DOC TALK

The Department of Corrections Recognition Committee proudly announces the winner of our name the newsletter contest:

Dan Dodge, Probation Office Adult Region III submitted the winning suggestion, which as you probably guessed is DOC TALK.

The other two finalists were Bill Parsons, Chaplin at MYC with “NEWS VIEWS,” and Joseph Ezzolo, 3rd shift MCI with “CORRECTIONS CONNECTIONS.”

Thank you to all who submitted suggestions and for all who participated by voting for your favorite suggestion. We hope you will enjoy future editions of DOC TALK.

MAINE STATE PRISON BLOODHOUNDS

Written by: Dan Moran, Bloodhound Team Leader

The Maine State Prison - Bloodhound Search Unit was busy for the first six months of 1999. The Bloodhound Unit was activated three times for lost people and once for a runaway child. We had no escapes to report on during this time.

We performed five demonstrations with the hounds at various schools and organizations. The high-lite of these demonstrations was Daisy our new bloodhound puppy. You just cannot beat the puppy going around licking faces to show how friendly these hounds are. In April we were able to send Daisy and her handler to the National Police Bloodhound Association spring seminar in Maryland for a week of intensive training. This is the only school of its kind in the country that deals entirely with training the man-trailing bloodhound.

In May we taught classes to instructors from the Brunswick Naval Air Station. These instructors were from the Search and Evasion school at BNAS. We have performed a joint training exercise with the Search and Evasion School since 1990.

We usually start this school with a class for the instructors at which time we give a lecture of what the bloodhound’s capabilities are. After the lecture we proceed out doors and let the hounds show them what they are capable of. It is this part that makes most people believers in their abilities. In June we taught the class to the students from throughout the United States. We answered many questions on how to interfere with the scenting ability of tracking dogs. We answered these questions honestly because what these people learned in this class could save their life if they are shot down or captured. After the classroom and demonstration for the students we went to the Naval Training facility outside Rangley, Maine. It is there that the students applied their training. We spent a week chasing these guys around and when we caught them we identified their errors and they continued the exercise. Even after the classroom sessions we still have a high capture rate due to the abilities of the hounds. On those occasions when a group successfully evades us, we get to debrief them and find out how they accomplished it. Because of this training we get to keep up on the latest ideas the military is teaching on evasion.

This training would not be possible without the support of Warden Merrill and his administration. Thank you!

Central Office

Just in case you have not heard, our new Central Office location is on the 3rd Floor of the Tyson Building in the AMHI complex (on the east side of the Kennebec River). Phone Numbers stay the same.

AMHI has 3 entrances off Hospital Street. The middle one goes to Parking Lot #7 which is facing Tyson. Tyson is in the center of the Complex and
easily recognized by its brightly painted new white window frames.

After 7 AM it is almost impossible to find an empty parking space there. Other parking lots are located on the north and south side of the AMHI Complex and reached by taking the other two driveways. These can also be reached from a lower Road with goes parallel to the Kennebec River.

New Employees

Finance: Lorri Plante, Barbara Otis and Roberta Tomlins; Payroll: Lorri Plante; Victims Services: Midge Boynton; and Nathaniel (Nat) Hussey, our new part-time Affirmative Action Officer who is replacing Michelea Loisel.

This year, our summer interns are Brooks Sturdivant who is working for the Inspection Division, Susan Crabbe, and Kacey Parquette who are doing a great job for Community Corrections; and Amy Oliver, whose is working for Victim Services.

Amy Oliver

I am working here for the summer through the Margaret Chase Smith Internship Program, which matches eligible students up with State agencies needing interns for the summer. I am the Victim Services Assistant, working with Denise Giles on increasing public awareness of victim rights. I have worked on projects such as creating pamphlets and posters about victim rights and putting public service announcements on television and radio. I currently attend the University of Maine at Orono and am living in China for the summer. I am majoring in Sociology with a minor in Child Development and Family Relations. I plan to work in non profits or community development after graduation.

Awareness Increased at Maine General Medical Center

Reported by Amy Oliver

On Wednesday, July 7, Denise Giles spoke at the Maternal/Child Health monthly meeting at Maine General Medical Center in Augusta. The participants are social workers from area hospitals and private practices. Denise gave a brief history of Victim Services and what she has done in the department since the position was created. She explained victim notification, restitution, the Victim Advisory Group, and discussed programs such as the Impact of Crime Classes. The group noted that there is currently little public knowledge of victim rights in general. They were mostly concerned with the rights their patients have, specifically the right to receive victim compensation. Denise informed them that patients can be eligible for victim compensation if the injury resulted from a crime and the crime has been reported. This was important for the group to hear because many of the patients seen by the Social Workers don’t have insurance or other means of paying hospital bills. The group was concerned with how they could make victim rights known to their patients. Denise left the women with referral phone numbers and pamphlets for incoming patients to have. Awareness was increased, and hopefully this will expand to other hospitals and caregivers throughout Maine.

In Memory of John Hines

by Francis Westrack

John S. Hines who began his employment with the department at the Maine Correctional Center on January 18, 1982 died suddenly on Saturday, July 3, 1999. John worked in the Education Department at the Correctional Center until May 15, 1988 when he was promoted to the position of Classification Coordinator for the Department in Central Office. John held this position until November 30, 1995 when his position was removed as part of the State’s restructuring and reorganization. John received his Master’s Degree from the University of Maine and Ph.D. in Literature from Indiana University. John was a charitable person in life; therefore, it comes as no surprise to learn that he was an organ donor, thus through his death the gift of life has been extended to others.

A True Hero

reported by Amy Oliver, Victim Services Assistant

In the past, victims have often stood in the shadows of crime. As part of the effort to increase awareness of victim rights, victims are speaking at a variety of locations to both offenders and other concerned citizens. I’ve recently had the opportunity to meet one of these courageous speakers, Dorothy Arrigo. Dorothy, at age 62, is
dedicated to helping victims like herself. She has recently received her Associates degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Maine at Augusta. She works for Catholic Charities, helping caseworkers deal with their juvenile offenders. Her first speaking experience was to a group of judges at the Regional Symposium on Restorative Justice in Vermont. As a member of the Department of Corrections Victim Advisory Group, she has spoken at the Maine Youth Center in South Portland a number of times since February of 1997. She has also recently spoken at the Bolduc Facility as part of the Impact of Crime Education Class. Dorothy has recently discussed with me her reactions to speaking at each of these facilities.

As a member of the Victim Advisory Panel, Dorothy has spoken at the Maine Youth Center in South Portland many times. She likes the familiarity of it and feels at ease speaking there. She also feels that the age group of the kids might contribute to their ability to eventually change their behavior. As opposed to grown adults, kids might be more receptive to hearing how crime affects victims and may be more apt to improve their own behavior. When asked what negatives came with speaking the Youth Center, Dorothy responded that she felt the number of kids she spoke to was a small number, usually to groups of three at a time. She felt that speaking to a larger group might have been more effective. Another negative mentioned was that her topic of domestic violence might not have impacted them as much as a crime more commonly committed by kids may have. Overall she thought that the kids were a good group to speak to but might have felt disconnected from her topic.

As part of the Impact of Crime Education class developed by Denise Giles, Dorothy has recently spoken at the Bolduc Correctional Facility. She was part of a series of 10 speakers over a 20-week period. During each module of 10 different crime categories, a victim visits and discusses his/her experiences. Dorothy was very pleased with her visit to the Bolduc facility. The class was made up of 15 offenders, and she thought their behavior and feedback was terrific. The men were able to ask her questions afterward about her experiences or about domestic violence in general. Dorothy reflected, “I thought the feedback from that young man who said he thought his mother was weak until he heard my story was really dynamic to hear.” In this case, the man who spoke grew up in an abusive home, and Dorothy’s speech gave him a new perspective on what his mother must have felt. Overall she thought that the men could relate to her because of their age and experiences. She felt that having questions at the end of the class was very vital to its success. Overall Dorothy was impressed with the Bolduc program and hopes that it will spread to other facilities throughout Maine. “I think that it’s probably something that they should all hear just to present the other side to them....maybe they’ll think twice. I think it’s really good. I was really excited after having left the other day.”

Few victims like Dorothy have the courage to stand in front of a group of offenders and tell their story. After experiencing confusion and aloneness as a victim, she has dedicated herself to making sure that victims feel valued and are aware of their rights. She says that even though she can never be sure that her speeches are reaching others, they are always helping her to heal. When asked what significant event helped her decide to speak, she responded, “One of the judges (at the Regional Symposium in Vermont) said that we as victims were the true heroes. He was just grateful to those of us who chose to speak...to tell our story. That made me feel worthwhile.”

Roxy Hennings, Juvenile Services Planner for the Department recently received a Women in Government Award from Janet Givens, Maine State President of the American Association of University Women. The award was presented at the association’s annual meeting held in Waterville. The award is given to outstanding women who have made a significant impact in their area of service, according to a release.

Hennings was recognized for her ongoing effort in improving the lives of women in the Juvenile Justice System.

Adult Community Corrections

reported by Nancy Bouchard

The “cycle of collaboration” is strengthening in Adult Community Corrections as the projects for community policing and corrections partnership come to a close. Five selected sites, Biddeford, South Portland, Lewiston/Auburn, Waterville and
Ellsworth have been participating in a year long program designed to accomplish two goals:

1. enhanced communication between field staff, patrol officers and managers; and
2. training in the problem oriented-problem solving model.

Training has been conducted by the Lewiston Police Department and four of the five sites have completed the program with very favorable evaluations. The concept of law-enforcement and corrections partnerships is not new but formalizing the process sets the stage for continued progress towards expanding the efforts into the community.

The Rotary Clubs of Maine have been an instrument of communication for Adult Community Corrections as Wayne Theriault and Nanci Bouchard reach far into the corners of the State to discuss the role of Probation and Parole, the Sex Offender Management and Supervised Community Confinement Programs.

Presentations to approximately 40 Rotary Clubs have educated approximately 1200 members to the significance of Community Corrections and the ongoing efforts to provide communities with safe and viable corrections options.

Wayne spent a week in Aroostook County speaking to members of the service club and only got lost once. He swears that potato fields look like a highway when you've been on the road for 6 hours!

**Correctional Educators Recognized**
reported by Bob Aubrey

The Maine Adult Correctional Education Conference annually is the setting where the correctional education field and the corrections administration and staff nominate those persons who have consistently demonstrated outstanding effort and achievement in our field. This year at our 11th annual conference in China, Maine, Bob Crotzer, Maine Department of Education, and Ellis King, Maine Department of Corrections, presented the following awards:

1999 OUTSTANDING PROGRAM FACILITATORS
Captain Francine R. Breton, Cumberland County Jail
Major Jeffrey L. Newton, Cumberland County Jail

1999 OUTSTANDING VOCATIONAL TEACHER
Arlene Ridlon, Cumberland County Jail

1999 OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP
Ellis King, Maine Department of Corrections

The following individuals were presented with Special Recognition Certificates:

CUMBERLAND COUNTY JAIL:
Corr. Officer Kevin A. Anderson, Librarian Diana E. Sykes
Deputy Harold F. Gillman, Teacher Stacey H. Guignard
Teacher Richard T. Leeman, Teacher Cecile M. Lemons

DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
Instructor Anthony Jans, Instructor Craig Smith

MAINE ADULT CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION TASK FORCE
Coordinator Bob Aubrey

Congratulations to all of you. A special thank you to the persons who submitted the nominations for these individuals.

There were 88 attendees at this year's conference. We are honored to hear Mary Herman, Chair of the Maine Family Literacy Task Force, our keynote speaker. Ms. Herman's presentation was, from both the comments and evaluations, extremely interesting, thoroughly fitting in the effort both statewide and nationwide to focus on family literacy, and it also gave us ideas and new possibilities at including incarcerated parents as important literacy teachers. Thank you Ms. Herman.

And thank you to everyone who worked so hard this past year putting this conference together--the committees, presenters, Marti Stevens Interactive Improvisational Theater, China Lake Conference Center staff and employees, and most importantly, everyone who attended.

**Maine State Prison**

**PREP - Pre-Release Exit Program**
Written by: Judy Plummer, Psychiatric Social Worker

For many inmates the idea of facing a life of freedom and independence in the community can produce a level of fear and anxiety. The purpose of PREP is to provide a level of support and
education that will help inmates prepare and improve their chances of success on the outside.

The PREP group will have two goals:

1. To combine efforts of Caseworker and Counselor to teach and process survival skills and;
2. To educate and provide inmates with community resources.

The PREP group will meet one time weekly and have inmates who have 24 months or less before release. The group will not be closed to new members.

The first group is currently under way. Each inmate is to complete a simple form describing his projected release date, whether or not he will have probation and what plans, if any he already has in place. Inmates help each other a great deal by sharing information and talking about the lessons they have learned from their own mistakes. Each inmate usually leaves the group each week with an assignment to complete for the following week. Group members check in on the progress they are making and what they need to do next.

The group will be ongoing as there will always be inmates leaving the prison. The ultimate goal is to reduce the recidivism rate by providing a foundation from which to start.

Any further questions or concerns can be directed to Judy Plummer, Psychiatric Social Worker or Phil Edwards, Caseworker.

PROMOTIONS, RETIREES AND NEW HIRES AT MSP, BCF AND MCI
January 1, 1999 Through June 30, 1999

New Hires:
1/25/99: James Thomas, Psych Social Worker I; Bruce Brann, Guard; Ralph Maines, Guard
1/26/99: Ricky Worster, Guard
2/16/99: William Robb, Guard; Lester Dubois, Guard; Paul Dever, Guard; Joseph Ferra, Guard; Joey Pelletier, Guard; Edwin Churchill, Jr., Guard; Gregory Wentworth, Guard
3/4/99: Cynthia Shuman, Account Clerk II
4/20/99: Robert Brownell, Guard; Richard Brooks, Guard
5/17/99: Richard Zielinski, Guard; Bill Porter, Guard; Michael Sprague, Guard; James Flaherty, Guard; Michael Doucette, Guard
6/1/99: Shawn Hutchinson, Government Intern
6/30/99: Diane Williamson, Accountant II

Rehires:
1/10/99: Joseph Robicheau, Guard
4/25/99: Steven Wiggins, Guard
5/25/99: James Jacques, Guard

Retirees:
2/26/99: Charlotte Faller, Account II

Promotion:
1/16/99: Karen Carroll, Dir. of Bus. Svcs. to Legislative Budget
1/17/99: James Coombs, Guard to Guard Sgt.
1/18/99: Bonnie Kinney, Clerk Typist II to Staff Development Specialist II
3/21/99: Joanna Thomas, Asst. Classification Officer to Classification Officer
4/30/99: Heidi Anderson, Intermittent Guard to Full-time Guard
5/24/99: Patsy Jacobson, Clerk Typist II to Asst. Classification Officer; Meredith Deroche, Clerk Typist II to Corr. Postal Clerk (lateral move); Malcolm Coulter, Business Mgr. at Baxter State Park to Director of Support Services
6/19/99: Bill Porter, Full-time Guard to Intermittent Guard
6/20/99: Rick Ashley, Corr. Trades Instructor to Guard; Charles Black, Senior Guard to Corr. Trades Instructor

MAINE STATE PRISON PREPARES COMPUTERS FOR JANUARY 1, 2000
written by: Darlene Hale, Computer Systems Specialist

As of June 30, 1999 desktop and laptop workstations at Maine State Prison are 100% compliant and approximately 80% of the software is Y2K compliant. I continue to work closely with Richard Moreau, Department of Corrections Y2K Specialist, regarding the remaining software that needs to be compliant prior to the December 31, 1999 midnight deadline. We are confident that this issue will be resolved in a timely manner.

Bolduc Correctional Facility
reported by Pascal Poe
We wish Roland Albert well in his new work with the Community Service Project in Rockland.

Welcome aboard to Richard Sevigney, Correctional Cook, Roger Bonsant, Correctional Officer and Charles Blackman, Correctional Trades Instructor.

Recently, Gary Grant, David Flynn, Tim Cousins and Gary Tilton completed a major community service project at Beaver Lodge in Union, Maine.

Wood harvester crews in conjunction with DL Flagg Wood Products have cleared a 40 acre parcel of land in preparation for the awarding of the site contract for the new Maine State Prison in Warren.

MAINE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
Reported by Ronnie Hastings

Many new officers have been welcomed to the staff at MCI since the last issue of “Listen Up.” Officer Frederic Erb transferred to MCI from MSP. New officers added to the 2nd Shift include: Justin Stickney, Richard Zielinski, and James Flaherty. The 3rd Shift has added Bill Porter, Paul Dever, Joe Ferra, Heidi Anderson, and James Jacques who returned to Corrections from employment elsewhere.

In April, MCI’s Correctional Caseworker, James Hernandez, once again was impressive in the 1999 AAU Sambo Wrestling Championships at the Marine Corps Base in Quantico Virginia. He came back with a Gold Medal in the 180 pound class of the Masters division (ages 45-50). He then came away with a third place Bronze Medal in the Masters All-round (ages 30 and up).

If any of the readers have been to MCI before, but haven’t been here recently, you will notice quite a change. In April, contractors began clearing land for the new facility and now many acres have been cleared in the initial preparation for construction.

Lt. Rusty Worcester recently spent a week in South Carolina attending a National Institute of Corrections seminar entitled “Conducting Prison Security Audits.” The knowledge attained will be useful when the new prison construction is complete and preparations are made to occupy the facility.

Maine Correctional Center
reported by Paryse Thibodeau

Acknowledgments
by Laura Rhodes

New Hires:
Correctional Officer I’s:
Benjamin Redmond, Jeremy LeClair, Jeffrey Grimes, Stanley Hicks, Matthew Prince, Debbie Mitchell, David Morissette and Stephen McKeen

Officers transferred from MSP:
Scott Keene - Senior CO and David Gallant - COI
June Jacobson - Storekeeper II

MCC would like to welcome all of our new employees!

Retired:
2/27/99 Edmund Tooher - over 20 years of service.
3/26/99 William Buchanan - over 21 years of service.

Promotions:
Thomas McLeod - promoted to Community Corrections - we wish him the best in his new position.
Mark James - promoted to Sergeant

Promotions to Acting Capacity:
Bob Cobbett - to Acting Captain
Bob Harris - to Acting Sergeant
Penny Bailey - to Acting Sergeant

Uniforms at MCC
reported by: Scott Burnheimer

On the May 2, security staff at the Maine Correctional Center reported to work in official uniforms. Many positive comments have been received on the appearance of our staff since the uniforms have been initiated. The uniforms have been purchased under the same contract as the Maine State Prison. Transition has been smooth
largely due to the support of MCC staff, the AFSCME union leadership at MCC and input from staff at MSP. Special thanks is given to Senior Correctional Officer Al Greenhaulgh for coordinating staff input and helping throughout the project.

As a spin off to the uniform introduction, a small industry program has been started as a laundry for the staff uniforms. Washed uniforms on hangers and cellophane wrapped are returned to staff much the same as a private laundry. Approximately half of the staff are using this service.

Maine Computers for Schools and Libraries
reported by: Rob Jaime

The computer for Schools and Libraries is a Governor’s initiative that started at MCC during the summer of 1998. The goals are to provide computers for school districts at no or nominal costs. Also, prisoners learn a viable skill.

MCC receives computers from corporate donors (Bath Iron Works, Hannaford Bros., LL Bean, UNUM, People’s Heritage, National Semiconductor) and rebuilds them into useful computers for schools and libraries. The donated computers are refurbished and upgraded at the Computer Technology Center at MCC. Funding for staff, equipment, and conversion of an automotive garage to a computer repair facility was provided by a grant from the Libra Foundation.

Volunteer inmates complete a 10-week course in two modules: The core module consists of hardware basics such as Diagnosing and Troubleshooting, Motherboards and Processors, Elementary Electronics, and Basic Networking. The second module is software orientated and includes Windows 95, Binary and Hexadecimal mathematics, Memory Management, Functions, Structure and File Management. Each technician is assigned a workstation and is responsible for the completed diagnosing, repairing and upgrading of the computer. All computers are required to be multimedia and Internet capable so CD-ROM's sound cards, speakers and network cards are installed and configured. Recently, fifty Pentium computers were delivered to the Van Buren and Litchfield Elementary school districts and over eighty Pentium II computers were distributed to Waterville area schools and libraries. Inmates who apply themselves can expect to gain a proficiency level that will make them highly employable in the Information Technology field.

For more information on this program contact Rob Jaime at 893-7000.

an added note: The following was taken from the Internet from our Librarian Francine Bowden reference this program: “The Gardiner Public Library is pleased to announce the addition of three Internet computers available for public use. We have just become the first recipient of a computer donated program initiated by the State of Maine - Maine Correctional Center (Robert Jaime, Instructor). I am just passing this news release so that other libraries can become aware of the program. Honestly, I was not sure of the quality of computer we would be receiving. Do not hesitate signing up for this program. The newly arrived computers are better than the majority of machines already in place!”

(picture #1)


MCC C.E.R.T. Team Firearms Recertification
On June 18th and 25th, the Maine Correctional Center C.E.R.T. Team held firearms recertification training at the Maine State Prison’s range. The combined effort of MSP’s Firearms instructors, Steve Markwith and Roy Chaston along with myself as C.E.R.T. Team Commander have come a long way towards standardizing training throughout the two facilities. This can only serve to better the department as a whole.

Our sincere thanks to both Steve and Roy for putting on such an outstanding training session. An incredible time was had by all. We hope to continue in this collaborations for a long time to come.

**Congratulations to all C.E.R.T. Team members for qualifying.**

We welcome aboard new hired personnel to include:

Denise Molinaro and Rosalie Gorey as DCW I’s at the Northern Maine Juvenile Detention Facility; Jeff Vance as CO I at Bangor PreRelease Center; John Grabofsky and John Simmons have recently been hired as CO I’s at Charleston Correctional Facility. Ronny St.Louis is our new Correctional Trades Instructor for the Woodharvesting/ Forestry Program, with Jim Morin receiving a promotion to Correctional Trades Instructor. We welcome, also, Jean Tibbets to the Administration area as an intern working on a temporary basis with the Aspire Program in Dover-Foxcroft.

It seems the Florida coast resort has captured Ray and Barbara Boyce. They have decided to leave Charleston and Maine behind to head for the “lower forty” to take on the difficult task of staffing a resort in Fort Lauderdale. Barbara has left to begin her position as receptionist, with Ray following the week after to begin his caretaker status. Hey, guys, sounds great or what! We all wish them the best, and the next time any of you are in Florida....

The week of May 2nd through May 8th was National Correctional Officers and Employees week. The CCF, NMJDF and BPRC celebrated/honored their employees through a series of events. Certificates were awarded to Lawrence Austin, Phil Blake, James Chase, Kent Commeau, James Eastman, Jamie Emerson, Earl Freeman, Julie Harrington, Carol Harvey, Marsha Higgins, Jennifer Moore, Michael Niles, Karen Olmsted, Graham Pearce, Joseph Riltano, Spencer Salley, Edward Swift and Janice Young for perfect attendance of no usage of sick time in 1998. There were 16 other employees throughout the facility who lost only 2 days or less of sick time. Prices and gift certificates donated by local merchants were drawn for employees throughout the week. A special meal at noon time and ice cream party was held, and employees could learn how to save money for their retirement through the state’s deferred compensation plan, with visits from all three financial companies.

**Charleston Correctional Facility** reported by Priscilla McLellan

**Personnel Changes:**

CCF has lots of employee news/changes since our last Newsletter.

**Congratulations** to Dean Tuttle and Scott Estes, who have recently completed 15 years of state service, and to Tim Nichols on his promotion to CO II at Bangor Pre-Release Center.

**Women’s Group:**
The Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, under a grant from the Women’s Law Section of the Maine Bar Association in cooperation with the Penquis Community Action Program (CAP) for breast cancer screening of DOC incarcerated women, have presented educational sessions for the female population at Charleston Correctional Facility and the Maine Correctional Center. The program, consisting of an educational component and clinical/health screening exams for the women attending, was extremely positive, hopefully creating a learning experience for the women, and healthier and more knowledgeable approaches to their futures. Our thanks to Komen Partners and the DOC coordinators, Joyce Harmon, Health Planner for DOC, Carol Harvey, Correctional Program Manager, and Tracey Bonney Corson, Prison Health Services Administrator for a successful and worthwhile project. Several more meetings are planned for the fall months.

INDUSTRIES

The Industries shop has busily been at work making signs for the Department of Conservation, planters for St. Joseph’s Hospital, and duck boxes for the Department of Conservation, as well as designing and crafting a new desk and meeting tables for the Commissioner’s new office. If you are nearby, stop in to view the craftsmanship and see a few of the products from our Industries Shop. John, I do believe the “Commish” is pleased.

Maine Youth Center
reported by Lorrie Richardson

Management Retreat

The Second Annual Maine Youth Center Management Retreat took place at The Grand Summit Hotel in Bethel, from April 28-30, 1999. This year the Correctional Caseworkers were invited to attend the first day and a half of the Retreat. The first day of the Retreat we joined Juvenile Community Corrections in Gang Training. The second and third days of the Retreat we broke into our own groups and participated in team building exercises. This has been a good opportunity for the Management team to discuss issues and brainstorm ideas for the new facility.

 Plans are already in progress for next year’s Retreat.

Transition News

As we progress toward constructing a new facility, numerous tasks have to be completed. One task which has been completed is the removal of trees on grounds of the Maine Youth Center. A work crew from Charleston Correctional Facility began this process at the beginning of June and completed it by mid-June. Although it is necessary, we are all very saddened by the loss of so many trees.

Due to construction needs, we will be demolishing three of our housing units, the main Kitchen/Dining Hall, and the Infirmary/Admitting building. Renovations have been initiated to transform existing buildings on grounds to temporarily house these units.

The design for the new facility has been finalized, and we will now begin the construction documentation and taking bids for construction contractors.

Personnel News

The Maine Youth Center has recently hired Ethan Stevens, Eric Simonds, Stephen Ayer, Nathan Randall, James Hogan, Cynthia Mitchell, Neil MacLennan, Michael Darcy, Michelle Armstrong, Greg Lemon, Charles Beal, and Shawn Eldridge as Training School Counselors and Pauline Ayers as a Clerk Typist II in the Old School. Welcome aboard!

We said farewell to the following: Roy Guzman, Juvenile Program Manager of Cottage 4 and the Cumberland County Jail Pod. Roy has successfully started a salsa business which now requires his full-time attention. We wish Roy great success in his business. Linda Johnson, Chief of Volunteer Services, after 12 years of dedicated service to coordinating the Volunteer Office, has left to seek other opportunities. We wish her the best in her future endeavors. Jack Ferriter, Psychologist III, has retired after 33 years of service to the Maine Youth Center and its residents. He will be greatly missed. James Ireland retired after 11 years of service. Mr. Ireland worked mainly in Cottage 9 and will be greatly missed by both the staff and residents of that unit. Phil Chayer retired after 21 years of service. Mr. Chayer was well-liked by the residents...
with whom he worked, who viewed him as a grandfather figure. **Almont (Monty) Wing** retired after 13 years of service. Monty worked in the Warehouse and was always cooperative and willing to help others. Later this month, **Richard (Dicky) Day** will be retiring after 21 years of service. Mr. Day worked the night shift in Cottage 9 and was fondly know as “Mr. Clean.” We wish them all the best in their retirement. In addition, we also said farewell to the following Training School Counselors: **Henry Stevenson, Chris Moulton, Kimberly Marshall, David Redmond, and James Bell**.

**Sharon Halligan** joined us on May 1, 1999. Sharon is the new DHS Liaison, replacing **Bob Chapman**, who left to take another position. Welcome, Sharon.

**Dr. Greg Chelinski** of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS), has been assigned to the Maine Youth Center for three days a week for the next few months to begin integrating mental health and Maine Youth Center services. Greg is being funded through DMHMRSAS’s Part II budget, which gives the Maine Youth Center a Mental Health Coordinator, Psychiatric Social Worker, and 3/5 of a psychologist position. Welcome, Dr. Chilenski.

**Core Program Training**

In April, the Maine Youth Center began training staff on the Core Program. This training will be ongoing, twice a month, until Spring of the year 2000. The training schedule is designed to train the staff in the Core Program Groups and, as they go through the sessions, to begin the Groups with the residents as soon as possible.

A concerted effort has been made in the program design to take complex concepts, psychological terminology, and technical research data and translate them into language which is understandable to both staff and residents.

If anyone is interested in a brief overview of the Core Program, please contact **Dan Nee**, Juvenile Program Manager, at 822-0121.

**School Approval**

On May 25, 1999, the A.R. Gould School was awarded full school approval. It has been a long, hard road, but we have finally completed the first of many steps toward the improvement of educational services here at the Maine Youth Center. We are very proud of the improvements the school has made and wish to extend our congratulations to all education staff and, in particular, to **Bobbie Niehaus**, our Principal. Ms. Niehaus has been the Principal of the school for about a year and has made a big difference in how the Education Department functions and the changes it has made and will continue to make. Again, congratulations one and all.

**Honor Roll**

The A.R. Gould School has completed the fourth quarter and is pleased to announce that all the housing units had Honor Roll students. Cottages 3 and 4 each had three, Cottages 6, 7, 8, and 9 each had four, and NSB had seven students on Honor Roll. Congratulations to all Honor Roll students for exhibiting good effort in academic achievement.

**Pathfinders Program**

This summer marks the 12th season of the Maine Youth Center’s Pathfinders Program. Pathfinders is an experiential, self-esteem enhancing, educational program. During the eight-day sessions, residents are encouraged to strive beyond their perceived limitations. These perceptions are challenged through daily activities, such as rock climbing, strenuous mountain hikes, canoeing, and ocean trips, which includes snorkeling and island exploration.

The motivated staff participating in the program are well-trained to ensure the safety of the residents. All staff are either certified as Lifeguards or Lifeguard Instructors. In addition, the majority of the staff have had training in various Project Adventure counseling programs.

As of July 2nd, the intrepid program facilitators, **Jim McDevitt, Jock McGrath, Harry Spiliopoulos, Chris Tilton, and Kellie Blanding**, have had two groups complete the grueling eight-day, adventure-packed sessions. The first group comprised the female residents and the second group comprised male residents from Cottages 3 and 6. By the end of summer, four more groups will have participated, for a total of 70 residents.

The success of this program can be attributed to the administrative support of the Maine Youth
Center and, in particular, Tom Perron, Assistant Principal of the A.R. Gould School.

Dr. Seymour Papert

We have been working for the past eight months to develop a project proposed by Dr. Seymour Papert of MIT. Dr. Papert will be establishing a Pilot Learning Environment, which will deliver a hands-on, project-based learning environment for residents at the Maine Youth Center. Initially, this program will be open to a limited number of residents, but, as the program develops and expands, it will be opened up to larger groups of residents. We have applied for, and received, grants from several organizations, including a contribution from the Governor’s Office, to fund this exciting project. Dr. Papert will be initiating this program in the near future.

Mini Marathon

As you may recall from the last edition of the newsletter, The Maine Youth Center hosted a mini marathon for its residents and interested staff. The Mini Marathon was held on May 20, 1999. The event was a great success, with 64 participants. T-shirts designed by our Graphic Arts Class were given to all participants. Trophies were awarded winners within different age groups, and a pizza party was awarded to the housing unit with the most finalists. It was a fun time for all, and we hope you will join us next year.

Cottage 4 Garden Project

Once again this year, Cottage 4 residents are hard at work on the Garden Project. The Cottage 4 residents have put a tremendous amount of time and energy into creating and maintaining the garden. Cottage 4 residents participating in the Garden Project earn community service hours, and the vegetables they raise are donated to a local soup kitchen.

The Garden Club volunteers have agreed to work with the Cottage 4 residents to maintain the garden. Their help is greatly appreciated. Also, a special “thank you” to Ed O’Connor, Training School Counselor, for the innumerable hours he has given to make this project a success. Thanks, Ed!

Portland Players

Several of our residents have had the opportunity to attend plays presented by the Portland Players. Many staff have donated their free time to attend these plays, with up to eight residents a play. The Portland Players has graciously donated tickets for Maine Youth Center residents and accompanying staff to attend their final dress rehearsal performances the night before the play opens to the public. The most recent play residents and staff attended was The Secret Garden, which was an excellent production and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Maine Youth Center has been fortunate to be able to offer this opportunity to its residents for several years, and we are looking forward to continuing to attend these productions next Fall.

Many thanks to our dedicated employees who are willing to contribute their free time, so some of our residents may participate in such a wonderful cultural experience.

Honorary Page Day

On May 26, 1999, three residents went to the State House to act as Honorary Pages for a day, at the invitation of Representative Michael Quint. The residents came from Cottages 3, 4 and 9 and were supervised by Training School Counselor Robert McCormick.

The boys spent the day performing the duties of Honorary Pages, then met with the Governor and the Speaker of the House. As a souvenir of the day, the boys each had their picture taken with the Governor, who has agreed to sign the pictures once they have been developed. After meeting with the Governor and Speaker, the boys went to lunch and then to the Maine State Museum.

Upon their return to the Maine Youth Center, they shared with both staff and peers how much they enjoyed the day and what a unique privilege it had been. It is hoped that this will become an annual event. The boys wish to thank Training School Counselor McCormick for his time and effort on their behalf and Representative Quint for making this day possible.

Adult Community Corrections Region 1 reported by Carol Carlow
Region 1-A welcomed new staffers Tamson Ross, Scott Landry, and Tom McLeod. Tamson transferred from the Region III in Augusta and has assumed supervision of a caseload in the Biddeford Office. Tom McLeod, a former COII at MCC, has filled the Biddeford Supervised Community Confinement position and in the Portland office, Scott Landry came on board to take over the Portland caseload left open with the departure of Tony Trodella.

Scott had previously been a Drug Court Liaison for Maine Pre-Trial Services. Joining the staff on June 14 will be Dave Redmond a long time TSC II at MYC. Dave will take on the supervision of the Biddeford caseload formerly handled by Bud Hall.

It is still tentative but it is anticipated that Alan Hybers will be returning to Region 1-A in mid-June to become the Portland based SCC officer.

Region 1-A is still looking for an Intermittent Probation Officer to function as Court Officer backup while Ray Dzialo is busy as MSEA President.

Departing Region 1-A and moving on to other things - Tony Trodella resigned to accepted a position in security at UNUM and Jody Thomas left us to return to her former position as Chief of Police in Buxton.

We'll all miss you, Tony and Jody, and wish you well.

Adult Community Corrections
Region 3 reported by Bud Hall

Well now that it appears the spring thaw is over and we’re into summer we do see some changes in the Region III roster. To begin with Dan Ouellette has moved from his regular caseload position in Farmington to take over as RCA, a position that was very ably managed by Mike Morin, in an acting capacity. Mike moved back down the hill to refocus his full attention on his responsibilities as Director of the Central Maine Pre-Release. Good luck to Dan in his new assignment and a “Thank You for the help” to Mike.

Dan’s old position in Farmington is now covered by Troy Thornton, who had been the Sex Offender Specialist for Northern Kennebec County working out of Waterville. Following Troy’s move to Farmington, Randy Brown came back to briefly watch the Sex Offenders, but Randy is now leaving to work as a Caseworker for Department of Mental health. Sandy helms was gone for six months to fill a temporary Training Officer position at Central Office, so her caseload was temporarily covered by Troy Stern. Now that Sandy is back Troy will be watching the Sex Offender caseload on an interim basis. As for the southern Kennebec County Sex Offender caseload, Bud Hall came up from the Biddeford office to take on that task. We also have Michael Downs taking a regular caseload in the Waterville office. The Rockland office is the only Region III office with no changes.

If any of this seems a bit confusing; it is! Region III must be trying to compete with Region I for the most transfers in one year. How does Jan LaPointe keep track of it anyway? Suffice to say, these are the changes you might notice if you visit one of the Region III offices; any other changes in responsibilities that I may have missed have not involved a move and those folks are still at their same desks. Of course, Good Luck to all, wherever they’ve finally settled.

Community Policing is of interest to most all of us and like the other regions, Region III is moving forward to this endeavor. Troy Thornton from Farmington and Troy Sterry from the Waterville office have taken a different approach to the concept of riding” along with the local police departments. The accompanying photos are of Troy Thornton in the long pants, Troy Sterry in the light shorts and Patrolman Shane Cote in the police uniform, from the Farmington Police Department teaming up for a bicycle patrol combined with home visits in Farmington. Has anyone heard what the mileage rate is for bicycles?

It looks like the Waterville office will now have space for all of the PPO’s there since Region III Juvenile offices are moving to their new sight in Augusta. The Hallowell office will also adopt the vacated Juvenile offices upstairs. A little more breathing room for everyone and we’re looking forward to a tour of the new Juvenile offices. The Kennebec County Correctional Center found it necessary to reclaim their extra spaces so our old “reporting site” office upstairs in the KCCC was lost to that expansion. Dan Ouellette is aggressively (read: frantically!) looking for a new Augusta reporting site. We know you can do it, Dan.

So much for this edition; we’ll start on a report for the next issue soon. Bye for now.
Facility & Region News Contributors

Maine State Prison                      Ed Kennedy
Maine Correctional Center             Paryse Thibodeau
Maine Correctional Institution       Ronnie Hastings
Bolduc Correctional Facility          Pascal Poe
Charleston Correctional Facility      Pricilla McLellan
Downeast Correctional Facility        Valerie Day
Bangor Pre-Release Center             LiahLibby-Priest
Central Maine Pre-Release Ctr         Laurie Plourde
Volunteers of America                 Lil Charron
Maine Youth Center                    Wanda Pettersen
Northern Maine Juvenile Detention Facility Julie Harrington

Community Corrections
Region 1 - Juveniles                  A. Roy Curtis II
Region 2 - Juveniles                  Lou Ann Bachelder
Region 3 - Juveniles                  Gerri Chesney
Region 4 - Juveniles                  Galan Williamson
Region 1 - Adults                     Carol Carlow
Region 2 - Adults                     Lou Ann Bachelder
Region 3 - Adults                     Bud Hall
Region 4 - Adults                     Liah Libby-Priest

If this contributor list is incorrect or changed, please call Ellis King in Central Office at 287-4342 or FAX 287-4370 or E-Mail at Ellis.King@state.me.us