



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



I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on some new initiatives the Department has undertaken. With the ultimate goal of making our facilities better, safer and more gratifying places to work, we have recently entered into partnerships with Chicago Beyond and Amend.

Chicago Beyond is a national philanthropic organization that makes strategic investments to promote positive changes in several areas including the justice system. They are partnering with correctional institutions across the nation to teach and implement the principles of Holistic Safety. The basic philosophy behind Holistic Safety is to support the mental health of staff and incarcerated individuals.

Amend, part of University of California San Francisco, is a public health and human rights program that works with correctional organizations to empower correctional leaders and staff to create safer, healthier, more humane, and more effective prisons.

During late July, representatives from Amend conducted training sessions at both the York and Garner facilities. The overall goal of the training session was to provide staff with the skills and tools needed to improve the health and wellbeing of both the staff and incarcerated individuals.

A team from Chicago Beyond traveled to Connecticut back in May to work with the leadership of the Cheshire and Corrigan facilities. After a tour of each facility (on consecutive days), they then sat down to develop an action plan, specific to their particular facility's needs. Again, the overarching goal of the action plans is to increase the level of physical and psychological safety for all people within a correctional system.

The collaborations with Amend and Chicago Beyond at the Cheshire, Corrigan, Garner and York facilities is just the beginning. It is my goal to have these concepts implemented throughout our entire agency.

Always remember, your safety is my chief concern. I strongly believe that initiatives and collaborations such as these will ultimately make our facilities safer and in the long run a better place to work.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation with these efforts to improve our Agency.

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through
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Correctional Employee Week Recap

Whether it was pizza, burgers and hotdogs, barbecue, or breakfast buffets, facilities across the agency showed their appreciation to the hardworking staff of the agency during National Correctional Employee, Nurses', Teachers' Week back in May.

Below is a look back at some of the week's activities.



Bridgeport CC



Garner CI



Cheshire CI



Carl Robinson CI



Cheshire CI



Manson Youth Institution



Brooklyn CI

Parole Week Activities

In recognition of National Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision week, staff members from the Division of Parole and Community Services and the Board of Pardons and Paroles gathered at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development on July 19, 2024 for a luncheon and a cornhole competition. This was the first time, in a long time, that staff from both agencies have gotten together and a good time was had by all.

The event started off with Board of Pardons and Paroles Chairperson Jennifer Medina-Zaccagnini reading a proclamation from Governor Lamont, officially recognizing National Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week. Parole and Community Services Director Rhianna Gingras also addressed the group, letting everyone know that she appreciates their hard work throughout the year.

The Parole and Community Services QWL committee funded the week long activities which started with staff appreciation snacks (granola bars) on Monday, ice cream on Tuesday; cupcakes on Wednesday; candy guess jars of Starburst on Thursday; all leading up to a delicious lunch on Friday. The Parole and Community Services QWL committee members would like to thank the staff at the training academy for their assistance in helping Parole staff to have such a wonderful event.



**Parole Week Cornhole Champions:
Correctional Counselors Aaron
Henry (L) and Jarrod Larkin**

Excellence in Nursing @ Cheshire CI

Correctional Head Nurse Alexis Losgar was honored on May 29, by the Administration of the Cheshire Correctional Institution and department's Health Services Unit when they selected her as a recipient of the 2024 Connecticut Department of Correction Annual Nursing Excellence Award. Head Nurse Losgar was one of three recipients of the award throughout DoC Health Services. She was selected for her dedication and commitment to the nursing profession. Some specific examples highlighted during the ceremony include the following:



**Correctional Head Nurse Alexis Losgar (5th from Left)
Recipient of the DoC's Nursing Excellence Award**

She made a significant impact on patient care and the nursing profession by all her efforts during the COVID pandemic, to include large-scale vaccination efforts and the creation of a COVID response plan in coordination with custody staff. She has gone "beyond the call" during a code red, streamlining and coordinating the care for 100 inmates and staff. Additionally, Correctional Head Nurse Losgar has demonstrated excellence and commitment to staff education and training. She collaborated with the second shift commander on a large-scale medical incident training. For the training, they identified a triage area, supplies needed, and a quick evacuation route in case multiple ambulances were needed onsite.

The training was well received by custody and medical staff alike. The health services staff were able to tour areas of the prison they had never toured before. Staff participants reported an overwhelming sense of safety and comradery following the training.

55 Years of Making the Grade

The agency's Unified School District #1 (USD #1) held its Spring Conference at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development (MCTSD) on May 10. This year's conference was extra special as it marked the 55th anniversary since the school district was initially established due to a state statute passed in 1969.

Under the leadership of Superintendent Veron Walters-Beaulieu and the Professional Development Committee Chairperson Principal Latesha Jones, a great deal of time and effort went into making sure this year's conference was truly special.

The theme for the anniversary event was, "Raising the Educational Bar, For Students Behind Bars, Celebrating 55 Years of Excellence!"

The district officially recognized the 2024 Teacher of the Year, Stephanie Speziali, Culinary Arts Teacher at the York Correctional



L-R: Deputy Commissioner Sharonda Carlos, District Administrator Lolli Garcia, Superintendent Veron Walters-Beaulieu, and Principal Latesha Jones at the USD #1 Spring Conference.

Institution. She shared milestones accomplished for the 2023-2024 School Year, and acknowledged school staff for their dedication to educating the department's incarcerated population. USD #1 staff members also celebrated the fact that one of their students had the highest GED score in the entire state of Connecticut.

The keynote speaker was Danielle T. Cooper, Ph.D., CPP, associate professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of New Haven and the Director of Research for TOW Youth Justice Institute. She delivered an engaging message that thanked USD #1 staff for the work they do, and encouraged them to remember the impact they have on changing the lives of the incarcerated population. Special Guests in attendance, as well as others who were recognized for their support of USD #1 and their contribution to making the conference successful included: members of the agency's Executive Team, USD #1 Professional Development Committee, Dr. Michael Christie, Associate Chaplain; State School Teacher Kip Mundle; Correctional Vocational Instructors Daniel Carsten and Jamie Rainville; Union P3B; and the staff of the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development.

Around the Cell Block

NEW YORK: Except in rare emergencies, NYC correction officers will no longer be allowed to use pepper spray to protect themselves or inmates on Rikers Island and other NYC jails.

The proposed legislation would require correction officers to first get authorization from tour commanders before using pepper spray.

GEORGIA: Federal prosecutors have indicted 23 people, most of them current and former inmates, in what authorities said were schemes to smuggle drugs and cellphones into Georgia state prisons using drones. Drones were used to drop marijuana, methamphetamine and contraband phones into the yards of state prisons over a five-year period beginning in 2019.

WEST VIRGINIA: An inmate was sentenced to more than four years recently for his role in the 2018 fatal bludgeoning of notorious Boston gangster James "Whitey" Bulger in a West Virginia federal prison.

**Total CT DOC
Supervised
Population
on
August 27, 2024
13,768
On August 27, 2023
the population was
13,173**

Meet the Director

Michael Regan, the Director of Fiscal Services is featured

What is your background with the DoC?

I started with the DoC in 2011 as the Assistant Director of Fiscal Services. I became the Director of Fiscal Services in 2018.

What did you do prior to joining DoC?

I have been working since I was 11 years old (paper route) and have worked in many different industries including retail, manufacturing, aerospace, telecommunications, higher education and federal and state government. After college I worked for the Defense Department, and then as a Housing Director for the University of Hartford.

After graduate school I started my state career in 1992 with the Connecticut Department of Economic Development (which later merged with the Department of Housing to become the Department of Economic and Community Development - DECD).

Throughout my tenure at the DECD I held numerous positions culminating in my becoming the Chief Fiscal Officer and Director of Research, Policy and Planning.

While at DECD I established the agency's econometrics program and was also responsible for preparing the economic impact analysis the state used to successfully defend against the closure of the U.S. Naval Submarine Base-New London during the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) process.

Also while at DECD, I was the recipient of the Governor's Service Award in 1998 for outstanding public service and was the President of the Hartford Area Business Economists in 2010.

Briefly explain your current duties/responsibilities?

I oversee Fiscal Services. Fiscal Services is responsible for managing the agency's budget, purchasing/procurement, grants, contracts, bill paying, accounting, warehouse, uniforms, cell phones, fleet/vehicles, bonding, asset management, inmate accounts and payroll.

What do you think most people don't realize about your job/role?

The meter is running every minute of every day. Everything everyone does in the agency costs money. Every action taken, every action not taken, every decision that is made, every decision that is delayed, every decision not made, costs money. Fiscal is involved in everything.

What is your biggest challenge as Director?

Keeping track of all of the moving pieces and managing change. Fortunately we have a great team in Fiscal - I just conduct the orchestra, I don't make the music. The people that make up Fiscal Services are the ones that get stuff done for the agency. We have great staff in Fiscal. The mix is always changing, though and the challenge is maintaining standards, quality and productivity w/ all of the constant change. I never cease to be amazed by our staff's ability to keep up with all of the changes and continue to provide the high quality of service we provide the agency.



The Director of Fiscal Services,
Michael "Mickey" Regan

Annual Facility Awards

To coincide with National Correction Officer week, several facilities held award ceremony in order to recognize their staff.

Corrigan Correctional Center

Officer of the Year (1st Shift): **Maxine Olson**

Officer of the Year (2nd Shift): **Jordan Olson**

Officer of the Year (3rd Shift): **Jeremy Greiner**

Counselor of the Year: **Raed Sidani**

Training Person of the Year:

Lt. Matthew St. Jean

Support Staff of the Year: **Secretary 2 Robin Sas**

Supervisor of the Year: **Lt. Michael Pearson**

Support Supervisor of the Year –

Maintenance Supervisor John Chappell

Warden's Award: **Dr. Gerard Gagne**



Some of Corrigan CC's Facility Award winners

Osborn Correctional Institution

Osborn CI held a formal awards ceremony to recognize staff for their hard work. With the exception of the Wardens Award, all selections were peer nominated.



(LtoR) Osborn CI's Deputy Warden Richard Ortyl, Warden Robert Martin, Deputy Warden Brian Moore with award winner Counselor Supervisor Kimberly Casey-Cortes.

Correction Officer of the Year (1st Shift): **Maria Ayala**

Correction Officer of the Year (2nd Shift): **Richard Flodquist**

Correction Officer of the Year (3rd Shift): **Spencer Lombard**

Counselor of the Year: **Anthony Warrick**

Support Supervisor of the Year: **Counselor Supervisor Kimberly Casey-Cortes**

Support Staff of the Year: **HVAC Technician Jose Irizarry**

Supervisor of the Year: **Lt. Shaun Cary**

Wardens Award: Intelligence Unit – **CO Christopher Escourse, Lt. Isreal Ortiz, CO Jessie Rego, and CO Kristopher West**

Brooklyn Correctional Institution

Correctional Officer of the Year - **Andrew Fournier**

Correctional Counselor of the Year - **Diana Tramontano**

Employee of the Year -

Correctional Maintenance Supervisor, Michael Dobush

Unit of the Year - **Maintenance Department**

Supervisor of the Year – **Correctional Food Service**

Supervisor 3, Kristian Koiva

Congratulations to all the deserving award recipients.

Honorable Donation

Members of the Department of Correction’s Honor Guard Unit organized a series of fundraising events as part of their ongoing efforts to support the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF), a national organization dedicated to supporting the surviving families of Correctional Officers who lose their lives in pursuit of their chosen profession.

Through the sales of challenge coins and commemorative pins, along with the tremendous support of the Department’s staff members, the Honor Guard Unit was able to raise approximately \$2,750.

Additionally, Correction Officers Stephen Adams, Mike Getchel, and Israel Miranda organized their own fundraising campaign in support of CPOF. With the support and generosity of the Cheshire Correctional Institution staff, they were able to raise an impressive \$1,750.



Honor Guard Units from across the country gathered at the Correctional Peace Officer Foundation’s Memorial Ceremony in Bellevue Washington.

The combined efforts and donations from both the Honor Guard Unit and Cheshire CI staff reflect a deep commitment to the welfare of correctional staff members and their families, aligning with the core mission of our agency, and the CPOF. The total amount raised was \$4,500, which will help to support the critical services provided by the CPOF.

The Honor Guard was able to attend this year’s CPOF Annual Memorial held in Bellevue, Washington, June 13-16, where they had the honor and privilege of presenting the donation in person. Their presence at the memorial event only serves to underscore the solidarity and support between the Department of Correction and the mission of the CPOF.

The hope is that the donated funds will aid in continuing the support for correctional staff members and their families in times of need. It is an honor to contribute to such a worthy cause. According to Honor Guard Commander, Captain Sergio Perez, a highlight of the event was when Connecticut Department of Correction Officers Jose Diaz and Timothy Titus were both recognized for their outstanding bravery in the line of duty. “Their recognition is a testament to the dedication and courage exhibited by our staff daily,” said Captain Sergio Perez. “It was a moment of immense pride for all of us.”



The DoC’s Honor Guard with an Indiana Department of Correction Honor Guard member (C) at the CPOF Memorial Ceremony. Indiana’s Deputy John Dunn who was killed in the line of duty in July 2023, was recognized during the ceremony.

Meet the Director Continued from page 5

What is your favorite aspect of being the Director/what do you like most about your job? Being able to contribute to the agency, being part of helping staff achieve their potential and having a role in making the lives of the people of Connecticut better (or at least not worse). I believe that managers and supervisors have a responsibility to help their staff grow and achieve their potential. As a Director I have the opportunity to hopefully instill this in others. I believe in public service and am proud to be a public servant. As a Director I have a platform to promote public service.

What is the primary thing you would like to accomplish as Director?

Make it to retirement and leave Fiscal Services better than when I started as CFO (or at least as good as I found it).

Who has been the biggest source of inspiration in your life?

My wife. She is amazing.

What is something about you few people know?

I was diagnosed w/ Attention Deficit Disorder and generalized anxiety disorder at the age of 35. It explained a lot.

What do you do to maintain a healthy work/life balance?

Walk my dog and play my guitar just loud enough to piss off my neighbors enough to annoy them but not enough for them to call the cops. One of the downsides of being a Director is that work never leaves you alone – it's always present in the mind. So much to do, so little time. It's important however to unplug. I make a conscious effort to try to find moments were I can focus on things other than work. Sometimes I succeed.

Do you have any hobbies?

I am a musician (that's what I tell people anyway). I like to cook – I am a good cook. I like to read. I like to hike. I like to work with my hands.

What one word would you use to describe yourself?

Annoying

What are your plans for when you retire?

To disappear

If you could have dinner with three famous people from history, who would they be?

Jim Henson, Michael Collins and Neil Armstrong

What is your favorite book or movie?

Einstein's Dreams by Alan Lightman

If you could have one superhero power, what would it be and why?

The ability to get a good night's sleep. I sleep poorly. My brain doesn't turn off - The hamster is always on the wheel.

Anything else you would like to add?

I am very grateful to have the privilege of being the Chief Fiscal Officer for the Department of Correction and to work with such incredible people. If I have been successful in my position it is because of the hard work and dedication of the staff of Fiscal Services. They are the ones that tirelessly work to keep the lights on.