Memorandum



To:          All DCF Staff

From:    Commissioner Vannessa Dorantes

Date:     5/30/2021

Re:   Update on Department Operations and Commissioner Video

On this unofficial start to summer, remember to pause in appreciation for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Memorial Day is reserved for lives lost in battle or from injuries sustained fighting for freedoms, in service to our country.

Thank you to our 24/7 staff members who work so the majority of us can observe these days off.

* Let's get outside and have some fun! Children have lost an entire year. Please help them use this summer to start to regain their footing and prepare for the Fall.  Summer camps are opening as well as our parks, beaches, hiking trails and other Connecticut attractions è <https://portal.ct.gov/Services/Education/K-12-Education/Summer-Programs>



During the week of **July 18th through July 23rd,** the Connecticut Police Chief’s Association is sponsoring **80** children involved with DCF, to enjoy an outdoor camp experience at Channel 3 Kids Camp in Andover, CT. This free opportunity is open to children, age 8 to 13 years old, who are currently involved in an in-home service case or, who had a case recently closed by DCF.

Registration link è [https://pcac3kc.campbrainregistration.com/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpcac3kc.campbrainregistration.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7CJACQUELINE.FORD%40ct.gov%7Cde7da98283c54792a59a08d91ac1df82%7C118b7cfaa3dd48b9b02631ff69bb738b%7C0%7C0%7C637570242273534606%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=PBnOP9rz9YLXjl9k1BlXrToyYf0t4vO2T3Sh1743oek%3D&reserved=0)

Attached please find information related to this year's Channel 3 Sibling Connections Camp for youth in care. Sibling Camp will be held Sunday, **August 8, 2021** through Friday, **August 13, 2021**.

Click hereè [Brochure](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DCF/SiblingCamp/SiblingConnections_2021_brochure_.pdf) and here

è [**Channel 3 Sibling Camp Registration**](https://channel3kidscamp.campbrainregistration.com/) for details and more information.

PLEASE ENSURE ALL SLOTS ARE FILLED!!!

* Our monthly *"Spotlight on What's Right"* newsletter celebrates the successes of the children and families we serve and the strength of our staffè <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DCF/SPOTLIGHT/2021/May/SPOTLIGHT-May-Print-version.pdf> Continue to send us feedback and ideas for future articles!!!
* Our post pandemic journey back to BETTER is underway. Many questions remain as to who is eligible to continue to telework. We recognize this and encourage you to read the DAS Interim Telework Guidelines found here è <https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/Statewide-HR/Telework-Program/Documents>
* Watch this week's è [Commissioner's Biweekly Video 5-30-21](https://youtu.be/umXqXavagRM) for updates on:
* Voluntarily returning to offices
* Wearing of masks
* How to advocate to be included in telework eligibility
* Positivity trends & stats
*  ICYMI - Gov Lamont provided tons of information in his last COVID-19 briefing for a while click hereè <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/05-2021/Governor-Lamont-Coronavirus-Update-May-27>

(we will also begin to scale back our videos to *'as needed'* 😊)

Still deciding? See the Frequently asked COVID-19 vaccine questions below

<https://portal.ct.gov/vaccine-portal/COVID-19-Vaccination-FAQ>

Have a great couple of weeks everyone!!!

VANNESSA L. DORANTES, LMSW

COMMISSIONER

CT DEPT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES

505 HUDSON STREET

HARTFORD, CT 06106

commissioner.dcf@ct.gov  (860)550-6300

*" I do my best because I'm*counting on *YOU counting on me…"*

*m angelou*