



WV DCR Corrections Connection

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WV Division of Corrections & Rehabilitation
1409 Greenbrier St, Charleston, WV 25311
Website: www.dcr.wv.gov; Phone: 304-558-2036

Pictured: Martinsburg Correctional Center & Jail

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WV DCR Newsletter is an internal publication of the
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Future story ideas can be submitted to:
Rebecca Hildebrand at Rebecca.L.Hildebrand@wv.gov

COMMISSIONERS MESSAGE

Betsy Jividen

This is the first issue of the new WV Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation (WV DCR) Corrections Connection. This new format of the newsletter is designed as an internal publication to share events, happenings and important information with corrections staff.

WV Governor Justice signed House Bill 4338 in March 2018, consolidating the WV Division of Corrections, WV Regional Jail Authority and WV Division of Juvenile Services into a single integrated Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation. This bill was intended to optimize the sharing of correctional resources, and operational efficiency, leading to improved safety of our facilities, staff, inmates and communities.

Thanks to the support of Governor Justice the legislature also passed House Bill 4142 providing a \$2000 increase in the salaries of correctional employees in 2018, 2019 and 2020. This is key to improving staff recruitment and retention and a renewed recruitment effort is now underway.

I am honored to be a part of this amazing organization and am inspired by the way the men and women of this agency work tirelessly to carry out their responsibilities despite the challenges of a growing offender population, budgetary constraints, an aging infrastructure and critical staffing shortages. Thank you all for the work you do, and I look forward to working with you to keep our communities safer for all of us. We are determined to build on past successes, realize new goals and meet the challenges that lie ahead.

In not-so-obvious way, consolidated correctional system keeping W.Va. safer

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Arresting criminal suspects can be daunting enough. But for law enforcement in some parts of West Virginia, taking them to jail has presented its own challenges. The recent unifying of the state’s correctional agencies is changing that for the better.

There are only 10 jails in West Virginia. That has resulted in lengthy transports of arrestees: law enforcement in Monongalia, Marion and Wood counties have had to drive to Doddridge County and back, for instance; their colleagues in Fayette, Greenbrier and Monroe face a Raleigh County round trip.

Legislation signed by Gov. Jim Justice last year allows the new state Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation to establish holding cells as dropping-off points for law enforcement. Three have opened so far, in Parkersburg, at the Saint Marys Correctional Center in Pleasants County and at the Mount Olive Correctional Complex in Fayette County.

“Being able to transport prisoners to the Wood County Holding Center in Parkersburg has greatly improved our ability to get our officers back on patrol,” said Wirt County Chief Deputy G.M. Deem. “The 20-minute drive to Parkersburg is far better than the two-hour round trip to the North Central Regional Jail.”

Just those three holding facilities have saved law enforcement an estimated 1,300 man-hours and 80,000 in reduced vehicle mileage between July 1, when the law took effect, and early March. Together, they have allowed 17 law enforcement agencies to drop off more than 1,100 arrestees.

“Those are staggering numbers. The Police Department is appreciative of the new system,” said Parkersburg Police Chief Joseph Martin. “This has financially benefited my agency.”

The resulting savings to taxpayers is estimated at \$75,000 and counting in personnel and vehicle wear-and-tear costs. And county and local law enforcement aren’t the only beneficiaries.

“The Saint Marys Center has helped our troopers from having to travel an hour and 45 minutes out of their shift to take a prisoner to Doddridge County and the North Central Regional Jail,” said State Police Capt. C. A. Light. “This has enabled the trooper to be available to the public when he would have been driving. In a small county such as Pleasants, the availability of officers on duty is usually one trooper and one deputy. This allows an officer to be more available.”

The Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation, which is part of the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety, expects to open additional holding cells at the Huttonsville Correctional Center in Randolph County and the Lakin Correctional Center in Mason County in the near future.

Military Affairs and Public Safety Secretary Jeff Sandy noted that the counties and municipalities will save an additional \$5.2 million a year through the correctional consolidation, starting July 1. That is when the state will begin covering the cost of housing inmates in jails starting the day after conviction. The cost switchover has been much later, following sentencing.

“The Justice administration developed the holding center program to keep our state’s law enforcement on the road to protect our citizens. The Justice administration also took the lead to help West Virginia counties with their increasing regional jail costs in multiple strategic moves,” Sandy said. “The consolidation of prisons and jails has eliminated duplicated duties, such as transportation of inmates, training, vehicles, and even uniforms. The holding center program will continue to grow over the next 2 years along with other consolidated efforts.”

BILLS PASSED 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The WV Legislative Session ended March 8, 2019. A few of the bills that were passed pertaining to the WVDCR include:

House Bill 2083: Provides temporary identification cards for eligible released inmates of the WVDCR.

House Bill 2452: Bill creating the WV Cybersecurity Office within the Office of Technology, who has the authority to set standards for cybersecurity and is charged with managing the cybersecurity framework for all state agencies.

House Bill 2907: Relates to the required use of standard statutory commitment order forms for persons sentenced to serve time in state prison or jail facility. This will take effect July 1, 2019.

House Bill 2992: Bill relating to the way each agency shall maintain a website. (Content and required information)

Senate Bill 520: Bill relating to reporting requirements of drug overdoses.

Senate Bill 601: Relates to developing a mandatory supervised release plan for certain inmates; authorizing the early release of inmates subject to the conditions of a mandatory supervised release plan.

Stepping Stones

The Education Department at Pruntytown Correctional Center & Jail (PCC&J) has begun a project for building a modular home for the *Stepping Stones Facility* located in Lavalette, WV. Stepping Stones Inc, was established in 1975 and is a nationally accredited, fully licensed child welfare provider with over 30 years experience in working with West Virginia's troubled youth and their families. The modular home offenders at PCC&J are building will be utilized for young adults as transitional living quarters as they begin the final phases of their program.



During this project, the offenders will be learning carpentry skills from a certified teacher that could translate into a carpentry certification. Also, offenders who are certified in C-tech fiber-optics will be running cables for the modular. What an excellent opportunity for on the job training and experience that the offenders can place on their resume once they are released back into society!

St. Marys Correctional Dementia Unit Opens

The Dementia Unit at St. Marys Correctional Center & Jail opened on March 27, 2019. It currently houses seven inmates with dementia and seven orderlies. The inmates with dementia were moved from unit 76-1, which houses 116 inmates to a unit that houses only 14 inmates, creating a much calmer atmosphere for them to live in.

They now have a structured schedule to include arts and crafts, visits from Paws for Prisons dogs and handlers, along with music and gym time. They have their own activities room that has been painted with pictures from the 60's, 70's, and 80's. The transition was smooth and to date, the inmates appear to be happier and more involved socially. Special "Thanks" to Lauren Lathem, PSIMed Therapist, for presenting the idea and everyone involved in making this a success!



Coming Soon to a Facility Near You: FCP's

A "Facility Character Profile" (FCP) is a process where staff selected by the Commissioner, survey staff to learn about issues and challenges facing their facility or work location. After the survey information is gathered, it is discussed with staff and strategies are developed to address any issues or improvements highlighted by the survey data. Staff are encouraged to sign up to participate in Facility Improvement Teams (FIT) that work on those strategies and help bring improvements to their facility.

Two things of note will occur:

1. **Electronic Survey:** An electronic survey will be distributed via email to all central office employees. This survey uses a program called Microsoft Forms. This program electronically gathers the survey responses submitted. The data collected is completely anonymous. Staff conducting and analyzing the survey cannot distinguish who submitted which survey. Everyone is encouraged to answer the survey questions honestly. Honest and accurate feedback is essential to the success of the FCP and the FIT.
2. **Discussion Forum:** The FCP team selected by the Commissioner will conduct an open discussion forum where the survey results will be shared with staff. Staff will be encouraged to discuss the results and brainstorm strategies to address any issues identified.

I am hopeful that all staff will participate in this important process and event. Thanks for all of your hard work and I look forward to seeing what the FCP process brings to the Division!

Commissioner Jividen

2019 MOCK Prison Riot

Held every spring at the decommissioned West Virginia Penitentiary in Moundsville, WV, the Mock Prison Riot features hands-on training and technology exposure to corrections, law enforcement, military, and public safety practitioners from around the world. At the Mock Prison Riot, exhibitors and operators work together in a living, breathing environment, continually pushing the envelopes of tactics and technology.

This year marked the 23rd Mock Prison Riot and was held May 5-8, 2019. More than 1200 correctional and law enforcement officers and officials attended this year's event. The WV Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation organizes the annual event.

For more information on the Mock Prison Riot, please visit: www.mockprisonriot.org



EXPERIENCE ADRENALINE
EXPERIENCE REALITY
EXPERIENCE THE RIOT



Photo Credits:

*Top two photos:
Ashly Campbell;
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Rebecca Hildebrand*

Excerpts from: Cape Fear Family Magazine, Feb. 2019



A trip to the dentist can be scary, and that's especially true when you're a child. From frightening-looking instruments, to strange noises, to the feeling of someone else's hands in your mouth, going to the dentist is the last thing most kids want to do.

However, when it comes to a child's overall health, early dental check-ups are crucial. To help ease dental anxiety and lessen patient fears, the team at Coastal Carolina Pediatric Dentistry has recently added a new four-legged member to their staff. Meet KENNEDY...Pediatric Dentistry Dog, working together with the local nonprofit organization paws4people foundation, Coastal Carolina Pediatric Dentistry now offers Animal Assisted Intervention to its patients.

KENNEDY is a highly trained Facility Dog who has been training for her role since she was three days old. She is currently in the process of completing her training with Kayla Black, the dental assistant who spearheaded the process of making KENNEDY a part of the practice.

Black brought her idea to the doctors, and they were just as excited as she was to begin the application

process. Her journey began a year ago starting with classes, and then followed by paws4people's selection of KENNEDY as the best fit for the office. The pair then began training together, and at the beginning of the year KENNEDY officially started coming to work with Black.

"She comes with me every morning to clock in, and then she'll walk around with me as I work, stopping to greet patients as we go," says Black. "When we have a patient that wants to use her, I'll introduce her and put a blanket on their lap, and then she jumps up on the blanket and the patient gets their cleaning. The kids like to rub her ears, pet her, or hold her paw like they're holding hands."

The weight of KENNEDY on a child's lap provides a deep pressure therapy that helps ease anxiety and stress. KENNEDY's presence also provides a distraction from the what's happening.

Throughout her workday, Black makes sure that KENNEDY stops to take a few breaks and have some much-needed decompression time. Since she's still in training, KENNEDY's main job right now is working with patients during regular cleanings. Black hopes that she will soon be able and ready to assist during operative work as well, such as when a child is getting a filling or crown. Even though she's only been in the office for about a month, patient feedback for KENNEDY has been nothing but positive.

"Our patients love her. We've had a few specific situations with patients who've never gotten in the chair before by themselves and have never had their teeth cleaned, but because of their love for dogs, they get in

the chair for KENNEDY. It really is a phenomenal experience," says Black.

Dr. Adam Weinberg has definitely noticed the benefits that KENNEDY brings to his practice as well. He appreciates that her presence in the office offers him and fellow partners Dr. Julie Dimock and Dr. William Cherry a way to help relax patients and make dental care easier for kids in a less traditional method.

"Having KENNEDY here is just wonderful. It's neat to watch kids smile when they see her and want to interact with her. A lot of kids come and quickly say hello to me and then say 'where's KENNEDY?' That tells me that her presence is a good distraction for many anxiety-provoking things that kids are typically worried about at the dentist."



To learn more about KENNEDY's training and the work that paws4people does, visit <https://paws4people.org>

By: Annesophia Richards
Cape Fear Family Magazine

Kennedy was trained at St. Marys Correctional Center and Jail and Lakin Correctional Center and Jail.

PRESS RELEASE

March 25, 2019

Ahead of more pay raises, W.Va. Corrections steps up recruiting

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – *With several additional pay raises on the way, West Virginia officials have organized a series of one-stop career events to recruit correctional officers and staff.*

All correctional employees will receive the second of three annual \$2,000 increase on July 1. That will bring the starting salary of an entry-level correctional officer, for instance, to \$28,664.

Gov. Jim Justice also secured a 5 percent raise for all state employees in his successful 2019-2020 budget proposal. That means a \$2,370 boost for potential recruits – if they join the state payroll by June 30.

Correctional employees will receive another \$2,000 raise on July 1, 2020, for an annual hiring rate of \$30,664. Accompanying these multiple raises is a revamped career advancement path. The benefits package for starting officers, meanwhile, is around \$13,776 and includes comprehensive indemnity health insurance, term life insurance, and an outstanding defined benefit pension plan.

Prior/Upcoming One Stop Career Events (each is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.):

May 4: Parkersburg WV Workforce

May 11: Huttonsville Correctional Center & Jail

May 18: Summersville Workforce

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Officers honored for providing special courtroom security

Twenty-two deputies and officers within the State Fire Marshal's Office, Division of Corrections & Rehabilitation, and Capitol Police were honored Thursday, May 1, 2019, during a ceremony in the Governors Reception Room. They were commended for providing courthouse security in Calhoun County during a high profile multi-defendant murder and armed robbery trial.

Pictured below, recipients from the WV Division of Corrections & Rehabilitation, left to right: Brian Moler, Dep. Superintendent, Parkersburg Correctional Center & Jail; Ed Kupfer, Corporal, St. Marys Correctional Center & Jail; Dustin Wilson, Lieutenant, St. Marys Correctional Center & Jail; Andy Nething, Sergeant, (K-9) St. Marys Correctional Center & Jail; Eric Harron, Sergeant, St. Marys Correctional Center & Jail; Judge Anita

Ashley, 5th Judicial Circuit; James Day, Captain, Salem Correctional Center & Jail; Chad Richmond, Sergeant, Northern Correctional Center & Jail; David Vincent, Captain, Pruntytown Correctional Center & Jail; Brandon Leasure, Sergeant, St. Marys Correctional Center & Jail' and Andrew Hill, Lieutenant, Mount Olive Correctional Complex & Jail.

