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DOCTalk January/February 2014 Employee Newsletter

Maine Department of Corrections

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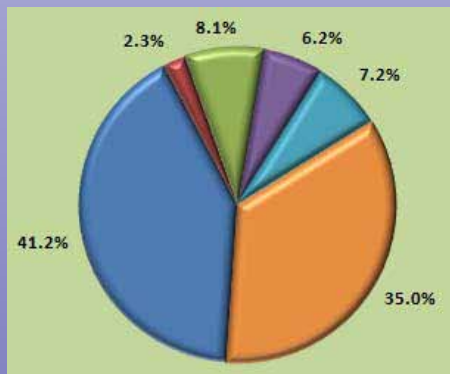
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DOCTalk

JANUARY ~ FEBRUARY 2014 EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



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DOCTalk

is the employee newsletter for the Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC).

DOCTalk is published 6 times a year: January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and the November/December Year In Review Issue.

Submission Deadlines

March/April 2014 Issue:

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

May/June 2014 Issue:

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

July/August 2014 Issue:

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Please send submissions and changes to the contributor list to Cheryl Miller in Central Office at Cheryl.Miller@maine.gov

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Our sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who submitted articles and photos to DOCTalk. Their time and effort contribute significantly in producing a quality publication.

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Region 2-Adult Community Corrections

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Region 3-Adult Community Correction

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From the Commissioner



Commissioner Joseph Ponte

I am not sure if I will still be here when this issue of DOCTalk is published. As everyone knows by now, much has changed in the last couple of months. I wish all of the staff who works for the Maine Department of Corrections the best in their future.

Corrections has changed more in the past five years, than we have seen in the past 20 years. The recession of 2007, which still impacts most states and most budgets, has taken a toll on programming and training across the country. Some of the progress states have achieved has been eroded due to funding cuts. The current plan for most everyone is do more with less. Maine continues to lead the country with their work in juvenile corrections, reduction in the use of long term segregation, establishing an intensive mental health unit at Maine State Prison, and on April 2, 2014 we will be opening a Young Offender Program at Mountain View Youth Development Center.

There is no question the work each of you does every day makes a difference in the lives of the adults and juveniles under our supervision. The people who have made corrections a career understand the rewards are few, the challenge unreasonable, the pay is low, but the commitment to the belief that people can change is unflappable. The true measure of the value of corrections should be how well we have prepared the offender to return to the community.

In order for this agency to continue to move forward we need to continue to search for evidence-based programs and bring those programs to Maine. The Juvenile Division has become a leader in the country and sets a good path on how to move the agency in a positive direction.

Many of the leaders in our department are new in their roles and will need your support and engagement to make Maine a national leader in correctional practice. We should not start down this road if we are not all committed to the evidence-based interventions that will make our communities safe.

It has been an honor to serve as a Cabinet Member under Governor LePage. I have always believed, in this position, I am accountable to the people of Maine and provide a service that is essential to the criminal justice system. Others will pass judgment on the work that was done but no one should diminish the value of our staff and the import role they play every day in state government.

God bless and stay safe.

ON THE FRONT COVER Thanks to Associate Commissioner Cynthia Brann for sharing her photo of Corporal Joseph Salisbury with his partner K-9 Tyson training at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. Share one of your photos and it might appear in a future issue of DOCTalk. (Email your photos to Cheryl.Miller@maine.gov)

De Blasio Taps Maine Corrections Chief to Run NYC Jail System

Reported By Patty B. Wight, MPBN

The commissioner of Maine's Department of Corrections, Joseph Ponte, is leaving his post to head the New York City jail system. In Maine, Ponte is seen by many as a leader of positive jail reforms for the state's 2,100 inmates. Advocacy groups say they hope the next commissioner will take Ponte's reforms further, to create a safer jail system in Maine. Patty Wight reports.

News of Ponte's departure came at a press conference - not in Maine, but in New York City - held by Mayor Bill de Blasio. "He knows how to make jails safer for officers and inmates alike," de Blasio said of Ponte.

And the news caught many in Maine off guard, including Stan Gerzofsky, the Democratic Senate chair of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. "Surprise, surprise. We didn't have any hint of this," he says.

Joseph Ponte has been commissioner of Maine's Department of Corrections since 2011. He came to the position with a reputation for transforming troubled jails into efficient, safe facilities, with stints in half-a-dozen states, including Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Tennessee.

Gerzofsky says Ponte has left a positive mark in Maine as well. "Because when he came here, we had pretty much had the same team

in place for a while, so whenever somebody new comes in with new ideas - I think some of them I supported, and some of them, I think, are going to be long-lasting."

One of those changes was reducing the use of solitary confinement by two-thirds. Ponte's credited with a reduction in the use of excessive force and with improving resources for inmates with mental illness.

Rachel Healy of the ACLU of Maine says Ponte also created a more transparent Department of Corrections. "He has been willing to bring prisoners' advocates into the conversation and to listen to their input and really implement it," Healy says.



This article originally appeared on the Maine Public Broadcasting Network website and continues: <http://www.mpbn.net/Home/tabid/36/ctl/ViewItem/mid/5347/ItemId/32643/Default.aspx>

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio on March 11th announcing the appointment of Joseph Ponte to run the city's jail system.

The Maine Correctional Center Feasibility Study

By Associate Commissioner Jody Breton

Following are highlights from the Maine Correctional Center Feasibility Study. The full report can be viewed on the Department's website: <http://www.maine.gov/corrections/projects/index.shtml>

Legislative Mandate

“...prepare an independent feasibility study of the need for correctional facility construction projects in the Town of Windham. The feasibility study must consider and provide financial analysis with respect to a number of components including but not limited to the costs of the existing correctional system and the population growth and costs of a new correctional facility in the Town of Windham.”

Key Conclusions

- There is a positive economic benefit to the State of Maine and the project is self-funded
 - This project will enable MDOC to do “more with less”
 - The alternative to this plan of action will be more costly
 - This project positively realigns the system capacity
1. There is a positive economic benefit to the State of Maine and the project is self-funded
 - Will be closing the DCF and SMWRC and downsize CCF
 - Will be avoiding necessary capital improvements to inefficient facilities
 - Will put in place a design for MCC that permits more efficient operations and lowers costs
 - The cumulative savings will fund the new construction
 2. This project will enable MDOC to do “more with less”
 - Maine has 9th highest per diem cost in the country, this plan will reduce that cost by 14.3%
 - The plan will fill unmet treatment needs including those who are or have:
 - Physical illnesses
 - Mental illnesses
 - Substance abusers
 - The plan will meet the needs of the growing female population
 - Increase safety and security for public, staff and inmates
 - Significantly enhances the re-entry system
 3. The alternative to this plan of action will be more costly
 - The state will need to spend at least \$71.4 million on repairs/renovations to allow existing inefficient facilities to remain operational
 - This considerable expenditure will still yield little in terms of efficiencies or reducing operating costs
 - Nor will it meet the needs for special populations or the re-entry system without significant increases in operating expenditures
 4. This project positively realigns the system capacity
 - Marginally increases general population bed capacity while providing needed bed space for special populations
 - Will provide capacity to assist counties with difficult and expensive to manage inmates
 - Realignment of future capacity will provide the flexibility to house different classifications and allow for peaking needs

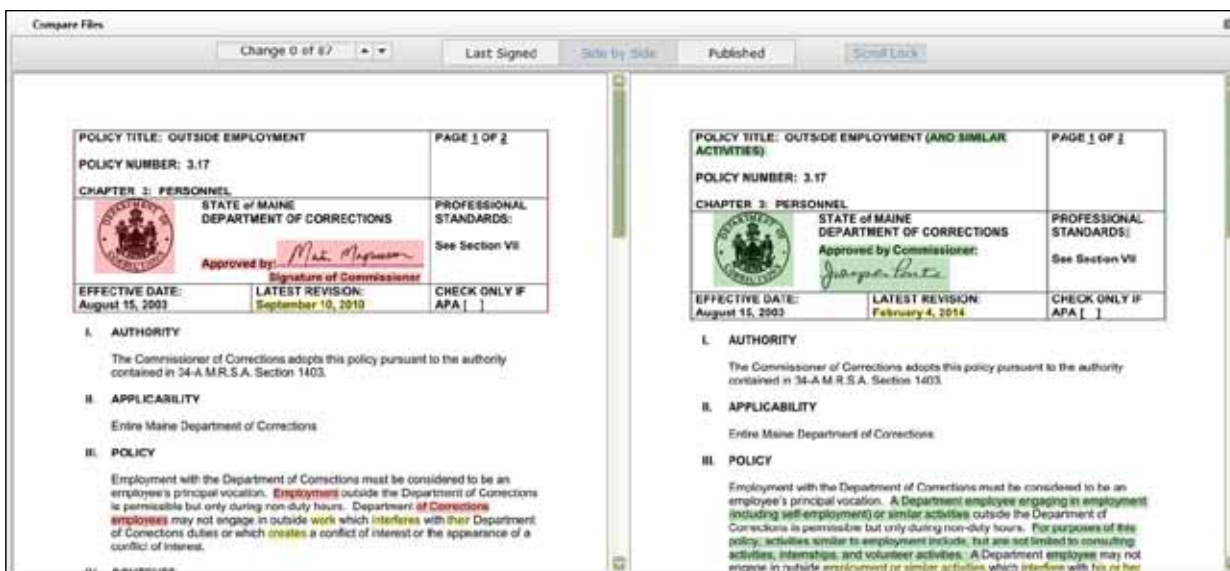
PowerDMS Update

By Mary Lucia

We are in the process of deploying PowerDMS, a document management system. So far, PowerDMS is being implemented at Central Office, Mountain View Youth Development Center, Charleston Correctional Facility and Bolduc Correctional Facility. All other facilities and regions will be brought on board in the next couple of months. There will be a two-day onsite training in late May or June, which is geared for staff who will manage PowerDMS for their facility or regional office, supervisors, policy manual coordinators, accreditation managers, administrative support staff and training staff. It is expected that the PowerDMS will replace the Policy Section in CorrNet by June 2014.

In addition to policies, all current Commissioner Directives and memos will be placed on PowerDMS, so staff can have access to them. PowerDMS will manage the Department of Corrections policies and other crucial documents, but it can also maintain regulatory and accreditation standards and has an online training component.

Below is a snapshot of the DOC PowerDMS site. Even if you do not have an email account, you will have a PowerDMS account.



One helpful feature of PowerDMS is the side-by-side comparison users have access to as shown on the left. Users can easily see changes to a policy, which are highlighted from the original to the revised version.

Update from the Division of Quality Assurance & Professional Practices

By Troy Varney, Director

I hope everyone's winter has been a good one despite it being so cold and long. The good news—mud season is just around the corner! As we begin to gear up for the contract renewal season I thought it would be important to let folks know there have been a couple minor modifications to the Contract Approval Checklist which can be found on the Quality Assurance (QA) link in CorrNet (<http://inet.state.me.us/corrections/quality-assurance/index.html>). The most notable update being the addition of the new Contract/Amendment Cover Page (shown on right) which needs to be attached to the front of all completed contracts and amendments just before sending to the appropriate MDOC finance/accountant staff. It's a simple, online, fillable form that is self-explanatory. This new form can also be found on the QA link in CorrNet. If you have any questions on anything regarding the approval process please feel free to contract me (Troy.Varney@maine.gov) or anyone of the staff in QA.

QA has been very busy with administering Requests for Proposals (RFP's) on the Juvenile Services end of things as we have released four different ones over the past month and half: 1) Home and Community Treatment services for youth in Aroostook, Washington, Piscataquis, Franklin and Oxford Counties; 2) Alternative Education for the Bangor, Lincoln and Houlton area youth; 3) Cognitive Behavioral Therapy services for youth in Cumberland and York Counties; and 4) Restorative Justice services for youth in Cumberland and York Counties. We hope to have all awards made within the month to ensure seamless services to youth and families in these areas.

On the Adult side, Maine has been making a splash with Performance-based Standards (PbS), a national continuous quality improvement program that until recently had been solely for juvenile facilities. In the spring of 2013, Charleston Correctional Facility (CCF) became the first Adult facility in the nation to participate in PbS. This April, CCF will have its third data draw

The image shows a screenshot of a web-based form titled "Contract/Amendment SUMMARY COVER PAGE" from the Department of Corrections. The form contains several input fields and checkboxes:

- Date: Click here to enter a date.
- Contract Administrator: Click here to enter text.
- Facility/Division/Region: Choose an item.
- Type of Agreement (Check one box):
 - New
 - Renewal
 - Amendment
- Contract draft has been reviewed by QA and suggested revisions have been incorporated into the final contract.
- Contract draft has been reviewed by Mark McCarthy or designee and suggested revisions have been incorporated into the final contract.
- Contract draft has been reviewed (if appropriate) by Associate Commissioner Jody Breton and suggested revisions have been incorporated into the final contract.
- Vendor name: Click here to enter text.
- Vendor code: Click here to enter text.
- Contract Number: Click here to enter text.
- One sentence description of contract/services: Click here to enter text.
- Accountant: Choose an item.

The new Summary Cover Page which must be attached to all completed contracts and amendments.

as part of this exciting project. In February 2014, QA initiated this model at the Maine State Prison (MSP) by administering staff and client surveys. With the help of MSP senior management we were able to get great returns on the surveys. QA recently finalized compiling the data and running reports that will be used to understand strengths and determine areas of needed improvement. The plan is for QA to work with MSP to establish focus groups made up of staff and inmates to develop and manage Facility Improvement Plans (FIPs) which will address the identified areas of need from the surveys.

The Department has undergone many changes and has been faced with many challenges with more of both coming our way. The Division of Quality Assurance is prepared to partner with all DOC Departments to meet those changes and challenges with optimism and enthusiasm.

Anderson to Oversee PREA

It was recently announced that Ryan Andersen would be promoted to the position of Senior Planner, and will be overseeing the Department's efforts regarding Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) compliance. Ryan joins the MDOC Operations Division after having performed federal compliance work for the Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG). As JJAG Compliance Monitor, Ryan monitored law enforcement, correctional, and judicial facilities all over the state for regulatory compliance under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. This work often included collaboration with outside agencies on field training, investigations, written collaborative agreements (MOU's), and policy development. In his annual compliance report, Ryan recently submitted a grade of "full compliance" to the Department of Justice (OJJDP) for 2013. Prior to his work with the JJAG, Ryan began his corrections career at LCYDC as a Juvenile Program Worker.



Ryan Andersen has been promoted to Senior Planner (PREA).

Research Corner Update

By Michael Rocque, Director of Research

It has certainly been a busy 2014 for the Department in terms of research. As most of you are aware, we have initiated the reliability of the LSI-R and YLS/CMI study. This study involves every facet of the Department, from adult community to juvenile facility staff. It is a huge undertaking and I continue to be impressed with the helpfulness of those who have been selected to participate and their managers. As an update, at the time of this writing we have randomly drawn our staff rater samples for both the adult and juvenile side, and we have drawn our interviewee samples as well. We are currently beginning the interviews at Maine Correctional Center and Maine State Prison. We all remain incredibly excited about this study and the reception it is likely to get nation-wide.

We have begun preparations for the evaluation of the Young Adult Offender Program (YAOP), which is scheduled to open April 2nd. That evaluation has been

approved by our partner Institutional Review Board (which reviews human subjects studies for ethics and scientific soundness). This study will be survey based, and will seek to determine whether the program as a whole has a salutary effect and whether particular programs embedded in it do as well. The YAOP has drawn national interest. Recently the Vera Institute for Justice, a national research and technical assistance organization, has inquired about assisting with an assessment of the program. Along with the reliability study, these are the first two MDOC internal research studies to be approved by an IRB.

Research is also working with Quality Assurance to develop a "Grant Management Team." This group would have the responsibility of keeping track of grants that are received in the Department as well as grant announcements that may fit the needs of various divisions. We

Continued next page.

Research continued

have begun work on a grant proposal to help us with fidelity to MIRRM (Maine Integrated Risk Reduction Model), which is being kicked off as this article is written.

Finally, we released our inaugural newsletter, which is an attempt to provide you all with some interesting goings-on in the criminological research world, including summaries of pertinent studies. We have received some encouraging feedback and hope that the newsletter is of interest to you. The newsletter can be found on CorrNet: <http://inet.state.me.us/corrections/quality-assurance/Research.html> or please email us at Michael.Rocque@maine.gov for a copy.

It's certainly been a busy and exciting start to the new year for us in research! It's been great fun working with all of you across the Department. We look forward to continuing to help the MDOC in its move toward evidence and data driven processes.



Meet Central Office's New Receptionist Tracy

The Department would like to welcome Tracy Sebranek as the Secretary Associate for the Operations Division and the new receptionist for Central Office. Tracy comes to us from the Bureau

of Corporations, Elections and Commissions and brings with her 24 years of state service. Over the years, she has served on the Secretary of State's Safety and Security Team, the Health & Wellness Committee and

the Labor/Management Committee before taking her new position with



the Department of Corrections in February. We feel Tracy will be a great asset and look forward to using her knowledge and experience in providing administrative assistance to the Operations Division which includes, Security, Policy, and PREA. Tracy looks forward to the challenge.

Victim Services' New Advocate

Lynn Boynton has been hired as the new full-time victim advocate for the Maine Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services. Lynn worked at the Maine Department of Corrections part-time working with restitution over the last year. She comes with a broad history in victim advocacy, knowledge of the legal system, and experience in working with restitution while working at the Attorney General's Office Victims Compensation program for over five years. Lynn can be reached at 207-287-4323 and can assist with victim restitution issues.



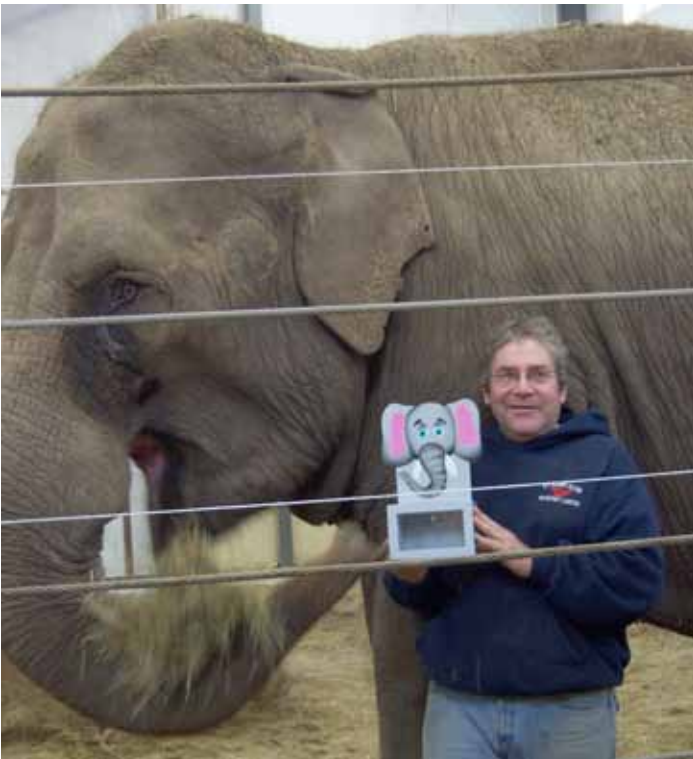
Industries Program to the Rescue

By Bob Walden, Industries Director

The Maine State Prison Industries Program was contacted by the Hope Elephants project founder, Jim Laurita, to ask if we would be able to assist in his important fund raising efforts. Specifically, Jim asked if Industries would create donation boxes similar to those we crafted last year



(Above) Prison Industries Program Manager Ken Lindsey (left) and Hope Elephants founder Jim Laurita hold a donation box created by Prison Industries to help raise funds for Hope Elephants. Rosie the elephant can be seen behind them. (Below) Jim Laurita with Opal.



for several mid-coast Maine Humane Societies. Industries was very pleased to craft hand-painted donation boxes to be placed at various retail stores and businesses for ongoing fund raising purposes. [Hope Elephants](#) is a nonprofit organization that operates a unique care and rehabilitation facility for injured and retired circus elephants and is located in Hope, Maine.

Hope Elephants current residents, Rosie and Opal, are Asian elephants who have worked their entire lives in circuses. After more than 40 years of performing, these girls need specialized medical care. And that's what they get every day at Hope Elephants.

Rosie's trunk is partially paralyzed due to nerve damage. She is unable to drink water easily and has adapted a throwing motion to feed herself. Nerve damage in her shoulder has led to gait problems and arthritic joints in her forelegs.

Opal suffers from limb and joint deterioration and requires physical therapy to alleviate some of her pain and discomfort.

Hope Elephants has successfully developed and applied innovative treatments that are improving Rosie's and Opal's (photo below) quality of life and that will benefit other injured elephants.



The two girls are the best of friends.

Photo from the Hope Elephants website.

Beyond the Fence at Downeast Correctional Facility

By Maggie Devericks, Facility Secretary

DCF Prisoner Art Show

Four inmates who are involved with the Downeast Correctional Facility (DCF) art program had several of their works displayed at the Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce on Friday, January 10th as part of the Chamber's artist of the month exhibit. Prisoners Glen Kleinert, Franklin Perry, and Johnathan Smith were at the Chamber in support of their respective works which gave them the opportunity to interact with the public and receive feedback. Prisoner Paul Jones, who is the art instructor here at DCF, was unable to attend the event, but his work was also on display at the Chamber. Two of inmate Kleinert's pieces sold during the event and he was very thrilled that people thought enough of his work to buy them.

Although other artwork was not purchased at the time of the initial showing, they continued to be on display for the rest of the month of January. A wish list of art supplies were also made available to the public allowing them to make donations. We are pleased with the public turnout and support of DCF's art program. Thank you to all involved for this coordinated effort!

I spoke with Sharon Mack with the Chamber who told me that the prisoners really stepped up and engaged in conversation with the public. She said it was nice to see their work celebrated. She also informed me she contacted

five local artists who are willing to volunteer their time to provide an art workshop at DCF. We appreciate her support and hope this will turn into an opportunity for prisoners in the art program to further hone their skills and broaden their creative horizons.



Glen Kleinert holds two pieces of his artwork that sold during the exhibit. Detail of Kleinert's painting below.



Thank you to the *Machias Valley News Observer* and the *Bangor Daily News* (see bottom of page 11), respectively, for their articles on the prisoner art show and DCF art program. We certainly appreciate the exposure at the local level and beyond!

Continued next page.



Franklin Perry poses in front of his art.



Johnathan Smith poses in front of his art (above) and speaks with exhibition visitors (below).



Art work of Paul Jones.

Downeast continued

Public Restitution Work

DCF's public restitution crews installed an ice skating rink in the Town of Machias on behalf of the Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce with contributions from local businesses. The rink is situated in front of the south side ball field near McDonald's. It is in full operation and is being enjoyed by some townsfolk already. Requests for public restitution work are coming in weekly for the 2014 spring and summer. It promises to be another busy year!

Lending a Downeast Hand

DCF's very own Craig Smith, who is not just our resident Welding Instructor, but also one wicked talented welding genius extraordinaire, was called upon to fabricate and install metal bunks for Aroostook County Jail. Craig informed me that he and a crew of about six prisoners had to fabricate each bunk in two pieces so they would fit through the doorways of the jail. These were fabricated at DCF and then transported to the jail. Not only are they installing these bunks, but they are also removing the old ones. Many of these old bunks were cast right into the jail walls which pose many challenges. Given the age of the jail along with the age of the additions to the original structure, there is a difference with the thickness of the walls along with the materials used. With sweat and ingenuity, 20 bunks have been completed and 20



DCF public restitution crews installed an ice skating rink in the Town of Machias.

more are in process. Colossal kudos Craig and crew for going the extra Downeast mile to assist another agency in need!

Newsworthy

A couple of reporters spent some time at DCF interviewing staff and taking photos for articles regarding the facility and programs for the prisoners. You may have seen articles about the facility happenings in the local *Machias Valley News Observer* or in the *Bangor Daily News*. We welcome such opportunities to provide the public with insight into what goes on here. These platforms allow us to expand on the positive aspects of the prison, the positive impact of programs on the prisoner population, and how the ripple effect takes that positive impact from behind the fence to beyond the fence.

Prisoners Learning About Art Exhibit Works in Machias

By Tim Cox, Bangor Daily News Staff

BUCKS HARBOR, Maine — The Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce normally features an artist every month whose works are exhibited in the organization's offices on Main Street in Machias. But this month, there's a twist.

The featured artists for January are inmates at the Downeast Correctional Facility, a minimum security prison in nearby Bucks Harbor. For about two years, the prison has offered a program in which one inmate provides art lessons to others. The instructor, Paul Jones,

teaches groups of about four to five inmates at a time, meeting two afternoons a week, two hours at a time. The inmates may participate for three months, and then another group is rotated into the program. They take lessons and work on their art in a little room that inmates are also allowed to use for playing music.

This article appeared in the Bangor Daily News and continues at this link: <http://bangordailynews.com/2014/01/17/living/prisoners-learning-about-art-exhibit-works-in-machias/?ref=search>

A Note of Appreciation

To Commissioner Ponte, Superintendent Scott Landry and Director of Security Gary LaPlante,

On behalf of Officer Jory Jenkins and myself, I would like to thank you for your support of the MDOC Honor Guard. You made it possible for our State Department of Corrections Honor Guard to be represented at the funeral of a fellow Corrections Officer who died in the line of duty at the hands of a juvenile prisoner. We understand this is not easy when it comes to both the logistics on short notice and the cost of sending us half way across the U.S. This was a great honor for us and the family of fallen Officer Amanda Baker. We presented a State of Maine flag in a shadow box along with the South Dakota DOC. Amanda's mother was in tears and it meant the world to her that we did this for her on behalf of her daughter's sacrifice. Scottsbluff County Sheriff's Department organized the ceremony and was extremely grateful for representatives from Maine to assist in the ceremony. They treated us very well and gave us a tour of their county jail. I want you to know that in times of tragedy, it means the world to the people directly affected to be supported by their fellow brothers and sisters in the law enforcement profession. I have arranged to have a T-shirt honoring Amanda Baker to be sent from Nebraska to each one of you in appreciation for making this possible.

In closing I would just like to thank you again for the support we receive as it does make a difference at the end of the day.

Sincerely,
Sergeant Nathan Thayer (MCC)
Honor Guard Member

For more information on Amanda's memorial:
http://www.starherald.com/news/local_news/officers-from-across-the-country-honor-fallen-corrections-officer/article_3a1b47ed-b165-5cdd-b215-821888fb8289.html

Staff Updates at Maine Correctional Center

Gary Laplante has been officially appointed as Sr. Deputy Superintendent for the Maine Correctional Center (MCC). Congratulations Gary!

Welcome to Our New Hires

Correctional Officers: David K. Curtis, Danielle M. Jersey, Vicki L. Burbank, Michael L. Mccaffrey, and Mackenzie S. Rampino

Office Associate II Positions: Jody L. Mccomish, Barbara A. Libby, and Brittany L. Thayer

One in Five 5k Race

Join Our Team: Supporters of Victims Services

On April 13th at Thomas College in Waterville beginning at 9:00 am, we anticipate nearly 500 people will be running or walking to bring awareness to the harsh reality of sexual violence



in our Maine communities. Prompted by the current Maine statistic of an estimated one in five people in Maine have been affected by sexual violence (Muskie School of Public Policy, Maine Crime Victimization Rates, 2011), the Sexual Assault Crisis & Support Center is hosting the second annual "One in Five 5k Race." All event proceeds will benefit the Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center and their services for survivors of sexual abuse.

MDOC Victim Services will have a team and you are invited to join us. Friends and families are also welcome to participate. For more information: <http://www.jogrunrace.com/Race/View/173164/one-in-five-5k-waterville-maine-april-13-2014>

Staff Promotions at Maine State Prison

Promotions

Shane Blakely has been promoted to Senior Cadre (Captain) for the Training Division. Shane began his work in Maine in Corrections over five years ago as a Corrections Officer at Maine State Prison. Shane has accepted numerous leadership roles while at the MDOC that has prepared him well to take on the new responsibilities of the Senior Cadre.



Shane Blakely was promoted to Senior Cadre (Captain) for the Training Division.

Michael Garan has been promoted to Chief Firearms Instructor. He began his work in Corrections over 16 years ago at the Maine State Prison and has for the past 15 years served as a firearms instructor both as an additional duty, and as a full time firearms instructor/corporal. In addition to his work with the MDOC, Mike has an impressive background in professional shooting in competitive skeet shooting, and International Defensive Pistol Association.



Michael Garan was promoted to Chief Firearms Instructor.

Michael Burns, Kevin Court, and Dean Leonard were promoted to Correctional Sergeant and started their new assignments effective February 23rd.

The Re-entry position for Correctional Care and Treatment Workers has been filled by Kurt Dyer Jr.

Captain Anthony Petrino was promotion to Captain.

Corporal John Merrifield was

promoted to IPS (Inner Perimeter Security) Corporal.

The following promotions were awarded with the opening of the Intensive Mental Health Unit (IMHU):

Unit Manager David Allen

Mental Health Correctional Care and Treatment Workers: Thomas Farrington, Kevin Lummus, Mateo Mendra, Jason Palmer, Ethan Chitham, Derek Branquist, and Brian Castonguay.

Commendations for Excellent Service

Officer Staples, Officer Ruffner, and Officer Dolbier all received a letter of commendation for excellent service from Deputy Warden Ross.

Officer Reynolds received a letter of commendation for excellent service from Warden Bouffard and Deputy Warden Ross.

Congratulations to all!



Staff for the New Mental Health Unit at MSP.

Maine Compass: New Intensive Mental Health Unit Bridges Divide Between County Jails, Psychiatric Hospital

By Associate Commissioner Joseph Fitzpatrick

About a year ago, talks about how best to care for aggressive, mentally ill patients in Maine were under way by the Legislature, Riverview Psychiatric Center, the Governor's Office, news outlets and the departments of Health and Human Services and Corrections.

The basics: Riverview was providing mental health services to individuals with psychiatric needs. Some patients at Riverview present a level of aggression beyond Riverview's management capability. The Maine State Prison's Mental Health Unit could manage aggressive behavior but was unable, by law, to provide such patients intensive mental health services necessary, given the need of the patient population.

Result: a new Maine law and an intensive mental health unit that opened Feb. 15 at the state prison.

The unit bridges the treatment divide that existed between Riverview and the state prison. It allows county jails a place to place prisoners who need psychiatric treatment even if they can't get prisoners into Riverview. The 15 to 20 beds in the intensive mental health unit most will likely house county jail prisoners. Individuals will have access to medications and treatment they might not have in county jails. I've met with county jail officials. They're excited about the resource as a major step forward.

The unit's mission is to stabilize patients and allow them to return safely to county jails. Patients must meet Riverview's admission criteria and also be individuals Riverview can't manage. The unit referral process is a treatment and management safeguard.

A county jail with an unmanageable, very mentally ill prisoner makes a referral to Riverview, which then screens the referral. If hospital officials decide the prisoner is eligible for the state prison's intensive mental health unit, Riverview makes that recommendation to

the Department of Corrections. The prisoner is reviewed by the unit's clinical team, which then decides whether to accept the prisoner.

If accepted, the team works with that prisoner at the unit until the prisoner is stabilized and able to return to county jail.

Upon arrival at the unit, the prisoner is evaluated by the treatment team, which includes psychiatric, psychological, medical, and social work staff. An individualized treatment plan is created. The prisoner receives services fitting the treatment plan.

The idea is, over time, for the unit team and county jails to get stronger. So, when the unit returns a prisoner with treatment recommendations, county jails will try to adhere to those recommendations. Doing so is in everyone's best interest.

The real challenge will be the communities' ability to support the treatment plan when a prisoner is released from a county jail or from the unit. Finding resources within some of Maine's communities can be extremely challenging.

The unit's staffing is significant. We interviewed and hired staff who want to be there, and who we want to be there. The unit is under a contract with the Department of Corrections' health care provider, Correct Care Solutions. We have a full-time psychiatrist, full-time psychologist, clinical social workers, and mental health technicians. The unit's corrections officers, with their extra training, are correctional care treatment workers. They serve as custody/security staff and case workers.

The unit has full-time, around-the-clock nursing and physician time dedicated solely to the unit. A treatment

Continued next page.

New Intensive Mental Health Unit continued

coordinator oversees all unit treatment; the unit also has its own manager.

The new law gives the Department of Corrections the ability, in emergency situations and under court order, to use psychiatric medications involuntarily. The department will take all the steps and safeguards used by Riverview in these situations. Such use of medication requests must be reviewed, and recommended by an outside psychiatrist. A Riverview psychiatrist or a non-treating psychiatrist has to weigh in.

Those two advances — specialized staffing and use of medications — in the treatment capacity of the state prison and the Department of Corrections are significant. The Department of Corrections oversees the running of the unit. The Department of Health and Human Services

provides unit audits, involving examining records and conducting patient and staff interviews. DHHS auditors report back to the DOC.

Through videoconferencing, the unit's clinical team has ongoing discussions with Riverview staff about challenging cases. The team can get a consult — either in person or by phone — anytime on any unit case. Correct Care Solutions will have daily, monthly, and yearly unit checks, and its Quality Assurance program. The Department of Corrections' Quality Assurance Division also will monitor the success of treatment on the unit.

We anticipate the unit will be a successful resource, providing intensive and extensive mental health care, as compared to current practices used within the Maine criminal justice system.



Governor LePage tours the new intensive mental health unit (IMHU) of the Maine State Prison during the open house on February 14, 2014

More photos of the open house on the next page.

New Intensive Mental Health Unit Open House

An open house was held on February 14, 2014 at the intensive mental health unit of the Maine State Prison.



The intensive mental health unit (IMHU) of the Maine State Prison was visited by the Governor and the Commissioner on February 14th. Dr. Dan Bannish (psychologist for the unit), Commissioner Ponte, and Governor LePage spoke of the necessity for this Unit and how it was going to meet a need in the State.



Scott K Fish (Director of Special Projects), Governor LePage, Associate Commissioner Fitzpatrick, Angie Newhouse (Director of Training), and Commissioner Ponte.



(Above) Commissioner Ponte.



(Left) Dr. Dan Bannish, psychologist for the new intensive mental health unit speaks to open house guests.

New Mental Health Unit at Maine State Prison Met with Optimism

By Stephen Betts, Bangor Daily News

WARREN — Last spring, Maine Corrections Commissioner Joseph Ponte said that during a cabinet meeting Gov. Paul LePage leaned over and said to him that more beds for the seriously mentally ill were needed.

And with the state's psychiatric hospital grappling with handling violent patients, the state came up with a plan.

That led to the opening Saturday of the Intensive Mental Health Unit at the Maine State Prison. State officials lauded the program and mental health advocates are hopeful that improvements in the care of mentally ill prisoners will result.

The new unit includes 32 beds with a staff of about 16 people. The unit was created from space that had once been part of the special management unit but more recently had been unused. The annual cost of the center is estimated at \$3.2 million.

Dr. Dan Bannish, a psychologist at the prison unit, said success will be based on creating a new culture. He said that in the past, the philosophy in prisons was to keep prisoners with mental illness quiet until they completed their sentence.

"This a recovery place. The expectation is you will get better," Bannish said.

Dr. Robyn Hodges of Correct Care Solutions, the private company that provides health care to the corrections department, said that the new unit also provides more space for programs. There will be recreational therapy, music therapy and art therapy provided to the patients.

This article was excerpted from the Maine Sun Journal. For the full text (you'll need to be a subscriber to access): <http://www.sunjournal.com/news/maine/2014/02/16/bdnprisonmentalhealthp021614/1492949>

Region 1 • Adult Community Corrections

Submitted by Carol Carlow

New Staff Member

As we all endure what seems to be an endless winter, let's pause for a moment and perk up our spirits by looking at some positive happenings.

Region One is welcoming Brook Bowley to our staff as our new Probation Officer Assistant who will be based in the Portland Office once her training is completed. From the very beginning, it is quite evident that Brook's desire was to work in the field of Corrections. Following graduation from Bonny Eagle High school, she continued her education at Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Administration of Justice with concentration in Juvenile Justice. In 2007 she pursued this line of work by joining the staff at Long Creek as a Juvenile Program Worker

and was promoted to a Program Specialist in 2012. Her co-workers recognized her dedication to the job by awarding her the Employee of the Year Award in 2013.

A warm and hearty "Welcome Aboard" now goes out to Brook from all of us here at Region One.

Moves Up

Alicia Cummings has moved up from a Probation Officer Assistant (POA) to a full time Probation Officer position. Once she has completed her mandatory training, Alicia will be based out of the Portland office and assigned a full time caseload. Working as a full time POA since April of 2013 has provided Alicia with excellent background knowledge in Corrections which will certainly be an asset in this next career move.

Nee Picked as New RCM for Region 1 • Adult

Matt Nee has been chosen as the new RCM for Region 1-Adult. Matt has been with the Maine Department of Corrections for 24 years. He worked at the Long Creek Youth Development Center for a number of years before moving to Juvenile Community Corrections where he has been a Juvenile Program Worker

since 2001. Over the years, Matt has been an active member of numerous committees that have worked towards reaching departmental goals and is well versed in implementing evidence-based principles in the community. He will be a strong asset in Region 1-A and begins his new duties in early April.

Region 2 • Adult Community Corrections

Submitted by Donna Davis

Welcome New Hires

Marshall McCamish was hired as a Probation Officer for the Lewiston office. He comes to us from the Kennebec County Sheriff's Office, working in the Corrections Division.

Nicole Lenda was hired as a Probation Office for the Lewiston office. She comes to us from Family Crisis Services as a Case Manager.

Merrell Reeves was hired as a Probation Officer Assistant for the Lewiston office. She previously worked at Maine Correctional Center and Long Creek Youth Development Center.

Congratulations

Adam Silberman has accepted the position of Regional Correctional Manager (RCM) for Region 2-Adult. Adam begins his official duties on March 24th and will work out of the Augusta office. Adam has 18 years of correctional experience in both field and facility. He has been a Probation Officer in Lewiston for the past seven years, a Field Training Officer, as well as a MIRR instructor. His leadership skills and attention to

detail will serve him, the Region, and the Department well. Congratulations Adam.

Probation Officer Don White has been selected to become an Adjunct Firearms Instructor for the Department of Corrections.

Collaborations with Law Enforcement

Region 2-A Lewiston became the Command Post on February 19th for an escapee with ties to the Lewiston/Auburn area. Probation Officer's Adam Silberman, Michelle Dubay and Rob Omiecinski worked in collaboration with Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Lewiston and Auburn police to track down leads on the escapee's whereabouts. Regional Correctional Manager John Lorenzen acted as the Command leader providing information to the officers in the field during the evening and into the early hours of the morning. The next day, Regional Correctional Administrator Susan Gagnon secured a lead to another family member in Lewiston. Probation Officer's Silberman and Dubay went to the

residence with Lewiston Police and found the escapee hiding in a closet.

Probation Officer Mike Simoneau assisted Lewiston Police Department in the apprehension on a wanted bank robber in the Lewiston area. Probation Officer Simoneau was familiar with the suspect from a previous probation and also has a current family member on probation. After a house visit was conducted to the family member, Probation Officer Simoneau gave the police a current address to attempt to locate the suspect. He was apprehended within an hour of the Probation Officer's call.

Bailing Out Our Co-Worker

Region 2-A Probation assisted Probation Officer Mark Fortin with raising money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Probation Officer Fortin found himself "arrested" and "bail money" was donated to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The Association is a nonprofit health agency working to provide services and defeat neuromuscular diseases. The Jail & Bail Fundraiser is done across the state and country.

Region 2 • Adult Addresses Outstanding Warrants

By RCM John Lorenzen

Interestingly, Probation has a little north of 800 warrants outstanding. Seems a lot of people just aren't interested in making a behavioral change, don't know how to go about it, or need some direction to make it happen. To that end, there is a concerted effort by all the regions to reign in these people and try to substantially lower this number. In Region 2-A this initiative has fallen to POA Cameron Dufour and he has really jumped in with both feet to make it happen. To date, he has been checking Social Security and genealogical web sites in an attempt to eliminate any clients who may have passed away since some of the warrants are 20 years old. He is also checking our lists with the courts to make sure some of the warrants are still active. He has made contacts with DHHS and Social Security to try and obtain updated address information, and also provide them with the warrant information when appropriate, since some benefits are

not authorized if a person has an outstanding warrant. Cameron will be going office to office in the region to coordinate this effort with the staff. He has developed some "wanted posters" for these absconders which are in the process of being posted in the lobby areas of the offices. It is just remarkable how many of our clients do not mind letting us know of other client's addresses and places to look. Most recently Cameron has been working on getting a couple of local newspapers to print the warrant list, and we are working the kinks out of that. Kudos to Cameron for taking on this task, and thanks to all the officers in the region who are following up with the leg work. Hopefully the word will get out. Last week, PPO Buckmore had a client with an outstanding warrant fly into Maine from out of state, and turn himself into the Two Bridges Jail – coincidence?



Magnusson New Region 3 • Adult RCM

Matthew Magnusson has accepted the position of Regional Correctional Manager for Region 3-Adult. Matt has worked for MDOC for more than 10 years as a JPW at Mountain View Youth Development Center and as a PPO in Bangor and Belfast. Matt has supervised both a general and a sex offender caseload, is a Field Training Officer, one of our MARC instructors and a MIRRM instructor. Matt brings a wealth of coaching and training experience as well as a strong belief in evidence-based practices, and will be a great asset to the region and the department. Matt will work out of the Bangor office and cover staff in several counties. Congratulations Matt and welcome to the Region's and Department's management team.



Use of Solitary Confinement in the National News

After 20 Hours in Solitary, Colorado's Prisons Chief Wins Praise

By Erica Goode, The New York Times

CANON CITY, Colo. — The cells where inmates are kept in solitary confinement at the state penitentiary here are 7-by-13-foot boxes arranged in semicircular tiers. When the warden, Travis Trani, heard that Rick Raemisch, Colorado's new chief of corrections, intended to spend a night in one of them, he had two reactions.

"I thought he was crazy," Mr. Trani recalled. "But I also admired him for wanting to have the experience."

Mr. Raemisch has been in his job for just over seven months, having stepped in after his predecessor was shot to death a year ago Tuesday by a former inmate who had spent years in solitary. During that time, Mr. Raemisch has gained a reputation as an outspoken reformer and has made clear that he wants to make significant changes in the way the state operates its prisons.

This article originally appeared in The New York Times and continues at: [http://](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/16/us/after-20-hours-in-solitary-colorados-prisons-chief-wins-praise.html?_r=0)

www.nytimes.com/2014/03/16/us/after-20-hours-in-solitary-colorados-prisons-chief-wins-praise.html?_r=0

Solitary Confinement, Violence and Mental Illness: Stories from Rikers Island

From The Take Away with John Hockenberry, Thursday, March 20, 2014

With more than 12,000 inmates, Rikers Island is one of the largest jail complexes in the country.

As a jail (as opposed to a prison), most of the inmates held at Rikers have never been convicted of a crime. About 40 percent of the inmates held at Rikers have a diagnosed mental illness.

One of them was Jerome Murdough, a Marine veteran, who died last February. This week, the Associated Press revealed the cause of Murdough's death: The 56-year-old had been left in an overheated cell. With temperatures over 100 degrees, as one official put it, Murdough "basically baked to death."

Daffodil Altan, a video producer and reporter for the Center for Investigative

Reporting, has been examining the use of solitary confinement at Rikers.

She has closely followed the adolescents housed at the jail—approximately 600 to 800 inmates. Of the adolescents at Rikers, 100 are in solitary confinement at any given time. She explains why solitary confinement often exacerbates mental illness in these inmates, and discusses the problems many inmates face at Rikers Island.

This article continues: <http://www.thetakeaway.org/story/solitary-confinement-violence-and-mental-illness-stories-rikers-island/>

Solitary Watch: News from a Nation in Lockdown

Solitary Watch is a web-based project dedicated to bringing the practice of solitary confinement out of the shadows and into the light of the public square. For more information, go to www.solitarywatch.com.

To download the report Solitary Confinement: FAQ by Sal Rodriguez © 2012: (<http://solitarywatch.com/facts/faq/>)

A Snapshot of Recent Events at Mountain View



Mountain View staff who are the first 10 graduates of the Maine State Prison Firearms Training which was offered in December. (L to R) Jason Benefield (an Investigator from MSP), Dale Saucier, Paul Moulton, Mike Larson, Sandra Cyr, Robert Boulier, Kevin Dunn, Nate Cooper, Jason Allen, Andrew Daneman, and Larry Hooper.



(Left) Mountain View residents participate in "Hat Day." (Center) Leslie Nesin and Mountain View's pet therapy



dog, Duchess, continue to be a big hit with both residents and staff. (Right) Beal College President Alan Stehle was a guest



speaker at MVYDC. Alan facilitated a program on open water fishing for the residents.



Mountain View residents were treated to a day of ice fishing.



Residents and staff enjoyed playing BINGO on New Year's Day.

Mountain View Youth Development Center Staff Updates

Welcome New Hires

Robert Bowman, Juvenile Program Worker, who was hired in February and is currently training at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

Jamie Alexander, Correct Care Solutions Mental Health Professional was hired in February.

Pat Gillis returns to Mountain View as Mountain View Employment/Career Skills Teacher. Ms. Gillis worked at Mountain View for several years under contract with Jobs for Maine Graduates. We welcome her back in her new role.

Nicole Webber, Psych Social Worker II transferred to Mountain View from Charleston Correctional where she worked since 2007 as Caseworker. We are all familiar with Nicole who will transfer her skills to our juvenile population.

Promotions

Chad W. Cooper, acting capacity position for Juvenile Facility Operations Manager

Tom Kirlin, acting capacity for Juvenile Facility Operations Supervisor on Third Shift.

Congratulations

Tom Hayden, Correctional Officer/Trades Instructor for Charleston Correctional! Tom has worked between MV

and CCF for many years as Correctional Cook. We hate to lose him; but he has far more talents than cooking to provide. Good Luck Tom.

The Biggest Loser at Mountain View

By JPW Anne Miller

The Mountain View Biggest Loser Contest is still going well. We are currently half way there, on the sixth week of weigh-ins and have lost a total of 450 pounds and the group total percentage loss of 5.64%. Staff have worked very hard and moral is high amongst the staff participating. All the staff have different reasons for joining, some the reward and some just to become healthier and happier. Another six weeks to go so good luck to all of us!

NOTE: A large number of employees are participating in this contest, each taking responsibility to weigh in each week. Thanks to JPW Miller for encouraging so many!

Perfect Attendance at Mountain View

Mountain View staff with perfect attendance in 2013 were invited to gather with Superintendent Jeff Morin on February 19th for a celebration. Congratulations to Mike Barkac, Bud Dillon, Marsha Higgins, Wanda Saucier, Shane Tyrrell, Dr. Asia Serwik, Rosalie Morin and Trent Bennett all who were presented with a certificate for "Perfect Attendance in 2013."



"Hats On" at Mountain View—Celebrating Hat Day

By Marsha Higgins, Volunteer Coordinator



Continues on back page

Congratulations to the First Graduating Class of 2014!



Pictured above is the first MDOC Graduation Class of 2014. Graduates successfully trained as Correctional Officers, Juvenile Program Workers, Office Associates, Care and Treatment Workers, Correctional Trades Instructors, and Maintenance Mechanics. Well done!

(Back row, left to right) Alvin Wasson, Wesley Smith, Cory Peaslee, Jason Quainton, Michael McCaffrey, Glenn Jalbert, Brian Castonguay, Harold Spetla, Russell Lamour, Jennifer Conley, Richard Gustafson, Jody Pease, and Betsey Davis.

(Middle row, left to right) Mackenzie Rampino, Steven Payne, Danielle Jersey, Francis Pinto, David Curtis, Vicki Burbank, Jennifer Jaroszuk, Rodney Royer, Butch Rider, Matthew Scott, Robert Bowman, and Christine Grant.

(Front row, left to right) Jody McComish, Brittany Thayer, Leigh Adams, and Michelle Senence.

Learning about Career with Maine's Corrections



Instructor Peter Couture of the Capital Area Technical Center in Augusta recently had several security staff from the Maine Department of Corrections speak to his law enforcement class about career options with the Maine Department of Corrections.

MDOC security staff opening remarks to CATC students. Standing (left to right) Special Operations Group Commander Sergeant Mark Clevette, Correctional Officer/K9 Handler Corporal Brian Donabue, and Correctional Officer/K9 Handler Richard Greene.

Region 1 • Juvenile Community Services

Submitted by Joe Hansen

Welcome Beth

Beth Fawcett was sworn in on January 10th at the South Portland office. Originally from Massachusetts, Beth moved to Maine in 2005



Beth Fawcett after being sworn in by Kelene Barrows.

and graduated from the University of New England (UNE) with a Master's Degree in social work in 2012. Prior to being a JCCO, Beth held positions as a Functional Family Therapist, Alternatives to Detention Supervisor, Child Protective Caseworker, and Mental Health Case Manager. In addition to being a JCCO she is a conditionally licensed clinical social worker and works part time as a Home and Community Treatment Clinician for young children.

Region 1-J Staff Meeting

Region 1-Juvenile held their recent staff meeting at the Biddeford High School. They completed PREA training which was presented by David Grant from Long Creek Youth Development Center. Also during the staff meeting there was training on family medical leave, followed by a question and answer period,

presented by Human Resources representatives Jim Malinky and Rhonda Hutchinson-Peaslee.

Regional Correctional Administrator (RCA) Sue Smith distributed some gifts by a drawing to thank staff for their hard work and dedication in achieving high completion rates of case plans and LSI's.

Staff also participated in a team building activity called "pipeline" which involved a team using a marble and a piece of pipe to get the marble from the start line to a small can 22 feet away. Staff were divided into three teams of seven and they worked on pre-game planning, communication, and execution of the plan.

Jen Chon and Brian MacDougall with looks of determination during the teaming building activity, pipeline.



PREA training by Dave Grant at Region 1-J staff meeting.



Winning team Bossman, Melanie, Beth, Dana, and Missy.

Region 1 • J continued

North Woods Law Visits Bridge School

Submitted by Carol Large



Rick Laflamme from Animal Planet's North Woods Law poses with staff at Sanford Bridge School.

On January 10th, Sanford's Bridge School and Carol Large welcomed a special guest—Game Warden Rick Laflamme from Animal Planet's North Woods Law. Not knowing who was more star struck—the youth or the staff—everyone had a great time. Rick spent the afternoon sharing stories of his career accompanied by a slide show. His captivating enthusiasm sharing tales of a game warden's life was contagious. Both students and staff were highly entertained both educationally and through humor. A huge thank you goes out to Rick!

Region 2 • Juvenile Community Services

Nate Randall was promoted to the position of Regional Correctional Manager (RCM) for Region 2-Juvenile. Nate began his work in Corrections over 15 years ago at Long Creek Youth Development Center and for the past nine years has served as a JCCO in Androscoggin County. Nate has accepted numerous leadership roles

in his career with DOC that has prepared him well to take on the new responsibilities of RCM. His impressive knowledge of evidenced-based practices, effective interventions working with high risk youth, the juvenile system, and his collaborative approach with community stakeholders will be invaluable in his new position.



(Left to right) Nate Randall, Regional Correctional Manager (RCM) Region 2-J; Christopher Raymond, RCM Region 2-J; Roy Curtis, RCM Region 3-J; Josh Ash, RCM Region 3-J.

Region 3 • Juvenile Community Services

Submitted by John Bennoch

Congratulations to Roy Curtis who was recently promoted to Regional Correctional Manager (RCM). As a JCCO in Waldo County, Roy has been involved with the Mid-Coast Restorative Justice Project and the Sexual Behavioral Specialists Team. Recently, Roy spoke to a class of Juvenile Justice Student Attorneys at the Maine Law School in Portland. He and a local Assistant District Attorney explained the Juvenile Justice Process. They were presented with a scenario and discussed how they would likely handle it. Roy also attended a coalition meeting for the organization [Five Town Communities That Care](#). They are a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote healthy youth development and prevent problem adolescent behaviors. He, along with a school superintendent and regional manager for Penquis CAP answered questions regarding demographic changes in their communities and how families can better assist young people. Roy will be serving as RCM for Somerset, Waldo, Hancock, and Southern Penobscot Counties.

JCCO Darrin Constant and Office Associate Crystal Mclellan have moved into new offices in Calais. They are in the same location, but have expanded and will be sharing space with an Adult Probation Officer, Probation Officer Assistant and Regional Correctional Manager.

JCCO Bill Francis, who is now retired from the Maine Army National Guard, recently learned the unit he deployed to Afghanistan with back in 2009, the 286th CSSB, was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for that deployment. Congratulations and thank you Bill, along with all other service members and their families.



Getting Caught

The following essay was written by a client of JCCO Kelly Nightengale. The youth was required to write an essay as part of her consequence. Share it with a teen you know.

Seventeen, overwhelmed, scared and confused. This world is a big place, one choice can make or break you, and one event can shape your future. Each step you take can lead you towards the path of light or darkness. Each decision is in your hands and every action has a consequence. When you're young you want to try things, you feel the need to have faced more experiences than everyone else, or to do what is a social norm among your peers. For one girl her experiences led her to the police station for questioning. Is that what you want? No.

Stealing seems like an easy thing to do, the adrenalin pulsing through your veins, the excitement in your chest of doing something bad or maybe it's just some way to relieve the stress or push away your true problems, it can be your way of reacting to your pain, sadness and fear. Whatever it may be, the experience of being caught will change you forever.

One day on a road trip to the states a girl was with her family enjoying herself at her favorite bargain shop, Mardens. She was browsing through the aisles finding her favorite things soon she feels the ache, the overwhelming feeling she needs to get rid of. She walks down the cosmetic aisle and staring into the camera fully knowing what could happen she puts items on top of her purse in the baby seat of the cart. She pushes her way along and soon starts placing the items into

her bag. Then hears her mother calling her name and with the other items she chose to purchase she proceeds to the checkout.

After buying her few items she had time to spare while her parents checked out and decided to go to the bathroom where she wrongly thought it would be a great idea to just put the stolen goods in her paid for shopping bag. She then leaves and with a new feeling inside her body she walks towards the exit.

She hears a voice and feels a strong hand on her shoulder "excuse me miss could you come with me" with fake confusion she follows and asks her mother to accompany her. She is then interrogated with many intrusive questions, soon after attempting to cover her tracks she admits to stealing.

Continued next page.

Caught continued

Her heart racing she's never felt like this before. She realizes what she did was not okay, it was against the law. This is not an okay way to cope, stealing from a store that already makes great deals for you just made her feel even worse. Everything sinking in the tears begin to stream down her rosy face blushed from embarrassment.

Next on the road trip was an unwanted visit to the police station where her mug shot was taken and she

was forced to be searched and asked a few questions to write down her case which may proceed to a court date. In tears now she regrets her choices and her life flashes before her weary eyes she's in fear for what's going to happen to her, in her head it was implied that jail could be an option.

Without going into much detail on the weeks that passed she was given a court date and a juvenile corrections officer was assigned to her case to try and find an appropriate way of punishment for her criminal action.

She was let off with the duties of writing an essay, apology letter and 20 hours of community service. She learned her lesson and let this be a lesson to anyone who reads her story.

Don't let your past, heart of emotions take over. Never choose an illegal action as a way to cope with the pain and sadness you're facing. Home life, school bullies and cruel friends can hurt you but there are people that will help you get through the hard times without making you have an even harder time.

Employees' Services Anniversaries

Facility Key:

CC-Community Corrections

CO-Central Office

CCF-Charleston Correctional Facility

DCF-Downeast Correctional Facility

LCYDC-Long Creek Youth Development Center

MCC-Maine Correctional Center

MSP-Maine State Prison

MVYDC-Mountain View Youth Development Center

SMRC-Southern Maine Re-Entry Center

This list represents an employee's anniversary date with the State of Maine hired in the months of September and October.

5 Years

David A AmesMSP/BCF
Robin L Herrick..... LCYDC
Patti QuinnMSP/BCF
Steven S SmartMSP/BCF

10 Years

Federico G AlzerrecaMVYDC
Paul E DunfeeMVYDC/CCF
Gary A Ellis..... DCF
Gregory Lauture..... MCC
Virginia A PrattMVYDC

Rebecca L Thompson-Greaves..... LCYDC
Judy-Anne Thurston..... MCC

15 Years

Daniel J Delahanty.....CO/CC
Paul Dever.....MSP/BCF
Jerry E Dixon LCYDC
Joann D McDonaldCO/CC
Barbara A Robertshaw MCC
Gary M SanfaconCO/CC
Troy R Sterry.....CO/CC
Ricky T WorsterMSP/BCF

20 Years

Joseph R FitzpatrickCO/CC
Kimberly S GendronCO/CC
Scott J Goulette.....CO/CC

25 Years

Michael J BarrettMCC
Judith V Blake.....MCC
James L CaseDCF
William DayDCF
John F Kinghorn MSP/BCF
Jeffrey L MaComber..... MVYDC/CCF

More than 25 Years

Lawrence D Austin (1986) .MVYDC/CCF
David M Barrett (1987)CO/CC
Leo J Bissonnette (1988)MSP/BCF
Carol E Carlow (1987).....CO/CC
Kevin E Chute (1974).....CO/CC
Ronald I Creamer (1986)MSP/BCF
Brian W Day (1986) DCF
Susan Deschambault (1972)..... MCC
Jeffrey J Doiron (1986)..... LCYDC
Susan Dumond (1980).....MSP/BCF
Kenneth E Fearon (1988)..... MCC
Susan R Finch (1987)..... LCYDC
Neil D Graves (1986).....MSP/BCF
Stephen A Hasson (1985).....CO/CC
Mark R James (1987) MCC
Arthur R McCurdy (1988) DCF
Scott A Norris (1985).....MSP/BCF
Craig S Riley (1988).....MSP/BCF
Joanna G Sylvester (1985)MSP/BCF
Randall N Thomas (1988).....MSP/BCF
Russell L Worcester Jr (1984)MSP/BCF

Staff and Residents Celebrate “Hat Day” at Mountain View Youth Development Center...more on page 22

