



WELCOMING THE NEXT GENERATION

Bosch Becomes Warden at Stillwater

Guy Bosch recently became the Warden of MCF-Stillwater.

Bosch graduated from North Dakota State University in 1989 with Bachelor of Science Degrees in Psychology and Sociology. He began his DOC career as a Corrections Officer at MCF-St. Cloud in 1989. He transferred to MCF-Faribault in 1994 and served in the roles of Officer, Case Manager, Acting Lieutenant, and Acting Corrections Program Director. He transferred to Central Office in 2006, serving as a Corrections Program Administration Manager Principal where he developed and managed the HOF Project with additional duties as the department's Director of Classification, Transfers, Capacity Management and Interstate Compact. Guy transferred to MCF-Shakopee in 2011 upon his promotion to Associate Warden of Administration and subsequently to Associate Warden of Operations. He began his duties as Warden on June 13, 2019.



Guy said he is, "profoundly humbled by the appointment and thankful to the dedicated DOC staff who have supported, encouraged and mentored him," throughout his career. He is excited about joining the Stillwater team and to continue the DOC's mission while in his new role.

Bolin Named Warden at Willow River/Moose Lake

William (Bill) Bolin was recently named the Warden of MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake.

Bolin graduated from South Dakota State University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice. He began his career in South Dakota serving as a Court Service Officer and Crisis Intervention Specialist. In 1995, Bill moved to Minnesota and worked in a juvenile sex offender treatment program for 13 years as a Counselor, Case Manager, Sexuality Therapist and Unit Supervisor. In 2008, he was hired by the Minnesota DOC as a Corrections Program Therapist working with adult sex offenders at MCF-Rush City. In 2013, he was promoted to Corrections Program Director at MCF-Togo, overseeing the Challenge Incarceration Program and juvenile residential programs at the facility. In July 2015, he became Associate Warden of Operations for the Challenge Incarceration Program in which he was responsible for the management of the three Challenge Incarceration Programs located at Willow River, Togo and Shakopee.



Bill said he is, "honored by (his) appointment, (and) eagerly looking forward to serving the staff at MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake and dedicated to fulfilling the DOC mission."

Changes to Warden Assignments

The DOC recently made the following changes to warden assignments.

On June 12, William (Bill) Bolin became Warden at Minnesota Correctional Facility-Willow River/Moose Lake. On July 1, the following transfers occurred:

- Lino Lakes: Shannon Reimann (Previously Warden at St. Cloud)
- Rush City: Vicki Janssen (Previously Warden at Lino Lakes)
- St. Cloud: Eddie Miles (Previously Warden at Stillwater)

- Stillwater: Guy Bosch (Previously Associate Warden of Operations at Shakopee)

The following changes will take place on Sept. 4:

- Faribault: Tracy Beltz (Currently Warden at Shakopee)
- Shakopee: Kathy Halvorson (Currently Warden at Faribault)

The following Wardens continue on at their current facilities: Red Wing: Shon Thieren, Togo: Gino Anselmo, and Oak Park Heights: Jeff Titus

Schmit Retires After 25-Plus Years in Corrections

By Mary Karl

Congratulations to Barbara Schmit who retired on June 3rd.

Barbara started her career in corrections in 1993 as a Probation Officer for Kandiyohi County. In December 1999 she was appointed as a Corrections Agent in Center City. In November 2005, Barbara transferred to the Shakopee/Chaska office where she remained until her recent retirement.

During her career, Barbara supervised a variety of different caseloads and impacted the lives of many.

Best wishes to Barbara in her new adventures!



Darling Promoted to Captain at Stillwater

On May 1, Lt. Andrew Darling was promoted to Captain at MCF-Stillwater.

Andrew started with the DOC in March of 1994 and has worked in various capacities at MCF-Oak Park Heights, MCF-Rush City, and MCF-Stillwater. Andrew has more than 15 years of experience as a Lieutenant. During this time, he has been a member of the Security Audit Team, SORT, a Thinking for a Change facilitator, Restrictive Housing COMS module subject matter expert, Restrictive Housing Committee member, trained as a TPC specialist, Core Correctional Practices facilitator, Motivational Interviewing I & II, and is a graduate of the Advanced Leadership Development program (ALDP). Additionally, Andrew has supervisory experience in: discipline, multiple living units to include segregation, education, industry, as well as experience being a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Watch Commander.



(L – R) Warden Eddie Miles (now Warden at St. Cloud), Captain Andrew Darling, and AWO Lisa Stenseth.

Congratulations, Captain Darling!

Berts Promoted to WOOC Captain at Rush City

Corrections Program Director Ashlee Berts recently promoted to WOOC Captain at Rush City.

Ashlee started her DOC career as a Corrections Officer Trainee March 10, 2004. Ashlee graduated to a Corrections Officer April 21, 2004. She promoted to Correction Security Caseworker on Feb. 6, 2009 and on March 2, 2011 promoted to a Corrections Security Caseworker Career. On June 13, 2011, Ashlee promoted to Lieutenant and held this position for several years until she promoted to a Corrections Program Director on Dec. 3, 2014.

On May 29, 2019, Ashlee accepted a WOOC Captain position. In addition, she is a member of the implementation of restrictive housing committee.

Congratulations, Ashlee!

Pictured: (L – R) AWA Deneen Clemons, Captain Ashlee Berts, and AWO Jesse Pugh.



Hiring Events held at Oak Park Heights and Stillwater

As part of the revamp of the agency recruitment and retention process MCF-Oak Park Heights and MCF-Stillwater held a joint hiring event on June 6th and June 11th at the MCF-Stillwater Warden's house.

The goal of the event was to offer an assessment, interview, and tours all on the same day. This gave the candidates a chance to complete the process in one day and have the chance to tour both facilities. The tours and the impromptu question and answer sessions with staff for all levels helped dispel myths and really show the potential new officers the good work we do every day.

Lt. Graham Besonen and Lt. Nick Witter (pictured) were two of the many supervisors from both facilities who staffed the interview panels for Corrections Officer applicants. The event was well received with a large turnout of 59 attendees between both days. The event attracted media attention, being covered by Minnesota Public Radio and KARE 11. Several candidates mentioned deciding to attend the hiring event after hearing the MPR story. The numbers are still being crunched and job offers being made, so the final tally on the success of the event is still being figured out, but the positive impact of the event was obvious.

A big thank you to all the staff who helped make this event a huge success. It couldn't have happened with the teamwork a lot of people. Stay tuned for future hiring events in the fall.



(L – R) Lt. Graham Besonen and Lt. Nick Witter from MCF-Oak Park Heights.

St. Cloud Staff Participate in the St. Cloud Relay For Life



(L – R) Wayne Wolford, Teri Mathews, Kathy Ludwig, Sarah Gibbison, Kevin Schwegel, Paul Marquis, Amanda MacDonald, Matt Hovey.

In June, staff from MCF-St. Cloud participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life.

During this event, Relay For Life celebrates the survivors, those who have bravely fought and continue to fight cancer and commit to raising funds to support research efforts and remember those who lost their battle to cancer. This year's theme was "Superheros," and the keynote speaker for the event was Kevin Schwegel, who oversees canteen, laundry, and the mailroom at MCF-St. Cloud.

Red Wing Honors Corrections Officer Ken Titus



Lt. Kris Titus and Oak Park Heights Warden Jeff Titus. They are Ken's siblings.

By Chris Barth

On May 21, the library at Maginnis High School at MCF-Red Wing was named the Titus Library in honor of the late Corrections Officer Ken Titus.



(L – R) Red Wing Warden Shon Thieren, Lt. Kris Titus, Oak Park Heights Warden Jeff Titus, Captain Tom Pasch, and Safety Administrator Chris Barth.

Ken was a huge fan of reading, so remembering him this way was a natural fit. Ken had a positive impact on the facility, and we all felt a loss in his passing. The words “Courage – Commitment – Strength” reflect Ken’s work as a Corrections Officer and his resilience in the face of adversity. These words also reflect the positive attributes we all value and strive for.

Faribault Hosts Transitions Fair

On June 5, MCF-Faribault hosted a Transitions Fair. Transitions Coordinators Jeff Peterson, Mark Buhrandt, Quenilla Pettigrew coordinated the event.

Ensuring the incarcerated men are able to make connections to the community is crucial for reentry. They had the opportunity to visit with representatives from: housing, literacy, treatment, employment specialists, credit educators, religious affiliates and veteran services. There were 43 vendors at the event attended by about 425 men.

Thank you to the transitions staff at MCF-Faribault and all who assisted with organizing the Transitions Fair. The incarcerated men greatly appreciate the opportunity this events holds for themselves and their future.



(L – R) Transitions Coordinators Jeff Peterson, Mark Buhrandt, and Quenilla Pettigrew

St. Cloud's SORT Celebrates 25th Anniversary

By Roger Baburam

MCF-St. Cloud has the distinction of developing the Department's first Special Operations Response Team (SORT). The first class graduated in 1994 and, in May of 2019, the facility observed its 25th Anniversary with a large celebration at the facility's "Barn," the current headquarters for the SORT team. Current and past members attended, including all four past SORT Commanders: Dave Quayle (Rt.), Carrol Krippner, Dean Wise and Dave Zapzalka (Rt.). I have the honor of being the current SORT Commander.

The creation of SORT was largely the brainchild of the late Associate Warden of Operations Jerry Clay, a former Green Beret, who felt a more tactical and organized response to emergency incidents was needed. According to Lt. David Quayle (the first SORT Commander), Mr. Clay's decision was influenced by the number of "Cuban prison riots" of the late 1980s and early 1990s at several Federal Correctional Facilities in Southern United States. Cuban detainees engaged in riots and hostage taking to protest their deportation back to Cuba. The Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) were not adequately prepared to immediately address these emergencies and the FBI and Special Operations soldiers from the military were deployed to assist. At that time, Minnesota DOC had contracted with INS and was also housing several such Cuban offenders who were facing deportation. The need for new emergency management procedures and advance tactical training was readily apparent.

Mr. Clay employed a training curriculum from the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, and assigned Lt. Quayle as the first Commander. After a competitive hiring process, 8 staff were selected for a rigorous 12 week training program that included strength training, hand-to-hand combat, sniper training, hostage negotiation, etc. This first SORT Team built the confidence course, rappelling tower, developed an obstacle course, etc., that is still being used by current SORT Team members. Upon graduation, the first SORT Team was assigned to the Squad (now A-Team). Since then all DOC facilities developed their own respective SORT Teams, which subsequently evolved to a department-wide "alphabet soup" of emergency teams, such as SOG (Special Operations Group), MO (Marksman Observer), ERT (Emergency Response Team), CNT (Crisis Negotiation Team), etc.

The 25th Anniversary celebration of MCF-St. Cloud's



The original MCF-St. Cloud's SORT Team in 1994. Bottom row: (L – R) Mark Lembeck, Mark Waltz, Lt. Dave Quayle (Commander), and Eric Halverson. Top Row: (L – R) Tod Tougas, Ken Kalla, Jim Repke, Joel Kron, and Mark Weis.



All 5 SORT Commanders in its 25 year history: David Quayle, Carrol Krippner, Dean Weis, Dave Zapzalka, and current Commander Karl Krippner.

(Continued on next page)

St. Cloud SORT Anniversary



The 25th Anniversary celebration of MCF-St. Cloud's SORT Team: current and past members.

SORT Team hailed the accomplishments of the past 25 years, which included 15 graduating classes with 106 SORT members, many of whom are retired. Sadly, 4 members have passed away. Over 30 current and past SORT members and their families attended, including several members of the original SORT Team and all 4 past SORT Commanders. Case Manager Ken Kalla, one of the original SORT Team members reflected, "SORT members still share the same feeling of fulfillment and loyalty to each team member as we did 25 years ago." The solidarity and team building spirit of SORT reinforces the motto: "I am my brothers' keeper." As I look back over the years and all the quality people I have met through this program, I know in my heart that each and every one of them will fight beside me for the greater good."

Instructor Profile: Troy Lennander, Fugitive Apprehension Unit

Fugitive Specialist Troy Lennander has been with the DOC since April 2016. His role is to conduct fugitive investigations and to locate and apprehend supervised release violators and other wanted persons.

Before joining the DOC, Troy worked for 19 years with the Minneapolis Police Department as a patrol officer, and a precinct-level street crimes investigator. He was one of the first Minneapolis police officers to be trained in the use of Taser and Crisis Intervention Techniques (CIT).

Troy is one of the Fugitive Unit's Use of Force instructors with specialized training in self-defense tactics.



Fugitive Specialist Troy Lennander

"Troy has been a tremendous addition to the Fugitive Unit team and is a true guardian of public safety. He is committed to the goals of our agency," said OSI Director John Melvin.

Troy is a U.S. Army military police veteran, having served in the European Theatre during Desert Storm.

DOC Takes First Place at K9 Trials



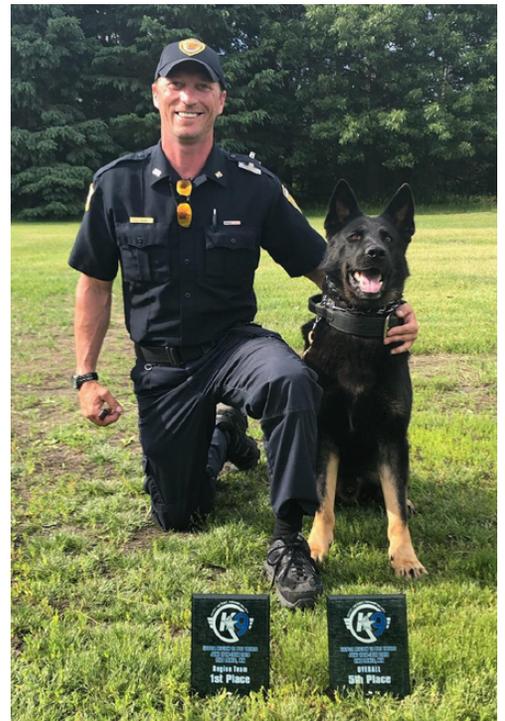
DOC K9 Officers took first place at the United States Police Canine Association Region 12 PD1 trials in Lino Lakes in June! Other achievements include, Rick Jennings: Best Experienced Handler/Rookie Dog and 4th overall. Dennis Zahn: 5th overall. Alan Gocken: 3rd in agility. Shout out to Sgt. Andy Hathaway who was the decoy for all 3 DOC dogs. Congratulations!



Rick Jennings



Alan Gocken



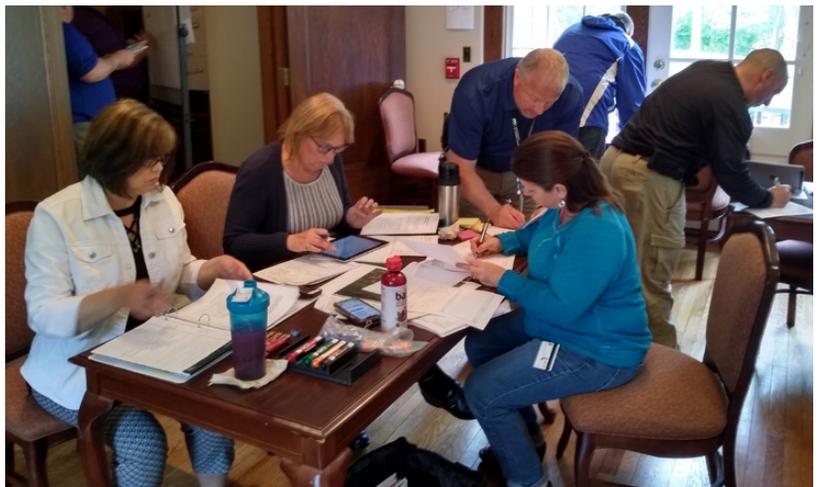
Dennis Zahn

Incident Management Team Training Held at Stillwater



Incident Management Team members recently gathered for a training exercise held at MCF-Stillwater.

The ICS 305 AHIMT training was provided by Wiland Associates. The primary goal of the ICS 305 AHIMT training is to provide advanced-level training needed by personnel responsible for managing incidents of greater complexity than those typically encountered during routine operations. This training provided a basic framework for building and maintaining critical interpersonal communications and working together as a team member of a Type 3 All Hazard Incident Management Team.



MPD and Shakopee Partner on Beyond Trauma Initiative

By Karley Jorgensen

A new and exciting partnership was forged between the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) and MCF-Shakopee in May when MPD Officer Yolanda Wilks and MPD Navigator Katie Miller, joined four MCF-Shakopee staff in becoming Beyond Trauma facilitators.

The training, hosted at MCF-Shakopee, represents the first step in the goal of increasing our capacity to provide this critical programming to the women in Shakopee while also engaging law enforcement staff in our facility.

Beyond Trauma is an evidence-based, gender-responsive, and trauma-informed manualized curriculum. An existing

multidisciplinary team of talented facilitators have been delivering the curriculum in Shakopee since 2014. That team doubled with the addition of the new Shakopee and MPD staff last month.

You may be wondering what the program is all about. The Beyond Trauma curriculum infuses cognitive behavioral techniques within a strengths-based approach. It assists women in recognizing and better understanding the trauma they have experienced and the impact it may continue to have on every facet of their lives. Moving from that foundational understanding and insight, the curriculum then seeks to assist women in coping with and healing from their past experiences. Women often describe first a sense of relief and connection and then move to a sense of empowerment and hope.

In corrections, we often appropriately focus on evidence-based curricula targeting reductions in recidivism. That is important and essential to realizing our mission. However, especially for female offenders, mental health and history of trauma are incredibly important responsivity factors to address as well. By assisting women in resolving past trauma through healing and development of more sophisticated coping, they are better prepared to fully participate in programming designed to address criminogenic factors and reduce their likelihood of recidivating.

It is often difficult to tease apart all the factors which contribute to behavioral concerns that may arise in a correctional setting and community. By offering a variety of programming options, MCF-SHK is taking steps to individualize recommendations to allow us to tailor programming to the specific needs of the individual. If we aren't aware of and adequately addressing responsivity concerns, including trauma history, placing an individual in programming targeting criminogenic needs may not be appropriate or effective.

To date, 196 incarcerated individuals have participated in the program. Many participants express significant appreciation for the opportunity to complete the group, reporting that they began to connect current difficulties to past experiences and learned how to better cope with the impact of their traumatic experiences. Beyond the qualitative feedback they provide, we also administer the PTSD Checklist for Civilians (PCL-C) to track short-term outcomes. The PCL-C contains items related to PTSD symptomology. Higher scores indicate more severe symptoms. Of those who have completed initial and discharge assessments the average initial score was 55 with the average discharge score of 37.

Beginning next month, the newly trained MPD staff will team up with Shakopee staff to co-facilitate Beyond Trauma groups in Shakopee. This will allow the women the opportunity to simultaneously address past traumatic experiences while also reshaping their perspectives and trust in law enforcement.



(L – R) WOOC Program Director Michelle Follmer, Transition Coordinator Katelyn Lambrecht, MPD Officer Yolanda Wilks, MPD Navigator Katie Miller, MCF-Shakopee Education Director Kristen O’Connell, and Career Caseworker Jodi Taylor

Red Wing Promotions

Jeff Boigenzahn recently promoted to Sergeant at MCF-Red Wing. Jeff started at Red Wing in June of 2015. He has spent the majority of his career on 3rd watch working in many areas of the facility. He is a member of CIT and participates on the facility Public Relations and Yellow Ribbon Committees.

Russell Stuart recently was promoted to a WOOC Sergeant position at Red Wing. Russell began his DOC career in October of 2012. He currently is assigned to 3rd watch and works in all areas at MCF-Red Wing. He is a member of the Yellow Ribbon Committee and the Recruitment Committee. Russell is a CPR/First Aid Instructor, FTO, and has been trained in CIT.

Congratulations Jeff and Russell!



Sgt. Russell Stuart and Sgt. Jeff Boigenzahn

DOC Staff Attend Community Celebration in Area Park

By Sherlinda Wheeler

On June 6, MCF-Oak Park Heights and the DOC's Transportation Unit participated in the City of Oak Park Heights Annual Party in the Park held at Brekke Park.

The event was a fun evening for the community and local businesses to come together to familiarize the community with local businesses and improve community relations.

Attendees were provided food and also have an opportunity to interact with the local police, firefighters, corrections staff, schools, and businesses. The DOC's bus is always a big hit with those in attendance.

Thank you to the MCF-Oak Park

Heights staff that were there to continue recruitment efforts and to enlighten the community about Corrections.



(L – R) AWA Sherlinda Wheeler, Electronics Systems Supervisor Mitchell Huppert, Sgt. Albert Kelly, Physical Plant Director Kurt Heideman, and Human Resources Technician Jennifer Johnson.

Follow DOC on Social Media

The department's social media accounts recognize the excellent work of our staff and help us recruit new employees. The DOC has nearly 7,000 likes on [Facebook](#)! Also, follow the department on Twitter: [@MinnCorrections](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), or [YouTube](#).



Women's History Celebration at Lino Lake

By Jessica Johnson

On June 15, MCF-Lino Lakes held its first Women's History event. It was organized by Sgt. Angela Schiefelbein, Sgt. Marie Atkinson, Special Teacher Suzanne Meredith, and Teaching Assistant Rashanda Shanklin, and hosted by PFA Director Dwayne Gibbs.

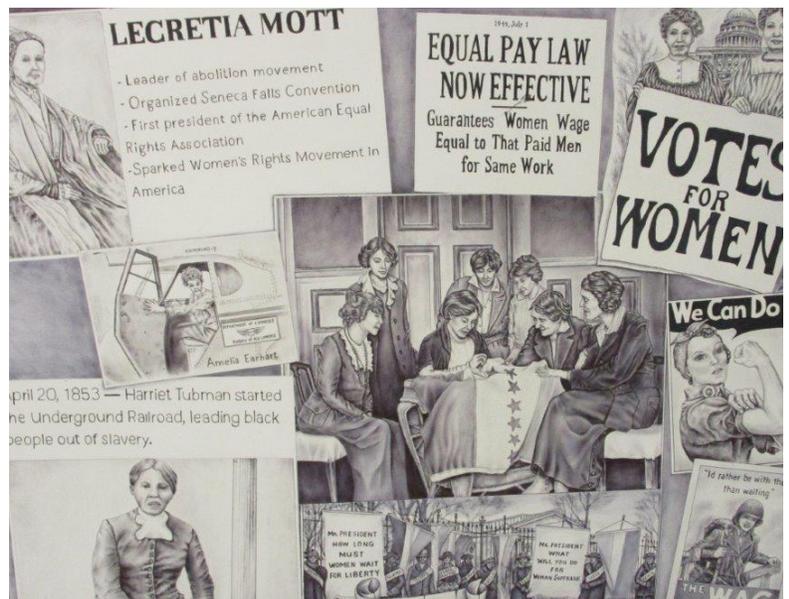
Women's History Month is recognized in March but with all the planning that went into the event, it was held in June. The two incarcerated men's bands provided music, which was written and/or performed by women artists such as Girl on Fire by Alicia Keys, I will Survive by Gloria Gaynor, and various other titles. Posters and historical rendition of women throughout history provided by participants from the facility Lino Ledger newspaper and artwork provided by one of the incarcerated men.

AWO Mary McComb welcomed Professor Colleen Bell and Addiction Counselor Holly Bell to Lino Lakes, bringing with them the stories of Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche and Delores Huerta.

In her TED Talks, Nigerian novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche begins the theme of the event with her talk on the "Danger of a Single Story" where she talks to listeners about keeping an open mind. She tells stories about her upbringing in Nigeria and how reading British novels gave her a "single story" vision of the world until she went out into the world and experienced it herself. She goes on to talk about her experiences coming the US to attend college and the "single story" vision people had about what it was like for her growing up. Adiche opens the minds of her listeners to always keep an open view of the world and the people we meet.

Professor Colleen Bell and her sister Addiction Counselor Holly Bell continued this theme by showing a documentary on the struggles Dolores Huerta met as a woman labor leader and civil rights activist. The Bell sisters challenged the incarcerated men to recognize the "single story" examples in Dolores Huerta's life and how she and those around her responded to those "single stories" and limited expectations.

The incarcerated men broke into groups joined by the guest speakers, and staff encouraging the men to think about specific examples of how they could incorporate this new knowledge and vision to discuss the impact of these stories, relate them to their own lives and to how they can overcome these same types of challenges as they look toward re-entry into the community. Closing remarks were provided by AWA John Williams encouraging offenders to challenge their thinking of women's roles in their lives and to view things from their perspective.



Ramsey and St. Louis County Probation Officers Visit WR/ML



Ramsey County probation officers



Probation officers from Virginia, MN

MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake had the opportunity to bridge the gap between the services provided from within our fence and the services provided within the community for the incarcerated men.

During the month of June, nine probation officers from Ramsey County and Virginia, MN came to meet with case management and tour the facility. The group from



Ramsey County probation officers share about the Justice Assistance Grant.

Ramsey County shared about the Justice Assistance Grant that is available to offer the incarcerated men funding for services which include parole programming and housing.

As the department seeks to connect our services during incarceration with the realities of supervision in the outside world, these opportunities to better understand each area will become more and more valuable.

Wittwer Promoted to WOOC Program Director at Rush City

Clinical Program Therapist 3 Kristin Wittwer recently promoted to WOOC Corrections Program Director at Rush City.

Kristin started her DOC career as a Clinical Program Therapist 2 on April 18, 2012. She promoted to Clinical Program Therapist 3 on March 9, 2016.

Effective July 1, 2019, Kristin was moved into a WOOC Corrections Program Director position.

Congratulations, Kristin!



Community Notification – Myths and Facts

By **Mark Bliven**, *Director of Risk Assessment/Community Notification*

Community Notification is a policy put into place by the Minnesota Legislature and Governor in the Community Notification Act of 1996 to go into effect for those subject to registration released from prison on or after January 1, 1997. Contrary to a common misperception “Community Notification” does not mean “broad public notification.” At this time there are about 18,000 people subject to registration in Minnesota. Most of those subject to registration have been charged with a sex offense but registration is also required for those charged with kidnapping or false imprisonment even if there is no sexual component to the charge.

Of the 18,000 registrants, about half have been to prison so are subject to “Community Notification.” When we say “Community Notification” we mean that prior to their release from prison the Department of Corrections will review their entire background and history. Using risk assessment tools and a facility committee, a report and notification level determination is made. That information including background documents are provided to local community law enforcement agencies so they have a more complete background on registrants within their jurisdiction. Law enforcement then makes a decision about “public notification” based on the notification level assigned. Only those designated as “Level 3” are subject to “broad public notification.” While Level 1 and Level 2 are subject to “Community Notification” that essentially means that the community representative, the local law enforcement agency, is provided with the report and supporting documentation. For a Level 2, law enforcement may make some limited public notifications to specific organizations or individuals.

What is the purpose of “broad public notification” for those designated as Level 3? It is not to layer on an additional level of punishment by ostracizing or excluding totally from the community. The essential purpose is to provide accurate information to community members so they can assist local law enforcement in monitoring and appropriately interact or avoid certain interactions with the subject of the notification. Far too often initial and inappropriate reactions are to prevent the person from reintegrating back into the community or bar them entirely from a community.

An additional purpose provided by Level 3 designation is the need not just for monitoring but even more importantly the higher level of needs and provision of transitional services. Often those with a Level 3 designation have never

had a strong history of stability in the community. Level 3 designation can provide that focus for more services and support that will lead to a safer and more stable overall community. In assessment we distinguish between stable and dynamic factors. Stable factors such as history are things we can’t change. Dynamic factors that are changeable and contribute to instability such as isolation or lack of stable housing or employment are things to which we can assist in making positive improvements.

“Broad public notification” seeks to distinguish specific information about a person from the far too common perception that “all sex offenders” are intent on snatching children in the close geographic proximity of their residence. That popular perception is a completely false characterization of the background of all but the rarest case and history. A common concern though is that “no one will guarantee” that this will not happen with “this particular registrant.” The problem with that straw horse issue is that no one can guarantee that regarding anyone in the community regardless of their prior history of offending or non-offending. In fact, in almost all cases the person offending against someone in the community usually has no prior history of sexual offense convictions and is not previously subject to registration or community notification.

Overzealous and inappropriate public disclosure also undermines the beneficial aspects of directed and balanced public disclosure. Far too often Facebook or other public media postings not only inflame issues but provide false information that simply creates more public confusion and leads to rash responses that undermine public safety. In surveys we have found that most community members appreciate the accurate and non-inflammatory information provided in public meetings. Unfortunately political reactions are often not based on accurate or rational review of information. Local residency restrictions are usually passed based on uninformed or irrational responses to the highly charged issue of sexual crimes.

While difficult, continued emphasis on education that keeps our communities safe is best while allowing for those returning to the community who are invested in changing their lives to establish stability including a safe home and job. At the same time we also need to make sure that we do have a victim centered system that reduces the potential for unintended harm to the victims when the registrant inevitably returns to the community.



St. Cloud CIT Graduates

On June 21, St. Cloud Corrections Officers Shawn Iacono, Mollie McClure, Linda Lieser, and Kaitlyn Beto graduated from the CIT Academy held at MCF-Rush City.

Please join us in congratulating these dedicated officers.

Pictured: (L – R) Shawn Iacono, Mollie McClure, AWO Carol Krippner, Linda Lieser, and Kaitlyn Beto

Annual COSA Summer Gathering Held in June

By Kevin Nelson

During the evening of June 25 at Central Office, the Circle of Support and Accountability (COSA) Programs of the DOC hosted their 6th Annual Summer Gathering. Current and former volunteers and program participants from all three programs (MNCOSA, On Your Feet, and COLUMNS), along with current and former staff and volunteer trainers, were invited to come together to view a new documentary film about COSA called Coming Home.

The film examines the lives of five people returning to their Vermont communities from prison. It spotlights the innovative COSA program which helps reintegrate individuals back into their daily lives. Coming Home takes an intimate and powerful look at this COSA process, the struggles and challenges of people coming out of prison and the successes of the restorative justice model.

The film showing was followed by a brief discussion along with the recognition of individuals in the audience who have volunteered for the COSA Programs of the Minnesota Department of Corrections. To view a trailer for the film, go to the following YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drhAuBgyX4A>. To request a showing of the film in your community contact the COSA staff at COSAPrograms.DOC@state.mn.us.



Kevin Nelson speaks during the COSA gathering at Central Office.

Togo Honors Military Members

Officer Lindsey Foss of the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Committee at MCF-Togo arranged to have the missing man table set up for Memorial Day.

The missing man table is a memorial that is set up in honor of fallen, missing or imprisoned military service members. The table serves as the focal point for the memorial and stems from the Vietnam War POW/MIA issue.

The table was set in the dining hall with a description of what each item symbolized. Corrections Officers on duty during the evening meal read the description to the incarcerated men.

Tales from the past: the day over 5,000 people visited St. Cloud

By Roger Baburam

Imagine over 5,000 members of the public – no background checks – visiting your correctional facility in one day. Difficult as it to fathom, this is what occurred on Sept. 9, 2000 at MCF-St. Cloud.

Titled “Walk Inside the Wall” and billed as a positive community relations event with the greater St. Cloud area, MCF-St. Cloud opened its doors for a large public tour, the first and only such tour in this facility’s storied 130-year history. Other facilities had public tours, but certainly not the high numbers the St. Cloud facility had.

The late Pat Adair, Warden of MCF-St. Cloud from 1995 - 2011, was an ardent promoter of building good relations with the community. Aware of the public’s fascination with the facility’s Romanesque architecture and the aura of mystery behind the iconic granite wall, Warden Adair felt opening the facility to a large public tour would be a major step in this direction. Planning a tour of this magnitude required considerable preparations. Marabelle Morgan (now retired), Assistant to Warden Adair, said a planning committee was established and it included members from the community in an advisory capacity. The decision was made to admit anybody that showed for a tour, including children and ex-offenders, without any background checks (the only disqualifying criteria would be intoxicated individuals; also, no cameras were allowed). The men would remain in their cells and the tour would include the stone quarries, the historic water tower and selected areas inside the facility, such as the intake area, dining hall, and kitchen area. The planning committee estimated about 2,500 people would show up. The tour coincided with the 40th Anniversary of the DOC, which was established in 1959, consolidating several administrative units into one agency. Accordingly, an exhibit of the department’s history was on display. Tour times were between 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., with each tour lasting about 45 minutes.

On the day of the tour, more than 5,000 people showed up. The parking lots were insufficient to accommodate the large number of cars and many were parked on the side of Highway 10. The highway was so littered with parked cars on the side, the State Patrol contemplated closing down the highway for a short time. Long lines formed to enter the prison through the Truck Gate and visitors waited at least an hour before they eventually got the tour. The next day, the St. Cloud Times blasted on its Sunday front page:



Warden Patt Adair overseeing the tour of MCF-St. Cloud on Sept. 9, 2000.



“St. Cloud prison tour has big allure,” (Kelly, 2000)

Despite the unanticipated large numbers that showed up, the tour was considered a remarkable success. As reported in the St. Cloud Times article and echoed by the staff that worked that day, visitors appreciated the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to tour the facility and discussed the enlightenment they received from the visit. Staff regarded this as an opportunity to engage the public in the daily operations of running a correctional facility and enjoyed their interaction with the public. Current Associate Warden of Operations Carol Krippner, who worked that day, reflected; “It was overwhelming the number of people who showed up. We scrambled to get water and chairs for the older visitors waiting in line. One half of a living unit was also vacated to allow the public to see actual cells.” Program Director Calvin Miller, who also worked that day, recalled “the gratitude expressed by the guests, to finally get to see what lies behind the gray walls they have driven by for so many years.” Warden Adair, who has the distinction of being the first female warden in a high-custody facility in Minnesota, regarded the tour as one of her proud achievements in her long correctional career (Alder, 2016).

References: Adler, Erin. 2016. “Obituary: Patt Adair was first female warden of a high-security state prison.” *Minneapolis Star and Tribune*. June 17, 2016.

Scott, Kelly. 2000. “St. Cloud prison tour has big allure: more than 5,000 people attend tour in 111-year history.” *St. Cloud Times*. September 9, 2010, p. 1A.

WR/ML Honored By Memorial Blood Center



Laura Firkus, CSAS, Sr. and Ed Stone, Chaplain

By Ian Heaslip

On May 22nd, MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake was honored to be listed as one of the “100 Club” community partners for collecting over 100 units of blood during 2018.

Laura Firkus (Central Services Admin Spec, Sr.) and Ed Stone (Chaplain) both of MCF-WR/ML were there to receive the award on behalf of the facility. For the past few years, Laura has done a phenomenal job of coordinating the efforts of the blood drive. Chaplain Stone has both donated and received blood donations.

Thank you all for your literal life-saving efforts in this great cause.

Chief of Staff Visits Buffalo Field Services Office

DOC Chief of Staff Josh Syrjamaki recently engaged with Field Services staff in Buffalo, getting their input about the strategic direction of our agency. He has been visiting field offices and facilities around the state.



Pauline Riehm and Melissa Peters

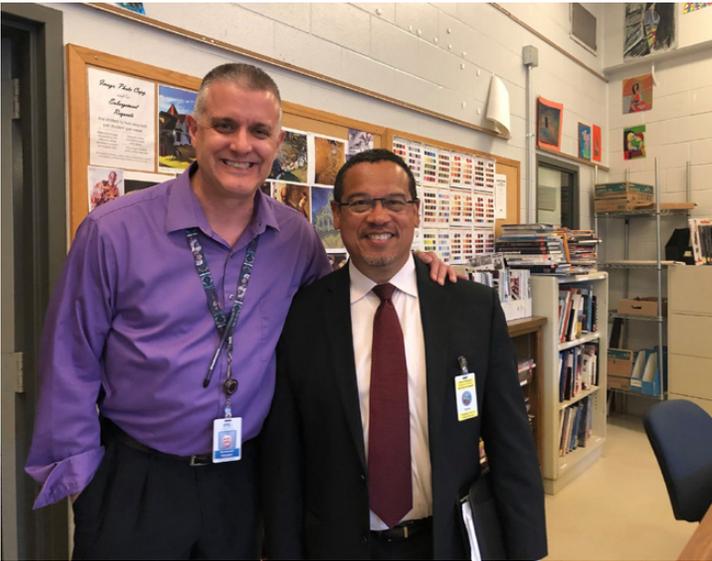


Hotline is produced by the DOC Communications Office: Sarah J. Fitzgerald (Communications Director), Aaron Swanum (Information Officer), and Michael Ojibway (Principal Marketing & Multimedia Strategist)

Attorney General Ellison Visits Oak Park Heights



On June 24, Attorney General Keith Ellison continued his facility listening sessions at MCF-Oak Park Heights, followed by a tour of the facility.



MPR Visits Rush City for Mental Health Services Story

On June 25, Minnesota Public Radio visited MCF-Rush City to learn more about our mental health services for incarcerated men—and also checked out our transition resources fair (for those going back into our communities), and our education services. Thanks to our excellent mental health and education staff, corrections officers, and all staff for a great day!



Faribault Bee Program



On June 27, MCF-Faribault welcomed Fox 9 to witness a DOC/U of M partnership where minimum security men maintain bee colonies to learn positive ways to connect with our communities and give back.

All the honey is donated to local food shelves.



Staff Features

Central Transportation

The transportation unit conducts 12,000 transports across the state and country every year.

Pictured are Lt. Van Coolidge, Captain Tim Putzier, Manager of Central Transport Tracy Hosking, and Sgt. Vance Arrigoni.

Thanks for all you do to keep staff, incarcerated people, and Minnesotans safe!



Sgt. Hosfield

Sgt. Justin Hosfield is a 16-year veteran of the Department of Corrections with MCF-Stillwater. He says he enjoys seeing the people he works with every day.

Thanks for your service, Justin.

Locksmith Cheryl Ristow-Kyro

Locksmith Cheryl Ristow-Kyro started as an apprentice under her father 20 years ago, and has worked for shops throughout the Twin Cities. She joined the MCF-Faribault a year ago. She says her work is part locksmith, part technology, and she enjoys helping to keep the Faribault facility secure!



Human Resources Staff Hold Training Conference



On June 25, DOC Human Resources staff gathered together for a day of education. Deputy Commissioner Michelle Smith, Assistant Commissioners Marcus Schmit, and Nate Knutson shared messages of appreciation and general updates within their areas.

Presenter Toni Halleen delivered an interactive training session on 'Think on the Spot! Effective Under Pressure.' In the afternoon, an inspiring message was given by Agency Human Resource Director Lori Kingston where HR staff were recognized for the complex and sensitive work they complete.

Closing the day, Mark Bliven (Risk Assessment/Community Notification Director) gave an overview on the Risk Assessment/Community Notification unit.

Hands-Free Cell Phone Law

Minnesota's Hands-Free Cell Phone Law takes effect August 1, making Minnesota the 19th state, along with Washington D.C., to enact laws regarding hands-free use while driving. This law requires Minnesota drivers 18 years and older to put down their phones and go hands-free while driving.



Driving distractions, including cell phone use, are responsible for one-fourth of crashes and one-fifth of fatalities. New data on the impact of hands-free laws indicates a 15 percent decrease in traffic fatalities. Please note this is not a metro area only issue, as 35 percent of crashes occur in greater Minnesota, 75 percent of which are fatalities (source: National Safety Council NSC).

The new law allows drivers 18 years and older to use their cell phones to make calls, text, listen to music or podcasts or get direction, but only by voice commands or single-touch activation without holding the phone. Remember, the law applies to all drivers over 18, anytime, anywhere, including when you are driving on DOC business, and while using DOC phones and vehicles.

Resources are available on the Minnesota Safety Council's [Hands-Free Resource Page](#). The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's [Hands-Free Page](#) also has a variety of educational tools available for Minnesotans.

Don't wait for August 1. Start now to make your phone hands-free and help make all of us safer on the Road.