



IN THE CENTER

News from Community Corrections

The Numbers:

- **2,825:** number of discharges from ISL III/IV in FY2013
- **57.1%:** percentage of discharges that were not a result of criminal justice intervention
- **42.9%:** percentage of discharges that were a result of criminal justice intervention

COLLABORATION CORNER: JUVENILE COURT, PUBLIC SCHOOLS SEE STUDENTS SHINE AT CENTER

On Friday, June 20, 2014 the **Worcester Juvenile Resource Center (JRC)** celebrated the High School graduation of two participants from the **Worcester County Juvenile Court**.

"It was a beautiful day where the graduates, complete with cap and gown, were surrounded by family, friends, probation officers and center staff," stated JRC Program Manager **Sarah Sullivan** of **Y.O.U., Inc.**

The graduates were lauded by **Worcester Public Schools** teacher **Roger Nugent**, who years earlier had the same two young men as elementary school students, "I am extremely proud of the hard work these young men put



in to earn their diplomas." Thanks to collaboration between the public schools, the juvenile court, the **Office of Community Corrections** and the JRC program management vendor, **YOU, Inc.**, the JRC serves not only as a venue for enhanced supervision of juveniles, but also as an alternative school. Juveniles ordered to the JRC as a condition of their probation continue their public

school education while at the JRC. Said **Assistant Chief Probation Officer Steve McKeown**, "The Worcester JRC has given some kids a second chance at achieving the goal of graduating from high school. The small intensive setting has been able to support and advance these kids where they have been unsuccessful in a regular education public school setting. The JRC is a valuable resource for Juvenile Probation." The two young men were on enhanced supervision at the JRC for about nine months. According to Sullivan, one of the graduates will be working at a bakery while the other will complete probation in July and is interested in enlisting in the armed forces.

Submitted by Danni Lopes, Sarah Sullivan

COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKS: BLUE STAR FOLLOW-UP, BREAK HEART CLEAN-UP

In September 2013, *In the Center* featured probationers working on the WWI memorial at the **Frank J. Lyons Memorial Park** in **Lowell**. In June Court Services Coordinator **Kevin Spitz** and probationers from **Lowell District**



Court returned to the park which is part of the **National Garden Club Blue Star Memorial Highway**. The crew spent a Saturday morning digging out an area to create a river bed of rocks, edging out mulch beds, weeding the mulch beds, planting flowers and spreading mulch throughout the park.

Also in June, probationers from **Cambridge, Lynn and Malden District Courts** helped prepare the **Division of Conservation and Recreation's Break Heart Reservation** in **Saugus** for a summer of family vacations. At **Pearce Lake** the group spread tons of sand which was being replenished for the first time since 2008.

Submitted by Lisa Hickey



MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURT OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Pat Horne, Deputy Director
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IN THE CENTER

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ABOUT: Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 211F, the Massachusetts Trial Court, Office of Community Corrections (OCC), is charged with implementing intermediate sanctions through the development of community corrections programs. Among the programs developed by the OCC are the Trial Court Community Service Program and the state's 18 Community Corrections Centers. The Community Service Program administers community service as a sanction, or in lieu of fees, for probation departments across the state. Community Corrections Centers facilitate intensive supervision by delivering a combination of sanctions and services via Intermediate Sanction Level (ISL) III/IV. ISL III/IV combine services such as: substance abuse treatment, education, job development, life skills and vocational training with sanctions such as: drug testing, community service, electronic monitoring and day reporting. Community Corrections Centers provide an alternative to incarceration for offenders on probation, parole, or in the custody of the sheriff, Department of Correction or Department of Youth Services thereby reserving prison space for the most dangerous offenders.

UPDATE: RETIRED AND RENEWED

- In June Regional Program Manager **Tim Gagnon** retired after fourteen years in the Office of Community Corrections. Beginning in March 2000 Gagnon worked for the OCC as an Assistant Statewide Program Supervisor. Later he served in the senior management position of Regional Program Manager where he oversaw the development and implementation of intermediate sanctions in Worcester County. For nearly three decades Gagnon's public service career focused on the nexus between criminal justice and public health. After serving for five years as a medic in the US Army, Gagnon went to work at the Department of Correction in 1983 eventually coordinating programs to curb the spread of HIV and tuberculosis within correctional facilities. In the 1990s Gagnon managed some of the correction field's earliest HIV/AIDS prevention programs. These programs, funded by the Department of Public Health, were designed to attack the spread of the disease amongst high-risk populations in state and county prisons. As a retiree, Gagnon will continue to serve others bringing his vast experience in community-based service provision to bear in support of veterans as a Veteran's Agent in central MA. The OCC thanks Tim for his passionate service and wishes him the best of luck in the future.
- On June 23rd clinical task force members presented at the Probation Training Academy. **Bill Spinks** of Bay State Community Services, spoke about orientation focusing on creating a collaborative environment. **Lisa Talbot-Lundrigan**, of Adcare Criminal Justice Services (ACJS), spoke about retention emphasizing eight core EBP principles. **Neil Gaer** of Phoenix Houses of New England (PHNE) and **Jeremy Norton** of the Dukes County Sheriff's Office spoke about rewarding progress with motivational incentives. **Byron Titus** of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, **Jason Stone** of ACJS, and **Kyle Schadler** of PHNE spoke about treatment planning and periodic review describing a business process redesign, the state of the art in treatment planning and SMART criteria for goal setting. **Vin Lorenti** of the OCC revealed a draft Treatment Plan/Periodic Review Form. The work of these groups continues.

ACHIEVERS: THE JOURNEY FROM CLIENT TO COUNSELOR

The following is excerpted from an essay written by Phoenix Houses Of New England Substance Abuse Counselor Paul J. Perry regarding his journey from client to counselor at the Pittsfield Community Corrections Center.

How does a high school history teacher wind up counseling probationers and parolees about addiction and recovery? The answer: practice. For me that practice began when I was 15 years old and a few friends and I raided a parents' liquor cabinet. On that day I had my first drink.

After college I was able to find a job that felt like a natural fit as a high school teacher. But, I had also become a near daily drinker. After five years of teaching, and more than one second chance, my former high school guidance counselor, who was now the principal, told me that she could not allow me to come back for the next school year.

By 2008 I was a daily, morning drinker. One evening in April, I found myself on the side of the road, outside of my car, and surrounded by police officers. Whatever had happened was completely lost to me.

I was arrested and taken to the police station for what I believed was an OUI. In an alcoholic blackout, I had driven my car onto the sidewalk and struck a pedestrian. He was a 21 year old young man who was walking to work on a night shift. I was told that his injuries did not appear to be life threatening. I knew right away that I would be finding myself in a courtroom and that jail time was inevitable.

After serving half of my sentence, I was granted parole and put into the Berkshire County Community Corrections Center (CCC) in Pittsfield. The staff at the CCC helped me to use new found tools as I acclimated back into my community. Life from that point forward has not always unfolded as I have felt that it would or should.

Due to my felony charges, I found it impossible to return to a traditional classroom. With the help and support of many people, including the staff at the Berkshire County CCC and the probation department I was able to return to school and pursue my credentials in substance abuse counseling. As part of my education, I had the oppor-

tunity to return to the CCC for an internship and was welcomed back with open arms. As my internship was drawing to a close, a position opened at the CCC. I was encouraged to apply, was offered the job, and, after a little under two years of employment, now find myself sitting at the same desk that was once occupied by my substance abuse counselor when I was a participant in the program.

Although I have not had a drink in over six years, alcohol is, and always will be, a central part of my life. I do not view my active alcoholism as a phase that I have grown out of and from which I have turned away my attention. I must renew my dedication to my recovery on a daily basis and I remain thankful for the gifts that are the result. I also do not view active participation in my recovery as a burden or a trial to be endured. It is a practice. Although it will never be complete, and I will remain far from perfect, I live in gratitude with the assurance that with this practice comes purpose, happiness, serenity and peace.

Submitted by Paul Perry via Danni Lopes.