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**THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
APPOINTS TOMÉ AS THE NEW ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF WOMEN'S
SERVICES**

May 18, 2021– Trenton, New Jersey – In the Department's ongoing efforts to increase oversight and enhance safety at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women (EMCFW), the New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) Commissioner Marcus O. Hicks, Esq. appointed Helena Tomé to the Assistant Commissioner of Women's Services.

In her new role, Tomé will serve as the liaison to the state's incarcerated female population, amplifying their voices by addressing emerging concerns while collaborating with external stakeholders, including the newly hired correctional consulting firm, [The Moss Group](#). In partnership with The Moss Group, Assistant Commissioner Tomé will assist with assuring the forthcoming Department of Justice recommendations to enhance the safety at EMCFW are properly implemented.

“The Department is crafting a thoughtful path forward to bring about systemic change at Edna Mahan,” said Commissioner Hicks. “Ms. Tomé's background in corrections, program development, and certifications in Crisis Intervention and Sexual Assault uniquely positions her as an advocate for the women in our facilities with the ability to identify and execute critical safety solutions, further enhancing our efforts.”

“Incarcerated women experience greater levels of shame and stigma as a result of their incarceration than men,” said Assistant Commissioner Tomé. “This shame and stigma is both internal and external. To me, assisting the women heal emotionally, feel safe and foster positive relationships is of utmost importance. I look forward to working with and supporting the numerous remarkable staff who have chosen this noble profession and come to work each day ready to fulfill our mission with integrity. There is no challenge that has more value and purpose than that.”

Tomé comes to the NJDOC from the New Jersey Association on Correction, where she served as the Director of Reentry and Accreditation, supervising residential programs and resource centers and compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Standards.

Tomé earned a Bachelor of Science in Administration of Justice from Rutgers University and is a Certified Public Manager. She was formerly an auditor with the ACA, Cultural Competency Trainer, Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Trainer, Sexual Assault Advocate, and Domestic Violence Advocate.

The announcement of Ms. Tomé's appointment comes on the heels of the Department's launch of its [Body-Worn Camera project](#) at EMCFW and deployment of its [Early Warning System](#) (EWS) -- a monitoring tool tracking inappropriate behavioral patterns in staff with early intervention course corrective action.

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