



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.

From the Commissioner



Since I agreed to accept Governor Lamont's gracious offer to be the Commissioner of this amazing agency, I can truly relate to the frequently quoted saying by an ancient Greek philosopher that "the only thing that is constant is change."

There certainly has been a great deal of change recently among the leadership of the Department of Correction. Starting with myself as the new Commissioner, to a new Deputy Commissioner of Operations, to two new Directors (one for Programs and Treatment, and one for Parole and Community Services), two new District Administrators, five new Wardens, and eight Wardens reassigned to different facilities.

I feel it is important to point out that even though many of these individuals are "new" to their positions, they can hardly be considered new to the agency. In fact, several of these individuals literally have decades of experience working for the Department of Correction. They will certainly bring an informed perspective to their new roles.

see [Change for the Better/page 2](#)

Promotions and Reassignments

Commissioner Rollin Cook is pleased to announce the following promotions and reassignments.

Promotions

Deputy Commissioner

After working in the capacity of Acting Deputy Commissioner, **Angel Quiros** has been appointed from District Administrator to Deputy Commissioner of Operations and Rehabilitative Services.

New Directors

After working in the capacity of an Acting Director since the beginning of January, **William Murphy** was officially made the Director of Programs and Treatments - effective Friday, March 29, 2019.

Former Deputy Director **Eric Ellison** has been promoted to position of Director of Parole and Community Services - effective Friday, April 12, 2019.

see [Agency Changes /page 3](#)

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through
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A Super Effort for a Super Cause

Congratulations to District Administrator Scott Erfe for his super achievement. Erfe was one of a select group of individuals who plunged into the icy waters of Long Island Sound every hour – on the hour - for 24 consecutive hours to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics Connecticut.



Bridgeport CC plungers (L-R): Secretary 2 Pamela Neuendorf; Officer Christopher Smudin; Nicole Sullivan, Correctional Nurse Supervisor; Officer Stacy Callands; Officer Nereida Nieves, and Deputy Warden Nathan Hein.

The event took place March 30 and 31 at the Westbrook Elks Lodge, and all money raised supports the more than 12,000 Special Olympics athletes in Connecticut.

Even though the participants had the use of hot tubs, and an indoor warming area in between plunges, Erfe admits that the nighttime plunges were extremely challenging.

“I could not believe how cold the water got once in the middle of the night,” Erfe said.

District Administrator Erfe and those who assisted his efforts send a heartfelt thank you to all of those who contributed to his fundraising page for the Law Enforcement Torch Run’s Super Plunge. As a result, a total of \$2,307 was raised for this worthy cause.

Not wanting to miss out on an opportunity to brave the cold water, Deputy Warden Nathan Hein and other staff members from the Bridgeport Correctional Center took part in a separate Penguin Plunge held at Jennings Beach in Fairfield, on April 6, 2019. With the support of fellow staff members and friends, the Bridgeport CC group raised more than the \$1,800 for the cause.

Change for the Better from page 1

Yet despite all the recent changes we are not even close to being finished, as we will have to promote several Captains to fill the void left by the recent promotions of Deputy Wardens. The domino effect will continue on down the line to Lieutenants and eventually Correction Officers.

Change can be considered at times as a disruptive force, but it can also be an extremely powerful and positive catalyst in our lives. I encourage all of you to embrace these changes in our agency and to look for opportunities that these changes provide. Resistance to change can be among the biggest obstacle standing in the way of improvement, so it is critical that we become more engaged in the process.

Many times throughout my career I faced some sort of change within my organization, with an assignment change or promotion. It took me many years and a lot of mentoring by patient leaders to understand how important it was for me to accept change and find a way to engage it rather than fight it. I encourage us all to embrace the changes, not just as an opportunity for personal growth, but also as a way to make this organization even better than it already is.

There is one thing you should never change however and that is your core values. You should always strive to maintain (among other things) your integrity, your compassion, respect for yourself and others. For if you are able to maintain these values, you will be able to not just adapt to the inevitable changes that life will throw at you, but more often than not, you will thrive.

I for one am excited and look forward to facing these current, and future, changes with all of you. Thank you for your selfless service to this agency and to the citizens of Connecticut. Each of you make me proud every day.

Agency Changes from page 1

New District Administrators

As of March 29, 2019, wardens William Mulligan and Scott Erfe were promoted to the title of District Administrator. District Administrator Mulligan is assigned to District I and District Administrator Erfe is assigned to District II.

New Wardens

Deputy Warden Kristine Barone promoted to Warden at MacDougall-Walker CI
Deputy Warden Sharonda Carlos promoted to Warden at York CI
Deputy Warden Zelynette Caron promoted to Warden at Carl Robinson
Deputy Warden Ned McCormick promoted to Warden at Hartford CC
Deputy Warden Derrick Molden promoted to Warden at Manson Youth
All the newly appointed wardens began their new roles on April 12, 2019.

Reassignments

Warden Allison Black from the Hartford Correctional Center to the New Haven Correctional Center
Warden Kenneth Butricks from the Manson Youth Institution to the Cheshire Correctional Institution.
Warden Anthony Corcella from the Garner Correctional Institution to the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center.
Warden Stephen Faucher from the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center to the Brooklyn Correctional Institution.
Warden Amonda Hannah from the Bridgeport Correctional Center to the Garner Correctional Institution.
Warden Robert Martin from the Brooklyn Correctional Institution to the Bridgeport Correctional Center.
Warden Giuliana Mudano from the York Correctional Institution to the Northern Correctional Institution.
Warden Nick Rodriguez from the Northern Correctional Institution to the Osborn Correctional Institution.

The majority of the warden reassignments took effect on April 12, 2019. Wardens Mudano's and Rodriguez's reassignments took effect on April 16, 2019.

In addition to the promotions and reassignments, the following changes were also made to the Department's organizational structure:

The Security Division now reports directly to the Commissioner.
The Division of Parole and Community Services now reports to the Deputy Commissioner of Operations.
The Legislative Unit now reports to the Director of External Affairs.
The York Correctional Institution has been moved from District I to District II.
The Garner Correctional Institution has been moved from District II to District I.

Please join Commissioner Cook and the Executive Team in wishing everyone well in their new assignments.



Time with the Family

Mother and Son Retire on Same Day

It is not unheard of for multiple generations of the same family to work for the Department of Correction over the course of time. Much rarer is the situation that took place recently at the York Correctional Institution in which a mother and her son retired from the Department of Correction (DoC) on the same day.

Specifically, Secretary 2 Cecelia Rodriquez and her son, Captain Mickey Gillette, were the recipients of a very distinctive send off as they both



Secretary 2 Cecelia Rodriquez and her son Captain Mickey Gillette hang up their chits on the retirement board on the same day.

officially retired from State service on March 29, 2019.

Mrs. Rodriquez began working for the DoC in February of 1994 at the Gates Correctional Institution until the facility closed in 2011, at which time she was transferred to the Winthrop House. Eventually she was assigned to the York Correctional Institution in 2014.

Captain Gillette began his correctional career as an officer in October of 1994 at Corrigan Radgowski Correctional Center. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant while working at York CI. He made his way

back to Corrigan-Radgowski CC where he worked up until 2018, when he was promoted to the rank of Captain. As fate would have it, it was a family reunion of sorts as he was once again assigned to York CI.

District Administrator Scott Erfe was a guest speaker at the special send-off celebration and retired [1995] Captain Eugene Rodriquez (who also worked at York CI) - husband of Mrs. Rodriquez and stepfather of Captain Gillette - was also in attendance.

Everyone who spoke at the retirement ceremony, including District Administrator Erfe and Warden Julie Mudano, praised both mother and son for their outstanding contributions to the agency.

While their tenure with the Department of Correction was finite, their shared enthusiasm and kindheartedness shall remain indelibly etched in the memories of those who still work within the confines of the York compound.

Around the Cell Block



PENNSYLVANIA - Secretary John Wetzel recently announced that the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections will make all state prisons tobacco-free beginning July 1.

TENNESSEE - An amendment to a Tennessee bill will authorize the Department of Correction to create and implement a conjugal visit policy for inmates. The amendment states, "Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the department of correction is authorized to create and implement a conjugal visit policy."

GEORGIA - A man wanted for murder made things easy for police when he showed up to the Clayton County Georgia Sheriff's office to try to get his gun back which was confiscated during a previous crime.

**Total
Supervised
Population
on
April 18, 2019
17,850
On April 18, 2018
the population was
18,272**



Did You Know?

“Did You Know” is an informational column aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. This article was compiled by Public Information Officer Andrius Banevicius. Any questions related to this article may be answered by contacting him at 860-692-7780. If you have any questions, or have an idea for a future column, please leave a message at 860-692-7780.

The Last Straw

When ordering a soft drink at a restaurant, it is something most of do without thinking – take the paper wrapper off the plastic straw and place it in the glass.

If environmental organizations get their wish, using a plastic straw will go the way of the buggy whip. By making plastic straw bans a priority the environmentalists have managed to raise public awareness, get celebrity support, and lobby cities and states to enact the bans.

Their efforts are beginning to payoff, as of July 1, 2018, Seattle is the first U.S. city to ban the use of plastic straws for vendors in the city, as well as plastic stir sticks and utensils. Straws made of compostable paper or plastic are still allowed. The New York City Council also recently introduced legislation to ban plastic straws by 2020. San Francisco’s Board of Supervisors passed a proposal to outlaw plastic straws and stirrers in their city. On January 1, 2019, a ban on plastic straws in restaurants and other service businesses began in Washington, D.C.

In the Northwest, Portland city council members, encouraged by environmental activists and local restaurants that voluntarily eliminated straws, approved a new rule set to go into effect in July 2019 that slaps restaurants with a \$500 fine if they automatically give customers plastic cutlery or straws.

The movement has even made its way close to home. Connecticut is moving toward a statewide ban on products including bags, straws and take-out containers. The legislature’s Environment Committee approved legislation in March that would ban Connecticut stores from giving customers single-use plastic bags starting in January 2020. It remains to be seen if the proposal becomes law.

In addition, major corporations have gotten on the straw-less bandwagon. Among corporations jumping on board, Starbucks is one of the first globally recognized brands to announce it will be moving away from plastic straws. In addition to switching to compostable straws, it will be releasing a new strawless drink lid design on its regular cold-drink cups.

McDonald’s in the UK has already begun the process of removing plastic straws from its stores and set a goal to have 100 percent of its food and beverage packaging materials be from renewable or recycled sources by 2025. While the exact number of straws thrown out in the US today is unclear, one estimate puts it at 175 million straws every day, others claim that number is as high as 500 million.

But of all the plastic that ends up in the ocean, straws make up approximately only four percent of that waste. So why are straws a big target? The problem is their size, people often forget to recycle them.

Straws that do get recycled often do not make it through the mechanical recycling sorter because they are so small and lightweight. So they contaminate recycling loads or get disposed of as garbage.

Knowing that most straws, recycled or not, are likely to end up in our oceans, individuals cutting back on use can make a difference.



There may be as many as 7.5 million plastic straws on America’s shorelines

Doubling Down on Career Outreach

The Department of Correction hosted an all-encompassing Careers in Corrections Event held at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development on Wednesday, March 27, 2019, which was spearheaded by the agency's Affirmative Action Unit and the Careers in Corrections Planning Committee. The event attracted approximately 300 prospective employees from all across Connecticut. The diverse pool of attendees were eager to learn about Health Services positions as well as other careers within the department.



Commissioner Rollin Cook (c) with members of the Affirmative Action Unit (L to R): Christian Moore, Camille Grant, Shiela Antonacci, Commissioner Cook, Director Holly Darin, and Judith Garcia.

In July of last year the department assumed responsibility for all prison medical services, which were previously provided by the UConn Health. Health Services positions include Clinical Social Workers, Dental Hygienists, Dentists, Laboratory Assistants, Medical Records Specialists, Physicians, Counselors, Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Radiology Technicians, Medical and Mental Health APRNs, Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, and many more.

Employees throughout the department came together and shared their knowledge regarding their respective units which included Health Services, Mental Health, Addiction Services, Unified School District #1, Religious Services, Parole and Community Services, Board of Pardons

and Paroles, the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development, Administrative/Clerical, Volunteer Services, Human Resources, Equal Employment Opportunity, Food Services, Engineering and Facilities/Maintenance, Management Information Systems and Correctional Enterprises.

Attendees were able to talk to the staff one-on-one regarding the ample amount of career paths within the department as well as components of the 12-week training academy for hazardous duty staff.

There were eight individual JobAps demonstrations presented by Human Resources staff members. These demonstrations led prospective applicants, step-by-step through the process of how to apply for state job openings using the JobAps online portal. Informational handouts on employee benefits were also disseminated. Concerted efforts were made prior to the event to reach out to members of the public and agency staff in order to publicize the career event. Flyers were distributed to a wide range of locations throughout Connecticut as well as Massachusetts.

Thank you to all for participating. It was another successful Career Event which helps to ensure an outstanding pool of future employees. If you are interested in participating in future career events in the department or for additional information, please email DOC.Outreach@ct.gov



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Mentors

The following article is another in a series of articles submitted by the Human Resources Unit on the subject of Succession Planning and Workforce Development



HR Mentors (L-R): Principal HR Specialists Josh Santos and Diane Fowler; HR Associate Sharon B. Johnson; and Principal HR Specialist John Bishop. Not pictured, Principal HR Specialist Meredith Minnocci.

Mentorship is another method of developing people, teams, and preparing successors.

A group of five Human Resources mentors will be instrumental in guiding our new employees through the early stages of their professional development within the Human Resources Unit. John Bishop, Diane Fowler, Sharon B. Johnson, Meredith Minnocci, and Josh Santos will help to ensure mentees are off to a sound start and alleviate some of the initial fears and concerns that come with the early days of employment. They will guide the mentee in the right direction by sharing their knowledge of the organization, and by also sharing their skills while providing encouragement. While they will primarily focus on new team members, the mentors may also be called upon to guide the experienced employee as well. Mentors may also organize and lead

exchanges of knowledge amongst HR staff members. The mentor/mentee relationship promotes knowledge growth and leads to a smoother integration into DoC, ideally resulting in the retention of the mentee. Mentoring assists the organization in developing a knowledgeable and robust workforce, and decreases the possibility of losing time and money invested in training due to resignations.

Warden Hannah Shares Her Knowledge

Warden Amonda Hannah attended the Career Conversations in Criminology on Wednesday, March 20, held at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Warden Hannah met with students in a roundtable setting and held group discussions. She discussed a variety of topics with the students including: a general overview of the correctional workplace; typical daily duties; what is expected from a correctional employee; number of years in the field; and some pros and cons of working in corrections.

Additionally, tapping into her more than 24 years of experience, she offered some professional advice to the receptive students.



Warden Amonda Hannah (C) with students from Eastern Connecticut State University.

An overview of Unified School District #1

Passion, Purpose, Progress

This is the first in a series of regular articles to appear in the newsletter submitted by staff members of the Unified School District #1.

In the first submission, the school district would like to share some information about the educational programs within the Department of Correction. The district's mission is to provide quality education programs for incarcerated individuals so that they can make a successful transition to society. Academic knowledge, vocational competencies, use of technology and life skills integrated with technology are offered to students in a positive environment to foster lifelong learning and multicultural awareness.

Some Facts about USD #1:

- Legally vested school district
- Over 150 staff members in 14 facilities
- Professional staff are certified and highly qualified
- Serves approximately 5,000 students annually
- Average daily enrollment, more than 1,700 students
- High School Diploma, Credit Diploma, GED, Adult Basic Education (ABE)
- English as a second language
- Parenting classes
- Re-entry curriculum
- Enrichment curriculum and classes
- Post-Secondary education
- 32 Career Technology Education (vocational) classes



**USD #1 Superintendent
Maria Pirro-Simmons**

Vocational Certificates of Completion and Achievement are available in the following areas:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Auto Body Repair Technology | Barbering and Cosmetology |
| Automotive Technology | Automotive Detailing |
| Building Maintenance | Business Education Technology |
| CAD & Design Technology | Carpentry |
| Commercial Cleaning | Computer Education |
| Computer Repair Technology | Culinary Arts |
| Electro Mechanical | Graphic and Print Technology |
| Horticulture | Hospitality Operations Technology |
| Machine Tool Technology | Small Engine Repair |
| Wheelchair Repair | |