



# IN THE CENTER

## News from Community Corrections

### The Numbers for the week ending September 27, 2014:

- *694: total statewide caseload.*
- *55: total new participants.*
- *39: average number of participants per community corrections center.*

### COLLABORATION CORNER: FORUM FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE AWARENESS AT SALISBURY CCC

In June criminal justice professionals in Essex County attended a presentation at the Salisbury Community Corrections Center (CCC) to discuss emerging issues in substance abuse. Speakers included Office of Community Corrections Regional Program Manager **Yardley Theolien**, Massachusetts State Police Troopers **Michael Provost** and **David Martinelle** and Essex County Sheriff's Department Drug Lab Technician **Saad Choudry**.

The program was attended by staff from the **Essex and Middlesex County Sheriff's Department**, **Adcare Criminal Justice Services**, **Bay State Community Services**, representatives of the **Essex County District Attorney's Office**, probation officers from the **Lawrence and Newburyport District Courts** and Probation Officers In-Charge (POIC) from CCCs in Essex County and Middlesex County



*Massachusetts State Police Troopers Michael Provost and David Martinelle speak about emerging issues in substance abuse during a presentation at the Salisbury CCC in June.*

(Lowell).

Among the important topics discussed were drugs of abuse, including emerging drugs of abuse and trends among traditional drugs of abuse, drug abuse recognition, drug testing,

and the use of Narcan as a rescue procedure for opiate overdose and its interplay with Massachusetts' Good Samaritan laws.

The program received positive media coverage including an article in the **Newburyport News** in which reporter Dave Rogers described the Troopers' presentations.

According to Rogers, Trooper Provost highlighted the recent epidemic of heroin overdoses and pointed to the increasing purity of the drug as a risk factor. Trooper Martinelle, a drug abuse recognition expert, discussed the importance of knowing physical symptoms of substance abuse. As an example, Martinelle described running nose, bloody nose, and hoarse voice as symptoms of cocaine abuse. The event's success spurred planning for a future program about prescription drug abuse.

*Submitted by Yardley Theolien*

### COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKS: RIVERS AND BEACHES IN ESSEX COUNTY

In September, as swimsuits gave way to school books, probationers in Essex County provided support to the **Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)** in the environmental management



*Probationers packed up hundreds of yards of boardwalk at Salisbury Beach State Reservation in September.*

of **Salisbury Beach State Reservation** in Salisbury. Probationers from Lawrence, Salisbury and Newburyport spent about a week removing wooden boardwalks that provide pedestrian access to the beachgoers every summer. By removing these boardwalks DCR eliminates the prospect of them being damaged in seasonal storms and also allows the beach landscape to evolve naturally over the winter. Community service workers will return to install the boardwalks again in spring.

On September 13, probationers participated with 700 other volunteers from Greater Lawrence in the thirteenth annual **Spicket River Clean-Up (SRC)**. The SRC is an annual event organized by **Groundwork Lawrence** which has resulted in the clearing of more than 110

tons of debris and the removal of 3,650 tires from the banks of the Spicket River over the last decade. The SRC is part of the broader **Greenway Initiative**



which comprises three-miles of green spaces and walking paths connecting parks and neighborhoods in Lawrence.

*Submitted by Lisa Hickey*

## MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURT OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Pat Horne, Deputy Director  
David Skocik, Statewide Program Supervisor-Community Service Program

### IN THE CENTER

Published quarterly in March, June, September and December  
Contributors: Sandra Brown, Lisa Hickey, Danni Lopes, Vincent Lorenti

220 Forbes Road, Suite 301  
Braintree, MA 02184  
Phone: 781-848-2649  
Fax: 781-848-3503  
Website: [www.mass.gov/courts/admin/communitycorrections.html](http://www.mass.gov/courts/admin/communitycorrections.html)

**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.

## QUOTED: COMMISSIONER DOLAN ON PILOTING

*"We are working on several pilots to strengthen the use of the centers and to improve flexibility. While we are excited about the development of innovative program elements and testing them in the field, we know there is a significant number of high risk cases that can currently benefit from the services available at the centers. Community Corrections is a vital component of Probation, one that provides a structured alternative to incarceration and support for reentry supervision. These innovative and evidence-based initiatives being piloted by the community corrections centers provide Judges and Field Probation Officers with effective options to meet the needs, services, and accountability demands for the people they supervise." - Ed Dolan, Commissioner of Probation*

Here are some of those projects:

The Office of the Commissioner of Probation (OCP) is partnering with the **Suffolk County Sheriff's Department** (SCSD) in a centralized first contact reentry plan for persons on post-release probation supervision. This project aims to streamline the initial post-release probation contact by having it at the CCC, thereby reducing demand for probation contact at court locations.

OCP is partnering with the **Boston Municipal Court** to adjust the community corrections sentence structure by discarding the Intermediate Sanction Level III/IV designation in favor of designation to "community corrections." This should permit greater flexibility for the court to access those services required by clinical assessment rather than by regulatory mandate. This approach will also be tested in Brockton and **Springfield**.

The Juvenile Resource Center (JRC) in **Worcester** has implemented an additional program track for females and extended service hours for participants that do not need to attend the JRC as an alternative school site.

## ACHIEVERS: STEP-DOWN STEPS UP IN DUKES COUNTY

**K**elly's alcoholism landed her in the **Barnstable County House of Correction** when she was just 19. After more than seven months there she was stepped-down to pre-release status in January 2011 and began a period of enhanced supervision at the **Dukes County Community Corrections Center** on Martha's Vineyard. The terms of her enhanced supervision included 24-hour restriction and random alcohol screens via an electronic monitor. Additionally, Kelly was subject to cognitive behavioral treatment for substance abuse and life-skills, as well as job development, and educational services.

With a criminal record and battling substance abuse, Kelly's future was uncertain. Yet, according to Dukes CCC Program Manager **Jeremy Norton**, Kelly engaged in programming and developed a positive attitude toward changing her life. Among the activities Norton states were indicative of that change were her involvement in the recovery community, work at a local pizzeria, volunteering at a yoga studio and applying to **Cape Cod Community College**.

Kelly had enrolled in her first college level class while in prison, so additional educational opportunities were a natural way for Kelly to focus and build on success.

"Kelly was determined to get her life back on track. I just helped with the process," said Dukes County CCC Education Coordinator **Matthew Burke**. By guiding her through the application Burke helped her focus on her goals. Kelly now has an Associate's Degree from Cape Cod Community College. In fact, this fall she began her studies at **Suffolk University** in Boston. Though she started as a sociology major she is considering a switch to psychology, "I hope to work in the field of therapy," said Kelly.

Norton reports that Kelly is having success in many areas. In addition to her educational endeavors, she successfully completed a yoga teacher training course and is now a yoga teacher with a small following of students. She is also giving back to the community by sharing her story with new drivers at both **Martha's Vineyard High**

**School** and the First Offender's Drunk Driving (24-D) class.

Kelly acknowledges the impact of the CCC in her shift to a long-term outlook on life. "Before ..., I did not have particular goals or plans. My legal experience really drove me to do what I want to do."

On the Vineyard, **Dukes County Sheriff Michael McCormack** sees Kelly's success as part of the plan, "It is our job to get them ready to re-enter the community. Every once in awhile, we get to see the results."

*Submitted by Jeremy Norton*

