

## Questions for Commissioner of Correction Nominee

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### Commissioner of Correction ([CGS §§ 18-80 & -81](#))

- Must be an experienced correctional administrator.
- Supervises and directs the Department of Correction's (DOC) institutions, facilities, and activities.
- Establishes rules for custodial and rehabilitative methods and operates community-based service programs.
- Is responsible for supervising parolees.
- Establishes disciplinary, treatment, education, training, and other services and programs throughout DOC.
- Arranges for (1) civil legal services for indigent inmates, within available appropriations, and (2) legal representation for such inmates before administrative boards where permitted or constitutionally required.

### Questions

1. What lessons have you learned as commissioner so far? What were your biggest challenges thus far? How has being commissioner been different from what you envisioned when working in other DOC jobs?

2. [PA 22-18](#), among other things, generally required all incarcerated individuals in the general population to be allowed out of their cell for a specified amount of time. It also limited the time they could spend in isolation (i.e., 15 consecutive days or 30 days within a 60-day period). How has the implementation gone? What, if any, problems have arisen from these requirements?
3. [PA 22-18](#) also established the Correction Advisory Committee which, among other things, must submit a list of correction ombuds candidates to the governor for his consideration and appointment. How would you respond to [concerns](#) about committee appointees' affiliation with DOC?
4. The newly expanded correction ombuds office will, among other things, provide services to everyone in DOC custody, conduct site visits, evaluate DOC's delivery of services to these individuals, and receive their communications. How do you envision the relationship between DOC and this office?
5. [PA 22-133](#) required the department to develop a plan by the beginning of this year to provide health care services to inmates in DOC correctional institutions, including mental health, substance use disorder, and dental care services. Was DOC able to meet this deadline? What were the greatest challenges in developing this plan?
6. During the pandemic, there were [reports](#) of correction officers using federal pandemic relief money to book hotel rooms for various personal reasons (e.g., wedding, New Year's Eve celebration). Why did it take so long to figure out this occurred? What actions is DOC taking now to ensure that misuse of funds does not occur in the future?
7. As a result of a declining prison population, DOC has [announced](#) that the Willard Correctional Institution will close on April 1, 2023. This follows the closures of Northern Correctional Institution and Radgowski Correctional Center. Are there other closures being considered? How are these decisions made?
8. There have been [reports](#) that alcohol-fueled incidents have tripled in prisons since the pandemic. What has the department done to try to combat this rise?
9. Connecticut recently required DOC to provide free phone calls for inmates, including generally allowing each individual to have at least 90 minutes each day for these calls ([PA 21-54](#), § 1, as amended by [PA 21-2](#), § 52, June Special Session; codified as CGS § 18-8100). Recent data [shows](#) that call times are up 120%. Has this increased time on the phone caused any unforeseen problems?

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