



P.R.I.D.E. at Work



Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence

Commissioner Announces New Promotions and Appointments

Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz is proud to announce her appointments of Michael Lajoie as Director of Security and Major Jose Feliciano as the new warden of the Enfield Correctional Institution.

“Both Director Lajoie and Warden Feliciano bring a breadth of experience and success to their new positions,” said Commissioner Lantz. “As Warden of the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center, Director Lajoie solidified the consolidation of two facilities with drastically different missions.



The newly appointed Director of Security, Michael Lajoie is congratulated by Commissioner Lantz.

Continued on Page 2, See *New Appointments*

Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration.

About and for correctional professionals

April 1- 21, 2007

From the Commissioner



I recently distributed to all staff roll calls the following reminder of our agency’s zero tolerance policy as it relates to racial and discriminatory incidents. If you have not been made aware of this memorandum, please make sure you read and understand it. Thank you for your continued adherence to insuring our work environment is healthy, supportive and based on the values necessary for success.

Zero Tolerance Policy

As a national model in the field of corrections, our agency and its staff are dedicated to the highest standards of ethical behavior. Completely contrary to what we stand for have been recent reported incidents of a racist and discriminatory nature, which remain under investigation. Please be reminded, per Administrative Directive 2.1, Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action, that the Connecticut Department of Correction will not tolerate acts of discrimination, harassment, or insulting behavior. We demand and expect a workplace free of any form of bigotry, racism or intolerance. As you have been instructed since the first days in the training academy, per Administrative Directive 2.17 Employee Conduct, we are to treat the public, staff and offenders with respect and dignity.

Continued on Page 6, See *Commissioner*

New Appointments Cont'd

Warden Feliciano has served with distinction at every level of our agency, from minimum security pre-release facilities to the Northern Correctional Institution," the Commissioner said.

Commissioner Lantz also made a number of reassignments within the wardens' and majors' ranks to serve the needs of the agency. Warden John Sieminski has been assigned to Corrigan-Radgowski CC, Warden Peter Murphy has been assigned to MacDougall-Walker CI, Warden Charles Lee has been assigned to Cheshire CI, Warden Lori Ricks has been assigned to Hartford CC, and Warden Daniel Martin has been assigned to York CI.

Additionally, she announced the following moves: Major Christina Polce to York CI, Major Carol Chapdelaine to MacDougall-Walker CI, Major Michelle Pidgeon to Enfield CI, Major James Foley to Bergin CI, and Major Karl Lewis to Williard-Cybulski CI.

"I know that together we will raise the agency to a higher standard of excellence, professionalism, and public confidence," said Commissioner Lantz. The appointments and transfers are effective as of Friday, April 13th.



Enfield CI Warden Jose Feliciano is congratulated by Commissioner Theresa Lantz after announcing his promotion .

Warden Backs Staff at Inmate Trial

Testimony by Warden James Dzurenda of the Garner Correctional Institution, at the recent trial of an inmate who had seriously assaulted staff, reportedly influenced the court to impose a more substantial sentence. The trial involved the actions of inmate Charles Redshirt in June of 2005. In one incident he broke a counselor's nose and cheek bone, bit a lieutenant and caused a third officer to break his wrist in trying to subdue the assault. Warden Dzurenda in his testimony, made clear just how dangerous Redshirt was to staff and indicated that the inmate was one of the very few inmates for which Commissioner Lantz has exercised a "dangerous exception" that requires he be housed at Northern CI. The outcome of the trial was a six-year sentence for Redshirt who had been due to EOS in two weeks. Warden Dzurenda was informed after the proceedings that it was his testimony and the staff presence in the courtroom that had convinced the court a more severe sentence was warranted in the attack.

Distributed bi-weekly to 7,000 staff and via the internet throughout Connecticut and the nation by the Department of Correction.

Theresa C. Lantz, Commissioner

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2007 Teacher of the Year



Superintendent William B. Barber and the staff of Unified School District #1- Connecticut Department of Correction, are pleased to announce that Ms. Suzanne Silengo has been awarded the honor of being chosen as "Teacher of the Year." Ms. Silengo, pictured at left, is currently assigned to the Cheshire Correctional Institution, and has been working as a State School

Teacher for Unified School District #1, for 18 years. Her colleagues describe her as "thorough," "consistent," and "cooperative." Her students use words such as "patient," "positive," and "upbeat" when they refer to her. In addition to her role as academic instructor, Ms. Silengo has initiated programs in her school that did not exist before, such as book clubs, external diploma classes and tutorial training. In her recommendation of Ms. Silengo for Teacher of the Year, School Principal Dottie Green stated, "Suzanne is a dedicated educator who always ensures that student needs are a priority. She works diligently to help all students experience success. Her 18 years of experience teaching have been and continue to be an asset to USD#1."

Agency Good Neighbors

Bridgeport CC- Michael Weiner, Patient Care Manager at The Hospital of Saint Raphael in New Haven sent a letter to Warden Walter Ford which stated, "On behalf of the Hospital I would like to thank Correction Officer Dana Smith and the Quality of Work Life Committee at Bridgeport CC for their generous donation of coats to the Child Psychiatric Emergency Services Unit of the Hospital." Warden Ford commended the committee for their generosity towards those in the community.

Brooklyn CI - In a selfless act, Correctional Counselor Sarah Chesters of Brooklyn CI recently participated in the "Wigs for Kids" program. Counselor Chesters is now sporting short hair after she graciously donated twelve inches of her hair to this wonderful cause. "Wigs for Kids" is a non-profit organization that has been serving children suffering from hair loss since 1980. The organization provides wigs to children that have lost their hair as a result of medical treatments, health conditions and burn accidents.

Around The Cell Block



New Jersey- An investigation is looking into a staff baby shower at a facility during which inmates served food and carried the gifts to the woman's car.

California- The correction officers' union contends that a 14 percent raise over three years would put them behind other state and local law enforcement agencies.

Washington- The state has paid between \$250,000 and \$500,000 for an inmate's liver transplant.

Nevada- About 1,600 inmates would be immediately eligible for release under a proposal that would double the time credits inmates earn for good behavior.

<p style="text-align: center;">Total Supervised Population on April 15, 2007 23,645 On April 15, 2006 the population was 22,810</p>
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CT DOC Gang Unit - A National Model

Officials from the State of Washington Department of Corrections, including the Deputy Secretary, are the latest prison officials to come to Connecticut to study our system for the management of gangs. Developed chiefly by now Deputy Commissioner Brian K. Murphy in the early 1990's, the national model for safety and securely handling security risk groups has been studied and utilized by a number of states including California, North Carolina, Texas, New Mexico, Maryland and Virginia, not to mention Great Britain's prison system. The Washington State DOC staff was seeking assistance in dealing with a growing and increasingly violent gang presence among its inmate population. They spent several days in Connecticut with our agency's Security Division staff and they toured the Northern Correctional Institution where the Close Custody program for gang members is conducted.



(l-r) Director of Programs and Treatment Mary Marcial, Superintendent Jeffrey Uttecht, Washington State Penitentiary, Administrator Richard Morgan-West, Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz, Deputy Secretary Ruben Cedeno, PhD. and Deputy Commissioner Brian K. Murphy

Did You Know?...



Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860.692.7554. This week's article was written by Plant Facilities Engineer I Sam Kotsch. If you have any questions or comments, he can be reached at 203. 806.2664.

Installing Insulation

Working around insulation can be an aggravating experience. It can be very irritating to your skin. Some people also have trouble breathing normally when working with insulation. However, insulation is part of almost every modern construction job. This means if you are going to start a project, you will run across some type of insulation. If you have ever removed a ceiling and had the old insulation rain down on you, then you know how uncomfortable the rest of the workday was. Getting insulation in your face, in your clothes, and all over you can make finishing your day's work a real struggle.

Now that you are all itchy, let's talk about new installation of insulation. Installing new insulation is a very technical job, as anyone who has started out in construction as a laborer or trainee knows. It is one thing to install insulation properly and it is another to be competent enough to install it profitably. After 20 years in the construction business, I have never found a way to install insulation with employees at a cost, that is less than what I can pay a company that specializes in the installation of insulation. So before I start an insulation project and get all itchy, I call a professional that concentrates solely on the installation of insulation. A little extra cost to your project will save you a lot of itching and aggravation.

If you do decide to install insulation on your own, the following are installation tips. Before installation, be sure to have on a pair of goggles, gloves and a dust mask.

Continued on Page 6, See *Did You Know*

Information on MRSA

Recently, correctional staff from several facilities have voiced their concerns about MRSA infections involving incarcerated inmates, generating a number of questions. Dr. Edward Blanchette(UCMHC-DOC) has attempted to address the most common questions here. Greater understanding and knowledge about this type of infection will hopefully result in less anxiety amongst our staff and fewer cases in the inmate population.

What is MRSA?

MRSA (short for Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) refers to a Staph bacteria that has acquired resistance to certain antibiotics. This resistance means that some antibiotics normally used to treat Staph bacteria in the past will not be effective. There are common oral antibiotics, however, that can effectively treat MRSA. In general, Staph bacteria infections have always been rather common in the incarcerated population, but this type of antibiotic resistance is a fairly new development.

How does a MRSA infection present?

Most MRSA infections in the community and in a jail/prison setting present as skin or soft tissue infections, especially “boils” or abscesses. Early on, it may have the appearance of a spider bite. Later, the infected area is red, swollen, and painful and there may be pus or other drainage. Serious MRSA infections, the kind that has attracted the attention of the media, occur in already compromised, sick patients. Because of this, MRSA is a more serious problem in a hospital setting as opposed to a community, including places such as military housing, college dorms, or prisons.

In DOC, MRSA-infected patients are usually first seen in a jail setting at or shortly after intake. In other words, most of our new MRSA cases originate from the community. Not surprisingly, MRSA has been an occasional problem affecting inmates in the infirmary setting as well.

Does everyone who has MRSA on or in their body have active infection?

No. Some people carry MRSA in their nose or throat (nasopharyngeal carriage) but, in this area, infection is uncommon. These persons are called asymptomatic carriers and they are “colonized” with MRSA. While they do not have an active infection, they can spread the bacteria to others or even to themselves, e.g. skin follicles of the leg. This is the reason why MRSA infections can be recurrent in some individuals and how infection can spread to others from an unknown source.

Has MRSA infection become more common in the inmate population over the past few years?

Yes. In fact, MRSA infection was considered unusual a number of years ago even in hospitals. Now, MRSA infections have become much more common in the community, including DOC, and especially in hospitals and healthcare facilities. Facilities where large groups of people live and recreate together, such as college dorms, day-care centers, military barracks, prisons, and schools are all areas where MRSA infection has become much more common.

Has MRSA been a problem for correctional employees over the past few years?

Not so far. Although I have seen an increasing number of MRSA infections over the past few years, I am not aware of any outbreaks involving correctional officers. The spread of MRSA is most likely to occur between individuals that have frequent, close contact. Inmates that live together, work together, and play sports together have the type of contact that can spread MRSA. Correctional officers do not have this type of contact unless they are responding to inmate altercations, cell extractions, or other activity that carries the risk of close, personal contact.

How can correctional staff protect themselves against MRSA infection?

By far, the most important measures are good handwashing practices and the wearing of gloves when inmate contact is anticipated. These basic measures will effectively stop MRSA spread as well as other potential pathogens such as HIV and viral hepatitis.

In addition, the DOC Medical Units have been instructed to call Dr. Edward Blanchette if MRSA has been confirmed in any inmate. He will then review several issues regarding these cases personally, including antibiotic administration, wound care, and temporary housing changes if appropriate.

Director Bruno Attends ACA Conference



Reverend Anthony J. Bruno, Director of Religious Services and President of the American Correctional Chaplain's Association is pictured as he delivers the invocation at the general session of the winter meeting of the American Correctional Association in Tampa, Florida. Father Bruno is one of only 69 Chaplains in the entire country presently certified by the American Correctional Chaplain's Association.

Condolences



Director Richard Miele and staff of the Correctional Transportation Unit and Warden Peter Murphy and the staff of MacDougall-Walker CI are saddened to announce the passing of Jose Martinez, father of Officer Edwin Martinez (CTU) and Officer Hector Martinez (MWCI).



Director Anthony Bruno and the staff of the Religious Services Unit and Warden Eileen Higgins and the staff of Bergin CI are saddened to announce the passing of Jesse Williams, son of Chaplain Chuck Williams.

Did You Know?...Cont'd

1. Open the packages by cutting lengthwise through the side panel. Be careful to avoid cutting the product or facing. The insulation will quickly expand to its full volume when the bag is opened.
2. Rolls must be measured and cut to fit into wall cavities. Cut insulation about an inch wider than the space using a sharp utility knife against a safe backstop, such as an unfinished floor or other smooth, flat surface. Always cut on the unfaced side of the batt.
3. Cut the insulation to fit properly. Don't double it over or compress it. Compression changes the R-value of the insulation.
4. Gently push insulation into the cavity so that it sits all the way, especially at the corner and edges. Then, fluff it to its full expansion by pulling it forward to fill the depth of the cavity. The fit should be snug.
5. With faced insulation make sure the vapor retarder is facing the conditioned interior space, unless building codes specify otherwise.
6. Allow friction to hold the insulation in place. Or you can staple the flanges of faced insulation to the insides or face of the joists. (Stapling on the inside is preferred by many drywallers because it leaves the edges of the framing members easier to locate. However, your local building codes may require you to overlap the flanges and staple them to the edges of the framing members.)
7. Take care not to stretch the facing too tight as you staple, which can over compress the insulation, and avoid gaps and puckers.
8. Secure floor insulation with wire fasteners, sometimes called "lightning rods." Press the fasteners so they bow up gently against the subflooring without compressing it. Space the fasteners at least six inches from each end of the batt and 12" – 24" apart.
9. When installing rolls in an unfinished attic or other large open area, simply unroll the insulation in place.
10. Wherever there are adjacent rolls, make sure they fit snugly together.

Commissioner Cont'd

This is not only our policy, but it is also what is expected of decent and professional men and women.

The Department of Correction will strictly enforce a zero tolerance policy towards this inappropriate, derogatory and extremely hurtful behavior and violators will incur appropriate discipline.

Calendar

March 12th - April 27th -The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut Leadership Group is gathering personal hygiene items for the needy. For info call Tracey Hollins at 860.692.6875.

April 27 - Retirement party in honor of Lt. Robert Guerin at the Prime Time Cafe' located in the Thomaston Lanes Bowling Alley at 7pm. For tickets you can contact Lt. Richard Blanc or Lt. Marie Barnes at 203.250.2665.

May 5 - Bridgeport CC QWL will host a Law Enforcement Meet and Greet Dance at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven from 9pm-1am. Admission is \$40 in advance and \$45 at the door and will include open bar and hors d'oeuvres. For tickets please contact Captain Keel at 203.579.6131.

May 9 - MYI Diversity Council is sponsoring a CT Law Enforcement Cruise to benefit the CT Special Olympics. A Cruise Informational Night will be held at Cugino's Restaurant in Cheshire at 6pm. Representatives from the Norweigen Cruise Line will be on hand to discuss the cruise and there will be prize give-aways.

SAVE THE DATE - March 15, 2008 - An 8 day/7 night cruise on the Norwegian Cruise Line's GEM. Ports of call are New York, Florida, and the Bahamas. For info attend the Crusie informational or call (see next column)

Lt. V. Martin & Capt. Rocco Sweat, at 203.806.2500 or Barbara Westerburg at 203.806.2502.

May 11 - Retirement Party in honor of Captain Keith Hightower will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Windsor. Cocktail Hour: 7-8 Dinner: 8-9 Music by Jimmy Jam Tickets are \$40 and can be obtained by contacting: Christian Moore at 860.692.6291, CO Almeida at 860.292.3400, CTO Reid at 860.292.3400, Capt. Davis at 860.240.1860, Capt. Esposito at 203.250.2753, CS Bernard at 860.566.7500, or CS Pemberton at 860.691.6700.

May 19 - Department of Correction Annual Volunteer Conference and Forum will be held at Maloney CTSD Please call Director Doug Kulmacz for more info at 860.692.7580.

May 20 - The Department of Correction will host the 1st Annual Law Enforcement Carnival Day to benefit Special Olympics. This event will be held at the Officer's beach at Robinson CI in Enfield from 8am to 5pm. There will be a softball tournament, demonstrations, children's games, CHIPS program (State Police Child Identification Program) and much more. Tickets are \$2 in advance and \$3 at the door. For tickets or info please contact your facility Special Olympics Liaison or any of the following: Liz Francini at 860.763.6527, David Abruzzi at 860.763.6157 or Jeff Beiler 860.763.6557.

May 29 - 1st Annual Anthony Tramantano Memorial Education Golf Open will be held at the Watertown Golf Club in Watertown, CT. This scramble format event is limited to the first 144 golfers. Registration is due by Tuesday May 22nd. Fees are \$175 for golf, lunch and dinner or \$50 for dinner only. Registration and practice for the event will begin at 10:00 am, lunch will be served at 11:00 am and at shotgun start will begin at Noon. The reception dinner & awards ceremony will be held from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Proceeds from this event will go towards an educational fund for Anthony Tramantano's children. For more info contact Rich Blanc at 203.228.2681, Joe Petruzzi at 203.910.3027, or Rich Dubay at 203.725.5493

June 3-6 - 2007 MASCA Conference at Mystic Marriot Hotel & Spa.

June 8 - State Employees Appreciation Day at the New Britain Rock Cats Stadium. The Rock Cats will be playing the Bowie Baysox (Orioles). Game time is at 6:35 pm. Each ticket is only \$7. This price is for STATE EMPLOYEES ONLY, all seats are reserved. To get tickets E-MAIL Jan Gwudz directly at jan.gwudz@po.state.ct.us Checks can be made out to: CSEC and mailed to: CT State Employees' Campaign, 24 Stott Avenue, Norwich, CT 06360.