



Essex County Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger

INFORMATION UPDATE



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ESSEX COUNTY DETOX PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTED AT NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMIT



Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger addressed over 200 national law enforcement leaders at the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI) Summit held at the Boston University School of Medicine in Boston. The national summit focused on the current opioid addiction crisis and programs that show promise to more effectively address it.

Sheriff Coppinger noted that in just one year, 2016, over 65,000 deaths were caused by drug overdoses nationally. Over half of inmates have drug abuse and addiction issues. Despite the enormous amount of hard work, thoughtful strategies and resources that police chiefs and sheriffs have thrown at this problem over the last few years, the crisis has not yet peaked. It is still getting worse, according to federal statistics.

"I was happy to share what we are doing here at the Sheriff's Department to provide inmate detox programs and what many Essex County communities are doing to stem this destructive tide," said Coppinger.

Coppinger described in detail what programs are being implemented in his Essex County Corrections Department. The separate 42-bed male and 42-bed female detox facilities are located within the House of Correction.

An innovative referral process involving the judges, district attorney, probation officers, defense attorneys and police is utilized. Those referred are provided intensive medical, psychological, and behavioral services during the 28-day program.

Coppinger cited the unique collaboration between his Department and PAARI. PAARI recovery coaches provide support services to detox participants for 10-20 hours per week both pre- and post-release. to implement their case plan by conducting groups, attending court appearances, and one-on-one check-ins to assist in successful re-entry. These services enable the program to extend beyond the facility walls. Coppinger believes that this kind of coordinated follow up is having a dramatic effect on a participant's success after completion.

"I want to hear about what strategies are having success in other states. And I look forward to sharing that information with the local police and fire chiefs, mayors, school superintendents and leaders of organizations across Essex County with whom I work collaboratively to find and implement effective solutions. We cannot ignore this problem," concluded Coppinger.



PAARI SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS (L to R) Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger, Asst. Supt. Darya Maslova, Arlington Chief of Police Frederick Ryan, Exec Dir. PAARI Allie Hunter McDade, Community Relations Coord. Gary Barrett.



From the Sheriff's Desk...



Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger

Over the past year, the Essex County Sheriff's Department has worked very hard on our positive agenda to improve staff training, to expand the detox program, to improve pre-release and re-entry programs and to develop community partnerships. I am pleased to report that progress has been made on all fronts and I am looking forward to continuing these efforts in 2018.

Top to bottom audits of ECSD's budget, programs and policies have been helpful in assessing what steps needed to be taken to maximize our funding and staffing resources. The resulting changes are already increasing the Department's efficiency and effectiveness.

In 2018, decreasing recidivism is a priority. In Massachusetts, two-thirds of inmates released from jail end up back in the criminal justice system within three years. The ECSD will be redoubling our efforts to expand inmate pre-release and re-entry programs. Community follow-up is also a critical component of keeping former inmates from re-offending. ECSD is increasing outreach and collaboration with businesses and local communities to develop program partnerships. Improving these programs will help break the negative cycle by increasing an inmate's chance to succeed in a law abiding community.

I am encouraged by the progress being made and the cooperation we have received from so many. I will keep you posted moving forward. Input, comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Kevin F. Coppinger

ESSEX TECH AND ECSD FORMING BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIP

Essex County Sheriff Kevin Coppinger has expanded his Department's efforts to partner with the community on many projects and that includes the ECSD's closest neighbor Essex Technical High School. When the ECSD hosted the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony on National Recognition Day, Sheriff Coppinger turned to Essex Tech to capture this event on video. Essex Tech students, as part of their curriculum, learn from real life experience and on the job training. On the day of the ECSD event, several students and two Instructors with video and still cameras put their talent and to work. The Essex Tech team also edited the footage for the public to view on the ECSD website.

"I am very impressed with the programs offered at Essex Technical, we are happy to reach out to them when opportunities arise to give their students real experience while preparing for their future employment," said Sheriff Coppinger.

The ECSD most recently has utilized the agriculture related programs. ECSD needed some maintenance around the grounds to remove trees that could cause winter storm damage to fences and buildings. Once again, Essex Tech High was called. Instructors and students evaluated tree health and implemented a plan to cut and prune trees to reduce the possibility of weather damage. Students with instructors worked on the grounds using each situation as a teaching moment.

Sheriff Coppinger concluded, "The ECSD is very grateful for the partnership we are building with the Essex Technical High School, it's administration, staff and students. We look forward to many mutually beneficial projects in the future."





ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT GRADUATES 26 CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS FROM BASIC TRAINING ACADEMY

Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger administered the oath to 26 new Correctional Officers of the Essex County Sheriff's Department (ECSD) at the Basic Training Academy graduation ceremony held at Northern Essex Community College (NECC) on December 8. The rigorous, 12-week Basic Training Academy on the campus of NECC is the final phase of the process to become a Correctional Officer. The successful graduates, who come from communities throughout Essex County, will now be assigned full-time positions at ECSD run facilities.

"Comprehensive training is the key to excellence and effectiveness in corrections at every level. We have designed a very demanding training program for recruits to become proficient in many critical areas. Today's graduates have made it through a long approval process and successfully completed the requirements to begin a career as a Corrections Officer but it will not end here. Their training will continue throughout their work at the Sheriff's Department as we are committed to building and maintaining a strong, professional team. We look forward to having our new Correctional Officers become an important part of it," said Sheriff Coppinger.

NECC President Lane Glenn attended the ceremony and spoke about the mutually beneficial partnership between the ECSD and NECC to provide coordinated training and course opportunities to the law enforcement and corrections communities. A large percentage of law enforcement professionals receive their career related education from community colleges. NECC provides ECAD's Basic Training Academy as well as other courses for preparation and/or advancement in corrections careers.

Many proud family and friends of the male and female graduates attended the ceremony. A memorable moment for each new Corrections Officer was when their hard-earned badge was pinned on their new uniform for the first time by a special person in their life.



Congratulations to ECSD's new Correctional Officers:

Daniel Ashwell, Cara Buckley, Paul Cerino, Nicholas Cognato, Christopher Day, Ryan Doyle, Andrew Gentile, Justin Gilman, Melissa Jewett, Kelsey Jewett, Alexander King, Cameron Labrecque, Jessica Lebrun, Christian Mangini, Diego Martin, Marc Menard, Meredith Nicosia, Michael Powers, Thomas Pitman, Francisco Reyes, Gabriel Rodriguez, Bryan Shedd, Caitlyn Tobyne, Anton Trubitsyn, Zachary Vatcher, and Kostyantyn Zozulya.



ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CONTRABAND IN ECSD FACILITIES

Last Fall, Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger and District Attorney Jonathan W. Blodgett announced a zero tolerance policy regarding the possession or introduction of contraband into any Essex County correctional facility.

Everyone interacting with an inmate is required to increase their awareness of contraband and not intentionally or unwittingly contribute to contraband smuggling. Essex County Sheriff's Department policies prohibiting any and all contraband will be strictly enforced without exception.

The ECSD has invested in new detection equipment and staff training to stop drugs and harmful materials from entering the facilities. In January, the corrections facility was locked down for one week while a complete sweep was conducted to detect and remove any contraband from the premises.

All correctional facilities today are in a constant battle to interdict contraband including a variety of drugs. Persons struggling with the disease of addiction will often resort to desperate measures to meet their opiate cravings, whether in the community or while incarcerated.

"I will do everything possible to protect our inmates, staff and the community," Sheriff Coppinger stated. "This will include the deployment of proactive, professional and reasonable tactics to detect and deter the use of drugs and introduction of contraband into any area for which I am responsible."

"Individuals caught introducing contraband into an Essex County correctional facility will be prosecuted," District Attorney Blodgett said. "Contraband threatens the safety of the correctional facility population and staff and will not be tolerated."

Sheriff Coppinger continues to work in concert with the District Attorney and the court personnel to tackle this serious problem which poses safety threats to both inmates and corrections staff.



FOUR ECSD K-9 OFFICERS RECEIVE MEDAL OF VALOR AWARD FROM MASS. POLICE ASSN.

The Massachusetts Police Association (MPA) awarded its Medal of Valor Award to police and corrections officers who responded to a deadly, domestic violence incident in Lawrence in April, 2016. The MPA presents the Medal of Valor to officers throughout the state who have risked their lives in the line of duty and demonstrated courage and true professionalism.

Four Essex County Sheriff's Department (ECSD) K-9 officers were among the 24 officers commended for their courage and effectiveness in the line of duty. ECSD K-9 Unit's Lt. John Pickles, Sgt. Stephen Pomerleau, Marco Ayala, Sgt. Derrick Beasley and Sgt. John Zaccari received their commendations at a Medal of Valor Award ceremony during an MPA luncheon in Lawrence.

"We are proud of the outstanding performance of these officers under extreme pressure. They bring honor to themselves and to the Sheriff's Department K-9 Unit. Their dedication to training and professionalism save lives and make Essex County a safer place to live," said ECSD Special Sheriff William Gerke who attended the ceremony.



Essex County Sheriff's Department Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger

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