Connecting with the Community: 
Resources to Help with Reentry Planning Conference

A Statewide Case Management and Reentry Training: Connecting with the Community: Resources to Help with Reentry Planning conference was held Thursday, April 28 at the Captain Daniel Stone Inn in Brunswick for the MDOC caseworkers and other staff, from collaborating agencies, involved in offender transition planning. This included the 20 presenters from other agencies with important community resources and programs often needed by the MDOC offenders who are transitioning back into the community.

The evaluations, from the eighty-four people who participated in the conference, were overwhelmingly positive, with the participants requesting additional topics for future trainings.

As the Maine Department of Corrections moves toward using a Single Case Plan for both juvenile and adult correctional populations, reentry planning is a critical component. Knowing about community resources is essential in assisting with reentry planning. This training introduced correctional professionals to several key statewide state agency and community providers for services such as housing, employment and training, education, mental health and substance abuse services, Social Security Administration services, and public assistance DHHS services (Maine Care, TANF, Food Stamps, and Emergency Assistance). It also addressed issues such as strengths-based assessment and reentry planning.

*The Conference Activities included the following:*  
Opening statements and welcome were given by MDOC Associate Commissioner Denise Lord.

The Conference keynote address on “Opportunities and New Challenges in the Labor Market” was presented by John Dorrer, Director of Labor Market Information Services, Maine Department of Labor.

*The conference workshops and the people who presented them are the following:*  
- Ready to Work: Dept. of Labor Services presented by Jon Farley, Job Corps, and Leon Ouimet, Career Centers;  
- Planning to Their Strengths presented by Erica Hansen King and Annelisa Schneider, Muskie;  
- Mental Health Services to Age 20 presented by Pam Richards, DHHS;  
- Social Security Administration Programs presented by Robert Clark, SSA;  
- A Roof over Their Heads: Housing presented by Cindy Namer, MSHA, and Sheldon Wheeler, DHHS;  
- Community Substance Abuse Treatment presented by Linda Frazier, DHHS;  
- Public Assistance Programs (DHHS Food Stamps, Maine Care, General and Emergency Assistance, TANF) presented by Cindy Boyd and Rose Masure;  
- Adult Mental Health Services presented by Linda Jariz and the adult team leaders, DHHS;  
- Post-secondary Education Options and Financial Aid Opportunities presented by Angela Dostie, FAME.
Food for Thought

One ought, every day at least, to hear a little song, read a good poem, see a fine picture, and if it were possible, to speak a few reasonable words.

Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

May 2, 2005

To All Department of Corrections Employees:

I wanted to take this opportunity, during National Correctional Employees Week to thank each and every one of you for the exceptional work each of you do.

As the National Institute of Corrections provides technical assistance to our Department, they continue to inform us that we are one of the very best Corrections Department in the Country and want to use us as a model for other states.

We’ve come a long way. The reason is because of all of you. All our progress is because of your hard work, commitment and professionalism.

Thank you all very much.

Sincerely,

Martin A. Magnusson
Commissioner

MAM/mg

The mission of the Department of Corrections is to reduce the likelihood that juvenile and adult offenders will re-offend by providing practices, programs and services which are evidence based and which hold the offenders accountable.
Alcohol affects all parts of the brain, which also affects the heart rate, coordination, speech, and destruction of brain cells.

Alcohol may encourage aggression by disrupting normal brain mechanisms that normally restrain impulsive behavior such as aggression.

The brain does not finish developing until a person is around 20 years old, and one of the last regions to mature is intimately involved with the ability to plan and make complex judgments.

The available evidence suggests that adolescents are more vulnerable than adults to the effects of alcohol on learning and memory.

It has become clear over recent years that alcohol impacts both behavior and brain function differently in adolescents and adults.

Recent research indicates that, in contrast to previous assumptions, the brain continues to undergo a tremendous amount of development through adolescence and into young adulthood.

**Did You Know?**

Alcohol dilutes itself in the water volume of the body in order to travel through the system. Those vital organs, like the brain, that contain a lot of water and need an ample blood supply are particularly vulnerable to the effects of alcohol.

Heavy drinking over many years may result in serious mental disorders or permanent, irreversible damage to the brain or peripheral nervous system.
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

MAINE STREET TRANSITION LIFE SKILLS GRANT

The Maine Street Transition Life Skills Grant is now in its second year. The Life Skills Grant is charged with providing eligible inmates, at selected institutions, a variety of assessments which will assist inmates and staff with programming decisions prior to release into our Maine communities. Many programs and services have already been put in place at the selected institutions; the Maine Correctional Center Women’s Unit and Men’s Transition Unit, Charleston Correctional Facility, Central Maine Prerelease Center and the Bolduc Correctional Facility. All inmates participating in the Reentry Grant are automatically eligible for services, as well. Inmates should be in the final two years of incarceration.

The grant has been able to augment current program capabilities at several of our state institutions. Recently, TV’s, DVD/VCR combos, and carts were purchased for use in the Maine State Prison, the Downeast Correctional Facility, the Maine Correctional Center, the Charleston Correctional Facility and the Bolduc Correctional Facility. Purchase of this equipment will assist staff with implementation of TV 411, GED Connections and various other programs recommended or provided by the Life Skills Grant. Currently, education staff and contracted service providers are researching various software applications and programs which would be used in conjunction with services already provided by the grant. Job skills, resume writing and scheduling are a few of the possible topics.

For more information on the Life Skills Grant please contact: Marietta Crocker or Ellis King, Dept of Corrections, 111 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04330

From the MDOC Archives

The archive photograph in this article shows the rock quarry view of the “old” Maine State Prison (MSP) in Thomaston. In this early photo the rock quarry was full of water and off limits to the MSP prisoners. In later years the quarry was drained of the water and a baseball field was built for the prisoner’s recreation program at the bottom of the quarry. Baseball teams from the community were occasionally allowed to come onto the prison grounds to play the MSP prisoner’s baseball team. The baseball games provided Summer entertainment for both the MSP staff and the other prisoners.

In the upper left corner of this photo you will see two oddly constructed windows. These were the windows of the women’s housing unit, the wooden covers were built on the windows that allowed the sunlight to come into the window but would not allow anyone to look into the windows from the outside.

If anyone has any old MDOC photographs that they would like to submit to the DOC TALK to use for this section, please contact Ellis King at 287-4342. The photographs may be published but will certainly be returned to the sender.

IMPORTANT NOTE: I have almost depleted my existing supply of old MDOC photographs so I will have difficulty developing future articles. I will develop future “From the MDOC Archives” articles as old photographs are submitted to me. Thank You!! Ellis
NIC INITIATIVE
IMPLEMENTING EVIDENCED BASED PRACTICES

Last fall at Sunday River we had the opportunity to introduce everyone to the principles of “Evidenced Based Practices” (EBP) and to begin to outline the direction that the Division and the Department will be going in terms of implementing the Principles of Evidenced Based Practices. It has been a very busy year. Some may know more about what we have been doing than others but everyone needs to be in the loop and I have just recently realized that an update was long overdue. In the future I will be updating everyone on a monthly basis in an effort to improve communication.

Implementing EBP is no small task. It is about changing an entire system which is down right scary but can also be exciting. There is a lot of work to be done. One of my flaws is that I am impatient. I would like to complete this system change tomorrow but that is not going to happen. There are literally hundreds of steps that need to be taken. In many ways these steps build on other. Therefore we need to take some time and effort to look at how the Division does its business and be thoughtful and intentional about where we are going. There are three major focus areas. Collaboration which involves building relationships with judges, prosecutors, victims groups, law enforcement agencies and anyone else we do business with. Simply put, they need us and we need them and we need to improve the ways in which we work together. Organizational development. This is where we get to look at how the Division operates. For example; how are decisions are made? How does information flow up and down? Has communication become a two way street? Who performs what tasks? Are we all on the same page or are administration and line staff still at odds? Finally, we need to develop policies and procedures that actually support the implementation of EBP. In other words, we need to look at what has been shown to reduce recidivism (thereby increasing public safety) and start doing those things which have been shown to be most effective.

This involves appropriate assessment, case management, appropriate interventions, enhanced supervision, etc. and being provided with the necessary tools to do our job.

So, you may be thinking, what has actually been going on? Enough of the philosophical talk. I will try to sum up what we have been doing according to the three major focus areas. PLEASE remember, this is a long process. It takes years and years. The goal is to head in the right direction but we need to make sure that we are making good decisions along the way based on the reality of our work environment.

As part of working on Organizational Development the executive team (Marty Magnusson, Bud Doughty, Denise Lord and Barry Stoodley) have met with consultants on a number of occasions to work on role clarifications, identifying who is responsible for what, improving communication within the department and outlining future goals. During the fall all correctional administrators attended a two day educational program on the implementation of EBP.

Administrators also spent two days together reviewing the “Likert” study which was completed last year. This study looked at our strengths and weaknesses and the distance between where we feel we are and where we like to be as a department. This was an opportunity for some honest criticism of the department. A great deal of time was spent looking at our weaknesses as a department and making plans for improvement. Communication issues, which were seen as a problem, are beginning to be addressed in a number of ways including documentation of decisions made at meetings so that everyone has the same understanding of exactly what has been decided. Lack of clear decision making and the need for workload prioritization were also identified as issues.

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I would like to say that it was very impressive to see our top administrators participate in these sessions and be more than willing to look at the issues whatever they might be. Follow up sessions have been held and administrators continue to try to address these issues in a positive manner. A variety of issues will continue to be addressed in future sessions.

Marty and others have also been working hard on creating a leadership development program. This program has now started. The intent is to offer education and training to all staff that are interested in furthering their career. In the not too distant future DOC could lose many of their top administrators due to retirement. Marty is absolutely committed to training staff to take future leadership roles. Two day programming is being offered on a number of occasions throughout the state. After that is completed half days sessions on a variety of topics will be offered at locations around the state on a rotating basis.

When Bud first arrived he created an Internal Policy Group as to assist him with the operations of this Division. This group has been instrumental with policy development and has now taken on the NIC initiative. The Internal Policy Group consists of probation officers from each region as well as the RCA’S. They have had and will continue to have a strong voice in how we move forward. The focus of a recent meeting was a discussion of what to do with low risk cases. No final decisions have yet been made but all members are working on finding their common ground and developing workable options. They will continue to meet on a regular basis. Bud would welcome others to offer their opinions and/or become active with this body.

We have also been working on Collaboration; although we would be the first to say that we have more work to do. During the fall Dr. Edward J. Latessa spoke to treatment providers, judges and others regarding the state of treatment programming in the State of Maine. Dr. Latessa was contracted to complete a “gap” analysis of programs within the state. Although a number of programs did not respond to the information request we were able to get an overview of many of the strengths and weaknesses of treatment programs in our state. This information will be helpful in future decision making regarding programming and in helping us to define exactly what makes a program effective. A terrific presentation regarding EBP was made by Dr. Latessa at the Sentencing Institute which was held in December. Judges as well as others were very interested and hopeful in the work we are beginning to do.

An External Policy Group was formed and a number of meetings were held. This group is comprised of individuals from the criminal justice system including prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement and treatment providers among others. The purpose of this group is to keep others informed of what we are doing and to work with them to make improvements for all of us. Members are also very interested in the research that is being conducted in that it helps all of us define how well we are doing.

Last but definitely not least is the actual implementation of Evidenced Based Practices. An absolute cornerstone of implementation is the accurate assessment of clients. If we don’t know what the major “criminogenic needs” are then how can we refer people to the appropriate services that are most effective? To begin with we contracted with Brad Bogue to provide us with a Motivational Interviewing train the trainer program which started at the end of January. Motivational Interviewing is a tool which has shown to be highly effective in dealing with offenders. The goal is to have all staff trained in MI as soon as possible. In addition, we are working on building our capacity to provide on going training to new officers as well as booster training. We have also contracted with Dr. Chris Lowenkamp to provide an LSI train the trainer program beginning in May. We will then work with the trainers to determine how to provide booster training to officers
as well as provide training to new officers. Again, we are trying to build our internal capacity to provide ongoing training which was not done in the past. This is part of the commitment that Bud has made to develop professional well trained officers. **Our goal is to provide officers with the skills and training necessary to complete the most accurate assessments possible.** This is an important goal and will take time but it is a top priority. In addition, as part of the departments’ commitment to staff Bud has put together a group of Field Training Officers to develop a basic probation officer course for all new staff which will include firearm training, LSI, MI as well as all of the other basics. This course will be 5-6 weeks long. Planning has been going on for some time and will be implemented in the not too distant future.

A validation of the LSI was completed in December. Unfortunately, although the validation was clear for low risk offenders; it was not as clear for the medium and higher risk offenders. Many LSI’s were not as accurate as they could be. In addition the sample was from several years ago and many LSI’s were not on the computer. Steps are being taken to improve “default” items on the computer and it is also clear that a “booster” training for all officers is in order. The department has committed itself to improving assessments as much as possible and will continue to look at ways to make future improvements. Plans are underway to complete another validation in the not too distant future.

Another key to the implementation of EBP is documentation. How does an organization begin to see what is most effective if nothing is recorded or reviewed? We need to evaluate our practices on an ongoing basis so that we can begin to see what is working and what is not working. **Our goal is to increase public safety by reducing victimization and recidivism.** In the past we have not always been sure of the most effective ways to reach this goal. On going research will provide us with a great deal of information that we need to make the best decisions. To this end we have recently created a partnership with staff at the Muskie Research Institute who will be conducting a variety of research on adult community corrections for at least the next three years. This research is being funded entirely by the NIC and the National Institute of Justice. A random sample of between 1000-1200 cases has been pulled from CORIS. These cases will be studied in a number of ways. Researchers will be looking at risk levels, types of offenses, revocations, types of treatment and length of treatment along with many other things. They will be looking at what types of sanctions are used and what the recidivism levels are. Information will also be pulled from the Department of Public Safety and the courts.

It is important that everyone keeps accurate records in CORIS as this is the basis for all of this research. Please be sure to use the statistics page. In addition, it is important that all motions are completed in CORIS so that the information can be pulled. It is also important that we continue to complete accurate intakes so that we have the correct basic data.

During all of this time we have continued to receive guidance and assistance from NIC and CJI. They have never told us what to do. Instead they provide information, suggestions and years of valuable field experience. It is a pleasure to work with them. As we move forward into new territory they are by our side. The next few months are shaping up to look as busy as the last few months. As I mentioned before, you can expect to receive monthly updates from me. However, I am not planning on writing any more novels.

I know that some people may have some concerns about where we are going or what we are doing. Bud has said that **we will go slowly to go fast.** All I can say is that collectively we have a great deal of common sense and of experience. In working with NIC and CJI we are getting assistance/support/guidance from others that have also have a great deal of common sense and experience. We share a number of goals including reducing recidivism and increasing public safety. As long as we work together and have some patience the sky is the limit.
The Outstanding Service Awards recognize individuals for their outstanding service in correctional education and is an important event at the annual conference. This year’s awards went to the following outstanding individuals:

**Kay Bouchard**, Teacher at MCC – Outstanding Correctional Educator

**Francine Bowden**, Librarian at MCC – Outstanding Service Award

**Melissa Allen**, Volunteer at MCC Women’s Unit - Outstanding Volunteer Award

**Susan Taylor**, Principal, Cumberland County Jail - Outstanding Administrator Award

**Susan Vangelli**, Adult Educator – Outstanding Service Award

**Robert Lovelace**, Adult Educator, Somerset County Jail – Certificate of Recognition

**Nicky Boyd**, Teacher, Cumberland County Jail - Certificate of Recognition

This year’s conference was a huge success more than 125 people attended the conference.

The keynote speaker for the conference was Stephen J. Steurer Ph.D., Executive Director of the Correctional Education Association, the largest association of educators in adult and juvenile corrections.

Director Steurer’s main point of the keynote address was to identify strategies that the Correctional Educators can use to convince the public and education communities that correctional education makes a positive contribution to educational attainment, employment, civic responsibility and overall public safety.

The conference workshops that were presented were on the following subjects:

- New Horizons Program at the Bolduc Correctional Facility
- Residential Sex Offender Treatment Program at the Maine Correctional Center
- Transitional Program at the Maine Correctional Center
- Project Safe Neighborhoods – Firearm Laws
- Offender testimonies
- MDOC work release programs and Adult Community Corrections
- Corrections and Victim Centered Restorative Justice
- Anger management programs at the Androscoggin County Jail
- MCC Transitional Unit

Photo: Left to Right: **Bob Aubrey**, Coordinator of the Maine Adult Correctional Education Association – **Joann Corwin**, Coordinator of the Maine Chapter of the National Correctional Education Association – **Steve Steurer**, Executive Director of the National Correctional Education Association.
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

“The Over half of our top managers could retire today. We must anticipate this change by developing and preparing the leaders of the future.” Marty Magnusson, Commissioner

An Overview
By Pierrette Ayotte, Staff Development Coordinator

The Leadership Development Program is designed to enhance the quality, consistency and continuity of leadership within the Department. This is accomplished through the delivery of a coordinated, high quality program focused on increasing the professional and leadership skills of participants to further the Department’s mission.

The Maine Department of Corrections’ Leadership Program will prepare current supervisors and managers, and future leaders to lead with foresight by:

1. Promoting the principles of evidence based practices to improve outcomes of the department.
2. Assisting participants to build a positive collaborative organization through effective communication and interpersonal skills.
3. Motivating staff through purposeful learning resulting in a higher level of satisfaction and rate of retention.

In recognition that many State employees will be retiring within the next ten years, and, to better prepare staff to be effective leaders within our organization, the Maine Department of Corrections is developing and implementing a Leadership Development Program. This program will be available for staff at all levels.

Who should participate
Participants of the program might be interested in either climbing up the ladder in the organizational chart at DOC or they may simply desire to be more effective in their current position.

Structure
The structure of the program is based on three major parts; the leader as a change agent, the leader as a manager, and the leader as a supervisor and coach.

Desired Outcome
A desired outcome is to achieve systems improvement through the implementation of best practice, effective communication, and positive relationships.

Components
The program is composed of several components. These components include:

✦ CORE level training that is appropriate for leaders at all levels
✦ Focused training for the supervisors, mid-managers, and the executives
✦ Job shadowing and site visits
✦ Special projects to benefit the department as a whole

The CORE level training will have many participants and is approximately 40 hours in length. It is not delivered in a solid week. Instead, it starts out with a 2-day training, and the rest of the hours are delivered in 4 hour modules, making attendance more practical. A few of the topics covered in the 2-day training are:

✦ Roles of the Supervisor, the Manager, and the Executive
✦ Dynamics and Qualities of a Leader
✦ Leadership Behavior
✦ Communications
✦ Effective Teams
✦ Team Basics
✦ Team Problem Solving

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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Modules
The 4-hour modules include topics such as:
+ Ethics
+ Organizational Culture
+ Managing Change
+ Meaningful Conversations
+ Managing Conflict
+ Coaching & Motivating
+ Collaborative Decision Making & Effective Meetings

Focused Training
The focused training for supervisors, mid-managers, and executives is specific to their needs. For example:
+ Supervisors might take Public Relations
+ Managers might take Union Issues
+ Executives might take Budgeting

So far…..
The first two days of CORE level training started March 17 & 18, 2005, and so far, approximately 150 staff has participated in the training. Three more sessions are planned for June, and four more in the fall, with the potential of training 210 more individuals. The training is offered at the Maine State Prison, the Maine Correctional Center, Long Creek Youth Development Center, and the Charleston Correctional Center. More sessions will be scheduled as needed. Commissioner Marty Magnusson is a lead trainer in the first two days, along with Richard Card and Perry Ayotte. Richard Card is the Director of Operations for Community Concepts, a non-profit organization located in Androscoggin County, and he is a private consultant well experienced in leadership development. Perry Ayotte is the Staff Development Coordinator for the Department of Corrections, Juvenile Services.

Ethics is the first module to follow the initial 2-day training, and approximately 35 participants attended the May 17 presentation at the Long Creek Youth Development Center. Richard Mears, Executive Director of the Maine Community Policing Institute, and professor at UMA, presented this topic along with Don Williams, sergeant with the Kennebec County Sheriff’s Department. Don is also the Chaplain to the Kennebec County Sheriff’s Department, the Augusta Police Department, the Maine State Police, and the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. He is the lead Ethics instructor for the Maine Criminal Justice Academy cadets.

What’s next…..
As more and more of this program gets developed and implemented, updates will be provided. Stay tuned!

Above, left to right: LCYDC’s Steve Hasson, Bob Lancaster, and Jeff Campbell participating in communications exercise.
Below: Commissioner Marty Magnusson leading the class.
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

**VICTIM SERVICES**

U.S. Department of Justice

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK

**Paula D. Silsby**, the United States Attorney for the U. S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Maine recognized Denise Giles for her outstanding service to crime victims.

Denise Giles entered the victim services field as Guardian ad Litem in 1985. In 1989, she became a Victim Witness Advocate for the District Attorney’s office in Lincoln County. For the past 9 years, Denise has worked as the Victim Services Coordinator for the Maine Department of Corrections. She has advocated and worked on behalf of crime victims for over 20 years.

Her efforts on behalf of Maine crime victims are well worthy of recognition. As the Victim Services Coordinator, she oversees notifications to all victims whose offenders are involved in the state’s correctional department. She is an incredible resource to all of the victim service providers in Maine. As the chair of the Maine Victim Advisory Group she reports to the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections on victim issues and concerns. She is also an active participant in Project Safe Neighborhoods.

Denise’s efforts to raise awareness and provide information and education to the Maine public regarding the impact of crime on victims is exemplary. The oversight her program provides to notify victims of release dates, the resources she provides in addressing safety concerns are critical and greatly needed, and the energy and commitment she demonstrates on a daily basis are admired and honored.

The United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Maine takes this opportunity to thank Denise for all she does to support federal crime victims, and this Office and its programs, and to recognize the assistance and support she provides to Maine crime victims.

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**Coloring Contest Winners**

**NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK**

“What Are You Most Proud of” was the theme of this year’s Crime Victim’s Rights Week coloring contest for the children of correctional employees. Twenty-seven entries were received from children of correctional employees. Judging was done by Deborah Shaw Rice Director of the Victim’s Compensation Program and Michelle Cram, Victim Advocate in the Office of the District Attorney (Kennebec County).

**Winners for the 3-5 age group:**
Kobe Gaudette (LCYDC)
Tyler Stewart (MSP)
Sidney Potvin (CCF).

**6-8 age group:**
Skyler Gaudette (LCYDC)
Heather Dumond (BCF)
Hannah Cunningham (BCF).

**9-12 age group:**
Lauren Parsons (MVYDC)
Tia Marie Alexander (DCF) and Michaela Pratt (MVYDC).

The essay contest winners were:
Veronica Davis (MVYDC)
Melissa Burnett (DOT) and Rene Jane Alexander (DCF).

The winning entries were on display in the reception area of Central Office during Crime Victim’s Rights Week April 10-16. All contestants received a certificate signed by Commissioner Magnusson and a Crime Victim Rights Week ribbon.
VICTIM ADVISORY GROUP

Victim Advisory Group Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2005.

Present: Mary Farrar, Susie Miller, Gerald Daly, Bob Lamoreau, Tessa Mosher, Denise Giles, Denise Lord, Michelle Cram, Tina Tucker, Joe Fitzpatrick.

Guests: Gerald Daly-Bob Lamoreau – Legal Liaisons from Riverview

Denise Lord reviewed the origin of the mental health action plan. A number of recommendations were delivered by the sub-committee to the Sentencing Commission and then to the legislature. The Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety was concerned that the focus of the action plan was on offender/clients, they wanted a role for the victim in the implementation of the action plan. During this legislative session there have been a number of bills re: Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity – and the lack of victim involvement in the system. Specific VN concerns have been expressed at the public hearings on the various bills. There is an increase in collaboration between DOC and Riverview. The action plan requires the team to meet regularly – re: a shared client between Riverview and DOC. DOC has victim services which has relationships with other victim service providers and focuses on victim’s rights not offenders. A recommendation was made that DOC Victim Services assist Riverview with statutory responsibilities of release notifications.

Mary Farrar – Victim Perspective statutory obligation 1995-1996. Several years ago one of the clients, Mark Bechard, was allowed a community pass – no notification happened After the situation with Mark Bechard and the Sisters not receiving notification, Mary developed a form for AMHI.

She sent requests to the Commissioner. BDS lost all notification request forms – Mary replaced them and sent them to Jamie Morrill, Deputy Commissioner. A new plan was developed after the confusion over where to send requests. Another family called for status check, the offender was in the community and they were never notified of the release. Victims cannot participate in release hearings. AAG Bill Stokes and Justice Studstrup worked out an agreement that the court clerk would send notice to parties re: hearing. There is currently no contact at BMHI to handle the notification obligation.

Bob Lamoreau/Gerald Daly discussed compliance issues. Currently there are eight NGRI patients with VN requests: 7 murders, 1 DV. The situation with Bechard has had an impact. Riverview did not become aware of their statutory obligation to notify victims until a few years after enactment. Riverview has gotten up to speed in past year. Riverview is now notifying victims of release hearing dates and has allowed victims to speak at the hearings. According to Riverview the terminology/language – “upon release” may not include modified release when the petition is filed. They currently will send out notification of the hearing (not required), notifying beyond the mandate. Until today Riverview was unaware of requirement for notification to victims of the release of those determined to be incompetent. Riverview receives many more jail transfers, brought to Riverview for assessment, usually by the county jails – not all are released back to jail. DA could dismiss charges, and there are boundaries that need to be protected – Bob and Gerry, part of treatment team staff, have spoken to victims/families to provide reassurance, but are clearly advocates for the client.

A suggestion was made to Bob and Gerry that they should call victim advocates for assistance.

Riverview does have written release notification polices and provides written and phone notices. The information provided to victims is primarily reassurance, no specific info re: patient. The group suggested a handbook for victims/families detailing “a day in the life of.”

-over-
Riverview has developed a system to track if there is victim notification. If notification requests are sent elsewhere (Commissioner’s office) Riverview may not be able to comply, due to not receiving the information. Riverview and Mary will compare lists of who should have notification requests and who actually does.

Michelle Cram stated that the DA’s office sees very few Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI) offenders.

Following the presentation by the Riverview staff, the Advisory Group had the following Recommendations:

1. DOC to request a copy of the Riverview victim notification policy.
2. Confirmation from Riverview administration that Daly or Lamoreau are point of contact – including correct address and contact numbers.
3. Riverview staff should become familiar with 17-A M.R.S.A. section 1175 and all its requirements, including those for the incompetent to stand trial population.
4. Continue exploration of proposal for DOC to do Riverview victim notifications.
5. Compile information for an informational booklet/pamphlet to be provided to victims.
6. 4-8 hour passes – without hearing may be on grounds, unsupervised-notification similar to the DOC furlough pass should be provided to victims.

There needs to be a commitment from DHHS’s Commissioner, as well as the Superintendent at Riverview to focus on rights of victims as well as the patients.

These recommendations will be provided to Associate Commissioner Denise Lord to present to the DOC-DHHS mental health action committee, with a request for a response by the next Victim Advisory Group meeting on August 2.

***Impact of Crime Program***

The Office of Victims Services is completing another session of the Impact of Crime Program (IOC) at the Maine Correctional Center in South Windham, Maine. The program is being presented to residents of the MCC Correctional Recovery Academy who have volunteered to participate. This is the primary Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program of the MDOC and provides treatment for the adult inmates that have been identified as having severe substance abuse issues. The program is being facilitated by Norene Dunphy, MCC Correctional Officer and Ellis King from the MDOC’s Central Office.

The format covers ten categories of crime in weekly class presentation and discussion modules. The two highlights of the program are the panels of victims who speak about their personal experiences and emotions experienced as a victim of a crime. These presentations and discussions are a very emotional and learning experience for the program participants and it is also very rewarding for the victim speakers.

During this session we are also fortunate to have presentations by Katherine Zwicker from the Bureau of Health on Shaken Baby Syndrome and one on Gun Violence and Prohibited Persons by Assistant U.S. Attorney Darcie McElwee.

The men participating in the program are very interested and willing to learn how the different types of crime affect the people who are the victims.

The latest Impact of Crime Program was started in June 2005 for the Women’s Unit at MCC.

For more information on this program contact Denise Giles at 287-4385.
Employees participated in Correctional Employees Week at the Maine State Prison and Bolduc Correctional Facility earlier this month (May) and a number of activities were scheduled, including the Outdoor Barbecue and Banana Splits were served in the Dining Room. Looks like everyone had a good time!

The Honor Guard was posted at the entrance to the prison and the Bolduc Correctional Facility. Every employee was saluted as they entered the prison or BCF. Many employees commented on receiving this special recognition. Thanks to Captain David George and all the members of the Honor Guard.

EMPLEE RECOGNITION:

Warden Merrill and members of the senior staff presented Employee Recognition awards in February to Linda Grant and Jo-ann Laggan.
Employee Recognition continued

**Linda Grant** is the Personnel Assistant at the Maine State Prison and is responsible for employee payroll at the Maine State Prison. Linda’s dedication and commitment in completing her job in a timely and efficient manner is greatly appreciated. In January, 2005, Linda got a very bad infection and had to be hospitalized and have IV antibiotics. She took the payroll to the hospital with her and told them she would not allow them to admit her unless she could bring the payroll with her! Thanks Linda, from everyone that works at the Maine State Prison and the Bolduc Correctional Facility.

**Jo-ann Laggan** is a nurse and oversees Medical Services at the Bolduc Correctional Facility. As the only nurse assigned to that facility, the responsibility to supervise, coordinate, record and provide medical services is a major responsibility. Jo-ann’s positive attitude and commitment in completing her duties is a definite asset to the Bolduc Correctional Facility. Both staff and prisoners greatly appreciate Jo-ann’s tireless efforts in providing the best possible medical services at BCF.

**CAPTAIN JOHNSTON RETIRES**

Deputy Warden **Nelson Riley** presents a Service Retirement Plaque to Captain **Thomas Johnston**. Captain Johnston worked his last day at the prison on May 31st. Captain Johnston was the Fire/Safety Officer here for many years. Tom was a long standing member of the Prison Fire Brigade and is the Fire Chief for Washington, Maine.

Tom’s knowledge of fire control, safety standards, handling of hazardous materials and the fire control systems at the prison made him a valuable employee. His professionalism, knowledge and experience will be missed. Warden Merrill and the entire staff wish Captain Johnston the best during his retirement years (although knowing Tom, we guess he has more work to do!).

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**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

March/June 2005/Page 15
Warden Merrill and members of the senior staff present Recognition Awards to Diane Lugar and Officer Joshua Lamoreau for the month of April.

Diane Lugar is the Senior Administrative Secretary for the Warden. She has worked 13 years at the prison and a total of 38 years as an employee for the State of Maine. Diane’s commitment and attention to her duties is certainly unquestionable and acknowledged by everyone that knows her. Her pleasant demeanor and sense of humor are personal qualities that make her the consummate professional.

Warden Merrill, Deputy Warden Barlow and the entire staff recognize her contribution to the day to day operation of this facility and we all want to say thank you Diane.

Officer Joshua Lamoreau is assigned to the 3rd shift at the Bolduc Correctional Facility. His commitment and dedication in performing his duties is recognized by his co-workers and supervisors. He is always willing to perform any task or duty assigned to him. Warden Merrill, Deputy Warden Barlow and the entire staff want to express sincere appreciation for a job well done.

Hernandez brings home silver wrestling medal
By Joseph Cyr with permission from Courier Gazette

SITTINGBOURNE, England - New chapters in the phenomenal wrestling success story of James "Chico" Hernandez continue to be written.

Hernandez, 51, of Warren brought home a silver medal at the 2005 British Open Sombo Wrestling Championships, held at the Swallows Leisure Centre in Sittingbourne.

"At 51 years old, getting the silver was peachy," Hernandez said.

Entrants from England, Scotland, France, Germany, Iran, Uzbekistan, Cameroon and the United States contested for medals, awarded to the top three place winners in each weight category. Hernandez won in the Lightweight division of the Masters, ages 35 and older. He lost to Paul Sawyer of England, 2-0, but defeated Graham Mann of England in the pool.

Hernandez also entered the Senior division, but failed to make the 84-kilogram weight class.

Last year, Hernandez brought home silver in the Middle-weight division.

At this year’s 96-kilogram Senior division, Hernandez defeated 18-year-old Ben Lawson of England, 6-1, in his first match. He then lost to nine-time defending British Champion John Clark of England in the semifinals and placed fourth.

"It was another great time and fun to see all of the people, champions and warriors once again," Hernandez said. "I did get a plate of fish and chips. This is the second year in a row that I’ve entered this particular tournament. This is truly is a wonderful tournament, with real international flavor. It is more like a world tournament."

According to Hernandez, more international entrants compete in this tournament than any world tournament he has participated in, including the World Cup event in Nice, France.

In the Open Division, Hernandez missed the cutoff for the 84-kilometer class by one kilogram. He wrestled up to the 96-kilogram division, essentially giving up 20 to 40 pounds to bigger opponents.

"My first fight I beat Ben Lawson, a proven Sombo medalist in past tourneys," he said. "I hit him with a nice whizz-throw and tried to follow that with a triangle lock on his right arm, but the ref broke up my move when he told me that I was sitting on his face, taking away his air."

In his bout with Clarke, Hernandez was beaten in 12 seconds by the British Open Champ.

Hernandez battled the flu for five weeks prior to the Sombo event, which made training difficult.

"My confidence level was not there, (since) I did not train as hard as I could due to the flu," he said. "I had no idea how I would fair in these championships. I surprised myself on my performance. Conditioning was not as bad as I thought it was going to be. My technique, I felt was not bad either, as I performed with some spectacular throws throughout the tournament."
GOOD BYE

Good bye to Jeanne Blais, who after sixteen years is leaving to spend more time with her family. Thanks Jeanne for a job well done!

JOB WELL DONE!

Corrections employees are trained to perform a number of various duties, even though they may never have the opportunity. However on April 10, 2005 there was a potential for danger when an electrical problem developed and required the mass evacuation of 80 plus prisoners. Good job to the following Officers and Sergeants for performing one of these duties:

Officers:
- Matt Golder
- Eric Swasey
- Frank Dube
- Donald Culver
- Phillip Moss
- Gregory Damon
- John H. Paskewicz
- Brett Bissonnette
- John P. Paskewicz
- Donald Culver
- Bill McKinnon
- Keith Cook

Sergeants:
- John McGloin
- Steven Lacourse
- Kenneth Reed
- Stephen Carmichael
- Dr. John Welch

Captain Shawn Welch.

ANNIVRSARIES:

We also want to note the following years of State Service in 2005 based on their current hire dates:

20 Years:
- Paryse Thibodeau
- Sarah Brown
- Donald Bancroft
- Norman Goddard

15 Years:
- Ronald Coulombe
- Shawn Welch
- Chris Paige
- Cally Peaco
- John H. Paskewicz
- Frank Dube
- Lynn Madar
- Steven Lacourse
- Brian Libby
- Stephen Burns
- Walter Parelius
- Calvin Simpson

10 Years:
- Richard Dunham

5 Years:
- Robert Bachelder
- Charles Dame
- Keith Cook
- Noreen Dunphy
- Brett Bissonnette

PERSONNEL NEWS

NEW OFFICERS
- Zamar Turner
- Leroy Hart
- Charles Lacasse
- James Temple
- Jerrod Coffin
- Brian Donahue
- Timothy Rogers
- Stephen Burns.

RETIRED

John Stevenson: who was instrumental in the re-establishment of the flower gardens program after several years of dormancy, has retired after 25 years of service. John worked at both Pineland Center prior to its closing and at Maine Correctional Center. John plans to retire to Aroostook County.

Robert Cobbett has retired as a Correctional Sergeant. Bob has worked for the State for thirty-six years, starting with the Forestry Service and moving to Corrections in 1972. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1979. Bob has served as an acting capacity Captain, and as a designated Field Commander for institutional emergencies. Bob finished his career working as an operations Sergeant in our Multi-Purpose Building.

WELCOME BACK

Maine Correctional Center welcomes back Officer Monty Aaron and Correctional Trades Shop Supervisor Paul Charland, from their tours of duty with the 133rd Engineer Battalion in Iraq. Both were activated in November 2003. We also welcome back Jason Lerman from his tour of duty in Iraq.

CONGRATULATIONS

Glean Brown on your promotion to Correctional Sergeant.

Stephen Carmichael on your appointment as an acting capacity Correctional Sergeant.

Brian Libby on your marriage.

Jason and Nichole Lerman on the birth of your daughter.

- OVER -
Plaques for Meritorious Action, for saving a prisoner’s life by performing CPR were presented to: Scott Holmes and John P. Paskewicz

A Certificate of Commendation was presented to Officer Adam Campbell for his swift reaction to preventing a suicide.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

By James Howard

Kay Bouchard has been selected as the Maine Adult Correctional Education Association’s “Teacher of the Year.” Kay has been a Teacher in the Department of Corrections for 22 years; seven years at LCYDC and her last 15 at MCC. Kay’s classroom is a center for learning, and the atmosphere is pervasive. Throughout the day she is calm, approachable, caring and tremendously supportive of each one of her students. Kay creates learning opportunities for each of her students’ strengths and needs and is always watching for resources. As the needs of the students have changed, she has continued to adapt to new challenges, ranging from searching out new basic reading materials to plugging a student into a college class. Most recently she completed the necessary course requirements for, as is awaiting her Certificate in Special Education. Her students learn education doesn’t hurt; it makes you feel good about yourself.

In this job she has been responsible for providing library services to over 600 male and female prisoners. In recent years the population has grown in its complexity. She has kept abreast of the reading and legal materials needs of both men and women prisoners – all which seem to be different. Addition Francine has made sure the library is equipped to support the mission of the Correctional Center to assist prisoners in their education, recovery and rehabilitation.

She has made numerous contacts with the University of Maine’s School of Law, whose students provide legal assistance to the prisoners and piloted the use of Westlaw computerized legal services. And to top it all off, Francine is a GED Examiner, which allows MCC to have its own GED testing capability. Francine is responsive to prisoners, professional in her judgment and cooperative with the staff.

**EMployees Recognition Week:**

Not enough can be said about the employees at the Maine Correctional Center and the jobs that they have been doing. Our officers and employees have been performing additional duties not required under their job class codes, pitching in to help meet ACA requirements, working hours upon hours of overtime to staff prisoner housing units and generally meeting adversity head on. During the week on May 10, the Administration reached out to Thank all of our employees for a job well done. Each employee on duty, and if we missed some one we are truly sorry, was served a meal which included, French toast, an omelet, chicken fingers, bacon, sausage, coffee, milk, and juice. Daily pastries, coffee and mild and juices were made available to employees as they came on duty.

Francine Bowden has been selected as the Maine Adult Correctional Education Associations’ 2005 Recipient of the Year for Outstanding Service. Francine began her employment in 1998 as the Librarian for MCC.
Oh, the Warden Service checked out the old girl and took a report. The Warden said it was the first Turkey vs. Hot Rod accident he had ever covahed. Due to the fact the old girl was most likely spoiled from ah eaten my paint and was, after all, from away, it was decided to feed her to the old red fox denned up behind my place. Good ol Maine Justice, yuh gotta luvhit!!!

The moral of the story: You messah with my hot rod and I stretchah you neck!

AL Carlisle retired April 1st, after almost 18 years with the DOC. She served as the Associate Commissioner for Juveniles and Community Services for eight years and as the Director of Rehabilitative and Administrative Programs for the Maine Youth Center/LCYDC for almost ten years.

She was involved with DOC/MYC for over 30 years and started the volunteer program at what was then the Boys Training Center in 1974.

A wonderful retirement party was held March 31st, where many old friends and colleagues and her family were in attendance.

Twern’t ah great day

I decided to get my hot rod outah storage on Patriots Day and thought I’d take uh for ah drive. Well, I had some work to get done at the facility and combined the rods first spring voyage and a trip to work. What seemed like a good idea turned out to be expensive for me and deadly for anothuh.

A wild turkey, not that found in ah bottle mind yuh, but a real wild Maine turkey, crashed right intuh the hood of my hot rod. The damage; a dented hood, custom paint wrecked and a broken mirror, plus a little injured pride. This was my first substantial mark on the rod since I finished the build and gotah on the road in 96. Anyway, back to the story!

Aftah the turkey hit my hot rod, I stopped and backed up tuh where she was ah floppen in thu ditch. I felt some compassion and thought I should calm her down a bit as she was a floppin all ovah the place from her obvious terminal injuries. Well, I had no weapons with me and I had tuh keep her from ahspurring me, soooooo to calm the old girl, I stood on her head in the mud for about 3.5 minutes. I then took her home, held a quick trial, found her guilty of flyin like those folks from away and of failing tuh yield the right of way. I pronounced judgment of hanging by the neck. I tied a real hangman’s noose, 13 wraps around the noose yuh kno, and hungah right next to thu damaged hot rod for all tuh see.
LCYDC continued

D A Y  O F  C A R I N G

LCYDC had a Day of Caring on 5-19-05. We had approximately 30 volunteers from local businesses (Unum, Mercy Hospital, and Verrill & Dana Law Firm) participate with our residents in a mass clean up of the facility. With dirt under our fingernails we planted flowers, mowed the lawns, and raked under the direction of Taskmaster Rod Bouffard (Superintendent). After the work was complete we participated in a mass B-B-Q in our back recreation field. All units intermingled with the volunteers to live music provided by a few residents and delicious food provided by our wonderful kitchen staff. There were too many pick up games of softball, football, and Frisbee to count. Everyone had a wonderful time and we believe that the private sector was greatly educated about what we are all about. Special thanks go out to Emmy Brown, our Volunteer assistant, and Tim Higgins, our Chaplin, for their dedication and hard work on this event and the every day things that they do each day without complaint.

THANK YOU!

MOUNTAIN VIEW YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER

PERSONNEL

ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY  
YEARS
Tom Davis  
15
Tim Jones  
15
Gary McCready  
15
Jason Greenlaw  
6
Frank Provencal  
5

ANNIVERSARIES IN JUNE  
YEARS
Scott Estes  
21
Jim Breckenridge  
19
Jodie Lord  
17
Jackie Wilcox  
15
Jeff Morin  
13
Tammy Duncan  
7
Joe Riitano  
7
Janice Young  
7
Kronholm, Boyd  
5

WELCOME TO OUR NEW HIRES

Gregory Varner- JPW  Michael Holcomb- JPW
Timothy Harmon- JPW  Cheryl Quinn- Principal

New Program with Foster Grandparents

By Sheena Lundin

Mountain View Youth Development Center Volunteer Department is delighted to announce that our first Foster Grandparent from the Penquis Cap program is now trained as a volunteer to spend time with our youth. Florence Turek is as delighted as we are to be spending time here. She will be volunteering 20 hrs each week. She has lots of plans and ideas regarding her participation here. Although it has taken approximately one year for this to become a reality, the wait was well worth it as the end result is to have such a delightful grandmother here at MV. Florence has been in the social service field for many years. At one time she and her husband ran an inner-city program for very high needs youth in the Boston area. A very warm welcome was extended to Florence by both staff and the residents.
Lost on a Mountain in Maine
By David Lovejoy

The story of a brave boy’s nine-day adventure alone in the Mt. Katahdin wilderness describes a 12-year-old’s daily struggle to survive after being separated from his companions in the mountains of Maine. Several communications with Donn Fendler, the author of this real life adventure, have confirmed his arrival at our facility in June. Donn continues to be extremely busy with his speaking engagements at schools, public appearances, etc and is looking forward to coming to Mountain View YDC, which looks right at Mt. Katahdin and that wilderness area. This should be an excellent opportunity for the residents and staff “to hear it all, from the one who lived it”.

During the 1970’s my life was school and mountaineering, and we were very involved with mountain search and rescue, with Mt. Katahdin and Mt. Washington being our primary areas. We did this year-round and the weather and the elements were incredible. These mountains are unique and things change within minutes, and you better be ready. We spent time in the Swiss Alps and were at the “Eiger” right after Clint Eastwood filmed the movie “The Eiger Sanction”. That was truly another world and the most massive mountain that I had been on. In April of 1984 my climbing team got caught in an avalanche in Tuckerman’s Ravine on Mt. Washington, and within seconds it started and was over, with three people getting lost, buried, and then retrieved. It can be very exciting and dangerous and you need to know how to read the various conditions, how to react to them, how to be prepared for just about anything and then hope that everything will be fine. One of the most common remarks that we would hear from non-experienced climbers/hikers was “extra clothing or gear would add more weight to our back packs”, not realizing how quick weather changes could catch them off-guard. You have to really respect the mountain and be prepared for whatever it delivers to you.

I know I am looking forward to hearing Donn’s story and I can certainly respect what he went through on Mt. Katahdin.

Old Iron Given New Life at MVYDC
By John Simmons

Next time you see an old piece of machinery sitting out back in someone's yard or in the corner of a garage not being used, in need of repair, rusting and looking sad with age, you need to look at it through the eyes of restoration (what it could be). That's exactly what staff and residents at MVYDC did with two pieces of equipment. They had the foresight and ambition to restore a 1973 Simplicity 16 hp garden tractor and a 1969 Honda CD 175 motorcycle. In the MVYDC Small Engines Program under the supervision of Small Engines teacher Mr. John Simmons residents undertook the restoration projects. Students, applying skills obtained during Small Engines classes and learning new ones during the restoration projects produced machines rejuvenated to original conditions both mechanically and aesthetically.

During the restoration processes residents acquired skills in the vocational area of small engines as well as new life skills. Taking a rusted, set-aside, forgotten, and yet still usable piece of equipment and transforming it into something aesthetically pleasing and totally functional requires a person to develop many skills and personal qualities. The concept that residents learned during Small Engines classes were applies and expanded upon while others needed to be learned during the restorations. A complete restoration involves removing rust, repairing metal work, doing body work and painting. For these special skills another staff member, Mr. Kevin Mayo, volunteered his expertise in these special procedures. The efforts of Mr. Mayo and residents finishing touches on the projects yielded them aesthetically pleasing.
Numerable life skills were learned during these restoration projects. Residents acquired knowledge of recycling, taking old materials and making them serviceable again instead of throwing them away. Other qualities that must be demonstrated and employed in restoration work are: perseverance, patience, pride in workmanship, ambition, problem solving abilities, control of anxiousness, frustration and accomplishment. By incorporating these life skills and the knowledge acquired about small engines and body work residents were able to make and watch a transformation take place in front of their eyes. After many hours of hard work and problem solving, residents saw a neglected, rusted, dented, unused, and faded machine turn into one mechanically and aesthetically machine as good as new. In some cases the restored machines were in better than original condition. As a result of these restoration projects, residents gained an opportunity to use and learn skills, acquire self satisfaction, and exhibit pride and workmanship. Thanks must be expressed to all residents and staff for their participation, help, instruction, and support of these restoration projects at MVYDC where "Old Iron is Given New Life".

Old tractor—New tractor

Old Motorcycle—New Motorcycle

Agriculture interest area offered this summer

- Extended outdoor opportunities
- Chance to work with live animals
- Opportunity to learn about gardening
- Fundamentals of farming will be the focus

VICTORY GARDENS, RAISED BEDS ESTABLISHED.

With Memorial Day only a few moons away, the agriculture program has begun moving outside. Victory gardens are being established in each unit’s court with the intention that residents will establish ownership in their garden.

There are a substantial number of raised beds available for planting this year. Suggestions are now being taken to fill these beds for the growing season.

Mr. Simmon’s students have set about preparing outside garden areas for this season’s plantings. The greenhouse has been turned around to better utilize sun exposure.

We are prepared for the Memorial Day weekend when it is customary to begin the planting of Maine’s gardens.

We are still looking for student volunteers this summer.

Perry Joran tending some of this year’s seedlings
Agriculture Program Sprouting Legs

This year’s agriculture program appears to have gotten off to a promising start. Perry Jordan’s return from Florida reinvigorated him with a sense of purpose and new found energy. He immediately set upon the Perennial Flower project.

With not so much as a moment of rest, Mother’s Day was upon us and Mr. Jordan enlisted the assistance of students in helping him to provide homemade Mother’s Day gifts for every resident who wanted one. Not only was he successful in meeting the needs of all the residents in time for Mother’s Day, but he was able to address the needs of those on the detention side as well.

Also as part of the AG program, a baker’s dozen of Chukar Partridge have made a home in the A/O Classroom. A-Unit students have been keeping a keen eye on them. You’ll find three dozen Ring-Neck Pheasant eggs in the incubator. This new family will be out and about the first week in June. Come down and take a look when you get the opportunity.

Special Education

By Lori Hasenfaus

The Special Education Team at Mountain View is pleased to announce a successful Special Education compliance review! A special thank you to Patricia Conant for all her dedication in making sure that Individual Education Plans and procedures meet State standards. Many thanks to Ron Perry and Maggie Dionne-Tyler for joining our Special Education Team and upholding our continuum of services model for students with special needs. Their combined efforts, along with the efforts and support of other educators and staff, have resulted in the achievement of this important milestone. Normally, this is a three year process but due to being in compliance with State standards, Mountain View has completed this process in two years. Again, thank you to those of you who have helped make this possible.

Trip To Turks & Caicos

By Liz Brugger

We went on our trip (that I won from WEZQ) to Turks and Caicos the middle of April. What a nice getaway, we heard it snowed twice here while we were there. We stayed at Club Med Resort and Spa; it’s a beautiful resort for adults only. It’s an all inclusive resort so all of our food, drink and activities were all paid for. While we were there we took sailing lessons and sailed every morning after breakfast. We also took snorkeling lessons, which I fell in love with. I had never been snorkeling before; it is just like you see on television. The colors were beautiful and seeing the fish in their own habitat was breathtaking. We snorkeled several times. There were shows at night that the staff put on and dancing till dawn. It was the best vacation that David & I have ever been on alone (without kids). We plan to go back in the near future.
**Get well wishes…...**

Special get well wishes are being sent out from all of us here are Region 1 A to JCCO Greg Masalsky as he slowly journeys through his days of recovery to wholeness again. It has been a long and arduous time for Greg but through it all he has exhibited great courage and determination to be well again and to get on with his life as normally as possible. Don’t give up, Greg. Each day is another step forward to total recovery and miracles do happen! After all, didn’t the Red Sox win the World Series last year? Hang in there! We’re all rooting for you ,Greg!!!

**Wedding Bells**

Three happy couples from Region One will be taking that all important walk down the aisle this year.

PPO Tamson Ross and fiancé Phil Greenwood became engaged on Christmas and although wedding plans are in the talking stage no date has yet been set when they’ll tie the knot.

PPO Christopher Arbour and his fiancee Kristen Wells will be joined in holy matrimony July 9th in an afternoon ceremony at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Portland.

PPO Marc Montminy and Sarah Douglass became engaged on October 17 of last year. Marc popped the question just minutes after the couple finished moving into their new home in Standish. The fall wedding is planned for October 29 here in Portland.

Our congratulations and best wishes to all three of these happy couples. May their future lives together be long and happy ones filled with many cherished memories.

**Accepts position**

PPO Scott Landry has accepted the position of Corrections Resource Coordinator and will take the reins of this position once the caseload transition details are worked out. Since Scott will be based out of the Portland office, we don’t have to say good-bye to him which is good news to all of us. However it is important that he know that we all wish him well as he takes on this new challenge in his corrections career.