

Blanche Carney
Commissioner
Philadelphia Department of Prisons

Blanche Carney a graduate of Lincoln University and Bryn Mawr College's Graduate School of Social Work was appointed Commissioner of the Philadelphia Department of Prisons (PDP) in April 2016.

Ms. Carney began her career with the (PDP) as a Social Worker. She was promoted to the Social Work Supervisor and was responsible for the Intake Unit at the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility. Ms. Carney was instrumental in implementing gender responsive training to correctional officers, treatment staff, and contractors in working with female offenders and is a strong advocate for drug and alcohol treatment and transitional services.

Ms. Carney was promoted to the position of Human Services Program Administrator where she implemented several groundbreaking new programs, pilot projects, and technological advances in promoting efficient and effective services to the inmate population. Ms. Carney served as the PDP representative for several inter-departmental, agency and City Coalitions resulting in the expansion of existing services and new programs. In addition, Ms. Carney assumed the responsibilities of the PDP's long standing (O.P.T.I.O.N.S.) Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program in the delivery of treatment education to inmates with substance abuse needs.

In January 2015, Ms. Carney was promoted to the position of Deputy Commissioner for Restorative and Transitional Services where she continued her commitment to providing evidence based programs and services to the inmate population in support of positive reentry for returning citizens. In this role, she was instrumental in leading the PDP as we recognized, ahead of the curve, the importance of providing reentry skills and education programming opportunities to the inmates in our custody who will be returning to our communities. Her role along-side our judicial partners, was integral in the city of Philadelphia winning the prestigious MacArthur Grant for 3.5 million dollars. The grant challenged multiple jurisdictions to re-examine the approach to mass incarceration to develop and enact alternatives to incarceration for accused, non-violent offenders.

As the newly appointed Commissioner of the Philadelphia Department of Prisons, Ms. Carney will be the first woman to head the agency. The PDP employs over 2,300 employees and contracted staff which operates six facilities in Northeast Philadelphia. There are currently over 7,000 people in custody.