

FRONTLINE NEWS

DC Department of Corrections Newsletter

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Some of the offerings made available at DOC's host committee table. Photo Credit: Darby Baham

DOC Helps Host 2013 ACA Conference

Nearly 5,000 criminal justice professionals, corrections officers, public safety personnel, and vendors from across the country came to the Washington D.C. area to attend the 2013 American Correctional Association (ACA) Conference this August 9 – 14.

Held at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, the conference — also called the 143rd Congress of Correction, featured a host of workshops, correctional facility tours, exhibitor tables, and special events. The proximity provided an opportunity for many corrections employees in the Washington Metropolitan area to attend whether they were volunteering or paid members of the ACA.

"The D.C. Department of Corrections was proud to be a part of hosting this year's ACA Conference," said Director Faust. "Having the conference this year in the Washington D.C. region afforded DCDOC a great opportunity to network with other corrections professionals and allow many more staff to participate in a national conference, meet new people, and help expand their own professional development."

Important topics covered during the conference included best practices for managing the mentally ill, recognizing suicide risk factors and prevention, best practices in jail reentry programs, jail healthcare, gender-specific programming, accreditation trends and more.

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*Thomas Faust,
Director*



By Darby Baham

Chaplain Green Receives 2013 Chaplain of the Year Award



Chaplain Green gives her acceptance speech during the ACA Conference. Photo Credit: Darby Baham

Beginning her speech with the popular Bible verse from Psalm 34: 1— 4, Chaplain Betty Green went on to thank the Salvation Army, her co-workers and family in attendance, as well as give honor to God for her award—the Salvation Army’s 2013 Chaplain of the Year Award.

The prestigious national award was presented to Chaplain Green during this year’s American Correctional Association Conference in a ceremony that included singing, a three-course lunch, and a keynote speaker. When presented with her award, Chaplain Green graciously thanked those who supported her, but also made sure to acknowledge how she felt blessed doing her current work and would not soon retire. “I would like to give all honor to God, who is my source and my sustainer for allowing me this opportunity to stand before you today to receive this great honor,” she said to the crowd of at least 100 people. “To

the Salvation Army, thank you for recognizing the work and ministry of chaplaincy and considering me as a worthy representative of the calling and cause of the ministry we refer to as chaplaincy services. It is an awesome work. It is a fulfilling work.”

Chaplain Green has worked in corrections for over 40 years and has served as the DOC Chaplain for ten years. She is also the assistant to the pastor at Mount Olive Baptist Church in NE Washington, DC.

By Darby Baham

Did You Know? National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and it is a chance to raise awareness about the importance of screening and its effects on the early detection of breast cancer.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, breast cancer is the most common form of cancer found in women, coming second behind only skin cancer. The website notes that “about 1 in 8 women born today in the United States will get breast cancer at some point during her life.”

The good news? Many women are able to survive breast cancer if found and treated early, which has been the aim of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month since its founding in 1985 through a partnership with the American Cancer Society and the pharmaceutical division of Imperial Chemical Industries.

A mammogram – the screening test for breast cancer – is typically promoted as the most effective method of detection. However, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also strongly recommends that each woman have a conversation with her doctor about how likely she is to get breast cancer. “Talk to a doctor about your risk for breast cancer, especially if a close family member has had breast or ovarian cancer. Your doctor can help you decide when and how to get mammograms.”



Photo via NationalBreastCancer.org website

Information generated from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ website, healthfinder.gov.

Getting to know Dr. Mynett

Dr. Beth Mynett is a graduate of the University of Arizona College of Medicine and completed her internal medicine residency at the University Medical Center and Veterans Administration in Tucson, Arizona.

For nearly 5 years she was on staff at the Mayo Clinic before moving to Washington D.C. in 2001 to focus both on healthcare advocacy issues and the continuing education needs of the entire health care team on a wide variety of medical issues.

She has over 20 years experience as a Clinician and Administrator, including in both urgent care and emergency room treatment and previously served as the Medical Director for the National Association for Reproductive Health Professionals.

Dr. Mynett is also nationally recognized as an expert in Women's Reproductive Rights.

Profile: Dr. Beth Mynett

This June, Dr. Beth J. Mynett joined the Department as the agency's new Medical Director. She assumed the position previously held by Dr. Nader Marzban, who retired in December of 2012. Please read below to learn more about Dr. Beth Mynett.



Photo credit: Bridget Reavis-Tyler

Q: What influenced your decision to join DCDOC as the medical director?

A: I have a long history of working with underserved communities, so I was delighted to be invited to come on board as DOC's medical director this past summer.

Q: What are some of your top priorities/things you are most looking forward to implementing or changing?

A: I look forward to working with DOC leadership to strengthen DOC's suicide prevention policies and practices, as well as enhance outpatient and inpatient clinical capabilities within CDC/CTF.

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

A: When not at work, I can mostly be found at the dog park with my family and our new red tick coon hound rescue, Leroy.

Language Access Team Conducts Jail Audit

Last Fall, the Department of Corrections' Language Access (LA) Team began working on several ideas to improve the access to services and materials for Limited English Proficient and Non-English Proficient (LEP/NEP) customers of the agency. However, very early on, the team realized that it needed to have a more wide-ranging view of what the agency was currently practicing before it began implementing ideas of change.

In order to do this, the team requested the assistance of Prechelle Shannon (of the agency's Audit and Compliance Office) and senior management to bring about what would become the first comprehensive Language Access Audit of the DC Jail.

With their full support, the audit began on September 18 and closed out on September 20, covering all 15 active housing units and case management offices, the law library, chapel, medical/mental, the video visitation center, staff entrance, culinary, and more.

"The audit went very well and the staff was, for the most part, receptive and helpful," said Eric Tagne, Acting Correctional Treatment Specialist and one of the LA Team members conducting the audit. "I hope that our findings and recommendations will allow us to significantly improve communication with the LEP/NEP inmates under DOC care [and] custody or any other customer in need of DOC services."

Based on the findings of the audit, the LA Team (in conjunction with the Audit and Compliance Office) will release a full report by the end of the year that will detail the steps required to maximize access to all available LA resources. To obtain further information about the LA Team or the Language Access Audit, feel free to contact Darby Baham, Language Access Coordinator at (202) 673- 7316.

By Darby Baham

PREA Compliance a Priority for DOC

This August served as the official launch of DOC's Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) audit season. This involves a full commitment to PREA compliance and includes a strong educational component, for both the inmate population and staff. DCDOC's PREA Coordinator, Michael Miller, is spearheading this effort in collaboration with a team of experienced correctional professional — both internal and external to DCDOC. As part of educational campaign, vital information about PREA has been posted throughout the jail (and outside posts). Listed below are some important facts for all DOC personnel to know about PREA and its impact on the work we do everyday.

- PREA, which was passed in 2003, has become a major priority for the DC Jail, particularly since the standards were released in 2012.
- PREA requires that all incidents of a sexual nature are documented. ALL staff are required to report allegations of sexual abuse or misconduct, whether by an inmate or other staff.
- Staff can report these allegations to either their supervisor or to the Office of Investigative Services Hotline at (202) 715 – 7541 or doc.oia@dc.gov.
- There will be a more stringent intake process identifying inmates who are vulnerable to sexual assault and those who are more likely to be abusers.
- The agency's goals are to prevent incidents before they happen; to detect incidents by ensuring staff are more observant and vigilant in identifying signs of sexual abuse and/or sexual misconduct; and to respond quickly and in a more meaningful way to provide the best possible medical and mental health treatment for victims.

To obtain further information about PREA, feel free to contact Michael Miller at Michael.MillerJ@dc.gov or at (202) 673-8202.

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Logo via the National PREA Resource Center website.