



MainLine to WMCI

July 2009

Progress Continues

About the WMCI

The Wyoming Medium Correctional Institution (WMCI) is being built in Torrington, Wyoming and is slated to open in January 2010. It will be the fifth institution in the Wyoming Department of Corrections system.

The WMCI will have 700+ beds for medium custody male inmates and will contain a high needs medical and mental health unit and a long term substance abuse treatment unit.

Hiring for the bulk of the positions will begin in late Summer 2009 with training for employees beginning in September 2009.

The length of training required is determined by the job description. All training is paid for by the WDOC and will take place in Guernsey, Wyoming at Camp Guernsey.

To access job information, go to <http://www.wdoc.jobs/>

Wyoming Medium Correctional Institution

Michael Murphy
Warden
Mike Pacheco

members for the Wyoming Medium Correctional Institution (WMCI), including Warden Mike Murphy, Deputy Warden Mike Pacheco, Case-work Supervisor Barb Tuttle, Correctional Facilities Manager Bob Kiser, Executive Assistant Jennifer Tysdal, Administrative Specialist Dee Herdt, Assistant Maintenance Manager John Rinaker, plus Judge Keith Kautz, took a tour of the WMCI facility on June 2. The tour covered most areas of the institution. Many areas are already sheet rocked, painted, with carpeting installed. The overview was enlightening to those who had not yet had the opportunity to visit WMCI.

Hometown Neighbors

WMCI staff members are in the process of working with the community of Goshen County to develop a committee to welcome the 350+ staff, many of whom will be new to the community and/or those who already live in Goshen County but are new to Corrections. The committee has named itself "Hometown Neighbors." They are planning many ways to welcome staff including:

- Ice cream socials/chili feeds
- Tours of Torrington on the Eastern Wyoming College buses
- A mentoring program for

staff where a staff member could contact someone in Torrington when they have questions about the community, and

- Welcome Baskets to be presented at the socials or at the Training Academy

Members will be asking for donations from the community for percentage-off coupons and other items to go in the baskets. An account for funds has been set up at First State Bank. Two meetings have already taken place with a third scheduled for Wednesday, July 9, noon, near the dining hall at Eastern Wyoming College. Anyone interested in participating is welcome to attend. Contact Jennifer Tysdal in Cheyenne for more information at 307.777.6322, e-mail JTYSDA@wdoc.state.wy.us

Correctional Industries

As is true at all WDOC facilities, the WMCI will have Correctional Industries. Industries are an important component of an inmate's incarceration. Involvement in an industry allows the inmate to learn new skills, a work ethic, and a means to earn a livable wage upon re-entry into society. Bil Carter, WDOC Industries Manager, is pursuing possible industries and hopes to have at least one in place at the WMCI by Summer 2010.



On the tour — l-r, Warden Murphy, Deputy Warden Pacheco, and Judge Kautz

Updating Senior Staff

On June 4, WMCI staff held a meeting to update WDOC Director Bob Lampert and other senior staff on the time line of the new facility. A formal report was discussed with those departments that detailed timelines, training, and the plan for hiring of the 350+ staff members.

Bob Kiser reported that construction is moving forward in a timely manner. Water has been run to the site and the water tower has been painted with a logo.

Transfer of operations was discussed by Warden Murphy. In general, those staff already hired and working out of Cheyenne will be transitioning to Torrington in the Fall at some time. Movement depends on the construction progress.

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Training for Staff

Pete Norris, Manager of the WDOC Training Academy, presented time lines for training for the staff at WMCI. All staff members must attend the WDOC Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) certified Training Academy which is conducted and paid for by WDOC. The length of the training will vary, depending on one's job. Special training academies for WMCI staff are being scheduled at Camp Guernsey in Guernsey, Wyoming, starting in September 2009. These academies in Guernsey will run through March 5, 2010.

Four current WMCI staff members attended a WDOC Training Academy graduation in Rawlins on June 12. Those WMCI staff earning their certificates were Dee Herdt, Monte Fibranz, John Rinaker, and Polly Helzer. Also in attendance for the graduation were Warden Murphy and Lieutenant Kevin Edwards. Dee Herdt told WMCI Field Public Information Officer, Jennifer Tysdal, "I think it was impressive to see the officers receive their certificates due to the devotion of time and energy they committed to this class." Dee also reported that Division of Prisons staff member, Jerry Steele, gave an outstanding commencement address to the class.

Partnership with EWC

The Wyoming Community College Commission (WCCC) and Eastern Wyoming College (EWC) met with WMCI staff on June 24 at EWC. Warden

Murphy and Deputy Warden Pacheco were in attendance and spoke at great length about the marriage between the colleges and the WMCI facility. Warden Murphy reported to the group that the facility would have its own educational staff, but the vision would be for inmates to take college classes during their incarceration. The group was very excited to be working with the facility.

Dr. Rick Patterson's sabbatical with the Wyoming Department of Corrections was discussed. His sabbatical from Eastern Wyoming College will last approximately 12 months beginning July 6, 2009, and as reported by Deputy Warden Pacheco, Dr. Patterson "will get to know us from the inside out."

Warden Murphy explained to the trustees that the WMCI Transition Team is in the process of building a facility from the ground up. This entails many tasks including writing procedures, developing Memorandums of Understanding with the community (for emergency purposes), hiring staff, training, etc. Warden Murphy said that Wyoming sets the standard for a quality prison system. "WDOC Director Lampert has a positive vision and a goal of reducing the rate of recidivism which will result in stability in the prison population and eventually will decrease the numbers of prisoners in our system," he said.

Also discussed during the meeting was how to present more educational opportunities to Correctional staff. Employees will be encouraged to further their own educations to pro-

mote into more responsible positions.

In general, the group felt that the process was moving well and WCCC and the Community of Goshen County were excited to have the facility here.



WMCI staff who recently graduated from the WDOC Training Academy, l-r, John Rinaker, Polly Helzer, Dee Herdt, and Monte Fibranz

WMCI Hosts

WDOC Golf Tourney

As part of its focus on being a contributing member of the community of Torrington and Goshen County, WMCI staff helped host and also participated in the 3rd annual WDOC Wellness Golf Tournament held at the Cotton-



wood Country Club in Torrington in late June. Participants included WDOC staff members, local law enforcement, WMCI Prison Community Partnership Committee members, and other local residents. The Goshen County Chamber Ambassadors were available to hand out goodie bags to attendees and many door prizes were drawn for.

The door prizes were donated by many individuals to include local businesses and fellow staff. Goshen County sponsors and those donating door prizes were Century Lumber Center, Days Inn of Torrington, Decker's Food Center, Faces-n-Furs, First National Bank, First State Bank, Madden Brothers, Premier Properties, Pinnacle Bank, Platte Valley Bank,

Ranch Restaurant/Days Inn, Sew Many Blessings, Bucking Horse Steakhouse, KNEB Radio, Eastern Wyoming College, Goshen County Chamber of Commerce, Hometown Realty, Cottonwood Golf Course, and Cottonwood Country Club.

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