



# Employee News

Governor M. Jodi Rell

Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara

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## EAP

Employee Assistance Program

**1-800-526-3485**

**24 / 7 Assistance**

**www.solutions-eap.com**

## DMR

**www.ct.gov/dmr**

### Central Office

(860) 418-6000

### North Region

(860) 263-2500

### West Region

(203) 805-7400

### South Region

(203) 294-5049

### STS

(203) 586-2000

## “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](mailto:joan.barnish@po.state.ct.us)

## SEND US YOUR STORIES

### Employee News contacts:

North/Linda Schaefer

West/Eunice Rivera

South/Jolie Crescimano-Goss

CO/ Joan Barnish

Lori Conchado

## Autism Pilot Program Bill Signing

Governor M. Jodi Rell recently signed the Autism Spectrum Disorders Bill at the Orange Town Hall. The bill established a pilot program which will provide a coordinated system of supports and services for 25 individuals who live in the New Haven area with autism spectrum disorders and who do not have mental retardation.

DMR Autism Pilot Program Director Kathy Reddington was on hand for the bill signing. Ms. Reddington was appointed coordinator over a year ago to oversee the program. She has coordinated the State Agency Workgroup and Steering Committee and will work on the development of the program.

“Kathy is a long time DMR employee with exceptionally strong clinical skills and is extremely effective in working with families,” said Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara. “This is exciting for the department to be a part of this pilot program, we understand how much it means to these families and we are here to help.”



(left to right) Lois Rosenwald, CT Autism Spectrum Resource Center Co-Director, Kathy Reddington and Governor M. Jodi Rell.

## Central Office Summer Bash

The day brought sunshine, food, colleagues and fun together as the Central Office staff celebrated the end of summer with a picnic. Held at the Northwest Park in Manchester, over fifty people enjoyed the afternoon of games for some and relaxing by the lake for others.



(left to right); CO Picnic Organizers, Karen Calabrese, Julie Bouchard, Heather Wilcox and Lidia Gomes.

Central Office's Julie Bouchard, Administrative Assistant, Lidia Gomes, Curriculum Manager, Heather Wilcox, Office Assistant and Karen Calabrese, Accounts Examiner should be congratulated for planning and hosting the picnic. Thanks also goes out to Legislative Liaison Christine Pollio for providing a horseshoe game which entertained the most of the crowd while others threw a football, played bocce ball and hiked the trails.

## Hawaiian Shirt Open

Over 135 golfers and a number of spirited volunteers clad in their finest Hawaiian shirts descended upon Gillette Ridge Country Club in Bloomfield, Connecticut for the North Region's Annual Hawaiian Shirt Open Golf Tournament. What initially began over a decade ago as a day of fun and golfing for a very intimate group, has evolved into an annual event attended by staff from all regions of DMR, as well as, Central Office personnel and friends of the Department. A change in venue from last year, and the added attraction of a band for post-dinner entertainment resulted in 30 more golfers participating this year.

This year's Hawaiian Shirt Open was the most successful to date, raising over \$4500 and having its largest turnout of players. Proceeds from the day will be divided and go to the North Region's Spirit Committee,



(left to right); Jane Merlino, Anne Martin, Barbara Smith and Joyce Zimmerman



(left to right); Tom Forster, Ken Kearns and David Arney

community groups who support persons with developmental disabilities, publicly operated CLAs and the American Cancer Society. The American Cancer Society has been the recipient of funds for the past four years as three long time DMR staff (Gary White, Vic Puzzo and Michael Gaudreau), who fervently advocated for persons with developmental disabilities, had their lives taken at a young age by cancer. The Hawaiian Shirt Open has become a vehicle to raise funds in their honor and memory.

If you are interested in participating in next year's event or would like information on how you can help, please contact Tina Abbate, David Arney or Tom Forster in the North Region.

## New Portal "Under Construction"

Over the next several months, you might hear the words, "DMR Portal Team". What does this mean? It means the department has begun the development of its' new website. Ms. Janice Gaskell, Data Process Technical Analyst 1 has joined Joan Barnish, Director of Communications in formatting and building the new portal. Ms. Gaskell comes to the DMR from the Attorney General's Office where she built and managed their website.

The Portal Team has begun meeting with all DMR Divisions to outline their sections of the web. The new portal will be designed to provide information in an organized format to our consumers, their families and DMR employees.