



Connecticut
Department of Correction

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

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



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 restitution, rehabilitation and successful community intergration

Officer Whitehead Named Correction Officer of the Year

Correction Officer Michael Whitehead of the Northern Correctional Institution in Somers was a little nervous when he was asked to report to Central Office on Wednesday, July 13. In fact, on the drive in he was trying to recall if he had done anything wrong. Far from it - instead of being reprimanded, he soon found out he had been selected as the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees' (AFSCME) Correctional Officer of the Year.

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Commissioner Leo C. Arnone and AFSCME Representative Mike Marete congratulate Officer of the Year Michael Whitehead

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through
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and the nation
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Wethersfield, CT 06109

From the Commissioner



If for some reason you thought there wasn't enough already going on within the agency recently, then I have some new and important tweaking of our organizational chart that I would like to share with you. First, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Kathleen Maurer, our relatively new medical director will now be a division head and a member of the Executive Team, overseeing both medical and mental health for the agency. This to me makes perfect sense, as she oversees a sixth of our overall \$600-million plus annual budget. If you have never met Dr. Maurer, I encourage you to do so. Her specialty is occupational medicine so she is very well versed in our agency's needs. She combines a very gentle and easy to understand manner with a history of private sector management, all of which makes her eminently qualified to oversee our \$100-million contract with the University of Connecticut, Correctional Managed Health Care. Both our agency's medical and mental health care will come under her direction. Also joining the Executive Team will be our Legal Director Sandra Sharr.

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Top Dogs

CT-DoC teams place 1st and 3rd overall at the 20th annual K-9 Olympics

For the second year in a row, a team from the Connecticut Department of Correction took top overall honors during the 20th annual Connecticut State Police K-9 Olympics held July 23, on the Depot Campus of the University of Connecticut off Route 44 in Storrs. In addition to a first place finish, a DoC K-9 Unit team also finished third overall (**a list of all DoC award winners appears below**).

A total of 34 teams, an increase of ten teams from last year, with entrants from the University of Connecticut Police Department, the Connecticut State Police and various municipal police departments from across the state participated in the event. The teams of officers, with their trained dog partners, competed in tests of knowledge, ability, strength and stamina in exercises that include obedience, obstacles, simulated apprehension, firing range and box search competitions.

The Connecticut K-9 Olympics is more than just a chance for dogs and their handlers to put their skills to the test. "Everything we do here is to raise money for charity," said Lieutenant Greg Chandler of the DoC K-9. Through various methods including event sponsorships, competitor entry fees, T-shirt and food sales approximately \$3,500 was raised and donated to the Shriners Burn Center, the Hometown Foundation, Special Olympics CT and Connecticut Child Identification Program.

In fact representatives from the CT CHIP were on hand for parents to get their children registered in the recovery and identification program, which records children's fingerprints and toothprints, as well as a cheek swab for DNA and a brief recording of the child to ascertain their appearance, speech and mannerisms. In addition to the child registration services, there were displays by state police, fire, corrections, emergency services and local businesses.

Congratulations to the Connecticut Department of Correction's K-9 Unit on an outstanding performance at this year's event. An honorable mention goes out to Lieutenant Henry Gasiorek, who once again volunteered to put on a bite suit, act as a villain, and have dogs attack him all day long. All the handlers and their K-9 partners performed extremely well - award winners included:

Overall Performance Winners

1st Place Overall: Officer Robert Sabourin, K-9 Blade.

Working with his 2nd K-9 partner; Officer Sabourin has been a member of the K-9 unit since 1999. This is the second year in a row that Officer Sabourin and K-9 Blade have taken 1st place overall in this event.

3rd Place Overall: Officer Josh Trifone and K-9 Apollo. Officer Trifone and his K-9 partner have been a part of unit since 2008

Criminal Apprehension Drill Award Winner

1st Place: Officer Tom Huckins and K-9 Duke. Officer Huckins and his K-9 partner have been a part of unit since 2010.

Most Experienced Competitor Award Winner

Officer Dan Murray, K-9 Brady. Officer Murray has been a member of the K-9 unit since 1998. This also was the second year in a row that Officer Dan Murray and K-9 Brady received this award.



Officer Robert Sabourin and his K-9 partner Blade took 1st Place Overall for the second year in a row.

Org. Chart Changes

from page 1

While she is already a direct report to the commissioner, it makes sense to me, and is standard procedure in many organizations, public and private, to have your attorney included in the discussions of the department's major issues. I am confident she will be able to better add insight and legal direction by being part of our conversations.

There is one other major change as to how we will do business going forward. We are moving our Programs and Treatment Division, under Deputy Commissioner James Dzurenda. Again, this just made sense. Operations and Programs and Treatment co-exist within our facilities. They work side by side, they come under the direction of the facility warden and have the same goals of safety and security and good order, and hopefully sending the inmate home better than he or she came in. Splitting these responsibilities under two different divisions did just that, it more often than not split them apart and put them in conflict with one another. I think we can do a better job than that without compromising the benefits that either one provides for our agency. We did make one exception in the shift of Programs and Treatment and that was to place Correctional Enterprises of Connecticut (CEC) under Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Cepelak. CEC is run like a business, in large part to give offenders a real world taste of what working in the real world is like. It bids on contracts, carries out various work for the state, municipalities or non-profits and completes it on a deadline. Deputy Commissioner Cepelak is our business person. Again, the connection fits, especially when dollars and cents are involved. I understand if you think that more change is the last thing we needed right now, but I know these improvements will make us all the better in the future.

Highlights of Organizational Changes

Director of Health Services

Dr. Kathleen Maurer

is a division head and a member of the Executive Team.

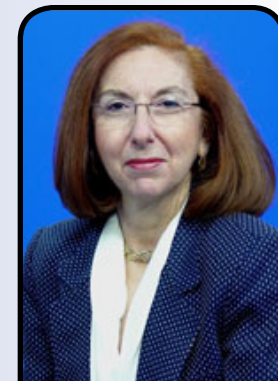


Dr. Kathleen Maurer

Director of Legal Affairs

Sandra Sharr

has been made a member of the Executive Team.



Sandra Sharr

The Programs and Treatment Division now comes under the purview of the Deputy Commissioner of Operations, James Dzurenda

Patrick Hynes, Ph.D

is the Director of the Best Practice Unit and is a direct report to the Commissioner.

Esther Torres

is the recently appointed Director of the Programs and Treatment Division

New Memorial Garden at Willard-Cybulski CI

As one of her last acts as the warden of the Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution, Esther Torres and the staff of WCCI held a ceremony to dedicate a Memorial Garden for fallen staff who worked at the facility. The Memorial was proposed by Lieutenant Glenn Diefenderfer and came to fruition through his fortitude, and also thanks to the generous donations from local businesses and staff alike. The Honor Guard opened the ceremony, to include bagpipes and a special roll call, read by Deputy Warden Christopher Corey, for the 11 fallen staff members.



Candles were lit to commemorate their passing as each name was called. Warden Torres recited a poem entitled "Remember Me" written by David Harkins that beautifully depicts the feeling of losing and remembering loved ones. The ceremony was attended by staff and family members of the departed. In closing, Taps was performed by Lieutenant Anthony Cusano of the Honor Guard. Following the ceremony, the Willard-Cybulski Quality of Work Life Committee provided a cookout for all who were in attendance.

The following staff members were honored at the ceremony:
Carl Aldrich, Correction Officer; **Kevin Arcouette** Correction Officer; **Winifred (Renee) Haskins-Pertillar**, Correctional Counselor; **Lisa Mills**, Correction Officer; **Jose Miralles**, Reverend; **Ken Okeke**, Correctional Counselor; **Ray Sayre**, Correctional Head Nurse; **Darin Smith**, Correction Officer; **James Stewart**, Correction Officer; **David Sweet**, Correctional Maintenance Supervisor; **Anthony Washington**, Correction Officer

Around the Cell Block



MICHIGAN – Convicted sex offenders cannot use homelessness as an excuse for not reporting their whereabouts to police under Michigan’s Sex Offender Registry Act, a divided state Supreme Court ruled Monday.

NEW YORK – New York City jail officials are asking scantily clad visitors to cover up with bright green T-shirts. The city Department of Correction spent \$5,000 on 800 extra-extra-large neon shirts. They are washed daily. The jail dress code prohibits gang symbols, swimwear, and short skirts, among other attire.

MEXICO – Police say a woman was caught trying to sneak her common-law-husband out of a Mexican prison in a suitcase following a conjugal visit. Staff at the prison in Chetumal noticed that the woman seemed nervous and was pulling a black, wheeled suitcase that looked bulky.

**Total
Supervised
Population
on
August 8, 2011
22,408
On August 8, 2010
the population was
23,229**



Did You Know?

“Did You Know” is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Services Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. This article was written by Kevin Roy, Plant Facilities Engineer I, and questions relating to it may be answered by contacting him at 860-253-3648. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at (860) 692-7554.

Are Moles Destroying Your Yard?

If your yard has paths of raised grass and small mounds of dirt scattered around, there is a good chance you have moles. These animals can do a significant amount of damage to a lawn in a short amount of time. If you want to be rid of these creatures, you may want to understand a little something about them.

Typical moles have round bodies and are about 6” long covered in black or grey fur. The mole has acute hearing, with a sensitive nose and tail. They have tiny eyes that are covered in skin and then buried in fur. These eyes are very sensitive but not of much use. A mole has short but powerful legs and feet that are shaped like shovels. These feet have large claws that aid them in burrowing. A single mole can dig as much as 150’ of tunnel in one day. Active year round, their diet consists mainly of earthworms and grubs, and this is where the problem begins.

It is often believed that if you got rid of the grubs in your lawn, then these moles would find another place to live. This is not always true. Most yards are also full of beneficial earthworms that we do not want to be without. So

it is fair to say that treating your yard with a grub control will reduce the food that is available and hopefully reduce the amount of moles that you have, but those moles will still have plenty of other food.

There are three basic options used to eliminate moles: Repelling them, trapping them without killing them, and killing them. There are many ways to ward off moles including ultrasonic/vibration devices and chemical applications. Depending on who you talk with these options are typically not successful. Live trapping can work, but it is often difficult. You can purchase traps and try it yourself or hire a professional to take care of this. If you do manage to catch a mole, the relocation to other properties is illegal in Connecticut.



Mole tunnels destroy lawns.



A common mole.

Most experts will tell you that the most effective way to rid your yard is to kill the mole. A little bit of internet research will show you that there are many different styles of traps that perform this function. Most are operated using some type of spring loaded spikes that are triggered when the mole crawls down its path. Using any type of poison to kill a mole is not a good idea. This method is definitely not advisable if you have pets, children, or anything living on or around the area affected by moles.

Nearly all of us have heard of many other “home remedies” to get rid of moles including sticking chewing gum, human hair or moth balls in their holes. Some would recommend flooding them with the hose or smoking them out with smoke bombs. Needless to say no matter what the approach these are tough critters to eradicate – good luck.

High Honor for DoC Officer from page 1

With Commissioner Leo C. Arnone, members of the Department's Executive Team, and local as well as national AFSCME union officials on hand, Whitehead was honored during a morning ceremony held outside of the Department's Central Office in Wethersfield.

Also present was the person who is arguably Officer Whitehead's biggest fan – Correction Officer Peter Kuhlmann. Whitehead received the Department's Medal of Valor in 2010 for his actions in coming to the aid of fellow officer Peter Kuhlmann, after an inmate cut Kuhlmann's neck with a razor blade. Whitehead separated the two, and held down the inmate until additional assistance arrived. What makes Whitehead's actions even more impressive is the fact that it was only his second month on the job.

The nomination process for the award began last September, according to Mike Marette the Assistant Director of Corrections for AFSCME. Marette, who traveled from Minnesota to make the announcement, said that the 35-member committee received approximately 60 nominations from across the country. AFSCME represents nearly 70,000 correction officers nationwide. After a review of all the nominations, the committee finalized their decision back in February, but they kept it a secret from Officer Whitehead until the ceremony. "I had no idea why I was told to come to Central Office,"

In addition to the honor of being named Correction Officer of the year, Officer Whitehead along with officer Kuhlmann will be attending AFSCME's biannual conference held September 16-18, in Houston Texas – at which Whitehead will officially be presented with the award.



**L to R: Officer Peter Kuhlmann, AFSCME
Local 387 Treasurer Ray Soucy,
Officer Michael Whitehead**

Patriotic Award for Patriotic Support



LtoR: Tom Pandolfi, Vice Chair ESGR; Dep. Warden Stephen Bates; Donna Conahan-Adams, CN; Mary Marto, Health Services Administrator; Commander Jason Small.

Mary Marto, Health Services Administrator for Correctional Managed Health Care reviewed a "Patriot Award" on Friday, July 15 at the Brooklyn Correctional Institution. The award is given in recognition of an employer's support and cooperation with their employees who also serve their country. ESGR highlights the importance of supportive supervisors who hire such employees and help to maintain the strength of the National Guard and Reserve.

Donna Adams nominated her supervisor, Mary Marto, for the award which is given by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR). Adams, a Navy Reservist, spoke about her employer. "My employer supports me in all military activities and allowing employees time off to attend the ceremony that

promoted me to Chief Petty Officer." She stated that her employer was a big help to her when she was called to active duty, and also paid for her to go to her annual training. "They always support my reserve activities," Adams added. Adams and Marto both work at the Brooklyn Correctional Institution.

Warden of the Year Nominee

Congratulations to Garner Correctional Institution Warden S. Scott Semple for being nominated as a 2010-2011 Warden of the Year by the North American Associations of Wardens and Superintendents (NAAWS).

In nominating Warden Semple, Commissioner Leo C. Arnone wrote: "His contributions to this agency through dedication, innovation, and determination have made the entire State of Connecticut's Correctional System a safer and healthier environment for the public, staff, and inmates alike."

Warden Semple is honored by the nomination, but is quick to credit the staff of Garner Correctional Institution for his success. "I believe the Commissioner's intent was to recognize the facility more than the person," Semple said. "Although I cannot speak for him, this nomination could have never occurred without the dedication of past and present staff who transformed Garner into a nationally recognized correctional facility with a comprehensive mental health component." The nominees were honored at the American Correctional Association's Summer Congress held August 8 in Kissimmee, Florida.



Warden S. Scott Semple

Clean Bill of Health

York CI receives a perfect reaccreditation score



The recently reaccredited medical staff of the York Correctional Institution.

The Accreditation Committee of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) voted during their July meeting to continue to accredit the York Correctional Institution for its compliance with NCCHC Standards for Health Services in Prisons.

In the accreditation report the committee commended the facility staff for, "their professional conduct, assistance, and candor during the course of the review." On May 25-27, 2011, the Accreditation Committee reviewed 37 essential standards and found the facility to be in 100% compliance with all 37 essential standards.

In addition, the committee looked at 29 important standards that were applicable to York CI. Again they found that the facility to be in 100% compliance with the 29 applicable important standards. The Review Committee anticipates that the next scheduled on-site survey of the facility will occur sometime prior to June 2014.

The NCCHC is dedicated to improving the quality of correctional health services and helping correctional facilities provide effective and efficient care. The organization grew out of a program begun at the American Medical Association in the 1970s.

Years of Service

Employees with 20 Years of Service as of July 2011

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Addison-Pires, Pam	Corr. Officer	Cheshire CI	8/24/1990
Cuoco, Anthony	Corr. Officer	MWCI	12/28/1990
Ducharme, Samuel	Corr. Officer	CRCI	12/28/1990
Givens, Wanda	Lieutenant	BCC	11/16/1990
Nichols, Michael	Corr. Officer	MWCI	2/8/1991
Rosa, Kathleen	Corr. Counselor	BCC	3/22/1991
Wright, Joyce	Corr. Officer	Osborn CI	3/22/1991

Employees with 25 Years of Service as of July 2011

Farrell, Timothy	Warden II	BCC	7/11/1986
Kulmacz, Douglas	Dir. Vol. Ser.	Central Off.	7/18/1986
Nolan, Nancy	Fis. Admin. Off.	Central Off.	7/7/1986
Shea, James	Corr. Captain	Central Off.	7/11/1986

Employees with 30 Years of Service as of July 2011

Robert Cosgrove	IT Manager III	Central Off.	7/9/1981
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Tips for Hair Cuts at York CI

In addition to the funds raised by the York Correctional Institution during the recent Law Enforcement Torch Run, inmates at the institution who received cosmetology services were able to donate to the Special Olympics Connecticut. From January 2nd through June 9th, 2011 as part of the "Tips for Hair Cuts" programs, inmates at York CI were able to donate "tips" for services performed by the students of Vocational Instructor Pat Cirillo's Cosmetology Class. During this time, the students raised a total \$1,213.00 for Special Olympics Connecticut.



Books-Bag Drive in Bridgeport

Team "B" of the Bridgeport Correctional Center is gearing up for its 2nd Annual Back to School Book-Bag Drive, and is requesting your help. The event will again be held at BJ Brown Park on Madison Avenue, directly across from Bridgeport CC, on Saturday, August 20, 2011 at 9:00AM.

During the inaugural Book-Bag Drive, organizers had estimated that approximately 50 children might show up to the event. By the time it was over nearly 300 youths had received a bag of school supplies. "It shows that the need is there," said Correctional Services Aid Shaheerah Blank who along with Correction Officer Linwood Branch organized the effort.

In addition to passing out free school supplies to children and families from the community, the hope is to also educate members of the community about the many organizations, programs, groups, businesses and vendors that support them. In a letter addressed to the "Bridgeport CCC Family," Linwood Branch wrote, "It is our mission to equip our youth with the necessary tools and confidence, not only to survive, but to excel...Remember, they're not just our children, they are our future."

Donations of backpacks and other school supplies can be dropped off at the Bridgeport Correctional Center. Monetary donations are also welcomed.

For further information contact Shaheerah Blank at (203) 579-6131 X-415 or (203) 974-4156 x-2035