Rhode Island Department of Corrections
POLICY UNIT

TO: RIDOC Employees

VIA: Ellen Evans Alexander, Assistant Director
Administration

FROM: Ann J. Fortin, Chief/Program Development
Administration

DATE: October 28, 2003

SUBJECT: **1.02-1 DOC; DEPARTMENTAL MISSION; 12/01/03**

The enclosed policy, effective 12/01/03, **repeals policy # 1.02 DOC** and contains numerous substantive revisions, which are outlined below. All staff are encouraged to read this policy in its entirety.

Item II.D. was revised as follows:

> We seek to foster ~~The Department shall strive to develop~~ a spirit of teamwork, unity and dedication. We actively strive to maintain a diverse and culturally aware workforce. We shall provide staff ~~by providing staff~~ with opportunities for personal and professional growth through staff development, recognition of ~~recognizing~~ staff achievements, and encouragement ~~encouraging leadership~~.

(Underscore = new text; ~~strikethrough~~ = deleted text)

The first sentence of item of item III., Values and Beliefs, was revised as follows:

> The primary mission ~~mandate~~ of the Department of Corrections ~~as defined by statute~~ is to contribute to the protection of the public.

(Underscore = new text; ~~strikethrough~~ = deleted text)

Item III.A. now specifies:

> The Department of Corrections is committed to managing offenders in manner consistent with public safety ~~must implement appropriate management of criminal offenders within the framework of laws and court mandates~~.

(Underscore = new text; ~~strikethrough~~ = deleted text)

Item III.C.3. now specifies, in part, that community organizations, volunteers and community-based agencies should play a role in program development and service delivery.

The statement, "High expectations are best met when the proper tools are provided", is no longer included in item III.D.

Item III.D.1. states the potential of offenders to become law-abiding and contributing members of society ~~can~~ may be enhanced through intervention.

(Underscore = new text; ~~strikethrough~~ = deleted text)

Section IV, Goals, was removed from the policy.

Unless otherwise specified, unit/program/facility managers are responsible for ensuring subordinate staff are adequately trained in the contents of this policy.

This policy IS approved for inmate/public access.

/kjl
Enclosure

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

	POLICY NUMBER: 1.02-1 DOC	EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/01/03	PAGE 1 OF 3
	REPEALS: 1.02 DOC	DIRECTOR: Please use BLUE ink.	
SECTION: GENERAL ADMINISTRATION		SUBJECT: DEPARTMENTAL MISSION	

AUTHORITY: Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) § 42-56-1, Declaration of policy; § 42-56-10 (22), Powers of the director

REFERENCES: ACA standard # 3-4002 (mission)

INMATE / PUBLIC ACCESS? X YES

AVAILABLE IN SPANISH? X NO

I. **MISSION STATEMENT:**

The mission of the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) is to contribute to public safety by maintaining a balanced correctional system of institutional and community programs that provide a range of control and rehabilitative options for criminal offenders.

II. **GUIDING OPERATIONAL PHILOSOPHY:**

A. We shall maintain appropriate safe, secure, and humane correctional environments while providing for community-based management, supervision, and intervention services for criminal offenders.

B. We shall demonstrate the highest ethical and professional standards in all our operations.

C. We are accountable to the public for our operations and shall maintain cooperation and open communications with law enforcement agencies, governmental entities, and members of the community.

D. We seek to foster a spirit of teamwork, unity, and dedication. We actively strive to maintain a diverse and culturally aware workforce. We shall provide staff with opportunities for personal and professional growth through staff development, recognition of staff achievements, and encouragement.

E. Outcomes need to be measured; the results should direct policy and planning.

III. VALUES AND BELIEFS:

The primary mission of the Department of Corrections is to contribute to the protection of the public. This principle forms the foundation for policy, allocation of resources and establishment of priorities, case management decisions, organizational structure, and future development. All Departmental values and beliefs are shaped by this directive.

A. The Department of Corrections is committed to managing offenders in a manner consistent with public safety.

1. Levels of confinement, control, and supervision must be determined by considering the law, the crime, the offender, the victim, the community, and available resources.

2. Offenders must be held accountable and responsible for their offenses, including the effects on victims.

3. Offenders are responsible for their responses to intervention.

4. Public safety is enhanced through partnerships with law enforcement, human services agencies and community leaders.

B. The highest ethical and professional standards are fundamental to the success of the Department.

1. Department policy and program decisions must be guided by considerations of public safety, humaneness, effectiveness, and quality.

2. Each member of the Department is obligated to demonstrate the highest standards of conduct.

3. Every individual -- community member, staff, and offender -- has the right to be treated with respect and dignity.

C. The Department of Corrections is responsible and accountable to members of the community.

1. The rights of victims and potential victims of crime must be given priority consideration in all Departmental programs and decisions.

2. The public has the right to be aware of the range of Departmental services, programs, functions, and operations.

3. The community should be involved with the Department in problem solving; community organizations, volunteers and community-based agencies should play a role in program development and service delivery.

D. Reduction of crime and/or amelioration of the effects of crime can be furthered through appropriate efforts at rehabilitation.

1. The potential of offenders to become law-abiding and contributing members of society may be enhanced through intervention.

2. Opportunities for rehabilitation and community integration should be provided to the extent that is both feasible and responsible, given resources and individual capabilities.

3. The range of rehabilitative and control options should be sufficient to offer a reasonable opportunity for criminal offenders to become more responsible.