



District of Columbia Government
Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor

DC Department of Corrections *News*



Department of Corrections
Devon Brown, Director

Volume 1 Issue 4

October 2008

Superior Court Judges Tour DC Jail

Members of the District's judiciary commented that the Department of Corrections is a best kept secret as they recently toured the DC Jail. Six Superior Court Judges and their clerks recently visited the jail to



Judges observe jail operations during tour of the facility on October 10.

objectively observe its operations and services available to the inmate population. Director Brown and the jail's management team escorted the court officials to key areas of the facility that were specifically requested by the visitors including the infirmary, law library, and juvenile housing unit. Jail staff also provided overviews on several constructive specialty programs in place like reentry, substance abuse treatment, and behavior management. The visit represented the first tour of the DC Jail by a group of judges during Director Brown's tenure with the agency.

Department of Corrections Receives Coveted Award For



Director Brown, accompanied by health service team members, accept award at health conference held in Chicago.

The Department of Corrections was bestowed the coveted "Program of the Year" award by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC). This event took place October 20 before over 2,000 correctional medical professionals across the country during the organization's annual conference in Chicago, Illinois. This prestigious award is presented each year to only one correctional system. The NCCHC selected the department's discharge planning program over thousands that are provided by the nearly 500 prisons, jails, and juvenile

detention, and confinement facilities that participate in the organization's nationwide accreditation program. Discharge planning is integral to the department's community-oriented approach to healthcare, which emphasizes a continuity of care from incarceration to post release. Since 2006, Unity Health Care, Inc. has been responsible for implementing this model at the jail.

In accepting this year's award, Director Brown observed that nearly 15 years ago inmate medical services at the DC Jail were under medical receivership and court oversight. Today, the agency, in strong partnership with Unity Health Care, proudly leads the country in being a standard bearer for the delivery of exemplary correctional medical practices and operational procedures. "The Department of Corrections is in positive transition in every respect," Director Brown acclaimed. "The changes taking place throughout the agency reflect the elevated standards and insistence upon excellence characteristic of the Fenty Administration. The receipt of the 'Program of the Year' award is in keeping with our firm determination to have the Department of Corrections regarded as the best within its field."

The National Commission on Correctional Health Care accreditation is recognized as the premier acknowledgement of sound medical practices within penal settings as this body is dedicated exclusively to correctional health care programs. The NCCHC has honored exceptional correctional program initiatives with the "Program of the Year" award since 1993.

A Look Inside

Message from the Director

RSAT Graduation

Community Resource and Job Fair



Opinion Poll

Workplace Safety

Domestic Violence Awareness



Message From Director Devon Brown

The beginning of a new season brings about a new and heightened level of anticipation. The Department of Corrections is excited about the onset of fall, which signals a new fiscal year in District government. This time provides an invaluable opportunity to become more effective custodians over our resources, while at the same time, continue to improve upon the services we provide to the community, individuals under our care and the workforce. The prospect of accomplishing both objectives is very promising as the agency has set a foundation that is reaping immeasurable rewards. Staff proficiency plays a major role in this endeavor and the department continues to implement measures that reflect enhanced professionalism. We are elated to have received the coveted “Program of the Year” award by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. This recognition reaffirms the department’s phenomenal advancements in inmate medical services, which were under receivership 15 years ago. Consistent with this recognition, the DC Applesseed Center for Law and Justice gave the department an “A” for the second consecutive year for its HIV testing program. Applesseed favorably assessed our drug treatment program (RSAT) as well, which graduated nearly 300 inmates in its first year (December). The department is also encouraged by the partnerships that have been established with sister agencies and community organizations and welcome their support in our effective operations. We were pleased to host a group of Superior Court Judges on a tour of the jail and dispel some of the myths that overshadow our earnest efforts and progress. Likewise, the success of our first community resource and job fair for inmates is largely attributed to the involvement by these entities.

I am enthusiastic about the future of this agency. As the District government yields to the new fiscal year with expectations for excellence in performance, the Department of Corrections is prepared and confident about its potential to become a paragon in every respect.

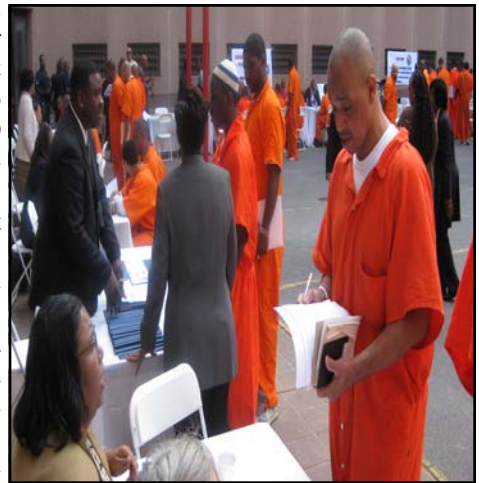
Inmates Receive Tools For Successful Transition To The Community

Sixty inmates were selected to participate in a special ceremony entitled, “Celebration of Connections,” in recognition of the significant progress made during the last two years within the area of inmate healthcare. The forum showcased the myriad of services that DOC offers to its offender population including an onsite residential substance abuse treatment program (RSAT) for male and female inmates. Twenty-six inmates attending the program were recent graduates of the program, representing the third graduation class since its inception last year. The Department’s Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program contributed to the District earning a “B+” on Applesseed’s fourth “report card.”



RSAT graduates represent the third class since the program’s inception last year.

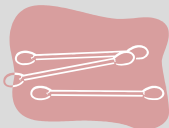
Nearly 50 government and community organizations participated in DOC’s first Community Resource and Job Fair for inmates. The forum held earlier this month at the DC Jail provided an opportunity for individuals at the facility who are within 120 days of release to obtain information about how to access services that are essential in order to lead a constructive and stable life. The program included on site employment search, addressing job applications, and other assistance that specifically addresses employment options, preparation and readiness issues that ex-offenders face in the community.



Inmates preparing for release receive valuable information about community resources.

Corrections Protects Grade For HIV Program

The D.C. Applesseed Center for Law and Justice, an advocacy group, recently released a fourth “report card” that grades the City’s progress in the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS. The DOC consistently receives high grades for its performance. For the second straight year, the DOC earned an “A” for its automatic HIV testing program and its implementation of an therapeutic substance abuse treatment program for both male and female inmates contributed significantly to the District improving its grade from” C+” to “B” for substance abuse treatment.



Combating Domestic Violence



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence is a serious problem in America that transcends race, age, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic background, and education level. The attempt by one person in a relationship to control another is demonstrated by verbal threats, accusations, physical attacks, uncontrollable mood swings, and outbursts, among other abusive behaviors that can create a toxic environment for anyone who observes these offensive interactions. From January to June 2007, the MPD in Washington, DC received close to 13, 000 domestic related calls and more than 8,000 domestic violence cases were filed in DC Superior Court in 2005. While incidents of domestic violence unfortunately are underreported, research suggests that law enforcement families, including those in corrections, are four times more likely to be involved in domestic violence than the general public. Inasmuch as working in a correctional environment is highly demanding and mentally strenuous, the defining characteristics of an outstanding professional may adversely affect an individual's personal life. The suspicious nature that correctional officers widely display towards inmates can be a source of contention among family members. Their discipline toward structure, organization and consistency are traits that may appear as too rigid, inflexible or perfunctory in the home. Remember you are not to blame and you need not face domestic violence alone. Avoid becoming the victim or predator of domestic violence. Early intervention can possibly prevent outcomes that negatively affect your personal life and career.

For more information, advice or referrals regarding this issue, please contact Dr. Yvonne B. Kelley, DOC Employee Assistance Program Coordinator at (202) 671-2039. All information will be handled confidentially.



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Awareness and early detection are key to finding a cure

Health and Safety Tips

Fire Safety in the Workplace

October is Fire Prevention Month. Staff can minimize office fire hazards lead to staff by incorporating basic neat and cleanliness practices in the workplace.



- ◇ Create and maintain a clutter free work area. An orderly work space also promotes concentration and increased productivity.
- ◇ Remove excessive boxes and papers off the floor.
- ◇ Hallways, exits, stairways, and storage areas, should be free from debris, food trays, empty boxes, waste paper and dirty rags.
- ◇ Refrain from overloading electrical outlets. Using multiple extension cords to connect various items is a major fire hazard.
- ◇ Keep flammable liquid storage to a minimum, in approved container and an approved storage cabinet.
- ◇ The use of lighting products is prohibited. DOC is a smoke free environment.
- ◇ Attend required training offered by DOC.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' *Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Charts, 1992-2006* fires and explosions accounted for 4% of workplace fatalities in 2006.

The National Cancer Institute estimates that new cases from breast cancer in the United States in 2008:

for women— 182, 460

form men—1,990

Mission Statement

The mission of the D.C. Department of Corrections is to ensure public safety for the citizens of the District of Columbia by providing an orderly, safe, and secure environment for the confinement of pretrial detainees and sentenced inmates.

DC Department of Corrections News

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