



Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

## STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



Scott Semple  
Commissioner

### OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

TO: ALL STAFF

FROM: SCOTT SEMPLE, COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: BUDGET CONCERNS #2

DATE: MARCH 7, 2016

In keeping with my commitment to remain transparent regarding matters that effect the staff of this Department, I feel it imperative to update you with the latest information associated with the state's budget shortfall and the significant impact it will have.

The Governor's proposed budget has recommended our agency reduce our overall annual budget by approximately \$66,000,000. The Office of Policy and Management has requested that state agencies submit their expenditure reductions within the next few weeks.

It is with great unease that I confirm, despite ongoing cost saving efforts, the need for employee layoffs is imminent. Unfortunately, we cannot rely on an anticipated attrition rate to control the budget gap. As difficult and unsettling as this situation is, I am dedicated to a layoff process that is approached with dignity and compassion for our employees. As always, maintaining safety and security in our correctional facilities will remain our top priority. I am unable to quantify the total number of layoffs based on the multiple factors that may impact this figure, however, we continue to strategize on efforts to reduce the total number of layoffs.

Again in an effort to maintain as much transparency as possible around this issue, I plan to meet with elected parties from the Department's internal bargaining unions. In addition, meetings have been scheduled with the leadership from the Board of Pardons and Paroles and our contracted service providers from Correctional Managed Health Care (CMHC), as they will also experience similar budgetary reductions.

We have prioritized each of our agency's services under one of five general categories to include: custody, operations, support services, treatment services and non-residential services. This organization of services will act as a guide as we move forward through the structured layoff process.

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As we begin the painful process of identifying positions targeted for layoffs, I pledge to continue to communicate pertinent information with all of you. I will also provide resource information in an effort to assist affected employees in finding answers to the multitude of questions that will no doubt arise.

For those of you who will be directly affected, let me assure you that it is in no way related to your job performance. Your contributions to this agency and our mission are truly appreciated. I cannot begin to express how much I regret having to be the bearer of this news. The decision to reduce staff through layoffs is far and away the most difficult thing I have had to do as Commissioner. Unfortunately, the current economic climate of the state is one of the most challenging that we have ever faced. For my part, I pledge to continue to search for ways to meet our budgetary obligations with the least amount of individual impact.

I truly appreciate the hardship that these actions will have on you and your families, and I vow to do everything in my power to minimize the disruption to your lives.

SS/jab