



Cumberland County Jail Board of Visitors Annual Report 2023



Respectfully submitted by:

Colleen Hilton, Chair

Cushman Anthony

Garrett Stewart

Victor Dumais

Amanda Place

Erika Allen

Overview

As the largest jail in the State of Maine, the Cumberland County jail serves a remarkably diverse population. The mission is to provide a healthy, safe, secure, humane, and cost-effective environment in which to detain persons alleged or convicted of crimes.

Major Tim Kortez serves as the Department's Jail Administrator, overseeing the smooth functioning of the facility. Two key individuals support him: Captain John Costello, responsible for operations, and Captain Erik Frigon, in charge of administrative support services. These three individuals work together to ensure the effective management of the Cumberland County Jail.

Within the department's supervisory staff, there are nine Lieutenants and twelve Sergeants, who play crucial roles in maintaining order and implementing policies within the facility. In total, the department relies on approximately 140 staff members, consisting of both Corrections Officers and Civilians, who form the backbone of the institution.

One vital aspect of the jail's operation is its partnership with Armor Health, which provides full-time medical care. This ensures that the inmates receive the necessary medical, dental and behavioral attention throughout their confinement.

The Cumberland County Jail accommodates a current average population of 240 to 245 inmates based on current available staffing. This sizeable number necessitates the provision of numerous services, including medical and mental health support, Medical Assisted Treatment, Re-Entry assistance, Food Services, and educational opportunities. These offerings aim to support and rehabilitate inmates during their time in custody, preparing them for a successful transition back into society upon release.

Despite its average population, the jail has a rated capacity of 570 inmates. In 2023, the facility processed a total of 4,070 inmates, highlighting the importance of efficient systems and services to manage the significant inflow and outflow of prisoners.

The Administrative Support Services Division offers a range of programs and services to inmates. These include religious services, Alcoholics Anonymous, and Narcotics Anonymous meetings, catering to the diverse needs of the incarcerated population. Additionally, a dedicated Re-Entry and Reintegration team strives to assist inmates in achieving success after their release.

Maine Pre-Trial Services and Alternative Sentencing programs are other vital components of the Department's operations. These initiatives play a critical role in addressing the issues surrounding pre-trial detainees and exploring alternatives to traditional sentencing methods.

On the other hand, the Operations Division is responsible for maintaining the security of the facility. They also oversee the food service unit, ensuring that the inmates receive proper nutrition during their stay.

Overall, the Cumberland County Jail operates on multiple fronts, from security and medical care to rehabilitation and reintegration services. The facility is PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) certified and accredited through the American Correctional Association as well as the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. The Cumberland County Jail remains committed to the well-being and successful reintegration of inmates into society while upholding the principles of justice and public safety.

Medical Care

As recommended in last year's report, the Jail Board of Visitors recommended supporting the purchase of a new health record system. Armor Health transitioned from CorrecTek to Core Solutions. Core Solutions is a progressive platform that is much appreciated by the Armor team and is working well.

Under the direction of Kyle Manahan, LCSW the Health Services Administrator, he is supported by the following personnel; A Medical Director, Intensive Case Managers, Behavioral Health Director, Mental Health Clinicians, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Director of Nursing and Nursing personnel. Psychiatric consultant can also be called upon as needed. The Medical team also manages through the various public health and communicable disease outbreaks that occur.

Of note this past year, the team worked on a project to reduce and eliminate critical incidents in the Special Housing Unit. Critical incidents are defined as any use of force or show of force.

The team implemented several strategies and techniques to enhance services to the SHU and the results from May of 2023 – November 2023 demonstrated effective methods to reduce critical incidents.

- Critical incident data for day shift 5/1/23-10/31/23 is **down 64%** when compared to 2022 day shift for the same time period.
- There have been **zero critical incidents in the SHU since 6/23/23 on day shift** - meaning 4 months without any critical incident on day shift

- Across all **three shifts (7-3, 3-11 and 11-7) critical incidents are down 46%** in the SHU compared to 2022.

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 three terms as the Mayor of Westbrook. She has extensive background in public health.

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. Cushman is also a member of the Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition.

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 located in Lewiston. Previously, Victor has served as a Treatment and Recovery manager for the Office of Behavioral Health.

Amanda Place

Amanda is a person in long term recovery. She works as a primary counselor at Recovery Connections of Maine. Amanda is the assistant director of Survivors Speak USA. Amanda has a background in advocacy and is passionate about serving people affected by substance use disorder and various system involvement including the criminal justice system.

Erika Allen

Erika is a family law attorney based in Cumberland county. She keeps busy by volunteering with civic organizations and previously worked as the program coordinator at the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault. She hopes to use her time on the Board of Visitors to ensure that the folks that pass through the jail's doors are treated with respect and humanity during the length of their stay.

In keeping with our obligation to “inspect” the facility, most 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.

The Board of visitors held meetings in 2023 on the following dates:

- January 13, 2023
- June 14, 2023
- October 2, 2023

Federal Grants supporting mental health and substance abuse services at CCJ

COSSAP: Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-Based Program – Bridges for ME

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.

This COSSAP Bridges for ME grant will end approximately 4/3/24 and the next grant is the COSSUP Pathways for ME which is projected to start on 4/4/24.

Other Gifts or Donations

The Point Church located at Clarks Pond in South Portland provided a donation of \$80,000 to assist inmates upon release with housing, transportation and clothing. The donation has no end date and is not a recurring gift, but we anticipate it will be utilized over the next few years. The donation was derived from the Church collection during Easter weekend of 2023.

Other County grants providing services at the Cumberland County Jail: The Sheriff is exploring the possibility of a county level pilot program that may be able to be funded via the Opioid Settlement dollars. We currently have 88 inmates on Methadone treatment and there are other emerging medications that might be helpful for the inmates who are close to being released where they could receive an injection in lieu of daily medication.

Board of Visitors Recommendations from 2023

- 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.
 - ✓ This is happening and will be an ongoing goal.
- Advocate for the Maine Department of Corrections to move their sentenced individuals to other premises to alleviate effects of acute staffing shortages.
 - ✓ This is working and will be an ongoing goal.
- 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.
 - ✓ 88 inmates are currently receiving this treatment.

- 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.
 - ✓ Most programs have resumed such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. Staffing is improving with increased graduates from the Academy, and many are of diverse backgrounds. This has been hugely helpful to enabling us to stabilize staffing, and also presents CCJ with new challenges which will require additional support to ensuring the new recruits are successful in their roles.

Board of Visitors Recommendations for 2024

- With the updated 2023 statutes for the Board of Visitors it will require attention to ensure we are following the new recommendations (see attached addendum). Together with the Sheriff and the Administration we will need time to solidify the additional expectations.
- Consider investments in additional security cameras and upgrades to existing surveillance software. We heard from the Correction Officers that the perimeter of the building is often a hangout for transients, and it would be helpful to have additional cameras for this type of support.
- The Sheriff and other leaders of the Jail have noted that there needs to be more support, education and awareness that comes from a more diverse workforce. In the coming year the Board recommends that additional education and support for both the existing correction officers and the newly hired diverse correction officers to assist with assimilation and success in retention of the workforce.

Facility Diagram

