



MSA NEWSLETTER

Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association



MESSAGE FROM THE MSA PRESIDENT, SHERIFF NICK COCCHI

"Welcome to this second issue of the "MSA Newsletter," your update on the latest happenings, news, and developments within the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association. As a reminder, 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."

NSA PRESIDENT VISITS MA

The Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association had the privilege of welcoming the 84th National Sheriffs' Association President, Sheriff Kieran Donahue, and his wife Jeanie to the September meeting. The Sheriffs were also joined by Cumberland County, MA Sheriff Kevin Joyce for an insightful discussion. Sheriff Donahue and Jeanie presented about one of the President Donahue's key initiatives to raise awareness and end domestic violence.



MSA ATTENDS ALL SHERIFFS' AUTHORITY MEETING



In September, MSA Executive Director, Carrie Hill, along with MSA President, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, and Middlesex Sheriff Peter Koutoujian attended the All Sheriffs' Authority Meeting in Washington D.C.

The meeting was hosted by the U.S. Department of Justice's National Institute of Corrections and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The meeting brings together Sheriffs from across the country to discuss critical issues of importance facing our Nation's Sheriffs.

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.

NANTUCKET: SERVING NANTUCKET WITH HEART

Since 1970, Sheriff James Perelman has called the quaint island town of Nantucket his home. He fell in love with the island and the close-knit community. In turn he's dedicated his life to charitable work and a public-service career, now serving his third term as Sheriff.

The Sheriff's role remains pivotal on the Island, assisting with the mission to protect and provide public safety services to the citizens of Nantucket. One significant role is Civil Process, which involves serving eviction papers, divorce papers, and collections.

Sheriff Perelman also helps orchestrate street closures and coordinate escorts for funeral processions, ensuring dignity in times of grief. His commitment to civic duty extends to serving as constable during elections and aiding courthouse security, embodying the essence of community guardianship.

"I love going to work every day and serving the people of Nantucket. I hope to continue in this position for a long time," said Sheriff Perelman.



<https://www.masssheriffs.org/post/sheriff-spotlight-serving-nantucket-with-heart>



BRISTOL: REINVENTING RE-ENTRY SERVICES

When Bristol County Sheriff Paul Heroux assumed Office in January 2023, he had a vision to change the reentry unit. The restructuring resulted in the creation of an entirely new department to oversee medical care, food services, programming, education, post-release services, and reentry initiatives. Dedicated positions were also created exclusively for post-release services.

With an entire unit dedicated to reentry services, incarcerated individuals now have ample opportunities for personal growth, skill acquisition, and preparation for life back in the community.

“These changes will not only benefit incarcerated individuals by providing a platform for personal growth and skill acquisition but also contribute to a safer environment for both staff and those incarcerated,” said Jodi Hockert-Lotz, the Chief of Inmate Services.



<https://www.masssheriffs.org/post/sheriff-spotlight-reinventing-re-entry-services-at-the-bristol-county-sheriff-s-office>

ESSEX: STAR PROGRAM



<https://www.masssheriffs.org/post/sheriff-spotlight-essex-county-sheriff-s-department-star-program>

The Supporting Transitions and Reentry (STAR) Program is a community-based support center for justice-involved individuals providing educational, vocational, and clinical support as well as enhanced case management aimed at reducing recidivism. Centers are located in Lawrence and Lynn, serving all of Essex County and beyond.

Case managers, also referred to as “navigators,” focus on each person's strengths and targets their individual needs. Objectives are designed in smaller 30-day “steps” to help reach goals, and schedules are flexible to help achieve more in the community.

“It’s a program that is not only rewarding, it’s forgiving. Our STAR navigators know that the path to success is sometimes wrought with stumbling blocks and that’s how so many of our clients are able to achieve success,” said Sheriff Kevin Coppinger.



HAMPDEN HOSTS SHERIFF'S SHUFFLE TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



A record crowd turned out for the 2024 Sheriff's Shuffle to support Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Western Massachusetts' program to combat domestic violence.

The event was held on Sunday, September 29 at Ashley Reservoir in Holyoke for the largest turnout in the event's 25-year history - over 700 runners and walkers.

Funds were raised for the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, a lifeline for

individuals affected by domestic violence. Sheriff Nick Cocchi, in establishing an initiative to take on domestic violence and dedicating the Shuffle to that cause, has cited the urgent need for action, especially in light of recent tragic incidents in our community.

"I'm beyond grateful for the more than 700 people who supported this year's Sheriff's Shuffle 5K. Together, we raised much-needed funds and awareness for the fight against domestic violence, a cause that touches far too many lives in our community," said Sheriff Nick Cocchi. "Events like this remind us that when we stand united, we can bring about real change. The strength and generosity of our community are powerful, and I'm proud to see so many people come together to say, 'Enough is enough.' Let's continue this momentum and keep working to protect survivors and break the cycle of violence."

AMERICAN JAIL ASSOCIATION (AJA) CONFERENCE

Staff from the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association along with the Hampden County Sheriff's Office presented during the American Jail Association's Annual Conference and Jail Expo in May. Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi joined several of the staff members who presented insightful panels, showcasing the commitment to innovation and excellence in corrections. Specifically, Executive Director, Carrie Hill and Director of Data & Analytics, Julie Montano shared the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Criminal Justice Cross-Tracking System, a public dashboard that standardizes data collection and reporting for criminal justice agencies and the Trial Court.



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) held its' annual conference in June. The conference included seminars and educational content covering cutting edge topics for law enforcement. The topics ranged from recruitment and retention, jail operations, officer wellness, and more. Several Massachusetts Sheriff's Office staff attended and a few gave presentations.



Ed Hayes, the Assistant Superintendent at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO), presented on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). The workshop explored clinical, operational, and leadership perspectives on implementing MAT in local jails.

During Ed's 10-year tenure as Treatment Director, FCSO has been recognized nationally as a demonstration site by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as well as the Bureau of Justice Assistance for its work with incarcerated clients with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. The FCSO treatment program was the first in

Massachusetts and one of the first in the nation to offer a comprehensive treatment approach for incarcerated individuals living with opioid use disorder by becoming a fully licensed Opioid Treatment Program (OTP).

Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis presented on their unique substance treatment unit for incarcerated individuals. Sheriff Evangelidis broke down the modified therapeutic community model that he has implemented.

The space allows those who qualify to participate in a three or six-month program in the rehabilitation unit and treatment clinic.

The program aims to eliminate external pressures for those struggling to achieve sobriety. The multi-departmental effort works to address the root causes of addiction and co-occurring disorders while also setting individuals up for success beyond sobriety.



NORFOLK SHERIFF OPENS H.O.P.E. CENTER



The Norfolk County Sheriff's Office announced the opening of the H.O.P.E. Center, which stands for Healing, Opportunity, Purpose, and Engagement.

The center provides services including 12-step recovery, peer support groups and food/housing and employment assistance for people transitioning from incarceration. Working with staff, each client receives a personalized plan for success and the support to achieve their goals.

The program services are free and available to anyone who is looking for

assistance and guidance regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, gender, age, economic status or background.

Learn more: <https://hopecenterma.org/>

PLYMOUTH HOSTS REENTRY SUMMIT

The Plymouth County Sheriff's Office hosted a re-entry standing-room only collaborative discussion among representatives from every Sheriff's Office in the Commonwealth.

Massachusetts Sheriffs have always been at the the forefront of reentry. The "Sheriff's Reentry Leadership Summit" was organized and moderated by Community Outreach Reentry Specialist Jim Frazier and focused on enhancing the statewide network of best practices for improved reentry outcomes.



Thank you for doing the most work for the least able, and thank you for caring," said Sheriff McDonald.

ESSEX FALLEN DEPUTY HONORED IN WASHINGTON D.C. AND MASSACHUSETTS



Essex County fallen Deputy Anthony Pasquarello was honored in Washington D.C. as part of National Police Week.

The Pasquarello family along with the Essex honor guard and several members of the office attended a Candlelight Vigil to honor the nation's fallen officers. It was a solemn event at the National Mall attended by thousands of families and law enforcement in honor of their fallen loved ones. The family also took part in a remembrance ceremony at the U.S. Capitol. Deputy Pasquarello's name has been added to the National Police Memorial.

In September, Deputy Pasquarello's name

was added to the Massachusetts Law Enforcement Memorial at the Statehouse. Deputy Pasquarello's son Vincent and family were presented with a special plaque honoring his heroism from Gov. Maura Healey. Deputy Pasquarello died in the line of duty of complications due to COVID-19 on Dec. 9, 2021.

MASS GAMING COMMISSION TOURS HAMPDEN'S WESTERN MASS. RECOVERY AND WELLNESS CENTER

The Hampden County Sheriff's Office welcomed the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) for an exclusive tour of the Western Mass. Recovery & Wellness Center.

The tour showcased the invaluable treatment services offered at the state-of-the-art facility. The tour was organized in response to the MGC's efforts to understand and support local recovery and wellness programs through the disbursement of Community Mitigation funds, which have aided the Recovery & Wellness Center after it had its lease increase by more than \$400,000 over the previous building.



The regional treatment center opened in 1985, and serves justice-involved residents who are sentenced at the county, state, or federal levels. Since opening nearly 40 years ago, the facility has served more than 18,000 clients.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE CROSS-TRACKING SYSTEM UPDATE

In the latest update for the statewide Criminal Justice Cross-Tracking System, two dashboards have been added: Charges & Convictions for Pre-Trial Offenders and Programs.

The public dashboard system fulfills 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](#).

The latest dashboards include:

Charges & Convictions for Pre-Trial Offenders: This dashboards allow users to visualize the charges and convictions for criminally pre-trial individuals across all Massachusetts custodial agencies. The displays use data snapshots from January 1st of each year between 2017 and 2024 and allows users to categorize the data by race/ethnicity, sex, and age.

Programs: This dashboard empowers members of the public for the first time to see organized, aggregated data about programming provided by state and county correctional facilities. The dashboards display data on Massachusetts offenders who registered for a program while in custody from January 2017 to December 2023. Data from 2024 forward will be processed and displayed on the dashboard once complete.

"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."

BARNSTABLE UNVEILS FIRST MURAL AS PART OF NEW WOMEN'S TREATMENT PROGRAM



The Barnstable County Sheriff's Office unveiled the first mural ever created at the correctional facility. Designed and painted as a collaboration between the incarcerated women and the Cultural Center of Cape Cod, it is part of a larger program to treat women.

Launched in March of 2024, the Women's Therapeutic Treatment Program or WTPP is a rolling 90-day multifaceted approach set in one of the female housing units. Each day begins with a morning meeting and every day involves meetings, classes and groups. These include parenting classes, case management, 12- step meetings, yoga, creative writing, memoir writing, harm reduction, substance recovery groups, and spiritual groups.

<https://www.masssheriffs.org/post/first-mural-unveiled-as-part-of-the-new-barnstable-women-s-treatment-program>

MULTIPLE SHERIFFS' OFFICES PARTICIPATE IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Several Sheriffs' Offices took part in the largest ever organized public safety convoy within the state, the Cruiser Convoy. Staff from Barnstable, Berkshire, Essex, Hampden, Middlesex, Norfolk, and Suffolk Sheriffs' Offices participated in the event.

This event is held yearly to help raise awareness for the amazing athletes in the Massachusetts Special Olympics. Convoys from all ends of the state ride into a set location that eventually go to Harvard for Summer Games.

Over 200 officers from Massachusetts law enforcement agencies participated in the ride to Harvard University for the annual Summer Games, and they were invited to give out medals and say hello to athletes.



HAMPDEN HOSTS 27TH WOMEN IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE



In June, the Hampden County Sheriff's Office hosted the 27th Women in Criminal Justice Conference. Under the theme "Paving the Way for Women in Criminal Justice: Lasting Impression," the event brought together influential female professionals from around the region for networking and insightful presentations on various pertinent topics.

"This conference was a pivotal moment for celebrating the remarkable contributions women have woven into the fabric of the criminal justice system," said Sheriff Nick Cocchi. "It was a time for professionals to come together, draw

strength from each other, and marvel at the strides they've collectively made, opening doors for women everywhere."

BERKSHIRE PARTICIPATES IN REGIONAL DIVE TEAM TRAINING

The Berkshire County Sheriff's Office along with multiple other public safety agencies participated in a large scale regional dive team training at the Tolland State Forest Boat Ramp/Beach on the Otis Reservoir in June.

The training was comprised of agencies from Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties in Western Massachusetts, the Massachusetts State Police, the Massachusetts Environmental Police, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services!



The agencies trained to move as one unit, one force, with each person understanding and assisting with the roles of their peers.



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