

The Department of Correction shall strive to be a global leader in progressive correctional practices and partnered re-entry initiatives to support responsive evidence-based practices aligned to law-abiding and accountable behaviors. Safety and security shall be a priority component of this responsibility as it pertains to staff, victims, citizens and offenders.

PRIDE

Professionalism - Respect - Integrity - Dignity - Excellence

Connecticut Department Of Correction

- ▶ Interim Commissioner Scott Semple
- ▶ Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Cepelak
- ▶ Acting Deputy Commissioner Monica Rinaldi

- ▶ Connecticut Restraint and Seclusion
Prevention Initiative and Partnership
 - ▶ Friday September 12, 2014

- ▶ Presented by Director Of Security
 - ▶ Christine M. Whidden



INTRODUCTION

- ▶ The Connecticut Department of Correction was established by the General Assembly as of July 1, 1968 when the State Jail Administration, statutorily separate institutions and parole and related functions were established into a cabinet level agency headed by a commissioner who is appointed by the Governor. This consolidation resulted in what today is one of only six state correctional agencies in the country with a combined system of pre-trial jails for accused inmates and prisons for sentenced inmates.

INTRODUCTION

- ▶ The Connecticut Department of Correction strives to be a global leader in progressive correctional practices and partnered re-entry initiatives to support evidence based practices and aligned to law abiding and accountable behaviors. As of the end of July 2014, we supervised 20,407 inmates, 16,501 in our facilities and the remainder on a form of community supervision.. We have approximately 5800 staff.



Connecticut Department of Correction

- ▶ **Mission Statement** The Department of Correction shall strive to be a global leader in progressive correctional practices and partnered re-entry initiatives to support responsive evidence-based practices aligned to law-abiding and accountable behaviors. Safety and security shall be a priority component of this responsibility as it pertains to staff, victims, citizens and inmates.



Connecticut Department of Correction

- ▶ Vision

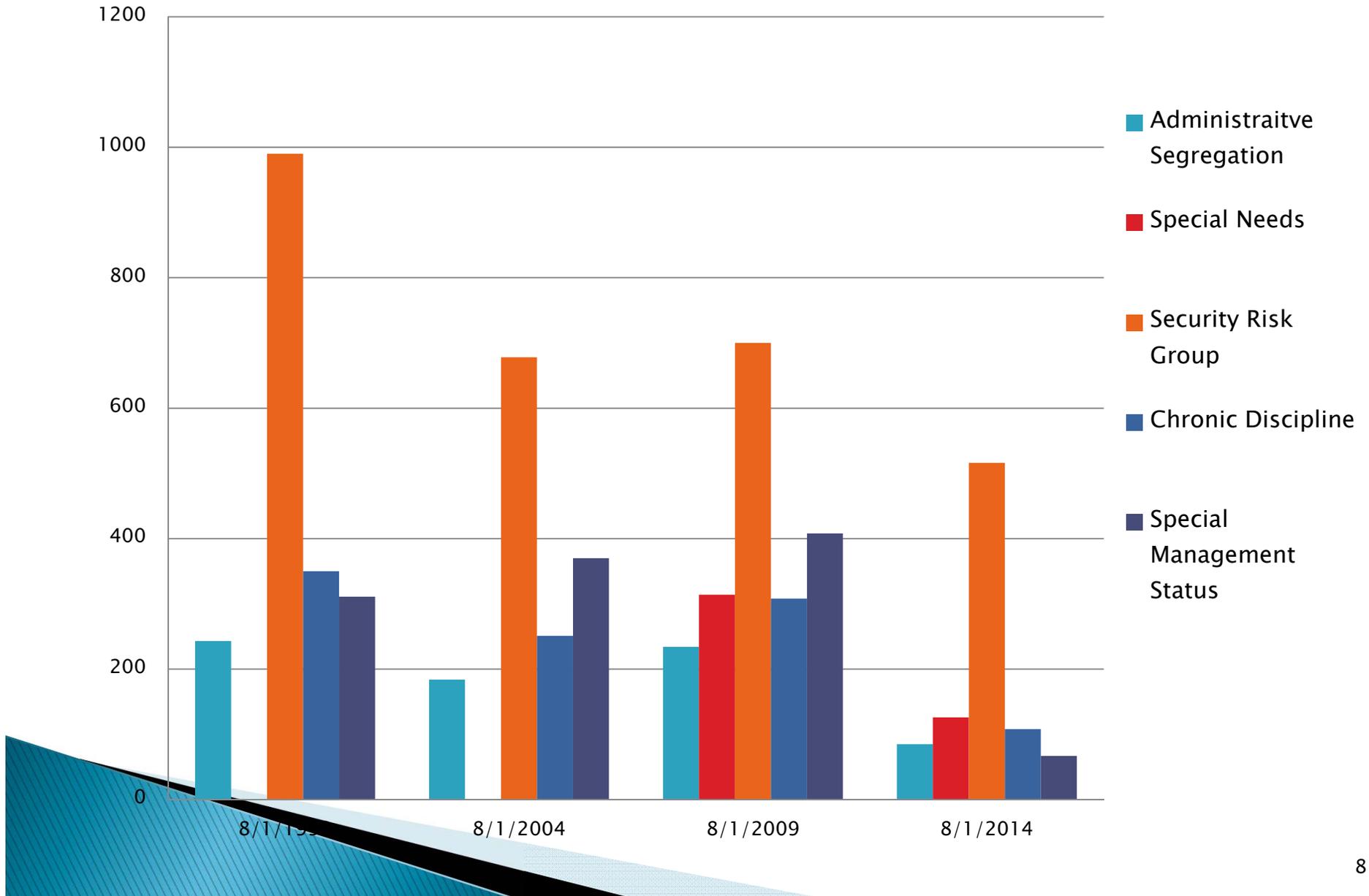
- ▶ Re-victimization is reduced by providing inmates the tools and resources to make positive changes for a successful transition back into the community.



HISTORY

- ▶ The Connecticut Department of Correction has had many versions of our current Administrative Segregation (AS) program. Back in the early 1980's the program was at the then Somers Correctional Institution (the states maximum security institution). Currently, different Phases of the AS program are located at several of our facilities) .
- ▶ The current definition of AS is as follows: “Placement of an inmate on a restrictive status that results in segregation of the inmate whose behavior or management factors pose a threat to security of the facility or a risk to the safety of staff or other inmates and the inmate can no longer be safely managed in general population”.

Historical Timeline



MOTIVATION

- ▶ Our motivation to change is a result of our desire to make our facilities safer, to adhere to current best correctional practices, to reduce the opportunity for external influences to govern our policies and purely because it was the right thing to do. Beginning in late 2002 our agency began to partner with the Office of Protection and Advocacy. Through their education and influence, we began to understand more the effects that AS has had on inmates. We have long respected and understood that it is a delicate balance to maintain safety while still caring for the inmates needs.



MODEL FOR CHANGE: ASCA

- ▶ Our agency follows The Guiding Principles for Restrictive Housing Units as set forth by ASCA. The Association of State Correctional Administrators.
- ▶ The Association of State Correctional Administrators was founded on the belief that each represented correctional jurisdiction is **unique** with regard to obligatory statutes, policies, structure, incarcerated population, resources, and burning issues, but that similarities of purpose, responsibilities, principles, and challenges among its member jurisdictions **unite** them in a quest for public safety, secure and orderly facilities, and professionalism that can be achieved through sharing ideas and vigorously entering into collaborative efforts to persistently improve the corrections profession.



ASCA GUIDELINES

- providing a process for placement, periodic classification reviews
- in person MH assessments, having an appropriate MH TX plan
- provide structure and incentives for positive behavior, determine duration of stay based on nature/level of threat
- provide appropriate access to Medical services,
- visiting opportunities

ASCA GUIDELINES

- exercise opportunities
- ability to maintain proper hygiene(showers)
- transitional program opportunities
- collection of data for assessment
- conduct objective reviews for continued participation
- require all staff to be trained on the management of inmates on restrictive status

NASMHPD Strategies

- ▶ **Leadership Toward Organizational Change**
 - ▶ **Use of Data to Inform Practice**
 - ▶ **Workforce Development**
 - ▶ **Use of Seclusion/Restraint tools**
 - ▶ **Consumer Roles in Inpatient Settings**
 - ▶ **Debriefing Techniques**



Biggest Challenge

CHANGE



MONITORING

- ▶ Prior to his retirement Commissioner Dzurenda established an Administrative Segregation Revision Committee comprised of Custody Staff, Treatment Staff and Yale Law School tasked with investigating best practices and make recommendation for changes to the AS program. Based on this committees dedication and commitment to the improvement in our AS program, we look forward to improving upon our prior success.

BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS

- ▶ From an operational/custodial perspective our barometer of success is related to the reduction of: incidents, staff assaults, inmate assaults, re-victimization and recidivism. Clearly, all of the above are related to the successful management of each inmate



Lessons Learned....

- ▶ We have begun to embrace the idea that each inmate is a conversation. By engaging inmates in a meaningful and objective conversation, allowing them to advocate for themselves, we will begin to foster and develop a more sustainable approach to treating them while continuing to maintain a safe, secure and humane environment for our staff and inmates.



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