



## MCO PUSHES STAFFING, RETENTION ISSUES IN BARGAINING

MCO and the State of Michigan recently opened bargaining. MCO gave a presentation detailing the unique and dangerous challenges members face, including PTSD, inmate assault, and the staffing and retention crisis, which means some officers are forced to work 16-hour days several days a week.

Representatives from the Office of the State Employer (OSE) and MDOC met with the MCO Executive Board, which serves as the bargaining team. MCO Executive Director Andy Potter is leading negotiations for MCO.

The bargaining team reviewed survey results and is considering members' responses as we move ahead. 880 members completed the survey, which is about 15 percent.

Michigan Civil Service rule changes prohibit bargaining on very important topics. MCO President Byron Osborn is walking through these issues with the MDOC and will meet with the Department Aug. 24.

Read more about changes the Civil Service Commission unilaterally imposed last September in [this bulletin MCO issued at the time.](#)

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HEALTH INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLMENT

Health insurance open enrollment is going on now and ends Friday, August 24th, at 11:59 p.m. This is the annual opportunity for eligible employees to review plan summaries and current benefits, make changes to your coverage, and add or remove individuals from your insurance. **Even if you don't plan to make any changes to your insurance, it's a good idea to log into your account to make sure that all dependents and selections listed are accurate.**

There are two upcoming changes to be aware of with respect to the Vision Plan and HMO options.

First, effective October 1, 2018, EyeMed will be replacing Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan/VSP as the

administrator of the State Vision Plan. Current enrollees in the State Vision Plan will be automatically transitioned and there will be no gap in coverage.

Second, United Healthcare is being offered as a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) option. Like all other HMOs, eligibility for enrollment in this plan is based on your residential zip code. United Healthcare primarily covers the southeast and western regions of the state.

To view more information of these changes or other general enrollment information, please visit [mi.gov/IOE](http://mi.gov/IOE) or go to [mi.gov/selfserv](http://mi.gov/selfserv) to enroll online.

- *Information provided by OSE*

## IN MEMORIAM: OFFICER BEV MORSE



Former Brooks chapter leader Bev Morse has passed away. CO Morse started with the MDOC in 1989 and retired in fall 2016.

A celebration of her life will be

held Aug. 11 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Fruitport Eagles, 3354 S. Dangel Rd., Muskegon, MI 49444.

Our hearts go out to Morse's survivors and fellow officers. Rest in peace, CO Morse.



## VOTE TODAY!

Don't forget, today is primary election day for state and local races.

Before you go, visit [michigan.gov/vote](http://michigan.gov/vote) to confirm your polling place, view a sample ballot, and more. Polls close at 8 p.m.

As state employees the next governor will have a major impact on future safety and security. Ensure your voice is heard and vote.

MCO is preparing an endorsement guide for the November general election. Look for it later this month.

## CHILDREN'S DAY PICNIC SERVES UP FAMILY FUN

The MCO Children's Day Picnic will be Saturday, Aug. 11 at Lower Huron Metropark in Belleville.

The picnic is a long-standing tradition that brings together corrections employees for a day of family fun! All COs and staff at prisons in the Detroit area are invited.

The picnic will include bounce houses, music, clowns, video game bus, lots of great food, and more. Plus, kids will receive a lunch box.

The fun starts at noon and lasts until dusk. See you there.

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