

DDS EMPLOYEE NEWS

Governor M. Jodi Rell

Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara

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Message from Commissioner O'Meara

Dear DDS Employees and Private Providers:

I want to thank the vast majority of our staff in both the public and private sector who do so much to support and enhance the quality of life for the people we support. From clipping coupons to stretching the budget to baking a person's favorite birthday cake, our staff gives so much of themselves to others throughout the year and we are most grateful for your efforts.

Unfortunately, there have been, in the past year or two, situations where those who are entrusted to care for others have used the personal funds or resources of our clients for their own personal gain. These individuals in essence have stolen the funds or property of our clients. In one tragic case, it was the family member stealing from his/her own child.

It is difficult to understand how someone can do this, but I want to emphasize that all of us must protect the funds, benefits and property of our clients, as well as all state property. For those who do not, we will make sure that prosecution to the fullest extent of the law is pursued and that administrative action is promptly rendered.

We are enhancing our audit and oversight systems so that we can assure the public, the people we serve and their families that we are trustworthy stewards of public monies.

Sometimes people experience difficulties around personal finances, addiction or gambling. These troubling situations may lead to the misappropriation of client or state funds. If you are a DDS staff person, please avail yourself of the excellent and confidential Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Please call before personal difficulties affect your job.

For those of you who work by both the letter and spirit of the law, I appreciate your compassion, commitment and dedication to your jobs and the people we serve. It is because of your strong ethics that our agency is able to serve over 20,000 individuals and protect their resources every day.

Celebrating 18 Years of Independent Living



John Jackson and Nathan Wise

Mr. John H. "Action" Jackson, of New London, celebrated 18 Years of Independent Living on December 28, 2007, with breakfast at Monica's State Street Diner with longtime friend, Nathan Wise of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) South Region's Waterford Respite Center.

Born on April 26, 1946, Mr. Jackson has been a member of the DDS community for many years and has accomplished much. Of all his accomplishments, he is most proud of living independently at his Huntington Towers Apartment. Mr. Jackson wishes to share the news of this exciting milestone with the many DDS staff and friends he has had the pleasure of knowing and working with over the years. Please join the South Region in congratulating Mr. John "Action" Jackson on another year of Independent Living. Way to go, Action!

Nursing Students Learn From the Best!

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) began a new teaching partnership with the prestigious **University of Connecticut School of Nursing** in September 2008. Eight junior nursing students attended weekly specialized training with DDS nurses and educators. As part of their junior program academic track, this community experience is designed to assist the students with their transition from an academic to a clinical setting and prepare them to provide nursing support services to individuals with intellectual disabilities. Each student is paired with a DDS Registered Nurse responsible for coordinating health services for DDS consumers living in regional centers, community living arrangements, community training homes, day programs and in their own homes. The purpose of this first of its kind partnership is to train undergraduate registered nursing students in the specialty field of developmental disability nursing and also encourage these students to enter the field of developmental disability nursing after they graduate and become licensed. Many thanks to the registered nurses in the North Region who participated in this important partnership.



Junior nursing students from the University of Connecticut School of Nursing with DDS Director of Health and Clinical Services David Carlow

Department of Developmental Services

www.ct.gov/dds

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Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

www.solutions-eap.com ♦ 24/7 Assistance ♦ 1-800-526-3485

Questions?

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