



Volume 1, Issue 3  
May 2004

# Inside IOWA'S DOC

A Quarterly Newsletter



## Message From The Director

This quarterly newsletter covers activities in Iowa's prisons and community-based corrections departments January through March 2004. As you are all aware, the state is facing serious budget issues for the next fiscal year, starting this July 1, 2004. It is our intent to address these budget issues within

the Department of Corrections without anyone losing their job, however, some lay-offs may be inevitable.

Medical costs are a staggering strain on the Department of Corrections budget. Pharmaceutical costs for inmates are \$3.9 million, and that represents an increase of a half million dollars over last year. University of Iowa hospital services are \$4.4 million, and are paid via the indigent fund.

Hepatitis C is a growing concern. At present, there are 565 known cases of Hepatitis C within our inmate population. Treating them costs \$15,000 per patient per year.

Aging prisoners is also a concern. About 7% of our inmates are age 51 or older. Twenty years ago only 3% were in that age group. While that doesn't sound large, this small segment of our inmates creates a substantial medical cost to us. This

group is expected to grow and will be costing us even more in future years. Life sentences, violent offenses requiring 70% to 85% of time to serve, and even very long mandatory terms for some of our drug offenders (such as 100 years with 16 years minimum to serve) will result in a large elderly population down the road.

Meeting the challenges of the corrections budget will involve looking for further ways that we may be more cost-efficient while maintaining our mission to protect the public, the staff and the offenders. It is my intention to maintain the institutional population at its current level to avoid putting any more strain on the prisons. The additional inmates we receive will have to be moved to community corrections.

Your work this past year has been remarkable in view of the challenges we have faced. I ask for your continued focus on the mission, and the continuation of your working together, as you do so well. Our success this next year is contingent on the professional discharge of your duties, and I appreciate your commitment.

Gary D. Maynard, Director  
Iowa Department of Corrections



## Staff On Active Military Duty

**A**s of April 6, 2004, 45 employees of Department of Corrections institutions and district Departments of Correctional Services were still on active military duty.

### Anamosa State Penitentiary:

Josh Baal	Correctional Officer
Tyrone Bontrager	Correctional Officer
Michael Duncan	Correctional Officer
Richard Gerjets	Correctional Officer
Barb Kula	Correctional Officer
Eric McArtor	Correctional Officer
Pat Stark	Correctional Counselor
Ty Thomas	Correctional Officer
Don Vincent	Correctional Officer

### Clarinda Correctional Facility:

Harold Carpenter	Correctional Officer
Richard Carpenter	Psychologist 3
Ed Espinosa	Correctional Officer
Nicholas Esser	Correctional Officer
Anthony Karr	Correctional Officer

### Kenneth Meyers

Troy Richards  
Lewis C. Schrodt Jr.  
Aaron Sharr  
Sgt. Mel Shelnutt

### Fort Dodge Correctional Facility:

Shannon Blunk	Correctional Officer
Robert Jenson	Correctional Officer
David London	Correctional Supervisor 1
Richard Witham	Correctional Officer
Iowa Medical and Classification Center:	
Wayne Loveland	Correctional Officer
John Smith, Jr.	Correctional Officer

### Iowa Prison Industries:

Sean Culbertson	State Industries Tech
Ken Opatz	State Industries Supervisor

### Iowa State Penitentiary:

Mike Chapman	Correctional Officer
Shane Houseal	Correctional Officer
Lorenzo Riles	Correctional Officer

### Mt. Pleasant Correctional Facility:

Tommy Banks	Senior Correctional Officer
Larry Bennett	Correctional Officer
Bradley Carthey	Correctional Counselor
Dennis Hester	Correctional Officer
Wayne Hester	Correctional Officer
Daniel McCormick	Correctional Officer

### Newton Correctional Facility:

Cody Des Planques	Correctional Officer
Chad Hamilton	Correctional Officer
Chad Maddison	Correctional Officer
Kendra Mills	Correctional Officer
Joe Robinson	Correctional Officer
Randy Warden	Correctional Officer

### North Central Correctional Facility:

Rod Walters	Correctional Officer
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### 1st Judicial District:

Randall A. Petty	Residential Officer
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### 7th Judicial District:

Teresa Andersen	Residential Officer
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## ICON Medical System

Information is a link that provides knowledge to strengthen our understanding of technical advances we all take pride and interest in. This is the first of a series of articles that will bring you information in the arena of medical advances and pertinent information related to health care within the Department of Corrections.

Development of ICON (Iowa Corrections Offender Network)-Medical is an example of technology that has been implemented for approximately one year starting with nurses portion of electronic medical record keeping. ICON-core group, headed by Marilyn Sales, DOC Nurse Administrator, in conjunction with Chris Gesie, Kathy Weiss, and Sue Meyer, provided support and input to the program's development. Other RN supervisors and staff members also provided suggestions for quality improvement.

The mental health component was developed from input from all psycholo-

gists and is currently being field tested at all institutions. Physicians' portions of this EMR are nearing completion with input from Dr. O'Brien and Dr. Kilaru.

Pharmacy section has been completed which is being tested at Fort Dodge Correctional Facility by Susan Shields, who was instrumental in its development.

As these developments demonstrate, the information highway in the form of electronic medical records in a comprehensive format will be available soon. With the push of a button, a fully integrated and accurate data systems can be readily available.

Efforts to foster a productive relationship with University of Iowa Health Care are underway. Substantiated collaboration will assist us in providing a standardized care to offender population. A Forensic Psychiatrist has been appointed in a joint collaboration with the Department of Psychiatry and Department of Corrections to develop a

forensic fellowship in Psychiatry that would be mutually beneficial. Dr. Tracy Gunter will head the fellowship program under the direction of Dr. Robert Robinson.

To minimize the maze of scheduling appointments with 29 departments within the University Hospitals, a proposal was made to appoint a clinical liaison to assist us in this venture. I am glad to report that UIHC and DOC have agreed to explore this idea. Role of this individual would be to schedule patients, serve as contact person for DOC, assist in discharge planning, answer clinical questions for health care providers, minimize waiting time for appointments, coordinate appointments along with assisting in length of stay of inpatients.

Advances in technology, intimidating as it may be for novice technocrats, will in the long run simplify how we do business and collect data providing best health care to our patients.



## 3rd Judicial District

**T**raining  
June of 2003, the Third Judicial District began hosting a series of computer crime training classes. The High Tech Crime Institute (HTCI) based in Missouri conducts the classes. The Sioux City Police Department's Regional Training Center has provided the funding which has made this training possible. An intensive class schedule is maintained – eight hours a day for five consecutive days. Subjects covered range from Internet crime (sexual predators and credit card fraud) to forensic analysis of suspect hard drives. The curriculum includes significant hands-on training.

There are three classes scheduled through this September. Additionally, the officers of the Third Judicial District who have received this instruction are continuing weekly training to maintain their skills and develop procedures to address this dimension of criminal

activity as it affects probation and parole. This district will also be working with HTCI to develop an intensive course tailored to the parole and probation activities of community-based corrections.

### Wellness Committee

On February 10, 2004, numerous staff participated in full blood profile screening as a pro-active measure to assess, among other things, cholesterol profile, glucose or blood sugar level, renal function, liver function, complete blood count, electrolyte panel, etc. The blood draws were performed at the work site by staff from St. Luke Regional Medical Center. The Wellness Committee promoted this activity, with the \$22.00 cost being shared by staff, the Wellness Committee, and the Department. After the medical center concluded its laboratory testing, staff was provided with their individual profiles

and diagnostic assessments.

### Retirement

Administrative Officer Elaine Coon retired from the Department on March 31, 2004, after completing 31 years of state employment. Elaine was the guest of honor at a Retirement Coffee on April 1st. Guests included a vast array of family, friends, and co-workers.

### New Hire

Laura Sullivan has been hired as the Department's new Administrative Officer. Laura began her employment on March 9th working with Elaine in the transition period. Laura holds a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and is a Certified Public Accountant. She recently returned to her native Siouxland after spending 13 years in Alaska working as the Chief Accountant for a large fishing company.



## Fort Dodge Correctional Facility

**D**uring 2003, the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility began providing diversity classes to offenders. After reviewing different programs it was decided to use a curriculum called *Flash Judgment*.

*Flash Judgment* uses the example of a flash camera to demonstrate how individuals make judgments of others quickly and with limited information. The material demonstrates these judgments lead to negative or positive labels. The material concedes that labeling is human nature, but looks at how this influences our interaction with others. The class asks people to look at how these flash judgments cause their actions to show others if they are appreciated, tolerated or avoided. The class ends by challenging individuals to develop ways to make their current environment a place where differences are appreciated.

The curriculum includes a packet with a video, several sets of pictures (which can be copied) and suggested instructional procedures. It also includes exercises for small or large groups. The packet contains a student and a staff workbook, and a leader's guide that provides a two-hour agenda for the class. The material is primarily for use in a school setting, but works well with adults. We have found it works really well with the youthful population at FDCF.

The objectives for the class are:

- To recognize how our first impressions of people elicit positive or negative attitudes towards them.
- To discuss how our attitudes towards others result in behaviors that affect our interaction with them.
- To describe how first impressions become labels with lasting effects.
- To recognize the value of connecting with others in order to learn more about them.
- To create environments that foster feelings of appreciation and acceptance.

We began classes with offenders in the Youthful Offender Program in the fall of 2003. We then expanded the program to include offenders in the Substance Abuse Program and incoming offenders assigned to orientation. The program is being facilitated by Activity Specialists and assisted by offender peer leaders. The class size is approximately 20 offenders.

Feedback from offenders has been positive. The reason the program seems to work well is because it does not single out groups or cultures but challenges individuals to look at their own biases. The material does this in a positive non-confrontational way that encourages discussion with out being accusatory.

Offenders complete a critique with several questions. To the question "What did you learn from this program?" Offender's replies were:

- "Get to know someone before you

judge them."

- "That flash judgments are made everyday by everyone. And it's not right to do."
- "That you shouldn't judge someone off of looks only."
- "You can't just judge someone by looking at them...give them a fair chance."
- "Not to judge people no matter what our snap judgment is. Cause we really don't know who people are until we get to know them."

Another question on the critique asked, "How can we make (the facility) a place where differences are appreciated?" Replies were:

- "By talking to people about flash judgments."
- "Get to know other before judging them..."
- "Get to know people before you make a judgment about them."
- "Teach everyone that everyone is different and should give everyone a chance before we make an opinion of them."
- "Recognize differences and respect it. If you don't understand it try to learn and ask questions."

If you would like more information on this material from United Learning:  
United Learning  
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 100  
Evanston, IL 60201  
Phone: 800.323.9084  
[www.unitedlearning.com](http://www.unitedlearning.com)



## 5th Judicial District

### Why ACA Accreditation?

**W**In January, I asked the Fifth District Board of Directors to give me the authority to seek ACA accreditation. Why on earth would I do that? Budgets are tight and frankly it's not like we have nothing else to do. Well the Board did approve and I contacted the American Correctional Association to start the process.

As the District Director I have the responsibility of insuring that we in the Fifth are operating in a safe, efficient

and by some sort of standards. Yes we have a policy manual and yes we have standards. But they are policy and standards that we have gotten from other agencies and some have just evolved over the years. I **think** our policy manual will pass muster but in my opinion that's not good enough in today's world. I want to **know**.

I want to know that our policies will pass a legal challenge. I want to know that our staff is receiving the kind of training they need in order to help them

with their job. I want to know what our strengths and weaknesses are. I want policy makers, courts, my Board and citizens to know that we are operating by the highest standards of our profession. Finally every district director in the Fifth has left the district a better place because of their service. I want to do the same.

Now you know why on earth the Fifth is seeking ACA ACCREDITATION.

*Submitted by Gary Sherzan*



## Iowa Correctional Institution for Women

Iowa Correctional Institution for Women has developed a family reunification program for inmates in our Therapeutic Community. Family reunification is an extremely important process for female offenders who are transitioning back into society. Mickey Eliason Ph.D. and Krista Thigpen MSW from the University of Iowa in cooperation with ICIW, designed the Families in Transition (FIT) Group. The purpose of the FIT group is to help substance abusing female offenders rebuild or strengthen existing relationships with their family, with a focus on their children. This group is offered to STAR Therapeutic Community (TC) participants during phase three of their program. The group meets weekly for about 12 weeks. Each group member is offered three opportunities to invite members of their family to a special visitation day. Groups were well attended by offender's children and families averaging 12 offenders and 32 family members per session. Family

members are taught the TC concepts and participate in a group activity. TC Staff as well as Mickey Eliason and Krista Thigpen are available to guide and support the women through this family reunification process. Offenders report in exit evaluations that this program is having positive impact on the transition back into their family unit.

A Horticulturist, Mary Ann deVries, from the Iowa State University Master Gardener contacted the institution asking if we would be interested in an Iowa Master Gardener training program for staff and offenders. We were very excited about the opportunity to learn more about lawn and gardening. We had fifteen offenders and one staff who attended the Master Gardener classes. Iowa State University faculty staff and Polk County Master Gardeners taught the classes. The training started in January 2004, with classes twice per week, and ended March 24. All participants passed the classes and were awarded a certification as an Iowa State

University Master Gardener.

Topics that were covered included: Turfgrass Management, Selecting, Planting and Maintaining Landscape Plants; Botany, Soils, Plant Propagation; Wildlife Management in the Garden; Principals of Garden Design; Growing Fruits; Growing Annual and Perennial Flowers; Growing Vegetables, Growing Houseplants; Integrated Pest Management/Weed Identification and Control; Native Plants in the Landscape; Native Plants in the Landscape and Entomology (insects)/Plant Pathology (plant diseases).

This was a very positive program for the offenders and staff. We will be cultivating this great community partner. The Polk County Master Gardeners plan to volunteer throughout the planting and growing season.

We have formed a committee to partnership with the community on beautifying the grounds. The committee will be made up of people from the community, staff, and offenders.



## Iowa State Penitentiary

### Staff Member Receives Substance Abuse Award

We are pleased to announce that at the Annual Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse, held in Des Moines on April 19th, Correctional Counselor Robert Schneider was presented the Individual Excellence Award for his work in the area of substance abuse. Mr. Schneider was recognized based upon his commitment in working with offenders who have a history of substance abuse. We are honored he is on our staff and to have him recognized for the accomplishments he has made in the field of substance abuse here at the Iowa State Penitentiary.

### ICA Awards

The annual ICA Award Ceremony was held at their Spring Conference on April 15th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Vocational Instructors Bryan Koechle and Mike Peters

received the ICA Correctional Program Award for their work on the Habitat for Humanity project, which began in 2002.

Former Warden John Mathes received the ICA Correctional Worker Award that is given to an individual who has shown outstanding achievement, perseverance, and dedication in several endeavors.

We would like to congratulate Bryan and Mike and former Warden Mathes for their dedication and support for Iowa corrections.

### Promoting A Positive Prison Culture Training

The Iowa State Penitentiary is pleased to announce that our application to the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) for a training program on Promoting a Positive Prison Culture has been approved. This training will allow thirty staff from our facility to attend a program scheduled June 2nd, 3rd, and

4th, 2004 to be held in Fort Madison. NIC and the Department of Corrections will be in a partnership for the training program, and NIC will pay the fees and expenses for the training facilitators. The training participants will be a diverse group including all shifts, ranks, gender, race, and departments.

### Substance Abuse License Renewal

Congratulations to Iowa State Penitentiary Treatment Director Jay Nelson and his staff on receiving a two-year license renewal from the Iowa Department of Public Health Division of Health Promotion, Prevention and Addictive Behaviors, following their on-site evaluation of the John Bennett Correctional Center and Farm 3 substance abuse programs. The Counselors who are involved in the program are Bob Schneider, Ann Gehle and Nancy McClure.





## Anamosa State Penitentiary

**O**n March 11, 2004, the Anamosa State Penitentiary completed the first phase of an electrical upgrade. This new system provides 12,470/7,200 volts with a main transformer capacity of 2500 kVA, replacing the existing transformer's capacity of 1500 kVA. Our old system provided emergency power, as well, but needed to be manually started by operators. One of the most needed features it now has allows when maintenance or repairs are required, areas to be isolated and the capability of being energized from a different direction on one loop, keeping outages to a minimum throughout the institution.

Our probationer/violator population at the Luster Heights Camp increased from 10 to 81, and ASP had a population of 1273.

Ten staff attended training for

trainers on Bloodborne Pathogens/Infectious Disease on February 18. They began conducting the same training for all ASP, KCC and IPI staff February 19 and were finished by March 3. The training was required as the result of a violation of an OSHA standard we received in September of 2003.

Joan Decious, IPI Information Technology Specialist IV, was selected as the Employee of the Quarter for the last quarter of 2003. Other events the ERC hosted this quarter included: raffles of a \$50 dinner certificate and cash (50/50), and our most popular event – a soup and sandwich lunch. In December, the ERC was able to purchase the old popcorn machine from Inmate Council and began making popcorn in January. This has been quite popular and sales continue to increase.

Every Tuesday and Thursday a staff volunteer is assigned for duty. We also started selling bottled water and it, too, has been successful.

We are glad to see the safe return of many of our military staff. Currently, we have 9 of 21 still on active duty.

A Community Relations Board was implemented by Warden John Ault and held its first meeting. The eleven-member board consists of representatives from local law enforcement, government, business, civil, education, health care, religious agencies and organizations, as well as one individual from the community. Once a quarter, the group will meet to discuss any concerns that may be happening either within the institution or the community.

Happy spring from all at the Anamosa State Penitentiary.



## North Central Correctional Facility

**N**orth Central Correctional Facility is finalizing all the details for their second annual Community Resource Fair. Correctional Counselor, Misty Sweet and Administrative Assistant, Pam Nees head up this project. We invite different organizations to come inside the prison to communicate with the offenders or opportunities and assistance they can receive upon their release. We have DOT who gives information on obtaining drivers licenses. We have Urban Dreams, Harvest Baptist Church, Damascus Road, and other agencies that assist the men in finding a place to reside until they are able to get provide for themselves. Iowa Work Force Development is also a guest that allows the men a chance to prepare an application for jobs and to begin the search for employment while still incarcerated. Many other agencies participate in this event and it is very well attended by the offender population. In an effort to make this resource fair more than just a place to go on afternoon, every offender who wants to attend the fair must

register with Misty or Pam prior to the event. They are then placed in a classroom and must attend all the classes to be prepared for what their needs may be prior to attending the fair. Last year's event went very smoothly and we received many positive comments from the offenders and the agencies that sent representatives. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Misty and Pam on their efforts in securing this fair for NCCF.

NCCF released a record 84 inmates in the month of March. That is almost double our normal release numbers. To put it in a little bit of a perspective, that is just short of 1/5 of the entire population at the facility. A more noteworthy release happened a month prior. James Klindt of Davenport, Iowa was released after serving a lengthy sentence for 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder. Due to his notoriety within the state, we had over twenty media representatives braving the chilly 20 degree weather and 30 mph winds in hopes of having a short interview. With a baseball cap pulled down to his eyes and a coat pushed up just under his chin, he walked ten feet from the

control center to the car that was there to pick him up without saying a word. And we think our jobs are tough, drive five hours, brave the elements and all you can write is what was past history.

As many of you are well aware, we have had our Leader Dog program for over two years and we recently entered into a program that takes dogs from the local animal shelters and prepares them for good pets to future homes. We were notified by the American Correctional Association that our volunteer, Carol Kirkbride, was selected as a recipient of a volunteer award from their agency. She was contacted earlier in the month for an upcoming story in the ACA magazine. Congratulations Carol, you certainly deserved this award.

With the arrival of spring, our greenhouse is flourishing with flowers and garden plants. Early next month a group of inmates and some staff volunteers will travel to Des Moines to plant the flowers in the flower beds that our offenders made about three years ago. Our offenders and employees are

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## 1st Judicial District

**F**irst District received a prestigious honor during the 1st Quarter of 2004. The Waterloo Dual Diagnosis Program received the "Exemplary Offender" award from the American Correctional Association at its Winter Conference in New Orleans, LA in January. The team of Ross Todd, Mike Schreck, Patti Smilanich, Helen Kemp, Dick Graham, Ken Kolthoff, Cheryl Meyer, and Tom Bonefas, along with Director Dan Craig attended the event and presented the DDOP concept during the conference.

In February, 24 members of the management team attended a week long leadership training provided by the National Institute of Corrections. Later that month, nearly all 1st District employees were trained in Best Prac-

tices "What Works" thanks to Training Center representatives, Trish Signor and Dennis Baugh. Both trainings are a vital part of the First's Strategic Planning Process.

The Waterloo office has been operating with a significant team member missing since early February. Cheryl Cook, Probation/Parole Supervisor is now recuperating from a life-threatening illness and it appears that her recovery is something short of a miracle.

Communication to the public is vital. Community Education nights were held in Waterloo in February and April, providing basic information to families of offenders as well as other concerned citizens. Waterloo also hosted a luncheon for district court judges, public defenders and the county attorney's office presenting the latest trends in supervising offenders.

The Diversity Committee continues to make positive progress and is currently looking at developing a mechanism for tracking parole/probation revocation and PSI recommendations by race and ethnicity. Committee members



also talked about a resource committee with specific advisory committee members district-wide for more community involvement. The Training Committee meets regularly. The "Brown Bag" lunch series consisting of informative one-hour sessions continues to be a success with hopes to expand it to the Dubuque area. The committee also reviewed the training calendar kept on public folders which contains easy access to all training opportunities in the area.

We are thrilled to have our two military personnel Robert Capelle and Randy Petty, both Waterloo Residential Officers safely back in the States. Robert is already on the job in the Facility and Randy will be joining us this summer.



Randy Petty



Robert Capelle



## Clarinda Correctional Facility

**W**e still continue to work on plans to increase beds with expansion of our Employee Lodge. The project was delayed due to budgetary issues. However, work continues by our hard working Maintenance Department.

Another Maintenance project is being finalized. We have a new water tower

that will provide an additional water supply for the entire campus.

We saw several staff leave for military duty. Richard Carpenter, Psychologist left the month of January and will be activated for one year. We have 7 Correctional Officers who were activated in February. They are: Anthony Karr, Nick Esser, Troy Richards, Aaron

Sharr, Ken Meyers and Harold Carpenter. Many staff attended a send-off in Shenandoah on February 24. They will be in Afghanistan for approximately 18 months.

We had some organization changes. Mark Lund, Superintendent moved his office inside the prison building from the Mental Health Institute.



## North Central Correctional Facility

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working together to see if we can harvest over 400,000 pounds of produce this year. To assist us in our garden/flower projects, we had another Master

Gardener Class that graduated thirteen offenders and some community members. All in all, we now have over 103 offenders and 85 community members who have graduated from the class. It is

always nice when spring arrives at the Rock and the dormant-looking place takes on a whole new color.



## 7th Judicial District

### Why does the Seventh District need a new Work Release Center in Davenport?

In 1987, the Work Release Center was relocated with expanded capacity and two field offices were merged into a former motel. The five story former motel is leased from a private non-profit corporation and provides 84 residential beds and office space for field and administrative staff.

In February 2001, this Department was in the final stages of purchase plans, which included a plan to accomplish a considerable amount of needed and deferred building maintenance, when an employee on medical leave alleged that she may have become ill due to exposure to mold in the building. Subsequent indoor air environmental studies confirmed the existence of a mold problem and recommended potential solutions to correct the problem that

could cost in excess of \$4,000,000. To date, about ten employees and their spouses have filed worker's compensation claims and filed suit against the building's owner, Community Resources Corporation, alleging injury due to exposure to mold. A hearing on the first worker's compensation claim was recently held with a decision expected in March. The trial against the building owners was scheduled to begin in May 2004 but has been pushed back to sometime in 2005. Most medical experts generally do not support the claims made by many across the country of major illnesses caused by exposure to mold, but acknowledge that although the claims are not supported by medical research, they also have not been determined unfounded by medical research either. Lawsuits, insurance, and liability problems involving mold have become a major issue in many

parts of the United States.

The determination this Department has made is that the building is safe to continue to use at this time, but the mold problem must be remedied or operations relocated. The District Department's Board believes strongly in the obligation to provide a safe working environment for employees and has requested \$10.5 million for funding for a new building and the DOC has supported that request. New construction is considered a preferred option since it will also provide needed additional capacity and be less costly in the longer term. Resolution of this problem is essential to continue to provide a safe environment for staff and residents, eliminate potential continued new expensive litigation, and to ensure the continued bed capacity needed in the 7th District.



## Mt. Pleasant Correctional Facility

**Superintendent Change**  
Superintendent Ken Burger transferred from Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility to Warden at the Iowa State Penitentiary on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Since that time, Deputy Superintendent Charlie Higgins has been at the helm and has been performing a dual role for our institution.

### Three-Year License Renewal

Once again, MPCF's Substance Abuse received a 3-year license renewal from the Iowa Department of Public Health. The evaluation of our program took place on January 7th by inspectors Cynthia Kelly and Jeff Gronstal. This program is under the direction of Treatment Director Frank Roffe, Treatment Services Director Marcy Canby and Counselors Ray Stigge, Andy Bittle, Fred Huene and Darla Roe.

The inspection consists of reviewing clinical standards, administrative standards and programming standards with a total of 28 points possible. TCP received a total of 27 points, which is

96.43%. We'd like to congratulate the Therapeutic Community Program staff for continuing their excellent delivery of substance abuse treatment for our offenders.

### MPCF Men's Unit Community Service Area

MPCF's Community Service Area has taken on a new and exciting project. At the request of an offender who had acquired knowledge in this trade, we implemented the Braille Transcription area for the Iowa Department for the Blind. This project grew out of its original area, and joined the on-going Blind Commission tape player repair workroom. Presently supervised by Correctional Officer Bruce Noble and Treatment Services Director Marcy Canby, there are six male offenders working in this department.

Offender John Romeo was the



catalyst of the newest addition to our Community Services. He is a "Nemeth Proofreader", one of approximately 20 people in the United States who is able to proofread other transcribers' work. The term "Nemeth" comes from its creator, Dr. Abraham Nemeth.

Offender Romeo has been instructing other workers who wish to become literary Braille transcribers. Certification is obtained through the Library of Congress in Washington DC, and who provides all training manuals free of charge. Offender Romeo is preparing to teach Braille to a visually impaired male offender who is currently residing at MPCF.





## 4th Judicial District

### In-Service Training

The Fourth Judicial District Department of Correctional Services recently completed its first of three annual in-service staff training sessions. The three-day training session covers corrections-relevant topics to hone the skills necessary for staff to perform their critical duties and responsibilities. This year's training includes Mandatory Child and Dependant Care Abuse Reporting, Dual Diagnosis of the Meth User, Relapse Prevention Concepts, CPR, Use of Force, Pepper Spray, Signs of Suicide Risks, Universal Precautions, Staff Safety Procedures, Arrest Procedures, and Self Defense.

We are very fortunate to have skilled trainers within our agency to provide most of this training. Jerry Kuncel, Dave Holst, Dirk Lucy, Mike Flairty, Dwyllan Gearhart, Dan Newby, Brian Richmond, Matt Jennings, Juan Chavez, and Kevin Coughlin were instrumental in presenting this material. In addition, we enjoyed having people from other agencies to provide training on various topics. None of this could have been accomplished without the logistical genius of Community Work Crew Coordinator John Auffart.

### ICA Fall Conference

The Iowa Corrections Association Fall Conference will be held in Council Bluffs! "So What" you say. Once referred to as "The Sleeping Giant", Council Bluffs has awakened and is now "Iowa's Leading Edge". Of course there will be the stimulating correctional networking and intriguing sessions, but the Council Bluffs/Omaha metropolitan area offers a plethora of attractions for all. There are a multitude of golf courses and bike trails. Other Council Bluffs attractions include the Western Historic Trails Center and Lied Historic Building, the General Dodge House, the Squirrel Cage Jail, Lincoln Monument, and the Lewis and Clark Monument. Omaha area attractions include the I-Max Theatre, the Henry Doorley Zoo, Fontenelle Forest, the Old Market, the Botanical Gardens, and the Strategic Air and Space Museum.

More information will be forthcoming as the conference develops. Please make plans to attend. You won't regret it.

### Garden

The Residential Correctional Facility staked out and broke ground for a vegetable garden. Rich Barton, Residen-

tial Officer is the catalyst for this effort and has made promises of a bumper crop. Interestingly, Rich has not experienced the hard packed clay that lies beneath the green stuff we commonly refer to as grass. Rich will have plenty of help from the residents in this effort and we look forward to great results.

### Memorial

Elaine Hansen was employed by the 4th Judicial District from Sept. 4, 2003 until her death on March 3, 2004. While she was short time employee of the Department of Correctional Services, her coworkers felt privilege to know & work with her. She wrote a moving poem after the 911 tragedy. Part of it reads:

*"God Bless America, let freedom  
ring,  
and thank our God for everything.  
For evening moon and morning sun  
for peace and joy for everyone.  
As I remember that awful day,  
as for each soul I did pray.  
I'm thankful for a brand new start  
of a loving America with a kinder  
heart."*



## Iowa Medical & Classification Center

The first quarter of 2004 was spent concentrating on the design and blue prints for the Power Plant and Special Needs additions. Each area was reviewed by all construction disciplines and an overall security review was conducted. These blue prints will be released for bidding during the second quarter.

Planning and preparation began to transition the canteen to Iowa Prison Industry canteen services. The offenders have had many questions about products, ordering and delivery. The hardware and software are in place and the first order submission is scheduled for April 12, 2004.

A joint effort between IMCC, Kirkwood Community College, Grant

Wood Area Education Agency, and Iowa State University Extension Services, brought a pilot program to IMCC. The program was called, "Long Distance Dads". Ten offenders attended twelve sessions, covering topics such as, "Your Fathering Legacy", "Dad's Make a Difference", "Childhood Development", "Communication and Managing Stress". At the conclusion of the course, a meeting was held with the offenders to review the course and to seek input on ways that IMCC can assist offenders in being good fathers.

The same groups of collaborators, plus Jean Kehl from the 6th District, are now searching for grant dollars to fund this program. The "Long Distance Dads"

programming was one of IMCC's goals for 2004.

During the next quarter we will begin the "Reach One – Teach One" program. This program trains offenders to be peer leaders in the discussions concerning harm reduction and health education regarding infectious diseases. This program is funded by the Center for Disease Control and the Iowa Department of Public Health. The "Reach One – Teach One" program will be incorporated into the Reception program, so that all offenders entering the Department will have an opportunity to gain a better understanding of personal choices, lifestyles, and behaviors which impact the offender's health condition.