



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** DCF All Staff  
**FROM:** Commissioner Dorantes  
**DATE:** March 1, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Social Work Month

---

March is Social Work Month and affords us an opportunity to stop for a moment and reflect on choosing to dedicate ourselves to the roles and responsibilities of our agency. As you know, I started here at the Department 27 years ago in 1992 as a front-line social worker. The Department supported me as I rose through the succession of positions – supervisory, managerial and administrative – until this moment where I am humbled and honored to serve as the Department’s Commissioner. I am humbled because of the responsibilities I feel toward the children and families we serve – but also because of the responsibilities I feel toward each one of you.

And I am so very proud of this organization and all of us who work here.

As social workers and as varied professionals within a social work agency, we are first and foremost agents of change. We understand the harsh realities of the world but also the resilience in people that affords hope. We can help bring about great things and often do. Connecticut’s children deserve our nurturance, protection and encouragement to develop into the next generation of caring and engaged citizens, advocates for those in need and leaders of our great state.

One of the most important elements of being effective social workers – maybe the single most important – is recognizing that we have many partners in our work. Our role as collaborators is central to our success. We are a part of a complex and multi-faceted team that starts with the family itself. But the team extends to communities, schools, law enforcement and courts, medical and other service providers and so many others who impact our children and families. It is by working WITH our teammates and helping us all pull in the same direction that we can make the biggest contribution. In order to make the entire team more effective, we need to earn their trust – starting with the families.

Earning trust will begin with me. You have my trust and my promise to fulfill my obligation to each of you and to the Department so that we can carry out our mission of strengthening families and improving the lives of children. The social worker’s role is vital to the life of our communities. Our ability to successfully live together is premised on responsibilities we have for each other – especially for those most in need. Vulnerable children of course are at the top of our list of priorities. I am so proud to be working here together with you as we strive to make our families and our communities more successful at raising the children who depend on them.

Please take a moment today as we open Social Work Month to celebrate our profession and our mission.

***Purposeful Pride Passion for Practice & People***