



COMMON GROUND

OCTOBER 2018 ISSUE

CAPTAIN CARTER ON CARE,
CUSTODY & THE SCSD MEN'S
BASKETBALL TEAM



ADDICTION & RECOVERY
AT THE SCSD

DEPARTMENT HOSTS
MONTHLY
RECOVERY PANEL

Sheriff's Statement



For many of you keeping up with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department through this newsletter, on Facebook, Twitter or other means, you know that one of the primary issues that we contend with on a daily basis in our mission of care and custody for those remanded to our facilities is drug and alcohol addiction.

Nearly 80% of the men and women who comprise our population at the Suffolk County Jail and the Suffolk County House of Correction have self-reported substance abuse and addiction disorders. To try and mitigate these circumstances, we at the Department have developed and offer a variety of programs and services to inmates and detainees that are designed to help them to gain control of their addictions and assist them in becoming clean, sober and successful in their recovery.

Some of these efforts include detoxification services; intensive recovery counseling; Opioid Overdose Peer Prevention, with training in the use of Narcan; Vivitrol; Narcotics and Alcoholics Anonymous groups; our new O.A.S.I.S. (Opioid and Addiction Services Inside South Bay) Unit; our Recovery Panel, which features monthly meetings between incarcerated individuals and service providers from across Suffolk County; and a host of others.

In this issue of the Common Ground, three of our recovery team practitioners speak about addiction and recovery, in addition to several other stories and profiles.

-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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CARE, CUSTODY AND COURT VISION

Captain Corey Carter SCSD Men's Basketball Team Captain

For this month's Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Employee Profile, we sat down with 24-year employee Corey Carter, Captain of the Department's men's basketball team and Captain at the House of Correction, to talk about working and playing for the SCSD.

You are the Captain of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Basketball team, but you are also a Captain at the House of Correction. What are some of the things you do on a day-to-day basis as an employee here?

At work, I am a Shift Commander and Captain, which means that I'm responsible for a variety of tasks. I serve in an administrative role for officers and I am responsible for responding to any emergency that should arise within or outside of the facility, alerting the emergency response team when necessary. When I first come into the office, I usually confer with my colleagues about anything that's happened in the day, including emergencies

or disturbances. I come in for the second shift, so when I first get in, it's important to find out about and note anything that may have happened prior that might continue to develop during my shift.

Tell us about how you've risen through the ranks over the course of your time here.

I've been a captain for three years now after years of being in the units and holding various posts around the Department. All of these experiences made it possible for me to obtain the knowledge and respect from staff and administration that granted

me this position. I've also enjoyed interacting with the different people and personalities here every day. It's the highlight of my day to be able to work alongside the staff that I have been working with all these years.

You've told us about your time here with the Department, but when did you first start playing basketball?

Honestly, it started as a kid, maybe around middle school. I'm from the Dorchester and Roxbury area, so growing up in the inner-city playing basketball is kind of like a rite of passage. My brothers played sports





CARE, CUSTODY AND COURT VISION

and depending on what school you went to, there were some sports that were paid more attention than others.

What was it about basketball specifically that pulled you in?

Basketball was the main thing that you could do that would allow you to work towards a common goal with a team. I liked the team aspect and it conditioned my mind and body for challenges ahead in both life and the basketball court. I liked it, it was exercise and it made growing up easier because I was better able to avoid problems.

When did you start the basketball team here?

I started the team around January of 1995. There was a fledgling intramural basketball team here and there were a lot of people who had a lot of talent. After playing and watching some of them, I thought we should try and get a team together to play in various tournaments. Two nights a week, we were playing at local schools alongside members of the Boston Fire Department,

Boston Police Department and the State Police. That's really how it all got started.

How did you put the team together?

It's been a combination of luck and association. A lot of the guys are local talent and played in the colleges in the area. We have people who have played for various colleges, went on to get their degrees and are now employees with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. They still have a deep passion for the game and by word of mouth, they hear about the Department team.

How can employees get in touch or become involved with the basketball team?

If you want to bring your talent to the table and join our team, I'm always available Tuesdays through Saturdays. You can contact me at the House of Correction Shift Commander's Office or send me an email at ccarter@scsdma.org.



SCSD On Addiction And Recovery



Despite intensive efforts by various agencies, organizations and elected officials, the opioid addiction epidemic continues to ravage communities across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, striking close to home for many of us. Since assuming office five years ago, Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins has made addiction recovery a critical component of his administration, immediately recognizing that such programming actively supports incarcerated individuals who are struggling with addiction in their successful transition back into the community. As Sheriff Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department continue working on the front lines to help slow the opioid crisis, we sat down with three individuals working behind the walls of the Suffolk County House of Correction who are helping to spearhead this effort.

John Dolan is the Director of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's Men's Drug Treatment Unit. This specialized unit for sentenced inmates provides a comprehensive approach to addiction recovery and a

wide variety of groups and programs including Narcotics Anonymous; Alcoholics Anonymous; Criminal and Addictive Thinking; Accountability and Responsibility; Freedom from Violence; Creative Writing; Parenting; Opiate Overdose; Early Recovery, an introductory six-week program; and Beyond Prison, a group that focuses on discharge planning upon release that is specifically calibrated to their addiction.

David Asher and Janine Belitti both work within the OASIS (Opioid and Addiction Services Inside South Bay) treatment unit. This unit is dedicated to providing intensive substance abuse and discharge planning services to male pretrial detainees. Opened in February 2018, the Department partnered with experienced addiction treatment provider AdCare Criminal Justice Services to provide men in the unit with robust treatment schedules and round-the-clock support. David Asher works as a Substance Abuse Counselor, and Janine Belitti as the Clinical Director.

How would you speak about addiction and recovery to someone who believes their loved one is struggling with it?

David Asher – When I explain and describe addiction, I look at it more in terms of the quality of an individual's life. If you think someone in your family or group of friends is struggling with it, you should try to determine the risks involved for that person and how that person's quality of living is. Oftentimes, it is difficult to understand the true dynamics of addiction and why someone is doing what they do. As an outsider, you can see the consequences and you may be able to get them into recovery by explaining it as an effort to improve their quality of life.

Janine Belitti – With family and loved ones, looking at someone's quality of life and risk is important because labeling or diagnosing it isn't always helpful. So, we really try to talk about education and the services that are out there and available if we think there are risks. You want to be able to put them in the hands of someone with experience in addiction recovery who can take care of them.





Who are the people we should talk to if we think we ourselves are experiencing addiction or if a family member is?

John Dolan - The first person you should be talking to if you are currently incarcerated or have a family member who is, is a case worker. That'll be the first person. If you are on the outside, I would say look for someone outside of the direct family, because, while they might not mean any harm, sometimes our expectations as family members are unreal, and past mistakes often times come up in a detrimental way.

Janine – I would start by giving out an Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous meeting list. But, when there is a much more immediate need, we search out detoxes. It used to be primarily about finding a meeting, but now depending on the risks involved, it is so much more about keeping people alive through detoxes, halfway houses, sober houses, intense outpatient addiction programming and other recovery services.

David – It really goes by the situation and the individual. Reaching out to recovery coaches or meetings, and detoxes should be first.

What are the external resources available that are helpful to people experiencing addiction or trying to remain sober and in recovery?

Janine - SAMSHA has a really great website.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation. SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities. You can learn more at www.samsha.gov.

David – The Boston Public Health Commission has a great site for resources. The Boston Public Health Commission is a City of Boston agency that provides resources for those affected by substance abuse. Public service and access to quality health care are the cornerstones of their mission. The Boston Public Health Commission aims to protect, preserve, and promote the health and well-being of all Boston residents, particularly those who are most vulnerable. You can learn more about the commission www.bphc.org.

The City of Boston also has a confidential 24/7 referral center for addiction treatment and recovery services which you can dial 311 to connect with.

John – Other than those in recovery themselves, I would say Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. It's important for those experiencing addiction or who are in recovery to hear the language of addiction, which is a universal language of pain. Find a local meeting for Alcoholics Anonymous at: www.aamass.org/area30/ and find a local meeting for Narcotics Anonymous at: www.nerna.org.



AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

SCSD Welcomes New Cadets to Correction Officer Training Academy

Our latest Correction Officer Training Academy class has begun and cadets will be taking part in rigorous, intensive instruction over the next few weeks. In their time with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's Training Division, they will learn about ethics and professionalism, inmate education and programming, fire safety, CORI and inmate rights and responsibilities, sexual harassment, report writing, proper use of force, defensive tactics and a host of other skills and regulations.



Department Hosts Monthly Recovery Panel

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently hosted its monthly Recovery Panel at the Suffolk County Jail. At each panel, service providers from across Suffolk County are invited to speak with currently incarcerated individuals who are battling addiction, bringing resources, information and encouragement. This collaborative program occurs on a monthly basis at both Department facilities to support addiction recovery services for inmates and detainees through their incarceration and beyond.



Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins Joins Annual Massachusetts Run for the Fallen

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins joined the Annual Massachusetts Run for the Fallen, an event held each year to commemorate and keep alive the memory of Massachusetts' military heroes who gave their lives in service since 2001.





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Steven W. Tompkins, Sheriff



Suffolk County

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