

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Director Michael P. Randle

Gov. Pat Quinn on May 14, 2009, named Michael P. Randle as director of the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). Randle assumed his position June 8, 2009. A 19-year veteran of the Ohio prison system, Randle most recently served as assistant director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

As director of IDOC, Randle leads an agency of 11,000 employees and a recommended budget of \$1.28 billion for Fiscal Year 2010.

When the agency originated, Illinois only operated seven adult facilities. Since that time, stricter laws have resulted in increased sentencing and longer terms. To address this steady increase in the inmate population, IDOC today operates 28 adult correctional centers as well as various work camps, boot camps and eight adult transition centers. The agency is responsible for nearly 80,000 adult inmates and parolees.

Safety is at the forefront of the agency's operations. The department's emphasis is placed on front line staff to protect and control inmates. A number of initiatives designed to ensure the safety of employees and inmates have yielded significant results. Among those are control and order. Security level designations, controlled line movement, inmate property boxes and the increased monitoring of security threat groups have created a more secure prison system.

A number of innovative programs include those that address the issues of inmates returning to the community. Operation Spotlight addresses public safety through the expansion of IDOC's Parole Program. The program increases parole agent staffing to monitor and tighten parole supervision on the streets of Illinois. Increased agents help improve supervision and monitoring of parolees as well as allow the department to better target higher risk populations. An added focus on community reentry includes emphasis on accountability and job placement with the goal of ultimately reducing crime and recidivism.

The agency's parole efforts also support the Sheridan National Drug Prison and Reentry Program. Nearly 69 percent of the state prison population is incarcerated for a drug-involved crime. In recognizing that drugs are a leading cause of recidivism, the Sheridan National Drug Prison and Reentry Program was established in January 2004. Today, Sheridan is moving drug-involved offenders through an intensive drug treatment, cognitive skills development, vocational and job preparation program. The program begins in the prison setting and follows through reentry and back into communities under an extensive case management program with heightened supervision. The Sheridan program has been showing promise by maintaining a 50 percent lower reincarceration rate than average. Also, a larger percentage of Sheridan program participants are becoming employed more regularly and quickly, compared to other parolees.



Another innovative program is the establishment of a Meth Prison and Reentry Program at Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center in East St. Louis. The Meth Prison and Reentry Program focuses on specific challenges facing people addicted to Meth so they can lead productive crime-and drug-free lives once they return to their families and communities.

As with the Sheridan Program, IDOC has chosen a group of partners and community-based providers to help build this national model for reducing crime. Under the Meth Prison Initiative, hundreds of IDOC inmates at Southwestern will undergo a newly developed, highly intensive drug treatment and community reentry program to combat Meth addiction and reduce crime.

Today, inmates and parolees are now given more opportunities for successful reentry into society than ever before.

Background - Director Michael P. Randle

Michael P. Randle began his career with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODCR) in 1990 as case manager and later was promoted to unit manager at the Ohio Reformatory for Women. Since then, he served in a number of positions including, mental health administrator for three female institutions of ODRC; deputy warden at Ross Correctional Institution; warden at Chillicothe Correctional Institution; superintendent at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility; chief of Ohio Penal Industries; and assistant deputy director and deputy director for the Office of Administration. He was named assistant director for ODRC in 2006.

Randle is a member of various organizations, including the American Correctional Association (ACA) where he is a certified ACA auditor, the Professional Alliance of Correctional Employees, the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, Government Finance Officers' Association, the Ohio Correctional and Court Services Association, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Education

Randle earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, with a minor in public administration, in 1990 from The Ohio State University and a master's degree in business administration in May 2007 from Ashland University.

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