

MAINE PRETRIAL SERVICES, INC.

REPORT TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE, JANUARY 2021

PRESENTED BY SHAWN LAGREGA AND ELIZABETH SIMONI

MAINE PRETRIAL SERVICES MISSION STATEMENT

- Maine Pretrial Services, Inc. is a private, non-profit agency committed to providing pretrial services, post-conviction alternatives, and diversion options throughout the state of Maine.

MAINE PRETRIAL SERVICES, INC.

BRIEF OVERVIEW:

Maine Pretrial Services, Inc. started as the Cumberland County Bail Project in 1974.

Incorporated to its current 501(c)3 status in 1983.

Initially with 2.5 full time staff in one county, it then expanded into three counties, and eventually worked towards a statewide presence.

MPS currently delivers pretrial services in 11 Maine counties, Drug Court case management in 7 counties, and has a combined presence in 13 counties.

TODAY'S MEET AND GREET

- **This presentation will focus largely on the pretrial functions of the agency, which are contracted for with participating counties.**
- **The pretrial work includes screening the jail population, performing risk and needs assessments, brokering services, linking inmates to jail and community based resources, and releasing individuals under court orders or sheriff orders for community based supervision and supports.**

AGENCY OBJECTIVES

To appropriately consider the purpose of bail and the constitutional guarantees afforded the accused when recommending conditions or combinations of conditions designed to ensure appearance while reducing risk of re-offense for all in-custody defendants.

To provide objective, comprehensive information to the court, prosecution, and defense regarding each in-custody defendant for use in the bail determination.

To recommend the least restrictive bail sufficient to ensure the appearance of the defendant at court, reduce the risk of recidivism while awaiting disposition of the case, enhance public safety and promote the integrity of the judicial process.

To provide effective community supervision and monitoring of court ordered conditions of release for all eligible defendants.

To reduce recidivism and promote appearance by collaborating effectively with community based resources for behavioral health, recovery, education, employment, housing, peer support, and more.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

- Pretrial Release, pursuant to MRSA Title 15, Part 2, Chapter 105A, Section 1026
- Title 30-A Release, pursuant to MRSA Title 30-A, Part 1, Chapter 13, Subsection 4, Section 1659-A
- All counties shall have some pretrial services function, pursuant to legislative mandate.

PRETRIAL SERVICES BY COUNTY

Androscoggin

Cumberland

Franklin

Kennebec

Knox

Lincoln

Oxford

Penobscot

Sagadahoc

Waldo

York

STAFFING BY REGION

- Region 1: 18 FTEs
- Region 2: 18 FTEs
- Region 3: 15 FTEs
- Staffing broken out between direct service pretrial staff, direct service CCM staff, direct service drug court staff, supervisors, and administrators.
- Agency works to achieve economies of scale between pretrial and drug court work, including testing platforms, technology platforms, courtesy supervision, and seamless transitions between programs.

TREATMENT COURT CASE MANAGEMENT BY COUNTY

Androscoggin

Cumberland

Hancock

Kennebec

Penobscot

Washington

York

SNAPSHOT: INDIVIDUALS SERVED UNDER COUNTY CONTRACTS

2019 Cumulative Data	2018 Cumulative	2017 Cumulative
TOTAL: 3085	TOTAL: 2934	TOTAL: 2929
Pretrial: 2346	Pretrial: 2287	Pretrial: 2222
Deferred: 469	Deferred: 319	Deferred: 335
CCM: 191	CCM: 232	CCM: 261
Prob Rev: 26	Prob Rev: 25	Prob Rev: 38
Admin Rel: 18	Admin Rel: 24	Admin Rel: 11
Post-Conv: 35	Post-Conv: 47	Post-Conv: 62

JAIL BED DAYS SAVED OR AVOIDED

2019	2018	2017
456,771	400,632	369,996

SAFETY AND APPEARANCE RATES

Revocations:

2019

3085 Served

425 Revocations

179 Criminal Conduct

30 Failure to Appear

2018

2934 Served

442 Revocations

189 Criminal Conduct

22 Failure to Appear

2017

2929

411 Revocations

178 Criminal Conduct

36 Failure to Appear

COST TO COUNTIES

24.5 FTEs committed to pretrial, post-conviction, and reentry release and monitoring.

Total contract costs: \$1,551,984 for FYE'21.

This includes direct staff and supervisor time.

This does not include any drug court staff.

Special thanks to Penobscot County Sheriff Troy Morton and the Penobscot County Commissioners, who coordinated to fund another FTE mid-year due to work load.

COST AVOIDANCE BY THE WEEK

Weekly Snapshot Reporting

As of January 22, 2021, Maine Pretrial Services reports:

-1449 individuals under monitoring in the community.

Of these:

-906 are awaiting trial

-316 are under deferred dispositions

-191 are enrolled in recovery courts

The rest are scattered between CCM, Administrative Release, and Graduated Sanctions.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

MPS has adopted a hybrid work model.

- Designed to keep clients, staff, and community safer.

- Remote work includes some client contacts, video saliva testing for alcohol and other drugs, in-custody arraignments, and more.

- In-person work includes defendant interviews at jails, reporting for high-risk, high need individuals, urine based alcohol and other drug testing, etc.

- MPS utilizes technology to maximize defendant contact and staff availability: telephone, zoom, google duo for video chat, ReConnect technology, email, and slack internal chat functions.

- MPS is working to receive vaccinations for all staff who are exposed during jail and community based client work.

PARTNERSHIPS

DHHS-ICM partnership for increased coordination for individuals experiencing severe and persistent mental health and behavioral health issues

Cumberland County Reentry/COSSAP grant involvement/Building Bridges

Partner in DOL Opioid Workforce Development Grant

McArthur Innovation and Capstone Grant Work under Safety and Justice Challenge

Partnership with Maine Prisoner Reentry Network

Research and Evaluation with Public Consulting Group, using pretrial data for drug court comparison groups

NATIONAL WORK

National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA) board involvement, national trainers

NAPSA Accreditation, Re-Accreditation process for agency

NAPSA Chair of Accreditation Commission

National Institute of Corrections (NIC) involvement

Pretrial Executives Network, Pretrial Executives Orientation Alumni

Publications:

- NAPSA Black Letter Standards on Release, publication revised and released 2020
- A Framework for Pretrial Justice: Essential Elements of an Effective Pretrial System and Agency, 2017

GRATITUDE

Maine Pretrial Services would like to thank its supporters and partners, including, but not limited to:

Maine Sheriffs

Maine Jail Administrators

Administrative Office of the Courts

Maine Department of Corrections

Maine Office of Behavioral Health

Maine Prisoner Reentry Network

Our work would not be possible without any of the stakeholders in Maine's criminal justice and behavioral health system. Thank you.

