



What's in a name?

Security Department now Public Safety Department

WHILE THERE WERE A NUMBER of positive changes in all of the departments at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital this year, perhaps none was more significant than a name change.

The Public Safety Department has replaced the Security Department—a direct reflection on the increasing role the department plays in every day activities at the hospital to protect staff, patients and visitors.

Another notable change in the department is the addition of its first four-legged staff member. Jack, a black lab who was born in Europe, is a fully trained narcotic detection canine.

Jack's role, according to Public Safety Department Director Ken Reid, is to assist officers when they are called to drug-related investigations, primarily in the Emergency Department and nursing units. Jack can find narcotics on command, Reid says, and his role is to help

officers, not to intimidate patients, visitors or employees.

"While L&M is the 13th largest hospital in the state determined by the number of beds, we are the fourth largest based on actual visits to the Emergency Department," Reid says. "Therefore, the primary reason for these improvements and the necessity for increased resources is to ensure we are doing all we can to meet the changing needs of the organization."

Other improvements made by the Public Safety Department this year include additional coverage of the Emergency Department; the acquisition of handheld metal detectors for patient searches; and additional coverage, valet parking and wayfinders at the Pequot Health Center. Enhanced precautions also have been taken to ensure the safety and care of our newborns.

The department increased its patrols and communication ability in external lots and off-site locations as it continually strives to provide a safe environment for L&M staff, patients and visitors.

• Public Safety Department Director Ken Reid with four-legged staff member, Jack.

The Public Safety Department protects staff, patients and visitors at the hospital.