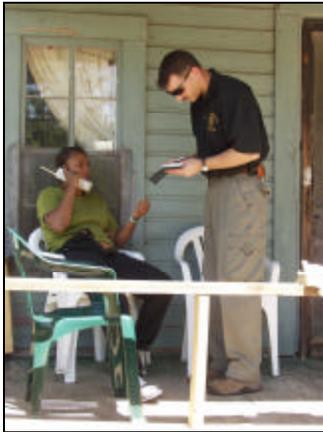


COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Programs

The Division of Community Corrections is charged with the supervision of offenders that are still under the jurisdiction of the state but are not currently incarcerated. The division conducts field supervision of offenders and oversees a variety of programs that afford offenders an opportunity to re-assimilate into the community. This Division is lead by Acting Deputy Commissioner Lora Cole.



Field Services

The Field Services component of the Division of Community Corrections is responsible for the supervision of offenders released on parole, earned release supervision (ERS), and sentenced by the court to probation.

F.R.E.E. (Facing Reality Educationally and Emotionally)

The MDOC Community Corrections division has eight F.R.E.E. treatment coordinators located statewide that assist field officers in monitoring offender's treatment needs for substance abuse. In addition, treatment coordinators teach a structured life skills curriculum twice a month to assist offenders in other areas of their life that have been affected by their substance abuse problems.

Interstate Compact

The State of Mississippi participates in the Interstate Compact for Adult Offenders. Under the terms of the compact agreement, the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) provides courtesy supervision to probationers and parolees from other states in exchange for courtesy supervision of Mississippi offenders residing in other states.

Pre-Trial Diversion

The Pre-Trial Diversion program is an alternative to felony conviction in which a defendant voluntarily submits to supervision ranging from six months to three years. Charges against the offender may be dismissed if the period of supervision is successfully completed.

Intensive Supervision Program

The Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) is designed to provide a level of supervision in a community setting to offenders who would otherwise be incarcerated. Offenders are required to wear electronic monitoring equipment and are limited in most cases to employment, treatment, and worship services activities. Each offender in ISP maintains inmate status and can be immediately placed in an MDOC facility upon violation of the program.



Drug Urinalysis Labs

Community Corrections field officers are responsible for routine and reasonable suspicion drug testing of offenders and random drug testing of 15% of the offender population each month.

Restitution Centers

There are four restitution centers in Mississippi that assist offenders in obtaining employment as a condition of their probationary sentence. Money earned by offenders is distributed to crime victims for restitution, courts for court costs and fines, and MDOC for room and board. The remainder of the offender's wages, after taxes, goes to the offender's family or to the offender's holding account. Upon completion of the program, residents are transferred to a field officer and remain under supervision for the remainder of their probationary sentence.



Community Work Centers

The MDOC Community Corrections Division oversees 17 community work centers throughout Mississippi. Minimum security inmates are assigned to these centers and are provided a gradual, re-introduction into community life. The program includes alcohol and drug counseling, Adult Basic Education and GED preparation, literacy classes and religious programs.

Each community work center houses approximately 75 inmates that perform a wide range of labor at no cost to city, county and state government agencies and to school districts. This work ranges from community beautification projects to bridge and road work repair; vehicle maintenance; and water, sewer, and sanitation details.



Inmate Labor

The offenders that serve their sentences in community work centers and restitution centers provide free labor to municipalities, counties and other state agencies. A sample of the work they perform includes highway beautification, facility maintenance, road work, and equipment maintenance. In FY 2001, the offenders in the community work centers provided entities with 2,447,847 total inmate hours, valued at minimum wage to equal \$12,606,412 in free labor. For the same 12 months the residents in the restitution centers provided entities with 36,023 total inmate hours, valued at minimum wage to equal \$185,518 in free labor.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Quick Facts

The 2002 fiscal year was one of positive change for the MDOC Community Corrections Division where an emphasis was placed on professionalism and improved utilization of staff and resources. There were several offices throughout the state that expanded with increased caseloads and corresponding staff. There were new Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) officers hired to accommodate the growing ISP population as the courts took advantage of alternatives to incarceration. A wide variety of deserving Community Corrections' staff received recognition for both dedicated service and tenure through MDOC's Employee Service Award Program.

- The MDOC Division of Community Services was renamed to Community Corrections by 2002 legislation, bringing this division's title in line with the vast majority of other states' corresponding Community Corrections Division.
- The Community Corrections Division was reorganized effective November 1, 2001, from four (4) regions to three (3) regions. More cost-effective delivery of services and consistency in operations resulted from this reorganization.
- Region II Community Corrections Director Brenda Blanks served as President of the Southern States Correctional Association.
- American Correctional Association (ACA) contracts were entered and associated fees paid in full for all aspects of the Community Corrections Division.
- Overall improvements were made in staff knowledge and emphasis on accountability, as well as residential facilities' maintenance and sanitation standards, via efforts towards ACA accreditation.
- Specialized field officer training was expanded to include a 40 hour inter-personal communications course (IPC).
- An emergency plan manual, a volunteer handbook, as well as Policies, Standard Operating Procedures, and Post Orders, were updated and/or implemented.
- The booklet, *Alternatives to Incarceration*, was published and distributed to district attorneys, judges, legislators and field staff outlining sentencing options.
- Photographs of parolees were uploaded into the computer system for public access and information.
- A standardized color-coded file system was implemented for Field Services, as well as an expansion of case assignments by specialized caseloads.
- The installation of computers in field offices statewide resulted in curtailment of phone costs and improved operational efficiency.