

I have served as the coordinator of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the last fifteen years and the Director of the Sheriff's Addiction Treatment Program since 2015. The value of having a reasonably good sense of how the criminal justice system functions in this county, from the point of the initial police contact with individuals, through to release from our local jail, or the state prison system, has factored heavily into how I originally approached the running of the Sheriff's Addiction Treatment Program – the only alternative to incarceration that actually involves incarceration. Sheriff Toulon is very supportive of the rehabilitation of persons confined to the jail and he relies on key staff members, both sworn officers and civilians, to run programming within the jail, to reduce the likelihood that persons will remain enmeshed in the criminal justice system.

Suffolk County's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) was formed under Local Law NO. 23-1974, and has been in place in Suffolk County since 1974. The primary role of the CJCC is to provide oversight of all activities pertaining to crime prevention or the enforcement and administration of the criminal law, including, but not limited to activities involving police, prosecution or defense of criminal cases, courts, probation and correction, juvenile delinquency prevention and juvenile justice. The council is currently chaired by District Attorney Timothy Sini and Sheriff Errol Toulon serves as the Executive Director. The CJCC membership is a fair representation of the majority of key stakeholders in the county's criminal justice system.

The Sheriff's Addiction Treatment Program, formerly known as the DWI Jail Alternative, has been in place since 1987. The program originally served convicted male repeat DWI offenders but within five years (1992) incorporated females, whose use disorders correlated to their criminal charges. Today, the Sheriff's Addiction Treatment Program is run out of a section of the renovated Yaphank Jail facility. Aside from two group counseling rooms, one small intake office and another room used for individual counseling, there are two dormitories situated side-by-side, each with a capacity to hold up to twenty four male and, of course separately, twenty four female inmates.

At any given point we have a mix of sentenced and unsentenced individuals participating in the SATP and while a common factor that unites them is their substance use disorders, they span the gamut in terms of their backgrounds and experiences. The charges that they face or have faced, relate directly or indirectly to their efforts to maintain their use of substances and the realization of how the consequences of their actions have impacted their lives and the lives of everyone they relate to – becomes clearer with each passing day, week and month that they are in custody. On a daily basis, my staff and I witness the gradual changes in thinking, feeling and behaving that occurs for each of the individuals in the program, as the substances that have clouded their sense of themselves, others, and their place in the world, leave their systems, forcing them to reassess their choices and begin to envision living a life that is either more closely in line with long held morals and values or one that requires the learning of such morals and values.



SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff's Addiction Treatment Program

The Sheriff's Addiction Treatment Program (SATP) is an intensive substance abuse treatment initiative designed for incarcerated individuals with a range of criminal charges, all of which correlate to their substance use disorders. Participants in the program can either be sentenced or unsentenced, but in either case, they must have a minimum of thirty days left in-custody (minus good time) to enter the program. Length of stay in the program varies by individual and is subject to regular review by the staff in coordination with the program director. It is guided largely by the individual's progress.

While participation in the SATP cannot be mandated, every effort is made to work collaboratively with the courts, defense counsel and prosecution to obtain the best possible outcome for defendants whose criminal behavior is tied to their substance use disorders -- behavior that also poses a threat to public safety.

Individuals referred to the SATP enter the program with varying levels of exposure to prior treatment, from none at all to substantial involvement, and every effort is made to meet the participants where they are at. The program is designed around basic use disorder educational materials that are intertwined with exercises and programming intended to help the participants become more self-aware. There are a variety of workshops that target specific areas involving thinking and behavior and volunteers who provide programming designed to help with insight into health and well-being. The program design also allows for discharge for those unsentenced participants who have been particularly responsive and for whom the Judge is prepared to contemplate a community-based treatment plan while the court continues to consider the most appropriate disposition on pending charges.

The SATP is staffed with Social Workers and Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselors (CASACs) who provide both group and individual treatment sessions. The SATP includes Correction Officers who are specifically dedicated to the treatment dorms and these officers are part of the treatment team. The female and male dorms each have twelve bunks and there is direct access to a private outside yard.

SATP participants receive individual and group counseling that is delivered by CASACs and/or Social Workers, and are provided with the additional following programs:

- Yoga and Meditation – (Certified Yoga Instructors) (Males & Females)
- Trauma Release Exercises – Certified TRE Counselor
- Fatherhood Classes (Males Only) – (The Fatherhood Initiative/ The Retreat)

- Anger Management – (Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence - LICADD)
- Education about HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Hepatitis, Substance Use, Chronic Illness – (Eileen B.)
- Start to Stop Addiction Treatment Program (LICADD)
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Gamblers Anonymous
- Parenting and Reentry Classes (Females Only) – (New Hour for Women and Children)
- Spiritual Guidance – (Sr. Barbara & Deacon Roger)
- Art Class – SATP Staff Member
- Herstory Writer’s Workshop (Females Only)
- Crocheting (Females Only)
- Legal Aid Workshop (Elizabeth J.)
- BOCES Workshop (Michael S.)
- Mentoring (Kyle B.) (Males & Females)
- Salvation Army (Females Only)
- Motivational Workshop (Jim R.)
- Treating the Whole Person (Dathonie)

Brief History:

The Sheriff’s Addiction Treatment Program (SATP), formally known as the DWI Program, was once run out of a separate facility on jail grounds where treatment was provided to males with repeat drunk driving offenses. Years later, the program was expanded to include females charged with crimes related to their drug and/or alcohol use. In 2016, the initiative was revamped and in April 2017 the new Sheriff’s Addiction Treatment Program moved into a wing of the Suffolk County Correctional Facility in Yaphank. In addition to the separate dorms for men and women, there are four rooms that are utilized for counseling and group meetings.

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