



# RE-ENTRY RUNDOWN FALL EDITION VOL. 7

SEPTEMBER 2018

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2018** 2

**MENTAL HEALTH UNITS RECEIVE COMPLIMENTS** 2

**PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY** 3

**GOODWILL** 3

**WRITERS WORKSHOP FOR INMATES** 3

**PAROLE LIAISON** 3

**CM CONFERENCE PICTURES** 5

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

CM 101 training - September 12-13

IRAS training - September 10-11

In the early 90's a silly game took off based on the concept that any two people on Earth are six or fewer acquaintance links apart. As we spend the month of September participating in facility-wide events to celebrate National Recovery Month, we are reminded that every single one of us has been impacted by addiction, mental illness, and (hopefully) recovery... most likely with way less than "six degrees of separation." **Mental health and substance use disorders are equal opportunity diseases that occur without discrimination.**



So, what does this month of Recovery even mean? Recovery is... private, personal, public, individual, family, community, work, possible... but most importantly, Recovery does not discriminate either and instilling the hope of Recovery is a task that we can all take on.

**I ask you to take the time to learn about these diseases, find ways to support those around you or to reach out for help when in need,** and to be part of the change that is possible for not only those we serve, but also those we serve with and those we love. If you or someone you know is struggling with thoughts of suicide, or needs help with an addiction or mental illness, please call 800-273-8255. "One hello can change a day. One hug can change a life. One hope can change a destiny" (Lynda Cheldelin Fell), by Executive Director Stephanie Anderson



Four IDOC Religious Services staff members marked the beginning of Ramadan by attending an iftar meal **sponsored by the Muslim Alliance of Indiana** on Wednesday, May 16 at the Governor's Residence.

During the month of Ramadan, Muslims abstain from food and drink while the sun is up, and break their fast with a meal after sunset known as iftar. - Religious Services Director David Liebel

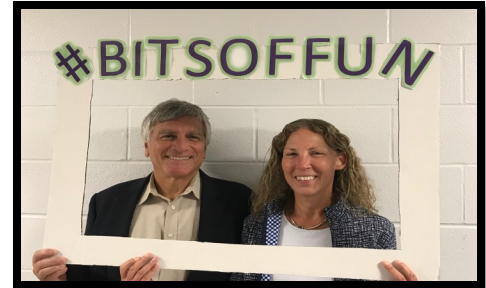
Chaplain Claude Robinson, Pendleton ISR  
Chaplain Ismail Aleem, Central Office  
Governor Eric Holcomb  
Director David Liebel, Central Office  
Chaplain Jerry Anderson, Central Office

## Case Management Conference 2018 #CAREYON

This year's Case Management Conference was held June 19th and 20th. Case Management staff had the opportunity to hear from The Carey Group and become **licensed users of the Brief Intervention Tools (BITS)**.

The BITS are interventions for CM staff to use with offenders, especially beneficial for 90-day contacts and inmates who can be a challenge.

This year's **conference represented many outside organizations**. Some of those included Prof. Bill Mackey from ISU, the Indiana State Police, and the Federal Bureau of Prison's Re-Entry Simulation. We were also fortunate to hear from many of our own IDOC staff.



**A special thanks to Staff Development & Training at CTI**, all of their organization, and the team building exercises!



Be sure to use your BITS worksheets, watch for the **BITS TIPS**, and **contact Jenna Mackey (jmackey@idoc.in.gov)** if you need any help!

## Protection and Advocacy Services Settlement Independent Audit Results



Since the creation and implementation of the Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services (IPAS) Settlement, the Indiana Department of Correction has overhauled the way mental health services are provided to offenders. The agreement ensures that offenders with serious mental illness are only housed in restrictive housing under exceptional circumstances. Many of the offenders with mental illness, who would have traditionally stayed in restrictive housing for extended periods of time, are now diverted to places where they can receive appropriate treatment.

**We are nearing the end of the three-year period in which the agreement is actively in effect. To ensure compliance with the settlement agreement, the IDOC was asked to have an independent auditor review settlement changes.** This past June, the IDOC and Wexford welcomed Dr. Joel Dvoskin, Ph.D. ABPP to conduct the independent audit.

Dr. Dvoskin reviewed the Department's compliance to the requirements of the IPAS Settlement Agreement by thoroughly reviewing documentation, making visits to the mental health and restrictive housing areas at IWP, NCCF, IR, and WVCF, meeting with staff and offenders to evaluate what is currently being done, for improvement suggestions.

In his report, Dr. Dvoskin affirmed that, **"the Department and Wexford are in full compliance with the substantive requirements of the Settlement Agreement.** Moreover, the Department and Wexford have internalized these requirements and support them enthusiastically." **Dr. Dvoskin further reported that he saw good collaboration between mental health and custody staff at each of the locations, he saw many skilled interactions** between staff and offenders, and that the leadership in the locations were "outstanding". Having completed similar audits in other states, Dr. Dvoskin was very complimentary of the progressive work that is being here and the professionalism of our staff.

Without the support and cooperation of all staff, this excellent outcome would not have been possible. We are so proud for the hard work of our administration, unit team, custody, mental health, medical, and all supportive staff for improving the management and treatment of offenders with mental illness in the Indiana Department of Correction. We have made tremendous progress and are excited to continue to be a leader in this field. - Director Amy Eickmeier

## Indiana Prison Writers Workshop (IPWW)



It is no secret that critical thinking is crucial to the success both inside and outside of our correctional facilities. And while staff work tirelessly to do their part to instill this incredibly important skill, volunteers all over the state step up to provide additional resources. One of those volunteers is **Debra Des Vignes, a volunteer at the Plainfield Correctional Facility**. She launched the Indiana Prison Writers Workshop in 2017, a creative writing program where she leads a group through different writing prompts.

The mission of Indiana Prison Writers Workshop (IPWW) is to improve the lives of those incarcerated through writing and expression. They are not only elevating critical-thinking and problem-solving skills but uncovering issues once buried. IPWW prepares men for re-entry and the tempo of life in the free society. The workshop is a certificate-based class.

They write about poverty, social integration, the frailty of mind and body, vulnerability through trauma, hope and new beginnings. They write cover letters and offer frequent grammar tests to measure program progress and build success. The workshop includes fiction writing, essay writing, poetry, spoken word, fantasy writing and much more, and varies in length and depth. Workshops are 6 months long, but some participants carry over to further advance their writing.



Debra adds, “Writing builds confidence and is the perfect soundtrack to a new life, where fast-paced tempos once matched a hectic pace of a life, gives way to a calming melody of self-reflection. They are students, and critics, and essayists, and poets, and storytellers.” by Program Director Rick Rosales

## WEXFORD HEALTH - PAROLE LIAISON

A 50-year-old female released to parole whose goal was to be admitted to the Amethyst House of Bloomington and stop using alcohol. She continued to work hard with her parole liaison to complete the application, and after many weeks, started the program. The offender worked hard with her liaison and remained alcohol free.

A 39-year-old male began parole in March of 2018. Offender self-report of depression, medical issues, and alcohol abuse to parole officer and liaison assisted by linking him to a local Community Health Center. The next week he was seen by his primary care doctor; his medical conditions were addressed and he was given prescriptions. That same week, he got an appointment with the psychiatrist, a job interview, and was hired. He still reports experiencing some symptoms of depression, but is attending all mental health and substance abuse treatment appointments. He is meeting with liaison weekly for encouragement and continued goal-setting. (from Wexford group)



**“New Beginnings” is a 6-month, re-entry transitional job program operated by the Indianapolis, Indiana-based Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana, one of the largest of the 162 independent, nonprofit Goodwill agencies located throughout North America.**

There were **four individuals that graduated from New Beginnings in June.**

- Education Director John Nally



