

Department of Children & Families Raises Questions

DCF TIMELINE

Senate Republicans have called repeatedly for DCF reforms and the removal of the current DCF Commissioner. The following timeline details issues that have been raised about the agency over the past few years, as well as the Republicans' calls for action.

Report	<p>August 2016 Court Monitor's Report - Some good news shows that children's needs met has increased to 66.7 percent - however this is still below the required percentage of needs met to be in compliance with court-ordered goals to improve child welfare. It is also below the percentage of needs met in 2010 before Commissioner Katz took over.¹</p> <p>https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3008711-Status-Report-2015-2016-Final.html</p>
Disturbing individual cases come to light	<p>May 15, 2016 - Courant report: In Some Cases, DCF Leaves Children In Homes Of Sex Offenders - Courant report reveals that the presence of a sex offender, even someone convicted of molesting a child in the past, is not an automatic disqualifier for placing a child in a household, or allowing a child to remain. This policy is confirmed in a letter from Commissioner Katz to Sen. Fasano. http://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-sex-offender-children-0513-20160514-story.html</p>
Disturbing Individual Case	<p>February 18, 2016 – Groton Family Placement Leads to Abuse</p> <p>A Groton woman granted temporary custody of her sister's child by the state has been charged with severely neglecting and abusing the 18-month-old boy, who was malnourished and had broken bones and burn marks when he was hospitalized after being removed from the woman's home. http://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-child-abuse-dcf-foster-0219-20160218-story.html</p>
Disturbing Individual Case	<p>January 28 2016 - Watertown Couple Abused Children Adopted From DCF</p> <p>Couple charged with two counts of cruelty to persons, unlawful restraint in the second degree and risk of injury to a minor. Couple confined kids to bathroom for months as punishment. 4 of their 5 adoptive children had special needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the summer of 2015, a complaint was made to DCF "concerning excessive discipline and rigid parenting," Child Advocate Sarah Eagan confirmed Friday. "DCF substantiated the complaint and then handed off the case to mental-health providers who were working with the family." • Eagan said DCF did not keep the case open for ongoing supervision of the family after handing it off. • The couple told police during interviews that DCF and the children's therapists were aware that they used isolation in the bathroom as a form of punishment and that they had their permission. <p>http://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-watertown-adopt-abuse-0130-20160129-story.html</p>
CALL #3 FOR RESIGNATION	<p>January 20, 2016 – Court Monitor Report Finds More than Half of Kids Needs Not Met</p> <p>Report finds DCF is only meeting the needs of 44.4 percent of the children it serves. That's down from 47.2 percent last year. It's a significant drop from where we were when Commissioner Katz took over in 2010 when DCF met the needs of 67.3%</p>

¹ <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3008711-Status-Report-2015-2016-Final.html>

	http://ctsenaterepublicans.com/2016/01/fasano-statement-on-court-monitors-report-renews-call-for-commissioner-katzs-resignation/
CALL #2 FOR RESIGNATION	<p>December 22, 2015- OCA Report on Death of Londyn S. points to System Failures</p> <p>The 2-year-old girl died on October 19, 2014 as a result of homicide due to Suboxone toxicity, a drug used to treat adults addicted to opioids. Report found that DCF:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Failed to adequately assess the risk of children in Londyn’s home. 2. Did not open a child protective services investigation following a September 2014 call from police regarding possible physical abuse of Londyn and her baby brother. 3. Inappropriately assigned Londyn’s family to the FAR track (a lower risk categorization) on two occasions. 4. Did not provide an adequate community service plan for the family’s serious needs. 5. Did not receive complete information from community providers. 6. Lacked the needed quality assurance framework to support effective assessment and case planning. <p>http://ctsenaterepublicans.com/2015/12/sen-fasano-renews-call-for-commissioner-katz-to-resign-in-light-of-new-report-by-the-child-advocate/</p>
Misc. Failure	<p>November 2015 - DCF missing more than \$100,000 Subsidized Guardianship</p> <p>The Eyewitness News I-Team found that for a half dozen families receiving monthly stipends from DCF after a relative child is placed in their care, the payments didn’t stop when child turned 18 (or 21 when in school). The money kept coming, even though it was no longer deserved, and by the time DCF caught on, there was \$107,000 missing. A DCF employee should have been checking the recipient’s ages, but no one did.</p> <p>http://ctsenaterepublicans.com/2015/11/dcf-missing-more-than-100000-fasano-theres-no-accountability-wfsb/</p>
Misc. Failure	<p>September 16, 2015 - Child Advocate Releases Videos of Restraint/Seclusion</p> <p>http://ctsenaterepublicans.com/2015/09/child-advocate-releases-dcf-videos-of-youth-being-restrained-secluded-in-locked-facilities-ct-news-junkie/</p>
Report	<p>July 30, 2015 - Auditors’ Report finds in DCF that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employees are arriving late and being paid for time not in the office, having debit cards with no accountability, getting mileage reimbursement when they shouldn’t, and also found a lack of accountability and control over comp time, longevity payments, accrued vacation and sick time. - Failure to conduct criminal background checks and license foster homes in a timely manner, potentially putting kids at risk. - Wasted money by failing to adequately document expenses that could be eligible for federal reimbursement. <p>http://ctsenaterepublicans.com/2015/07/fasano-statement-on-auditors-report-on-dcf/</p>
CALL #1 FOR RESIGNATION	<p>July 23, 2015 –Call to resign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fasano also asked the Attorney General to investigate the conduct of DCF as described in the Child Advocate’s report including their failure to investigate whistleblowing complaints regarding the abuse witnessed in DCF’s facilities. - Fasano is also asking the co-chairs of the state’s Committee on Children, Senator Dante Bartolomeo and Representative Diana Urban, as well as children’s

	<p>advocates, to support his call for Commissioner Katz to resign.</p> <p>http://ctsenaterepublicans.com/2015/07/sen-fasano-calls-for-resignation-of-department-of-children-and-families-commissioner-joette-katz/</p>
Report	<p>July 22, 2015 – OCA CJTS/Pueblo Investigative Report Released –Abuse at locked facilities</p> <p>http://www.ctnewsjunkie.com/archives/entry/child_advocate_identifies_abuses_at_dcfs_locked_juvenile_facilities/</p> <p>http://www.ctnewsjunkie.com/upload/2015/07/OCA_INVESTIGATIVE_CJTS-PUEBLO_REPORT_JULY_22_2015_00000004.pdf</p>
Fasano Urges Action	<p>July 16, 2015 – Fasano Urges Commissioner to Revisit Reform Legislation</p> <p>In light of Court Monitor’s report which found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under Katz’ leadership, DCF has consistently failed to meet 7 critical quality benchmarks, up from 6 in 2010 before she took office. - DCF developed adequate treatment plans for children only 47.2% of the time compared to 86.5% in 2010; successfully met children’s needs only 47.2% of the time compared to 67.3% in 2010. - DCF failed to meet 306 identifiable needs of children in its care. More than 30% increase from just last year and a 125% increase in unmet needs in 2010 (136) <p>http://ctsenaterepublicans.com/2015/07/urges-commissioner-to-revisit-reform-legislation/</p>
Report	<p>July 13, 2015 – Report released by Robert Kinscherff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Children and Families said it plans to focus more on rehabilitation and less on restraint and seclusion at its locked facilities for boys and girls in Middletown - Many recommendations in the report describe issues that have been cited by juvenile justice advocates for years. - DCF paid Kinscherff \$40,254. <p>http://www.ctnewsjunkie.com/archives/entry/dcf_seeks_to_make_improvements_following_consultants_report/</p>
Disturbing Individual Case	<p>June 15, 2015 - Appeals Court Ruling: DCF Violated Transgender Teen’s Due Process Rights</p> <p>DCF has come under intense scrutiny from dozens of civil liberties advocates over its treatment of Doe — who suffered from previous physical and sexual abuse, spent several weeks under solitary confinement in an adult prison setting, and was publicly shamed by DCF for an allegation involving several other youth.</p> <p>http://www.ctnewsjunkie.com/archives/entry/appeals_court_dcf_violated_transgender_teens_due_process_rights/</p>
Disturbing Individual Case	<p>June 2, 2015 - East Haven LeRoya Moore murders two of her children Aleisha Moore, 6, and Daaron Moore, 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Advocate's Office is investigating why child-protection authorities did not maintain supervision of Moore after 2014 arrest for assaulting her ex-husband in front of the children. - Child Advocate Sarah Eagan questioned why DCF closed its file after the 2014

	<p>assault case, despite Moore's history of child-endangerment charges, including a 2006 conviction for risk of injury to a minor, as well as the termination of parental rights for two children from previous relationships.</p> <p>http://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-east-haven-child-deaths-mother-charged-20150610-story.html</p>
Report	<p>April 29, 2015 – Federal court monitor: Foster children’s needs still unmet Nearly half of foster children in Connecticut are still not receiving all the mental health services, child care, housing supports they need, partly because the programs not available http://ctmirror.org/2015/04/29/federal-court-monitor-foster-childrens-needs-still-unmet/</p>
Fasano Urges Action	<p>February 5, 2015 – Public Hearing on Fasano DCF bills – Katz says unnecessary Bills Katz rejected included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - S.B. No. 307 An Act Implementing a Quality Assurance Program for the Department of Children and Families’ Programs and Facilities - S.B. No. 306 An Act Establishing an Independent Department of Children and Families Ombudsman - S.B. No. 304 An Act Concerning the Connecticut Juvenile Training School Advisory Group - S.B. No. 301 An Act Concerning Transparency within the Department of Children & Families - S.B. No. 308 An Act Concerning an Independent Review of the Department of Children & Families - S.B. No. 310 An Act Strengthening Child Fatality Review Procedures <p>http://ctsenaterepublicans.com/2015/02/dcf-katz-and-sen-fasano-square-off-over-agency-oversight-accountability-courant/</p>
Fasano Urges Action	<p>December 23, 2014 – Malloy announces plans to reappoint Katz Fasano Expresses Serious Concerns about closing group homes and a decision by the State Child Advocate in June to investigate the deaths of nine children whose families had been in recent contact with DCF. http://ctsenaterepublicans.com/2014/12/malloy-to-reappoint-dcf-commissioner-joette-katz-fasano-expresses-serious-concerns-ct-news-junkie/</p>
Cuts	<p>November 20, 2014 – Malloy Cuts \$9.2 million from DCF as part of rescissions \$455,125 cut to child abuse and neglect intervention, a \$415,039 cut to community based prevention programs, and a \$94,610 cut to family violence outreach and counseling – all programs focused on preventing child fatalities. Also includes \$6 million cut to residential board and care for children. http://ctsenaterepublicans.com/2014/11/sen-fasano-questions-malloys-cuts-to-dcf-in-light-of-child-deaths-group-home-closures/</p>
Disturbing Individual Case	<p>October 19, 2014 - Death of Londyn S. The 2-year-old girl died s a result of homicide due to Suboxone toxicity, a drug used to treat adults addicted to opioids.</p>
Report	<p>July 31, 2014 – Child Fatality Review Report (2013) Finds “unprecedented” number of child homicides where kids should have been protected by DCF</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Of the 38 non-natural deaths in 2013 of children birth to age 3, the majority of children lived in families that had current or previous involvement with the Department of Children and Families. - 22 children died due to abuse and neglect; 16 of these children had active cases with DCF and should have been monitored and protected by the agency - In many cases, DCF seems to have willfully ignored multiple known risk factors, such as drug abuse and a known history of family violence, in order keep the child in the home and avoid out of home placements. <p>http://www.ct.gov/oca/lib/oca/Final_OCA_Infant_Toddler_Fatality_Report.pdf</p>
Fasano Urges Action	<p>June 30, 2014 - Senator Fasano Questions Policy to Remove Child Abusers from State Registry</p> <p>Letter to Katz demands answers concerning a potentially dangerous department policy shift. DCF has implemented a policy that now allows some individuals on the agency's Child Abuse and Neglect Registry to petition for removal from that list just two years after committing acts of abuse or neglect.</p> <p>http://ctsenaterepublicans.com/2014/06/senator-fasano-questions-policy-to-remove-child-abusers-from-state-registry/</p>
Disturbing Individual Case	<p>September 29, 2013 - Ayden Baskay (20 months) died, head injury from father</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was not the first time the father, Christian Williams, had beaten his son. In May of 2012, baby Ayden was rushed to the hospital with bleeding on the brain. DCF was notified. - Rather than actively monitoring the situation, DCF simply instructed the mother not to allow the child to be alone with Mr. Williams and closed its case in just one month. <p>http://www.newstimes.com/local/article/Dad-investigated-for-abuse-a-year-before-child-s-4872968.php</p>
Report	<p>June 2013 – Georgetown Report shows need for juvenile justice reforms</p> <p>The study done by the Georgetown Center for Juvenile Justice and paid for by the included a comprehensive evaluation of DCF's juvenile justice programs and facilities. It highlighted many of the issues advocates continue to raise concerns about.</p> <p>https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/1383850-ctparolereport-nov-final.html</p>
Disturbing Individual Case	<p>November 23, 2011 - Athena Angeles beaten to death by mother's boyfriend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Despite receiving multiple warnings about the abuse from a Willimantic health clinic doctor and the Head Start workers who cared for Athena, DFC failed to conduct a thorough investigation - In violation of its own guidelines, DCF did not even bother to interview the boyfriend, who later admitted to police that he punched and stuck Athena on multiple occasions. - DCF workers were dismissive of the Head Start workers' concerns and made the workers feel uncomfortable when they continued to raise alarms about Athena's well being. <p>http://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-athena-angeles-sentencing-0121-20150120-story.html</p>