



# IN THE CENTER

## News from Community Corrections

### The Numbers for the week ending 3/28/15:

- 668↓: total statewide caseload.
- 59↑: total new participants.
- 40↑: average number of participants per community corrections center.

### COLLABORATION CORNER: WORKING ON A MASSACHUSETTS ID AT THE BOSTON CCC

Probationers and parolees categorized as high and very-high risk for recidivism have various needs in multiple facets of life. Along with criminogenic needs associated with antisocial pattern, personality, cognition, and peer associations are the practical struggles with substance abuse, education and employment.

At the **Boston Community Corrections Center (CCC)** Job Developer **Tom Schoolcraft** of **Adcare Criminal Justice Services (ACJS)** has been thinking about ways to reduce the obstacles to employment by starting at step one: the Massachusetts government issued identification. "The ID is critical for obtaining housing, employment, and healthcare to name a few," says Schoolcraft.



*The fee for a Massachusetts ID, pictured above, is \$25. The Registry of Motor Vehicles can waive the fee in certain limited circumstances, such as for disabled veterans, upon appeal to the Medical Affairs Branch.*

To address the ID needs of some participants, Schoolcraft has begun working with the **Boston Share Network (BSN)**. BSN is a non-profit group dedicated to serving the poor and homeless. BSN's

"You Are Somebody ID Program" works with Boston shelters to provide vouchers to those who cannot afford the \$25 fee associated with obtaining the ID.

Schoolcraft sees this as an important start but is looking towards future collaboration to improve access to government issued IDs for those in criminal justice working to get on the right track.

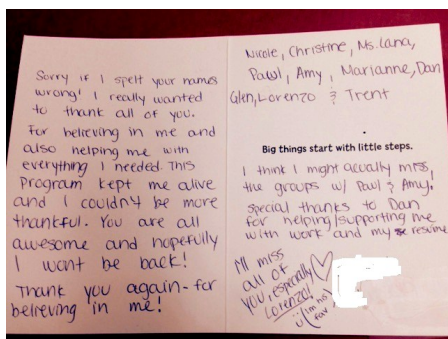
"I am aware that there is work underway to create a linkage between the DOC and RMV so that those returning to the community can have an immediate opportunity to get an ID. I'm hoping we can piggyback off of that work in the future."

*Compiled by Vin Lorenti*

### ACHIEVERS: THANKFUL FOR A SECOND CHANCE IN PLYMOUTH

In January, an envelope arrived at the **Plymouth Community Corrections Center (CCC)**. Inside, staff were pleasantly surprised to find a "Thank You" card from Sandra, a former client.

*Below: In a thank you card to the CCC staff, Sandra acknowledges that, "Big things start with little steps."*



Sandra thanks staff for believing in her and expresses the hope that, "I won't be back." Sandra's path was not smooth. While on probation with Probation Officer **Tracy Connolly** of the **Plymouth District Court**, Sandra was arrested for drug possession. PO Connolly recommended enhanced supervision at the CCC. **Judge Rosemary Minehan** modified the conditions of probation and the case was transferred to Probation Officer In-Charge **Sean Houghton**.

Prior to beginning enhanced supervision in May 2014, Sandra had been struggling with substance abuse for nearly three years. Her abuse led to her first criminal conviction in 2012 and her life became chaotic with police returning to her residence five times over a three month period.

Sandra spent about eight months under en-

hanced supervision at the CCC. During that time, with the support of family and CCC staff, she was able to overcome relapse, engage peer support through self-help groups and pursue pro-social activity with a new job at a local restaurant.

"As Sandra progressed the transformation was apparent. Her eyes and smile became brighter and her bubbly personality was able to come through," said CCC Treatment Manager **Nicole Champagne** of **Bay State Community Services**.

During her transition back to standard probation supervision Sandra was engaged in individual counseling services at **North-East Health Services** and regularly attended self-help meetings twice a week.

*Name changed for privacy. Contributions from Christine Costa and Nicole Champagne.*

## MASSACHUSETTS PROBATION SERVICE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

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

### IN THE CENTER

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**ABOUT:** Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 211F, the Massachusetts Probation Service, 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.

## AWARDED: JUVENILE RESOURCE CENTER MANAGER RECEIVES EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR FROM Y.O.U., INC.

In March, **Worcester Juvenile Resource Center** Program Manager **Sarah Sullivan**, pictured, received the Employee of the Year Award from her employer **Youth Opportunities Upheld (YOU)** Inc. Since 1971 YOU, Inc. has served Worcester County as a private, non-profit child welfare organization with 45 programs across 32 sites. Sullivan, who has been the manager of the JRC for two years, is a graduate of Providence College and holds a Master's of Social Work from Springfield College and a Juris Doctor from Western New England School of Law. She has nearly ten years of experience working with children and families including as a Court Appointed Special Advocate. Recently she worked on the implementation of programming, scheduling and operational changes in order to create greater access for the Juvenile Court and the Department of Youth Services. YOU, Inc. Assistant Component Director Judi Rock, Sullivan's supervisor, nominated her for the award saying, "Sarah has met each program challenge with thoughtful reflection, a consistently calm and focused composure, and general professionalism."



Sullivan is grateful but sees the JRC as a team effort, "The success that the JRC has this year was only possible through the dedication of the entire JRC team. I know through the investment of the community, the collaboration of our stakeholders, and commitment of our staff that the JRC will continue to grow and to meet the needs of the youth that we serve."

## TRAINING: CPR IN PLYMOUTH, WORK GROUP ON OPIATES IN SALISBURY

In January, community corrections center staff from **Brockton, Plymouth, Taunton** and **West Tisbury** met at the **Plymouth CCC** for CPR/AED training with Trial Court Community Service Regional Supervisor **Lisa Hickey**.

Hickey, who has been teaching CPR/First Aid since she was a life guard at age 17, delivered a four-hour **Red Cross** curriculum which is consistent with **OSHA** best practices for workplace First Aid.



*Community Corrections Center staff from southeastern MA review chest compression techniques with instructor Lisa*

Participants learned the proper method for chest compressions and had the opportunity to practice rescue breathing and compressions on CPR manikins. The Red Cross certification provided by this course is good for two years. Participants also had the opportunity to learn how to administer life saving defibrillation via the Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED).

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On March 18th the **Salisbury CCC** hosted a forum for law enforcement, healthcare providers, and community leaders to discuss the continuing crisis of opiate addiction. The program was organized by Probation Officer In-Charge **Kerrin Costello** and **Adcare Criminal Justice Services (ACJS)** Clinician Danielle Conti, both of the Salisbury CCC.

Attendees included Essex County **Sheriff Frank Cousins**, Newburyport **Mayor Donna Holaday**, Salisbury Town Manager **Neil Harrington**, **Dr. Joseph Hull** of Anna Jacques Hospital, **Kirt Hyles** of

**Alkermes, Inc.**, ACJS Treatment Manager **Jim Higgins** and **Assistant Chief Probation Officer Shelley Washitz** of the Haverhill District Court. Officers from the **Amesbury, Newburyport** and **Salisbury Police Departments** as well as representatives of **Lahey Behavioral Health, Pettingill House** and **Spectrum Health Systems** also attended.

The meeting provided the opportunity for law enforcement and criminal justice officials to present information about where the addiction crisis has struck hardest and for healthcare providers to describe the services they offer.

POIC Costello and Clinician Conti hope that the meeting will become a regular work group that can foster relationships amongst those working on the frontlines of addiction and create real approaches to tackling the problem. They have planned another meeting of the group in April.

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