



## MDOC RELEASES FINDINGS OF WELLNESS SURVEY WHILE MCO'S PTSD WORK CONTINUES

MDOC recently released results of their [wellness survey](#) of all staff and some of the results were startling:

- 139 MDOC employees may actively be planning suicide.
- 16 percent were estimated to have a major depressive disorder.
- 25 percent suffer from PTSD.
- 19 percent may abuse alcohol.
- Just under half have anxiety.

These numbers are based on weighted survey statistics, meaning they are estimates of all MDOC staff.

MCO leaders examined the results and [talked to the media](#) about the findings.

MCO welcomes recent steps taken by the department to address this mental health crisis. We know that it was bold for them to publicly release these findings.

“Administrators and legislators

shouldn't be afraid of reports like this. They should be afraid of not acting on them,” MCO Executive Director Andy Potter said.

One action MCO is telling administrators they should take immediately is to listen intently to frontline staff.

They should also support a provision in the [House version of the budget](#) which designates \$1 million for PTSD training and wellness support. The House budget would require MDOC to work with MCO and department employees from every job category in brainstorming strategies for addressing mental health needs and carrying out mental health programs for employees. MCO backs that proposal, in addition to [Senate Bill 228](#), which would create a suicide prevention commission that includes one person selected from a

list of nominees submitted by MCO.

Remember, MCO started raising awareness of corrections PTSD in 2015. [We surveyed members](#) that year and realized thousands of MDOC staff suffer from PTSD or depression. Last year, MCO lobbied the legislature to include \$50,000 in the MDOC budget for a study to examine PTSD. That money was the funding source for the recently-released MDOC study.

After years of relentlessly pushing this issue, MDOC administrators and legislators acknowledge there's a mental health crisis among corrections staff and are taking concrete steps to address it. Although it can be hard to see when there's so much work left to be done, we are making progress. We won't rest until MDOC staff have the mental health resources they need.

## HEALTH CARE OPEN ENROLLMENT GOING ON NOW

Insurance Open Enrollment (IOE) runs from Aug. 1 through Aug. 23 this year and eligible State of Michigan employees will want to be aware of upcoming changes. This year's big news is an update to dental and vision dependent eligibility guidelines, a new Behavioral Health/Substance Abuse administrator for the State Health Plan (SHP) PPO, and other changes to health and vision benefits going into effect for the 2019-2020 plan year.

Dental and vision insurance coverage will be offered to dependent children under the same guidelines that health insurance is currently offered, meaning adult children will be eligible to remain on coverage through the end of the month in which they turn age 26 regardless of student or marital status or economic support provided. You can add eligible dependent children to your dental and vision coverage during IOE if they are not currently enrolled.

Effective Oct. 1, 2019, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, in partnership with

New Directions, will be replacing Magellan Health as the SHP PPO Behavioral Health/Substance Abuse administrator. Current SHP PPO enrollees will be automatically transitioned with no gap or changes in coverage. New SHP PPO membership ID cards will be mailed in September.

A handful of vision plan and health plan changes will be occurring as well. Visit the [Insurance Plans page](#) for a plan summary and more information. Lastly, be sure to review the [insurance rates](#) as nearly all have changed.

IOE is your once-a-year opportunity to change, enroll in, drop or add individuals to your benefits without a qualifying life event.

Visit [mi.gov/selfserv](http://mi.gov/selfserv) to enroll online through HR Self-Service or call the MI HR Service Center at 877-766-6447, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- Info provided by OSE. This article was edited for space. [Read the full article.](#)

## CHAPTER ELECTIONS REMINDER

Chapter election nominations are being accepted now through Aug. 15.

All members in good standing for the last two years are automatically nominated to run for MCO chapter office. If you would like to accept your nomination and get your name on your chapter's ballot, write a letter to your chapter election committee or email Member Engagement Associate [Jim McHenry](#) at [jim@mco-seiu.org](mailto:jim@mco-seiu.org).

Chapter elections will be held by mail-in ballot this year. Read more about this change in the [July 9 KYI](#) and [in this letter](#). Information should also be on your facility's MCO bulletin board.



The MCO Children's Day Picnic is Aug. 17!

[View details in this flyer.](#)