



MCO ADVOCATES FOR WHV COs, WORKS WITH MDOC ON REMEDIES TO MANDATES

MCO and MDOC have been working together to find solutions to the overtime crisis at Women's Huron Valley and other facilities.

MCO and MDOC [signed a Letter of Understanding](#) that allows COs at facilities near WHV to voluntarily work OT at WHV.

MCO and MDOC also [signed a Letter of Understanding](#) making OJTs state-wide eligible for mandatory and voluntary overtime two months before they normally would be eligible.

In addition, MCO and MDOC put together a joint proposal to defer the college credit requirement for new COs' first 18 months of service. This means applicants with no college credits will be

considered, but they must agree to obtain the required 15 hours of credits in their first 18 months on the job. This has been done in the past and was successful in bringing in new staff. The proposal is waiting on approval from the Michigan Civil Service Commission.

While these solutions aren't cure-alls, they should help lessen mandates until more staff are hired.

MCO also spoke with the Detroit Free Press for [an article published Aug. 10](#) about the overtime crisis at WHV.

MCO President Byron Osborn, MCO Legal Director Jeff Foldie, and WHV Member Amber Dotson were interviewed about the mandated overtime crisis at WHV and its impact on WHV

COs' health. The article was on the front page of the Free Press website and the Aug. 10 print edition.

MCO is committed to raising awareness of the overtime crisis in every venue available to us and solving it.

OCF CLOSURE UPDATE

As announced last week, Ojibway is slated for closure Dec. 1. OCF and Baraga will be the layoff unit.

Board members and staff are meeting with members at both facilities. [See the meeting schedule here.](#)

MCO will continue to keep members updated on this closure.

AROUND THE STATE: ICF, ARF, LMF STAFF ASSAULTED; COs RESPOND TO FIGHTS AT MBP

An ICF inmate stabbed an officer in the head several times with an ink pen Aug. 16.

The assault happened in a Level V unit. Prisoners were moving around the unit to use the JPay machine and buy store items when the inmate came up behind the officer and stabbed him.

The officer's injuries didn't require stitches.

A Gus Harrison inmate assaulted a prison counselor Aug. 14. Staff also found shanks, Suboxone, marijuana, and K2 (synthetic marijuana) that day.

The prison counselor was speaking with the Level II inmate about his watch,

which the PC suspected was contraband because it had digital storage space. The prisoner ran from the PC's office. When the PC caught up with him, the prisoner shoved the PC into a door. No injuries were reported.

Later in the day, staff found two shanks inside a Level II inmate's shower shoes. Officers also uncovered drugs in headphones, a photo album, and a hair brush with a hollowed-out handle. *Officers must be vigilant because contraband can be hidden almost anywhere.*

There were also two inmate fights Tuesday evening.

Great job to the officers who found this contraband and responded to these

fights and assaults.

Marquette staff responded to several fights and assaults Aug. 15.

The altercations involved at least nine inmates in B-block, a Level V unit. Officers believe the fights and assaults are gang-related.

No staff injuries were reported.

An Alger officer was dressed out with an unknown substance while she was picking up food trays Aug. 18.

The dress out happened in a segregation unit.

The officer went to a hospital for evaluation and returned to work.

Thanks for joining us at the Detroit Children's Day Picnic!

Hundreds of staff, retirees, and their families came out for the Detroit Children's Day Picnic Aug. 11. They enjoyed a day of fellowship and fun.

"It's refreshing to see officers outside of work with their families, laughing and playing," said Executive Board Member Marcus Collins, DDC.

"Many of these kids don't get to go somewhere fun in the summer, in part because prisons are short-staffed and their parents work a lot. The MCO Children's Day Picnic is like a mini-vacation for them."

[See more photos on Flickr](#) or in our members-only [Facebook group](#).

