

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS' BREAKFAST



### A Reentry Conversation Hosted by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department and Community Resources for Justice

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins  
Suffolk County Sheriff's  
Department



November 2, 2017

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## Overview of CRJ

### ❖ History and Mission:

- For 140 years, Community Resources for Justice (CRJ) has been committed to changing lives and strengthening communities by advancing policy and delivering individualized services that promote safety, justice, and inclusion

### ❖ CRJ's Three Divisions:

- Community Strategies: *CS empowers people with intellectual or developmental disabilities to live as independently as possible*
- Crime and Justice Institute: *CJI provides nonpartisan policy analysis, consulting, and research services to improve public safety throughout the country*
- Social Justice Services: *SJS provides a path to a responsible and satisfying life for adults who were previously incarcerated, and young adults in the care of state agencies*

➤ Boston reentry programs: Brooke House, Coolidge House, McGrath House



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## Justice Reinvestment Initiative Nationally

- ❖ 10 states have required expanded reentry efforts
- ❖ JRI efforts have been matched with investment
  - Georgia \$17m
  - Alaska \$99m
  - Kansas \$5m
  - Maryland \$45m
  - Louisiana 70% of savings must go to reinvestment (with 20% to grants for community-based organizations)

Combining  
upfront  
investment with  
reinvestment  
is key

Alaska's Justice Reinvestment Funds increased a reentry center's budget by 54%, allowing for increased case management, increase in clients served, and homelessness prevention



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"33 States Reform Criminal Justice Policies Through Justice Reinvestment". Pew Charitable Trusts. 2016.

## Justice Reinvestment Initiative in MA

- ❖ Began process with the Council of State Governments in 2016 with a bipartisan, interbranch steering committee and 25-member working group
  - 2011 HOC and DOC releases: 11,832
  - Report issued in Feb. 2017 included reentry recommendation: "Establish funding for critical reentry services", however, funding for reentry services has decreased recently
  - Legislation pending (S. 2185); no funding currently specified for reentry



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Council of State Governments, 10-20-17 working group presentation and 2-21-17 report

## Reentry in Boston and MA

- ❖ 3,000 individuals return to Boston each year after being released from state, federal, and county correctional facilities (City of Boston's Office of Returning Citizens)
- ❖ More than 2/3 of people leaving MA county jails and more than 1/2 of those leaving MA state prisons in 2011 were re-arraigned within 3 years of release (Council of State Governments)
- ❖ Recently released inmates are 120 times more likely to die from overdose than non-inmates, especially in the first months following release (MA Department of Public Health)



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## Reentry Works!

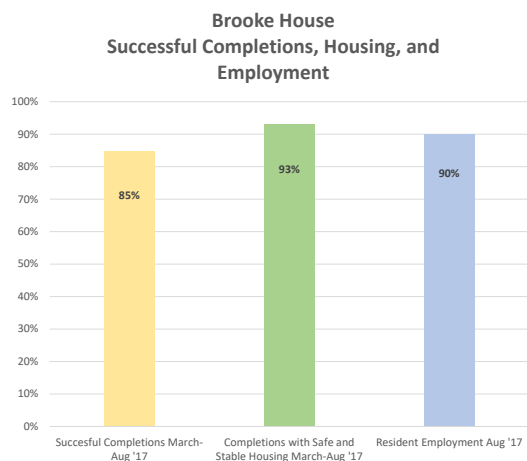
- ❖ Studies have shown that halfway houses can **reduce recidivism by 6 to 20 percent** for individuals assessed as high risk (University of Cincinnati; Journal of Offender Rehabilitation)
- ❖ A transitional period of post-release supervision based on risk, needs, and responsivity provides support and accountability as a person reenters the community, and reduces recidivism (Council of State Governments (CSG))
- ❖ "Case planning that supports recidivism-reduction programming, behavioral health treatment, steady employment, access to housing, and pro-social supports can help reduce the likelihood that someone will reoffend, especially in those critical weeks and months after release." (Justice Reinvestment in Massachusetts, CSG Report.)
- ❖ Many reentry programs are a minimum of 3 months (Washington State Institute for Public Policy)



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## Reentry Programs Achieve Outcomes



Over 1,100  
returning citizens  
assisted over 5  
years at Brooke

## Brooke House Graduates

- ❖ Prince
  - Brooke House Graduate
  - Overcoming the Odds and Transitional Housing Graduate
  - Received services from Span, Inc.
  
- ❖ Carlos
  - Brooke House Graduate
  - Remains employed at job he began while at Brooke House

## Suffolk County Sheriff's Department

- ❖ Laura van der Lugt
  - Director of Research and Innovation



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## City of Boston

- ❖ Dan Mulhern
  - Director of Mayor's Office of Public Safety



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## **“Working Together To Face The Challenge” Community Partners Discussion**



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## **Recent Reductions in Boston Reentry**

- ❖ **Span, Inc. closed in August 2017**
  - Case management and substance abuse services
- ❖ **McGrath House closing in next few months**
  - Boston Residential Reentry Center for women from Federal Bureau of Prisons and Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
- ❖ **Overcoming the Odds ended in October 2016**
  - BPD, DOC, and CRJ collaboration; community case management
- ❖ **Boston Reentry Initiative (BRI) reduced**
  - BPD and SCSD; community case management
- ❖ **Brooke House in jeopardy**
  - Prerelease program for SCSD, Parole, and Norfolk County Sheriff's Department; Transitional Housing Pilot Program



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## Next Steps

### 1) Stay in Communication

- Email newsletter and updates from CRJ

### 2) Advocate for reform that invests in community reentry

- Email, write, and visit the Governor, legislators, and City Councilors
- Ask your board members and different voices to get involved

### 3) Educate the public about reform efforts underway

- Message of the week or month
- Social Media: #SupportBostonReentry
- Websites
- Community meetings
- Policy meetings



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