

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

National Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week July 21-27

It is my honor and privilege as Interim Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Correction to join with Governor Dannel P. Malloy in acknowledging the important work of the dedicated men and women of Probation, Parole and the Board of Pardons and Paroles who securely supervise offenders as they re-enter our communities. The Governor has officially proclaimed July 21-27, Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Officer's Week in recognition of the contributions these professionals provide to the state of Connecticut.

Parole officers are an integral piece of the public safety picture. These men and women quietly serve crime victims, hold offenders accountable for their actions and provide the community with an added layer of protection. In addition, they are committed to promoting services and programs that can help offenders become law-abiding citizens.

The guidance and vigilance of these often unheralded professionals insures that public safety is enhanced, recidivism is reduced, and the process of re-entry (that begins long before an offender's return to the community) is ultimately successful.

Please accept my gratitude for the important work you do, not just during this week, but also for every week of the year. As not only the Interim Commissioner, but also as a citizen of the state of Connecticut, I offer a heartfelt thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Dzurenda".

James Dzurenda
Interim Commissioner

June 15, 2013

through

July 24, 2013

Distributed monthly
to 6,200 staff
and via the Internet
throughout Connecticut
and the nation
by the
Department of Correction
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Wethersfield, CT 06109

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Governor

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Over the Edge for Special Olympics

The Department of Correction's support of Special Olympics Connecticut has reached new heights, 34 stories to be exact. On Thursday, July 18, Commissioner James E. Dzurenda, Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Cepelak, along with Warden Scott Erfe and Deputy Warden Sandy Bundy participated in the third annual Over the Edge event at the Mohegan Sun Casino.

Over the Edge is a unique fundraising event, providing participants the thrilling opportunity of rappelling down a building in an exciting and completely safe environment. In order to participate, individuals were required to raise a minimum of \$1,000 for Special Olympics Connecticut.

Before stepping over the edge of the building, each participant was given the opportunity to practice rappelling and learn to use the gear.

Family and friends looked on from below with a combination of nervousness and excitement. As Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Cepelak paused during her descent to take in the view and wave to those watching, her mother implored her to, "stop waving and just come down."

After approximately three to five minutes after they took that

monumental first step over

the edge all the DoC participants touched down to the safety of the flat roof of the casino. Clearly exhilarated by the experience, Deputy Commissioner Cepelak said that she could not wait to do it again.



Commissioner James E. Dzurenda waves to onlookers on his way down the Mohegan Sun.



Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Cepelak begins her long descent.



Counselor Jaclyn Osden of the Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution raised \$1508.00 for Special Olympics going "Over The Edge" in Hartford on May 10, 2013. She successfully repelled down 14 stories of the State House Square building.

Carrying the Torch

The 2013 Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics Connecticut was held June 5-7, 2013, and once again Department of Correction employees throughout the state were involved.

This year's Torch Run covered over 530 miles, through more than 100 cities and towns. Over 3,500 Law Enforcement officers and Special Olympics Athletes will participate in this year's Torch Run. These officers represent local, state, and federal departments, agencies and, of course, correctional facilities.

In the northern part of the state, a contingent of runners from the Northern, Enfield, Willard-Cybulski and Hartford facilities helped to carry the torch.

Down by the shore, staff members of the York Correctional Institution ran the torch run alongside Special Olympian Zachariah Kelley, son of Correctional Counselor Terry Kelley.

"It meant so much to me and my son Zac to run with my co-workers from York," counselor Kelley said. "In my 19 years in the department, I have never experienced such enthusiasm and support."



Counselor Terry Kelley carries the torch with her son Special Olympian Zachariah Kelley, along with a contingent of York CI staff members during the 2013 Law Enforcement Torch Run.



The Northern contingent L to R: counselor Scott Szaban, Enfield CI; counselor Kristan Mangiafico, NCI; officer Steve Congelos, NCI; counselor Kim Such, Hartford CC; counselor Deloris Blanchard, WCCI; school teacher Heather Thibodeau, NCI; warden Edward Maldonado, NCI; and captain Robert Knapp, NCI.

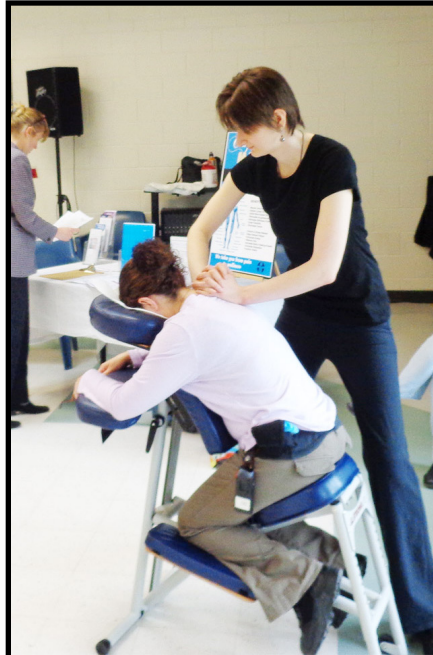
The Law Enforcement Torch Run is Special Olympics' single largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle. Since its inception, the International Torch Run Program has raised more than \$414 million for Special Olympics world-wide. More than 142,000 volunteers from 113 LE TR programs across 46 countries every year carry the "Flame of Hope", raising awareness and funds for Special Olympics.

This is the 27th year Connecticut has participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run which started in 1986.

This year's goal is to raise \$500,000 for Connecticut Special Olympics. The Department of Correction is frequently among the top fundraisers of all the law enforcement agencies in the state.

Asian Cultural Health Fair at Garner CI

Garner Correctional Institution Diversity Council recently sponsored an Asian Cultural Health Fair. Staff members had the opportunity to have a free ten minute massage compliments of the Foundation for Wellness Professionals. Correctional Social Worker Bill Kompare shared his knowledge of Asian culture because of his past experience of working and living in several Southeast Asian countries. A nutritionist was also available to give advice on the Med. – Asian Diet. A master yoga instructor from the Yoga Forever Cooperative in Fairfield presented on the benefits of yoga and techniques. The Asian Cultural Health Fair was a great success; and as a result a staff yoga class will be introduced in the future.



A Garner CI staff member receives a massage during the Asian Cultural Health Fair.

Around the Cell Block



CONNECTICUT – After nearly 20 years housing female inmates, the Federal Correctional Institution is being converted back to a men’s prison. Beginning in August, the Federal Bureau of Prisons will start transferring the first of about 1,150 women incarcerated at the low-security Pembroke Road facility to other institutions. The change is due to overcrowding at existing federal facilities for low-security male inmates.

NEBRASKA - The Nebraska Department of Corrections announced last month that the inmate driver program has officially ended after a van driven by a Community Corrections inmate hit another vehicle – killing the driver. In the future, inmates who are assigned to work detail jobs will be transported by department staff.



Connecticut Department of Correction Picnic at New Britain Stadium



Catch the Fun & Excitement of Rock Cats Baseball!
Sunday, August 4, 2013
Gates Open 12:05 pm
Game Time: 1:35 pm
Picnic Time: 12:35 - 2:05 pm




New Britain Rock Cats (Minnesota Twins)
 vs.
 Erie SeaWolves (Detroit Tigers)




*Catch the Future Stars of the
 Major Leagues TODAY!*




Enjoy An All-You-Can-Eat Buffet
Menu Includes:
Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chips,
Soft Drinks & Water

**Total
 Supervised
 Population
 on
 July 24, 2013**

21,093

*On July 24, 2012
 the population was
 21,090*

MYI's Employees of the Quarter

Warden John Alves is happy to announce that Captain Philip Costanzo and Office Assistant Victoria Tencza-Nicholson have been chosen as the Manson Youth Institution's Employees of the Quarter for July, 2013.



L to R: Office Assistant Victoria Tencza-Nicholson, Warden John Alves, Captain Philip Costanzo and Deputy Warden Andrew Iweka.

Captain Costanzo was nominated for the Employee of the Quarter and honored for all his efforts as Unit Manager. He is currently covering two additional units and lends additional assistance to his peers whenever possible. He consistently strives to ensure his areas of responsibility are managed with the highest regard. He is a dedicated supervisor who is respected for his cooperation and work ethic. His commitment to the facility and its entire staff is recognized and very much appreciated.

Office Assistant Tencza-Nicholson was also honored and described as a team player who can be counted on to complete any task without question. She is often relied upon and consistently displays a positive 'can do' attitude. As one of her nominators wrote "Victoria is an asset to Manson. She is a dedicated and professional employee who is highly respected for her cooperation, work ethic and proficiency, which she demonstrates on a daily basis."

Teamwork at MacDougall-Walker CI

Correctional Captain Gerald Wood wanted to introduce the newly promoted supervisors at the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution (MWCI) to other staff members in a unique and unconventional way.

Previous training led by Captain Wood at MWCI was well-received by the staff, as it posed a contrast to the normal training conducted at the facility that some consider monotonous.

The new supervisors were briefed on the challenge which was to get all of the balls from one bucket into the other bucket while only touching the ropes at designated points. The supervisor then had to relay the information to their assigned teams on the task at hand.

The task was designed to see if the newly promoted supervisors would force their new position of supervision on their teams or would they listen to the input of the team members regardless of their experience level. It was also designed to facilitate communication amongst peers, establish trust, and above all, promote staff cohesion.



Recently promoted Lieutenant Lynnia Johnson (second from right) works with her assigned officers in an attempt to transfer the balls from one bucket to another as part of a teambuilding exercise.

What is more important than us?

DoC Creates a Staff Wellness Committee

by Counselor Supervisor, Wellness Committee member, Linda Kendrick

The most valuable resource we have in The Department of Correction is our staff. We have correctional officers, managers, teachers, counselors, supervisors, captains, lieutenants, CTO's, fiscal and human resources employees, secretaries and administrative staff, commissary and warehouse workers, vocational instructors, maintenance workers, chaplains, food service employees, parole and community services staff, engineering staff and a host of other support people working for The Department of Correction. As of June 30, 2013, there are 5,386 of us. All too often we see someone we are working with struggling with a health, mental health, family, financial, or emotional challenge. Life can present many obstacles for us and our co-workers to surmount.

A new initiative has been undertaken within the Department of Correction – The Staff Wellness Committee. It is chaired by Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Cepelak. The intent of the committee is to address Staff Wellness – Body, Mind and Spirit.

All of us are part of “the human condition.” Many joys, challenges and curve balls come our way. Our ability to handle these joys, challenges and curve balls can at times be affected by our level of wellness. The Staff Wellness Committee will focus on all of our individual wellness and the positive effect it can have on our jobs.

In the scope of the committee – Wellness of the Body relates to exercise, eating for wellness, taking care of our medical issues, engaging in regular medical and dental visits and keeping up with our medically prescribed plan of action.

Wellness of the Mind has to do with keeping our minds healthy and active. This might mean taking on a positive challenge, taking classes, doing puzzles, increasing our knowledge or skill level in a certain area, challenging ourselves with learning, using our brain capacities to move forward in areas we are interested in.

Wellness of the Spirit affects many aspects of our life. Wellness of the Spirit is about what makes us happy and makes our spirit soar. It can be singing, dancing, a faith community, crafts, hobbies, our children or pets, coaching, sports, uplifting groups we belong to, community activities, clubs or organization participation, reading, quiet time or meditation, even traveling. The list for Wellness of the Spirit is individual and endless.

If we have staff who are well of body, mind, and spirit we will have staff that may have more overall life happiness, and more satisfaction in the workplace as well as in their personal lives.

The committee was formed in part as a response to the tragic loss of staff members to suicide over the past few years and to some staff arrests and deaths that may have been preventable. These losses cannot be ignored.

The administration of The Department of Correction cares about its staff and their wellness. Over the next few months look for information from the committee about wellness and some examples from our correctional family who are exercising, trying to eat right, or who are involved in wellness of the body, mind and spirit.

Cookout at Brooklyn

In honor of Correction Employees, Teacher's, and Nurse's Appreciation Week, a cookout for all shifts was held at the Brooklyn Correctional Institution, funded by the facility's QWL Committee.

Picture are left to right: Captain John Lepaoja, Warden Jon Hall, Deputy Warden Chris Corey, Counselor Supervisor David Guarino.



A Tradition of Respect at Osborn CI

Family, co-workers, friends and members of the Department's Executive Team gathered outside the front entrance of the Osborn Correctional Institution on May 28, 2013, to dedicate a permanent memorial to honor Osborn CI employees who have passed away.

In Warden Chapdelaine's four-year tenure at Osborn CI, she has experienced the deaths of five staff members who worked at the facility. Five in four years is a significant loss to the staff and administration of a facility. She felt it was important to honor them in some way, so she along with her family, generously donated the granite stone used to create the memorial upon which the names of deceased staff members would be etched .



In memoriam: Toni Duncan, Correction Officer; Brett Fickett, Correction Officer; Irene Kotiadis, Correctional Counselor; Wade McDowell, Jr., Correction Officer; Reuben Perrin, Addiction Services Counselor.



Members of the department's Honor Guard wait to place roses on the Osborn CI Memorial.

The memorial was erected in a circular patch of grass directly across from the main entrance to the facility. Whether coming or going from Osborn CI, the memorial will be a frequent reminder to current staff of those who have gone before them. The construction of an area where they may be remembered will help staff, friends, and family of the deceased feel that people cared. Aside from Warden Chapdelaine, many staff members have embraced this project, including district maintenance and education staff members, as well as the officers and counselors who were most directly affected by the deaths of their co-workers.

After Commissioner James Dzurenda and Warden Carol Chadelaine unveiled the monument by removing the black shroud that covered it, the roll call of the departed was read. After each name was called out, a member of the honor guard replied, "Ma'am, absent ma'am." - after which they laid a single rose on top of the memorial.

Addressing the family members gathered, Warden Chapdelaine said, "I hope in some small measure, this monument is a reminder to you about how important your loved one was to our correctional family and to the Osborn staff. We have not forgotten and with this daily reminder we will never lose sight of these remarkable individuals, each of whom made unique contributions to all of our lives."

Governor Malloy attends Performance Project

This year’s installment of the Judy Dworin Performance Project (JDPP) at the York Correctional Institution had one very special guest – Governor Dannel P. Malloy. The First Lady of Connecticut, Cathy Malloy was in attendance as well, for the second year in a row. She attended last year’s performance at York in her role as Executive Director of the Greater Hartford Arts Council and according to Governor Malloy, “has not stopped talking about it.” He went on to say that he, “came to York to see what moved his wife so much.”

The performance was also attended by Commissioner James E. Dzurenda and East Lyme’s First Selectman Paul Formica, as well as other members of the Department’s Executive Team.

This was the eighth year that the Performance Project has returned to York CI for their annual residency program, resulting in the creation and performance of ‘Windows: Looking In/Looking Out’.

Throughout the performance, women used various aspects of windows to reveal experiences of their lives before and during incarceration. The performance piece ended with a dance adapted by JDPP that was part of the One Billion Rising Global Awareness Day on February 14, 2013, spot-lighting violence against women and girls based on the song ‘Break the Chain’ by Tena Clark. The ‘Break the Chain’ dance performed by the women on that day was part of an international movement spearheaded in Connecticut by First Lady Cathy Malloy and Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS).

After the performance Governor Malloy acknowledged the women for their courage in sharing their stories and concluded by saying that, “No one is good all the time but there is goodness in everyone, and [what this work is meant to do] is to reflect one’s humanity, and you’ve done it very well.”

The JDPP was founded in 1989 and has performed throughout Connecticut as well as New York, Philadelphia and Washington DC. JDPP offers performance residency programs under a ‘Bridging Boundaries’ Initiative which also includes programs for youth with incarcerated parents, women recently released from prison and incarcerated women.

The residency program is a year-long project which uses the arts to encourage women to develop positive life skills and to inform others of the possibility of overcoming their struggles.



L to R: Commissioner James Dzurenda, Governor Dannel P. Malloy and Cathy Malloy watch the Judy Dworin Performance Project at York CI.

Years Of Service

Employees with 20 Years of Service as of May 2013

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Bernard, Karen	Deputy Warden	MYI	12/14/1993
Gibson, Mary	Social Worker	York CI	5/14/1993
Moore, Carla	Record Spec. 1	CRCC	5/14/1993
White, Robert	Correction Officer	MYI	3/19/1993

Employees with 25 Years of Service as of May 2013

Brown, Carole	Admin. Asst.	Cen. Off.	11/4/1987
Semple, S. Scott	Warden 2	Garner CI	5/25/1988
Wollman, Patricia	Off. Asst.	York CI	5/27/1988