

A Message from Commissioner Jodi Hill-Lilly



The hot summer days of **July** brought much activity to our Department including..... a **flash mob!**

Congratulations to **Lenisa Mathew, Tracy Davis** and the **Wellness Forum Planning Team** for an outstanding day of fun, laughter, relaxation and a renewed focus on taking care of

ourselves at the **Leadership Forum** this past week. As we poured into each other, our **Senior Leaders** are now better equipped to support **you** in our critical work!



We were honored to have **Dr. Michael Cull** from the **University of Kentucky's Center for Innovation in Population Health** speak to us about the **Safe and Sound** survey results.

Not even a global internet outage can stop DCF! Many thanks go to **Eric Nixon** and the **IT Department** for their quick response to this crisis! Due to his **leadership** and the **expertise of the IT staff**, state issued devices remained operational enabling us to continue supporting children and families.

This month's **"Spotlight on What's Right"** highlights **Cassiah**, who is now at **New York University** pursuing a **Degree in Nursing**. She spent a good portion of her life in foster care. "For many years, I felt like I had no control or say in what was happening to me," she stated. Read how Cassiah now wants to be that **beacon of hope** for others!



What is the **"Clark Kent Positive Impact Award?"** Well... It was created by an incarcerated father and given to his previous **Social Worker, Jasmine Hawes**, out of the **Manchester Office**. Why? Because of her tireless efforts to ensure he remained connected to his daughter while she was in DCF custody. Read **"Culture Meets Strategy: Establishing a**

Culture of Inclusivity for Dads" and how the **Manchester Office** views Fathers as equal partners and the approaches they take to **fatherhood engagement**.



"Ready to Foster" is the Foster Care Division's campaign which sets out to recruit caregivers and empower families across Connecticut to **take the first step to foster!** The kickoff included an event at the Yard Goats game where **foster father, Israel Reyes**, threw out the first pitch and the video was played on the jumbotron!



Watch the recruitment video here: [Ready to Foster](#)

Congratulations again to the **June 2024 Employees of the Month**..... Who has been nominated to receive the **July award**? Who is described as having a "*compassionate approach*", "*contagious*" and a "*beacon of support*?" Is it **YOU**? Read on.....



The **Executive Team** has represented Connecticut across the state and across the country this month!



Chief Administrator of Government Affairs and Policy, Vinny Russo, attended the Council of State Governments Meeting in Portland, Oregon with **Deputy Speaker Kevin Ryan**.

Dr. Nicole Taylor, Chief Administrator of Behavioral Health and Wellness, spoke as the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services Recognized **988 suicide and crisis lifeline** efforts in Connecticut.



Ken Mysogland, Chief Administrator of External Affairs, presented to Public Information Officers from across the country in Washington, DC about CTDCF's efforts to **promote**

positive stories in the media.

Congratulations to our **Leadership Academy for Middle Managers** graduates - **Camilla St. Andrew, Minerva Johnson, John Lachack, Tracee Melendez, Edwin Valentin, Gerard Downes, Gerald Mallison and Erik Derouin!**

With great pride, I attended the **New England Youth Coalition (NEYC) Summer Conference** along with our youth leaders, **Alexander Lopes, Nyquan King, Loryssa Santiago, Aureanna Taylor and Isaiah Rodriguez!** You make Connecticut proud!!!!





We are grateful for **Fostering Family Hope** led by co-founders **Erin Johnston and Megan Pearson**, - foster and adoptive parents themselves - and their efforts to support our licensed caregivers! See their interview on the **WFSB Great Day at 9a** segment: [Fostering Family Hope](#)

Lastly, look for the **New Mandated Reporter Training** in the next month. It has been updated with the **new Mandated Reporter laws** and includes a **roadmap of supports and**

services for Connecticut's families!

Have a great rest of the Summer!