



# COMMON GROUND

MARCH 2025



**TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH TREATMENT:  
MAT & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMMING AT THE SCSD**



## SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

MARCH 2025

Greetings,

In this issue, we highlight the work of our Medical Division and talk about some of the many services and special programs that we provide to those in our care with the goal of returning them to their respective communities healthier in mind and body, and better able to care for themselves and their families.

In addition to the general overview of our medical services, we also bring you information about our Medication Assisted Treatment program and talk about some of the challenges that our population faces in their work to overcome substance use disorder.

As part of the above-mentioned programming, we give insight into two collaborative initiatives that we offer to assist our male population in their efforts to become better fathers and more supportive partners – our Father's Uplift and Nurturing Fathers programs.

We also shine the spotlight on one of our newly-promoted leaders and share with you her story of perseverance and achievement. This month's Common Ground also showcases the Department's participation in NOBLE (National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives) Massachusetts, and the great honor that I received as one of their Black leadership awardees. Speaking of awardees, we also congratulate the recipients of our Officers of the Month for the year 2025 thus far.

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

ABIEZER AYUSO - SPECIAL SHERIFF  
PETER VAN DELFT - EDITOR IN CHIEF  
ALEXANDRA ARIAS-PIRANIO - EDITOR  
DANA C. DUQUE - DESIGNER

### SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
PHONE: 617.704.6688  
VISIT US ONLINE  
WWW.SCSOMA.ORG

CONNECT WITH US  
f x i y  
#WEARESCSD

# INDEX

SCSD'S TRANSFORMATIONAL CARE

Pg. 3

SHERIFF TOMPKINS RECEIVES  
RECOGNITION AT NOBLE  
CONFERENCE

Pg. 4

SCSD, SHERIFF TOMPKINS  
"AMPLIFIED"

Pg. 5

EMPLOYEE PROFILE:  
ADS CHRISTINA CHANEY

Pg. 6

SCSD CELEBRATES  
OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

Pg. 7

AN INSIDE LOOK AT MEDICATION  
ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT)

Pg. 8-9

AN INSIDE LOOK AT  
FATHER'S UPLIFT AND  
NURTURING FATHERS  
PROGRAMMING

Pg. 10-11

SCSD CONTINUES APPLICATION  
PROCESS FOR SUMMER ENRICHMENT  
PROGRAM, 2025

Pg. 12

AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

Pg. 14-15

# SCSD AIMS TO PROVIDE TRANSFORMATIVE HEALTHCARE FOR POPULATION

Quality healthcare, and one's ability or inability to access it, plays a critical role in determining not only the wellbeing of the individual or even that of their immediate family, but it can also have a profound impact on the wellness of the community around them. The same holds true, if not even more so, for the people remanded into a correctional setting by the courts.

At the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, the health and wellbeing of both the incarcerated population and the Department staff who oversee their care continues to be high-priority mandate with a host of new and newly-revamped programs and services available. The Department has worked to build a system founded on the ability to offer immediate care and long-term support to the population – which has evolved in significant ways over the years.

In addition to programs that range from Alcoholics Anonymous, Anger Management, HIV services, and OASIS (Opioid & Addiction Services Inside South Bay), to collaborations with outside organizations, such as Boston Healthcare for Homeless, the Boston Public Health Commission, Transitional Intervention Project (TIP), Project Place, RESPOND, and many more.

Within this mission to provide quality services to individuals in our care, one of the Department's key priorities is to ensure a continuity of care. Whether an individual has been receiving mental health treatment, addiction support, or general healthcare services prior to incarceration—the goal is to maintain consistency. Abby LeClair, the Department's Director of Treatment Behavioral Health and Program Services, has witnessed firsthand the transformation of our healthcare system over the past decade, noting:

"Many times, individuals in this marginalized population haven't had access to healthcare, or it just hasn't been a priority," said LeClair. "But here, we have a unique opportunity to treat people who haven't had treatment for a long time. We know that most of our population

will return to the community, so we have the responsibility to ensure that people are healthy – getting them involved with vital care, like HIV treatment and MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) for addiction—preventing future overdoses."

Within the first twenty-four hours upon intake and continuing for the length of their stay, each individual receives a physical examination to identify any immediate health concerns—such as



Healthcare Providers; Suffolk County Jail

chronic conditions, sexually transmitted infections and diseases (STI's and STD's), substance use disorder, and mental health concerns. Medications are verified and ordered, preventing any lapses in care from the individual's time in the community through their time in Department care. One of the most common ways to request medical attention is by submitting a "sick slip," a paper form they can fill out to request care for anything from minor injuries to more serious symptoms.

"It could be as simple as, 'I have a bruise on my knee and it really hurts,' or something more urgent like chest pains. Nurses treat these slips every day, ensuring real-time care just like using a health app like MyChart," LeClair shared.

Additionally, medical professionals visit the units three times a day to ensure that care is accessible to all and that medications are being supplied appropriately.

"If someone were getting outside regular appointments at a local hospital or medical facility, we're going to continue that care here," said LeClair. "If someone was meeting with a psychiatrist and a therapist in the community, we're going to continue that here."

Building trust between healthcare providers and residents is an essential part of delivering effective care. Many individuals entering the system may have had negative experiences with healthcare in the past. However, through the Department's diligent care and consistent support, trust is built.

"We have to work against that skepticism," says LeClair. "But for those of us working in corrections—we're passionate about it. You won't find a provider here who doesn't care for this population. There's a real reward in seeing someone improve and get healthier."

The Department is committed to ensuring that individuals are not only receiving care during their time incarcerated, but are also equipped with the resources and connections to continue that care upon release.

"Incarceration isn't ideal, but it does provide a silver lining," LeClair stated. "It allows us to stabilize individuals, help them get healthier, and hopefully send them back to the community in a better state than when they arrived."

As the Department's healthcare system continues to evolve, its focus remains on both meeting current standards and anticipating future needs. This ongoing commitment to improvement ensures that the care provided is not just adequate, but transformative for those who need it most. By investing in comprehensive care—from preventative services to mental health support, the Department is not only managing health issues but also improving lives, promoting wellness, and fostering successful reintegration.

To learn more about the Department's many programs and services, visit: [www.scsdma.org](http://www.scsdma.org).

# A NOBLE CONFERENCE



During Black History Month the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Massachusetts Chapter held its First Annual Awards Ceremony to celebrate those who have made a lasting impact in the field. Among the distinguished honorees was Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins, who received the prestigious “Living Legend” Award in recognition of his decades of service, leadership, and dedication to justice and public safety.

Held on February 1, 2025, at Mixx 360 in Saugus, MA, the event brought together members of NOBLE, officers, and leadership staff to honor individuals who have shaped the future of criminal justice for a community jubilee and dinner. Sheriff Tompkins, a former President of NOBLE New England and past executive board member and original founder of the Massachusetts Chapter, was acknowledged for his enduring influence in law en-

forcement and corrections.

Throughout his career, Sheriff Tompkins has been a vocal advocate for criminal justice reform, community engagement, diverse representation, and innovation. His leadership has paved the way for the next generation of Black law enforcement professionals, making his recognition as a Living Legend particularly fitting.

To pay homage to his success and the collective excellence of the fellow award recipients, roughly fifteen Department officers and leadership staff attended the ceremony. Special Sheriff Abe Ayuso, proud member of the Massachusetts Chapter, described the night as “a genuinely special moment, especially to have one of our own be awarded and represent the Department.” The awards ceremony, which also honored recipients in categories such as The Rising Star Award, The Trail-

blazer Award, The Community Service Award, and The Innovator of the Year Award, was an evening of celebration, reflection, and appreciation. With live performances from the OnKee Jazz Band, an atmosphere of unity and pride filled the venue as attendees acknowledged the legacy of those working to improve public safety.

Sheriff Tompkins’ recognition at NOBLE’s inaugural awards ceremony serves as a reminder of the profound impact that Black leaders continue to have within law enforcement. His commitment to fairness, innovation, and mentorship ensures that his influence will extend far beyond this honor, inspiring future generations to serve with integrity and purpose.

Congratulations, Sheriff Tompkins, and thank you for serving as a Living Legend every day within and without the Department!





## GBH AMPLIFIES SHERIFF TOMPKINS, ELECTED LEADERS

On February 3, 2025, Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins joined a distinguished panel of state and city officials for a thought-provoking discussion on GBH Amplifies, recorded live at the GBH Boston Public Library Studio. Hosted by Ron Mitchell, Publisher of the Bay State Banner, the conversation, titled “The Year Moving Forward in Politics,” explored critical issues facing Massachusetts in the coming year.

Sheriff Tompkins was joined on stage by MA State Senator Liz Miranda, State Representative Russell Holmes (6th Suffolk District), and Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune. Together, they tackled pressing topics such as budget cuts affecting community centers, evolving public safety concerns, and the challenges of processing ICE detainees within the justice system.

Throughout the discussion, Sheriff Tompkins emphasized the role of corrections and rehabilitation in fostering safer communities. As a longtime advocate for criminal justice reform, he spoke on the importance of reentry programs, mental health resources, and alternatives to incarceration for individuals returning to society. His insights shed light on the evolving responsibilities of law enforcement and the

ongoing need for collaboration between city and state leaders.

The GBH Amplifies series brings together voices from across Greater Boston to engage in meaningful conversations about politics, policy, and community impact. Sheriff Tompkins’ participation in this forum underscores his ongoing commitment to leadership in public safety and his dedication to addressing the challenges facing Suffolk County and beyond.

For those who missed the live taping, the discussion available for viewing through the GBH Forum Network at: [www.wgbh.org/forum-network/series/gbh-amplifies](http://www.wgbh.org/forum-network/series/gbh-amplifies).





## EMPLOYEE PROFILE: ADS CHRISTINA CHANEY

For nearly thirty-four years, Assistant Deputy Superintendent (ADS) Christina Chaney has dedicated herself to the Suffolk County House of Correction. From her beginnings as a line officer to her recent promotion in December 2024, her journey into mentorship is marked by patience for others and confidence in her own capabilities.

Beginning her professional journey in 1991, ADS Chaney spent eighteen years in the Department before receiving her first promotion in 2013. Reflecting on her journey, she notes, “I didn’t have anybody in my first several years here to show the way.” Without a formal mentorship in her early days, she took it upon herself to become the guiding force for incoming officers, ensuring support, especially for the community of women who donned Department uniforms.

When ADS Chaney eventually climbed the ranks, holding every position from Corporal to Captain before cementing her position as ADS, she pledged to inspire efficiency in

the workplace and resiliency in the population she oversees by maintaining a consistent, constructive, compassionate attitude, a pledge that she has more than exceeded. In the short time ADS Chaney spent recounting her career, nearly every coworker who passed by her office lit up as they were greeted with warmth and wit.

When asked how she maintains her status as a beacon of positivity, ADS Chaney stressed her commitment to fairness and consistency.

“I try my best not to let outside factors or my feelings towards a person’s past affect how I do my job, whatever it is someone may have done... Rather, I encourage everyone, residents and officers alike, to show up as their best version that I see they are capable of being.”

On navigating past assumptions or prior mishaps, she continued, “Don’t pre-judge. Know the situation and don’t go off innuendo and rumor.” Forgiveness is integral to her daily practice, as she “clean-slates” workplace difficulties with the empathetic mantra “You don’t know what they have going on in their life.”

Working in corrections is no easy task. ADS Chaney understands the emotional toll it can take and emphasizes the importance of coping mechanisms and open dialogue, advising, “You have to find a way to not let other people’s unhappiness affect you.” By keeping an open-door policy for anyone seeking guidance, Chaney successfully fosters a firm environment where orders are clear

while simultaneously equipping fellow officers for success and improving Department morale. “I ask nothing from others that I wouldn’t do myself,” said Chaney, clarifying the expectations she holds her direct reports accountable to.

As someone who carved her own path, Chaney is passionate about preparing the next generation of leaders. “My time here is limited. So whatever expertise that I have, I want to ship that on to others, and I want them to use it and practice it and go on with it.” Leading by example, Chaney reiterates the importance of asserting oneself while actively trusting the structure of operations. “If you go by policy, you will never fail.”

At the heart of her philosophy is a simple yet powerful belief: “Controlling chaos. That’s what corrections is. Controlling chaos.” The ability to manage unpredictability while maintaining order is what defines strong officers and Chaney has spent her career mastering this equilibrium.

Humbled and honored by her recent promotion and the praise she has received from both leadership and her colleagues, Chaney affirmed with a smile, “It feels good to be recognized. It feels boss.” As she steps into this next chapter of her career, ADS Christina Chaney is reminded that her role is not just about holding authority—it’s about shaping policy, guiding officers, and improving daily operations for the good of everyone. Be it her resiliency or her compassion, she deservedly represents the future of this Department.

# CONGRATULATIONS



HOC SGT.  
MANALOKIS



HOC OFFICER  
GREEN



JAIL OFFICER  
BARBOZA



HOC LT.  
FERRY



JAIL OFFICER  
PAUL



JAIL SGT.  
BERNARD



HOC SGT.  
JONES

TO OUR SUFFOLK COUNTY JAIL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

**JANUARY TO MARCH 2025**

## THE SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

As is tradition each month, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department celebrates the exceptional efforts of individuals who go above and beyond in their duties. January through March 2025 was no exception. In this edition, we feature seven officers who were honored with Officer of the Month recognition for their dedication, professionalism, commitment, and outstanding contributions.

In January, Officer Oville Barboza, Sergeant Joshua Manalokis, and Officer Kymari Green were recognized for their exemplary actions. Officer Barboza, based at the Suffolk County Jail, received recognition for his exceptional listening skills and proactive approach to ensuring safety. "He goes above and beyond the call of duty," said Jail Superintendent Mojica, adding that Barboza's ability to thoughtfully interact with both colleagues and residents makes him an invaluable asset to the Department.

Sergeant Manalokis, from the House of Correction, was honored for his vigilance in detecting a serious security threat. While stationed at the exit gate, he noticed suspicious behavior from an inmate's attorney attempting to smuggle illicit substances into the facility. His quick actions prevented a potential health and safety threat to the facility. Deputy Assistant Superintendent Lauren Kelly shared, "He was able to spot the threat and ensure the safety of everyone within the facility." Manalokis reflects, "It's a great honor. I try to do the right thing every day."

House of Correction, Officer Kymari Green's quick response to a medical emergency saved an inmate's life. When an inmate began choking, Officer Green

did not hesitate to administer the Heimlich maneuver, successfully dislodging the obstruction. Superintendent Sweeney applauded Green's quick thinking and decisive actions, stating, "Because of his prompt response, we were able to save a life." Officer Green shared, "It's always nice to have our efforts recognized."

In February, Officer Mackendy Paul and Lieutenant Marci Ferry were named Officers of the Month. Jail Officer Paul's keen observation during a routine visit helped detect suspicious behavior, revealing a romantic exchange between a detainee and a legal professional. His attention to detail ensured the integrity of the facility was maintained. Assistant Superintendent Flambo stated, "Officer Paul prioritized both, care and custody, making the facility safer for everyone."

Lieutenant Ferry, who has been with the Department for over fourteen years, was honored for her vigilance. She intercepted contraband brought into the facility by an inmate's attorney. "Her attention to detail makes for a safer environment," noted Deputy Assistant Superintendent Kelly. Ferry, proud of the recognition, shared, "It feels good to be in a place where they recognize what you do."

For March, we bring recognition to two officers. Sergeant Ronald Bernard and Sergeant Antonio Jones. Sgt. Ronald from Suffolk County Jail was honored for his unwavering commitment to the Maintenance Division and his leadership for over fifteen years. Jail Superintendent Mojica highlights his commitment, stating, "Sergeant Bernard always goes above and beyond the call of duty, coming in early, staying late, and volunteering

for extra shifts to ensure maintenance is performed to the highest standards." His leadership shines through his ability to foster teamwork, encourage open communication, and empower his crew. "He motivates his team to perform at their best," adds Superintendent Mojica. "He identifies and addresses potential issues before they become problems, keeping the facility running smoothly and safely." Sergeant Bernard was humbled and shared, "It's a great honor."

With over nine years of experience within the Department, Sergeant Antonio Jones from the House of Correction was honored for his role in managing a potentially violent situation. While working in Building three, he guided his team through a multi-man fight involving a weapon. Assistant Deputy Superintendent Kelly expressed her appreciation, "This saved the officers and the inmates involved from serious injury. We appreciate all he does for the Department." Sgt. Jones stated, "It feels good to know that you are recognized for doing a good job. I just try to do the right thing, often by guiding and training our new officers. It is nice to be appreciated."

The work of Sergeant Manalokis, Officer Green, Officer Barboza, Lieutenant Ferry, Officer Paul, Sergeant Bernard, and Sergeant Jones, highlight the wide range of skills and actions that make a difference in our Department. Each demonstrates commitment, integrity, and professionalism, making them truly deserving of the Officer of the Month recognition. Their stories serve as an inspiring reminder of the critical role our corrections officers play in public safety, protecting and serving the community.

# MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT)

## A LIFELINE FOR DETAINEES AND INMATES



Throughout the years, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's Medicated-Assisted Treatment (MAT) program has made significant strides in addressing substance use disorder, offering not just treatment, but a lifeline to individuals who need it most. Through a blend of medication, education, and support, the program has helped reduce overdose risks among detainees and inmates, proving its success in a tangible way. But this is only the beginning. As the Department's MAT program evolves, it continues to change lives, offering hope and opportunity to those under our care.

MAT's mission is to save lives. The goal isn't just to provide treatment, but to prepare individuals for reentry into society by stabilizing their health and mental well-being. "MAT saves lives," said Abby LeClair, Director of Treatment, Behavioral Health and Program Services. "It helps detainees get to a place where they can succeed when they return to society."

The program offers a comprehensive array of treatments for those struggling with opioid use disorders, including buprenorphine, methadone, injectables, vivitrol, and oral naltrexone, providing flexibility to meet diverse needs. MAT is designed as a strength-based, wraparound approach, ensuring that individuals receive more than just medication but also basic psychoeducation. This educational component helps detainees understand the physical impacts of their addiction, empowering them with the knowledge to break free from the cycle of substance use.



For many, the effects of MAT go beyond physical stabilization. As individuals get clearer in mind and body, they begin to experience emotions and sensations they had forgotten or never thought possible. "Sometimes, they realize they didn't have depression; they just needed to sober up," explained Nichole Collins, Wellness Navigator. "They are able to find joy and all the things they never thought they could obtain again."

The MAT program is designed to be accessible, with multiple pathways for inmates and detainees to participate. Some enter the program if they are already on MAT when they arrive. Others can apply by filling out a MAT Participation Form, which is given to their caseworker and finally reviewed before a wellness navigator conducts an interview to determine eligibility. Additionally, those identified as "high-risk" by the Department's medical team—such as individuals who have recently overdosed or who have been caught diverting medication—are assessed for MAT eligibility, assuming they are willing to participate. Referrals also play a crucial role. Attorneys, caseworkers, and even outside community agencies regularly reach out to the MAT team with recommendations for inmates who may benefit from the treatment. This collaborative, inclusive approach ensures that those who need help the most are able to access MAT services.





One of the program's standout features is its integration with recovery courts and mental health courts. MAT staff regularly participate in court sessions, working alongside defense attorneys, probation officers, recovery coaches from the community, the ADA, and judges to discuss treatment progress and a plan for continuity of care after release. This wraparound model helps individuals transition smoothly from treatment within the Department to support services in the community upon release.

"We attend recovery court once or twice a week," said LeClair. "We work closely with other professionals, updating them about how our inmate and detainee population is doing within our facilities, and make sure there is a plan in place while under our care and after they're released—so they don't face gaps in their treatment."

The MAT program also works hand-in-hand with a dedicated MAT nurse manager who administers the medications along with the custody staff, tracks every individual's progress, from induction into the program to the successful continuation of treatment after their release. This collaborative effort ensures that no one slips through the cracks, and all individuals receive the treatment and support they need to succeed.

For MAT to be effective, precise administration is key. All medications are distributed through a carefully monitored "MAT med-pass." Inmates and detainees are brought in small groups, where trained nurses and custody staff supervise the administration of medications. Each individual must take their medication under strict observation until it is absorbed properly and without interruption.

"To keep MAT in BSAS's (Bureau of Substance Addiction Services) good graces, we have specially trained nur-

ses, and custody staff members that assist us in carefully providing these medication," noted LeClair.

The medications provided—Medications for Opiate Use Disorder (MOUD)—are carefully prescribed and administered sublingually, meaning they must dissolve it under their tongue for proper absorption. Inmates and detainees are required to sit in a designated position, remain silent, and refrain from eating or drinking after taking it to ensure that is effectively dissolved.

"If the medication was swallowed like a regular pill, it could not be properly absorbed into the body. It must be completely absorbed without interruptions, so that they can get the full effect of what the medication is for," noted Tylor Chroniak, Wellness Navigator.

Despite its successes, running a MAT program comes with challenges. Not all inmates or detainees are interested in participating in treatment, and some may prefer to "do it their way," as one detainee explained when asked about support upon release. MAT staff respect these individual choices, but they also emphasize the importance of continued recovery efforts, such as participation in programs like Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) or Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOPs).

A key challenge for the program is ensuring that individuals have the necessary resources after release, especially during winter months when options for shelter and recovery services can be limited. This is where the MAT program's partnerships with local service providers come into play. Wellness navigators, such as Nichole Collins, Tylor Chroniak, and Jane Westgate work tirelessly to connect inmates and detainees with aftercare resources such as IOPs, long-term residential programs, and outpatient addiction treatment centers like, Clean Slate and Barbara McInnis House. Additionally, individuals receive an active prescription for their MAT medications and residential support upon release, ensuring continuity of care as they transition back to society.

The work of MAT extends beyond the walls of the Department—it's about long-term success and reentry into society with the tools and support needed for recovery. "Our goal is to make sure that people are better off when they leave," said Abby LeClair. "MAT is a part of the puzzle that helps them succeed, and we'll be there every step of the way."

As MAT continues to grow and evolve, it remains a beacon of hope for those under our custody. With collaboration, dedication, and a strong focus on both immediate and long-term care, the program is not only saving lives but helping individuals rebuild their futures.



## FATHER'S UPLIFT

For many incarcerated fathers, the journey toward rehabilitation and reconnection with their families is fraught with challenges. Through a structured 10-week curriculum and ongoing critical support, the program equips men with the tools they need to rebuild their lives, mend relationships, and embrace fatherhood with strength and accountability. Adjie Burnett, the program facilitator, shared his insights into the mission and impact of Fathers Uplift, emphasizing the importance of empathy: “I try to put myself in the class, to try and understand what they are going through.”

“You may have wronged family members in the past and are now searching for forgiveness to clear your heart and mind. I want to stand up and be a man to say that. I have hurt others in my life—we all have,” shared Burnett on accountability. By embracing this self-reflection, participants gain a deeper understanding of their role in their families and communities.

“Fathers Uplift gives us an opportunity to talk to our men to actually get them to understand their sobriety and the meaning of becoming a healthy and strong father,” Burnett explains. Working in tandem with the Nurturing Fathers curriculum, led by Frantz Dorcena, Fathers Uplift expands on existing Department programs by providing practical lessons on becoming a more engaged

and supportive parent.

Burnett highlights the value of mentorship in the program, which sets it apart from the rest: “The directors have experienced coaches that come in. They sit and talk with them about the challenges that they face.” These coaching sessions offer guidance tailored to each individual’s needs, working with smaller cohort groups for individualized attention.



Since its implementation at the House of Correction, Fathers Uplift has experienced significant growth. “Fifteen men are currently in the program, whereas we started out with four. So by word of mouth, the number has grown,” Burnett notes. The program has proven to be an ongoing resource, with 12 to 14 men graduating each cycle. Many graduates have returned for continued support, underscoring the program’s lasting impact.

Participants leave the program with

a renewed sense of purpose, recognizing that “the better you get, the stronger you are to your family, to your children, who look up to you as a father.” Burnett encourages men to leave behind the negative influences that have impacted his own life: “We can leave the drugs behind, the bad talk, the fighting, the police that I ran from.”

One of the central goals of Fathers Uplift is to prepare participants for reentry into society. “Hopefully, the mentality of the whole program is to reach out and get men to understand the situations that are going on and return to the community with this kind of information to help not only them, but the other people that affect their lives,” Burnett states. This reintegration is, however, a two-way street. Having lived experience as a reformed father himself, Burnett urges families to be patient and supportive during their loved one’s process: “Give a chance. Don’t turn your back because ‘I’ve heard that before.’ They have worked hard and really want to be involved. Let them see their child.”

Ultimately, Fathers Uplift is more than a program—it is a movement that empowers men to reclaim their lives, strengthen their families, and build a brighter future. Through continued support and community engagement, these fathers are given the tools to succeed and the encouragement to thrive.

# NURTURING FATHERS



What does it mean to be a good father? How can one serve as a beacon of support for his children when they are sentenced to separation? What chains must be broken on the road to recovery, not just behind bars, but in the years of missed childhood moments?

These were the profound questions facing the latest cohort of the Nurturing Fathers program as they embarked on their 10-week journey. Confronting suppressed traumas and the weight of their past actions, these fathers emerged as “second-chancers,” committed to healing, growth, and reconnection.

Since 2016, reentry specialists from the Family Nurturing Center in Boston have brought their transformative programming to the Suffolk County House of Correction, making it the first facility to offer Nurturing Fathers’ actionable curriculum. With lessons that dive into unpacking childhood trauma and fostering emotional stability, Nurturing Fathers goes beyond parenting techniques — it addresses the root of multigenerational pain. Its mission: to reconnect fathers with their children and break the cycles of hurt that can span generations.

In an interview with program facilitator Frantz Dorcena, he remarked on his shortcomings in following the narrow path while surrounded by urban violence and distraction in his youth. Through this empathy, he has helped lead the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department reentry programs — like Family Matters and Nurturing Fathers — with compassion over the last twenty-one years.

“The inmate ID number, that’s a circumstance, not who you are. It’s a mistake that you made. When you leave here, you get to press that reset button. You can be the

father that you choose to be,” said Dorcena.

The Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department’s commitment to correcting mistakes and instilling hope for the future is precisely what makes it so progressive on the national scale. Dorcena and the Nurturing Fathers instructors pushed the needle by issuing the first family play date to be held in a correctional facility; and these efforts are not in vain. Nurturing Fathers boasts an incredibly low recidivism rate at a mere 8%.

Even — and especially — in times of reoffense or instances of men losing focus on their fatherly responsibilities post-release, Dorcena recounts his extended efforts to reach those seeking further guidance.

With one former participant, he shared, “I called him, went and saw him, and told him, ‘What are you doing?’ And [the mother of his child and I] got him back on track. I take these relationships very seriously, and incorporating the family is another tool to keep this person out of incarceration.”



As the latest cohort wrapped up their curriculum, the men shared personally written poems and promises of accountability in front of their families at their graduation ceremony. In the face of the most difficult circumstances, the men in Nurturing

Fathers demonstrated that the road to redemption is not just about serving time — it’s about rebuilding, reconnecting, and ultimately, healing.

In response to the aforementioned looming questions, Dorcena closed with this proclamation: “Being a father that you choose to be means being a father that’s present; emotionally, if not physically. As fathers, we have to stop the cycle of trauma because our children are our future. Your children should be a better version of you.”

# PAID SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM 2025



MASSACHUSETTS  
**Suffolk County**  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
*Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins*

## APPLY NOW!

This program invites twenty participants to the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department to learn about careers in Law Enforcement. Participants work 32 hours per-week, Monday through Friday, beginning July 7, 2025, and ending on August 22, 2025. The wage for SEP members is \$18 per-hour.

## SUMMER ENRICHMENT:

The Summer Enrichment Program is open to 11th and 12th graders and provides participants with the opportunity to learn about careers in Law Enforcement and the Criminal Legal System. The SEP also features an educational component designed to enhance participants' academic skills, giving them a head-start on School Year 2025.

## APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS:

- ✦ Must be entering either the 11th or 12th grade
- ✦ Must be a resident of or student in Boston, Chelsea, Revere, or Winthrop
- ✦ Interest in Law Enforcement or the Criminal Legal System strongly encouraged
- ✦ Must have proper form of identification (Student ID, Passport, Mass ID, or Driver's License)
- ✦ Active Checking or Savings Account
- ✦ Documentation of completed physical by medical professional

## Contact Information:

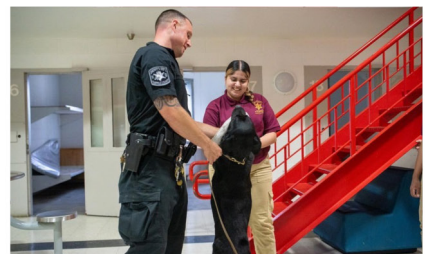
✉ **LUCRETIA GOODSON**  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND YOUTH PROGRAMS COORDINATOR  
LGOODSON@SCSDMA.ORG

✉ **SUFFOLK COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES**  
RECRUITMENT@SCSDMA.ORG



**JULY 7, 2025  
-TO-  
AUGUST 22, 2025**

**DEADLINE FOR  
APPLYING**  
FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025





SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS &  
THE SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

**Celebrate & Honor**

# WHM

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

This month, we celebrate the incredible contributions women have made throughout history and today within the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department.

Women play a vital role in shaping our world, bringing unique perspectives, innovation, and leadership to every field. Their resilience and dedication drive positive change and strengthen communities.

At the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, we are proud to honor the women who work tirelessly to ensure the Department's success and inspire us all with their strength, commitment, and unwavering influence.

Happy Women's History Month.

#WEARESCSD | [WWW.SCSDMA.ORG](http://WWW.SCSDMA.ORG)



# AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

## SCSD's CWP Officers Honored for Exceptional Community Service in Toys for Tots Program:

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department proudly celebrates the outstanding efforts of three Community Works Program (CWP) Officers, Deputy Richard Barbosa, Deputy Richard Kielczweski, and Sergeant Kenny Yi, who were recently awarded the prestigious Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal from the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. This honor highlights their dedication to spreading joy and making a difference in the lives of children throughout the Greater Boston area during the 2024 holiday season. Through their hard work and collaboration with local businesses, volunteers, and organizations, more than 85,000 toys were collected, shipped, and distributed to families in need.



## Building Community Bonds and Knocking Down Pins:

As part of an ongoing effort to serve the community and create positive experiences for children, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department joined the Boston Police Department for a special event at Boston Bowl Lanes in Dorchester. Hosted by St. Mark's Church, officers had the opportunity to engage with Bible Camp participants in a morning filled with fun, bowling, laughter, and networking.

Beyond knocking down pins, the event fostered trust and strengthened relationships between law enforcement and youth. By promoting safety and approachability, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department continues its commitment to building meaningful community bonds.



## A Black History Month Event: Uplifting Black & Brown Communities in Chelsea:

Members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently took part in a special closing ceremony at William School in Chelsea, celebrating the invaluable contributions of Black and Brown communities in American history and in the City of Chelsea. The event featured an inspiring student performance that paid tribute to key Black historical figures, highlighting their profound impact on the world. Attendees also heard uplifting speeches from Chelsea City Manager, Fidel Meltez and Joan Cromwell, President of Chelsea's Black Community, both of whom encouraged young Black and Brown youth to pursue their dreams and strive for success. While Black History Month officially ended in February, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department continues to honor and celebrate Black history—because Black history is American history.



# AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY



## SCSD Inspires Future Leaders at First Responders Panel:

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department joined Boston EMS, the Boston Police Department, the Boston Fire Department, and other law enforcement agencies at the Fenway High School Career Fair & First Responder Panel Discussion. This event offered students a unique opportunity to engage with professionals and learn about diverse career paths in law enforcement and public safety, from entry-level roles to advanced positions. Conversations covered topics such as: job benefits, shift schedules, and the dedication needed to succeed. We are proud to help inspire and guide the next generation of leaders, showcasing the accessibility and opportunities within public service.

## Recruiting our Department's Future Leaders:

Suffolk County Sheriff's Department team members engaged with students from East Boston High School for their annual career fair to encourage scholarship and consideration in joining the public safety force. Swag items and school materials were handed out to the passing children, as they watched a K-9 demonstration presented by Sargeat Mike Carbonneau and his furry companion, Odin. Many of the high schoolers who were generally unaware of the role of correctional officers left with a newfound understanding of the important role our Department staff plays in rehabilitation and keeping the community in order. Several interested and promising individuals expressed interest in joining the next cohort of Summer Enrichment students, making the day a productive all-around success.



## SCSD Helps Spread Mental Health Awareness For Teens:

Members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department were invited alongside a congregation of community leaders to attend a meeting on mental health awareness for local youth. Hosted by the City of Boston Office Youth Engagement and Advancement Network (OYEA) at the Institute of Contemporary Art, the day was rife with collaboration and education to solve the complex issues—from in-school struggles to housing inequities and beyond—that burden younger generations. Guest speaker Dr. Kevin Simon, Boston's First Chief Behavioral Health Officer, presented a gripping lecture on his team's expert efforts to eliminate barriers to mental health services and recovery for all ages. Our Community Outreach and Youth Programs Coordinator, Lucretia Goodson, said about the event: "I felt it was a great opportunity to learn about the astigmatism mental health has plagued our youth." By understanding the conditions that inspire youth violence in the community, we can begin to better guide with compassion and prevent further detrimental impacts on our children's futures.

# WE'RE HIRING



MASSACHUSETTS  
**Suffolk County**  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
*Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins*

## OPEN POSITIONS:

- ESL Teacher
- Classification Caseworker
- Social Worker / Caseworker
- Infectious Disease Coordinator
- Substance Use Treatment Navigator
- Internship: (Investigations, Training Division, Research / Data Analytics)
- Workforce Development Coordinator
- Education Advisor / Career Navigator

*Apply Now:*

 [WWW.SCSDMA.ORG/CAREERS](http://WWW.SCSDMA.ORG/CAREERS)

 (617) 704-6363

 [JOBS@SCSDMA.ORG](mailto:JOBS@SCSDMA.ORG)



#WEARESCSD | [WWW.SCSDMA.ORG](http://WWW.SCSDMA.ORG)

