



MEMORANDUM

TO: DCF All Staff
FROM: CT DCF Commissioner Vanessa Dorantes
DATE: May 3, 2020
SUBJECT: Update on Department Operations and Weekly Commissioner Video

This past week has again demonstrated the strength and commitment of our staff.

We have highlighted the unique ways in which we remain connected to our children via remote technology. Staff across the state have taken it upon themselves to provide encouragement to their colleagues by their words and motivational videos. Signs of appreciation and colorful pictures have been placed on office windows.

Please continue lifting each other! Our collective actions, small or large, add up to an overall culture of support.

We will remain vigilant in attempting to control our community transmission footprint while continuing our mission critical functions. Therefore, we will follow the data and continue our triage process for at least another week. This allows us to still respond in person only to the case situations where safety cannot be mitigated remotely. Please continue engagement and assessment of child maltreatment and care. Supervision is key to keeping the work being supported appropriately.

Again, the Department's efforts have been reinforced by my appearances on media outlets including WTIC am radio and the Lisa Wexler show. Deputy Commissioner Michael Williams provided an interview to WFSB channel 3. Why is it important to reach the broader audiences around our state? I remain so very proud of our accomplishments and the complex work we conduct each day. The more opportunities we have to share our message, in our own words, will result in the true values and beliefs of our Agency to be understood.

We are appreciative of those staff who have taken the time to provide feedback and input into their telework experiences, including recommendations to improve our continued work. Once again, I encourage you to contact us via our DCF.COVID-19@ct.gov mailbox to share your ideas.

We are now into May with is Foster Parent Appreciation Month. We will be celebrating the wonderful individuals and families who devote their lives to opening their homes to our children. Agreeing to provide care simply based on a phone call and being that kind individual at the other side of the door during one of the most difficult times in the life of a child. You will be hearing more about our foster care work during the month.

Thank you once again for the efforts you put forth each day.

Please see my weekly video for additional updates on the Department: [Commissioner's Weekly Update 5-1-20](#)