

Correctional Newsfront

The official newsletter of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, including the state prisons, reentry services, community corrections and parole supervision



2018 News ~ October to December

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Week of December 17...

Number of Employees to Receive CIT Training Reaches New High

Since implementing Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training in 2012, the DOC has trained nearly 2,000 employees!

CIT training focuses on the challenges corrections employees face when dealing with inmates experiencing mental health crisis that goes well beyond what the untrained non-professional could be expected to know or understand. The CIT training program helps staff better understand the challenges many inmates face and how to effectively resolve tense, dynamic and evolving crisis situations.

YEAR	TOTAL TRAINED
2012	40
2013	167
2014	320
2015	350
2016	383
2017	371
2018	361
TOTAL	1992

The CIT training program is part of a system-wide initiative to place inmates' mental health at the forefront of treatment during incarceration. Moreover, CIT is about maximizing safety for both staff and inmates. By providing this education to our staff, we reduce the likelihood of use of force situations.

The CIT training program is an effective crisis response training for DOC employees who encounter inmates experiencing crisis. In addition to an overview of mental illness – medical and other risk factors in the inmate population – this training provides corrections staff with specific skills and strategies to recognize and de-escalate inmates in crisis.



The first CIT program was developed in Memphis in 1988 and provided training in mental disorders and response techniques to law enforcement officers. CIT is a crisis response and diversion strategy for justice involved persons with mental health problems in which specialized corrections and law enforcement officers respond to persons with possible mental health problems. At the Training Academy, those serving as CIT training program manager hold the position on a rotating basis. Staff serving in this role have completed the training program, are involved in championing the CIT implementation and response at a facility, and have a commitment to continue a high standard of excellence in the training.

As described by SCI Somerset Unit Manager Jennifer McClelland in 2017, "Crisis Intervention is a technique used to offer immediate, short-term help to an individual experiencing a crisis (i.e., an event that causes emotional, mental, physical, or behavioral distress). It involves resolving a crisis by recognizing the signs and symptoms of mental illness, using proper de-escalation techniques and utilizing a multidisciplinary approach to help the individual resolve his or her issues. Crisis Intervention is a preventative approach to behavior management, which can help decrease assaultive behavior and use of force incidents. It is a valuable tool for all of us that work in corrections, because it can increase both staff and offender safety."

Since 2012, the DOC has had several CIT training program managers: Superintendent Marirosa Lamas, SCI Muncy Lieutenant Virgil Meyer and SCI Frackville Unit Manager Rhonda Tomcavage. The current program manager is James Kehoe.

Kehoe began his corrections career in October 2000 as a COT at SCI Mahanoy. After working as a CO1 for five years, he promoted to sergeant in 2005. During his 10 years as sergeant, Kehoe went back to night school to meet the qualifications for corrections counselor. In 2015, he was hired as a corrections counselor 1, and he promoted to a corrections counselor 2 after six months.

Kehoe began serving as the adjunct instructor for CIT in 2017 and was named CIT program manager in July 2018.

"I am extremely passionate about the program," Kehoe said.



**James Kehoe is the new
CIT program manager.**

Kehoe caught the attention of Secretary John Wetzel when he learned of a situation involving Kehoe at SCI Mahanoy in 2015.

Back then, Kehoe was a sergeant in what was then the facility's special needs unit.

"One day during morning mainline, an inmate came out of his first-floor cell and walked up to the second level, or tier, and proceeded to stand on the railing and lit a cigarette. He was threatening to jump," Kehoe said.

Everyone immediately noticed and took action, because this inmate previously had successfully jumped in a similar situation at another facility, resulting in serious injury.

Kehoe said he was called over to the area and began speaking to the inmate from below him on the ground level. As Kehoe was speaking to the inmate, officers proceeded up either side of the second-level tier. The inmate had carefully positioned himself in the center of the tier, knowing that it would take time and be difficult for staff to reach him prior to him jumping.

As officers were climbing the steps, Kehoe noticed that directly in the cell behind the inmate was an inmate certified peer support specialist (CPS). His cell door was closed, and he was watching everything transpire directly outside of his cell door through his window.

"When I realized a CPS was right there, my thought was to have the CPS inmate jump out and grab the inmate who was standing on the railing," Kehoe said.

At this time, a lieutenant arrived at the scene and began speaking with the inmate.

Kehoe took advantage of that distraction and began making head and eye movements to communicate with the CPS inmate.

"Finally, it was like a light went on, and the inmate understood what I was trying to communicate – for the CPS to jump out and grab and save the inmate," Kehoe said.

So, with a signal to the unit bubble officer, staff popped open the CPS inmate's cell door, and that inmate grabbed the other inmate down off the railing, helping to save his life.

After the event was over, though, Kehoe thought he would lose his job. Why? Because he used an inmate to help him with a situation, which normally isn't allowed.

Of course, Kehoe did not lose his job.

Looking back, Kehoe said he knew this inmate from working with him at other facilities, and he realized that this was a true mental health crisis issue happening.

The inmate had clearly decompensated over the years, despite his having received appropriate mental health care during his incarceration.

At this point in time, Kehoe had taken the DOC's suicide prevention training and he had completed CIT training.

And now he is the CIT program manager.

"I am passionate about this training," he said. "And I appreciate the fact that it works on others and not just on inmates."

He said that CIT training is not an inmate-specific training, it is a people-specific training.

"This training was developed for use in the community, and this is where the buy-in from staff comes from," Kehoe explained. "When staff realize they can use these skills anywhere, they begin to accept it and open themselves to the training."

Kehoe said he receives calls from field staff saying they have tried using what they learned in CIT training and that it works. He said staff usually doesn't want to admit it. He said this positive feedback from the field is what drives his passion for the work he does.

"This is an extremely valuable program because we talk to inmates all day, every day," he said. "The training reinforces the fact that our staff does a great job already and that we're simply adding to that great work by providing them with extra tools to help them deal with mentally ill individuals."

Kehoe has attended a lot of training during his DOC employment, and he's also instructed many courses.

"This is such a beneficial course and is the best training I've ever attended," he said. "If we can help field staff to prevent suicides or deescalate a mental health crisis no matter who is experiencing it, then we've done our job. And even better is that we can use these tools at home."

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Brainstorming Future Initiatives

At the Training Academy on Dec. 13, DOC leadership met for a brainstorming session that would result in the DOC's initiatives for the next four years.



The day began with an overview of punishment by former South Carolina DOC Director Jon Ozmint, who was followed by DOC Planning, Research & Statistics Director Bret Bucklen. Bucklen discussed various pilot programs that have been and are presently underway within the system and what has or hasn't worked.

Following these presentations, the brainstorming began. After grouping approximately 140 DOC leaders together, officials asked them to list issues/topics/programs that the DOC should continue to do, should stop doing and that they would like to see the DOC do that aren't already being done.

The leaders listed a variety of things that will then be passed on to the secretary, who will further develop the DOC's initiatives for the next four years.

At the end of the day, everyone was optimistic about the brainstorming session and the future of the agency. Initiative development work continues, and what is exceptional is that Secretary John Wetzel thinks so highly of his leadership that he included them in the process.

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Jon Ozmint begins his presentation on the history of punishment.

Wetzel Delivers Congratulatory Message

On December 15, DOC Secretary John Wetzel provided brief congratulatory message from Bloomsburg University's Council of Trustees.

Wetzel, a graduate of Bloomsburg and diehard Husky, tweeted:

Another great @bloomsburgu graduation weekend complete! Great spending time w/our excellent Pres and the team!
#gohuskies
[instagram.com/p/Bra6h4mgz5D9...](https://www.instagram.com/p/Bra6h4mgz5D9...)



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Download Our Podcast and Listen Anytime

Lockup Lowdown, the official podcast of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, is now available on Google Music, Spotify and iTunes.

The podcast gives listeners an inside look at the DOC's facilities to learn what really goes on inside the walls. Episodes have examined libraries, security and education, and each involves an interview with a DOC expert in that field.

Sec. John Wetzel also has a series called "Bustin' Walls," where he interviews DOC employees to take listeners inside the facilities.

Use Google Music, Spotify or iTunes, search for "Lockup Lowdown" and download the latest episodes. Make sure you subscribe so you can get each new episode as they're posted.

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CDL Simulator Added to Forest's Education Curriculum



SCI Forest has added a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Simulator to curriculum in the Education Department. The simulator arrived on Nov. 26. There are 15 students, including two tutors, in the class, led by Bob Burkett. The simulator offers realistic training in various vehicles, terrains and situations. The class will be six months long, and inmates will accumulate 330 hours of instruction. This gives the inmates the acquired tools to complete the test when released.



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Camp Hill Employees Sponsor 40 Children in Need

The Employee's Recreation Association at SCI Camp Hill sponsors the Angel Tree program every year. This tradition began in 2015 and was begun by the ERA's president Maria Bucher. Every year a different organization is chosen for which to collect. This year 40 children were sponsored from the United Methodist Home for Children. In past years, collections have been taken for organizations such as North Shore Friends, Hershey Medical Center and Kaitlyn Smiles.



This is such a popular event that the names are all taken within hours of being posted. SCI Camp Hill is proud to sponsor such a worthy cause and looks forward to making a few children smile this time of year.

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Somerset Staff Enjoy Christmas Luncheon

On Dec. 11, SCI Somerset celebrated with a Christmas Luncheon available for all staff in the visiting room. The luncheon was provided by the Staff Appreciation Team and was catered by a local catering service who supplied a delicious baked turkey dinner for more than 500 employees on all three shifts. A lottery tree and 50/50 raffles were available, and ECHO Dots were given out as door prizes to winners from all three shifts.



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Somerset Staff Fulfill Wish Lists for 33 Children

SCI Somerset assisted the Somerset County Alternative Community Resource Program (ACRP) with their Christmas Wish List Program. Local children fill out a wish list of up to three items they hope to receive for Christmas. This year prison staff received the names of 33 children who range in age from 5 years to 13 years old.

SCI Somerset has donated toys to various local organizations every Christmas since opening in 1993. The facility has been participating in the ACRP Wish List for many years and appreciates all the staff who help bring happiness to these children.

Monetary donations by the dietary staff were used to purchase candy, and treat bags were made for each child. Donations of new wrapping paper, bows, gift tags and tape are also received, as the organization's staff wrapped all the gifts.

Every day in this region there are children who struggle with abuse, neglect or psychological and emotional disorders that keep them from living a normal happy life. It is the mission of the Alternative Community Resource Program to respond to the needs of such children and their families. ACRP works as an alternative to placement while providing comprehensive programs and treatment to address emotional, behavioral, and academic issues.

ACRP has offices in Cambria, Somerset, Bedford, Blair and Clearfield Counties.

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Houtzdale Employees Participate in Christmas Program for Children

The Philipsburg YMCA Christmas program provides gifts for children.

SCI Houtzdale, along with several area businesses and organizations, volunteers play Santa for these children to get the requested items on their Christmas lists.

The Christmas program covers Clearfield and Centre Counties, including Philipsburg, Osceola, West Branch and Moshannon Valley school districts.

A week prior to Christmas, the families get to stop by and pick up their gifts for their children so they can be under the tree in time for Christmas.

The staff at Houtzdale graciously took 50 children's names to provide them with a special Christmas. They planned a wrapping/pizza party to ensure all gifts were accounted for and wrapped nicely for them. As in years past, the staff were generous with the number of gifts they purchased for these children.

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Inmates at Albion Donate More Than \$2,000 to Food Bank

SCI Albion inmate organization ANIVO has donated \$2,315.83 to the Albion Food Bank.

This money was raised by the inmate organization with the intent of helping the local communities that surround their institution.



Money was raised through an inmate Run-a-Thon held in October.

It means a lot to the inmates of SCI Albion to be able to assist those in need this holiday season.

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Mahanoy COT Earns Professionalism Award

SCI Mahanoy Corrections Officer Trainee Peter Matweecha received the Professionalism Merit Award for Basic Training Class 1807.

COT Matweecha started his DOC career at SCI Mahanoy on Sept. 17. He is currently in Phase II of his training and is a positive role model for current and future trainees. Mahanoy is very proud of his accomplishment.



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Laurel Highlands Inmates Give Back to the Community

SCI Laurel Highlands' inmate organization – The Phoenix Group – recently donated \$500 to St. Jude's Research Hospital and \$500 to the Somerset County Mobile Food Bank. The inmate group donates to charities each quarter, and these donations are for the fourth quarter of 2018.

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Camp Hill Inmate Work Crew Earns High Praise

Maintenance Foreman Fred Locke and his inmate work crew have been hard at work assisting the staff at the Marysville Lions Club with prep for winter and grounds issues.

They also tackled the task of stripping and refinishing the floor of the 4,000-square foot main hall. This hall is heavily used for community functions and rentals, and it took the work crew three days to complete. The result was nothing less than magnificent, and the final touch was the work crew decorating the hall for upcoming Christmas events.



Superintendent Laurel Harry received correspondence from the Marysville Lions Club that was very complimentary of the help they received over the past few months from Locke and his inmate work crew.

Some of those compliments included:

"We would not have been able to hire people to do the quality of work and take pride in the work that this work crew did."

and

"As Mr. Locke and his work crew gained knowledge of the buildings and grounds, it enabled them to identify things that the Lions Club staff did not realize needed attention."

Lastly, Lions Club staff felt that they have benefited for the prison's Community Work Program and look forward to maintaining their relationship with SCI Camp Hill so that they can continue the Lions Club's motto of "We Serve" in our community.



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Coal Township Inmate Organization Gives Back to Community

The inmate organization at SCI Coal Township, Triumph, recently held its 14th Annual Shoot to Swish for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. All proceeds will be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Greater Pennsylvania, Pottsville Regional Office.

This year the inmates, staff and Triumph combined to donate \$902 to Make-A-Wish Foundation. Since the launch of Shoot to Swish, and including this year's donation, Triumph has donated \$9,024.15 to children with life-threatening medical conditions through the foundation.

During the Shoot to Swish event, participating inmates were given 90 seconds to shoot baskets from the foul line. Each participant raised pledges prior to the event by soliciting for donations from staff or pledging themselves. The Triumph Organization also donated generously to the total raised.

Triumph has contributed to several local organizations in the community throughout the years. Members of Triumph noted a desire to give back to the local community. Organization members extend thanks to everyone involved in this event. Activities staff extended their appreciation to the participants and those who pledged donations.

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Chester Staff Donates 150 Toys

SCI Chester held its annual toy drive during the months of November and December. This year, the staff collected more than 150 toys to be donated to the Delaware County Toys for Tots!



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Dallas Honor Guard Hosts Christmas Party for Vets

The Honor Guard from SCI Dallas hosted a Christmas Party for veterans residing at the Wilkes Barre VA. The veterans were treated to pizza, refreshments and live music. The Honor Guard was treated to some stories and comradery. The night was capped off with all participants singing Christmas carols.



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Muncy Cares = Huge Success

By Sandra Killian, Clerk Typist 3, SCI Muncy

This year, we needed the help of UPS (and a special visit from Captain America)! A 20-foot box truck was used to fill in as Santa's sleigh in order to accommodate all of the donated gifts.

We had a total of 70 children on the tree this year and because of employee generosity, spirit and willingness to step up and help, every child received gifts fulfilling most of their wish list and beyond. The smiles were heart-warming and the gratitude of the parent/family was beyond description.



When you participate in such events, you may think you purchased a gift for a kid you never even met, but you have done much more than that. You have shown there is good, there is understanding and there is hope.

To everyone who had a hand in this project, may you be blessed with kindness 10-fold, and from each of us on the MUNCY CARES PROJECT, we send you our sincerest THANK YOU!!!!

Merry Christmas!!!!!

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World Boxing Champ Visits Phoenix

On Dec. 18, SCI Phoenix inmates and employees welcomed one of the most successful boxers of the past three decades, having held multiple world championships in two weight classes, including the undisputed middleweight title from 2004 to 2005 and the lineal light heavyweight title from 2011 to 2012.

Bernard Hopkins, a former DOC inmate having served time at SCIs Graterford and Dallas, visited SCI Phoenix (Graterford's replacement) with a different type of message. As a former inmate, he talked to inmates about his life, saying not only was life hard inside the institution, but it was harder outside the institution. He spoke of ownership, for the decisions and choices we make, and for the paths that one must take to be who we need to be. He said that we all must work to better ourselves, not only for us, but for the young growing up who need guidance. Hopkins encouraged those that will leave prison to be the best they can be, and for those that will never leave, to be there for the young inmates.

While at the prison, Hopkins was able to meet briefly with those that helped and inspired him along the way. Bernard Hopkins, may be a boxer, but he was also a motivational speaker who shared a part of himself and was able to give something back to the inmates at SCI Phoenix.



Pictured, left to right, are: Akbar Muhammad, Richard Haaz, Bernard Hopkins, Ronald Donatucci Jr., Gary Silow. Haaz and Silow are Montgomery County judges.

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Smithfield Staff Celebrate with Shirley Home Residents

On Dec. 14, staff from SCI Smithfield participated in their annual holiday party with residents from Shirley Home for the Aged, a non-profit assisted living center in Huntingdon County.

Staff purchased items from the residents' wish lists, provided snacks for bags to be handed out and donated refreshments.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored a resident or donated items!



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Mahanoy Staff Serve as Santas for Seniors

Between Toys for Tots, the Holiday Sharing Tree and other holiday gift drives, people have plenty of options to donate during this season of giving.

An additional program aims to supply gifts to a sometimes-forgotten population.

Santas for Seniors is in its third year at SCI Mahanoy, headed by Jackie Yanchulis and Janet Gronski. This program aims to help the residents at a nursing home receive gifts that they would not receive because of families being absent from their lives. With the gracious help of the employees at Mahanoy, a large variety of items have been donated, from blankets to socks to handmade hats, men's and women's toiletries, crossword puzzle books, word searches and much more.

Each year a new nursing home is randomly chosen, and these items are delivered in time for that nursing home's Christmas party. This year the Broad Mountain Health and Rehabilitation Center located in Frackville was chosen, and gifts were delivered on December 14, 2018.

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Greene Staff Participate in Wreaths Across America

The SCI Greene Honor Guard members, as well as various other volunteers, participated in National Wreaths Across America Day on Dec. 15. Each December, fallen veterans at hundreds of locations within the US are remembered and honored at the annual event.

A wreath-laying ceremony was coordinated at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies. Staff volunteered to place wreaths on the 16,139 graves, including seven former SCI Greene employees, to pay tribute to them and remind their families that they are not forgotten. This year's fundraising efforts were coordinated by Ray Mills and Natalie Gordon. Their efforts helped supply 45 wreaths for the event.



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Pine Grove Inmates Pack Meals for Elderly

SCI Pine Grove's CWP crew helped the Indiana County Community Action Program pack boxes of food for the elderly.

The crew packaged 504 boxes and helped pass them out to those in need. ICCAP's mission is to serve as the community agency to mobilize services and resources to empower families and individuals to progress towards self-sufficiency.



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PBPP Agent, Altoona Staff Donate Toys to Hospital

In 2008, Jacquelyn Connors collected and donated toys to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh on her own accord.

Jacquelyn, a PBPP parole agent II out of Johnstown, has kept this tradition alive ever since Christmas 2008. When her colleagues heard about this, agents and other staff at the Altoona District Office also contributed toys to the cause. Jacquelyn dropped them off at the hospital on Dec. 15.

Great work, Jacquelyn and Altoona staff!



From left: Jacquelyn Connors and her friend, Erin Kirsch

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Cambridge Springs Staff Donate Gifts for Local Kids

SCI Cambridge Springs teamed up with the Cambridge Springs Helping Hands Organization to provide Christmas gifts for children in the local community. Helping Hands works with the Cambridge Springs Elementary School, receiving names of families in need of assistance. The children's wish lists are passed on to our facility and numerous staff generously volunteer to purchase gifts. The staff look forward to this project every year and enjoy the opportunity to make a child smile on Christmas morning. SCI Cambridge Springs was fortunate enough to assist 12 local families with a grand total of 29 kids this 2018 Christmas season.



Photo: (Left to Right) CCPM Michael Cole, Major Michael Dodds, Deputy Earl Jones, Lt. Joseph Conticelli, Capt. Kevin Ace, Deputy Michelle Wagner, Supt. Lonnie Oliver, CT3 Barbara Healy, & CSA Amy Boylan

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**Coal
Township's
Community
Work
Program
Assists
Salvation
Army**

State Correctional Institution at Coal Township's Community Work Program, assigned to Labor Foreman



Joe Mazer, assisted local Salvation Army centers prepare for their annual Christmas events. Coal Township's work crew helped at the Shamokin Salvation Army for the past several years; this year marks the fourth year in Sunbury.

Coal Township's crews worked for several days unloading, packing and organizing Christmas toys and other presents at both Salvation Army locations. Shamokin Salvation Army's Major Tammy Hensch stated, "These guys are so well behaved and well mannered. They are truly a blessing to us. They helped load and unload and package food and other items for over 400 families in the area." Referring to Labor Foreman Joe Mazur as "Major Joe", Major Hensch said that the program would have a hard time having everything completed on time without the help of the community work crew.

All the inmates assigned to the community work crew stated that they were happy to be able to give back to the community. "It's a good feeling to know we are doing something good for someone else by helping here. It just makes you feel good." They added that the families will now be able to have a nice Christmas holiday.

The pantry boxes, filled with food items will be distributed to help families prepare a Christmas meal. All items distributed during the Christmas season are donated and will be distributed to preregistered families this week.

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Volunteering for Veterans

Twenty-four members of the Department of Corrections' leadership team joined forces on Dec. 18 to serve lunch to approximately 40 veterans at Veterans Making a Difference/Paul R. Gordon Veteran Social Center in Reading, Pa.



In addition to serving lunch, the group spent quality time visiting with the veterans, and they also delivered a variety of items for use at the center and by the veterans.



The group of volunteers also took a moving truck full of employee-donated items – food, clothing and other basic needs and essentials to the center.

Last year, DOC employees provided a day of volunteer services to a number of organizations in Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster and York counties.

Read more about this year's volunteer event [in the Reading Eagle](#).

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Around the Centers...

Kintock-Erie Reentrants Volunteer in Philadelphia

It's been a busy few months for the reentrants at Kintock-Erie Community Corrections Facility in Philadelphia, as reentrants:

- volunteered at the Home Quarters Seasonal Unity Day in Hunting Park on Nov. 17. They helped set up, clean up and with whatever else was needed to be done during the event.
- helped clean the streets with the Salvation Army and with a local car show earlier this month. Some residents participated with the free Library of Philadelphia's volunteer services for a community service event on Dec. 8.
- helped state Senator Christine Trataglione, who held three events this fall. Reentrants helped clean up and break down the events.



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Business Shares Info About Positive CCC Relationship

Recently Deborah Mast, senior account manager and onsite representative of Task Management Inc., shared the following e-mail with Bureau of Community Corrections Director Daniel McIntyre:

Good afternoon Mr. McIntyre,

First, let me say it was a privilege to meet you yesterday and have that opportunity to learn more about the future and the obstacles facing the center, Wernersville in particular.

We have been partnering with the center since August and it has been a very positive relationship. So much to the point that I would have lost the client (DeMets Candy) due to lack of contract hires. Wernersville literally was my saving grace to keeping this client's needs met. I have at least 10 of your residents (some are now maxed out) that are being considered for permanent positions. We currently have around 18 from the center working at DeMets for us. Mr. Acosta is always willing and ready to help at more to my growing list of employment vacancies.

I have been able to come in and talk with the residents regarding my expectations of them and for the most part they have exceeded my expectations. Clearly, I do not feel that this facility should be considered a negative impact for the community. Everyone deserves a chance to redeem themselves and I believe that the resources from the community and businesses are making a positive impact for the community as a whole.

Please feel free to reach out to me if I can be of any further assistance, or answer any questions you may have.

Kind Regards,
Deborah Mast

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Week of December 10...

Corrections Officials Announce Plans to Expand Medication-Assisted Treatment as Part of Stop Overdoses in Pa: Get Help Now Week



Somerset, PA – An opiate-specific therapeutic community at the State Correctional Institution (SCI) at Laurel Highlands served as a backdrop today as Department of Corrections (DOC) officials announced plans to expand its Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) program. The announcement was part of Stop Overdoses in Pa.: Get Help Now Week.

The DOC is expanding MAT to include methadone and buprenorphine as standards of care where determined to be appropriate. The long-term goal is for the DOC to provide all FDA-approved medications to treat and manage addiction within its facilities.

Expansion of MAT includes:

- Medication-Assisted Opiate Detoxification: For new commitments, parole violators and diversion cases.
- Maintenance: For those individuals who are committed to the DOC and who are already receiving MAT.
- Initial Prescriptions: For those individuals who are committed to the DOC and who are not in need of detoxification, but who could benefit from MAT from the time of DOC commitment.

“We are treating substance use disorder as the chronic disease it is rather than as an acute illness,” said Steve Seitchik, DOC’s MAT program coordinator. “Research results suggest that long-term care strategies of medication management and continued monitoring produce lasting benefits. The use of MAT for those suffering from substance use disorder should be insured, treated and evaluated like other chronic illnesses.”

Since 2014, the DOC has worked to better equip individuals as they return to their communities after incarceration. The MAT program plays a huge role in their successes.

“If we can treat inmates with substance use disorder while incarcerated, we can help that person focus on reentry-specific challenges rather than having them fall back into a substance-use lifestyle,” Seitchik added.

Reports show that there are high rates of fatal overdose and non-fatal overdose among individuals leaving prison; that MAT is more effective than no MAT; and that MAT more than doubles the rates of opioid-abstinence outcomes in randomized, controlled trials comparing psychosocial treatment of opioid use disorder with medication versus no medication.

“We are on the right course for setting our reentrants on the path to a successful return home after incarceration,” Seitchik said. “Expanding our program will help individuals while they are in prison, as they prepare and plan for their release, and upon release through a continuity of care.”

The continuity of care part of this initiative was an issue previously, because reentrants did not have their Medical Assistance (MA) benefits restored in time for their release. Now, through a cooperative effort with the PA Department of Human Services, benefits are in place at the date of an individual’s release from prison, ensuring the MAT continuity of care.

The DOC also received a \$3.2 million through the commonwealth’s most recent SAMHSA grant that will allow the agency to provide multiple Vivitrol injections prior to release from prison.

“That is expected to have a positive effect on retention in treatment upon release from prison and even better outcomes than we’ve seen so far,” said Tracy Smith, who serves as the DOC’s Director of Treatment Services.

Funds also will be used to pilot the use of Sublocade, which is injectable buprenorphine. According to Smith, “The DOC is partnering with other state agencies and community-based stakeholders to ensure effective and expedited continuity of care for individuals who receive Sublocade.”

Also at today’s event, officials provided access to specialty staff who administer the program and to inmates who participate by receiving medication.

More information is available on the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections website.

Timeline of MAT Highlights:

2014 – the DOC began providing Vivitrol (Naltrexone for extended release injectable suspension) for female reentrants at SCI Muncy.

March 2016 – the DOC hired an MAT statewide coordinator responsible for providing training and technical assistance to site coordinators and serving as a liaison with DOC, Parole Board officials, single county authorities and community-based treatment providers.

2016 – a total of 78 injections were administered.

January 2017 – As guided by program evaluation results, DOC officials changed the general population Therapeutic Community Curriculum and the Co-Occurring Disorders Therapeutic Community Curriculum to continue providing the most effective, evidence-based treatment to the individuals who need it.

2017 – a total of 494 Vivitrol injections were administered.

March 2018 – the DOC converted six therapeutic communities (TCs) to Opiate Specific Therapeutic Communities at SCIs: Albion, Cambridge Springs, Camp Hill, Chester and Laurel Highlands and the Quehanna Boot Camp. Shortly thereafter, oral naltrexone maintenance was initiated at these facilities as an option for individuals who could benefit most by being maintained on this MAT for the duration of their incarceration. While these are the first institutions to implement this program, the goal will be to continue to expand the program based on successes and need.

April 2018 – the DOC expanded Vivitrol's availability to all state prisons.

2018 (as of August 30) – 439 injections were administered.

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Reentry Program Efficacy Reviewed after Successful Pilot

A program aimed at helping inmates better themselves ended after a year of testing at five Pennsylvania state prisons and now Department of Corrections officials are evaluating the program's effectiveness with the hope of acquiring funding to continue it into the coming year.

Beating the Odds, which began 30 years ago in the Pittsburgh area and mostly worked with young adults and students, was piloted at SCIs Coal Township, Greene, Muncy, Pine Grove and Smithfield from July 2017 to July 2018. At each prison 25 inmates were recommended by staff for the program that provides individuals with stepping stones to a better life, including mentoring during incarceration and upon release from prison, as well as assistance in obtaining employment.

“Ninety percent of our inmates will return home one day, and our preliminary evaluation of this program shows that participation has resulted in positive outcomes for inmates,” Corrections Secretary John Wetzel said.



“Most people want to succeed in life, yet some who have great potential have made serious mistakes,” said Rocco Scalzi, founder of Beating the Odds Foundation and motivational speaker through Quarterbacks of Life. “Through this reentry program, a flexible curriculum allows motivational speakers, program coordinators and prison teams to work with inmates to overcome obstacles and set their lives on paths to success.”

The program, which is a journey of success, helps inmates, particularly those age 18 to 27, to understand the nature of success, identify and challenge things that prevent success, and uses five powerful stepping stones to success to achieve dreams and goals. The program also assists inmates in finding employment and furthering their education upon release from prison.

“For people to be successful, even former inmates, they have to have dreams and be able to put those dreams into attainable goals,” Scalzi said. “We also help them to realize that they have potential, how to develop that potential, maintain a positive mental attitude and to never give up.”

The program works with inmates who have 12 to 18 months remaining on their minimum sentence expiration dates. At the end of this first year, several inmates have been released from prison. One, through contact with Scalzi and his connections, has gained employment with a business in the Philadelphia area. Another recently released inmate is beginning her mentoring opportunities with Scalzi. Other inmates who continue to serve their time are excited about the opportunity to mentor other inmates in the program if it is continued.

Scalzi is a former Altoona City police officer and a Vietnam veteran. He has worked for decades with individuals, schools, government entities and agencies to help anyone who has potential to set their life on a path to success.

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SCI Mercer Reports Accident

At approximately 8:10 AM on Dec. 13, a contractor on site outside of SCI Mercer's perimeter, who was cleaning the facility's diesel fuel tank, came in contact with a high-tension wire and sustained a serious electrical shock.

Facility staff responded immediately and performed CPR until EMS arrived. The ambulance arrived on scene at approximately 8:15 AM and continued CPR with the assistance of facility staff. Pennsylvania State Police arrived at approximately 8:25 AM. The contractor was pronounced dead at 8:41 AM by SCI Mercer medical staff in conjunction with EMS staff. The coroner was on site. The ambulance departed the facility with the deceased individual at 9:46 AM.

The incident is under investigation. The county coroner will determine the cause of death. We are not providing any identifying information.

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Somerset Honors Volunteers with Recognition Dinner

SCI Somerset held its 25th Annual Volunteer Recognition Program on Nov. 20. The volunteers were treated to a delicious dinner provided by the Somerset Organization for the Advancement of Residents (SOAR) program.

After dinner, they were welcomed by Pastor Phil Maust, who welcomed everyone and introduced the speakers. Superintendent Eric Tice, Deputy Superintendent for Centralized

Services Michelle Houser and Corrections Classification Program Manager Melanie Pyle all spoke and thanked everyone for their efforts. We heard from representatives of several different groups and how having these groups have positively impacted their lives.

Carina the dog made an appearance with her handler, who told the crowd that being her handler not only has helped him, but he knows she will go on to help others as well. The Volunteer of the Year award was given to James and Mary Peight, who come from Christian Light Fellowship Church and have been volunteers at SCI Somerset for many years.

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Camp Hill Hosts Labor & Industry, Workforce Development Board

Members of the Workforce Development Board (WDB) and Labor & Industry (L&I) joined DOC staff on Dec. 4 for a tour of SCI Camp Hill. The purpose of the tour was to learn about reentry, education and vocational programming/services.

The thorough tour was provided by Unit Manager Ian Taggart and included reception, F-Block, R-Block and the education building among an overall discussion of SCI Camp Hill's history and current processing.

The guests were impressed with how clean the facility was and enjoyed learning about what happens "behind the wall." This is a great example of how the Career Pathways "outside" framework plays into reentrant success. On Dec. 7, the WDB and L&I staff met with DOC and PBPP reentry staff to discuss reentry work and how we can all partner together for success.



From left to right: Bernard Avery, DOC policy analyst; Allison Jones, executive director, Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board; James Martini, deputy director, Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board; Nelson Diaz, rapid response supervisor, Department of Labor & Industry; Steve Wolf, division chief, Department of Labor & Industry; Dorenda Hamarlund, DOC Career Pathways program manager; Cornelius Chachere, administrative officer, Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board; and Ian Taggart, SCI Camp Hill unit manager.

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Greene Honors Staff Members for Service

Four SCI Greene employees were recognized for 25 years of service. Superintendent Robert Gilmore presented the employees with certificates of appreciation and a pin.

Corrections Officer 2 Alva Dorsey began his career with the DOC on Nov. 15, 1993. Licensed Practical Nurse Sandra Hagan started her career on Feb. 26, 1994 at Mayview State Hospital and transferred to SCI Greene on May 21, 2017. Unit Manager Michael Guyton and Major of the Guard Wallace Leggett both began their careers at SCI Greene on December 20, 1993.



Pictured from left: Alva Dorsey, Sandra Hagan, Michael Guyton, Wallace Leggett, Robert Gilmore

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Happy Holidays from the Mercer Pups

SCI Mercer's Corrections Adoptive Rescue Endeavor (CARE) pups would like to extend to all best wishes for a happy holiday season. Pictured in their holiday attire next to the tree, these dogs are looking for their forever homes.



The CARE canine program is excited about the current group of dogs. This group consists of one Hurricane Florence survivor (Brinny), one dog from the Mahoning County Dog Pound in Ohio (Boo), two from the Humane Society of Mercer County (Mabel and Lilac) and the remaining four are strays or owner surrenders from Strayhaven Animal Shelter in Greenville.

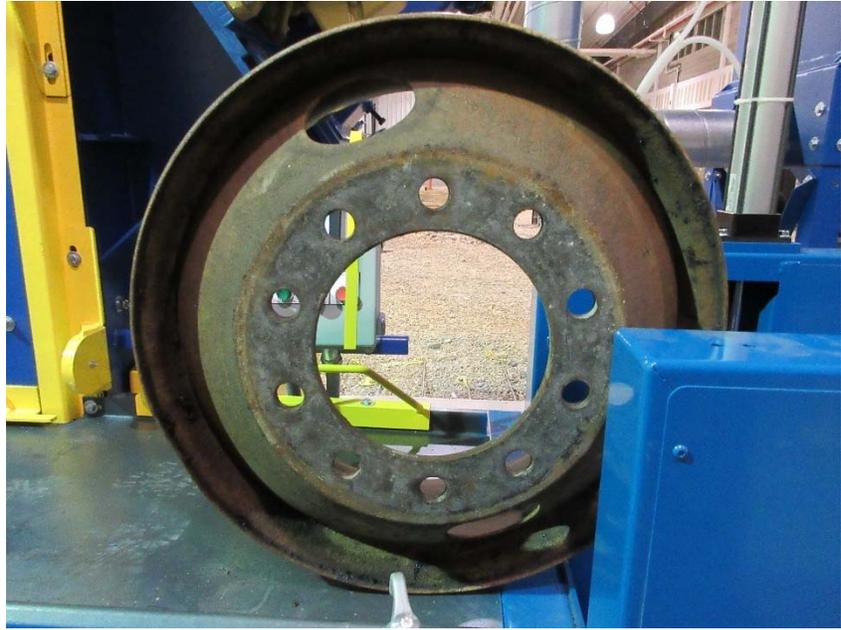
This group anticipates graduating on Dec. 18. Boo and Saber have potential adopters. If you are interested in adopting, please contact Marcia Combine or Tracy Ionta at SCI Mercer.

SCI Mercer wishes all peace, love, and joy this holiday season and throughout 2019.

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Partnership Leads to Wheel Refinishing Unit at Forest

A joint venture between SCI Forest, Pennsylvania Correctional Industries, Bureau of Correction Education (BCE) and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has come to fruition in the form of the Wheel Refinishing Unit at SCI Forest.



PennDOT provides used truck rims that are then inspected, bead blasted, powder coated and heat treated by inmate students at the prison. This work is the initial phase of the long-awaited Correctional Industries at Forest.

When the main project is completed in early 2020, PennDOT vehicles and snowplows will be completely refurbished. BCE has an important part in the form of a Heavy Equipment Repair class, which will ensure the student/workers gather the needed skills for reentry.

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Motivational Speaker Visits Greene

SCI Greene welcomed motivational speaker Casey Mullen on Dec. 10. Mullen overcame many obstacles to become a practicing attorney in Pittsburgh. He fought through both addiction and incarceration to become who he is today. Called a failure, a junkie, an ex-con and a criminal, he worked tirelessly not to allow those labels to define him.



Through hard work, rebuilding trust and striving to reach his full potential, he graduated from law school, passed the bar exam and presently has his own law firm—The Law Office of Casey P. Mullen.

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Central office Staff Fulfill Holiday Wish

On Dec. 5, DOC Central Office staff delivered gifts for the Holiday Wish Program, started by the Department of Human Services in 1989. When they arrived with the gifts, several Pennsylvania National Guard helped unload the haul. In November, staff “adopted” a family of



four, which included a mom and three small children ages 6, 9, and 10. The family lost belongings in a recent house fire. Therefore, the mom requested household items (bedding, microwave, coffee maker) while the kids requested various clothing and toys (Legos, games, dolls). Our staff are amazing and fulfilled EVERY SINGLE WISH the family made!

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Somerset Inmates Learn About Parole Process

Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole Chairman Leo Dunn provided educational presentations about the state’s parole process to inmates at the SCI Somerset on Dec. 4. His talk focused on preparing the inmates for their parole interview as well as preparing them to go out on the street and be successful.

Jay Williams, regional director of parole for Western PA, joined him. After his talk, Dunn opened the floor for a question-and-answer session.



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Second Offender Workforce Development Specialist Training Completed

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) and Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP) joined together to offer the second Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training this year. The first training was held in Western Pennsylvania this spring, and the second was held in Eastern Pennsylvania September and November. As a reminder, OWDS is an intensive, 160-hour training that prepares individuals to assist the reentrant population in finding and maintaining employment. Thanks to in-kind support and grant funds, this training is available free of charge; however, sponsoring agencies are expected to cover travel costs.



The Offender Workforce Development Specialist Graduates

In September 2018, 20 attendees participated in the first 40 hours of onsite training. The second 40 hours of onsite training was held last month (11/26-11/30) at the Lehigh Carbon Community College in Schnecksville, Pa. In between these two onsite trainings, participants completed approximately an additional 80 hours of practicum assignments, including submission of a video.

During the second week, the participants learned ethical decision-making for a workforce development specialist. This included several case studies and activities geared toward appropriate ethical delivery of workforce services. They went over using technology to assist with job placement and development. This included a two-hour module where the participants reviewed helpful websites to determine how appropriate these websites are for offenders. The participants also learned about soft skill workshops, resume writing and job club development. Finally, the

participants completed the planning for their team projects, and will be implementing the projects soon.

We are happy to report that 18 individuals from Corrections (including community corrections), Parole, county prisons, Labor & Industry and a variety of community-based organizations are now OWDS certified.

In addition to co-leads Marisa Millet, correctional counselor 2 (DOC-BCC) and Matt Sheaffer, parole manager (PBPP), we would like to thank the following instructors who volunteered to provide training on various subjects during the two-week training:

- Chrissie Klinger, Penn State University
- Denise Travers, Pathstone
- Tara Marhefka, BCC
- Dan Hornbake, BCC
- Mike Corson, PBPP
- Penny Sines, PBPP
- Traci Jacobson, DOC
- Justin Harlan, BCC
- Karyn Motika, Berkshire County Probation
- Krista Callear, PBPP
- Wayne Woznikaitis, PBPP

The next OWDS training is planned for Spring 2019 in Central Pennsylvania. Employees interested in attending future OWDS trainings in Pennsylvania are directed to contact Dorenda Hamarlund at dhamarlund@pa.gov.

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Coal Township Prison Employees Participate in “Secret Santa” Program for 22 Years

Since 1996, employees at SCI Coal Township have participated in Northumberland County Children and Youth Services “Secret Santa” Christmas program. The county’s program provides services to hundreds of children each year. This program is organized by volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to collecting and distributing the Christmas gifts to children.

Prison Human Resource Assistant Grace Piaseczny coordinated the event for the prison every year since 1996. Last year, Grace passed the torch to her sister, Cathy Dapra, who is now organizing the event at SCI Coal Township. Grace and Cathy stated, “Thank you to all the kind hearts at SCI Coal Township. We couldn’t do what we do for this program without them.”

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

Special thanks were extended to Coal Motor Crue, an employee motorcycle club, for its generous monetary donation which will also be presented to Northumberland County C & Y to purchase additional items that are needed for the families of Northumberland County at Christmastime.



SCI Coal Township Clerk Typist Cathy Dapra (left) and HR Assistant Grace Piaseczny (right) are pictured receiving a check from Sergeant Mike Batiuk, Coal Motor Crue C-M/C, along with many gifts collected for the Northumberland County Children and Youth Christmas Gift Program.

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Huntingdon Staff Donate to Toys for Tots

SCI Huntingdon staff collected new toys for Toys for Tots again this year, donating more than 100 toys. Staff also held a "jeans day" collection and the money was used to buy even more toys for Toys for Tots.

Wendy Williams (pictured with her husband) from Toys for Tots was so appreciative of all the donations they received. Thanks to all Huntingdon staff for once again stepping up to help out!



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Certified Peer Specialists Discuss Program at Camp Hill

SCI Camp Hill held its semi-annual Certified Peer Support Specialist roundtable meeting on Dec. 7. The roundtable provides an opportunity for the CPS to address any issues or successes within the CPS program. In addition, new CPSs were recognized with certificates for completing their two-week CPS training and joining current CPSs in their work. Current CPSs were also recognized for their continued dedication and service within the institution. The roundtable was attended by upper management, psychology staff, counselors and CPS supervisors. Various issues were discussed, such as having to address inmate concerns over visitation and providing services during lockdowns. Many CPSs shared successes and ease of working with staff in all areas, including the restricted housing unit and diversionary treatment unit. Institutional staff of all areas continue to appreciate the value of this program and the services provided by the CPSs within SCI Camp Hill.

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Albion Staff Support 84 Children with Presents

SCI Albion participated in the annual "Gifts for Kids" program this year, sponsored by the Northwestern Food Pantry. Employees received 84 gift tags that provided the gender, age, clothing size and other buying tips for each child, then purchased presents for the children. The wrapped gifts will be delivered to the St. Lawrence Center in Albion by one of the facility's CWP crews for distribution to the families. Our employees are always generous and enjoy this yearly tradition.



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Around the Centers...

Wernersville Supports Toys for Tots

Wernersville Community Corrections Center (CCC) held a toy drive for Toys for Tots to celebrate the holiday season. CCC Monitor Connie Leymeister, CCC Monitor Sonya Wentzel and Building 18/19 Center Director Anne Barton delivered toys collected at the center to the Toys for Tots donations locally to Conrad Weiser



Middle School. The school staff were very appreciative of all the donations and staff said it was a wonderful experience for everyone at the center as well.

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Scranton CCC Donates Toys to Local Center

Throughout November reentrants at Scranton Community Corrections Center donated toys to support the Scranton United Neighborhood Center. In total, they donated \$400 worth of toys!



Pictured from left are Gus Fahey and Francis Chandler, case workers at the neighborhood center, and Kenny Jordan, Scranton CCC counselor.

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Harrisburg CCC In Fire Safety Compliance

City of Harrisburg Fire Inspector Ron E. Gallatin Jr. posed for a photo with Harrisburg Community Corrections Center staff after completing his annual fire inspection of the facility Dec. 7. HCCC was found to be in compliance of the inspection, and Inspector Gallatin shared helpful information.



Pictured from left: Acting Counselor Supervisor Kevin Sommers, CCC Monitor Stephanie Ream and Inspector Ron Gallatin.

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Week of December 3...

Wetzel Participates in Washington Post Live Panel on PA's Leadership Role in Criminal Justice Reform

In Washington, DC, on Dec. 4, Corrections Secretary John Wetzel joined Governor Tom Wolf in a [Washington Post Live](#) panel discussion, "Tackling Mass Incarceration: A View from Pennsylvania." The panel focused on Pennsylvania's leadership role in criminal justice reform, including the state being first in the nation to pass Clean Slate legislation. Joining Gov. Wolf and Wetzel was Rep. Sheryl DeLozier. Wesley Lowery, Washington Post national correspondent, served as panel moderator.



"Pennsylvania has taken a bipartisan, collaborative approach to criminal justice reform," Gov. Wolf said. "The goal is to get people out of our prisons and back into being productive members of their communities and of our state, and Clean Slate makes it easier for those who have interacted with the justice system to reduce the stigma they face when looking for employment and housing.

"It baffles me the impact one or two people can have in holding up good, data-driven policy." - @DOCSecretary on #FirstStepAct #PostLive

"It's my hope that Congress takes Pennsylvania's lead and passes similar legislation at the national level."

The panel was part of a multi-panel series that included topics on conviction and clemency, a bipartisan approach to criminal justice reform, and the First Step Act

currently being considered by Congress. Sens. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) participated on the First Step panel.

Gov. Wolf [signed the Clean Slate legislation](#) in June and has called for more meaningful criminal justice reform including passage of the second round of Justice Reinvestment Initiative, or JRI2, bail and pre-trial reforms, Post-Conviction Relief Act expansion, probation and parole revocation and resentencing and indigent defense.

"The Washington Post panel discussion was an excellent opportunity for Pennsylvania to be recognized for its efforts to establish fair, bipartisan, common-sense criminal justice reform initiatives and I'm proud to have been a part of this ongoing conversation," Gov. Wolf said.

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Teacher Spotlight: SCI Camp Hill's Sandy Law

The biggest difference between Sandy Law's previous students and present students is simply their age.

Both sets of students are emotional. Both have family issues. And both generally want to leave class early.

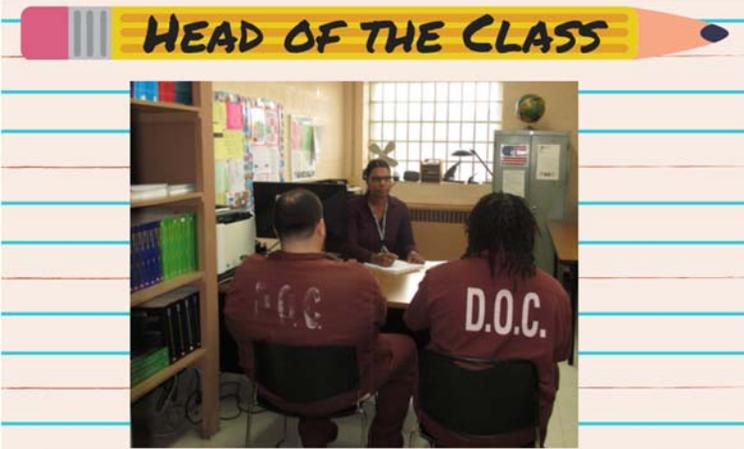
But at her previous school, students were teenagers. At her current school?

"We can have 19, 20, 21, all the way to 62," Sandy said. "I have one who is older now."

Sandy is the general population guidance counselor at SCI Camp Hill, a position she's held for more than two years. Her previous experience was at a public high school, but she knew she wanted to work for the state in some capacity. She saw the posting for a guidance counselor in a prison, and she decided to go for it.

And she has no regrets.

"I love working in the prison," Sandy said. "I did 40 credits in criminal justice as an undergrad. I love the field but just didn't go in fresh out of college."



Name:	Sandy Law	Subject:	Guidance Counselor
Facility:	SCI Camp Hill	Length of Service:	2 years
Why:	"Seeing them receive that diploma, when they say 'I never thought this was possible'... that moment is special."		



Her role as a counselor in a prison is the same as in a public school. Sandy helps the students figure out what classes to take and what credits they need to earn their degrees. SCI Camp Hill offers programs for inmates to earn diplomas and GEDs, as well as vocational programming (barber, HVAC, print shop and business.)

Class is consistent with public high school in terms of credits and hours. One credit equals 120 hours of class, and 16 credits are required to graduate.

"We do transcripts for them," Sandy said. "If I have someone who went to high school but dropped out in 9th or 10th grade, we work on their transcript and figure out what they need to take."

While her focus is education, Sandy also serves a role as an unofficial "psychological" counselor. Much like in public schools, her sessions may turn into traditional counseling as students deal with grief, bullying, emotional issues or other struggles. Sometimes she's even had to send students to the psychologist for immediate help.

Sandy credits her appreciation of education as to why she does what she does.

"An inmate said 'You have a master's degree. Why are you here?'" Sandy said. "I'm passionate about education, and I'm successful because I'm educated. If I can help my students achieve their academic goals, it will help them be successful when they parole."

Seeing her students earn their diplomas is another thing that reaffirms Sandy in what she's doing. To date she has had 23 students earn their GED and 69 earn their high school diploma—including recently a 62-year-old. Among the biggest challenges she faces is simply her students' pride and cultural differences.

"Men don't like it when you say, 'You failed in high school, let's do this together and fix it,'" Sandy said.

The other struggle is support. In a public school, counselors can reach out to family members for help. In prisons, they don't have that network to keep them on track.

But that's where Sandy comes in.

She reminds the students why they are doing what they do, and is encouraged by the stories of graduates who send their diplomas to their mom or wives or kids.

"When I meet with students for the first time, that moment when I go over with them and remind them 'You're not too old, let's figure this out together, don't give up.' That moment," Sandy said. "It's like a lightbulb moment when they realize 'Why not?'"

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Officials Present at Forensic Conference

On November 28, DOC Secretary John Wetzel gave the keynote address at the 26th Annual Forensic Rights and Treatment Conference, which was sponsored by Drexel University College of Medicine. This year's conference focused on Crisis Intervention Teams and current issues, such as correctional census reduction and human trafficking.

Secretary Wetzel provided an overview of criminal justice and forensic mental health initiatives (e.g., "Stepping Up") occurring not only in Pennsylvania but also in the rest of the United States. His overview was extremely insightful in that as a nationally-recognized thought leader, he was able to describe to mental health stakeholders from PA exactly where Pennsylvania stands in relation to the rest of the country.

Secretary Wetzel's discussion provided an uplifting and empowering tone to the entire conference, which was attended by representatives from the Pennsylvania Psychological Association, PA state universities, the Department of Human Services, OMHSAS, Norristown State Hospital, Human Services Administration Organization, MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge, Council of State Governments, ASERT, Action Wellness, Recovery Institute, INC, Allegheny County & Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, as well as more than 30 current and former employees of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.

Secretary Wetzel also discussed several areas of concern that national correctional leaders are discussing, including how the corrections industry interfaces with the problem of human trafficking. Secretary Wetzel provided a thorough overview of the ongoing progress with certified peer specialists in our system as well as the success and expansion of Medication Assisted Treatments (e.g., Vivitrol) in the PA Department of Corrections.

The secretary also fielded several questions from attendees, which included inquiries related to training initiatives that the DOC is pursuing.

Here, Secretary Wetzel provided an overview of the Department's CITT (Crisis Intervention Team Training) program and even called on several DOC employees (Superintendent Dr. Robert Marsh and CITT Coordinator James Kehoe) to provide their insight and experience with the CITT training to the entire conference; this was very well received by all in attendance!



Finally, Secretary Wetzel emphasized to all in attendance his ongoing commitment to ensuring that decisions in the PA Department of Corrections will continue to be based on data and evidence based practices, as well as his commitment to ensuring that criminal justice processes in the commonwealth consider those individuals we serve are not only being treated with respect, dignity, and professionalism, but that their humanity is kept in mind throughout this process. Throughout this concluding discussion, Secretary Wetzel emphasized that accomplishing this effort must also consider the safety of correctional and mental health professionals working in our prisons and communities.

On the conference planning committee were Dr. Robert Marsh, who is superintendent of SCI Benner Township; Dr. Lance Couturier, former licensed psychologist director of the PA DOC; and Greg Plotica, current licensed psychologist manager at SCI Camp Hill.

Faculty include Dr. Lucas Malishchak, director of the DOC's Psychology Office; Lynn Patrone, the DOC's Mental Health Advocate; Kellie Nielsen, psychological services associate at SCI Camp Hill; Miranda Galbreath, psychological services specialist at SCI Albion; Amy Talipski, drug and alcohol treatment specialist 2 at SCI Waymart; Danielle Tedesco, psychological services specialist at SCI Camp Hill; Kathleen Kocherzat, licensed psychologist manager at SCI Mercer; Rev. John Kowalczyk, contractor at SCI Waymart; Dr. Tricia Mikolon, psychological services specialist at SCI Waymart; Dr. Cynthia Wright, DOC regional licensed psychologist manager; Dr. Lance Couturier, former licensed psychologist director of the PA DOC; and DOC Secretary John Wetzel.

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Fayette Holds Annual Veterans Recognition Ceremony

On Nov. 29, SCI Fayette held its 4th Annual Veterans Recognition Ceremony in the prison's chapel. The guest speaker for the event was Francis Thurmond, who gave a comprehensive speech on his time spent in the US Air Force.

The theme of this year's ceremony was the Vietnam war; a static display of a "tiger cage" which was used widely by the enemy during this conflict was on display. An action figure was placed inside of it to demonstrate the tight confines of such a structure.



A portion of the inmate population, who all were prior service members attended, as did several employees. Those who attended said it was a positive experience and look forward to future ceremonies in coming years.



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DOC Offers Video Visitation Statewide

In October the Department of Corrections began a video visiting program.

"We know traveling to some of our rural prisons can be a challenge for some due to weather conditions, visitors' physical limitations, trip lengths and financial issues," said Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal. "Because of these challenges and because we understand the importance of an inmate's family support, the department now provides video visitation at all of its state prisons and at select community corrections centers free for approved inmates' families and friends."

Video Visitation, which began October 29, is not intended to replace in-person visits at state prisons but rather is to provide an additional way for family and friends to remain connected with their incarcerated loved ones.

For visitors to use the video visitation system, they must already be on an inmate's approved visitors list, and they must register with GTL online at <https://padoc.gtlvisitme.com> or by using the Android App: "GTL VisMobile." Once registered, individuals can schedule their visits through GTL. Visitors who have been restricted from visiting may not participate in the program.

Visits must be scheduled a minimum of 48 hours and a maximum of seven days in advance, and visitors must arrive at the video visitation site at least 15 minutes before the scheduled visit. Visits begin at the top of the hour for a duration of 50 minutes. Up to three approved individuals may visit at one time.



A row of video visitation booths, which are located in the main lobby of SCI Phoenix.

Once registered and a visit is scheduled, visitors may go to any state correctional institution or the specific location in Philadelphia to access the video visitation service. Video Visits take place according to each facility's existing visitation schedule, which can be referenced by the DOC's website at www.cor.pa.gov – click on "For Family and Friends" and then "Visit Days/Times" to obtain specific state prison visiting days/times.

Visitors must bring two forms of ID, one with a photo, with them to the video visitation site. No one will be admitted without proper ID.

Scotland Yard, which currently operates Virtual Visitation with 10 state prisons, will continue to offer visits at locations in Erie, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia until the end of December.

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Inmate Mentoring at SCI Albion

By Karla Webb, Unit Manager

Prior to becoming a unit manager 1, I was a treatment specialist who worked with a group of lifers/long timers on the Day of Responsibility that was held in 2011. During our monthly meeting, we would brainstorm on what more we could do.

Finally, by 2016 we developed the inmate **youth mentoring league**. I am part creator and coordinator of the program. Since I was part of developing the program with the group of inmates, I just assumed the duties of planning. I do it because I believe in the idea of the program.

The actual league meets weekly, and the committee myself and the inmates meet monthly. The program has been running for almost two years. The scope of the program is the mentors and mentees meet in the Activities Department on Friday evenings. One mentor then picks a value term and they give a brief presentation of what it looks like and how it is used in day to day life both in and out of prison. For the next 45 minutes, they play a sport (basketball, volleyball, etc.) and break off into several different teams. If one of the mentees exhibits a behavior that is not acceptable they have "PAUSE" moment where they come together as a whole group to discuss why it is not acceptable and what could have been done differently.

After the games, they meet as a group again, and the mentor then gives a brief inspirational talk about how to apply that skill to their lives and why it is important to do the right thing. An activities employee provides supervision; however, we are looking to branch out. When the gym is not available they are in the Chapel doing more small group activities or watching a movie.

The time I volunteer varies, and I try and give it as much attention as I can. In February 2017, we had Penn State Behrend professors, in conjunction with the Mentoring Partnership, come to Albion and provide formal mentor training. Each inmate paid \$15 for this training.

We currently have 27 mentors and the number of mentees varies weekly, but usually is around 40-45 mentees. The program is voluntary, and we reach out to youth ages 18-24. We have been expanding the age range over the last several months, as we determined mentoring has no age limits.

The best example of a mentor is this: We had an inmate who was threatening to jump from the top tier and refused to talk to any staff, peer support inmates or psychology staff. The mentor went over and deescalated the situation by just talking about his own life experiences. The other inmate came off the top tier with no issues.

We all have mentors whether it be formal or not. With this population, the long timers are trying to give back, because most of them may never leave here. **The goal is to get people to complete programs, get an education, get a job and build life skills so that they have a less chance of returning to prison.**

Mentor & Mentee Quotes

"Being a mentor is a way for me to give back. Aside from what we do for these young men, this program also has been a part of my rehabilitation process. My life has been a series of give and take. Early on my focus was taking and I took too much. That imbalance ultimately landed me in prison with a life sentence. I'm trying to restore that balance. This program helps me do that."

"What I get out of this program is that they give us a different way of looking at things. You can tell that they want good for us and I've never really had that. That's rare in a place like this. Plus, I really like the activities."

We are trying to build a program to provide this information to at-risk youth in the community, however that is a work in progress. It also allows people to meet someone they may never have met otherwise. With the recent spike in suicide and drug use, this program also provides another layer of support to the inmate population. I have inmates writing to me daily asking to be a part of the program.

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Technology Collaborations Result in Recognition

On November 28, several DOC employees were among those recognized at the PA Digital Government Summit where they received the PA Excellence in Technology award.

Awards were presented to:

Medical Assistance Team Collaboration

JNET, in collaboration with the Departments of Corrections and Human Services, built a service to integrate events from state and

county prisons into DHS's medical assistance (MA) system. The goal of the system was to streamline the process for applying for MA coverage for



inmates returning to the community within the state. The previous MA application process was both labor-intensive and time consuming.

The implementation of the intra-agency data exchange—using JNET’s messaging infrastructure—automated the MA benefit application process for all reentrants. Additionally, the data exchange includes sharing newly-admitted inmate information with DHS, allowing that agency to suspend any benefits upon incarceration, which helps to reduce the potential for benefits fraud.

In the first six months of use, more than 7,500 inmates could be pre-registered for benefits due to sharing of inmates’ projected release dates with DHS. Additionally, more than 44,000 inmates had their benefits automatically suspended due to the sharing of prison admission or transfer data.

Award Recipients:

JNET Staff: Rakesh Paidi, Dhval Mudawal, Craig Barnhart, Janardhan Muduganti, Kelly Nissley, Diane Klimovsky-Gentile, Joe Centurione

Department of Corrections: Sridher Nagamalla, Sridhar Seeduri, Nava Mohan Kattamuri, Robert Moore, Susan Mathis, Mai Dang, Erin Clark-Labate, Jodie White, Kathleen Sabulsky

Department of Human Services: Nicole Silks, Nicole Blythe, Marcia Mikos, Allen Roser, John Cayaban, Derek Warke

Video Visitation

To help inmates maintain and strengthen family ties and support, the DOC implemented a new multiplatform solution for video visitations. Family visitation improves inmate outcomes by easing the transition of



reentrants to the community—resulting in lower crime and incarceration rates. Video visitation allows families to visit inmates through video conferencing-like technology housed at any DOC location within the Commonwealth. Family members can simply visit the DOC location most convenient to them for a video visit rather than bear the time and expense to potentially travel across the state for a traditional visit. Video visitation works in conjunction with internal DOC applications which allow for the initiation, termination and monitoring of the visits for security purposes. The members of the Video Visitation project team coordinated the development, configuration and implementation of multiple systems to ensure they worked seamlessly to enable video visitation on a statewide level. It is estimated that the system will be used more than 8,100 times in its first year of use alone.

Award Recipients

Marcia Barnhart, Sridher Nagamalla, Marcus Shughart, Nelson Rodriguez, Mark Frank, Lt. Charles Butts, Cheryl Scott, De'Andra Walker

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102 Inmates Graduate with Degrees, Certifications at Mahanoy

SCI Mahanoy celebrated its 25th Annual Graduation Ceremony on Nov. 7. Eight students received their GED's, and eight students received their Commonwealth School Diplomas during the ceremony.

In addition, 86 students received certificates in automotive, barber, business education cluster, electronics and warehousing programs.

Seven students will also be receiving Certificates of Rehabilitative Justice from Bloomsburg University as part of the Pell Grant Program in Dec. 2018.

Guest speakers in attendance were Dr. James Brown, Bloomsburg University, and Nattalie Castro and Lamont Jones, re-entry coordinators for Harrisburg Area Community College. Acting Principal Brandon Daynorowicz welcomed everyone to the ceremony. (Pictured)

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Retreat Holds Graduation, 100 Inmates Earn Degrees

SCI Retreat held its annual Graduation Ceremony on Nov. 28. There were a total of 100 inmates graduating this year. The keynote speaker for this year's ceremony was Boris Baxter, the Development Director from Jubilee Ministries located in Lebanon, PA. Baxter spoke about his transformation from being a former inmate to helping reentrants successfully make it in life.



At the ceremony, 27 inmates received commonwealth secondary diplomas (CSD); eight inmates received their general education diplomas (GED); seven inmates received barber licenses; and 53 inmates received vocational diplomas in the following trades: National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Certifications and Certified Washroom Technicians. Diplomas and degrees were issued for college correspondence courses as well. There were four diplomas issued from Stratford Career Institute; one from Victory Prison Ministry Bible Institute; and one PHD from Shalom Bible College & Seminary.

The ceremony was held in the gymnasium, where the students could share this important milestone with their family and friends. SCI Retreat congratulates all who earned their diplomas/certifications and for a job well done!

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Dallas Honors Veterans with Veterans Day Ceremony

SCI Dallas held its annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 13 in the chapel.

Inmate veterans from the Navy and Marine Corps spoke, and the Inmate Veterans Organization presented a donation to the St. Francis Commons Veteran's Homeless Shelter of Scranton.



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Coal Township Employees Presented with DOC 25 Years of Service Certificates

Superintendent Tom McGinley presented Corrections Officer Scott Allan and Corrections Officer Michael Walker with certificates and service pins in recognition of 25 Years of DOC service.



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Camp Hill Counselor Earns State Award

SCI Camp Hill's Denise Bryington was awarded the Pennsylvania Forensic Rights and Treatment Conference Award.

The award is for "individuals who work on a grass roots level and make a difference for persons with mental illness in forensic settings."

Bryington, a corrections counselor II, works in the residential treatment unit but also facilitates the Certified Peer Specialist Program. Her nomination said "all general population inmates at SCI Camp Hill recognize her and respect her work. Mrs. Bryington's dedication, focus, advocacy and work ethic in the field is inspirational."



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Snowy Owl Released from Smithfield

Nearly one year ago, SCI Smithfield rescued a snowy owl on Christmas morning. He was given the adopted name of "St. Nick" by rehab staff and nursed back to health.

On Nov. 29, St. Nick was successfully released back into the wild. Great job by the rehab staff, and fly well, St. Nick!



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Dunbar Named Volunteer of the Year at Chester Banquet

More than 200 volunteers attended the annual Volunteer Banquet at SCI Chester on Nov. 6. The event began with updated security and PREA training, then the volunteers escorted to the gym for a banquet in their honor.

This is the 20th year that SCI Chester has hosted the volunteer banquet. William Dunbar (pictured), who has been coming in and teaching religious services since SCI Chester opened, was presented with the Volunteer of the Year award. Each participant received a certificate of appreciate as well as a small gift.



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Chester Inmates Run Chilly Turkey Trot

For the second year in a row, SCI Chester's Inmate Improvement Organization hosted a Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning.

More than 50 inmates braved the freezing Thanksgiving morning air and ran 3.1 miles, which is 25 laps around Chester's

track. The fastest time was 24:11. Runners were joined by some of the WAGs at Chester dogs.



In order to participate, all runners had to pay an entry fee of \$3 with all money being donated to Toys for Tots. The IIO met the donations, so the overall contribution was \$350.

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Annual Deer Hunt Held

On Dec. 1, SCI Dallas held its 4th Annual Veterans Hunt, where 31 veterans participated, and 32 deer were harvested.

The annual event is organized and operated by employee volunteers who, while they may not necessarily have the time, they have the heart and make the time.

Participating veterans express their thanks for the opportunity to put some meat into their freezers and for the day of comradery.

This event is something the veterans and volunteers look forward to every year.



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Penn State University Staff Speak to QBC Population

As part of our reentry efforts, Penn State University staff members (Melissa Duttry, Director of Enrollment Services; Rebecca Pennington, Director of Student Affairs; and Holli Lashinsky, Assistant Director of Admissions, Enrollment Services) again visited Quehanna Boot Camp on Nov. 9 to discuss the following with the Boot Camp and SIP populations:

- PSU application process
- Judicial review process
- Financial Aid application process
- Overview of PSU Academic programs
- Career piece: What can a person do with a felony on their record?

Also in attendance from Penn State was Tharren Thompson, enrollment specialist, veterans services. Thompson discussed veterans benefits that are available.

Approximately 115 inmates attended the presentation and actively participated by giving their full attention and asking relevant questions.

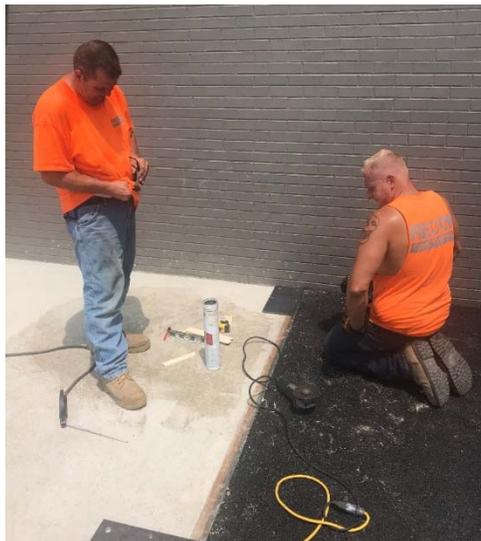
Thank you to Penn State University and Reentry Specialist Dunn for their continued efforts to inform Quehanna's population about academic options.



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During the initial stages of this project one reentrant from the Sharon Community Corrections Center (CCC) walked up to the jobsite, introduced himself and asked Landino if help was needed, as he had experience in a variety of construction trades. This initial introduction eventually turned into that reentrant becoming a full-time employee of RECON and his earning a significant amount of responsibility in the project and eventually the company.

From this one reentrant interaction and hiring, Landino continued to include Sharon CCC reentrants, who were skilled in a variety of building trades, into future projects. Presently, RECON employs six reentrants in a variety of trades such as welding, masonry, electrical, landscaping and equipment operation.



As the number of reentrants RECON employed through the Sharon CCC grew, so did the relationship that center staff developed with Landino.

"The most impressive quality that Mr. Landino possess is his willingness to reach out to individuals whom others may easily overlook, while empowering them to apply the skills and knowledge that they have to improve their lives and the lives of their family members," said William Murray, director of the Sharon CCC. "He acknowledges that the reentrants in this program have at one point in their lives made a poor decision with significant consequences; however, he does not allow that decision or the person's current address define them as who they are or who they can become with the proper support system around them."

Landino has not only welcomed the reentrants of the Sharon CCC into his company, but has welcomed them into his personal life. He considers them friends and invests his time and attention in them not only when they are working but into their overall reentry.

"Mr. Landino and his vision to revitalize vacant buildings in Sharon has extended out into revitalizing the lives of those around him," Murray said. "We at the Sharon CCC are grateful for the opportunities and support that he has provided the

reentrants of this program, and we continue to look forward to working with him in his vision to improve the community in which we live."

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Erie Reentrants Collect More Than 100 Toys for Children

Erie Community Corrections Center conducted a Toys for Tots drive at the center for Christmas. More than 100 toys were donated by reentrants and staff during the drive, which was coordinated by CCC Monitor Joseph Mayo. The toys were donated to the local U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Unit to be distributed to local children in need.



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Sharon CCC Reentrants Beautify Town of Sharon

Sharon Community Corrections Center reentrants continue to work alongside the Sharon Beautification Commission planting trees and other plants in public areas throughout the city. Multiple community organizations joined together for this multi-weekend project that recently occurred which was intended to promote the use of outdoor space in the city. Pictured below are reentrants planting trees in the Literary Garden of the Shenango Valley Community Library and in a seating area in Riverview Park which overlooks the Shenango River.



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In Lieu of Gift Exchange, Region 3 Staff Donate to Soldiers

BCC Region 3 Office staff members chose to participate in the Stockings for Soldiers & Veterans Program this year instead of an office gift exchange. Money was donated, and we purchased items in bulk to stuff 15 stockings to the very top to help bring a smile to the face of a soldier serving overseas.

We included granola bars, hot cocoa, individual drink mixes, fruit snacks, easy mac & cheese, oatmeal, microwave popcorn, tuna packages, baby wipes, Gold Bond powder, Q-Tips, a deck of playing cards, a puzzle book, pen, a pair of dice, a nerf ball and a Christmas card in each stocking.



The program was sponsored locally by Beinhauer Family Funeral Homes, who provided the stockings and the shipping of the stockings. Staff at Beinhauer were grateful for our contributions. They supplied 3,600 stockings to be filled this year to various people. They collect the stuffed stockings and ship them to a stateside military base, who then distribute the stockings overseas to the soldiers. One soldier who was attending a funeral at their facility made it a point to stop at the office and thank them for the stocking program. The soldiers know they are likely to get a package from various family members, but they were extremely overwhelmed by the kindness of strangers who sent the items out of the goodness of their hearts. They said it made their month, not just a day, to know that citizens appreciate their service to our country.

The staff had fun spending their lunch period trying to get the items to all fit into the stockings, and expressed a desire to do this again next year.



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Week of November 26...

Secretary Wetzel Addresses County Commissioners



On November 20, DOC Secretary John Wetzel spoke at the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania's fall conference where he discussed issues revolving around drugs, justice reinvestment and veterans units opened in state prisons.

Specifically, he encouraged county participation in Medication Assisted Treatment – the DOC has a \$5 million grant for such treatment. He also spoke about Justice Reinvestment Initiative 2, which is a bill that funds county intermediate punishment; and about the DOC's three veterans service units for men and the newly-opened VSU for female inmates at SCI Muncy.

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Smithfield Employees Visit Local Veterans Homes

By Jamie Ardrey, Corrections Officer 1

I started an organization a few years ago made up of friends, family, staff from SCI Smithfield, local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the officers' union and employees from some of the local hospitals. It's called Friends of Vets (FOV).

We all round up small needs for our local veterans such as tissues, hand sanitizer, lap blankets, lotions, slippers, pajamas, adult coloring books, hats, DVD movies, board games, playing cards, puzzle books, t-shirts, socks, calendars and small snacks. We make goodie bags for approximately 100-150 veterans. We have the local schools make all the veterans a Christmas card and we pass out a letter of appreciation to all the veterans thanking them for their sacrifice and service to our country. I also have volunteers that bring dogs in for the veterans to see.



Group who visited the Veterans Home in 2017

This year we will be meeting at the Veterans Home in Hollidaysburg, Pa., on December 21st at 6:30 to pass out gifts and spend time with our heroes. The veterans love seeing the children and the puppies. We usually spend 2-3 hours that night with the veterans. Some of these men and women have no family and this might be their only visit for the holidays or all year. The visits don't stop there. I have 30-40 volunteers that attend and many continue to go back throughout the year and keep in touch. We all make new friends that night.

I always enjoyed helping veterans. My grandfathers, uncles, brother and cousins all served in the military. I served in the Navy from 1990 to 1998. A few years ago, my sister-in-law introduced me to the veterans representative for Aseracare in Altoona, Pa. They are a hospice company that uses veteran volunteers to go visit with dying veterans. I've learned that talking with these very sick men and women—when you talk to them



LEFT -- Pat Hughes, an SCI Smithfield maintenance department employee, poses with the items delivered to the VA home in 2017.

about their service—brings them back to their younger days and all the good times they had. It takes them away from where they are now for a moment. You can learn a lot from WWII and Vietnam veterans. Their stories are amazing. I recently had the pleasure to meet a WWII Navy pilot who was shot down and was a POW. There are not many WWII veterans around anymore.



RIGHT -- Officer Ardrey's wife, Renee, and his sister, Lisa, visit with a veteran at his bedside.



LEFT -- Officer Ardrey with a WWII veteran, who passed away one week after the 2017 visit.

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Camp Hill Inmates Hear Directly from Crime Victims

For decades, DOC facilities have held Impact of Crime Classes, which are mandatory for some inmates to attend based upon their crimes.

Over the past two months, SCI Camp Hill held two ICC classes that featured these speakers:

- On October 16, Ron and Linda Moyer spoke to inmates about their inspirational journey toward healing following the tragic death of their son, Ethan, in a DUI crash. Attendees also included a program researcher from Penn State-Harrisburg and students and faculty from Gettysburg College. On October 24, the Moyers were joined by the inmate in their case to address the ICC Instructor Course at the DOC Training Academy in Elizabethtown.
- On November 13, Michelle Sibert, executive director of the Cumberland County Victim Services Division of the District Attorney's Office, addressed SCI Camp Hill's ICC on the challenges victims face during their involvement with the criminal justice system. Her office aims to assist victims through this process, to help them recover from the physical, emotional, and financial impacts of crime, and to ensure their rights are met and their needs are addressed.

According to the Office of Victim Advocate (OVA), ICC is a voluntary, interactive and educational program designed to raise an inmate's awareness about the impact of crime on victims. It also is designed to increase inmates' levels of accountability and empathy for those they harmed, while providing a healing platform for victims and survivors of crime to share their experiences.

The OVA worked with the DOC to develop a curriculum for the Impact of Crime Program, which reflects what victims and victim advocates throughout Pennsylvania want inmates to know about the effect of crime on victims. This course does not affect an inmate's institutional status or increase an inmate's chances for release as it is a voluntary program.

The curriculum used in Pennsylvania focuses on the following offenses:

- Property Crime and Violations of Personal Security
- Robbery and Aggravated Assault
- Domestic Violence and Stalking

- Sexual Violence
- Homicide
- Hate/Bias crime
- Driving under the influence

This comprehensive curriculum relies on group activities, videos, lectures and speaker presentations. The speakers are victims and survivors of crime who enhance the program through the sharing of their experiences of crime and their journey to recovery.

Individuals interested in becoming a speaker for the Impact of Crime Classes or who have questions are asked to contact OVA at 800-563-6399.

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Last “Juvenile” Lifer Video Conference Held

On November 19, “Juvenile” Lifer project manager Robert Hammond conducted the Department of Corrections’ last video conference (VC) from the Philadelphia Community Corrections Center (CCC) #2.



Jill Deiley (DOC Senior Policy Analyst), Brad Bridge (Philadelphia Defenders Association), Arianna Freeman (Federal Defenders Association), Jackie Rupert (CCC #2 Director), Helen Levin (Philadelphia Defenders Association), Brooke McCarthy (Juvenile Law Center).

In 2012 a legal ruling declared it was unconstitutional to sentence a juvenile offender to a mandatory life without parole sentence.

Corrections Secretary John Wetzel gathered DOC officials to set the tone and scope of work to ensure that “juvenile” lifers in Pennsylvania – individuals who previously had no way of being released from prison other than a change in sentence or death – now were provided with programming that only had been provided to individuals who would be released. That included educational classes, treatment programs and specially-designed programs just for them to help long-term inmates be brought up-to-date with society and technology in the community, i.e. cell phones and computers. These inmates were moved to the top of the list of inmates requiring reentry programming that included reunification with family and friends, resume writing, etc.

Part of the DOC’s work to prepare the “juvenile” lifers for possible release included the holding of monthly video conferences (VCs) that allowed these inmates to speak with DOC officials and even public defenders.

The purpose of the VCs was to disseminate pertinent information to the “juvenile” lifer population regarding their situation to prevent anxiety and increase knowledge regarding the Supreme Court rulings.

The VCs were broken up into four meetings -- female, Eastern Region, Central Region and Western Region. Each VC lasted approximately one hour.

The inmates asked questions regarding their release, such as would they go to a center or to their approved home plan, access to health care and psychological services, and housing and family reunification.

At the time of the 2012 ruling, Pennsylvania had the largest number of “juvenile” lifers: 522. Since the ruling was issued and as of November 2018, 388 of the 519 cases have been resentenced, with 158 of those 388 inmates having been released from prison.

The DOC now has just more than 90 “juvenile” lifer cases that are awaiting resentencing. The DOC and its employees will continue to prepare these individuals for potential release.

Other highlights of the “Juvenile” Lifer project:

- We partnered with attorneys (public defenders, federal, and private) and community partners to provide workshops, friends and family day events and town hall meetings to educate families of this unique phenomenon in U.S. history.
- We created institutional and community “juvenile” lifer support groups to help the inmates cope with their possible release or new opportunity at freedom.
- We collaborated with the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole to ensure that all board members were aware of the uniqueness of the “juvenile” lifer case. We held monthly DOC/PBPP/BCC “juvenile” lifer meetings to go over major issues, “juvenile” lifer parole cases and processes to ensure that these inmates are receiving adequate services pre- and post-release.

- We offered virtual reality to “juvenile” lifers to ease the stress of going to a CCC.
- We provided monthly psych contacts for all “juvenile” lifers.
- PBPP Chairman Leo Dunn toured the facilities giving presentations on the parole process to the “juvenile” lifer population.
- We provided videos of the Commonwealth v. Batts case that dealt with the incorrigibility of “juvenile” lifers.

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Consolidation of Human Resources Office to Begin in 2019

In early 2019, the commonwealth will begin transitioning DOC field human resources offices to the state’s Public Safety Delivery Center (PSDC). The PSDC consists of agencies whose missions are to keep the public safe, such as the DOC, state police and probation and parole, among others.

The goal of the transition is to improve service delivery through process improvements, streamlining processes and capitalizing on employee expertise.

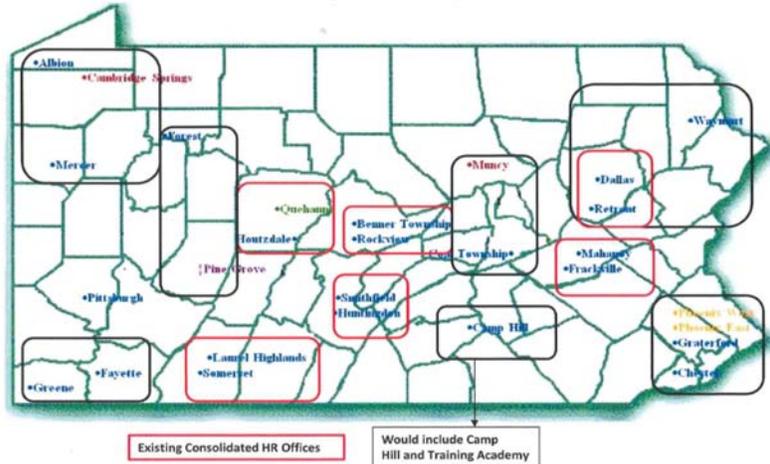
While a “transition” will take place, not everyone will be relocating physically, but some of the HR employees will now provide services to employees from other DOC facilities and even other public safety agencies.

Specifically, within the DOC, officials will further consolidate 13 existing HR offices into six offices:

- Albion/Cambridge Springs/Mercer
- Forest/Pine Grove
- Greene/Fayette
- Muncy/Coal Township
- Dallas/Retreat/Waymart
- Phoenix/Chester

The DOC previously consolidated other HR offices, and those will not be affected by this change. Those previous consolidations involved SCIs Benner Township & Rockview, Smithfield & Huntingdon, Mahanoy & Frackville, Quehanna & Houtzdale and Laurel Highlands & Somerset.

This image shows the new consolidations, which are surrounded by a black line.



The new consolidations will result in a new field human resource officer position being created to manage the new offices. Employees shouldn't notice much of a change, if any, except for perhaps an increase in the quality of HR services being provided to them.

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PBPP Chairman Dunn Visits Pine Grove

Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole Chairman Leo Dunn provided an educational presentation about the state's parole process to inmates at SCI Pine Grove on Nov. 26. Tim Douglas, Hearing Examiner from Washington County, and Jay Williams, District Director from Mercer, were also on hand.



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Fire Safety and Sanitation Program Awards Announced at Camp Hill

The SCI Camp Hill Safety Office has implemented a program for fire safety and sanitation that is designed to recognize an individual, department or personnel who goes 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 program was implemented in January 2017 with the intent to show appreciation for their hard work and true concern for the environment that we all live and work in daily.

The Certificate of Excellence for Fire Safety and Sanitation for the second quarter was awarded to the SCI Camp Hill Utility Plant. Pictured below (from right to left) are: Institution Safety Manager Gregory Carbaugh, Facility Maintenance Manager Matt Klopotek, Fire Safety Specialist Doug Hollobaugh, Utility Plant Supervisor Tim Kirkessner, Utility Plant Operator William Shaffer and Utility Plant Mechanic Gary Noblit.



The Certificate of Excellence for Fire Safety and Sanitation for the third quarter was awarded to the SCI Camp Hill Barber Shop. Pictured below (from left to right) are: Fire Safety Specialist Doug Hollobaugh, Barber Burr Edsall and School Principal Bruce Elliott.



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.

Camp Hill also honored recently-retired Corrections Officer Lawrence Rhody, who was recognized for over 12 years of dedication to the SCI Camp Hill FERT Team.



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Coal Township Contributes to Shikellamy Middle School Career Day

Corrections Counselor
Jason Gatewood
participated in a Career
Day at Shikellamy Middle
School, Sunbury, Pa., on
Nov. 19.

In a letter from School
Counselor Jordan Rickert,
she stated, "Our career day
is being held to expose our
students to individuals in
the community who are
working in careers that
they have expressed an
interest in pursuing. It is
our goal to have students
exploring careers now, so they can make informed choices on how they schedule
classes for their high school years."



The day's format was to expose students to the five career pathways identified in the Career Education and Work Standards as adopted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Gatewood presented information regarding the various Pennsylvania DOC careers and responded to questions from the students. The staff at Shikellamy Middle School expressed their appreciation for Gatewood's presentation and stated he did a fabulous job with the students.

This is the second year that SCI Coal Township participated in the Shikellamy School District's Career Day.

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Frackville Medical Director Retires

Dr. Haresh Pandya, medical director at SCI Frackville, bid farewell on Nov. 21 as he retired. Pandya was a regional medical director in the Michigan DOC before being recruited to the Pennsylvania DOC in 2015. He worked at SCI Graterford and SCI Mahanoy as a staff physician. He became the medical director at SCI Frackville in Sept. 2015, and he retired Nov. 21, 2018.

Carla Orris, RN at SCI Frackville, wrote Pandya's "claim to fame at SCI Frackville was the most important act in life: love. His love for others and gentle kindness is a rare exhibit in mankind these days."

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Greene Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Staff celebrated SCI Greene's 25th Year Anniversary from Nov. 5-9.

The Empowerment Committee planned a host of activities for the week which began on Monday with an opening ceremony held in the chapel. Superintendent Robert Gilmore welcomed everyone and recognized the nine long-tenured employees who

have been at the facility since its opening. The employees were presented with a beautifully crafted wooden plaque honoring them for their years of employment and dedication to SCI Greene.

The Employee's Association also held a hoagie sale in the staff dining hall.

On Tuesday, staff enjoyed lasagna and garlic bread prepared by dietary staff. A pork roast luncheon was held on Wednesday, and root beer floats and sundaes, from Penn State Creamery, were available for dessert. The officers' union – PSCOA - also provided a variety of toppings for the sundaes.

Approximately 400 employees and their families participated in the Family Tour Night that was offered Thursday evening. Several staff members assisted with the tour preparations and guided the visitors throughout the facility.

On the final day of the celebration, the Anniversary Ceremony was held. The Honor Guard assisted by presenting and retiring the colors for the ceremonial occasion. The keynote speaker was Major of the Guard Wallace Leggett. Maj. Leggett's presentation provided a glimpse of the departmental changes over the years and shared some of the memories he could recall throughout his career.



A time capsule dedication followed during which the Honor Guard collected and placed selected items into the capsule chest. In addition, 69 retirees returned to the facility for a brunch and enjoyed chicken and waffle's prepared by the Dietary Department. The interment of the time capsule finished out the week's celebrations. A challenge coin and various apparels was designed and sold to commemorate the anniversary.

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Huntingdon Staff Partner with PennDOT to Fill a Truck with Food

SCI Huntingdon staff teamed up with our local PennDOT office to fill a dump truck with food prior to Thanksgiving for Huntingdon's food bank. Pictured is the PennDOT dump truck with all the donations. Upon delivery at the food bank, the volunteers commented how appreciative they were of our efforts and how our donations would really help get them through the holidays.



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Muncy Employees Donate Coats to Union County Assistance Office Needy Families Program

The staff at SCI Muncy recently held a coat drive to benefit the Union County Assistance Office's winter coat donation program. More than 20 coats were collected during the drive and delivered to the program's coordinator, Nicole Bingaman. The coats are given to needy families free of charge through this program, and more than 100 families benefit each year.



Unit Manager Eli Stevens delivering the coats to Nicole Bingaman at the Union County CAO.

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Workshop on LIFE Hosted by Mercer

More than 40 inmates and 20 staff members attended a workshop hosted by the SCI Mercer Activities Department entitled "LIFE - Live It Fully Everyday!" on Nov. 14. The presenter, Mark Weir, is the founder and chief education officer for LEADS - Leadership: Exploring And Developing Success.



Weir is a motivational speaker and a Leadership Development and Diversity & Inclusion Consultant from the Pittsburgh area. He has a Master's of Education and Business Administration, has worked at several colleges and has received several honors and awards.

The engaging and interactive workshop involved taking a deeply reflective and introspective look into our lives and how we live our life. The discussion covered remembering the past without over-exaggerating it, looking toward the future without overestimating it and living in the present without underestimating it.

Weir discussed with the group that far too often we lose ourselves in day-to-day living and when life hits us, we immediately think about whose "fault" it is and forget about whose "responsibility" it is.

The workshop focused on healthy, open and honest community discussion about our lives, as well as on where we "fit" into this thing call LIFE. After participation in this workshop, the goal is for the participants to be able to formulate and articulate how they plan to live their lives out fully every day!

Weir's dynamic presentation left attendees energized and uplifted about LIFE.

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PAWS to Recognize DOC Employee

Heather Haldeman is the major of unit management at SCI Rockview who previously worked at SCI Huntingdon and at the DOC's Central Office. She is set to be recognized by PAWS on their website/blog for her work with feral cats.

As you can imagine, prisons often have lots of acreage, and as a result, people often drop off unwanted cats on prison grounds. And for other reasons, cats tend to live around prisons. They become feral, and without proper care, they often multiply.

Haldeman has helped with this issue on her own, and in most cases, she has paid for services and care of these feral prison cats. When she was at Huntingdon, she arranged for the spaying/neutering and administration of rabies and distemper shots for more than 50 cats.



When she transferred to Rockview, which has more than 5,500 acres and several barns, her work continued there. She's almost up to 50 cats at Rockview. PAWS pays for the spaying and neutering, and The Hundred Cat Foundation donates the rabies and distemper meds. Then Haldeman takes the cats to a local vet – All Pets Veterinary Wellness & Spay/Neuter Clinic – which performs the surgeries and administers the shots. She pays for anything above and beyond, such as if a cat needs antibiotics and/or



flea/tick medication. Lyons Kennels in Zion periodically donates bags of cat food as well.

"I do this because I love cats and because it's the right thing to do," Haldeman said.

When you think about it, if she and several of her coworkers - Teresa Falls and Bruce Bender who help with food, Cindy Hampton who fills in when Haldeman is out of town – didn't do what they do, the feral cats would multiply uncontrolled and could develop serious illnesses that could put humans that they encounter in danger.

Once the cats are spayed/neutered, they are returned to prison grounds where they live on the property. Other cats have been adopted out.

Cats aren't the only animals Haldeman has cared for. Whenever there is an injured animal at the prison, she's called upon to catch it and care for it. She's cared for an injured duck, pigeon and a family of baby groundhogs.

We appreciate Major Haldeman's efforts in controlling the feral cat population wherever she works in the DOC!

Resources:

<https://www.paws.org/>

<http://www.hundredcats.org/>

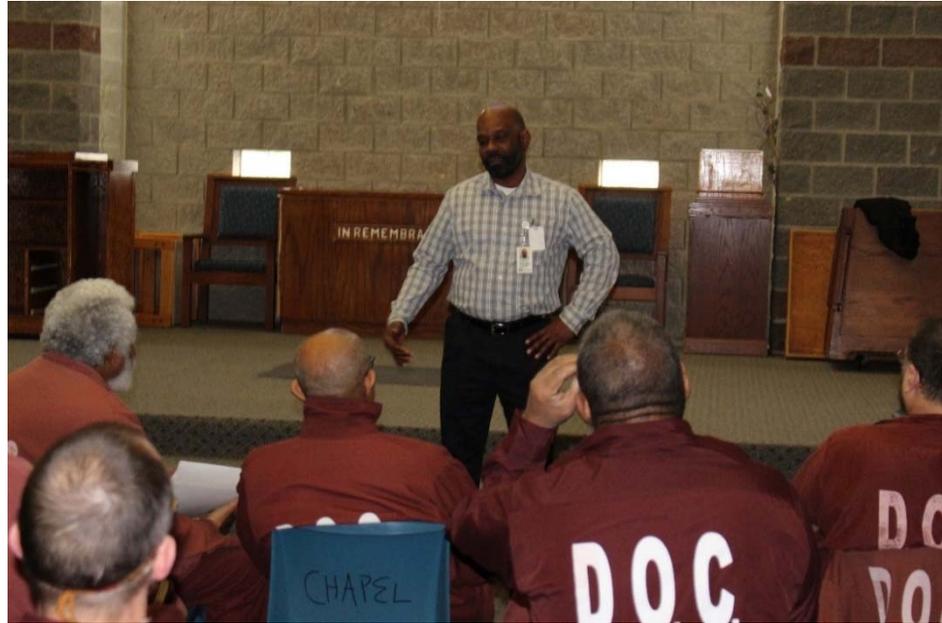
<http://allpetsvetclinic-statecollege.com/>

<http://lyonskennels.com/>

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Reentrant, Veteran Speaks to Albion Veteran Inmates

In honor of Veterans Day, the SCI Albion Veteran Service Office (VSO) invited Stephen Durant to speak to veteran inmates on Nov. 14.



Durant is a veteran and successful reentrant who currently works at the Liberty House Program in Erie, Pa. During his presentation, Durant reviewed how to apply for a DD-214 and explained the enrollment application for VA health benefits to assist in their reentry.

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DOC Officials Present at National Conference

Two Pennsylvania Department of Corrections officials recently presented information to attendees of the recent American Society of Criminology's 74th annual conference in Atlanta, Ga. The theme of this year's conference was "Institutions, Cultures and Crime."

Director of Planning, Research & Statistics Dr. Bret Bucklen provided information on sex offender typologies and on the department's population – both of which inform future policy and drive inmate treatment.



Dr. Sarah Tahamont, of the University of Maryland, provided information on Pell Grant education opportunities for inmates in the PA DOC and barriers to eligibility.



Not only do inmate students have the physical barrier of not being able to go on campus for traditional college classes, they have the barriers to access to the Pell funds that might not hinder traditional students, such as getting a parent's signature of signing up for selective service (aka the Draft).

Currently, there are three colleges (Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Bloomsburg University and Lehigh Carbon Community College) offering classes at six institutions (Muncy, Coal Township, Frackville, Houtzdale, Mahanoy and Pine Grove). Approximately 57 students actively participate in classes, and about 255 applications were submitted for admission to Pell-funded classes in either Spring or Fall 2019.

The American Society of Criminology is an international organization whose members pursue scholarly, scientific and professional knowledge concerning the measurement, etiology, consequences, prevention, control and treatment of crime and delinquency.

The Society's objectives are to encourage the exchange, in a multidisciplinary setting, of those engaged in research, teaching and practice so as to foster criminological scholarship and to serve as a forum for the dissemination of criminological knowledge. Membership includes students, practitioners and academicians from the many fields of criminal justice and criminology.

The Society conducts an annual meeting devoted to discussions of topics of general interest. Recent meeting themes have included: "Taking Stock: Current Knowledge and Future Priorities;" "The Causes and Consequences of Crime: Multidisciplinary Contributions;" "Criminology, Justice, and Public Policy in the Twenty-First Century."

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Waymart Inmates Learn CPR

On November 14 Activities Specialist Troy Walsh brought in Scott Bonito of SB Certified Training Consultants, LLC, out of New Jersey to teach CPR/First Aid to inmates. These inmates will be reentering society in the near future, so this class was provided to these inmates through the suggestion of unit managers and counselors. Bonito, who is a retired Lt. of the NJ DOC, taught the inmates through PowerPoint, CPR mannequins and AED'S the basics of the American Red Cross CPR/First Aid Certification. The inmates who completed the class are now certified and will have their CPR/First Aid cards upon release. The class was very well received, and Walsh looks forward to making this a regular event.



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Reentrant Resource Providers Meet in Chester District

The Chester District hosted a Reentrant Resource Provider event on Nov. 15. The meeting was arranged to introduce the Chester District to new Workforce Development providers. Attendees included Norman Brown from Educational Data Systems Incorporated and Dr. Tondalaya Carroll and Rodney Carroll from Business Interface. The event also included a presentation from Richard McFadden providing information about his ongoing research about the functions of parole agents and their impact in the community.



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Reentrant Reflects on HOPE Dog Program

The following was written by a former SCI Camp Hill inmate who participated in the HOPE dog program—and was able to adopt the very dog he trained.

I joined the HOPE dog program over three years ago, and Reggie came into the program a little over two and a half years ago. Reggie was from the ACCT Philly Shelter. He was picked up as a stray in a bad neighborhood of Philadelphia and had a lot of issues when he first got here. He was covered in scars and scabs and appeared to have been used as a bait dog or for something equally as bad.

Through the course of time, I was able to build a bond with Reggie that is indescribable. As Reggie learned through his training, I learned from Reggie as well. To be able to see Reggie grow and overcome so many obstacles through training, love, and the common bond we shared is great to see. To live in a prison cell with a dog isn't easy at times, but the end result was all worth it. I don't regret one moment of it. I will always have the everlasting memories of the time Reggie and I shared in prison.



When my release neared, I couldn't bear to think about leaving Reggie behind. I was sick to my stomach the day that I left Reggie behind, and I actually cried because he became a part of my heart. I always told the HOPE program that I was going to adopt Reggie once I was released and that dream came true this past week.

I was reunited with Reggie a recently. I'm so happy that I was able to adopt him and give him a forever home that he's so much deserved. To be with Reggie on a daily basis is a constant reminder to me of where we came from and how far we've come and to never go back. I cannot thank the HOPE program enough for giving me the opportunity to adopt Reggie and being able to see him be a dog outside of the prison walls. The HOPE program was the best program that I ever participated in while in prison. It taught me a whole new sense of responsibility and to put something other than myself first for once that being Reggie. As I write this, he is lying next to me on his back getting belly rubs with his paws in the air enjoying his life in his forever home.

The HOPE program has been such a positive experience in my life that I will never forget about. I'm truly grateful that I was able to be a part of HOPE at SCI Camp Hill. I would like to thank the HOPE volunteers and prison staff for allowing me to participate in this program. Thank you, Kaitlin, for giving me the opportunity to spend my life with Reggie. I can never thank you enough.

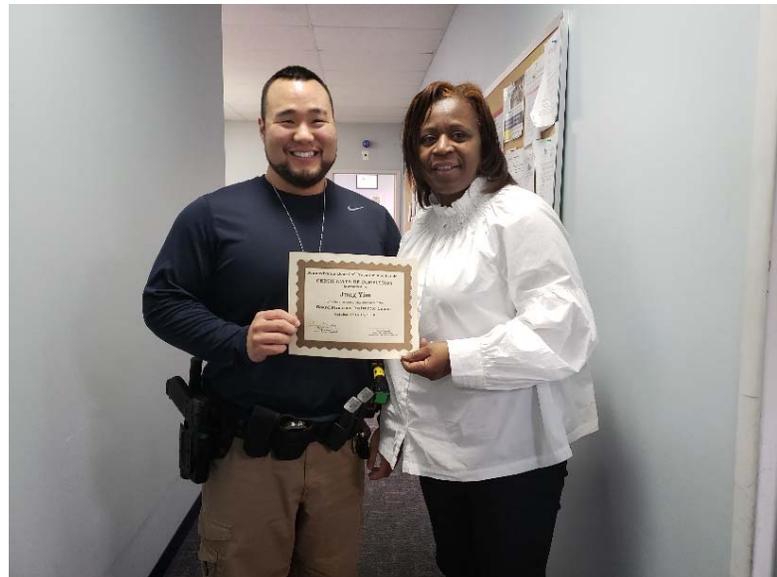
Sincerely,

Phillip C.

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Chester District Recognizes Staff for Years of Service

On Nov. 14 staff from the Chester District received service pins in recognition of years of service. Listed below are the staff members recognized along with their years in service. The Chester District also acknowledged the retirement of Agent Reggie Haines and the accomplishments of Agents Jung Yim and Kenneth Schnitzer for becoming Board Firearms Instructors in the Eastern Region.



IRIS REED	CLERK TYPST 2	25 YEARS
THOMAS JAMES	PAROLE AGENT 2	20 YEARS
SCOTT PETERSON	PAROLE SUPERVISOR	20 YEARS
KATRINA WILLIAMS	PAROLE AGENT 2	15 YEARS
LOREY CASTLEBERRY	PAROLE AGENT 2	10 YEARS
MELISSA NELSON	PAROLE AGENT 2	10 YEARS
ADINA WILLIAMS-JONES	PAROLE SUPERVISOR	10 YEARS

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Around the Centers...

Dramatic Reduction in Overdoses at Wernersville CCC

In 2016, there were 18 overdoses at the Wernersville Community Corrections Center (CCC), and in 2017, there were 12 overdoses and one death in the center. Ten of the 12 overdoses took place at the center.

Drugs were a problem at the center.

So, DOC Bureau of Community Corrections (BCC) officials made changes to the layout of the facility and to how reentrants were processed back into the center every time they returned, whether that be from work, treatment or leisure time.

Another significant and impactful change was the installation of a full body scanner. As reentrants would return to the center, they would be scanned, and the scanner could detect items both on and in a person's body using trace amounts of x-ray technology.

The center also installed an amnesty box outside of the entrance to the building – where reentrants, anonymously, could place drugs or items. Knowing they would face the scanner, many took advantage of the box.

The use of the scanner and amnesty box greatly reduced the amount of drugs entering the center.

As a result, the center has experienced a dramatic reduction in the number of overdoses. As of October 31, 2018, calendar year overdoses of reentrants was only two, and those two

More than 28,000 body scans have been conducted at Wernersville CCC, whose staff also assists ADAPPT, a contract facility in Reading, by scanning their reentrants when warranted. The following is a listing of some of the contraband items found with the body scanner:

- Razor blade
- 1 Viagra pill
- Packs of cigarettes
- Loose cigarettes
- Loose tobacco
- 5" glass pipe
- 16 grams of K2
- Lighters

occurred in the community rather than in the center. The center still experienced a reentrant overdose death, but it too happened in the community rather than at the center.

Another example of how changes at the center have increased safety and reduced drugs at the center are DOC statistics for Narcan use. In 2016, Wernersville CCC staff administered 23 doses of Narcan. In 2017, officials administered 18 doses. In 2018, as of October 31, 2018, zero doses have needed to be administered.

BCC and center staff are extremely proud of these results, because it shows that their efforts work.

Wernersville CCC has had great results, and they've also shared their technology with others. In fact, several state prisons have sent inmates to the center to be run through the scanner, which also resulted in the discovery of items and drugs.

The success of the scanner at Wernersville convinced DOC officials to pilot the use of the body scanner at an SCI. Earlier in 2018, SCI Coal Township began testing the scanner on inmates as they exited the visiting room. Again, the prison experienced positive results, and plans were underway to pilot the scanners at other state prisons. This installation of the scanners was pushed into high gear when the DOC experienced many inmate and staff exposures to drugs/chemicals that sickened them, causing the need for treatment at local medical facilities.

Wernersville CCC staff can be proud of their work to improve the safety at their facility and the safety of their reentrants.

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Harrisburg CCC Provide Thanksgiving Meals to Reentrants

Harrisburg Community Corrections Center provided Thanksgiving meals to reentrants on Nov. 20. Each meal consisted of turkey with gravy, stuffing, corn or green beans, mashed potatoes, cranberry and apple pie. A dinner roll and cookie were also provided. Simply Turkey catered the Thanksgiving meal.

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Centers Seeing Less Contraband Due to Employee Efforts

By Michael Gourley, Major
Bureau of Community Corrections

The Bureau of Community Corrections (BCC) has effectively been reducing the number of contraband recoveries, which in turn lowers the number of police visits to and arrests at community corrections centers (CCC) across the commonwealth.

“The decrease in contraband can be attributed to many factors, but at the forefront would have to be an increase in searches,” said BCC Director Dan McIntyre.

“Other factors, such as out-service trainings specifically designed to inform participants about new drugs and about hidden meanings in the drug sub-culture, are also important.”



The increase in searches at the centers has two main purposes: to locate and confiscate contraband as well as deter its introduction. The BCC has had tremendous support from the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP), which is important because a large majority of center residents are parolees. Whether a search is planned weeks or hours in advance, the manpower and support from PBPP is always abundant and greatly appreciated. It is great to be able to see all the planning, training, sweat and diligence of BCC and PBPP line staff and managers alike come together time after time to conduct complete and thorough searches. All the while minimalizing the risk of exposure. This is all done while performing their respective duties in a professional manner that deescalates potentially volatile situations that can occur in corrections.

To put things in perspective, let's examine one specific center—Wernersville CCC. This center had 150 drug-related contraband recoveries in 2017. As of October 2018, that number has been lowered to 40, and the majority of these were found when reentrants were being processed prior to entering the facility's body scanner. To go from an average of 12.5 finds a month to four reflects greatly on the BCC's dedication to protect both the reentrants being housed and the communities that we serve. BCC staff takes pride in constantly adjusting methods to counter the ever-changing world of abuse and addiction. New substances and smuggling methods are being discovered almost daily, so we constantly work on the methods of detection and training of the BCC staff.

The BCC leadership encourages management staff at the various facilities, whether it is a contract or a state-run CCC, to have an open and positive dialogue with all

local law enforcement agencies. Our many searches throughout the commonwealth in all our facilities have used resources from the PA State Police, parole agents, supervising agents and BCC staff, including management staff. Also, DOC K-9 teams have played a major role in the discovery of contraband, limiting staff exposure possibilities and decreasing search times.

A number of BCC employees also have fostered positive relations on a national level with agents from the DEA and FBI. Through these relations we are more aware and knowledgeable of the way drugs and contraband are dealt, used and concealed for later use or transport. Soon we will be partnering in a training initiative with the National Guard to further enhance our capabilities of intervention and detection.

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The DOC Has Tons of Acronyms: What is an MOC?

By Daniel McIntyre,
Director
Bureau of Community
Corrections

The Bureau of
Community Corrections'
(BCC) Management
Operations Center
(MOC) is a 24/7
operations hub that
operates out of Building
#30 at the Wernersville



Community Corrections Center (CCC). It is operated by commissioned officer staff with a minimum of two Lieutenants on duty per shift, and is overseen by Security Captain Jeremy McCormick on location and overall operations by Major Michael Gourley.

The MOC has been in operation since 2015, and its duties include, but are not limited to:

- Information, extraordinary and critical incident reporting,
- Parole absconder reporting,
- State Intermediate Punishment (SIP) escape reporting and tracking
- GPS monitoring
- Overdose reporting,
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) reporting,
- After-hours referral response unit,
- Monitor the WAVE (staff duress) system for all Commonwealth operated CCCs,

- All aspects of CCC scheduling -- leave requests, overtime, vacation picks, call-offs, bid announcements and awards, human resources and labor relations,
- BCC Critical Incident Management (CIM),
- BCC training,
- Investigations and incident reviews.

In February 2018, the MOC transitioned from eight-hour shifts to 12-hour shifts. This allowed the MOC to better serve both the 12 state-operated CCCs, 23 contracted community corrections facilities (CCF's) and nine contracted county jails (CCJ's) during normal and after-hours operations.

The MOC also recently expanded its PREA reporting by taking over all calls from county jails that are PREA compliant. The MOC receives direct calls from county inmates wishing to report both sexual abuse and sexual harassment incidents that occurred inside the county facility. The MOC compiles a complete report and makes both verbal and written notifications to the affected county facility that the inmate is calling about.

Lt. Jeremy Hurwitz has expanded the MOC's ability to track SIP escapees and SIP reentrants that have been detained by other authorities by becoming the BCC Liaison for the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) at the Pennsylvania Crime Information Center. Lt. Hurwitz works hand-in-hand with both PSP and the U.S. Marshalls Fugitive Task force in apprehending all the SIP program escapees.

The MOC has taken over all PA DOC Overdose Information Network (ODIN) reporting to the PSP. All overdose and drug related contraband finds are reported to the MOC, where Lt. Hurwitz and Lt. Blankenhorn then compile the necessary information received and report it to PSP on the ODIN database system.

Lt. Michael Blankenhorn is responsible for the GPS tracking program for the BCC, which includes the tracking of parole violator reentrants when they are transported outside of their assigned PV center for medical reasons. The GPS program also tracks sex offenders who are fitted with a GPS device anytime they are scheduled to leave the Progress CCC for medical reasons. The MOC also acts as the supply point for all GPS equipment and acts as the billing and technical support point between the BCC and Track Group monitoring. The MOC GPS program also expects to assume supervision responsibility of DOC inmates who have been issued medical release by court order.

The MOC recently just accepted the responsibility of monitoring all compassionate release cases and the GPS monitoring of these individuals.

The MOC is also the main notification point for all (SCI, BCC, PBPP) early office closings, office delays and full office closures. The MOC utilizes the CodeRED

What is WAVE system?

The WAVE System is the Staff Duress System utilized by the CCCs operated by the Commonwealth. The system, when activated, will allow the MOC to contact emergency personnel to respond to the affected facility.

Emergency Communications Network to inform all authorized staff of delays and/or closings once approved by administration heads of staff.

As you can see, the Bureau of Community Corrections' Management Operations Center is the foundation for much of what occurs throughout community corrections and beyond.

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Minds of Men Supports Reentrants at Philadelphia CCC

In October Philadelphia Community Corrections Center # 2 hosted Minds of Men, a nonprofit that serves to empower men, women and children.

Russell Dinkins, from Minds of Men, offered reentrants instant applications to apply for no-cost CDL classes with job placement upon completion through Cheyney University. Minds of Men Founder Derrick McKnight also came to the center. He provided reentrants with three pages of listed resource information including reentry-friendly employers in the area, no or low-cost educational opportunities and other support options. Those residing at the CCC were grateful for the information provided to them through the visit.

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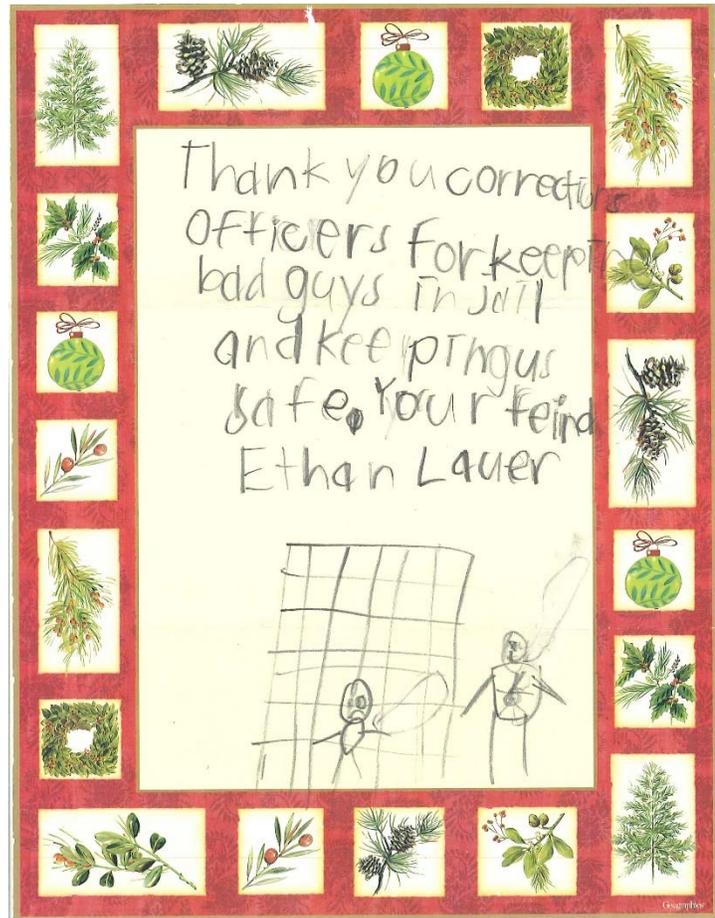
Week of November 19...

Second Grade Students Send Thank-You Pictures to Corrections Officers

Julie Thornton's second grade students from Immaculate Conception Church in Brookville write letters of appreciation each Thanksgiving. This year, the students chose to send their letters to corrections officers at SCI Forest. Their drawings are on display for all DOC corrections officers on the following pages. Here is what Julie wrote:

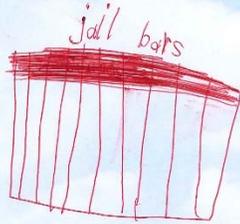
"It is to remind us that being thankful for something else other than material things is what it is all about. My class chooses where they want to send the letters and whom they think need a reminder that what they do is important.

Being that I am a wife of a Corrections Officer, I often realize that you are the "forgotten" law enforcement. Most people do not even realize what you truly walk into every day when you walk through those doors. I know I personally could never do what you do. It is a thankless job and all too often, very dangerous. It takes special people to do the job you all do, to ensure the safety of each other, inmates and the public. It is our hope that our notes of thanks can be a small token to remind each and every one of you that what you do matters, and we are thankful for you all. May God Bless you and guide you home safely every day at the end of your shifts. You truly are heroes without capes Wishing you all safe and happy holidays!"



Dear correction officers,
Thank you for what you do.
I hope you stay safe.
I am praying for everybody's
heart and life.

Your friends,
Loretta McKinnis



Dear correction officers
Thank you for keeping
bad guys in jail to keep us
safe. from,
Seren Pospisil



Thank You!

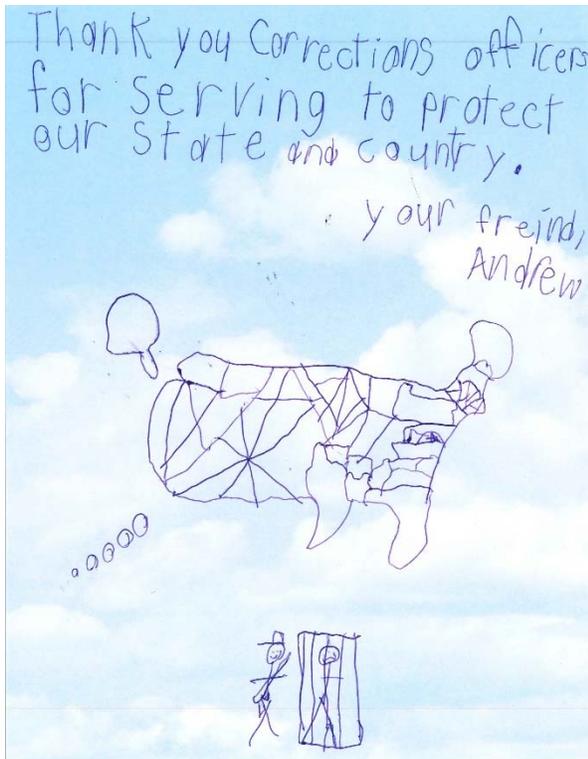


Emily

Dear, Corrections Officers Thank You
for keeping the bad guys in Jail ♡

Your friend, Nora, Nora O'Donnell





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DOC Settles Hepatitis C Inmate Suit

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections has settled a suit over treatment of inmates with Hepatitis C. Under the terms of the settlement, the DOC has agreed to continue to treat inmates over the next three years with the latest drug approved for Hepatitis C that cures the infection during a three-month course of medication. Advocates for inmates alleged that the DOC had denied treatment due to the cost of the medication.

In response to this recent legal action, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections says:

"Providing quality health care to all inmates is a priority of the Department of Corrections. The DOC has worked hard to prioritize direct acting antiviral (DAA) medication to eligible inmate patients. In the few years that the new generation of medication has been available, the DOC has already completed DAA treatment for 650 inmates with Hepatitis C who fell within the most serious stages (F3/F4) of liver disease. In addition, the DOC is currently providing DAA treatment to 105 individuals, including those in the more moderate stages of the disease (F2).

To enhance its Hepatitis C treatment program, DOC began a partnership with Temple University earlier this year. Collaboration with Temple allows the inmate Hepatitis C patients to access medical professionals in the Temple

hospital system both during their time of incarceration and as part of continuity of care after release.

The proposed settlement represents the DOC's continued commitment to prioritize treatment for Hepatitis C patients. Under the Agreement, the DOC commits to continue to expand DAA medication treatment to eligible inmates in the earliest stages of infection (F1, F0) over the course of the next three years.

The budget for hepatitis C treatment within DOC for 2018-2019 was \$13.2 million. The average per patient treatment cost is now down to about \$20,000, but cases vary. That cost is expected to drop again in 2019. We don't know the total in outlying years because of the changing – likely downward - costs."

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Pine Grove Holds Graduation Ceremony

More than 50 inmates graduated at SCI Pine Grove on Nov. 14 during its graduation ceremony.



The school's mission statement is "To Improve educational opportunities directed to the needs of students that will help them become responsible and productive members of a diverse society." It achieved that with pride as graduates earned GED's, various licenses and certificates and Commonwealth Secondary Diplomas.



Deputy Superintendent for Centralized Services Billie Heide addressed the students as well as an inmate student. Family members were invited to come to the facility for the ceremony. The tutors who assisted the students were also thanked for their services.

The following degrees and certificates were awarded:

- GED: 3
- Commonwealth Secondary Diploma: 26
- Computer Aided Drafting and Design: 1
- Barber's License: 1
- Building & Custodial Maintenance: 11
- Carpentry: 6
- HVAC: 5
- TAILS: 5
- ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Mercer Celebrates Veterans Day with Cookout

SCI Mercer held its 10th annual Veterans Day luncheon/cookout to honor and thank all veterans for their service and dedication to their country.

The celebration began with the 10-6 shift on Nov. 10 and on Nov. 11 for the daylight and afternoon shifts. Approximately 125 employees working on Veterans Day enjoyed the luncheon.

A commemoration for the 100-year anniversary of the Armistice of WWI was on display both days.

Management staff and staff members from the local "Support the Troops" committee cooked and served the meals both days. The menu included: Hamburgers, fried chicken, potato salad, chips, ice cream bar, and cupcakes.



Mercer's Support the Troops committee began when staff were being deployed to Iraq with very little resources available to them while in this country. The committee sent care packages to the deployed staff to help show support and lift their morale. Several years later, the committee started organizing a special meal for employees on all three shifts on Veterans Day each year. The committee members volunteer their time on Veterans Day to come to the institution to cook, serve and thank those who have served our country and are not able to enjoy their well-deserved day of recognition at home.

The committee holds one fundraiser a year to help with the costs of the luncheon and care packages when needed. The fundraiser this year was a lotto/cash basket raffle won by Sgt. Andrew Meisel.

Management staff and the Support The Troops committee would like to thank AVI and the Employees' Association for their donations that helped make this a great day for all.

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Coal Township FERT Honors Retired Lieutenant

Critical Incident Manager Lieutenant Russ Feese is retired, but he returned to his old facility at SCI Coal Township on Nov. 2 for a special presentation.

Coal Township's Fire Emergency Response Team's (FERT) leader Greg Fabrizio presented a FERT job coat and fire helmet signed by FERT to Feese. The presentation to Feese showed gratitude for all the years of dedication to Coal Township's FERT. Feese has also been a community leader, serving as Fire Chief of Coal Township for years. He is an active member of the Brady Fire Company.



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A Final Note from Supt. Mooney

SCI Retreat Supt. Vincent Mooney retired last week. Before he left, he sent this final note to his staff as he reflected back on his great career. Thank you for your service and enjoy retirement, Supt. Mooney!

For 33 Years, 7 Months, & 3 Days, I have been a proud member of a Great Organization "formerly called" the Pennsylvania Department of Justice / Bureau of Corrections (Yep...that's what it was called back then), and it's "now called" the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. It has been a wonderful career, and I have been very blessed to have achieved my ultimate goal of being a Superintendent. When I hear people complain about having their job, I just smile, and think just how lucky a kid from Edwardsville who came from a loving home, but of very limited means. My mother raised 4 kids on a Waitress Salary; and although we never had a lot, she provided a loving warm home, and I never went to bed hungry. More importantly, she instilled a work ethic that enabled me to be confident enough in achieving my goals. Thanks, Mom!

As I complete this journey, I think back, and I can honestly say I did it the right way. No one can ever say different. I prided myself with being, honest, loyal, & compassionate, and every career move was made with my family being my top

priority. Many of you have heard me say repeatedly "Family First". I have had to make some very difficult decisions along the way, and I've lost countless night's sleep making sure those decisions were the right decisions based upon the facts. I was told a long time ago that, if you lose your integrity, labeled untrustworthy, or a liar - then your career is over. Well, I believe that I am walking away with all 3 strongly intact.

During my career, I have been involved in many High-Profile Events: The Camp Hill Riot, the opening of SCI-Waymart, the opening of SCI-Mahanoy, the SCI-Greene Investigations, Lead Investigator on the Norman Johnson Escape from SCI-Huntingdon where I obtained confessions from two staff member who assisted him, Lead investigator in the McCloskey & Yang Escapes from SCI-Dallas. I obtained two very detailed statements that detailed the planning & execution of the escape. I was also present for the capture of both. Deputy Lorenzo & I developed the Intelligence Unit. First DOC member of the Homeland Security Terrorism Task Force, Assistant C.E.R.T. Leader during the SCI-Coal Township Riot, Interim Warden of Lackawanna County Prison, and Superintendent of SCI-Coal Township when Northumberland County Prison burned down, and we accepted all of their male inmates. We then converted an old C.I. Factory into a County Facility within the confines of SCI-Coal Township. To anyone's knowledge (this is the 1st time...?) (Researched by ACA) that a County Facility was run within a State Facility. They just recently left for their new facility. This is not an event but an interesting fact. In June of 1993 a carpool started to SCI-Mahanoy from Wilkes-Barre, in the carpool were Major Erickson, Captain McGrady, Lieutenant Mooney and Sargent Mahally that was then and this is now, today Superintendent Erickson retired from SCI-Retreat, Superintendent McGrady retired from SCI-Retreat, Superintendent Mooney will Retire from SCI-Retreat and Superintendent Mahally will (when he chooses to do so) Retire from SCI-Dallas. Although that is a conversation topic the best part of that carpool from 1993 is the fact that we all remain best friends to this day.

I have had the pleasure of working in 5 Facilities, and I have met some incredible people - some who will be friends for life, and they know who they are. I have had numerous people who I consider to be great mentors and offered me advice and criticisms as I have navigated through the ranks. In fact, there are 2 defining moments in my career that made me realize that everything matters. The 1st is when I was a Corrections Officer 1 when I was ordered to report to Superintendent Joe Ryan's Office. I was scared to death, but he sat me down and talked to me for over an hour. That conversation is something I'll never forget. Thank you, Mr. Ryan, and may you rest in peace. The 2nd was when I was a brand-new Security Lieutenant, and I received my first evaluation which was endorsed by Major Charles Erickson. His comments made me realize how important seeing the bigger picture really was. I started looking at the big picture; and apparently, I got it - so thank you, Charlie.

The Department of Corrections has changed over the last 33 years, but I did not allow it to change who I am; and I hope you don't let it change you. Like I tell new

people, be yourself. We hired you because of who you are; not to be somebody you think you need to be.

This Department has provided very well for me and my family. It helped me raise 3 amazing children who have grown up to be awesome adults that I am very proud of. I am also blessed to have 4 wonderful and beautiful grandchildren, and I look forward to being a full time Pop. In addition to being a full-time Pop, I am also extremely excited about being a full-time husband to Debbie (no more disturbing calls or having to leave special occasions) and a full-time step dad to Aiden. He is very active in sports, and that keeps us very busy which is awesome. Now I can enjoy his success without having to squeeze work in.

There is a group of people who made me look good every day and "cleaned me up" on every memo, and that group consists of all those who worked alongside me as my Secretary and/or Assistant. Marie, Pixie, Hank, Lil Missy, Michelle, Amy, Karen, Trish (my former Assistant), Tina (my former Assistant), Sue, Jen (now my Assistant), & finally – Marilyn. I can't thank them enough for everything they have done over the years to keep this very eclectic guy organized and made me look good every day! Thanks, Guys, you're all the best!

Finally, my dad died very young; and he never was able to see even my 1st promotion. There is something I'd like to share that I have kept private until now. That is on the day of every promotion (6 times total), I would visit my dad's grave site to let him know. One of the proudest moments was April 12, 2013, when I made Superintendent. Well, on Friday, November 16, 2018, I'll visit my dad to let him know that my career is now over; and I'm on to the next chapter of my life. I know he would be extremely proud.

I want to thank everyone for what you do every day because, unfortunately, this profession is not a glamorous one; and people normally don't know what we do on a daily basis - like the verbal & physical abuse we endure routinely. Unless you have done what we do, you can't understand what we do. It's not a TV show; it's real. And I'm ready to not receive the bad calls - the calls where your heart skips a beat, and you leave wherever you are and go. I'm also ready to finally BE OFF, because for the last 6 Years, even when I was not here, I was never actually off no matter where we were. Although I will no longer be responding, believe that I will always care and pray for everyone's safety so you can enjoy what I'm about to enjoy. Stand tall, watch each other's back, help each other, & stay safe. And, as former Superintendent Gillis told me, "Keep your Eye on the Prize". The prize is a big fat check every month.

My time has come to say goodbye; and on Friday, November 16th, I will walk out with my head held high with zero regrets on a very blessed career. Thank You, Goodbye, God Bless You, and GO IRISH...!!!

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Camp Hill Inmates Raise More Than \$20,000 for Charity

The Inmate Service Organization (I.S.O.) held their annual PA Prison Runathon Banquet on Nov. 18. This banquet is held



each year to acknowledge all of the inmates who participated in the Runathon on Sept. 16. Throughout the year, the charity committee of the I.S.O. conducts a number of fundraising events to raise money to benefit local non-profit at-risk youth organizations as an alternative to incarceration. Some of the activities from which the funds were raised by inmates at SCI Camp Hill are the Runathon, Photo Project, Fantasy NASCAR & FOOTBALL and snack sales.

This year, the inmates donated a total amount of \$10,000.80 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and \$10,500.00 to the Boys and Girls Club of Harrisburg. A representative from each of these charitable organizations were available at the banquet to receive their checks totaling over \$20,500.00.

Ann Waltman of the Make-A-Wish Foundation stated this money will be dedicated to granting wishes of three courageous children with life-threatening medical conditions who need some extra magic in their lives.

Mark Hawthorne of the Boys and Girls Club of Harrisburg stated these must-needed funds will go a long way changing the beliefs, behavior and attitudes of youth ages 6 -18 years of age that positively impact their future. The donation will make a difference by impacting after-school programs such as Power Hour, Smart Girls, Passport to Manhood, Triple Play and Club Tech.

The general population inmates are to be commended for giving to the local community and making a difference in the lives of young people. This is a great contribution and a job well done.

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In attendance with Dunn were PBPP Board Member Anthony Moscato, PBPP Western Regional Director of Field Supervision James Williams and Chairman Dunn's Assistant Kaitlyn Romisky.

During the two-hour presentation, Dunn explained the parole hearing process to the group and offered suggestions on how to prepare for parole interviews to help them go more smoothly for the individual.



After the informational presentation, Dunn opened the discussion up to those in attendance to ask any questions they had of him, Moscato and Williams. The three answered many good questions about the parole process and some that were argumentative as well.

Dunn stated that the goal of the educational events held throughout the state this year was to help the inmates to have open and honest conversations with Board members during their parole interviews. Although the Board looks over the inmate's file and creates a detailed profile on whether the individual is ready to be paroled, the in-person interviews are an important component of the decision.

He added that holding these types of informational sessions is a step in the right direction in assisting individuals with preparing for their parole interviews.

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Muncy Dedicates Veterans Service Unit

On a rainy fall morning, inmates and officials gathered in SCI Muncy's beautiful chapel to celebrate a first for the facility, for the department and perhaps even for the country – a residential unit for incarcerated veterans.

While such a unit is not new at several of Pennsylvania's male facilities (Mercer, Houtzdale and Dallas, with plans for one at Phoenix), it is new for PA's female prisons (Muncy and Cambridge Springs).

Muncy and Cambridge Springs have approximately 40 verified

incarcerated female veterans, compared to 3,000 verified male veterans housed throughout the prison system. Muncy houses 20 of the 40 female veterans, with only a handful actually residing on the Veterans Services Unit because it's new to the population. Officials expect interest in the program will grow and that more of the incarcerated veterans will opt to live on the unit.



The remaining veterans actively participate and receive services through the prison's Veterans Service Office.

On the unit, incarcerated veterans are provided the opportunity to live together and to participate in programming. A dedicated room has been remodeled to accommodate the special programs, which include peer-facilitated and staff-led programs and workshops and coordinated service offerings from parole reentry staff, the education department, social workers, psychology staff and others.



At the ceremony, opening remarks were provided by Superintendent Wendy Nicholas, and emcee duties were performed by Reentry Services and Veteran Services Coordinator Troy Edwards. Speaking at the event and providing a DOC perspective to the issue of incarcerated veterans was the DOC's Statewide Veterans Coordinator Ryan Yoder.

Keynote speaker was Dr. Michele Papakie, who is chairwoman of the Journalism and Public Relations

Department at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Papakie also is a lieutenant colonel in the 171st Air Refueling Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. She spoke to the inmates about her military experience and various traumatic events in her life.

Representatives from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the DOC's Central Office and the facility attended the ceremony. In addition, WBRE-TV sent a reporter to cover the event.

Following the ceremony light refreshments and a tour of the unit were provided.

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Sister Martha Zammatore Receives Volunteerism Award for Prison Ministry

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

Franciscan Sister Martha Zammatore, prison ministry liaison for the Diocese of Allentown, is dedicated to her faith-filled work in prison ministry.

That dedication was recognized recently as the Northampton County Department of Corrections and Jail Advisory Board hosted a banquet Oct. 25 at Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church, Easton, during which she was awarded the Chaplain Joe Buck Spirit of Volunteerism Award.

Sister Martha was presented with a plaque recognizing her work in prison ministry at Northampton County Jail, Easton. The plaque states it is presented "In honor and recognition of your many years of dedicated service to the residents incarcerated at Northampton County Jail. Your service has not gone unnoticed and is appreciated."

"It was a complete surprise to me," Sister Martha said of the award. She said those in charge just kept asking her if she was going to be present at the banquet. "I wasn't sure I could make it on time due to my ministry at SCI Mahanoy on that same day. I never suspected that I was chosen as the Volunteer of the Year.

"Amid so many other volunteers, I felt

so unworthy. I began ministry there in 2014 and was always seen with my guitar in my hands. In reality, when the secretary of our Secretariat [for Catholic and Evangelization] asked me to go into prison ministry, it was something I had never thought about, and yet it just seemed like it was meant for me to do. It brought true joy to my heart.

"Now besides Northampton I'm also going to SCI Mahanoy and SCI Frackville. I have met such wonderful persons of all faiths doing all anyone can to help these persons come to know the Lord, whose love and mercy can show us the path to life and restoration. Jesus wants to restore us all. He's waiting for us to open the door of our hearts.

"This message, the Good News is for us all. Whether we're victims or guilty, Jesus came to give us all a new life, and we become witnesses to the power love and mercy of a God who is among us to save us."

"I thought I knew Jesus, until after 21 years as a religious at a special moment during my time spent in Antofagasta, Chile, I had my personal encounter with our savior. Even though I was always basically a joyful person, my joy changed into 'JOY!' That's why I'm so happy to be serving our

brothers and sisters in this ministry.

"This message, the Good News is for us all. Whether we're victims or guilty, Jesus came to give us all a new life, and we become witnesses to the power, love and mercy of a God who is among us to save us."

The banquet at Our Lady of Lebanon is an annual event. Sister Martha said

those in charge of the kitchen are Deacon Anthony Koury and his wife Chafia (Cheffie), along with inmates and former inmates who serve the meal.

Deacon Koury has been a permanent deacon at Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church, Easton since being ordained in 1982. A graduate of Notre Dame High School, Easton, he retired in 2012 after 43 years at Notre Dame as athletic director and a theology teacher.

"It is such a beautiful, special and well planned event by those in charge of volunteerism and the chaplaincy of Northampton County Corrections," said Sister Martha.

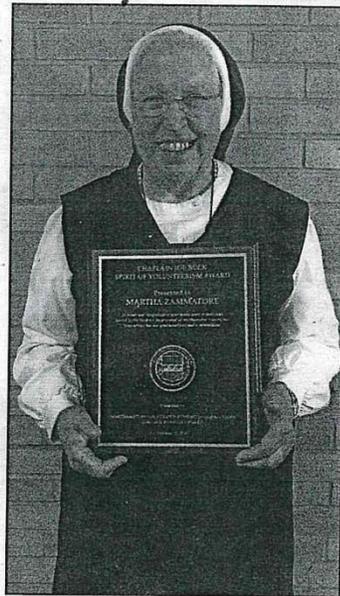
Sister Martha, daughter of George and Rose Zammatore, is a parish daughter of SS. Philip and James, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, just across the Delaware River from Easton.

"Anyone who may have known my parents back then would not be surprised that when I was given the award, I was called up to receive it by the way I've come to be known: 'The Singing Nun.'"

"Everyone in the Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization is thrilled that Sister Martha was recognized with this award. She exemplifies what it means to evangelize in the work she does," said Mary Fran Hartigan, secretary of the Secretariat for Catholic Life and Evangelization.

"Sister Martha has so much compassion and love for each person she ministers to, and her only desire is to share God's love and mercy with each person who is incarcerated so they know they are loved by God.

"In addition to Northampton County



Franciscan Sister Martha Zammatore displays her "Chaplain Joe Buck Spirit of Volunteerism Award." (Photo courtesy of Mary Fran Hartigan)

Jail, Sister Martha also ministers to inmates in the two state prisons in Mahanoy and Frackville," said Hartigan.

Chaplain Christopher Santos is chaplain at Northampton County Jail.

Greene Honor Guard Participates in Veterans Day Concert

SCI Greene's Honor Guard participated in a Veterans Day concert hosted by Heaven Bound Ministries at the Emmanuel United Presbyterian Church in Eighty Four, Pa., on Nov. 10.

The musical tribute was held to express gratitude to all veterans, their families and any current members of the Armed Forces. Friends and family were welcome.



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Secret Santa Visits Camp Hill

SCI Camp Hill's annual tradition, Secret Santa among department head staff, has kicked off again for the 2018 holiday season.

Each year approximately five weeks before Christmas at the monthly department head meeting, names are placed in a hat that gets passed around to all who want to participate in this annual event, and everyone gets to pick a name. Names are then kept a secret until the potluck luncheon that is held a few days prior to Christmas.

Staff who choose to participate are encouraged to reach out to their "secret person" weekly with either words of encouragement, funny holiday message or a small item (i.e. candy bar, soda, etc.). Staff involved have been known to send gifts to other

Secret Santas to mix things up and keep things exciting. This tradition was started by Superintendent Laurel Harry as a way to encourage department heads to provide positive messages to each other and brighten up someone else's day over the holidays. This activity has become a favorite wellness activity of many staff.

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Legislators, State Officials Tour SCI Pine Grove

On November 16, various state and local officials, including Representative Jim Struzzi and representatives from Senator Don White's Office, toured SCI Pine Grove. Prison officials provide tours on a regular basis to officials and college students in an effort to educate the public about its operations.



Attendees seemed to enjoy the tour, which was kicked off with an overview provided by Superintendent Lee Estock. The superintendent also discussed the agency and facility's fight against the opioid epidemic.

During this tour, attendees were shown a general population housing unit, the chapel, education department, parole offices and the activities area. In addition, they were shown the Young Adult Offender unit and the prison's reception unit. At each area, key staff provided information about their areas.

Always a highlight of prison tours are the various dog training programs. At SCI Pine Grove, Deputy Superintendent for Centralized Services Billie Heide providing information on the prison's dog training program, New Hope Dog Program.

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Fayette Employees Visit Crabtree-Kovacicek Patriot House

On November 16, seven SCI Fayette employees, who helped to collect donations from their co-workers and nearly 30 other local businesses, churches and private citizens, visited the Crabtree-Kovacicek Patriot House in Washington, Pa. The house, which was newly constructed and opened in July 2018, is a veterans homeless shelter that is part of the City Mission. It has a 22-bed capacity, but currently has 18 individuals residing there.

The visit was the culmination of a donation drive that was held at SCI Fayette and that spilled over into the community. In addition to the prison staff, coordinators Corrections Counselor Gina Perry and Unit Manager Rebecca Palmer also reached out to their own families, friends, churches and local businesses.

"The effort really hit home with a lot of people and that's how we got community outreach involvement. I wanted to get involved because I knew Veterans Day was coming up and we needed to step up and do something worthwhile for the community, and the homeless veterans community came to mind," said Perry.



SCI Fayette employees pose with some of the donated items.

The ladies coordinated the collection of items identified by the house that ranged from bed sheets and shower shoes to socks and toothpaste.

SCI Fayette employees who participated in the visit were Superintendent Mark Capozza, Unit Manager Rebecca Palmer, Corrections Counselor Gina Perry, Sergeant Justin Bogucki, Maintenance Trade Instructor Edward Streit, Maintenance Trade Instructor Myron Hay and Lieutenant William Zosky.

While the donated items were a blessing for this home, these employees went a step further and provided items for and made lunch for the residents... and they joined them for the meal.

"We got them everything they asked for on the flier and in large quantities," said Perry. "We wanted them to feel special so that's why the lunch was provided."

In addition to the requested items, these individuals purchased DVD players, coffee pots, crock pots and toaster ovens for the house's two kitchens and still had money left over for a donation check of \$317.

Local children also participated in this wonderful event. The fourth grade class at Bobtown Elementary School, made cards which were delivered to the veterans.

Finally, Superintendent Capozza approved for the prison's activities department to paint a mural for one of the walls. Inmates at the prison will paint the mural on a special background that later will be transported to the center and installed by prison employees. It is expected that this will be completed early in 2019.

To learn more about City Mission Hope for the Homeless in Washington, Pa., visit www.citymission.org/veterans



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Around the Centers...

TLC Case Manager Rappels for Education

Transitional Living Centers Case Manager Kristin Confer went over the edge of the William-Hepburn Apartment Buildings on Oct. 27.

Confer rappelled down the 9-story building thanks to TLC raising more than \$1,000 for the Williamsport Area School District Education Foundation.



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GEO Honors Assistant Director for Veterans Day

GEO Chairman Dr. George Zoley sent a commemorative coin and memo to Mark Brady, GEO's assistant director of operations, to honor him for the Veterans Day.

Brady served in the U.S. Navy, then spent more than 20 years in the DOC. He retired as a Lieutenant in May 2018 and began employment with GEO ADAPPT in June 2018. Thank you for your service, Mark!



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Reentrants Prep Stables for Winter

Six reentrants from the Pittsburgh Community Corrections Center assisted Wildwin Stables in resurfacing the horse paddocks before the winter season hits.

Wildwin Stables provides new homes for horses that have been retired from racing or bad situations and nurses them back to health. Many of the horses not only make full health recoveries and are then re-trained as lesson horses for small children, and some also go on to compete—and win—in Dressage and Hunter Jumper Competitions. Resurfacing paddocks is a crucial need for the health of the horses; a good foundation helps relieve the stress and pressure on the horse's legs and ankles.



Reentrants used several problem-solving skills to complete the work as a team; they each assigned themselves a role and specific job duties to ensure a smooth process. All six reentrants worked alongside Corrections Counselor Hosbach and Center Director Dotson to complete the project. Reentrants enjoyed time with the horses as well as the scenery of the fall countryside. Wildwin Stables Manager Michelle Harkins Lynch was very complimentary in the reentrants' work and effort and provided the reentrants with lunch for a job well done. All the reentrants enjoyed the time they were able to spend with the horses, and it provided some nice therapeutic moments which resulted in many selfies with the horses.

Upon returning to the center, reentrants expressed their enjoyment of the day. Many discussed the horses as well as what they would like to continue to improve at the stables. The reentrants that attended conveyed a real passion for helping others and animals. Reentrant Mitchell said, "It was a great change of pace, and it was a great experience in the reintegration progress. Everyone (reentrants) should experience it."

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Week of November 12...

Teacher Spotlight: SCI Cambridge Springs' Gregory Stephenson

Teaching others what he's learned just comes naturally to Gregory Stephenson.

When a student tells him "I don't understand," it motivates Stephenson to find a solution and way to better explain it. He has a natural desire to educate and teach others what he knows.

And since 2005, he has pursued that passion at SCI Cambridge Springs.

Stephenson teaches Optical Assistant Eye Glass Preparation, or what is known in the optical community as "opticianry." His graduates go on to become the person who assembles the lenses and glasses, much like a pharmacist.

"A doctor writes a prescription, then they go to a pharmacy," he said. "We get that prescription from the eye doctor, and 'fill' that by getting the right lenses and frames."

Cambridge Springs is the only SCI with the program in the state, and because of this it is tasked with a big burden: Correctional Industries (CI) at the facility makes all the glasses for the inmates in the entire state. The inmates in this CI also make

HEAD OF THE CLASS

Name: Gregory Stephenson

Subject: Optical Assistant Eye Glass Preparation

Facility: SCI
Cambridge
Springs

**Length of
Service:** 13 years

Why: "When you help somebody turn their life around and get a fresh start ... it's a good feeling."



some for PennDOT and veterans homes, as well, for a total of 1,200-1,300 pairs of eye glasses every month.

The program went from 12 students enrolled per class to 20. It is an elective, so the students in his class want to be there as opposed to a GED class that's mandated.

Stephenson began with various jobs before returning to a technical school to study in their optical program. He began at Pearl Vision when he graduated, but the school brought him back just six months later to be a teacher. The school, based in western Pennsylvania, shut down after seven years due to low enrollment.

"I went back to work at the eye doctor and a gentleman came in and said, 'They're looking for a teacher up there at the prison,'" Stephenson remembers. "I had no idea where he meant. He told me who to contact, so I did, and took my civil service exam, and fast forward and I'm still here."

In addition to his teaching certification, Stephenson is certified by the National Contact Lens Examiners and the American Board of Opticianry—a certification now offered at Cambridge Springs.

For approximately eight years, Stephenson's students have had the ability to take the American Board of Opticianry exam at the SCI. It's a 100-question exam that's "pretty intensive," and if they pass they get the certification.

"The advantage to them, especially in PA, is it's not required to work at an optical shop," Stephenson said. "If they have that, it gives them a little bit of an advantage and outweighs the fact where they're currently residing."

Among Stephenson's highlights of his time at Cambridge Springs is getting the ability for inmates to receive their national certification, because that's something that stays with them forever.

Teachers and inmates aren't allowed to keep in touch following their release, but Stephenson has heard through letters back to the institution about former students getting jobs. Those success stories "make you feel good," he said.



His teaching philosophy is simply he'll lead the inmates to water and show them how to drink, but it's up to them to do it. He tries to build them up a bit to give them the confidence but it's up to them to take the plunge.

For him, it's about doing what he loves to give them the skills and abilities to go on to a better life.

"I've had comments like 'I really want to learn this because I don't want to go back to my abusive partner' or 'I want to be self-sufficient' or 'I want my family to be proud of me,'" Stephenson said. "That's not in the paycheck. When you help somebody turn their life around and get a fresh start and you hear they've had success, it's a good feeling."

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Houtzdale Inmates Make Donations to Child Advocacy Center, YMCA, Big Brothers/Big Sisters

The Journey for Change Organization donated \$1,500 to the Child Advocacy Center alongside 38 pieces of artwork on Oct. 15.



The money was raised from fundraisers for the Journey for Change membership. The artwork was donated through a child-orientated artwork contest open through the general population. The Journey for Change Organization first started donating to the Child Advocacy Center in April 2018 during their yearly Victim Awareness Week programming, and after meeting with representatives from the organization, decided that artwork would help the children that enter the Child Advocacy Facility.

Mary Tatum from the Child Advocacy Center spoke at SCI Houtzdale to a packed Auditorium about the work of her organization and the effects of childhood trauma.

Two days later the Journey for Change Organization donated \$3,000 to the YMCA of Centre County and \$1,000 to Big Brothers/Big Sisters. The money was raised from proceeds from the 2018 Day in The Park Event that took place on Sept. 26.

More than 360 inmates participated in the event. For the YMCA donation, \$1,000 was donated for the Backpack Program and \$2,000 was donated for their Thanksgiving Program.

The Journey for Change Organization has donated faithfully to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization since 2009, the year of the inception of the organization. The Journey for Change Organization has donated faithfully to the YMCA of Centre County since 2013, namely their Backpack Program, Angel Wings Program, Thanksgiving Program and Christmas Program.

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Veterans Honored at Frackville

Nearly 70 staff members attended SCI Frackville's annual staff Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 8 in the facility's gym.

Superintendent Kathy Brittain opened the ceremony by honoring all the veterans working at Frackville, as well as all those members of the military who are currently deployed or have served in the past. Deputy Superintendent for Facility Management Lori White continued honoring those how served before retired Frackville Chaplain Larry Liggett, who served with the Marines in Desert Storm, was introduced as the guest speaker.



Liggett outlined his experiences with Mortuary Affairs and how it connected back to his hometown. He spoke eloquently of his experiences and what this country owes to the sacrifices by the men and women of the military to give us the freedoms we enjoy. Liggett ended with a prayer for all veterans prior to a moment of silence observed for the fallen as taps played.

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Albion Hosts Olympic Event for Inmates

SCI Albion held its Second Annual RTU/SNU Olympics in the gymnasium with approximately 200 participants on Nov. 6.

The purpose was to give inmates with mental health and physical limitations an expanded opportunity for development and fellowship and to promote healthy activity.

The events this year were Chin-ups, 95 lb. Bench Press, 135 lb. Bench Press, 20 Yard Sprint, Rowing, Medicine Ball Toss, Burpees, Wall Ball Toss, Box Jumps, Jump Rope and Agility Course.

Wheelchair events included 95 lb. Bench Press, 135 lb. Bench Press, 20 Yard Wheelchair Sprint, Medicine Ball Toss and Basketball Free Throw.

The event was extremely well received by all who attended.

This event was coordinated by Activities Specialist David Jackson and his staff, with full support of Unit Managers Kevin Lantz (RTU) and Jennifer DePlatchett (SNU).



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Speaker Presents on Suicide Prevention at Albion

Patty Puline from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine came to SCI Albion to speak about her personal story associated with having experienced suicide in her family on Nov. 6.

She also presented the "Yellow Ribbon Program,"



which is a program that she created following the death of her family member. This program focuses on both educating and informing people on topics related to suicide.

Her goal is to increase suicide awareness and work toward suicide prevention overall.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Retired DOC Veteran Speaks to Incarcerated Veterans at Mercer

In honor of Veterans Day 2018, SCI Mercer held a ceremony on the Veterans Service Unit (VSU) on Nov. 9. Under the supervision of the activities manager and the VSU staff, the veteran inmates planned, developed and performed the ceremony.



The colors were posted by the VSU Color Guard, the national anthem was played, veteran musicians performed several musical selections and several VSU veterans read tributes they wrote.

The ceremony attendees welcomed guest speaker retired DOC Deputy Superintendent David Zetwo, now chief deputy warden at the Allegheny County Prison. Zetwo, himself a 26-year veteran, thanked all the veterans in attendance for their service. He spoke on several topics and ended by stating that we all have a book of our lives and that we write our own chapters for it. He indicated that the chapter that the veterans wrote to get them to where they are now is closed and should be put away as this chapter is written and cannot be changed.

Zetwo encouraged the VSU veterans to use the discipline they learned in the military to move forward from here with the next chapter of their lives. He reminded them that their military discipline helped them while in the service and that it will also help them in their lives while incarcerated and when they go home.

Fred Riccio and District Director Lisa Moser took the lead on managing the closure and organizing training for staff prior to the closure.

For one week technology trainers known as the “A Team” came from all over the state to assist the Chambersburg Office in preparing for increased mobility. Director Riccio believes that this pilot will yield similar results to the Beaver Falls pilot. The biggest hurdle is ensuring that everyone is adequately trained and feels comfortable with the new technology.

Deputy Secretary of Field Services Christian Stephens developed a strategic plan to increase mobility of field operations. The plan included the closure of several sub offices, the remodeling of offices, and the mobilizing of parole supervisors. At Central Office, a white board sketches out all field offices, their lease expiration and the number of parolees that are serviced by the particular office. All of these factors play into the decision to close an office.

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Mahanoy Library Launches Reading Challenge

How do you get more inmates to read, and to read a wider variety of fiction?

Challenge them and offer chocolate as an incentive!

SCI Mahanoy’s Library is running its first reading challenge, based on the PBS’ “Great American Read” list of 100 books. Open to all inmates, including those in the restricted housing unit, they must check out, read and return any 25 books from the list to get a 6.08 oz. Symphony bar. There is a Spanish version of the challenge as well.



The results?

Only a handful of the 200 books (two copies of each) are on the shelf at any one time. Circulation is 998 books higher than the same time period last year. Twenty candy bars have been awarded since the challenge began in mid-September, and the Reading Challenge runs until the end of June 2019. Inmates can sign up for recreational library up to three times a week and can check out four books at a time.

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A Sweet Tribute for Veterans Day

SCI Coal Township treated staff in all three shifts on Veterans Day with special cupcakes purchased from a local specialty baker.



The Employee Recreation Association purchased the cupcakes and wanted to take the opportunity to wish all who served and are currently serving in the United States military a happy Veterans Day.

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Hostovich Named CI Employee of the Quarter

Roy Dale Hostovich, a 19-year Correctional Industries employee and former Airframe and Weapons repair man for the U.S. Air Force, runs the metal fabrication shop at SCI Fayette. As a leader in the New Product



From right to left, CI Assistant Director, Richard Gaul, CI Director Khelleh Konteh, CI General Factory Foreman Dale Hostovich, SCI Fayette Superintendent Mark Capozza and CI Fayette Manager, Roosevelt Norfleet.

Development Team his shop is responsible for sheering, punching, drilling and bending any and all metal products produced at Fayette.

And for his great work he was named CI's Employee of the Quarter.

Dale was recognized for his innovative design and uncompromising commitment to quality, in the development and mass production of 40 Pennsylvania Game Commission Collection Bins. These bins (pictured to the right) will be



used throughout Pennsylvania to combat Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a deadly infectious disease found in some deer, elk and moose populations. Pennsylvania hunters and certain wildlife populations are safer due to the meritorious efforts of Dale Hostovich and the CI Fayette Team.

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PBPP Chairman Visits Albion, Cambridge Springs

Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole Chairman Leo Dunn gave presentations at SCI Albion and SCI Cambridge Springs to about the state's parole process to the inmates.



James Williams (western regional director) Anthony Moscato (board member) and Kaitlyn Romiski (executive assistant) were also in attendance. At Albion, several staff members and approximately 315 inmates attended this presentation.

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New DOC Podcast Examines Drugs in Facilities

The latest episode of DOC's podcast features Communications Director Sue McNaughton interviewing two security officers about how drugs enter our facilities—and how the new policies are fighting back.

Major William Nicklow and Captain George Burns break down the most common ways drugs are snuck into DOC facilities, including the visiting room and mail. They also discuss first-hand encounters with these situations and how the new policies are already putting a big dent into the drug supply in prisons.

Don't miss out on our other great podcasts, including the latest episode of Secretary John Wetzel's "Bustin' Walls" where he interviewed a librarian at SCI Mahanoy! Podcasts can be found on the DOC homepage.

*The podcasts do not work on Internet Explorer; please use another browser.

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Malishchak Named Director of DOC's Psychology Office

Effective September 24, 2018, Dr. Lucas Malishchak was named director of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections' Psychology Office. He had been serving as acting director since October 2017, when former director Dr. Robert Marsh was named warden of Blair County Jail and later was named superintendent at SCI Benner Township.

As director of the Psychology Office, he is responsible for the oversight and direction of psychology services delivered in the PA DOC, including services provided to approximately 14,000 inmates and work performed by more than 300 mental health care professionals. Malishchak directly manages this centralized and statewide administrative oversight responsibility by supervising a team of four



clinical psychologists (i.e., regional licensed psychologist managers) and a corrections treatment program services administrator.

Malishchak began his DOC career in November 2010 as a psychological services associate at SCI Dallas. One year later he promoted to that prison's psychological services specialist (PSS) and mental health coordinator. In both positions, he was responsible for providing mental health services and treatment to approximately 400 inmates. As PSS, his responsibilities grew to include performing evaluations, developing treatment plans, facilitating group sessions, and serving as a liaison with the DOC's mental health provider.

In June 2013, Malishchak was named corrections evaluation supervisor/mental health program manager at the DOC's Psychology Office. Here, he worked with a team of regional licensed psychologist managers to oversee the delivery of mental health services to DOC inmates. According to DOC statistics, more than 28 percent of the DOC's population requires some form of mental health services, and more than 8 percent of inmates are seriously mentally ill. In this position, Malishchak's responsibilities included providing oversight of mental health services delivered to all DOC inmates. In this role, he developed a statewide quality improvement mechanism to monitor compliance with a settlement agreement with the Disabilities Rights Network (now *Disability Rights Pennsylvania*), who sued the department for what it believed was inadequate mental health services provided to seriously mentally ill inmates in restrictive housing units.

While working for the DOC in June 2016, Malishchak also served as an instructor for the National Institute of Corrections. Specifically, he was a national subject matter expert and instructor in mental health services for inmates housed in restrictive housing/administrative segregation units.

Prior to working for the DOC, Malishchak served as a therapeutic staff support, overall site supervisor, mobile therapist and behavioral specialist consultant for Children's Behavioral Health Services. During that time, he also served as an adjunct professor of psychology at Luzerne County Community College.

Malishchak earned a Bachelor of Arts in clinical psychology from Moravian College, a Master of Arts in psychology from Marywood University, and a Doctor of Business Administration, specializing in criminal justice from Northcentral University. Malishchak's doctoral dissertation was titled *Alternatives to Segregation and Seriously Mentally Ill Inmates in Pennsylvania State Prisons: A Case Study of Employee Perceptions*.

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Freedom Lost: Leave No Veteran Behind

The following article ran on PennLive.com accompanied by a video with even more in-depth information. Visit their website to see the video, including scenes from inside SCI Mercer's Veterans Service Unit.

Veterans account for 8% of the prison population in the United States. Ryan Yoder, a veteran of the Marine Corps and the Statewide Veterans Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC), is aiming to make sure that none of the veterans in Pa's institutions are forgotten.



Yoder, a native of Johnstown, Pa, served in uniform in the early 1990s and had many tours that took him from Guantanamo, Cuba, to Kuwait. His most memorable and personally significant experience was time spent as part of Operation Rescue Hope and Operation Continue Hope in Somalia. As he describes in the video, Yoder is still haunted to this day with the images, sounds and smells he experienced there.

Yoder's experience as a veteran, his educational background in criminal justice and the loss of one of his Marine brothers to suicide make him exceptionally fit for the job he currently undertakes with the PA DOC. He travels to correctional institutions across the state to make sure veterans in the general prison populations are identified and provided the services they need.

In addition to providing general services and access to resources specific to veterans, the DOC also runs a special program, the Veterans Service Unit (VSU). These housing units are reserved for veteran inmates who meet certain requirements, primarily being that they participate in rehabilitation programs.

The VSU we visited inside SCI Mercer is decorated with military inspired murals and paintings, which Yoder explained is common in all five of the VSUs currently in operation at the state's correctional institutions. The specialized housing units not only offer veterans a sense of community but it also allow the DOC to offer veteran directed services in a central location. These services include substance abuse programs, mental health services (including PTSD), education/vocational programs and assistance with applying for and getting VA benefits and services.

In the video, Yoder visits the VSU in SCI Mercer and shares his insights with the veteran inmates housed there.

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Albion Celebrates Veterans with Cakes, Baseball Caps and Food

SCI Albion Empowerment Committee and C.O.V.E.R. honored their veteran staff from Nov. 11-16.

Several events and activities were planned, including a Veterans Day cake available to all staff in the dining hall on all three shifts on Veterans Day.



Throughout the week all staff (uniformed and non-uniformed) were invited to wear a ball cap to sport their branch of service or to honor a veteran family member or friend. There were also daily \$25 gift card drawings, and HANGRY BITES food truck from Hunters Inn, Meadville, Pa., was on site Nov. 14 for all staff to enjoy. There was also a special slide show presentation of military staff created by C.O.V.E.R.

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Heroic Actions at Smithfield Save Two Inmates

Officer A. Herman noticed an inmate had his cell window covered shortly after 2 p.m. on Nov. 11.

Herman gave the inmate an order to remove the covering, but he did not. Herman removed the towel and observed the inmate hanging from the top bunk of his cell.



Pictured from left: Officer Herman, Supt. Jamey Luther, Officer Sweet and Officer Beebe.

Officers Sweet and Herman entered the inmate's cell, untied the bedsheet and lowered the inmate to the floor. They performed an initial assessment and noted that the inmate was not breathing and lacked a pulse.

The officers began chest compressions and rescue breathing; Officer Beebe arrived on the scene and took over chest compressions. After completing several cycles of CPR, they were able to regain a pulse and breathing. The inmate was carried down the steps, placed on a stretcher and escorted to medical for further evaluation.

The inmate was sent out via ambulance to J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital at 2:35 p.m.

The incident occurred during shift change and without the keen observation of Officer Herman, who noticed this inmate get off the phone and immediately go into his cell and cover his cell window, and the swift, subsequent actions of these three officers, the outcome this day would have been much different.

The next day at the facility during lunch, an inmate approached Officer Boyd, because he was choking. The inmate could still talk at this time, but when he tried to cough or clear his throat he inhaled and lodged the food further into his airway. Officer Boyd perform the Heimlich maneuver and was able to successfully clear the inmate's air passage.

The performance of these four officers exemplifies true correctional excellence. Their due diligence, training, professionalism and swift actions alone saved the lives of these inmates.

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Stankavage Named Employee of the Quarter at Retreat

Due to his professionalism and outstanding work ethic, Corrections Counselor Walter Stankavage has been named Employee of the Quarter for SCI Retreat.

In his letter announcing the selection, Supt. Vincent Mooney wrote:

"Your ability to keep calm and diffuse escalating situations demonstrates your commitment to crisis intervention, and thus maintaining order on the housing unit. Your collaboration with other staff members ensures that policies are followed and safety standards are adhered to. Your dedication as an AMAC instructor has also not gone unnoticed."



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Staff Supports Clinic at Lebanon VA

Staff officials Pam Brightbill (Board of Pardons), Parole Auditor Mark Bodle and Parole Manager Krista Callear supported a veteran legal/domestic relations outreach clinic held at the Lebanon Veterans Administration Medical Center (LVAMC) on Nov. 9.



Pictured from left: Pam Brightbill, Mark Bodle, Krista Callear.

A total of 35 veterans were assisted at the clinic and, specifically for pardons, six veterans and three staff were assisted.

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Mendez Named Volunteer of the Year at Frackville

Born and raised in Peru, Chaplain Milciades Mendez felt called into ministry in the early 1970's and studied at the Theological School of Peru. He then served as a pastor for 25 years and spent four years teaching theology in the Dominican Republic.

After arriving in Pennsylvania, Chaplain Mendez continued his ministry at churches in the cities of Reading and Lebanon.

Jubilee Ministries hired Chaplain Mendez in 2001. Chaplain Mendez currently serves at the Lebanon County Correctional Facility as well as at SCI Mahanoy, and he was just named the facility's Volunteer of the Year for 2018.



Chaplain Mendez is known for his encouraging personality, his warm smile, his love for ministry, and his willingness to provide help wherever it is needed.

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CO1 Named Employee of the Month at Forest

Congratulations to Corrections Officer 1 Teresa Harriger for being named SCI Forest's Employee of the Month.

In the letter announcing the honor to Harriger, Supt. Michael Overmyer wrote:

"You were nominated by your peers as being a model of professionalism in Corrections. You were an integral part of the emergency care of an inmate who had suffered a heart attack. You took part in administering CPR until the inmate was breathing on his own and kept him stable until medical arrived. You did this without prejudice in dealing with an inmate. Upon the arrival of the medical team, you immediately went on to conduct unit count keeping the flow on the unit going without any issues.

This letter of commendation is a personal thank you for your contribution to the SCI-Forest team. Our administration appreciates your work and dedication."

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CPOF Supports Frackville Administrative Officer

The Corrections Peace Officer Foundation made a donation to SCI Frackville Administrative Officer 1 Erica Reeder. The donation is to assist Reeder with recent medical expenses.

Reeder was diagnosed with Stage IV metastatic



Pictured from left: Supt. Kathy Brittain; Administrative Officer 1 Erica Reeder; and CPOF Representative Mary Jo Wall

breast cancer, and she is very open about her diagnosis in hopes of informing and raising awareness about it.

“In the U.S. alone, 113 men and women die each day from MBC,” Reeder said. “We are only given 2-3 years to live, but I am a warrior and will beat this!”

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Pine Grove’s C.O.V.E.R. Holds Veterans Day Basket Raffle

The C.O.V.E.R. group from SCI Pine Grove held a successful Veteran’s Day Basket Raffle Competition last week.

Nineteen departments throughout the facility donated

baskets, and whichever department had the most tickets received a pizza party compliments of C.O.V.E.R. The first-place winner was the medical department, with maintenance taking second and parole finishing third.

All proceeds earned will be going to local veteran charities. A big thank you to all the staff at SCI Pine Grove for making the fund raiser a huge success.

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Huntingdon Honors Employees with Service Pins, Certificates

SCI Huntingdon’s Supt. Kevin Kauffman presented staff with their service certificates and pins at a recent administrative staff meeting. Pictured in the below photo from left to right: Christian Stone (20 years of service), Tina Hicks-Kern (30 years of service), CO Jeffrey Justice (25 years of service), Curt Frailey (25 years of service), Supt. Kauffman, CO Allan DuCasse (25 years of service), Capt. Robert Cooper (25 years of service) and CO Marcus Chappell (25 years of service).

Combined these staff members have 175 years of service to the DOC!





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Delaware DOC Announces Plan to Send Inmates to Pennsylvania

To enhance public safety and decrease correctional officer overtime, the Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) announces it has entered into a two-year agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PADOC). A reduction in officer overtime will improve work life balance for staff, improve security in Delaware correctional facilities, and result in a decrease in operating costs.

Over the next several months, PADOC will accept up to 330 Delaware-sentenced inmates into their custody to be placed at a Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution. Inmates selected to be transferred are not engaged in active litigation and have more than five years remaining on their sentence. Medical and mental health treatment, education, and other services will continue to be available to the relocated men. The inmates will return to Delaware to complete their sentences when the correctional officer vacancy rate is projected to be significantly lower. There are currently 237 correctional officer vacancies statewide.

“We remain focused on improving safety for correctional officers and inmates in all of Delaware’s correctional facilities,” said Commissioner Perry Phelps. “This new agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections is designed as a

temporary measure to help us reduce mandatory overtime for correctional officers, which was a critical recommendation of the Independent Review team commissioned by Governor Carney. Reducing mandatory overtime will provide relief for Delaware’s correctional officers, and help make our facilities safer for officers and inmates.”

The Delaware DOC has recently made great strides to reduce the number of vacancies by increasing correctional officer salaries; offering \$1,000 bonuses to current staff who refer officers who are successfully hired; providing \$3,000 signing bonuses to cadets; and engaging in various methods of recruitment and advertisement. Since the implementation of the signing bonus and referral program in April, DOC Human Resources has received 2,126 applications. The DOC has hired 130 cadets since the salary increase became effective in July 2018.

As part of the contract with PADO, the Delaware Department of Correction will pay \$123.00 per inmate per day to the State of Pennsylvania. PADO has many facilities where inmates transferred from Delaware may be housed. But both states will remain conscious of the importance of strong support systems and will try to place Delaware inmates in prisons that do not require excessive travel time in order to facilitate visitation.

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Somerset Staff Celebrate Fall

Despite the impending snow storm and 26-degree temperatures, SCI Somerset enjoyed one last BBQ luncheon.

Somerset’s Staff Appreciation Team and administrative staff hosted a “Fall Fling” to provide employees at what will probably be their last cookout of the year.

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Around the Centers...

Johnstown CCC Celebrates BCC's 50th Anniversary with Open House

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Bureau of Community Corrections, the Johnstown Community Corrections Center held an open house on Nov. 7. Community leaders and businesses were invited as well as members of the DOC.

Those who attended repeatedly commented on the cleanliness of the center. Some of the attendees included Executive Deputy Secretary George Little from the BCC, SCI Laurel Highlands Superintendent Melissa Hainsworth, SCI Somerset Deputy Superintendent for Centralized Services Morris Houser, federal and local parole, US District Court Justice Price as well as a Court of Common Pleas Judge Bernstein, along with members of the Johnstown Area Redevelopment Authority, Penn Highlands Community College, the Johnstown Chamber of Commerce, The Tribune-Democrat and local AOD agencies. (However, this is by no means an all-encompassing list.) Overall we had approximately 50 visitors to the center.

The event received tremendous support from Somerset, who provided numerous trays of cookies as well as coffee and juice for refreshments.

The open house was held from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. and had a steady flow of visitors from start to finish. Tours started in the lobby, went through the kitchen, then to the second floor where visitors could see the resource room, weight room, and gym. They were then escorted to two different reentrant rooms where they could see the living conditions. The tours were conducted by all staff throughout the day. At the end of the tour guests were invited to the director's office for refreshments.





One particular highlight happened at the end of the day. Years ago, the building was an infirmary for the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, which employed 20,000 steel workers at any given time. The infirmary required staffing, nurses, doctors, clerical, etc. At the end of the day, two women stopped in for a tour, and it so happened that they were nurses in this very building when it was the Bethlehem Steel Infirmary. They shared how the place was set up when it was a medical facility, such as the first-floor kitchen and monitor's station was an x-ray room.

The first-floor laundry was the nurses' station, and the reentrant's TV room was actually the operating room! One former nurse shared a short story about the nurses' station: the nurses used to bring snacks into their station so they could enjoy them during their shift. She explained that there was one doctor who would always help himself to the snacks, and he loved Oreos. The nurses decided to "fix" him, so they took the Oreos apart and filled them with shaving cream! She said that doctor never bothered with their snacks again.

Overall it was a very successful open house. The visitors were appreciative of it and really enjoyed the experience. The center looked great and the staff of course, were welcoming and professional.

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Week of November 5...

DOC Announces Book, Publications Policy

The Department of Corrections recently announced details of its new book and publication policy aimed at addressing inmate, family and book donation group requests while ensuring safety for all.

"We have listened to inmates and their families and friends and to publication organizations and we have developed what we believe is a fair procedure that balances our need for security with the inmates' access to books," Corrections Secretary John Wetzel said. "This policy update allows inmates to have direct contact with book donation organizations through a security processing center and ensures that publications will not be used as a path by which drugs are introduced into our facilities."

The updated policy includes the following provisions:

- Book donation organizations will continue to send donated books to individual inmates as they have done in the past.
- Family and friends may purchase publications through an “original source,” which includes publishers, bookstores and online distributors.
- Inmates may order publications through catalogs.
- Inmates with tablets may choose to purchase eBooks. The number of eBooks will continue to expand based on input by inmates and the DOC will continue to look for free eBook offerings.
- Prison libraries will continue to offer thousands of titles and expand their offerings based on inmate requests.

The new inmate book policy requires publications (defined as books and magazines) to be sent to the DOC’s new Security Processing Center (SPC), at this mailing address:

Security Processing Center
 Inmate name, Inmate #
 268 Bricker Road
 Bellefonte, PA 16823

At the SPC, which will operate five days a week, DOC security staff will conduct thorough security screenings of all incoming publications. After publications clear the SPC, they will be sent to the mailroom at the prison where the inmate is located. From there, books and publications will be delivered to inmates.

Newspaper subscriptions will continue to be processed at the individual SCIs.

The DOC will notify publication companies and book donation groups of the new SPC mailing address. Family and friends of inmates cannot send publications directly to inmates and must work with original source book providers or sellers. Books will only be delivered via book vendors and book donation groups.

Facilities receiving publications that are addressed to a specific state prison rather than to the SPC will be returned to the sender.

Inmates who already have publication, i.e., magazine subscriptions, have until Dec. 31, 2018 to contact the publisher to change the mailing address to the SPC’s address. Newspapers may continue to be addressed to the specific SCI.

This publication processing change was prompted by a rash of inmate and employee illnesses following contact with illegal drugs that had been smuggled into the prison system by mail, visits and publications.

"The DOC will still take input on the policy as we work to continue to allow inmates access to books of their choosing while making our prisons safer," Sec. Wetzel said.

Policies were first announced on September 4. Additional work to add body scanners, drone detection systems and electronic drug detection equipment continues. On October 19, DOC officials announced that their anti-drug policies were working.

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SCI Rockview Forestry Camp Hosts State Forester

In November, Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry Director Ellen M. Shultzabarger visited SCI Rockview and met with prison officials and inmates enrolled in the facility's Forestry Camp.

The Forestry Camp provides training for a select group of inmates who manage forests on 2,500 acres at SCI Rockview. A new arboriculture course, created with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and now in its second year, provides valuable training to help inmates find employment upon their release in the high-demand field of tree maintenance.

Shultzabarger, the first female state forester in Pennsylvania history, had the opportunity to watch inmates prune trees at Rockview's 60-acre nursery, which grows ornamental trees and shrubs.

"We are proud of the work the Forestry Camp staff and teams do to manage our extensive forest network," said SCI Rockview Superintendent Mark Garman. "The collaboration with DCNR has expanded the opportunities for camp participants to advance their knowledge and learn additional skills to help them find good jobs following their release."

The forestry detail manages prison forestland for timber and firewood production, maintains roads and trails, and conducts tree pruning, tree planting, and hazard tree removal for area communities. The Forestry Camp also has a wildfire crew available to fight forest fires on institution property and assist the state Bureau of Forestry as needed.

"This program has successfully helped connect reentrants for employment in the tree-care industry, and DCNR is committed to recruiting more people into outdoor professions," said Shultzabarger. "We are excited to expand this intra-agency Correctional Conservation Collaboration into other realms of conservation, including forestry, riparian (stream) buffers, and pesticide application, as well as to other DOC institutions."

The five-week arboriculture training program includes sessions on tree climbing and tree safety, tree identification and pruning. The curriculum is based on the International Society of Arboriculture's (ISA) Arborist Certification Study Guidebook. The ISA, in support of this program, donated 20 guidebooks, which

typically cost \$125 each. Completion of the course prepares inmates for the Arborist Certification exam.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Pennsylvania companies employ among the largest number of people in the tree maintenance field in the nation.

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SCI Pine Grove Inmates Donate to Children & Youth Services

In October an inmate organization at the State Correctional Institution (SCI) at Pine Grove donated more than \$600 to a local charity.

The funds were raised by the Beyond the Fence inmate organization when it held its first annual runathon on October 8, where 30 inmates participated in 5K and 10K runs. Participants completed 772 laps equaling 74.1 miles.

The donations were raised through an entry fee, fundraiser and a donation from the inmate organization, and the Beyond the Fence inmate organization chose the Indiana County Children & Youth Services to receive the donation.



Children & Youth Services Foster Care Coordinator Terri Wells said that the money would go toward making the child visitation rooms friendlier through the painting of murals and the addition of rugs. The agency currently has more than 60 children placed in foster care in Indiana County ranging in age from infant to 18. They are always in need of foster homes for the children.

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Diplomas, Certificates Awarded at Smithfield

SCI Smithfield held a graduation ceremony October 24 for 34 GED/CSD (Commonwealth Secondary Diploma) graduates.

In addition, vocational certificates were awarded to one student obtaining his barber license, seven building trades students, 16 business education students, and 13 custodial maintenance students.

Dr. Alison Fletcher, professor of history at Juniata College, delivered an uplifting and inspiration message to the graduates. The ceremony was well attended by staff and inmate families to support these graduates on their achievements.



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FERTs Complete Decontamination Class

On Oct. 24, Fire Emergency Response Team (FERT) members from SCI Smithfield and SCI Huntingdon attended a decontamination class that incorporated the new DOC procedures at Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department. This course was put on by local EMA. The participants all earned Bucks County Community College certificates, and those that are EMTs earned continuing education credit.



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119 Graduate at Camp Hill

A total of 119 inmates received either a diploma or certificate at SCI Camp Hill's Graduation Ceremony on Oct. 18.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Donna L. Edsail, and there were also several inmate speakers, as well as opening remarks by Superintendent Laurel Harry.



SCI Camp Hill celebrated 47 students who received an Adult Commonwealth Secondary Diploma, while 10 students earned their GED. Several certificates and diplomas were also awarded in Business Education, Culinary Arts, Graphic Arts, HVAC and International Computer Drivers Licenses (ICDL). In addition, there were seven students who earned a barber's license, along with another becoming a

barber teacher and one barber manager. SCI Camp Hill is very proud of each and every one of them.

Congratulations to all graduates!

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Tree Tenders Program Continues at Huntingdon

A Tree Pruning Workshop was held at SCI Huntingdon on Oct. 19, the second part of the Tree Tenders Program that was held at the prison in June 2018.

The workshop is a collaborative effort between the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Tree Vitalize and Penn State Extension. Thirty inmate participants and four work supervisors were given classroom training on proper pruning techniques. After the classroom training was completed, the workshop moved outside onto the Huntingdon grounds. All participants were given the opportunity to put their training to use on several trees utilizing a variety of hand tools for pruning, as well as poles saws. Participants will receive a certificate.

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Huntingdon Families Enjoy Pumpkin Painting

Children and grandchildren of SCI Huntingdon's staff got into the Halloween spirit with pumpkin painting at the facility.

Twenty-two kids used paint, stickers, markers, pipe cleaners and other fun craft items to decorate their pumpkins. Holiday snacks and hot chocolate were provided for everyone.





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State Police Conduct Exercise with Greene

SCI Greene conducted a joint exercise with the Pennsylvania State Police on Oct. 24.

A large police presence was at the facility as the escape siren was tested and police patrols saturated the local community surrounding the prison. Information was conveyed to the public informing them of the intended exercise.

Each year, the agencies work together and coordinate emergency training exercises and drills in order to effectively respond in the event of an actual emergency.



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Mercer CO Prevents Bank Robbery

SCI Mercer Superintendent Melinda Adams, along with Deputy Superintendent William Woods and Major Paul Brocklehurst, recognized Corrections Officer Thomas M. Corcoran for his decisive actions on Oct. 24 in stopping a bank robbery. Corcoran was presented with a certificate of recognition and an SCI Mercer challenge coin.

Corcoran displayed courage and bravery in the face of adversity, protecting innocent civilians and preventing a bank robbery at a local PNC bank in Neshannock Township, Lawrence County, Pa.

Adams expressed to Corcoran that the competence and character that he displayed reflected greatly credit upon himself, SCI Mercer and the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.

Corcoran stated that it was a surreal moment and that now his daughter thinks of him as a superhero.



Well done, Officer Corcoran! SCI Mercer and the entire DOC are proud of you and your actions.

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Students Tour Huntingdon

Staff at SCI Huntingdon hosted 21 high school-aged students enrolled in the Public Health and Safety curriculum at the Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center on Oct. 26.

Part of their studies includes a section on criminal justice and prisons. Former Huntingdon corrections officer, Crist Fellman, is the instructor. The students toured various areas of the institution including several different types of housing units, Correctional Industries shops, the command center and the keyroom.

This is the third year Huntingdon has conducted this tour. It has been very popular with the students, and they are always enthusiastic and full of questions.



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Coal Township Holds Food Drive

SCI Coal Township employees collected pantry items for the annual food drive which benefits a Shamokin charity, Manna for the Many.

Boxes of various nonperishable food items were recently delivered to Manna, a local food pantry established through the Shamokin Area Ministerium to serve those in need in the Shamokin/Coal Township area. Manna opened its doors in 2000 and is supported entirely by private donations and staffed solely by volunteers.



Pictured with some of the donated items is Jodi Britton, who coordinated SCI Coal Township's food collection since it began more than 10 years ago.

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Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance Visits Quehanna

As part of Quehanna Boot Camp's ongoing reentry efforts, Kayla Kressler and Angela Liddle from The Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance visited on Oct. 25.

During their visit, they met with the female inmates from both the Boot Camp Program and the SIP Program. Topics discussed were personal and family experiences with drug and alcohol addiction, raising children while fighting addiction and negative and positive response to trauma. The floor was opened up to the inmates to share their stories and experiences with one another.

For more information on The Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance, visit <https://www.pa-fsa.org/>.



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Inmate Athletes Honored at Greene

The Activities Department at SCI Greene held a Sports Banquet and Recognition Ceremony to acknowledge the inmates for their fundraising and charitable donations for the local community on Oct. 25.

Guest Speakers for the event were former NFL player Michael Humiston and Canine Partner's for Life (CPL) Puppy Program Coordinator Jennifer Swank.



Humiston is the director of the Department of Public Safety and head baseball coach at Waynesburg University. He graduated from Weber State University in 1981 before playing six seasons as a linebacker in the National Football League.

Swank is the Puppy Program Coordinator for Canine Partner's for Life. She gave a brief overview of the CPL Program and expressed her appreciation to the inmate handlers and volunteers for the important work that they do to make the program successful.

Awards were presented to the CPL inmate handlers, runathon winners, intramural basketball, team handball, softball and flag football champions, and Hoops for a Cure Basketball Tournament. The inmates participating in the fundraising events made a donation to participate and solicit staff for sponsorships. They raised a total of \$8,076.25. The Greene County Parks and Recreation Youth Day Camps, local nursing homes and softball organizations were among a few that will receive the donations.

Special thanks were given to the guest speakers, Waynesburg Animal Hospital, the Activities Committee of Enrichment (ACE) Board of Directors and staff for assisting with the event.

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Three Facilities Host Blood Drives

SCI Waymart, SCI Cambridge Springs and SCI Greene hosted the American Red Cross at each of their facilities for blood drives.

At Greene, 25 donors volunteered and donated 16 whole blood donations and one power red donation for a total of 18 units. The facility has another drive set for Jan. 2019.



At Cambridge Springs, 21 units of blood were collected from staff.

At SCI Waymart, 171 people in need of blood will receive it.

Great work to all donors!

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Cambridge Springs Hosts College Tours

SCI Cambridge Springs hosted two college tours as students from Gannon University and Edinboro University visited. Amy Boylan (superintendent's assistant) and Dave Wescott (safety manager) toured 7 visitors from Gannon University on Oct. 30 and 25 visitors from Edinboro University on Oct. 31.



Students from Gannon University

The tour participants saw a variety of areas throughout the facility to include the Parenting Department, Visiting Room, Correctional Industries Optical Lab, Therapeutic Community and Housing Unit E (General Population Unit). The students learned about inmate programming and work opportunities, as well as general information about daily life inside a correctional facility.



Students from Edinboro University

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Gift Baskets Given Away to Boost SECA

Staff from various departments at SCI Cambridge Springs donated gift baskets to be given away during the 2018 State Employees Combined Appeal (SECA) campaign to promote and encourage staff to donate to SECA.

Cambridge Springs SECA Coordinator Kelly Fink (pictured) was appreciative of the staff support that helped the facility exceed its 2018 goal.



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CI Presents Plaque in Honor of Late Colleague

Nathan Rhodes and Craig Northrop, Correctional Industries managers from SCI Huntingdon, presented SCI Smithfield Superintendent Jamey Luther a plaque in honor of Thomas "Tom" A. Newman, Correctional Industries supervisor at SCI Smithfield, who passed away on October 26, 2018, after a brief illness.



Pictured from left: Deputy John Rivello, Superintendent Jamey Luther, Craig Northrop, Joe Kennedy, Deputy Chad Wakefield, and Nathan Rhodes

Tom began his career at SCI Huntingdon in Sept. 2004 as a corrections garment factory foreman. He transferred to SCI Smithfield in Jan. 2015 as a corrections garment factory foreman and was later promoted to corrections garment factory supervisor in Feb. 2018. Tom was always a very hard worker and had a "can-do" attitude, said Deputy Superintendent Chad Wakefield, who oversees the garment factory on grounds.

He had a positive attitude and offered words of encouragement to both staff and inmates.

Joe Kennedy, corrections foreman at SCI Smithfield who worked side-by-side with Tom every day, described him as "hard working and caring." An inmate at SCI Smithfield described Tom as "patient and caring." Tom was known for his kind and gentle nature. You could always count on a friendly greeting when you visited or passed by the garment factory.



His true passion, however, was serving the Lord and making sure everyone he knew also knew the Lord. He was actively involved in the Christian Missionary

Alliance Church in Paintersville, Pa. He led Bible studies at William Penn Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center and was a regular volunteer with the Habitat for Humanity. Tom leaves behind a wife, two children, nine grandchildren and three siblings. His absence has created a void in not only our facility but also in the hearts of all who knew him.

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New Report to Help Inmates Be Ready for Work

The DOC is excited to announce a new report available to help staff, inmates and reentrants.

As part of the Career Pathways grant, our goal is to get inmates “job-ready” prior to and post release. One way to achieve this is to emphasize that all education and work experience gained while incarcerated is beneficial to gaining employment upon release. To attain this goal a new report was created in DOCInfo that lists information to create a resume and share pertinent data with potential employers and other workforce partners.

Here is a list of information available on the report.

- Educational Credentials/Level – Highest verified level of education
- Initial TABE – Test date and score
- TABE Details – Additional test dates and scores
- Trade Based Credentials – All credentials earned during incarceration
- Inmate Employment – Work history up to 10 years of incarceration

An inmate can use this report to create and/or update a resume prior to release. A reentrant can use this report to create and/or update a resume after release, share with local PA CareerLink® staff to verify TABE scores or use to verify employment and trade based credentials earned to a potential employer.

PA Department of Corrections
Career Pathways Report
November 2, 2018

Name: [REDACTED] Inmate Number: [REDACTED]

Educational Credentials/Level: Post Secondary

Initial TABE:

Test Date	Reading GE	Arithmetic GE	Spelling GE
04/11/2014	12.9	6.2	9.3

TABE Details:

Test Date	Site	Test Type	Reading GE	Math GE	Spelling GE	Language GE
04/11/2014	MUNCY	Survey	12.9	6.2	9.3	6.2

Trade Based Credentials:

Date	Credentials	Comments
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Inmate Employment:

Site	Begin Date	End Date	Job Detail
CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS	11/05/2018		Optical
CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS	03/14/2018	05/19/2018	School
CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS	03/02/2018	11/04/2018	CPS - A
CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS	01/07/2018	03/01/2018	CPS - A
CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS	11/07/2017	01/06/2018	CPS - A
CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS	06/14/2016	11/06/2017	CPS - A
CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS	06/07/2016	06/13/2016	GLP
CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS	03/23/2015	06/13/2016	CPS - A
CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS	03/02/2015	03/13/2015	CPS - A
CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS	08/11/2014	06/06/2016	Library Aide
CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS	07/22/2014	08/10/2014	GLP
MUNCY	04/02/2014	07/21/2014	GLP

Page 1 of 1

The new report can be provided to the inmate/reentrant at any time, during or after incarceration. It will pull current and former (inactive) inmates. In addition, it will combine information for inmates returned to custody with a new number. All staff with DOCINFO access should have access to this report. If you don't have access or have any questions, please contact Dorenda Hamarlund at dhamarlund@pa.gov.

We would like to thank BIT for their assistance in creating this new report.

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Coal Township Employees Presented with DOC 25, 20 Years of Service Certificates

A pair of corrections officers at SCI Coal Township were awarded certificates for their service.

Superintendent Tom McGinley presented Corrections Officer Jeffrey Horvath with his certificate for 25 years of service.

Corrections Counselor Merle Smith was awarded his 20-year certificate. Smith is also retiring, so he also received a United States flag that was flown over the facility.

Originally a drug and alcohol treatment specialist when he began in 1998, Smith finished his service and career as a corrections counselor.



Above: Superintendent Tom McGinley with Corrections Officer Jeffrey Horvath

Left: (Pictured from left) DSCS Tony Lusavage, Superintendent Tom McGinley, Corrections Counselor Merle Smith and DSFM Victor Mirarchi.

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EDS Moore Smeal Presents at LDIAA Conference

The Leadership Development Institute Alum Association held its 25th anniversary celebration on Nov. 1 at Central Penn College.

The theme for the conference was “Celebrating Our Past, Investing in Our Future,” and among the first presenters was Corrections Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal.

“As leaders, you have to be willing to do what you would do if you weren’t afraid,” said Moore Smeal. “Own your decisions and own your failures and move on.



Recognize that good is the enemy of being great. Great gets you to the next level.”

She challenged the attendees to not simply “get up” but “rise up and walk in your purpose.”

LDIAA is an educational organization that strives to promote and advance leadership development in Pennsylvania, to provide a forum for professional development and to advance professional knowledge.

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Coal Township Hosts Criminal Justice Forum

SCI Coal Township’s Lifeline Association presented a forum on Criminal Justice.

The agenda consisted of four discussion periods, including HB-135/SB942 and other second chance legislations, Lifer’s Reentry into Society



and Prison Overpopulation/Financial Burden to PA Taxpayers. Organizations and outside agencies attended the forum, including State Representative Kurt Masser. The Lifeline Association is supervised by Corrections Counselors Jason Gatewood and Kate Santelli and Unit Manager Kathy Biscoe.

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ENVISION Blind Sports Receives Donation from Mercer Inmate Run-A-Thon

SCI Mercer's Inmate Activities Committee (IAC) frequently gives back to the community by conducting various fundraisers throughout the year in which the inmates may participate to raise funds.



Superintendent Melinda Adams, Deputy Superintendent William Woods, Activities Manager April Harvey, and Activities Specialist Alex Fisher presented ENVISION staff with the inmate donation on Oct. 26 at SCI Mercer.

For the IAC's annual Walk/Run-A-Thon, hosted by the Activities Department at Mercer on Aug. 4, ENVISION Blind Sports was selected to receive the funds raised from the event. In addition, five representatives from ENVISION attended and participated in the Walk/Run-A-Thon.

ENVISION Blind Sports is a non-profit organization located in Mercer, which provides physical activity and promotes a life of wellness for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Programs provided by the organization include sports camps and clinics, Pittsburgh Penguins Blind Ice Hockey, outdoor adventures and educational support.

During the event, 59 inmates raised money by participating in the 6.5-hour event in the categories of: under 35, 35-49, 50 and older, and a 26-mile marathon. Four of the six marathon entries finished the marathon. The participants walked/ran a combined total of 808.4 miles. One inmate completed 1,000 burpees and one completed 500 burpees in the allotted time. Over a \$1,000 was raised from the Walk-A-Thon and from a hygiene sale. The IAC matched this amount, making the total donation to ENVISION at \$2,020.

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Camp Hill Unit Manager Attends Career Fair

The following was written by SCI Camp Hill Unit Manager Ian Taggart, who attended a career day near the facility.

In October, the Guidance Counselor and the Administration at Crossroads Middle School, located in

Etters, Pa., issued invitations to parents and businesses to participate in a career awareness fair for the eighth-grade students.

As many of the administrative staff know me and my profession as my children attend their school, they believed I would have intriguing information that would spark their students' interest in the correctional, criminal justice and the health and human services fields, just to name a few.

After discussion with the administrative staff, I collected the "career day" box, which is filled with brochures, a PA Department of Corrections table cover and some other interesting documents about civil service and non-civil service positions and proceeded to enter the gym and set up the display.

After setting up and walking around the room looking at the banners, spinning wheels of chance for prizes, and other swag, I thought, how to convince young minds that employment in the Department of Corrections would be an interesting and exciting career choice when all I had were some brochures and job descriptions.



After what felt like five minutes of deep thought, the method came to me. Within the gym, there were individuals representing numerous careers. There were state and local law enforcement, fire fighters and emergency medical technicians, lawyers, physician assistants, pharmacists, computer and IT software and mechanical engineers, hotel and restaurant professions, x-ray and imaging, and last but not least fiscal management such as banking and real estate professions.

So, having all these professions readily available, I referred back to my days working at Central Office. During my time at Central Office I worked for Chief Counsel's Office, Bureau of Health Care and the Bureau of Standards and Practices. Afterwards I transitioned to SCI Camp Hill where I work with numerous departments such as legal, health care, maintenance, and food service just to name a few.

As the young adults approached my table many inquired about the correctional or security side of the corrections profession. While explaining the responsibilities of corrections officers, I informed the students about the other career professions represented at the fair and how many of the professions had employment opportunities within the Department and the Commonwealth. Many students did not realize this, and many left with a better understanding of corrections.

At the end of the fair, some of the faculty approached me and indicated the initial feedback they heard from students was, "I did not know corrections had so many professions or careers," or "interesting how my training as a junior fire fighter can be utilized within Corrections." I recalled this student as I explained each facility has a FERT team made up of staff members trained in firefighting, and other emergency services and tactics.

At the conclusion of the awareness fair, I believe the students and the faculty gained insight to the Department and all the available opportunities the Department and/or the Commonwealth has to offer.

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Camp Hill Successfully Completes ACA Audit

On Oct. 25, SCI Camp Hill successfully completed its American Correctional Association (ACA) audit and received 100 percent on mandatory standards and 98.1 percent on non-mandatory standards. As with SCI Rockview, SCI Benner Township, the Training Academy and the Harrisburg and York CCC's, the actual reaccreditation will be determined at ACA's winter conference in Jan. 2019.

The auditors made the following comments about Camp Hill:

- Not only did people know what they were tasked to do, but they were knowledgeable about how they fit into the overall mission of the facility.
- The institution was clean and quiet.
- The staff were friendly and extremely knowledgeable.

- The staff showed lots of dedication.
- The grounds were impeccable.
- The institution is a well put together machine.
- This is a complex institution and we were impressed with the staff and various programs that are offered here.

Superintendent Laurel Harry said that we could have never had such a successful audit without the teamwork and efforts of everyone, and she thanked staff for sharing their knowledge and expertise with the auditors and for making Camp Hill shine!

Lastly, she mentioned that the final day of the accreditation marked the 29th anniversary of the Camp Hill riots. The results of the accreditation showed how far this institution has come over the last 29 years.

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Take-Out Tuesdays at Camp Hill

Psychological Services Specialist Danielle Tedesco coordinated "Take-Out Tuesdays" at SCI Camp Hill, where staff can purchase fresh food from local caterers during their lunch breaks on all shifts.

Sir D's catered the first two events in the institution's visiting room, and Joey's Chicken Shack provided catering for the last event. The most recent "Take-Out Tuesday" was Nov. 6 and included southern comfort food from Mel's Rock N' BBQ.



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Smithfield Honor Guard Marches in Parade

SCI Smithfield's Honor Guard marched in the Huntingdon Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 3.



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DOC Holds Transforming Leadership Day

Despite a cold, heavy rain, more than 200 people packed into the Training Academy's Ary Auditorium Nov. 5 for Transforming Leadership Day.

The day began with Rollin Cook, former Utah DOC Executive Director, presenting



about changing the culture of corrections and how to bring a positive mindset into the field.

It continued with Cindy Beers, owner of Red Head Yoga in Mechanicsburg, who presented on the importance of self-care. She even led the attendees through a brief—but quite relaxing—meditation session.

Maj. William Nicklow providing an intelligence briefing on drug introduction into facilities, including the various avenues the DOC has seen and shut down.

The final speaker was Dr. Christian Conte, who provided a motivational speech to encourage the attendees and help change their thinking.

It was a successful first installment of a series DOC Secretary John Wetzel said he hopes to do more frequently to develop the department's leaders.

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Around the Centers...

TLC Volunteers at Central PA Food Bank

Staff from Transitional Living Center bagged 1,600 apples for the STEP Head Start at the Central PA Food Bank. The team also boxed breakfast for the Williamsport Area School District backpack giveaway program.



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Conewago Pottsville Clients Knit for a Cause

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, and female clients at Conewago Pottsville requested the ability to make things for the Lehigh Valley Cancer Center as a way of giving back.

The staff felt it would be therapeutic for the female community since many of them suffer from trauma and approved the request.



It allowed them to give back, help others, and show gratitude. The yarn was nearly all donated and supplies were picked up from Cash on Hand to assist the clients in meeting their request. They had been working on the items for over a month and at the end of the month donated them to the cancer center. They were greatly appreciated and accepted by the staff at the cancer center. They will now be distributed to those in need.

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Harrisburg CCC Reentrant Vining Takes Care of Center Plants

Community corrections center reentrants are encouraged to help maintain their facilities, and one at Harrisburg CCC has done a particularly good job with it.

Reentrant Vining volunteered to care for the house plants located in the lobby. He has done a wonderful job caring for the plants (pictured with Vining) as well as other plants in the center.



Vining was presented a \$10 gift card to Burger King by Center Director Maxine Stanley for his consistency in caring for the plants.

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Harrisburg CCC Reentrants Recognized in Facility

Harrisburg CCC Center Director Maxine Stanley presented reentrants who helped clear rooms in preparation for renovations on the A-side of the building with gift cards.

When volunteers were requested, these men answered the call. At the November house meeting, they were recognized, and each received a \$10 gift card to Family Dollar and Burger King.



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Harrisburg CCC Staff Begins Community Outreach

Harrisburg CCC Center Director Maxine Stanley and Counselors Kevin Sommers and Quanisa Lewis visited the office of Representative Patty Kim in October. Representative Kim was not at the office, however the HCCC staff had a very nice visit with Angel Fox and Oscar Douglas, legislative assistants to Representative Kim. HCCC's new slogan is "HCCC – Reentry and Community Focused." The staff's visit to Representative Kim's office demonstrate that it is not just a slogan but a mission.



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Scranton CCC Supports Local Soup Kitchen

For the month of October, Scranton Community Corrections Center donated \$550 worth of non-perishable food items to St. Francis Soup Kitchen. The Thanksgiving-related food items will help St. Francis with its annual Thanksgiving dinner. Great work to everyone who donated!



Pictured from left: Reentrants: William Tardella, Zach Pluko, Gary Kripp and Chad Clark; Counselor William Barrager, Monitor Sal Nati and Counselor Kenny Jordan.

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Reentrants Volunteer at Animal Shelter

On a late September Saturday several residents from GEO's Scranton Residential Reentry Center volunteered their time at the "Ruff Life Rescue North East Animal Shelter." Residents gave time to help the dogs, feeding and cleaning kennels and doing general tasks that helps the shelter care for the animals while waiting for adoptions.

Our residents experienced a rewarding day at the shelter, sharing a message of a better life to come with a second chance. GEO Reentry programming at our Scranton facility is designed to include community service. Residents have an opportunity to demonstrate positive behavior while giving back to the community, serving both the community and reinforcing the reentry programming we provide."



The day of community service also included dog walks and a chance for play, which both enjoyed. The staff at the Ruff Life Rescue was extremely grateful for the help from the residents who volunteered.

All experienced a gratifying day at the shelter. Residents enjoyed the interaction with the dogs, bringing upliftment to souls both human and canine. Other community service activities at the Scranton center include local cleanups, helping at the soup kitchen.

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Pathways CCC Cleans Up Robesonia

Over the past several months, reentrants from Pathways CCC embarked in another major community service event.

Pathways partnered with the Borough of Robesonia to tackle several tasks to assist taxpayers and the community in clean up and restoration efforts. The reentrants worked weekly with borough workers to paint street lines, parking lines and basketball courts.

They cleaned the community parks where elderly fundraisers are held, and refurbished the community's "Furnace Triangle" area. This area is a historic park area along the creek in Robesonia where community members come to relax or walk and spend time with each other.



Due to lack of time and money, the park was neglected for the past several years and it was completely in shambles. Reentrants worked tirelessly to get the park back in shape, and it is again a mainstay in the community.

Robesonia Public Works Manager Lisa Heilman met with Wernersville and asked if we could help in any way with the abundance of things that needed to be done. Once

again, Pathways was up for the challenge and spent numerous days working with Public Works staff to complete as many tasks as possible. Heilman was extremely

grateful for the help and thanked Pathways for helping them get the tasks completed. Lisa sent the following statement on the organization's behalf:



"Just wanted to drop a note to you and the great guys from Wernersville CCC to thank you for all your assistance in several projects in our borough. The line painting in our borough parking lot and the diagonal parking lines on North Robeson Street were a huge help to us and offered our taxpayers great cost-savings! The removal of two large trees along Furnace Creek damaged in an accident this year more than likely helped us prevent flood damage caused by them blocking the creek. With all the excessive rain we're experiencing this year that could have been catastrophic! The kids are loving the new lines painted on our basketball court which gets used hard all year!

Probably the most impactful change has been the clean-up and re-mulching of our passive recreation area known as the Furnace Triangle. The Triangle is a very popular spot that provides a safe and peaceful venue for walkers in the borough. The area had not been well-maintained over the last several years and got a bit out of control with vegetation. Your CCC guys moved right in there and cleaned out the area and have started re-mulching. It is looking so much better and people have been noticing and commenting!

The men you've provided to assist us have done a great job and have been very respectful and hard-working. We very much appreciate the help they've given us and hope to continue to work with them in the future."

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Week of October 22...

Department of Corrections: Anti-Drug Policies are Working, New Book Donation Policy Outlined

The Department of Corrections (DOC) today provided a 45-day progress update on new protocols and policies announced in September to protect staff, visitors and inmates at Pennsylvania's 25 state correctional facilities after an unprecedented number of inmate and staff exposures to unknown substances.

The policies were put in place for safety and to eradicate drugs from the prisons. And they are working, according to data released today by the department.

“Working in a prison is a dangerous job,” DOC Secretary John Wetzel said. “Add to that the potential that an employee might be seriously sickened conducting a routine inmate property search or opening mail or that an inmate might overdose or have an adverse, violent reaction to a drug is something DOC cannot and will not tolerate. Halfway into the full implementation of these protocols, they are making a difference on all levels of risk to staff, inmates, and visitors.”

During the first month of the new policies (the most recent data available):

- Staff sent to the emergency room for drug exposure dropped from 48 visits in August to 8 in September
- Drug finds dropped by 46 percent to the lowest level in more than a year
- Positive drug tests from random inmate drug testing dropped in half to the lowest level in more than a year
- Both inmate-on-inmate and inmate-on-staff assaults declined
- The number of inmate misconducts written for drug-related activity were cut in half

Additional data on these and other measures can be found on the DOC’s data dashboard, [here](#).

“When we announced these policies, we intended full implementation to take 90 days, which implied further development of plans as we worked to interact with staff, inmates and visitors to fine tune, analyze and develop fair, complete, and most important, safe policies,” Wetzel said.

“One of the most discussed policies is mail, especially books. We hear what inmates, advocates and families are saying; we listened and are addressing those concerns.

“It’s important to reiterate that at no time did our new policies ban books, nor are we charging inmates to read. Our new policies actually expand access for inmates while ensuring safety for all. And we will continue to look for ways to increase access.”

Books

“The new book donation policy, which we will formally announce in two weeks, will meet our security standards and follow the same procedures that book donation organizations currently use,” Wetzel said.

The donations will work as follows: Inmates will sign up for genres of books, which is the current policy of most donation organizations; the DOC will work with donation organizations to locate the genres requested; the books will be shipped to a centralized DOC location, pass through security and be distributed directly to those inmates who made the requests.

“We will be able to fulfill the mission of the donation organizations by providing free books to inmates and we can reach inmates within our institutions who may not

have been aware that this opportunity existed, helping to expand access to free books," Wetzel said.

The new book policy also includes a purchasing component that has already been implemented. Inmates access a kiosk in each facility to request books through centralized ordering. Inmates have requested nearly 4,000 publications – at low prices – since the program started two weeks ago.

In addition, the number one book requested by inmates from the donation organizations is a dictionary. The DOC is addressing this issue by providing free dictionaries to every inmate who requests one.

"The dictionaries will be funded through the Inmate General Welfare Fund," Wetzel said. "This is non-taxpayer money, funded through vending machine sales, our commissaries, and phone calls for the exclusive purpose of benefitting inmates. We are pleased to make the most-requested book available to any inmate who wants one at no cost to the inmate."

Corrections also provided an update on progress with the development of new policies on mail, body scanners, and visitation.

Mail

The DOC's mail contractor, Smart Communications (SmartCOM), began processing mail on September 10 and is receiving, on average 10,000 pieces of mail daily. The mail is processed 24 hours a day, Monday through Saturday. SmartCOM has hired 52 employees and ordered six mail scanners for the Pennsylvania contract to speed mail delivery to inmates. After the 90-day transition period, the DOC is on track to have all mail in the hands of the inmate within 48 hours of SmartCOM receiving it.

Also, all facilities now have new high-quality color copiers to print photos, greeting cards and children's drawings before given to inmates.

Regarding legal mail, the DOC continues to explore additional options for processing legal mail, including the development of a secured email system exclusively for legal mail. Currently, all mail (legal and general) originals are stored in a locked container for a period of 45 days.

Drone Detection

Correctional facilities without drone detection equipment are expected to have the equipment installed the week of October 29, completing the plan for all facilities to have the capability to detect drones.

Body Scanners

Installation of body scanners in all facilities is expected to begin within four weeks to allow for required Department of Environmental Protection and site inspections prior to installation. In the interim, staff training has started and will continue after scanner installation.

Electronic Drug Detection Equipment (EDDE)

To aid in safety and drug detection, in particular of cannabinoids, the DOC has trained staff on the use of Electronic Drug Detection Equipment, or EDDE, also known as ion scanners, which will be on site at all correctional facilities by early November.

Those who seek to get drugs into prisons have become more creative and the new drugs, K2 or synthetic cannabinoids, are odorless, colorless and more potent than seen before, and make up 40 percent of drugs introduced into the state prison system. The primary deliver system for these drugs is paper.

"The new EDDE equipment will help in detecting more than 30 types of cannabinoids, while keeping our staff and inmates safe from possible exposure to these dangerous substances," Wetzel said.

Visiting Rooms

The DOC continues to work on a policy that allows for reinstating visiting room benefits such as vending machines. As the policy is finalized, facilities are working to accommodate visitors who have requested medical exemptions regarding food.

"The Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association supports these policy changes at the state correctional facilities because they protect our staff, who are dedicated public servants and who deserve to come home safely each day," said Jason C. Bloom, President.

"After an unprecedented number of staff and inmate exposures to dangerous substances and subsequent 14-day lockdown, we announced these drug interdiction plans, developed with the goal of making our prisons safe for inmates, visitors, and staff," Wetzel said. "We are pleased to announce progress, an expansion of our book policy, and the data that indicates our staff, inmates, and visitors are safer today than they were 45 days ago."

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Department of Corrections Transports Northumberland County Inmates to New Jail

The Department of Corrections last night moved 148 county inmates from SCI Coal Township to the new Northumberland County jail without incident.

The DOC has housed inmates from Northumberland County since a fire destroyed the county jail in 2015.

The county inmates were moved by bus from SCI Coal Township beginning shortly after 7 p.m. nearly seven miles to the new Northumberland County Jail without incident. The move concluded shortly after 1 a.m.

“Inmate transports are among most high-risk activities that corrections staff engage in,” said Secretary John Wetzel. “The DOC security teams conducted the move with the highest degree of professionalism.”

SCI Coal Township Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) with K9 units searched the new county jail facility in Coal Township for contraband prior to the move.

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Pair of CO's Train in Niger

Major Gary Rydbom (SCI Houtzdale) and Lt. Christopher Brownawell (SCI Coal Township) conducted training on contraband detection in the West African nation of Niger with the Niger Prison Administration (NPA).

The training is part of an agreement with the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), which established a framework for cooperation in support of international law enforcement and anti-crime efforts. The goal of this training is to enhance the NPA's ability to train their staff and update national policy to incorporate best practices of searching techniques into their day-to-day operations that will lead to an overall safer environment.



Michele Jennings, Eastern Regional Chief of the Bureau of Correction Education, assisted with the development of the Niger Security lesson plan.



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150 Inmates Attend Albion Reentry Fair

SCI Albion held a Reentry Fair in which 26 organizations attended on Oct. 18.

Cindy Clark, school principal, organized the event, which was a great success.

A morning and afternoon session was held and approximately 150 inmates were in attendance. This Reentry Fair provided an opportunity for inmates who have 18 months or less to their minimum sentence expiration date to meet with community-based organizations, community colleges, vocational schools and service and employment assistance agencies. Inmates could gather relevant information and discuss housing, education and service needs and opportunities prior to release.



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Inmates Raise Money for Domestic Violence Center

The SCI Fayette Activities Department conducted a Little Debbie Sale for general population inmates during September.

Orders were taken in August and September with the distribution of the product on September 27. A total of 662 orders with about 7,500 items was purchased!

Almost \$4,900 was raised for inmate-selected charities. This sale was done in conjunction with Fayette's annual runathon, which



Activities manager Andrew Kutz presents the donation to Xiomara Velez from Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA.

took place on Oct. 18. Inmates that participated in the runathon donated an entry fee of \$3 and had the opportunity to compete in a half marathon, 3-mile race and various other skills competitions.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA is the recipient organization of the runathon and received all entry fees plus half of the proceeds from the Little Debbie Sale—a total of \$2567.70.

The other half of the proceeds from the Little Debbie Sale will go toward supplies for the Mural Arts Program at SCI Fayette to create murals to be donated to local communities.

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DOC's Medical Records Going Digital

Thanks to the implementation the electronic health record (E.H.R.) project, the DOC is no longer creating paper medical charts for newly-received inmates or Parole Violators. New receptions and PVs will be processed using the E.H.R. with any hardcopy documentation not captured into the system being scanned and maintained among forms, diagnostics, progress notes, and all other healthcare information. Additionally, healthcare information for current inmates is being captured and stored in the E.H.R. with the historical paper chart being referenced on an as-needed basis.

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Greene Holds Day of Responsibility

SCI Greene held a Day of Responsibility and welcomed guest speakers David and Mary Neese and Carol Michaud on Oct. 19.

David and Mary's daughter, and Carol's niece, Skylar, was 16 years old and was missing for six months. When her remains were discovered it was learned that Skylar was murdered by two of her "best" friends who lured her out of the house to go for a joyride and then stabbed her to death.

Now, the family's mission is to visit schools and prisons to keep Skylar's memory alive by sharing their story through "Skylar's Promise." They try and help others understand the consequences of their actions affect many individuals, not just the victim.

In the five years since Skylar's death, she continues to have a positive impact on the lives of teens and others who may be facing difficult situations and contemplating life changing decisions. The family also collects flags from countries to signify each area that the memory of their daughter has traveled. Superintendent Robert Gilmore presented the family with a Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Flag.

David and Mary know that their efforts continue to make a positive impact and this has helped ease their pain.

Both friends pled guilty to the murder and are serving prison sentences at Lakin Correctional Center in West Virginia.

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Nearly 100 Inmates Graduate at Greene

It was a proud day at SCI Greene for the annual Inmate Graduation Ceremony on Oct. 17.

The theme was "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." The class of 2018 graduated 92 students with GED's, commonwealth secondary diplomas, HVAC, building trades and business education certifications as well as a PA Barber Licensure.



Forty family members attended the ceremony, and recognition was given to the classroom tutors and a special thanks to many departments for their assistance with the ceremony preparations.

Special appreciation was expressed to this year's keynote speaker, Eric McElvenney. Eric served as an infantry officer in the United States Marine Corps and deployed three times as a Marine. On his final tour he was wounded during combat action by an improvised explosive device, which resulted in the amputation of his right leg. He now competes in endurance racing events across the country, and he travels across the country to speak, inspire and motivate others to grow and embrace their challenges.

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DOC Honor Guards Attend Bridge Dedication

A dedication ceremony was held Oct. 22 to officially name a Huntingdon County Bridge as the Trooper Landon E. Weaver Memorial Bridge. The bridge carries US Route 22 over the Juniata River and State Route 1010

Honor guards from SCI Huntingdon and SCI Smithfield attended the ceremony and stood shoulder-to-shoulder with several law enforcement agencies who gathered to honor Weaver for his duty, honor and ultimate sacrifice.

The bridge, formerly known as the "Million Dollar Bridge," has approximately 11,000 cars pass over it daily.

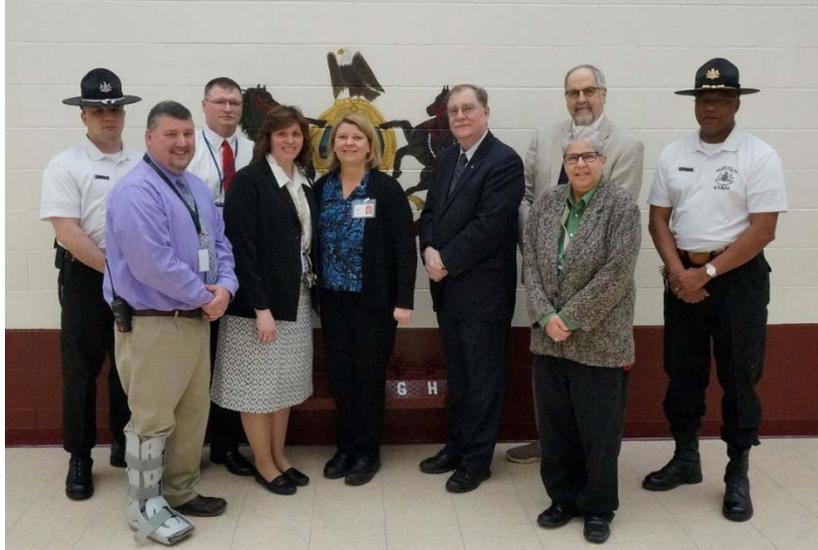
Weaver was killed in the line of duty on Dec. 30, 2016, responding to a domestic violence call in Huntingdon County.



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Quehanna Boot Camp Achieves Reaccreditation

Quehanna Boot Camp underwent an American Correctional Association (ACA) audit in mid-April. The audit team was comprised of John Sargent, chair; Alan Finnan; and Amy Fairbanks. The team did a thorough review of facility operations as well as mandatory and non-mandatory standards. Following two-and-a-half days of observation and review, the team made a recommendation regarding reaccreditation by the ACA.



As the result of the hard work and efforts by exceptional staff, the ACA auditors recommended reaccreditation status with unofficial scores of 100% compliance with mandatory standards and 100% compliance with non-mandatory standards. Quehanna staff take great pride in our programs and the facility, and this was evident to the auditors.

On a Saturday morning in August, Superintendent Mary Natoli, Deputy Superintendent for Centralized Services Ken Hollibaugh, Major Frazer Blake, Classification and Program Manager James Stover, Captain Scott Carter, Registered Nurse Supervisor Kimberly Mellow and CSA Melissa Billotte participated in the ACA summer conference via teleconference. At that time, we gave a brief overview of the facility and answered questions from the ACA panel. After what seemed like a lifetime, the ACA panel voted and unanimously granted Quehanna Boot Camp ACA reaccreditation.

Deputy Secretary Michael Wenerowicz delivered the ACA reaccreditation certificate to Superintendent Natoli in September. Wanting to recognize everyone's efforts, we delayed taking a group photo. While not everyone was able to join us, we want to acknowledge that we would not have been able to achieve reaccreditation without the continued efforts of all staff. Kudos to you all and thank you for all you do!

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Community Corrections Recognizes Region 3 Mentors

Last week mentors from the Bureau of Community Corrections' western region received certificates, mentoring pins, and a luncheon in recognition of their service and commitment to mentoring fellow coworkers.

Standing Left to Right: Eric Patton; Jerome Koerner-chair, BCC Mentoring; Paul Applegarth; William Murray; Danielle Steele; Jaime Harmon; Morris Richardson-regional director; Daniel McIntyre-BCC director.

Seated Left to Right: Tara Marhefka; Donna Szallar; Gretchen Moore.

Not pictured: Taletha Lee; Brian McCollim.



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Huntingdon Staff Support Coworker with Breast Cancer

As Clerk Typist II Tracey Spillman battles breast cancer, her coworkers are proudly supporting her fight.

SCI Huntingdon staff ordered t-shirts and did a collection for Tracey. Ever since her diagnosis, Tracey has said "I got this," so in the shirts honor her positivity and say, "We got this," because she isn't fighting alone.



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Rubeo Named BCC Employee of the Quarter

Julian Rubeo was selected as the BCC Employee of the Third Quarter for 2018. BCC Director Daniel McIntyre recognized his service stating, "Program Manager Julian Rubeo is someone you can always depend upon. This past quarter Mr. Rubeo created the challenge coin design for the 50th anniversary of BCC, developed a one on one supervision tool and trained multiple staff on Brief Intervention Tools. His enthusiasm and ability demonstrates the impact one person can have on an organization."



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PBPP Staff Train on PREA, Pardons Process in Altoona

Staff of PBPP's Bureau of Standards and Accreditation met in Altoona, PA for a bureau meeting on October 16, 2018. This meeting included training on Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), the pardons process, and Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR). It is the second such meeting this year for the bureau.

Overwhelmingly, bureau staff are very proud of the work we do, the

people we work with, our great customer service, and our collective degree of impact.



The bureau is comprised of parole auditors, parole auditor supervisors, parole managers, and parole staff technicians. The bureau completes extensive background investigations for all applicants applying for pardons in the commonwealth, including commutation cases; all staff in the bureau contribute to the pardons process. The bureau works very closely with the Board of Pardons, the DOC's Pardons Board Case Specialist Johnny Johnson, as well as the Office of Victim Advocate. The bureau also completes pre-sentence investigations as well as audits of PBPP field supervision units.

Staff received the Board of Pardons' Pathways to Pardons presentation by Secretary Steven Burk and Matthew Franchak, chief of staff of the Lt. Governor's Office. "We couldn't do our work without the exemplary efforts of the Bureau of Standards and Accreditation," commented Secretary Burk. Franchak echoed Secretary Burk's sentiments. Bill Stauffer, executive director of addiction recovery organization Pro-A, discussed the importance of pardons in the addiction recovery process.

Pathways to Pardons presentations occur across the state to raise awareness of the pardons process and have contributed to a 10% increase in clemency applications being filed with the Board of Pardons. The majority of applicants for pardons apply for employment and education reasons.

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Honoring Mahanoy's Employees of the Month

SCI Mahanoy honored its three most recent Employees of the Month in its most recent newsletter. Congratulations to the following staff members!

James Stone, Corrections Officer (JULY)

James is extremely competent and has demonstrated a superior knowledge of DOC policies and procedures as they apply to his position. He is one of the most competent and knowledgeable officers, who is dedicated and takes pride in whatever he does.

James can maintain his professionalism and poise even when confronted with adversity. His responses are efficient in dealing with the inmate population.

James displays the qualities and drive that has made him successful as a corrections officer. He is a dependable and motivated individual who works well with his peers and the administration.



James Flores, Corrections Counselor II (AUGUST)

James has a very positive attitude. He is the only counselor covering G Unit and not only tackles his regular counselor duties, but takes on the additional duties of the P.U.P. Program.

On various days, he is seen walking a dog through the compound for a vet appointment or for a home visit, which takes away from the time he has to do your numerous assignments as a counselor; yet, he never complains. He always makes time to assist co-workers, both with work and by volunteering on the Employee Recreation Association (ERA)

Committee. Jim takes pride in his work and assures its quality and timeliness. When asked to assist with special committees or projects, he never turns down a challenge.



Jim participates on the Wellness Committee from Central Office and assists various staff members and departments with translating as needed. He is a reliable staff member who does not abuse leave. Jim is an independent thinker and takes initiative to address issues and tasks without being asked.

Michael Connolly, Food Service Supervisor (SEPTEMBER)

Mickey is very dedicated and goes to great lengths for the Food Service Department. Whenever he is asked to help, he jumps right in. Mickey always demonstrates a high level of initiative and consistently exceeds expectations. He is involved in the day to day operation of all areas he supervises and is always promoting teamwork and cooperation.



Mickey has been doing double duty since one of his fellow food service supervisors has been out with a long-term illness. Mickey is described as a leader among his peers and supervisors, and consistently demonstrates experience, knowledge and sound advice. He has an excellent rapport with both staff and inmates and in any situation, he stays in control and positive.

Mickey is very involved with his family. He coaches his daughter and her softball team and his two sons with basketball and football. He speaks about the fortune of being a father and is always up for sharing stories about them.

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**Department
Spotlight: SCI
Mahanoy
Activities
Department**

When most people think about recreations in prison, they think of sports. Actually, it is much more. The DOC just calls it "activities."



Recreation at SCI Mahanoy involves many activities ranging from passive activities (watching TV, movies and XM radio stations) to low energy activities (board games, bingo, bowling and card games) to hobbies (music, art contests, poetry writing contests) to sports (basketball, softball, volleyball, soccer, flag football, weightlifting, etc.)

Currently, the Activities Department includes one activities manager and six activities specialists. They include John Corbacio, James Lotz, Denis Coogan, John Wright, Brett Matukewicz, Gregory Surotchak and Justin Turano. The department is in operation seven days a week from 8 AM to 8 PM.

Our staff also educates and trains all the inmate officials utilized in all our intramural programs. We even have a Resident Betterment Organization, which teaches inmates skills to better themselves by providing them with opportunities to help others with social civic activities and donations. Since our RBO was founded in 1993, inmates have donated more than \$100,000 back to the community.

We also provide community educational and interaction by having over 300 individuals from the community visit our institution each year to compete against our varsity athletic teams and to provide entertainment for the inmate population (band concerts, seminars and clinics).

The position requires four-year degree in a related field. We are more than just throwing out a ball. An activity teaches inmates much more than the rules of the game; it provides them with psychological benefits. Well organized recreation helps inmates establish personal relationships and to respect others while encouraging them to set personal goals and challenge themselves.

Our carefully planned and supervised activities in the correctional setting have proven to be just as essential to the safety and security of a facility as any other programming or security measure.

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PA Media Group Visits Mercer's Veterans Service Unit

Videographers from PA Media Group out of Mechanicsburg visited SCI Mercer's Veterans Service Unit (VSU) to film and take photos for their upcoming documentary, "100 Years of Heroes." The final product will be aired on PennLive on Veterans Day this November. This project will commemorate the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day (Veterans Day) and highlight stories as told by Pennsylvania veterans.



As part of the documentary, this project will feature DOC's Statewide Veterans Coordinator Ryan Yoder and his work with incarcerated veterans in the PA Department of Corrections. Yoder selected Mercer's VSU to highlight the successful veterans program at this facility.

Salim Michel Makhoulf, Emmy Award-winning director at PA Media Group, and Mark Pynes, videographer/photographer, took photos and video of Yoder speaking to the veterans. Also interviewed as part of the project was Aaron Diaz, VSU counselor and Army veteran.

Several inmate veterans were interviewed as well. They were asked what the veterans program means to them, how the program has helped them adapt while incarcerated, and how it will help them to prepare for reentry to their communities upon release.

The VSU's Honor Guard presented and retired the colors.

Makhoulf stated that the documentary includes interviews with veterans from all over Pennsylvania, including a couple of veterans in their 90's.

Watch for the final product on Veterans Day on PennLive.com.



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Quehanna SECA Efforts Include a Clean Shave

To raise funds for the general State Employees Combined Appeal (SECA) campaign, QBC held two baked goods/ice cream sundae sales. The first one held Tuesday, September 25, raised \$144.50. The second sale held Thursday, October 18, raised \$200.

Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialist (DATS) Warren Bartholomew came up with a clever way to raise funds: "Cash for the Stache." When DATS Bartholomew went to basic training for the Navy in June 1979, he shaved off his mustache. Once he completed basic training in September 1979, he hadn't shaved his mustache since.



On September 13 (after clearing it with his wife) he threw out a challenge to QBC staff that if they could raise \$150 by September 28, he would shave off his mustache for October 1 and would remain clean-shaven for one week. The idea of

seeing DATS Bartholomew clean-shaven must have been enticing because staff donated a total of \$185 for the general SECA campaign.

Being true to his word, here is what DATS Bartholomew looks like sans mustache...



It's noted that when he returned to work following the Columbus Day holiday, the mustache was already making a return.

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Pittsburgh CCC Hosts Amachi Research Project

Kristina DiDiano (program coordinator), Michael Bernarding (associate executive director), Fred Hill, and Terry Minor Spencer from Amachi Pittsburgh met with reentrants at Pittsburgh Community Corrections Center (PCCC) to discuss the organization's current research project regarding incarceration and youth on Aug. 28.

The nation's growing prison and jail population has raised serious questions about the collateral effects of incarceration on children, families and communities. Nationally, there are more than 120,000 incarcerated mothers and 1.1 million incarcerated fathers who are parents of minor children. In Pennsylvania, 181,000 children have incarcerated parents.



Amachi Pittsburgh is an organization dedicated to helping children and families overcome the challenges of parental incarceration. Amachi is spearheading a special research project in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh's Collaborative for Evaluation and Assessment Capacity (CEAC) called Amachi Pittsburgh: Understanding Incarceration and Its Effect on Youth and Families in Allegheny County. The goal of the project is to learn more about how children and families who experience parental incarceration are affected emotionally, socially, financially, and regarding children's school performance.

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Retreat Honors Trio for Service

Three staff members were honored for their years of service on Oct. 23 at SCI Retreat. They include: Sgt. Christopher Frederick, 20 years; Capt. James Shoemaker, 25 years; and COI David Stockholm, 20 years.

Congrats and thank you all for your service!



Sgt. Christopher Frederick



Capt. James Shoemaker



COI David Stockholm

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Pittsburgh CCC Holds Smoking Cessation Program

On October 23, 2018, Pittsburgh Community Corrections Center hosted Tiffany Babinsack, program coordinator for Tobacco Free Allegheny. Ms. Babinsack conducted a smoking cessation program for 36 PCCC reentrants. Beginning in November, Tobacco Free Allegheny will be conducting weekly smoking cessation classes at PCCC in conjunction with Mercy Behavioral Health. Tobacco Free Allegheny also donated materials to the PCCC Resource Library.



Tobacco Free Allegheny (TFA) serves as a resource to the community, providing education about all aspects of tobacco use and the harmful effects of secondhand smoke exposure. It maintains a library of information and visual aids for loan to schools, students, and community organizations. TFA is a nonprofit corporation and a part of the statewide tobacco control program supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

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Retreat Holds Annual Regional Symposium

SCI Retreat's Empowerment Committee coordinated a Regional Symposium for SCI Retreat, SCI Waymart, SCI Dallas and Central Office staff on Oct. 19.

More than 100 staff members were in attendance. Special guest speakers included the Office of the Attorney



General, Luzerne County SPCA, Vet Dogs of SCI Dallas, Victims Resource Center and a CERT and AMAC presentation from Lt. Eric Kosakowski. All participants

received a gift and a few lucky staff members received raffle prizes. Breakfast, snacks, drinks and a catered lunch was provided.

This year's event was even more special due to Supt. Vince Mooney's impending retirement in Nov. 2018. Retreat's Empowerment Committee presented Supt. Mooney with gifts for his Notre Dame fan cave at his home. Regional Deputy Secretary Michael Wenerowicz also presented him with his retirement badge. Supt. Mooney was overwhelmed and extremely grateful.

Empowerment Committee Officers: Supt. Mooney, Chairperson; Jeff Dengler, President; Jennifer Ervine, Vice President; Cheri Stempein, Treasurer; Carrie Greene, Secretary.

Empowerment Committee Members: Stacy Miller, Phil Woods, Amy Rogers, Courtney Matousek, Kristen Nardone, Alison Besecker, Keith Moran, Michele Tomaselli, Jerry Blazick, Tina Finnegan, Wendy Hilenski and Lisa Wheeler.

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Pine Grove Hosts Blood Drive

The American Red Cross visited SCI Pine Grove for the facility's quarterly blood drive, and 24 donors participated.

Overall the blood drive was a huge success. Thank you to Jessica Purcell, Superintendent's Secretary for organizing the event.



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College Students Visit Pine Grove

Seventeen guests from the Community College of Allegheny County toured SCI Pine Grove on Oct. 24.

The tour visited the Young Adult Offender Unit and one of the inmates shared his experience at Pine Grove with students. It continued with the Program Services Building, then went on to see the weapons that have been confiscated by staff from the inmates.



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Week of October 15...

More than 150 Graduate at Fayette

It was a proud day at SCI Fayette on Oct. 16 as 151 inmates graduated with family and friends in attendance.

The 14th annual graduation ceremony at Fayette had the theme "It Is Our Choices That Show What We Truly Are, Far More Than Our Abilities."



There were 31 academic graduates (17 GED's and 14 CSD's) and 120 vocational graduates including: 11 business, 38 carpentry, five cosmetology, 31 custodial maintenance, nine fiber optic, 14 HVAC and 12 welding.

Congratulations to all graduates!

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C.O.V.E.R. Teams March for Fallen, Homeless Vets

C.O.V.E.R. teams from SCI Albion, SCI Cambridge Springs and SCI Mercer came together to participate in the EUMA Liberty House 10K Ruck March/Walk to honor local fallen heroes and end veteran homelessness.

More than a dozen members marched rucks full of donations provided by the generous staff at each institution. The team consisted of correction officers, lieutenants, captains, treatment specialists, activity specialists, psychology staff, social workers, clerk typists, electrical trade instructors, licensed practical nurses, prior/current veteran service members from many branches and family members.

Some donation items included boots, hats, bags, backpacks, personal hygiene items, books, towels, sheets, pillows, socks and much more. All items will be donated to the Erie United Methodist Alliance's Liberty House, the only transitional housing program in Erie County for homeless veterans.

Thanks to everyone for all your support!

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Houtzdale Memorial Wall Dedicated

The SCI Houtzdale Memorial Wall was dedicated to staff and community on October 10.

The Memorial Wall Park is officially opened for staff members and visiting guests to pay tribute to those individuals who have passed away and worked in law enforcement, served our country and worked at SCI Houtzdale in corrections.

The three stone paneled walls represent the three branches of departments to which the Memorial Wall honors. The first panel features veterans service featuring all five branches. The second panel features law enforcement paying tribute to those who serve in this field. The final panel is for SCI Houtzdale corrections staff members who have worked and served in the field of corrections.

Each panel is designed with SCI Houtzdale's staff members contributing to the art and wording on each panel. The panels were commissioned by JDH Designs from the hit reality television show *Fixer Upper*. The spirit of the memorial park's mission is to bring peace to those individuals who have passed away.

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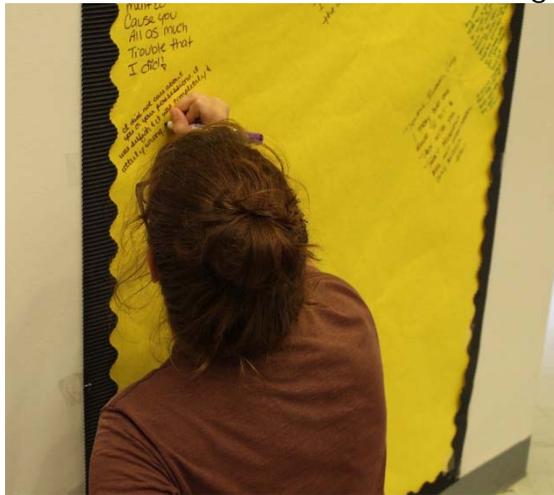


Cambridge Springs Holds Annual Day of Responsibility

The 2nd Annual Day of Responsibility held at SCI Cambridge Springs on Oct. 11 proved to be a great success for all in attendance.



Approximately 100 inmates took part in the event. Those attending enjoyed light refreshments and presentations from various speakers from the community. Emotions ran high as the women heard of the experiences endured by family members of crime victims. Cambridge Springs inmates also heard stories from their own peers of mistakes made and the road to forgiveness and making amends.



The women were given the opportunity to sign the "what would you say" poster: a chance so say a few words to their victims and their loved ones. The day closed with signing of the "responsibility contract" and closing remarks from Deputy Superintendent Michelle Wagner.

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Smithfield Walks "Out of Darkness"

October is National Suicide Prevention Awareness month, and in honor of it SCI Smithfield staff formed a team for the annual Out of the Darkness walk. The walk was held on Oct. 7 at Juniata College in Huntingdon.

SCI Smithfield staff joined the effort with hundreds of thousands of people to raise awareness and fund the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to invest in new research, create educational programs, advocate for public policy and support survivors of Suicide loss.

Team SCI Smithfield members raised more than \$900 dollars for suicide prevention. The team consisted of: N. Thomas, H. Bishop, A. Lingle, K. Laird, S. Moist, S. Morris, T. Force, J. Rivello, P. Magill, P Edgin, A. and A. Lidwell and EDS

Shirley Moore Smeal, along with numerous family and friends. The team would like to thank each and every individual that supported us and donated to our Out of the Darkness walk.



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Pine Grove Honors Volunteers

SCI Pine Grove held its annual Volunteer Banquet in the facility's gym on Oct. 11.

Rev. Dr. Daryl S. Jeffers was the 2018 PNG Volunteer of the Year. He is the pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Clymer, Pa. Rev. Kirt W. Anderson welcomed and presented the award to Pastor Jeffers, who gave an acceptance speech and received a walnut plaque.

All volunteers received a certificate of appreciation and a pen, as well as a laser-engraved glass mug. Inmates attended and gave short speeches of thanks to the volunteers and groups they've worked with.

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PBPP Director Earns National Award

Margaret Thompson, Deputy Compact Administrator and Director of the Interstate Probation Services Division, was presented with the Executive Director's Award at the 2018 ICAOS Annual Business Meeting in Orlando, FL.



The recipient of the Executive Director's Award exhibits outstanding leadership skills and dedication to the Interstate Commission through extraordinary service. This individual is a Compact Administrator, Deputy Compact Administrator or Compact Coordinator who:

- Promotes the Spirit of the Compact;
- Advocates the values and mission of the Commission;
- Demonstrates achievements in the successful movement of offenders and their reintegration into society;
- Employs strategies for ensuring public safety;
- Effectively communicates with other Compact professionals.

Reason for nomination:

Ms. Thompson deserves the Executive Director's Award because of her commitment to promote the mission and values of the Commission at all levels of government - both within PA and around the nation. Ms. Thompson is a consummate professional

and has spent most of her career educating; corrections officials, probation and parole staff, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, private attorneys, victim advocates, offenders and their families, government officials, and the public on the importance of the Compact and how its' work contributes to the safety of our communities.

Ms. Thompson has served as Pennsylvania's Deputy Compact Administrator for the past sixteen years. She is without question one of the foremost national



experts on interstate compact rules, policies and procedures. I'm confident that her colleagues would agree, no one works harder or smarter to ensure that the Compact's rules are implemented fairly and consistently for all participants.

During this tenure, Ms. Thompson worked tirelessly with other leaders involved in interstate probation and parole to steer and expand the role and responsibilities of the Compact while also ensuring it was able to keep pace with these on-going changes. As such, Ms. Thompson has always been a very active participant of the Commission's Rules committee. Most recently, she participated in efforts to review, assess and integrate evidence-based practices into the Compact's rules in order to improve an offender's likelihood of successfully reintegrating into society.

Finally, Ms. Thompson is a very kind and generous person. She treats all Compact members and their staff with the utmost dignity and respect. Additionally, she regularly volunteers (on her own time) to mentor and/or educate justice practitioners from around the nation.

Ms. Thompson is a true gem and well deserving of the Executive Directors Award.

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Fundraisers for Breast Cancer, Domestic Violence Victims at Pine Grove

October is a full month with many observances including both Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

SCI Pine Grove's Empowering Committee held a fundraiser for the Alice Paul House, an organization that provides services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other serious crimes. It provides services at no cost to the victims that are entirely confidential.

Staff raised \$315 for the Alice Paul House.

Additionally, all month long the committee is selling ribbons to be hung in the employee hallway to show support for breast cancer and domestic violence. Ribbons are \$1 each and donations will go to the Alice Paul House and Birdies Closet at Indiana Regional Medical Center, a resource center for women undergoing cancer treatment.

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Keystone CCF Holds Toy Drive

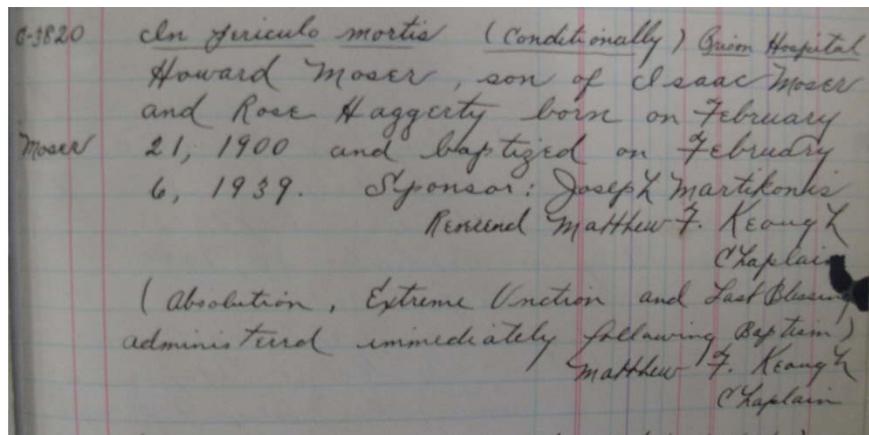
Keystone Correctional Services Owner Terry L. Davis collected toys for the Children and Youth toy box. Pictured accepting them is Judge John Cherry and his administrative assistant, Heather Titus.



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Historic Baptism Ledger Heads to State Archives

In 1939 SCI Graterford inmate Howard Moser was laying on his deathbed. Dying of heart disease, the 39-year-old Easton native had spent most of his life in and out of prison for burglary and other crimes.



Things looked bleak.

But all that changed on Feb. 6, when Graterford's chaplain Matthew Keough visited Moser and baptized him into the Catholic Church. According to his baptism record, Father Keough then administered last rites to Moser including "absolution, extreme



unction and last blessing" immediately afterwards. Even though he was not expected to survive the week, Moser surprisingly lived for an entire year before passing away in the winter of 1940.

Perhaps his baptism gave him a new lease on life; Moser was a regular face at Graterford church services for the rest of his life.

For Moser and thousands of other inmates, the work of

prison chaplains like Keough was an extremely important part of their lives. Staff at SCI Graterford recently transferred a historic baptism and confirmation ledger dated 1939-1981 to the State Archives in Harrisburg, where it will be available for researchers and DOC staff to view. Moser's baptism is the second entry in this well preserved, hand-written book.

Religion has historically been close to the heart of Pennsylvania corrections history.

In the 1700s, the religious convictions of important Pennsylvanians inspired them to build prisons where inmates could improve themselves and eventually rejoin society. In 1847, Eastern State Penitentiary officials wrote that "the most appalling criminal designs have been abandoned, simply from calling to mind the purity and moral worth of a doomed man." Throughout the 1800s prisoners spent a lot of time listening to sermons and reading religious literature with "moral instructors:" staff who served as chaplains, librarians, and teachers. By the early 1900s, all state prisons employed dedicated chaplains. Considered professional staff alongside physicians and psychologists, chaplains were responsible for the spiritual well-being of all inmates.

"Strange as it may seem to most people," one prison chaplain wrote in 1905, "I have found the prisoners on every occasion most interested and attentive listeners. Nor have I found a company of people in any church under any preacher who listened more attentively, more eagerly, throughout the speaker's sermon or address, that did the congregation of prisoners to whom I spoke every Sunday morning in the plain, bare chapel."

In Graterford's early days, most prisoners attended Catholic or Protestant services each Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. Catholic confessions were heard afterwards by Father Keough in the Chapel Building. Chaplains regularly visited Graterford's Maximum Security Cell Blocks, Tuberculosis Wards and hospital to attend to

inmates who could not make it to regular services. Over the years, religious services and chaplaincy staff were expanded to accommodate Jewish and Muslim inmates, as well as a variety of other faiths. Graterford's library was stocked with hundreds of religious books for inmates. Religious services were also enlarged over time to include counseling, substance abuse support, letter-writing, procurement of future employment, and general assistance with parole and commutation.

In the 1950s, Graterford's chapel building was enlarged, and Muslim inmates were permitted to build a mosque inside. According to one Bureau of Correction report, "artisans and skilled workers from every area of the institution volunteered their services" to build the mosque with Graterford's chaplains, "regardless of race, creed, or religious preference." No matter what their personal circumstances, all inmates were impacted for the better by the presence and hard work of Graterford's chaplains.

Having this historic baptism ledger in the State Archives collections will preserve an important and less well-known piece of Corrections' history for future generations. Without these records, the stories and experiences of the department could be lost.

If you know of any historic materials in your own office, contact your administration or agency record coordinator, Launa Kowalcyk (717-728-4058). If you would like to know more about the State Archives, please visit www.phmc.pa.gov/archives.

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Coal Names Splitt Employee of the Quarter

SCI Coal Township Superintendent McGinley announced the 3rd quarter Employee of the Quarter award recipient is CO1 Howard Splitt.

Splitt was nominated by his fellow housing unit staff. In their nominations, staff noted that Splitt, currently assigned to the 1400-2200 hour shift, has demonstrated the ability to maintain order and discipline on his unit. He has a very good knowledge of policies and proper application of those policies. Splitt has displayed the professionalism necessary to administer the pilot program Swift & Fair.



Splitt also exhibits his dedication to the DOC and SCI Coal Township by wholeheartedly participating in the DOC's training program. He has been an AMAC instructor since its inception and has trained over 500 staff, and he is currently serving as an adjunct instructor for the DOC. His knowledge has lead him to being a "subject matter expert." Splitt also instructs the IAS course and is committed to SCICT as an instructor for various training courses.

Congratulations is extended to CO Splitt!

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Forest Employee Celebrates 25 Years

Lt. David Shufesky was honored at SCI Forest for 25 years of service.

His career began Sept. 23, 1993 at SCI Albion. He was promoted to Sergeant in July 2001, then again to Lieutenant in Sept. 2005. He then transferred to SCI Forest, where he has worked in various areas including housing units, search team and medical lobby.

As a lieutenant, he has been assigned as Training Lt., Shift Lt., alternate Shift Commander and Critical Incident Manager. He retired from the Air Force Reserves in 2011 after 29 years of service.

Congratulations!

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Waymart Meets with Local Counterparts, Colleagues

SCI Waymart administrative staff held a meet and greet with Wayne County Commissions, EMA and Wayne County Prison staff. The meeting was held at the EMA building on Oct. 12 to discuss and collaborate an initiative between agencies.



Pictured left to right: Steven Price, WCEMA; Dennis Cush, CIM; Deputy James Cirelli; Major Jeffrey Gibson; Joe Grillo, CCPM; Kevin Bishop, Wayne County Warden; Superintendent Kevin Ransom; Brian Smith, Commissioner; Deputy Bobbie Bassett; Wayne County Deputy Warden Masco; Wendall Kay, Commissioner; Chris Edwards, A/Safety Manager; Kevin Tuite, Assistant Chief of Safety; and Deputy Norm Demming.

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Week of October 8...

Roscoe's Adoption: Keeping It in the Family

SCI Mercer has enjoyed a more than seven-year partnership with the Strayhaven Animal Shelter out of Greenville. Strayhaven provides hard-to-place shelter dogs to the Corrections Adoptive Rescue Endeavor (CARE) program at SCI Mercer. Inmate dog handlers then provide obedience training for an eight-week period, with the ultimate goal of helping to make the dogs more adoptable.

Strayhaven also employs a certified dog trainer who holds weekly sessions with the handlers and their dogs. After approximately eight weeks of training, the dogs must pass the Canine Good Citizen test to graduate from the program.

One of the many dogs to come through the program is Roscoe. After passing his test and leaving the program, Roscoe has found his forever home—with a special twist.

For the first time in the program's history, a handler's family has adopted the very dog he trained.

Jonathan, Roscoe's handler, writes the following about Roscoe:

I've been in the dog program for 2 years now and I always wanted to be able to adopt one of the dogs I've trained... and now with Roscoe, I have the chance.





Roscoe is a 1½ year old Lab mix and when I told my family about him, they said, "Well, how do we adopt him?" At this point Roscoe had only been here for about a week, but I could tell he was going to be my favorite dog yet.

Working with Roscoe has been amazing. He's a very smart boy and he is always looking for something new to learn. Training with him just went so smooth and easy that in a matter of a few weeks, we were running out of new things to teach him. Roscoe quickly became the favorite dog here due to always being so happy and very social. Every day we would work with Roscoe and every time, he would amaze me at how smart he is. He's the type of dog you show something to once and he's got it.

One time, he saw me taking ice out of our ice container for him and I left for 5 minutes. When I came back, he was laying on my bed on the pillow with the ice container wrapped around his paws

and his whole face inside of it. I just started laughing. Now it's the end of our 8 weeks together and I can't wait to see him when I get out. I'll miss him.

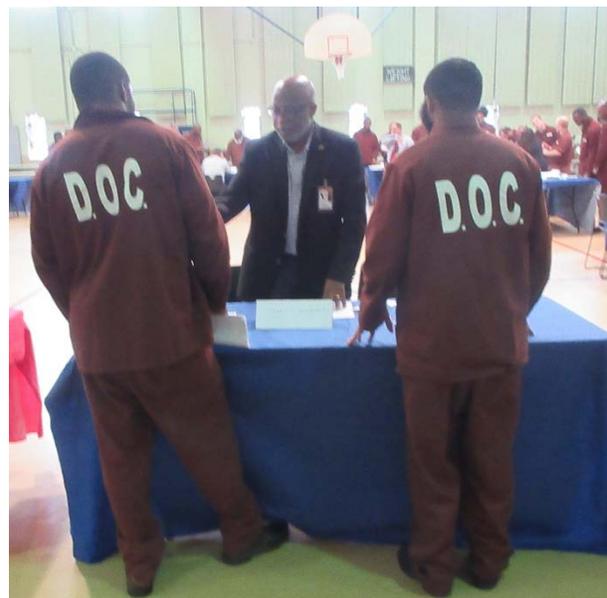
Jonathan's family adopted Roscoe on July 27. The pup said goodbye to his handler and took his final walk out of SCI Mercer to begin his new life with his adoptive family, who will take care of him until he can be reunited with his handler, Jonathan.

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Camp Hill Holds First Reentry Job Fair

In the early stages of 2018, the SCI Camp Hill Education Department was tasked to hold a Reentry Fair for inmates. In the end of September, that fair became a reality.

The Education Department teamed with representatives from all disciplines within the facility. Food Service, Maintenance, Transitional Housing Unit members, the Parole Board and others created a venue



for approximately 29 vendors to present their programs and services to approximately 240 inmates.

The purpose of the Reentry Fair was to provide reentry information to those inmates who were nearing the completion of their sentences via parole or other means. The services and programs provided by the vendors included health care, employment, vocational training, financial information, mental health, drug, alcohol, and narcotics addiction and counseling services, and family support and interpersonal relationship skills.



Upon arrival at the prison's sports complex, the inmates appeared to be impressed and appreciative of the vendors, as many expressed their appreciation to the vendors and to the staff members who were present. Many inmates indicated they did not realize the facility or the department was increasing the effort to provide release services and contacts with community organizations in order to provide services upon an inmate's release.

As many of the vendors had never been inside a correctional facility or had knowledge of the correctional process, the vendors were provided with a brief tour of the facility in addition to an explanation of the diagnostic and classification system.

At the end of the day, the vendors, in addition to sharing their programs with inmates, also had the opportunity to network and share their programs and experiences with other vendors.

As the reentry fair is destined to be an annual event, this year's fair shall serve as a learning experience for next year's reentry fair and those to follow.

In closing, the reentry fair not only demonstrated to the inmates that the department is trying to improve reentry, but the reentry fair also proved that the success of the inmates is not based on input or efforts of one area of the facility. Instead, the success of the reentry fair is the efforts of many that drive the success of inmates and the facility.

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Phoenix Captain Graduates from Emergency Management Training

SCI Phoenix Captain Samuel Harker graduated from the elite National Emergency Management Advanced Academy (NEMAA) hosted at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland, on Sept. 28.

The National Emergency Management Advanced Academy reinforces the qualities needed to lead emergency management programs, provides relevant management theories and concepts, and utilizes appropriate case studies. The Academy was designed for Emergency Management mid-level managers within the emergency management positions wanting to advance their skillsets.

Captain Harker's journey began in May 2017 when, as SCI Huntingdon's Critical Incident Manager, he began the process by submitting an extensive application, providing a resume and answering a series of complex questions regarding emergency management. More than 500 people nationwide applied for the program. Captain Harker was one of 45 candidates selected. In order to accommodate for students' work schedules, the intensive training was spread out over the course of a year. In addition to submitting a written thesis, participants were required to successfully complete a series of advanced emergency management courses, including:

- E451-A survey of advanced concepts in emergency management;
- E452- Assessment and application of professional style in emergency management;
- E453- Advanced concepts and issues in the emergency management organization; and
- E454- Advanced concepts and issues in the emergency management community and profession

Captain Harker's thesis, "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Suicidal Ideations Affecting Emergency Managers After a Traumatic Incident," was chosen as the top thesis in the class, and he was asked to give a presentation on it to the directors of the Emergency Management Institute, Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The thesis will be further discussed at hearings in Washington, DC, and at the 2019 International Emergency Managers Association Conference in Louisiana.

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SCI Mercer/Slippery Rock University Research Study Concludes with Presentation at National Conference

SCI Mercer's Psychology Department and Slippery Rock University recently concluded a research study entitled, "Animal-Assisted Stress/Anxiety Groups for Incarcerated Males." Although nursing homes and other treatment facilities utilize animal-assisted therapy, this study is the first of this type to be facilitated in a prison setting at SCI Mercer. The research project involved utilizing trained, registered therapy dogs in group sessions with the goal of improving anxiety and increasing the coping skills of incarcerated males affected by stress and anxiety.



Presenting the results of the research study at the National Organization of Forensic Social Work annual conference held in New Orleans on June 22, 2018, were Corrections Regional Licensed Psychology Manager Dr. Cynthia Wright, Assistant Professor of Social Work at Slippery Rock University (SRU) Yvonne Eaton-Stull, DSW, LCSW, and SRU student facilitators Cassandra Spirnock and Maura Vulokavich.

Eaton-Stull stated that the presentation was well received and many other providers at the conference were impressed with the type of treatment offered in the PA Department of Corrections.

The first session with inmate participants was held Tuesday, October 3, 2017, in the Psychology Department. Three, 10-week reoccurring Stress/Anxiety Groups were facilitated with a maximum of 10 individuals per group. Inmate participation in the groups was voluntary.



The goal of the research was to provide evidence to demonstrate the effectiveness of animal-assisted intervention, lend credibility and support for this type of innovative rehabilitation strategy, and enhance feelings of

acceptance, reciprocity, and attachment to therapy dogs. Eaton-Stull states, "It's a safer way to get them talking about the topic for the day and transition to them."

As a result of this intervention, it was anticipated that inmates would experience a decrease in anxiety and stress and enhance their ability to cope and manage their anxiety and stress.

Conducting the research study at the facility were Dr. Cynthia Wright with her licensed therapy dogs: Shih Tzu's named Pookie and Ginger. In conjunction with Dr. Yvonne Eaton-Stull, and her therapy dog, a Cavalier King



Charles spaniel named Murphy, SRU student facilitators, Cassandra Spirnock, Maura Vulokavich, and PhD volunteer, Ardis Walsh. In addition, Sue Anderson, a therapy dog handler from "Paws Hand Delivered" out of Conneaut Lake and also a 1966 SRU alumna and her therapy dog, a collie named Danny, also assisted with the study.



Eaton-Stull stated, "The results were great and we will use these to encourage further treatment of this kind in the state prisons." She goes on to say, "Many positive results were found in regards to the feelings experienced from the therapy dog's presence in groups. Participants were motivated to attend. This is a huge factor that could be utilized to improve treatment compliance. Another theme was the

comfort and support felt from the therapy dogs. Feeling supported in such a stressful place is beneficial in decreasing stress and anxiety as well. Participants felt accepted and not judged by the dogs. Non-judgmental interactions are a critical component in treatment to help people feel comfortable disclosing personal information. Therefore, the presence of therapy dogs can assist in developing rapport and enhancing the therapeutic relationship between treatment staff and clients." Dr. Eaton-Stull expressed to the inmate group members that this cutting-

edge research could not have been possible without their dedication and willingness to participate.

Dr. Eaton-Stull stated, "I was so grateful to be able to partner with Dr. Wright in bringing such an innovative type of treatment to SCI Mercer. The participants obviously experienced a lot of benefits and it was great to see statistically significant results in this study! Hopefully, this will provide further support for treatment of this kind at various PA DOC facilities. The students benefited tremendously by not only enhancing their social work group skills, but also conducting research and providing treatment with a population they wish to work with in their futures!"

Dr. Wright expressed the following about the research project: "I am pleased that the study results confirmed what we know intuitively. Not only were there significant positive impacts in the data, the presence of the dogs seemed to have a positive effect on the staff and the overall atmosphere. I hope to see more dog programs and dogs used therapeutically within corrections in the future."

Dr. Wright and Dr. Eaton-Stull are looking forward to presenting the research results at the Pennsylvania Forensic Rights and Treatment Conference in Harrisburg on November 28-29, 2018.

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Davy Named Chester's Employee of the Quarter

Although he must commute two hours each way to get to work, Cpt. Reed Davy is a reliable officer who always reports for duty.

And now he has been named SCI Chester's Employee of the Quarter.

Davy previously worked at SCI Graterford and SCI Camp Hill, and he's well respected by all staff and can be counted on as a mentor on and off shift.

Most recently, Captain Davy was called on to fill the role of acting major with only hours' notice during the Phoenix transition, and he held that role for over a month to ensure the operations of Chester continued as normal. His dedication to SCI Chester and commitment to this facility is shown daily during his time at work.



Congrats Captain Davy!

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Many Staff Members Mark Milestone In Mercer

Not only has SCI Mercer celebrated 40 years of operation in 2018, but also numerous staff have marked 20 and 25 years of service with the Department of Corrections this year. Superintendent Melinda Adams stated, "The collective total number of years of correctional experience between these staff members is invaluable to the Department as well as to the facility."

Pictured are those staff members who were recognized in the Superintendent's Administrative meetings throughout the year for their dedication and commitment to the Department. Congratulations is extended to all.



Lt. John McDonald, Supt. Adams
25 Year Certificate 9/13/2018



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Scranton CCC Supports NEPA Youth Shelter

Staff at Scranton CCC donated more than \$600 worth of items to support the NEPA Youth Shelter in Scranton. The organization specializes in after-school programs, teen recreation and helping homeless teens.



Pictured from left: Scranton CCC Monitor Kenny Jordan and NEPA Youth Shelter Director Maureen Gray

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Albion Staff Hit Milestones

A trio of employees at SCI Albion reached new milestones in their DOC service.

Lt. Jason Zillman was honored for his 20 years of service, and Sgt. Tom Thomas and Refrigeration Instructor Dean Campbell were each honored for 25 years of service.

All three have been valuable members of the Albion team. Congratulations and thank you for a job well done so far!



**Pictured from left: Supt.
Michael Clark and Dean
Campbell**



**Pictured from left: Supt.
Michael Clark and Sgt. Tom
Thomas**



Pictured from left: Supt. Michael Clark and Lt. Jason Zillman

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Huntingdon Crew Clean Flood Debris

Recent flooding in the region left plenty of debris in Smithfield. Two large piles in particular were estimated to cost \$9,000 to clear out. Instead, SCI Huntingdon's CWP crew spent a day working on it and were able to remove half of the debris—saving the township thousands of dollars in the process. Smithfield Township Supervisor Ken Shea and the township were very appreciative of the great work performed by the inmates.

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Eastern Region Participates in Radio Show

In an effort to try new methods to engage with the community, Eastern Regional Director Louis Narvaez was a guest on the Philly Cam radio show Looking Forward to Reentry.



Pictured from left: Eastern Regional Director Louis Narvaez and radio host Jeffrey Abramowitz Esq.

The show reaches the Philadelphia tristate area, and Narvaez discussed the mission of the PBPP, emphasized the Board's commitment to public safety, use of evidence-based approaches in decision making and training agents receive to assist parolees in successful reintegration.

Narvaez will be a regular guest on the show and hopes to saturate the audience with information regarding the many initiatives and partnerships PBPP has.

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WRAP Testimonials

Lynn Patrone, DOC's mental health advocate, hosted a WRAP Facilitator Seminar for drug and alcohol treatment specialists. WRAP—or Wellness Recovery Action Plan—is an evidence-based tool that helps individuals address distressing feelings through a personally-developed response.

WRAP has been great for inmates, but it's also been very beneficial to staff overall. The following are staff testimonies about the program and the seminar:

"Throughout this week, I've become part of a community who care and want to promote wellness everyday in work and our personal lives. I've connected with myself and made more friends who will support me in all my ups and downs."

"This past week has helped me continue my wellness journey. I am at a point in my career when I felt the need to move on from my job but I now have a new found outlook and love for what I do everyday in life and my career."

"Through WRAP, I gained a family. I feel so good leaving this seminar."

"The seminar gave me hope because I think this is the start of my path."

"The WRAP program has been one of the best trainings since I started my career almost 19 years ago. Everyone should take the journey and participate in the program."

"The program could be a tremendous tool for team building and more in any institution.. We took down our walls and connected on an emotional level. What a gift!"

"What I like about WRAP is that it is very comprehensible and something that everyone can learn from."

"WRAP is very helpful and an uplifting process. This seminar gave me hope."

"What an awesome program. This is a program I can use for the rest of my life. It will be just a part of my life."



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QBC Holds C.O.V.E.R. Event

The Quehanna Boot Camp held its first Corrections Outreach for Veteran and Employee Restoration (C.O.V.E.R.) event on Friday, September 28.



Natasha Amaral, statewide C.O.V.E.R. coordinator, and Laurie Hilsinger, statewide SEAP liaison, gave presentations to interested staff. QBC Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialist Joanne Lewis was available to discuss mindfulness and techniques individuals can use to relax and regroup.



Natasha and Laurie gave presentations on C.O.V.E.R. and SEAP. They also visited all housing units to discuss C.O.V.E.R. and SEAP with staff unable to attend the event. Their efforts were greatly appreciated by all staff. Natasha's sharing of her personal experiences was very touching and

thought-provoking. Laurie had SEAP brochures and cards available.

SCI Dallas C.O.V.E.R. gear was available for purchase and staff was able to place orders for QBC's C.O.V.E.R. gear.

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Training Academy Pursues Reaccreditation through American Correctional Association

The Training Academy had its ACA Reaccreditation Audit during September 24 – 25, 2018. Auditors for the American Correctional Association (ACA) auditors informed Training Academy staff that they had met all 13 mandatory and 96 non-mandatory standards in their latest audit. “You



made the score,” said Ida Lewis from the Ohio Department of Youth Services, one of the two auditors who visited the Training Academy. “We didn’t give you anything. You achieved that score.” Ms. Lewis was joined by Lonnie Lemons, a correctional and accreditation consultant from North Carolina. Both auditors conducted a thorough review of the academy’s policies, procedures and practices spanning the past three years.



A good bit of preparation was involved prior to their arrival – and some challenges had to be overcome. “We had to go ‘old-school’ when the AARMS system went down in April,” said the Training Academy’s Associate Director for Facilities Management Pete Damiter, referring to the electronic accreditation file management

system. “We had to do things the old-fashioned way, but we were able to adapt.”

In addition to pulling together necessary documentation and staff efforts for the audit, Ms. O’Mara noted that the accreditation process is an excellent way to acknowledge what we do well and identify and address potential issues or areas for improvement. “Beyond achieving compliance, the standards truly are best practice for delivering and monitoring training and ensuring safety and security operations. All departments within the Training Academy contribute to providing and maintaining an atmosphere that is supportive of learning,” Ms. O’Mara said. “We are very pleased to have met all of the ACA standards.”

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Sporting Pink at Mercer

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and in observation of this the staff of SCI Mercer were asked to wear pink to the annual Day of Responsibility on Oct. 10. Check out everyone sporting pink:



Jerrold Shank, Activities Manager

Center: Banita Howell, Treatment Specialist; Standing: Counselors Tracy Ionta, Jon Barnhart and Lori Buchanan; and Validia Giddens, Protestant Chaplain



From left: Joyce Deemer, Barber Manager; Dana Custer, Commissary Clerk; Linda DeForest, Library Assistant; Marilyn Fusco, Librarian; Sandra DeWitt, Clerk Typist II

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Pennsylvania DOC's Diversionary Treatment Unit Highlighted as "Promising Practice"

Via the Vera Institute

Recently the Vera Institute of Justice's Center on Sentencing and Corrections debuted its "All Promising Practices" web page as part of the Safe Alternatives to Segregation Initiative where information and strategies about the reduction of the use of restrictive housing is shared. The introduction of the Pennsylvania DOC's model Diversionary Treatment Units (DTUs) is among the initiatives highlighted:

Brief Summary

Historically, in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, when an individual committed a serious institutional rule infraction, that person would be swiftly removed from the general population and placed into a segregated Restricted Housing Unit (RHU), until seen by a Hearing Examiner for disposition of the allegations or charges. Depending on the severity of the infraction and if found guilty of the rule infraction, the individual could be sentenced to reside in the RHU for up to 90 days per rule infraction. For example, if an individual was asked by a corrections officer to return to their cell and the individual refused the order, insulted the corrections officer by using foul language, and then banged his head on the floor once the corrections officers attempted to restrain him and resisted the restraints being applied, that individual could be sanctioned to 360 days in the RHU, due to four institutional rule infractions (that's correct, we used to punish individuals who self-injured themselves or attempted suicide).

Once placed into an RHU, the individual would be restricted to 23 hours per day, in-cell restriction 5 days per week (i.e., most weekends, individuals were locked down for 24 hours per day), with movement and privileges severely restricted. Individuals housed in RHUs were afforded three showers per week and an hour of exercise out of the cell per day, with only several other basic privileges required through constitutional case law. Conditions within RHUs were typically drab, uninspiring, dark, and populated with an institution's most incorrigible, disruptive, shrewd, and dangerous individuals that presented the most significant security concerns to the overall institutional operations. Mental health contacts occurred at reception and then every 30 days thereafter and as needed. However, these contacts were very generic and not very focused. A brief suicide risk screen was also completed by the lead corrections officer (i.e., typically a lieutenant). As such, all mental health services were basically provided on a crisis intervention basis to all individuals admitted and confined to RHUs; all were basically "treated" the same from a mental health perspective, in that, all received monthly contacts whether or not they were currently receiving mental health treatment, diagnosed with a mental illness, or prescribed psychotropic medications.

Unfortunately, what was discovered was that individuals admitted and confined under these conditions, did not typically improve and many times decompensated even further. It was discovered that many times, individuals initially confined to an RHU for 30 or 60 days ended up confined to the RHU for several years at a time due to the aggregate accrual of institutional infractions received while in the RHU. It was not uncommon for individuals housed in RHUs to have disciplinary custody time that exceeded their formal sentence, for which they were incarcerated. Historically, any individual could be admitted to the RHU, if they were charged with a serious enough disciplinary infraction or the institutional administration requested enhanced administrative or security measures (i.e., administrative segregation/custody). Placement into RHUs was indiscriminate, in that any individual charged or sanctioned with a disciplinary or administrative sanction would be confined in the

RHU, regardless of their mental health status, diagnoses, suicide history, or individual treatment plan. Alternative housing units for individuals sanctioned for disciplinary reasons did not exist.

In 2016, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PA DOC) made reforms to its use of segregation for treatment of people with serious mental illness, after a federal investigation. Although there is limited data on PA DOC's use of segregation, the Department of Justice officially ended its investigation in 2016 after PA DOC implemented reforms.

The Goal

After much reflection, consideration, and advocacy, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections developed Diversionary Treatment Units (DTUs). DTUs were developed to supplant RHUs and to divert individuals diagnosed with serious mental illnesses, significant functional impairments, and intellectual disabilities to an enriched treatment unit, where the individual's mental health treatment needs and security needs would both be met, without sacrificing one or the other. DTUs were not RHUs. DTUs were brightly painted treatment units, with inspirational quotes, murals, motivational landscapes, and recovery oriented language that aimed to persuade and influence those individuals receiving treatment therein. Indeed, the basic premise of DTUs was to create a treatment unit that could meet the needs of seriously mentally ill individuals who have recently been sanctioned for a serious institutional rule infraction. DTUs were not only equipped with televisions, radios, clocks, and bright lights, but also a variety of secure cubicles, individual treatment chairs, and secure group treatment tables. The goal of the DTU was to provide individualized mental health care treatment to seriously mentally ill individuals that recently demonstrated an enhanced security need and enhanced need for mental health treatment.

The Process

However, the difference between DTUs and RHUs is far more than simply appearance. Processes, treatment planning, out of cell time, and staff training requirements and selection criteria specific to the new treatment unit were established. Staff members selected to work on DTUs were required to receive several specialized trainings in order to qualify for DTU posts. The training requirements to work on DTUs for correctional officers included completion of the 8-hour Mental Health First Aid course and the 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT) course. Other new processes that were developed for this solution were treatment plans based on the recovery model, out of cell treatment service delivery, and strategically placed mental health contacts associated with the disciplinary process. Additionally, DTU policy revisions created enhanced safeguards for seriously mentally ill individuals, which creatively crafted, still held individuals accountable for their actions (i.e., seriously mentally ill or not) and encouraged the use of the informal disciplinary process for less serious infractions, which resulted in far less individuals being sent to a restrictive setting like an RHU.

The Solution

The three most significant developments associated with the DTU were the minimum requirements for out-of-cell time, the utilization of crisis oriented treatment plans aimed at treating the individual for the underlying reasons they were sent to the DTU, and the strategic placement of a focused mental health assessment prior to DTU or RHU placement. The purpose of the mental health assessment is for a mental health professional to determine whether the individual meets inpatient commitment criteria. After all, a sentinel event has presumably just occurred (i.e., a serious rule infraction) and determining the existence of a diagnosed serious mental illness, significant functional impairment, or intellectual disability would suggest that placement into an RHU would be counterproductive. This assessment did not previously exist—instead, individuals that committed serious rule infractions were immediately segregated from the general population, as well as from the enhanced mental health services and other supports provided to those confined outside of the DTU or RHU. This occurred because we simply assumed that those people acted voluntarily in violence or aggression, rather than considering the potential impact of an existing serious mental illness, significant functional impairment, or intellectual disability.

As a result of the implementation of these assessments, we saw a 10 percent rise in the number of people being committed to inpatient treatment. This suggests that the disciplinary processes previously in place resulted in the segregation of seriously mentally ill individuals who should have otherwise been placed at our highest and most acute level of inpatient mental health treatment.

Once cleared by the mental health assessment for placement into the DTU, the clinician immediately and collaboratively (i.e., with the individual) creates an Individual Recovery Plan (IRP), which serves to direct the individual's course of treatment during their time in the DTU. For example, if we consider the above original scenario involving a resistant inmate, and it was determined that the individual had Schizophrenia and that they were resisting because they believed the corrections officer was a ghost (a visual hallucination) that was attacking him because of his catholic faith (paranoid delusion), then appropriate treatment goals for DTU placement would include learning to live with psychotic disorders, anger management, and violence prevention. The basic premise is that the goals developed would be specific to the individual's needs and to the underlying incident in question. However, this is only part of the formula. Once the IRP was developed, treatment groups and settings also needed to be developed within DTUs to be able to deliver mental health treatment to individuals that presented with not only enhanced mental health needs but also enhanced security needs.

The Results

The result was the offering of a minimum of 20 hours per week of out-of-cell time for every individual housed in a DTU. In most cases, individuals are now offered far in excess of 20 hours per week out of cell, to participate in groups and programs

directly related to their needs and identified through the Individual Recovery Plan. The offering of these out of cell programs is completed by all disciplines involved in the multidisciplinary treatment team, referred to as the Psychiatric Review Team.

Lessons Learned

This DTU solution did not come easy. Before we could develop the processes, procedures, units, and policy revisions associated with the DTUs, we needed to solidify the definition of serious mental illness, accurately identify those individuals that met the new definition of serious mental illness, recalibrate our mental health classification system, consolidate seriously mentally ill individuals to 14 specific state correctional institutions within our system, and augment staffing ratios of clinical, administrative, and security professionals in order to meet the new programmatic, clinical, and security needs of these units and individuals. Following these major conceptual and paradigmatic shifts, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections proceeded with implementing outpatient Residential Treatment Units (RTUs) that would serve as step-down units from DTUs. Accordingly, similarly missioned outpatient units, that provided enhanced outpatient mental health treatment in a far less secure setting than DTUs were created to complement the transitioning periods of individuals discharged from DTUs and those individuals that required enhanced outpatient mental health treatment needs. The RTUs and DTUs now function well together as a feeder and landing system for one another, meeting the enhanced security and mental health treatment needs of individuals diagnosed with serious mental illnesses and incarcerated in Pennsylvania state prisons.

All areas outlined above were extremely crucial to the department's success. Though it is not explicitly written above, culture change remains the single most important obstacle to our continued success. Changing the way that correctional professionals think about incarcerated individuals is essential to treatment outcomes being successful. Integrating correctional officers into the treatment teams was a key factor as well. It is no secret that these individuals spend far more time with our patients that we do as mental health professionals; their input, guidance, and opinions should not be marginalized.

To view other states' initiatives visit

<https://www.safealternativestosegregation.org/promising-practices/>

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Week of October 1...

Teacher Spotlight: SCI Fayette's Tim Wendell

Tim Wendell was a celebrated elementary school teacher in Maryland in the early 2000's.

His accolades at Freedom Elementary School in Sykesville, Md., included Teacher of the Year in 2003 and Carroll County Outstanding Teacher in 2002 and 2003. He was loved by his students and their parents.

So, naturally, he chose to leave.

Not only did Tim leave, he left to become a corrections officer at SCI Fayette.

HEAD OF THE CLASS

Name: Tim Wendell

Subject: Adult Basic Education

Facility: SCI Fayette

Length of Service: 2 years

Why: "I like being a positive role model in an environment that's mostly negative."



pennsylvania DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

"Since I had taught in public schools, I knew I took this job with the intentions of taking a teaching position with DOC someday," Tim said. "My mom has taught at Greene for 21 years. It seemed like something I might really like.

"Having that public-school time and being a CO made it easy. It was a good balance of both of them."

With the ultimate goal of being a teacher in Pennsylvania, Tim took a job as a corrections officer to get in the system and facility. He served as a CO for 8 ½ years before the opportunity arose for him to become a teacher in the facility. Just over 2 years ago he became a teacher, and he's found even greater success.

An urban legend about Tim is that he never had a student fail the GED. Although he admitted that wasn't entirely true, reality is just as impressive.

He's had 132 students take the test, and only two didn't pass. One missed passing by just a few points, but after taking Tim's course again he succeeded. The other missed by a single point, and unfortunately had to drop Tim's class the second time due to an attendance violation in another class.

Seeing his students pass and achieve their goals are among Tim's favorite moments so far.

"A couple of my students who I had pass their GEDs and finish, they told me they made promises to their families to go and get their GEDs," Tim said. "They came to my class and they passed and put a smile on their face and tears in their eyes. They told me they never believed they could do it until they came to my class and I gave them that positive reinforcement and was that positive reinforcement and told them they can do."

His tutor, a former pupil of his, told Tim he didn't truly realize the positive impact he was having on his students.



"That meant a lot to me," he admitted. "I didn't realize that until he verbalized it and told me."

The biggest challenge for Tim is finding ways for positive reinforcement.

At the public schools he taught at, he could bring in little items to encourage the kids. Working in an SCI, however, makes him limited to what he can give them.

Ultimately positivity is his goal and why he is happy to work for DOC. As a naturally positive person, Tim said being a CO could be difficult because he couldn't use his skills and positivity as well.

Now he can be the example some inmates truly need.

"I like being a positive role model in an environment that is mostly negative," Tim said. "If I can be their one highlight of their day, and if they walk out of jail a better person, and I'm the guy that made that difference for them ... I like to have that environment and set that tone in the classroom."

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Inmates Create Posters for Suicide Prevention

October is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and in honor of it SCI Mercer's Activities Department held a special contest.

Inmates were challenged to create posters to raise awareness and provide support for suicide prevention. The administrative staff voted on their three favorite submissions, which are listed below. Great work to all the talented artists!

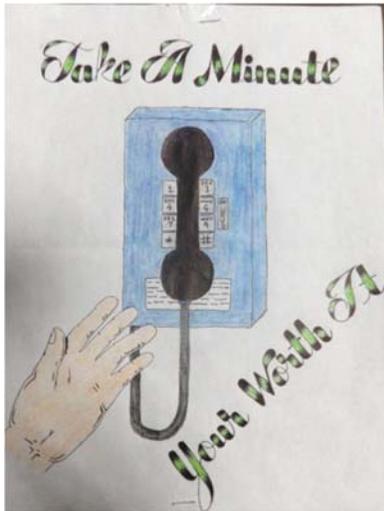
1st Place:



2nd Place:



3rd Place:



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IUP Students Visit Pine Grove

SCI Pine Grove hosted Indiana University of Pennsylvania nursing students for a tour and visit with the Young Adult? Offender Unit. An inmate provided insight into the program.

The tour also included a stop at the Program Services Building and medical unit, where staff discussed their daily duties. The final stop was the Security Office, where visitors got to see some of the weapons that were created by inmates and confiscated during cell searches.



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DOC Conducts Advanced FERT Training

Fire Emergency Response Team (FERT) members from various institutions attended the Advanced FERT Academy at the State Fire Academy in Lewistown.

It was a grueling week of fire evolutions where they took turns taking the lead role as an incident

commander and making decisions. The leader of the scenario deployed other FERT members to mitigate situations including search and rescue, live fire and

ventilation. During the course, students were afforded the chance to go through the Flashover simulator, which allows students to see the dynamics of fire that few ever get the chance to experience.

The lessons learned and confidence built were a huge testament to the level of commitment and dedication everyone has for their team. Congratulations to everyone who completed the training!



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ACA Audits Completed

Congratulations to SCI Rockview, SCI Benner Township, the Training Academy, Harrisburg CCC and York CCC for the successful completion and outcome findings rendered last week following their American Correctional Association (ACA) audits.

All facilities received 100% scores on mandatory expected practices and will receive respective audit reports in the upcoming weeks. Facilities are compliant based on the initial findings in the audit report. However, actual reaccreditation is determined—and is expected to be awarded—at ACA's winter conference in January 2019 in Louisiana.

Facility managers and their designees will be provided an opportunity to highlight their facilities attributes and respond to any questions commissioners may have regarding the audit reports.

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SCI Benner Township Superintendent's Assistant Holly Quist welcomes the ACA auditors on Sept. 26.

Smithfield Staff Participates in Day of Caring

Employees from SCI Smithfield participated in the United Way's Day of Caring on Sept. 26.

Staff worked in conjunction with the American Red Cross and went door-to-door in the Huntingdon community and installed smoke detectors free of charge. The team also replaced batteries in existing smoke detectors.

Staff also educated residents on fire safety and discussed the need to establish an off-premise meeting place for their family in the event of a fire.



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Coal Township Hosts ARC Blood Drive

Employees at SCI Coal Township stepped up for an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Sept. 26. A total of 22 units of blood were collected at the event. The facility sponsors three blood drives per year, with the next one already set for Jan. 16, 2019. These drives are also open to retired DOC employees as well as DOC employees from other institutions. To schedule a donation in an upcoming drive, contact Amie Newman at: amnewman@pa.gov

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Forest Dedicates Staff Memorial

The Staff Memorial at SCI Forest was developed by the Military Committee in 2016. And after several fundraisers to complete the project, it was officially dedicated on last month.

During the dedication, there were several speakers including Utility Plant Supervisor, Ben Galina; Captain Dan Meck; Reverend Glenn McQuown; Forest County Commissioner Norman Wimer and Superintendent Michael Overmyer. There have been 10 active duty staff members pass away since 2004. Available staff members, SCI Forest Honor Guard members, PA State Troopers, Forest County Commissioners, Representative Donna Oberlander and the Western Region Inspection Team were present during the dedication.



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Pine Grove Kicks Off SECA Campaign with Picnic

To launch the 2018 SECA campaign, SCI Pine Grove celebrated with a picnic-style luncheon for all staff.

The party included 50/50 tickets and raffle tickets to win a grill. Chips and candy were donated and sold for donations to SECA.

Special thanks to Superintendent Lee Estock, SECA Coordinators Aimee Deskevich and Pernell Bowersox, the Food Service staff, Employee Association, COVER and Empowerment Committee for their generous donations for the picnic.



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Scranton, Pittsburgh CCCs Pass Accreditation

In September, Executive Deputy Secretary George Little held a statewide community corrections and reentry meeting for parole and community corrections management staff.

During the meeting, Little recognized Scranton CCC and Pittsburgh CCC for passing their accreditation audits.

"The staff at Pittsburgh and Scranton CCCs are to be congratulated for their reaccreditation," Little said. "This was a total team effort that extended to the PBPP - 2018 Sept -



Management Meeting6.jpegregional and central offices. And while these certificates were being presented, both York and Harrisburg CCCs passed their accreditation inspections with flying colors. Kudus to all! One team. One vision, one goal: excellence!"

Also at the meeting, Secretary of Corrections John Wetzel, Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal and Wernersville CCC Director Marlina Sequin spoke to the attendees. Training Academy Director Michael Dooley spoke about what changes to look forward to at the Academy in the near future.

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IN THE NEWS...

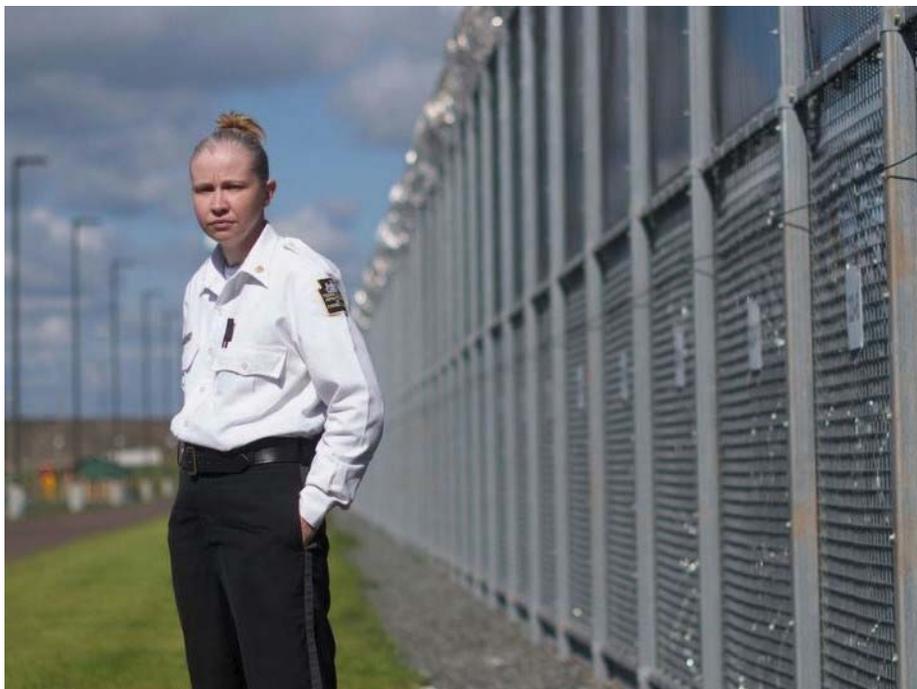
Shattering the Maximum Security Ceiling

By Gina Clark as told to Manuel Villa

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2018/10/04/shattering-the-maximum-security-ceiling>

I always wanted to be that FBI agent. You know, Jodie Foster in "The Silence of the Lambs."

I grew up in northeast Philadelphia and majored in administration of justice at Penn State University. During the summer of my senior year, I interned at the Pennsylvania State Police. By the time it was done, my heart was set on becoming a trooper.



That same summer I applied for a job there. To play it safe, I also applied to several other agencies, including the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. By fall, the corrections department offered me a job. The application process for the Pennsylvania troopers was still underway, so I accepted as a backup plan. But I never intended to really take it: I was determined to be a trooper.

Applying to become a state trooper was a long process. First you have to fill out an online form, then pass the lie detector and drug screening tests. Finally, about six months later, the day of the physical ability test came. But coincidentally, it was scheduled on what should have been my first day of work at the Department of Corrections, which I obviously missed.

We get there and we do the pull-ups, we do the dead-lifts, the push-ups and the sit-ups. I passed everything. The last thing we had to do was the mile-and-a-half run. I believe it was February, 2002. There was a snowstorm, and I remember looking out of the window, watching the fierce snow. With about 30 of us applicants there, I thought for sure they would have us run on an indoor track.

They took us all outside.

After what seemed an eternal mile-and-a-half, with the wind blowing against me, making me feel like I was running into a brick wall, I crossed the finish line. A female state trooper clicked her stopwatch. I looked up at her, panting and exhausted, and she said to me, "Four seconds." Almost in tears, I said between breaths, "Oh my gosh, four seconds! I made it, I made it!" She looked back at me, and she said, "No, sweetheart. You missed it by four seconds."

Stunned, I asked if I could take the run over again. "Take the run over again?" she responded. "You've gotta start at square one! You gotta go back, and apply again online, and go through everything." It just devastated me. I could not wait for another year. Fresh out of college, I felt defeated. I had no choice but to become a corrections officer.

I remember driving up to Graterford prison the very next day, emotionally drained and my body sore. I took a long look at the wall of the then over-70-year-old facility. You'd hear the stories. The toughest prison in the state of Pennsylvania. There I was, 21-years-old and thinking to myself, "What am I doing?" I could not believe a mere four seconds could change my life that way.

And thank God they did. Today, I cannot picture myself doing anything else.

After a year of training as a CO, I received a call from a sergeant who worked at the Restricted Housing Unit with a security level five—a maximum security unit. It's what out on the street or in communities people might call "the hole" or solitary confinement. The sergeant said, "I liked your work ethics as a trainee. You have a good head on your shoulders, and I want you to come work with us." The RHU is an intense place to work, especially being 22—and a female at that. So what do I do? I say yes.

Females weren't considered people who could work there. We were seen as being in the way. The only other female officer there when I entered worked in the control center. So I said to the sergeant, "Listen, I'm not just here to write in logbooks. I want to do just the amount of work that the guys do, be out on the wing. If you guys run showers, I'm cuffing guys up and I'm taking them to the showers. I want

to be treated just like how every other officer is in here." And they did. They treated me like that. If it was a regular day, it was a regular day; if we had to go in on a use of force on an inmate, my lieutenant would say, "Clark, get ready." I was the only female in the wing.

I wasn't the first female to actually work on that unit. All correction officers experience it as part of the training, just as every other area inside the institution. But it was very few and far between for a female to have a permanent position in the maximum security unit, so I was part of the movement introducing female officers to become a permanent fixture in level five units.

Ironically, working in one of the toughest spots in prison inspired me to eventually become a corrections counselor, or case manager. While correction officers focus on procuring a safe environment inside the facilities for prisoners and officers, the role of a corrections counselor is treatment: We help inmates leave prison.

At the time, there were no counselors embedded on a level five unit. They would just do rounds on Fridays and wouldn't see the inmates for a week. So the COs acted as everything for those inmates. You were not just security down there at that time: Because of the way they were confined, you were their officer, unit manager, counselor. That is what started me thinking about switching from the security side of things into the treatment side of things.

As a corrections counselor, you really get to know the guys. You sit down with them, read their cases, see how they grew up. And it starts to click that some people aren't dealt with the hand that others are. Maybe some guys grew up in a household of addiction, and that's what they know, so they follow suit. Maybe some fall into street gangs, looking for the support they never received from an absent or abusive parent. And then, one thing leads to another and they're doing time with us.

A counselor's job is to look after the inmate. That ranges from reviewing him to determine his custody level, managing his list of authorized phone numbers, getting him a job inside prison, helping him run therapeutic groups, all the way up into preparing him for reentry to society. We have the responsibility to help them change, get home. Some guys will open up because I'm a female. Some guys won't. I don't think whether and how they interact with you has to do with gender, but with what type of relationship you have with them.

Outside, my friends call me Gina, so when I am at the mall or at a grocery shop, and I hear someone call "Mrs. Clark!" I always know it's someone who was formerly incarcerated. A lot of times it's, "Thanks for treating me like a human being." Every now and then they'll call up and they'll say, "Hey Maj., I just want to let you know I'm getting married. I got a great job. Things are going good. I'm no longer at the halfway house, I'm home."

There's disappointing moments too, of course. When I see a guy come back into the state system, that sucks. I'm like, "What happened?" Some of the guys who

end up back here will put their head down when they see me making rounds. But I will walk to them and say, "Hey, what happened? Why are you back?" And then we'll get into that. These are people who, when they become incarcerated for the first time, may have lost their families, their friends, their careers, their jobs. Many also have to cope with addiction or mental illness. It's hard to recover from that. They make mistakes again. So unfortunately, for some guys it's just a way of life. But we try to get it right.

Each time in my career that I moved on to a different title, or that I got promoted, it has been like falling in love all over again. I fell in love when I became a corrections officer, I fell in love when I became a corrections counselor, I fell in love when I became a corrections unit manager and started supervising counselors, and I fell in love again when I was promoted to be the first female major at Graterford. At each different level, I can make a change in someone's life. Those four seconds I was short, thank God for them.

Gina Clark, 38, is the major of unit management at State Correctional Institution Phoenix in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The \$400-million prison opened on July 9, 2018, replacing the now-defunct SCI Graterford, which operated on the same property for 89 years.

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