



StreetSafe

Secretary co-chairs task force to fight offender recidivism

Numerous public and private interests will be working together to reduce the number of ex-offenders who commit crimes after their release from prison.

StreetSafe, a task force created by Gov. Beverly Perdue, will call on agencies, non-profits and the business community to develop a plan to combat recidivism and reintegrate offenders safely into the community. The task force will tap the strengths of faith-based organizations, non-profits, local and state government agencies, business leaders and members of the community, Gov. Perdue said.

"Citizen and community safety is a major priority in North Carolina," she said. "StreetSafe will protect our communities, prevent ex-offenders from repeating crimes and provide them with the support they need to restart their lives."

Department of Correction Secretary Alvin Keller will co-chair StreetSafe, along with Attorney General Roy Cooper.

The task force is a broad approach that will produce broad results, Secretary Keller said.

"It will take a commitment from all of us to address the challenges faced by ex-offenders," he said. "The work of the StreetSafe Task Force will benefit everyone who is working to help ex-offenders become productive taxpaying citizens."

Studies show that 36 percent of ex-offenders in North Carolina are sent back to prison for committing new crimes within three years of their release. StreetSafe can provide an avenue for ex-offenders' safe entry into communities across North Carolina and for developing a network of support for them."

Members will also create a plan that sets policy goals for

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DOC takes new flu seriously

Health officials take precautions in light of N1H1 virus outbreak

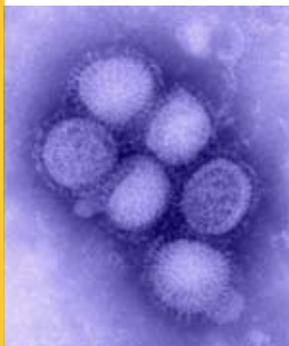
Many people are finding it difficult to take the flu seriously. Health professionals, including those in the Department of Correction, do not find it difficult. To the public who the professionals are pledged to protect, they say, "Listen!"

The current outbreak of the novel influenza A H1N1 virus -- misleadingly called the Swine Flu initially - quickly caught the attention of epidemiologists and other public health officials.

The staffs of Safety, Occupational & Environmental Health (SOEH) and the Division of Prisons Health Services have been closely watching its development. They have also responded by distributing critical educational documents throughout the department.

They say that, while it is good that the novel virus has gotten significant news media coverage, it is unfortunate that the reports have also caused public skepticism. The flu's impact so far has been less than that of a seasonal outbreak of "normal" flu.

"We really must watch this H1N1



A microscopic view of the N1H1 virus, provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Dr. Peter Morris checks a federal Website for news about the flu virus.

virus closely," said SOEH's Dr. Peter Morris. "Because it is new and it is early in the outbreak, we do not know enough about how severe it is and how easily it can spread. We do know it can be deadly, and most importantly, we know that we don't have vaccine specifically formulated against it."

It has not caused a multitude of widespread fatalities. However, flu viruses are unpredictable and can quickly mutate into more dangerous strains.

On the other hand, evidence to date indicates that the potential of the H1N1 virus is unlike that of the 1918 flu pandemic that killed millions of people worldwide.

"We are concerned," Dr. Morris said. "But, we are not alarmed."

Dr. Morris explained that flu pandemics usually spread in waves.

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Olympic recognition

In appreciation of the Department of Correction raising \$228,000 for Special Olympics of North Carolina, the organization recently presented a plaque in recognition of the contribution. Keith Fishburne, left, president of Special Olympics of North Carolina, made the presentation to DOC Secretary Alvin Keller, 2nd from left. Also on hand were Scott Peele, 3rd from left, Division of Prisons security chief, and Roy Forrest, vice president of the North Carolina Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.



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An initial outbreak runs six to eight weeks and then subsides. But it is often followed by one or two subsequent outbreaks over many months, sometimes with the virus stronger in each succeeding episode.

The current outbreak of H1N1 has not yet been declared a pandemic by the WHO.

"The unknowns about the H1N1 virus lead us to be extra cautious and wary," Dr. Morris said.

On its Website -- <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> -- the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) assess the dangers of the new virus:

"It's uncertain at this time how severe this novel H1N1 outbreak will be in terms of illness and death compared with other influenza viruses. Because this is a new virus, most people will not have immunity to it, and illness may be more severe and widespread as a result ...

"CDC anticipates that there will be more cases, more hospitalizations and more deaths associated with this new virus in the coming days and weeks."

What DOC is doing

In addition to educating employees and offenders about warding off possible infection by the virus, DOC health officials have activated the initial phases of its disaster-readiness plans for a pandemic.

Dr. Paula Smith, director, said DOP Health Services has directed the inmate processing centers "to be more mindful of new processors and where they have been prior to admission to prison."

The SOEH response so far has been prompted by monitoring data and information from the World Health Organization (WHO), the CDC and the N.C. Division of Public Health and by direct contact with the N.C. Division of Public Health. Information from these agencies will continue to guide DOC's response.

"Constant attention to new information and guidance is critical, and it is already consuming a significant portion of our time," Dr. Morris said.

The preparedness plan's response is based on an assumption that up to 40% of employees may



Candice C. McLamb, occupational and environment health nurse, posts flu precautions that DOC is urging employees to observe.

be absent from work due directly or indirectly to a flu virus that causes a severe pandemic. It also anticipates up to three waves, each lasting six to eight weeks, all occurring over a 15- to 27-month period. It is important to realize, however, that the current outbreak of H1N1 does not exhibit the characteristics of a severe pandemic.

"Many of DOC's facilities are institutions like schools where large numbers of people are in daily close contact, which increases the transmission risk," Dr. Morris said.

Should the flu cause a pandemic and be of sufficient severity, the plan calls for the following, among other measures: quarantine the ill, isolate the exposed and limit or restrict movement of offenders and staff in and out of facilities. The plan also recommends that large group meetings be curtailed and personal protective equipment be used.

Mitigating the circumstances

Typical of seasonal flu, it is thought that the H1N1 virus spreads mainly through the coughs and sneezes of people who are sick with the virus. But the risk can be reduced by adhering to purposeful hygienic practices.

As the literature that has been prominently posted throughout DOC says, "Wash your hands!" It is also extremely important to follow respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette as follows: avoid touching nose, mouth and eyes; cover nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and sneeze into the upper portion of a sleeve if a tissue is not available; wash hands thoroughly after coughing, sneezing, or blowing nose; and wash hands thoroughly after contact with respiratory secretions from other persons or containi-

nated objects/materials. Managers strongly urge employees to read and follow the flu prevention postings, which can also be found online at <http://internal.doc.state.nc.us/safety/emergency/emergency.htm>.

Detailed online information is also available at the CDC Website. In addition to hygienic precautions, the CDC site also describes symptoms, to help the public deter-

mine whether they have or another person may have contracted the flu.

"With everyone paying attention to reports and warnings and following the advice of public health experts, we can put up an effective fight against the H1N1 virus," Dr. Morris said.

Warning Signs

Persons who become ill and experience any of the following warning signs should seek emergency medical care.

In children, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- ▶ Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- ▶ Bluish or gray skin color
- ▶ Not drinking enough fluids
- ▶ Severe or persistent vomiting
- ▶ Not waking up or not interacting
- ▶ Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- ▶ Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

In adults, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- ▶ Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- ▶ Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- ▶ Sudden dizziness
- ▶ Confusion
- ▶ Severe or persistent vomiting
- ▶ Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

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agencies and community groups to coordinate pre- and post-release activities related to combatting recidivism. The plan will include recommendations on how ex-offenders can access job training and education, stable housing and substance abuse prevention.



The Hyde County Country Boys, winners of the 2009 plane pull for the N.C. Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, are, in front, Correctional Officer **Chris Harris** and Lt. **John Swain**; in back, Chad Swain and Correctional Officers **Phillip Sawyer** and **Eric Sadler**.

DOC teams dominate plane pull

Department of Correction teams dominated the 2009 plane pull, an annual event that raises money for the N.C. Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

The event raised \$125,000, said **Scott Peele**, Division of Prisons security chief.

"This one event was a huge success in raising money for Special Olympics, and the staff of DOC represented this agency very well," he said. "Even under these difficult economic times, DOC staff volunteered their time and energy to help make this an awesome event for Special Olympics."

Eighty teams competed this year, with five people in each team

trying to be the fastest in moving a 15-ton American Eagle jet 25 feet.

The Hyde County Country Boys, which included four Hyde Correctional Institution officers, got the big bird rolling with a winning time of 8.55 seconds.

Only 0.17 second behind the Boys, in second place, was Mecum's Mules, made up of members of the Central Region Prison Emergency Response Team (PERT). The team has competed three consecutive years.

The other three top five teams were: N.C. Highway Patrol, with a time 9.31 seconds; Wake County Probation, 9.4 seconds; and Eastern Region PERT, 10.03 seconds.

Searches capture 'Attaboy'

Empowered by the courts, Community Corrections is getting kudos in Harnett County for its use of warrantless searches that help fight illegal drug production and sale.

Harnett deputies recently made three meth production arrests, and Sheriff Larry Rollins told *The Dunn Daily News* that the local probation office deserved "another 'attaboy.'" He said the probation searches were finding enough evidence to charge the offenders.

In handing down a probation sentence, a judge can order the offender to be subject to a probation officer's search of their person and their premises without having to produce a warrant. The search can be made at any time without notice.

James Lee, chief probation/parole officer in Harnett County, said a warrantless search is a powerful tool for ensuring that probationers keep the terms of their probation. Lee told the newspaper, "I'm proud of all of our officers ... a meth lab is a pretty big find and I'm really proud of these guys."

The N.C. General Assembly has been considering legislation, proposed by Gov. Beverly Perdue, that would make all probationers subject to warrantless searches by either probation or law enforcement officers. Without the legislation, a warrantless search of a probationer is allowed only through the offender's court judgment and it can be conducted only by the offender's probation officer.

Correction News

is a newsletter for and about employees in the N.C. Department of Correction.

If you have suggestions or comments, please contact George Dudley, editor, at 919.716.3713, or at dgh02@doc.state.nc.us.

Pender Correctional Institution

Pender Correctional Institution is named for the county in which it is sited.

It is near Burgaw, the county seat of government. In the far southeastern corner of the state, Pender County's border is touched by the Atlantic Ocean and seven other counties: Duplin, Onslow, New Hanover, Brunswick, Columbus, Bladen and Sampson.

The medium custody prison for adult males has a maximum operating capacity of 764 inmates. It has a total staff of approximately 310.

Michael T.W. Bell, who was the 2008 Superintendent of the Year, is the superintendent. His assistant superintendents are **Ricky Rivenbark** for Operations and **Bryan Wells** for Programs. **Betty Jo Allen** is the administrative officer.

The prison was initially established in 1935 as a unit for inmates who worked building roads. Segregation units were added in 1978.

The expansion to a 756-bed prison opened in 1993, having six dormitories; administration, education, recreation, medical and programs buildings; and a dining hall, operations center, gatehouse and chapel.

Correction Enterprises converted an old dormitory and an old recreation building into a sewing plant that manufactures uniforms for inmates, ferry workers and state prison officers.

Many of the Pender CI inmates are assigned to work on Department of Transportation road crews, or facility food service, facility maintenance, janitor services or to assist staff.

Cape Fear Community College works with the prison to provide vocational classes in light construction and diesel mechanics. Classes for adult education and preparation for the GED



Left, **Patricia Woodcock**, administrative secretary II, Division of Criminal Information terminal agency coordinator, and Community Resource Council staff secretary; and **Michael T.W. Bell**, administrator I. Below are **Bryan Wells**, assistant superintendent/Programs; **Betty Jo Allen**, administrative services manager; and **Ricky Rivenbark**, assistant superintendent/Custody & Operations.



In Administration, **Linda Turlington**, personnel assistant V; **Brian Beauchemin**, technology support technician; **Juliet "Judy" Powell**, accounting technician I.



In Programs, above, **Stephanie Armstrong-Smith**, transfer coordinator II; and Case Managers **Gretchen Brock**, **Abraham Monk** and **Jonathan Tinney**. Below, **Johnny Spearman**, supervisor (Educational/Vocational); **Lori Wishart**, director I; **Dianne Moore**, supervisor (Recreation).



Lt. **Edward Basden** and Capt. **Robert Norvell**.

are available. A horticultural therapy program trains designated inmates for landscaping and gardening jobs.

Prisoners may also be assigned to the Drug Alcohol Chemical Dependency Program unit at Pender CI.

Other self-development, treatment and education programs are offered during evening hours and on weekends.



Spotlight



Right, Correctional Officers **Arey Golding, Richard Shumbarger, Thomas Dunham Sr. and Connie Hinkle.**



Above, Correctional Officers **Marvin Bowden, Sharon Murphy-Dowd** (Grievance) and **Michael Bullock.**



Below, **Byron Hawkins**, correctional officer; and **Jessica Cantrall**, disciplinary officer.



Above, Correctional Officer **Lisa Jacobell**; **Michael Thompson**, training specialist coordinator II; and Sgt. **David Wager** (Administration).



Above, Lt. **Carolyn Lanier** and Sergeants **Bruce Howard, Jeffery Lubell** and **Charles Woods.**



Left, Correctional Officer **Wilbur Reaves**, Lt. **Ronald V. Peedin** (Special Operations) and Sgt. **Mike Ditta** (Special Operations).



Above, **Reco Jolly** and **Michael Samuels**, food service officers. Below, Correctional Officers **Robert Steele** (canteen supervisor), **John Normyle** (asset officer) and **Rodney Creech** (mailroom).



Left, Correctional Officers **William Pierce** and **Melanie Wright**. Right, **Cassandra Henderson**, operations officer; and **William Gibbs**, correctional officer.



Right, Correctional Officers **Paul Majkut, Michael Hankins** and **Robert Brown.**





In Maintenance, above, **Thomas Cowen**, ground supervisor; **Raymond Krynicki**, facility maintenance supervisor IV; and **Jerry Gober**, Plumber II.



In Mental Health, above, **Rebecca Brady**, medical records assistant IV; **Susan Robinson**, behavioral specialist II; **Wilesha Miller**, behavioral specialist II; and **Patrick Murray**, rehabilitation specialist. Left, **Anthony "Tony" Powell**, psychological program manager; and **Richard Kovacs**, psychological services coordinator.



In Maintenance, **Raymond Fields**, high-volume air conditioning (HVAC) mechanic; **Danny Hatcher**, electronics technician; and **Michael Mosko Jr.**, electrician II.



In the Correction Enterprises sewing plant, above, **Wilter Drew**, supervisor III; **Victoria Tucker**, processing assistant IV; **Charlie Martin**, manager IV; and **Faunta Johnson**, correctional officer. Right, **Blanche King**, **Al Valente** and **Deborah Tinsley**, supervisor II's; and **Carl Ezzell**, maintenance mechanic IV.



Right, in Medical Services, are **Lynda Padgett**, nurse supervisor II; **Jacqueline Hart**, medical records assistant IV; **Linwood Cobb**, health assistant II; and **Catherine Blum**, LPN.

Left, in Medical Services, standing are **Sharon Silvia**, registered nurse; **Barbara Barnhill**, licensed practical nurse (LPN); **Beverly Lipford**, MRA III; and **Melody Smith**, LPN. Seated is **Glenn Burdick**, LPN.



Right, **Katina Pollard**, accounting technician I; **Leila Sawyer**, processing assistant III; **Linda W. Owens**, processing assistant III; and seated, **Janice Cain**, office assistant III.





Forsyth Correctional latest New Leash on Life prison

Forsyth Correctional Center recently held its first "graduation" for inmates and dogs in its New Leash on Life Program. Officials reported a good turnout of potential owners of the newly trained dogs, along with local elected officials, including the mayor of Winston-Salem, and news media. Forsyth CC program staff who planned the event were **Tangee Williams**, director; **Latonya Delapp** and **Crystal Bailey**, supervisors; **David Thornsbury** and **Keishea Boyd**, case managers; and **Cynthia Wilson**, processing assistant III. Above, Forsyth CC Superintendent **Wallace Shields**, left, welcomes **Charles Stevens**, Piedmont Region operations manager, to the event.



more Spotlight

"A New Direction-90" is a drug and alcohol abuse treatment program in Pender CI. It is led by staff from the Division of Alcoholism

and Chemical Dependence Programs. Left to right, standing, are: **John Van Wyck**, substance abuse counselor II (SAC); **Ramon Montalvo**, SAC I; **William Carney**, SAC I; **Bruce Beck**, SAC I; **Henry Hough**, substance abuse program supervisor; and **Jim Bellamy**, substance abuse program director. Seated are **Courtney Rooks**, substance abuse worker; and **Ethel McIntyre**, SAC I.

Promotions in April 2009

- Traci Blackwelder**, nurse, DOP Health Services
- Nicola Blue**, chief probation & parole officer, DCC District 10, Unit M
- Moya Crenshaw**, probation/parole officer I, DCC District 27A, Unit D
- Debbie Hernandez**, probation/parole officer II, DCC District 17B, Unit B
- Mary Hodges**, probation/parole officer II, DCC District 24, Unit B
- Linda Keech**, food service officer, Hyde CI
- Joe Mott**, lead officer, New Hanover CI
- Mark Strickland**, probation/parole officer II, DCC District 16B, Unit C
- Richard Tucker**, lieutenant, Lane CI
- Netoisha Williams**, administrative assistant I, DCC District 26



Unreported promotions in March 2009

- Wallace Koonce**, lieutenant, Eastern CI
- Laura Smith**, probation/parole officer II, DCC District 25A, Unit C
- Samanda Stevenson**, probation/parole officer II, DCC District 18, Unit K

Retirements in April 2009

- William Allen**, sergeant, NC CIW, 22 years, 9 months
- Larry Bass**, lead officer, Columbia CI, 28 years
- Geneva Berry**, nurse supervisor, Maury CI, 29 years, 4 months
- Rebecca Craig**, nurse, Alexander CI, 4 years, 11 months
- Willie Garner**, correctional officer, Randolph CC, 27 years, 3 months
- Gudiva Gordon**, licensed practical nurse, New Hanover CC, 5 years
- Luberta Hunt**, food service officer, Columbia CI, 6 years
- Iqbal Khan**, physician director II-A, DOP Health Services, 12 years, 9 months
- Anne Marie Klepp**, nurse, Central Prison, 5 years, 1 month
- Mary May**, programs supervisor, Neuse CI, 22 years, 9 months
- Harley Oxendine**, correctional officer, Central Prison, 14 years, 11 months
- Marvin Pike**, correction enterprise supervisor II, Nashville Print Plant, 7 years
- Alphonso Smith**, correctional officer, Harnett CI, 15 years, 4 months
- Terry Smith**, programs director I, Cleveland CC, 11 years, 9 months
- Richard Styles**, maintenance mechanic IV, Marion CI, 14 years, 7 months
- Thelma Waller**, nurse, NC CIW, 21 years, 9 months
- Thomas Waxter**, programs director I, Western YI, 27 years, 7 months
- Richard Whitaker**, correctional officer, Davidson CC, 7 years
- Bessie Williams**, technology support technician, DOP Auxiliary Services, 24 years, 4 months
- Henry Williamson**, correctional officer, Harnett CI, 10 years, 6 months



Unreported retirements January

Thomas Wellington, lead officer, Carteret CC, 16 years, 11 months

March

Robert Starnes, correctional officer, Nash CI, 5 years, 10 months

Recent Employee Death

April

Aaron Lail, correctional officer, Gaston CC, 6 years, 6 months