

# Building Bridges:

## Parole and Behavioral Health Collaboration

**Presented to:**



**NCCHC 2025 Spring Conference  
on Correctional Healthcare**

**Presented by:**

**Whitney Kraemer, LMHC, CCHP**  
Senior Director,  
Justice, Health, & Equity

**Geneva Weymouth, LMHC, CCHP**  
Senior Clinical Evaluator,  
Justice, Health, & Equity

April 5 - April 8, 2025

# Disclosure and Disclaimer

- We do not have any relevant financial relationships with any commercial interests.
- This educational presentation was developed by independent experts. The information provided in this presentation is not the official position or recommendation of NCCHC but rather expert opinion. This information is not intended to be appropriate for every clinical situation nor does it replace clinical judgment.
- NCCHC does not endorse or recommend any products or services mentioned.

# Learning Objectives

**Learning Objective 1:** Review the importance of relationships between community partners and public safety agencies

**Learning Objective 2:** Evaluate how the Community Pathways approach has positively supported reentry efforts in Massachusetts

**Learning Objective 3:** Identify ways to collaborate to improve reentry and supervision

# Massachusetts Parole Overview (1)

- 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)

# Massachusetts Parole Overview (2)

- Since 2021, the total number of individuals under parole supervision increased 8%
- 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 (an increase of 8%)
- At the end of 2022, there were 1,835 individuals on parole supervision

# What is the Community Pathways Program? (1)

- 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? (2)

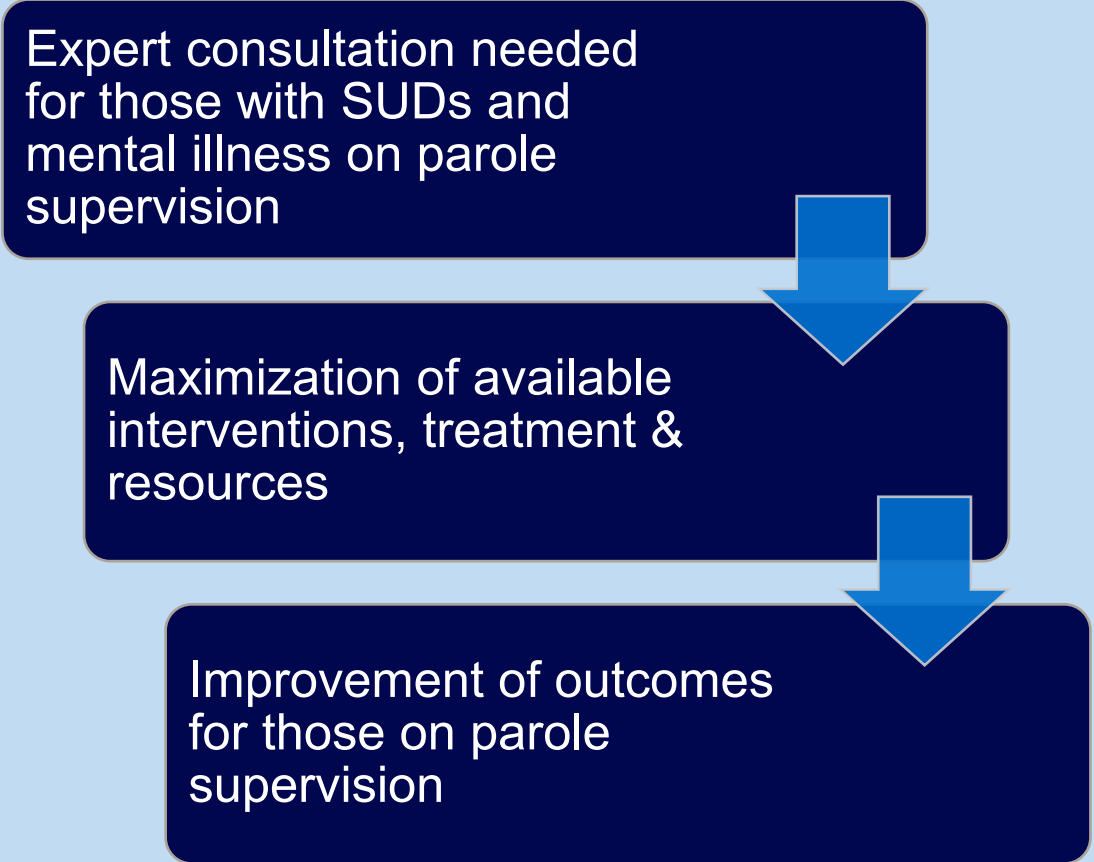
The Program develops channels for the enhanced delivery of care to individuals with substance use and other behavioral health disorders reentering the community.



# 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



```
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];
```

Maximization of available interventions, treatment & resources

Improvement of outcomes for those on parole supervision



# Community Pathways Timeline



# Components of the Program

## **Training provided to all Parole staff**

- All Parole staff have access to and attend training specifically geared towards education around SUD/Medication 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 for the Parole Board staff is available through an array of pathways, including 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**

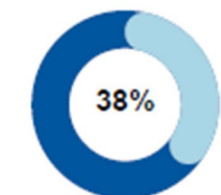
- Clinical and pharmaceutical consultation for Parole staff working with incarcerated individuals, in varying stages of parole eligibility.

# What Does Progress Look Like?

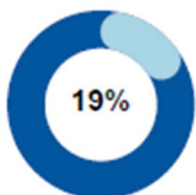
## COMMUNITY PATHWAYS

### 2024 Key Metrics and Overview

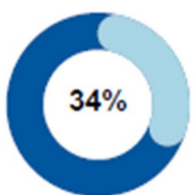
#### Areas of Consultation



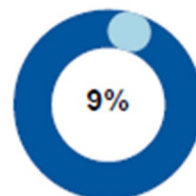
OUTREACH & COLLABORATION



PHARMECUTICAL CONSULTATION



CLINICAL CONSULTATION AND RE-ENTRY SUPPORT



RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION & EDUCATION

**155+**

Direct medical provider connections

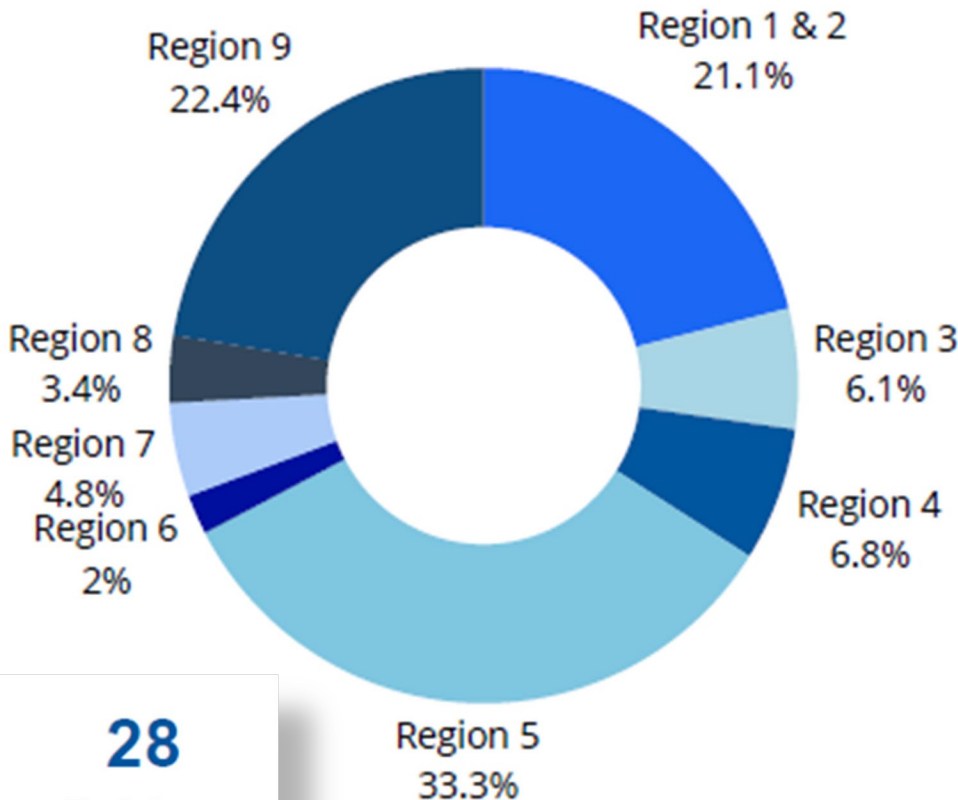
**31**

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

# References

- To ensure compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq. (ADA)., Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq. (Section 504), cognate state laws, and Crowell v. MA Parole Board, 477 Mass. 106 (2017) (Crowell).
- <https://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/african-american-mental-health>
- <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/executive-office-of-public-safety-and-security>

# Questions? Please Contact Us!

**Whitney J. Kraemer, LMHC,  
CCHP**

Senior Director,  
Justice, Health, & Equity

ForHealth Consulting at  
UMass Chan Medical School

Phone: 585.469.5707

Email:

[Whitney.Kraemer@umassmed.edu](mailto:Whitney.Kraemer@umassmed.edu)

**Geneva Weymouth, LMHC,  
CCHP**

Senior Clinical Evaluator,  
Justice, Health, & Equity

ForHealth Consulting at  
UMass Chan Medical School

Phone: 847.912.0338

Email:

[Geneva.Weymouth@umassmed.edu](mailto:Geneva.Weymouth@umassmed.edu)



Thank You