

Commissioner January 2023 Message



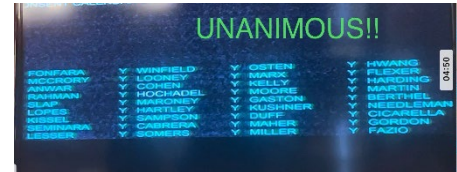
We are now into 2023 but let me take you back one more time to 2022 and say.....Thank you!

For everything you did for the children and families we serve and each other.

Without our collective efforts, such incredible work - across offices, divisions, and facilities - could not have been accomplished.

I am honored to inform you that Governor Lamont has reappointed me to be

Commissioner.



With great pride, I testified at the re-confirmation hearing about all of our great work over the past 4 years! This week, in a unanimous vote, the Senate confirmed the appointment by consensus.

In this month's "*Spotlight on What's Right*" newsletter, we provide you the Best of 2022! Spend a few moments to read and to celebrate our successes.

After 11,782 days, the clock stopped, and we exited the Juan F. Consent Decree!

DCF was featured on the NBC Today show and was referred to as a "model for the nation." Watch it again here: [Today Show](#)



Our succession planning for retirements allowed us to maintain our focus and produce high quality work and outcomes as changes in personnel took place.

With great pride, we brought parents with lived expertise with us to the New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioner and Directors' *Pathways to Partnership* Regional convening to learn how our service delivery system can ensure parents feel more included, heard, and respected.

We also began creating and implementing new behavioral health supports for children!

Read more of our highlights in the Spotlight!



January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Last year, the Department received almost 300 referrals pertaining to youth suspected of currently being trafficked or at-risk of being trafficked. Read more here about the Department's resources: [DCF HART](#)

Survivors of trafficking tell powerful stories of resilience and strength. Read about "the life" as told firsthand by a DCF employee, and trafficking survivor, who provides us keen insight into the coercion, control, and dynamics of his epidemic in our society.



Behind each of the great outcomes stand committed and diligent staff! DeShawn Jennings contacted DCF to express his gratitude for Kim Somaroo-Rodriguez, Program Supervisor for Housing/Homeless Services. A father of 8 children, he was desperate for a place to call home. "What she did for my family is beyond words," he stated. Read his story and see how a few kind words can change life's outlook!

Onto a fantastic 2023!