



Memorandum

To: All DCF Staff

From: Commissioner Vanessa Dorantes

Date: 10/18/2020

Re: Update on Department Operations and Weekly Video

We will be sending back the evidence of our updates to this weekly for use to keep you informed but also give an all a bit of a break.

Another way to get the most current pandemic response info, are the regular briefings Gov Lamont does to keep us all up to date. <https://portal.ct.gov/governor> This week he introduced a color coded, town-by-town response framework, guided by the public health metrics. The test positivity rate is climbing (over 800 new cases in one 24hr period last week!). PLEASE **Stay informed Stay vigilant Stay Safe.**



Also, in this week's video you will hear about: -

- The kickoff of the Leadership Academy for Middle Managers (LAMM)
- Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) summit celebrating 100yrs
- CT DCF leaders sharing best practice methods in a forum hosted by Casey Family Programs, Annie E Casey Foundation -- supported also by Jim Casey Youth Opportunity Initiative & ChildFocus.
- A shout-out to our unsung pandemic heroes such as our 24/7 staff & foster parents @ the Children's League of CT (CLOC) press conference
- CT DCF COVID data to date & staff + trendline



ARE YOU TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF ???

Self-care is giving the world the best of you, instead of what's left of you.
Katie Reed

None of us could have predicted that we would *still be* in this situation. In fact, some of us had made plans that were abruptly interrupted. Take for example, one of our Legal Managers, Katherine Dwyer who was training for **The Boston Marathon** when the *Stay Safe Stay Home* warning went into effect. That didn't stop her determination. Please join me (& her really proud kiddos!) in congratulating Kate for completing the run -- in a time that would have qualified her for Boston!!!



This is a great reminder to use of our Employee Assistance Program to sort out how you're coping with work/life balance.



Access the October Newsletter
→ [CLICK HERE](#)

In our *Safe & Sound Culture*, the use of your supervisor or someone in your chain of command can help you prioritize and gain clarity.

We **must** stay focused on our MISSION CRITICAL work. Child safety depends on our honesty and best effort...even in these most trying times!

Click here to watch this week's video updates → [Commissioner's Weekly Video 10-18-20](#)

1 Regulate We are mindful of our physical and psychological well-being and the well-being of others as the foundation for our just and safe work environment.	2 Relate We build and sustain relationships and community with respect, trust, and candor.	3 Rise We set goals and hold onto our dreams. We understand our purpose and the above challenges and barriers in order to promote equity and bring out the best in our work.	4 Reason We make sound decisions based on consultation, research, and knowledge.	5 Respond We plan forward and reflect back with competence, confidence, and compassion by utilizing a systemic approach to problem solving.
---	--	--	--	---

We protect ourselves as we protect THEM



VANNESSA L. DORANTES, LMSW
COMMISSIONER
CT DEPT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES
505 HUDSON STREET
HARTFORD, CT 06106

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