



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.

National Correctional Officer & Employee Week May 3-9, 2015

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed Proclamation 5187, creating "National Correctional Officers' Week." Each year, the first full week in May is recognized as National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, commemorating the contributions of correctional officers and personnel, including nurses and teachers, who work in correctional settings.

Since becoming Commissioner, I have been looking forward to this week so that I can formally express my sincere gratitude for your dedication to the difficult, yet vital work that you do.

On a daily basis, as Connecticut's correctional professionals, you place yourselves in harm's way to provide humane conditions of confinement while ensuring security and contributing to offender rehabilitation.

It is my hope that the observance of this week will increase the general public's knowledge and appreciation for all you do on a daily basis.

Unfortunately, few people truly understand the difficulties and challenges corrections professionals face (often at great personal risk) daily. Not only are we charged with protecting society from those unable to follow its laws, but we must also feed the hungry, heal the sick, treat the mentally ill, and educate and train the uneducated. Not to mention the challenging task of preparing offenders for successful re-entry into their communities.

In an attempt to repay your allegiance to this agency, I vow to make every effort to minimize the amount of trauma correctional staff is exposed to, as well as reducing the subsequent effect of exposure to such trauma.

Please accept these words of appreciation and deep gratitude to each of you for your steadfast commitment to this department and to the citizens of the State of Connecticut. Thank you for your noble service to this honorable profession.

Sincerely,

Scott Semple
Commissioner

March 18, 2015
through
May 4, 2015

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Rehabilitation Center Dedication

With Governor Dannel P. Malloy and Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman among the approximately 200 guests on hand, the Cybulski Community Reintegration Center was officially dedicated on Tuesday, April 21, 2015.

The reintegration center is one of the four initiatives that Commissioner Scott Semple set out to implement during his tenure. The concept behind the center is to centralize and concentrate the department's re-entry efforts for offenders nearing their end of sentence in one location in order to improve their chances for successful re-entry. The new initiative will rely on partnerships with schools, churches, community and health care providers.

The ultimate goal is to reduce the rate of recidivism of the program's participants. The Cybulski Community Reintegration Center is modeled after a similar program run by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Last year, Commissioner Semple sent three DoC staff members to Ohio to observe and learn how the program operated.

The initial unit of the Cybulski Community Reintegration Center had been up and running for more than a month prior to the ceremony and is made up of 110 offenders who reside in one of the facility's six dormitory units. In time, the plan is to convert the remainder of the housing units to reintegration units. The hope is that the next unit will consist of



Commissioner Scott Semple speaks at the Cybulski Community Reintegration Center dedication ceremony as Gov. Malloy and Lt. Gov. Wyman look on.

offenders who had previously served in the military. A reintegration unit for women at the York Correctional Institution is also being planned. The reintegration center at Cybulski was organized using money in the current budget and did not involve additional spending.

"This is not a soft on crime approach, it's a smart re-entry approach," Commissioner Semple told reporters after the ceremony. "We're trying to target the population that has done what we've asked them to do, and then have a place for them to go and a program for them to be at that sends a message to the rest of the population that you should do the same."

The dedication ceremony which was held in the facility's gymnasium was attended by invited guests, among which included state and local politicians, representatives of other state agencies and community providers. Commissioner Semple, Warden John Tarascio, Lt. Governor Wyman and Governor Malloy all addressed the gathered throng. In addition to the guests and dignitaries, several television cameras and print journalists were there to document this important occasion.

The reintegration program at Cybulski dovetails with Governor Malloy's recently announced Second Chance Society initiative, in which he proposes to: reclassify certain nonviolent offenses; eliminate mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent drug possession; streamline the parole system; streamline the pardons system; and create job and housing opportunities for ex-offenders.

"This is a momentous occasion because it makes a break with the past," Gov. Dannel P. Malloy said. "From 1985 to 2008, we tripled the population in our jails. We built great prisons, even during a time when we refused to build great schools."

CRU is up and Running

The Community Release Unit (CRU), is up and running, and as a result, half of Commissioner Scott Semple's four initiatives have been implemented.

With Director William Murphy at the helm, the CRU began processing community release packages on March 30, 2015.

Until recently, the policies and procedures for community release were somewhat complicated and required multiple staff members to review the offender release application before a final decision could be rendered. The thinking behind the creation of the unit was straightforward - if the decision was made by one person, it would be made in a consistent manner. In addition, the same guidelines for the intensity of supervision and the amount of community



Members of the Community Release Unit (L to R): Counselor Supervisor Gavin Galligan, Counselor Melvin Floyd, Secretary 1 Gloria Shabenas, Counselor Adam Tuller, Director William Murphy, Counselor Supervisor John Ouellet, Counselor Elizabeth Tugie, Counselor Ebonie Suggs.

treatment would be applied to all offenders applying for community release. This new level of continuity will be accomplished through the use of new assessment tools such as the Statewide Collaborative Offender Risk Evaluation System (SCORES).

The existence of the CRU will promote staff safety by allowing staff resources to be reallocated and focus more on facility operations. The time that was spent reviewing applications will be used for other critical functions such as clinical supervision of necessary programming.

Once an offender has been identified by the facility classification staff as eligible

for Community Release, facility staff will assemble materials required for the decision to be made and submit the review electronically to the CRU.

Once the CRU receives the material, they will review the materials and render a decision consistent with public safety and risk reduction. They will then notify the facility staff and Parole and Community Services staff electronically of the release decision.

This new procedure results in the elimination of four levels of review that were necessary in the former community release approval process.

Along with Director Murphy, the CRU is staffed by: Counselor Supervisors Gavin Galligan and John Ouellet, Counselors Melvin Floyd, Ebonie Suggs, Elizabeth Tugie, Adam Tuller; and Secretary 1 Gloria Shabenas.

By establishing the CRU, the following outcomes will be achieved: a reduction in the amount of time it takes to make individual community release decisions, a reduction in the number of cases returned to facilities for additional information; increased utilization of residential and non-residential programs, and a reduction in the instances of technical and criminal violations.

K-9 Cold Weather Rescue

A missing child was located and very may well have avoided freezing to death thanks to the dedicated work of the Department of Correction's K-9 Handler Shawn Dexter and his K-9 partner, Mack. Cheshire Police responded to a local residence on the evening of January 30, 2015, to find that a juvenile had jumped from a twelve foot balcony into the snow wearing only a thin long sleeve shirt, pants and boots. The outside temperature was in the teens, with the overnight forecast low of nine degrees below zero.

Within an hour, K-9 Officer Dexter responded to the scene, gathered articles of clothing containing the scent of the juvenile and began, along with Cheshire Police Officers, to search for the missing child. Officer Dexter and K-9 Mack tracked the child's scent for more than forty-five minutes in knee deep snow, covering well over a quarter mile of rough terrain. The K-9 team found the missing juvenile in a secluded, wooded area, wearing only the above described clothing. The youth was

visibly shivering, and had been lying on the ground with the intention of sleeping there overnight.

The brutal cold in combination with the dark and rough terrain provided the perfect ingredients for a possible catastrophic outcome. However, this was not the case, thanks to their hard work, training and dedication, Officer Dexter and K-9 Mack were able to return a cold and troubled youngster to his anxious parents.

In a letter of gratitude received by K-9 Supervisor Lieutenant Andre Cox, Sergeant Frederick Jortner of the Cheshire Police Department wrote, "Officer Dexter's outstanding performance is in keeping with the finest traditions of Connecticut K-9 handlers and reflects great credit upon him, the Department of Correction, and the State of Connecticut. It is my honor and privilege to recognize him for his assistance and contribution to our grateful town."



Department of Correction K-9 Handler Shawn Dexter and his K-9 partner Mack.

Around the Cell Block



OHIO - Electronic cigarettes, growing in popularity, are showing up at jails in more than a dozen states, including Ohio, Illinois, South Carolina and Texas. Many jail officials say the benefits of e-cigarettes outweigh any potential problems or health risks. They say e-cigarettes calm agitated inmates, decrease traditional cigarette contraband and bring in more revenue for the jails.

MINNESOTA - Governor Mark Dayton defended the Minnesota Department of Corrections' newly-adopted policy that forbids news cameras during interviews with prison inmates. The policy adopted in February, now includes news cameras as contraband, lumping them with pornography, lighters, knives and other dangerous objects.

**Total
Supervised
Population
on
May 4, 2015
19,882**

**On May 4, 2014
the population was
20,546**

Sisters Keeping the Faith

The Hartford Correctional Center had some very special guests recently as the Mother Superior General and the United States Provincial Superior of the order of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (ASCJ) came to see firsthand the work of Department of Correction Chaplain Sister Jerilyn Hunihan.



Warden William Faneuff giving a tour of the Hartford Correctional Center to (L to R) Sister Jerilyn Hunihan, Mother General Claire Millea and US Provincial Superior Anne Theresa Walsh.

Sister Hunihan, a member of the ASCJ order, was excited for her superiors to see where she worked. Mother Clare Millea, a native of Derby, CT, and Mother General from Rome visits the sisters in the US Province once every three years to meet with each sister. Accompanying her was Sister, Anne Theresa Walsh, ASCJ, US Provincial Superior. Neither had visited the Hartford Correctional Center before.

“They have heard me say many times how much I love my ministry here at HCC, and today they experienced briefly what I see every day,” Sister Hunihan said. “I am very proud to be a part of this facility and the DOC.” Upon arriving at the facility on Thursday, March 19, they were greeted by Director of Religious Services Reverend Anthony Bruno and Sister Hunihan. They then proceeded to Warden William Faneuff’s office where he gave them a general overview of the agency and the facility. Afterwards, Warden Faneuff led the sisters on a tour of the facility.

The visiting sisters were clearly impressed with the operation of the facility. The Mother Superior General made mention on several occasions about how the staff treated the offenders with dignity. The sisters were also appreciative of Commissioner Scott Semple’s effort to rush over from a meeting at the Capitol to personally welcome them during their tour.

After the tour, Sister Hunihan was relieved as her superiors asked that she continue her work as a Department of Correction Chaplain. Initially starting out as a volunteer, Hunihan has been a DoC Chaplain since 2007. “I could have been asked to go to another ministry,” Hunihan said. “I’m so happy to continue my work here.”

Commissioner’s Cup Presentation

Thanks to the success of last year’s Commissioner’s Cup Charity Golf Tournament, a donation in the amount of \$1,000 was recently presented to the Department’s Military Peer Support Group. The Military Peer Support Group offers services intended to support the needs of the Department’s armed forces members and their families; pre-active, active, and post deployment. Currently there are 11 DoC staff members actively deployed in the armed services.

Pictured during the presentation are (L to R) Counselor Dionne Bond, Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Cepelak, Substance Abuse Counselor Vonnice Luna, Commissioner Scott Semple, and Counselor Adam Mack.



Raising the Bar

In a test of strength, staff of the Connecticut Department of Correction converged on the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development on Saturday, March 28, to compete in the first ever “Squat Off” challenge.



Commissioner Scott Semple (center) and Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Cepelak (R) present the team trophy to the team from MCTSD; (L to R) Director Lauren Powers, Cpt. Mike Pafumi, and Correction Officer Brian LaPila.

The competition was held in part to support the training academy’s Quality of Work Life Committee, but also to encourage general fitness and the well being of staff. Male competitors “squatted” their weight and female competitors “squatted” 50% of their weight as many times as they could.

The winner of the female competition was Correction Officer Yasenya Oquendo of the Hartford Correctional Center with an impressive total of 84 repetitions.

The top male competitor was Captain Nelson Correia of the Northern Correctional Institution with a total of 75 repetitions.

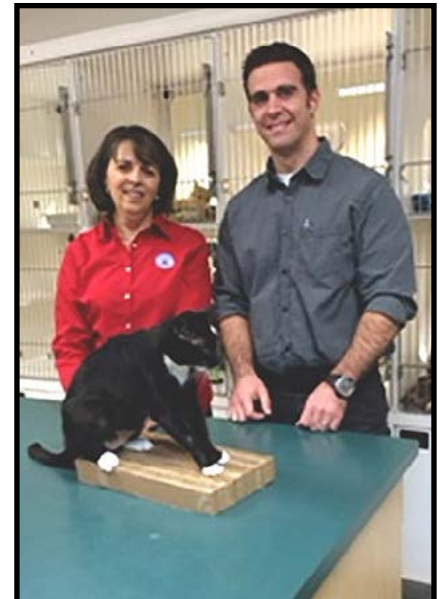
Winning the team trophy was the crew from the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development with a total of 143 repetitions.

Not one to sit on the sidelines, Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Cepelak also participated in the event. Commissioner Scott Semple was also on hand to lend encouragement and support to all the competitors.

Cardboard for Kitties

Having to pay \$15 for a cardboard cat scratcher for his pet led Department of Correction Unified School District #1’s Vocational Instructor Jared Welcome to come up with a win-win-win situation for the Connecticut Humane Society, offenders, and the environment alike.

After buying a cat scratcher from a pet store, Welcome, who teaches at the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution, got to thinking that he could have his students manufacture the item from



The CT Humane Society’s Barbara DeBellis Naugle with Vocational Instructor Jared Welcome.

recycled cardboard. He also came up with the idea to donate the cat scratchers to The Connecticut Humane Society’s cat adoption program.

By making the cat scratchers, the offenders are learning manufacturing skills that will increase their chances of getting a job upon their release. The cat scratcher program also teaches inmates how to give back to the community and others.

Beginning in January of this year, Welcome has been delivering approximately 25 cardboard cat scratchers a month to the Humane Society in Newington, and is committed to continuing making monthly drop-offs. During a recent delivery, Humane Society staff pointed out that there is concrete evidence that a shelter animal having a toy significantly reduces their stress level, which in turn leads to better health. A seemingly simple idea has resulted in a win-win-win situation: the offenders win by learning valuable skills; the environment benefits by having more materials recycled; and of course, the cats win.

Display Case on Display

When the staff at Osborn CI and facility visitors walk down A-Corridor to their assigned posts within the facility or a facility tour, they are going to see a new addition. A trophy case once housed in the warden's corridor has been moved to this prominent and central location. The case contains over a dozen trophies won over the years by Osborn staff for events such as charity volleyball and bowling tournaments, United Way, CERT musters, and the Commissioner's Award. "It was important to me that the case be relocated so that staff who contributed to winning the awards can see and appreciate them, instead of a location not visible to many staff. After all, it was Osborn staff that made the achievements possible and not my office." said Warden Edward Maldonado. The trophy case recognizes the efforts and professionalism of Osborn staff in DoC competitions and commemorates the generosity of other staff with their time and efforts for charitable events.



Years Of Service

Employees with 20 Years of Service as of December 2014

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Anderson, Scott	Corr Treatment Offcer	Cheshire CI	12/9/1994
Bader, Erik	Correction Officer	Enfield CI	12/9/1994
Berrios, Maribel	Secretary2	Ctrl Off	12/27/1994
Bouchard, Paul	Lieutenant	Northern CI	12/9/1994
Brostek, Kevin	Correction Officer	CRCC	12/9/1994
Brown-Burgess, Latrece	Lieutenant	NHCC	12/9/1994
Brunski, Daniel	Correction Officer	York CI	12/9/1994
Burgess, Charles	Correction Officer	CRCC	12/9/1994
Cicchetti, Dino	Captain	CRCI	12/9/1994
Corley, Andrew	Correction Officer	NHCC	12/9/1994
Costa, Mario	Plnt Facils Engr1	Northern CI	12/30/1994
Crowley, Michael	Correction Officer	WCCI	12/9/1994
Delaney, William	Correction Officer	CRCC	12/9/1994
Dimmock, Jeffrey	Corr Plmr & Stmfr	Enfield CI	12/9/1994
Discordia, Steven	Correction Officer	York CI	12/9/1994
Dumaine, David	Correction Officer	CRCC	12/9/1994
Durst, Dorothy	School Dept Head	Brooklyn CI	12/20/1994
Flannery, John	HVAC Techn	MYI	12/23/1994
Flores, Eric	Correction Officer	Osborn CI	12/30/1994
Gagnier, Camille	Correction Officer	CRCC	12/9/1994
Gagnon, Jason	Lieutenant	Garner CI	12/9/1994
Giammarino, Wendy	Office Assistant	Osborn CI	12/2/1994
Girard, Jeffrey	State School Teacher	MYI	12/9/1994
Goodhall, Timothy	Correction Officer	Northern CI	12/9/1994

Drug Trends

The Department's Addiction Service Training Advisory Committee organized a training entitled, "Drug Trends and Prevention" held at the Wethersfield Police Station on March 27. Approximately 25 Department of Correction staff members attended the presentation given by Barry Cerreto and Marlene McGann of the Connecticut Poison Control Center's Drug Control Unit.



Connecticut Poison Control Center's Barry Cerreto.

Years Of Service cont.

Employees with 20 Years of Service as of December 2014

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Gorman, Daniel	Correction Officer	Osborn CI	12/9/1994
Gumkowski, Dayne	Correction Officer	York CI	12/9/1994
Gwiazdowski, David	Corr Counselor	Brooklyn CI	12/9/1994
Hirschboeck, Mark	Lieutenant	Brooklyn CI	12/9/1994
Hogg, Gary	Correction Officer	Osborn CI	12/9/1994
Holt, Craig	Correction Officer	CRCC	12/9/1994
Jackson, Brian	Correctional Captain	Northern CI	12/9/1994
Johnson-Strozier, Delores	Lieutenant	Enfield CI	12/9/1994
Keaveney, Jason	Correction Officer	Ctrl Off	12/9/1994
Kiczuk, Michael	Corr Indry Supv2	Osborn CI	12/30/1994
Krasner, Robert	Food Svcs Supv2	CRCI	12/30/1994
Lang, Donna	State School Teacher	Cheshire CI	6/24/1994
LeFrancois, Lisa	Fiscal/Admin Offcer	Ctrl Off	12/30/1994
Lindley, Christopher	Correction Officer	WCCI	10/14/1994
Lynch, Daniel	Correction Officer	CRCC	12/9/1994
Martinez, Walter	Correction Officer	Northern CI	12/9/1994
Martucci, Karen	Deputy Warden	Ctrl Off	12/9/1994
Mastroianni, Pasquale	Correction Officer	Cheshire CI	12/9/1994
McKenna, Kevin	Correction Officer	CRCC	12/9/1994
Miranda, Heitor	Accountant	Ctrl Off	12/30/1994
Owens, Victor	Correction Officer	WCCI	12/9/1994
Parent, Thomas	Correction Officer	Cheshire CI	12/9/1994
Petty, Dara	Correction Officer	NHCC	12/9/1994
Schoonmaker, Joseph	Correction Officer	CRCC	12/9/1994
Sisk, James	Correction Officer	MWCI	12/9/1994
Sousa, Scott	Correction Officer	CRCC	10/14/1994
Stacy, Joseph	Correction Officer	CRCC	12/9/1994
Thomas, Lucas	Correction Officer	Osborn CI	12/9/1994
Thompson, Elizabeth	Secretary2	Garner CI	12/30/1994
Tubridy, Matthew	Correction Officer	York CI	12/9/1994
Turowsky, Michael	Lieutenant	Ctrl Off	12/9/1994
Weaver, David	Correction Officer	Osborn CI	12/9/1994
Woodward, Elizabeth	Correction Officer	Osborn CI	12/30/1994

Employees with 25 Years of Service as of December 2014

Bertrand, Mary	Correction Officer	MYI	12/15/1989
Castonguay, Pamela	Iden & Rcrd Spec1	MWCI	12/8/1989
Davis, Michael	Deputy Warden	Hartford CC	12/15/1989
Pacheco, Jerilynn	Iden & Rcrd Spec1	Brooklyn CI	12/29/1989
Quiros, Angel	Warden 3	Cntrl Off	12/15/1989

Trauma Training

The department's Tactical Operations Unit in conjunction with the Multijurisdictional Courter Drug Task Force (MCTFT) hosted a one day training program titled "TacMed – Tactical Combat Casualty Care" on March 18, 2015. The training, which consisted of two individual four-hour sessions, was held at Webster CI.



Participants practice applying a tourniquet.

After completing the training, first responders were equipped to provide lifesaving interventions to wounded officers and civilians in a life threatening environment. TacMed was designed to help Law Enforcement Officers benefit from medical knowledge gained in combat and incorporate it into their procedures in responding to high risk active incidents.