

Hotline

May is Mental Health
Awareness Month



CORRECTIONS NEWS

Governor Pawlenty and Corrections Commissioner Joan Fabian kicked off **Operation Clean-Up** on April 16. This is the fifth year the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Department of Transportation have partnered on this governor's initiative. The project uses volunteer and offender work crews to beautify Minnesota roadways. Sentencing to Service and Institution/Community Work Crews from around the state participate in Operation Clean-Up, which runs through September.

May 4-8 is **Corrections Employee Recognition Week**. Correctional workers are responsible for management of offenders in Minnesota correctional facilities and on community supervision status. This workforce includes officers, agents, nurses, dentists, caseworkers, teachers, support and technology staff, and many other professionals who work to maintain public safety.

Established in 1997 as a program of the Minnesota Department of Children, Families, and Learning, **Minnesota Computers For Schools** provides refurbished computers to schools, corporations, and government agencies across the state. The DOC has been an important partner, providing facilities to work in and inmate labor. The program has now placed over 50,000 computers. For more information, visit www.mncfs.org.

April 26-May 2 is **National Crime Victims Rights Week** (NCVRRW). State prisons organized several presentations throughout the week to show offenders the impact of crime. Participating organizations included Parents of Murdered Children, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, STOP It Now (child abuse prevention), and others. For additional information about NCVRRW, visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrrw/welcome.html.

The **U.S. Department of Justice** has published several new documents on its website, including *Using Technology to Make Prisons and Jails Safer*. The piece describes several research projects and pilot programs that test an array of new technologies for detecting contraband and running safer institutions. These technologies include scanning and detection devices that spot cell phones and knives; devices using radio

waves to track prisoner and staff movement within an institution; and new computer programs that may help predict where problems are most likely to occur. For more information, visit www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/225764.pdf.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice, has released its solicitation for **Second Chance Act grants** for nonprofit organizations mentoring initiatives. Funding is available to help nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Indian tribes implement mentoring projects to promote the safe and successful community reintegration of offenders. For assistance with submitting an application, call the Grants Management System Support Hotline at 888/549-9901 and select option 3. For more information, see www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/09SecondChanceMentoringSol.pdf.

Jennifer Boe Mesojedec from the Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF)-Moose Lake is the Minnesota Correctional Education Association's *Teacher of the Year* for 2009. Boe Mesojedec began her career in elementary education before coming to Moose Lake in 1999, where she teaches the English Language Learners class. She is also coordinator for the facility's Reading Is Fundamental program that helps offenders' children receive books. Boe Mesojedec is now nominated for a regional award for Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska.

The **EMPLOY Program** prepares offenders to find work when they are released from prison. Funded by MINNCOR Prison Industries, EMPLOY also assists in finding employers who are willing to hire offenders. Participating offenders must maintain minimal discipline to remain in the program. As of April 2009, EMPLOY has assisted over 400 offenders.

Members of the **Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development** (DEED) recently toured the MCF-Stillwater. This tour was sponsored by EMPLOY to help DEED become familiar with how inmates gain valuable work skills though



hands-on industry and vocational training. EMPLOY seeks a strong partnership with Minnesota Workforce Centers to better assist offenders in finding employment.

A \$500 scholarship is available from the Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA). Applicants must be a dependent of a current MCA member and an incoming student, or a currently enrolled college student. Deadline to apply is September 1, 2009. Visit www.mn-ca.org/Organization/2008PostSecondaryEducationScholarship/tabid/264/Default.aspx for information.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lynn Dingle, deputy commissioner of the Facility Services Division, is retiring May 18 after 35 years with the DOC. She began her career in 1974 at what was then the Minnesota State Prison, now known as the MCF-Stillwater. She provided support to the Minnesota Parole Board and the parole unit where she was named supervisor in 1978. She transferred to Oak Park Heights and served in several positions including facility information center supervisor, case manager supervisor and assistant to the warden. In 1993, Dingle was promoted to associate warden of administration at Faribault and later became associate warden of operations. Dingle was selected to serve as warden of the MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake in 1995. She served as Shakopee warden from 1999-2001. Dingle also served as the first female warden at Oak Park Heights (2001-2005) and Stillwater (2005-2008) until her appointment as deputy commissioner in 2008.

Neil Johnson has been appointed Field Services District Supervisor in Mankato. Johnson was previously a juvenile contract agent in Faribault County. He has extensive supervision experience and has been actively involved in committee and program development work throughout his career.

John Radmer, regional Sentencing to Service (STS) supervisor, has announced his retirement effective May 1 after 37 years of service to the DOC. He began his career as a corrections agent in 1971 and has been in his current position since 1991, where he has served as a strong advocate for the STS program.

OPENINGS

The **Vermont Department of Corrections** seeks a superintendent of the Northwest State Correctional Facility. This newly-renovated facility located in St. Albans, Vermont, has a capacity of 192 adult women. The candidate will have knowledge reflective of the criminogenic needs of incarcerated women and a proven supervisory track record working with a diverse incarcerated population. The ability to establish effective working relationships with facility staff, offenders, and the public is essential. A benefits package is provided with a salary range starting at \$65,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Visit www.doc.state.vt.us/custody-supervision/facilities/nwscf for a full position description. Submit resume, cover letter, and references to: Kristie M. Salyer, AHS Human Resources, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, Vermont 05676, phone 802/241-2781, fax 802/241-2797, Kristie.Salyer@ahs.state.vt.us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The MCF-Red Wing will host the 27th annual Field Services Conference May 14-15. For more information or to register, contact Judi Mickelson at 651/267-3672.

MCA is offering a training opportunity, *Officer Safety/Search & Seizure*, May 15 at the Redwood Falls Community Center. For more information or to register, visit www.mn-ca.org/CalendarofEvents/tabid/86/ModuleID/447/ItemID/13/mctl/EventDetails/Default.aspx?selecteddate=5/15/2009.

The **Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers'** 52nd annual spring conference is May 20-21 at Breezy Point Resort near Brainerd, Minnesota. The keynote speaker is FOX 9 Investigative Reporter Trish Van Pilsum. Other presentations include working with stalking victims, predatory offender registration update, female sex offenders, and more. Visit www.macpo.org to register.