



Rehabilitation Programs Division Bulletin

Winter/Spring 2015

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Current News

Correctional Peace Officers Foundation Assists RPD Employee

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Mission Statement

To develop and provide evidence-based rehabilitation programs that facilitate positive change in the lives of offenders by a dedicated team of skilled professionals.



Left to right – Mollie Hall, Charlotte Trow, Wanda Redding, Madeline Ortiz, Jackie Jordan and Cathy Stokes.

Cathy Stokes, the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF) Texas Field Representative, presented a bereavement assistance check to RPD employee Jackie Jordan. Jackie's daughter, Cheri "Sherry" Lynn Varnado, passed away unexpectedly in October. The generous donation from the CPOF will help with some of the funeral and burial expenses. It is comforting to know that, like our TDCJ family, the CPOF is another source of support in difficult times. For more information on CPOF, please view their website at: <http://cpof.org/>.

Donations to the foundation may be made online at www.CPOF.org, through payroll deduction, or during the annual State Employees Charitable Campaign.

Current News, cont'd.

Positive Focus on Administrative Segregation Programs

By: Steven Gaddis, Manager IV, Rehabilitation Programs Division

The Administrative Segregation Transition Program and Administrative Segregation Diversion Program are two newer rehabilitative resources.

The Administrative Segregation Transition Program (ASTP) was established in March 2014 to support and guide offenders through the positive, but difficult transition out of Administrative Segregation and back into General Population. This program is housed on the Ramsey Unit and all offenders eligible to participate are reviewed by State Classification. Offenders are provided an opportunity to spend four months working and preparing for possible difficulties and transitional issues, creating the framework for maintenance of positive changes that will occur. Participation is voluntary but strongly encouraged, as the potential benefit to participants is far-reaching.

During the program, offenders engage in at least 300 hours of programming via written, individual and group activities with Peer Educators, other offenders, and RPD staff. These classes include in-person activities, specifically designed to foster pro-social activity and to reinforce and encourage interpersonal skills. The curriculum includes cognitive-behavioral aspects with regular and interactive opportunities to role-play, hold open discussions, and contemplate relevant ideas. There is a specific focus on managing the demands inherent in living in a cell or dormitory together, communication skills, and dealing with stress.

The Administrative Segregation Diversion Program (ASDP) provides another way to address the use of Administrative Segregation. Instead of providing assistance in the transition out of Administrative Segregation, this program helps eligible returning offenders to avoid Administrative Segregation. If an offender was most recently discharged from the TDCJ directly from Administrative Segregation (and was there due to a Security Threat Group affiliation), returns to TDCJ for a subsequent incarceration, State Classification would review that offender for program participation. If that person meets eligibility and has shown sufficient evidence of the decision to discontinue his

connection to a Security Threat Group immediately prior to the current incarceration, then acceptance to the program would be given. Successful completion of the program would allow the offender to receive General Population housing and avoid placement in Administrative Segregation.

The ASDP was initiated on the Ellis Unit in July 2014. It includes at least 300 hours of in-person and in-cell activity over approximately 4 months. The curriculum includes basic education, skill building (particularly around managing anger and maintaining focus), life skills, goal setting and decision making skills. The goal is to not only effect change in thinking so that the behavior is positively impacted, but to also empower and encourage offenders to take charge of their lives by learning more effective ways of thinking.

Current News, cont'd.

New Kairos Initiative in TDCJ

By: Vance Drum, Manager I, Rehabilitation Programs Division Chaplaincy Programs

Recently, the Wynne Unit in Huntsville was the site of a great Kairos weekend. 42 offenders and approximately 40 volunteers participated in the four-day event. Kairos, a Christian faith-based ministry, addresses the spiritual needs of incarcerated men, women, youth, and their families.

Wynne Unit Warden Kelly Strong described the weekend as a "success." She added, "We look forward to its on-going progress with our offender population." Assistant Warden Troy Selman and Chaplain Randall Lowe also indicated that the event was a blessing to the unit, and that it was a peaceful and productive weekend.

Kairos of Texas officials said that the participant offenders were exposed to new ways of thinking, and a new, pro-social way of living their lives—in a life of faith, not crime. On a typical weekend on a large unit, approximately 3,000 dozen cookies are brought in (baked in free-world TDCJ-approved kitchens) and distributed to all staff and offenders. Donated food is also brought in for the weekend.

Kairos (Greek word for "time," especially "the right time") began in the TDCJ in 1987 at the Ferguson Unit. It has since gone into 34 TDCJ units, mostly maximum security prisons. After a flurry of new Kairos openings in the first 15 years after the Ferguson

start, Kairos had not expanded to any new units until Wynne in 2014.

Kairos is the prison expression of similar movements outside of prison, known in various churches as "Walk to Emmaus," "Tres Dias," and "Cursillo." The movement began in Spain in 1949, and has gone worldwide, including ministries in North America, South America, Europe, Asia and Africa. The TDCJ anticipates and would welcome expansion of the program to additional units.



Positive Changes on Jester I

By: Donald "Frank" Davis, Program Director, Jester I

Jester I has been going through some changes as of late. Larry Douglas retired after 22 years with the Gateway Foundation. He will be missed and we all wish him well. He was very grateful for all who came to his retirement party and enjoyed the time spent. Dwayne Novak has been promoted to Assistant Director and is adapting quickly, as expected. On another note, Jester conducted the first PRS/recovery coach training the week of

October 9th. We currently have four staff members providing classes, and Martha Garza is the designated trainer of the training staff. The clients and staff are very excited about this opportunity and look forward to being a part of this worthwhile project. At this time, we are interviewing for a new Counselor Supervisor to fill Mr. Novak's position. Remember, "One Day at a Time."

New Warden at Walker Sayle Unit

By: Kemberlee Henderson, Program Director, Walker Sayle Unit

The Walker Sayle Unit is excited to announce the arrival of Warden Larry G. Doyle as Senior Warden, effective September 2, 2014. Warden Doyle has 27 years with the department, and he came to us from the Coffield Unit.

As the Program Director, I really appreciate working with him. He has excellent administrative and negotiation skills. Although he is

new to a substance abuse unit, he is very supportive and receptive to the Therapeutic Community.

We enjoy his sense of humor and understand he plays a mean guitar, although we have not been privileged to a concert.

Welcome, Warden Doyle!

Success Corner

Poem written by Martha Wright, TDCJ# 1965006, Our Roadway to Freedom, Plane State Jail.

*Prostitution and drugs put me in Harris County and Plane State Jail,
Didn't get out 'cause I couldn't make the bail!
So I asked for some help and got Kathy Griffin's program "Been There, Done That,"
I gained so much—that's where it's at!
Then God sent me to Plane State Jail—to Our Roadway to Freedom,
All of these steps till I get to His heaven!*

*We have the greatest teachers of them all: Kathy Griffin, Ms. Antionette, Ms. Chance, Ms. Rochelle, and of course Ms. Hammond,
These are the ones we can call!*

*So at the end of my journey, I want to say, "Thank you for all of you,"
And God be with you, too!
We all wouldn't be here if it weren't for you!
Hang in there everybody,
Stay clean in 2015!*

Poem written by Alanna McKinney, TDCJ# 1915603, Our Roadway to Freedom, Plane State Jail

*I'm sitting here in prison and I have made a decision to do what is right
and change my life.
We all know that is just for a season
and, for all the right reasons,
we are on our roadway to freedom, my sisters.
Let's build our bond and continue to be strong
for this journey of ours won't be long.
And stop all the strife,
because there is so much to life.
There may be times that we hit a stump,
But we sisters must never give up.
We will leave our past behind us and do our very best.
As this will lead us in the pathway of sobriety, freedom and a future of success.
Because my sisters and I have made the decision
to never ever come back to prison
after we choose our roadway to freedom.*

Employee Spotlight



Clint Morris, Rehabilitation Programs Division (RPD) Chaplaincy Program Analyst, is an invaluable asset to the RPD. He has been working in the division for over six years; he is also a TDCJ volunteer, and won the Volunteer Service Award in 2014. As a volunteer, he co-facilitates the Toastmasters program at the Wynne Unit each Tuesday

night to help offenders learn to speak publicly and write successful speeches. As a Program Analyst, he works on the Chaplaincy's litigation and legal issues, provides support to the Native American and Jewish programs, and Chaplaincy training.

Having grown up in Southeast Ohio, Clint started his correctional career in 1994. He was a Correctional Officer in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections; then, he was promoted to Classification Specialist, and then to a Correctional Program Specialist. In 2001, he and his wife Michelle, started a prison ministry called Character House Outreach, which according to the program's motto, is "Humbly serving His Kingdom through compassion, love, and communication." Clint has also written a book, titled "The Character Path," which helps the reader develop a relationship with God through understanding and improving one's Biblical character.

Clint arrived in Texas in 2009, and has been working with the RPD Chaplaincy Department ever since. In 2013, Clint earned his Bachelor's Degree from Ashford University. Clint has many supporters and friends. According to DeAnna Breckenridge, Administrative Assistant III, RPD Programs Coordination, Clint is "very active in his church and he's very giving and funny. He's never met a stranger – he will talk to anyone." Vance Drum, Manager I, RPD Chaplaincy Programs, states, "Clint is an excellent analyst for the RPD. He has a helpful personality; anytime I need something, he is always available to assist me. He's a computer guru – he knows how to use the computer to organize facts and present proposals."

Merline Kellum, Administrative Assistant III, RPD Volunteer Services, states, "I first became acquainted with Clint Morris in 2010 when he came to work for the TDCJ Chaplaincy Department. It

was immediately apparent that Clint was different. He is a man of great faith and cares deeply about people and believes in giving 100% to whatever task he is asked to accomplish. Later on, I promoted to a position working for Clint, which I found rewarding. In the two years I worked for him, I gained an even deeper respect for him. He is passionate about building positive relationships with others wherever he goes, benefiting the agency, as well as individuals. Although he is no longer my immediate supervisor, I am still inspired by the positive attitude and motivation that Clint brings to our office. Clint is also a very good cook who loves to share his delicious recipes with everyone, although, being from Ohio he still doesn't know how to make 'Texas' chili."

Diann Ross, Clerk IV, RPD Chaplaincy Programs, says: "I have worked under Clint's direct supervision for approximately one year. What first struck me about Clint is how kind and compassionate he is. He leads by example and would never ask me to do something that he would not do himself. He is supportive of my work and is always there to support and back up my decisions. Clint is always striving to enhance the programs offered by the Chaplains. He strives to have a working relationship with each of the Chaplains at all 109 units within our Agency. He helps me to learn and grow within my position. Since I started working with Chaplaincy, I have become an approved volunteer. In March, I will be doing a Prison Ministry Day at one of the units along with Clint. He not only works in the Chaplaincy office, but also donates his time to ministry. It is indeed a pleasure to work with Clint Morris."

Madeline Ortiz, Director of the RPD, states that Clint is definitely an asset to the Division. Clint not only gives his co-workers and the RPD his excellent focus, time, and effort, but he also gives of himself to ministry and his volunteer efforts. Thank you, Clint, for all you do!!

Announcements

The Rehabilitation Programs Division would like to welcome and congratulate the following staff:

Transfers/Laterals:

Joseph Brousseau—Chaplain I—Briscoe Unit
Lawana Hardin—Clerk II—RPD—SORP
Ernest Brown—Chaplain II—Tulia Unit

Promotions:

Marvin Dunbar—Deputy Director—RPD
Steven Gaddis—Manager IV—RPD
Mark Holmes—Program Supervisor V—ADSEG—Estelle Unit
Shayne Loren Roberts—Program Supervisor III—RPD
Caleb Hoot—Program Specialist I—SATP
Mary Berry—Chaplain III—Region III
Casey Celum—Chaplain III—Region IV
Donna Faulkner—Health Specialist II—SORP—Goree Unit
Lindsey Ruschel—Health Specialist I—Our Roadway to Freedom—
Plane State Jail
Stanley Baldwin—Chaplain II—Robertson Unit
Daniel Rose—Chaplain III—Region I
Dawn Simon—Administrative Assistant II—SATP—LeBlanc Unit
Timothy O'Bryant—Chaplain I—Luther Unit
Gloria Garrett—Substance Abuse Counselor III—SATP—Hamilton Unit
Martha Smith—Program Supervisor V—RPD
Eric Bowyer—Health Specialist III—SORP—Neal Unit
Tawakalitu Oyedemi—Health Specialist III—SORP—Stringfellow Unit
Andrew Benesh—Health Specialist IV—SORP—Hightower Unit
Christy Rudolph—Case Manager III—SORP—Beto Unit
Tina Ainsworth—Health Specialist III—SORP—Goree Unit
Deborah Reed—Case Manager III—ADSEG—Estelle Unit
Catherine Williams—Case Manager II—GRAD—Ellis Unit
James McGowen—Case Manager III—YOP—Clemens Unit
Franklin Robinson—Chaplain I—Mountain View
Reginald Tucker—Clerk II—SATP—LeBlanc Unit
Shana Toney—Health Specialist II—SORP—Hightower Unit
Lucas Phillip—Substance Abuse Counselor III—ASI Tester—Holliday

Unit

Lisa Arterberry-Gaines—Program Supervisor I—RPD
Jesse Quintero—Chaplain I—Allred Unit

New Hires:

Robert Shull—Chaplain I—Dalhart Unit
Joseph Vontz—Chaplain I—Stiles Unit
Kenneth Daniels—Substance Abuse Counselor I—SATP—Johnston
Unit
Cobie Johnson—Substance Abuse Counselor I—SATP—Johnston
Unit
Brenda Cleary—Substance Abuse Counselor I—SATP—Johnston Unit
Laronda Jackson—Case Manager II—SORP—Hightower Unit
Deborah Phillips—Chaplain I—Hospital Galveston
Barrett Hamilton—Case Manager II—SORP—Hightower Unit
Melissa Kahl—Clerk II—SORP—Stringfellow Unit
Sara Laforce—Case Manager II—Hamilton Unit
David Schlewitz—Chaplain II—Daniel Unit
Peggy White—Clerk II—SATP—Johnston Unit
Ernest Lucio—Chaplain II—Hamilton Unit
Gregorie Tunstall—Health Specialist I—SORP—Hightower Unit
Stanley Whitney—Clerk IV—SATP—RPD
Valarie Jones—Case Manager II—SORP—Hightower Unit
Rugano Watson—Chaplain I—Boyd Unit
Clyde Graves—Substance Abuse Counselor II—SATP—Johnston Unit
Tommy Craiker—Chaplain I—Murray Unit
Jillian Dunaway—Case Manager II—SORP—Goree Unit
Michael Kukich—Substance Abuse Counselor I—SATP—Hamilton Unit
Frederick Hall—Chaplain I—Garza East Unit



The Rehabilitation Programs Division Bulletin can be read on-line at: http://tdcj.state.tx.us/publications/pubs_rpd_bulletin.html.

Readers are encouraged to submit articles, events or other newsworthy items for publication consideration.

**All submissions should be forwarded to:
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