

Commissioner's Message



Fall is upon us, and October brings with it two very important themes with Breast Cancer Awareness Month being one of them.

I bring this message to you today as a living testament that early detection saves lives. It was only a few months after Governor Lamont appointed me as Commissioner, that I found out my fight against cancer had begun. Listen to more of my journey [here](#).



Consider this a reminder to yourselves, family members, friends and colleagues to engage in regular screenings - before it's too late.

October is also Intimate Partner Violence Awareness month. In our small state alone, Connecticut has had an average of 14 IPV-related deaths every year since 2000. If you need help or just someone to talk to, please visit [CTSAFEConnect.org](https://www.ctsafeconnect.org) or call or text (888) 774-2900. Advocates are available 24/7. Consider the children exposed, in anyway, and please act.



In this month's, "*Spotlight on What's Right*" newsletter, Jenna Corson tells us how trauma and coercive relationships led to her fentanyl addiction. She is now raising her daughter and living a life she had little hope at one point, could be achieved.

our work.

Lenisa Mathew, Director of Organizational Development, supports the DCF workforce during the most difficult circumstances while building "sustained systems" to keep the work moving forward. She provides insights on the strengths of our staff and her unique perspectives on

"Definitely different," is how one mother describes the care her daughter is receiving at Albert J. Solnit Children's Center South Campus. Read about her experiences and the "empathy and skill" demonstrated by the staff towards not just her adolescent - but the entire family.

Unidos - "*Diverse Voices for Stronger Families*" was the theme of the Central Office Diversity Action Team celebration during Hispanic and Latino a/x Heritage Month 2022! A great event! The diversity of our staff reflects the mosaic of ethnicities, cultures, languages, and customs.

We were inspired and uplifted by the Unidos program! We presented the first Dr. William Rivera Humanitarian Award to Bill himself. He was humbled in his appreciation to advancing our immigration, racial justice, and multicultural affairs within DCF.



With great pride, I watched CT DCF be highlighted on the NBC News TODAY show! We are considered a leader nationally for having children remaining safely at home, reunification, our racial justice work, kinship care and family engagement. Watch the full story here: [Today Show](#)