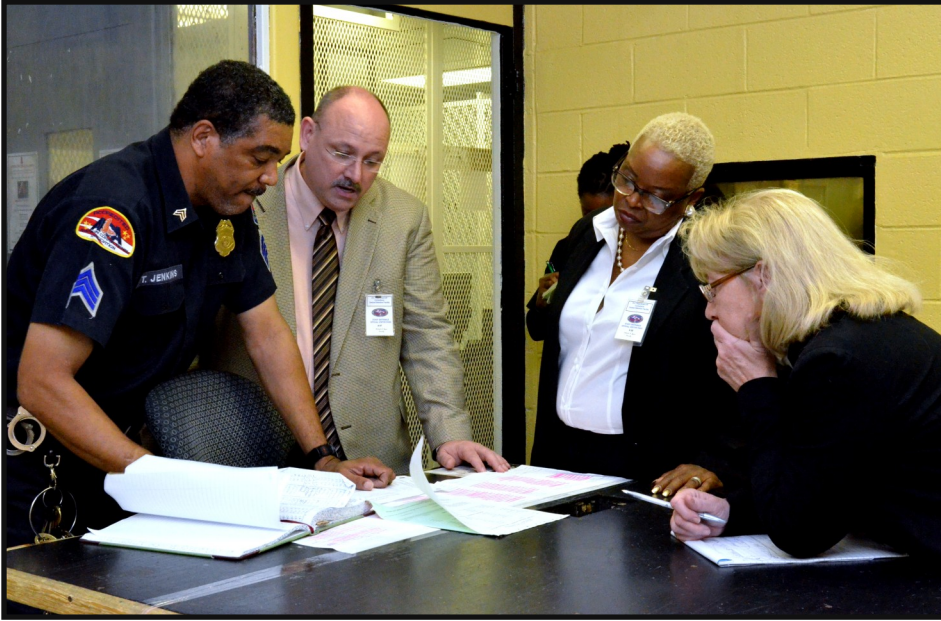


FRONTLINE NEWS

DC Department of Corrections Newsletter

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ACA team meets with DOC officer. Photo: Bridget Reavis-Tyler

DOC Receives High Scores in ACA Audit

The D.C. Jail underwent its mandatory reaccreditation audit by the American Correctional Association (ACA) this past October and received scores of 100% on (60) sixty mandatory files and 96.5% compliance on 322 non-mandatory standard files.

During the audit, which was conducted on October 10-12, 2012, ACA officials and DOC representatives walked the jail and inspected a variety of operational and programmatic functions. These included Security Operations, Housing Unit Management, Inmate Health Care and Medical Services, Culinary and Food Services, Chemical Control and Hazardous Materials, Tool and Key Control, Policy and Procedures, and Training Requirements.

“The reaccreditation audit was an excellent opportunity for the agency to take a top to bottom comprehensive look at operational procedures and protocols,” said Michon Parker, ACA Manager for DOC. “We walked away with a clear view of how we can continue to maximize our efficiencies and make the District of Columbia Department of Corrections a premiere correctional facility.”

Director Faust agrees. According to the Director, our team of dedicated correctional professionals has shown that collectively, we will establish DOC as a benchmark corrections agency. In January, DOC leadership will participate in a final hearing before the Commission on Standards and Accreditation at the ACA Winter Conference held in Houston, Texas. It is expected that full accreditation will be granted.

By Darby Baham

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- Michon Parker



Video Visitation Allows Greater Access for Families



A peek into the video visitation center. Photo: Bridget Reavis-Tyler

Video visitation, which began in July of this year, was implemented to streamline the process and allow family members and friends increased flexibility and access when visiting their loved ones. Since opening, we have seen a steady increase in the number of visitors using the Center, which is located within the D.C. General Hospital Complex, adjacent to the D.C. Jail in S.E. Washington, D.C.

Currently, we have over 800 visitors using the system each week. Much of the feedback received thus far is positive and reflects the efficiency of the new visitation process. Now, visitors simply set their appointments by telephone or through the Internet, and then arrive at the VVC on the scheduled date/time of the visit. More importantly, they have the option of

visiting on the weekends and are no longer required to stand in long lines or undergo extensive and sometimes intrusive security checks prior to entering the facility. In addition, the total visitation time has been extended by 30 minutes—by allowing two 45-minute visits rather than the two thirty-minute visits previously offered.

To broadly disseminate information on video visitation, the Department held in-house and community town hall meetings, open houses, and aired public service announcements and a video on the local/cable television stations and agency website. The video visitation team continually monitors every aspect of the process in order to make changes that improve the system's effectiveness. This will continue moving forward.

By Sylvia Lane

DC One Fund Kicks Off with November Party

With promises of giveaways, food, and plenty of entertainment, this year's DC One Fund Kick-off Party was held on November 2nd in the CDF Roll Call Room and ODR. It did not disappoint in either category. The event began at 10 am and offered opportunities for staff to make on-site pledges and hear testimonials from various charity representatives. A highlight of the day included a tutorial on line dances for several employees.



DC One Fund logo. Photo: DC One Fund website

During the party, staff learned more information about the organizations supported by the annual fundraiser and also obtained information on the different opportunities they have to make donations throughout the year. At the end of the 2011 campaign, DOC held the distinct honor of raising over \$69,000, making it the number one agency in the public safety cluster. This year, we hope to secure that spot again by surpassing our goal of \$72,000.

“The DOC family has always had a generous and giving nature, evidenced by the 2011 One Fund donations exceeding the goal by over 40K,” said Paulette Johnson, co-chairperson for the 2012 DOC campaign. “This Committee is ‘fired up’ and ready to work hard toward meeting or exceeding this year’s Agency goal.”

For over 50 years, DC One Fund has supported local charities through the generous pledges and donations of DC employees. These donations are made through payroll deductions and lump sum collections. DOC's 2012 One Fund coordinators include Sallie Thomas as City-Coordinator and Co-Chairpersons Paulette Johnson and Laurrine Ellis. The One Fund Committee is made up of representatives from both labor and management.

By Darby Baham

Getting to know Warden Futch

Warden Futch has thirty years of law enforcement experience in the State of Florida, including fifteen years of executive command level experience. He has held command level positions in Corrections, Patrol, Community Policing and Investigations. He held Chief of Corrections positions in four Florida Counties, was a member of the Florida Sheriff's Association - Jail Advisory Council and a Commissioner for the Florida Correctional Accreditation Commission.

Warden Futch has served as a Jail Consultant, specializing in jail operations and staffing, working in some of the largest jail systems in the country, to include Harris County (Houston) and Dallas County, Texas. He was designated as an expert witness in jail Operations by Florida Courts. He is a past member of the National Institute of Corrections - Large Jail Network and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology from Florida State University. Warden Futch is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Florida Criminal Justice-Chief Executive Institute. He has over 2400 hours of advanced career development training and is a Certified Jail Manager by the American Jail Association and a Certified Corrections Executive by the American Correctional Association.

Profile: Meet the Warden

On Tuesday, November 13, Greg Futch joined the Department as the Warden of the D.C. Jail. He takes on this role after having served in several high level corrections posts throughout his career. Read on to learn a little more about the new Warden:



Q: What led you into a career in the correctional field?

A: It just happened as a matter of fate. I started out as a cop and spent my first 10 years working as a Deputy Sheriff and in community policing and investigations. I worked about every position you can think of. Then, we got a new sheriff, and I was asked to move to the jail. He told me that he needed my leadership skills to get some of the problems fixed over there. I was the Assistant Director at the jail and spent 3 years trying to improve things. From there, I moved around and developed a reputation as a problem solver and fixer of jails.

Q: Were you always interested in law enforcement?

A: Well, both my parents were cops. I went to college on a football scholarship, but got my bachelor's degree in Criminology. The original goal was to join the FBI, but they required 5 years of experience with the degree. Once I worked my five years, I found myself invested where I was already.

Q: What are some of your short term and long term goals as the Warden of the D.C. Jail?

A: I want to meet with all the staff and talk about my philosophy for operations—which is that I believe in the importance of a two-way dialogue. I believe wholeheartedly in the idea of allowing employees the opportunity to speak their opinions and give suggestions, and I rely heavily on Corrections Officers' perspectives of the job since I was never a Corrections Officer myself—that's why I spend a majority of my time walking the floors.

My primary goal right now is in creating an environment between myself and the managers where we promote the idea of striving to improve the work environment. If an employee has a passion for his or her job, it will reflect positively in their work. That's what we want.

Q: What are you most looking forward to in this new position?

A: I'm looking forward to the challenges! I'm excited about getting in there and talking to staff and improving any negative attitudes. I've always enjoyed the aspects of fixing things with the assistance of the staff. So I'm also looking forward to getting the buy-in of my philosophy from everyone and creating an environment that's friendly to suggestions and opinions from the staff.

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

A: I'm a 6th generation Floridian, and I enjoy working. I'm actually a bit of a workaholic. I do enjoy anything outdoors like hunting, fishing, and golfing—but I don't get to do them that often, because I like to be accessible during the different shifts at the jail.

CTF Partners with Our Place DC

For the past six months, Our Place DC has worked inside the Central Treatment Facility (CTF), helping to provide a variety of services for the women incarcerated. These services include one-on-one case management and legal services two days per week, monthly connections to career workshops, HIV education workshops, and monthly legal education clinics.

Led by Executive Director, Caralita Moore, the organization works with the women to build their physical, mental, and economic health through a wide range of wraparound services. They also serve as a direct avenue for services upon release.

As a strong re-entry partner with DOC since April 2012, Our Place DC has served over 350 women in the CTF and become an integral part of the re-entry process. “Our Place DC’s ability to connect with the women inside CTF allows them to develop a strong relationship with the women as they either return to the community or transfer to [federal institutions],” said Donna Deutsch.

Our Place DC is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping currently and formerly incarcerated women as they transition out of the criminal justice system. They provide legal, employment, re-entry, HIV/AIDS, family, and education services in an effort to increase the resources and opportunities available to the women. According to their website, “Our Place DC has helped over 10,000 Washington DC women craft a better life” since their inception in 1999.

By Darby Baham

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Women Join Inmate Work Squad

This September, the Department began a pilot program within its Inmate Work Squad to include female inmates. With two female inmates joining the program, the squad now has a total of 12 inmates on detail—10 male and 2 female.

The women are currently working at the Video Visitation Center (VVC) and report to Sergeant Julian Battle, who oversees the Department’s Inmate Work Squad. In this post, they have assisted VVC staff and officers in maintaining the cleanliness of the center. “This was a great opportunity for them to gain employment while incarcerated,” said Sergeant Battle. “They get to learn skills and also make money. We’ve also found that employment goes a long way to eliminate depression. The women are excited and enthusiastic about having a job, and we’re also getting a good response from staff about [their performances] so far.”

Based on job availability, Sergeant Battle would like to continue expanding the female inmate work squad. “I think it would be good for the women, the city, and the Department,” he said.

Over the past five years, the inmate work squad has worked with various agencies throughout the city to assist with jobs such as excavations, painting, snow shoveling and more. The program was recognized by the Mayor and City Council in 2010 for its outstanding work.



Female inmates working at the Visitation Center. Photo: Darby Baham

By Darby Baham