ENSURING REENTRY SUCCESS

Massachusetts Community-Based Residential Reentry Programs



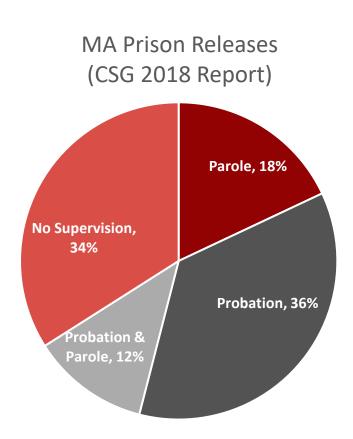
Gabriella Priest October 2021

HISTORY OF REENTRY IN MASSACHUSETTS

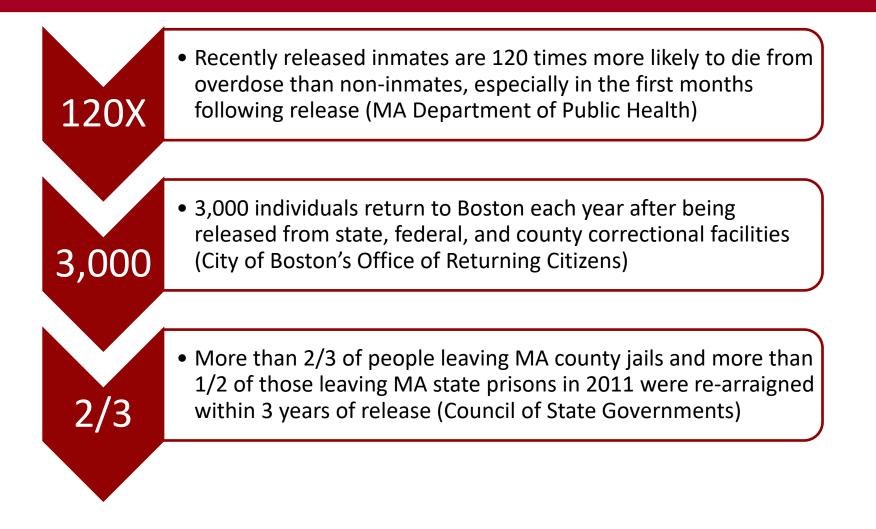


Overview of Reentry in MA

- Reactions to Willie Horton furlough in 1988 dramatically reduced reentry programs
- County jails/HOC operated by sheriffs (sentences up to 2.5 years) and state prisons/DOC (sentences over 2.5 years) were contracting individually out of their budgets for reentry beds
 - Statutory eligibility for communitybased reentry prerelease programs
- Parole had funding for a few beds specific to opioid use disorders; Probation had no funding for residential reentry programs



Overview of Reentry in MA: Data



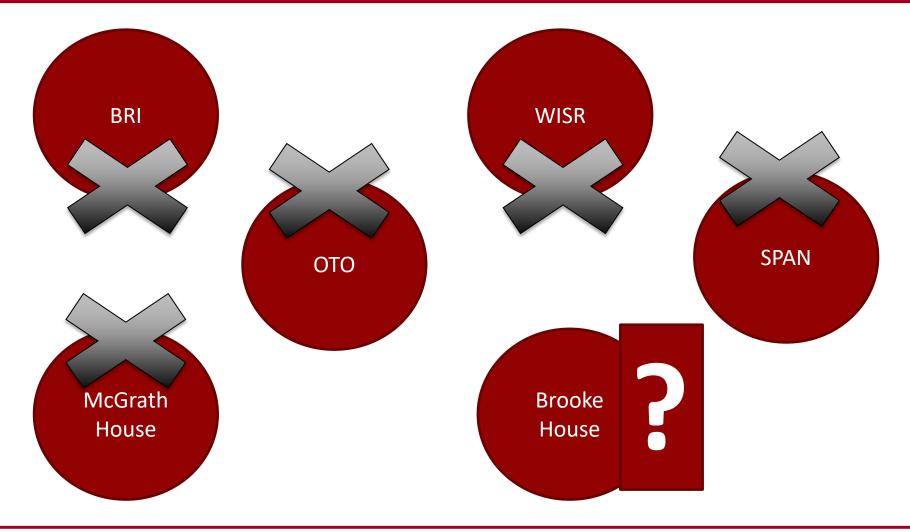
Federal Reentry

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR JUSTICE COOLIDGE HOUSE BOSTON, MA



- Oldest continuously operated halfway house in the country, founded in 1973
- 116 beds
- CRJ operates additional federal reentry programs in Manchester, NH; Pawtucket, RI; Buffalo, NY; and Albany, NY

Crisis in Reentry in 2017-2018: Reductions in MA Reentry Services



2017-2020 MA Reentry Revitalization Effort



Reentry Works!

- Studies have shown that halfway houses can reduce recidivism by up to 25 percent for individuals assessed as high risk (University of Cincinnati; Journal of Offender Rehabilitation)
- A transitional period of postrelease supervision based on risk, needs, and responsivity provides support and accountability as a person reenters the community, and reduces recidivism (Council of State Governments)



"Case planning that supports" recidivism-reduction programming, behavioral health treatment, steady employment, access to housing, and prosocial supports can help reduce the likelihood that someone will reoffend, especially in those critical weeks and months after release." (Justice Reinvestment in Massachusetts, **Council of State Governments** Report)

Reentry Works!

REENTRY SUPPORTS POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR RESIDENTS



*Results based on data across all CRJ reentry programs

Support for Reentry in MA



The Boston Globe

<u>Criminal justice reform must focus on women who are</u> <u>incarcerated</u> – op-ed by Rachael Rollins, Cynthia Creem, and Liz Malia, *May 7, 2019* MASS LIVE

Massachusetts must invest in communitybased reentry programs for ex-offenders – op-ed by Hampden County Sheriff Nicholas Cocchi and John Larivee, *April 3, 2018*

Support for Reentry in MA

- AdCare Criminal Justice Services Greater Boston Legal Services
- Advocates
- Association for Behavioral Healthcare
- Boston Public Health Commission
- Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
- Bunker Hill Community College
- Caritas Communities
- Community Servings
- Dismas House ٠
- Dorchester Bay Economic ٠ Development
- Fathers' Uplift
- Gardiner Howland Shaw Foundation
- Gavin Foundation

- Haley House
- Hays Companies
- Heading Home Inc.
- InnerCity Weightlifting
- Louis D. Brown Peace Institute
- MA Association of Criminal **Defense Lawyers**
- MA Association for Mental Health
- MA Communities Action Network
- MassINC
- MA Organization for Addiction **Recovery (MOAR)**
- Mayor's Office of Returning Citizens

- Mothers for Justice and Equality
- National Association of Social Workers- MA
- NAACP, New England Area Conference
- New Beginnings Reentry Services "Kimya's House"
- Open Sky
- Pine Street Inn
- Project Place
- Roca, Inc.
- Rosie's Place
- Strategy Matters
- The BASE
- UTEC, Inc.
- Volunteers of America Massachusetts

Reentry programs funded through line item 0339-1011



BROOKE HOUSE Location: Boston Capacity: 65 beds Population served: Men



McGRATH HOUSE Location: Boston Capacity: 33 beds Population served: Women McGrath House Video

Referrals from county sheriffs' departments, the Massachusetts Department of Correction, the Massachusetts Parole Board, or the Massachusetts Probation Service

Reentry programs funded through line item 0339-1011



Western MA Reentry Center Location: West Springfield Capacity: 24 beds Population served: Men and women



New Bedford Reentry Center Locations: New Bedford Capacity: 25 beds Population served: Men and women

Referrals from county sheriffs' departments, the Massachusetts Department of Correction, the Massachusetts Parole Board, or the Massachusetts Probation Service

Demographic Information

Brooke House: Race

Caucasian	42%	
Black	33%	
Hispanic	22%	
Other	3%	
Grand Total	100%	
Age Range: 22-75		

McGrath House: Race

Caucasian	64%
Hispanic	16%
Black	14%
Other	6%
Grand Total	100%
Age Range: 19-6	4

Foundation House/WMRC Men: Race

Hispanic	55%
Caucasian	30%
Black	15%
Other	0%
Grand Total	100%
Age range: 22-61	

New Bedford Reentry Center: Race

Caucasian	41%
Black	30%
Hispanic	28%
Other	2%
Grand Total	100%
Age Range: 22-71	

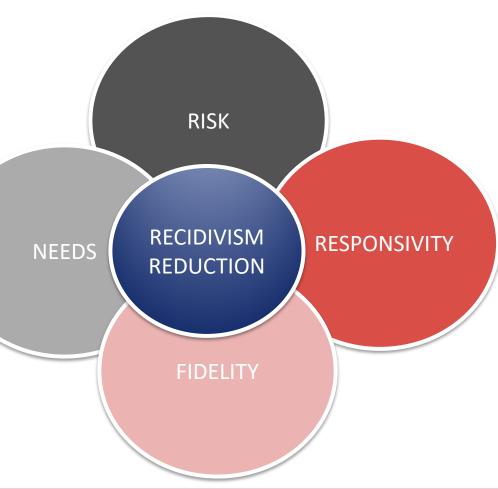
Summary of Referral Sources and Populations

Probation 29%	 Surrender hearings/probation violations Probation on or after
Parole 35%	 Parole releases from incarceration
Pre-release 22%	 Pre-release/work release: still in custody County jails- HOC/Sheriffs State prisons- DOC
Wraps 14%	 Wrap/sentence expiration No custodial status or community supervision

*Percentages based on 6/30/20 census

Evidence-based RNR Model

- Utilize an evidence-based risk, needs, responsivity (RNR) model to reduce recidivism
- Intensive case management: Assessment and a case plan guided by assessment results
- Connections to community resources
- Supervision/accountability
- Transitional housing for 3-6 months



Intensive Case Management

Intensive Case Management

- Coaching and guidance for positive actions
- Assistance with obtaining identification, birth certificates, and social security cards
- Enrollment in MassHealth
- Teaching skills for healthy relationships with family members and others
- Community navigation
- Support with Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Daily itineraries



Program support and connections to community partners

- In-house cognitive-behavioral and substance use disorder groups
- Facilitated referrals to educational, vocational, and housing opportunities
- Links to community providers for mental health, medical care, and substance use treatment that can be continued after an individual completes the program

Community-based Buildings



Case Examples: CRJ Program Graduates



At Brooke House, **Carlos** obtained a state ID, a birth certificate, and MassHealth coverage. He had little work history, but he landed a steady job at a restaurant, where he worked hard and advanced quickly. He also opened his first-ever bank account. "I don't know where I'd be if I didn't have Brooke House," he said. "The staff actually cares about clients and work hard to make sure they do great." Before becoming incarcerated, **Rosa** fled an abusive marriage, losing touch with her three children in the process. During her time at McGrath House, she accessed counseling services and was able to reconnect with her children and spend Christmas with them. She also enrolled in Quincy College, addressed some serious health issues, and obtained safe and secure housing in Brockton.



Case Examples: CRJ Program Graduates

Arthur

After a lengthy period of incarceration, Arthur arrived at Brooke House with nothing except the clothes on his back. At Brooke, Arthur was able to secure a state ID and Social Security benefits, and to save money for his own apartment. He also reconnected with his family, including a granddaughter he'd never met. "If I didn't have Brooke House, I don't know where I'd be," he said. "I feel very welcomed here."

Sandra

Sandra arrived at McGrath House with no identification and no way to obtain it on her own. With help from staff, she was able to get a copy of her birth certificate and a state ID. Soon after, she got a full-time job at a salon on Newbury Street in Boston. During her time at McGrath House, Sandra also reunited with her family, enrolled in substance use treatment and mental health counseling, and began facilitating support group meetings.

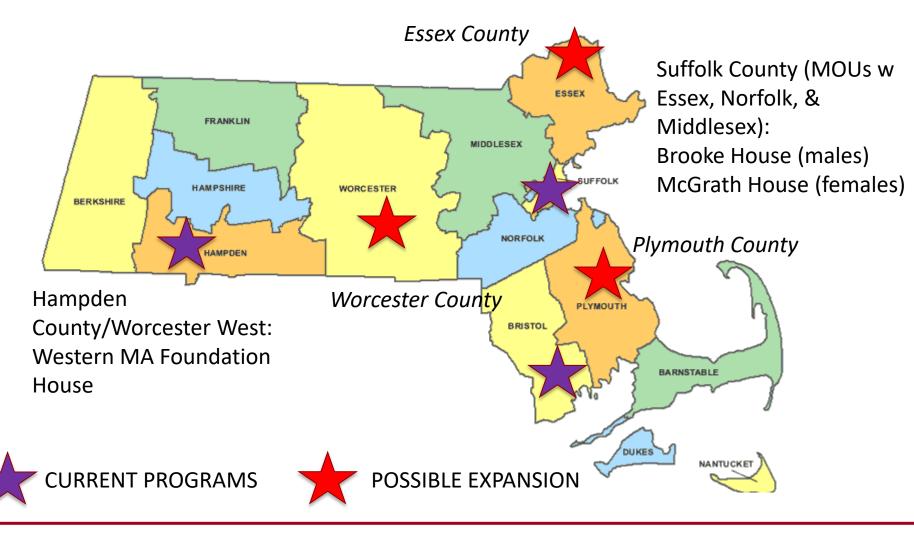
Alexander

When Alexander first arrived at Brooke House, he felt overwhelmed about his transition back to the community, especially after being out of the workforce for an extended period. But with support from staff, his confidence grew quickly. He got a steady job working in a café, joined support group meetings, accessed substance abuse counseling, and saved for his future. He's preparing to successfully complete his stay at Brooke House and is working on securing housing.

Maria

During her stay at McGrath House, Maria regained a sense of hope about her future that she hadn't experienced since childhood. With help from staff, she obtained her ID, signed up for health insurance, accessed substance use counseling, and secured a spot in a paid culinary training program. She also reunited with her mother and daughter, and moved in with them in New Bedford upon completing her stay at McGrath House. She's currently working at a hospital in Rhode Island.

Current Programs and Possible Expansion



Additional Reentry Services/Programs

www.cominghomedirectory.org

COMING HOME

A Directory of Reentry Services Available to People Returning from Incarceration **to** Greater Boston

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES >	CLOTHING >	CORI >
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE >	EDUCATION >	EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE >
FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS >	FAMILIES >	FOOD >
HOTLINES >	HOUSING >	LEGAL >
OLDER ADULTS >		PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH >
SHELTERS >	SUBSTANCE USE >	SUPPORT GROUPS >
VETERANS >	WOMEN >	

FUEL ASSISTANCE >

TRANSPORTATION >

EMPLOYMENT >

DISABILITY >

Massachusetts Probation Service Office of Community Corrections

- 18 Community Justice Support Centers
- Non-residential pretrial and reentry support

90 MASH-certified Sober Houses:

- 70-80 placements a month
- State and federal funding for up to 8 weeks of rent

HKS Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management

Racial Disparities in the Massachusetts Criminal System

A Report by The Criminal Justice Policy Program, Harvard Law School

Submitted to Chief Justice Ralph D. Gants, Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts

- <u>Report on Racial Disparities</u>
- <u>Overview of the PCJ Roundtable on Racial Disparities in the Massachusetts Criminal</u> <u>Courts</u>

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