



MSA NEWSLETTER

Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association



MESSAGE FROM THE MSA PRESIDENT, SHERIFF NICK COCCHI

"Welcome to the "MSA Newsletter," your quarterly update on the latest happenings, news, and developments within the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association. Designed to keep you informed and engaged, this newsletter serves as your go-to resource outlining the extraordinary work the 14 Sheriffs in the Commonwealth are doing for all who live and work in their facilities and the communities they serve."

FEDERAL DELEGATION MEETING

The Sheriffs met with members of the federal delegation in Washington D.C. in February, covering a wide range of topics including the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy 1115 Waiver, mental health services, housing, and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), to name a few. The federal delegation applauded the Sheriffs for being national leaders on substance use and mental health.



APPROVAL OF MEDICAID INMATE EXCLUSION POLICY (MIEP) FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED POPULATIONS

The MSA is excited to announce the approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the Massachusetts' 1115 MIEP Demonstration Amendment to provide pre-release MassHealth services to eligible individuals in correctional institutions, 90 days prior to release.

The MA 1115 MIEP Demonstration has been a collaborative achievement with Mass Health, EOPSS, and the MSA working side by side. The anticipated outcomes include enhanced public safety, reduced overdose deaths, and improved health equity. The MSA has a strong collaborative history with MassHealth, working closely on initiatives such as pre-release services and the statewide Behavioral Health Supports for Justice Involved Individuals (BH-JI). This collaboration addresses the increasing needs of the population, including substance use disorders, mental health and physical health conditions.

It is estimated that over 75% of the incarcerated individuals here in the Commonwealth have a substance use, mental health and/or cooccurring disorder. The MSA has been advocating for years for the need to eliminate the MIEP. Expanding the health coverage for eligible incarcerated individuals can and will change lives. The MSA and Sheriffs are ready and preparing to implement this initiative over the next several years.

"In authorizing the 1115 MIEP Demonstration in Massachusetts, we are taking a significant step towards a commitment the Sheriffs have made in improving health outcomes for qualified individuals in their care and custody," said Sheriff Nicholas Cocchi, President of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association. "The extension of pre-release MassHealth services will enhance the well-being and future of those incarcerated by facilitating continuity of care and establishing trust for individuals 90 days prior to release. Through this collaborative partnership, we are continuing to pave the way for a more inclusive, effective, and compassionate approach to the criminal justice system."

Learn more: <https://www.mass.gov/news/masshealth-receives-federal-authority-to-expand-eligibility-for-individuals-and-lower-insurance-costs-for-massachusetts-families>

SHERIFF KOUTOUJIAN NAMED SHERIFF OF THE YEAR



<https://www.masssheriffs.org/post/major-county-sheriffs-of-america-recognizes-sheriff-koutoujian-as-sheriff-of-the-year>

Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian was named the 2023 Sheriff of the Year by the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA). The award was presented to Sheriff Koutoujian during MCSA's Winter Conference in Washington, D.C. on Friday, February 9, 2024. Sheriff Koutoujian was recognized for his focus on employee wellness, and the innovative correctional programming he has implemented for incarcerated military veterans, emerging adults, those with substance use disorders, and more. He was also applauded for his service as MCSA President from February 2020 – February 2022.

"As a professional, there is no greater honor than to be recognized by your peers – inspiring leaders who I truly admire," said Sheriff Koutoujian.

In March, the MSA testified at the Joint Ways and Means FY25 budget hearing. Hampden County Sheriff Nicholas Cocchi (MSA President) and Norfolk County Sheriff Patrick McDermott (MSA Vice President) highlighted significant achievements and outlined enhanced commitments for the future, focusing on collaboration, communication, reporting, transparency, and innovation. Key points included: no cost communication implementation, commissary, access to dedicated line items, officer wellness, and more.

"Our testimony highlights not just challenges, but opportunities for innovation and partnership," said Sheriff Cocchi. "Our hope is to navigate these complexities together to uphold our commitment to improving outcomes for all who live and work in our correctional facilities."

JOINT WAYS & MEANS FY25 BUDGET HEARING



<https://malegislature.gov/Events/Hearings/Detail/4887>

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CROSS-TRACKING SYSTEM

In a significant stride toward enhancing public awareness and transparency, the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association announces the release of the Criminal Justice Cross-Tracking System.

The public dashboard is the latest effort of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association, on behalf of the Massachusetts Sheriffs, working collaboratively with the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPPS) and other criminal justice partners to fulfill requirements within the 2018 Criminal Justice Reform Act. As part of the 2018 Massachusetts bill signed into law, Criminal Justice Reform (CJR) required the creation of a standardized data collection and reporting system for criminal justice agencies and the Trial Court.

The dashboards and datasets integrate a growing body of more than 9 million records from Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) and the Commonwealth's 13 Sheriffs' Offices that hold incarcerated individuals.

To view the homepage for the dashboards and datasets that display and provide the Commonwealth's criminal justice data for public use, visit this [link](#).

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/commonwealth-of-massachusetts-criminal-justice-cross-tracking-system>

Programs Dashboard: This table provides an overview of programs offered in the Department of Correction and Sheriffs' Offices. Users can filter by specific agency or groups of agencies, programs, program registration date, and by completable programs.

Charges & Convictions for Sentenced Offenders: The dashboards allow users to see the charges and convictions for criminally sentenced individuals across all Massachusetts custodial agencies. The displays use data snapshots from January 1st of each year between 2017 and 2023 and allow users to categorize the data by race/ethnicity, gender, and age.

"Increasing transparency and providing accessible information to the public are paramount in fostering trust and accountability within our justice system," said Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, President of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association. "The launch of this public dashboard underscores our commitment to openness and collaboration in serving our communities."

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SHERIFF DONNA BUCKLEY



The MSA celebrated Women's History Month, by highlighting the remarkable achievements of those who have shattered barriers and blazed trails for generations to come. Among these trailblazers stands Barnstable County Sheriff Donna Buckley. Born and raised in Peabody, Sheriff Buckley became the second female Sheriff in the state and the first in Barnstable County.

During her first year, Sheriff Buckley's team created the Women's Therapeutic Treatment Program or WTTP, an all-inclusive program for the female housing unit. It includes a variety of topics such as addiction, criminal behavior, anger management, parenting skills, employment readiness, health-related issues, domestic violence, financial management, mental health disorders, and co-occurring conditions.

"I ran for this office because I saw a critical need for change, and the voters agreed with me," said Sheriff Buckley. "My election gives me hope that values and hard work will draw voters to candidates rather than preconceived notions and gender stereotypes."

<https://www.masssheriffs.org/post/women-s-history-month-sheriff-buckley>

With over 23 years of service, Heidi Mora has served in a variety of ranks and roles with the Essex County Sheriff's Office. Superintendent Mora joined the office in 2000 as a correctional officer and throughout her career served as a frontline supervisor rising through the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Shift Commander.

"I am grateful to be allowed the opportunity to grow in my role as Superintendent, where I am able to tap into my past experiences and incorporate this knowledge into today's initiatives to better serve our community," said Mora. "I have the opportunity to watch many incarcerated men and women from many different backgrounds participate in educational classes, vocational trades, and treatments to ultimately become more engaged and confident human beings. I credit the dedicated professionalism of both uniform and civilian staff within the Sheriff's Office for the great strides and success over the years."

SUPERINTENDENT HEIDI MORA



<https://www.masssheriffs.org/post/women-s-history-month-sheriff-buckley>

FRANKLIN SUPERINTENDENT LORI STREETER



Lori M. Streeter's career in corrections started over 30 years ago as a part-time Correctional Officer at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in Greenfield. During her tenure, she has moved through the ranks of the Security Division, early on as the Lieutenant in charge of Policy Development/Standards and Compliance. As she took on more supervisory responsibilities, she became an ADS in charge of the Security, Training, and the Medical Divisions. Working under three Sheriffs, her goal has always been to develop and encourage opportunities for female staff members. She has been fortunate to work under Sheriff Donelan since his election in 2011, and specifically since she was appointed to the position of Superintendent/Special Sheriff in September of 2014.

"I take great pride in the role I have played in cultivating leadership opportunities for women at our agency," said Streeter. "I am also so proud to watch our existing female leaders continue to mentor and encourage other officers and staff members of Franklin County."

Danielle Frane currently serves as the Superintendent of Jail Operations at the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office. In this role, she commands all Uniformed, Programs, Medical, Mental Health and Classification staff of approximately 300. She oversees the daily operation of the facility and serves as a liaison to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and the courts.

She is a Commissioner for the American Jail Association Jail Manager Certification Commission as well as a member of the Legislative Affairs committee. Superintendent Frane is a Certified Jail Manager, Certified Corrections Executive, and Certified Correctional Healthcare Professional. She is a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) Senior Management Institute of Policing (SMIP) Session 87 and a recipient of the FBI LEEDA Trilogy Leadership Award. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Columbia Southern University and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Fisher College.

NORFOLK SUPERINTENDENT DANIELLE FRANE



SHERIFF'S SPOTLIGHT

The "Sheriff's Spotlight" highlights the incredible work the Sheriffs are doing by featuring a program, specialized unit, community reinvestment project or initiative every month.

In 2016 the Hampshire County Sheriff's Office partnered with the Children's Trust, an organization that fights to stop child abuse in Massachusetts, to start a Nurturing Fathers Program. The 13-week course provides guidance and counseling to fathers during their incarceration. The program has proven so successful that in 2020, the program was extended to men in the Hampshire community through partnerships with the Northampton Recovery Center and the Ware Recovery Center.

"I believe that strong, safe families help build strong, safe communities," Sheriff Cahillane said. "Our staff has done great work with this program, and we are proud and grateful to be a partner with Children's Trust in this important mission."

To date, over 150 fathers have graduated from the program, marking a significant positive impact on families in the Hampshire County area.

HAMPSHIRE'S NURTURING FATHERS PROGRAM



<https://www.masssheriffs.org/post/sheriff-spotlight-hampshire-s-nurturing-fathers-program>

PLYMOUTH'S PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY PROGRAM



In March 2019, Plymouth County Sheriff's Office began "Pathways to Recovery," a treatment program, designed to support pre-trial individuals with substance use issues. The open-enrollment initiative held within a dedicated unit, operates on a voluntary basis, allowing participants the flexibility to withdraw at their discretion, fostering a sense of autonomy in their recovery journey. The program encompasses a comprehensive curriculum, featuring specialized groups that lead a seamless transition from incarceration to release. To date more than 450 individuals have participated in the recovery-based program.

"I am very grateful to our dedicated program staff and proud to say that our program has been recognized by the state and federal judiciaries," Sheriff McDonald said.

<https://www.masssheriffs.org/post/sheriff-spotlight-plymouth-s-pathways-to-recovery-program>

With over ten years of dedicated service, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office Organic Farm Program has been an innovative way to inspire incarcerated individuals and serve the community.

At its core, the program is all about giving back—thousands of pounds of fresh, organic produce have been distributed to more than 50 community organizations including senior centers, veteran groups, and food pantries.

The 15-acre farm in West Boylston produces roughly 500 pounds of fresh produce daily and approximately 40,000 pounds in a growing season. This generous outreach extends not only to external organizations but also to the population within the correctional facility. Thousands of pounds of produce have been processed and prepared by the Sheriff's Office's kitchen, helping to feed the staff and population they serve.

"The Sheriff's Office's Organic Farm is a tremendously positive program," said Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. "The farm allows our office to give back to the communities we work to keep safe every day."

WORCESTER'S ORGANIC FARM PROGRAM



<https://www.masssheriffs.org/post/sheriff-spotlight-wcso-organic-farm-program>

SHERIFF'S CUP HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Teams representing seven Sheriff's Offices from across the state competed in the Sheriff's Cup Hockey Tournament on March 16 at the Tewksbury Breakaway Ice Center. The hockey tournament was hosted by the Middlesex Sheriff's Office and was the first playing of the Sheriff's Cup since 2013. The tournament featured teams from Berkshire, Essex, Hampden, Middlesex, Plymouth, Suffolk and Worcester counties. After friendly competition, the Plymouth County Sheriff's Office took home the 2024 Sheriff's Cup.



<https://www.masssheriffs.org/post/2024-sheriff-s-cup-hockey-tournament>

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Websites: <https://www.masssheriffs.org>
<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-sheriffs-association>



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