



# IN THE CENTER

## News from Community Corrections

### The Numbers:

- **70,255:** number of specimens collected for ISL III/IV drug screens in FY 12.
- **88.3%:** percentage of those specimens that returned a negative (clean) result.
- **109:** number of ISL III/IV participants that were awarded a GED in FY12.

## COLLABORATION CORNER: ATTACKING HIV/AIDS IN THE CENTER

According to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), more than 25 million people have been lost to the disease worldwide. The disease continues to ravage communities around the world, including in the United States. Initially established to raise awareness about the disease, **World AIDS Day** on December 1, has now become an opportunity to refocus attention on efforts to eradicate it.

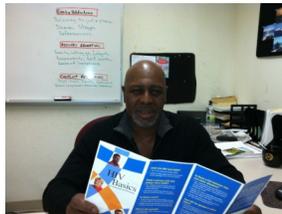
Consistent with the current World AIDS Day theme, "Getting to Zero", Community Corrections Centers (CCC) statewide collaborate with community-based agencies to provide education, counseling, and other services to participants in the center.

**Tom Barker**, a research associate who has worked with the **Department of Public Health (DPH)** on this issue beginning in the early 1990's, believes that outreach to criminal justice populations is important, "Correctional-health research shows that outreach to criminal justice populations is a cost-effective way to reduce public risk. "

Since their inception, CCCs have been mandated to deliver communicable disease

programming to all participants that are sentenced or referred to Intermediate Sanction Level (ISL) III/IV at a CCC.

**Craig Campbell** is a substance abuse counselor employed by **Adcare Criminal Justice Services (ACJS)** at the **Boston CCC**. Campbell worked at the **Boston Medical Center** doing outreach, counseling and testing for about twenty-two years. During that time he was certified by DPH to deliver an HIV/AIDS curriculum which he uses today at the Boston CCC. Said Campbell, "It is important because in the population that we work with drugs can dictate their behaviors, and those behaviors put them, their families, and the community at risk for the spread of HIV and other communicable diseases. "



*Substance Abuse Counselor Craig Campbell of ACJS has worked on HIV/AIDS outreach for 22 years.*

In many cases CCCs collaborate with community-based service providers. At the **Brockton CCC** presentations on HIV/AIDS prevention, including safe sex practices, are made by community health and outreach workers from the **Brockton Neighborhood Health Center (BNHC)**. BNHC also provides free rapid screening services and referrals to the Chronic Illness Clinic. In Worcester and Webster, **Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center** has provided

HIV/AIDS programming at the CCCs for more than ten years. In Fitchburg, **Montachusett Opportunity Council** Community Health Education Unit conducts a risk reduction program at the **Fitchburg CCC**. The AIDS Comprehensive Care and Support Services (ACCESS) Program at **Jordan Hospital** provides programming at the **Plymouth CCC**. In Hyannis, ISL III/IV participants take part in a four-week curriculum by the Family Planning Program of **Health Imperatives** which includes rapid HIV testing, counseling, risk assessment, education and referrals.

In western Massachusetts, CCC staff conduct HIV/AIDS and communicable disease education and partner with community-based agencies for testing and counseling services. **Tapestry Health** of Florence provides counseling and testing services to the **Northampton, Springfield and Holyoke CCC's**. The **Pittsfield CCC** works with **Berkshire Health Systems** for testing.

Other agencies that CCC's collaborate with include, **Cambridge Health Alliance, Lynn Community Health Center, and Greater Lawrence Family Health Center**. Barker sees that as a good thing.

"We have found that the key to success is collaboration between DPH, corrections, and community-based agencies in order to provide a continuum of care for the populations living with, and at highest risk for contracting, HIV/AIDS," said Barker.

*Compiled by Vin Lorenti*



*Substance Abuse Counselor Ron Edson of ACJS discusses HIV/AIDS during a health class at the Hyannis CCC.*

## MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURT OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

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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 20 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.

## ACHIEVERS: CRAFTING A RESPONSE TO STRESS

As part of the Healthy Living Group at the **Brockton Community Corrections Center (CCC)** substance abuse counselor **Filomena DaVeiga**, of **Old Colony Y**, guided Intermediate Sanction Level (ISL) III/IV participants in an arts and craft project to teach them about dealing with stress. Based on an evidence-based, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Skills approach, the distress tolerance lesson encouraged participants to acknowledge the onset of stress and develop coping skills to deal with it. Engaging in an arts and craft project allowed participants to focus on tactile skills needed to complete the project rather than the stress.



“Activities like going for a walk or doing arts and crafts buy time for a person to deescalate the overwhelming emotions that come with stress. I’ve found that this project works well to teach participants to turn to something other than drugs to deal with stress,” said DaVeiga.

*The “OCC Mascot” was crafted by Brockton CCC ISL III/IV participants learning about stress.*

Participants crafted objects out of different items including construction paper, cardboard and clay. Objects ranged from cartoon characters to ornaments. One participant even crafted the “OCC Mascot” out of pipe cleaners.

*Submitted by Vin Lorenti*

## COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKS: PAYING TRIBUTE WHILE PAYING BACK

In August the Trial Court Community Service Program (CSP) completed work on a new memorial at the **American Legion Post 223** in Duxbury.



*Community services workers grade soil at the newly installed War on Terrorism Monument at Post 223 in Duxbury.*

The project comprised consolidating various war memorials onto one site and erecting new memorials to local veterans that have

served in the nation’s war on terrorism. The War on Terrorism monument includes three stone tablets set on pedestals. The first recognizes veterans of Grenada, Lebanon, Panama and the USS Cole. The second recognizes veterans of the Persian Gulf Wars, Operation Desert Storm, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The third recognizes veterans of the war in Afghanistan and is dedicated to Lt. Timothy Steele of the United States Army who was killed in Afghanistan in August 2011. The monument site includes a time capsule with personal items from Lt. Steele and his family as remembrances.

Community service workers from the **Plymouth CCC** worked on an assortment of tasks to prepare the site. Landscaping tasks included tilling and moving topsoil, raking, and planting of flowers and shrubbery. Workers assisted in the relocation of stone monuments from other parts of the grounds onto the consolidated site. A

stone bench was erected as were pathways around the flag pole so that viewers can easily access the memorial.

According to CSP Statewide Supervisor, **David Skocik**, project planners were only able to raise \$16,000 of their \$20,000 goal and were very grateful for the support of the CSP. Skocik has pledged CSP support for continued maintenance at the site in the future.

*Submitted by David Skocik*



*American Legion Post 223 in Duxbury now has a consolidated war memorial dedicated to the service of local veterans including a monument dedicated to Afghanistan veteran Lt. Timothy Steele of the United States Army who died last year.*