



Employee News

Governor M. Jodi Rell

Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara

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DMR SAFETY SUMMIT



DMR Executives converse and share information during the department's Safety Summit in Meriden.

After unveiling a statewide Safety Awareness Campaign, the department recently held a Safety Summit for DMR and Private Provider Administrators, public and private employees and representatives from other state agencies.



Director of Health and Clinical Services David Carlow presented an update on Dysphagia Training, Cynthia Gruman, Ph.D., Assistant

Professor of Medicine, UCONN Health Center provided a Statistical Analysis of department safety concerns and Steven Staugaitis, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts presented the results of a Root Cause Analysis of the department.

continued on next page

“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

One Year and Counting at Mona's Cafe



Pictured L-R Donna Campbell, David Provençal and Jen Maniulou

Mona's Café, located at the John Dempsey Regional Center offers a warm smile, a hot cup of coffee and a convenient place to purchase food. Just over a year ago, the café opened its' door after staff expressed interest in having a place to go without having to travel.

Ms. Jen Maniulou, one of the individuals who is currently employed by the café, had experience in public relations, sales and knowledge using a cash register. This, combined with a

little ingenuity and a lot of elbow grease, was the beginning of what has turned out to be a great experience for everyone.

Besides running the cash register, Ms. Maniulou prepares salads, delivers and takes orders.

continued on next page

SEND US YOUR STORIES

Employee News contacts:

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Case Management Day, A Success!

The Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) recently held a Case Management Networking Day in Farmington. Case Managers from throughout the state attended the conference which focused on various changes and issues facing the department.

The conference opened with remarks from DMR Director of Individual and Family Support Terry Cote, Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara and Deputy Commissioner Kathryn duPree. Motivational Speaker Norm Bossio presented a well received address on "Managing in Times of Change."

Throughout the day, case managers attended various sessions that focused on legal and forensic issues, the new Level of Need Tool, the PRAT process, Communications, Special Education, Self Directed and Autism Supports and Services.

Some of the highlights of the afternoon session included, Team Building, ways to manage stress through meditation and Tai Chi and Managing Multiple Priorities.

Special Guest Johnny Lampert, an international known motivational speaker and comedienne wrapped up the day with a look at "Motivating with Humor."



Case Managers learn the art of meditation.

Safety Summit *continued from page one*

"We are taking this opportunity to focus on what systems we need to enhance in order to provide the safest environment possible," said Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara. "The importance of what we have heard today will provide a stronger foundation for safety concerns in the future."

Break out sessions at the end of day, offered the opportunity for discussion and recommendations for a departmental Safety Action Plan.

Mona's Café, *continued from page one*

Mr. David Provencal, known as a comedian around Mona's, make the tuna fish, stirs the soup and stocks the shelves. The program is supported by DMR's Donna Campbell, MRASI.

Ms. Campbell's gregarious personality and teaching abilities have been instrumental in the success of the café. Her initiative and resourcefulness has created a very positive experience for these two employees.

Mona's, was named in memory of former state employee Mona Nelson, who was a permanent fixture in the old Dempsey snack bar which is now the café. The café serves coffee, sandwiches, soups and salads as well as daily specials, Monday through Friday from 7:30-1:30. Please stop by to visit if you are in the area!

SIGN UP

2006 Connecticut State Managers Day

"Reform, Refine, Renew - Facing the Future".

October 6, 2006

Aqua Turf Club

556 Mulberry South, Southington, CT
06489

Guest Speakers will be

Dr. Regina Barreca

Professor of English Literature & Feminist Theory, University of Connecticut

Dr. Ted Taigen

UConn Counseling Program for Intercollegiate Athletes

For more information and to Register on line visit: <http://www.ct.gov/mac>