

Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall strive to be a global leader in progressive correctional practices and partnered re-entry initiatives to support responsive evidence-based practices aligned to law-abiding and accountable behaviors. Safety and security shall be a priority component of this responsibility as it pertains to staff, victims, citizens, and offenders.

From the Commissioner



It is hard to believe that the Fourth of July has come and gone. The holiday means that summer is in full swing, along with the general loosening of Covid-19 restrictions. Many of us are returning to pre-pandemic activities, with life seemingly getting back to normal, or at least the new normal.

To that end, I recently had the privilege of attending the graduation ceremony of Pre-Service Class 282. As you might imagine graduations, and the swearing-in of the Department's newest members is one of the best parts of my job as Commissioner.

This graduation however, was particularly memorable as it marked the first time in more than 15 months that family members and peers were able to attend the ceremony in person. Precautions such as social distancing and the wearing of masks were taken. However, being able to experience the pageantry of the Honor Guard and Pipe Band leading the graduates into the training academy's auditorium was exciting, it was also proof that things within the Department were truly getting back to normal.

The first of the month also marked another important turning point in the return towards normal, as any staff member who had been teleworking from home more than 50% of the time, must now return to the office for a minimum of 50% of their workweek.

Yet despite these encouraging signs, I urge everyone to remain vigilant and not let their guard down. Even though we have survived the worst the pandemic has to offer, the reality is that the Covid-19 virus will continue to be part of our lives long into the future. You only need to look at spread of the Delta variant of the virus which can be found in at least 77 countries and makes up more than 20 percent of all cases in the United States. At the risk of repeating myself, if you have not yet been vaccinated, please do so – if not for yourself, do it for your loved ones.

Data has shown time and time again, the areas with the highest vaccination rates have the fewest amounts of Covid-19 cases and visa versa. By remaining cautious, and getting vaccinated, we can hopefully prevent future outbreaks of the virus and continue to enjoy our new normal.

Thank you all for your remarkable commitment to this Agency.
Please stay healthy and safe.

April 16, 2021
through
July 8, 2021

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A Good Old Graduation

The Graduation of Pre-Service Class 282 marked the return of normalcy

Despite it being the latest in a long held tradition of graduation ceremonies, the graduation of Pre-Service Class 282 was marked by many firsts. Held on July 1, 2021, at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development, the event marked – for the first time in more than 15 months - the in person presence of family, Department Wardens and Directors, the Honor Guard, Industries Supervisor Ray Munroe belting out the National Anthem, and even the mournful drone of the Pipe and Drum band.

It was also the first “traditional” style graduation for several members of the Executive Team from Commissioner Angel Quiros, to Deputy Commissioners Sharonda Carlos and William Mulligan, to Training Academy Director Ashley McCarthy.

Thanks to the small size of the class, the 19 graduates were able to invite family and friends with more than



Members of Pre-Service Class 282 await the start of their graduation.

enough room for social distancing within the training academy’s auditorium. Since the onset of the pandemic, family, friends, and coworkers were relegated to watching graduation ceremonies streamed over the internet via Zoom. In an effort to accommodate those who were unable to attend in person, Class 282’s graduation was also streamed live.

Unlike many of the graduating classes, the composition of Class 282 did not consist primarily of correction officers; instead the group included such professions as: Commissary Operator Trainees, HVAC Technicians, General Maintenance

Officers, Locksmiths, Substance Abuse Counselors, BOPP Parole Officer Trainees, a Correctional Plumber & Steamfitter, a Correctional Stores Supervisor, and a Chaplain.

After being introduced by Director McCarthy, Commissioner Quiros took to the podium to address the graduates. He told the group, that despite their unique job classifications, they were all integral parts of the complex organization that is the Department of Correction.

With the completion of the Commissioner’s remarks, it was time for the presentation of awards. The class recipients of the PRIDE award – given to the trainee who best represents the Department of Correction motto of PRIDE by demonstrating the values of: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, and Excellence – were: Alpha group’s Keith Gowac, HVAC Technician; and Bravo Group’s David Hardison, Commissary Operator Trainee. The Victor E. Harris Jr. award for Outstanding Instructor Award was presented to Lieutenant Lisa Distasi.

The badges, certificates and awards having been doled out, Commissioner Quiros again took to the podium, this time to administer the oath to the members of Class 282.

To wrap up the graduation, Chaplain Ramon Rosado of the Osborn Correctional Institution gave the benediction (another first since before the pandemic).

Before long, the wail of the bagpipes once again filled the auditorium, and the newest official members of the Department marched out into the new normal to begin their careers with the Department of Correction.

A Moving Tribute to a fellow fallen Brother in Blue from Oklahoma

Honor Guard Member Daniel Steinberg recounts his 1st out-of-state trip representing the CT DOC

I took my first out-of-state trip as a member of the Connecticut Department of Correction's Honor Guard Unit on April 1, 2021 to attend the funeral of a fallen brother that was killed in the line of duty while serving behind the walls of the Washington County Correctional Facility in Bartlesville Oklahoma. His name was Corporal Kyle Davis.



With no idea what to expect, I headed to the funeral services; as I sat in attendance, I listened to the amazing stories of Kyle told by his family and co-workers. I was honored to be a part of such a day.

After the service concluded, I was standing in line to pay my respects to Kyle's family when his son came up to me and hugged me. I was taken by surprise and was very moved by his appreciation and the love he was able to express on such a sad day. I was able to show my gratitude by removing my honor guard pins and presenting them to both of Kyle's children. The family was shocked and grateful we had made such a far trip on such short notice to honor Kyle.

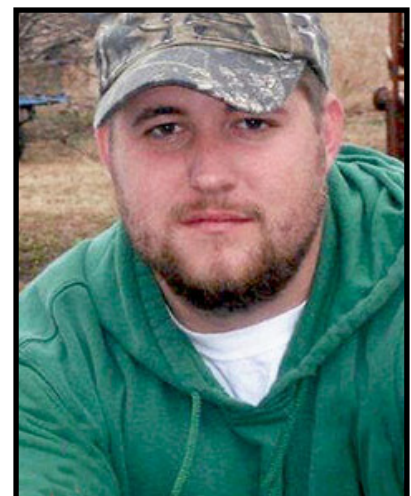
I had the privilege to speak with Kyle's father; he said, "I never understood what my son meant when he said my brothers and sister in blue, but now I do".

The impact our presence left that day was more than I could have ever hoped for, to let them know their loss was felt well

outside of their small town and in places they have never been, by people they have never met. My experience in Oklahoma will stay with me for the rest of my life.

-Officer Daniel Steinberg

The tragic death of Corporal Kyle Davis serves as a stark reminder of the inherent danger of working in corrections. He died on March 25, 2021, after being assaulted inside of the Washington County Correctional Facility in Bartlesville, Oklahoma while booking a prisoner. Seventeen subjects had been arrested as part of a large multiagency narcotics investigation and were being booked into the jail. One of the men began to struggle with officers while being booked and struck Corporal Davis in the chest, causing him to suffer a ruptured aorta. He was transported to a local hospital where he passed away approximately one hour later. Corporal Davis was 38 years old and had served with the Washington County Sheriff's Office for 13 years. He is survived by his wife and two children.



Corporal Kyle Davis
1982-2021

Lifesaving Baseball Fan

Correction Officer Miguel Ortiz Jr. received the Medal of Merit from the Mayor of New Britain for his role in saving the life of a man who was suffering from cardiac arrest during a recent New Britain High School baseball game.

While attending a New Britain High School game at Beehive field back on April 14, Ortiz witnessed a man collapse from an apparent heart attack. Along with his friend Chase Morales the two quickly jumped into action and began performing CPR on Craig Schmitt. It was several minutes before the baseball team’s trainer could administer a shock from an AED defibrillator to the stricken man.



Miguel Ortiz Jr. with New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart.

By all accounts, if not for the decisive actions of Morales and Ortiz, Schmitt, who previously worked as a coach for the Central Connecticut State University’s men’s baseball team would have died.

During a Common Council meeting held on April 14, at New Britain’s Town Hall, Mayor Erin Stewart took a moment to thank both Morales and Ortiz, as well as the New Britain EMS. Both Ortiz and Morales were presented with a Medal of Merit and a certificates of recognition by Mayor Stewart in honor of their heroic actions.

New Britain Emergency Medical Services Chief Bruce Baxter was present at the council meeting and emphasized that the two young men were heroes and encouraged everyone to learn CPR.

Every year, roughly 350,000 people collapse while going about their day-to-day lives, according to Baxter. He also added that for every minute a person suffering from a heart attack waits for someone to take definitive action, the chances for EMS workers to successfully resuscitate the person drops by 10%.

Mary Schmitt, the grateful wife of Craig Schmitt, was also on hand to thank the two men for saving her husband’s life. She told the council that if it wasn’t for Morales and Ortiz’s quick action in doing the compressions, her husband would not be here today. She also shared that her husband did not attend the meeting as he was home recovering from the traumatic event.

Around the Cell Block



WASHINGTON – The Washington State Department of Corrections was notified that Correctional Officer Gabriel Forrest, 42 years of age, passed away on June 17, 2021 from complications of COVID-19.

TENNESSEE - A new law going into effect on July 1, in the State of Tennessee is one that will allow incarcerated people to be charged with a felony if they are caught in possession of a cellphone. Previously, smuggling a cellphone into prison was a felony, while possessing a phone inside a prison was not a criminal offense.

PENNSYLVANIA – The Pennsylvania DoC recently updated its website to include a new tool that allows users to more effectively track packages sent to loved ones in DOC facilities.

Total CT DOC

***Supervised
Population***

on

July 8, 2021

12,660

***On July 8, 2020
the population was
14,804***

Women of Color Honors

Not one, but two Department of Correction women were recently honored at the 100 Women of Color Gala & Awards ceremony held May 21, 2021 at the Simsbury Meadow Performing Arts Center in Simsbury, CT. Deputy Warden Aesha Mu'min and Counselor Taisha Blue, both assigned to the Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution, received recognition for their contributions to their respective communities. The annual event is held to provide financial support for programs that advance young men and women of color. A portion of the proceeds is used to support leadership/mentorship programs, and for college scholarships. The gala recognizes contributions women in business, education, entrepreneurship, entertainment, sports and public service have made to impact the lives of those throughout their communities from Stamford, CT to Springfield, MA.



Deputy Warden Aesha Mu'min and Counselor Taisha Blue at the 100 Women of Color Gala & Awards ceremony.

Deputy Warden Mu'min was selected as a 2020 award recipient thanks to her dedication to, and innovative work within the Connecticut Department of Correction. A nominating committee member cited, that, "Mu'min's work to ensure that fathers are able to establish and maintain secure attachments to their children, creates systemic change. The work that she does is a model for the reform of correctional facilities both near and far."

Counselor Blue was selected because of the organization that she founded named "Perfectly Imperfekt," which focuses on teaching life skills, building self-esteem, and empowering girls from the ages of 9 to 18. She utilizes a curriculum called "Girls Circle," designed to teach appropriate responses to peer pressure, which aids in the reduction of risky behaviors. Counselor Blue was also commended for her work with Love146, an organization which highlights solutions to end the human trafficking of children

While both women are committed to facilitating community rehabilitation in their own way, their overarching goals are the same. They both recognize the need to make positive contributions to their communities.

Running for a Reason

Once again as part of a time-honored tradition, staff members from various agency's correctional facilities participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics of Connecticut. This year's Torch Run, which took place June 16-18, marks the 35th year Connecticut runners have participated in the charity event.

On Wednesday, June 16, staff members of the York Correctional Institution participated in the first leg of the torch run. A total of 22 runners and 22 walkers completed the section of the course. The facility raised an impressive \$1,290 for Special Olympics CT.

Each year during June, more than 1,500 officers and athletes carry the Special Olympics torch, with its "Flame of Hope", through hundreds of cities and towns across the state, covering more than 530 miles in three days.



Members of York CI participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run on June 16, 2021.

Devastated by Fire

A fire on early Friday morning on June 25, 2021 destroyed the home of Correction Officer Michael Rehm. Fortunately, no one, including Rehm's two dogs, was injured as a result of the blaze.

Unfortunately, Rehm, a 12-year veteran of the Department and assigned to the Garner Correctional Institution, lost everything to the fire.

The staff of Garner CI have come to the aid of their fellow officer, and are seeking essentially any and all household related donations to include: mattresses, beds, a couch, kitchen table, dressers, sheets, towels,



Flames engulf the home of Correction Officer Michael Rehm

blankets, pots/pans, dishes, etc.

The family is also in need of clothing donations for two young girls: One is 12-years-old and wears size 4 clothing, with a 7 – 7.5 women's shoe size. The other is nine-years-old, size 10/12 clothes, and a shoe size of 1

To make a donation of any of the items listed above please contact one of the following to schedule a pickup:

Gloria Sapp @ Gloria.Sapp@ct.gov or 860-534-0037.

Julie-Ann Stewart @ Julie-Ann.Stewart@ct.gov

A neighbor of Officer Rehm's has also setup a GoFundMe campaign to assist in the recovery

efforts. If you would like to donate, here is the link to the page:

www.gofundme.com/f/rehm-family-fire?sharetype=teams&member=12074499

Thank you in advance for your support during this terrible time of need. Any assistance given is greatly appreciated by all, and no donation is too small.

HR Super Team Award Winners

For April – June, 2021

Patricia Moroz, Human Resources Generalist 3

Trish is always available to answer any questions and help no matter how busy she is. She has set up several trainings to be sure Human Resources staff have the knowledge and tools needed to do their jobs. She is always willing to review a situation and help analyze to give support to help solve an issue.

Jaime Williams, Human Resources Generalist 2

Jaime has been a mentor and always available for calls. She is kind, seasoned, and able to provide sound guidance. She seems to have every resource right at her fingertips. Though her facility is extremely busy, she always finds time to provide guidance, coaching or just an ear to bend when one is unsure.



HR Generalist 2
Jaime Williams



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Corrigan-Radgowski Facility Awards

The staff of the Corrigan Radgowski Correctional Center (CRCC) held their facility awards ceremony and employee appreciation picnic on May 6, 2021. Staff enjoyed the beautiful weather as they gathered outside the facility to acknowledge the good work of their peers.

The 2021 CRCC Facility Award Winners

Warden's Award	Lt. Anthony Jusseaume
Supervisor of the Year	Cpt Timothy Bellemar
Support Sup of the Year	CNS Kara Phillips
Officer of the Year 1 st Shift	Officer Calvin Reynoso
Officer of the Year 2 nd Shift	Officer Alan Duquette
Officer of the Year 3 rd Shift	Officer Thomas Holmes
Training Officer of the Year	Officer Robert Christie
Counselor of the Year	CC Charlene Baskerville
Counselor of the Year	CC Michael Lyle
Support Staff of the Year	Mail Handler Rachel Fontaine



**CRCC Supervisor of the Year
Captain Timothy Bellemar**



**CRCC Counselor of the Year
Charlene Baskerville**



**CRCC Support Staff of the Year
Mail Handler Rachel Fontaine**

Health Services Unit Graduation

The Agency’s Health Services Unit continues to increase its ranks as witnessed by the June 21 graduation at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development of 16 Health Services employees.

As has been the custom since the onset of the pandemic, only graduates, members of the Executive Team, and some of the training academy staff were in attendance. Others, including family, friends, and colleagues were able to experience the ceremony via Zoom.



A post graduation group photo of the Agency’s newest Health Services Unit staff members.

Led by their Class Assistants, Lieutenant Christopher Batten and Officer Christopher Stonaha, the graduates spent three weeks learning the skills and tools to better themselves as correctional Health Care Professionals. The Training Academy’s Director Ashley McCarthy addressed the group, followed by remarks from Commissioner Angel Quiros, who encouraged the graduates to continue to raise the level of care provided to their patients even higher than it already is.

Among the 16 graduates the graduating class included: 9 Registered Nurses, 2 Registered Nurse Supervisors, 2 Practical Counselors, 1 Licensed Practical Nurse, 1 Medical Doctor, and 1 Physician Assistant.

New RCOO in Health Services



RCOO Daniel Roberts

Health Services Unit Director Robert Richeson is pleased to welcome Daniel Roberts to the Department of Correction team in the capacity of Regional Chief Operating Officer (RCOO) for the southeast region, which encompasses the York Correctional Institution, the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center, and the Brooklyn Correctional Institution. RCOO Roberts recently retired from the United States Navy after a long career, starting as a Corpsman, and working his way up the ranks. He eventually was responsible for health services in the submarine service, which included a large compliment of officers, enlisted sailors, civilians as well as contractors. He holds three Master’s Degrees and resides in eastern Connecticut. Please join Commissioner Quiros and Director Richeson in welcoming RCOO Roberts as one of the newest members of the Health Services Unit team.