff walks the toughest beat and does it in an honorable fashion.

This honorable man shall forever be remembered.

You know, one of the things about corrections that people don't understand is that we're forced and asked to deal with the worst that humanity has to offer. The worst side of humanity and in response to that, we show America our best. The best that America has to offer.

So, I would ask all of you and all of us that we can't allow this to end here. We're a family, and sometimes families fight, sometimes families are angry at each other. But at the end of the day we are a family. And when the chips are down we pull together.

We can't leave here today without a firm commitment, first of all to Sgt. Baserman's family, that whatever it takes this is not an event that ends today. Our support, our commitment to them just begins today. And it continues throughout – whatever that means, by any means necessary. But our commitment to ourselves to take care of each other – we're always outnumbered. We're often forgotten, but what we do counts. And I would ask you to join me in the commitment to ensure that Sgt. Baserman's memory remains eternal.

As Larry Blackwell said, 'Rest well. Rest well.'

God Bless.

Thank you."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

On Eagles Wings

Pennsylvania State Police Sgt. Daniel Mosura and "Touch of Brass" ensemble performed "On Eagles Wings," as selected by Sgt. Baserman's family.

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord, "My Refuge,
My Rock in Whom I trust."

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.
The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His Wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield.

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.
You need not fear the terror of the night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day,
Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come.

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And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.
For to His angels He's given a command,
To guard you in all of your ways,
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.

Planning the Ceremony

Planning. It's what we do in corrections. We plan for the worst and hope for the best. Through the Incident Command System, the DOC has a step-by-step plan to handle nearly every situation from tornados and loss of power to escapes and riots.

But the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections did not have a plan to carry out a memorial service for a slain employee. Why? Because the last time this agency experienced such a horrific event was in 1979. Hardly anyone from that era is employed by the DOC.

So, this plan had to be written for the first time.

Corrections Secretary John Wetzel called on his expert in this area -- Major Scott Bowman. Bowman is a veteran corrections employee who rose through the officer ranks having landed in the DOC's Security Division where he served as the agency's critical incident manager and major of security. In these capacities, Bowman helped Pennsylvania officials deal with hurricanes and blizzards, assisted Pennsylvania State Police with resources as they searched for the killer of a trooper. Most recently Bowman was assigned to SCI Graterford to help that facility prepare to move its inmates and employees to its replacement facility, SCI Phoenix.

Bowman was told to do whatever needed to be done and to keep the family's wishes and desires at the forefront of every decision.

Bowman called upon his coworkers within the DOC and his counterparts from PSP and other state agencies.

They handled this ceremony the same way they handle every incident – using the Incident Command System structure. He broke every conceivable part of the operation down into sections and assigned managers to each section.

The incident objectives were identified as being:

- 1. Facilitate the Memorial Service for PA Department of Corrections, SCI Somerset Sergeant Mark J. Baserman at the University of Pittsburgh – Johnstown Campus on March 7, 2018 at 1100hrs.**
- 2. Provide for site Security, orderly Parking of all attendees, staffing of Traffic Control Points and Access Control Points, coordination of dignitary security teams and procession.**
- 3. Brief, organize and professionally display all responding Honor Guard units no later than 0900 March 7, 2018.**
- 4. Ensure that venue support staff members are assembled, briefed and assigned appropriately for facilitation of the Memorial Service on March 7, 2018 no later than 0700hrs.**
- 5. Ensure that facility support logistics of the Emotional Support Room, Family Comfort Room, local EMS staging and hydration support stations are set up and staffed no later than 0830, March 7, 2018.**
- 6. Provide for supervision of Commonwealth Media Services coordination with University and local Media resources.**



Sections included:

Incident Commander – Scott Bowman

Safety Officer – University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown Staff

Public Information Officer – DOC Press Office, Facility PIOs

Liaison Officer – Joe Furman

A detailed listing of all non-DOC agency/organization representatives

Planning Section – Mark Hacherl, Aaron Litwhiler and Vicky Blasic

Logistics Section – Ken Kim and Scott Lander

Operations Section – Mark Hacherl

Honor Guard – Samuel Harker, Troy Vanderau, CPOF's Wendy Bauer and

PSP Mounted Patrol Detail Cpl. Carrie Neidigh

Law Enforcement – Officials from PSP, the university and EMS

Venue Support – John Oliver

Emotional Support Group – DOC C.O.V.E.R. Natasha Amaral, EMS Paul

Bomboy

Finance/Administration Section – SCI Somerset Business Manager Dennis

Decker

Each section had an assignment list that included personnel and resource details and specific work assignments to be completed.

All of this information was collected and compiled onto DOC ICS forms by Aaron Liwhiler. The forms were part of the DOC's action plan for the event, which also included contact information for everyone involved, local hospital information, weather monitoring, a timeline of the ceremony, a map of the university campus

and planned routes of arrival/departure, and detailed maps of the venue itself which outlined seating areas, etc.

Meetings upon meetings were held over the course of about a week to plan for everything from ordering thousands of boxes of tissues to planning for an emotional support room and parking.

And it was a result of this planning that a successful event was held. And while all of this planning may sound cold, the ceremony was anything but. The ceremony was filled with EMS and law enforcement traditions and personal touches and messages from the family.

It is everyone's deepest and sincerest wishes that this agency will never again have to hold such a ceremony.

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Outpouring of Support

Since the day of the attack on Sgt. Mark Baserman, DOC employees surrounded Sgt. Baserman's family and his SCI Somerset with support.

At the hospital, SCI Somerset employees remained by the side of his wife and helped her with anything she needed.

At the prison, employees from other prisons desperately wanted to help, and many showed up after their normal shift at their prison to work the next shift at SCI Somerset.

Their chance to provide support came again when the date and time of the memorial ceremony was announced.

Through the DOC's Security Division, and led by Major Ken Goodman, Corrections Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) were taken to SCI Somerset so they could learn the layout of the prison and its operations. The plan was for the CERT teams to run the prison so every SCI Somerset employee could attend the service.

This went off without incident because of their great work and because the DOC locked down every state prison the night before the ceremony. All prisons remained locked down until the morning after the ceremony. DOC officials informed the inmates several days before the lockdown:

"To honor and show respect for the life of Sgt. Mark J. Baserman, we will begin a scheduled statewide lockdown of all facilities beginning after 9:00 p.m. count March 6, 2018, and returning to normal operations March 8, 2018.

Sgt. Baserman worked at SCI Somerset. He succumbed to his injuries sustained from an attack by an inmate on him and the officer who came to assist.

Sgt. Baserman positively impacted the lives of staff, inmates, and his community. His untimely death represents a significant loss to our Department of Corrections."

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Media Coverage



It was a request of the family that no media be inside the main area where the ceremony was taking place. The DOC set up a separate "media viewing room" where on-site reporters could go to watch the ceremony live.

Reporters from four media outlets sat quietly in the room observing the ceremony, which was taking place in a building that was located only a few yards to their left. A live stream of the ceremony was provided by Commonwealth Media Services which made this media viewing room possible.

A tent area for reporters staying outside also was provided. These reporters covered/photographed employees as they arrived for the ceremony.

Media Coverage/Articles:

Altoona Mirror (03/08/2018) [Somerset corrections officer honored.](#)

Johnstown Tribune-Democrat (03/07/2018) ['We grieve deeply': Fallen officer's 'life of service' celebrated](#)

WJAC-TV (03/07/2018) [Thousands pay respects to slain Johnstown corrections officer](#)

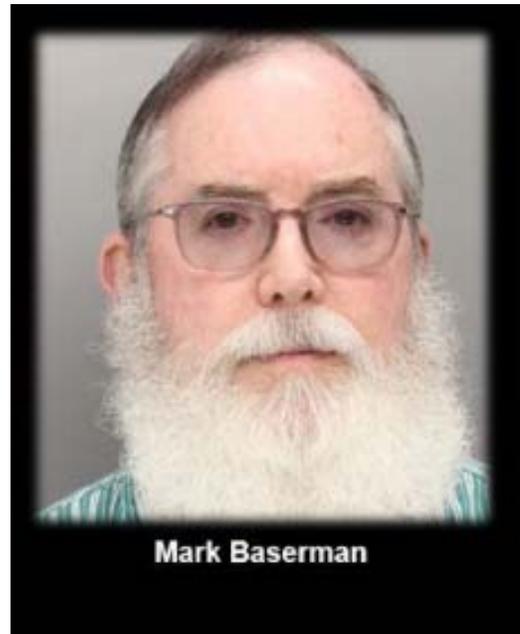
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Week of February 26...

Pennsylvania DOC Reports Death of a Corrections Officer

"On behalf of the entire Department of Corrections, it is with deepest sympathy that I report the death of Sgt. Mark J. Baserman on February 26, 2018," Secretary Wetzel said. "The minute we learned of this unprovoked, brutal attack on Sgt. Baserman and another officer who came to his aid our hearts sank. We are greatly saddened by Sgt. Baserman's death and our thoughts are with his family at this time."

"Frances and I share our deepest condolences with Sgt. Baserman's family, friends and co-workers, especially the officer who came to his aid and who also was attacked," said Gov. Tom Wolf. "DOC, specifically to SCI Somerset, will have all the resources its needs during this difficult time. I also ask all Pennsylvanians to stand behind DOC employees now and always, as these law enforcement officers' jobs are vital to protecting public safety."



The Memorial Service celebrating Sergeant Mark Baserman's life and career will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, at 1100 hrs. at the Sports Complex at the University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown (450 Schoolhouse Road, Johnstown. PA 15904).

On Thursday, February 15, at approximately 7 p.m., Sgt. Baserman was at the officers' desk in a housing unit day room when an inmate approached him and began assaulting him. The inmate punched the officer, forcing him to the ground and continued to beat him.

Another officer working on the same housing unit responded to assist Sgt. Baserman and also was attacked by the inmate. Additional staff

responded and restrained the inmate, while other staff provided medical care to the two injured officers. The inmate was immediately transferred to another state prison. No weapons were used by the inmate during this attack and no other inmates were involved.

Both officers were taken to a local hospital for treatment. Sgt. Baserman remained hospitalized at Johnstown's Conemaugh Hospital in serious condition until his death. The other officer was treated and released.

Paul Kendrick, 22, of Pittsburgh, who is serving a life sentence for first degree murder, was charged by Pennsylvania State Police for the attacks.

Sgt. Baserman began his employment with the DOC in 2007 at the now closed SCI Cresson. He has been employed at SCI Somerset, since 2012 and was promoted to sergeant in 2016.

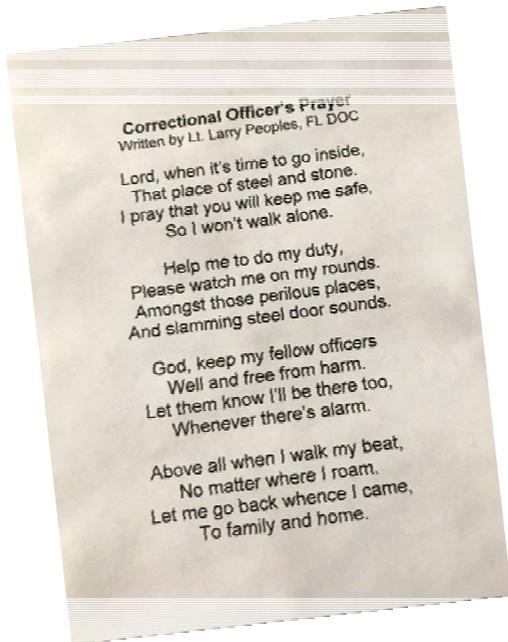
The last fatal staff assault by an inmate occurred on SCI Graterford on March 20, 1979.

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Central Office Hosts Quiet Space for Employees to Honor Sgt. Mark Baserman

Central Office employees, led by Rev. Ulrich Klemm, created a quiet space in which employees could gather to remember and pray for Sgt. Mark Baserman and his family,

friends and coworkers. Approximately 50 employees took time from their daily duties to pay respects.



Rev. Klemm played several hymns and religious songs while the group paid their respects.

The "Correctional Officer's Prayer" was shared with attendees:



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Gov. Wolf Orders the Commonwealth Flag at Half-Staff to Honor Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Sergeant Mark J. Baserman

On February 27, Governor Tom Wolf ordered the Commonwealth flag to fly at half-staff at the Capitol Complex, all Commonwealth facilities in Somerset County, and all Pennsylvania Department of Corrections facilities to honor Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Sergeant Mark J. Baserman.

Sergeant Baserman passed away on Monday, February 26, 2018. He passed from injuries sustained when an inmate approached and began assaulting him.

The Commonwealth flag shall be lowered immediately, Tuesday, February 27, 2018, until sunset on the day of Sergeant Baserman's interment. All Pennsylvanians are invited to participate in this tribute. The United States flag shall remain at full staff during this tribute.

A Former Inmate Shares Fond Memory of Sgt. Baserman

I was a former inmate at SCI-Somerset. I was 16 years old when I came into the system. I served 38 years, 2 months and 25 days.

I knew Mr. Baserman. I was on the same unit that he worked, F-B Unit. He was very respectful towards me. I was serving a life sentence which was (eventually) overturned. He told me once that I was one of the few who deserved to be paroled. He would tell me how life was like out here, etc. He was kind to me and to most of the men.

The night before I was to be released, Sgt. Baserman called me to the desk and asked if he could say a prayer together. We prayed. Now he lost his life.

May you rest in peace, Sgt. and thank you for all you done for me.

Take care of him, God. He's a good one.

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PA Department of Corrections  @CorrectionsPA · 9h

PA DOC staff join House lawmakers in the Capitol for a moment of silence in honor of Sgt. Baserman.



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Community Holds Candlelight Vigil

During the evening hours of February 27, DOC employees and community members held a candlelight vigil in honor of slain SCI Somerset Sgt. Mark Baserman.



The idea of the candlelight service began with a softball team coached by Corrections Officer Rich Good. The team of girls wanted to do something for Sgt. Baserman because they knew that Officer Good worked as a corrections officer. He and the team began to make arrangements, gather candles and made contacts, which turned into an event attended by several hundreds of people.



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PCI Provides Mourning Bands to DOC Employees

Pennsylvania Correctional Industries provided mourning bands to DOC facilities at no cost.

The bands are worn on officers' shirt epaulets.

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Central Office Shares Info with Facility Leaders

On February 28, DOC Secretary John Wetzel gathered the agency's leadership in the conference room and via video conferencing equipment to share information with everyone.



The meeting began with prayer led by Rev. Ulrich Klemm.

Wetzel began the meeting by talking about the dangers of the corrections field and how we all put aside the thoughts of danger and do our jobs.

"Nothing shakes the foundation of this agency more than the death of a coworker," Wetzel said. "We all hurt with you and are at the ready to supply support to Somerset employees and everyone else who needs support."

Wetzel said that the only way this agency gets through times like this is to band together.

"We will do whatever we can to make this less likely to ever happen again," he said.



Central Office connected with each facility via video conference.

Wetzel confirmed what everyone already knew... "We all are raw with emotion, pain and anger. This is devastating, and I can't imagine anything worse, but we still have work to do. As horrible as this situation is, we must continue on with our 24/7 operation. Even Somerset employees, as they suffered through the death of their coworker, went to work every day."

Wetzel said that this is a time for everyone to care for themselves and for each other and to support Somerset.

"It's ok to be PO'd," Wetzel said. "Sgt. Baserman didn't deserve this."

The rest of the meeting provided details of how staff from other facilities are assisting SCI Somerset and the plan to continue to do so through and beyond the date of the funeral service.

Logistical information about honor guards and employee attendance of the funeral – date/time yet to be confirmed – is being coordinated out of SCI Somerset by Major Scott Bowman and his team.

Deputy Secretary Tabb Bickell and Major John Goodman discussed other internal plans, including the fact that the officers' union, PSCOA, has leased buses for all SCI staff who wish to attend the funeral.

Bickell also discussed the fact that SCI Laurel Highlands' employee association will start a "Go Fund Me" page and will instruct all facilities how monies collected to benefit Sgt. Baserman's family should be sent through that fund in order to keep funds safe and for everyone to be accountable.

The meeting concluded with wise words from Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal, who said that it's ok the cry and to be angry.

"We all feel helpless, but it's during these times that we must extend positive thoughts and prayers to drown out the negativity. We need to come together... it's what we do best," Moore Smeal said.

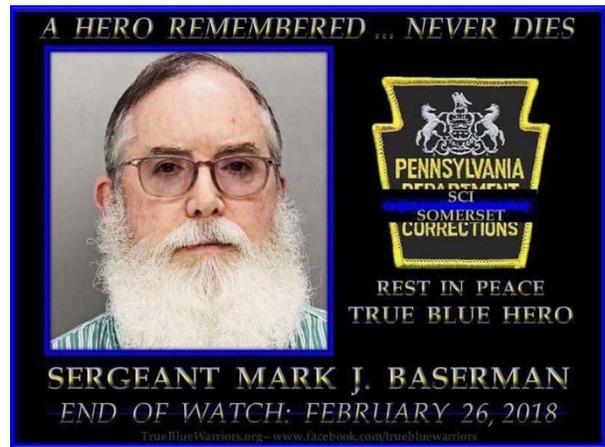
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Thoughts from SCI Benner Township Superintendent

In a time of heart wrenching sorrow, we are once again reminded of the unfaltering commitment of the staff of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. It is a commitment to protect and serve, not just the citizens of this great Commonwealth, but an unparalleled commitment to also protect and serve the inmates who are confined to our care.

At the end of the day, we are just ordinary people who signed on to serve the thousands of individuals who have been deemed a threat to the same society where we pray that our own families and those we hold dearest can thrive. It is a profession that requires resiliency and perseverance that extends far beyond our own thresholds on more days than we can count. It is a conviction to do good and be what is right, even in the face of evil. It is a profession where, regardless the concerted effort, we will never reach them all, but where the effort is always reserved for another day because we recognize our need to "correct" inmate behavior, not just to make our lives easier in the midst of these concrete and asphalt jungles, but because in our hearts we truly believe that we will break through their barriers and knock down the walls that brought them to us in the first place.

The perils behind the walls and endless rolls of razor wire are not a fiction story for us, nor are they what is portrayed on television or the big screen. Those perils are our reality! They are bekownst to us, but often forgotten by the same citizens that we have sworn to serve. Our challenges are many, but we do not fret when the scales are unbalanced. Maybe that's because we are just ordinary people who serve



in purpose for an extraordinary cause; Maybe it is our chemistry; Maybe it is our collective commitment; Maybe it is just our individual drive; Maybe our reality is obscured by our HOPE; but there is CERTAINTY in the fact that we NEVER falter.

We are just ordinary people who signed on for an extraordinary cause. Our daily obstacles are evident and few will ever understand what a normal day looks like in our world. Hell, there are countless days we would fail to recognize it ourselves because they are few and far between. Our only stable is often each other and that is enough for us on any given day. So many ask, "Why and how we do it?" There are many days we ponder on that question ourselves. For some it is a paycheck that provides a decent life for us and our families, but for the vast majority it is truly about service to our mission and being responsible stewards to the Commonwealth.

We don't always get it right, we are after all, just ordinary people who signed on for an extraordinary cause. One thing for certain, we are ALL IN every day! 8 and the gate is merely a catchy phrase that some mumble, but our commitment could never be supported by that mentality. We are all in for this Commonwealth, each other, the inmates in our care, and for our families; the same families that support us through our mission and who have certainly made their own sacrifices in support of our service.

Our days often look like an episode of Groundhog Day. The clock sometimes feels like it is standing still in our world; despite a regimented and precise daily schedule, that can, and often does, turn to hell in a hand basket in any given minute. Time may seem like it stands still, but it never truly does because even in the midst of what would seem like chaos from outside eyes, we always rebound and we rarely miss a beat!

Success at the end of our day is never seen in a "finished product" and in most cases it is not tangible, it is something that is only felt in the soul. Our measurement of success is in HOPE. Hope that we may have made a difference in the face of evil, hope that we have reconstructed and empowered others in an environment labeled as a land of misfits to society, success that is felt when we all walk out at the end of each day. Success for us is oddly measured in the ability and will to return to do it all again tomorrow!

We are just ordinary people who signed on to do extraordinary things. Ordinary people who would pray with a soul once deemed lost, ordinary people who believe in hope, ordinary people who believe in change, ordinary people who try to be an example of responsible citizenship, ordinary people who do not believe our work is in vain, ordinary people who sit beside some of the most dangerous people in society to celebrate their small steps towards achieving personal change and success.

We are the correctional staff of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections; an agency that is routinely heralded as being one of the best correctional agencies, not just in the nation, but the world. Those accolades are received with great pride, but

they are not what makes us thrive. Our mere existence as the oldest penological correctional system in the nation is because we know WE ARE EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE WHO WILLINGLY REMAIN COMMITTED TO AN EXTRAORDINARY CAUSE. An extraordinary group of people who would one day hope to also be recognized as "A Good One", for in those words we see HOPE, for in those words, something EXTRAORDINARY transpired for humanity. We are EXTRAORDINARY people who are heartbroken and grieving for the loss of an EXTRAORDINARY corrections professional, his family, and his co-workers. Rest easy Sgt. Mark Baserman, we remain committed to carrying on your EXTRAORDINARY work.... you have our promise that we will take it from here.

#honor #respect #integrity #commitment #sgtmarkbaserman #agoodone

--Tammy Ferguson, Superintendent
SCI Benner Township

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Facility Observances

In addition to information provided below, many state prison employees volunteered their time – and continue to do so -- to work at SCI Somerset, sometimes volunteering immediately after coming off of their own shift. This is what corrections is all about – supporting coworkers no matter how near or how far.



SCI Albion

After hearing about the assault at SCI Somerset, SCI Albion employees began a collection for Sgt. Baserman's family to help with any unexpected costs associated with his medical care or any other needs.

SCI Benner Township

The prison's employee activities organization and its empowerment committee has purchased memory bracelets and ribbons to be worn by staff in Sgt. Baserman's honor.

SCI Cambridge Springs

Cards have been placed at the lobby officer's desk for staff to sign. One card will be sent to Sgt. Baserman's family, and the other card will be sent to their DOC family at SCI Somerset to let them know that condolences go out to them at this time of tragic loss.

SCI Camp Hill

Prison officials will ring the chapel bell before each shift on the day of the funeral.

SCI Forest

The prison’s employee association has scheduled a “donut day” for March 9. Proceeds from the donut day, rip-off tickets and 50/50 ticket sales will benefit the sergeant’s family.

SCI Frackville

The prison held a memorial service for Sgt. Baserman on February 27 in the prison chapel. It was led by Chaplain Anyanwu.

SCI Greene

The facility has placed its flag at half-mast, and the corrections officers are showing support by wearing black bereavement bands on their uniforms.



SCI Huntingdon

The prison placed a journal in a central location so staff could write notes of support or offer condolences to SCI Somerset staff. The journal will be available for a few weeks and then will be sent to SCI Somerset to share with their employees.

SCI Pine Grove

On February 28, SCI Pine Grove held a memorial service in its chapel as a tribute to Sgt. Baserman. It was well attended by staff. Retired Lt. John Kabala paid a tribute to Sgt. Baserman by playing Amazing Grace on the bagpipes.

SCI Rockview

Employees are wearing bereavement ribbons and are collecting money for the Baserman family.

SCI Waymart

The facility held memorial services in honor of Sgt. Baserman on February 28 and March 1.

NOTE: Other facilities also are holding individual events, but they did not submit their information in time to be included in this week’s newsletter.

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Collections/Donations for Sgt. Baserman's Family

Each facility is accepting monetary donations to assist Sgt. Baserman's family. DOC employees should reach out to their local employee association for details. Eventually all funds will be submitted to a DOC-established Go Fund Me account.

The account has been set up and can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.gofundme.com/PADOCSGTBASERMAN>

All non-monetary donations (i.e. cards, gifts) should be sent to:

Ms. Cori Schmucker
SCI Somerset
1590 Walters Mill Road
Somerset, PA 15510-0001
cschmucker@pa.gov
814-443-8100 ext. 8266

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Employees Killed in the Line of Duty (at the hands of inmates)

Prior to the Creation of the Bureau of Correction

Deputy Warden John A. Pieper – on February 11, 1924, was shot and killed by an inmate who was trying to escape with other inmates from Western Pen.

Sergeant John T. Coax – on February 11, 1924, was shot and killed by inmates as he was rushing to the south end of Western Pen following two explosions there during an escape attempt by several inmates.

Corrections Officer Edwin H. Lichtenberger – on July 17, 1924, was assaulted by a single inmate in the corridor at Eastern State Penitentiary. The inmate had a very elaborate escape plan that went awry. Officer Lichtenberger died of multiple blows to the head with an axe.

Employees Killed in the Line of Duty (at the hands of inmates)

After the Creation of the Bureau of Correction in 1952*

Corrections Officer Charles Robert Elder - on August 9, 1954, between 0715 and 0810 hours was assaulted and stabbed to death by four inmates while he was on duty in the bakeshop at SCI Huntingdon. The inmates were attempting to escape through the bakeshop.

Corrections Officer Clifford J. Grogan - was fatally stabbed when he came to the aid of a fellow officer. The stabbing occurred November 12, 1965, at SCI Pittsburgh.

Corrections Food Service Instructor Stephen P. Ary, Sr. - was fatally stabbed on September 16, 1973. Mr. Ary was working in the kitchen area of SCI Graterford where several inmates assaulted him.

Corrections Officer 4 Walter L. Peterson - was assaulted and fatally stabbed on December 10, 1973, by several inmates after entering the Restricted Housing Unit at SCI Pittsburgh.

Food Service Instructor Edward L. Boyer - was assaulted by an inmate on June 5, 1977, in the dining area of SCI Graterford. Mr. Boyer died from a blow to the head.

Corrections Officer 4 Felix Mokychic - was assaulted on March 20, 1979, by a single inmate in the corridor of SCI Graterford. Captain Mokychic died of multiple blows to the head with a baseball bat.

Corrections Officer 2 Mark Baserman – was beaten and kicked in the head February 15, 2018, by a single inmate in a housing unit at SCI Somerset. He died February 26, 2018, as a result of his injuries.



This monument is on display, directly across from the main entrance, at the DOC Training Academy.

*The Bureau of Correction was elevated to the Department of Correction in 1984.

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Week of February 19...

Meeting Held to Unify Community Corrections, Parole Supervision Team

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



Deputy Secretary for Community Corrections & Reentry George Little addresses attendees.

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

Speaking to the group today, in addition to Deputy Secretary Little, were Corrections Secretary John Wetzel and Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore

Smeal. Both provided the team with expectations and guidance about how to move forward in a consolidated manner.



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

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





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

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

"One Team, One Dream."

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Ransom Named Waymart Superintendent

Secretary John Wetzel recently appointed Kevin Ransom, a 23-year corrections veteran, as superintendent at the State Correctional Institution (SCI) Waymart. The appointment was effective February 17.

“Along with members of the new leadership team at Waymart, Kevin has advanced through a variety of management positions in the DOC,” said DOC Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal. “Throughout his career, Kevin has gained the knowledge and experience necessary to become an exceptional administrator and corrections expert. I am confident that he and his team of experienced managers will serve SCI Waymart’s employees and inmate population in an exceptional manner.”



Kevin Ransom

Ransom began his career with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections as a corrections officer at SCI Graterford in 1995 and was promoted through the officer ranks at SCIs Dallas and Muncy. He also worked as a lieutenant and captain for the Bureau of Community Corrections and as a criminal investigator with the DOC’s Office of Special Investigations and Intelligence before being named deputy superintendent for centralized services at SCI Retreat in 2016. He most recently served as deputy superintendent for facility management at SCI Muncy.

Ransom was a parole agent with the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole. Since 1992, he has served as a police officer for several Luzerne County police departments and continues to serve the Courtdale Boro Police Department. Ransom is a member of the Luzerne County D.U.I. Task Force and is a former member of the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Drug Task Force. He is a graduate of Grand Army of Republic (G.A.R.) Memorial High in Wilkes-Barre, attended Lackawanna College and is a graduate of the Pennsylvania Municipal Police Officers Training Academy.

As superintendent of SCI Waymart, which opened in 1989, Ransom is responsible for almost 700 employees and approximately 1,500 inmates. Waymart specializes in housing inmates with mental health needs. The facility houses the department’s Forensic Treatment Center, a unit which houses mentally ill inmates who require inpatient psychiatric care and treatment.

Joining Ransom as part of the new management team at SCI Waymart is James Cirelli, who serves as deputy superintendent for facility management. Cirelli has more than 28 years of DOC service, most recently serving as major at SCI Dallas. He began his DOC career in 1990 as a corrections officer at SCI Waymart.

Norm Demming continues to serve as deputy superintendent for centralized services. Demming has served in this capacity since 2017. He previously served as deputy superintendent at SCI Dallas, where he began his DOC career as a corrections counselor in 1990.

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Providing Employees with Stress Management Tools

On February 14, Dr. Susan LaBine, from Edinboro University, conducted a presentation entitled, "Stress Management In a High Stress Environment."



This presentation included a discussion on numerous techniques associated with stress reduction including meditation, mindfulness and other relaxation strategies. Dr. LaBine specializes in wellness and stress reduction.

This topic area is certainly relevant to all of us given the high stress levels directly associated with working in the corrections environment.

This event was sponsored by SCI Albion's Suicide Prevention Committee and was available to all staff.



Pictured, from left to right, are: Psychological Services Specialist Carrie King, Deputy Superintendent for Facility Management Melinda Adams, Dr. Susan LaBine and SCI Albion Superintendent Michael Clark.

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DOC/DOBS Collaboration Continues

Officials from the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Department of Banking and Securities (DoBS) have agreed to continue a special collaboration. One year ago, the two agencies began a project to assist inmates and reentrants with financial learning.

As part of that project, Becky MacDicken, and outreach specialist from DoBS, visited every state prison at least once to provide banking and credit basics workshops to inmates, including juvenile lifers and inmates residing in transitional housing units or receiving services from reentry services offices. MacDicken also presented information to reentrants at three community corrections centers; provided educational materials and DVDs throughout the DOC regarding budgeting, banking and credit basics; and she assisted with six financial reality fairs that were held in conjunction with the Bureau of Community Corrections.

Officials have renewed a letter of understanding between the two agencies, allowing MacDicken to continue her work in this area, expanding her workshops to ALL DOC facilities. She also will provide evening videoconference presentations to reentrants who can't attend daytime presentations.

MacDicken is working on an orientation packet for every inmate entering the DOC; establishing solid credit report protocol by working with credit report agencies and banking associations; and identifying banks that will allow inmates/reentrants to establish savings or banking accounts.

It should be noted that on February 21, a reporter from the Philadelphia Inquirer observed MacDicken as she presented a workshop to inmates at SCI Chester. So, keep an eye out for that article!

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Commonwealth to Celebrate Black History Month

On Wednesday, February 28, from noon to 1 p.m., the Commonwealth's Multi-Agency Black History Month Celebration will take place in the Forum Auditorium in Harrisburg. Pre-program entertainment will begin at 11:30 AM.

The theme for this year's Black History Month Celebration is "African Americans In Times of War," and commemorates the centennial of the end of the First World War in 1918, and explores the complex meanings and implications of this international struggle and its aftermath. The theme also honors and recognizes the contribution of African-Americans in the conflicts that have occurred throughout time.

The program will feature guest speakers Colonel Cedric Carrington, director of the Department of Strategic Wargaming, US Army War College in Carlisle, Pa.; and Lt. Colonel Davina Carrington (retired US Army).

The PA Capitol Police Ceremonial Unit will post the colors, and the Carson Long Military Academy Drill Team will perform. Light refreshments will follow the

program in the atrium of the Keystone Building for program participants and attendees.

Admission is free, and the program is open to the public.

In the event of inclement weather, the event will take place on Thursday, March 8th at the same time and location.

Employees must use their lunch period or use leave to take part in this event if it is within their scheduled working hours.

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Celebrating Black History Month

Each year, SCI Mercer's Activities Department coordinates events to honor Black History Month. An art contest is one of the events in which the inmates may participate by submitting their original artwork. Administrative staff then vote for their favorite top three. This year's 1st and 2nd place winners are:

1st Place



2nd Place



In addition to the Art Contest, other scheduled activities for the month included:

Essay Contest.

Feb 6th - Paint Night.

Feb 8th - Speaker Mark Weir who spoke on the topic, "We are more alike than different."

Feb 15th - Black History Month Program, entitled "Profiles and Proses, A Black History Retrospective", hosted by Protestant Chaplain Validia Giddens. This program highlighted the lives and works of African American artists, musicians, athletes, and activists.

Feb 17th - Concert performed by Blu Pi out of Cleveland.

Feb 21st - Comedian Mike McDaniel from Cleveland.

More than 300 inmates attended and enjoyed these events held throughout the month of February.

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EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT

Veteran nurse is the heart of the medical department at SCI Houtzdale

With 2,517 inmates at SCI Houtzdale, there is a constant flow of patients through the medical department each day

By Mitchell Ross

Reprinted with permission from The Progress

HOUTZDALE, Pa. — Brenda Smith has been employed at the State Correctional Institution in Houtzdale since its origin – she was even there before the inmates.



**Brenda Smith is the infection control nurse at SCI Houtzdale.
(Photo by Mitchell Ross/The Progress)**

Smith began working in the medical department at SCI Houtzdale in December 1995. The first prisoners came in January 1996. With more than

20 years of experience, she is an integral part of this consistently busy division of the institution.

"I see every bit of lab work that comes through this place," Smith smiled.

The medical department at the prison consists of nearly 50 full-time employees. There is access to virtually any kind of medical care that the inmates could need while incarcerated. There is an infirmary that holds up to 20 people at once, a pharmacy, x-ray capabilities, optometry, dental and psychiatric care, to name a few.

The inmates receive routine lab work and wellness checkups from various doctors, physician's assistants, and nurse practitioners. Depending on the age of the inmate, checkups occur annually or bi-annually.

With 2,517 inmates at SCI Houtzdale, there is a "constant flow" throughout the medical department each day. There are 60 patients needing insulin twice a day, 30 tested for TB daily, several sick calls, and treatment of wounds – there is never a dull moment.

For medical care not offered physically within the walls of the prison, such as orthopedics and dermatology, the medical department works with doctors at Temple University through a telemedicine program.

"(The inmates) are well encompassed as far as care," Smith noted. "We are essentially a mini hospital within our own community."

As for Smith, her official title is Infection Control Nurse, which is a position that comes with a wide range of responsibilities. She teaches classes regularly for inmates to share knowledge on diseases such as MRSA, HIV or tuberculosis. Other lectures may include topics on knowing the differences between the cold and the flu or dealing with anxiety or depression.

Smith offers patients vaccines like the Hepatitis B or the flu and any immunizations required for adults. In addition to the prisoners, her role is tasked with ensuring all employees stay up-to-date with their vaccines and education requirements.

One of Smith's primary responsibilities is to meet with inmates 1-2 weeks prior to their release. She goes through their medical history and gives them a synopsis of what has been done while at the institution. Smith also asks the patient to sign a release form allowing medical providers on the outside access to the individual's records. If needed, an inmate can receive a 30-day supply of medicine when released.

In dealing with countless inmates, Smith said she sees a variety of attitudes and personalities, but rarely has any issues.

"When I give respect, I get respect," Smith added. "I really don't have any problems (with them)."

The variety in her work is what Smith said she likes most about her job. There is always something different happening and something new to learn each day. Smith said her role as infection control nurse provides many opportunities to encounter things never before seen in her medical career.

In her career, Smith has been in a variety of positions in the nursing field. She worked in a hospital, a nursing home, and even as a school nurse at the former Houtzdale Madera Elementary School – but never imagined working in corrections. When the prison was starting, she said her mom encouraged her to apply, and the rest is history.

"(Corrections) is not one of your choices when you're going to nursing school," Smith joked. "My mom was nervous of me traveling, so she put me in prison."

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More Snowy Owls, Different Prison

SCI Waymart had two special visitors last month – a pair of mated Snowy Owls, which were being closely monitored by prison staff during all shifts throughout February.

Photos and videos of the Snowy Owls were shared among prison employees, so everyone could observe these majestic birds.



However, during the week of February 11, 2018, the male Snowy Owl appeared to have injured his left eye and right wing on the prison's razor wire. Then, on February 16, he appeared next to the jersey barrier along the perimeter and was not moving much.

Swift action was taken, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission was contacted to come out to the prison to retrieve the injured animal. The male Snowy Owl was taken to the Pocono Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center near Saylorsburg, Pa., where he is being treated for his injuries and cared for. He will be released back the wild, so he can find his mate.

WNEP-TV covered the story on February 19.

A Snowy Owl visited SCI Smithfield in December and was cared for by the PA Game Commission after it had gotten caught in that prison's fencing.

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Leader of the Pack

Nico, a dog-in-training, runs the weekly staff meeting at SCI Houtzdale and obtains everyone's full attention. SCI Houtzdale has partnered with the UDS to prepare these dogs for the great services they will provide, and staff are taking it very seriously to train the dogs for just about anything.



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Taking Everyday Things for Granted

Recently SCI Huntingdon's Social Worker Jason Helsel taught inmates in the Reentry Services Office how to tie a tie. We teach our inmates how to write a resume, and we hold mock job interviews. Part of the overall reentry instruction includes suggestions for how to dress, but it became evident that many inmates didn't know how to tie a tie. Helsel decided that this was an important part of the overall reentry experience. So, a brief lesson was held using a video as a visual aide and with Helsel showing each inmate individually. Way to take initiative, Jason!



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Self Defense Workshop Held

The C.O.V.E.R. Committee at SCI Cambridge Springs held a Self Defense Workshop on February 17, which was hosted by Sensei Eddie Burgos in Edinboro, Pa.

Sensei Burgos is a retired police sergeant and 8th degree black belt. This workshop was open to staff and their family members, and attendees were taught basic self-defense moves to repel and escape an attacker.

A special thank you goes out to the SCI Cambridge Springs C.O.V.E.R. Committee for arranging this beneficial workshop.

Pictured: Cassidy Boylan, daughter of CSA Amy Boylan, is instructed on how to ward off an attacker by targeting vulnerable areas, such as the neck and legs.



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Continuing to Educate Inmates about Parole

On February 16, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole Chairman Leo Dunn continued his statewide efforts to educate DOC inmates about the parole process by visiting inmates at SCI Camp Hill.



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PCI Receives Words of Appreciation

Michele Balistrieri, secretary for Womelsdorf Borough recently sent the following note to Pennsylvania Correctional Industries (PCI):

"The chairs are absolutely beautiful!!!! I returned from vacation and was delighted to see them. What a wonderful job your crew did with them. You may certainly use a before & after photo of them to promote what professional work The Big House does. We are all very pleased."

Michele was talking about PCI's work to reupholster and refinish 14 solid wood vintage chairs.

BEFORE



AFTER



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Reentrant Highlight...

Loving Relationships Can Change a Reentrant's World

By Janet Kelley, Special Assistant

Steve Cave described himself as a hateful, angry, racist and violent person.

In prison, he repeatedly assaulted corrections officers, Cave admitted, including trying to kill one with a homemade knife.

He fell into the juvenile system at 13 after running away from an abusive home in Philadelphia. A few years later, after the armed robbery of a convenience store, Cave was sentenced to state prison. His sentence lengthened after attacking the corrections officers.

He had not had a visit for nearly 20 years, Cave said, when Cindy Sanford from the Pennsylvania Prison Society came to see him in prison. Cave wanted nothing to do with her, but said he agreed to meet her, only as a favor to another inmate.

Mrs. Sanford asked him to sit down and talk about his life. She offered to visit him. She offered to be his friend.

The kindness of a stranger, Cave recently told reporter Michael Lester of the Bloomsburg Press-Enterprise, turned his life around. It motivated him to learn to read, improve his speech and his behavior. He became a peer counselor to help other inmates and started taking classes.

Last December, Cave, now 36, was released from SCI Mahanoy. After a brief stay at a Harrisburg area community corrections center, he went to live with Mrs. Sanford and her husband, Keith, outside Mifflinville, Columbia County.

Mrs. Sanford said she knows some inmates are beyond reform and told the newspaper reporter that she extensively vetted Cave before inviting him into her home. But, she added, during the three years she visited him in prison, Cave underwent a "dramatic transformation," and she saw his potential.

"She is the first human being that ever gave me love and showed me how to love. I never had love. She stuck with me. Love is love," Cave said.

Cave is volunteering at AGAPE in Bloomsburg, with the hope of mentoring other current or former inmates. Together, Cave and Mrs. Sanford are planning to launch a volunteer program through Bloomsburg-based AGAPE to train area men and women to help reentrants adjust to life outside prison.

"When somebody loves you, it's enough to change your world," Cave said.

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Pathways to Pardons

On February 21, Classification Services Chief Ross Miller and his team from the Bureau of Treatment Services, along with DOC Legislative Liaison Dwayne Heckert, participated in a "Pathways to Pardons" program hosted by Lt. Gov. Mike Stack and Rep. Carol Hill Evans.

The event was attended by approximately 60 people and took place at the Crispus Attucks Community Center in York, Pa.

Other participants included PA Board of Pardons Secretary Steve Burke, Executive Director of Pro-A Bill Stauffer, York Mayor Michael Helfrich and Matt Franchak, chief of staff to the Lt. Governor.

The group has held more than 50 programs across the state.

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Employee's Son Completes, Reports About Prison Project

Max Ungerman, son of Paul Ungerman, who is a corrections counselor 2 at Progress Community Corrections Center, recently completed a prison-related project.

Max, a senior at Westminster College, partnered with one of Pennsylvania's female prisons on his senior "Capstone" project. He recently presented his research findings locally at Westminster College and at a national conference for the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in New Orleans. He was encouraged to present the findings at the conference by his professor, Dr. Robison.

The research study concluded many positive aspects about female inmates and education. The outcomes of the research were both interesting and beneficial.

Max will graduate in May 2018 and will be moving on to law school. He also is president of Alpha Phi Sigma, the honor society of criminal justice majors, who also supported him.

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Victims' Rights Week ~ April 8-14, 2018

Each year, one week in April is designated as Crime Victims' Right Week. This year that week will be April 8-14, 2018, and the theme is "Expand the Circle, Reach all Victims."

DOC facilities are planning employee and inmate events to recognize crime victims during this special week.



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In The Centers...

Accreditation Achieved

Congratulations to employees of the Pittsburgh Community Corrections Center for passing their accreditation audit with 100 percent of the mandatory standards and 100 percent of the non-mandatory standards. Auditors noted their impression with the center's programs, its cleanliness, the amount of community service projects and the positive community image. The center will be fully accredited after they respond to the visiting committee report at the August conference of the American Correctional Association.

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Reentrant Leads Workshop at Center

In November 2017, Daniel Henderson completed his State Intermediate Punishment sentence from Philadelphia Community Corrections Center (CCC) #2.

On February 7, he voluntarily returned to CCC#2 to guide a workshop showing current reentrants how to make paracord bracelets. While Hernandez was residing at



CCC#2 last year, he taught himself and maintained this hobby. He said doing so helped him to keep busy during idle time, which in turn helped him avoid returning to old behaviors.

Participating reentrants greatly enjoyed the workshop and requested to repeat the occasion. Each reentrant had the opportunity to make one or two bracelets, keeping one to wear while being able to give the other as a gift to a friend or family member.



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Week of February 12...

Frackville Has a New Resident

Frackville's newest addition to the FIDOS Program is Bear, a 10-week-old German Shephard/Lab mix that was abandoned with his six siblings from Florida.



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Third Annual Polar Bear Walk Held at SCI Mercer

SCI Mercer's Inmate Activities Committee (IAC) hosted the 3rd annual Polar Bear Walk on February 10, 2018, raising \$715 to benefit Joshua's Haven located in Sharon, Pa.



Thirty-five inmates participated in the event, walking nine laps (equivalent of two miles) around the track beginning at 8 a.m. on the brisk wintery morning. To experience what it may be like to be in the cold without shelter and to understand situations of others, participants were encouraged, but not required, to under-dress for the weather conditions while still meeting the minimum clothing requirements appropriate for the yard. Afterward, they went to the gym for coffee, hot chocolate and a cinnamon roll. A video was shown from a TEDx presentation entitled, "Homeless in Seattle," which discussed the issue of homelessness.

Joshua's Haven provides on-site temporary, emergency shelter for homeless men in the Sharon community. Once they have met all clearances, the men are offered a clean, safe environment where they can sleep, take a shower, get a hot meal and take advantage of supportive and spiritual services at the mission. The Men's Ministry staff and resident assistants are on site during all the hours of operation. They offer a Bread Program every Saturday and Sunday that gives free bread and other small items to those in



need. The donated money from the Polar Bear Walk will go toward providing shelter and food for the homeless men.



Stephen Kontrod and Albert Beinhardt, volunteers from Joshua's Haven, where present to accept the donation. Pictured on the left presenting the donation is Activities Specialist Alex Fisher.

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Forest Announces EOM

SCI Forest Superintendent Michael Overmyer recently recognized Corrections Counselor 2 Jennifer Reed.

Reed was nominated by her peers for the honor due to her being a model of professionalism in corrections and her exemplary work ethic where she serves as a counselor on B Unit carrying a high caseload with minimum complaints.



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;IGY6

On Valentines' Day, SCI Coal Township's Wellness/C.O.V.E.R. Committee handed out ;IGY6 (I Got Your 6) bracelets to show support for its institution. The bracelets are uniform-approved and can be worn by all staff. Employees were encouraged to your support for SCI Coal Township and each other by picking up a bracelet on their way into or out of work on February 14.



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Dr. Levine Visits SCI Muncy

On February 9, Dr. Rachel Levine, acting secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Physician General for Pennsylvania, traveled to SCI Muncy to facilitate a training entitled "Issues in LGBT Health" for SCI Muncy, SCI Cambridge Springs and Central Office administrative staff. The training covered a variety of topics including: gender roles, sexual orientation, gender identity and transgender medicine protocols. Dr. Levine addressed initiatives from the Governor's Office LGBTQ Workgroup and acknowledged the Department of Corrections for its role in developing transgender support groups and gender review committees. Following the training presentation, Dr. Levine answered questions from the participants and encouraged group discussion around the challenges associated with the LGBTQ population confined in our facilities.



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Keeping Our Prisons Drug Free

Every day staff at Pennsylvania's prisons and community corrections centers are working to stop the flow of contraband into DOC facilities. On February 9, an SCI Chester mail room clerk observed two suspicious manila envelopes. Tests revealed 16 strips of suboxone. It's important to remember that when drugs are discovered in pieces of mail the recipient will receive a misconduct for attempted possession of a controlled substance. Kudos to Chester mail room staff!



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BCPS to Facilitate Substance Abuse Groups

Berks Connections/Pretrial Services recently received a grant through the Pennsylvania Commission of Crime and Delinquency to facilitate substance abuse groups for inmates who have received drug misconducts within prisons. The evidence-based program “Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse” will be provided to inmates at SCIs Coal Township, Frackville, Mahanoy and Graterford, and will run through December.

Learn more about Berks Connections/Pretrial Services at www.berksconnections.org

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BCPS Hosts Career Fair

Berks Connections/Pretrial Services (BCPS) hosted a career fair for Returning Citizens on February 12, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Reading. The career fair, which was sponsored by the Wyomissing Foundation, was open to anyone who has been involved with the criminal justice system or with the Domestic Relations Office. More than 300 individuals sought employment from the 40 employers who were in attendance to provide hope, opportunity and second chances. Ten people were hired on the spot, and many more left with interviews scheduled.



More than 50 BCPS community volunteers were on hand throughout the day to provide support and encouragement, as well as mock interviews and general assistance to job seekers.

BCPS is the leading provider of reentry services in Berks County. They operate a workforce development program for both county and state involved reentrants.

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Providing Inmates with Skills to Help Other Inmates

Question Persuade Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper certification training was presented to nearly 100 inmates at SCI Albion in January 2018. QPR is a training approach that empowers participants to help reduce suicide by learning what to do in a crisis and how to help someone avoid a mental health crisis.

QPR includes three components: **Question** -- Have confidence to know when and how to ask if someone may be contemplating suicide; **Persuade** -- Encourage the person to seek/receive help to keep them safe; and **Refer** -- Know where and how to get help to save someone's life and get them on a path toward improved mental health.

It is well documented that inmates are much more likely to reach out to each other than they are to go to an employee when struggling with mental health issues -- especially suicide ideation. Therefore, it is increasingly more important to provide inmates with needed skills that can help keep each other alive until professional intervention can be sought.



This QPR training was organized by the Suicide Prevention Committee at SCI Albion and was presented by Mela Calomino, certified QPR instructor and current psychology/social work intern, at the institution. Calomino also will facilitate weekly QPR training for custody staff as part of annual block training that begins in March 2018.

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WRAP Training Continues

The DOC recently conducted WRAP training for drug and alcohol treatment specialists who are certified as facilitators, so they can use it in facility therapeutic communities. Now that they have been trained, individuals from this training class will be selected to become facilitators.



"This is yet another way we are expanding this evidence-based practice," said Mental Health Advocate Lynn Patrone. Patrone, along with Unit Manager Susie Shoff, taught the course.

WRAP stands for Wellness Recovery Action Plan, and over the past year, the DOC has provided training to inmate peer support specialists and many DOC employees.

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Retirement Wishes

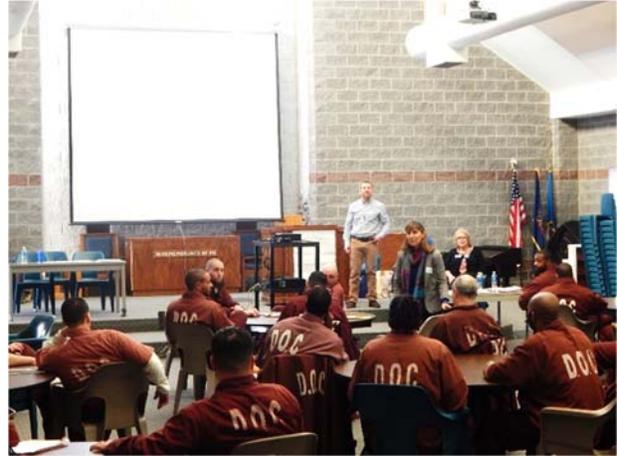
Congratulations and wishes for a happy and healthy retirement were extended to Corrections Officer Dawn Scicchitano, who retired recently after serving 29 years with the DOC. Dawn is an exemplary employee and will be missed, for certain. Superintendent Thomas McGinley presented Dawn with a flag that was flown over SCI Coal Township. The inscription on the flag box reads, "Just as we honored this flag as it proudly flew above SCI Coal Township, so we honor your service and dedication to the same." Pictured with Dawn, is her husband, Captain Shawn Scicchitano and Superintendent McGinley.



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Albion Holds Youth Mentoring Training

The Susan Hirt Hagen Center for Community Outreach, Research and Evaluation provided Mentoring Training to 30 SCI Albion inmates on February 12. In addition to receiving the training, these mentors received certification through the National Mentoring Association. They will be utilized at SCI Albion as a part of the Youth Mentoring League. The YML is designed to help younger inmates learn self-respect, taking responsibility and social skills.



This occurs in a supervised, weekly program in the Activities Department, as well as on the housing unit daily. The YML was developed by Unit Manager Karla Webb and several long-term inmates. Other staff involved in this process were Psychological Services Specialist Kristen McHenry, Corrections Counselor 2 Joe Santos and Corrections Activities Specialist Dave Jackson.

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Inmate Health and Wellness

SCI Coal Township's Activities Department, under the supervision of Activities Specialist Dave Heyer, coordinated a Yoga Fitness program for inmates. Thirty-six inmates received certificates of completion for the 10-week program.



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Naloxone Reversals by Police Officers

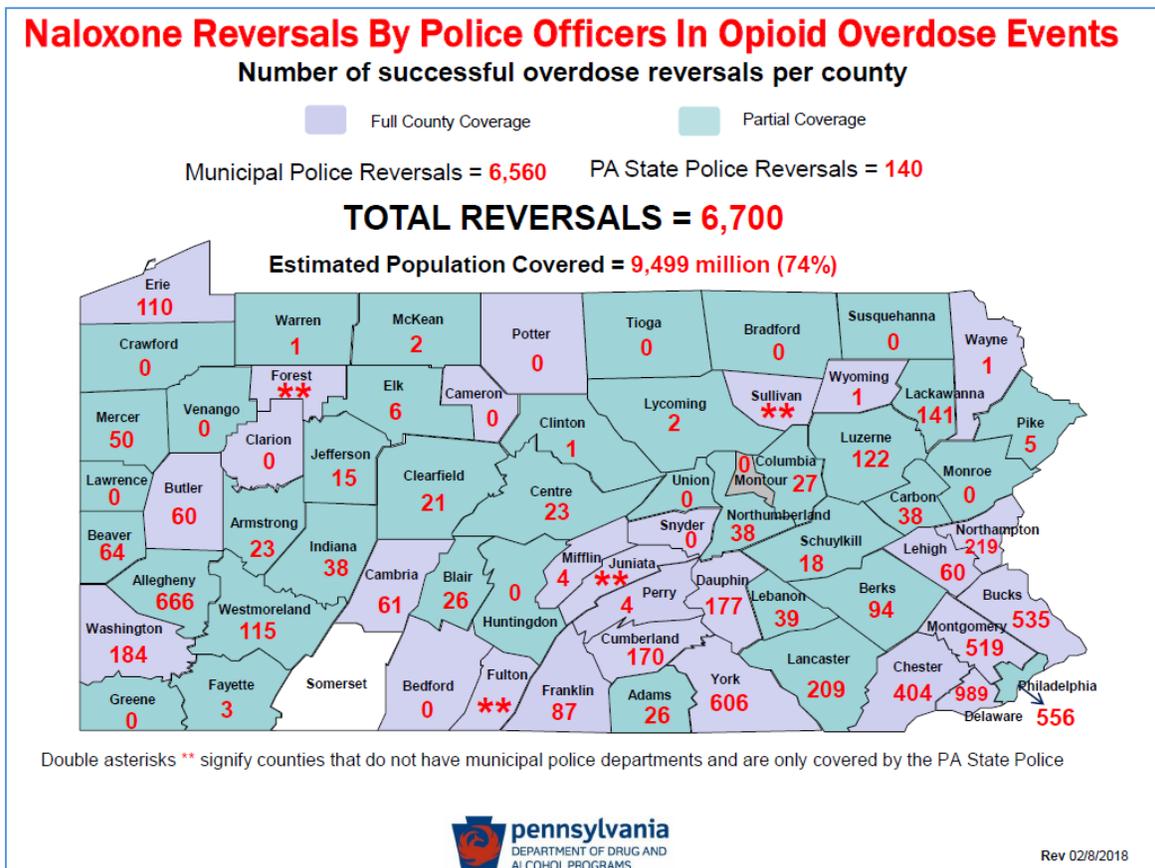
The opioid epidemic is at all all-time high in Pennsylvania, and the DOC is not exempt from its reaches.

It should be noted that, since 2016, DOC community corrections employees reversed 188 overdoses using Naloxone. This figure does NOT include any saves as the result of Naloxone administration by EMS or police.

Officials from the PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs recently released a picture that shows, as of February 8, 2018, the number of successful overdose reversals by police officers, by county.

This image only shows those saved by police officers, and does not include saves by emergency medical personnel, firefighters or prisons and community corrections officials.

The information shows that Delaware County had the most saves with 989 cases, followed by Allegheny (666), York (606), Philadelphia (556), Bucks (535) and Montgomery (519).



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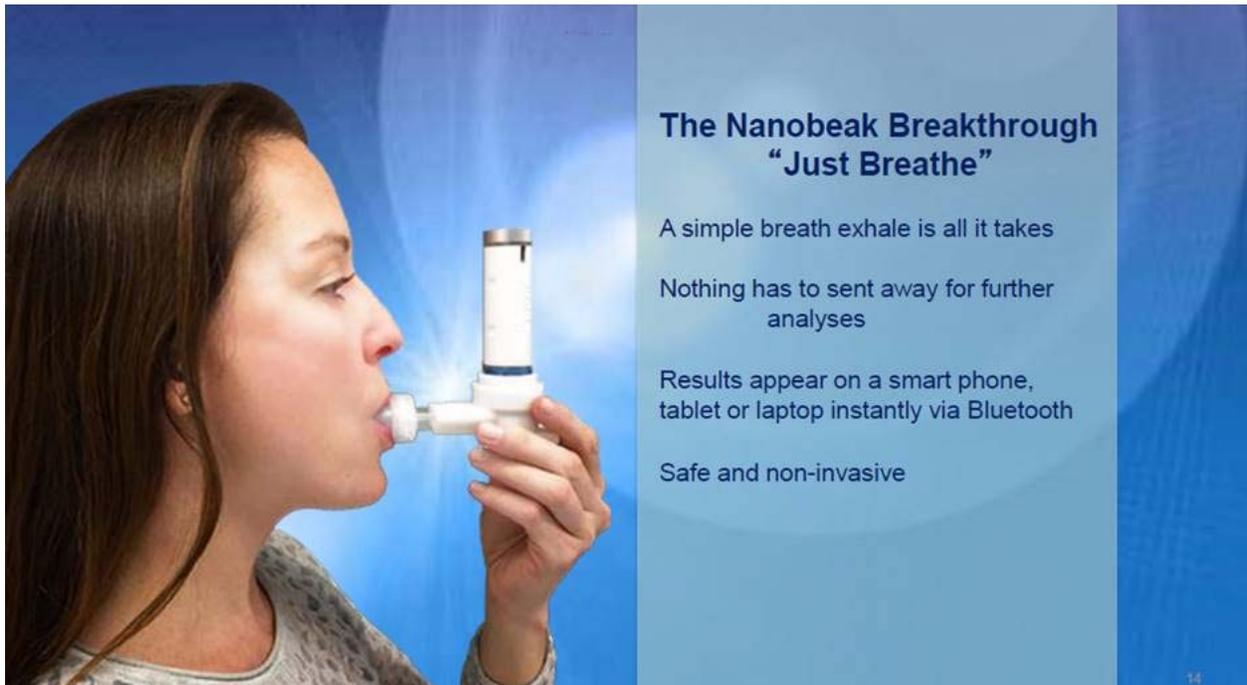
A New Way to Test for Opioids

DOC officials recently reviewed a new mobile, real time drug detection device.

Essentially it is a breathalyzer that can detect substances besides alcohol, such as marijuana and opioids.

It is being marketed as the first non-invasive, inexpensive hand-held drug detection screening device.

Promotional information claims that, just as a fingerprint is unique to everyone, individuals' "breath prints" also have their own medical signature containing a variety of biomarkers to confirm the presence of any and all drugs.



There also are other medical detection uses of this product, but our team is reviewing its use as a drug detection device in a correctional setting in prisons, community corrections centers and as part of parole community supervision.

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BetaGOV Interviews Deputy Wingard about SCF

How did you decide to test the SCF model?

It was the summer of 2015 and Secretary John Wetzel wanted to address the issues in Pennsylvania of long-term segregation and reducing violence in our facilities. He brought together approximately 400 PADOC employees that ranged from corrections officers to superintendents and many other job classifications. BetaGov was included in subsequent meetings of this entire group of employees, and Angela gave a presentation about SCF. At the end

of that meeting, the secretary told us to go back to our facilities and figure out ways to help with these issues. I was assigned to chair a subcommittee for sanctions and interventions. Our committee initially focused on interventions and looking for ways to help address discipline leading to time in segregation. Committee members from SCI-Somerset (SMR) wanted to think outside the box and asked BetaGov for their guidance on a "Swift, Certain and Fair" (SCF) pilot. In a matter of a few months we started SCF on one of our housing units and leaned on BetaGov to figure out the structure of how that



should look to ensure we were minding our research p's and q's. Dr. Bret Bucklen, the director of the DOC's Planning, Research & Statistics visited us and was heavily involved early on to ensure correct research methods were being applied and that we were following the guiding principles of SCF. Our goal was to dispense discipline more effectively, but at the housing-unit level, and to give our staff on the SCF unit ownership and oversight over the pilot process as much as possible. We started it on J-unit on January 1, 2016.

What were some of your initial concerns?

Our main concern was staff buy-in, because at that time Somerset was a 22-year-old facility that had never tried something like SCF. It was very out-of-the-box thinking. With more than 500 employees, you need buy in to new ideas and initiatives. Sometimes with certain staff you have pushback. We knew we had the right core staff in place to pull it off, but were concerned with the other staff, including the frontline folks who would be administering SCF on a daily basis. We had to educate our staff about what SCF was and then had to be consistent with continuing education for all involved. One person involved in the process but who is not on board can use their position to set the process back.

How did your staff take to the new SCF program?

We structured SCF on one unit first and we educated employees with every opportunity we could through emails or newsletters. The newsletter at SMR is well received by the staff so we used it to introduce the SCF concept. We went out there and talked, discussed, really hit the middle management hard; these middle managers were going to make or break the trial. We broadcast what we were doing and there was complete transparency. From

fall 2015 to the spring of 2016, there was a buzz among inmates and staff, people were talking about it, which we welcomed.

We didn't want to cherry pick our best staff and say "run with this program and make sure that it works." That was the farthest thing from our minds. We didn't want to present something shiny and not realistic. We kept the same staff in the housing unit that had been working there for years and it went better than expected. The key to that was the staff accepted it and embraced it, and they became our mouthpieces for it. As other units went online, the staff from both units would meet and discuss the issues and concepts related to SCF. We believed that was key; for them to listen to their peers about how it was going. They could listen to me all day long, but then it becomes forced. When they hear from their own people, that's where we got the staff buy-in.

It's very important to understand, we wanted a culture shift at Somerset, and SCF was one of the vehicles that came to us, and it was perfect timing. There were other things we did in concert, and there wasn't this us-versus-them dynamic and pushback that you sometimes see at other facilities.

What were some of the other things you did?

In concert with SCF, we were also implementing a new service-puppy/dog program that allowed inmates to raise and train puppies for a year inside the facility. We also, through our activities department, decided to allow inmates to paint murals in staff and inmate areas around the facility. This initiative really took off and at last check, Somerset has more than 100 murals around the institution.

Did you experience any challenges or problems after launching?

They weren't major obstacles, but we started off the program on only one unit. The officer, sergeant and unit manager would handle unit-based, lower-level discipline on their housing unit. The discipline was progressive and would result in the inmate being placed on cell restriction if he did not adjust his behavior. After a few months we modified this cell-restriction sanction to "loss of dayroom" because staff were reporting issues related to a cell-restriction sanction. Staff such as teachers, activities, and psychology were calling the unit looking for inmates. Adding additional tracking paperwork would make the process cumbersome and adversely affect the initiative. This modification came only after much discussion with the unit staff and inmates about how to make the program less intrusive to the facility, while maintaining validity and the principles of SCF. Staff came up with the idea to modify the sanction from cell restriction to "loss of day room." The inmate phones are located in the dayroom, meaning this sanction would prohibit the use of phones while on this SCF sanction.

What advice would you give to another institution who wants to run an SCF trial?

The buy-in from the staff has to start at the top with the administration. All facilities are different, but if the senior leadership doesn't believe in it and doesn't learn about it, your staff will not follow. Staff who are in the facility trying to facilitate the initiative will see right through a superintendent or a captain who doesn't believe in it. Once you have the buy-in, you can pull it off. The rest of it is making sure you're consistent and the research is being done. The nuts and bolts will fall into place.

I could give 10 other pieces of advice, but none of it's going to happen if your senior staff are not supporting it, selling it, marketing it, and being sincere about it. SCF can make a difference but it will not get off the ground if the senior staff aren't out there showing their support.

It was important to meet with the unions too. Their members will be the ones running the unit and administering the sanctions. We believed talking about it to everyone was important. This included the inmates. Along the way, you have to present examples of how it's working. If the superintendent is the only one talking about it, then it isn't going to succeed. We spent a lot of time getting the senior-level staff and middle managers to understand and buy into why we were doing this, and the principles behind it. You're not going to pull it off, your line staff are going to pull it off, but only if your senior staff are on board and are leading staff through the changes.

What system did you have in place for collecting data?

We made it as simple as possible with a spreadsheet. The unit manager would track the infractions on the pod that was doing SCF; they would track all the data for the month and then we would dissect it. It was interesting to watch because the first month or two, the infractions were in the hundreds, but then the numbers dropped. And same with the grievances. We averaged 15–20 inmate grievances a month on the one unit, and that's time-consuming to address because someone has to research and respond to each one. We saw dramatic decreases in the grievance numbers as SCF was rolled out.

Data that are difficult to collect is the impact on your staff. One officer on that unit said the best thing about SCF is that it increased communication between the staff and the inmates. SCF requires the inmates to be called down, talked to, and informed what would happen next time. There's a set list of rules and consequences. Inmates and staff appreciated that. We collected all the data every month, and we saw some really positive things. As much as I appreciate data, I also appreciate what they don't tell you, and that is the better communication between the staff and inmates.

Anybody can pull off SCF in their facility. You just have to try it. It can't hurt, that's for sure.

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Each week for the next several weeks, the various phases of the overall parole process will be examined and explained to assist general knowledge of the parole process.

PAROLE 101

By Laura Treaster, PBPP Communications Director

Violations of Parole

There are two types of state parole violators: convicted and technical.

Convicted Parole Violator (CPV)

A parolee who violates parole by committing a new crime while on parole. For a parolee to be recommitted as a CPV:

- (1) The crime must be committed during the period of parole or while delinquent on parole;
- (2) The crime must be punishable by imprisonment; and,
- (3) Parolee must be convicted or found guilty by a judge or jury, or plead guilty or nolo contendere in a court of record.

Technical Parole Violator (TPV)

A parolee who violates probation or parole terms and conditions, other than a new misdemeanor or felony conviction. Examples include: missed curfew, signing out for work and not showing up, leaving the district without permission, etc.

Points to Note

- If a parolee is arrested for a crime while on parole or is accused of assaultive behavior against another person, the parolee will most likely be returned to prison. Other parole violations may or may not result in re-incarceration depending on what the violation is and if it's a repeat behavior. All violations will result in a sanction ranging from curfew, increased urine testing, or attending programming to being placed in an in-patient treatment or technical parole violator center.
- If a parolee is arrested on new criminal charges, the board has the authority to lodge a detainer against the parolee, which will prevent his/her release from custody, pending disposition of those charges, even though the parolee may have posted bail or has been released on their own recognizance from those charges.

- If a parolee violates a condition of parole/reparole and, after the appropriate hearing(s), the board decides the parolee is in violation of a condition of parole/reparole, the individual may be recommitted to prison for a time specified by the board.
- If a parolee is convicted of a crime committed while on parole/reparole, the board has the authority, after an appropriate hearing, to recommit the parolee to serve the balance of the sentence or sentences the parolee was serving when paroled/reparoled, with no credit for time at liberty on parole.
- A hearing is required before parole may be revoked. The parolee is entitled to assistance of counsel at revocation hearings and to free counsel if indigent. The board does not appoint counsel. A public defender of the county in which an indigent parolee is incarcerated provides counsel. Rules of Criminal Procedure do not apply. Board regulations govern proceedings. In a parole revocation hearing, the standard of proof is preponderance of evidence. Parole revocation decisions can be made by a majority of the board or in a panel of two persons.

Violation Hearings

Parolees have a right to both a first and second level hearing as part of their due process rights. A parolee may also choose to waive these rights.

First Level Hearings

Preliminary hearings are for parolees with technical parole violations. These hearings are held within 14 days of detention on the board's warrant.

Detention hearings are for parolees with new criminal charges. These hearings are held within 30 days of detention on the board's warrant.

The burden of proof for preliminary and detention hearings is *probable cause*. These hearings may not be needed under certain circumstances.

Possible Outcomes at First Level Hearings: "continue on parole" or "detain pending second level hearing"

Continuing on parole after first level hearings means the decision maker did not find a reasonable basis to conclude the parolee violated parole or the circumstances did not warrant detaining the parolee.

Second Level Hearings

Revocation hearings are for parolees who committed a criminal act while on parole or while delinquent on parole and are convicted or found guilty by a judge or jury or the parolee pleads guilty or no contest in a court of record of a crime punishable by imprisonment.

This hearing is held either within 120 days from the date the board receives official verification of the plea of guilty, no contest plea or guilty verdict at the highest trial court level or within 120 days of the date the board receives official verification of

the parolee's return to a state correctional institution depending on the circumstances. A parolee may waive this hearing.

Violation hearings are for parolees who violated either a general or special condition of parole. This hearing is held within 120 days of the preliminary hearing. A parolee may waive this hearing.

The burden of proof for revocation and violation hearings is *preponderance of the evidence*.

Possible Outcomes at Second Level Hearings: "continue on parole - with or without new conditions" or "recommit"

A parolee may be placed in a CCC, CCF or PVC.

A Parole Violation Center (PVC) is a secure Community Corrections Center (CCC) and individuals are not permitted to leave during their time there. Parolees will immediately receive programming at the PVC. PVC stays range between 60 to 120 days, depending on program completion and satisfactory adjustment. If an individual fails the PVC program, they will be unsuccessfully discharged and returned to a Contracted County Jail (CCJ) or a state correctional institution (SCI). Individuals may be sent directly to a PVC after waiving hearings or as a result of the decision from a hearing.

In accordance with 61 Pa. C.S. § 6138, all TPVs will go to a CCC/CCF/PVC unless the violation was:

- Sexual in nature
- Involved assaultive behavior
- Involved possession of a weapon
- The PV poses an identifiable threat to public safety
- The PV is an absconder who cannot be safely managed in a CCC/CCF/PVC.

In that case, the parole violator (PV) will be returned to a CCJ or an SCI. TPVs sent to a CCC/CCF/PVC will usually serve between 60 and 120 days, depending on their satisfactory adjustment while at the center. The maximum length of recommitment to a CCC/CCF/PVC is six months. The PV will be released on automatic reparole at that time unless they are not in "good standing with the board."

TPVs returned to a CCJ or a SCI will serve, at most, six months for the first violation, nine months for the second violation and one year for the third and subsequent violations before being automatically repared, without having to be interviewed or reviewed by the board.

However, if the parolee has: 1) Committed disciplinary infractions involving assaultive behavior; 2) Committed a sexual assault; 3) Had possession of a weapon or controlled substance; 4) Has spent more than 90 days in segregated housing due to one or more disciplinary actions; or, 5) Has refused programming or work assignments, the PV is not entitled to automatic reparole.

CPVs will be returned to an SCI and will stay there until the board determines they are ready to reenter the community. If convicted, the board can recommit the parolee to serve the balance of their original sentence with no credit for time at liberty on parole. The board has discretion in determining whether to award street time to some categories of CPVs.

Continuing on parole after a second level hearing means either the decision makers did not find enough evidence to suggest the parolee violated parole OR it could mean there was enough evidence to recommit the parolee to prison but the decision makers determined the parolee could be safely returned to the street with additional sanctions.

Recommitment means the parolee was found to have violated parole and the decision makers chose to return the parolee to a CCC/CCF/CCJ or an SCI.

If a parolee waives his/her hearing rights, the board will examine the facts of the case and make a decision based on the waiver, admission (if applicable) and any reports or evidence that are made available. The board will then make a decision on whether recommitment is warranted based on that information and issue one or more board actions reflecting that decision.

Follow the Process with a Continuing Case Example

While still at the CCC, John commits several center violations by signing out for work but failing to report to work. John's parole agent works collaboratively with CCC staff. On his first violation John receives a written warning. John later commits a second violation and his parole agent places him on GPS. A week later, John has a positive urine for synthetic drugs. John was unsuccessfully discharged from the CCC by the DOC's Bureau of Community Corrections (BCC) staff. John's parole agent submits a referral to BCC, and John is placed in inpatient drug and alcohol treatment.

John is transported to an inpatient drug and alcohol program. Within three days, John was found with K2 (synthetic marijuana) in his pocket and refused to be searched by staff.

An expedited removal of John is requested by inpatient staff to his parole agent to remove him to a PVC. John is informed of his rights. He is given a Notice of Charges against him, which includes being unsuccessfully discharged from the CCC and inpatient treatment. A preliminary hearing on John's case will be held within 14 days. John chooses to waive his rights to a preliminary hearing. While at the PVC, John was noncompliant with programming and had aggressive behavior toward staff.

At John's technical violation hearing, the parole agent provides the evidence. The CCC discharge summary is provided: John had been signing out to go to work but was not reporting to work. The board's hearing examiner finds John in violation based on this evidence: John's own admission of signing out for work but not going to work and also the CCC records that showed the dates, times and John's

signatures. The hearing examiner recommits John to state prison because of the violation, early parole failure and his previous parole failure from a separate sentence. The hearing examiner also considered that John was an identifiable threat because of his unmanageable behavior when the board diverted him to parole violator center. John is recommitted to state prison for up to six months. The parole agent then transports John to the designated SCI.

While at the SCI, John follows the rules and remains eligible for automatic reparole. John is automatically reparaoled in six months. He signs his release orders and leaves prison. John reports to his designated parole district office within 24 hours of his release. The board's prior conditions of parole still apply to John. John is still serving the remainder of his court-imposed sentence and will be on parole until May 28, 2019.

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Week of February 5...

A Therapeutic Release

On February 6, Ricky Battles was paroled after 40 years and 97 days of incarceration. He took with him Sweet Pea, a Labrador that he has been training for the past 1½ years through the Canine Partners for Life program. Sweet Pea was released from the training program as she had some behavior issues, and when a canine is released it becomes available for adoption. Battles stated that he had a great support system at home and he believed that Sweet Pea would be very therapeutic for him.

WJAC News and the Somerset Daily American were on hand to cover the release of Battles and Sweet Pea.



Pictured, from left to right, are: Acting Superintendent Melissa Hainsworth, Acting Unit Manager Dave Pisczek, Acting Deputy Superintendent for Centralized Services Melanie Pyle, Mr. Battles with Sweet Pea, Deputy Superintendent for Facility Management Craig Wadsworth and Acting Major of the Guard Robert Snyder.

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Graterford to Become Tobacco-Free Prior to Phoenix Opening

On February 8, DOC Secretary John Wetzel announced that the DOC will make the SCI Graterford a tobacco-free facility in anticipation of the transition to the new SCI Phoenix later this year on the same property.

"Tobacco-free correctional facilities promote a healthier environment, which benefits both employees and inmates and increases facility safety," said Wetzel. "We chose to make this transition prior to the move of employees and inmates from

SCI Graterford to SCI Phoenix later this year to ensure that SCI Phoenix will never have tobacco inside that facility.”

As of April 1, 2018, tobacco products no longer will be permitted inside the secure perimeter of SCI Graterford. Any tobacco products discovered or used inside the prison after April 1 by inmates or staff will be considered contraband. The DOC identifies tobacco products as cigarettes, cigars, tobacco (smoking and smokeless), tobacco substitutes, lighters, pipes, pipe cleaners, filters, rolling papers, roller aprons and rollers.

Until March 1, 2018, inmates may continue to purchase tobacco products from the commissary, and employees and inmates may continue to use such products in designated smoking areas until April 1.

Both inmates and employees will be permitted to use DOC-approved disposable/non-refillable e-cigarettes in designated smoking areas.

Inmates will be provided with smoking cessation programs, educational materials and support services to assist them with this transition. Inmates, working with the prison's medical department, may purchase nicotine replacement therapy patches through an approved outside vendor.

Educational materials and resources for smoking cessation are available to employees through the State Employee Assistance Program and the Pennsylvania Employee Benefit Trust Fund.

SCIs Chester and Pine Grove are already tobacco-free institutions because of their special missions. Chester provides drug and alcohol treatment programming and Pine Grove houses young adult offenders.

SCI Graterford is the only DOC facility impacted by this recent announcement.

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Years of Services Recognized

Recently, SCI Coal Township Superintendent Thomas McGinley presented Lieutenant Chris Brownawell with a certificate and pin for his 20 years of state service.

Congratulations, Lt. Brownawell!



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SCI Forest Holds Employee Association Membership Drive

On February 2, the SCI Forest Employee Association held its annual membership drive. They provided donuts, coffee and hot chocolate to employees on all shifts.

The theme for the day was "Groundhog Day" with napkins stating, "I'm a rodent, not a Meteorologist!" The SCI Forest C.O.V.E.R. Committee members also were on hand to introduce staff to the C.O.V.E.R. mission and promote positive peer support.



Pictured, from left to right, are: M. Hofecker, J. Reed, K. Kunig, D. Perry

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Albion and Mercyhurst University Join Forces

Under an "SCI Think Tank Initiative," officials and students from Mercyhurst University have been meeting with prison officials and inmates twice a month to discuss ideas on restorative justice and opportunity for inmates to be a community resource.

As part of this outreach, on January 25, the facility connected five inmates involved in the program with the university's Advanced Criminology class.

"My students were extremely responsive to the inside guys' insightful comments about crime and criminality," wrote Dr. Maria L. Garase, associate professor and chair of the university's Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice. "The inside guys did a wonderful job articulating their thoughts, perceptions and conceptualizations of crime and criminality as they related to a criminological theory course. Their personal accounts and experiences were invaluable to my students; moreover, this allowed them to have a better understanding of risk and protective factors given their individual upbringings and communities."

What students said:

"It was very eye opening. They had a lot of the same answers but they had different stories."

"I give them credit for talking so openly about their lives and experiences they have gone through."

"I respected all of their answers and appreciated everything that they said."

"Not all inmates are jaded in regards to the law and some take responsibility."

"People, especially inmates, are more than just what people stereotype them to be."

"I thought their responses to how prison has changed them were interesting."

"I found it interesting that even if the inmates were serving life in prison, they still educate themselves and try to look out for others"

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Inmates Donate to Local Foundation

SCI Waymart's Corrections Activities Manager Stephen Smith presents a check to Debbie Barkley, secretary of The Parents Loving Children Through Autism Foundation, on behalf of SCI Waymart Inmates Nurturing Growth and Stability (WINGS).



Pictured, from left to right, are: Christina Santiago, treasurer of PLCTA; Debbie Barkley, secretary for PLCTA; Corrections Activities Manager Stephen Smith; Corrections Superintendent's Assistant Joseph Vinansky; and Corrections Activities Specialist Troy Walsh.

Inmates raised funds through approved sales of soda, donuts and other baked goods. Inmates throughout the facility purchased items with proceeds from the sale going to WINGS. The inmate organization uses proceeds from the sales to donate to various non-profit and service organizations throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Parents Loving Children Through Autism has three goals. The first goal is to provide support and encouragement to families that are raising children through autism. PLCTA is a network of families that share concerns, experience and give advice to one another about the struggles and challenges that arise when raising a child with special needs. The second goal is education. PLCTA holds meetings, workshops, and training to bring the latest information available to parents. Children are encouraged to reach their highest potential. The third goal is to provide a place where each child is accepted. Through social clubs and monthly trips, the organization fosters social interactions and a network of support for parents.

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Super Bowl Excitement

On February 2, many SCI Graterford employees showed support for their favorite Super Bowl teams.



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Chester Shows Team Spirit



On February 2, SCI Chester held a special luncheon in support of the Philadelphia Eagles. The luncheon, supported by the prison's employee association, included hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, chips and refreshments. Employees also were permitted to wear their Eagles attire.



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Mercer Inmates Donate to SVCTF

On January 31, SCI Mercer's Inmate Activities Committee (IAC) donated \$500 to the Shenango Valley Children's Transplant Fund (SVCTF). This fund was established in 1986 to assist the families of children from the Mercer County and Brookfield, Ohio, areas who are undergoing a transplant. The organization helps pay for non-surgical expenses such as gas, transportation, lodging, food, essential living items and more to help ease the financial burden to the families.

Mercer's IAC actively gives back to the community each year. In 2017, the committee donated \$1,750 to several local organizations and donated \$570 in school supplies to the Salvation Army School Supply Drive. The IAC general membership meets monthly at which time the Board selects charities they would like to assist. Selections are then submitted to the membership for vote.



Pictured, left to right, are: SCI Mercer Superintendent Brian Thompson, Dr. Charles Zeigler-SVCTF Member, and Deputy Superintendent Lee Estock.

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Houtzdale Inmates Donate to YMCA

On February 2, the Houtzdale Journey for Change (JFC) inmate organization made a \$2,600 donation to the Moshannon Valley YMCA. The funds will be used to support the YMCA backpack program that supports a total of nine school districts in three counties. The YMCA is committed to helping end childhood hunger by providing food for students to eat on weekends when they don't receive a school lunch.



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Houtzdale Holds Open House

SCI Houtzdale recently held an open house to unveil the new C.O.V.E.R. room for staff, provide C.O.V.E.R. information to employees and to share refreshments. The committee believed that the open house would help staff to become familiar with the room's location and the mission of Houtzdale's C.O.V.E.R. program. Pictured are Tracy Ohler, Committee Member; Melanie Boyce, Chair; Matthew Pyo, Committee Member.



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Wetzel Tours BCPS

At the invitation of officials from Berks Connections/Pretrial Services, DOC Secretary John Wetzel recently toured their offices and visited a Habitat for Humanity work site. The work site is a component of the Rebuilding Reentrants and Reading construction training program for returning citizens that the agency was awarded from the U.S. Department of Labor. BCPS has several successful reentry initiatives that help reentrants on their successful transition home after incarceration. Learn more at www.berksconnections.org



Pictured, from left to right, are: Pre-Trail Services Director Jason Mensch, DOC Reentry Director Kerry Kerschner, Co-Executive Directors Nicolle Schnovel and Peggy Kerschner, DOC Secretary John Wetzel and Reentry Director Christine Guistwite.



Secretary Wetzel observes work being done by reentrants, and he poses with BCPS officials outside of the work site.

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Employee of the Year!

SCI Frackville has selected Painting Trades Instructor Wendy Monaghan as the prison's 2017 Employee of the Year.

Pictured, from left to right, are:

Deputy Superintendent Jaime Sorber, Facility Maintenance Manager 2 Dan Rhome, Deputy Superintendent Lori White, Superintendent Kathy Brittain, and Wendy Monaghan in the middle.

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In The Centers...

Celebrating Mentors

The Bureau of Community Corrections (BCC) continued its recognition of mentors. This photo celebrates those from Region 2 and Central Office.



Front Row -- Director Daniel McIntyre, Executive Chair of the BCC Mentoring Committee and Deputy Teresa Pinard.

Second Row -- Jeffrey Gibson, Scranton CCC (detached); Joshua Flinn, Acting CFC; Cody Minnich, York CCCM; Cindy Spears, AO1-Central; Marissa Millet, York CC2. Last Row: Jerome Koerner, CFC and chair of the BCC Mentoring Committee.

Missing from the picture were: Adrian Carrete, Lt., Wernersville CCC, Catherine Doutrich, CC2, Harrisburg CCC; Kenneth Jordan and Alissa Owens, CC2's, both of Scranton CCC.

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Long-Time Counselor Retires

On January 26, Corrections Counselor Robert Greaves officially retired from the Erie Community Corrections Center (CCC) after 21 years of service. He began his career in 1997 as a part-time Community Corrections Center monitor and was eventually promoted to corrections counselor in 2003.

In 2001 Bob received the DOC's Outstanding Performance Award for his quick thinking and activation of the emergency plan when the former Erie CCC was heavily damaged in a fire. At the time, Bob had recently completed a National Fire Protection Association course and was certified as a fire inspector.

Bob was well known and well respected in the community and among his co-workers. On his last day of employment, Erie CCC staff and the Erie District Parole office staff came together to celebrate his career and wish him well.



Best Wishes,
Bob!

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Pittsburgh CCC Reentrants Help Students Open a World of Magic through Books

Reentrants are currently participating in a book drive, in collaboration with Songbird Artistry, to gift copies of *Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone* to every child in the Bellevue community who is between the 3rd & 6th grades.

Songbird Artistry is working with both Pittsburgh CCC and the local community to have all 500 books received by the students well before the community's Harry Potter festival which begins August 11, 2018. So far 103 copies have been collected. With close to 400 more needed, the reentrants of Pittsburgh CCC are optimistic that they can help reach the goal.

Fostering a love of reading is important. Each time a book is opened a young reader's life is changed. Reading brings so many wonderful things to children: comfort and reassurance, confidence and security, relaxation, happiness and fun. The magic of the story and the experience of reading in the early years will stay with them throughout their childhood and beyond.

The reentrants at Pittsburgh CCC understand the need to give this magical gift and brighten a child's day in their community.

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Each week for the next several weeks, the various phases of the overall parole process will be examined and explained to assist general knowledge of the parole process.

PAROLE 101

By Laura Treaster, PBPP Communications Director

Parole Supervision

There are two types of parole conditions: general and special. General conditions of parole apply to every individual under parole in the state of Pennsylvania. Special conditions of parole are specific and individualized conditions placed on a parolee by the board, the sentencing court and/or field supervision staff. Special conditions are in addition to general conditions and all must be followed to be in compliance.

General Conditions of Parole

1. Report in person within 24 hours to the district office or sub office specified by the board and not leave that district without prior written permission of the parole supervision staff.
2. Live at the residence approved by the board at release and not change residence without the written permission of the parole supervision staff.
3. Maintain regular contact with the parole supervision staff by reporting regularly as instructed and following written instructions of the board or the parole supervision staff.

Notifying the parole supervision staff within 72 hours of one of the following:

- ▶ Arrest
 - ▶ Receipt of a summons or citation for an offense punishable by imprisonment upon conviction
 - ▶ Change in status including but not limited to employment, on the job training and education
4. Comply with municipal, county, state and federal criminal statutes, as well as the vehicle code and the liquor code.
 5. Additionally:
 - ▶ Abstain from the unlawful possession or sale of narcotics and dangerous drugs and abstain from the use of controlled substances within the meaning of The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act without a valid prescription
 - ▶ Refrain from owning or possessing firearms or other weapons
 - ▶ Refrain from assaultive behavior

6. Pay fines, costs, and restitution imposed by the sentencing court. Establish with appropriate county authorities within 30 days of release from prison a payment schedule for the fines, costs and restitution owed for those cases for which each individual is now on state parole. Thereafter, each person shall:

- ▶ Pay these obligations according to the established payment schedule or as ordered by the court;
- ▶ Provide proof of such payment to parole supervision staff; and
- ▶ Keep the parole supervision staff and the court informed of any changes in the parolee's financial ability to pay fines, costs and restitution.

Parole agents are peace officers. However, they are also permitted to perform these functions:

- They can impose special parole conditions on any parolee in their caseload if they determine it is warranted.
- They have police power and authority throughout Pennsylvania to arrest without warrant, writ, rule or process any parolee or probationer under the supervision of the board for failing to report as required by the terms of their probation or parole or for any other violation of the probation or parole.
- They are authorized to search on a reasonable suspicion standard without a warrant. Any item found in the parolee's possession that is a violation of parole/reparole from the search may be used as evidence in the parole revocation process.
- They can also supervise county parolees and probationers.

The parole agent is a parolee's first point of contact for any problems the individual may encounter while on parole. The parole agent is responsible for helpful guidance and also for enforcing parole conditions.

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Week of January 29...

Wetzel Discusses DOC's Mental Health Services

On January 30, DOC Secretary John Wetzel spoke to students at Villanova Law at their Department of Sociology & Criminology's Criminal Justice Town Hall about the DOC's inmate population, a third of which requires some form of mental health service. The event was co-hosted by the League of Women Voters of Radnor Township. Wetzel also discussed the past, present and future of criminal justice policy in Pennsylvania.



As part of his visit to Villanova on January 30, Secretary Wetzel was interviewed by Villanova University's Social Justice Documentary class students for a film that will explore "life without parole" sentencing and the role of corrections in rehabilitation.

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Fighting the Opioid Epidemic War

DOC Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal was among state officials who spoke at a press conference on January 29 that focused on the new PEMA command center on opioids. Moore Smeal discussed DOC's newest opioid (and other contraband)-fighting weapon: a body scanner, now being piloted at the Wernersville Community Corrections Center.



Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal

Here is an outline of the opioid-related initiatives that are currently underway in the DOC:

- A pilot program was begun at SCI Muncy for detox cases during which Vivitrol is introduced prior to an individual's continuation on parole. The DOC is working with community-based providers to ensure effective continuity of care. If the process is determined to be feasible, the plan is to replicate in all designated detox facilities in the DOC.
- (Reentry) Vivitrol will be expanded to the remaining SCIs by the end of March 2018.
- Beginning in March 2018, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) (naltrexone) will be initiated at time of classification for those inmates who are addicted to opioids. Individuals who have 12 months or less to their minimum sentence expiration date will be maintained on MAT for the duration of their incarceration. Individuals will simultaneously participate in opioid-specific substance use disorder treatment (see below). (Please note that the other FDA-approved MATs will be offered as internal protocols are developed.)
- Six Opioid Use Disorder Therapeutic Communities (TCs) will open in mid-March 2018 at SCIs Albion, Cambridge Springs, Camp Hill, Chester and Laurel Highlands and the Quehanna Boot Camp. Opioid-specific curriculum will supplement the existing general population TC curriculum in order to be more responsive to those who suffer from addiction to opioids. The DOC's Bureau of Treatment Services has purchased opioid-specific curriculum materials using grant funding. The materials will be provided to staff who attend curriculum training in February 2018.

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DOC Honor Guards

Honor Guards from many DOC facilities attended the service for fallen US Deputy Marshal Christopher Hill.



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Local Parole Employees Tour SCI Phoenix

On January 24, members of the Parole Chester District Office recently toured SCI Phoenix.

They are: Supervisor Atkins, Director Rivera, Deputy Cooper, Deputy Fisher, Deputy Healey, Supervisor Bentzley, Deputy McLaughlin, Deputy Micciche, and Supervisor Rothwell.

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Forest Officials Present Workshop at ACA

At the winter ACA conference held in Orlando, Florida, Superintendent Mike Overmyer, Deputy Superintendent Derek Oberlander, and senior officials from the state of Washington's DOC presented a workshop entitled, "Focused Deterrence Initiatives to Reduce Group Violence in Correctional Facilities." The workshop was moderated by PA DOC's Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal.



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DOC Accomplishments

Each January the DOC compiles a document that highlights its major accomplishments for the previous calendar year.

This year's compilation has been posted to the DOC's website at www.cor.pa.gov

Make sure to check it out!

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Reentrant Success Story

Michael, a former State Intermediate Punishment (SIP) inmate who had been housed for a period of time at the Quehanna Boot Camp, recently called the facility's drug and alcohol treatment specialist 2, Joanne Lewis.

"He wanted to give an update on his life and again express his appreciation for our therapeutic community program and staff's investment in him. He was happy to say he now has five years of sobriety and that he is still active in meetings," Lewis said. "Michael says one thing that has stuck with him has been the importance of playing the whole tape through, which has kept him sober and making good decisions. He now has his own business (painting) and feels good about that. He did not have a relationship with his children when he was here, but says he does now – 'They love

me. They call me Dad. They want to get to know me more and want to be around me.' Michael is very happy and wanted us to know that he can't believe how good his life is now."

After reading this email, Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal said, "Very nice – it's why we do what we do. Well done Quehanna staff and others."

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High School Honors Local Veterans



SCI Waymart officials, including CHCA Desiree Hartman, RN Supervisor and Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Eugene Carachilo, were invited to attend a Veterans Ceremony at Mid Valley High School. Present for the ceremony were students, facility, local veterans and local state representatives. The following veterans who are currently employed at SCI Waymart also were present for the event: Sgt. Mark Berkoski, COs Patrick Wilson, P.J. McHugh and John Osborne.

Lt Colonel Carachilo, as previously mentioned, who has been a registered nurse supervisor at SCI Waymart for 16 years was asked to be the guest speaker for the event. His military career includes six years in the PA Army National Guard and 22 years in the Air Force Reserve. He currently serves with the 514th Air Mobility Operations Squadron located at McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, as assistant director of operations and aeromedical evacuation control team chief.

Lt Colonel Carachilo presented a memorable speech on his military career, including the honorable responsibility that comes with serving our country and the enormous sacrifices made every day by veterans and their families. Veterans were seated on the auditorium stage and stood up as members of the student body presented the brief history of each veteran's military career. The ceremony concluded with a luncheon for the veterans and their families.

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Kentucky DOC Visits SCI Camp Hill

Staff from Kentucky's DOC were in Pennsylvania to attend a PA DOC Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT) training last week, and they stopped by SCI Camp Hill for a tour.



Pictured, not in order, are William Knight, Monica McCullough and Jamie Morland from Kentucky, Superintendent Laurel Harry, Sean Delaney (Albion) and Sheila Hagemeyer (CEN) from PA DOC's Regional HNT.



During the tour, RTU Unit Manager Rodney Carberry and the Kentucky DOC employees discussed how each system provides services to mentally ill inmates.

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Inmates Participate in CPR Certification

Under the direction of Activities Manager Mike Corbacio, SCI Coal Township's inmate organization, Triumph, has teamed up with the American Red Cross to instruct and certify inmates in CPR, AED and choking. The program was initiated by Triumph Parliamentarian Fredrick Willis who felt helpless when a corrections officer needed CPR.

Fifty inmate participants were selected by Reentry Services Coordinator Morgan Tom and were certified during the week of January 22. The Triumph organization donated \$500 toward the program. The course will be offered every quarter.

Classroom instruction was led by ARC Instructor Mr. Poland.



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Vet Dogs Graduate

On January 23, SCI Dallas celebrated the graduation of two dogs from America's VetDogs' Prison Puppy Program.

Working with America's VetDogs, SCI Dallas inmates raise and train service dogs that eventually will provide U.S. military veterans and first responders with the chance to live a life without boundaries. Beginning in December 2016, SCI Dallas partnered with America's VetDogs, a Smithtown, NY, organization that provides free service dogs to veterans and first responders of all eras. This is the first graduation of dogs from the prison's program.

Veteran James Hough and his service dog, Cleo, were at the graduation to speak about the impact his service dog has had on his life. Mr. Hough is a Vietnam Vet and suffers from several mental diagnoses, and his service dog has helped bring his life back together.



The program is looking for more people interested in becoming weekend raisers. Anyone interested can apply at www.VetDogs.org.

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Laurel Highlands Celebrates Mentoring

January was National Mentoring Month! As a token of our appreciation to its local mentors, SCI Laurel Highlands kicked off the month by randomly pulling mentors names for parking passes. In addition, a Meet & Greet was held prior to this year's annual training on January 26. Mentoring pins were purchased through the Empowerment Committee and distributed to the prison's local mentors to help new staff identify and bring recognition to current mentors.



Finally, the mentoring paintings located in breezeway between control and the deputies complex got a fresh facelift. One of the institutional mural crews painted two 6-foot-tall murals.



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Community Corrections Recognizes Mentors

Because January was National Mentoring Month, last week mentors from community corrections' eastern region received certificates, mentoring pins, and a luncheon in recognition of their service and commitment to mentoring fellow co-workers.



Pictured, from left to right, are: Community Corrections Director Daniel McIntyre, Regional Director Rich Dreisbach and mentors Cynthia Bryant, Randy Lauffer, William Smith, Jacqueline Rupert, Teresa Valliere-Fanrak and BCC Mentoring Chair Jerome Koerner.

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Recruiting at the Auto Show

DOC Diversity Recruiter Pedro Gratacos Pedro Gratacos assisted the Pennsylvania State Police in their recruitment booth at the Auto Show last week. He spoke with interested persons regarding employment as PSP troopers and liquor enforcement officers.

Pictured, from left to right, are: Cpl. Hicks, Tpr. Durham, Retired Cpl. Gonzalez, DOC Diversity Recruiter Pedro Gratacos and Tpr. Shamnoski



"While the Public Safety HR Delivery Center does not recruit for these positions, we would like to form a partnership with the PSP Inclusion Office to coordinate our participation at job fairs and other large events," said Kit Parks, director of the Bureau of Talent Management in the Public Safety HR Delivery Center.

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Employees Save Hunter's Life

On January 26, SCI Somerset recognized Physician's Assistant – Certified Ronald Hutchinson, who is employed at SCI Somerset through the DOC's Health Care Contractor Correct Care Solutions (CCS), and SCI Somerset Registered Nurse Supervisor Gerald Puskar. One December 2, 2017, the two men used good, old-fashioned CPR to keep a fellow hunter alive and get him to an ambulance after he suffered a heart attack. Unfortunately, the man only survived a few days.



Pictured, left to right, are: SCI Somerset Acting Superintendent Melissa Hainsworth, CCS PA-C Ronald Hutchinson, RN Supervisor Gerald Puskar, Health Care Administrator Brian Hyde and CCS Health Services Administrator Dana Seaman.

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Career Pathways Update – JobGateway Access

The DOC's Career Pathways initiative strives to ensure that reentrants are connected with PA CareerLink resources prior to returning to their communities. This connection allows reentrants to begin targeted job searches and resume posting prior to their release, which expedites their connections to workforce readiness services and employment opportunities.

Ninety percent of inmates will return home from prison one day, and the DOC is doing all it can to provide reentrants with the skills and tools necessary to set them on a path to achieving a law-abiding, self-sustaining life.

Through either a facility transitional housing unit or a reentry services office (facilities have one or the other) and veterans service units, inmates now are permitted supervised and filtered internet access, so they can create and use the JobGateway system, provided they are eligible for these services and so long as established procedures are followed. For example, an inmate must be within 30 days of his/her prison release date.

Employees will create and maintain passwords for each inmate and will not provide the passwords to the inmates until their release from prison. Prison employees will be provided with each inmate's Keystone ID. Inmates may not apply for jobs in JobGateway while incarcerated, and they can't use an email address for registration or register for events. They also can't send any messages while signed into the system.

While using JobGateway, inmates can only:

- create/update a resume
- search for job openings
- access various career tools, such as videos, job market data, skills assessments, etc.

Individuals seeking information about this initiative should contact Career Pathways Program Manager Dorenda Hamarlund at dhamarlund@pa.gov

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Week of January 22...

Governor Wolf Announces Prison Inmate Population Drops for Fourth Consecutive Year After Record Reduction

Decrease Attributed to Justice Reinvestment, Better Coordination with Board of Probation and Parole

On January 22, Governor Tom Wolf announced that the number of inmates in the Pennsylvania state prison system dropped for the fourth consecutive calendar year, according to new statistics released by the Department of Corrections (DOC).

In 2017, the total DOC inmate population dropped from 49,301 to 48,438, a decrease of 863 inmates or 1.8 percent over 2016.

"The 2017 calendar year reduction represents the single largest year-over-year decrease of inmate population on record," Governor Wolf said. "I am pleased that our efforts and initiatives are making a measurable difference in improving our prison population numbers, while reducing crime, supporting those reentering our communities, and lowering costs."

After decades of growth that more than doubled the number of prisons in Pennsylvania, the inmate population has declined by 6.4 percent, or 3,319 inmates, since June 2012, allowing for the 2017 closure of SCI Pittsburgh and accompanying significant cost savings.

"This latest reduction in the inmate population, combined with the crime rate decline, indicates that a broad range of bi-partisan criminal justice initiatives being undertaken across Pennsylvania are working for our citizens," said Corrections Secretary John Wetzel. "We believe further reductions in the inmate population, lower agency costs and decreases in the crime rate, are possible moving forward as part of the consolidation with the Board of Probation and Parole and the second round of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative."

Wetzel said legislation proposed under the initiative would also expand victims' rights to require police officers to provide victim services information at the scene of a crime, require prosecutors to notify the Victim Advocate on behalf of personal injury crime victims and increase compensation for crime victims.

In the decade before the first Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) began in 2012, the DOC population was increasing by an average of 1,262 inmates per year. The Justice Reinvestment Initiative is aimed at reducing the prison population through criminal justice reform and directing the savings to help counties enhance public safety which also further sustains prison population reductions.

Better coordination between the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole and DOC has played a key role in driving the reduction, along with the invalidation by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 2015 of many mandatory minimum sentencing penalties, said Bret Bucklen, the department's director of planning, research, and statistics.

Luis Rosa, deputy secretary of reentry, credited interagency cooperation and said technology has improved parole processes.

“The use of electronic information sharing, enhances our abilities to apply data driven, outcome focused principles, which are the centerpiece of evidence based practice applications,” said Rosa. “Not only was the prison population reduced, but our case management quality was improved through the use of staff reentry trainings.”

Christian Stephens, deputy secretary of field supervision, said several recent initiatives have allowed field operations to safely increase the number of reentrants it can manage leading to more efficient and expedited release process.

“We are utilizing proven evidence-based practices, which preserve public safety, such as lowering the caseload ratios by hiring over 150 new agents in the past 18 months, increasing use of GPS, and fully implementing the use of the contact report, which assists our agents in the prioritization of their work,” said Stephens.

Among the legislative proposals under the second phase of Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI2) are the introduction of “presumptive parole,” where short-term, non-violent offenders are automatically paroled upon completion of their minimum sentence, the expansion of the State Intermediate Punishment (SIP) program, which offers shorter sentences for drug offenders, combined with substance use disorder treatment and enacting a short sanctioning option for technical parole violators, such as the Swift, Certain, and Fair (SCF) approach.

The main driver of the population decrease in 2017 was a large reduction in parole violator admissions, which dropped by 10.2 percent in 2017, said Bucklen. And further inmate population reductions and additional cost savings are possible if the continued reforms are implemented.

“If we move forward with these proposals, we are projecting a reduction of another roughly 2,500 inmates over the next 5 years, and a cost savings of approximately \$91.7 million,” said Bucklen.

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Corrections Demonstrates Body Scanner, Unveils Steps to Improve Security, Safety and Reduce Drug Usage at Wernersville Community Corrections Center

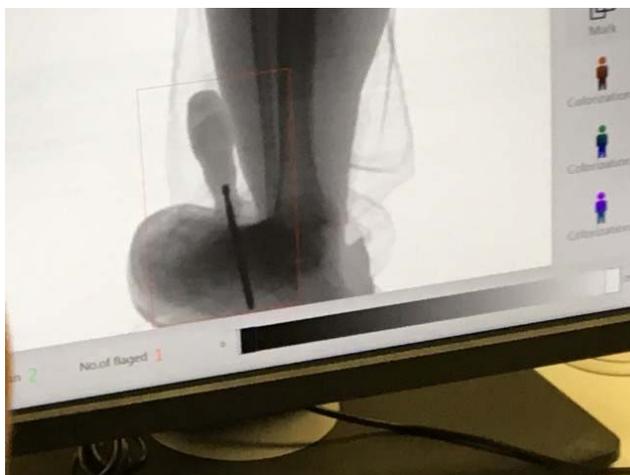
Body Scanner Pilot Part of Governor Wolf's Opioid Disaster Declaration Initiatives

The DOC has undertaken a sweeping overhaul of its Wernersville Community Correctional Center (CCC) in Berks County to improve security, public safety, operational efficiency and reentrant support. The initiatives were announced at an event today at the facility.

DOC personnel were joined by Acting Secretary of Health and Physician General Dr. Rachel Levine and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Director Rick Flinn. Both Levine and Flinn head up the recently formed Opioid Operational Command Center, established in response to Governor Tom Wolf's January 10 opioid disaster declaration.

Since last month the DOC has installed a full body scanner to detect contraband, increased the use of drug-detecting K-9s and reduced the number of residential buildings.

The changes are designed to limit the introduction of contraband in the facility, reduce drug use and better manage the reentrant population.



Here, the scanner shows a screwdriver hidden in an individual's pants/shoe.

Governor Wolf's disaster declaration authorizes emergency purchasing under Section 516 of the Procurement Code to allow for an emergency, no-bid contract to expand the advanced body scanner pilot program at Wernersville should results prove to be positive there.

The body scanner, similar to the device used in airports, reveals any manner of contraband that may be on a person. It is being piloted for three months after which time DOC will determine whether or not to purchase the machine.

"Pennsylvania continues to have some of the highest overdose death rates in the United States," Acting Health Secretary and Physician General Dr. Rachel Levine said. "Continuing the advanced body scanner pilot program is one tool in our toolbox to ensuring that our families, our loved ones and our communities get help to reverse the effects this crisis has on the commonwealth."



Other changes include the reduction of the number of beds at the facility from about 400 to 230 today, and the closure of one residential unit. This has reduced the area needed to be searched by K-9 units by 50,000 square feet.

Reentry programming and job training efforts will be expanded to include additional job and housing readiness workshops. The in-house training will reduce the need for contracting with outside agencies to provide the same classes.

In addition, Wernersville will be able to offer some workshops that are currently unavailable in Berks County, including cognitive behavioral intervention, family reunification, alcohol and drug support and education and peer support services.

"By consolidating the buildings and increasing security and program enhancements, Wernersville will be able to offer more positive reentry support, individualized case management and centralized services to reentrants," said Corrections Secretary John Wetzel. "The goal is to better address addiction issues, reduce drug usage and increase safety and security for the reentrants, the staff, and the community."

Under the new entry process, Building 30 is designated the "reception" point for all new arrivals who meet first with an assessment counselors. They then receive a standard orientation, including a meeting and evaluation with a counselor and assistance with social service needs, such as obtaining necessary identification and Medical Assistance. The reentrants are then provided a detailed action plan to follow.

The assessment counselors evaluate the reentrant's parole conditions and history and make appropriate referrals to reentry services and/or on-site workshops or groups before the reentrant transitions to a group home.

During the reception phase, all reentrants with substance use disorder participate in an educational workshop on the benefits of medication-assisted treatment (MAT).

Other changes to the facility include:

- Increased drug training for staff
- Increased transportation for reentrants to work sites and medical appointments
- Providing all meals on site reducing need for outside travel
- Additional security cameras

The third former residential building will be used for staff and reentrant training workshops.

Wernersville CCC, which occupies buildings on the former Wernersville State Hospital property, is one of the largest community corrections centers in Pennsylvania, helping roughly 1,000 individuals return to the community each year. The majority of residents at the center are from Berks or the surrounding counties. Last year residents of the facility provided more than 20,000 hours of community service to local governments, non-profit groups and churches.

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'Ask the Agent' Seminar Encourages Potential Reentrants To "Always Ask"

On January 17, SCI Laurel Highlands' Transitional Housing Unit (THU) hosted its first "Ask The Agent" seminar.

What, you might ask, is this?

In an effort to better prepare THU participants for what they should expect from parole agents and officials once they are paroled from prison, two **A**ssessment, **S**anctioning, **C**ommunity **R**esource **A**gents, better known as ASCRAs, visited the prison's THU to do just that!

Over 30 THU inmates attended the seminar, which was well received, and the agents fielded what seemed to be unending questions. Arranged by Laurel Highlands' Reentry Parole Agent Tim Ross and ASCRAs Mike Corson and Annette Pannebaker, both from the Altoona District Office, it is sure to be the first of many of these seminars.

When asked about the relevance and benefits of this seminar, one THU participant reported that it was well worth his while and he had many questions answered that were seemingly unimportant but could have otherwise gotten him "jammed up"

when he left prison. The agents sent a consistent message throughout their presentation to the participants which was, "always to ask your agent if you don't know." Hence the very fitting title of "Ask the Agent."

Another participant added, "This is different than the THU's Living Under Supervision workshop because 'Ask the Agent' is geared toward the options, guidance and assistance from the agents actually out in the community."

"Potential reentrants don't often have the opportunity to meet field agents prior to release. This is a great avenue in which to do that," said Reentry Specialist Rebecca Witt.



ASCRA's Mike Corson and Annette Pannebaker address questions from THU inmates.

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QBC Female Inmate Donates Hair to Locks of Love

When inmates are preparing to begin the Quehanna Boot Camp program, one of the requirements for both males and females is to have their hair cut. Males receive military style haircuts 1/8" in length, and females receive military style haircuts approximately, but no shorter than, three inches off the scalp. Following inquiries from Boot Camp inmates about donating their hair to a worthy cause and upon reviewing available resources, Superintendent Mary Natoli announced in December that Locks of Love was selected to receive hair donations.

Locks of Love is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under age 21 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. Some of the guidelines for acceptable donations are: hair that is colored or permed is acceptable; hair that has been bleached is not usable; hair that is swept off the floor is not usable because it is not bundled in a ponytail or braid; hair that is shaved off and not in a ponytail or braid is not usable; dreadlocks cannot be accepted; wigs, falls, hair extensions or synthetic hair cannot be accepted; layered hair is acceptable if the longest layer is 10 inches; curly hair may be pulled straight to measure the minimum 10 inches; 10 inches measured tip to tip is the minimum length needed for a hairpiece.



With a new platoon that began on January 22, a female pre-Boot Camp inmate had nearly 20 inches of hair cut off and donated to Locks of Love. The inmate completed an application and stated that the reason she wished to donate her hair was, "I hope I make a beautiful little girl happy!"

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DOC Conducts Full-Scale Search at Allegheny County Jail

Last week, the DOC conducted a full-scale search for contraband at the Allegheny County Jail.

At the request of Allegheny County, the DOC deployed Corrections Emergency Response Teams (CERT) from nine state prisons to the jail on January 16 conduct a top-to-bottom search. All areas of the prison were searched – inmate cells, common areas and employee work locations. Twenty K-9 teams specializing in drug detection assisted in the search.

Over the course of two days the search teams found many contraband items, including drugs in various forms (liquid, pills and on paper), homemade weapons and lighters.

"We were pleased to assist Allegheny County with contraband detection in its facility and we commend the professionalism of the Allegheny County Jail administration and staff," said Corrections Secretary John Wetzel. "Governor Wolf

has made battling the opioid crisis a top priority and the DOC is working every day to limit the introduction of drugs into corrections facilities and root out contraband.”

The DOC also has loaned Allegheny County Jail an electronic drug detection device for its use.

“These additional resources allowed us to further ensure the safety of our staff and inmates, and we are grateful to Governor Wolf, Secretary Wetzel and the Department of Corrections for the work that they did here,” said Allegheny County Jail Warden Orlando Harper. “Their professionalism and thoroughness ensured a successful effort and we look forward to working with the DOC again for future searches.”

Contraband searches and equipment loans are just two of the ways the Department of Corrections assists county jails in addressing the opioid epidemic. The DOC also provided grant funding for medication assisted treatment (MAT) to help individuals with substance use disorder.

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Homeless Veterans’ Stand Down

The DOC had a table at the recent Homeless Veterans’ Stand Down that was held January 19-21, at the Harrisburg Armory. The annual event is coordinated by the Greater Harrisburg YWCA.



As previously reported in this newsletter:

Homeless Veterans’ Stand Down

This is the 12th year that the Greater Harrisburg YWCA has hosted the Homeless Veterans’ Stand Down, which runs January 19-21. The event provides critical services to support homeless and at-risk veterans from communities throughout south central Pennsylvania. Typical services provided at the Stand Down include: VA medical services; combat veterans’ services including the VET Center; PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs referral services; rapid re-housing; employment assistance; legal assistance; dental care; advocacy services; recovery services; mental health

services; benefits counseling; connection with military service organizations; overnight shelter; and other critical supplies.

In addition to the DOC recruiting table, DOC employees also provided a variety of items that were delivered to the YWCA in support of homeless veterans. Items donated included hats, gloves, winter coats, new men's/women's underwear, socks, toiletries, jeans/khakis, long-sleeve work shirts and belts.

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Muncy Holds Opening Ceremony for New Medical Wing

On January 19, SCI Muncy officials debuted their new, 10,000 square foot infirmary annex, which was needed due to the increasing inmate population and in order to provide more medical services to inmates.

The new wing, call the Wilson Infirmary Annex, has 19 long-term beds, two exam rooms, offices, a dental clinic, a dialysis center and an ob-gyn clinic, just to name a few of the areas.

This new annex will allow more inmates to be treated, thus reducing the number of trips to local facilities.

"This addition will give SCI Muncy the ability to better care for its aging and chronically ill inmates in a cost-effective manner," said SCI Muncy Superintendent Robert Smith.

Construction began in 2014, and the cost for the capital fund project was \$5.9 million.

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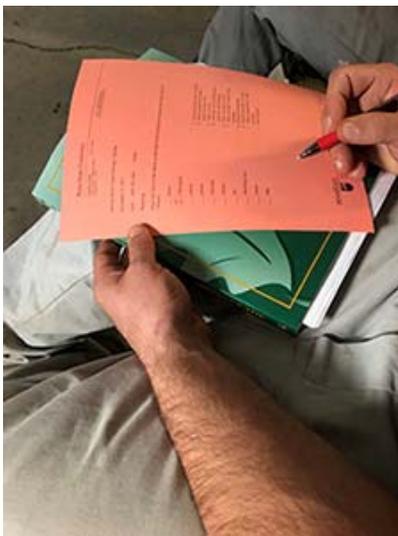
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Please visit their website at <http://www.isa-arbor.com/>

Arborists' Certification Study Guide Donation Assists State Corrections Arboriculture Program

To support an arboriculture training program developed through the collaboration of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, ISA donated 20 copies of the *Arborists' Certification Study Guide* to augment their Arborist Short Course. This was the first time that a tree care course, presented by a diverse group of tree care professionals, was offered to inmates in a correctional institution where the Department of Corrections did not incur costs to host the training. The first course was held in Fall 2017 at Rockview's State Correctional Institution Forestry Camp, a minimum-security unit on the grounds of Rockview that houses a maximum of 72 men (nonviolent offenders) who have been placed there to serve up to the final four years of their sentences.



The Forestry Camp is located on 2,500 forested acres where the men work daily to maintain the grounds, work in the onsite tree nursery, and participate in forest management and timber harvesting to produce logs and firewood used to heat several buildings on the property and elsewhere. The idea is to help these men develop skills that will help them gain meaningful employment when they are released and, as a result, reduce recidivism.



The Arborist Short Course takes this philosophy to a higher level. The course is based on the chapters in ISA's *Arborists' Certification Study Guide*, which is a major resource for individuals preparing for the ISA Certified Arborist® exam. During the first course, 15 men participated and received 18 hours of training over 10 days. The group became very engaged in the learning process and engrossed in the material being taught. The donated Study Guides allowed the men to review and study the material further on their own time outside of class. The training was a success, and more intensive courses are planned throughout 2018.

This course provides the men with a knowledge base to pursue ISA certification. Many of them expressed interest in the ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist® credential, so Penn State Extension personnel will present a three-day climbing course in April 2018.

Many thanks to Shea Zwerver, community engagement coordinator for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry, for providing this information about the Arborist Short Course. Shea envisioned and coordinated this program and also served as one of the instructors, presenting on the benefits of trees and their relationship to human health and well-being. She said that the positive affect of trees was evident as the men in the class expressed how living and working in a forested area had greatly improved their outlook and made them feel calmer as compared to living in a standard correctional unit where access to trees and nature was limited or nonexistent.



Thanks also goes to Wade Renninger, corrections forest and nursery manager, for his support of the program, as well as all of the other instructors from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry, Penn State Extension, Penn State University, State College, Bartlett Tree Experts, and Delaware Urban Forestry who presented the program and actively promote ISA certification. ISA is very appreciative of the ongoing efforts of the individuals and organizations involved to provide these men with opportunities to develop careers in arboriculture.

Janet Huber
Corporate Communications Manager
International Society of Arboriculture

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Each week for the next several weeks, the various phases of the overall parole process will be examined and explained to assist general knowledge of the parole process.

PAROLE 101

By Laura Treaster, PBPP Communications Director

The Parole Decision

The board frequently clarifies the misunderstanding that the minimum sentence date is the parole release date. Public perception is they are one and the same. It is crucial to understand the minimum sentence date represents the minimum amount of time a person must be incarcerated under the Department of Correction's (DOC) control. An inmate becomes eligible for parole release after they have served their minimum sentence.

Additionally, an inmate's family and friends mistakenly believe after their loved one has been granted parole, they are immediately released. This is not the case as a positive board action triggers numerous other events that must take place before the inmate is released on parole.

The board action, also called a board decision, will tell the inmate whether they have been granted or denied parole and the reasons for the decision.

Explanation of Parole Denial

If the parole denial contains a general statement the inmate does not demonstrate a motivation for success, it means that neither the completion of programs nor the interview statements show the inmate seems prepared to succeed as a law-abiding citizen.

If the parole denial contains a general statement regarding risk and needs assessment, it means the inmate has a high risk of re-offending according to his/her evaluations.

If the parole denial contains a general statement regarding lack of remorse or not taking responsibility for the crime(s), it means the statements and actions during the parole interview, including the inmate's written statement, gave the impression the inmate does not care about the impact of his/her actions on other people and society.

Explanation of Parole Approval

If the parole decision grants parole, it will highlight the reasons for the approval. The board action also spells out the individual's parole conditions.

Parole to detainer means the inmate is not being released. It is a grant of parole to a detainer sentence, which is a sentence separate from the one the inmate is currently serving. The detainer ensures that when the inmate has been paroled on the present sentence, the inmate will be turned over to the authority imposing the detainer sentence to serve the next sentence, and not released from confinement. The inmate will start serving the other Pennsylvania sentence while on parole or will be sent to the other jurisdiction, which lodged the detainer, to address that situation.

Parole release is not immediate when an inmate receives a board action granting parole. There are several things that need to occur before the inmate is released to parole supervision. After parole is granted, the inmate needs to work with the institutional parole agent to determine what criteria from this list must be met before release:

- Crime Victims' Compensation Fund Payment
- DOC RRRI (Recidivism Risk Reduction Incentive) Certification
- Victim Awareness Class Completion (if applicable)
- DNA Sample (if a past or present felony conviction exists)
- Megan's Law Registration (if required)
- Completed Programming (if noted)
- Urinalysis (test results are good for 45 days)
- Chairman's Certification (if violent crime)
- Community Corrections Center (CCC) Available Bed Date
- Approved Home Plan (A Pennsylvania home plan is valid for 150 days; an out-of-state home plan is valid for 120 days)
- Release Orders from the Board
- Release Date from DOC

If the board action/decision contains conditions that must be fulfilled before an inmate is released, they must complete them before any release processing will begin. Inmates must also remain misconduct free. Any detainers or new charges may delay or invalidate an inmate's parole.

Legally, an inmate cannot be released on parole prior to the minimum sentence date. If an inmate has completed all required programming, is a non-violent offender, has an approved home plan or CCC bed date, and has no detainers, release may occur within a short time frame. The average inmate is released within 130 days of an interview resulting in parole approval.

Follow the Process with a Continuing Case Example

John is granted parole. According to John's board action, he was to be paroled on or after November 28, 2013, his MIN date. In his board action, the primary reasons for the decision were: accepted responsibility; recommendation of DOC; involved in programming; and, placement in a CCC.

John's board action stated the following:

- Paroled on or after November 28, 2013 to a CCC. (While incarcerated, John submitted a home plan but his request by the landlord was denied. John will be paroled to a CCC while continues to work on another home plan.)
- Maintain employment/training/schooling
- No contact with persons who sell or use drugs outside of a treatment setting
- Subject to drug testing and must pay for tests
- Cannot enter establishments that sell alcohol
- No contact with victim in any manner
- No contact with associates or co-defendants
- Wage attachment for court ordered financial obligations

Before John is released from the SCI, he completes the required items, such as a urinalysis, needed before he leaves prison. John signs his release orders and conditions of parole and leaves the SCI. He must report to the CCC within 24 hours. John meets with his assigned parole agent within five days. They review his initial supervision plan. The supervision plan addresses John's risks for reoffending and his needs to help him be successful on parole. This supervision plan is re-assessed every year. When he submits a home plan, a visit to the site will occur within 10 days.

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Did You Know???

Did you know that officials are working to assist inmates, who reside in facility Transitional Housing Units or those who receive services from facility Reentry Services Offices, to register with CareerLink's JobGateway prior to their release from prison?

This may sound like a no-brainer to you, but only recently were inmates given direct access to JobGateway via controlled internet access so they could register with the system while still in prison. This work starts 30 days prior to an inmate's release from prison, and it gives them a jump start on the job search process.

Now, when released from prison, they can go to the local CareerLink and immediately apply for jobs, rather than spend time setting up their profile with JobGateway.

This is just a simple change that makes a huge difference for reentrants.

DOC -- working smarter.

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Career Pathways Program Receives One-Year Extension

According to Career Pathways Program Manager Dorenda Hamarlund, the DOC has received a one-year extension for its Career Pathways Program at no cost to taxpayers. The program initially was funded by a three-year, \$1 million "Improving Reentry Education" grant that the DOC received from the U.S. Department of Education."

This extension allows the DOC to continue its work, which up to this point has focused on implementing a "Pathway to Success" curriculum for inmates which was expanded to ALL state prisons this month.

With the extension, officials now can begin the second phase of their work, which is to work with employers, unions and apprenticeship programs to connect educated inmates with job opportunities upon their release from prison. More information on this aspect of the program will be provided as it progresses.

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Building Career Pathways Systems within a Corrections Setting: Lessons Learned from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections

By Kelly Martini and Francie Genz

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

To date, DOC has laid the groundwork for Career Pathways "inside the walls," while coordinating with the workforce development system outside the walls. This brief provides an overview of this work so far, as well as how other corrections systems and states can pursue a Career Pathways framework for inmates and reentrants.

Why Career Pathways?

Individuals with a criminal record face significant barriers in finding and keeping gainful employment. A 2010 study by the Center for Economic Policy Research estimates that reentrants are employed at a rate that is 5 to 20 percent lower than the general population. Without the skills to successfully re-enter the labor market, reentrants struggle to interrupt the cycle of recidivism. In Pennsylvania, approximately 60 percent of released inmates are rearrested or reincarcerated within three years of release.

Career pathway models have shown promise in supporting individuals who face barriers to employment. Career pathways combine education and training, work experience, and basic workplace skills ("soft" skills) to prepare individuals for

success in the workforce. In a corrections setting, a career pathway model can align and connect education, training, counseling, and work experience opportunities within the prison to support inmates in building skills and experience needed to get – and keep – a job once released.



Multiple units within the DOC play a role in preparing inmates to be successful in the workforce (see list on next page) but, traditionally, they tended to operate as independent units.

Limited coordination and collaboration across units meant that workforce training and services were not delivered in a clear sequence with opportunities to build from one program to another. As a result, even the most successful inmates who participated in multiple training and work experience opportunities left prison with a collection of certifications and competencies but little focus on specific careers.

Without a clear set of goals and an understanding of how to apply those certifications in the labor market, reentrants fail to leverage their skills and experiences gained in prison to get and keep a job on the outside.

By making career pathways—or the sequence of education, training, and work experience within the DOC—clearer and more visible, the DOC is increasing opportunities for inmates to ‘chart their own course’ and build the skills and experience needed to succeed in jobs and careers (see diagram, left).

At the institutional level, the DOC focused on three primary strategies for improving information-sharing and program coordination:

- **Implementing a new “Pathway to Success” course as an introduction to all inmates pursuing vocational training within the DOC.** This course introduces inmates to in-demand careers by providing recent labor market information and guides them through the process of identifying career goals and developing a career plan for developing the skills and credentials needed to meet those goals. This includes hearing from “guest” instructors that teach various vocational training programs offered within the prison, as well as guest speakers from Parole and the workforce system.

- **Creating a ‘career plan’ that follows inmates through their incarceration and helps document and track progress toward career goals.** Starting with the Pathway to Success course, inmates create a career plan that includes career interest assessment results as well as career goals that can be shared with other DOC staff, including inmate employment coordinators.
- **Updating inmate resumes to reflect relevant education, training and work experience while incarcerated before reentry.** Reentry staff focus on preparing inmates with job search skills, including updated resumes, to begin searching for jobs after release. This includes documenting the full range of education, training, and work experience gained while incarcerated to help inmates present a clear and focused track record that will maximize their chances of success in the job market.

Units within the DOC and Probation & Parole that Prepare Inmates for Success in the Workforce

- ***Bureau of Correction Education:*** Provides vocational training and nationally recognized certifications. Certifications are awarded in a number of industries, including auto tech, barbershop and cosmetology, business education, carpentry, construction trades, custodial maintenance, electrical, HVAC, warehousing, and welding.
- ***Inmate Employment:*** Provides employment for inmates as part of the day-to-day operations of correctional institutions. Examples of occupations include Janitor, Library Clerk, Chapel Clerk, and Kitchen Assistant. Inmates request to have their names added to the waiting list and fill out a job placement questionnaire that asks about prior education, vocational training and special skills, and areas of job interest. The Correctional Employment Vocational Coordinator then works with work supervisors to determine inmate placement.
- ***Correctional Industries:*** Employs inmates in a range of enterprises, including furniture manufacturing, industrial laundry, and warehousing facilities, in correctional institutions and provides on-the-job training and certifications.
- ***Reentry Service Offices:*** A centralized office within a State Correctional Institution (SCI) that provides reentry services to inmates. RSOs offer computer access and may offer workshops related to successful reentry.
- ***Transitional Housing Units:*** Housing units specifically for inmates nearing their minimum date. Provides computer access and reentry workshops.
- ***Veterans Services Units:*** House veteran inmates at 36 months prior to their minimum date and provide reentry workshops that emphasize job search skills.
- ***Bureau of Community Corrections:*** Operates Community Corrections Centers (“halfway houses”) for reentrants and may provide individualized, structured support, including workforce development services.
- ***Board of Probation and Parole:*** Refers reentrants to workforce services and subsidized employment opportunities.

What do Employers Need?

Determining which careers are both realistic for reentrants and in-demand by employers is a crucial step in building a Career Pathways model that starts inside a correctional system. Pennsylvania's DOC engaged a consulting firm that specializes in workforce development systems to facilitate and assist DOC staff with this work.

DOC looked at employer demand in three targeted industries: construction, manufacturing, and transportation and logistics. These industries represented the top industries in Pennsylvania that provide career pathways for individuals with criminal backgrounds, both due to limited restrictions on hiring as well as opportunities for advancement and family-sustaining wages.

A statewide and national scan was conducted of in-demand skills and certifications based on industry associations and individual interviews with employers in each of the three industries.

This scan resulted in two key pieces of information: first, most employers in each of the three targeted industries are more interested in general 'soft skills' over specific technical training or certifications. Second, employers are looking for individuals with an accurate understanding of careers in their industry.

By preparing inmates with clear and accurate expectations of work environments, earning potential, and skill requirements of various career fields, the DOC can help address the mismatch between jobseekers' expectations and employers' needs. The DOC responded to this feedback with the creation of the Pathway to Success course (see page 2).

Bridging the Prison/Employer Divide: Partnering with the State Workforce Development System

At the state level, the DOC developed a strategic partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry (L&I), which oversees Pennsylvania's PA CareerLink® Centers, which are the primary access points for workforce services under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA).

At the state level, the DOC and L&I have worked together to:

Build knowledge and capacity in community-based staff. Leveraging the WIOA priority on serving individuals with barriers to employment (including reentrants), DOC is partnering with state Parole and L&I to deliver Reentry Employment and Offender Workforce Development trainings to PA CareerLink® staff across the Commonwealth. Having PA CareerLink® staff trained to better serve the reentrant population reinforces successful outcomes for job placement and retention.

Utilizing the Workforce System to Serve Reentrants

WIOA, or The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

The law that guides federally funded workforce development activity. States receive formula funding to carry-out the provisions of WIOA, including to train unemployed and underemployed individuals, provide adult education and literacy activities, and operate job centers.

Under WIOA, “ex-offenders” are specifically identified as individuals with a barrier to employment, which prioritizes them to receive services.

Workforce Development Boards (WDBs)

Regional entities in each state that implement WIOA and offer residents in their area access to workforce development programs. Each Workforce Development Board must have their own plan that guides how they will best serve those in need of workforce services in their area. Many plans include reentrants specifically.

WDBs appoint members to serve on their Board and guide their activity. At least 50% of these members must be employers. As such, WDBs are a good first point of contact to learn about employment in a specific regional area, including “reentrant friendly” employers and industries.

American Job Centers, also known as One Stop Career Centers

These centers bring together government and community partners in one place to provide services to job-seekers. In Pennsylvania, these centers are branded as PA CareerLink® Centers.

In many PA CareerLinks®, job seekers can use computers to enter their resume information and search for a job. There may be one-on-one assistance from a staff person to assist with a job search or to find job training. Reentrants should let staff know that they are a reentrant, and should also let staff know if they are a veteran, as they may be eligible for additional services.

Labor Market Information

Includes information such as industries that are growing, in-demand occupations, average wages and salaries, and the unemployment rate. This information is often available at a county level.

When presented properly, this information can be very valuable to reentrants to assist them in understanding what jobs exist in their area of reentry, and also what they can realistically expect to be paid should they be hired.

Expand in-reach services from PA CareerLink® across Pennsylvania. L&I has encouraged all PA CareerLink® staff to connect with their nearest state prison to offer services inside the prison ranging from job fairs to resume and job development services. In addition, L&I assembled a list of key points of contact in every PA CareerLink® across the state.

Enroll inmates in JobGateway—the PA CareerLink® system’s database—before release. In order to facilitate information exchange between DOC and the workforce system, DOC and L&I are developing a way for inmates to enroll in the online JobGateway system before they are released. This allows inmates to create a profile and enter their resume before entering their first PA CareerLink® office.

Share labor market information. Since hiring trends and the labor market change regularly, the DOC entered into an agreement with L&I to provide annual reports on in-demand careers to all SCIs. This information is used in the introductory Pathway to Success course as well as by vocational instructors to ensure they have an up-to-date understanding of labor market trends, in-demand jobs, and earning potential.

Share data that helps track key indicators about training and employment outcomes of inmates and reentrants. The data sharing agreement between L&I and DOC allows DOC to understand the job outcomes for reentrants, including whether or not they are employed after reentry, how long they retain employment, and the industry in which they’re working. Coupled with DOC’s data on inmates who completed vocational courses, DOC can now determine which vocational programs are leading reentrants to jobs.

While DOC has successfully developed a career pathways framework inside its correctional institutions, the work is far from complete. The next phase of this work will rely intensively on outside partners to continue what has started inside the walls.

Continue partnering with Parole. Once an individual leaves prison, the prison staff can no longer influence outcomes. Parole agents play a vital role on the outside. Providing a good “hand-off” to Parole agents, including information on career plans and credentials earned, will increase the likelihood of reentrants continuing on their chosen career pathway.

Building community partnerships. The workforce development system is just one of many partners providing services to reentrants. Reentrants need extensive support, including housing, substance abuse treatment, medical care, family reunification and childcare, transportation, etc... The DOC should continue to create relationships with organizations that support reentrants. Reentrants cannot focus on employment if their basic needs are not met.

Working with education providers. Traditional career pathway models include a clear sequence of further education and training to progress in a career. The DOC should pursue articulation agreements with education providers, such as Community Colleges, that have experience serving low-income and adult populations.

More Information on PA DOC's Career Pathways Program

A 48-page Career Pathways Toolkit that details DOC's work and includes staff training aids is available. For more information, please contact Dorenda Hamarlund, dhamarlund@pa.gov, or Kelly Martini, kemartini@pa.gov.

Acknowledgements

This document is based on work compiled by Genz Consulting. State correctional institutions Coal Township, Dallas, Fayette, Houtzdale, Mahanoy, and Pine Grove served as pilot institutions for this initiative. Thanks to current and former DOC staff Carrie Amann, Nikki Bell, Janeen Christ, Terri Fazio, Dorenda Hamarlund, Madeline McPherson, and Lacosta Mussoline for shaping this initiative. The contents of this publication were developed under a grant from the United States Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

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Week of January 15...

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Deputy US Marshal Christopher Hill's family and friends and the entire law enforcement community, including our members of the FAST team. We also send our wishes for a full recovery to Officer Kyle Pitts and wish those who protect public safety safe days and nights.

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Fire at Prison Powerhouse

During the afternoon on January 18, there was a fire at SCI Huntingdon's baghouse, which is outside of and yet adjacent to the powerhouse. The powerhouse supplies heat and hot water to both prisons. At no time was either supply interrupted. There was an excellent response from local first responders, and of course from HUN/SMI staff. By around 8 p.m. last night, the fire, which had been contained to the baghouse, apparently burned itself out. Staff monitored it all night and there was no flare up. The DOC has sent staff to the prison to review the damage.

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Accreditation

By Tracy Shawley, SCI Greene Superintendent Assistant

The American Correctional Association (ACA) Winter Conference Panel hearings for ACA accreditation were held on January 6, 2018, for the following facilities: SCI's Albion, Cambridge Springs, Chester, Greene, Huntingdon, Mercer and Smithfield and Johnstown Community Corrections Center.

Facilities participated via WebEx, and the hearings began at 8 a.m. and ended approximately 40 minutes ahead of schedule, thanks to everyone's preparedness.

Yes, the hearings occurred on Saturday, which was a common question everyone seemed to have. Carole Mattis, director of the DOC's Standards Audits and Accreditation Office, coached us through the process and was present to support us. DOC Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal was with the ACA commissioners in Orlando to welcome us.

The superintendent assistants from each facility (and who are the lead in the accreditation process) were designated as the spokespersons of their facility and began their hearings by conducting introductions of staff who were in attendance. Select staff from each facility were on hand during the hearings to adequately respond to the Visiting Committee Reports, Significant Incident Summary and Outcome Measures Reports, which are generally scrutinized by the commissioners. Superintendents, select deputy superintendents and healthcare staff were mostly involved. The panel chair typically began the hearings by asking the facility manager to tell them about the unique attributes of their facility or active initiatives, pilot programs, etc.

Each facility was allotted 20 minutes total hearing time, so it was important that the statements were brief. It was suggested that we show our support to the other facilities by being present from beginning to end of all of the hearings since accreditation is usually granted at the end of each hearing. I will admit, although we were permitted to disconnect from the call, most facilities remained on the line, not only to show support, but it was great hearing our colleagues talk about the great work we do.

After all, we are in this together.

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Frackville Names EOQ

SCI Frackville has named Corrections Officer 1 K. Stutzman as Employee of the Quarter for the 1st Quarter of 2018.



He's pictured here (left) with Major Jasen Bohinski.

Congratulations, Officer Stutzman!

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Read and Keep Book Project Underway

Employees at eight state correctional institutions have begun working on a special "Read & Keep" book project for inmates' children.

Under the program, children can select a book in the visiting room, read it with their parent and then take it home when they leave.

"The goal of the program is to improve childhood literacy and strengthen the bond between parent and child," said DOC Secretary John Wetzel.



SCI Waymart Superintendent's Secretary Christine Altemier, left, and Superintendent's Assistant Joe Vinansky, donate books for the literacy project. A drop off box is available at the prison's front gate/sally port for employee-donated books.

Right, SCI Laurel Highlands' Read and Keep area.



In typical DOC fashion, each prison that took on the project (SCIs Cambridge Springs, Frackville, Laurel Highlands, Mercer, Retreat, Rockview, Somerset and Waymart) added their own unique twist.

SCI Retreat created a "Read & Keep" corner with its collection of books. The inmates raised nearly \$300 through a pretzel sale to purchase the books. About 200 children's books were donated to SCI Cambridge Springs from institutional staff and from nearby Westminster College for the project.

SCI Rockview had its books, donated by staff members, ready for the holiday visits in December, while SCI Laurel Highlands is waiting to unveil its collection on April 2 (which, of course, is National Children's Book Day and Hans Christen Andersen's birthday).



At SCI Rockview, an inmate reads books with his visiting children.

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Benner Township Names EOQ

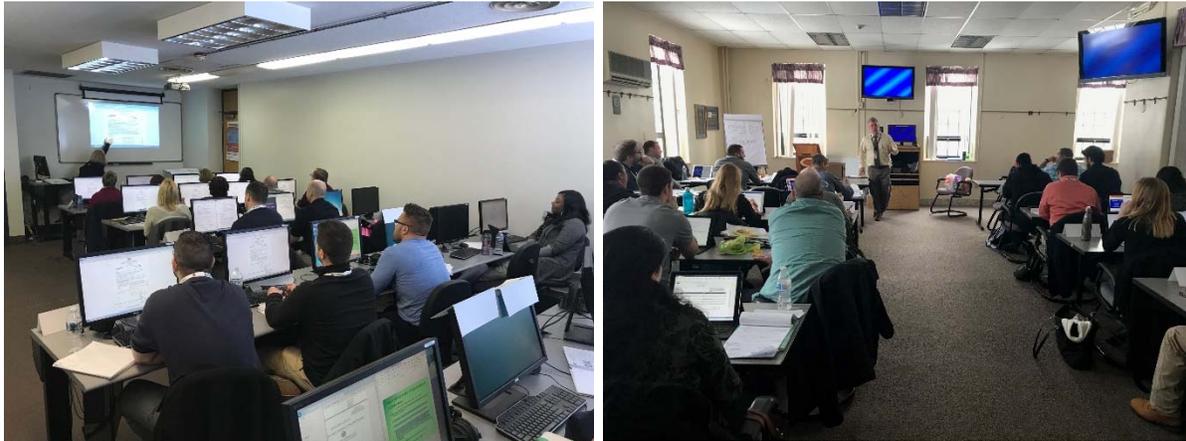
SCI Benner Township Superintendent Tammy Ferguson was pleased to announce that Corrections Officer 1 K. Oswalt and Psychological Services Associate James Thurston have been selected as the prison's Employees of the Quarter for the 1st Quarter of 2018. Oswalt and Thurston were nominated by their co-workers and were selected by the Employee of the Quarter Committee. Their nominations and selection were based on their outstanding service to the mission and their commitment to excellence.



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PBPP Basic Training Continues

As you may recall, we previously reported that another basic training for parole agents and parole institutional staff was underway. The training, Class #131, continues in its fifth week of training with cross training – field agents are learning about institutional parole staff jobs and vice versa. There are 64 agents in the class and there are only seven weeks remaining until graduation.



Keep up the great work!

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OMHSAS Official Visits SCI Waymart

Lynn Kovich, the new deputy secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services' Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) visited SCI Waymart during the holiday season. The inmate in the prison's Forensic Treatment Center showed her the many Christmas and holiday decorations they made throughout the season.



Pictured, from left to right, are: Classification and Program Manager Joseph Grillo, Deputy Superintendent Ronda Ellett, DOC Mental Health Advocate Lynn Patrone, Deputy Secretary Lynn Kovich, Superintendent Jack Sommers and Deputy Superintendent Norm Demming.

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Inquiries About Cold Temperatures

As the cold weather continues, so do inquiries from inmate families and friends who are concerned about inmates being warm and who also believe visiting rooms could be warmer. Recently SCI Albion responded to such an inquiry:

"Recently, our region has been experiencing extreme temperatures and weather conditions which have caused our facility to feel colder than normal. However, I have confirmed that all areas in this facility are following American Correctional Association (ACA) standards, which say: "Temperatures in indoor living and work areas are appropriate to the summer and winter comfort zones. "If there are any issues reported regarding the temperatures on housing units, etc., I can assure you that it is addressed immediately. We understand the importance of visitation with your loved one and we strive to provide a safe, comfortable environment for this reason. In the future I would encourage you to address any concerns you may have during your visit with the visiting room officer or any staff member so that appropriate action can be taken. I hope this addresses your concerns."

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Another WRAP Seminar II Course Completed Continues

According to DOC Mental Health Advocate Lynn Patrone, the second WRAP Seminar II course that certifies trainers to promote wellness has been completed.



Participating in this recent round of training (and listed in no particular order) were: Michelle Blessing, Jennifer Pizzoli, Vernice Phillips, Nancy Thomas, Brea Dunn, Althea Kent, Gina Perry, Lou Bozelli, Debra Johnston, Jennifer Yingling and Rhonda Tomcavage.

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SCI Laurel Highlands Holds C.O.V.E.R. Training

By Donna Platt, Superintendent's Assistant

The C.O.V.E.R. initiative at SCI Laurel Highlands is highlighted by a PTSD support group, which will be run by trained peer facilitators. To that end, a two-day training was held at Laurel Highlands, in which 11 employees from all job classifications were trained to facilitate the group. We were also joined by three SCI Somerset employees, who are on the C.O.V.E.R. team at that institution.

During the first training day, staff received training in group facilitation, as well as the PTSD curriculum itself. During the second day of training, the participants broke into teams of two and did "teach backs" on the material that will be presented in the group.

The plan for implementation is to offer the group, which will be co-facilitated, to all interested SCI Laurel Highlands employees. Group size will be limited to 10 – 12 participants per group, and will be available to staff on all shifts. Recovery groups will follow the initial 10 session group and will be open to all who have completed the PTSD group. At this time, the first group is scheduled to begin in February.

Everyone who attended the training was very invested in it, and good feedback was received. SCI Laurel Highlands has a great staff, who are very committed to helping each other.



Participants of the two-day C.O.V.E.R. PTSD support group training.

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January is National Mentoring Month

By Christina Smith

Drug & Alcohol Treatment Specialist 2, SCI Pine Grove

A mentor is a person who helps another learn and grow and provides guidance and direction on setting and achieving goals. They can be a teacher, guide, coach, counselor, trainer, instructor or tutor.

Across the DOC there are many people from every job classification that serve as mentors every day to newly hired staff and promoted staff.

In recognition of National Mentoring Month, each institution was challenged to come up with ideas and ways to recognize the hard work that the mentors do every day. The ideas range from weekly emails about mentors to luncheons planned for mentors.

DOC employees interested in becoming a mentor are asked to work with their facility's mentoring coordinator.

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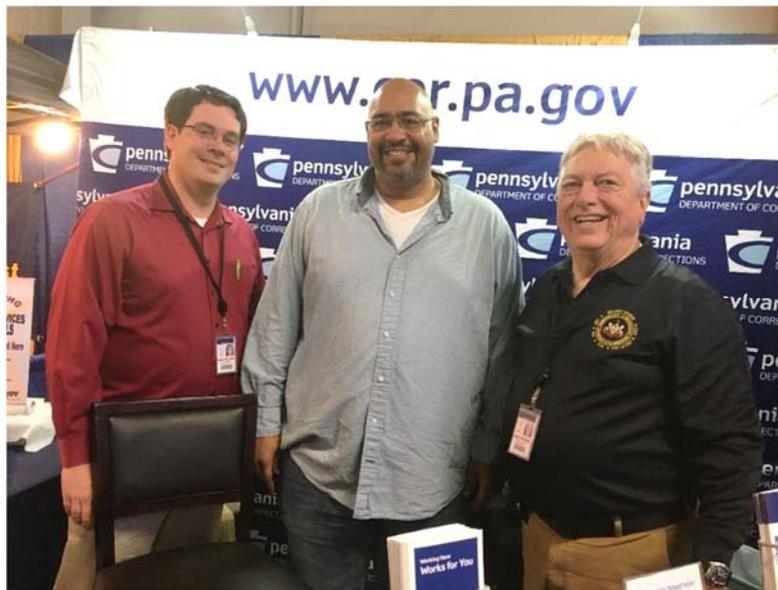
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At The 2018 Pennsylvania Farm Show

Throughout the week of January 6, 2018, the DOC Recruitment Team, including volunteers from many different job titles and offices -- such as, corrections officers, parole agents, psychology, human resources and the Office of Special Investigations and Intelligence -- spoke with nearly 500 people at the Pennsylvania Farm Show about career opportunities in the Department of Corrections and Probation and Parole.



SCI Camp Hill Corrections Officer J. Hall, Parole Agent Ashley Carter and Human Resources Analyst Steph Zaengle speak with children at the 2018 Pennsylvania Farm Show.



Assisting with recruiting efforts at the Farm Show were: Zane Sjoberg (human resource analyst with the Public Safety Delivery Center), DOC Secretary John Wetzel and Pedro Gratacos (diversity recruiting coordinator with Public Safety Delivery Center).

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In The Centers

Reentrant Completes Nursing Assistant Program

Ryan Hiller, a State Intermediate Punishment (SIP) inmate who previously resided at the Harrisburg Community Corrections Center (CCC), recently completed the Certified Nursing Assistant program at Harrisburg Area Community College.

Hiller has transitioned to living at home and is working at a nursing home where he is valued. Hiller said that it is hard work, but he enjoys what he does.

If you visit the Harrisburg CCC, be sure to stop by the center's "Progress Is..." board, where you can see other examples of reentrants making positive changes in their lives. Center Director Maxine Stanley is making a difference in recognizing each reentrants' positive efforts to change their lives.



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Sharon CCC Reentrants Help to Clean Up the City

On September 25, 2017, five Sharon Community Corrections Center (CCC) reentrants spent the day assisting and working alongside employees from the Sharon City Code Enforcement Office to address abandoned properties. These properties had been negatively impacting the health and safety of neighbors, including children, and were impacting the neighborhood's appearance and property values.

Work involved clearing overgrown trees, brush and grass, and removing trash including a significant amount of broken glass, discarded metal, tires and furniture. As work was completed, discarded materials were placed along the sidewalks for the City of Sharon Public Works Department vehicles to haul away.

Many citizens expressed their appreciation to the reentrants. This event was positive for the Sharon Community Corrections Center, the City of Sharon and the specific neighborhood where the work was completed.

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Pittsburgh CCC Reentrants Donate to Days for Girls

Reentrants from the Pittsburgh CCC volunteer weekly at the Third Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pa., working with parishioners to create kits for Days for Girls.

Days for Girls is an international organization that provides washable menstrual hygiene solutions and health education to girls in underprivileged countries. Days for Girls is committed to supporting a girl throughout her entire lifecycle, from providing her with a DfG kit, to teaching her health education, to offering training for her when she grows older so that she can produce DfG kits and support hygiene in her community.

The partnership between Pittsburgh CCC and the Third Presbyterian Church has allowed the church to double their production and create thousands of DfG kits to donate internationally, while teaching transferable skills to PCCC reentrants.

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Spreading Some Cheer

Erie CCC staff made it their mission to spread a little cheer at the annual holiday luncheon. Employees decorated the facility and served lunch to all of the reentrants with a spirit of gratitude and a smile. Erie CCC staff understands that being willing to serve others makes the world a better place to live in, and it starts where you are right now.



Pictured, from left to right, are: Clerk Typist Ezelle McCallum, Corrections Counselor 2 Edin Selimovic, Center Monitor James Crisswell, Corrections Counselor 2 Robert Greaves and Administrative Assistant Leslie Seidler.)

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Each week for the next several weeks, the various phases of the overall parole process will be examined and explained to assist general knowledge of the parole process.

PAROLE 101

By Laura Treaster, PBPP Communications Director

The Parole Decisional Instrument

The board uses a Parole Decisional Instrument (PBPP 361) to analyze individual cases and guide consistency in decision making for each inmate. The instrument is a guide to advise the decision maker. It does not replace professional discretion and does not bind the board to grant or deny parole, or create a right, presumption or reasonable expectation that parole will be granted. Understanding the psychology and methodology ~ let alone the terminology ~ behind the PBPP 361 is a daunting task.

1 Weighted Factors

Weighted information can be statistically calculated by assigning a point value. For validity and fairness, the items that are weighted must be factors that are common to each individual. Four primary factors are calculated and are directly related to a reduced risk of re-offending:

➔ **Violence Indicator by Offender Violence Risk Typology (OVRT) Category**

The OVRT identifies the types of violent offenders from “least violent” to “most violent” and examines:

- ▶ Age of criminal onset (<16) highest risk
- ▶ Use/possession of weapon
- ▶ Prior violent history
- ▶ Level/type of risk
- ▶ High risk reduces likelihood of parole

Category 1	Non-Violent Current Offense with no prior Violent History	All Levels of Risk
	Non-Violent Current Offense with prior Violent History	Low Risk
	Violent Current Offense with no prior Violent History	Low Risk
Category 2	Non-Violent Current Offense with prior Violent History	Medium Risk
	Violent Current Offense with no prior Violent History	

Category 3	Non-Violent Current Offense <i>with</i> prior Violent History	High Risk
	Violent Current Offense <i>with no</i> prior Violent History	
	Violent Current Offense <i>with prior</i> Violent History	

- ➔ **Risk/Needs**
The risk level relates to the likelihood of reoffending.
- ➔ **Institutional Programming**
Participation in or completion of programming designed to reduce the risk level.
- ➔ **Institutional Behavior**
Reflects demonstrated behavioral change.

The calculation of these factors determines a score that either “suggests parole” or “suggests parole refusal.”

2 Non-Weighted Countervailing Factors

Countervailing factors are factors that will not pertain to all individuals; therefore, they are not weighted. They are identified through evaluation of the information in the case file and the parole interview.

3 Professional Judgment

During the interview, the decision maker contemplates how the interview findings link to certain factors to determine if the person’s likelihood of re-offending has been reduced:

Insight and Response to Criminal Behavior	Demonstrated Motivation for Change	Overall Risk	Assessment of Parole Challenges	Home Plan
Inmate perception of offense	Program compliance/ completion	Analysis of risk domains	LSI-R problem domains	Satisfactory residence plan/options
Inmate perception of criminal lifestyle	Acceptable prison conduct	Actions to mitigate risk	Treatment/program evaluations	Development of continuity of care plan
Acceptance of responsibility	Articulation of accepting responsibility	Type of risk (theft vs. rape)	Reentry planning	
Expressed remorse	Community Corrections Center adjustment	Judge/DA/Victim Input	Prior supervision experience	
Non-minimization of offense		Prior supervision	Extent of criminal history	
		Risk: escalation – mitigation		

The board is required **by law** to consider the following factors when considering parole:

- The nature and circumstances of the crime for which the inmate was convicted, as well as his/her entire criminal history, including any juvenile arrests or adjudications
- Information regarding the general character and background of the inmate
- Notes on the sentencing hearing testimony
- Emotional stability: physical, mental and behavioral condition and history of the inmate
- History of family violence
- Recommendation of the sentencing judge and prosecuting attorney
- Input from the victim and the victim's family
- Recommendation from the warden or superintendent of the facility where the inmate is incarcerated

Other requirements considered are the status of program completion and the person's adjustment to prison. The board looks at all misconducts, but concentrates on those that occurred within the past two years.

After the Parole Interview

The board action is the public record that documents the decision of the board to grant or deny parole. The board action will contain the decision to: parole and the reasons for granting parole and the conditions of supervision **OR** refuse parole with specific requirements to be fulfilled by the time of the next parole review (usually 6 months to 1 year) and the reasons for denying parole.

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OVA Welcome Dr. Douds

Pennsylvania's Victim Advocate Jennifer Storm recently introduced her new special assistant on policy and research – Dr. Ann Douds – who is joining OVA on a part-time basis until her faculty commitments at PSU have been satisfied. It is expected that she will be full-time with OVA in May.

"We are incredibly fortunate and excited to have Dr. Douds joining our team," Storm said.

Dr. is a lecturer in criminal justice in the School of Public Affairs at Penn State Harrisburg. She joined the faculty in 2012 after practicing law as a trial attorney for 17 years. She received her B.A. in political science from Duke University, her J.D. from Emory University School of Law, and her Ph.D. in justice, law and crime policy from George Mason University. Her teaching, research and practice interests include constitutional law, civil rights litigation, victims' rights and advocacy, veterans' courts and social justice.



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Week of January 8...

Governor Wolf Declares Heroin and Opioid Epidemic a Statewide Disaster Emergency

First-ever public health disaster declaration will enhance state response, increase treatment access and save lives

January 10, 2018 – Today, Governor Tom Wolf took another step forward in bolstering the fight against heroin and opioid addiction by signing a statewide disaster declaration to enhance state response, increase access to treatment, and save lives. The declaration is the first-of-its-kind for a public health emergency in Pennsylvania and will utilize a command center at the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to track progress and enhance coordination of health and public safety agencies.

“While we have made progress in combatting the heroin and opioid abuse crisis and drastically expanded Pennsylvania’s response, we are still losing far too many Pennsylvanians,” Governor Wolf said. “I am taking this step to protect Pennsylvanians from this looming public health crisis, and I am using every tool at my disposal to get those suffering from substance use disorders into treatment, save more lives, and improve response coordination.”

Among the declaration’s specifics are 13 key initiatives that are the culmination of a collaboration between all state agencies, with focus on the departments of Health, Drug and Alcohol Programs, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the Pennsylvania State Police.

“I routinely challenge all commonwealth agencies to think innovatively about how they continue to address the opioid epidemic and seek solutions that last long beyond our tenure in this building,” Governor Wolf said. “One such solution is to use the executive authority granted to me as the governor of this commonwealth to waive statutory regulations that create barriers to treatment and prevention, prevent first responders and others from saving lives, and reduce efficiency of our response.”

The 13 initial initiatives are organized by three areas of focus and include:

Enhancing Coordination and Data Collection to Bolster State and Local Response

- **Establishes an Opioid Command Center located at the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)**, which will house the Unified Opioid Coordination Group that will meet weekly during the disaster declaration to monitor implementation and progress of the initiatives in the declaration.
- **Expands Access to Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) to Other Commonwealth Entities for Clinical Decision-Making Purposes** to improve treatment outcomes and better monitor compliance among prescribers.

Since 2016, 90,000 physicians have conducted more than 1 million searches on the PDMP.

- **Adds Overdoses and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) as Reportable Conditions in Title 28, Chapter 27** to the DOH in order to increase data collection and improve outcomes in both areas.
- **Authorizes Emergency Purchase Under Procurement Code for Hotline Contract with Current Vendor**, giving DDAP further emergency purchase authorization to allow the department to enter into a contract with the current drug and alcohol hotline vendor to ensure uninterrupted services.

To date, the 24/7 helpline, 1-800-662-HELP, has received more than 18,000 calls to connect those suffering from substance use disorder with treatment.

Improving Tools for Families, First Responders, and Others to Save Lives

- **Enables Emergency Medical Services providers to leave behind naloxone** by amending the current Standing Order to include dispensing by first responders, including Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)

The existing naloxone standing order and funding for naloxone to first responders has allowed for more than 5,000 lives to be saved so sufferers can be linked to treatment for substance use disorder.

- **Allows Pharmacists to Partner with Other Organizations to Increase Access to Naloxone** by waiving regulations to allow pharmacists to partner with other organizations, including prisons and treatment programs to make naloxone available to at-risk individuals upon discharge from these facilities.
- **Allows for the immediate temporary rescheduling of all fentanyl derivatives to align with the federal DEA schedule** while working toward permanent rescheduling.
- **Authorizes emergency purchasing under Section 516 of the Procurement Code** to allow for an emergency contract to expand the

advanced body scanner pilot program currently in place at Wernersville that is used on re-entrants returning to the facility. This would prevent the program from lapsing.

Speeding Up and Expanding Access to Treatment

- **Waive the face-to-face physician requirement for Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP) admissions** to allow initial intake review by a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP) or Physician Assistant (PA) to expedite initial intakes and streamline coordination of care when an individual is most in need of immediate attention.
- **Expand access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT)** by waiving the regulatory provision to permit dosing at satellite facilities even though counseling remains at the base NTP.

This allows more people to receive necessary treatments at the same location, increasing their access to all the care and chances for recovery.

- **Waive annual licensing requirements for high-performing drug and alcohol treatment facilities** to allow for bi-annual licensure process which streamlines licensing functions and better allocates staff time. DDAP will request that facilities seek a waiver by filing exception requests to the annual licensing requirement.
- **Waive the fee provided for in statute for birth certificates for individuals who request a good-cause waiver by attesting that they are affected by OUD.** This is of particular importance to individuals experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable populations who often cannot obtain copies of their birth certificates in order to access treatment and other benefits due to the financial requirements.
- **Waive separate licensing requirements for hospitals and emergency departments to expand access to drug and alcohol treatment** to allow physicians to administer short-term MAT consistent with DEA regulations without requiring separate notice to DDAP.

Governor Wolf was joined at the declaration signing by PEMA Director Rick Flinn, Acting Secretary of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs Jennifer Smith, and the Acting Secretary of Health and Physician General Dr. Rachel Levine, who today signed the revised first responders “leave behind” standing order for naloxone.

For a one-page summary of the declaration, [visit governor.pa.gov](https://www.governor.pa.gov). Full text of the declaration is included here:

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
PROCLAMATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY
January 10, 2018

WHEREAS, the opioid crisis is of such magnitude or severity that emergency action is necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected citizens in Pennsylvania;

WHEREAS, the opioid crisis is a public health emergency in Pennsylvania contributing to addiction, overdose emergencies and deaths; and

WHEREAS, the opioid crisis includes heroin and prescription pain medications, such as morphine, codeine, methadone, oxycodone, hydrocodone, fentanyl, and hydromorphone; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's opioid crisis impacts all areas of the state - including urban, suburban and rural communities and all ages including both young people and older Pennsylvanians - and is unprejudiced in its reach and devastation; and

WHEREAS, the deaths because of overdose are preventable and the effective treatment of opioid use disorders can reduce the risk of overdose; and

WHEREAS, the Drug Enforcement Agency reports the total number of fatal drug overdoses in Pennsylvania in 2016 was 4,642, a 37% increase from 2015 and those deaths increasingly are the result of fentanyl and other synthetic opioid compounds; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's rate of drug overdose is 36.5 per 100,000 which is significantly higher than the national average of 16.3 per 100,000; and

WHEREAS, the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program reports the number of emergency department visits related to an opioid overdose have increased by 82% from the third quarter of 2016 to the third quarter of 2017;

WHEREAS, the Governor and the Acting Secretary of Health have reasonable cause to believe that disease, illness, and health conditions, including death, are being caused by the opioid crisis;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to make Naloxone more widely available to treat narcotic overdose in emergency situations;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to expand access to treatment facilities, as well as treatment options across the commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to temporarily reduce regulatory burdens, in accordance with federal and state law, to ensure that individuals receive needed treatment without delay.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the provisions of section 7301(c) of the Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa. C.S. § 7101 *et seq.*, I do hereby proclaim the existence of a disaster emergency in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

FURTHER, I direct the establishment of an Opioid Unified Coordination Group that shall utilize the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to provide a consistent framework and approach to enable government to work together to prepare for, prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of the opioid crisis in Pennsylvania. The Opioid Unified Coordination Group shall consist of the heads of the following Commonwealth agencies, or their designee, and such other executive branch agencies as the Governor may designate:

- a. The Department of Health
- b. The Department of Human Services
- c. The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs
- d. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency
- e. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
- f. The Pennsylvania State Police

FURTHER, the Opioid Unified Coordination Group shall establish a Public Health Emergency Command Center (Command Center) that will operate within the Commonwealth Response Coordination Center (CRCC) located at the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

FURTHER, during the period of this emergency, recognizing the need for urgent and expeditious action, pursuant to 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301(f), I do hereby authorize the suspension of relevant regulatory statutes that agencies under my jurisdiction are authorized by law to administer or enforce as may be necessary to respond to the opioid crisis. Any regulatory statute that agencies under my jurisdiction desire to be suspended must be reviewed by the Governor's Office of General Counsel, and filed with the Opioid Unified Coordination Group.

IN ADDITION, if any administrative order, rule or regulation relating to the opioid crisis is inconsistent with the requirements of this Proclamation, or any rule, regulation, plan or administrative order issued pursuant hereto, or if strict compliance with such provisions would prevent, hinder or delay necessary action to cope with the emergency, then such provision is hereby rescinded for the duration of this Proclamation.

STILL FURTHER, pursuant to 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301(b), all agencies under my jurisdiction are authorized, ordered and directed to issue, amend and rescind such rules, regulations, orders and plans as necessary to carry out their respective responsibilities and functions pursuant to this Proclamation, to issue, amend and rescind such rules and regulations or orders under their respective statutory authorities as may be reasonably necessary to assist in responding to this opioid crisis.

FURTHER, all Commonwealth agencies purchasing supplies or services in response to this emergency are authorized to utilize the emergency procurement procedures set forth in section 516 of the Commonwealth Procurement Code, 62 Pa. C.S. § 516. This Proclamation shall serve as the written determination of the basis for the emergency under section 516.

STILL FURTHER, I hereby urge the governing bodies and executive officers of all political subdivisions that may be affected by this emergency event to act as necessary to meet the current exigencies as legally authorized under this proclamation.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, this 9th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and forty second.

TOM WOLF
Governor

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GO-TIME: Corrections on Course to Save More Than \$35 Million Through Federal, State Partnerships

The Department of Corrections has reduced medical costs for inmates by \$14.5 million over the past two years – while maintaining or improving care – by leveraging federal and state programs and innovative partnerships, according to the Governor’s Office of Transformation, Innovation, Management and Efficiency (GO-TIME). The department estimates an additional \$20.5 million in savings over the next two years.



“We want to not only make sure inmates receive quality health care when they are in prison, but also ensure they can access Medicaid and other government health programs upon release,” said Corrections Secretary John Wetzel. “Roughly 20,000 men and women leave state prison and reenter the community every year. It is to the benefit of all taxpayers that they receive the best possible healthcare services to increase chances of their success upon release.”

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

Under a partnership with the Department of Aging, inmates age 65 and over are now receiving medication coverage through PACE, the program for older Pennsylvanians supported by lottery funds. The program not only pays for older

inmates, it also ensures that these individuals continue to receive medications upon release.

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

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

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

[GO-TIME](http://www.governor.pa.gov/go-time) is working to modernize government operations to reduce costs and improve services. GO-TIME works with agencies to identify opportunities to share resources, collaborate and engage employees in transformation. Over the past three years, state agencies have achieved over \$373 million in savings while also improving efficiency and customer service as part of GO-TIME. To learn more www.governor.pa.gov/go-time.

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A Special Inside Out Visitor

SCI Graterford had a special visitor the other day. Actor Nick Cannon was at the prison, along with others from across the U.S. and from other countries, participating in an Inside Out Program training. There were representatives from as far away as England, Mexico and California. Nick is a student at Howard University in Washington, D.C. He participated in the training to be able to co-facilitate an Inside Out program at that University.



Pictured, left to right, are: Superintendent Cynthia Link, Clerical Supervisor Jolene Sokolski, Nick Cannon and Deputy Superintendent for Centralized Services Laura Banta.

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“HOT SHOT” Challenge Held at SCI Greene

On December 6, 2017, SCI Greene held its 12th Annual Tim Seibel Memorial “Hot Shot” Basketball Challenge in the prison gymnasium. Approximately 25 SCI Greene employees and the Seibel family participated in a timed 3 point and free throw competition benefiting the American Heart Association. The inmate event was held on December 9, 2017, in which they made charitable donations of \$2 to participate. The SCI Greene inmate organization -- ACE -- made a contribution of \$500. One-hundred percent of all proceeds from this charitable event are given to the American Heart Association.

Tim Seibel was an activities specialist who worked at SCI Greene and passed away suddenly in May 2006 from a heart condition.



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How Does SCI Coal Township View Its Role in the County

A reporter from the Sunbury Daily Item recently asked us how the DOC views its role in Northumberland County, specifically where the prison is located. We responded with:

The Department of Corrections considers itself an integral part of the community of Northumberland County and the Shamokin area.

While the DOC, as a tax-exempt government agency, it is an important economic driver in the community.

SCI Coal Townships operational costs are \$11.4 million last year, which includes \$1.4 million to local sewer and water authorities. It should be noted that the facility also works with local vendors to obtain a variety of services

and goods as permitted by commonwealth purchasing policies/procedures, such as trash removal and pest control. The prison also purchases from local vendors such as Walmart, Weis, Moyer Electronics, Friedman Electric, etc.

The DOC paid \$32 million in salaries for 580 individuals, all of whom pay local employment and property taxes.

Also, family and friends visiting inmates at the prison may stay at hotels in the area and may produce business for local businesses such as restaurants and stores.

Employees and inmates give back to the community in many ways through charitable contributions and work projects. You can read about the charitable giving in our online newsletter, "Correctional Newsfront," at www.cor.pa.gov. As for inmate work projects, in 2017 the prison's inmate work crew performed 1,748 manhours of work for local non-profit organizations, and that does NOT include the time spent picking up trash from along roadways.

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Serving as a Resource for County Prisons

Allegheny County Prison recently experienced incidents involving employee exposure to an unknown airborne matter. The DOC assisted them by loaning them a drug detection device.

Allegheny County issued the following press release on January 11, 2018:

Warden Orlando Harper released the following statement regarding an airborne substance which has made staff ill during and following the search of cells in the facility:

"Within the past 48 hours, there have been three incidents that have resulted in a total of 15 staff being sent to an area hospital for evaluation after exposure to an unknown airborne matter. The safety of our staff, and the inmates, is of utmost concern. We take that charge seriously and are sharing the following information with the public so that our process, and how we are dealing with these issues, is transparent:

"The issue of contraband is one that is faced by jails and prisons throughout the country, and not unique to Pennsylvania, Allegheny County, or the Allegheny County Jail. As jail officials, we are constantly on alert for ways that individuals get contraband into the facility. We consistently reinforce our policies and procedures with staff and, when appropriate, take steps to strengthen those policies and procedures.

These policies and procedures exist so operations can be conducted in a safe and secure manner. As an example, we identified general inmate mail as a source of contraband. As a result, general inmate mail is now photocopied, and it is the copy of the communication that is provided to the inmate rather than the original document.

“Earlier this week, several tips and information learned by our staff indicated that an illicit substance was being provided to inmates. The information from those sources was that paper was being soaked in that substance and then dried before being given to inmates. As noted above, mail is no longer provided directly to inmates, but they do receive paperwork and communications in other ways. Jail leadership, along with the Allegheny County Police Department (ACPD), began investigating these tips to determine if the information was correct and who may be bringing the contraband into the facility.

“An informant advised staff on Tuesday that inmates on 7E were smoking or inhaling the substance from a lit paper. Although inmates do not have lighters or matches, they often find other ways to create a spark or light the paper. We act to take away those items, but we know that inmates are always adapting and finding other ways to allow them to light the paper, and then smoke or inhale the substance on it. This is also an issue that other prisons and jails throughout the country are facing.

“As part of our processes and procedures, all cells are searched on an ongoing basis for contraband. The most common search is peripheral and visual, and occurs several times each day. A less frequent search is conducted with additional staff and includes a more in-depth search of a cell and can involve the removal of items in the cell, and a closer inspection of materials in it, including paperwork. It is this second type of search which was conducted yesterday on 7E.

“The search of Unit 7E began around 3:30 PM. At approximately 4 PM, supervisors were notified that three of the employees involved in the search – two correction officers and a sergeant – were vomiting, dizzy, and experiencing chest tightness. Shortly after, five other officers conducting searches on the unit began experiencing similar symptoms. Medical was notified and reported to evaluate all eight employees. Medical staff determined that the officers should be sent to the hospital as a precaution for further evaluation. All eight employees were transported to the hospital, evaluated and discharged, and returned to work to finish their shifts. No inmates in the unit reported any symptoms or medical issues of any kind. The officers assigned to the unit were provided masks by medical staff for breathing protection and the unit was ventilated. ACPD is investigating.

“Jail leadership, working with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC), recently secured an Ion Mobility Spectrometry (IMS), also referred to as an ion scanner for the facility. With training

and oversight by the DOC, and cooperation from the union leadership, staff were trained on use of the scanner and it was put into use immediately thereafter. An ion scanner is a trace detective device that can identify small amounts of particles, most commonly narcotics and explosives.

"Yesterday afternoon, a spontaneous, organized administrative search of employees of the facility's food vendor – Summit Food Service – occurred using the ion scanner. Two vendor employees were found to have contraband, like notes, on their person during a physical search. One of the two was also found to have traces of narcotics on their person. Both were removed from the facility for violation of its policies. Their employer was notified of the revocation of their security clearances.

"A third person, Daynell Henderson, had a small amount of suspected marijuana on her person when she was searched. ACPD observed the search of all individuals, and interviewed Henderson once the suspected marijuana was found. Last night, ACPD filed a criminal complaint charging her with a felony charge of contraband (18 PA CS 5123A). Summit was also notified of the revocation of Henderson's security clearances and of the charges filed against her.

"Manual searches of the pods for additional contraband have continued. Yesterday evening, at approximately 5 PM, a search was being conducted on 2F. One correction officer, exhibiting symptoms similar to those experienced by the officers who had searched 7E, was transported to a local hospital for evaluation. Again, no inmates in the unit reported any symptoms or medical issues of any kind. The officer was cleared by the hospital and discharged. ACPD is investigating.

"At approximately 7:30 PM, a search of 8E was being conducted. A total of six employees were been sent to an area hospital for evaluation after they were exposed to an airborne substance on that pod. The staff – three corrections officers, a sergeant and two medical staff – were experiencing an elevated heart rate and blood pressure. All of them were cleared by the hospital and discharged. Again, no inmates in the unit reported any symptoms or medical issues of any kind. ACPD is investigating.

"As previously stated, the safety of our staff, and the inmates, is of utmost concern. N95 masks were issued to staff yesterday by the medical staff for use in subsequent searches. Our leadership is working with the DOC, union leadership, medical staff, the Health Department and others to identify what other appropriate precautions should be taken as additional searches occur in the facility.

The ACPD also continues to work with us to investigate contraband in the facility and will file charges, as appropriate, moving forward.

"Finally, our policies and procedures are always under constant review and are strengthened, as appropriate, to improve our processes. That is certainly the case with this specific issue as we continue to look closely at incidents such as these to determine how we can improve what we do and prevent a recurrence of these issues."

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Camp Hill Announces Award Recipient

In January 2017, the SCI Camp Hill Safety Office implemented a program for fire safety and sanitation. The program is designed to recognize an individual, department or personnel who go above and beyond the call of duty in fire safety and sanitation. The program selects one person or department quarterly who has shown outstanding performance in maintaining a clean and safe working environment for staff and inmates who work and live at SCI Camp Hill. The intent of the program is to show appreciation for their hard work and true concern for the environment that we all live and work in daily.

The 4th quarter certificate of excellence for fire safety and sanitation was awarded to the SCI Camp Hill Laundry Department.

Prison officials would like to thank Laundry Department employees for a job well done. Your hard work, dedication and commitment are greatly appreciated. Thank you for being a positive role model at SCI Camp Hill and for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.



Pictured, from left to right, are Institutional Safety Manager Gregory Carbaugh, Corrections Labor Foreman Carol Halterman and Fire Safety Specialist Doug Hollobaugh.

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State Officials Tour SCI Houtzdale's Veterans Service Unit

On January 10, state military officials visited SCI Houtzdale via Blackhawk helicopter to tour the Veterans Service Unit (VSU). The high-ranking visitors included Pennsylvania's adjutant general and head of the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Maj. Gen. Tony Carrelli, Brigadier General Michael Regan and Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Buchanan, the PA National Guard's senior enlisted leader. Also in attendance were Pennsylvania's Office of Administration's Special Advisor for Veterans Programs Kory Auch, Central Office's Regional Reentry Administrator Janeen Christ and Statewide Veterans Coordinator Ryan Yoder.

Maj. Gen. Carrelli had heard many great things about the VSU program and wanted to see it first-hand. After witnessing the daily operations and having the opportunity to speak with VSU staff and participants, Carrelli said he was very impressed.

"Just because they're housed here doesn't mean they're not entitled to their benefits," Carrelli declared. "They've really built something great here."



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RTU Talent Show Held at SCI Albion

On January 9, SCI Albion's Residential Treatment Unit (RTU) enjoyed a holiday talent show in the prison's chapel. Talented RTU residents sang songs, performed skits and played instruments to the enjoyment of a packed house. The program was supported by staff from throughout the prison. The show was coordinated by Therapeutic Activity Service Worker Allison Richard. RTU Unit Manager Kevin Lantz praised the efforts of the RTU inmates stating this activity was instrumental in improving their self-esteem. The RTU is a special housing unit for inmates requiring mental health services.



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Greene Hosts Western Region Symposium

On December 20, SCI Greene hosted a Western Regional Symposium for approximately 160 employees from SCI Greene and various state prisons that are located within the western region.

Guest speaker Shawn Brooks, who is with the FBI, began with a presentation on the opioid epidemic that has affected the southwestern region of Pennsylvania and what efforts the agency is taking to raise awareness and stop the introduction of illegal drugs into the country.

Additional guest speakers included Attorney Keith Campbell who discussed current gun laws, and Dr. Joann Jankoski from Penn State Fayette, who spoke about human trafficking. Sergeant Larry Fielder spoke about leadership, and Ken Cairns gave a presentation on serial murderers. Treatment Supervisor Brian Reese, who is with the Fayette County Drug and Alcohol Commission, spoke about understanding addiction, and A.M. Higgins, who is with the PA State Police, discussed sovereign citizen. Corrections Outreach for Veterans and Employee Restoration (C.O.V.E.R.)

Chairperson Natasha Amaral explained how the DOC is addressing post-traumatic stress and suicide in corrections.

Lunch was courtesy of the Empowerment Committee, and included a pasta bar with a choice of sauces, salad, breaded chicken and cake. It was prepared by the dietary department.



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Recruitment Opportunity

In addition to being a place where DOC officials can set up a recruitment booth, the Farm Show also allows representatives from sister agencies to meet each other and to form relationships to ensure recruitment resources are used efficiently.

Here, a PSP recruiter poses with DOC Statewide Diversity Recruiter Pedro J. Gratacos, at the 2018 Pennsylvania Farm Show.



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DOC Culinary Academy Promotes Food Service Training at Pennsylvania Farm Show

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

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

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

“More than 90 percent of individuals who are sentenced to prison will leave one day, so reentry is central to our mission,” said Corrections Secretary John Wetzel. “The culinary academy provides valuable skills for entry into an industry with a high demand for qualified workers.”

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



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

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

Students in the Culinary Academy:

- Develop basic skills for preparing, soups and stocks, starches, vegetables and proteins.

- Learn essential techniques in bread baking, cake baking, and decorating.
- Are selected through a competitive program that requires a high school diploma or GED
- Receive a ServSafe® Certificate.

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

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New Mural for Children’s Visiting Area

SCI Retreat officials wanted to share the new mural painted in the children’s area of the visiting room. The work was done by an inmate artist housed at the prison.



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PA Officials Visit DC to Share Pardons Information

By Ryan Yoder, DOC Statewide Veterans Coordinator

On January 3, Lt. Governor Mike Stack and officials from the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL) participated in a meeting with Richard Baum, Deputy Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Held at the executive office of the President of the United States in Washington, D.C., these individuals were joined by colleagues from the PA Department of Corrections, PA Board of Pardons, PA Board of Probation and Parole, PRO-A and Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity. The purpose of the meeting was to brief the Trump Administration ONDCP on the PA Pathways to Pardons program. NAMSDL would like to make PA's Pathways to Pardons program a national model to be replicated in all 50 states.



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Muncy Inmate Donate to Food Bank

DOC inmates collectively raised food through commissary purchases and donated personal funds during their 7th annual holiday community outreach event to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, which equated to more than 2,400 nutritious meals.



Representing the inmates, pictured, from right to left, are: Reverend Debra Reitz, Facility Chaplaincy Program Director, Cydne Shull, Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, William Frantz, Deputy Superintendent for Centralized Services, Carla Fisher, Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, Nicole McKee, Corrections Classification Program Manager and Wendy Nicholas, Deputy Superintendent for Facilities Management.

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Forest Names Employee of the Month

Psychological Services Associate Jessica Eisenman was named Employee of the Month for January 2018 by SCI Forest officials. She was nominated by her peers due to her professionalism and her positive attitude.

"You took over the mental health coordination and do a fine job," Superintendent Michael Overmyer said. "You are a role model for others working here and have a great, take-charge personality that is greatly appreciated."



Pictured with Jessica Eisenman is Deputy Superintendent John Sawtelle.

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Coal Township Names EOQs

Corrections Counselor Jason Gatewood was recently recognized as Employee of the Quarter for the Fourth Quarter of 2017. He was recognized for his overall dedication to SCI Coal Township.



Pictured, from left to right, are: Major Tripp, Major Mirarchi, Jason Gatewood, Superintendent McGinley, Deputy Superintendent Tony Luscavage.

"Jason has excellent response time to support security staff when a response team is called; and he is almost always first on scene," said now-retired SCI Coal Township Deputy Superintendent for Facility Management Ed Baumbach. "He willingly goes above and beyond in all he does."

Jason is involved in CERT and willingly volunteers to participate with extra duties. He assisted in the implementation of AMAC and is currently an AMAC instructor. He also serves as a Lifeline Program staff advisor.

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Legislator Visits Pine Grove

State Representative Cris Dush, 66th Legislative District, visited SCI Pine Grove on January 11. He met with Superintendent Eric Bush, Classification Program Manager Cheryl Henigin and Unit Manager Don Bachota. They discussed the current programming and budgetary projections for SCI Pine Grove. He was unable to tour the facility due to a lockdown situation.

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Thanks from Defender Association of Philadelphia

Helen Levin, co-chair of the Juvenile Lifer Project for the Defender Association of Philadelphia, recently sent this email to DOC Juvenile Lifer Project Manager Robert Hammond and Secretary's Special Assistant Deb Sahn:

"I am writing to express to all who might supervise these state parole agents -- Parole Agents Jones, Bordoni and Cook -- our gratitude, not only for the professionalism of the agents, but for the kindness and thoughtful approach each has displayed with our returning juvenile lifer clients. We have gotten to know about their work from the most reliable source: our clients. It is a tribute to the agents to hear clients so pleased to have the agent in their life -- to be able to count on their help.

I believe there may be a fourth (and perhaps more) agent involved with these clients. I want to add that we have no negative reports on any of the agents, I simply have not had other names mentioned to me."

Kudos to all parole agents who work daily with reentrants, and especially with juvenile lifer reentrants.

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Coal Township Inmates Donate to Charity



Superintendent Thomas McGinley, center – holding the check – was accompanied by prison employees for the check presentation.

SCI Coal Township inmates donated \$3,800 to Kaupas Camp, which will allow 10 children from the Mount Carmel area to attend summer camp. The check presentation to Kaupas Camp took place on January 8, during a Bucknell-Lafayette women's basketball game at Bucknell.

The money was collected by Lifeline Association, which is a non-profit inmate organization. In addition to Kaupas Camp, the inmate organization contributed \$1,000 to the Mount Carmel Food Pantry in December.

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Parole Board Chairman, Officials Educates Inmates About the Parole Process

On January 11, PA Board of Probation and Parole Chairman Leo Dunn visited SCI Mahanoy to educate inmates about the parole process. Approximately 450 inmates gathered in the prison's chapel for two, one-hour programs that included another board member – Mark Koch – and Parole's Deputy Secretary of Field Supervision Christian Stephens. The inmates in attendance all will be eligible for parole during the next year.



PBPP Chairman Leo Dunn addresses SCI Mahanoy inmates.

Similar information sessions were held by the parole board for “juvenile” lifers, and the decision was made to expand it to all DOC inmates. The discussions focused on the type of information board members are looking to obtain from inmates, whether the inmates have obtained any skills or abilities while they were in prison, and whether the inmate has a good reentry plan, among other things.

The chairman will continue to visit all state prisons to conduct these information sessions throughout 2018.

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Each week for the next several weeks, the various phases of the overall parole process will be examined and explained to assist general knowledge of the parole process.

PAROLE 101

By Laura Treaster, PBPP Communications Director

The Decision Makers

The board consists of nine members, appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The board may make parole and revocation decisions by a majority of the board or in panels of two persons. Panels consist of one board member and one hearing examiner or two board members. A hearing examiner is also a decision maker authorized to sit on parole revocation panels, conduct parole hearings in lieu of panels and conduct parole interviews on behalf of the board.

For voting purposes, the board uses three groups based on the inmate's current offense:

Group 1 - Murderers and sex offenders

The majority of the board must vote 'yes' for an inmate to be paroled. These inmates are usually interviewed jointly by two board members.

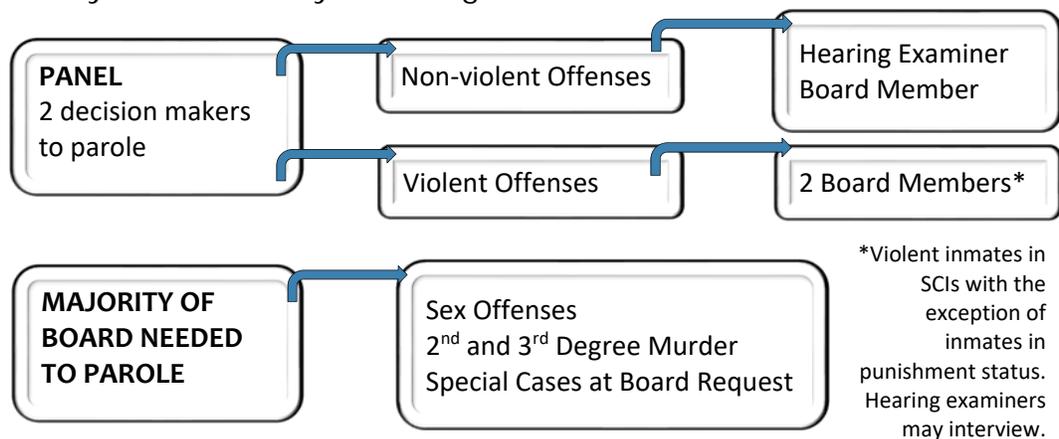
Group 2 - Other violent inmates

At least two board members must vote 'yes' for an inmate to be paroled. These inmates are usually interviewed jointly by two board members.

Group 3 - Non-violent inmates

Recidivism Risk Reduction Incentive (RRRI)-eligible inmates may be paroled if they receive a 'yes' vote from a hearing examiner. Other non-violent offenders need one 'yes' vote from a hearing examiner and one 'yes' vote from a board member. These inmates are usually interviewed by a hearing examiner.

The Voting Process



Point to Remember

It is the board's job to determine whether or not an inmate should be on parole. The board's main consideration is whether or not an inmate has reduced their risk of committing a new crime and can be safely supervised in the community.

Making Parole Decisions

The board uses a valid and reliable risk and needs assessment instrument to assist with parole decisions, as well as other nationally recognized assessments.

The board follows five main principles when making parole decisions:

- Defer to the sentencing court regarding issue of appropriate punishment
- The sentencing court establishes all individual sentences for a person convicted of a crime
- Ensure all inmates are accurately and consistently evaluated for their readiness to parole to enhance public safety and use a structured decisional instrument
- Because of the significant stakes involved in violent crimes, the board evaluates violent offenses at a more stringent standard than non-violent offenses
- The board supports order and safety within the DOC

The parole interview is conducted to:

1. Address with the inmate both criminal history and institutional conduct, program participation, and consider needs and risks.
2. Assess the adequacy of treatment or programming while incarcerated, at the point of reentry and on an ongoing basis in the community.

RISK is the likelihood of an inmate to commit another crime and the board tries to determine how much an inmate's risk has been reduced.

Human behavior is difficult to predict. A risk assessment is a statistical tool that does not predict which individual will re-offend, but identifies groups likely to re-offend. The risk assessment may place an inmate in a high-risk group, but specifically which inmate in the group will re-offend is difficult to identify.

Follow the Process With a Case Example

Four months prior to John's MIN date, the parole interview is held in prison in August 2013. Board members have prepared for the interview by reviewing his entire file that includes: the proposed home plan (where the inmate wants to live and work) and the correctional plan followed while in prison (programming: educational, vocational, employment, life skills, literacy, etc.) and treatment needs (sex offender, drug and alcohol, mental health). Assessment scores from various risk and needs assessments and evaluations about John are also reviewed.

John is interviewed by two board members – one in person at the correctional facility and one via video conference. John's case was a violent case requiring two decision makers to interview him. If the vote is a split decision, the case will go to a third board member.

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In The Centers...

ADAPPT Reentrants Lend A Hand For Community Service

By Karen Collins

ADAPPT (Alcohol & Drug Addiction Parole & Probation Treatment), a residential reentry center in Reading, Pa., was pleased to serve the community once again by assisting at several local projects over the fall season.

Security Supervisor Donna Conley and Clinical Supervisor Dawn Martin, with the support of Director Michael Critchosin, do a tremendous job coordinating community projects for the reentrants to volunteer in the community.

During the fall and early winter 2017, reentrants had the opportunity to assist at the Reading Public Library (for a second time this year), City of Reading Adopt a Block, the Berks County Recovery Walk, and the organization We Agape You, Inc., who renovates houses in the Reading area.



At the library and pictured, left to right, are: Reentrants Shaheed Ellington, Enoc Villanueva, Kenneth Wright, Mark McCoy, Rafael Ortiz Jr. and Craig Brennan, Executive Director Bronwen Bowen, Reentrants William Porter Jr. and Joel Medesto and Librarian Betty O'Neil.

"We are very proud of the staff and volunteers from ADAPPT who recognize the importance of community service for our reentrants and community," said Monique Hendricks, Senior Area Manager, East, for GEO Group. "Reentry programming is put into action by acts of volunteerism throughout the City of Reading, and we are pleased ADAPPT continues to uphold this important service."

ADAPPT does a large volume of community service which exceeds 500 hours monthly on the average. Volunteers are often welcomed by organizations and have often remarked how hard the reentrants work, with a "can do" and positive attitude. Library staff rewarded the ADAPPT team with coffee and donuts in appreciation of a hard day's work.

"Our reentrants are always willing to lend a hand to the community," said Critchosin. "We take pride in giving back to the community in whatever way we can. It is an important lesson for our reentrants to experience a productive work effort while at the same time repaying a debt to society."

At the library, ADAPPT volunteers removed shelving and did general cleanup, tidied up North Sixth Street in Reading for Adopt a Block, put up fencing and painted for We Agape You, Inc., all while maintaining normally-scheduled community service that includes work at the homeless shelter and foundation event work.

ADAPPT provides both inpatient and outpatient treatment services. It is licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs.

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Week of January 1...

Food Pantry Sends Thanks to SCI Albion



Northwestern Food Pantry

1 Robb & Powell Ave
Albion, PA 16401-1501

December 31, 2017

SCI Albion CWP Program
C/O Ashley Tatman
10745 Rt 18
Albion, PA 16475

The Northwestern Food Pantry Board of Directors wants to express our gratitude for all the support that we have received from the administration to our local food pantry. Without your CWP program we would not be able to provide transportation for the large amount of foods from the Second Harvest Food Bank in Erie to our pantry facility. The CWP supervisors and the inmates are always courteous to our volunteers and helpful in moving the delivered product into the pantry and placing it where we instruct them to.

Our volunteers are elderly so we greatly appreciate the help from the CWP with these heavy deliveries of product and we want to again acknowledge how extremely grateful we are for the support of this team.

As an example of the number of families we serve, in December we served 260 families representing 705 individuals so your support is helping many community lives.

The scripture from Proverbs 19:17 best reflects your donation; "He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord and he will repay them for their deed."

Thank you again for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Steve Smith – Pantry Director

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Albion Receives Additional Thanks from the Food Pantry



Northwestern Food Pantry

1 Robb & Powell Ave
Albion, PA 16401-1501

December 31, 2017

SCI Albion Employees
Attn: Aleis Ellwood
10745 Rt 18
Albion, PA 16475

Thank you very much to all the employees that contributed in any way to the Children's Christmas Gift Program for the families at the Northwestern Food Pantry. This year, with your help, we provided gifts for 140 children in 67 families. The most common reply when the gifts were given to the parents was "These are the only Christmas Gifts that our children will receive this year." Your employees have been a faithful supporter of this program for many years and we are grateful for your partnership.

In December we served 260 families representing 705 individuals. We are currently distributing over 15,000 pounds of product each month to supplement the family's nutritional and personal health needs as the number of supported families continues to remain high year over year. See the

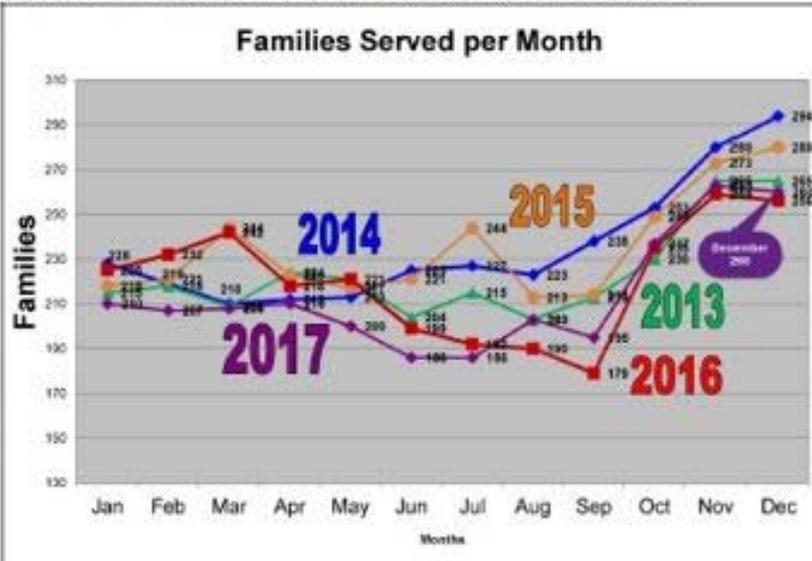


chart to the right comparing the most recent five years.

The scripture from Proverbs 19:17 best reflects your donation; "He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord and he will repay them for their deed."

Thank you again for your children's gifts.

Steve Smith

Steve Smith – Pantry Director

It's Cold Outside

A majority of the country is experiencing extremely cold weather. As a result, a newspaper that covers SCI Frackville reached out to our public information officer seeking answers to these questions:

- What is the current temperature in the inmate cells?

In the winter months we maintain 68 to 73 degrees Fahrenheit.

- Is this a departure from the normal temperature?

No, this is our normal winter temperature.

- How is the prison heated?

The prison is heated with steam that runs through roof top unit supplied with a heating coil.

- Are there complaints regarding the temperature?

Yes, that it's too warm!

- Are there any problems with heating at the prison related to cells?

Not at this time, all areas are sufficiently heated, and we have had no issues.

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CWP Helps Salvation Army

SCI Coal Township's Community Work Program sent work crews to the Salvation Army in Shamokin and Sunbury, where they spent nine days packing food and toys for distribution. In Shamokin they packed more than 800 food boxes and prepped toys for distribution which included more than 150 bicycles.

In Sunbury, work crews also decorated 200 light poles, set up the Santa House and Deer Run and decorated the park's Christmas tree. Prior to decorating they cleaned up all the leaves and litter in the town park.

CWP crews are supervised by Joe Mazer.

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Forest Holds Holiday Decorating Contest

Housing units at SCI Forest participated in a holiday decorating contest. Each unit was supplied with paint, paper and a few other supplies to decorate their pods for a Holiday contest. All other supplies used to decorate were donated from the Inmate's personal property. BB unit won the contest with the top two photos showing Santa taking a break by the fireplace with his sleigh hovering near the top tier and I unit came in a close second with their milk and cookies by the fireplace and stockings hung with care.



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Retreat Employees Donate to Cori's Place

SCI Retreat's employees were in the Christmas Spirit by donating art supplies, games and cleaning supplies to Cori's Place. Cori's Place is a non-profit day program agency serving adults from Luzerne and Wyoming Counties who have intellectual disabilities. Since 2002, Cori's Place has served more than 70 individuals and currently provides services to 52 adults.



At Cori's Place, staff focuses on developing the individual's adult daily living skills like cooking, cleaning and money management. In addition, they promote positive and appropriate social skills and emotional growth. They use the community and volunteer opportunities as teaching tools, so the individuals can experience real life situations and become contributing members of their communities.

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Albion Names EOQ

Corrections Officer 1 W. Gordon was named SCI Albion's Employee of the 1st Quarter after being recognized for his professionalism, sense of security and the positive attitude he possesses while performing his duties as the lobby officer. He stays current with policy and procedures that effect this post and always maintains a smooth flow of traffic through this area even on the busiest of days.



Superintendent Michael Clark presents Corrections Officer W. Gordon with an Employee of the Quarter certificate.

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Employee Celebrates 45 Years of state employment

Gregory Fabrizio, Sr., safety manager at SCI Coal Township, was honored this week for reaching 45 years of service with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Greg began his state employment with the Department of Revenue, transferred to PennDOT, and eventually to SCI Frackville before transferring to Coal Township when the prison opened.

"I remember being here wearing a hard hat because we were still in the construction phase," Greg said.

"I began state employment at a very, very young age, like right out of high school," he said with a grin.

Currently he has no retirement date in sight. He likes what he does!



SCI Coal Township Superintendent Thomas McGinley recognizes his prison's safety manager, Gregory Fabrizio, Sr., for his 45 years of employment with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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Muncy Cares

SCI Muncy employees opened their hearts and their wallets this holiday season. Project Muncy Cares reached out to two local shelters for resident families in need. The shelters provided the prison with names, ages and a wish list from the children housed at their property. Gifts ranged from bikes, dolls and sports merchandise to crayons, coloring books and diapers. Tags were made and hung, and within hours the tree was bare, and the shopping began. As gifts arrived they were secured and delivered just in time for Christmas. A cargo van was donated free-of-charge by a local merchant to aid in the delivery of the packages. Even with the large van carefully packed it took SCI Muncy staff three trips to deliver all the gifts. Recipients were grateful and filled with smiles and tears. Employees at SCI Muncy look forward each year to the tags adorning the tree and their chance to step up, give back and help those in need.



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Homeless Veterans' Stand Down

This is the 12th year that the Greater Harrisburg YWCA has hosted the Homeless Veterans' Stand Down, which runs January 19-21. The event provides critical services to support homeless and at-risk veterans from communities throughout south central Pennsylvania. Typical services provided at the Stand Down include: VA medical services; combat veterans' services including the VET Center; PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs referral services; rapid re-housing; employment assistance; legal assistance; dental care; advocacy services; recovery services; mental health services; benefits counseling; connection with military service organizations; overnight shelter; and other critical supplies.

Individuals interested in serving as ambassadors – help attendees access services, obtain meals and meet with service providers – should contact Director William Reed at 717-979-7006.

Coordinated by Statewide Veterans Coordinator Ryan Yoder, DOC Central Office employees are assisting by collecting the following items which will be delivered to the Greater Harrisburg YWCA on January 19: hats, gloves, winter coats, new men's/women's underwear, socks, toiletries, jeans/khakis, long-sleeve work shirts and belts.

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Each week for the next several weeks, the various phases of the overall parole process will be examined and explained to assist general knowledge of the parole process.

PAROLE 101

By Laura Treaster, PBPP Communications Director

Understanding the Basics

Parole is the release of an inmate from prison prior to his or her sentence's maximum sentence expiration date, but after the minimum sentence expiration date, while continuing to serve the balance of the sentence under supervision in the community.

Probation is a sentence that does not include a period of incarceration; it is served in the community rather than jail. The sentencing judge always makes the decision regarding a person's probation conditions and violations. However, a judge may request the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole to supervise certain county offenders with the judge retaining decision making power. These are known as "special probation" cases.

PAROLE

Arrest ➡ Conviction ➡ Prison ➡ Parole ➡ Sentence Complete

PROBATION

Arrest ➡ Conviction ➡ Probation ➡ Sentence Complete

Parole is also different from a pardon or a commutation. The governor may grant a pardon or commutation if the Board of Pardons, which is separate from the Board of Probation and Parole, recommends that one be granted.

The Parole Board has paroling authority over sentences with a maximum sentence date of two or more years that are served in state correctional institutions. A maximum sentence of less than two years is a county sentence and county parole.

There is no right to parole under state or federal law. Parole decisions in Pennsylvania are not subject to judicial review unless the prisoner asserts a constitutional challenge to the denial of parole or seeks a writ of mandamus to compel the board to exercise its discretion. The Parole Board does not have the authority to parole from sentences of life imprisonment or death. In the case of "juvenile lifers," however, if a person's sentence is modified, they may be considered for parole as is required by state law.

Follow the Process with a Case Example

John was 21 when he was arrested for entering an apartment without consent and attacking his victim. John is convicted of burglary and aggravated assault. He is sentenced to 4 years and 6 months to 10 years. John is admitted to the Diagnostic and Classification Center at the State Correctional Institution (SCI) at Camp Hill.

After his assessments are completed at SCI Camp Hill, John is classified as being a high-risk offender – having committed a violent offense but without a violent history. While incarcerated, the DOC delivers cognitive behavioral programming to address his treatment needs which include: Violence Prevention - Moderate Intensity (includes Thinking for a Change). In addition, during his incarceration he obtains his GED and works as a barber.

John was transferred to SCI Coal Township to serve his sentence. Eight months prior to his minimum sentence expiration date of November 28, 2013, staff began to gather needed information for his parole interview with the Parole Board:

Preparation of Case File

- Begin documentation gathering for parole interview. It is required by law to consider the facts of crime; criminal history; sentencing hearing notes; general character; physical, mental and medical health; history of family violence; adjustment to prison; victim, judge and prosecuting attorney input; and recommendation of warden or superintendent.
- Judge and district attorney letters are mailed to request recommendation for parole.
- Office of Victim Advocate notifies registered victims of parole eligibility and their rights to provide input to the Parole Board.

Institutional Parole Agent

- Institutional Parole Agent (IPA) reviews the file and gathers any needed additional documents.
- IPA works with the inmate on a home plan – where the inmate plans to live -- and to apply for jobs or seek educational or vocational training.
- IPA conducts pre-parole interview and assessment and finalizes preparation of file for decision maker.

Next Week: The Parole Board's Decision Makers and the Voting Process

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In the Centers...

Nine Reentrants Graduate from New BCPS Program

The Reading Eagle recently highlighted a graduation ceremony of new construction training program provided by Berks Connections/Pretrial Services – Rebuilding Reentrants and Reading (aka R3).

The eight-week program's classroom instruction is held at the Reading Muhlenberg Career & Technology Center, and reentrants also are provided hands-on instruction at Habitat for Humanity work sites. Part of the program also includes cognitive groups that are held at BCPS' office.

After BC/PS received a \$1.24 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor in August 2017, they began the program in October 2017. At this graduation ceremony celebrating accomplishments of nine reentrants, Reentry Director Kerry Kerschner said that the students completed 753 vocational classroom hours, 728 hours at Habitat for Humanity sites and 383 hours of cognitive training.



Front row from left: Lucas Garcia Cruz, Jonathan Rodgers, Terry Russer and Bradley Jones. Back row from left: Shawn Adams, Luis Melendez-Medina, Gavin Allen, BCPS cognitive curriculum facilitator Alex Katzenmoyer, Robert Torres, BCPS cognitive curriculum facilitator Kip Frasso and Michael LaBounty.

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