

# FRONTLINE NEWS

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DOC poses with Mayor during 2012 DC One Fund Awards Ceremony. Photo credit: Darby Baham

## DOC Ranks #1 for Second Year in a Row

After months of continued efforts, including various events and a commitment to keeping the DC One Fund on the minds of DOC employees, co-chairs Laurienne Ellis and Paulette Johnson were able to celebrate the Department's final pledge amount at the beginning of 2013 — \$72,853.69.

"Last year, our goal was \$25,000 and we raised over \$60,000," said Ms. Johnson. "This year, we're very excited to say we raised over \$70,000."

DC One Fund efforts initially began with the kick-off event in November, but also included several fun-filled agency events designed to increase awareness of the One Fund and encourage more participation from the agency.

Sallie Thomas, who also worked on the One Fund efforts, credits this continued and collaborative effort with the success of the Department's program. "The energy of the Director, energy of the Chairman, and energy of those who worked on the One Fund just carried over into the entire agency," she said. "And since DOC has always been a giving and generous agency, it really was no surprise. I also think the Sandy Hook shooting was a reminder to everyone that at any time, any one of us could need assistance."

Ms. Johnson agrees about the Department's generosity. "We just have a giving and generous nature in DOC, and we always rise to the occasion." Along with an increase in the total amount pledged, the Department also saw an increase in participation, from 19 percent to 26 percent.

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*"We just have a giving and generous nature in DOC, and we always rise to the occasion."*

*- Paulette Johnson, Labor Relations Liaison and co-chair of the Department's DC One Fund Campaign*



By Darby Baham

# Sisters of Hope Celebrate Black History Month with Program



Two inmates act out Harriet Tubman's historic journey when freeing other slaves while the Director, Deputy Mayor Quander, and other DOC officials look on. Photo credit: Darby Baham

Under the direction of DOC's Adjusting Our Attitude Training (A.O.A.T.) Commander Sharon Hargrove, the CTF women offender's "Sisters of Hope" commemorated Black History Month with an interactive program on February 21st. Using the theme, "The Walk From the North Star to the White House" the women paid tribute to phenomenal women such as Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks and sports greats Cheryl Swoops, Jackie Joyner and Gabby Douglas, to name a few. Mixed in with those tributes, the A.O.A.T. drill team marched sharply in precision while performing, and the Motown and Soul Train tributes were filled with laughter and sing-alongs from both the crowd and the participants.

The program also featured an original rap written and performed by an 18 year-old offender about being locked up with a young child left behind and Commander Hargrove's performance of her poem "Can His Dream be Recaptured (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.)?" Both were sobering reminders of the struggles that still occur in our communities and the

work that still needs to be done.

Special guests included Deputy Mayor Paul A. Quander Jr., Director Thomas Faust, Deputy Director Carolyn Cross, DOC Administrator for Programs LaToya Lane, DOC Women's Program Manager Regina Gilmore, and CTF's Warden Isaac Johnston. More than 125 women offenders were in attendance, as well as volunteers, and staff from CTF and DOC.

Following the program, the performers talked about their experiences working as a team, as well as how it felt caring about and being responsible for the well being of both themselves and others while preparing for the program.

*By Regina Gilmore*

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## Promotion Ceremony Honors DC DOC Employees

In the Department's first promotion ceremony under Director Faust's leadership, many gathered at the Training Academy to honor the DOC employees who had been promoted within the previous year. The ceremony, which was held on January 18, featured the presentation of colors, a stellar rendition of the National Anthem by Corporal MaRion Boyd II, remarks from the Director, and more.

"I think it's important to have a recognition ceremony like this," said Director Faust when speaking to the honorees. "You have made that decision to step up to the plate and it's noteworthy for us to have this morning for you." The Director also noted that this ceremony would be the first of many to come.



Director Faust pins an officer during the Promotion Ceremony. Photo credit: Darby Baham

After speaking to the honorees, Director Faust turned the microphone over to Warden Futch, who administered the oath of Office to those in attendance. Following the oath, honorees were presented with individual certificates and were acknowledged for their continued commitment to the agency and for their part in making the Department a benchmark corrections facility.

A reception was held in the Academy immediately after the ceremony, where honorees were congratulated and thanked for their efforts.

## Getting to know Mr. Daniels

**Forrest A. Daniels, MPA, DSc, FACHE** currently serves as Health Systems Administrator for the D.C. Department of Corrections. Forrest began his career in healthcare as an Administrative Fellow at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, in Chicago, under the tutelage of president & CEO Gary Mecklenburg (Retired). Since then, he has held various senior management positions in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), community hospitals and served as Director, Minority Health Programs for a leading national voluntary health organization in Rockville, Maryland, serving people with and at-risk for kidney disease.

During his tenure, he and his team developed and launched the Minority Intervention and Kidney Education (MIKE) Program in three (3) major U.S. cities. He also established and served as founding executive director of a hospital foundation in Chicago's largest community of Austin. Forrest's experiences include: general administration/management, strategic planning, fund development, community relations, web-design/strategy, operational enhancements, staff development, corporate compliance, governance and marketing.

A graduate of Howard University (BBA-Accounting) and Indiana University (MPA-Health Services Admin.), Forrest recently earned his executive doctoral degree in health services administration from The University of Alabama-Birmingham. He is board certified in healthcare management and a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and currently serves on the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE) Research and Education Committee. Conversant in Spanish, Forrest also enjoys mentoring youth, tennis/golf, traditional & Brazilian jazz (Trane, Miles, Nascimento, Jobim, etc.), gospel (Aretha, Cleveland, etc.), triathlons and ethnic foods.

## Profile: Meet the Health Systems Administrator

This July, Forrest Daniels joined the Department as the Health Systems Administrator for DOC. He takes on this role after having worked in various health services roles for years. Read on to learn a little more about the new Health Systems Administrator:



### **Q: What led you into a career in health services, especially considering your background in Accounting?**

A: Well, my mother's a nurse. I would consider her the nurse's nurse. So the importance of healthcare has always been around me. My time in accounting was a great foundation, though. I worked 2 years as an auditor and that's served me greatly, because as an auditor, you want to verify the root causes of things and see how financial statements are supported and if they're legitimate.

Around that time, the opportunity presented itself for me to go back to school, and I was fortunate enough to get into Indiana University. I realized that I was more mission-driven and health services was more in line with what I believed. I always look to make improvements, whether on an individual basis or systematically, and knowing someone's life has been improved is really important to me.

### **Q: What are some of your short term and long term goals as the Health Systems Administrator for DOC?**

A: To assemble a solid team in the Health Services Administration that can effectively carry-out the mission of the agency and our department. I'd like to also increase the accountability and collaboration with DOC's medical service provider.

### **Q: What are you most looking forward to while serving in this position?**

A: I'm looking forward to being able to ensure that the inmates in custody of DOC who receive medical services do so with the highest quality care, and that we are responsive to their caregivers and loved ones in the community.

### **Q: Tell us a bit about yourself. You seem to have a wide range of interests and hobbies. How'd you get involved with some of these?**

A: Mentoring is something that's been instilled in me for the longest. I've been fortunate to have that in my life growing up, so I believe it's incumbent upon me to influence the next generation as well. To do anything less is unacceptable. The triathlons started as a fundamental effort to take care of my body, and I've studied Spanish since Junior High School. I spent 6 weeks in Mexico in the 6th grade and have visited Puerto Rico and Mexico again since then. And now, my wife is from El Salvador, so they've all served me pretty well.

## Department Hosts Gender-Specific Training Class

In an ongoing initiative to provide gender-informed programming for DOC female offenders, the Department recently hosted over 40 female offender service providers in a training entitled, "Gender-Responsive Strategies: Working with Women Offenders."

Participants included case managers, social workers, unit managers, correctional officers, counselors, supervisors, staff development specialists and program administrators from DOC, CCA/CTF, Unity, and sister partners such as Fairview (HWH for women), Our Place DC, and the Visitors Service Center.

The training objectives were comprehensive and included everything from understanding that the women offender's criminal, social, and sociological issues are distinctly different from those of male offenders to providing examples of successful research-based gender responsive treatment methods and increasing awareness of reentry issues unique to women offenders.

During the two-day training, participants also had the opportunity to collaborate on ways to better provide unified and seamless services to the women offenders. Notable trainers included Theresa Lantz, a former DOC employee who moved on to work with the National Institute of Corrections and serve as Warden, Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner of Corrections for Connecticut; Andie Moss, a criminal justice consultant who assisted DOC in the Women Prisoners sexual misconduct lawsuit and chaired the women offender initiative at the National Institute of Corrections; Donna Deutsch, who played a major role in the project management for the DOC women's reentry program in 2012; and Regina Gilmore, the current DOC Women's Program Manager, who before retiring in 2004 was a DOC case manager, Deputy Warden for Programs, DOC Contract Monitor at the CTF and the Internal Controls and Accreditation Manager.

*By Regina Gilmore*

## Masthead

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## DOC Forms Language Access Team

This February, the Department began a new initiative to help better develop awareness and programming around Language Access within the agency.

The newly formed Language Access Team consists of the Government and Public Affairs Office, Case Management representatives, Bilingual officers, and members of the Training Academy. The team will work together to provide training and information to staff in public contact positions, ensure information on Language Access resources is distributed in all areas where LEP/NEP populations are served, assist in the collection of Language Access data, develop programs to highlight the Language Access services offered, and occasionally, speak at community forums about the Department's Language Access services.

"The LA team is excited about working together to enhance language access throughout the Department," said Sylvia Lane, Government and Public Affairs Coordinator and past Language Access Coordinator.

Prior to the implementation of the team, the Department had one Language Access Coordinator to ensure compliance within the agency. However, with this new initiative, DOC is looking to create a more collaborative effort throughout the agency. Thus far, the team has met with the Office of Human Rights to get initial training on Language Access information and to speak about specific concerns. They will begin auditing the jail and CTF in the coming months. Anyone interested in joining the team can contact the Government and Public Affairs Office for more details.



Image courtesy of the Office of Human Rights' website