



Employee News

Governor M. Jodi Rell

Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara

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"Ask the Commissioner"

If you have a question for Commissioner O'Meara, you are invited to e-mail Joan Barnish at

joan.barnish@po.state.ct.us

Watch for your response in future newsletter editions.

Newsworthy articles should be forwarded to your regional **DMR Employee News** contacts:

North/Linda Schaefer

West/Eunice Rivera

South/Jolie Cresimano-Goss

Commissioner's Corner

There has been increasing interest from advocates, families and consumers nationally and specifically in Connecticut, in response to the term "mental retardation" because it is thought to be stigmatizing and offensive to many people. Many professional organizations and states that still use this term have been asked to consider changing their name to something that is perceived more positively. One concern that has been raised in changing the name of the Department is that it might create an expectation of services for persons that we do not currently have the statutory authority or funding to serve.

Taking these concerns into account, DMR has proposed legislation for the 2006 session that would require the Department to solicit feedback on a Department name change from consumers, parents, advocate groups, service providers and other interested parties and then report back its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Office of Policy and Management by January 2007 for legislative consideration in the 2007 session.

DMR met with the Co-Chairs of the Public Health Committee prior to the session starting and the Committee agreed to raise the bill. The next step in the process, is a public hearing which has not yet been scheduled. As the legislation moves forward, DMR will begin to plan opportunities to solicit feedback in the regions.

Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara

STS Appreciation Breakfast Serves Up Thanks



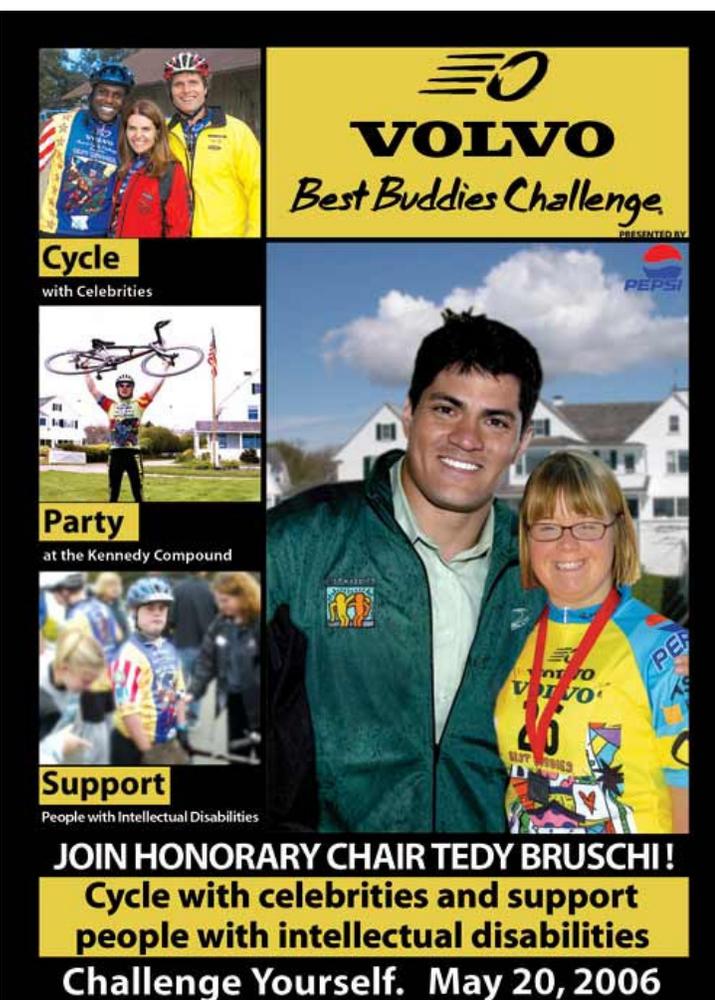
1st Row: (left to right) Jackson Pierre-Louis, Susan Patrick, Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara, 2nd Row: Bill Hermance, Matthew Santoro, Ed Caldwell, Steve Masavda, John Tomlinson, STS Director Fritz Gorst and John Birtwhistle.

Southbury Training School recently held it's annual Appreciation Breakfast in Thompson Hall. It is a time to thank the hundreds of employees who on a daily basis make a difference in the lives of the residents of STS.

On hand to help serve, Regional Director Dimitri Triantafillakis, STS Director Fritz Gorst, Assistant Regional Directors Jackson Pierre-Louis and Eugene Harvey.

STS Chefs prepared over 650 full breakfast meals. Congratulations to STS Staff.

Join Team Connecticut for the Ride of Your Life!



VOLVO
Best Buddies Challenge

Cycle
with Celebrities

Party
at the Kennedy Compound

Support
People with Intellectual Disabilities

JOIN HONORARY CHAIR TEDY BRUSCHI!
Cycle with celebrities and support people with intellectual disabilities
Challenge Yourself. May 20, 2006

On May 20, 2006, the cycling adventure begins at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston and ends with a private concert and lobster clambake at the Kennedy Compound in Hyannis Port.

With a great mix of celebrity talent along with the participation of “Buddies” from around the country – many of whom complete the full 90-mile and 20-mile course on tandem bikes – the Volvo Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port has become a truly exceptional and inspiring event.

The entire weekend has the energy of a big family gathering – as participants, sponsors and notable guests celebrate side-by-side with celebrities and people with intellectual disabilities.

This is the Fourth Year that DMR Commissioner Peter H. O’Meara will be joined by employees and other Connecticut Citizens to form TEAM CT. As of March 1st, over 30 people have joined the team, you can be a part of it too.

DMR Employees

Contact

Best Buddies Program Supervisor

Sarah Carroll at:

203-773-9233

For more information and registration.

50% of Team CT Fund Raising

Stays in Connecticut!

**Cycle 20 or 90 miles from
The JFK Library in Boston
to the Kennedy Compound on Cape Cod
Followed by Clambake and concert**

Regional Quality Councils Announced

Three new Regional Quality Councils were recently announced. These new Councils will be made up of families and individuals, with the purpose to provide critical feedback on our quality systems and complete various activities related to quality improvement. The department recognizes the value and importance of working collaboratively and continues to seek feedback from all of our partners. These regional committees will report to the Regional Advisory Committees on a quarterly basis.

As DMR employees, you might know of individuals or families who may be interested in becoming involved in these activities. Please contact your Regional Quality Improvement Directors for more information.