



COMMON GROUND

MARCH 2023 ISSUE

A group of approximately 15 diverse individuals, likely caseworkers, are posed in a collage-like arrangement against a green background. They are of various ages and ethnicities, smiling and looking towards the camera. Some are wearing professional attire like blouses and suits, while others are in more casual clothing like sweaters and plaid shirts. The text "TRANSFORMING LIVES INSIDE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES" is overlaid in large yellow letters across the center of the group.

TRANSFORMING LIVES INSIDE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

AN INSIDE LOOK
AT THE ROLE
OF CASEWORKERS

SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

MARCH 2023

Greetings,

Welcome to another edition of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department (SCSD) newsletter, the Common Ground. In this issue, we bring special attention to a segment of our SCSD family that is crucial to the delivery of care and services to the men and women remanded to our facilities by the courts – our caseworkers.



As members of our Social Services Division, caseworkers deliver a comprehensive array of human services programming and activities for our incarcerated population across the Suffolk County House of Correction and Suffolk County Jail, participating in the development and implementation of institutional service plans (ISP) and discharge plans for each detainee and inmate. Additionally, caseworkers assist with: classification hearings and reviews; referrals to various divisions and services including intellectual education, vocational education, and numerous trainings in order to help meet the needs of those in our care and custody and prepare them for success post-release. Caseworkers also contact courts on behalf of our population and assist in the resolution of open cases; address needs related to family services and/or emergencies, and much more.

As part of this endeavor, we highlight Assistant Deputy Superintendent Carlos Goulart of the Jail and Director of Social Services Cedric Rucker who each speak to the important work being performed by our invaluable staff of caseworkers.

I hope that you'll enjoy reading these and other stories in this issue, and I look forward to bringing you more insight and information about the form and functions of the Department in the issues to come.

-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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VITAL ROLE OF CASEWORKERS

Learn more about the caseworkers at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's and the professional services they provide.



MEET ADS GOULART AND DIRECTOR RUCKER

Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Program Services Carlos Goulart and Director of Social Services Cedric Rucker talk about their time with the Department and the caseworker's efforts to provide resources to the population.

OFFICER OF THE MONTH

Read about the Suffolk County Jail Officer of the Month Marqui Murphy.



FAMILY MATTERS 'PLAY SHOP' RETURNS

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department welcomed the return of the "Family Matters Playshop," a program designed to give incarcerated fathers an opportunity to bond with their children.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VITAL ROLE OF CASEWORKERS IN CORRECTIONS



This month, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is honoring caseworkers for their tireless efforts and unwavering dedication to the correctional system. These professionals work directly with incarcerated individuals to evaluate their needs and provide them with the necessary resources and services to facilitate their rehabilitation and successful reintegration into society.

The primary role of caseworkers is to assess inmates' and detainees individual needs and develop a personalized plan to address them. Caseworkers refer inmates and detainees to program and support services, such as recovery meetings, religious services, life skills and educational programs, medical and legal services, and assist them in their post-release plans regarding housing, employment, education, recovery, and medical services available within the community.

Caseworkers play a crucial role in helping inmates and detainees access the resources they need to succeed, such as education and job training programs, substance abuse treatment, and mental health services. They also provide assistance with legal matters, including appeals and parole hearings.

A team of caseworkers participate in the development and implementation of institutional service plans (ISP) and discharge plans for each client. Caseworkers collaborate with other professionals within the correctional facility, such as correctional officers, healthcare providers, and mental health specialists, to ensure a comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of those in our care.

The caseworkers of the Social Services Division strive to make inmates' and detainees time at the facility productive by addressing their issues and empowering them to take responsibility for their decisions that led to their criminal activity. By maintaining a daily presence in the housing units, caseworkers are an essential part of the correctional system, promoting safety and security in the facility, and positively impacting the lives of those they serve.

"After the pandemic, returning to work on a full time basis was a challenge, and one that the caseworkers effortlessly rose to by assisting the detainees with a bevy of requests" stated Antoinette Thomas, Caseworker Supervisor for the Suffolk County Jail. "Even this past year and a half has been difficult, due to staffing issues from retirements and promotions; however, the caseworkers have done a phenomenal job and have maintained a positive attitude. I am grateful for my team and am happy that they are receiving the recognition that they deserve. I know that once our team expands, they'll be able to accomplish even more."

Successful rehabilitation and reentry into the community would not be possible without the hard work of the caseworkers at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, including Kristen Lacey, Jord'n Jospitre, Eloisa Sanchez, Caseworker Supervisor for Women's Programming Christina Betts, John Chisholm, Burrell Clark, Erica Covil, Joseph Depinho, Brian Joyce, Michaela Kewley, Mercedes Greeley, Michelle Patrick, Marilyn Paniccia, Julie Pomales, Michael Murphy, Kevin Rogers, Caseworker Supervisor Jessica Menjivar, Caseworker Supervisor JoAnn White, Administrative Assistant Tawanda Brown, and Director Cedric Rucker serving the House of Correction; and Vanessa Gomez, Lina Pagliuca, Rosemary Arias, Case Worker Supervisor Antoinette Thomas, and Assistant Deputy Superintendent Carlos Goulart serving the Suffolk County Jail.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: ASSISTANT DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT CARLOS GOULART

Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Program Services Carlos Goulart started his career as a caseworker at the Suffolk County Jail in 2007, after completing his graduate degree in criminal justice at Northeastern University. Over the last 15 years, he has worked his way up to his current position, where he oversees caseworker, educational, religious, volunteer, and mail room services, and maintains the Department's compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act and the American Disabilities Act.

We had the opportunity to speak with ADS Goulart to discuss his involvement in caseworker services and his responsibilities in overseeing daily program operations.

As the supervisor of caseworker services, ADS Goulart has had the opportunity to work alongside many caseworkers during his tenure. "The caseworkers are on the frontline in providing care to our population. The caseworker's role is to be a true advocate for those within our facility. I believe they do an excellent job at that, and their passion for the job is visible," stated ADS Goulart.

"Our current team of caseworkers collaborates effectively, both amongst themselves and with the community they serve. I am excited about the prospect of expanding our team in the future and offering more services to those in our care," he stated.

"I believe it is important to continuously strive to introduce new programs, welcome volunteers, and generate innovative ideas that benefit those within our facility," stated ADS Goulart.

When asked about his 15-year career, ADS Goulart stated, "My motivation stems from serving the population. I feel a sense of satisfaction when my team and I work together to identify the most effective ways to support those in our facilities."

ADS Goulart emphasized the importance of community involvement in the rehabilitation and reentry of those within our facility, stating, "The Department is not closed-off from the community. In fact, the majority of the programming is done by volunteers and local organizations. The Department wants the community to be involved with the population to ensure individuals successfully reenter their neighborhoods."

ADS Goulart has an unwavering passion for both learning and teaching. While being employed at the Department, he pursued and earned a degree in law from the New England School of Law. Presently, he contributes to the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department training facility by educating incoming correctional officers on courtroom testimony, civil liability, and the Massachusetts Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI).

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES CEDRIC RUCKER

Cedric Rucker is the Director of Social Services at the Suffolk County House of Correction. Before joining the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, Cedric worked as a case manager for the Boston Re-entry Initiative, where he provided services to inmates who were considered most likely to re-offend with violent crimes.

Later, Cedric transitioned to a teaching position at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, where he taught P.D.A.T or Professional Development Attitude Training. This psychosocial course encourages individuals to look at how their upbringing influenced their behaviors and decisions, to take ownership of their actions, and to answer questions regarding their incarceration with courage and confidence.

When asked about teaching the P.D.A.T. course, Cedric stated, "The P.D.A.T. course allows me to work with the gentleman at South Bay. As the Director of Social Services, I do not get much one-on-one time with the population; however, this course allows me to interact with the population and better understand what issues individuals are dealing with. I learn from those in our care as much as they learn from me."

"One valuable lesson I've gained from working with this population is that the men and women here are some of the brightest people I've ever come across. They are some of the most talented individuals, and I desire to help them reach their full potential," stated Cedric.

Cedric supervises a team of about twelve caseworkers at the House of Correction who he considers essential in keeping inmates' anxiety levels down. He stated, "Incarcerated individuals have very little agency, and they rely on caseworkers to advocate for them. Day after day, these caseworkers connect individuals with programs, ensure individuals have a speedy trial, assist in fund disbursements, and help them reach out to their loved ones, among other requests that allow individuals access to resources. Caseworkers are essential to the system functioning, even though their critical role may go unnoticed."

"There is a stigma that comes with individuals who are incarcerated. People on the outside may not understand that these young men and women are bright individuals who are human beings. They are good-hearted; many have sons, daughters, or families who they care deeply about," he continued, "The staff here, whether it's a correctional officer, caseworker, or administrative employee, all play a role in taking care of our community. The hope is that the staff here can help better those within our custody."

"The best thing we can do as a community is support the individuals within our care to ensure that when they do re-enter society they have the opportunities to engage and be successful members of society," Cedric continued, "The corrections industry is a multifaceted machine and its goal is to try to produce better people."

"I thank the Sheriff and everyone who has allowed me the opportunity to blossom here and to learn what corrections is all about. I believe that the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is truly a practical ministry. I am grateful for the opportunity to assist those trying to transform their lives."



FAMILY MATTERS “PLAYSHOP” RETURNS



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently reintroduced a special event aimed at strengthening the bond between incarcerated fathers and their children. The Family Matters “Playshop” was initially launched in early 2020 in collaboration with the Nurturing Fathers' Program at the Suffolk County House of Correction.

The “Playshop” facilitates in-person playtime between fathers who are under Department custody and their children, as well as visiting time with other family members. Attendees are provided with toys, age-appropriate books, and coloring materials from the Family Matters Program, and they share a pizza dinner as they reconnect and rebuild critical family bonds.

Research has shown that maintaining a connection between incarcerated fathers and their children is crucial, as physical play and interaction can challenge and stimulate children's minds, positively affecting their learning and skill development. Additionally, this interaction can help children manage frustration, explore new activities, and solve problems creatively, among other benefits.

Case Manager for the Family Matters Program Frantz Dorcena stated, “A Nurturing Fathers role in a child's well-being is very important. Fathers teach many important lessons to a child, like how to be affectionate and supportive, and how to take care of everyone else by giving the best example, and all of this while being great examples themselves. Fathers are great caretakers; they make their little ones feel safe and secure. They teach their little ones to jump higher, and to always aim for the best,” he continued, “This is why it's so important that the Department host events, like the ‘Playshop’, so father's may remain involved in their child's life and recognize the labor of all of those involved fathers that are day-by-day supporting their families.”

The Family Matters Program, which is voluntary, is offered by the Department's Division of Re-Integration Services. It aims to assist incarcerated individuals and their families in developing positive relationships.

OFFICER OF THE MONTH: MARQUI MURPHY

To recognize the exemplary performance of our custody staff, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department has instituted the Officer of the Month award. This award is granted to staff members who consistently demonstrate excellence, professionalism and integrity while carrying out their duties.

The selection process involves peer nominations and evaluation by the Command Staff. This initiative was launched in February 2023 to highlight the dedication and hard work of our staff.

Superintendent of the Suffolk County Jail Michael Colwell stated, "The officers of the Department shoulder an enormous responsibility. Their work often goes unseen and their contribution to public safety often goes unsung. The Officer of the Month program provides an opportunity for us to celebrate their contribution and honor their service."

We are pleased to announce that Marqui Murphy is the inaugural recipient of the Officer of the Month award for the Suffolk County Jail. Murphy's nomination was based on his exceptional professionalism and collaborative nature.

"Marqui is a consummate professional and respected colleague," stated Superintendent Colwell. He brings a calm and steady presence to even the most chaotic of situations."

Moving forward, this initiative will feature two members of the Department's custody staff each month – one representing the Suffolk County House of Correction and the other representing the Suffolk County Jail – to ensure the consideration of all members of the Department's custody staff for their dedication to fulfilling the Department's mission.





**THE SUFFOLK COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM 2023

JULY 5, 2023 - AUGUST 18, 2023

8AM - 4PM

APPLY NOW

This program will invite twenty participants to the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department to learn about careers in law enforcement. Participants will work 21 hours a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 8AM-4PM beginning July 5, 2023 and will be compensated at a rate of \$15 an hour.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's Summer Enrichment Program targets incoming 11th and 12th graders with the opportunity to intern at Suffolk County Jail, the House of Correction, Chelsea Training Facility and Civil Process.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE
Friday, May 12, 2023**

Contact

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REQUIREMENTS

- Must be entering either the 11th or 12th grade
- Must be resident of Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop or Revere
- Interest in Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice strongly encouraged.
- Must have proper form of Identification (Student ID, Passport, Mass ID or Driver's License)
- Active Checking or Saving Account
- Updated Physical Form



**SCAN FOR
APPLICATION**

