

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.

From the Commissioner



As you might imagine, as Commissioner of the State’s largest agency, on any given day I receive numerous letters addressing a wide-range of issues from a diverse group of individuals and organizations.

Although I am not exactly sure why, perhaps it can be attributed to human nature, people are more likely to write to complain about their experiences – rather than write to acknowledge something positive. It is exactly for this reason, two letters I recently received caught my attention.

The first correspondence was from a woman who was visiting an offender at the Cheshire Correctional Institution. She was accompanied by her youngest daughter. The young girl came to spend some time with her father on her 14th birthday.

In her letter, the mother was effusive in her praise of officers on duty that day, Lauri Briatico and Howard Castle.

see Expressions of Gratitude/page 4

October 29, 2016
through
December 5, 2016

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New Roles

Commissioner Scott Semple officially swore in the department’s newest deputy wardens as well as the new Director of Human Resources prior to the top managers meeting at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development held on October 28, 2016.

In addition to the new managers, Commissioner Semple also swore in three correction officers who were unable to attend their pre-service class’ graduation ceremony (one individual had sustained an injury, while the other two had military obligations).

With their loved ones looking on, and their right hands raised, correction officers Martin Colon, Johann VanWoerden, and Justin Williamson took the oath of office. Commissioner Semple then turned his attention to the agency’s newest managers - deputy wardens Cynthia Scarmozzino and Derrick Molden, along with the Director of Human Resources Jeffrey Miller.

see Promotions and Reassignments/page ?

Dannel P. Malloy
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Facility Awards at Carl Robinson CI

Warden Kimberly Weir along with Deputy Wardens Yadira Otero-Negron, and Paul Ouellette presented facility awards to the outstanding staff members of the Carl Robinson Correctional Institution during a ceremony held on November 9, 2016 in the facility's visiting room. Commissioner Scott Semple, Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Cepelak and District Administrator Peter Murphy were also on hand to lend their support to the ceremony which recognized staff members for their outstanding services to Carl Robinson CI and the Department of Correction. In addition to the individual awards and the unit award, Warden Weir acknowledged the important contribution of those staff members who were also members of the Nation's armed forces.

The 2016 Carl Robinson Correctional Institution award recipients

**Supervisor of the Year (Support) – Counselor Supervisor
Don Cieslukowski**

Supervisor of the Year (Custody) – 3rd shift Lt. Juan Ibes

Correction Officer of the Year (1st) – Eric Hurley

Correction Officer of the Year (2nd) – Paul Goudreault

Correction Officer of the Year (3rd) – Adam Hinkley

Classification Counselor of the Year - Tuere Miller

Addiction Service Counselor of the Year – Morgan White

Teacher of the Year – Carlos Rodriguez

Food Service Supervisor of the Year – Kristian Koiva CFSS2

Health Services Employee of the Year – Kelly Schabot

Clerical of the Year – Larnetta King

Employee of the Year – Lt. Tara Keaton

Unit of the Year – Maintenance



**Larnetta King receives CRCI's,
Clerical of the Year.**



Carl Robinson CI staff members who have also serve(d) in the United States military.

Invisible Disabilities

Submitted by Holly Darin, Director of the Affirmative Action Unit

The term “disability” has many different meanings. When thinking of the term “disability”, many people often think only of the obvious, including mobility impairments and sensory disabilities, such as blindness. However, the term disability can include conditions that are invisible to others.

“Invisible disabilities” are just that, invisible or not readily apparent which can include symptoms such as debilitating pain, fatigue, dizziness, cognitive dysfunctions, brain injuries, learning differences and mental health disorders, as well as hearing and vision impairments. There are thousands of illnesses, disorders, diseases, dysfunctions, birth defects, impairments and injuries that can be debilitating. To name only a few... Fibromyalgia, Depression, Anxiety, Traumatic Brain Injury, Concussions, Panic Attacks, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, PTSD, Diabetes, Arthritis, Complex Regional Pain Syndrome, Sleep Apnea, Endometriosis, ADHD, Lyme Disease, Dyslexia & Ulcerative Colitis.



An invisible disability can hinder a person’s efforts to go to school, work, and socialize. In addition to posing a challenge to the individual who has it, the reality is that the disability can be difficult for others to recognize or acknowledge.

Unfortunately, people often judge others by what they see and conclude a person can or cannot do something by the way they look. The assumption often is that if one cannot see it the suffering must not be that bad and individuals with invisible disabilities are told “but you look fine”, “it’s in your head”, “it’s your fault”, and “get your act together.”

The topic of invisible disabilities is an important and personal one for me. My son Ricky is 17 years old and when looking at him you would have no idea that he suffers from any disability. However, he has no hearing in his left ear as a result of having meningitis as a toddler. Additionally, he has learning disabilities and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. He speaks loudly, tends to get distracted when interacting

with large groups of people, and has difficulty organizing and completing school work. From childhood, he has continually struggled with negative comments from those with whom he interacts which has impacted his self-worth.

Due to his disability, he gets extra time on exams and assistance at school. As a result, he has often been called “dumb” by his peers and laughed at because of the loudness with which he spoke. In the past, his teachers often became impatient with him. To this day, it is still a struggle at times for some of his teachers to understand that what they perceive as being disorganized, lazy, or disruptive may be associated with his disabilities and fear of bringing attention to himself.

It is estimated that millions of Americans have an invisible disability. However, just like Ricky many often prefer not to disclose or talk about their condition whether in the workplace or society due to fear of stigma or being judged by others. To help them we must learn to encourage and listen without judging what we cannot see.

Expressions of Gratitude from page 1

She commended them for, "...easing early morning tensions, creating a welcoming environment (despite the surroundings) and warming the heart of a 14-year-old girl and her mother."

She went on to write that she would, "...not forget that day and suspect my daughter won't either."

The writer wanted to make sure that I knew that the two officers had, "...gone above and beyond expected levels of professionalism and made a circumstance/situation/experience truly enjoyable."

The other correspondence I wanted to share came as essentially a written request. Back in 1990, the writer spent a month in the system. Now 26 years later, this individual still remembers the correction officer who treated, "...every inmate under his charge like they were people, but still [expecting] them to respect his position." In addition, the officer gave the offender positive feedback telling him that he could achieve whatever he wanted as long as he applied himself.

Upon his release, the offender found his way to Wisconsin where he has been employed by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections since 1992. He is currently employed as a correctional Captain/ 2nd Shift Commander at the Oshkosh Correctional Institution.

The writer asked if we could convey his message of gratitude to the officer who made the lasting impression on him more than a quarter of a century ago.

"I believe that I owe some credit for these accomplishments to the man who helped me see that I was more than I thought I was," he wrote.

How remarkable is it that the actions of a correction officer left such an impact on someone that they felt compelled to reach out 26 years later and thank them.

I have shared this information with you not just to highlight the professionalism of the officers involved, although they do have my sincere gratitude, but also to illustrate that the work you do as correctional professionals matters. Day in and day out, your actions affect people, in the short-term as well as the long-term. You are changing lives within the facilities and outside in the community as well.

As I mentioned earlier, people are far less likely to write to compliment someone for the service they received, in the case of the correctional captain, it took him more than two decades to get around to writing a letter. The fact of the matter is that for every person who does actually make a point of saying thank you, there are countless others who are quietly thankful for the important work that you do.

For my part, I want to make sure that you are aware of just how much I appreciate your dedicated and professional service to this great agency. Please know, for each time I say it, I think it many times over.

Around the Cell Block



NEVADA - The Nevada Department of Corrections has been awarded \$978,102 in federal money to support inmate re-entry and recidivism reduction programs. Director James Dzurenda said the grant will target male property crime inmates from ages 18 to 55 who are assessed as a moderate to high risk to re-offend.

WASHINGTON - The Washington DoC is hoping to change the language it uses to describe its incarcerated population. The department is phasing out the word "offender" and replacing it with "individuals." Other new terms include "student" if the person is in some type of class, or "patient" if they are in a prison infirmary.

OKLAHOMA - The Oklahoma DoC is asking for \$800,000,000 to build two new prisons. State official claim they are in dire need of new prisons, as two of their facilities, are both more than 100 years old.

**Total
Supervised
Population
on
December 5, 2016
19,352
On December 5, 2015
the population was
19,952**

Italian Heritage Celebrated at Corrigan-Radgowski CC

The Corrigan-Radgowski Diversity Council hosted an Italian Heritage Month Celebration in the Corrigan library on November 1, 2016. Speaking to an audience of approximately 25 staff members, keynote speaker, Attorney Daniel P. Elliot gave an enlightening presentation about the immigration of Italians to the United States during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Attorney Elliot spoke about the migration and settling of the Italian immigrants to various cities, such as New Haven, Waterbury, and Middletown. Immigrants were recruited to work in Connecticut. They traveled by steamships staying in the lowest steerage areas of the ship. Connecticut currently has one of the highest Italian populations in the nation.

Attorney Elliot is currently the President of the Connecticut Italian American Bar Association and Vice President (New England) of the National Italian Bar Association.

As an added bonus those in attendance were also treated to a presentation by the department's Director of Religious Services, Reverend Anthony J. Bruno. Father Bruno spoke about the cultural aspects of the Italian immigrants and the various ways that the Italian culture has worked its way into our current everyday lives. Food, wine, great artists, clothing design, shoes, gold, and the invention of modern water systems (such as the aqueducts) were discussed. Father Bruno related personal stories of his own relatives coming through Ellis Island during their trek to the United States. Father Bruno shared that during a visit to Ellis Island, he discovered that everyone entering the structure walked through a certain hallway. Touching those same walls, he was able to make a connection to his ancestors.

He also reminisced about his travels to Italy, describing the Italian culture. Speaking of Italian food, Reverend Bruno described the different foods associated with the different regions of Italy and the influences of the surrounding countries on the cuisine. Technology was prevalent in early Italian history. The aqueducts of Italy reached from the Alps to the cities, including Pompeii. Not only is Reverend Bruno the Department of Correction's Director of Religious Services, he is also the Chaplain for the Connecticut Italian American Bar Association. In 2014, he was the first non-attorney to receive the Italian-American Legal Achievement Award for his contributions to the legal profession.



L to R: Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist Christian Moore, Lt. Marco Perez, Captain Daniel Dougherty, Reverend Anthony J. Bruno, Reverend Mack Elder, President of the Connecticut Italian American Bar Association Daniel Elliot, and the Director of the Affirmative Action Unit Holly Darin.



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K9 Retirements

Submitted by Lt. Andre Cox

When a canine handler prepares to retire his or her partner, there are many emotional and physical concerns to consider. Above all they must remember that each situation is unique. It is reasonable to have a little fear of the unknown, but deep down they will know the right thing to do. During the course of the past year or two, we have had several officers that have retired their partners.

These officers and their partners have patrolled the State of Connecticut Department of Correction's facilities for the past several years. In that time they have assisted our correctional facilities in locating narcotics, cell extractions, emergency responses, and beyond all, keeping staff and inmate population safe, just to name a few. These canines are more than just a tool of the department, they are also part of our families. When the day is done they are able to wind down and just relax in front of the television with their handlers, or just find a quiet corner of the kitchen and wait for one of the kids to sneak them a treat.

We as handlers know it is time to retire our canine partners when they are unable to get up as quickly as they use to, or are not as energetic as they once were when it is time to go to work. That is when it is time for our partners, who we spend more time with than our families, to call it quits.

Some of the recent canine retirements include: officer Donald Austin who has been part of the Canine Unit since



Officer Donald Austin and Aldo

2002, has retired his second partner K9 Aldo. Officer Austin and K9 Aldo started their career together in 2009, and continued until he was retired in October of 2016. Officer Austin is now on his third partner, K9 Ruby - the Department's one and only Bloodhound.

Officer Josh Trifone started his career with K9 Apollo in December of 2008, and retired his partner in August 2016. Officer Trifone is currently attending The Connecticut State Police Canine Patrol Class with his new partner K9 Tango - they



Officer Joseph Motta and Viper



Officer Josh Trifone and Apollo

will graduate in December. Officer Carmen Vicenty began her career with her partner K9 Kimbo in 2010, and retired her partner in April of 2016. Officer Vicenty moved on with her career and is now assigned to Northern CI. Officer Joseph Motta and K9 Viper began their career in June of 2012, and retired his partner in 2015. Officer Motta has moved on in his career, he is currently with the Central Transportation Unit.

Well Deserved Rests from page 6



Officer Carmen Vincenty and Kimbo

Officer Mike Jasion and K9 Beny began their career in January of 2011, and retired his partner in February of 2016. Beny was an energetic partner with a playful demeanor, but was always ready to work when it was time. Unfortunately, K9 Beny passed away in October of 2016 due to an unknown ailment - we miss him dearly. Officer Jasion has moved on in his career and is now assigned to Northern CI.

The Canine Unit has a Memorial for all of the partners that the department has ever had at The Maloney Center for Training Staff Development. A brick for each partner is placed on the sidewalk leading to and around the memorial in remembrance of all that they have done. A poem on the Memorial reads: "Trust in me my friend for I am your comrade. I will protect you with my last breath, when all others have left you and the



Officer Mike Jasion and Beny

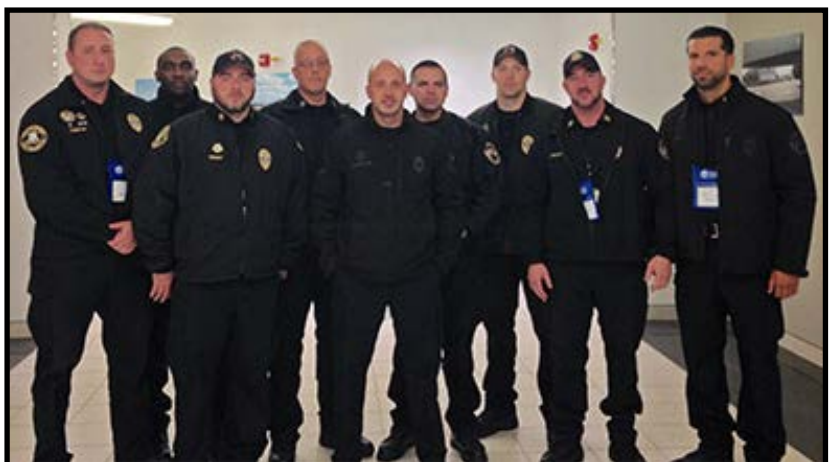
loneliness of the night closes in I will be at your side".

This is the true meaning of a canine team. To all of our retired partners who share the couch with us, or are watching over us on a daily basis, we thank you.

Disaster Training

Members of the Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) recently attended the 2016 Connecticut Mass Fatality Management Training Conference held October 25-27, at the New England Disaster Training Center at Camp Hartell in Windsor Locks.

The three day training was sponsored by the Department of Public Health and included presentations, demonstrations and hands on trainings related to disaster scene operations, disaster morgue operations and family center operations. Other agencies in attendance and presenters at the Conference included Connecticut State Police, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, National Transportation Safety Board, and the FBI Victim Assistance, Terrorism and Special Jurisdiction Unit.



Ready for a Disaster, L to R: Lt Chris Porlyo, Lt Jamel Linen, Capt Thomas Kenny, Capt Charles Fritz, Capt Jason Chapdelaine, Officer Walter Sullivan, Lt Matthew Prior, Capt Mike Pafumi, Lt Mike Moran

Impressive Curb Appeal

Thanks to the efforts of Correction Officer Robert Daddona, the grounds of the New Haven Correctional Center have never looked better. The improvement is so dramatic that visitors and neighborhood locals have taken notice.

Officer Daddona was assigned as the grounds officer at the New Haven facility on June 1, 2016. Within a short span of time, he has completely transformed the front of the building. Some of the enhancements include new wooden gates, the planting of flower beds and new grass along the front sidewalk. The improved curb appeal of the facility has prompted civilian neighbors of the facility to express their approval and gratitude, proving that efforts such as these do a great deal to strengthen the relationship between the facility and the community.

The staff at the New Haven facility are not surprised by Officer Daddona's accomplishment, as he has excelled in every position that he has held. Among his impressive



The new and improved grounds of the New Haven Correctional Center.

Years of Service

Employees with 20 Years of DOC Service as of September 2016

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Cooke, Kerry	Correction Officer	Garner CI	8/16/1996

Employees with 25 Years of DoC Service as of September 2016

Long, Christopher	Correction Officer	Bridgeport CC	9/6/1991
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Employees with 30 Years of DoC Service as of September 2016

Neuendorf, Pamela	Secretary 2	Bridgeport CC	9/5/1986
Brian Zawilinski	Captain	Central Office	9/19/1986

achievements include completely remodeling the former dorm visiting room into a staff gym.

Officer Daddona utilizes available resources and goes above and beyond to ensure that NHCC is viewed as a professional, community oriented facility. One of the most impressive things about officer Daddona is his resourcefulness – utilizing bottle return money to purchase what he can, and his relationships outside of work to acquire additional items at huge discounts. All the work he has done has been with extremely limited resources and has come at no cost to the facility.

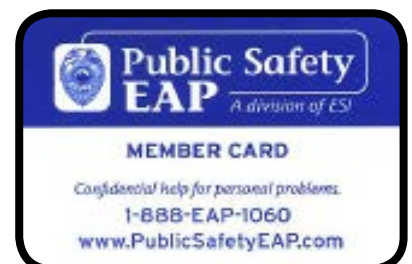
Years of Service

Employees with 20 Years of DoC Service as of October 2016

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Gonzalez, Dianna	Counslr Supv	Hartford CC	10/10/1996

Employees with 30 Years of DoC Service as of October 2016

Harrelson, Tracey	Idea & Rcrd Spec 2	WCCI	10/24/1986
McKeon, Edward	Food Svcs Supv 2	Cen Off	10/10/1986



Promotions and Reassignments



L to R: Deputy Wardens Cynthia Scarmozzino and Derrick Molden, Director Jeffrey Miller, and Commissioner Scott Semple

Director Miller comes to the Department of Correction from the private sector where he has amassed more than 25 years of human resources experience. For the past 10 years, was employed by Honeywell International, as an organizational design leader.

Deputy Warden Scarmozzino is assigned to the York Correctional Institution, while Deputy Warden Molden is assigned to the Northern Correctional Institution.

In addition to the promoted deputy wardens, there have also been a number of deputy warden reassignments across the agency. In September, Deputy Warden Stephen Bates was reassigned to the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center. Effective October 14, 2016 the following Deputy Warden reassignments took place: Amonda Hannah transferred to Cheshire CI, Richard Laffargue to New Haven CC, Nick Rodriguez transferred to Osborn CI, Nelson Ramos to

Enfield CI, Nathan Hein to Bridgeport CC, Daniel Murphy to Hartford CC, Kimberly Jones to Garner CI, and Patricia Kupec was transferred to Willard-Cybulski CI. Please join Commissioner Scott Semple and Deputy Commissioners Monica Rinaldi and Cheryl Cepelak in wishing them well in their new positions.

Diversity Rides at MYI

The Manson Youth Institution's Diversity Council hosted "Bike Week 2016" in August. It was their unique way to bring staff together to celebrate diversity and inclusion, noting that bikes like people are alike but different. Staff were proud to showcase their bikes and share stories how each bike is an expression of the owner.



During "Bike week 2016" photos were taken of the different motorcycles, bicycles and scooters of the staff members at MYI. During the week there was a breakfast gathering and motorcycle ride through Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York, which represented the unity in diversity themed, "This Is How We Roll." The week concluded with a cookout for all MYI staff to join in.

The Season of Giving

The Connecticut State Employees' Campaign for Charitable Giving (CSEC) is the once-a-year opportunity for Connecticut State Employees to contribute to non-profit charities through their workplace.



The contributions made by you and your fellow employees make possible a wide range of vital services: shelter for the homeless, protection of the environment, research for cures of diseases, care for both children and seniors. These are only a fraction of the services provided by the nearly 700 charities to whom you can donate through the campaign. For more information and to download a form or donate online, go to: <http://www.employeegiving.ct.gov/> Please give generously.

Tip-A-Cop Times Two

MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution staff participated in not one, but two Tip-A-Cop events to benefit the Law Enforcement Torch Run.



L to R: Captain Anna Dorozko, Retired Lt. Michael Mahoney, Deputy Warden Giuliana Mudano, and Warden Carol Chapdelaine

The first event was held at the Dunkin Donuts in Suffield back in July. The second fundraiser was held at the Yard Tavern in Enfield on November 2, 2016. A total of \$851.70 was raised between the two events.

APT Acknowledgement

Congratulations to Dr. Kathleen Maurer, the agency's Director of Health and Addiction Services, and New Haven Correctional Center's Warden Jose Feliciano who were honored by the APT Foundation for their support of the foundation's mission. Founded in 1970, the APT Foundation's mission is to promote health and recovery for those who live with substance use disorders or mental illness.



Warden Jose Feliciano (c) receiving his award during the APT Foundation's 5th Annual Fundraising Gala.

Both Dr. Maurer and Warden Feliciano worked in conjunction with members of the APT Foundation to establish a Methadone maintenance program within the New Haven Correctional Center. The pair received their award during the APT Foundation 5th Annual Fundraising Gala held back in on September 15, 2016 at the Owenego Inn, Branford, Connecticut. The APT Foundation is a not for profit 501-3C organization.