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VOL. 04, NO. 01



HOWARD COUNTY JAIL

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Gratitude for Our Guardians *of Peace*

I always get excited when I read about everything going on around our counties and in our county jails. I enjoy knowing that our jail personnel are receiving awards, going to training, and getting involved in their communities' activities.

Sometimes it appears that these folks don't exist.

Members of the jail staff might be working behind the scenes, rather than out in the public eye responding to calls, but it doesn't make them any less important. I stand strong in my beliefs about how extremely important their jobs are.

We are very fortunate to have jail administrators and jail staff who are dedicated and willing to work hard to keep detainees, other staff, and their communities safer. I'm not sure how many people realize that their jobs are stressful, difficult, and sometimes dangerous.

According to a report by a mental health research institute, since the 1950s the number of beds in state psychiatric hospitals has declined by over 91 percent. As a result, our jails have been forced to take over the role of mental health institutes. Jail staff often find themselves dealing with detainees who are dealing with a substance abuse disorder and/or who would be better served by mental health services.

Those problems are only magnified by staff shortages.

Although the majority of those being housed in county jails are there awaiting their day in court rather than serving out a sentence, they aren't just locked up and for-

gotten. Jail personnel are constantly striving to provide services that will be helpful to those in their care.

Many jails are creating reentry programs that will help inmates get approved for assistance once they are released. Some counties have hired case managers to assist with resources they'll need when they return to their communities. Other jails have even adopted educational programs designed to give inmates a better chance at succeeding in life. Gone are the days when jails provided only a bed and food for inmates.

Jails have come a long way — in a lot of different ways — over the years. The article about the old Cuba Jail appearing in this issue of the magazine provides a clear example of that! I always like reading our historical features because they show just how far we have progressed.

I also enjoy reading the articles on the new jails being built and looking at services that allow our jails to be more efficient. It's interesting to see the different avenues that communities have taken to achieve the same result. We hope you enjoy reading them too. Finally, I want to thank every sheriff, jail administrator and staff member for the difficult job they do, day in and out. We appreciate you. Our magazines are dedicated to you.

Jeanne Merritt

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Jail News

Noteworthy happenings from across Missouri's correctional facilities, highlighting the efforts of correctional staff, innovative programs, and the stories of individuals navigating life within Missouri jails.



Perry County

The Perry County Sheriff's Office has partnered with Gibson Center for Behavioral Change and the Mobile Treatment Unit team to provide substance use treatment to appropriately screened inmates. The team will continue their treatment to help them on to a path of recovery and reduced recidivism.

Unseen Scars: Correctional Officers Face Emotional Toll



"The Nothing That Never Happened" by William Young Jr. is a collection of stories detailing the emotional danger and psychological damage that correctional officers endure while working behind the walls and the wire of a correctional facility. This book highlights the "nothings" that go unreported.

According to Olivia Moser, a licensed mental health practitioner (LIMHP), certified provisionally licensed alcohol and drug counselor (PLADC), and clinical program manager for the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, the book

is "the reality check that many will not receive, and yet everyone in the correctional environment needs. William lays out the hard cold truths about the invisible working hazards that most of the general public doesn't have a clue about. The 'Nothing That Never Happened' is the chance to further educate yourself and your loved ones on the difficult reality of working inside the walls."

The book is available in both Kindle and paperback formats on Amazon.



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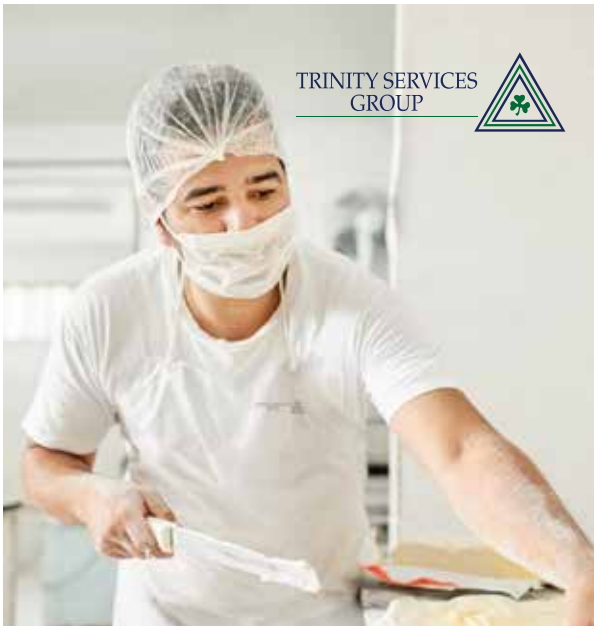
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In October the JCDC recognized other team members.

1 Deputy Director Deloris Wells for 5 years—pictured here with Major Mike Montgomery, Deputy Director Michael Cunningham, and Director Diana Knapp

2 The JCDC’s Retention Committee hosted team building and training events for all four shifts in late October. Director Knapp said the event provided an opportunity for Detention Center staff to celebrate the progress of the past several years in facility operations and safety. Staff were provided training on wellness and the county’s retirement benefits and they were introduced to the plans for the Justice with Dignity Project now under construction. “We appreciate Deputy Director Deloris Wells and the JCDC Retention Committee and JCDC Training Department, led by Capt. Lea Henderson, for their hard work to make this event a success,” Director Knapp said.

3 Capt. Lea Henderson, pictured with Deputy Director Michael Cunningham, was thanked for 10 years on the job.

4 PT CO Dwayne Parker, pictured with Capt. Henderson, was also recognized for 10 years of service.

5 Sgt. Callie Gage, pictured with Lt. Hajin Abrego and Director Knapp, was recognized with a Letter of Appreciation for her support on a stabbing investigation.

6 On Human Resources Professionals Day, Sheriff Forte and Director Knapp recognized (left to right) Sherry Cosby, Carmen Hayes and Karen Crockett, the people who work behind the scenes to get the job done but who rarely get recognized for their hard work.

Jackson County

Sheriff Daryl Forte and staff of the Jackson County Detention Center recently met with members of Grace and Truth Church in Independence. This event was planned and coordinated by the Detention Center Administration and Training Section to meet the annual training requirements of the volunteers who provide religious services for detainees. All volunteers who provide services at the facility must submit to an initial background check and participate in new staff training. To maintain eligibility status, they are subject to annual criminal records checks and must participate in mandatory training for their safety and the security of the facility. The volunteers were treated to a banquet prepared by Deputy Director Deloris Wells. JCDC volunteers are coordinated by Chaplain Ray Stewart.



X-RAY

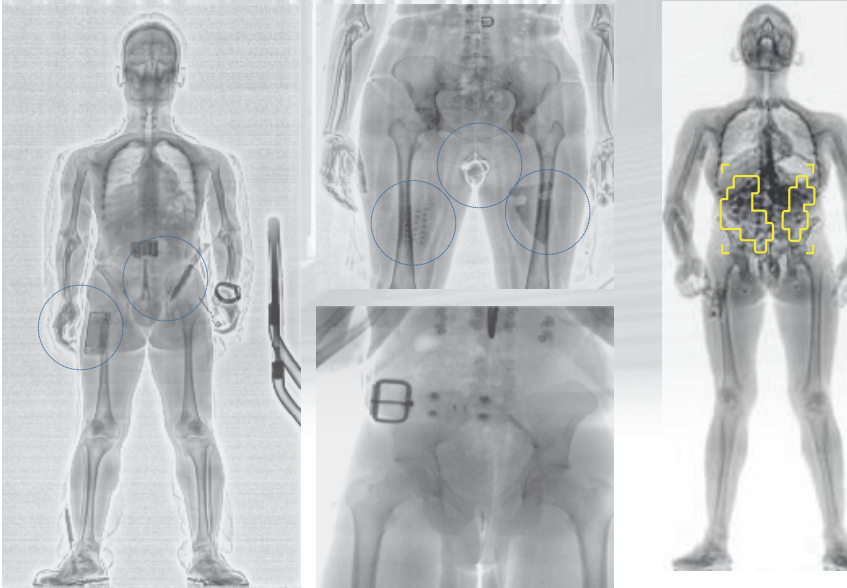
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Morgan County

Several deputies and corrections officers with the Morgan County Sheriff's Office took part in a cell extraction training class taught over the summer by instructors with the Missouri Sheriffs' Association.

The eight-hour course, which is taken to jails across the state on request, begins with discussion on the use of force in corrections and the need to manage disruptive and/or dangerous behavior. It continues with information on the controlled use of force to reduce potential injury to staff or inmates. It concludes with practical application exercises where students participate in actual cell extraction drills.

Sheriff Norman Dills said he appreciates the dedication of these employees who continue trying to improve their skills to keep their citizens safe.



Caldwell County

Officer Bradley Cockrill was named September Employee of the Month, Officer Clowie Coffey was named October Employee of the Month and Officer Sadie Ausborn was named November Employee of the Month at the Caldwell County Detention Center. Sheriff Mitch Allen congratulated all three on a job well done.



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St. Charles County

Dan Keen, director of the St. Charles County Department of Corrections, said he selected his “best and brightest” for recognition and awards.

Officer Rosiland Armstead was named August’s Employee of the Month. Director Keen said she is a reliable officer and exhibits outstanding performance. “She is a professional, even under extreme stress and pressure. Officer Armstead uses effective communication, is great at multi-tasking, and maintains a positive attitude,” Director Keen said, adding that Officer Armstead is also trustworthy, self-motivated, and she does her job extremely well with little to no supervision. “Thank you for your dedication. We appreciate you!”

Catherine Barton was chosen as the September Employee of the Month. Director Keen said he selected Corrections Officer Barton for the award because she is a hard worker and a dependable officer. “She has a positive attitude and takes the initiative to complete tasks without being asked. CO Barton is professional, she communicates effectively, and has a high standard of conduct,” he said. “She treats everyone fairly and has gained great respect from her co-workers as well as the inmate population. Thank you for your service and a job well done.”

In September, Erika Porter was chosen for the Citizen Spotlight award. Director Keen said Porter has been instrumental in integrating inmate programming services within their department. “Most of these programs she spearheaded, building these programs from scratch,” he said, adding that Porter previously worked for a non-profit organization where she was responsible for providing families with tools to keep their at-risk children from entering state custody.



Porter has a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and a Master of Public Administration degree. She is currently working on her Master of Social Work degree from Washington University in St. Louis.

“Erika shared that she felt she was lucky to discover her purpose in life — being a public servant,” Director Keen said. “She said her purpose humbles and reminds her that life is more than just about herself — that she is truly blessed to be tasked with helping to improve lives. We are blessed to have her.”

Director Keen also recognized Lt. Keisha Taylor for receiving her Associate’s in Applied Science in Criminal Justice degree with Magna Cum Laude honors. One of her toughest challenges was time management. Between working the night shift in the correctional facility, getting to classes at 10 a.m. and working a part time job at Macy’s, there was little leisure time. She said she was inspired by “the drive to not fail — to prove to myself that I can achieve a challenging goal, do it on my own terms and succeed — and I did it with honors.”

Director Keen said St. Charles County offers \$4,000 in tuition reimbursement each year for staff members who have completed their probation period, with a grand total of \$25,000 lifetime, while employed. “This is a great place and opportunity to go after those goals that you wanted to achieve, but the timing wasn’t right,” he said.



1



2



3

- 1 Rosiland Armstead
- 2 Catherine Barton
- 3 Erika Porter



5



6

4 Left to right: Sergeant Mike Umphries, Lieutenant Mike Henderson, Corporal Donte Fisher, Corporal Bo Oliver

5 Catherine Barton

6 Julia Beverly

Julia Beverly was named October Employee of the Month. Director Keen said she is pleasant to work with, calm, dependable, patient and maintains a positive attitude. "Julia has accepted additional work responsibilities, including payroll and several other 'behind the scenes' tasks, with professionalism, vigilance and enthusiasm. She takes pride in her work and is a valuable asset to the SCCDOC," he said. "Thank you for your dedication, service and a job well done. We all appreciate you."

A good attitude starts at the top. Director Keen said that's why the St. Charles County DOC is "the best in corrections. Platoon B and their supervisors kick off their weekends with a roll call that's full of positive energy and their attitude is contagious. Once we change our mindset, we can change our environment. Make it happen, make it real, and make the change."



Crawford County

Tammy Peart, jail administrator at Crawford County, recently attained the National Certified Corrections Executive (NCCE). Sheriff Darin J. Layman said this is the highest achievable level of certification offered by the National Institute for Jail Operations (NIJO). "It is intended for all executive administrators including sheriffs, jail administrators and supervisors who wish to expand their knowledge and certification," the sheriff said. "NCCE curriculum requires an intense amount of legal-based training and hands-on management experience to provide individual opportunities to implement and operate constitutionally safe and sound legal-based policies, procedures, and practices. I appreciate her taking the initiative and expanding her knowledge to be a better administrator for our office."

Dr. Sean Siebert was invited into the Crawford County Detention Center to speak to female detainees and give them hope and guidance for the future. The women took part in a weeklong study using Dr. Siebert's new book "Fighting the Good Fight." The focus of the study was to bring a heightened level of awareness on self-betterment and give them a new-found purpose, which included workforce strategies. "As you can tell by the smile on their faces, it has already made a difference," Sheriff Layman said.

Howard County Jail: Jail and Sheriff Accommodates Change

Sheriff Jeff Oswald's vision for a safe,
humane, and effective detention facility

Missouri sheriffs often say the job would be easier if they didn't have a jail. Sheriff Jeff Oswald says that, but with a tone of calm not often heard in association with the phrase.

Howard County has a jail. It's relatively new by the standard of rural Missouri lockups, the detainee population hovers below a full house most of the time and Sheriff Oswald has seven non-commissioned corrections officers and an administrator to run the place. There is a lot going right with detention in Howard County.

The jail situation was not always so easy, or modern. As the 21st Century dawned, the county jail was a holdover from the 18th Century. In 1894 the sheriff of Howard County was transporting prisoners across the river to Cooper County because he had no jail. County residents ponied up and a jail with sheriff's residence was built. It is a magnificent brick structure, architecturally charming and, in its day, a testimony to public interest in law enforcement.

Over time, it became less charming. By the end of the 20th Century the sheriff didn't want to live there, and it was becoming a liability to house detainees.

Then, in 2000 a horrific event occurred in nearby Randolph County. Two jailers were killed in a breakout from the equally antiquated jail there.

Howard County took note. Their old jail was so stuck in another time that Sheriff Oswald, who was a Fayette police officer at the time, remembers pulling up in the alley next to the jail with a prisoner and finding that the door to the booking room was propped open for ventilation.

Law enforcement began to look for a way to get

a jail suitable for the new century, county voters approved a tax to pay for the project, and in 2004 a new 24-bunk facility opened adjacent to the old building.

In 2020 Sheriff Oswald was elected and appears to have taken the hard part of the job in stride. He talks about what's right with the facility, his confidence in his staff and his good working relationship with county commissioners. He has also made good on campaign promises that included adding a K-9 to the roster, a long-needed addition according to the sheriff.

The Howard County Jail is just now 20 years old

"Ten years ago there was a time when there was just one person in jail here," Sheriff Oswald says. "That time has come and gone."

so it was built with the accoutrement that comes with a modern facility. There is a sally port — the door of which is not propped open, laundry and kitchen equipment, a regulation pod system, holding cells and good security systems. They are gradually replacing a library of well-worn paperbacks with detainee access to tablets as their technological progress continues.

The jail also has that most elusive and coveted

aspect in the world of Missouri county detention — an average daily population below capacity and days when there are enough open bunks that the sheriff can isolate a troublesome detainee — or take overflow from other counties. The Chariton County Jail recently closed so they have sent some of their detainees to Howard County. Linn County doesn't have facilities for female detainees. Howard County has three, eight-bunk pods with one designated for women so they've been housing for Linn County as needed.

Sheriff Oswald says they don't have a lot of trouble at the jail. Most detainees are locals and respond well to the respect that jail personnel try to show them. He says violent offenders are rare, which helps keep things temperate. There is no trustee program at the jail; food service and laundry are handled by staff.

On a recent day Sheriff Oswald was holding 21 detainees, some of whom were from other counties. He pointed to a week when the jail was suddenly full as an example of how the jail officers and deputies pitch in to keep things running smoothly. With a corps of six road deputies, eight non-commissioned detention officers when all spots are filled and a hard-working jail administrator, the sheriff said things are usually run pretty smoothly.

Sheriff Oswald was able to get funding to add six more bunks as a buffer against something unforeseen. They are building the new cell area into the indoor recreation room. The sheriff says the space is big enough for both purposes.

Lest one think it is all wine and roses in Howard County, Sheriff Oswald is looking to the future with a wary eye. With the methamphetamine/fentanyl calamity hitting his county as hard as anywhere, space may at some point become an issue.

"Ten years ago there was a time when there was just one person in jail here," Sheriff Oswald says. "That time has come and gone."

When the jail was built, it was wedged on a small piece of property behind the old jail, which led to some design issues. As a consequence there is no way to expand the current building.

Sheriff Oswald said he is learning more about plumbing than he would like to know and maintenance has become a budget issue. The tax that was approved to build the jail stopped when it



was paid for. Therefore, there is no continuing law enforcement tax to pay for plumbers.

"I can see down the road that because of capacity and other issues something will have to be looked at in five or six years," the sheriff says with an unusual calm. That calm is based on a commission that is looking at the issue right along with him and a community that Sheriff Oswald believes will step up if asked. The county owns a 40-plus acre parcel outside the county seat of Fayette, Sheriff Oswald says, so that may also help when new jail time comes.

Sheriff Oswald said he believes some of the support he receives from his community comes from a new transparency that was one of his goals when elected. His office has developed a solid social media presence "so that people can see what we are doing."

BY MICHAEL FEEBACK



Howard County Sheriff
Jeff Oswald

Amy Larkin's Dedication to Inmates Transforms Lives

“Some of these people in here just made a mistake. We shouldn’t think of them as being less.”



Amy Larkin,
Howard
County Jail
Administrator

Howard County Jail Administrator Amy Larkin has a philosophy of hard work and compassion. Her actions bear out her belief in these two things every day.

Larkin moved to Fayette, the county seat of Howard County, five years ago to be near family. She joined the sheriff’s office two years ago as a brand-new corrections officer. Her resume includes a couple of things that require tenacity and thinking on your feet — collections and repossessions. It’s a new day, every day in those worlds and perhaps that helped her fit in so quickly at the jail.

It wasn’t long before she became sergeant and the former jail administrator’s go-to assistant. Working shifts, adding responsibility, and doing a hard job might seem daunting to some, but with Larkin’s ongoing list of things to do, it kind of fits in.

Since being named jail administrator in July of last year, Larkin has just kept moving. In addition to her duties at the jail, she currently works another full-time job at a convenience store — and she and her partner maintain a distribution operation, traveling to keep a line of pocketknives on vendors’ shelves. She also has three grown children which one would assume would put a few things on the calendar. She was working part-time at the Saline County Sheriff’s Office too, but she said with a tone that seemed like regret, she is “cutting back.”

The second part of Larkin’s philosophy boils down to treating detainees like people.

“I think too many people come to this line of work with a small chip on their shoulder,” Larkin said. With a detainee population that is mostly passing through, often local and seldom violent, Larkin said they don’t have a lot of issues. That opens the door to some room for compassion. Detention officers need to be in charge, she said, but they need to be aware that the detainees are

people too. “Some of these people in here just made a mistake. We shouldn’t think of them as being less.”

Larkin tries to help inmates where she can, perhaps just with a kind word or a suggestion for getting out and going on.

However, Larkin said her biggest problem is not detainees. It’s getting and keeping good detention officers. A full crew of detention officers in Howard County is six full-time and two part-time people. Right now, she is two officers down and that puts pressure on everyone else, not just with covering shifts. In a no-trustee system, there are laundry, cleaning and meal chores that must be taken care of by fewer people.

“We tried using Indeed (an online job application site) but we did not get the right applicants,” Larkin said. “Too many were unqualified or they had a serious lack of understanding about what the job entails.” Howard County staffing issues are not helped by proximity to bigger counties that can pay more for the job. Larkin hopes some different advertising methods may help kick-start a new search so they can get back to full staff.

When new officers do come on board, Larkin said she is a big advocate of training provided by the Missouri Sheriffs’ Association, adding, “I took the 40-hour course when I first came on and I had amazing instructors.” Obviously, the training “took,” judging by Larkin’s rapid rise to the top.

“I’m excited to go through the 48-hour training soon,” Larkin said. That program focuses on developing — or honing — skills to better equip an individual for maintaining the safety and security of a facility. She said she also attended the recent administrator’s conference. “I’m sold on the association’s training.”

BY MICHAEL FEEBACK



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Old Ways *Aren't Always the* Best Ways

FROM A PRISONER'S POINT OF VIEW, MODERN JAILS ARE A DAY AT THE BEACH COMPARED TO WHAT ONCE WAS.

Perhaps particularly if the beach is not on Cuba the island but rather in Cuba, Missouri in Crawford County.

In 1857 the town of Cuba was established in anticipation of the railroad making tracks to the spot. George Jamison had already set up a store and post office when the town arrived and had called the place Amanda after his wife. When the new town was laid out just east of Jamison's store he wanted it named Amanda too. His customers favored naming the new metropolis after Cuba, where a fight for independence from Spain was underway. The matter was settled by the store loafers by throwing a stick in the air and picking Cuba based on where it fell. Amanda was not forgotten. In 2007 during sesquicentennial celebrations, Cuba honored her by celebrating Amanda's Birthday Bash.

By 1908 the town was in need of somewhere to keep those who ignored the law.

A small, rectangular, one-story concrete block structure was erected on an open lot in town at Prairie Street and South Main Street. A raised parapet with projecting lip is inscribed with the words "CUBA-JAIL" in case passersby had any doubt about its purpose. There is a guard room in the front with a desk and wood burning stove. Male-factors spent their days in a cell with two hanging bunks — a damp, airless existence certain to have made tenants ponder the error of their ways.

Townfolk christened the jail the Calaboose, a derivative of the Spanish word calabozo and a term

often heard when someone is getting thrown into one in old Western movies.

In 1944 city fathers decided it was time to upgrade the Calaboose and, according to an article in the Cuba Review newspaper, "This necessary evil (the jail) has been modernized by installing a septic tank, modern water facilities, new mattresses and a new paint job." It seems likely that the old mattresses from days of yore also helped someone pick a better path in life. The reporter opined that, though modern, "better avoid use of the conveniences because home is a more desirable abode." Fair editorial comment.

In 1954, perhaps faced with the expense of new mattresses, the town fathers closed the jail. It fell into some disrepair but remained a landmark in Cuba. It was likely seen by Harry Truman, Bette Davis and Amelia Erhart when those luminaries passed through town for various reasons.

In 2004 Boy Scout Verlin Boda got permission from aldermen and the mayor to renovate the jail as his Eagle Scout project. Two years later he completed his project, ascended to Eagle and on December 3, 2006, the old jail was dedicated to the city of Cuba.

Boda provided an informational plaque for the jail with the word "Calaboose" appearing prominently across the top. The jail now serves as a museum with limited access. In 2014, it was accepted into the National Register of Historic Places.

BY MICHAEL FEEBACK

Wellness Works

County Jail Implements Medicaid Enrollment To Improve Health and Reduce Costs

The Buzz Westfall Justice Center in St. Louis County is successfully implementing a program to enroll people in Medicaid while they are incarcerated, with the long-term goals of reducing health care costs, improving public safety, and increasing community wellbeing. Led by staff located in the jail, the program utilizes community health workers and volunteers to assist incarcerated people in applying for Medicaid. Eligible people who are enrolled during incarceration have Medicaid coverage immediately upon their release. Now, the Justice Center has partnered with the legal nonprofit Missouri Appleseed to bring the program to other jails across the state.

The program was initiated by Ernest McDonnell, a former police officer and correctional officer who now runs the Justice Center's Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program for opioid use disorder through the St. Louis County Department of Public Health. Through his work in the MAT program, McDonnell observed how critical health insurance is for individuals to access necessary medication after being released from the jail. (Individuals in St. Louis County are released from the jail with a 30-day supply of medication; however, that supply often runs out before an individual can successfully enroll in another

health insurance program to cover ongoing medication needs.) Beginning with support from former Justice Center Director Scott Anders, McDonnell began helping people incarcerated at the jail apply for Medicaid before release.

Two recent changes to Missouri's Medicaid rules have made McDonnell's program possible. First, in 2019, the Missouri state legislature passed Senate Bill 514, changing the Medicaid status of an incarcerated person from "automatically terminated" to "suspended." This change allows incarcerated individuals to apply for Medicaid while they are incarcerated; if enrolled, their coverage is suspended for the duration of their incarceration and activated upon their release. Second, when Missouri expanded Medicaid eligibility in 2022, substantially more incarcerated individuals became eligible for services.

Early data from the St. Louis County Justice Center's Medicaid enrollment initiative show promise. The first year of implementation saw a number of hurdles to overcome, including connecting with the state Department of Family Services to ensure that Medicaid applications from the jail were being completed and processed correctly. Now, 275 applications have been submitted and individuals have begun receiving enrollment paperwork. As the acceptance letters are landing in jail mailboxes, enthusiasm and hope is palpable. Says McDonnell, "Now, when I walk down the hallways, every day there's another person waiving their letter and yelling excitedly, 'I got accepted!'"

The Justice Center program's cost-savings and safety goals are also supported by incredible results from similar Medicaid enrollment programs run by the Departments of Correction in Louisiana, Arizona, New Mexico, Florida, and other states. For example, a program run by the North Carolina Department of Corrections has realized annual savings in excess of \$10 million from enrolling incarcerated people in Medicaid. Although the "inmate exclusion" prohibits correctional facilities from billing Medicaid for the healthcare services received by a person inside a jail or prison, correctional facilities can bill Medicaid for any services a person receives outside of the facility. Hospital



"Now, when I walk down the hallways, every day there's another person waiving their letter and yelling excitedly, 'I got accepted!'"

stays, specialist visits, and other outside services can be billed to Medicaid if an incarcerated person is already enrolled in the program.

Enrolling individuals in Medicaid before release also improves public safety. In Louisiana, the Department of Corrections discovered that individuals enrolled in Medicaid before release were significantly more likely to receive timely mental and behavioral health services than individuals who were enrolled in Medicaid after their release; access to timely mental health care reduces recidivism. Likewise, Medicaid enrollment programs for incarcerated people in Florida, Arizona, and New Mexico have led to reduced recidivism. Medicaid-related reductions in recidivism improve public safety and can lead to substantial cost-savings for states.

McDonnell is working with Missouri Appleseed on an initiative to bring Medicaid enrollment to jails statewide. Thanks to funding from the Missouri Foundation for Health, Missouri Appleseed will travel to interested jails to provide free training, ongoing consultation, and free tablets and hotspots (as supplies last) to assist jails in starting their own jail-based Medicaid enrollment programs. For more information, please contact Ernest McDonnell (EMcDonnell@stlouiscountymo.gov) or Mary Quandt (mquandt@appleseednetwork.org).

BY DOUG BURRIS, DIRECTOR OF JUSTICE SERVICES AT ST LOUIS COUNTY

Following are links to sites included in the story, listed in the order in which they appeared.

Missouri Appleseed: <https://missouriappleseed.org/enrolling-missouri-jail-populations-in-medicaid/>

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program : Corrections Medicine: Medication-Assisted Treatment Program (stlouiscountymo.gov)

Senate Bill 514: Suspension of Coverage for Incarcerated Individuals | mydss.mo.gov

North Carolina Department of Corrections: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11524-017-0132-7>

Louisiana Department of Corrections: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0285582>

Access to timely health care reduces recidivism: <https://www.kff.org/uninsured/issue-brief/health-coverage-and-care-for-the-adult-criminal-justice-involved-population/>

Florida study: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17535939/>

Arizona and New Mexico Case Studies - Page 12: <https://wscj.law.duke.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/medicaid-expansion-brief-5-8-23.pdf>

Substantial cost savings for states: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3425457

Missouri Foundation for Health: <https://mffh.org/>

Missouri Sheriffs' Association Promotional Items



mosheriffs.com

Jeanne Merritt at 573-529-6900 / jeanne@mosheriffs.com



The blue metal box, about the size of a mailbox, is regularly emptied by the SCCDOC Internal Affairs investigator. He bags the contents and takes it to the St. Charles County Police Department where it is inventoried and then put through the county's incinerator. The box, which cost \$600, was ordered from Grainger.

ST. CHARLES COUNTY DOC

Staying Ahead of the Curve

Dan Keen, the director of the St. Charles County Department of Corrections, came up with a plan to decrease the amount of drugs being smuggled into his facility — and it's working.

Over a three-month period this fall, more than 7.3 pounds of contraband — fentanyl and other opioids, marijuana, heroin, and methamphetamine, as well as paraphernalia — needles and pipes, were voluntarily put into an amnesty box added to the intake area of the jail.

Director Keen added the amnesty box to his facility in 2021. He said he got the idea in 2017 while touring a jail in Kentucky but waited until 2023 to share his idea because he first wanted to see if it worked.

"It was working for them so I decided to try it here. We have a daily population of 440 and around 86 percent is suffering from mental health issues or substance abuse," he said. "Two of every three booked into the jail are coming in on some type of drug-related charge so the majority come in with some type of drug on them. We had to do something."

He said that when people are being booked into the facility, they are told that if they have any narcotics or paraphernalia with them, they can put those items in the amnesty box no questions asked and with no additional criminal charges being filed.

"However if they do have something but don't tell us and we find it when they go through the body scanner or when we search them, then additional charges are added. About 85 percent of the time, they decide to turn them in," the director said.

Around 50 percent of the population at the SCCDOC consists of pre-trial detainees waiting for their day in court and holds for other jurisdictions — people who are constantly moving in and out of the facility. The other 50 percent are inmates who have been sentenced



by the courts and are serving time.

Other safety measures have also been implemented by the SCCDOC. The county added a body scanner like those used by the Transportation Security Administration to find drugs that have been swallowed or hidden on or in the body. Like many other county jails in Missouri, books can no longer be brought in by friends and family. Instead, they must be shipped directly from the vendor and all mail is opened off-site and scanned into a system that allows inmates to read their mail on kiosks or tablets. New arrivals must shower to wash away possible fentanyl granules hidden under their toenails or fingernails. The county also placed bird netting over the outside recreation area so tennis balls filled with drugs can't be thrown in.

But the director isn't just interested in keeping drugs out of the jail. He's also interested in keeping people out. To that end, the jail will soon be adding a substance abuse unit to provide resources for those suffering from addiction.

Director Keen also plans to use commissary money to purchase heart rate monitor bracelets that will alert jail staff if an inmate's pulse rapidly increases or decreases. The bracelets, which cost around \$100 each, are waterproof, have an extended battery life, and sound an alarm if removed. He said he'd like to eventually have enough for the entire facility but initially, they will be worn by individuals on suicide watch or who are detoxing — at least for their first seven to 10 days in jail.

"I'm looking at two right now — one from Custody Protect and another from Black Creek. We hope to get a demo by the end of the year so we can make a decision and get the bracelets in during the first quarter of next year," he said.

BY NANCY ZOELLNER



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