**Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution**

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**Social Worker**

“Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution (KMCI) is a medium security prison located in Sheboygan County. KMCI houses approximately 1170 inmates. Part of the programming at KMCI includes development of re-entry skills for inmates. KMCI offers numerous educational opportunities for the inmates to improve their academic and vocational skill level. Our vocational programs team up with Moraine Park Technical College to provide certificates or diplomas in Barbering, Welding, Mechanical Design, Masonry, Cabinet Making, and Custodial Skills.  Inmates also participate in college level classes through Milwaukee Area Technical College.  Others can obtain their HSED or GED.  Inmates are also afforded the opportunity to participate in cognitive based programming that addresses substance use disorders, anger management issues, domestic violence, coping skills and sex offender treatment.

Some inmates have jobs within the institution to learn new work skills and enhance their employability opportunities upon release.

As the inmates prepare to return to the community, release planning begins with the institution staff and Division of Community Corrections staff. We are also offering the Windows to Work program at KMCI. This enables some offenders to address deficits in their employment skills so they are better prepared to enter the work force and be successful.  The Department of Veterans Affairs works closely with our Veterans as well.

As part the re-entry process, KMCI hosts a job and resource fair each October.  The Job and Resource Fair committee invites employers from all over Wisconsin to come to the institution for the day. We set up the fair in our gymnasium and invite inmates that are 18 months to release to participate. We do not only focus on employers, we also invite community resources as they play a vital role in successful re-integration. The resources include technical colleges, housing resources, Division of Community Corrections staff to include agents and Community Corrections Employment Program staff, Substance Use Disorder services, and employment services. We realize the importance of bringing together all the players to build a stronger release support system can make a huge difference in their successful re-integration.

We appreciate our partners that assist us in making the job and resource fair a success. Prior to the job fair, inmates are provided the opportunity to develop a resume and participate in mock interviews.  Outside employers and organizations come to the institution to assist us with mock interviews. They meet with inmates and assist them in developing better interviewing strategies and skills, as well as prepare the inmates for the job fair itself. We feel this is a vital link to the outside world as well as a positive opportunity for the inmates. Inmates are appreciative for the chance to practice their skills and to learn about employment trends in the community.

The Department of Corrections has the following mission statement:

**Protect** the public, our staff and those in our charge.

**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.

It is the goal of the committee to be cognizant of our Department’s mission. We do that by providing the opportunity for potentially better employment for our inmates, as this may be a path for successful re-integration. We try to get the word out to inmates and community providers about our potential employees who are housed at KMCI for a short period of time and upon release are ready to work. Finally, foster those relationships with the community partners as the inmates return to the communities in search of employment and other support networks.

We are always looking to add to our list of job and resource fair participants. We welcome any new agencies that wish to participate or assist with the process. Please feel free to contact Colleen McNulty-Huibregtse, Social Worker, with any questions or for more information. She can be reached at: [Colleen.mcnultyhuibregtse@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Colleen.mcnultyhuibregtse@wisconsin.gov)”