Memorandum

To:          All DCF Staff

From:    Commissioner Vannessa Dorantes

Date:     9/20/2020

Re:         Update on Department Operations and Weekly Video

*It is altogether fitting and proper* that the theme of this week's update is STRENGTH…

LISTEN for that theme in this week's video, recorded *before* the news of the passing of an American icon [Commissioner Weekly Video 9-20-20](https://youtu.be/Efs31qV8Izc)

As quoted from Lt. Governor Bysiewicz's statement on the passing of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg: *“Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a crusader, a fierce fighter for women’s rights, and a firm believer in justice for all. As the second woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Ginsburg was a jurist of extraordinary talent. She approached every case — no matter the complexity — with compassion, intelligence, and wisdom. And in every aspect of her life, she exemplified grace, dignity, and tenacity."*

May we all actively challenge injustice and dissent against unfairness in memory of RBG … the epitome of strength.



Speaking of challenging injustice… last week we held our Fall Leadership Summit acknowledging the tremendous efforts of our program managers, division leads, directors, superintendents and administrators as they truly remained focused in supporting our workforce to continue our mission critical work. This Fall Summit's theme continued to refine our anti-racist strategies towards becoming a racially just organization. Each Division provided an overview of their change initiative. Some small tests of change and some larger scale - all designed to move outcomes across every facet of our work.

Thank you for focused LEADERSHIP strength!

Fatherhood STRENGTH was highlight during the 6th annual *Dads Matter Too Conference*! This year's theme was *"Reshaping Fatherhood: Striving for Equality and Equity When Engaging Fathers of Color."*  Special thanks to the conference planning committee who, once again, demonstrated why the strength of CT's fatherhood emphasis is second to none. Stay tuned for the recordings of that dynamic program.

We continue to be impressed with the strength of our IT department in keeping us connected by rolling out 80 Chromebooks, 300 more cell phones, 300 more tablets and 800 additional VDI-UAG/VPN accounts. And did we mention the Windows 10 Migration is also complete? Thank  you all!

Speaking of technology… mandatory Sexual Harassment on-line training must be completed by all DCF staff.  CLICK here for the link to the training [**Sexual Harassment Training**](https://tinyurl.com/vqcsc45)

Lastly, the strength of our staff was exemplified once again this week during the Exec Team's second LISTENING TOUR . This round has proven to be engaging and interactive with staff at all levels acknowledging the great work of their colleagues! The enthusiasm is contagious!

Navigating thru this pandemic has been really hard. Many have experienced sheer heartbreak. The strength demonstrated through it all has been remarkable.

We are planning a special *In Memory Of…* Spotlight edition. If you would like to include your loved one's name to the list of those lost (*by any means*) during the last 6 months-- please send the name to our mailbox  DCF.COVID-19@ct.gov . Out of respect for privacy of our staff, we will only list those names received directly from the impacted staff member. Therefore, please do not submit names on behalf of anyone else.

I continue to be in awe of your STRENGTH. #DCFstrong

**VANNESSA L. DORANTES, LMSW**

COMMISSIONER

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

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