

FRONTLINE NEWS

DC Department of Corrections Newsletter

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The DC Department of Corrections' vision is to become a benchmark corrections agency. To become a benchmark corrections agency, we will serve with pride, professionalism, and passion in caring for human lives.

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P R I D E
P R O F E S S I O N A L I S M
and
P A S S I O N



A view of the staff Vision pocket card reminders.

Meet the DOC Vision Team

DC DOC has a new vision for change which is being communicated throughout the Department — one that embraces serving with pride, professionalism, and passion in caring for human lives. With that new vision in place, the newly established Vision Team has been tasked with reaching out to staff across the Department to learn how communication can be improved and ensure the entire team understands the role they play in helping DC DOC become a benchmark corrections agency.

The team, which consists of seventeen DOC employees from various departments within the agency, can be easily identified by the red and white pins they wear when communicating with the agency about our vision and its impact on what we do each day.

Director Faust is asking all employees to share their thoughts and ideas about how to move the Department forward. The expectation is that the Vision Team will help to inform decisions going forward and guide the agency through the season of transition.

"In working hand in hand with agency personnel, the Vision Team's role will be central to communicating our change vision for DCDOC and to the common goal of a better department and better workplace — a place to show up each day with pride, professionalism, and passion in what you do," said Director Faust.

By Darby Baham

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*- Thomas Faust,
Director*



Trauma Training Occurs at Correctional Treatment Facility



Doctor Gillece speaks to the participants about the effects of trauma. Photo: Darby Baham

On September 10, The Moss Group sponsored Trauma-Informed Gender Responsive Training for over 50 DOC and CCA/CTF Correctional Officers/ Counselors, Case Managers, Women’s Program and Reentry staff and volunteers who work with women.

The trainers were Dr. Joan Gillece, Director of SAMSHA National Center for Trauma Informed Care and Tonier “Neen” Carter, Consultant, Speaker, and Team Leader for the National Center for Trauma Informed Care.

Dr. Gillece spoke about the effects of trauma on individuals, noting that it is not always the physical beating that many assume. According to her, often it is experienced through seeing someone else go through trauma and/or living in mentally abusive situations. Ms. Carter then gave her personal perspective as someone who experienced several instances of trauma and who eventually overcame her struggles with the help of others.

The training was designed to help staff understand the impact of trauma upon women offenders, present information about trauma informed principles and treatment practices, and discuss gender responsive safety and operational practices.

“This training was particularly important because most women (96%) have been exposed to trauma in their lifetime. [In fact] 23% compared to 8% of men report being raped or physically assaulted by a spouse, partner or date,” said Regina Gilmore, DOC Women’s Program Manager. “Many women have resorted to illegal substances as a way of coping with trauma, and trauma is often the root of the mental health problems [we see in the CTF].” *By Regina Gilmore and Darby Baham*

Hill Harper Visits Juvenile Unit and Women’s Program

With his recently released book, *Letters to an Incarcerated Brother: Encouragement, Hope, and Healing for Inmates and Their Loved Ones*, debuting at the beginning of November, Hill Harper took time out of his book touring schedule to meet with juveniles housed at the CTF participating in the Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop.

The members of the book club, who had previously read Mr. Harper’s other four books, met with the actor/best-selling author during one of their weekly reading class sessions.

“Hill Harper is already a very popular author with the juveniles in the Book Club,” said Tara Libert, Cofounder and Executive Director of Free Minds. “Anytime an author comes to visit, it’s very exciting because it motivates members to read and write more. This time was even more exciting, because not only did they get to learn about the craft of writing, they also got to meet a great role model who is successful and still makes the effort to give back to the community.”

Following his time with the juveniles, Mr. Harper spent the next hour speaking to the 150 women housed at the CTF. While not scheduled to meet with the women initially, he quickly agreed to meet with them once he realized there was extra time available in his schedule.

With both groups, his main message was on the importance of education and preparation. “I’m not successful because I’m an actor,” he said. “I’m successful because I have an education.”



Hill Harper meets with Juvenile Unit. Photo: Darby Baham

Getting to know Ms. Hutchings Johnson

Paulette Hutchings Johnson is a graduate of West Virginia State College, where she obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work and her Associate degree in Criminal Justice.

She has almost 30 years of experience working with the DC Department of Corrections and currently serves as the EEO counselor for the agency in addition to her role as a Labor Relations and Workforce Specialist. She has co-chaired the DOC One Fund committee for the past three years and also serves on the Employee Recognition Committee.

Ms. Hutchings Johnson can be found at the Training Academy at least once a week, conducting the Customer Service and Proper Use of Communication Equipment classes for pre and in-service training. However, she also facilitates recruitment and pre-employment testing for Correctional Officer applicants and serves as an agency representative and liaison between union officials, employees, the DC Labor Management Partnership Council, and other interested parties.

She hails from Beckley, West Virginia and Columbus, Ohio, where she worked as an adult probation officer prior to joining DOC. Ms. Hutchings Johnson is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated and is an active supporter of Susan G. Komen breast cancer prevention and awareness fundraising activities.

Profile: Paulette Hutchings Johnson

Ms. Hutchings Johnson has worked in the Office of Human Resource Management as a Labor Relations and Workforce Specialist since 2004, but she can be seen lending her special talents to several departments throughout the agency. Please read below to learn more about Ms. Hutchings Johnson.



Photo credit: Darby Baham

Q: How long have you worked at DOC and in what roles?

A: I joined the DOC team in 1985 as a Correctional Treatment Specialist at the Central Facility, Lorton Va and have previously worked as the Executive Assistant to the Medical Director and Health Services Program Specialist.

Q: What influenced your decision to join DC DOC?

A: A family history of male law enforcement officials sparked my initial interest in pursuing a career in the field of criminal justice.

Q: What do you consider to be the most rewarding aspect of your job?

A: The most rewarding part of my job is working with the employees in the DOC family. Everyday is an adventure! I love my job!

Q: Tell us a bit about yourself—some of your hobbies and interests.

A: I enjoy spending time with my family, friends and godchildren. I also love hand dancing, working out, tennis, belly dancing and shopping. My favorite TV shows are Scandal (I'm a true Gladiator) and The First 48.

JACCS to OMSe — New System Coming

The Department of Corrections (DOC) is kicking off a project to upgrade its jail management system (JACCS). This project will result in streamlined operations, less paper, and most importantly, an “error-free” Central Detention Facility (CDF). It will modernize our jail by taking advantage of the latest technologies and data exchange with other systems.

Instead of JACCS, the new system will be called OMSe, or Offender Management System--Evolution. The new OMSe system will be web-based, easy to use and easy to learn. It will have tab navigation and drop down menus. The system will also have new features to support 40 different functions in our jail.

This project will involve every DOC employee. The Department assembled a project team of more than 75 members and developed a detailed work plan. The project will include installation of hardware, software, testing, conversion, user acceptance and training. Given the scope and complexity of the project, the new system is scheduled to be installed by October 1, 2014.

Over the next few months, team members from the Office of the Deputy Director for Management Support (DDMS) will be working with every DOC department to review current processes, forms, screens and reports with the goal of streamlining and simplifying your work. To obtain further information or make improvement suggestions, contact Doug Lee, OMS Upgrade Project Manager at (202) 671-2641 or at doug.lee@dc.gov.

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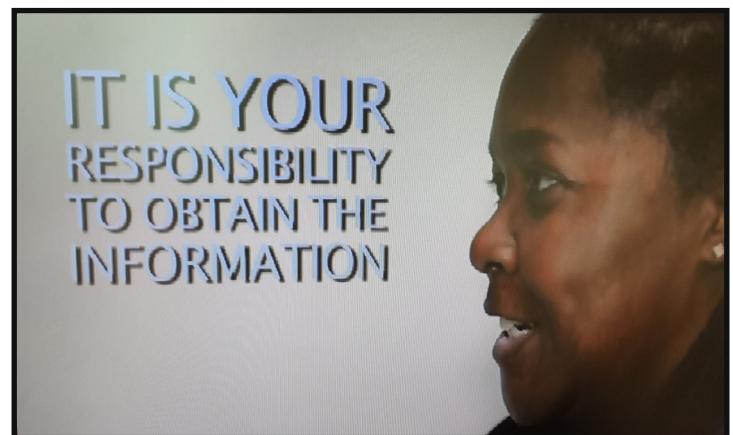
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DOC Completes Reentry Video with Corrections Media

In conjunction with Corrections Media, the DOC team shot it's first video dedicated entirely to Reentry program awareness in October 2013. The video includes inmates from the GED Peer Tutoring Program along with DOC staff talking about services and programs offered and highlighting the importance of reentry programming.

While it begins with an overview of reentry services, more importantly, the video features a female and male inmate starting at intake, participating in services, and finally making community connections upon release. The video explains how reentry can help improve life skills, education, and vocational opportunities, and help connect them to critical pre and post release resources.



A peak at the recently completed Reentry video via Corrections Media.

According to Sylvia Lane, Government and Public Affairs Coordinator, this initiative is a great step forward in enhancing communication about services offered at DOC. “Reentry begins at day one and is such an important part of the Department’s mission,” said Ms. Lane. “And this video reinforces all the work being done to support successful reintegration.”

To ensure that all inmates understand the importance of reentry programming, the video will be shown in both English and Spanish, and will be played at intake and throughout their stay at the jail.

By Darby Baham