

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



As you are well aware, one of the most persistent challenges we face is the prevention of contraband entering our facilities. This issue not only threatens the safety of our staff and the incarcerated population, but also undermines the integrity of our correctional system.

Contraband items—whether drugs, weapons, or unauthorized electronics—pose serious risks. Stopping these items from getting inside requires vigilance, teamwork, and unwavering commitment from all of us.

I am pleased to announce that the Agency has recently received funding for four body-scanning chairs. These scanners will provide a noninvasive and effective way to detect hidden objects. Not only will their use increase the level of safety within the prisons, but they will also significantly reduce the number of strip searches required. Within a few months, two scanners will be placed at the Manson Youth Institution, and the other two at the York facility. As part of a pilot program, each facility will have a body scanner in the A/P and visiting room areas – two primary areas of entry into a facility.

Aside from trying to hide contraband on oneself, the mail is the other most frequent way for drugs to enter the facilities. Over the years, the world of illegal drugs has undergone significant transformations. People are no longer sticking to traditional drugs; many are experimenting with a wide variety of substances, often synthetic or designer drugs. Between fentanyl's high potency (100 times more potent than morphine), and bug spray being sprayed on paper – detection is becoming increasingly difficult.

For that reason, the Department is working on procuring mail-scanning machines, which have the ability to detect if a piece of mail was treated with a foreign substance. These mail-scanning machines will be a great asset in helping to reduce the amount of illicit drugs entering the facilities.

It is important to remember that no matter how impressive it is, we cannot rely on technology alone. Your diligence is essential in protecting not only the institution, but also the community at large. As always, I am grateful for your dedication and hard work. Your efforts are not unnoticed, and they are vital to the mission we share.

Stay vigilant, stay safe.

May 8, 2025
through
August 12, 2025

Distributed quarterly
to 5,500 staff
and via the Internet
throughout Connecticut
and the nation
by the
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The Next Wave

Commissioner Angel Quiros officially swore in the department's nine Deputy Wardens, two Deputy Directors, two Directors, a Warden, a District Administrator, and his Chief of Staff following a top managers meeting at The Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development on July 14, 2025.

As friends, family, and loved ones looked on, and with their right hands raised, the individuals all recited the Department of Correction's oath. The Deputy Wardens sworn in (pictured below, left to right, with Commissioner Quiros and Deputy Commissioner Willaim Mulligan looking on) include: Nathan Alexander, Asheigh Aponte, Anthony Campanelli, Nicole Grimaldi, Eric McKenzie, Patrick Michaud, Kim Such, Morgan Suess, and Anna Maria Verdura.



The Deputy Directors sworn in were Fiscal Services' Michael Lettieri and Human Resources' Jaime Williams. The two Directors who took the oath were Legal Affairs' Nancy Canney, and Correctional Enterprises of Connecticut's Matthew Keen. Warden Ruben Burgos was sworn in, as was District Administrator Craig Washington. Rounding out the ceremony was the Department's Chief of Staff, Ron Cotta.

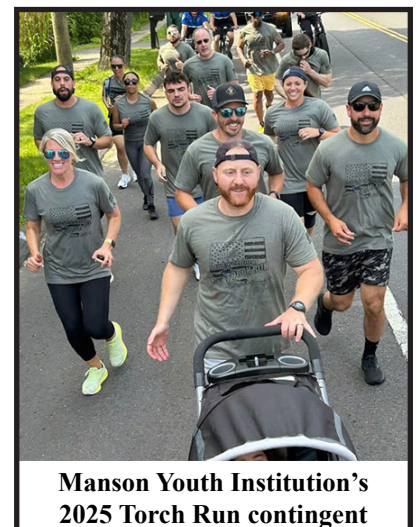
Please join Commissioner Quiros and the entire Executive Team in congratulating these individuals and wishing them continued success in their careers.

Torch Bearers

The 39th annual Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics Connecticut took place on June 4-6, and once again staff members from the Connecticut Department of Correction played an integral part in its success. During the course of three days, participants in the Torch Run covered more than 500 miles and passed through many of the state's cities and towns. More than 2,000 runners and approximately 140 law enforcement agencies participated in this year's event.

Staff members from several facilities and Central Office participated in the Torch Run.

Since its inception in 1986, the Law Enforcement Torch Run has grown into the largest grass roots fund-raising event for Special Olympics Connecticut. The run has raised more than \$600 million for Special Olympics programs.



**Manson Youth Institution's
2025 Torch Run contingent**

Correctional Employee Week Recap

Whether it was pizza, burgers and hotdogs, breakfast buffets, or cookies, facilities across the agency showed their appreciation to the hardworking staff of the agency during National Correctional Employee, Nurses', Teachers' Week back in May. Below is a look back at some of the week's activities.



Roadside Hero

Keith Gowac, a Correctional HVAC Technician assigned to the York Correctional Institution, was driving along a local road and came across a horrific scene - three individuals lying in the road who had been struck by a hit and run driver.

Being the first person on the scene, he did not hesitate to stop and help in whatever way he could. His actions were nothing short of heroic.



York CI's Correctional HVAC Technician, Keith Gowac

The East Haddam Fire Department (EHFD) was dispatched at approximately 7:17 p.m. on July 9, 2025, to an event involving traumatic injury where three civilians were struck by a vehicle that evaded the scene.

Chief Brian Auld of the EHFD, also a Commissary Operator with the DOC, personally wrote to Correctional Maintenance Supervisor Clive Lloyd to relay that upon his arrival, he immediately recognized HVAC Gowac assisting fire and emergency response personnel.

Chief Auld noted that HVAC Gowac "went above and beyond assisting the three patients during this emergency incident." Chief Auld also indicated that HVAC

Gowac's training and work experience at the Connecticut Department of Correction were abundantly apparent along with his, "courage, compassion, and professionalism during the entire incident."

As a HVAC Technician, Mr. Gowac is adept at maintaining comfortable environments – as a public citizen, he continues to safeguard his surroundings and exemplifies the adage that not all heroes wear capes.

Warden Trina Sexton would like to take this opportunity to formally acknowledge the exceptional valor and selflessness exhibited by HVAC Tech Keith Gowac during the roadside emergency.

EAU toll-free phone number:
844 - 997- 4EAU

Around the Cell Block

NEW YORK – New York City's Correction Department recently honored Correction Officer Jenkins for 45 years of perfect attendance. Amazingly, Officer Jenkins joined DOC in 1979 and to date, has not called out sick from work. Furthermore, during his high school graduation in 1969, he was honored for completing elementary, middle and high schools without ever being absent.

ARKANSAS - Ten Arkansas death row prisoners filed a lawsuit recently asking a judge to block a new state law that authorizes execution by nitrogen gas, which they argue is unconstitutional. Arkansas became the fifth state to permit this form of execution back in March. Arkansas, last conducted executions in 2017.

TEXAS - A Houston man wanted for robbery tried to blend in, but his face tattoo that said "Crime Pays" made him easy to identify. He was arrested shortly after being spotted.

**Total CT DOC
Supervised
Population
on
August 12, 2025
14,092**

**On August 12, 2024
the population was
13,708**

A Complete Team Effort

Director Rhiana Gingras' Message of Appreciation to the Parole Division Staff

The third week in July represents National PPPS week. This year's theme, *Heroes Behind the Mission: Transforming Lives, Enhancing Public Safety* rings true as we look around to see who makes up our team with CT Department of Correction: Division of Parole and Community Services. However, it is not possible without all of us.



Secretary II Mikki Ealey (L), and Secretary II Jen Boland of Parole's New Haven office.

Our clerical staff in our buildings are vital. From our Secretaries being the first experience folks have when they come in or call the offices; to the very support role they play for those in other positions throughout the Division, to our; Records Specialists who work tirelessly behind the scenes calculating sentences, tracking shifts in location/statuses/supervision and discharges, to our; Correctional Counselors in both Residential Intake and Central Intake who hustle to release those from incarceration



Record Specialist Tanya Smith (L) and Sec II Mia Vasquez of Parole's Bridgeport office.

in a timely manner and either place in a halfway house or return home to their support networks, to our; Counselor Supervisors and Deputy Warden who work on funneling and triaging cases to



From Parole's Norwich Office: Sec II Tiffany Thibodeau (L) and Rec Spec Rhonda Cary.

expedite this process, to our; Parole Officers and Parole Supervisors for managing the supervision once folks are released to either halfway houses or community residences to ensure compliance with conditions and keeping the public safe, and to our; Staff Attorney, supporting us through our day-to-day operations in ways which improve our processes. Each role is different but necessary for this Division to exist, and to carry out our mission of providing offenders with re-entry opportunities, while maintaining public safety.

Thank you for your hard work, day in and day out, for your positive attitudes, for your teamwork and for all that you do to keep yourself and your peers safe. While we know that this job is not an easy one, it is the path we chose and continue to choose. Know that you are a necessary piece of what makes the Division complete and are valued for all that you do.



Record Specialist Rose Mary Keane support the New Haven Parole office.

Brooklyn Facility Awards

Warden Charlatta Jones celebrated the accomplishments of her staff during Brooklyn CI's Annual Award Ceremony Luncheon held at the facility on May 7, 2025.

The **2025 Brooklyn CI Facility Award Recipients** are:

Correction Officer of the Year:

1st shift – Officer Jon Dubeau,

2nd shift - Officer Tom Witkowski,

3rd shift – Officer Eugenio Pratt

Correctional Counselor of the Year:

Counselor Melanie Surfus

Employee of the Year:

Custody – Officer Eli Deorsey;

Support Staff – Food Service Supervisor, Aaron Vargas

Unit of the Year - Food Services

Circle of Merit Award - Officer William Schmid

Supervisor of the Year -

Captain Zachary Faucher



(L-R): CFSS3 Kristian Koiva, CO William Schmidt, CFSS Aaron Vargas, CC Melanie Surfus, Warden Charlatta Jones, CO Eli Deorsey, Captain Zachary Faucher, and CO Jonathan Dubeau .

Critical Training

Twenty five members of the Department's Critical Incident Stress Response Team (CISRT) recently attended a week-long training held at the University of New Haven in order to enhance their skills and preparedness. The Critical Incident Stress Management training took place May 5-9. Participants were instructed on the basic principles of suicide prevention; defusing practices; debriefing skills after traumatic events; and support for grieving individuals. Upon completion of the week-long training, participants qualified for nationally recognized certification from the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation.



Participants and instructors of the five-day CISRT training session held at the University of New Haven.

Renewed and Recharged

Unified School District #1 (USD #1) held their Annual Spring Conference with the theme of Renew and Recharge, on May 7, 2025. There were two Keynote speakers that delivered impactful messages to approximately 175 staff members and guests who attended the event held at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development. Dr. John Watts, an Assistant Professor and Program Director of the Criminal Justice and Restorative Justice



Program at the University of Saint Joseph discussed the value and worth of education in corrections. Later on, Dr. Keith Mirante, licensed Chiropractor in Madison, CT, of Coastal Chiropractic & Wellness, discussed the importance of health and wellness in the work place, and how to be the best version of yourself through good health.

Additionally, USD #1 celebrated the 2025 Teacher of Year recipient, Ms. Shannon Gavey, who delivered a heartfelt speech and presentation – giving accolades to her peers and colleagues.

Other highlights of the conference included: the acknowledged 11 recently hired staff members; USD #1 staff participating in 370.25 hours of professional development; the students earning an 81% subtest passing rate on the General Educational Development (GED) test; and an increase in the number of Career and Technical Education Certifications earned by students

By direction of Superintendent Veron Beaulieu, Professional Development Committee Chair, Latesha Jones, State School Principal II and committee members, this celebratory event focused on staff appreciation. Special thanks to the Spring Conference committee members: Jennifer Blake, State School Teacher; Jennifer Dawkins, Correctional Vocational Instructor; Kevin Devery, P3B Union Representative; Steven Roccapiore, Correctional Vocational Instructor; Meredith Rogers, State School Teacher; Chris Supik, State School Teacher; and Allison Underwood, Vocational Instructor. The committee members would also like to thank the following individuals for their support in making the day special: Associate Chaplain, Imam Usman; Jamie Conway, Secretary II; State School Teacher Kip Mundle; Correctional Vocational Instructors Daniel Carsten and Jamie Rainville; Union P3B; and the staff of MCTSD.

Myles STRONG

State School Teacher Shannon Gavey's infant son was born with a rare congenital heart condition. He will endure multiple procedures, hospital stays & unforeseen costs. Please support SST Gavey by attending a benefit for her son at Aunt Chilada's restaurant in Hamden, CT on September 4, 2025.

When: Thursday, September 4, 2025 from 3-8pm

Where: Aunt Chilada's 3931 Whitney Ave. Hamden, CT

Cost: \$20.00 per person door charge

There will be numerous raffle items and Baskets, 50/50 raffle & Concert Ticket Auction. (100% of profits will be going to SST Gavey).

Door Charge tickets can be purchased in advance as well as at the door. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Contact the following for tickets: MYI-SST Medina or Nichols, Ms. Kelly-Brown



HITEC Holds Successful Workshop & Welcomes New Members

Various members of the Department of Correction's Health Improvement Through Employee Control (HITEC) gathered at the UCONN Health Center for a daylong facilitator workshop.

HITEC Design Team facilitators from a variety of facilities (including: Carl Robinson, Osborn, Cybulski, York and the Manson Youth Institution), in addition to Unified School District #1, and union representatives met back in March for an opportunity to enhance their skill sets.

HITEC Design Teams consist of small groups of Department of Correction (DoC) staff members who collaborate with UCONN staff members, and other academic partners with the goal of improving the health, safety, and well-being of DoC staff. Staff trained facilitators guide Design Teams throughout the program.



Back Row L-R: William Abbott, Jeffrey Picardi, William Suchomel, Jose Matias, Samuel Quintana, Johmar Vargas, Eric Tokarzewski, Christian Bosque. **Front Row L-R:** Ashley Collins, LaRoyal Williams, Ivette Dalina-Figueroa, Caprice Wilson, Myra Scott, Lisa Lawrence, Kelsey Kaiser, Donna Pantin-Worrell, Lenore Gagain, Julie Stewart, AnJeanette McKenzie Preston, Leslie Bumpus, Caitlyn O'Hara.

Experienced facilitators received a refresher class in skill building, while the new facilitators in attendance learned valuable knowledge to take back to their design teams. The biannual facilitator workshops are designed to empower and increase the number of front-line correctional professionals who have the necessary tools and techniques to guide and support design teams through the HITEC program. Workshops also provide an opportunity for facilitators to meet and share ideas from various facilities across the state.

Attendees participated in a range of breakout groups, practicing scenarios to enhance their active listening skills and techniques. These skills help them to address opposing points of views, with the goal of finding mutually beneficial solutions.

In a post workshop evaluation, attendees reported being able to use skills learned in many situations, such as facilitating design teams, collaboration with others, and methodically addressing any problem that may require a solution – while at work or off duty.

In addition to their work within their individual teams, all of the design team members are currently also working on developing strategies to support a healthy retirement for all DoC employees.

For more information about the program, and to watch the HITEC video go to: hitec-doc.com.