

DDS EMPLOYEE NEWS

Governor M. Jodi Rell

Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara

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DOIT - SafeBoot Ceremony



(left to right)Vincent O'Connell, Chief of Fiscal & Administrative Services; Jim Ritchey, Information Systems Manager; Mark Warzecha, Information Technology Manager; Mary Gervais, Information Technology Manager; and Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara attended the award ceremony at MCC.

Mark Warzecha, Information Technology Manager, and Mary Gervais, Information Technology Manager; were honored with awards for being part of the DOIT team that successfully implemented the accelerated laptop encryption project named **Safe-Boot**. Each of the 550+ laptops took approximately 2 1/2 to 3 hours to encrypt and perform subsequent network connections. All of this had to be completed in a mandated five week period.

The "rollout" group directly responsible for this implementation consisted of IT and regional IT support staff: specifically, Mary Gervais, Greg Deschamps, Geoffrey Gidman, Kayon Brown-Palmer, Murando Little, Lester Tillman, Jim Ritchey, Walter Baker, Bud Hayes, Claudia Newman, Rick Silva, Pauline Lebel and Mark Warzecha. Mr. Warzecha commented that while he felt honored to receive such recognition, he wanted to ensure credit was given to all participants who truly did a tremendous job of

completing the project on a very tight schedule. The ceremony was held May 14, 2008 at Manchester Community College (MCC).

West Region - DDS Clients Favorite Doc Retires

A doctor is someone you see for your yearly exam, when you feel lousy, or need a referral to a specialist. You develop a trust in your doctor and you hope that you don't have to see him all that often. Not the case with this particular man. He made all of his patients feel like they were the only one he was seeing that day. He encouraged them to eat healthy, exercise and watch their weight. A patient was promised a cup of coffee if weight was lost; she soon lost the weight, and the next morning he took her for a coffee at McDonalds. If you are lucky enough to have a doctor like Dr. David Hebert, you are truly blessed.

When Dr. Hebert announced his retirement, one of his patients, Deb Tyler, inquired about throwing him a party. The Individual Support/Own Home (IS/OH) staff agreed to assist but told her she had to plan it. She worked on inviting his patients, most of whom were from the program. Some life time friends who were also patients attended as well. A dinner was held at Bogeys Restaurant in Torrington, and a speech was given in his honor. When the tears were wiped away, a very heartfelt thank you was given by this man whom we wish the best for in his retirement.



Dr. David Hebert, top center, surrounded by IS/OH staff and clients who wish him well on his retirement after 20+ years of being a Primary Physician for many who will truly miss him.

Greater Hartford Arthritis Walk



(left to right) Jill Niesen, Psychologist; Jeanne Hubbard, Supervising Developmental Services Worker 1 (DSWI); Lynn McMunn, Psychologist; Marianne Zilaro, DS Facility Unit Program Manager; Peter Angelini, Behavior Modification Program Specialist; along with their mascot Gracie at bottom of the picture.

The month of May was National Arthritis Month across the country. Over 300 communities participated in the *The Arthritis Walk*, which raises funds for arthritis research, health education and government advocacy initiatives.

This year several Southbury Training School (STS) employees participated in the *Greater Hartford Arthritis Walk* at St. Joseph's College in West Hartford. Participants usually walk in honor of a friend or family member with arthritis. Arthritis is the nation's leading cause of disability.

The STS employees raised over \$1600 from the generosity of their fellow DDS employees. Although the weather was overcast and cool, the employees had a great time together for a great cause.

Planning for the Care of Your Loved Ones *By Karen Cerrato, LCSW, EAP Program Coordinator*

Advanced Directives, Living Wills, Durable Power of Attorney? What do they mean? Why do we need to be aware of these things? They sound intimidating but these resources are important to the future well-being of our loved ones, whether it's our aging parents, aunts, uncles or spouses/partners. Even ourselves!

In today's society we have advanced medical technology that can prolong our lives. However some people have strong opinions about what type of medical care they want to receive or not should they become ill. When people cannot speak for themselves due to illness or injury, it is up to their family members or health care providers to make decisions on their behalf. This is an enormous responsibility that can be very emotional.

Advanced Directives are your plans you wish for future medical treatment should you become incapacitated by illness or accident. This means that others need to communicate your wishes to healthcare providers.

Call Solutions EAP at 1-800-526-3485 for assistance for all of life's challenges. It's free, confidential and open to your family members. Check us out on-line at www.solutions-eap.com

Department of Developmental Services

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Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

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

Questions?

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