



# correctional **Newsfront**

## Corrections Department Releases "Landmark" State Recidivism Study

In February, Corrections Secretary John Wetzel released the Department of Corrections' 2013 Recidivism Report.

"To get a true picture of whether our state prison system is meeting its goal of reducing future crime, we need to look at more than just the reincarceration of an individual," Wetzel said. "We need to look at rearrests as well to see the whole picture of how and when individuals come into contact again with the criminal justice system."

This groundbreaking and comprehensive study represents the keystone of the Corbett Corrections Reform initiative, Wetzel said. It establishes a "new normal" in the state's criminal justice system by focusing on reducing crime by studying reincarceration and rearrest rates.

"The 'new normal' is to expect and require quantifiable results based upon a corrections system that helps offenders to help themselves and a system that is based on research rather than anecdotal stories and innuendo," Wetzel said.

In the report, recidivism is defined three ways:

**Rearrest** – the first instance of arrest after an inmate is released from state prison.

**Reincarceration** – the first instance of returning to state prison after an inmate is released from state prison.

**Overall Recidivism** – the first instance of any type of rearrest or reincarceration after an inmate is released from state prison.

Highlights from the report, which includes statistical information going back to 2000, include:

- Approximately 6 in 10 released inmates recidivate, meaning they are either rearrested or reincarcerated within three years of release from prison.

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Secretary Wetzel Talks About...

## Cooperation With Other Countries



As you will note from reading this issue of "Correctional Newsfront," our agency often hosts visitors from other countries' prison systems.

I believe it is important to often have conversations with criminal justice experts from other countries. Why? Because we learn new concepts, new ways of approaching an issue that perhaps we hadn't thought about.

In this issue you will read how a visit from individuals from Singapore opened their eyes to how we handle certain issues in the U.S. And while they learned a lot, so did we.

We must always educate ourselves in order to improve ourselves.

I hope you find this issue of our newsletter informative.

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"Knowledge will bring you the opportunity to make a difference."  
~ Claire Fagin

### Newsfront

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Press Office, 1920 Technology Parkway,  
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ADMINISTRATION

**TOM CORBETT**  
Governor

**John E. Wetzel**  
Secretary

**Susan McNaughton**  
Press Secretary/Editor

**Susan Bensinger**  
Deputy Press Secretary/Writer

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- Overall recidivism rates have been stable for the last 10 years.
- The statewide three-year rearrest rate was 50 percent for inmates released from state prison in 2008.
- The statewide three-year reincarceration rate was 43 percent for inmates released from state prison in 2008.
- Approximately 10 percent of all police arrests in Pennsylvania involve released state inmates.
- Per capita arrest rates for violent crimes are 14 times higher among released inmates compared to the general public.
- Rearrest rates appear to be higher in urban areas, whereas reincarceration rates appear to be higher in rural areas.
- Individuals most likely to reoffend appear to be property offenders. Individuals least likely to reoffend are those incarcerated for driving under the influence of intoxicants, rape and arson.
- More than half of those who return to prison do so within the first year after release, which is by far the highest risk period for returning to prison.
- Younger offenders are more likely to recidivate than older offenders.
- A released inmate who has 10 or more prior arrests is greater than 6 times more likely to recidivate than a released inmate with no prior arrest history other than the arrest for the current stay in prison.
- Nearly two-thirds of all reincarcerations within three years of release from prison are for technical parole violations. Nearly three-fourths of rearrests within three years of release from prison are for less serious (Part II) offenses.
- The Department of Corrections can save taxpayers \$44.7 million annually by reducing the one-year reincarceration rate by 10 percentage points. It also can save \$16.5 million annually by reducing recidivist admissions by 10 percentage points.

Also included in this report are recidivism statistics for community corrections centers. The last analysis of the community corrections system was in 2009 and was conducted by Dr. Edward Latessa of the University of Cincinnati.

"We know from this updated analysis that we have a lot of work to do to improve outcomes in our community corrections system," Wetzel said. "Fortunately, many of the legislative changes accomplished through the Justice Reinvestment Initiative are specifically targeted toward improving this system. We are fortunate because we have the calibre of staff that

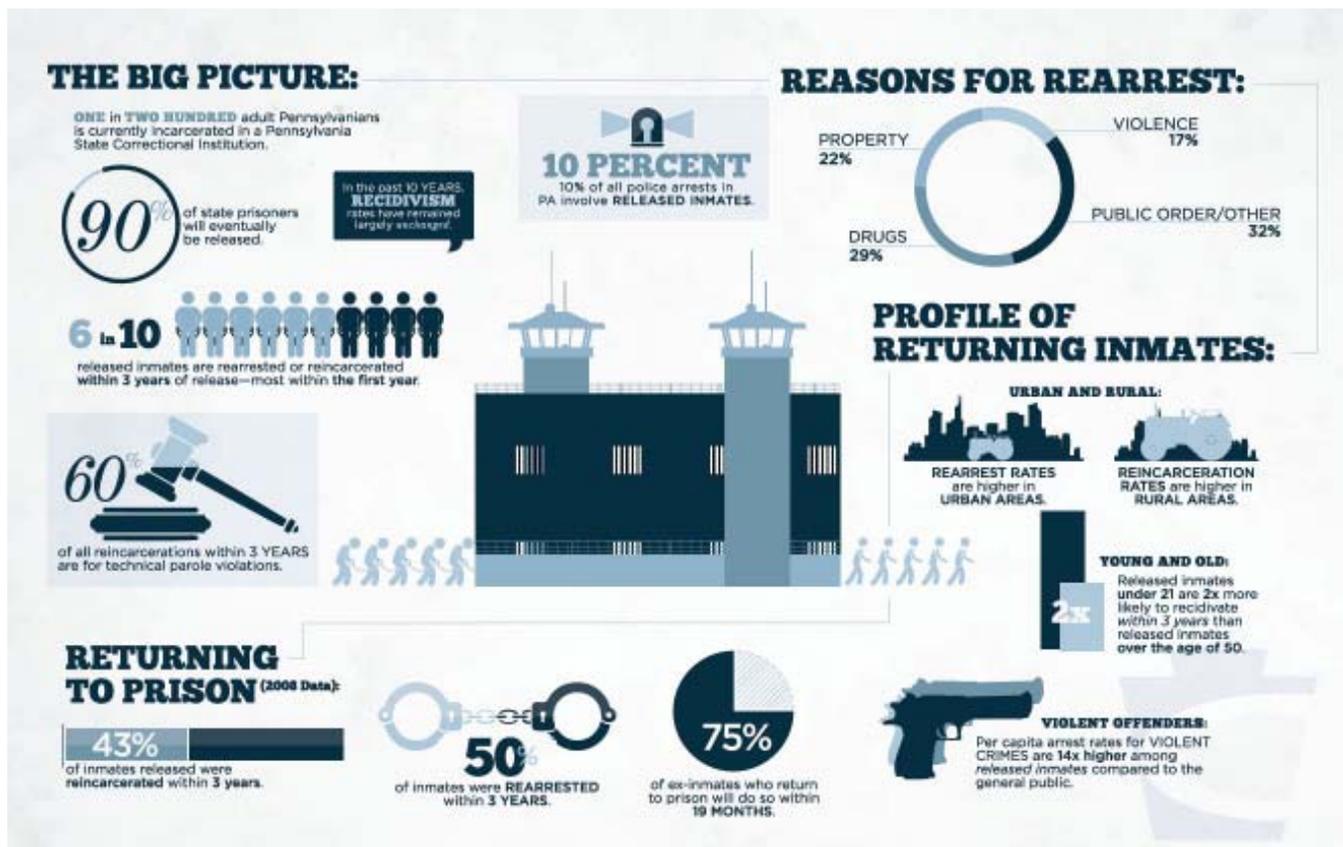
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makes success possible. Again, this report sets the baseline for going forward, as we focus the community corrections system around performance-based recidivism reduction outcomes."

Highlights of the report specific to community corrections are:

- One-year rearrest rates of offenders who were paroled directly home in 2005 and 2006 were lower than those paroled to a community corrections center; however, from 2008 to 2011, rearrest rates were higher for those paroled directly home.
- One-year reincarceration rates of offenders released from 2005 to 2011 who were paroled directly home were consistently lower than those paroled to a community corrections center.



To view the report in its entirety, visit [www.cor.state.pa.us](http://www.cor.state.pa.us).

## DOC Releases 2013 SIP Report

In February, Corrections Secretary John Wetzel released the agency's 2013 performance report on the State Intermediate Punishment (SIP) Program.

"The use of State Intermediate Punishment goes hand-in-hand with the prison reforms begun in 2008 and continued in 2012," Wetzel said. "Studies have shown that individuals' criminal behavior is driven by their addictions to various substances and that treatment, not a lengthy incarceration, is the key to reducing future criminal acts by these individuals once released from prison."

"We now have the metrics that definitively shows that this program reduces the future criminality of participants. As we continue to look at ways to improve our corrections system, this type of evidence-based approach needs to be used more, not less. Bottom line, offenders who successfully complete this program are significantly less likely to commit another crime."

Despite having a lower recidivism rate and saving state taxpayers approximately \$61.8 million since the program's inception, Wetzel said the program appears to be underutilized, especially in many of Pennsylvania's larger counties.

"Of the estimated 4,347 offenders admitted to the Department of Corrections (DOC) who appeared SIP eligible from October 2010 through September 2012, approximately 1,178 (27 percent) were court referred for an SIP evaluation," Wetzel said. "We are seeing a slight decline in SIP sentences."

The SIP program, which went into effect in 2005, was created in response to concerns about the link between substance abuse and crime and the finding that many persons commit crimes while under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs.

SIP was designed as a sentencing alternative, with the goal of enhancing public safety through a period of incarceration while at the same time reducing recidivism through intensive substance abuse treatment.

The SIP program, which lasts 24 months, consists of four phases:

- 1) Confinement in a state correctional institution for a period of no less than seven months. During this first phase, at least four months are spent in a therapeutic community (TC) treatment program, which is an intensive inpatient alcohol and other drug treatment program.
- 2) A minimum of two months in a community-based TC treatment program.
- 3) A minimum of six months of outpatient addiction treatment. During this period, the participant may be housed in a community corrections center or placed in an approved transitional residence.
- 4) Reintegration into the community, under DOC supervision, for the balance of the 24 months of the program.

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In 2012, the law was amended to include several changes to the eligibility criteria. First, SIP eligibility was expanded to include offenders subject to certain mandatory minimum sentences. Second, the prosecutor is now able to waive the eligibility requirements for SIP, contingent upon victim notification/input. Third, the law removes the defendant's ability to refuse participation in SIP. Fourth, a 10-year look-back for consideration of prior SIP-ineligible offenses is enacted. And finally, the list of ineligible SIP offenses are slightly refined, including to explicitly exclude all Megan's Law registration offenses.

Highlights of the report include:

- Of those 1,178 offenders who have been court referred for an SIP evaluation from October 2010 through September 2012, 78 percent were found eligible by the DOC.
- From program inception in May 2005 through September 2012, 3,156 offenders were sentenced to the SIP program. SIP sentences have been slightly declining in recent months.
- As of Sept. 30, 2012, 729 offenders were in the SIP program: 239 in Phase 1 (prison), 88 in Phase 2 (community-based treatment), 264 in Phase 3 (outpatient treatment), and 138 in Phase 4 (community supervision). The number of SIP participants has dropped by about 120 since last year.
- As of Sept. 30, 2012, there were 1,743 graduates from the SIP program since its inception.
- Between program inception and September 2012, 579 SIP participants were removed from the program, representing a program failure rate of 18 percent. This is in comparison to a program failure rate of 30 percent for non-SIP therapeutic community programs operated by the DOC.
- Overall recidivism rates are lower for SIP participants than for a comparable group of non-SIP offenders at six months (11.1 percent versus 24.6 percent), one year (22.7 percent versus 39.7 percent), and three years (46.2 percent versus 72.7 percent).
- The three-year rearrest rate for the SIP participants is significantly lower than for the comparison group, at 42.1 percent versus 49.1 percent respectively. SIP participants are not under parole supervision.
- The state saves approximately \$35,456 per SIP participant. The 1,743 current SIP graduates have thus saved the state approximately \$61.8 million. This is a conservative estimate, as other costs are likely saved including the cost of parole supervision.

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Admission criteria for the SIP program are:

Step 1 - Court Determines Eligibility by Statute and Sentencing Guidelines

- Convicted of an offense motivated by the use of or addiction to alcohol and/or other drugs.
- Not convicted of:
  - 1) an offense involving a deadly weapon enhancement under the sentencing guidelines,
  - 2) a personal injury crime (as defined under the Crime Victims Act) or an attempt, conspiracy, or threat to commit such crime, and
  - 3) crimes involving incest, open lewdness, abuse of children, unlawful contact with minors, sexual exploitation of children or internet child pornography.
- No history of present or past violent behavior.
- Sentencing guideline - a minimum sentence of at least 30 months in a state facility.

Step 2 - PA DOC Assessment

- Before sentencing, the court, upon motion of the district attorney and agreement of the defendant, commits the offender to the DOC for comprehensive assessment.
- DOC reviews criminal records for program eligibility, evaluates offender's treatment needs and determines amenability to treatment.

Step 3 - Sentence to SIP

- Within 60 days of commitment, the DOC provides a recommendation to the court, the defendant, the district attorney and the Commission on Sentencing.
- If the offender is recommended and all parties agree, the court sentences the offender for a period of 24 months to SIP.

To view the entire report, visit the DOC's website at [www.cor.state.pa.us](http://www.cor.state.pa.us).

# Corbett Administration Celebrates Black History Month at Cheyney University

In February, Corrections Secretary John Wetzel participated in Corrections Day at Cheyney University.

In addition to Wetzel, representatives from National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice and State Representative Ronald Waters participated in the event which was held in Cheyney's Vaux Logan Auditorium.

"The students of Cheyney are representative of the individuals needed to continue the forward thinking of the Department of Corrections," said Wetzel. "We are always interested in recruiting individuals who are able to problem solve and utilize creative thinking when faced with the many challenges corrections has to offer."

*"We are always interested in recruiting individuals who are able to problem solve and utilize creative thinking when faced with the many challenges corrections has to offer."*

-John Wetzel  
Corrections Secretary

Wetzel and Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal discussed career opportunities with the Department of Corrections. Staff from State Correctional Institutions Graterford and Chester also attended.

The agency's human resources staff were on site to provide information on type of employment and procedures for applying. Information also is available on internships at state correctional facilities.

Founded in 1837 as the Institute for Colored Youth, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania is the oldest of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities in America. It is located 25 miles west of Philadelphia.

The founding of Cheyney University was made possible by Richard Humphreys, a Quaker philanthropist who bequeathed \$10,000, one tenth of his estate, to design and establish a school to educate the descendants of the African race.

Today, Cheyney University students represent a variety of races, cultures and nationalities. It offers bachelor's degrees in more than 30 disciplines, including education, journalism, medicine, business, science, law and government service, plus a master's degree in education.

# NFI Trains PA Department of Corrections to Deliver Fatherhood Programming to Inmates

*Facilities Across Pennsylvania Have Been Equipped to Deliver NFI's InsideOut Dad® Program to Connect Incarcerated Fathers With Their Children*

In February, the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) announced that it has trained 37 Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PA DOC) staff members on how to deliver NFI's InsideOut Dad® program to incarcerated fathers across Pennsylvania.

The training took place at a Training Academy in Elizabethtown, Pa., on January 15 and 16 following the decision of PA DOC Secretary John Wetzel to standardize InsideOut Dad® at the state's 24 adult male correctional facilities and one boot camp facility. The training equipped treatment specialists, corrections counselors, and chaplains to deliver the classroom-based curriculum to fathers seeking to reconnect with their children. The curriculum covers topics such as family history, what it means to be a man, showing and handling feelings, co-parenting, and much more.

Michael Yudt, NFI's senior director of Program Support Services, who delivered the training, said, "The training revealed a great deal of excitement among Pennsylvania Department of Corrections staff for this type of program, aimed at helping inmate dads reconnect and strengthen their relationships with their children. In fact, one facilitator plans to delay her retirement until she has a chance to run InsideOut Dad® for a year."

Pennsylvania is the 25th U.S. state to "standardize" InsideOut Dad® — the nation's only evidence-based program designed specifically for working with incarcerated fathers — across its state correctional facilities. An independent study by Rutgers University qualified InsideOut Dad® as evidence-based, proving its effectiveness in building fathers' knowledge and confidence in being better fathers, even while incarcerated.

**"When individuals come to prison, not only does the community suffer, often their children, innocent victims in the situation, pay a toll. This program addresses the need for male offenders to stand up, face their responsibilities, and truly be a man in every sense of the word. Not only do we need this program, society does, as 90% of our men will return to our communities one day," said Secretary Wetzel.**

SCI Mahanoy, a facility in Frackville, Pa., has been running InsideOut Dad® and was instrumental in arranging for implementation across the entire state. As a result of the training, each of the 25 facilities aims to offer InsideOut Dad® once per quarter as a voluntary program for inmates, with state-mandated eligibility criteria in place for fathers seeking to participate in the program.

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## Quehanna Boot Camp Achieves Reaccreditation

The Quehanna Boot Camp achieved reaccreditation by the American Correctional Association in January. The facility achieved a 100 percent score on mandatory standards and a 99.7 percent score on non-mandatory standards during a two-day audit at the prison in October.

Auditor Jim Baley said, "Each and every one of you should be very proud of the facility and your accomplishment. I told Linda, my wife, that this was the first audit that I have completed that I left with such a feeling of being able to actually see and emotionally feel the end result of the work of the facility. The graduation was the crowning result of all the work that was found in the files and tour of the facility. Needless to say the wonderful staff and their help was much appreciated by all of us."



**DOC Deputy Secretary John Murray presents Quehanna Boot Camp's accreditation coordinator Ellen McMahon with an accreditation certificate.**

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As the premier fatherhood renewal organization in the country, National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI), founded in 1994, works in every sector and at every level of society to engage fathers in the lives of their children. NFI is the #1 provider of fatherhood resources in the nation. Since 2004, through FatherSOURCE, its national resource center, NFI has distributed over 6.3 million resources, and has trained over 12,700 practitioners from over 5,900 organizations on how to deliver programming to dads. NFI is also the most quoted authority on fatherhood in America. Since 2009, NFI has been mentioned in over 3,200 news stories, and makes regular appearances in national media to discuss the importance of involved, responsible, and committed fatherhood.

Learn more at <http://www.fatherhood.org>.

### Recent Accreditations

Mandatory scores for all are 100% and the non-mandatory scores are listed below:

Pine Grove	99.3%
Laurel Highlands	99.8%
Muncy	99.3%
Retreat	99.3%
Training Academy	100.0%
Quehanna	99.7%
Harrisburg CCC	100.0%
York CCC	99.5%
Progress CCC	100.0%
Riverside CCC	100.0%

## Mirarchi Named Chief of Security

In December, Victor A. Mirarchi III was named chief of the DOC's Security Division.

As major of this division, Mirarchi is responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of security policies/procedures for emergency preparedness; staffing surveys for all facilities, the Drug Interdiction Unit; Special Response Teams (Hostage Rescue Teams, Hostage Negotiations Teams, Corrections Emergency Response Teams and Corrections Rifle Specialist Teams); and coordinating and monitoring external and internal inspections. This division also serves as a resource for all statewide facility security offices.



## Singapore Prison Service Officials Attend Hostage Negotiations Training Conducted by DOC

In January, Singapore Prison Service officials, Kelvin Chua and Jusani Juri, participated in a five-day hostage negotiations training conducted by the DOC at its Elizabethtown Training Academy. Following their return to Singapore, the two wrote:

*"We would like to express our deepest appreciation for your hospitality and sharing during the 5 Day Hostage Negotiation Team Training course. Notwithstanding that this is a basic course to negotiation, both Jusani and I gained a lot of valuable knowledge into the skills of negotiation and are exposed to new scenarios that we have never thought about. Some negotiation techniques that were taught in the training were also never tried in the Singapore Prison Service (SPS), such as offering ultimatums subtly during cell extractions.*

*We also gained deeper insights about how training could be conducted and the provision of specific legal clauses that protects the incident commander from promises made during duress. While we will also raise this provision to SPS for consideration, this may take some time given its legal nature.*

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*One of the most valuable lessons learned during these five days is the management of hostage takers with specific mental illness. SPS houses a large portion of inmates with mental illness, which some are accommodated in a specific housing unit known as the Psychiatric Housing Unit (PHU) as well as the more severe cases in the Complex Medical Centre (CMC) in Cluster A. I had my fair share of managing some of the hardcore ones before I was posted from operations to staff unit. Hence, the strategies to manage them is easily related to.*

*During this training, we also found the situation boards very useful and can quickly be setup. Over at SPS, our situation board were blank pieces of flip chart paper and the headings need to be handwritten, hence requiring time for set up. Based on the PA DOC system, we found the setup of the NOC to be very swift and neat.*

*You were very generous in your sharing, serious in your exercises and role plays and dedicated in your cause to protect the people from the very perpetrators who threaten to cause mental, psychological and physical harm by keeping them against their will in a hostage situation. During the role play that your team exhibited, the team work was swift, calm and professional.*

*These 5 days are short, but very memorable. Being the very first time having stepped into the United States of America, the awe of being in such a great country with strong economic might and military power was felt and the civic mindedness of the American people was heartwarming. Wherever we go, we were greeted by strangers whom we walked pass in the academy. On the roads, citizens were patient and civic-minded, and where road rage were never seen. Road users were all ready to slow down to allow you to filter into their lane. Such is something our Singapore drivers lack sometimes.*

*We are proud to have been a trainee in the great Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Training Academy and having toured the prisons. Starkly different from SPS, the inmates in PA DOC were noted to have a lot of freedom of movement, and contrastingly it was very orderly and disciplined. We were apprehensive initially when we were surrounded by big buffy inmates who roamed around in the open and could easily break our necks with one hand when we toured the different housing units. We felt like we were roaming in a lions' enclosure. Apprehensiveness soon transited to a great deal of respect to the correctional officers in the department who made this happen by their show of mutual respect to the inmates and their humility.*

*There are much that we can learn from you despite the difference in culture and certain practices, and this trip to Pennsylvania proved to us that such international alliance allows us to share good practices and also to know that in our common field of work, we are not alone in pursuing the objective of keeping our family and the members of public safe and molding criminals to useful members of society.*

*Once again, we thank you for you hospitality and generosity. The experience does not end here, for we hope to maintain such cross-cultural relationship between the SPS and PA DOC. Should you ever survive the 25 hour flight to Singapore from Harrisburg, please do contact us. Be it business or pleasure, we will commit to receiving you and ensuring that you have a comfortable stay in Singapore."*

## U.S. Corrections Leaders Tour Prisons in Europe in Effort to Advance Reforms

A prison culture that revolves around the idea that life in prison should approximate life in the community so that inmates learn responsible behavior... A system predicated on the assumption that the overwhelming majority of inmates will return to the community... Significant investment into staff training and lack of turnover... Prison programs that allow female inmates who give birth to keep their babies with them in special housing units for a period of time to establish bonding for the welfare of the child...

These are just some of the insights that corrections and justice system leaders from the United States learned from their counterparts in Germany and the Netherlands on a recent information-sharing trip. The exchange was part of the European-American Prison Project, which aims to advance an international dialogue around what works in corrections and stimulate reform efforts in the United States. It was created and funded by the Prison Law Office and is managed by the Vera Institute of Justice (Vera).

Over the past four decades, state sentencing and corrections policies in the U.S. have relied heavily on the use of prisons to combat crime, resulting in the highest incarceration rate in the world. Currently, 2.4 million people are behind bars—743 out of every 100,000 people. Yet research shows that the increase in incarceration rates over the past 40 years has been extremely limited in its effectiveness, and is responsible for only about 20 percent of the crime decline experienced nationwide since the early 1990s. By contrast, Germany and the Netherlands rely more heavily on alternative sanctions with a greater focus on rehabilitation, and have significantly lower incarceration rates: 85 per 100,000 people in Germany and 94 per 100,000 in the Netherlands.

"The Prison Law Office initiated and funded this project to expose prison officials in the United States to a model of criminal sanctions that relies much more on intermediate sanctions, such as community service and fines, and that uses incarceration more productively to rehabilitate offenders," said Don Specter, director of the Prison Law Office, a nonprofit public interest law firm that has been at the forefront of legal efforts to enforce the Constitution and other laws inside California's prisons. "I am optimistic that this experience will be a catalyst for improving prison conditions so that they are more humane and more conducive to reintegrating offenders into society."

Three state teams from Colorado, Georgia, and Pennsylvania were selected to participate in the project. Germany and the Netherlands were selected as the European counterparts because of their widespread use of alternatives to prison as well as the intensity of their in-prison rehabilitation and educational programs. The teams consist of directors of corrections departments, state legislators, judges, prosecutors, and other stakeholders.

This opportunity was funded entirely  
by the Prison Law Office.  
No Pennsylvania tax dollars were used.

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The project has three stages. First, each team convened on site with Vera and Prison Law Office staff to review its systems, aspirations, and challenges, as well as lead tours of its facilities. Then, in winter 2013, the U.S. state teams, along with Vera and Prison Law Office staff, took part in a one-week visit to correctional facilities in Germany and the Netherlands. The trip included tours of facilities and discussions with European correctional officials about successful strategies. In the final stage, debriefing sessions with the state teams will take place in the near future, and will broaden the conversation to a larger group of stakeholders.

“The value of this kind of cross-cultural sharing cannot be overstated—and the opportunity for state officials to learn from each other is tremendous as well,” said Michael Jacobson, president and director of Vera. “Already, this dialogue between American and European justice officials has been productive. For example, the benefits of using positive incentives for managing low-risk offenders in Europe was apparent, and some of our U.S. partners are already considering pilots of such practices as mother-baby units for female offenders who have recently given birth.”

Responses from U.S. state justice officials who participated in the project demonstrate an enthusiasm for implementing some of the European practices, as well as a determination to continue a dialogue among both the European and American participants.

As John Wetzel, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, said, “We were interested because of our understanding that Europe takes a very different approach to both criminal justice and corrections, specifically as it relates to behavioral health issues such as addiction and mental illness. Since returning, we have identified a group to lead an effort to restructure our mental health system starting by working to re-do the state’s mental health act to more closely mirror the German approach. The project has caused us to take a step back and look at our purpose—i.e., to correct people—and will prompt us as an organization to assess whether our practices are leading to that.”

Responses were similar from other state officials. According to Becky East, administration Division Director and Chief Financial Officer of the Georgia Department of Corrections: “The Georgia Department of Corrections is committed to seeking out best practices for operating the safest and most efficient facilities, which is reflected in Commissioner Brian Owens’ desire to participate in this tremendous project. The trip has opened our minds to exploring the possibilities of implementing programs that we currently do not have such as the mother/baby program. The exchange of information with our U.S. colleagues was invaluable and we plan to continue to keep the lines of communication open.”

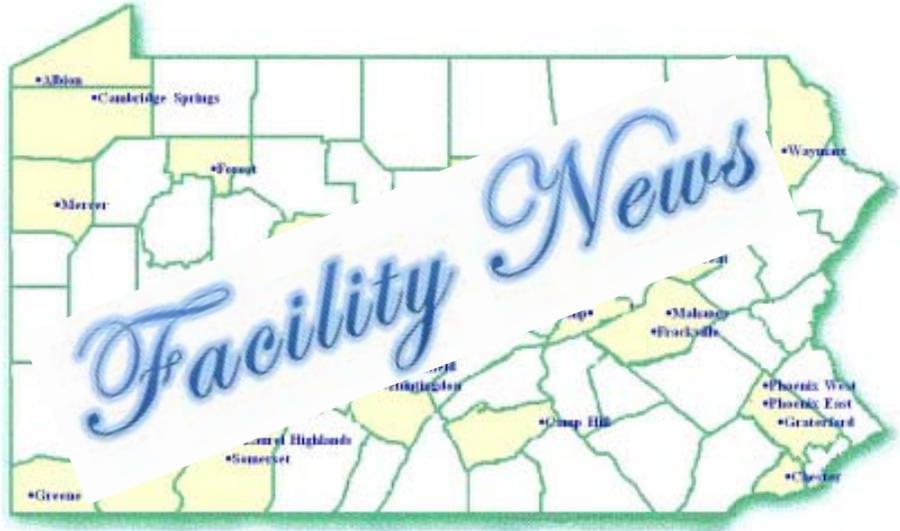
“We were motivated to participate in the European-American Prison Project because of the challenges associated with the dramatic increase in inmates with serious mental health problems and substance addictions, and our interest to explore new methods to address these problems,” said Tom Clements, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Corrections. “I believe this experience will prove to be a springboard for new ideas to improve correctional services in Colorado with a focus on efficiency and better public safety outcomes.”

***The Vera Institute of Justice is a research and policy organization that combines expertise in research, demonstration projects, and technical assistance to help leaders in government and civil society improve the systems people rely on for justice and safety.***

*The thoughts and prayers of Pennsylvania DOC employees are with the family, friends and co-workers of Tom Clements, who was murdered earlier this year.*

## CAMP HILL

SCI Camp Hill, in February, held a “Day of Responsibility” for inmates. The purpose of the one-day program is to provide inmates with an opportunity to reflect upon their past, present and look forward to their future by taking responsibility for their behavior. Guess speakers and small-group interactions are part of the program, which also is intended to get them thinking about returning home after incarceration.



## COAL TOWNSHIP

For the 16th year in a row, employees at SCI Coal Township participated in the “Secret Santa” program, coordinated through Northumberland County Children and Youth Services, providing between 50 to 100 toys each year. The county program provides gifts to more than 1,200 each year. This program was coordinated by the prison’s human resource assistant, Grace Piaseczny.

Last year, SCI Coal Township inmates held their first annual Impact of Crime “Hoops for a Cure” basketball tournament to raise money for a victim speaker who recently addressed the Impact of Crime Class at the prison. During the tournament 10 teams, comprised of 93 inmates playing a double elimination format tournament, along with a donation from the TRIUMPH inmate organization, donated \$719 to Warren and Pat Lupson. The Lupsons, whose daughter and grandsons were murdered, are the founders of a non-profit organization that brings awareness to the issue of domestic violence.

## DALLAS

A former SCI Dallas employee was named this year’s Grand Marshal of the Wilkes-Barre St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Dave Morgan, a Navy Reserve veteran, who was on military leave from the prison, was involved in a Humvee accident in Kuwait that caused him massive internal bleeding and numerous broken bones. Three years post-accident, Morgan can’t talk and uses a wheelchair. He and his daughter will ride in the lead car during the parade.

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## **GRATERFORD**

SCI Graterford will begin a new canine program shortly. Called "New Leash on Life USA," the program's purpose is to improve the life of inmates while saving the lives of dogs. Starting as a pilot program, "New Leash on Life USA" is a 12-week program that will engage inmates in training abandoned and homeless dogs in basic obedience and socialization skills to increase their prospects for adoption. The inmates will learn to train and care for the dogs and will build confidence and improve their future employability.

## **GREENE**

A newspaper local to SCI Greene recently reported on the fact that inmates in the prison's Community Work Program are completing a project for the Waynesburg Borough police station that is anticipated to save the borough significant money. The project was estimated to cost more than \$350,000 and involves cutting out walls and drop ceilings and finishing new rooms. It is estimated that the borough, using the prison's CWP, spent just less than \$50,000 on the project.

## **PITTSBURGH**

Recently, 20 inmates were trained to become certified peer support specialists, qualifying them to provide peer support to fellow inmates with mental health issues and to become eligible for jobs in the community once released from prison. To participate, inmates had to have had a history of mental health treatment and/or were currently receiving mental health treatment with a significant period of stability. Upon completing the training, the inmate certified peer support specialists can be employed in the prison's various special needs units and hospital, while under supervision of prison employees.

## **QUEHANNA**

Recently, the Quehanna Boot Camp graduated its first all-female State Intermediate Punishment group. Eleven inmates completed the program and now move on to the next phase of the SIP program at a community corrections center.

## **WAYMART**

Recently, SCI Waymart has had 10 trees planted in honor of the prison by the Green Roots Initiative for participation in the PowerPlay! Demand response program. This program is used when there is an increased need for power in another area of the state, or even another state. The prison is asked to come off of the power grid and temporarily run on generator power. Doing this frees up valuable energy that is needed elsewhere and helps to avoid a possible emergency situation, a brown out or even black outs.

Employees of SCI Waymart also recently celebrated the facility's 100th anniversary. In preparation for the anniversary, Clerk Typist 2 Marybeth Pasqualicchio worked to transcribe old article from "The Farview Echo" for staff to enjoy. Remember, SCI Waymart originally was the Farview State Hospital until it was converted over to a state prison in the late 1980s/early 1990s, so it has quite an extensive history.

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To help staff celebrate, special meals were coordinated by Terri Fazio, Maria Suhadolnik, Sandy Keating and kitchen staff.

To view a copy of the prison's newsletter covering this topic, contact the prison directly.

## **TRAINING ACADEMY**

Employees from the Bureau of Community Corrections, in conjunction with the Training Academy, recently conducted an occupational analysis for the position of CCC monitor. The panel of CCC monitors was comprised of individuals who share the same job title but represent the diverse cross-section of our workforce performing these tasks in various locations. Each had been selected to participate based upon their job knowledge and the fact that they currently hold the position. In February, another group of CCC monitors gathered to validate the work performed by the original group.

For more information about developing a curriculum, contact Curriculum Development Unit Supervisor Launa Kowalcyk at the DOC's Training Academy.

In other Academy news, in November, Dauphin County hosted its 14th annual Dauphin County Prison Firearms Competition at the DOC Training Academy.

## **CENTRAL OFFICE**

In December, Central Office staff participated in an "Adopt A Veteran" for the holiday season and collected money during the season. The Veterans Home has many residents who are sponsored by various organizations. Monetary donations go into their accounts for them to use as needed.

Also this past fall, 14 Central Office employees donated blood during the fall blood drive.

## **COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

Robert Greaves was recently nominated by the Erie Art Museum for the Recognizing Achieving Volunteers in Erie Awards. His nomination follows:

Robert Greaves is a counselor with the Department of Corrections' Erie Community Corrections Center. He is also a jazz music enthusiast, a member of Jazz Erie and, over the years, has been a regular volunteer and attendee at the Erie Art Museum Blues & Jazz Festival.

Bob is one of those guys who had a Eureka moment 20 years ago and acted on it. While sitting on a blanket in the sunshine listening to music at The Erie Art Museum's 2nd Annual Blues & Jazz Festival, Bob found himself thinking about a few things: about how meaningful music was in his life, about how it elevates him to a place of inspiration, a place of community, and how his clients, who feel empty and devoid of inspiration and community, could benefit from it.

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Bob said to me once, "I felt uncomfortable sitting on my blanket in the sun just taking. I wanted to help. That's when I realized that I could, but I was just one guy and there was so much to do. That's when it started to fit together. I had these clients that I work with, people who feel lost and worthless, people that as a community we all have a vested interest in rehabilitating. I also know how life changing it is to experience culture, jazz music -- the way it makes you feel, when you realize that you can go out and socialize and feel really good and be totally sober. I could put these things together."

That was the year when Bob Greaves started assembling a crew of work-release prisoners to help with the job that no one wanted to do.

Bob said, "You see, to these guys that have been on the inside for so long, for them to get out into a setting like this and hear the music and be part of a community that is something completely new to them. To really be able to give something, and feel really good while doing it, to have a chance to go out and experience having fun while doing a community service, makes them feel part of something bigger -- that they have value, something to contribute."

Every summer since that Eureka moment 20 years ago while sitting in Frontier Park listening to music, Bob has volunteered his time on the first weekend of August. Bob brings 25 work-release prisoners out for a weekend in a park. The men haul trash, listen to music, help the community and love every minute of it. Everybody wins.

Over the years, Bob has inspired more than 500 people to volunteer for more than 8,000 hours at this one event alone. As a community we benefit greatly when the people at the lowest rung of society are elevated through their experience of community service. We benefit so greatly as a community from the work of people like Bob Greaves; people who help people to see the value of community service.

--Karen Dodson, Coordinator  
Guest Services & Volunteer Services  
Erie Art Museum



# Mail!



Director of the Johnstown Community Corrections Center,

The Arbutus Baseball League would like to sincerely thank you for the tremendous support you gave to our league in 2012. Your ability to provide workers who could help with the carpentry, maintenance, and field needs was absolutely essential to our daily operations.

Since we are a volunteer, non-profit league that helps coach and guide over 275 children from the local area, sometimes it is tough to keep up with all of the ancillary items needed to run a facility this large. Due to your willingness to help over the Spring and Summer months, we were able to provide a facility that met up to the quality physical standards that are required.

Thank you again for your organization and planning and above all willingness to help out a non-profit organization within your community that impacts the lives of so many.

Sincerely,  
Tom Newcomer  
Vice-President  
Arbutus Baseball League

## The Inclined Plane

"World's Steepest Vehicular Incline"

January 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Jeffrey Musselman who volunteered his time and efforts this past year at the Inclined Plane in Johnstown, PA. During the spring, summer and fall of 2012 Jeff would show up at the lower station (what seemed like every day!) to work on the landscaping along the hill.

He would do everything from brush and trash pick-up, to tree, leaf and weed removal along the trails and paths which traverse the hillside. His initiative and resourcefulness were his greatest assets in these endeavors. Constantly he would be seeking out projects that needed to be done, and he would use whatever tools were available (sometimes sticks!) to complete them. He even volunteered to paint the bridge, and I'm sure he would've done an excellent job had the opportunity presented itself. Because of his efforts you can see a noticeable difference, especially along the North trail at the bottom.

When all was said and done, Jeff had logged over 400 hours helping us keep the Inclined Plane hillside looking well-groomed and inviting to all friends and visitors alike. I hope he's available next year because it's a job that never ends!

I would recommend Jeff for any short or long-term project. No matter the difficulty, Jeff will find a way to "git 'er done!"

*Fritz Mayer*

Fritz Mayer  
IP Supervisor

*Jeffrey is a resident  
of the Johnstown CC.  
we are proud of  
his efforts.*



711 Edgemoor Drive • Johnstown, PA 15905  
(814) 536-1816  
www.inclinedplane.org



# Keeping You Notified of State Prison Emergencies

On Oct. 1, 2011, the Department of Corrections switched from its previous emergency notification system to AlertPA.

Have you registered yet?

Visit <https://alert.pa.gov> to sign up to receive notifications about prison emergencies. You can be notified on your home phone, cell phone and via e-mail and/or text messaging.

**You select the method ... you stay informed!**

Citizens who do not have Internet access should contact the Critical Incident Manager at the nearest state prison. The Critical Incident Manager will take their information and then enter it into the AlertPA system for them.

Please sign up with AlertPA to ensure you receive notifications about state prison emergencies.

