



IN THE CENTER

News from Community Corrections

The Numbers:

- **284,821:** hours of programming attended by Intermediate Sanction Level (ISL) III/IV participants in 2012
- **77.2%:** percentage of programming hours attended by ISL III/IV participants in 2012
- **120,291:** hours of community service performed by ISL III/IV participants in 2012
- **73.7%:** percentage of community service hours performed by ISL III/IV participants in 2012

COLLABORATION CORNER: STUDENT SERVICE AT THE BOSTON COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CENTER

Since 2006 **Harvard University** students from the **Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA)** have volunteered with Intermediate Sanction Level (ISL) III/IV participants in Boston. Students first volunteered at the **Boston Women's Resource Center (WRC)** and more recently, since the consolidation

of the WRC and CCC, in support of men and women at the Boston CCC. Students work with participants, as pro-social models, towards participant educational, vocational, and life-skills development.

Not only has the PBHA supported ISL III/IV participants with one-on-one tutoring, they have also provided financial support through scholarships for ISL III/IV participants that successfully completed an application process with their volunteer tutor. According to **Linda Galloway**, former program manager of the Boston WRC and current substance abuse counselor for **Adcare Criminal Justice Services (ACJS)** at the Boston CCC, the PBHA awarded 20 participants \$24,000 in scholarships paid directly to educational institutions and vocational programs.

According to faculty advisor **Kerry McGowan** of Harvard University, the

PBHA's Prison Education Program has about 45 student volunteers, 10 of whom work at the Boston CCC. Said McGowan, "Often called 'the best course at Harvard', PBHA allows students to interact in the real-world classroom of community, and asks students to reflect on service as a part of their education."

ACJS Educational Coordinator **Lynette Russell** of the Boston CCC reports that volunteers have seen four ISL III/IV participants receive their GED in the last two months. Other volunteers have begun new projects including an **OSHA** online certification program that has seen one ISL III/IV completer and the **Excel High School Online Diploma Program**. Additionally, volunteers donated MBTA bus passes and reading glasses to ISL III/IV participants.

Compiled by Vin Lorenti



Harvard University student Margaret Wittenmyer works on a reading lesson with an ISL III/IV participant at the Boston CCC.

COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKS: EVERYTHING READY FOR SUMMER IN ESSEX COUNTY

This spring probationers from the **Gloucester District Court** and Intermediate Sanction Level III/IV participants from the **Salisbury Community Corrections Center** spent about 500 hours getting camps across Essex County ready for summer.

At **Camp Menorah** in Essex, workers painted cabins in addition to cleaning and landscaping the grounds. In **Gloucester**, **YMCA Camp Spindrift** got cleaning, raking, and landscaping services. At **YMCA Camp Takoma** in Ipswich workers set up miniature golf and archery



Probationer works on landscaping at YMCA Camp Spindrift in Gloucester. The Community Service Program spent 25 days working at camps across Essex County this spring.

venues for campers as well as cleaning, raking, and mulching the grounds. **YMCA Camp Dory** in Essex was also tended by workers who cleaned up trash and raked the grounds.

The **Department of Conservation and Recreation** also saw probationers pitch in through a beach clean-up project at **Salisbury Beach State Reservation** in Salisbury. Workers cleaned the camp grounds and landscaped before the Memorial Day opening of the park.

Submitted by Lisa Hickey

MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURT OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Ed Dalton, Acting Executive Director
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IN THE CENTER

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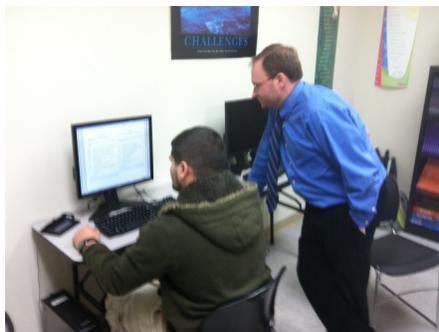
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ABOUT: Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 211F, the Massachusetts Trial Court, Office of Community Corrections (OCC), is charged with implementing intermediate sanctions through the development of community corrections programs. Among the initiatives of the OCC are the Trial Court Community Service Program and the state's 19 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.

INNOVATORS: NEW PHASE SYSTEM INSTITUTED FOR PROGRAM COMPONENT AT PITTSFIELD CCC

The **Pittsfield Community Corrections Center** has recently adopted a phase system for its program component. The premise behind the phase system is to provide a structured flow for programming which results in ownership of treatment, increased connections with community resources, effective aftercare planning, and lower recidivism.

Movement through the phase system is dependent upon needs assessment via several different assessment tools. One of the tools, the **Client Evaluation of Self and Treatment (CEST)** is an evidenced-based assessment developed by **Texas Christian University**. The CEST is a self-administered assessment that evaluates the participant's motivation for treatment, psychological functioning, social functioning, criminal thinking, and engagement level in current treatment. The Office of Community Corrections mandated benchmarks for transition are also considered for advancement through phases. Results from



Pittsfield CCC Educational Coordinator Paul Perry observes an ISL III/IV participant taking the CEST.

these assessments and clinical observations are considered at the weekly Treatment Team meeting in order to determine if it is clinically appropriate to advance a participant to the next phase.

Once the decision is made to advance a participant to the next phase, the treatment schedule is modified to allow the participant to attend services in the community. Participants must provide verifica-

tion of attendance for involvement in community-based services and support.

Pittsfield CCC Program Manager **Kyle Schadler of Phoenix Houses of New England** observes, "Since implementing the phase system, there has been a noted increase in participant buy-in to their recovery program as well as a sense of accomplishment when they move through the phases."

Submitted by Danni Lopes and Kyle Schadler



THANKS: OUTREACH AND FOCUS

In 2013 the Office of Community Corrections has renewed its effort to create outreach opportunities with criminal justice professionals throughout the Commonwealth. It is through this outreach that vital partnerships are created in the interest of public safety. Additionally, under the leadership of Acting Executive Director Ed Dalton, the OCC has developed focus groups to examine the factors that support intensive supervision at a community corrections center and those that frustrate it. Outreach and Focus would not be possible without the support of criminal justice professionals that offer their time to coordinate and participate in these efforts.

- Boston Municipal Court First Justices' Meeting— Hon. C. Johnson, Hon. M. Bolden, Hon. K. Coffey, Hon. J. Coffey, Hon. D. Donnelly, Hon. R. Dougan, Hon. L. McCormick, Hon. R. Miller, Hon. R. Ronquillo, Hon. D. Weingarten, Christopher Connolly, Cynthia Johnson, Cheryl Sibley, Lisa Yee.
- Bristol County District Attorney's Meeting— Michelle Groff
- Bristol County Bar Advocates Meeting— Gerlinde Lowe
- Brockton Community Corrections Center Focus Group— Harriet Beasley, Michael Branch, Dana Bulger, Patricia Downey, Emmanuel Fernandes, Dennis Maietta, James McCarthy, Kenneth McClain, Joan McDonough
- Roxbury Municipal Court Focus Group— Margaret Barusch, Maria Cabral, Christopher Connolly, Maureen Coyle-Dolan, Kevin Lyles, John Martin, Jennifer McKinnon, Christina Miller, Ashley Polin