



HOUSE BUDGET PROPOSAL FOCUSES ON STAFFING, PTSD, AND TRAINING

The House passed its version of the MDOC budget for fiscal year 2020 this week. A budget still needs to pass in the Senate and by the governor before being final.

The \$2 billion House budget includes \$1 million to be used for PTSD outreach for staff and employee wellness programming. The House budget requires MDOC to work with MCO and department employees from every job category in brainstorming strategies for addressing mental health needs and executing mental health programs for employees. By September 2020, MDOC would have to submit a report specifying what programs were implemented, the number of employees involved in strategizing, and what strategies were used. The department must also report on the pervasiveness of PTSD and other psychological disorders among corrections staff and how symptoms of those disorders are exacerbated because of the corrections environment.

Another focus of the budget is in-

creasing staffing. Representatives know mandated overtime has been a longstanding issue and that a focus on decreasing vacancies is imperative for a safer work environment and for employee morale. The House budget proposal allocates \$7.4 million for training new custody staff. It also requires the MDOC to report on a quarterly basis all vacant positions within the department; all correction officer positions and vacancies at each facility; all vacancies that are health care-related; and all vacant positions that are being held for temporarily inactive employees.

The House budget proposal allocates funding for the replacement of the recruit academy's officer training binders with tablets or laptops. If passed, the House budget also requires MDOC to conduct a study to find the best location for a corrections officer training academy. At least four locations would be studied, two of which must be the former Riverside Correctional Facility and the former Ojibway Correctional Facility. The academy must

have classrooms, a gymnasium, a cafeteria, an outdoor training area, a firearm range, and administrative offices.

Keep in mind, the Senate, governor, and House will have to agree to a budget plan before anything is final. The House version isn't the final budget, but MCO leaders think its focus on PTSD, staffing and training illustrates that we are making progress in drawing legislator's attention to challenges facing members. Although it can sometimes be frustrating, there has been momentum in bringing attention to PTSD, mental illness, and CO burnout. Legislators know how imperative it is that more research is done and treatments be available for our officers with PTSD or mental health disorders. Thanks to MCO's tireless advocacy, legislators are also aware of how important it is that MDOC decrease vacancies to lower the risk of burnout and to lessen the amount of mandates.

MCO will continue to educate legislators on the issues corrections officers face and will continue to work alongside MDOC to strategize the best way to support officers.

- Article by Mikaela Bliven

MCO offers great discounts for summer fun!

Are you looking for fun things to do this summer? If you're planning a trip to an amusement park, Michigan Speedway, or even Florida, check out [MCO's member-only discounts](#).

Through MCO's partnership with Tickets at Work, members can save up to 30 percent at Cedar Point and Michigan's Adventure. You can also get food and parking vouchers in advance so you can focus on fun the day of your visit.

MCO members have access to exclusive pricing for the upcoming race weekend at Michigan International Speedway August 9-11. For \$120, members get a ticket for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday's races.

In addition, MCO provides dis-

counts to Great Wolf Lodge, Kalahari, Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel, and more.

Also, Ford Motor Company is offering first responders, including COs, \$1,000 bonus cash through the end of June on new car purchases and leases.

Info on all of these discounts is on [our website](#). Contact [Tara Nichol](#) with Member Benefits for more information by email or at (517)485-3310 ext. 150.

Please note, discounts MCO negotiates are for dues-paying members only. Your membership status will be verified before discount codes are provided.

IN MEMORIAM: MBP OFFICER ADAM HILBERG



A Marquette officer died Saturday after a tragic boating accident.

Adam Hilberg started with the MDOC in Sept. 2017. He started at Baraga and transferred to MBP.

A visitation and funeral will be Saturday, June 22 at the Fortune Lake Bible Camp near Crystal Falls. Visitation is from 9 a.m. to noon. The funeral service will start at noon. The MDOC Honor Guard will be at the service.

Rest in peace, CO Hilberg.