

# **PRAIRIE DU CHIEN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**

State of Wisconsin

Department of Corrections



## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**Fiscal Year 2024**

(July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

**PETER J. JAEGER, WARDEN**

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## **ACRONYMS**

ACT	Anger Control Training	HSED	High School Equivalency Diploma
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act	HSU	Health Services Unit
BHS	Bureau of Health Services	ICRS	Institution Complaint Review System
BOCM	Bureau of Offender Classification & Movement	LTE	Limited Term Employment
DAI	Division of Adult Institutions	OSHA	Occupational Safety & Health Administration
DOA	Department of Administration	PDCI	Prairie du Chien Correctional Institution
DOC	Department of Corrections	PIOC	Persons In Our Care
DMV	Department of Motor Vehicles	SOAR	Success, Optimism, Avail, Recover
ERP	Earned Release Program	SUD	Substance Use Disorder
FY24	Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)	SWTC	Southwest Wisconsin Technical College (Fennimore, WI)
GED	General Educational Development	T4C	Thinking for a Change
		UW	University of Wisconsin
		WSPF	Wisconsin Secure Program Facility



## **MESSAGE FROM WARDEN JAEGER**

Welcome to the Prairie du Chien Correctional Institution (PDCI) FY24 Annual Report. Again, all the successes and hard work within this report, reflect the compassion of all working here.

Prairie du Chien Correctional Institution has expanded upon our work release program during this reporting period, adding additional work site opportunities. The work release program continues to be a benefit to the persons in our care (PIOC), citizens, local businesses, the DOC and the State of Wisconsin taxpayers.

Staff and the PIOC are excited to get out and assist the community as much as possible and remain focused on continuing to build and strengthen our programs and partnerships. During this reporting period, PIOC housed at PDCI volunteered, providing aid to the local community by filling approximately 11,000 sand bags to support county emergency management teams in response to the Mississippi River flooding in the area.

Prairie du Chien Correctional Institution continues to reintroduce pre-pandemic programming events to PDCI. In addition to a back to the basics initiative, reiterating the importance of sound correctional practices, PDCI worked diligently to offer our first Family Day since 2016. Several fathers and their children were able to spend a day together engaging in various activities fostering a family connection as PIOC prepare for reintegration back to their local communities.

PDCI's program offerings provide a balance of opportunity and an overabundance of resources for PIOC to take advantage of while addressing each individual's set of unique determinants that relate directly to recidivism.

Peter J. Jaeger

Warden

# **INSTITUTION PROFILE**

## **Prairie du Chien Correctional Institution**

500 East Parrish Street  
P.O. Box 6000  
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821  
608-326-7828

### **Purpose**

The Prairie du Chien Correctional Institution (PDCI) operates as a minimum-security facility for adult males. The basic purpose and objectives of the institution are:

- Protect the public, our staff and those in our care.
- Provide opportunities for positive change and success.
- Promote, inform, and educate others about our programs and successes.
- Partner and collaborate with community service providers and other criminal justice entities.

### **History & Development**

A railroad hotel was built on the current PDCI grounds in 1857 and was known as the Brisbois House. It was later used as a hospital for soldiers for a year during the Civil War and housed approximately 300 soldiers. The hotel closed a few years later. Local citizens established the Prairie du Chien College on the site in 1866. The property was bought by Mr. John Lawler of Prairie du Chien in 1867 and the Prairie du Chien College was closed in 1869. The property was turned over in 1871 by Mr. Lawler to the Christian Brothers, who opened St. John's College. St. John's College closed in 1876 and the property was reverted to Mr. Lawler.

In 1880, the property was formally deeded to the Jesuits, who opened Sacred Heart College and received a State of Wisconsin Charter in 1881. The school was closed to students in 1888 and used as a Novitiate and House of Studies of the Order of the Jesuits from 1888 to 1898, when it was reopened as a high school and college for boys.

In 1907, the Missouri Province took over the college and in 1909, Campion Hall was built and the name of the college was changed to Campion College of the Sacred Heart in 1913. In 1925, the college department was closed and Campion Jesuit High School officially started on the grounds. Campion was not completely a military school, though it was a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.). The military program was headed by a Captain, a graduate of West Point and a Sergeant of the US Army. The boys that attended Campion were trained in physical, intellectual, moral and military development. Students from all parts of the United States came to Campion. A few of the present-day buildings at PDCI were erected prior to Campion's reign; however, the majority of the buildings were built between 1936 and 1970. Campion Jesuit High School closed in 1975 and the campus sold to the Wisconsin Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1976 for \$2.8 million. The facility reopened as Martin Luther Preparatory School in 1978 and closed in 1994.

The State of Wisconsin purchased this facility in 1995 for \$2.5 million to be used as a secured juvenile facility for non-assaultive male youthful offenders. The purchase included 21 buildings on 60 acres of land. Due to the decrease in the juvenile offender population throughout the Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC), the Legislature in 1997 passed Senate Bill 113, authorizing the Department of Corrections (DOC) to temporarily utilize this facility for the Division of Adult Institutions (DAI). The DJC contracted 302 beds at PDCI to the DAI to serve as a medium-security correctional institution for male youthful offenders with adult sentences in the age range of 15 to 21 years.

PDCI became operational on July 3, 1997. On August 27, 2001, a section of the property, including Hoffman Hall, was purchased by the city of Prairie du Chien. As of July 1, 2003, PDCI transferred from the Division of Juvenile Offenders to the Division of Adult Institutions (DAI). PDCI operated as a medium security facility until May of 2021, when it transitioned to a minimum-security correctional facility within the DAI.

# **INSTITUTION FACTS**

## **INSTITUTION PROFILE:**

Date Institution Opened	July 3, 1997
Security Level	Minimum
Operating Capacity	519
Current Population	514
Uniformed staff	123
Non-uniformed staff	78.6
PIOC to staff ratio	Approx. 2.55 PIOC / staff
Number of acres	55.5
Operating Budget	\$25,644,324.49
Amount collected from PIOC for:	
Restitution	\$75,679.25
Child support	\$24,895.01
Victim Witness A	\$11,750.84
Victim Witness B	\$3,754.90
DNA Surcharge	\$36,103.77
Court Costs & Fines	\$85,165.27
Medical co-pay	\$7,095.00
Room	\$66,570.13
Board	\$19,435.03
Transportation	\$49,708.51

## **PROGRAMS:**

<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b># OF PIOC PARTICIPATED</b>	<b># OF PIOC COMPLETED</b>
<b>Education</b>		
General Educational Development/High School Equivalency Diploma (GED/HSED)	101	34
SWTC Bricklaying Diploma	20	11
SWTC Bricklaying Certificate	30	18
SWTC Building Maintenance and Construction Diploma	15	10
SWTC Building Maintenance and Construction Certificate	40	30
SWTC Welding Trailer Certificate	48	37
SWTC Microsoft Software Training	24	14
MATC Second Chance Pell	18	2
<b>Work</b>		
PIOC Employed in the Institution	184 FT/27 PT	NA
PIOC Employed in the Work Release Program	38	NA
<b>Treatment</b>		
Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment	55	43
Earned Release Program (ERP)	84	74
Thinking for a Change (T4C)	14	12



# **INSTITUTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND**

## **STAFF APPRECIATION**



Video visiting through ICSolutions started 7/17/24 with ten monitors in the visiting room. Initiated during the pandemic, video visits occurred via Zoom over four monitors. 8203 video visits took place through ICS in FY24, a 63% increase over FY23.

PDCI hosted a successful Family Day in May 2024 for fifteen families with 29 minor-age children.

Tours for local college groups: 109 people toured PDCI in FY24, followed by a question/answer session with PIOC on the Choices panel.

The Project Crew completed 7,420.15 hours of service for local parks, city and county governments, and local non-profit organizations. PDCI is continuing to build upon current programs, including expansion of Project Crews. PDCI's second Project Crew that works at WSPF had 63,499.71 hours working in the kitchen preparing meals for WSPF PIOC's. WSPF Project Crew members are being sent in two shifts, Monday-Friday, and a third group on the weekend to work in the kitchen and assist in laundry.

In FY24, we had a total of 38 PIOC participate in our work release program and they worked a total of 30,335 hours.

Forgiveness groups were again led by UWP Psychology students in fall, spring, and summer. Eight UW students and 48 PIOC participated in FY24. In addition, 30 PIOC participated in Master Plan groups (facilitated by six UWP students) beginning summer of 2023. Feedback from the two groups - from PIOC and students - has been very positive.

Security staff are assisting with overtime at WCI who are experiencing large numbers of vacancies in the security ranks.

The PDCI Job Center, a collaboration between the Department of Corrections and Workforce Development, has continued operations. A contract staff member from Southwest Workforce Development Board works 3 days a week, including 2 evenings, to provide job searching resources and access to interviews. In the past year, 47 Job Center of Wisconsin accounts were created, 3092 appointments were scheduled for approximately 248 PIOC, 4 PIOC gained employment prior to release, 17 PIOC took DMV pre-tests, and 4 PIOC were accepted into post-secondary programs. This past year, the Job Center manager was utilized on a short-term basis for the Windows to Work program that 7 PIOC were able to complete.

Pathways Home programming provides workforce development and educational opportunities for justice involved individuals. The program helps individuals pre-and post-release to enhance their job skills or education, find and maintain employment, and financial assistance with support services, as they pertain to their program goals, in transitioning back to their communities. Support services to support employment or training activities may include: transportation assistance, uniforms, tools, housing, release clothing, etc. This past year, 57 PIOC were referred to and 51 participated in the program through the PDCI Job Center.

Thirty-four (34) PIOC earned their GED/HSED diplomas and 29 PIOC earned bricklaying/masonry certificates and diplomas through SWTC, along with 40 Building Maintenance and Construction diplomas and certificates.

Fifty-five (55) PIOC started substance use disorder programming during FY24 (43 completions/12 non-completions). 129 completions were noted during FY24.

One-hundred-eight (108) birth certificates, 172 social security cards, 88 PIOC to the DMV (Licenses, Permits, etc.), and 32 state identification cards were obtained for PIOC.

# **INSTITUTION COORDINATORS**

## **INSTITUTION PRIMARY PHONE NUMBER: (608) 326-7828**

### AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) COORDINATORS

- ◆ Program Supervisor Lisa Pettera - ext. 2400
- ◆ Institution Complaint Examiner Amy Schwab - ext. 2005

### COMPAS SITE COORDINATOR

- ◆ Social Worker Morgan Flansburgh — ext. 2405

### LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) COORDINATOR

- ◆ Teacher Carolyn Klema - ext. 2602

### PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA) COORDINATOR

- ◆ Security Director Russell Bausch - ext. 2300

# **STAFFING AND DEPARTMENTS**

## Warden's Office

Warden (1)  
Deputy Warden (1)  
Secretary-Confidential (1)  
Institution Complaint Examiner (1)  
Program Assistant Confidential (1)

## Management Services

Correctional Management Services Director (1)  
Financial Program Supervisor (1)  
Financial Specialist (1)  
Financial Specialist Sr. (2)  
Financial Specialist Adv. (1)  
Inventory Control Coordinator (1)  
Buildings and Grounds Superintendent (1)  
Electronics Technician Security Senior (1)  
Facilities Maintenance Spec Adv. (3)  
Facility Repair Worker Adv. (1)  
Plumber (1)  
Power Plant Operator Senior (5)  
HVAC/Refrigeration Specialist Adv. (1)  
Food Service Administrator (1)  
Food Service Manager (1)  
Food Service Leader 3 (1)  
Food Service Leader 2 (4)

## Housing Units

Corrections Unit Supervisor (3)  
Social Workers (5)

## Education

Education Director (1)  
Librarian (1)  
Scheduler (1)  
Teachers - 3 Vocational, & Academic (4)

## Security

Corrections Security Director (1)  
Program Assistant Confidential (1)  
Supervising Officer 2 (7)  
Supervising Officer 1 (4)  
Correctional Sergeants (41)  
Correctional Officers (70)  
Correctional Officer LTE (2)

## Records

Offender Records Supervisor (1)  
Corrections Sentencing Associate (1)  
Offender Records Associate (1)

## Program Services

Corrections Program Supervisor (2)  
Chaplain (1)  
Recreation Leaders (1)  
Social Workers SOAR (2)  
Treatment Specialist 1 SOAR (5)  
Treatment Specialist 2 (1)

## Psychological Services Unit

Psychological Consultant LTE (1)  
Psychological Associate (1)

## Health Services Unit (HSU)

Nursing Supervisor (1)  
Medical Program Assistant Associate (1)  
Medical Program Assistant Associate LTE (1)  
Nurse Clinician 2 (3.6)

## Health Services Unit (HSU) - BHS

Physician (1)  
Dentist (.40)  
Dental Assistant (.50)  
Dental Hygienist LTE (2) (.20 & picks up days)  
Optometrist (.05) (POI)  
Physical Therapist (2) - (.20) (POI)

## Human Resources—DOA

Human Resources Director (1)  
Human Resources Assistant (1)

## Program Review Committee—BOCM

Offender Classification Specialist (1)

## Windows to Work Grant (1)

Job Center Coordinator (1)  
Windows to Work Coach (1)

## Southwest Wisconsin Technical College

Education Contract  
Post-Secondary Academic Coach (1)  
Mobile Welding Trailer Instructor (1)

# **PDCI TREATMENT PROGRAMS**

**SOAR (Success, Optimism, Avail, and Recover)** was established in April 2021. PDCI reserves six of ten spots in each group for ERP and four for non-ERP treatment.

## **Earned Release Program (ERP)**

ERP is driven by WI Statute 302.05; it allows select individuals an opportunity to earn early release from incarceration by completing treatment, with their remaining confinement time served under extended supervision. ERP uses these curriculum for participants: Thinking for a Change and Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse. In addition, Social skills, Epictetus, and Anger Management are assigned to meet individual needs.

## **SUD (Substance Use Disorder) Treatment Program – Non-ERP**

SUD treatment uses the same curriculum. The PDCI program is offered to individuals who are not eligible for ERP and are within 2 years of their release date. Completing the program about 8 months prior to the expected release allows for transfer to a work-release facility.

## **Thinking for a Change (T4C)**

T4C is a research-based skills program which encourages the individual to change personal beliefs, attitudes, and thinking patterns associated with criminal/dysfunctional behavior. The program targets repeat offenders or probation/parole violators, those who have a history of violence or who show poor institutional adjustment (includes unmotivated, anti-social, impulsive, non-reflective, deny problems or demonstrate poor problem-solving skills or poor social interaction). Activity includes role play scenarios and homework. Numerous PDCI staff are trained in T4C (social workers, security officers, and supervisors).

## **Anger Control Training (ACT)**

This 10-week, cognitive-based curriculum is intended to reduce aggressive and violent behavior. It includes role-playing scenarios and homework. Participants are expected to develop their social skills, increase awareness of their thinking patterns and personal triggers, and identify strategies for using the skills in situations that arise.

# **VOLUNTEER-LED PROGRAMS & OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Community volunteers are one of PDCI's most valuable assets. PDCI serves individuals with diverse cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds, and most religious services are provided by community volunteers. The chaplain continually recruits new volunteers and serves as the primary staff advisor. PDCI volunteers are carefully screened prior to approval; they receive orientation and training prior to contact with the persons in our care.

During FY24, PIOC attended approximately 680 hours of volunteer-led religious service/study and special events; 4,266 PIOC attended 367 volunteer-led events. Volunteers provided approximately 177 hours of individual pastoral visits to inmates.

A Buddhist URG Service was added to the regularly scheduled programs. Special events included a music ministry and a Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Christmas gift program for PIOC's children. Other programming includes a weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meeting and chapel library.

## **Forgiveness Group**

Since 2018, UW Platteville psychology students have facilitated a “book club”-style discussion group on forgiveness during the summer, fall, and spring semesters. Interested PIOC sign up to read “Forgiveness is a Choice” by Dr. Robert Enright. For 12 weeks, 12-18 participants read, journal, and meet one evening weekly for small group discussion. Feedback from both UW students and persons in our care has always been extremely positive. Individuals report better insight into the material (and many then share with their families), and students report a unique learning experience they can’t get in a classroom.

## **Master Plan Group**

PIOC requested additional group opportunities and beginning in the summer of 2023, a second “book club” discussion group was added. It is also facilitated by UWP students over 12 weeks. The group reads “The Master Plan: My Journey from Life in Prison to a Life of Purpose” by Chris Wilson, and focuses on how to prepare a personal success plan.

## **Mindfulness**

Twice each month, volunteers with the Wisconsin Prison Mindfulness Project provide training emphasizing breathing and relaxation techniques to interested PIOC. A growing body of research indicates mindfulness techniques can help reduce anxiety, depression, and reactive behavior in stressful and high-risk situations. Other positive, measurable outcomes include improved sleep and strengthened immunity. Positive results have been reported in medical facilities, schools, and prisons, and the evidence of effectiveness is growing. Most of those who participate at PDCI report positive results.

## **Yoga and Tai Chi**

PDCI shows a variety of free videos from the “Prison Yoga Project” and a National Institute of Health Tai Chi video on the institution channel. Basic yoga poses, breathing, chair practice, yoga for back pain, and relaxation/meditation are included.

# **WORK RELEASE PROGRAM**

PDCI’s work release program offers numerous opportunities for PIOC to gain valuable work experience and develop skills that will be essential after release. This gives them a sense of responsibility and work ethic while helping them build a resume for their future. Additionally, the work release program allows PIOC to earn wages and save money for their eventual release into the community.

# **VISITATION**

PDCI recognizes the importance of maintaining relationships with family and friends throughout incarceration. Video visiting continues to be a popular option for families. 8203 video visits took place in FY 24, a 63% increase over FY23. Pre-scheduled in-person visits were introduced in July 2021 and a total of 2637 visits occurred in FY24, a 71% increase over FY23. It’s also a slight increase over pre-pandemic in-person visits and PDCI’s switch to a minimum vs. medium custody population.

PDCI continues to seek more opportunities for family reunification.

On May 18, 2024, PDCI hosted Family Day for fathers with minor-age children. 30 fathers signed up and 22 families confirmed attendance. 29 children (15 families) ages 1-14 spent almost five hours with dad in the gym/recreation yard. Activities included decorating a frame for their family photo and a few other craft activities, games, a sing-along, lunch and snacks provided by the institution. Perfect weather contributed to a wonderful day for everyone, according to PIOC, families, and staff. Amazingly, there was not a single complaint from PIOC who didn’t attend, and who as a result were unable to have access to the gym/rec yard for a day and a half. Most expressed gratefulness that the kids were able to have a good time with their dads. And one of the teenagers summed it up perfectly with a big smile, “It was all really great!” (high praise, indeed!) PDCI intends to hold this as an annual event.

## **FOOD SERVICE**

The food service department at PDCI had another successful year in FY24, overcoming some staffing shortages and ongoing changes with our new work release program. The year started with shortages in our CFSL2 ranks. However, we were able to convert one vacant position to a CFSL 3 position. The conversion provides more leadership and guidance in the day-to-day operations of our food service department. At the end of FY24, our food service department is fully staffed with a Food Service Administrator, Food Service Manager, CFSL3, and 4- CFSL2 positions.

With the implementation of our work release program and additional project crew providing kitchen workers to our sister institution, WSPF, the rate of turnover among PIOC workers increased quickly. Embracing the overall goal of our program, food service staff worked together to ensure coverage was provided and additional/ongoing training was provided to PIOC workers. We successfully prepped, prepared and served 1600 meals per day to our population and staff, ensuring the needs of dietary restrictions and religious accommodations are met.

Even with the reduction of our skilled workers, the Food Service team continues to operate our bakery which produced 3,300 buns for WSPF weekly, in addition to making all of our own bread and buns. This is not only a significant cost savings to the institution, but also provides an applicable skill to the PIOC upon release.

The food service department hosts two picnics each year for the population and staff, which provides a meal prepared on charcoal grills and is served outside on picnic tables. PIOC and staff look forward to this each year and the PIOC workers embrace the challenge and a different cooking experience.

We also provided cheese pizza and breadsticks for our institution family day hosted for PIOC and visitors.

The budget allowed for the purchase of new and replacement equipment for our food service department. The purchases include a new oven, coolers, bun rounder, and a new mixer. In addition, the purchase of a new potato peeler, we have the ability to make fresh mashed potatoes. This is not only more nutritious and better tasting, but also much more cost-effective.

## **INSTITUTION COMPLAINT REVIEW SYSTEM**

ICRS provides PIOC with an opportunity to have policies explained or clarified, raise grievances in an orderly fashion, and have grievances investigated by impartial staff. The ICRS process also serves to assess the institution climate. During FY24, 251 PIOC complaints were reviewed. Of these complaints, 25 were affirmed, 161 were dismissed and 65 were rejected. An additional 267 were returned.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD**

PDCI is committed to being a "good neighbor" to the surrounding communities. Our Community Relations Board was formed with local community representatives to provide a forum for regular discussion on pertinent issues that may impact the institution and its neighbors. Members are comprised of volunteers from the local community, with meetings held three times a year. Meetings are held at PDCI, Prairie du Chien City Hall or Library, Prairie du Chien High School, or virtually via Zoom.

## **RECORDS OFFICE**

The PDCI Records Office has three staff members; an Offender Records Supervisor, a Corrections Sentencing Associate and an Offender Records Associate. Some of our responsibilities include the maintenance of accurate PIOC records, involving lawful custody and release of PIOC as directed by Wisconsin Statutes, Department policy, and court rulings. This includes calculating and updating of new sentence information, managing PIOC legal and social service files, scheduling and monitoring PIOC file reviews, coordinating Parole Commission hearings, facilitating court pick-ups, processing interstate and intrastate detainer requests, assisting with PIOC requests for speedy disposition of warrants, detainers, and service of process.

The PDCI Records Office reviews PIOC for proper placement in ERP as well as preparing, uploading and tracking the ERP documents that are sent to the Court. The sentencing court is notified when a PIOC completes ERP, at which time the sentence is modified to allow release on extended supervision. Once PDCI receives all the signed amended Judgment of Convictions, the Records Office coordinates the release of the PIOC within 6 business days.

The PDCI Records Office also coordinates, maintains and tracks all files for PIOC transfers and releases. This fiscal year there were 219 releases, 205 transfer-ins and 399 transfer-outs from PDCI.

## **HEALTH SERVICES UNIT**

PDCI's Health Service Unit continually strives to execute the mission of the Department of Corrections and Bureau of Health Services: "The administration and provision of health care, health education and preventative care for the DOC consistent with professional, community and correctional health care standards." Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Our staff includes 3 full-time FTE RNs, 1 part-time FTE RN, 1 Health Services Manager, 1 full-time FTE MPAA, 1 part-time LTE MPAA and one part-time agency NP. Our dental clinic is open 2 days per week and is staffed with one dentist, one dental assistant and one dental hygienist. After hours, weekends and holidays nursing staff are on call and available for any medical concerns. A on-call physician is also available for further consultation by the nurse as needed 24 hours a day.

Health Services meet with PIOC patients for all types of medical issues, which include: diabetes, asthma, heart disease, high blood pressure, hyperlipidemia, infectious diseases, minor illness, injuries, etc. Educational opportunities are offered for various medical and lifestyle changes. On-site services begin daily with triaging Health Service Request slips and filling medication and medical supplies requests, scheduling clinic visits, performing patient assessments and assisting the physician, dentist, optometrist, psychiatrist, psychologist, occupational and physical therapists.

The Health Service Unit utilizes an Electronic Medical Record for medication administration and nursing documentation. Central Pharmacy in Waupun provides patient prescriptions and refills as well as vaccinations. Local pharmacy is utilized for medications needed in a timely manner.

PIOC may receive X-rays, ultrasounds, and Fibroscans on-site. All other imaging testing is done off-site as indicated. Patients are sent to our local hospital, Crossing Rivers Health, for emergency needs as well as many specialty services. PDCI also utilizes Gundersen Hospital in Lacrosse, and UW Hospital in Madison for other specialties, including Neurology, Cardiology, Orthopedics, Oncology etc.

The institution and its neighbors. Members are comprised of volunteers from the local community, with meetings held three times a year. Meetings are held at PDCI, Prairie du Chien City Hall or Library and Prairie du Chien High School. In FY22, meetings were held virtually via Zoom.

## **SECURITY**

The mission of the Security Department is to protect the public, staff, PIOC, and property of PDCI. Security personnel are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the facility, which include: PIOC housing and living conditions, searches of PIOC and their property, movement and transportation of PIOC, receiving and processing PIOC mail and property, supervising PIOC work details, co-facilitating rehabilitative evidence-based programming, scheduling and supervision of community service projects, and coordinating with program staff to assist PIOC in obtaining necessary documentation, i.e. driver's license, social security cards and birth certificates. Security staff, in coordination with programming staff, are responsible for scheduling work crews for several non-profit community organizations. As a minimum classification facility, PDCI is expanding community outreach opportunities for the Work Release Program.

Security personnel respond to security emergencies that may arise and are often the first responders for a variety of medical emergencies. During FY24, a total of 889 conduct reports were processed. Of these, 195 were majors, 694 were minors, and 42 were appealed to the Warden.

## **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE EFFORTS**

### **Choices Panel**

In conjunction with DOC's restorative justice initiative, PDCI sponsors *Choices* for young men, ages 12 – 25; it was designed through a collaboration with local agencies to serve Southwest Wisconsin. It is a free resource for agencies working with youth. The intent is to encourage youth to seek and accept help in making better choices, recognize all of their options, and avoid criminal behavior.

The panel also serves as an educational tool for college students in criminal justice, psychology, sociology, nursing, and other human services. Typically, after a tour of the institution, students are given an opportunity to question persons in our care about their criminal activity, court involvement, prison life, motivations, families, and future plans. During FY 24, seven tours participated in a Choices panel. Groups included 109 participants: Human services students from South Western Technical College (SWTC), social work students from Luther College (Decorah, IA), criminal justice students from UW, and future health professionals from WI Community Health Immersion.

### **Restorative Justice Month / Victims' Rights Awareness Week**

PDCI staff provide a voluntary programming opportunity for inmates during Restorative Justice Month in November and Victims' Rights Awareness Week (NVRW) in April. Programs consist of presentations and videos by/about victims, circle discussions led by staff and UWP CJ students, an apology seminar and how to plan to repair harm.

Guest speakers included a man who was a child-domestic-violence-survivor and a woman who survived an assault at an ATM. Both speakers' stories and a number of videos inspired some amazing discussions within small group circles. 114 persons in our care volunteered to participate in the two programs. Feedback has always been incredibly positive.