



Cumberland County Jail  
Board of Visitors  
Annual Report  
January 2022



Respectfully submitted by:

Colleen Hilton, Chair

Cushman Anthony

Humza Khan

Garrett Stewart

Victor Dumais

## **Overview**

The Cumberland County Jail is the largest county jail in the State of Maine. The area of the county is 835 square miles. The population as of 2021 is 297,663 residents. The county is comprised of three larger cities, Portland, South Portland, Westbrook and 25 surrounding towns.

The jail processes through intake approximately 7000 inmates (hereafter referred to as residents) each year. Built in 1994, daily population ranges from approximately 385-425 residents in a typical year. With the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic, our numbers are significantly reduced to an average of 313 in the past two years. The Cumberland County Jail is proud to be successfully re-accredited five times. As well as ACA (American Correctional Association) our facility's medical team was awarded compliance with NCCHC (National Commission on Correctional Health Care) in 2017. Our facility went through the strenuous process of becoming PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) compliant in April of 2018 we successfully passed our first PREA Audit.

All aspects of the jail functions are analyzed and evaluated ensuring a safe and healthy environment for residents and staff alike. A positive outcome of our accreditation processes has been the pride experienced by our staff in realizing improved working conditions and improved living conditions for those remanded into our care and custody.

## **Cumberland County Jail Board of Visitors**

Title 30-A: Municipalities and Counties

Chapter 13: County Jails and Jailers

Per the statute, the county commissioner shall examine the jail in their county and take necessary precautions for the security of prisoners, for the prevention of infection and sickness and for the accommodations of the prisoners.

This is accomplished via the Cumberland County Jail Board of Visitors.

Additionally, the Board of Visitors (BOV) per (Title 30-A 1651) also have the following obligation: "Each BOV shall inspect the correction facility to which it is assigned, subject to reasonable restrictions required by the sheriff to ensure the

security of the jail and make recommendations to the sheriff with respect to residents who are mentally ill.”

### Cumberland County Jail Board of Visitors

#### **Colleen Hilton, Chair**

Colleen is the Senior Vice President of Continuing Care for Northern Light Health. She has also served as the Mayor of Westbrook for seven years or three terms. She has extensive background in public health and is a member of the Cumberland District Public Health Council.

#### **Cushman Anthony**

Cushman is a retired attorney and former member of the legislature, where he served six years including two years as House Chair for the Corrections Committee. Cush is also a member of the Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition.

#### **Humza Khan**

Humza is the Director of Human Resources for the Maine Rural Water Association. He is also the founder of Inclusion Maine, whose mission is to attract diversity and improve equity and inclusion for all Maine people.

#### **Garrett Stewart**

Garrett is a Maintenance worker for the South Portland School System. He has a history of being a union organizer. Garret has been on the Executive Committee of the AFL CIO and is a South Maine Labor Council board member. He resides in Portland.

#### **Victor Dumais, LCPC, LADC, CCS**

Victor is the Executive Director of Recovery Connections of Maine, a community substance use and mental health treatment agency with locations in Lewiston and Portland. Victor serves as the Board Treasurer for the REST Center, a non-profit substance use recovery center in Lewiston. Previously, Victor has served as a Treatment and Recovery manager for the Office of Behavioral Health.

In keeping with our obligation to “inspect” the facility, all members have toured the jail on one or more occasions this past year. We have been provided free access to all areas of the jail and had the opportunity to interview various residents during our tours. In our tours we found the jail clean, in good order, observed respectful dialogue between residents and correction officers and busy activity in key areas such as the kitchen and medical. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we relied heavily upon our interviews with the behavioral health and medical professionals who provide service to the residents.

It is significant to also point out that the past two years our jail has been dealing with the Covid 19 pandemic and various outbreaks that have occurred. When we toured, we all used appropriate public health measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our risk as well as any risk we could pose to the residents.

As noted in our overview the CCJ typically serves 400 residents, however during the past year we have been reduced to 269 as of January 2022. Also, because of the pandemic our correction officer hiring has been severely impacted and where we would usually have 128 correction officers, in this same time we are down to 65. Much collaboration has been occurring between our other law enforcement agencies and jails to accommodate the various Covid outbreaks, staffing shortages and outbreaks amongst our workforces.

As is also expected with such a serious pandemic in process, we have had to limit visitation at the CCJ. Our staff have done a tremendous job responding to the mental health impact on this by utilizing tablets for email, face time, videos, treatment, and life skill development.

## **Federal Grants supporting mental health and substance abuse services at CCJ**

### Cumberland County Project Reentry for Adult Offenders with Co-Occurring Disorders:

This grant in the amount of \$649,836 was awarded from the Department of Justice in October 2017 for three years and has been extended until September 2021. The funding has provided up to 4 months support for sober housing, treatment resources through partners Catholic Charities Maine and Maine Behavioral Health, case management services through Maine Pretrial Services, recovery coaching from a peer coach from Amistad, and medication support via

partner Hannaford Pharmacy for Project Reentry participants. The University of New England has provided evaluation for the project, and Catherine Chichester from the Co-Occurring Collaborative Serving Maine has served as the Project Director.

Those eligible for Project Reentry services are residents with co-occurring disorders, that is both mental health and substance use diagnoses.

Project Reentry has provided these comprehensive services to 105 residents reentering the community in the last three plus years. This is the second three-year Reentry grant secured by the County. The first grant, from 2014-2017, was for \$572,524.

Contact: Catherine Chichester, CCSME, Project Director; Captain Don Goulet, CCJ; Lt. Jason Wilmot, CCJ; Jennifer Galletta, CCJ; Case manager, Chelsea Valentine, Maine Pretrial Services.

#### Building Bridges Between Jails and Community-Based Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder Demonstration Project:

This project builds upon the Building Bridges demonstration project, which supported a nine-month planning process for selected counties committed to implementing medication-assisted treatment in jails and enhancing collaboration between jails and community-based treatment providers. The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided funding to eligible Building Bridges sites to support projects that increase the capacity of local communities to collaborate across the areas of public safety, behavioral health, and public health.

This grant in the amount of \$93,750 (with an additional \$17,046 awaiting confirmation in 2021) has provided rental assistance, bus passes, hygiene kits, and recovery coaching from PRCC (Portland Recovery Community Center) for individuals on pre-conviction and post-conviction community supervision (probation) to support recovery, and those leaving CCJ to be supervised in the community. Maine Pretrial and Probation have facilitated rental assistance for over 50 individuals under their supervision in Cumberland County who have opioid use disorder. Another component of this grant is the development of a data collection system by the Public Consulting Group, working with CCJ, Maine Pretrial Services, and Cumberland County IT, to assist in tracking project participation for

this and the new COSSAP grant (described below) at CCJ. This grant will go through at least the fall of 2021.

Contacts: Catherine Chichester, Project Director; Jennifer Galletta, CCJ; Chris Arbour, Probation; Chelsea Valentine and Joe Wilmot, Maine Pretrial Services.

COSSAP: Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-Based Program:

The purpose of the project is to build on existing partnerships so that Cumberland County Jail residents with substance use or opioid use disorder may successfully reenter the community.

This grant was awarded in October 2020 by the Department of Justice in the amount of \$899,324 to Cumberland County for three years, with a focus on streamlined reentry services. The project staff will initiate services in the jail and connect project participants with one of five community providers: Maine Behavioral Health, Catholic Charities Maine, Spurwink Adult Behavioral Health Services, Northern Light Portland Internal Medicine, and Discovery House. The project will screen and assess 1200 people in the jail per year for substance use disorders; initiate treatment and support connections for 200 people per year who remain the Jail for more than 7 days; and facilitate reentry services for 150 people leaving the jail per year, including Peer navigator services through Amistad. The target population is adults with substance use disorder, who are incarcerated pretrial, serving a sentence, or probation violators. The budget includes housing for those reentering the community from the jail for the first month, case management services from Maine Pretrial Services, recovery treatment, medication management, and salary for a full-time Jail Reentry Coordinator at CCJ. Evaluation is being conducted by the Public Consulting Group.

Contact: Catherine Chichester, Project Director; Jennifer Galletta, CCJ; Alexandra Bernier, CCJ; Captain Don Goulet, CCJ; Lt. Jason Wilmot, CCJ; Chelsea Valentine, MPS.

*Other County grants providing services at the Cumberland County Jail:*

MAT Coordinator:

The County has a grant of funding from the State of Maine to support the position of MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) Coordinator at the Cumberland County Jail for a two-year period starting in 2020.

Contact: Chelsea Valentine, CCJ MAT Coordinator; Captain Don Goulet, CCJ; Lt. Jason Wilmot.

Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Program:

Cumberland County received a three-year \$447,624 grant from the Office of Violence Against Women in 2017. This grant, along with support from the County, funds an advocate from Through These Doors (our Domestic Violence Resource Center) to provide outreach, advocacy, and re-entry planning for incarcerated victims at CCJ and the Maine Correctional Center in partnership with community agencies. It also funds a Maine Pretrial Services case manager who supervises domestic violence offenders in the community, connecting them with services and monitoring compliance with conditions of release. This domestic violence case manager reports over 10,000 “bed days out” annually, meaning that he has supervised offenders in the community who might otherwise have spent these days in CCJ.

Contact: Faye Luppi, Violence Intervention Partnership; Shawn LaGrega, Deputy Director, Maine Pretrial Services

McArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge Grant:

Maine Pretrial Services (MPS) partnered with Through These Doors (TTD) and the Cumberland County Jail on Project Safe Release from 2018-2020, an innovative project that worked with female victim defendants incarcerated at the Cumberland County Jail and/or on pretrial service contracts. This innovation created a safety net of referrals and resources for women incarcerated in the Cumberland County Jail (CCJ) and/or on pretrial service contracts in the community that enhanced victim defendant safety. TTD and MPS formalized a partnership of mutual referrals so that victim defendants will consistently receive gender-responsive victim services related to domestic and sexual violence. Specifically, MPS refers individuals to TTD prior to their release from the CCJ and while in the community; TTD meets with the referred individual to make a coordinated safety plan and link her to TTD victim services. This innovation is important because almost 1/3 of the total caseload for Maine Pretrial Services has

been female defendants and approximately 75% presented with either a substance use disorder, mental health issue or co-occurring disorders.

Contact: Shawn LaGrega, Deputy Director, Maine Pretrial Services; Jen LaChance, Director of Advocacy and Victim Services, Through These Doors.

### **Board of Visitors Recommendations**

- The current Electronic Medical Record system used by our medical providers is quite out of date and causes inefficiencies. Recommend explore updating to a new Electronic Medical Record
- Recruit and/or employ via partnership additional staff to increase frequency of warm hand-off referrals for individuals leaving incarceration for needed services, especially housing, substance use, and mental health services. These services may best be carried out by Intensive Care Managers funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, or case managers funded by other means.
- Advocate for the Maine Department of Corrections to move their sentenced individuals to other premises to alleviate effects of acute staffing shortages.
- Create programs when able such that individuals who are suffering from substance use disorder may engage in medication assisted treatment if they have not received a previous diagnosis or were not already receiving MAT. Clients engaged in such supports shall receive a direct referral for continued services upon release.
- Consider a review of the Residents grievance policy and procedure and consider a step which includes an independent review. Although the policy does have DOC oversight, we may benefit from designating one contact person to streamline where able.
- We appreciate the many programs which were in place pre Covid that supported residents in their preparation to return to their communities. Once staffing can be stabilized, we encourage a resumption of all programs which will support successful reentry.

The Board of Visitors provides these recommendations with full understanding that all considerations of additional supports for residents may be challenging or impossible without lessening the impact of current staffing shortages. The BOV also acknowledges the ongoing global pandemic and its continued impact on all operational and programming considerations.

## FACILITY DIAGRAM



