

# Strengthening Behavioral Health Partnerships

## Developing Community Pathways in Parole

### Presented to:

**Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative (PAARI) 2025 National Law Enforcement Summit**

### Presented by:

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February 26, 2025

# Objectives

- Understand the importance of relationships between community partners and public safety agencies.
- Understand ways in which the Community Pathways approach has positively supported reentry efforts in Massachusetts.
- Discuss means to build intra- and inter-agency communication through partnerships and trainings.

# MA Parole Overview

- In addition to the MA Parole Board Members, there are four units:
  - Transitional Services Unit (TSU)
  - Field Services Division (FSD)
  - Victim Services Unit (VSU)
  - Life Sentence Unit (LSU)
- 2022 data shows that over 3,008 face-to-face hearings were conducted
- There was a 14% increase in the number of incarcerated individuals released on parole supervision in 2022 (1,876)

# MA Parole Overview

- Total number of individuals under parole supervision increased 8% from 2021
- Revocations decreased 15%; 76% of parole discharges were successful
- TSU paroling rate increased to 69% in 2022
- Field Parole Officers assisted 653 parolees with transitional or sober housing in 2022 (increase of 8%)
- At end of 2022, there were 1,835 individuals on parole supervision

# What is the Community Pathways Program?

- The Parole Recovery Opportunity (PRO): Community Pathways Program develops channels for the enhanced delivery of care to individuals with a substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health disorders who are reentering the community under Massachusetts Parole Board (Parole) supervision.
- The Program works to increase communication, relationship building, and connectedness between Parole staff, supervised individuals, and community providers.
- The Program maximizes resources available to Parole Officers while improving positive health outcomes, community tenure, and success.

# What is the Community Pathways Program?

Develops channels for the enhanced delivery of care to individuals with substance use and other behavioral health disorders reentering the community.

**Maximizes  
resources  
available to  
Parole Staff**

**Improves  
positive health  
outcomes**

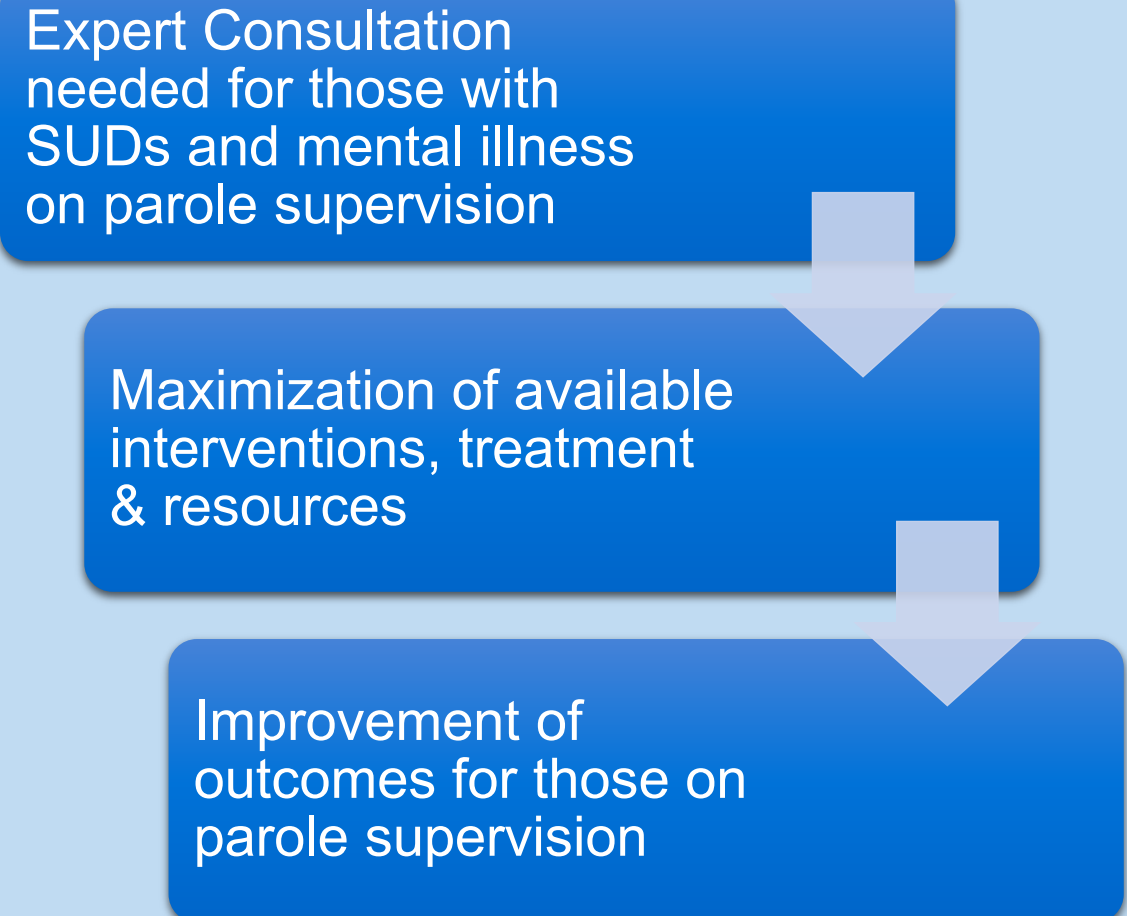
**Improves  
community  
tenure**

**Improves  
overall success  
for reentry**

# Why is this Important?

- Benefit to individuals on supervision by effectively providing appropriate treatment responses, resources, and interventions.
- Benefit to Parole Officers by supporting them as they seek to find behavioral health services for their members.
- The Program will improve positive outcomes and the lives of the individuals.

Expert Consultation  
needed for those with  
SUDs and mental illness  
on parole supervision



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graph TD; A[Expert Consultation needed for those with SUDs and mental illness on parole supervision] --> B[Maximization of available interventions, treatment & resources]; B --> C[Improvement of outcomes for those on parole supervision];
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Maximization of available  
interventions, treatment  
& resources

Improvement of  
outcomes for those on  
parole supervision

# Community Pathways Timeline

**2022**

**Community Pathways Developed**

- Established Inter-State Agreement between Parole and ForHealth Consulting
- Trainings
- Field clinical and pharmaceutical consults

**2024**

**Community Pathways Reentry Expansion**

- Acquisition of Reentry Navigators
- Roundtable meetings
- Data analytics

**Community Pathways Clinical Expansion**

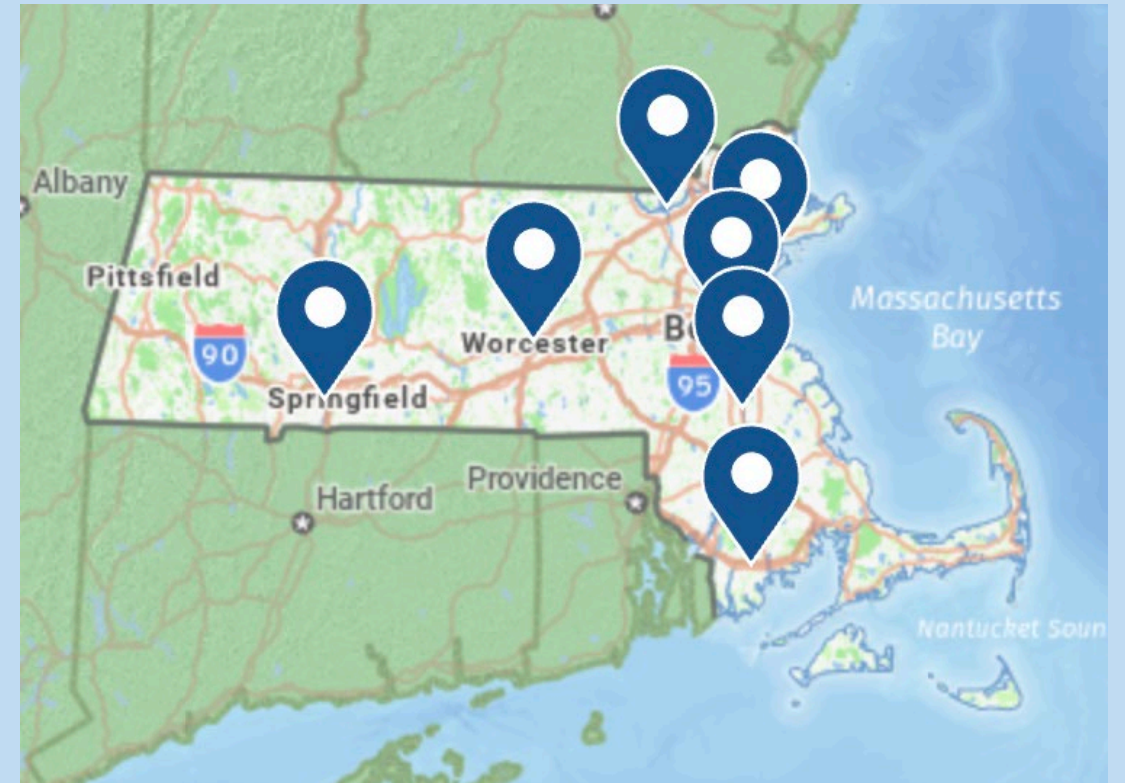
- Awarded SMART Supervision Grant through BJA
- Sr. Clinical Evaluator position developed
- Community outreach and collaboration

**2023**



# Where does the Program support?

- There are nine Regional Parole Offices across the Commonwealth
- TSU staff are embedded in all Department of Corrections (DOC) and House of Corrections (HOC) facilities across MA
  - 10 DOC facilities
  - 14 HOC facilities



# Who is the Program for?

- Clinical and pharmaceutical consultation services for all Parole staff
- Individuals on Parole who:
  - Have SUD and need support around accessing and connecting to resources
  - Have mental health diagnoses and need support around accessing and connecting to resources
  - Increased calls related to elderly individuals on parole needing support and access to resources
- Parole staff also receive specialized training in behavioral health to help improve their working relationship with individuals on parole and increase their knowledge and awareness of community resources.

# Components of the Program

## Training provided to all Parole staff

- All Parole staff have access to and attend training specifically geared towards education around Substance Use Disorder (SUD)/Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD), the intersection of behavioral health and justice involvement, and developing skills to work with supervised individuals in a supportive, balanced, and appropriately responsive way.

## Provide education and connection to community-based MOUD and mental health providers

- Increased support to the Parole Board staff is available through an array of pathways, to include improved communication with community-based organizations, and enhanced clinical and pharmaceutical consultation, bolstered by the support and reinforcement of Reentry Navigators, rooted within Parole.

## Clinical consultation available to Parole staff

- Clinical and pharmaceutical consultation for Parole staff working with incarcerated individuals, in varying stages of parole eligibility.

# How Does the Program Work?



Referrals & Increased  
Access to Supports



Connections to  
Community Providers



Establish & Enhance  
Relationships



Increased Community  
Tenure & Decrease  
Revocations

# Case Study 1: CS

- Referral received after in-person training
- Community Pathways staff reviewed documentation in Parole case management system
- Case conference initiated by Community Pathways
- Additional recommendations to Parole leadership

# Case Study 2: CW

- Referral from Parole Board Member
- Case consult with Field Parole Officer
- Meeting with individual on parole supervision
- Larger case conference

# Case Study 3: VMV

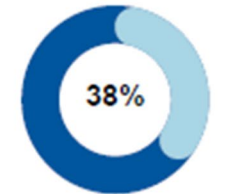
- Referral from Institutional Parole Officer
- Positive parole vote to specific program
- Conflicting reports from different agencies re: needs
- Behavioral challenges, pending charges
- Community consults

# What does Progress Look Like?

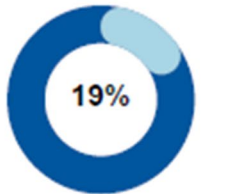
## COMMUNITY PATHWAYS

### 2024 Key Metrics and Overview

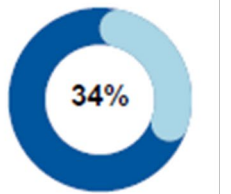
#### Areas of Consultation



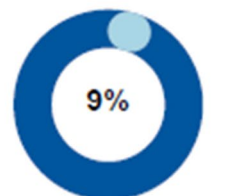
OUTREACH & COLLABORATION



PHARMECUTICAL CONSULTATION



CLINICAL CONSULTATION AND RE-ENTRY SUPPORT



RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION & EDUCATION

155+

Direct medical provider connections

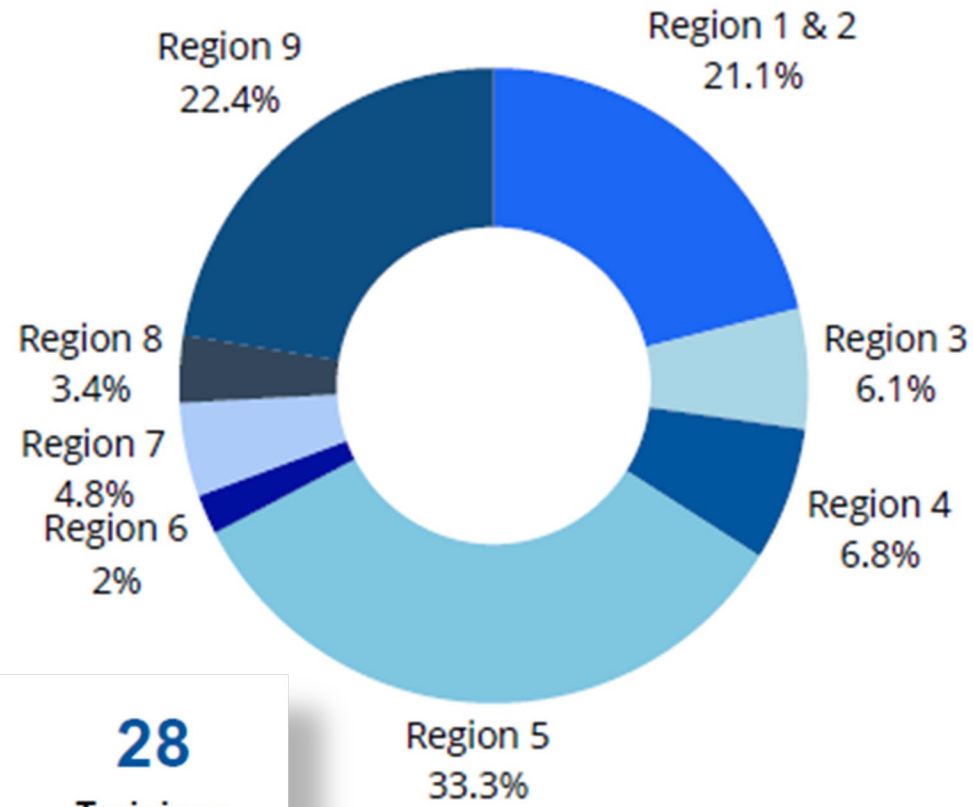
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Tours and on-site collaborations

28

Trainings Completed

#### Parole Regions Serviced





# Ongoing Support



Monthly trainings



Community roundtables



Case Reviews



SPIRIT access



Region-specific resource booklets



Newsletter



Pharmacological one-pagers



Clinical consultation



Pharmaceutical consultation

# Questions? Please Contact Us!

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Thank You