
October 4, 2006
NP-4 MEMBERSHIP ALERT:
DOC PUTS DOLLARS BEFORE SAFETY

On Sept. 20, 2006, the Hartford Courant ran a major story, "Training Falls Short." **Based on a letter to Commissioner Lantz from Local 387 leadership, The Courant reported the Department of Correction is fraudulently crediting training hours to our union members.** A copy of the letter to Commissioner Lantz can be found on the reverse side of this flyer.

In the Courant article, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said the following: **"One of the [Correction Officers'] claims is that records had been falsified, which could be a criminal offense...Training is critical to effective corrections work."**

The NP-4 Unions and Council 4 are fighting on your behalf.
Please help us by taking the following two steps:

- **Contact your facility supervisor in charge of training and ask for a copy of your training logs.** If you have been credited with training that you did not receive, or that you feel has been exaggerated, contact your union steward immediately. Any documentation you provide will help hold the Department accountable
- **Please call Governor Jodi Rell at 1-800-406-1527.** Tell her to hold the DOC and Commissioner Lantz accountable for putting public safety at risk.

Thank you for any and all help as we fight to keep everyone safe and healthy.



AFSCME Local 387 • AFSCME Local 391 • AFSCME Local 1565



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Sept. 20, 2006

Commissioner Theresa Lantz
24 Wolcott Hill Rd.
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Dear Commissioner Lantz,

On behalf of the members of Local 387 of Council 4 AFSCME, we are writing to you about an issue of utmost importance for the employees we represent at the Cheshire Area complex – and, we believe, for all front-line DOC employees.

Simply put, it is apparent that the Department of Correction is fraudulently crediting training time to employees who received only a fraction of the full training time for which they are being credited. In many cases, DOC is crediting employees *not present in the facility* with in-service training time.

All of this is done without the consent of the employees we represent. Indeed, we continue to be ignored in our request for serious training. We have documented hundreds of examples of this alarming policy at the Cheshire Correctional Institution. For example, *a correction officer was recently credited with an hour of simulated training for suicide prevention when the simulation actually lasted 4 minutes.*

The Department is abdicating its responsibility to provide critical training in areas such as suicide prevention, security risk groups, inmate escape, restraints and emergency drills, just to name a few. Why DOC would cut corners on training that can save people's lives within facilities – inmates and staff alike – and endanger the public is beyond us.

We have presented our concerns, along with supporting documentation, at labor-management meetings. Deputy Commissioner Brian Murphy, to his credit, has acknowledged the problem, but has no jurisdiction over training. He also said Department cannot change what's happened in the past regarding improper training.

While we appreciate his candor, such a response will not prevent another suicide or any other calamity that can happen, and has happened, within prison walls.

Our concerns are shared by the other NP-4 bargaining units (Local 391 and Local 1565). We urge you to act immediately to address our concerns and to improve training within DOC. Fraudulent reporting of any kind is bad enough. But when public safety is imperiled, the stakes become even higher.

Sincerely,

Thomas Miles, President

David Testa, Vice President

Cc: Gov. Rell
Sen. Williams
Sen. DeLuca
Rep. Amann
Rep. Ward
NP-4 Presidents