



correctional *Newsfront*

SCI Greene Employees Play Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team



Members of the Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team pose for a photo inside the inmate gymnasium at the State Correctional Institution at Greene.

In April, members of the Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team played a nine-inning game against members of the SCI Greene employee team. Members of the team are veterans or active duty soldiers who have lost limbs while serving in the military. The team includes individuals with a variety of amputations of the arm, above the knee, below the knee, bilateral below the knee and foot.

The event, coordinated by Wendy Baur, who serves as the state representative for the Correctional Peace Officer Foundation, was a benefit game intended to raise funds for the team. The WWAST travels the country playing softball games in an effort to educate the public about wounded warriors and their abilities to succeed in life after suffering losses of limbs and to rise above any challenge. Their goal is to show other amputees and the general population that these athletes, through extensive rehabilitation and training, are able to express their desires and perform the sport they loved.

Sponsors of the softball game, which was held at Lew Hays Field in Washington, Pa., included the City

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Secretary Wetzel Talks About...

Empowering Women

Recently, the DOC -- along with its sister agencies of the Board of Probation and Parole, Office of Chief Counsel and the Commission on Crime and Delinquency -- gathered female executives from across the state to participate in a leadership conference that was meant to encourage and empower our female employees.

Nearly 200 women attended the event, which is hopefully the beginning of a larger, statewide empowerment initiative.



From reading this newsletter you will learn about our commitment to our female employees and why doing so is important. You also will learn that this effort is supported at very high levels of state government.

I applaud the efforts of those individuals who made this important event possible and pledge my support as we move forward with this initiative to empower all women in the criminal justice field. I am hopeful that next year we can reach more women from additional agencies in an effort to show our support.

I hope you'll join us in this initiative, because it's the right thing to do.

Newsfront

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Pennsylvania Empowers Women in Criminal Justice

Agencies Gather for First Executive Women's Leadership Conference

By Susan Bensinger and Susan McNaughton

No matter what state you work in, the criminal justice system has been long viewed as a male-dominated field. The general public, when they think of prison officers and superintendents or parole agents and prosecutors, often picture men in those positions.

Several decades ago that was an acceptable norm. However, today that norm is being challenged. While men continue to hold a majority of these positions, we are seeing more women stepping up and taking initiative to lead in these areas. Why? Because they are qualified to do so.



Women who work in the field of criminal justice in Pennsylvania gathered in April to participate in the state's Executive Women's Leadership Conference.

Within the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC), specifically, we have more than 16,000 dedicated employees who perform a multitude of job classifications. A diverse group of individuals are tasked with providing public safety for the citizens of Pennsylvania; as well as, operating correctional facilities that provide humane incarceration while assisting inmates with skills to reintegrate into the community. And while women first began assuming prison duties in the early 1980s, today they represent only 25 percent of the corrections work force in Pennsylvania.

Why should citizens even care about this? Because women are beneficial to any field due to the fact that they look at issues and situations differently than men. Different is positive and should be embraced. Women also are excellent at multi-tasking and possess better communications skills. Women should be encouraged to step out of their comfort zones and perform jobs that traditionally have been filled by men.

In an effort to continue her work begun 10 years ago to empower women in the criminal justice field, 25-year Department of Corrections veteran Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal recently spearheaded an Executive Women's Leadership Conference where, for one day, women were encouraged to support each other, provide guidance and advice to each other and dream and plan to pursue lofty goals. It was important to Moore Smeal that the conference provide an atmosphere of mutual respect where women believed they were valued and recognized for the significant role they play in public safety.

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At the conference, some 200 women from the DOC, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Office of General Counsel and county prisons embarked together on a journey of self-awareness with the freedom to express the goals of future advancement and past accomplishments. Many attendees, having already attained executive levels, supported and advised one another to remain true to oneself. Set goals, learn from others, both male and female, reach for the top, understand failures, expect roadblocks and be who you are: were messages setting the theme for the event.

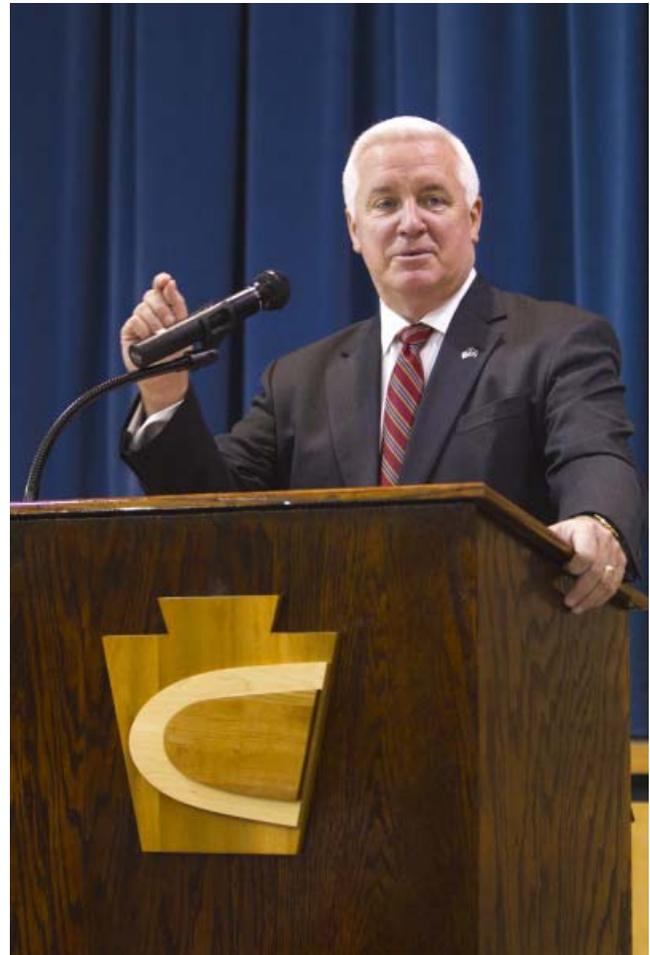
A special speaker at the event gave inspiration and stated the female viewpoint is different. He said that “women approach a problem or situation differently than their male counterparts.” He cited a study conducted several years ago by a New Jersey management consulting firm that identified a number of characteristics that distinguish women leaders from men when it comes to qualities of leadership. Those characteristics are assertiveness, persuasiveness and flexibility. In addition, women are risk takers, task oriented and empathetic and offer strong interpersonal skills and genuine caring.

Throughout his speech, this man emphasized his points by using his wife as an example, stating she is his best and truest sounding board. Who was this wise man? None other than Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett. He made this conference a priority, fitting it into many appearances and obligations for that day. He spoke openly and honestly of the need to hire not based on gender but based on qualifications.

Leaders from across the country attended and imparted wisdom to the attendees. Dr. Margaret Moore, assistant professor at the University of the District of Columbia and a PA DOC alum having served as the first female superintendent at a male facility and promoting to deputy commissioner, imparted advice to the conference attendees.

“Model the way for your coworkers,” stated Moore. Components of this concept include: show by actions, work side-by-side, be willing to do the same task, have a positive attitude, respect others, be proud and enthusiastic and be about ‘we,’ make it a team effort.”

Representatives from a variety of criminal justice entities, including the Office of Chief



Gov. Tom Corbett addresses attendees of the conference.

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Counsel, the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, Berks County Prison, the State Correctional Institution at Rockview and the Moss Group were gathered for a panel discussion. The discussion included questions regarding balancing professional and personal life. Advice was given on career strategies and making an individual more promotable. The panel discussed being a female in a male-dominated career while remaining true to yourself, not emulating male traits. Even though women are viewed as the caretaker, advice was given on "taking care of you: mind, body and soul."

Taking advantage of the entire time together, a working lunch was held so participants could hear from Pennsylvania's Secretary of State Carol Aichele and her husband, Pennsylvania's General Counsel Stephen Aichele. A true power couple working in state government, they use humor and a blunt charm that is endearing and informative. Carol talked about her decision to be a full-time mom but not necessarily a stay-at-home mom. She remained involved in her community by volunteering all the while making contacts in local government. When the time was right, she reentered the workforce fully.

Stephen cultivated his career in private practice always being involved with his wife's achievements.

Executive Deputy Secretary Moore Smeal discussed effective leadership styles.

"We are here to work side-by-side with our male counterparts," Moore Smeal said. "While celebrating our female staff and the many accomplishments made, we are looking to the future. Understanding that each of you are to carry the message to your work site, to empower others around you. Build up, don't tear down your coworkers," she added. Moore Smeal stated that we each have a responsibility to mentor others to take our place.

The afternoon was comprised of breakout sessions in intimate classroom settings that afforded the women with the opportunity to ask questions and understand the motivation and drive of the presenters.

The workshops discussed the following topics: understanding the difference between power and influence; the role of self-awareness and leadership; major/minor "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff"; and integrity, credibility and professionalism.

Department of Corrections Secretary John E. Wetzel wrapped up the day with expressions of enthusiasm. He simply asked the crowd, "Are you pumped?" His drive and positive attitude is infectious and elevated the conference to an even higher level stressing again that this agency "will hire and promote based on ability not on anatomy."

As the event concluded, each participant felt valued in her mission and the mission of the DOC. With clear direction, to pay it forward and lift up others, to continue as a team and make everyday a day of accomplishment, the women returned to their workplace confident in their ability to make the criminal justice system stronger.

This was not a one-time event, though. Officials are already planning to provide this opportunity to other women in these criminal justice agencies.

"This is just the beginning of an important movement," said Moore Smeal. "Stay tuned!"

Secretary Wetzel Testifies Before Appropriations Committees About 2012-2013 Budget

Earlier this year, Corrections Secretary John Wetzel provided testimony about the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 budget before the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

Highlights from the testimony include:

The DOC and Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole have been working to improve communication, coordination and cooperation in an effort to have a better pass off of offenders from prison to the community.

The DOC is working with members of the General Assembly to enact evidence based legislation that will better respond to crime and administer justice in Pennsylvania.

The agency will continue to incorporate cost savings initiatives. Since the beginning of this administration more than 800 cost savings suggestions were submitted by employees, and nearly 230 of those suggestions have been assigned to appropriate divisions within the department.

By incorporating these cost savings into the overall budget, the DOC will be able to begin addressing the salary compression issue.

For the first time in 10 years, the DOC is asking for a “no increase” budget.

DOC Initiatives

- **Four Month Therapeutic Community (TC):** Currently, inmates who are recommended for drug and alcohol treatment undergo a six-month intensive treatment program. No current research suggests that reducing the TC length to 4 months would have an impact on recidivism. Research has shown that the recidivism would not change using a 4-month TC. If we move inmates through treatment faster, we will shorten waiting lists and more inmates will finish treatment and be eligible for parole closer to their minimums than is the case now. This concept would be especially beneficial for our short minimum inmates (those inmates who arrive at our Department with less than one year to serve to their minimum date). The 4-month treatment program will remain consistent overall with the 6-month model.
- **Augmenting SIP with HOPE:** This initiative would use the Hawaii’s Opportunity Probation with Enhancement (HOPE) concept with our State Intermediate Punishment (SIP) inmates in phases III and IV. HOPE, which consists of certain and swift sanctions when violations occur, has reduced recidivism up to 50% in other jurisdictions. It consists of certain and swift sanctions when violations occur.

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- **Effective Police Practices:** This would require PCCD to offer funding opportunities to local police entities to improve police practices. New York City and Boston had significant crime reduction in the late 90's after implementing strategies such as Operation Cease Fire (the Boston Model).
- **TPV Admissions:** We need to see a reduction in the number of technical parole violators (TPVs) that occupy beds in the DOC. This can be accomplished by a combination of expanding the use of Technical Parole Violation Centers, expanding options for the Board of Probation and Parole to use in lieu of incarceration at a DOC facility, and doing a better job of delivering programming and the like to those who are violated to get them ready to re-parole in a more expeditious manner.
- **Expand TPV Centers:** TPV centers are secure centers utilized to house technical parole violators. It is significantly less expensive to keep them in the centers rather than returning them to the DOC.
- **Require County Paperwork:** Counties are required by statute to produce specific documents prior to bringing any commitments to the DOC. There is inadequate compliance with this statute thereby causing hours of work for DOC staff AND delaying classification of inmates. Counties will be required to submit the required paperwork prior to (three days) delivering the inmate to the DOC which may result in a brief slow down in commitments while counties adjust, but the overall benefit will be a significant reduction in the classification period, especially as it relates to "short min" offenders.
- **Veteran's Specific CCC:** The PA DOC will be partnering with the Veteran's Administration whereby the PA DOC will pay for the first 60 days in a community corrections center (CCC), following which eligible offenders will be transferred to an approved Veteran's program and the Veteran's Administration will assume financial responsibility from that time period until their release from the program.
- **Short-Minimum Facilities:** Approximately one-third of all new court admissions were short minimum inmates who entered the department with less than 12 months until their parole eligibility date. To most effectively and efficiently address programming needs for these offenders, the Department will dedicate facilities as short minimum facilities with a primary responsibility of ensuring this category of offenders receives and completes programming in an expeditious fashion. Inmates identified as short minimum will receive an expedited and abbreviated classification at the Central Diagnostic and Classification prior to transferring to the short minimum facility for completion of classification and programming. In doing so, the department will better prepare inmates for parole release and reintegration into the community. PBPP will align their resources also to ensure timely hearings for this challenging population.
- **Justice Reinvestment Initiative:** Shortly after taking office, Governor Corbett, joined by leaders from the judicial and legislative branches, sought and received intensive technical assistance from the US Department of Justice and the PEW Center on the States at no cost to Pennsylvania taxpayers.

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The Justice Reinvestment Initiative has three goals:

1. Increase Public Safety
2. Hold Offenders Accountable
3. Control Corrections Spending

Earlier this year, Governor Corbett convened the Justice Reinvestment Working Group to begin reviewing analysis from criminal justice experts at the Council of State Governments Justice Center.

The outcomes of this project are data-driven policies that reduce corrections spending and reinvest a portion of the savings in parts of the system that can more effectively cut crime and lower recidivism.

Last year, our neighbors in Ohio approved legislation by near-unanimous votes in the Senate and House that is expected to save the state \$46 million in corrections spending by 2015. How? In large part the legislation strengthens the front end of its system, by improving the capacity of effective supervision and programming to hold offenders accountable. This strategy not only avoids significant prison costs down the road but, more importantly, focuses resources in our communities to increase safety today.

States across the country, from Kansas and Texas to Arizona and North Carolina, have used this process to produce results that Pennsylvania, too, can apply to overcome challenges facing our system.

Justice reinvestment is a bi-partisan, inter-branch approach – with state and local law enforcement, district attorneys, victim advocates all at the table – designed to produce data-driven and fiscally responsible policies.

DOC/PBPP Joint Initiatives

* **Docket Management:** This joint initiative will prioritize the docket of inmates to be seen by the PBPP and to identify and eliminate redundancies. By doing so, inmates likely to be paroled will be at the top of the docket, increasing number of inmates paroled per month. Often times, inmates who are not appropriate for parole (multiple misconducts, ATA, sentence change, etc.) are on the docket and are not granted parole when there are many others who would likely be granted parole, but are not seen.

* **Parole Release Pending Reductions:** Currently there is a waiting period of 101 days from the time an inmate gets a positive parole action to actual release. We must reduce this time period when possible. In some cases, like sex offenders who have no home plans, it will be not possible. However, many cases are caused by administrative delays.

Legislative Recommendations to Reduce Inmate Population

Legislative initiatives will be important that will endorse continued efforts to reduce the inmate population. These efforts should reinforce what the Department has already championed and accomplished by providing for policies that place the community's safety and the institution's security at the forefront. There is a need to recognize that to divert

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certain offenders from state incarceration to be treated in the community may be more appropriate. The Department recognizes that once an offender breaks ties and enters state prison, the chances of his/her success upon release decreases. In so doing, we are reducing the need for costly beds for less serious offenders. These beds should be preserved for the more serious and violent offenders. The following initiatives require legislative changes to implement:

- * Expand RRRI: SB 100 would expand eligibility of offenders for Recidivism Risk Reduction Incentive Program (RRRI). This is a sentence where an offender can receive a reduced minimum sentence if they comply with treatment recommendations.
- * Expand SIP: SB 100 would expand eligibility of offenders for the State Intermediate Punishment (SIP) program. SIP is a diversionary program for non-violent offenders with a substance abuse issue.
- * Expand County Intermediate Punishment (CIP): SB 100 includes language that would expand eligibility for offenders to be sentenced to CIP. It is the same concept as the specialty courts. Most county offenders become state offenders. If the appropriate treatment is provided at the county level, we can reduce numbers of offenders coming to the state.
- * Allow County Time to Count: Currently, an inmate must serve at least 9 months in the DOC prior to being considered for prerelease into a CCC. Often they have already spent several months in the county before coming to the DOC. Although that county time counts towards their sentence, it does not count towards that 9-month minimum for prerelease consideration. SB 100 would allow that time to count towards the prerelease calculation and subsequently allow us to move more eligible inmates into the community corrections system.
- * Expand Boot Camp to Age 40: Presently inmates aged 18 to 35 are eligible for boot camp participation. Inmates are automatically paroled upon successful completion of boot camp (6-month program following the DOC selection and classification process.) Increasing the maximum age to 40 would allow for more inmates to participate and complete this program.
- * Counties Using HOPE: Under SB 100, counties would have the opportunity to implement the HOPE concept. It is not mandatory. Our assumption is that 25% of counties would participate.
- * Deporting Non-Violent Offenders: Currently there are 265 alien non-violent offenders in the correctional system. In addition, statistics indicate that we receive approximately 65 of these same offenders on an annual basis. The deportation of this group of individuals to their country of origin will reduce the inmate population.
- * Expanded Specialty Courts: Specialty courts are generally used to divert people from county jails, but diverting them at this level would help reduce numbers because often offenders start as county cases and move on to state cases. These types of courts include mental health courts, drug courts, veterans' courts, etc.

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Cost Saving Initiatives

The Department of Corrections continues to recognize how critical the current fiscal climate is within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and persistently works towards looking at cost saving initiatives to alleviate the overall budget at both the institution and Central Office levels. The following initiatives represent cost savings which has resulted in reducing the budget:

* **HB 960 – Health Care Fraud Reform Bill:** The law, signed by Governor Corbett in June 2011, requires that the rate charged for inpatient hospital care for state and county inmates be no more than the Medicaid rate. It also provides that a health care provider of outpatient services not charge the state or county more than what is provided for under the Medicaid program for services to state and county inmates. Another portion of the legislation enables the Department of Public Welfare to seek federal funding for a portion of the Medical Assistance rates for state inmates. This legislation caps the amount providers can bill the DOC for inmate medical costs for inpatient services at Medicaid rates and caps outpatient services at Medicare rates. This law is saving taxpayers and the DOC approximately \$16 million on an annual basis and significantly changed our billing practices with providers. We have also seen a decrease in inmate medical transfers for diversion of care to preferred providers.

* **Electronic On-Line Automated Pharmacy:** In the spring of 2011, the PA DOC and Diamond Pharmacy began implementing an electronic, on-line automated pharmacy program referred to as E-Sapphire. The system includes on-line ordering and refills, electronic medication administration records (MAR's), barcode inventory control reconciliation, medication compliance, on-demand reports and electronic med pass capabilities. All institutions are scheduled to use this program by the fall of 2012. The automation will increase our efficiency in taking orders and updating MAR's.

* **Cancellation of SCI-German Township:** Canceling the construction of SCI German Township has resulted in a \$200 million savings in capital budget funding and stopped a \$60 million increase in annual operating costs beginning in 2014 when the prison was expected to open.

* **Partial Hiring Freeze:** A partial hiring freeze was put into effect on January 4, 2012, by the DOC with the exception of some line corrections officers, CCC monitors, food service instructors and supervisors, and utility plant operators. Continuation of most of this freeze into 2012-13 is expected to result in a savings of \$6,854,000.

* **Change in Law Library Vendor:** The DOC's Bureau of Education replaced the previous law library vendor with the Lexis Nexis system, which provides better services and a cost savings of over \$1 million per year.

* **Food Ticket Initiative:** This initiative was piloted at SCI-Albion, which recognized a significant monthly savings by providing meal tickets to inmates that prevented inmates from passing through the food lines more than one time per meal and enabled DOC to more accurately inventory the amount of food needed for meal preparation. This initiative was expanded to all 26 correctional facilities.

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* Use of Medicaid Funds in Community AOD Treatment: The DOC contracts for housing and treatment services with private in-patient AOD treatment facilities. We have determined that a number of these placements, especially parolees, qualify for Medicaid assistance to pay for their housing and treatment. In 2011, we saved \$2.8 million from these reimbursements.

Invest Now – Save Later

* Program Assessment Study: This study, to be implemented by July 1, 2012, is intended to streamline assessments, reduce programs and modify program assignment. It is anticipated that the study will result in reduction of programs and/or reduction/elimination of waiting lists. It is also anticipated to reduce classification of inmates from 3 months to 1 month.

* Supply Change Transformation: The DOC is seeking proposals for a consultant to analyze and work with DOC staff to reduce costs in its transportation, food service and laundry services that details and aligns with the Department's goal and vision. It is anticipated that a 10% cost reduction (\$6 million) will be obtained. A similar change has occurred in the Michigan Department of Corrections.

* Overtime Management: We currently budget \$60 million per year for overtime. By contracting with a time and attendance system provider, we can explore a system that allows for both centralized management and calls for overtime that will ultimately eliminate grievances for not properly calling staff for overtime. We anticipate a 10% savings by improved management and reduced errors in processing. There is currently an Overtime Review Committee that has been established to identify and disseminate best practices. We are also undergoing a shift relief/staffing process review.

Worker's Comp/Heart and Lung Consulting: Currently Worker's Compensation costs the DOC \$16 million per year. There is a need to ensure case management occurs in specific cases in order to reduce the cost of Worker's Compensation annually.

Inmate Population and Capacity Expansion

The inmate population remained stable through calendar year 2011. On December 31, 2010, population was 51,321 and on December 31, 2011 the total population was 51,638. In November 2011, inmates could no longer be sent to county jails with sentences of two to five years if the jails were over capacity. We expected to receive approximately 100 more inmates per month from this change but have not seen much of an impact in the short time period since the change began.

The Operational Bed Capacity at the end of last year was 49,910, leaving us operating at 4% over capacity. The goal of the Department is to operate the Pennsylvania correctional system at our operational bed capacity, which represents the optimal number of inmates that each facility can house based on housing, availability of inmate employment and/or programming support and facility infrastructure.

The Department has added 1,200 beds in modular housing units for the expected longer term

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growth in our prison population. They are located at Rockview (2 units), Cambridge Springs, Mahanoy, Greensburg, Laurel Highlands, Houtzdale and Pine Grove. All units were completed and occupancy permits were received in 2011.

Four housing units consisting of a total of 818 beds were constructed with capital bond funds. They are located at Coal Township (230 beds), Pine Grove (230 beds), Cambridge Springs (230 beds) and Forest (128 beds). All units are completed with occupancy permits; however, the remaining units at Cambridge Springs (230) & (150) and Forest (96) will not likely open in 2012-13 unless another housing unit is closed at the site.

Construction of a \$200 million, 2,000 bed prison named SCI Benner Township, located in Centre County, is 83% physically complete. This project was delayed due to court challenges in the bidding process and the addition of the construction of the laundry area at the facility. The new institution is projected to open in January 2013; however, the decision to delay the occupancy of SCI Benner Township until October 2013 will provide a savings of \$15,547,000 in 2012-13. Locating SCI Benner Township on the existing grounds of SCI Rockview will enable the two facilities to share warehousing, administrative and other functions that will reduce costs to taxpayers.

As with SCI Benner Township, construction of two previously approved replacement institutions for SCI Graterford in Montgomery County was delayed due to legal challenges with the design-build concept applied during the bidding process. However, the project was rebid and the final execution of the design-build contract was awarded on February 6, 2012, and anticipated completion of the \$400 million facility will be in July 2015. The two newly constructed facilities will contain a 2,000-bed medium security prison and a 2,100-bed maximum security prison for a net gain of 700 beds in excess of the 3,400 bed capacity currently seen at SCI Graterford. The new construction will enable the deactivation of SCI Graterford, which was built in the late 1920s, eliminating high costs and related operational challenges associated with maintaining an older institution and circumventing the need to spend more than \$60 million in capital costs to maintain operations at SCI Graterford over the next decade. The new institutions will utilize a single continuous perimeter fence and common centralized services buildings, which will allow for shared use of some medical, dietary, and administrative programs, and is expected to operate with only a small increase in staff complement. The new construction will effectively pay for itself with a 20-year return on investment due to operational savings associated with running a newer, more efficient prison.

With the large anticipated reduction in the inmate population, the department will need to reduce housing and save staffing costs in order to meet a no increase budget. We will be carefully monitoring the inmate population and closing housing units in our system commensurate with the reduction of the inmate population.

Addressing Pay Compression

The budget will provide for \$8.2 million to address the pay compression issue for some corrections managers on the CM schedule. The proposal is not yet final but is expected to include corrections officer 3 to 5 positions (lieutenants, captains and majors), unit managers, food service managers, facility maintenance managers and utility plant supervisors. This is

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the only group across the state where management pay compression has been addressed and is a start in fixing this issue. In order to fund this compression, the money came from administrative savings of \$27.7 million for overtime management, contract savings, partial complement freeze and other areas as well as the initiative savings mentioned previously.

Population Dashboard

In order to allow easy monitoring of progress, the department will add a population dashboard to our website which will not only track population and capacity, but also inmate on staff assault, inmate on inmate assault and overall misconducts.

Conclusion

This budget reflects the department's commitment to the citizens of Pennsylvania to provide community safety. We define that duty as both protecting the community from the inmates incarcerated in our facilities and by reducing the inmates proclivity to commit crime after incarceration through evidence based programming.

We also are committed to critically analyze our operations to ensure we are exceeding our duties and doing it in the most cost-effective manner possible. Taking a process-based approach, we will examine every aspect of our operation and improve the areas that we need to improve.

Additionally, we stand at the ready to actively participate in an examination of how justice is administered in Pennsylvania, with the goal of reducing crime in Pennsylvania by collecting good objective data throughout the criminal justice continuum and making sound decisions based on the data. At the same time, this process will allow us to responsibly reduce the inmate population.

All Inmates Have Been Returned

As of the end of March 2012, all inmates were returned from out-of-state housing.

"This is the final step toward bringing home our inmates," Wetzel said. "This move will ease the burden of inmate families and also will keep taxpayer money in Pennsylvania rather than spending it elsewhere."

In 2011, DOC officials returned 1,000 Pennsylvania inmates who had been housed in Michigan. Wetzel said the return of inmates is possible due to a continued leveling off of Pennsylvania's state inmate population and the opening of new housing units built at existing state prisons.

In February 2010, the DOC sent 1,000 inmates each to Virginia and Michigan DOCs. The DOC returned inmates from Michigan in May 2011. It cost the state \$62 per day to house each of the inmates out of state.

Ronay Appointed Director of Reentry and Community Transition

In April, Daniel Ronay was named by Corrections Secretary John Wetzel to serve as the DOC's director of reentry and community transition.

In this capacity, Ronay will lead the department's reentry efforts by developing enhanced cooperative and collaborative relationships with the facilities, community corrections, the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole and community stakeholders. He also will have supervisory responsibility for the DOC's Bureau of Community Corrections and the Reentry Division.

"Dan is a highly experienced correctional executive who has demonstrated the ability to lead diverse teams of professionals to new levels of achievement and success," Secretary Wetzel said. "He has sound management qualifications with an established track record of hands-on corrections experience and 32 years of military experience."



Ronay previously served as chief deputy secretary with the Florida Department of Corrections. He also served as chief of staff, director of staff development and training and assistant superintendent for the Indiana DOC.

Center Residents Spruce Up Their City



In April, residents and staff of Minsec Hazleton participated in a "Clean Up Hazleton" effort sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Center residents and staff swept and removed debris from a good portion of Main Street in an effort to help "beautify" the city's downtown sector. This effort is not unique among DOC community corrections residents, as community service and volunteer work is encouraged and in some cases mandated. Reinforcing civic duties and responsibilities is one small element in the DOC's ongoing reentry efforts.



Letters of Thanks...

Residents of the DOC's community corrections centers and contract facilities often are sent into their communities to perform a variety of community service projects. Here are a few letters we've received about these efforts:

"I would like to thank you for providing us with this opportunity to utilize individuals from your facility (Johnstown Community Corrections Center) to assist us here at the fire department. These workers have been a tremendous assistance to us in supplementing our current work force. We have established a set routine that they follow every day upon their arrival and are to the point of initiating that routine without direction from us.

Some of the examples of the work performed include:

- cleaning and restocking the restrooms
- picking up trash at a local sports pavilion and baseball field
- cutting grass and cleaning fire apparatus at three fire stations
- tearing out hallway drop ceiling and lights and replacing it with drywall with pod lights
- repainting lines on the parking lot.

Thank you again for your assistance."

Chris Guizio, Operations Manager
Richland Township Fire Department

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

"I am contacting you to thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of the Erie Art Museum. The community service volunteers that come to use from the Erie CCC are a vital resource for our organization. The level of commitment to their tasks speaks volumes about the respect these individuals have for you. I will continue to place the volunteers that the Erie CCC sends us.

I look forward to working with you again to place community service volunteers for the 2012 Bules & Jazz Festival."

Karen Dodson, Volunteer and Guest Services Coordinator
Erie Art Museum

Wetzel on the Speaking Circuit

Since taking office, Corrections Secretary John Wetzel has traveled the state visiting all of his correctional facilities. In addition to these visits, he also has coordinated a number of speaking engagements with local chambers of commerce and rotary groups. Wetzel received numerous requests, and most recently spoke at the Pennsylvania Press Club’s luncheon in Harrisburg.

“I believe it is my duty to get our message out to the people,” Wetzel said. “Whether I do that through one-on-one contact with employees as I’m touring a prison or whether it is through speaking engagements with reporters, I will continue to work to educate the public about corrections.”

At the Press Club luncheon, Wetzel talked about prison reforms, including the state’s Justice Reinvestment Initiative and how the work in this area will result in future policies and laws that are based on data; the future of community corrections; plans to reduce the prison population; and ways to make operations more efficient.

Wetzel will continue to participate in speaking engagements throughout his terms as secretary, so if you see an opportunity to be in the audience, please do so!

Meal Tickets Save Taxpayer Money

Earlier this year, the DOC has begun issuing meal tickets to inmates. Why is this so important? Because, prior to the issuance of the tickets, inmates were able to eat a meal in one dining hall and go into another at the same prison -- essentially eating two meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner each day.

SCI Albion Superintendent Mike Harlow had suspected that inmates were taking advantage of the situation. Harlow suggested the DOC issue meal tickets. The tickets are pre-printed for a week’s

worth of meals. As the inmate enters the dining hall for a meal, the ticket is appropriately punched by the officer at the window from where the meal is served. Then, if the inmate would try to go into the other dining hall, that officer would notice the ticket had already been punched and would deny the inmate access.

It is estimated that, since piloting the meal ticket system at SCI Albion, the prison has saved up to \$20,000 monthly. SCI Albion has been selected to pilot an automated meal ticket system that will alert the officer if an inmate is attempting to eat a second meal for the same meal period.

	<u>VALID THROUGH</u>						
Breakfast:	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
Lunch:	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
Dinner:	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
Meal Ticket							/ /

IGWF Pays for IDs for Indigent Offenders

Beginning in April, DOC officials began using funds from the Inmate General Welfare Fund (IGWF) to purchase PA non-driver photo identification for inmates being released from state facilities that cannot afford to pay for the ID. The cost for such an ID is \$12 per offender.

The IGWF funds only will be used to purchase a non-driver photo ID for offenders who do not have the funds to cover the cost of the ID and who have no other form of ID available for use upon release from prison. All other forms of ID that an offender may want to obtain are the financial responsibility of the offender.

IGWF funds are generated from visiting room vending machines and proceeds from inmate telephone calls. The funds are audited on a regular basis and are used to purchase items that benefit offenders.

CORRECTION: The cost for a non-driver's photo id is \$13.50, not \$12 as reported. Also, the article said that IGWF will pay for a non-driver's photo ID for indigent offenders. However, the DOC will provide a non-driver's photo ID for ALL inmates being released who do not have a current form of ID. This includes, but is not limited to, indigent inmates.

Studying the Effects of Trauma Experiences and Trauma Treatment Programs

Given its size, diversity, supportive staff and travel constraints for the researchers, SCI Graterford was selected by Secretary Wetzel to participate in a trauma study being conducted by Rutgers University. The objectives of the study, being led by Dr. Nancy Wolff, are to screen for trauma and addiction related problems along the incarcerated men and to study the effectiveness of two treatment programs designed for men with trauma and addiction problems.

Dr. Wolff is the professor of E.J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy and director of the Center for Behavioral Health Services & Criminal Justice Research at Rutgers.

Wolff explained that trauma experiences are severe life events that can be directly experienced or witnesses. She said most of these are events that overwhelm our senses and can alter behavior. They often occur unexpectedly and threaten life or safety and may cause feelings of helplessness or fear.

"Our earlier research at New Jersey showed high rates of trauma among incarcerated men," Wolff said. "The rates of trauma among incarcerated men are significantly higher than those found in the outside community."

The types of trauma being studied include being shot, stabbed, mugged or kidnapped; having a home vandalized; experiencing a home invasion, near drowning, car or motorcycle accident or experiencing a natural disaster such as hurricane or earthquake. Examples of

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A Day of Responsibility

On a windy Saturday in February, nearly 150 inmates at SCI Camp Hill gathered for a "Day of Responsibility" in the prison's gymnasium.

The event, coordinated by prison activities staff and several inmates, was intended to help inmates to be responsible and accountable for their actions that led them to incarceration.



Opening the day's activities was an inmate who is serving a life sentence for murder and who has been in prison since 1972. He hoped that the day's events would provide inmates with inspiration to take advantage of their time in prison to change their ways.

Inmates listened as crime victim Lynn Shiner discussed her personal tragedy where her ex-husband killed their two children and himself one Christmas day several years ago. Shiner described her relationship with her ex-husband and the days leading up to that horrific day. She also described the effect the murders had on her life immediately after it took place and also years later.

Following Shiner, Victim Services Assistant Karen Laired lead a discussion with the inmates
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witnessing trauma include seeing someone else killed or tortured or a tragic accident. The study uses a broad definition of trauma including events that are witnessed or directly experienced that occurred inside prison or in the community and at any time in a person's life.

Approximately 700 inmates were invited to participate in the screening, with 240 of those actually entering into the treatment phase of the study, which is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

Approximately 15 Rutgers employees, most of whom have masters or bachelor's degrees and five therapists who have private practices in Pennsylvania and New Jersey with expertise in PTSD and addiction orders, will screen inmates -- in person and using computer programs -- for trauma and addiction disorders. After the screening is complete, inmates will then be assigned to one of two programs, each of which focuses on recovery from violence in different ways. Each program will meet twice a week for 12 weeks.

The outcomes from this study could be inmates who have psychologically benefitted from treatment. In addition, the results would help people understand what programs work best and whether computerized screening is believed to be reliable, resulting in screening software being developed.

Upgrades Made to Distance Learning

The Training Academy recently upgraded its distance learning equipment and expanded the department's distance learning sites from three to six.

The department's three original regional training sites -- located at SCIs Cresson, Greene and Retreat -- received upgraded video conference equipment. New equipment was installed at the three new sites located at SCI's Albion, Laurel Highlands and Waymart. Upgraded equipment included high definition cameras and televisions, while some of the larger classrooms also received ceiling microphones. The Academy installed similar equipment to enhance its broadcasting capability, which includes a touch screen panel to make broadcasting more user friendly for the instructor or facilitator.

This upgrade benefits the department by reducing travel and lodging expenses and increasing training resources.

Did You Know...

...that in 2011, SCI Cresson celebrated its 25th anniversary of being a state prison?

...that in 2012, SCI Frackville celebrated its 25th anniversary?

...that SCI Forest successfully completed an ACA reaccreditation audit in April 2012 with a 100 percent score for mandatory standards and 99.7 percent for non-mandatory standards?

...that SCI Coal Township successfully completed an ACA reaccreditation audit in May 2012 with a 100 percent score for mandatory standards and a 98.8 percent for non-mandatory standards?

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about the hidden impacts of crime – emotional, physical and financial – and how crimes like robbery and burglary affect crime victims – having a gun held to their heads, having the security of their homes taken from them – and how these actions can live with them forever. Prison volunteer Destiny Brown, who has been volunteering at the prison since the late 1980s and is an Evangelical minister, discussed her family dynamic and her own personal story of being a victim.

After the panelists were done speaking, several inmates expressed their sadness for those victims that spoke and even apologized for the hurt that was caused them.

After a lunch break, the inmates were divided into groups in which they discussed various areas of responsibility, such as confession, repentance, forgiveness, atonement, restoration and reconciliation.

The keynote speaker at the event was former inmate Jonathan Queen, who discussed his story and how he overcame his criminal thinking to become a successful member of society.

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WWAST members prepare to go through the metal detector prior to entering the prison.

housing units.

While at the prison, inmates representing the Inmate Organization named ACE met with the team and presented them with a \$400 check and a patriotic painting. Everyone present was touched by the interaction.

Following the prison tour, the WWAST was escorted by motorcycle organizations such as the American Patriot Guard, the Blue Knights and SCI Greene's Pride to the field for the game.

While it was questionable that the rainy weather would hold off long enough for the game to be held, the weather cleared enough for the WWAST to face SCI Greene's employee softball team, which has held the title of DOC softball championship team for six consecutive years.

Opening ceremonies were conducted by the CPOF National Honor Guard Team and honor guards from SCIs Greene and Pittsburgh, the Marine Corps and others. The teams took the field immediately after the first pitch was tossed by Corrections Secretary John Wetzel.

WWAST members were inspiring to watch as they played a great game, but in the end SCI Greene beat the team by a score of 26 to 16.

The day's events concluded with a gathering at the local American Legion where various groups presented the WWAST team with donations totaling nearly \$45,000, the largest amount raised from one WWAST event. Some of the corporations that made donations included the California University of Pennsylvania Veterans Club and the Garrett County Maryland Sheriffs Department, along with various corporate and private donors.

of Washington, the Correctional Peace Officer Foundation, Meadows Casino and the Department of Corrections/SCI Greene. Promoting the game was none other than former Steelers running back Rocky Bleier, who is an injured veteran.

Prior to the game, team members were given a tour of SCI Greene and were afforded an opportunity to hold batting practice on an inmate exercise yard. A select group of inmates were on hand to pitch to the team and field their hits - some of which were rocketed out of the fenced yard landing on roofs of inmate



Inmates present WWAST with a check for \$400 which was raised through fundraising efforts and a matching donation from the Inmate General Welfare Fund.