

December 26, 2018

Pursuant to line item 8910-0619 within Chapter 151 of the Acts of 2018, *An Act Making Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2019*, the Hampshire Sheriff's Office (HSO) is filing a comprehensive inventory of all current programs offered by the HSO.

Overview

The Hampshire Sheriff's Office (HSO) has developed a one-, three- and five-year strategic plan to enhance the cost-effective corrections services we provide for the people of Hampshire County. The purpose of the plan is to re-examine the resources for the ever-evolving role of the HSO. Along with this evolution comes a reallocation of resources.

Our county, population 161,000, is comprised of 20 communities and 20 police departments, as well as five higher education institutions with a combined student population of approximately 30,000, above the permanent residential population, two state police barracks, and the Regional Police Lock-up, all of which place demands on our operations.

The HSO has long recognized that community-based programs are integral to the evolution of county corrections. In keeping with the requirements of the Criminal Justice Reform Act of 2018, and Sheriff Cahillane's commitment that "successful re-entry depends on successful pre-entry," the HSO places a greater emphasis on pre-entry and calls for a continuum of sharing of all critical criminal information from all the primary organizations in the criminal justice system, i.e., police departments, the District Attorney, state social services, corrections and parole.

A well-coordinated effort at the offender's disposition can ensure meaningful and purposeful incarceration, without compromising public safety, so that our

inmates have the best chance of rejoining their communities as productive citizens and as better, more connected family members.

Toward that end:

- In 2017, 85 percent of inmates participating in HSO's work-release program completed their sentences at HSO and returned to their communities with full-time jobs; so far, for 2018, 87 percent of inmates participating in our work-release program completed their sentences and returned to their communities with full-time jobs.
- Between December '16 and June '18, 59 inmates participated in five cycles of the 14-week "Nurturing Fathers" program, with 54 graduating, a 91 percent success rate. A sixth graduation ceremony was held Dec. 19, 2018, with 10 inmates graduating.
- Between April '17 and August '18, the HSO's Education Department reports that 19 inmates earned high school equivalency certificates, and 62 earned certificates of vocational competency in OSHA 10, ServSafe and Culinary Arts. Furthermore, during that same 16-month period, 33 inmates who initially tested below 12th-grade level improved their educational proficiency by an average of 3.5 grade levels. Traditional public school students, by comparison, are only expected to increase their proficiency by 1 grade level during a similar time frame.
- Between July '17 and June '18, 22 inmates took college classes and earned college credit. In addition, nine inmates completed a memoir class taught on a volunteer basis by a UMass-Amherst professor.
- During fiscal year '18, the HSO's Education Department awarded certificates of class completion for the following 15-hour courses: 98 for Career

Development, 83 for Men's Health, 45 for Computer Literacy, 32 for Financial Literacy and 10 for Entrepreneurship.

- Between September '17 and August '18, 142 inmates were stepped-down from medium security to minimum security, and 37 were approved for participation in our work release program. Additionally, 26 inmates were approved for our electronic monitoring (ELMO) program with 13 county inmates and four Department of Corrections inmates being placed in the community.
- During fiscal year '18, 72 percent of participants earned a certificate of completion for the HSO's Life Skills Program, a six-month program that addresses such issues as drug resistance, parenting and general social skills.
- The HSO woodshop is currently in the process of creating trail signs for Mt. Tom State Park as part of a project with the Kestrel Land Trust, a land-conservation non-profit based in Amherst. The project involves using a computer programmed router and may expand to include signage for other parks. This project is part of the HSO's commitment to increase vocational education opportunities for inmates. In October '18, the HSO won a \$40,000 U.S. Department of Education Perkins Grant. The grant will enable the HSO to team up with Greenfield Community College to provide advanced manufacturing education and training to our inmates with sentences of at least eight months.
- Staff at the Bridge to the Future, the HSO's community-based work-release program, is currently working to implement a bicycle program for the inmates housed there. The program involves bicycles that have been abandoned at UMass-Amherst. The inmates will learn to repair the bicycles and use them, when appropriate, to travel to their jobs. This will help the HSO save on transportation costs and staff time, as well as helping inmates learn a

marketable skill. Depending on the number of bicycles available, the project may expand to include donating refurbished bicycles to local charities.

To further address the needs of our population, the HSO, on a daily basis, conducts three staff facilitated groups focused on victim impact, criminal thinking and re-entry services, and two staff facilitated groups focused on aftercare and re-entry planning. This is in addition to ongoing treatment programs for substance abuse, domestic violence, parenting, and anger/stress management.

A closer examination of the HSO's treatment operations reveals that:

- 89 percent of our population are engaged in substance abuse treatment;
- 42 percent are engaged in domestic violence treatment;
- 88 percent are engaged in combined treatments for substance abuse, domestic violence and anger management;
- 44 percent are living in a treatment setting outside of the secure perimeter with increasingly high levels of community interaction;
- 60 percent attend community based AA meetings daily;
- 41 percent are involved in community service/restorative justice programs; and
- 26 percent attend and support the Northampton Recovery Center and Hampshire Hope, outpatient addiction recovery agencies.

Other programs offered at the HSO:

Education

College Credit Courses:

Social Justice Journalism – UMass – 4 credits (12 students)

“Regulating Citizenship,” (political science) – Amherst College – 4 credits (4 students)

“Justice,” (political science) – Amherst College – 4 credits (10 students)

“Shakespeare in Prison” – Amherst College – 4 credits – (9 students)

Volunteer courses (no college credit):

Memoir Writing – UMass

Math Circles, college level math tutorials – UMass

Writing and math tutorials

A three-session book club on “Frankenstein” (started Oct. 10, 2018)

There are volunteers interested in facilitating an inmate literary magazine.

Treatment

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) pilot program – the HSO is one of five offices in the state to participate in the pilot. The HSO also recently won a \$1.5 million federal grant with Franklin County to assist with the MAT program.

Suboxone induction program with On Call in Northampton

Monthly meetings with the Institutional Review Board at UMass; the board reviews research proposals.

Bi-monthly meetings with High-Risk Domestic Violence Team in partnership with DA’s office

Inmates cooking for Northampton Senior Center Café (Tuesday/Thursday)

Connect with Your Children (once a week/one night a month)

TRIAD

Prescription Drug Take Back Day – Sat. Oct. 27, 2018

“Sand for Seniors” – delivering 5-gallon buckets of sand to senior citizens for icy sidewalks, etc. Last year was the pilot, serving Belchertown and Southamptton. This year the program will expand to Ware, South Hadley, Southamptton, Hadley and Amherst. Deliveries began in November.

In August '18, the HSO signed a new TRIAD agreement with the city of Easthampton.

Many other programs ongoing: House Numbering, Safe Entry/lock boxes, File of Life.

Individually, these projects undertaken by the various HSO departments during past year represent persistence and creativity. Combined, they represent the teamwork that is so necessary to our operation and are the tangible elements of our evolutionary approach to county corrections.

Thank you,

Patrick J. Cahillane, Sheriff