



IN THE CENTER

News from Community Corrections

The Numbers:

- **1,145,492:** number of specimens screened for illicit drugs at community corrections centers since July 1, 2003
- **85.6%:** percentage of those screens that were clean
- **11,943:** number of ccc participants that have met benchmarks for transition since July 1, 2003

COLLABORATION CORNER: TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CENTERS

On February 26, 2014 the **Massachusetts Council on Problem Gambling** conducted a training program for probation and community corrections center staff at the Probation Training Academy in Clinton entitled, **“Understanding and Recognizing Problem Gambling for**



In November 2013 Tom Mechem, High School Equivalency Chief Examiner for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education describes the new HiSet assessment to CCC educational coordinators at the Probation Training Academy in Clinton.

Service Providers.” The presentation was delivered by the Council’s Senior Director of Programs and Services Victor Ortiz, MSW, LADCII, CADCII. Among the objectives of the presentation was understanding the definition of gambling for those with gambling disorders, explaining the new criteria for problem gambling under the DSM5, highlighting the prevalence of gambling versus other addiction disorders, discussing the co-occurrence of gambling and substance abuse, describing gambling disorders as a dynamic factor contributing to suicide and crime, and reporting the strong evidence for **cognitive behavioral therapy** as an effective intervention. Scott Melissa, the Council’s human resources director also described the Square One program which seeks appropriate employment for problem gamblers. For more information: masscompulsivegambling.org

In November and December 2013 community corrections center staff from Boston, Brockton, Plymouth, and Taunton, attended a program offered at the Dartmouth and Taunton CCCs entitled, **“Working with Women in Conflict with the Law.”**

The program, part of the **Women’s Reentry Allies Project**, funded by the **Federal Office of Women’s Health**, was a collaboration between the **Institute for Health and Recovery**, **Bristol County Sheriff**, and **Adcare Criminal Justice Services**. The training focused on implementing the research around trauma by working with survivors of trauma in a way that minimizes triggers through acknowledgement, explanation, and providing choices. For more information: www.healthrecovery.org

COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKS: BOSTON STRONG TRIBUTE FOR 2014 BOSTON MARATHON

As the 2014 **Boston Marathon** approaches a group of probationers in Metro West can reflect on the small part they played in helping our region to heal. Working with **Town of Framingham** Volunteer Projects Coordinator **Linda Libby**, and the Framingham **Department of Parks and Recreation**, Court Services Coordinator **Sean Duggan** led a group of probationers from the **Natick and Framingham District Courts** as they planted daffodil bulbs on traffic islands at the intersection of Waverly and Winthrop Streets as part of the **Boston Strong Marathon Daffodils** project.

According to their brochure, Boston Strong Marathon Daffodils is “a coalition of

many who want to create an act of Hope and Rebirth for the City of Boston and to restore the positive spirit of the historic and world renown Boston Marathon.”

The project, with contributions from conservation, and horticultural groups across the state and



Probationers work with Framingham Parks and Recreation to plant daffodils as part of the Boston Strong Marathon Daffodils project.

hundreds of volunteers, has planted more than 100,000 daffodils along the marathon route and will distribute daffodils in the finish line area.



MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURT OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

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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: CLINICAL PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

- In October the Office of Community Corrections convened a group of treatment professionals from community corrections centers across the state to meet to discuss three areas of clinical process. The three areas are 1.) Orientation and Retention; 2.) Assessment, Treatment Planning, and Periodic Review; and 3.) Rewards and Sanctions. The group is divided into three sub-groups to discuss each of the issue areas.
- In Orientation and Retention, group members have polled participants for feedback about their experiences at the CCC and are working to develop a presentation around best practices for orienting participants to enhanced supervision and developing a rapport to retain them.
- In Assessment, Treatment Planning, and Periodic Review, group members have developed a vision statement, surveyed CCC staff and worked on a draft of a new treatment plan/periodic review form that combines the plan with the review, and incorporates client-perspective and SMART criteria into treatment planning.
- In Rewards and Sanctions, group members have considered the development of treatment programming phases that will breakdown participant benchmarks into more manageable pieces and effectively address noncompliance through treatment planning.
- The groups hope to develop a presentation in June for CCC staff at the Probation Training Academy in Clinton.

ACHIEVERS: ENHANCED SUPERVISION SUPPORTS SUCCESS AND SOBRIETY IN THE SOUTHEAST

In January of 2014 Samantha met enhanced supervision benchmarks, including more than six months of sobriety, consistent attendance and demonstrated pro-social activities. As a result, she made a transition from enhanced supervision at the **Barnstable Community Corrections Center** to standard supervision at the **Orleans District Court**.

"She has made real strides," said **POIC Robert Glaser**. Her aftercare plan includes enrollment in the Medical Coding Program at **Barnstable Community College** which is being monitored by Probation Officer **Kristen Monteiro**.

Samantha did not fare well on traditional probation and was facing incarceration when she arrived at the Barnstable CCC in April of 2013.

"I minimized the impact my addiction had and the consequences that criminality would bring to my family, career, and health," said Samantha.



Barnstable CCC Treatment Manager **Jocelyn Hemeon** of **Adcare Criminal Justice Services** has seen growth in Samantha, "She had a rough start but has since taken responsibility for her actions and realized she can be the difference in her future."

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In 2012 it was hard to imagine that Jason, a probationer from the **New Bedford District Court**, would make it. Jason was on probation for breaking and entering and larceny. Being on probation

did not have the intended effect. Jason failed to make his appointments and in November of that year he was surrendered to the court for a new drug arrest.

Instead of a probation revocation, Jason was given the opportunity to stay in the community under enhanced supervision at the **Dartmouth CCC**. Jason continued to struggle and did not stay sober at first. "We saw the potential in him and kept pushing him with positive reinforcement until he saw it in himself," said **POIC Lucy Ligotti**. Jason was able to get on track and in January began his second semester in the culinary arts program at **Bristol County Community College**.

Of Jason's progress, Program Manager **Tom Carter** of **Adcare Criminal Justice Services** said, "He struggled at first, but with the support of probation we were able to focus on the issues that helped him change his behavior. I am hopeful that he can succeed and not fall back."

Names changed for privacy.