The Insider

North Dakota Department Of Corrections And Rehabilitation

New Warden in Town

On May 1, 2010 Robyn Schmalenberger became the ninth Warden for the North Dakota State Penitentiary (NDSP).

Robyn credits her interest in corrections and the start of her seventeen year career with the DOCR to an internship with the Bismarck District Parole and Probation office under the direction of Tracy Stein. She was attracted to the diversity of roles and job duties in the field. After her first experience with the DOCR, she chose to complete a second internship with the NDSP Treatment Department under the direction of Laura Helbling and Diana Welk. The guidance provided by Tracy, Laura, Diana, and other DOCR staff she encountered during her internships made her believe she could work with the offender population, make a difference in assisting them in changing behaviors, and protect the public.

Robyn started her career with the DOCR a few months after graduating from the University of Mary when she was hired as a parole officer in the Fargo District office supervising a sex offender specific caseload. Robyn continued in her role as a parole officer working with various offender populations for approximately 10 years until she took a position that allowed her to focus on improving reentry opportunities for offenders. Through this position Robyn's contact with DOCR staff at NDSP, JRCC, and MRCC increased. The frequent contact with staff that worked in the institutions and additional training provided opportunities to learn more about prison operations and services.

In her previous position as Transitional Facilities Director, Robyn worked in both institutional settings such as MRCC and TRCC, and in community based settings with contract facilities. Transitional Facilities staff at MRCC and TRCC, and community partners worked towards enhancing services offered to offenders to improve long-term outcomes. Appropriate transitional services

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To Be or Not to Be...Excellent?

By: Penny Veit-Hetletved

"Was that excellent?" That is a question you will hear frequently when you visit the READ RIGHT classrooms at four sites under the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. What would be excellent? Reading. READ RIGHT defines excellent reading as reading smoothly, fluently, comfortably, and with understanding. Reading should sound and be as comfortable as you and I sitting down to have a conversation together. Reading symptoms are prevalent in our world today; most people are handicapped readers who have simply adjusted and compensated for their ineffective neural network for reading.

Students enrolled in the READ RIGHT program are engaged in a process to make them become excellent readers. This process is intricate for both tutor and student. READ RIGHT ultimately leaves the student in control of his/her progress by the rate in which he/she engages. The more closely he/she follows the procedures laid out before him/her the quicker he/she will progress toward graduation within the program. This program was implemented at the North Dakota Youth Correctional Center in October 2005. Since that time, ND YCC has graduated 288 students to date as excellent readers who read symptom free. ND YCC averages 3.8 tutoring hours per grade level gained. The national average is 14.8 tutoring hours per grade level gained. With the track record that ND YCC has established, READ RIGHT is currently being trained and implemented within three adult prison sites: Dakota Women's Correctional and Rehabilitation Center (DWCRC), New England, ND; James River Correctional Center (JRCC), Jamestown, ND; and North Dakota State Penitentiary (NDSP), Bismarck, ND. Trainees gain the skills to administer this process successfully after undergoing seven to ten weeks of intense training. At the end of the initial training year, trainees ultimately have the goal of becoming a certified READ RIGHT tutor. Tutors then get re-assessed for mastery within the READ RIGHT components annually during the re-certification process.

So, what is READ RIGHT? READ RIGHT was developed by Dee Tadlock, Ph.D., in order to solve her own son's reading problems after traditional instructional approaches had failed to help him. In developing the program, Dr. Tadlock spent three years doing post-doctoral research to discover how the brain learns a process and what the reader's brain must do in order to read excellently. The READ RIGHT method of instruction is based on her findings. What Dr. Tadlock found was that the brain wants to do all process excellently. Brains need to know what the end product is—in this case, it is excellent reading. Then, the brain must make attempts to achieve the excellent reading, fail, receive specific and immediate feedback to what wasn't excellent, and an opportunity to achieve excellence again. Through READ RIGHT, tutors have a scripted program that creates an optimal environment for the student's brain to reconfigure its neural network for reading. You see, reading and the act of doing it excellently happens below the level of consciousness. So, we can't "teach" reading excellently; instead, we must

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facilitate an environment in which our students' brains are compelled to achieve excellence consistently below the level of consciousness. Reading is an implicit act. The READ RIGHT process is a model based on interactive constructivism.

READ RIGHT is a perpetual process with the tutors looking constantly for signs of low intent or confusion around excellence. Both of these events will slow the student's progress. We administer various techniques and remarks when appropriate to the student. However, 99% of the time, the ball is in the student's court. He/she has to be engaged in the process fully to progress.

> Words from a Read Right graduate says it best: "*Before I went into the Read Right Program, I hated reading. I hated it when the teachers would call on me to read, because I knew my reading wasn't very good. So, I took Read Right not because I wanted to, but because I had to. Honestly, I don't regret being in Read Right. The Read Right Program helped me improve my reading skills, taught me how to feel comfortable when I read, and helped me to understand the things I read. Now that I graduated from the program, and when a teacher asks if anyone would like to read, immediately I agree to read because Read Right gave me that confidence I lacked. So, I take pride in reading, and I'm no longer afraid to read when asked. Remember what you get out of it is what you put in it." Lyle L.*

Students understand quickly that as soon as their judgments of reading quality become accurate and accountable, they soon will allow their brain room to have accurate predictions thus eliminating their reading symptoms. So why this program for the ND DOCR? It was probably best said in the words of former US Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger, "*We must accept the reality that to confine offenders behind walls without trying to change them is an expensive folly with short-term benefits—winning battles while losing the war.*" There are many research professionals who have launched intense tracking measures to prove the premise that reading remediation will reduce recidivism of criminal offenders.

One such researcher, Michael Brunner, authored a research journal for the US Department of Justice titled "Reduced Recidivism and Increased Employment Opportunity Through Research-Based Reading Instruction." His findings documented:

- Direct correlation between academic failure and delinquency.
- Research-based reading instruction CAN and WILL reduce recidivism and increase employment opportunity of incarcerated juvenile offenders.
- A high percentage of wards are diagnosed as learning disabled with no evidence of neurological abnormalities besides being handicapped readers who are not receiving the type of instruction recommended by experimental research.
  - A brain learns by submerging itself in example and prediction.
  - Poor readers have created an inefficient neural network for reading with many of its predictions being inaccurate.

Brunner goes on to share, "*A report issued by the Congressional Subcommittee to Investigate Juvenile Delinquency estimates that the national recidivism rate for juvenile offenders is between 60% and 84%. For juveniles involved in quality reading*

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Great Plains Assistance Dogs Foundation

Posted by: Great Plains Assistance Dogs Foundation, Spring 2010

Hi, my name is Chris Danielson. I am a new trainer/kennel hand at GPADF and I would like to tell you how I became part of the GPADF team in Jud.

After being in prison for about 7 years, the opportunity arose to train service dogs (the program became known as the Inmate Canine Assistance Program or ICAP for short). The program was possible due to a partnership between JRCC (James River Correctional Center) and GPADF (Great Plains Assistance Dogs Foundation.)

When the program started I was interested but unsure if I would have the time/energy to devote to the dogs. After getting interviewed and approved I figured I would give it a try. After all I love dogs and had never done any type of training before so it was a new, unique opportunity.

All the inmates that were selected went through a series of training sessions with the staff from GPADF. Once that was completed we received our first three dogs (Ivy, Jangles, and Hope) and the training began. It was a huge learning process, but after a while I just caught on and started to understand what training service dogs really meant. And, not only did I love to do it, I found that I was actually good at it. Finally, something I loved to do and was good at. Not to mention it was a chance help other people.

As it turned out, the staff at GPADF thought enough of me and believe in me enough to offer me a job with them upon my release. After talking with friends and family, I accepted the job a few days later. This brings us to now; doing a job I love with great people and learning more almost daily.

Getting involved with the ICAP program was one of the smartest decisions I ever made. Getting the opportunity to come to work here at GPADF has been one of the greatest blessing of my life, outside of my wife and children.

I am now involved in training and grooming dogs, cleaning kennels, doing presentations/demos, and anything else that needs to be done. I didn't think it would be possible to be this happy and thankful. Thank you to all at GPADF! I can't wait to see what the future holds for us, the dogs, and the people the dogs help.

A Message From The Editor

The Insider Newsletter is an official publication of the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and is published four times each year. Its goal is to enhance communication and keep staff, and all those interested, informed of developments and achievements throughout the Department.

All employees are encouraged to submit articles, letters, comments, and ideas for future issues of The Insider to be considered in the next publication.

The Editor reserves the right to edit or exclude, if deemed inappropriate, any items submitted for publication. Please e-mail articles to:

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Organizational Characteristics. All DOCR Inmates. One Day Counts On The Last Day Of The Month. These Numbers Use The Association Of State Correctional Administrator (ASCA) Performance Based Measurement Standards (PBMS) And Are Based On The Controlling Sentence	**June, 2010**	**May, 2010**	**April, 2010**	**March, 2010**	**February, 2010**	**January, 2010**	**December, 2009**	**November, 2009**	**October, 2009**	**September, 2009**	**August, 2009**
General Organization Information											
Prisoners Housed By DOCR Institutions	1,080	1,080	1,092	1,081	1,085	1,086	1,080	1,080	1,088	1,090	1,062
Prisoners Outsourced (Not In A ND DOCR Facility)	417	442	443	424	421	424	424	367	365	357	354
Total Inmates Under DOCR Responsibility	1,497	1,522	1,535	1,505	1,506	1,510	1,504	1,447	1,453	1,447	1,416
Average Length of Sentence (Years)	5.23	5.14	5.11	5.21	5.13	5.09	5.13	5.17	5.13	5.08	5.13
Prisoners Serving Sentences Of Court (Prison Sentence)											
Inmates Serving Less Than 1 Year	37	35	37	33	41	41	35	35	37	37	34
Inmates Serving 1 To 3 Years	805	846	858	829	824	829	830	792	802	802	775
Inmates Serving 3 To 5 Years (3.01 to 5)	304	292	290	290	294	294	288	276	272	271	273
Inmates Serving 5 To 10 Years (5.01 to 10)	163	163	164	166	165	166	170	165	164	163	161
Inmates Serving 10 To 20 Years (10.01 to 20)	89	87	87	87	83	82	84	82	81	78	76
Inmates Serving 20 To 40 Years (20.01 to 40)	38	38	38	38	37	36	36	35	35	35	35
Inmates Serving More Than 40 Years (40.01 plus)	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Inmates Serving Life With Parole	36	36	36	36	36	36	35	36	36	35	36
Inmates - Life Without Parole	16	16	16	16	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
Inmates - Death Sentence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crime Distribution Statistics (Use Controlling Sentence)											
Part I Violent Crime Inmates	508	504	509	502	464	467	468	449	441	449	455
Other Violent Crime Inmates	140	147	143	147	147	140	137	129	130	140	139
Property Crime Inmates	325	329	339	324	338	339	335	320	319	325	316
Drug Offense Inmates	354	365	368	368	365	369	374	362	378	361	340
Other Public Order Offense Inmates	170	177	176	164	192	195	190	187	185	172	166
Other Crime Inmates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inmate Demographics											
Average Inmate Age	34.58	34.39	34.41	34.55	34.50	34.51	34.57	34.57	34.60	34.65	34.70
Male Inmates	1,319	1,346	1,358	1,334	1,331	1,337	1,330	1,288	1,294	1,292	1,260
Female Inmates	178	176	177	171	175	173	174	159	159	155	156
White Inmates	958	978	994	979	973	981	967	920	930	929	911
Black Inmates	94	93	94	95	95	91	90	90	91	90	86
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Inmates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American/Alaskan Native Inmates	365	370	365	342	347	344	349	344	334	334	333
Hispanic Or Latino Inmates	76	77	78	85	86	89	92	88	91	88	80
Asian Inmates	2	3	2	2	2	3	4	3	3	3	3
Other Race/Ethnicity Inmates	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	4	3	3
Inmates With Unknown/Missing Race/Ethnicity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inmates Non-Citizens	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	11	11	9	9

For more ASCA PBMS data please go to: http://www.nd.gov/docr/media/stats.html

DOCR Employees Receive Life Saving Awards

Five staff members who work for the North Dakota State Penitentiary (NDSP) were presented the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the North Dakota Peace Officers Life Saving Awards during the NDSP all staff meeting on June 8, 2010.

On January 12, 2010, an inmate housed in the North Unit at the North Dakota State Penitentiary made a serious suicide attempt by making deep cuts on his arm which resulted in an excessive loss of blood. Lieutenant Troy Schulz, Officer Travis Makeeff, Officer Byron Hansen, Nurse Jennifer Renschler and Nurse Michelle Shook responded quickly and professionally during this situation. As the shift supervisor on duty, the decisions made by Lieutenant Schulz during and after the initial response to the inmate's attempted suicide ensured the safety of staff and the security of the institution were not jeopardized. The staff members involved in this incident performed their duties at a high professional standard which was vital in saving the life of an inmate. Without the staff members who were present, the incident may have ended up with very different results.

Byron Hanson

Travis Makeeff

Jennifer Renschler

Michelle Shook

Troy Schulz

George Abdilnour, Megan Wilson, Jeff Brodigan, Robert Hoyt, Chad Jackson

Four staff members at James River Correctional Center (JRCC) were presented the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the North Dakota Peace Officers Life Saving Awards during the JRCC all staff meeting on May 24, 2010.

At approximately 6:03 a.m. on April 30, 2010, Captain Chad Jackson, Nurse George Abdilnour, Officer Robert Hoyt, and Officer Megan Wilson provided assistance to Officer Jeff Brodigan while he was having a heart attack in the control room at James River Correctional Center.

Captain Jackson approached the control room and observed Officer Brodigan slumped over the sink, holding his chest. Captain Jackson instructed Officer Wilson to let him into the control room and for Officer Hoyt to assist Brodigan into a chair. Nurse Abdilnour was contacted and reported to the control room where he assessed and began rendering first aid to Officer Brodigan. While Abdilnour was treating Brodigan, Captain Jackson arranged for staff to be posted appropriately to accept an ambulance into the facility expeditiously. The ambulance arrived within minutes of notification and rushed Officer Brodigan to the emergency room. The calm, level headed actions demonstrated by staff under extreme stress undoubtedly assisted in saving Officer Brodigan's life.

Brian Weigel receives AARC Lifesaver award

Posted by The Bismarck Tribune, Thursday, June 10, 2010 9:36 pm

Parole and probation officer Brian Weigel was surprised to be named the Abused Adult Resource Center's 2010 Lifesaver, since most of his job entails working with the perpetrators of crimes rather than the victims. Heidi Leingang, an advocate at the AARC, nominated Weigel for the annual award for his work as a parole and probation officer who works with sex offenders. In the nomination, she said he has worked to hold sex offenders accountable, to get information to victims, to educate others about sex offenders and to update protocols regarding the supervision of sex offenders. For the award, Weigel received gifts from Target, Space Aliens and Prairie Knights Casino and Resort. AARC advocates nominated 15 law enforcement officers, including Weigel, for Badge of Hope awards, which recognize law enforcement officers who go above and beyond the call of duty in assisting victims of domestic violence. All Badge of Hope recipients were in the running for the Lifesaver award. Weigel received the Lifesaver award at a ceremony Thursday at the state Capitol. Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Bismarck Police Officer Rob Carvell, last year's Lifesaver, spoke briefly on domestic violence in the community. Stenehjem said there were 4,569 new victims of domestic violence last year, of which 94 percent were women, of whom 166 were pregnant, and 12 percent were disabled. He commended the honored officers for their efforts. "It is our responsibility as a society to do everything we can to prevent domestic violence and to protect victims," he said

Brian Weigel, right, is congratulated by Mandan police department Detective Jon Vanderhoef after receiving the Abused Adult Resource Center's eighth annual Lifesaver award during a ceremony in Memorial Hall at the state Capitol in Bismarck on Thursday, June 10, 2010. To the left is Dan Donlin of the Bismarck Police Department.

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are vital in integrating offenders back to the community and maintaining behavior changes.

As the Warden of the North Dakota State Penitentiary, Robyn is currently focusing on getting to know staff and facility operations. Many expectations are placed on correctional professionals and we must be prepared to respond appropriately. Correctional services are essential in maintaining safety in North Dakota and we need to continue to provide safe, secure facilities along with programs proven to intervene on criminal thinking and behavior. The expectations placed on us are met by continuing to develop employees professionally, focusing on evidence-based practices related to security and services, communicating information, and by treating each other with respect.

It is an exciting time to work in corrections due to increased opportunities for professional development, advances in technology, and emphasis on research. The increased activity that will come along with the North Dakota State Penitentiary expansion project will provide challenges, but it will also provide opportunities to review practices and make adjustments. Robyn is looking forward to working with the many talented people at the North Dakota State Penitentiary to continue to provide quality correctional services.

Retired Teachers Help the DOCR Education Department

By: Rose Kreitinger, Learning Disabilities Instructor

The Education Department at the North Dakota State Penitentiary has been host to four volunteer teachers for almost a year. The four retired teachers are Nancy Haunz, Sarah Ripley, Jane Pole, and Pat Herbel. The teachers were approached by Tammy Barstad and Carol Cristilli, DOCR Industries and Education representatives, during a presentation at a meeting of the Bismarck-Mandan Retired Teacher's Association.

The teachers first met with their students in August 2009. Each teacher has a unique schedule that suits their "retired life". A common schedule for the teachers is to tutor one day a week for an average of two hours. She meets with her student(s) for an hour, tutoring him in a subject area that has not been completed in the GED program. Since starting in August, the retired teachers have had 172 contact hours with their students.

At the James River Correctional Center, one volunteer retired teacher comes in to tutor students. Dennis Adair has been volunteering for about 6 months. He works with one student for four hours a week. The one to one tutoring is important for many of our students.

One of the teachers expressed that working with the students here is "tremendously rewarding." She finds that the majority of the students want to be working with the retired teachers and that "the students are eager to learn."

As for me, it is like a breath of fresh air to have these teachers come into our department. Each of them show a love of learning and are passing that on to the students that they are working with. It is fun to talk with both the teachers and the students to see their perspective of how things are going. I find that both are feeling good about working together. Even better, we are seeing results in the tests that the students are passing, thanks to the teacher's help!

Second Chance Job Fair

By: Paul Kohler, GED Instructor

On Thursday, May 6th, five inmates from the Missouri River Correctional Center along with almost 200 other job seekers participated in the second annual Second Chance Job Fair. The job fair was a collaborative effort headed by Dave Hohn of U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office along with the ND Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Job Service of North Dakota, Pride, Inc., Lutheran Social Services, Community Options and Rehabilitation Consulting and Services.

The job fair was held at Bismarck State College's National Energy Center of Excellence and was open to anyone searching for employment or community resources. There was an emphasis on attracting individuals currently on parole or probation or having a criminal record, veterans, and all who need a "second chance" when it comes to finding employment in today's job market.

The Honorable Dan Hoveland, U.S. District Court Judge, was on hand to kick off the job fair with a message to employers about the importance of ex-felons attaining and

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Marmot School Receives Arts in Education Grant

By: Gaylene E. Massey, Administrator of Educational Services

In support of their efforts to promote community arts, Marmot School-NDYCC applied for and was awarded a $300 Teacher Incentive grant by the North Dakota Council on the Arts.

Marmot was among 17 recipients of Teacher Incentive funding. This state-funded program is designed to provide financial assistance to teachers who wish to explore new and creative ways of incorporating the arts into the non-arts curriculum of a classroom. A total of $5,007.39 was awarded during this grant round.

Charlene Jones, Art teacher and Becky Donovan, English teacher worked together to write the grant. This grant will provide an opportunity for students to express their feelings through art while working collectively to create a continual picture by putting smaller pictures together. They will soon learn that all students must participate in order to create "The Big Picture".

The North Dakota Council on the Arts is the state agency responsible for the support and development of the arts throughout North Dakota, and is funded by the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The postmark deadline for the next round of Teacher Incentive grants is November 1, 2010. For more information, contact the Council on the Arts at 701-328-7593 or visit www.nd.gov/arts.

(Second Chance Job Fair continued from page 8)

maintaining employment when it comes to combating recidivism. Marcus Roehrich of U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office also addressed employers regarding federal bonding and the Work Opportunity Tax Credit available to employers who hire eligible workers, including ex-offenders.

Twenty one community employers accepted job applications and conducted interviews from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., and fourteen community resource groups such as Job Service North Dakota and Burleigh County Housing provided much needed information on their services.

Fifty job seekers took advantage of the Clothing Closet provided by the local Seeds of Hope. The job seekers were able to not only choose clothing from the closet for the event held that evening, but were also able to keep the clothing for future job interviews and employment opportunities. Over six hundred items of clothing were donated to the Seeds of Hope Clothing Closet by the United States Courts.

Evaluations returned at the conclusion of the job fair indicated second interviews were arranged for 45 job seekers attending the job fair that evening. All employers and community resource groups returning the evaluations indicated they would return to the job fair next year. The community resource groups felt it was a good way to promote their agencies.

Funding for the job fair was provided by the Bismarck Transition Center, Community Options, Centre, Inc., Pride, Inc., the ND Department of Commerce, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Job Service North Dakota, Basin Electric, and the Bismarck-Mandan Mayors Committee for Hiring Persons with Disability.

The measure of success for any job fair is the coming together of employers and workers for the benefit of both. The Second Chance Job Fair offered the opportunity for offenders to get on the right track and become contributing members of our community.

(To Be or Not to Be...continued from page 3)

instruction programs, the recidivism rate can be reduced by 20% or more." Equipped with a proven reading remediation program, READ RIGHT, as well as research to back the project, the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has embarked on an exciting journey to arm those who are incarcerated with reading skills that not only aid them in becoming productive citizens but also opening doors for them to a new outlook on what can be their potential life without crime. ND DOCR has the following professional who are running the programs:

Department of Juvenile Services:

- Penny Veit-Hetletved, READ Right Trainer and Certified Tutor (YCC)
- Becky Donovan, Certified Tutor (YCC)
- Lenor Kuntz, Certified Tutor (YCC)

Department of Adult Services:

- Carleen Porten, Current Tutor Trainee (DWCRC)
- Rose Kreitinger, Current Tutor Trainee (NDSP)
- Courtney Storhoff, Current Tutor Trainee (JRCC)

If you would like additional information about this program, you can visit the READ RIGHT web site at www.readright.com or you can contact one of the tutors of the program.

Back Row: Carleen Porten, Rose Kreitinger
Front Row: Penny Veit-Hetletved, Courtney Storhoff

Parole Board Members

Parole Board Members are appointed by the Governor for a three-year term. The Parole Board Members are listed as follows:

Members	Location
John Olson, Chairman	Bismarck
Everett Nels Olson	Minot
Beverley Adams	Fargo
Donna Jacobsen	Dickinson
Sheri Baker	Bismarck
Jennifer Thompson	Fargo

Pardon Advisory Board Members

Pardon Advisory Board Members are appointed by the Governor for an open ended term to include the attorney general, two members of the parole board, and 2 citizens/residents of the state. The Pardon Board Members are listed as follows:

Members	Location
Duane Dekrey, Chairman	Pettibone
Wayne Stenehjem	Bismarck
Beverley Adams	Fargo
Everett Nels Olson	Minot
Berly Nelson	Fargo

Parole Board Meeting Dates for 2010

January	10-11
February	8-9
March	7-8
April	11-12
May	10-11
June	6-7
July	11-12
August	8-9
September	12-13
October	10-11
November	7-8
December	5-6

Pardon Advisory Board Dates for 2010

April 13 November 9

Our mission is...

To enhance public safety, to reduce the risk of future criminal behavior by holding adult and juvenile offenders accountable, and to provide opportunities for change.