



DIRECTOR TESTIFIES: ESCAPE HAD ‘NOTHING TO DO WITH BUDGET CUTS’

At a hearing Thursday before the Senate appropriations subcommittee on corrections, Dan Heyns continued to claim the gun tower closures and elimination of the full-time PSV rounds had nothing to do with the Feb. 2 escape at ICF.

“The root causes of this escape had nothing to do with budget cuts. The funding was there. It didn’t have anything to do with gun towers ... There were a lot of people out of the chute that

rendered their opinion about what had happened here and most of those people didn’t know what they were talking about.”

Heyns said he’s asked wardens to submit lists of their top five security needs and he’s asked for reviews of gate, fence, sally port, entrance and physical plant security. He also said shake-down procedures, inmate clothing color and snow removal protocol will be examined.

Heyns wouldn’t answer many

specific questions because investigations by the MDOC and attorney general’s office aren’t finished.

MCO still emphatically believes an escape wouldn’t have been possible if the gun towers were staffed.

ICF’s MCO chapter has brought up security issues at multiple labor management meetings. Now that there’s been an escape, the Department is scrambling to fix a variety of physical plant problems at ICF and other prisons.

AROUND THE STATE: ARF ATTEMPTED ASSAULT

A Gus Harrison inmate armed with two weapons tried to stab a facility administrator Feb. 6.

The attempted assault happened in a Resident Treatment Program Level IV housing unit. The prisoner had a pen and what was possibly a sharpened piece of floor tile in his left hand when he swung at the employee. A psychologist standing nearby grabbed the inmate’s arm, an officer said. All three of them fell to the floor.

Officers responded.

No one was seriously injured.

The inmate was taken to a segregation cell.

Recent events at SRF:

2.4.14 – Inmate found in possession of two weapons. One was in his underwear and the other was in his cell.

2.5.14 – Prisoner reported someone threw hot liquid on his face and neck while in the day-room. He was treated for burns.

CTO LOU APPROVED

The CTO overtime LOU has been approved by the Civil Service Commission. It is now in effect.

Read the LOU at mco-seiu.org.

SEIU SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

The deadline for the SEIU scholarship program is March 3. Find information on how to apply at mco-seiu.org. Information on the MCO Scholarship program is also online. MCO’s deadline is June 1.

Good luck!

ICF MEMBERS HOST LUNCH FUNDRAISER FEB. 19

Ionia Correctional Facility officers are planning a fundraiser for an ICF officer who was recently suspended. The event is Wednesday, Feb. 19 from noon to 4:30 p.m. at the Loyal Order of the

Moose Lodge at 869 E. Lincoln Ave. in Ionia. Pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans, chips and punch will be served for \$5 a plate. There will also be a raffle.

MICHIGAN CORRECTIONS ORGANIZATION
SEIU LOCAL 526M
421 W. KALAMAZOO
LANSING, MI 48933
517.485.3319
800.451.4878
WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG
MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG