

RIDOC Happenings

Volume III, Issue 11

Upcoming & Recent Events & News of Interest to the RIDOC Community

July 3, 2009



Many RIDOC Correctional Officers, Probation and Parole Officers, and sundry staff will work this weekend to keep our communities safe. Best wishes to all employees and their families for a safe and happy 4th.

Listings or photos for the e-calendar *RIDOC Happenings*, the quarterly newsletter *RIDOC Review*, or changes or updates to the Department's Intranet site or external website (www.doc.ri.gov) should be submitted to Tracey E. Zeckhausen, Chief of Information & Public Relations
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New Information on Internet/Intranet/Electronic Mail Use and Standards

The Director recently issued a statement letting staff know that all employees are now allowed to access the internet and personal email accounts during break periods. Wyse terminals will be placed in each facility for use by line staff who do not have computer access at their posts. Employees are expected to access the internet for minimal personal use during break periods only for things such as checking personal email accounts and reading news articles, as long as said does not interfere with normal business activities. Use outside of these parameters will be considered excessive and may subject the party to discipline.

Electronic Newsletters Can be Sent to Employees' Personal Email Addresses

If there are employees who do not use a DOC email account and would like to receive this publication or the *RIDOC Review*, our quarterly newsletter, at their personal email address, please let Editor Tracey Zeckhausen know by emailing her at tracey.zeckhausen@doc.ri.gov or calling her at ext. 22609 and clearly stating your personal email address.

Pat Threats Looking for Donations for Women's Facilities

Anyone who is able to donate blank journals or arts and crafts materials for female inmates is encouraged to contact Patricia Threats, Principal Public Health Promotion Specialist, at ext. 23799.

Next Hep B Clinic for Employees

All employees are eligible to receive a free Hep B vaccination. The next one will be offered on Monday, July 27th, on the second floor of the Pinel Building, from noon - 1 p.m.

NEO for Mentors, Volunteers, and Interns

Mentors, volunteers, and interns are now required to receive 3.5 hours of NEO only. The next NEO for this group will be held at the Training Academy, 2nd floor of the Pinel Building, on **Monday, July 13th, from 8:30 - noon**. Preregistration is required. Employees must still attend two-day NEO and the next one will be held **Monday - Tuesday, July 13th - 14th, from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.** The quarterly NEO tour date will be **Wednesday, July 15th, from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.** Preregistration is required.

Probation and Parole to Hold Informational Forum

The latest community to hold informational forums for probationers is West Warwick. The Kent County Probation and Parole Office will host a forum on **Tuesday, July 14th, at 3 p.m.** at the **West Warwick Town Hall**. Probationers will hear from Director Wall and Police Chief Villa as well as staff from Probation and Parole and other community service agencies.

Introducing our Summer Interns

Probation and Parole's Sharon Schwartz-Vanderhoff welcomes Salve Regina student Kara DiPaola through the State House internship program. Kara is an Administration of Justice major and accompanies Sharon to Sixth Division District court. Katherine D. Madriz, an undergraduate double majoring in Economics and Accounting at URI, is doing a summer internship with the Office of Legal Counsel. She has attended arbitrations with counsel, assisted in the preparation of new lawsuits, translated inmate letters from Spanish to English, and read and annotated 250 court decisions and orders. Please welcome all of our summer interns. Supervisors are encouraged to provide other interns' names and credentials so they can be acknowledged in the next edition.

COSAR In the News

The newly formed Correctional Officer Search and Rescue Team has received tremendous support from uniformed personnel of all levels and from all facilities. Read about COSAR in a press release posted on the DOC website and look for coverage in the local press in the coming weeks, including at www.allpawtucket.com.

Upcoming Leadership Change in Health Care Services

It is with regret that Assistant Director Roberta Richman has announced the resignation of RIDOC's Medical Program Director Dr. Michael Poshkus (effective September 4th), who has ably served in that role for five years. Dr. Jose R. Arias, who has worked as a physician in our various facilities for five years, will assume the role of Acting Medical Program Director. Please wish Dr. Poshkus well in the next stage of his career and welcome and support Dr. Arias as he leads Health Care Services, building on the strong framework established by his predecessor and the entire Health Care Services team.

PHOTO GALLERY

NEWPORT REENTRY FORUM



Staff from Probation and Parole, community service providers, and representatives from law enforcement gather at last week's community forum on prisoner reentry in Newport.



Senator M. Teresa Paiva-Weed speaks to a crowd of community leaders at the recent prisoner reentry forum in Newport. At right is moderator, Bud Cicilline.

COSAR



Active duty Correctional Officers from all facilities and ranks have volunteered to participate in the new Correctional Officer Search and Rescue team (COSAR) launched recently by Minimum Security's Mike LaPlume.



COSAR co-leaders Steve Aceto (Maximum) and Mike LaPlume (Minimum) at a recent drill.



COSAR members at a recent drill. Visit the team's website at www.mycosar.com.