Memorandum

To:          All DCF Staff

From:    Commissioner Vannessa Dorantes

Date:     3/28/2021

Re:         Update on Department Operations & 1 FULL Year of Pandemic Commissioner Videos



**Can you believe we have been in this altered state for a full year**

*Chag Pesach Sameach*, to the Jewish members of our workforce.  I'm told this translates to "Happy Passover Holiday" The themes of Passover are: family, history, social justice and freedom-- Sounds a lot like what we have been focused on throughout this pandemic.

Our work goes on with such great results yet humble reminders of what's needed for recovery.

I cannot be prouder of you and your service to children and families.

**Watch this week's à** [Commissioner Video 3-28-21](https://youtu.be/UKhHHHmPHIw) for more reflections on:

* Vaccination status-- Which DCF Executive Team members have gotten their shot in the arm? (Okay DCF, if you want to share yours, send us **your** vaccination *shot* shot to [DCF.COVID-19@ct.gov](mailto:DCF.COVID-19@ct.gov))

* Telework Survey 2.0 coming this week-- Tell us more about how you have continued to keep this Dept working effectively and keeping children safe.
* Who's highlighted for Social Work Appreciation Month "*Spotlight on What's Right*" newsletter coming out this week?
* Women's History Month culminated with my participation in a roundtable discussion with none other than the awe-inspiring **Vice President of the United States Kamala Harris** on The American Rescue Plan's potential impact to elevating America's children out of poverty--- She gets it!
* Updated Statistics-- A reflection on this year's data; Rest in Peace to all of the lives lost to this horrific pandemic including 4 of our foster parents.

 Please continue to pay attention to your own mental health as well as the young people we serve.  *In Connecticut, on average, someone dies by suicide every day of the year…It doesn’t have to be this way.* <https://www.preventsuicidect.org/>

**We will get through all of this TOGETHER.**

**Many many THANKS to DARRELL GOHAGON, whose quick thinking has us ALL breathing easier tonight!** Employing what he has been trained to do, Mr Gohagon performed the Heimlich Maneuver on a young person who was choking on a piece of food earlier today at **Solnit North**! Appreciation also to Lead CSW Dorette Sterling for highlighting this **Everyday HERO!!!**



VANNESSA L. DORANTES, LMSW

COMMISSIONER

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