

Massachusetts Women Justice Network (MWJN), 2011-2012.

Criminal justice administrators, local, state and federal policymakers, and justice reform advocates throughout the US are coming to the realization that the current average daily prison population of 2 million is unsustainable, especially with costs approaching \$5 billion a year and a continuing recidivism rate of over 40%. Even in countries with far lower incarceration rates than the 750 per 100,000 in the US, policymakers are grappling with high costs and the ineffectiveness of current approaches, and seeking alternatives. Although women are particularly appropriate candidates for alternative approaches (85% of their offenses are non-violent and related to a cycle of substance abuse, sexual, physical and psychological trauma) they are frequently omitted from these discussions. The MWJN's goal for 2011-2012 was to raise awareness of women's circumstances, disseminate information about women-centered approaches, and raise interest in cost-effective alternatives to incarceration for women in Massachusetts. The MWJN produced:

1. **A Women-Centered Training Approach** (Fact Sheet #1)
Created a training outline for Massachusetts Department of Probation incorporating:
 - a. Evidence based research and practice
 - b. Trauma-informed research and practice
 - c. Relational-cultural research and practice
 - Presented training outline to 70 probation officers.
 - Wrote training proposal and explored funding with support of Dept. of Probation.
 - Presented training outline to MWJN members.
2. **A Review of Risk And Needs Assessments (RNA) Appropriate for Women** (Fact Sheet #2)
 - Examined critiques of RNA instruments by Gender-responsive experts
 - Reviewed RNA instruments utilized primarily by CJ personnel
 - Reviewed RNA instruments utilized primarily by substance abuse/medical personnel
3. **A Critique of the Correction Master Plan (CMP), 2012: Focus on Women** (Fact Sheet #3)
 - Summarized data on predicted population of women in state and county facilities, 2020
 - Reviewed strategic recommendations for facilities to accommodate women in 2020
 - Identified ongoing areas of concern for women
4. **An Update of Massachusetts Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI)** (Fact Sheet #4)
 - Updated data previously documented in 2011 ATI for Women Project
 - Conducted outreach in MA to identify new ATI initiatives.
 - Discussed initiatives with MWJN members and identified areas for development
5. **A Review of Recent International Policy for Women Offenders** (Fact sheet #5)
 - Visited exemplary projects working with women offenders in the UK.
 - Presented paper on ATI at international conference, University of Cambridge, UK.
 - Reviewed innovative strategies to address women offender concerns
6. **A Summary of the Gender-Responsive, Community-Based Program Report** (Fact sheet #6)
 - Formed a Women in Prison Coalition that identified programs in four counties
 - Provided documentation on 17 programs providing resources to women in prison, on probation, pre-sentencing and post-release.

Other Activities

- Provided testimony to the Massachusetts Judiciary Committee on health and pregnancy concerns.
- Established contact with the Governor's Criminal Justice Commission re: women offenders

This work could not have been accomplished without the support of numerous experts throughout the Commonwealth.

Sarah Abbott*	Director, Jail Diversion Programs, Framingham, Marlborough Police Depts.
Steve Bocko*	Deputy Commissioner of Research and Training, MA Dept. of Probation
Elizabeth Brusie*	Attorney, Steps to Justice, MA Women's Bar Foundation.
Brad Dye*	Staff Director, Rep. Ellen Story's office
Kate DeCou	Former Asst. Superintendent, Hampden County House of Correction
Kira Dunn	Former Housing Analyst, MA Dept. of Parole
Hon. Carolyn Dykema*	MA State House Representative, 8 th Middlesex District
Len Engel	Policy and Project Director, Crime and Justice Institute
Debby Flynn-Gonzalez	Family Services Supervisor, SquareOne Childcare Center, Springfield
Gail Fortes	Executive Director, YWCA of Southeastern MA
Andrea Goode-James*	Attorney, Advocate for Families for Justice and Healing, former inmate
Julie Goldberg	Former inmate, Boston University staff
Patricia Horne*	Deputy Director, MA Office of Community Corrections
Hon. Kay Khan*	MA State House Representative, 11 th Middlesex District
Sonya Khan*	Policy Analyst, Middlesex County Sheriff
Laura Lempicki*	Director of Research, MA Dept. of Probation
Jeffrey Liebman*	Professor, John F. Kennedy School of Government
Daniela Lopes*	Clinical Supervisor, MA Office of Community Corrections
Julia Lucivero*	Legislative Aide/Communications, Rep. Kay Khan's office
Lisa Talbot Lundigan*	Vice-President of Operations, AdCare Criminal Justice Systems Services
Ashley Mann*	Housing Search Director, Homestart
Laurie Markoff*	Director of Trauma Integration Services, Institute for Health and Recovery
Maryellen Mastrorilli*	Asst. Professor, Metropolitan College, Boston University
Sandra McCroom*	Under-Secretary, MA Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Patty Murphy*	Asst. Superintendent, Western MA Women's Correctional Center
Susan Sered	Professor, Suffolk University
Mary Pfister*	Substance Abuse Service Coordinator, MA Dept. of Children and Families
Debra Pinals*	Deputy Comm., Clinical and Professional Services, MA Dept. of Mental Health
Fran Pisegna*	Director, Worcester Office of Community Corrections
Karen Pressman*	Director, Programs and Development, MA Dept. of Public Health (BSAS)
Gabriella Priest*	Policy Analyst, Crime and Justice Institute
Mary Reardon-Johnson	Executive Director, YWCA of Western MA.
Christina Ruccio*	Director, Women's Programming, Suffolk County House of Correction
Lisa Rosenfeld*	Attorney, Rep. Kay Khan's office
Emily Shield*	Program Coordinator, Cambridge Women's Commission
Norma Wassell*	Attorney, MA Committee for Public Counsel Services
Joan Whitaker	Director of Health services, ABCD Boston
Mary Viera*	Acting Chief Probation Officer, Bristol County

* **MWJN member.** Others listed were members of the earlier **Women in Prison Coalition** (2009-2010) and the **ATI Project Advisory Group** (2010-2011).