



IN THE CENTER

News from Community Corrections

The Numbers:

- **287,290:** hours of substance abuse treatment, life skills training and educational programming attended by Intermediate Sanction Level (ISL) III/IV participants in 2011
- **117,951:** hours of community service completed by ISL III/IV participants in 2011

ACHIEVERS: LAWRENCE MAN TRADES TIME IN CUSTODY FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE

In December, a 27-year-old probationer sentenced by the **Lawrence District Court** to Intermediate Sanction Level (ISL) III at the **Lawrence Community Corrections Center (CCC)** received the regional customer service award from his automotive service industry employer.

When he first started at the Lawrence CCC the probationer, who received his GED while serving five years in state prison, expressed a desire to build on that success and better himself and the lives of

his children. He wanted to stay clean of drugs and alcohol and obtain employment.

With the assistance of the job developer at the Lawrence CCC the probationer secured a full-time job and is working over forty hours per week. He attended the **ValleyWorks Career Center** where he was bonded by a federal program that incentivizes employers to hire ex-offenders.

After only two months of employment his drive and determination earned him the organization's highest regional customer

service award. In the last twelve years no one in his company has earned this prestigious award.

In addition to his on the job success, with the support of his probation officer, **Enrico Caruso**, and the Lawrence CCC he worked with the **MA Department of Revenue** to ensure proper payment of child support. He plans to attend college to study business management in the fall.

Submitted by John Silva

COLLABORATION CORNER: PARTNERSHIP WITH DPH CREATES ACCESS

Since autumn 2011, the **Springfield Community Corrections Center** has been enrolling Intermediate Sanction Level (ISL) III/IV participants in the federally funded **Access to Recovery Program (ATR)**. ATR is a pilot project funded by a grant from the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** and administered through the Massachusetts **Department of Public Health (DPH)**.

ATR provides participants access to treatment and recovery related services based on a number of criteria, including incarceration and substance abuse history. ATR Project Director, **Paul Sheehan**, of the **Hampden County Sheriff's Department** and Office of Community Corrections (OCC) Regional Manager, **Kevin Kearney**, collaborated to enroll eligible community corrections center clients into the program.

Under the partnership, ATR staff work

closely with community corrections center staff to identify participant needs and the services to assist participants on their road to recovery. Most services are delivered while the participant is in the center, but services are designed to help the offender transition into the community, and may still be accessed after release.

Springfield Community Corrections Center Manager, **Chris Bernier**, of **Phoenix Houses of New England**, reports that participants have received transportation vouchers such as bus passes and assistance obtaining driver's licenses and state identification cards. These items are vital for individuals that are trying to get settled into more stable housing and employment. Bernier states, "ATR has helped motivate participants who are looking for help with recovery. It has also helped with program compliance which is leading to better outcomes".

Submitted by Kevin Kearney

COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKS



Pictured: In May, work continued at the Family Pantry of Cape Cod. Probationers transferred topsoil (top) to rows in the garden (above). Founded in 1989, the pantry provides food, including fresh vegetables from the garden, to 900 families per month.

MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURT OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Stephen V. Price, Executive Director
Pat Horne, Deputy Director
Patty Campatelli, Statewide Program Supervisor-Community Corrections Centers
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

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 21 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.

LETTER TO THE CENTER: A MOTHER ON HER DAUGHTER'S BIRTHDAY

I have been meaning to write this letter for some time now and finally felt that it was particularly appropriate to do so on Amy's birthday. She turns nineteen today, and I cannot express the gratitude I have for how all of you have helped her survive this past year. Nine months ago I was certain she would die of alcohol poisoning. Today she is going to school six hours a day, four days a week. She does all her homework and even cleans her room. She plays with her dog and laughs, something I haven't heard in months, maybe years. Last night she completed a project she was particularly proud of, and it really struck me how far she has come this past year.

So, I would like to extend my greatest thanks and appreciation to everyone who made this work. Jane, you have been a key "point person" for organizing the support system for Amy, in terms of meetings, dealing with the Sobriety schedule, keeping me in the loop as much as you were able to, and doing so many other things I am probably not even aware of.

I would also like to thank John for being tough with my daughter; he knew better than I that she needed the Sobriety and monitor even when I argued against it. I will always remember the day that John and Karen came to my house and took the time to talk to Amy, to finally get her to say that she wanted help with her drinking problem. Even though she went away in handcuffs, it was a turning moment for both of us.

The community corrections program was a lifesaver for both of us. Amy needed to get out of the house and had a lot to learn about her alcohol problem, the court system, how to help others with community service, and so on. At first she was resentful, but it didn't take long for her to appreciate the chance she was being given (although I doubt she will ever admit it!).

The CC and drug court program also gave Amy a major "push" into therapy and AA meetings. The therapy has been something she has resisted her entire life, but she has finally come to realize she needs it. I know

that she would not have taken that step if not for Karen's referral to the doctor and insistence she get evaluated and treated. I don't think she appreciates AA that much yet, but at least she is going to meetings!

I know this letter has gone on way too long, but I felt it was important to write because I don't imagine that many people thank you for the work that you do, and I know Amy is just one person of many that you work with. But she is my daughter and I want to thank everyone for keeping her alive and putting her on a path that will give her a chance at a productive and hopefully happy life. I know we are not out of the woods yet, and may never be completely, but life is so much better for both of us today than I could ever have imagined.

Thanks to all of you for giving my daughter a chance to live to her 19th birthday.

Edited for length and privacy.

THANKS: MAKING AN INTENSIVE COMMITMENT

Targeting an offender for Intermediate Sanction Level (ISL) III/IV supervision in the center is an intensive endeavor requiring cooperation among criminal justice professionals and extra attention and effort from probation, parole and corrections officers. However, according to a brief published by the Pew Center on the States-Public Safety Performance Project in 2009, research shows that taking the time to choose criminal justice interventions that incorporate systematic assessment, integration of services and sanctions, and intensive supervision leads to lower recidivism. And, fewer commitments to prison means greater capacity for violent offenders. Below, we recognize the organizations that have made the commitment to evidence-based, intensive, community supervision in the center by making the greatest number of referrals to ISL III/IV as an alternative to incarceration in 2011.

1. Essex County Sheriff's Department
2. Massachusetts Parole (statewide)
3. Quincy District Court
4. Worcester County Sheriff's Department
5. Plymouth District Court
6. Lawrence District Court
7. Lowell District Court
8. Springfield District Court
9. Fitchburg District Court
10. Lynn District Court

