

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 this year is more than half over, and that one of the most anticipated dates for state employees – July 1, 2022 – has come and gone. As many of you know, the July 1 date is significant because the 2017 concessions package between the state and its employee unions which resulted in the tightening of pension benefits for employees who retired after that date.

The new system for making cost-of-living adjustments to pensions approved post-July 1 is tied to the Consumer Price Index.

Many of our Department's employees did choose to retire, rather than lose some of their hard-earned benefits. To those folks I say congratulations, and I thank them for their service to our great Agency.

The decision of whether or not to retire is a deeply personal one, with many factors to consider least of all your finances and your health.

Although some feared the worst, even referring to the anticipated event as a "retirement tsunami," it is clear that those fears were not realized. Agency wide, a total of 67 staff members retired effective July, of those 39 were custody staff employees.

One of the benefits of knowing well in advance – in this case since 2017 – that something is going to happen, is that you have plenty of time to prepare. To that end, our Human Resources Unit has been aggressively recruiting individuals to join our team. As a result, in order to overcome the uptick in retirements and resulting organizational transitions and promotions, there are more pre-service classes taking place at the training academy than there have been in prior years. Case in point, just a few weeks ago as the graduation of Pre-service Class 287 was taking place in the auditorium at Maloney, members of class 288 were in the middle of a training session in the other end of the building.

To those of you who chose to stay, whatever the reason may be, I say thank you. I truly believe that this is a great time to be a part of the Department of Correction. Simply put, there is great potential for advancement within the Agency. The one thing that I assure you will never change, is that safety and security will always be our top priority.

Once again, to all of you who are still members of our DOC family, thank you, and welcome to the future.

May 7, 2022
through
July 29, 2022

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Class 287 Graduates

Compared to recent pre-service class sizes, Class 287 was not the largest. With only 58 members, the group's graduation ceremony still managed to be a special occasion for the graduates and attendees alike.



The ceremony, held July 14 at the Agency's training academy in Cheshire, included many of the traditional elements such as the Honor Guard and Bagpipe Band, and Correctional Enterprises Manager Ray Munroe belting out the National Anthem. In addition, the graduates were allowed to invite two guests (per graduate) to witness the event in person. Fortunately, additional family members, and loved ones were able to stream the ceremony on their computers and smart devices.

Pre-service Class 287 was made up of primarily Correction Officers (42 to be exact). Additionally, four Electricians, four food Service Supervisors, two Commissary Operators, two General Maintenance Workers, two Plumbers, and one Store Supervisor rounded out the group.

As with each Pre-service the value of exceptional trainees is officially through the presentation of the PRIDE award. The PRIDE award is presented to a trainee from each group who best represents the Department of Correction motto of PRIDE by demonstrating the values of: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, and Excellence. Trainees receiving the award were chosen by their class managers and the Pre-service Captain.

The recipients of the PRIDE award for Pre-Service Class 287:

- ALPHA Group: Correctional Plumber, Michael Cavanagh**
- BRAVO Group: Correctional Electrician, Scott Barney**
- CHARLIE Group: Correctional Plumber, Joseph Dontigny**
- DELTA Group: Correction Officer, Alecia Perez**

Another individual honor traditionally awarded during Pre-service graduations is the Victor E. Harris - named for a deceased officer whose enthusiastic dedication and commitment to correctional education and training still lives on in the memory of DOC staff. Prior to each graduation, the Pre-Service Captain chooses an outstanding instructor who has guided the class in a special way during their training.

Due to his dedication and loyal commitment to training the Pre-Service trainees, Correction Officer Anthony Sarno was chosen as the recipient of the Victor E. Harris Jr. Outstanding Instructor Award for Class 287.

This graduation marked the return of an award that had not been given out in quite some time – the award for Highest Scholastic Achievement, was presented to Officer Trainee Dexter Williams.

After all of the awards were presented, the next order of business was to officially swear in the members of the graduating class - administered by Commissioner Angel Quiros.

Once they were sworn in, Chaplain Joan Burnett delivered the benediction, led by the Honor Guard and Pipe Band the graduates proceeded out of the auditorium as the newest members of our correctional family.

Please join Commissioner Quiros, The Executive Team, and all the facility administrators in wishing all the graduates of Pre-service Class 287 the best of luck in their new careers.

Hiking and Striking

Thanks to the efforts of the Department's Employee Wellness Committee, Central Office's Quality of Work Life (QWL), and Women in Correction Leadership Committees, there have been various opportunities to get



The group poses for a photo atop the observation tower.

out, stay active and even have some fun in the process.

Back in late April, the Agency's Employee Wellness Committee organized a family friendly hike on the Tower Trail at Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden. After trekking the 1.6 mile one-way hike to the summit of Mount Carmel, the hikers were rewarded with views from a four-story observation tower. The observation tower was built in 1936 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. It was a beautiful Spring day, and in addition to getting some

fresh air and exercise, a good time was had by all. If you are interested in finding out more information about upcoming Employee Wellness Committee activities, or to look back at postings of previous outings, you should join the Connecticut Department of Correction Employee Wellness Facebook group. The Facebook group/page is private – for DOC staff only, with the goal of educating and collaborating on wellness strategies. As the members of the Wellness Committee like to say, "...the group is by us, for us."

Spare Time Activity

Department staff members laced-up their bowling shoes and took to the lanes as part of a fundraiser for the upcoming Women in Corrections Leadership Summit. Sponsored by the Conference Committee and Central Office QWL, approximately 30 bowlers came out to Callahan's Bowl-O-Rama in Newington to knock down some pins and have some fun. In addition to bowling, District Administrator Eulalia Garcia and Deputy Warden Lynn Johnson were on hand to present raffle prizes.



The pins fall as coworkers and friends look on.

Guardians of the Flame

In keeping with a long-honored Agency tradition, once again this year staff members from the agency’s correctional facilities participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Connecticut Special Olympics. This year’s Torch Run took place June 1-3.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) is the largest public awareness vehicle and fundraiser for Special Olympics. Law enforcement members and Special Olympics athletes carry the “Flame of Hope” into the Opening Ceremony of local competitions, and into Special Olympics State, Provincial, National, Regional and World Games.



The crew from the Brooklyn Correctional Institution

Staff members from the York Correctional Institution were among the Agency’s facilities that participated in this year’s Torch Run. In all, York had 11 runners and ten walkers took part in the first leg of the State’s torch run, which took place on June 1. The staff of the facility also donated a total of \$1,140 to the cause.

Other participating Department of Correction facility staff members included: Bridgeport CC, Brooklyn CI, Garner CI, Hartford CC, Manson Youth Institution, and Carl Robinson CI.

The LETR engages law enforcement worldwide championing acceptance and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities, starting first with their own communities. Over the years the Torch Run has evolved and now encompasses a variety of innovative fundraising platforms including Tip-a-Cops, Penguin Plunges, and more.

Each year more than 1,500 Connecticut Law Enforcement officers and Special Olympics Athletes will participate in the Torch Run. The Torch Run visits over 100 cities and towns as officers carry the “Flame of Hope” over 530 miles to its final destination at the Opening Ceremonies to the Special Olympics Connecticut Summer Games each June.

Around the Cell Block

GEORGIA-The Georgia Department of Corrections recently announced that a shakedown of five prisons in the state resulted in the confiscation of more than 1,000 contraband items, including cellphones, weapons and methamphetamine.

VERMONT - Correctional Staff within the Vermont Department of Corrections will work 12-hour shifts. Starting in August, the extended shifts are aimed at creating a more predictable schedule for the staff and to begin filling open positions; about one-quarter of the jobs in Vermont prisons are open right now.

FLORIDA - A Spring Hill man called 911 and asked dispatchers if they could send a deputy to his home to test if his meth was real. When Deputies arrived at his home he told them he thought he was buying meth, but after using the substance, thought they were really bath salts. A test of the substance showed it was Meth and the man was arrested.

**Total CT DOC
Supervised
Population
on
July 29, 2022
12,985
On July 29, 2021
the population was
12,709**

Monkeypox

Health experts sound the alarm in hopes of containing the spread of the disease

The World Health Organization recently declared the spread of Monkeypox a global health emergency. There have been more than 16,000 cases in 75 countries. As of last week, the United States had recorded nearly 3,000 cases, including two children, but the real toll is thought to be much higher, as testing is only now being scaled up.

Monkeypox cases continue to rise in the state, there have been at least 28 total diagnoses in Connecticut, according to the State's Department of Public Health.

What is Monkeypox?

Monkeypox, clinically known as orthopox, is a disease related to smallpox—or variola—though monkeypox is typically less severe.

It was first discovered in 1958 in monkeys who were being kept for research, hence the colloquial name of the disease.

The virus was first found in humans in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in a child located in a rural, rainforest region where smallpox had since been eradicated, according to the World Health Organization. The disease is typically only found in west and central African nations or in people who have frequently traveled to those regions.

Symptoms of Monkeypox

Monkeypox typically presents 7-14 days after exposure and symptoms include fever, headache, muscle ache, backaches, chills, exhaustion, and swollen lymph nodes—which is the main distinguishing symptomatic factor between smallpox and monkeypox. Smallpox does not typically cause swollen lymph nodes.

One to three days after the onset of fever, patients develop a rash that typically begins on the face and then spreads to other areas of the body. The lesions then progress through different stages before falling off.

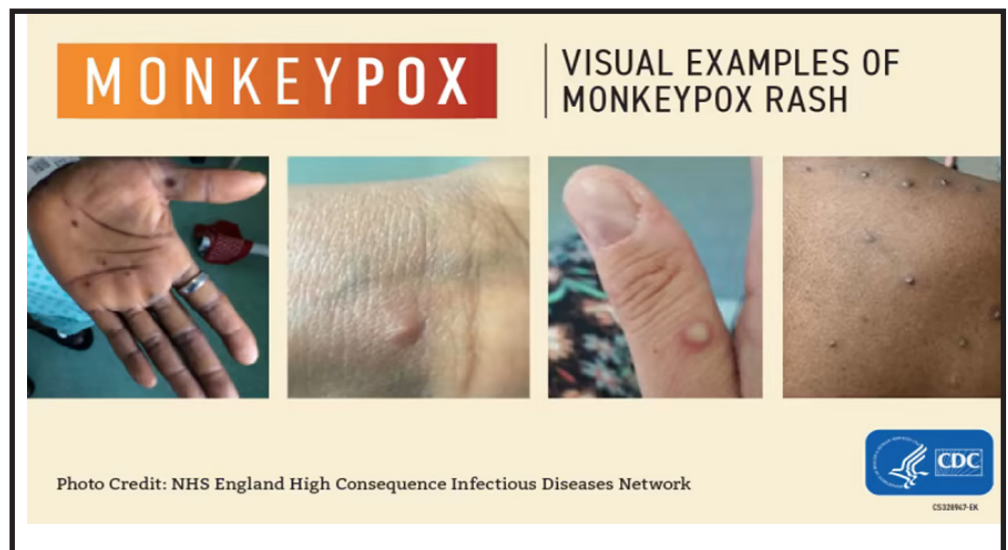
Monkeypox usually lasts two to four weeks, according to the CDC. The disease can be fatal. In Africa, the mortality rate is as high as ten percent in those infected with the more severe Congo strain of Monkeypox. The West African strain, in contrast, has a fatality rate of about one percent.

Transmission of Monkeypox

Monkeypox is typically transmitted by a person coming into contact with the virus via another person, animal, or material that is contaminated with monkeypox viral matter, according to the CDC.

The virus can enter the body through contact with broken skin — even if the broken skin is not visible to the naked eye — the respiratory tract, or mucous membranes, such as the eyes, nose, and mouth.

In animal-to-human transmission, the virus can infect a person through a bite, contact with fluid from an infected animal, or contact with the animal's monkeypox lesions.



Osborn CI's Facility Awards

Several outstanding staff members from the Osborn Correctional Institution were recognized for their hard work and dedication to the mission of the Department of Correction with a Certificate of Appreciation as part of the facility's Annual Awards Ceremony.

Osborn CI Facility Award Winners

Supervisor of the Year	Melissa Otero
Correctional Officer of the Year	Michelle Mejias
Employee of the Year	Katharyn VanAllen
Addiction Services Counselor of the Year	Marieli Santiago
Classification Counselor of the Year	William Swanson
Unit of the Year	Records Unit – Kim Connor & Shermane Daevis
Health Services Employee of the Year	Michelle Cyr, LPN
Teacher of the Year	Eileen O'Neill
Religious Services Employee of the Year	Chaplain Ramon Rosado
Food Services Employee of the Year	Wilkins Miranda CFSS2
Mental Health Services of the Year:	Yvette Thibodeau
Maintenance Employee of the Year:	Sergio DiMauro

There was also a very special and heartfelt thank you given to Officer D. Santiago for saving the life of a pregnant



Some of Osborn CI's Facility Award winners

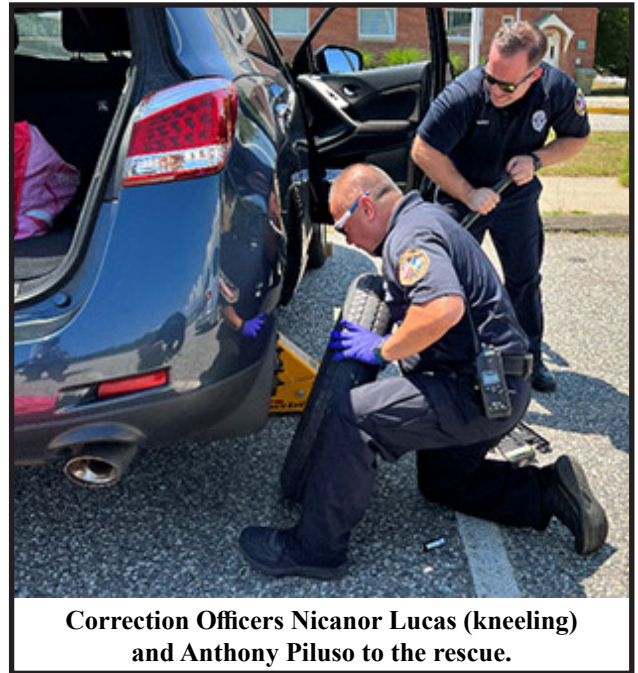
officer and her unborn baby. A few weeks prior to Osborn's awards ceremony, Correction Officer David Santiago was working with a pregnant officer when she began to choke on her food. Officer Santiago jumped into action and immediately performed the Heimlich maneuver on her. The mother and baby are doing just fine. If not for officer Santiago's quick actions, things may have turned out decidedly worse.

Please join Warden Jesus Guadarrama on congratulating all the award winners on their well-deserved recognition.

An Uplifting Experience

After finishing her shift at the York Correctional Institution, Outpatient Specialty Case Manager Tasha Young got to her car only to find that one of her car tires was flat. On top of that, she had never changed a tire before. Thanks to her colleagues at the York facility, she still has not changed a flat tire. Lieutenant Sarah Maltz, along with Correction Officers Nicanor Lucas and Anthony Piluso came to her rescue and changed the tire in no time flat.

“I am so grateful and appreciative of this wonderful act of kindness. If you see them please give them a high five,” Tasha Young wrote in an email. She went on to add, “I have only been working here for a short period of time, but the teamwork and kindness I have experience since being here shows me that I made a wonderful decision in employment here at York. I am so proud to be a York Employee. Thank you everyone for doing your part of upholding the mission of DOC. You are appreciated.”



Correction Officers Nicanor Lucas (kneeling) and Anthony Piluso to the rescue.

The Facts about Monkeypox from page 5

In human-to-human transmission, the disease is spread primarily through respiratory droplets, however, the CDC notes that usually large droplets are needed to spread the virus from one person to another, so prolonged face-to-face exposure is likely required to become infected with monkeypox. Humans can also spread the disease through contaminating linens with which another person may come into contact.

The main host carrier of monkeypox, referred to as the disease reservoir, is not known for certain, but speculation has focused on it being initially spread by African rodents.

Treatment and Prevention of Monkeypox

There is no known specific treatment to target and effectively treat monkeypox. However, some antivirals, vaccines, and vaccinia immune globulin can be used to try to treat the virus and manage symptoms.

First-generation smallpox vaccinia vaccines have been shown to be 85 percent effective in preventing monkeypox, according to the WHO. Vaccination with smallpox in childhood is likely to prevent severe outcomes with monkeypox infection. The original smallpox vaccine is not publicly available, but an updated smallpox and monkeypox vaccine was approved in 2019. It is not publicly available either, but it has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Those in the U.S. who work in conditions where they may be exposed to monkeypox, or are entering an area of high exposure risk, can receive the 2019 vaccinia vaccine, according to the CDC.

Although the sudden emergence of monkeypox can be alarming after two years of living through the COVID-19 pandemic, monkeypox is not a new virus and does not spread in the same way as COVID-19. The current risk of getting monkeypox is low. The Monkeypox virus has been around since 1958. Cases are typically found and linked to central and western African countries. Most cases of Monkeypox result in mild symptoms, but some cases can be severe and even result in death. It is important to note that Monkeypox is much less contagious than COVID-19 and spreads much slower.

If you have symptoms of Monkeypox, isolate from others and contact a health care provider right away.

Code Orange - Officer Harrington

Correction Officer William Harrington, assigned to the Bridgeport Correctional Center lost his long, courageous battle with cancer on April 28, 2022 at the much too young age of 43.

One of the last things that Warden Carolyn McClendan wanted to do before retiring –on behalf of the Harrington family and the Bridgeport Correctional Center staff – was to thank all the agency staff members who supported

Officer Harrington throughout the years.

Officer Harrington began his career with the Department of Correction in 2002. Unfortunately, only two-years into his career, in 2004, he received his first cancer diagnosis.

During the ensuing years Officer Harrington suffered from several bouts of a rare form of cancer, making him unable to work. Each time, DoC staff stepped up to help their fellow officer in his time of need. Whether it was a softball tournament fundraiser, a raffle for a donated weeklong trip to St. Martin, monetary contributions for the Correctional Peace Officer Foundation, pay-to-park, or staff donation of sick/vacation time, DOC staff never failed to step up to the plate to help their ailing coworker.

Most recently in February of this year, Officer Harrington suffered what would prove his final health related setback. It was determined that he needed to have

approximately 220 sick/vacation days donated to him in order for him to be able to be eligible to retire and receive his



William Harrington
1978 - 2022

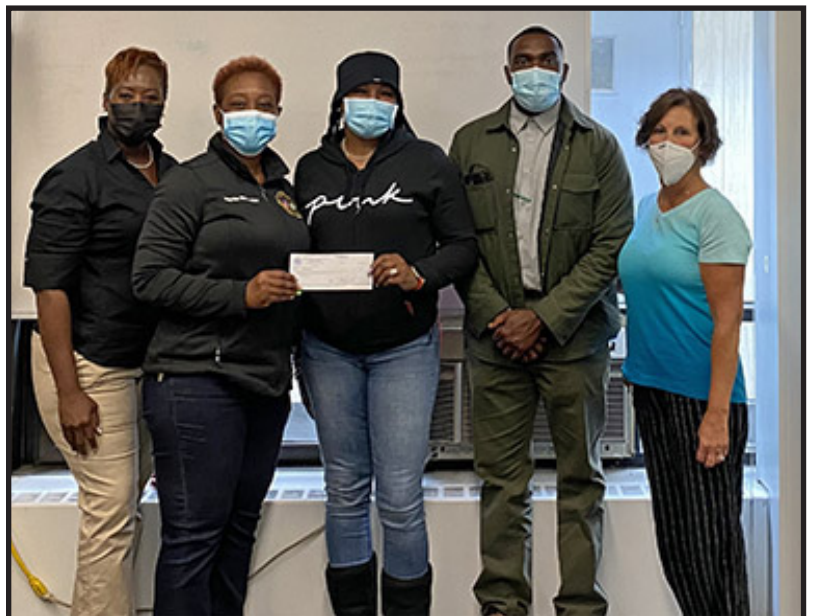
pension and benefits. It should come as no surprise that his DOC family answered the call, and Officer Harrington was able to achieve his goal of earning his retirement benefits.

Additionally, on May 6, an Agency wide pay-to-park was held to benefit Officer Harrington’s wife and three children.

Officer Harrington’s family is very grateful for the support that each of you have provided them over the years; whether it was with your prayers, accrued time donations, bone marrow testing, and/or monetary support.

Again, on behalf of retired Warden Carolyn

McClendon and the staff of the Bridgeport Correctional Center thank you again for your unwavering and inspirational support of our fallen brother. May you rest in peace Officer Harrington.



Officer Harrington’s wife (c) receives a donation from the Correctional Peace Officer Foundation. (L to R): Deputy Warden Charlatta Jones, Warden Carolyn McClendon (ret.), Brandi Harrington, Deputy Warden Jamel Linen, and Secretary Pamela Neuendorf (ret.).