



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 alligned 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.

Dog Dynasty

For the second year in a row Department of Correction's K-9 Handler Tom Huckins and his K-9 Partner Saber was the overall winner of the Connecticut State Police K-9 Olympics. The 25th annual edition of the K-9 Olympics took place on Saturday, July 16 and saw a total of six DoC K-9 Handlers and their four-legged partners participate in the competition which was held on the grounds of UCONN's Depot Campus located across the street from the former Bergin Correctional Institution in Mansfield. All totaled, 25 police and corrections K-9 teams competed in this year's Olympics from cities and towns throughout Connecticut. The event took place on a hot and humid day in front of hundreds of excited spectators and canine enthusiasts.



K-9 Handler Tom Huckins and Saber.

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From the Commissioner



July and August signify the height of the summer season, with its high temperatures, humidity, and plans for vacations. July is also the start of the new fiscal year. I wish that I could say that this fiscal year is going to be better than the previous one, but I cannot. In fact when the agency recently submitted its plan to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to operate within the available budget for fiscal year 2017, it did so with an additional \$10.6 million in necessary expenditure reductions. That is on top of the \$66 million that had already been pared from this year's operating budget. Yet despite the current fiscal outlook, I am confident that the Department of Correction will be able to operate within available resources.

see No Plans for Layoffs/page 2

Bald Eagles Nesting at York CI

Aside from being the only prison for women in Connecticut, the York Correctional Institution also has the unique distinction of being home to the only nesting pair of bald eagles on any prison grounds in the State. On the island that once housed a heron and egret rookery of 30 nests, the facility's resident pair of bald eagles have made their nest and hatched two chicks this year. With three bodies of water on the grounds, there is no shortage of food for these doting parents. The grounds of the York Correctional Institution are host to such a wide and diverse array of flora and fauna. Other predators that have been seen on the grounds of the



A bald eagle protects its nest on the grounds of York CI.

facility including ospreys, foxes, coyotes, otters, beavers, fisher cats and even a resident bobcat. In the midst of a sprawling complex of concrete and fences there is the serenity that can only be found in nature.

A special thank you to Correction Officer Chuck Ward for the amazing picture. Additional thanks go out to Correction Officers Christopher Thomson and Adam Dembinski in assisting the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in monitoring the progress of the eagles and their offspring.

No Plans for More Layoffs from page 1

We can achieve this goal thanks in large part to the following initiatives: the elimination of existing position vacancies; the annual savings of positions that have not been refilled through staff attrition; savings from projected additional staff attrition; the elimination of some posts; the maximization of non-general fund sources for the funding of positions; and continued efforts to reduce overtime costs.

Through these efforts, I am pleased to say that at this time, no immediate layoffs appear to be necessary.

I realize that these difficult economic times have resulted in an unsettling and stressful situation for many of us. It is my hope that the current situation can help to reduce some of the anxiety many of you are experiencing. For your part, I ask that you continue to look for additional ways in which to increase efficiencies, and reduce expenditures.

The greatest strength of this department is its people, and your continued commitment to excellence. Thank you all for your continued efforts to keep the citizens of the State of Connecticut safe. Safety is, and will always be, our top priority.

Let me take this opportunity to reaffirm my promise to keep you updated on any new information regarding the budget and the way it will affect the manner in which the agency operates.

It is because of the high caliber of the staff of this agency that I am confident we will weather this economic storm. When all is said and done, I believe as an agency we will emerge from this experience as a more efficient and more responsive operation.

Ifkovic-Mau Presents Research Findings

Alicia Ifkovic-Mau presented her research findings on hepatitis C viral infection prevalence in the New Haven jail on June 8 at a Washington, DC panel convened by the prestigious Institute of Medicine (IOM). Ms. Ifkovic-Mau is a Counselor Supervisor working in the Health and Addiction Services Unit. Ms. Ifkovic-Mau worked with Dr. Doug Bruce and staff from the Cornell Scott Hill Health Center, Andrea Lombard from the Department of Public Health, and Shanon Beckford formerly from the Department of Correction. Dr. Maurer, Director of CT DOC Health and Addiction Services, provided direction and oversight for the project. The IOM invited Ms. Ifkovic-Mau to discuss the details of her study as well as the findings as the Institute is currently charged with studying the feasibility of eliminating hepatitis B and hepatitis C in the United States. Since hepatitis C is over-represented in the nation's correctional systems, the IOM is deeply interested in not only the prevalence of hepatitis C viral infection in the criminal justice system, but also in the feasibility of treatment including linkage to care of the jailed population.



Counselor Supervisor
Alicia Ifkovic-Mau.

The Connecticut work is some of the first of its kind in the nation looking at the prevalence of HCV infection in jails. Dr. Maurer sits on the IOM panel and suggested that Ms. Ifkovic-Mau would be an excellent contributor to the Institute's work on hepatitis C viral infection elimination.

Reentry Forum at Osborn CI

On Tuesday June 14, 2016, Osborn CI held a Reentry Forum in the facility Chapel from 11:30 A.M. until 2:30 P.M. The forum was a first of its kind to be held at Osborn and was put together by Counselor Tracy Miller and Counselor Liz Vereen with assistance by USD #1 School Teacher Laurie Schaefer of Osborn. The forum was designed to showcase the importance of reentry and programming in order to begin the process of successful



Service providers at Osborn CI's Reentry Forum.

reintegration while still incarcerated. The forum had approximately 100 inmates in attendance, all of whom are currently active in programming inside the facility. The forum began with hearing re-entry success stories from four former offenders (three males and one female). Afterwards, the forum transitioned to presentations from 10 organizations, both public and private, who offer services that can assist offenders with successful reintegration upon discharge.

Some of the service providers who attended the forum included: Diane Jones, Director of Re-Entry Services for the City of Hartford and Holly Wasilewski, Re-Entry and Community Outreach Coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office. Other attendees included Families in

Crisis, STRIDE, DMHAS, Goodwill, CT Judicial Branch, Advocacy Unlimited and also American Job Centers. The forum was very well received, and due to its success, there are plans to put together another forum in the future.

Diversity

Beyond Race and Gender

Submitted by Christian Moore of the Affirmative Action Unit

When we look at the term diversity; how could we ever begin to think that it expands beyond race and gender? One could believe that these are the two most important attributes within the term because everything we hear and read about in society today has something to do with one or the other. From issues we hear about regarding the treatment of minorities



in society; to the acceptance of those that are different from the norm. Diversity will always play an important role in that spectrum.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines diversity as a condition of being diverse; which means differing from one another; composed of distinct or unlike elements or qualities. Incorporated in this are primary and secondary

dimensions. In the primary dimensions we have elements such as age, ethnicity, gender, mental and physical abilities/characteristics, sexual orientation, and race. In the secondary dimensions we have elements such as income, marital status, religious beliefs, work experience, educational background, and military experience.

Both of these dimensions play an important role in the day to day operations of the Department of Correction. Not only do staff differ within the primary dimensions, but there are two key elements within the secondary dimension that we should acknowledge: work experience and educational background.

Work experience is important within the DOC because staff rely on their colleagues' work experience to assist with getting the job done. Educational background is important because having the knowledge to understand the job and perform the duties appropriately are essential. Having these two elements not only assist in promoting a more harmonious work environment but they can strengthen employee relations.

Race and gender are two very important factors within diversity that we must continue to respect and appreciate. In addition, we must also look beyond those elements that we can see and judge at eye level, and look deeper to see the inner strengths of our co-workers that are just as important. At the end of the day; we all have a piece that will help in completing the puzzle.

Around the Cell Block



IDAHO – The Idaho Department of Correction recently promoted Gretchen Woodland as Captain of Security for one of the state's largest prisons. She is the first women ever in the history of the state of Idaho to attain the rank of Captain.

NEVADA - State Corrections Director James Dzurenda announced recently that inmates with HIV no longer will be segregated from the general prison population. They also will be provided the same opportunities as others to be assigned to work camps where they can earn credits faster toward early release.

OREGON – The Oregon Department of Corrections and the Oregon Department of Forestry recently completed their annual fire school for adults in custody assigned to outside fire crews. This year, the two agencies continue a successful partnership into their 65th year.

**Total
Supervised
Population
on
August 2, 2016
19,536
On August 2, 2015
the population was
20,077**

Garner CI Facility Awards

Staff members of the Garner Correctional Institution were honored on June 23, 2016, at the facility's 2016 Annual Employee Recognition Ceremony. Warden Henry Falcone recognized staff with awards for their exceptional work and honored staff members that have 20 years or more of state service. Warden Falcone also expressed his appreciation to the staff for their contributions toward ensuring the safety and security of the facility and protecting the citizens of the State of Connecticut. At the conclusion of the ceremony Warden Falcone thanked the family members and friends who provide the staff with their love and support.

Correction Officer of the Year: Jeremy Chicano

Supervisor of the Year: Captain Lance Morris

Counselor of the Year: Tammy Perreault

Correctional Treatment Officer of the Year: Paolo Santilli

Employee of the Year: Gregory Bollaro

Unit of the Year: Admitting and Processing Officers Stephen Cross, Joseph Fernandes, Jason Ile, Paul Maloney, Robert McGowan, John Miklazina, Elijah Medina, Bruce Perno, Brenda Quinones, and Frank Romanelli

Teacher of the Year: Lenore Gain

Food Services Award of Appreciation: Vincent Cinelli, Carla Fabiano, Lisa Fasino, Michael Fasino, William LeFebvre, Robert Mills, and Wilfred Parilla

Maintenance Staff of the Year: Eric Meady

Special Award of Appreciation: Beyonka Ligon

Medical Staff Member of the Year: Adriana Debarros

Mental Health Staff of the Year: Jaime Bonaiuto



Warden, Henry Falcone (L) presents retired officer Jeremy Chicano with the Officer of the Year Award.

Honor Guard Recruitment

Director Roger Bowles has announced new members are being sought for the Department's Honor Guard Unit, for the positions of Color Guard member and Bagpipers. Interested employees are encouraged to review Administrative Directive 2.16, Honor Guard, for eligibility requirements including sick leave usage, discipline history, sexual harassment and workplace violence history, service ratings and physical appearance standards. In reference to the Color Guard selection, any member of the Department of Correction with a minimum service of three (3) years shall be eligible. A letter of interest and/or resume is requested to include date of hire, three (3) years of time and attendance records, the last three (3) years evaluations and two (2) letters of reference from shift commander and immediate supervisor.

In reference to the Bagpiper Band selection, any member of the Department with a minimum service of one (1) year shall be eligible. A letter of interest and/or resume is requested to include date of hire, one (1) year of time and attendance record, last evaluation and two (2) letters of reference from shift commander and immediate supervisor.

Interested employees may mail their information to Captain Ned McCormick to be placed on an interview list:

Captain Ned McCormick, Honor Guard Commander

District 1 Office - 1153 East Street South

Suffield, CT. 06078

Closing date - August 31, 2016. Interviews/auditions will be conducted shortly thereafter.

Enfield Continues Prison Partnership For July 4th Celebration

This article written by Taylor Swaak appeared in the Hartford Courant on July 9, 2016 and is reprinted here with permission.

Less than five hours before the Enfield Fourth of July Town Celebration kicked off on Friday, volunteers decked out in red, white and blue bustled around the town green handling last-minute preparations.

Among them were 20 men hard at work, easily distinguishable in their tan uniforms.

For about 20 years, prisoners from the Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution in Somers have volunteered with setup and cleanup at this annual event.

The inmates worked all of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday assisting with tasks ranging from setting up the stage — a job that would normally cost about \$8,000 — to setting up lighting, chairs and tables and helping vendors put up tents and equipment. They're returning on Monday for cleanup as well.

Holding this town tradition, which is run by a nonprofit and relies on 300-400 volunteers and sponsors, wouldn't be possible without the inmates' efforts, town Councilor Greg Stokes said.

"It's a godsend for us on the committee, because these guys work," said Stokes, one of Enfield Fourth of July Committee Inc.'s directors.

The inmates volunteering have a Tier 1 designation, meaning they are non-violent offenders with "not a lot of time left and no trouble in the jail," correction officer Anthony Santoro said, noting that Willard-Cybulski is a minimum-security prison that houses prisoners with seven years or less remaining on their sentences.

"A lot of guys want to get out just to get out," Santoro said. "To see someone out in the public, it kind of makes them feel better."

Prisoners from Willard-Cybulski have volunteered at other community events as well, such as the Wapping Fair in South Windsor and the Renaissance Faire in North Haven, Santoro said.

Chris, an inmate who declined to give his last name, said the kindness and respect he and his fellow prisoners have received these past few days exceeded his expectations.

"I hoped for it, but I didn't expect it," he said. "It was refreshing — people have been awesome."

Now that these prisoners have served their time, it's vital they're given opportunities like these to ease their way back into the community, Stokes said.

Having the inmates here "helps [people] to have a better understanding — a lack of nervousness — when they become reattached to the community," he said. "They need to be given the opportunity to succeed."



Fireworks highlight the town of Enfield's 4th of July celebration.



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Hands for Help

New Haven Correctional Center's Lt. Jamel Linen gives back to the community



NHCC's Lt. Jamel Linen

Jamel Linen began his career with the Department of Correction in 2006 at the Bridgeport Community Correctional Center. He became a CERT member in 2008 and is currently a CERT Team Leader. He was promoted to Lieutenant at the New Haven Community Correctional Center in 2013 and became a unit manager for all orientation housing units in 2015. He has served as an in-service instructor and was a Class Manager for Pre-Service Class 267. He has proven to be a very effective supervisor and valuable leader.

Lt. Linen is originally from New Haven. He attended city high schools before attending Delaware State University and Gateway Community College. He is also a drawing artist and has attended art school. In 2013, Lt. Linen and his brothers, Adrian and Joel Pate, started a non-profit organization named Hands for Help. Younger brother, Deandre Linen, has also recently become involved. The organization focuses on helping the youth of New Haven in various ways. The organization conducts an annual backpack drive. This past August, 257 backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed to area students; no one was turned away. Hands for Help will soon award two area college-bound students with scholarships of \$500 to be used for books or other educational expenses. With the assistance of school guidance counselors, the students are chosen based on demonstrations of consistent progress throughout high school and financial need. Hands for Help conducted a Winter Food Drive in 2015, resulting in more than 1,500 non-perishable food items collected and distributed to various New Haven churches. The organization plans to make this an annual event.

The Linen and Pate brothers have big dreams and plans for the future. They will try to acquire office space for Hands for Help. They would like to start a youth program with the ultimate intention of steering youth in the right direction and prepare them for life and adulthood.

Lt. Linen has a family of his own yet he is generous with his time; he coaches basketball teams consisting of children ranging in age from seven to ten years of age, and he also volunteers for Special Olympics. He is an exceptional person who values family, community and friends. NHCC recently recognized Lt. Linen with its' Distinguished Public Service Award.

For the Children

Warden Carol Chapdelaine of the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution was notified that a child of one of the department's retired staff members had been operated on for a brain tumor. Staff at the facility rallied together and collected toys, games, craft supplies, etc. to donate to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. These gifts made a big difference to the children and families spending time in the hospital.



K-9 Olympics from page 1

The competition consisted of six sections; Tactical Obedience, Obstacle Course, Obedience, Distance Obedience, Firearms and Criminal Apprehension. Each section is judged and scored by a veteran canine handler.

As mentioned earlier, the 2016 overall winner was DOC's Correction Officer Tom Huckins and his K-9 Partner, Saber. Saber is a 2½ year old German shepherd that weighs 77 pounds. Officer Huckins and Saber graduated from the 16-week State Police Patrol Dog Academy back in 2014. The fact that the team was able to win the overall prize for a second year in a row is truly an outstanding accomplishment. The DOC's Lieutenant Ron Zaczynski and his K-9 partner Tower also earned an honorable mention by scoring first place in the Obstacle Course.



K-9 Handler Lieutenant Ron Zaczynski and his K-9 partner Tower took first place in the obstacle course segment.

In addition to the K-9 competition there were also multiple displays and events for spectators to enjoy. The DOC's Tactical Operations Unit had display tables staffed by members of SITCON, CERT and SOG. The Capital Region Emergency Response Team displayed an armored police vehicle, the State Police displayed vintage police patrol cars and on a softer note, a team of clowns from the Shriners made animal balloons for the children in attendance.

Admission to the K-9 Olympics is free of charge, and all proceeds earned through food and T-shirt sales - which this year totaled an impressive \$5,000 - were donated to a variety of charities including a fund established for the families of the slain Dallas Police Department officers.

The K-9 Olympics is organized by a committee headed by senior K-9 Officers of the UCONN Police Department

as well as representatives from the Connecticut State Police and the Department of Correction. A special thanks goes out from the K-9 Olympics Committee to the DoC District 1 Engineering/Facilities Management staff from Turkey Hill who did all of the heavy lifting, moving of obstacles, and setting up of tents despite miserable weather conditions. Their efforts helped to make the 2016 K-9 Olympics a success.

**Photo on front page courtesy of Kim Carino*

Years of Service

Employees with 20 Years of DOC Service as of February 2016

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Banas, Brian	Parole Officer 2	Cntrl Off	2/16/1996
Connelly, Pamela	Principal HR Spelst	Cntrl Off	2/28/1986

Employees with 25 Years of DOC Service as of February 2016

Powers, Lauren	Corr Warden 1	MCTSD	2/8/1991
Walsh, Douglas	Genl Maint Off	Northern CI	2/15/1991