2011 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
STRAFFORD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The year of 2011 was our seventh (7th) year of operating the new jail. Direct payments from inmate boarders for the year was $5,561,358.44, a decrease of $396,575.55 from last year, but approximately the same level as 2009. Our average daily population increased by approximately 33 inmates per day, up to 429 from 396 for 2010. We booked 4,586 people in 2011 (slightly higher than the 4,103 for 2010) which included 3,454 males and 1,131 females. Of those inmates, 448 females and 911 males were held for other jurisdictions. Of the Strafford County inmates booked, 527 were sentenced and 1,376 were pre-trial status.

Our video hearings continue to increase and we have divided our video arraignment room into two (2) separate hearing areas to accommodate the increase. Sgt. Laura Noseworthy has taken over these hearings in addition to her classification duties. Video court hearings increase safety for Court personnel and substantially decrease costs to the towns in Strafford County because Officers no longer need to transport inmates to the Courts. We seldom have issues with our equipment, but on the rare occasions that we do, our County IT department, specifically Jeff Olson, has been invaluable in getting the system back on line.

We currently have contracts to house inmates for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the U.S. Marshals Service, New Hampshire State Prison and Rockingham County. We also exchange inmates with other counties as needed to keep co-defendants separate or eliminate other conflicts of interest.

I am again pleased to announce that all Strafford County Correctional Officers completed the required annual thirty (30) hours of training necessary to maintain their certification. We hired eleven (11) new staff members to replace those who retired or left for other reasons, and sent three (3) Correctional Officers to the New Hampshire Association of Counties (NHAC) Correctional Officers Academy to complete the
required one hundred and twenty (120) hours of training needed for certification. In addition, we promoted two (2) officers to the rank of Corporal: Adam Rivera and Kevin Boucher were both promoted in June of 2011 and have proved themselves to be competent and valuable members of the Department of Corrections management team.

Training this year included a new less-lethal use of force option -- the addition of Tasers to our force continuum. Tasers have the advantage of being an effective tool to control unruly inmates without requiring the lengthy decontamination process of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray. While we continue to rely on our interpersonal communications skills to communicate clearly and professionally with inmates, it is advantageous to have another effective tool we can use if needed.

We continued to conduct facility tours for students from Spaulding, Portsmouth, Farmington, Nute, Dover, Oyster River Cooperative, and St. Thomas High Schools. Other guests included Explorers, Leadership Seacoast, City Year NH, Dover Citizen’s Academy, and UNH Citizen’s Academy. Our Diversion Program continues to offer individual tours to at-risk teens and has proved very popular with the parents and guardians of these children.

As part of our boarding contract, we have yearly inspections conducted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office, the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the United States Marshal’s Service. Not only did we do very well on the inspections, all of the agencies were very complimentary on both our staff and facility.

Formal inmate disciplinary hearings remained stable, with the hearing officer conducting an average of fifteen (15) hearings per week. In 2011, we also started entering inmate misconduct information into our Jail Management System; this allows all officers, including Community Corrections personnel, to quickly access an inmate’s disciplinary history and establish patterns of behavior.

We held our annual Employee Recognition Banquet on June 17, 2011. The following employees received recognition for their achievements in 2010:

**Life-Saving Award:** Officers Kathy Thibeault, Cassandra Caillot, Andrew Bromfield, Captain Bruce Pelkie and Superintendent Warren Dowaliby
**Humanitarian Award:** Sergeant Laura Noseworthy
**Community Service Award:** Officer David Meehan
**Innovation Awards:** Officers Robert Hayden, Adam Rivera, Lieutenant Donna Roy
**Food Services Employee of the Year:** Peter Donnelly
Medical Department Employee of the Year: Linda Baillargeon
Administrative Support Employee of the Year: Leah Chabot
Rookie of the Year: Officer Angela Allen
Officer of the Year 1st Shift: Officer Dennis Chabot
Officer of the Year 2nd Shift: Officer Lori Spagnola
Officer of the Year 3rd Shift: Officer Chris Dame
Supervisor of the Year Award: Corporal Gary Cormier
Community Corrections Director of the Year: Director Joseph Devine
Community Corrections Employee of Year: Jayne Young
Employee of the Year Award: Officer Robert Hayden

We are proud of our ongoing efforts to help inmates transition into society. The Transitional Housing unit that was opened in 2009 has been very successful throughout this year in helping released homeless inmates get reintegrated into the community. It has also allowed inmates who would otherwise have to remain incarcerated because of lack of stable housing to get released onto our Step-Down program, saving taxpayers’ money and helping inmates transition back into society. The Coast Bus continues to be an integral part of this process by permitting those living in transitional housing to seek employment so they can achieve self-sufficiency by providing transportation.

2011 has been a year of change in the facility. Superintendent Warren Dowaliby retired as of August 1st after 27 years with Strafford County; his dedication to the facility will be missed, but he has earned a relaxing retirement and we wish him the best. County Administrator Ray Bower was appointed as the Acting Superintendent and, along with Captain Pelkie and the other supervisors, has been keeping the daily operations of the jail running smoothly. Also joining Warren in retirement was Victoria Heyl, our Programs Director and an employee for 22 years; her job duties have been assumed by Assistant Superintendent Jake Collins. Sadly, in this tough economic climate, budget cuts were necessary throughout the County and the Department of Corrections was no exception; we laid off two (2) employees in addition to those who retired. One employee was able to eventually be re-hired in our Community Corrections Department when a vacancy opened. The remainder of the staff pulled together to assume extra duties and help with creative cost-cutting wherever it was efficient and safe to do so.

Our officers continue to be the glue that holds the facility together; their dedication and commitment are truly inspiring and it is wonderful to have such a talented and professional group of people to rely upon.
Apart from the amazing work the officers and support staff do for the jail, we could not be successful without the support and diligence of the Board of County Commissioners. The Commissioners have always been very supportive of the jail staff and remind us on a regular basis that the jobs we do are important. Their vision guides us towards the future in a way that is evident by our current success. They also show support for the officers and support staff by personally congratulating each recipient at our awards banquet, which they always attend.

I know there will be many challenges in the coming year beyond running the jail as we have done. Budget issues will continue to be a challenge, but I have every confidence we will meet and exceed expectations. I am anticipating that we will continue to help the taxpayers of this County by stressing reduction of criminal behavior beyond the doors of this institution in our efforts to reintegrate those that have been separated from society.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Management Team of the House of Corrections,

**Raymond Bower**
Raymond Bower, Acting Superintendent

**Bruce Pelkie**
Bruce Pelkie, Security Captain

**Jake Collins**
Jake Collins, Assistant Superintendent - Education

**Gwen Weisgarber**
Gwen Weisgarber, Lieutenant
Educational Programs

**Education:** GED preparation and Adult Basic Education. Dover Adult Learning Center provided GED and Adult Educational classes three days each week for a total of nineteen (19) instructional hours per week.

**Special Education:** Special Education was offered at SCDOC. Coded students are referred to a tutor who contracts with the local school districts to provide services to incarcerated special education students.

**ESOL:** Three (3) weekly classes of English as a Second Language were offered to inmates with language barriers.

**Volunteer Tutors:** Three (3) volunteer tutors worked in the facility in 2011, providing a combined average of approximately eight (8) tutoring hours a week.

**GED Exam:** Sixty-two (62) inmates were administered the GED exam. Forty-Five (45) passed all sections of the exam; seventeen (17) passed portions of the exam. One (1) inmate earned his high school diploma while in custody through Somersworth High School.

**Enrichment Program:** Two (2) enrichment programs each week were offered to inmates: Topics included: Sociology, Psychology and Personal Development.

**Therapeutic Community Program/Women’s Recovery Program**

148 individuals were enrolled in either the men’s or women’s Therapeutic Community program.
100 individuals successfully completed all requirements of the program.
12 individuals dropped out of the program at their own request.
36 individuals failed the program.

**Substance Abuse/Behavioral Programs**

**Drug and Alcohol Counseling:** SCDOC provided twenty (20) hours per week of drug and alcohol counseling services. Educational groups were offered weekly to each housing area in the jail.
Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous: AA groups for both male and female inmates were held weekly for each housing unit and daily for the TC units, this past year. NA groups were held bi-weekly.

Anger Management Training and Life Skills Classes: SCDOC provided five (5) anger management classes and three (3) life skills classes per week.

Parenting Classes: Three Parenting classes were offered on a weekly basis; one (1) class for female inmates and two (2) classes for male inmates.

Ending the Violence Program: Three (3) sessions were offered per week in 2011.
Victim Impact Seminar: This class was offered to female inmates on a weekly basis.

Positive Options Program: This program offers individual modules of anger management, attitude adjustment and life skills classes. A program counselor and volunteer provided individual service to five (5) inmates weekly.

Pet Therapy: Offered weekly for two (2) hours.

Yoga: Two (2) one-hour classes weekly.

Jail Diversion Program: Jail diversion tours were offered on a regular basis. Students from Rochester, Dover, Farmington, Milton, Oyster River, and Somersworth high schools all toured the jail. Several at-risk and alternative schools also toured the jail.

Vocational Services

Pre-Employment Program (PEPP): This program teaches inmates job search skills, helps them to prepare resumes and job applications and teaches job interview skills. Five (5) classes per week were held per week in 2011.

Computer Classes: Dover Adult Learning center provided computer classes at SCDOC. Four (4) basic and two (2) advanced classes were offered weekly. Two (2) computer graphic arts classes were also offered.

Career Assessment: This program assisted inmates with vocational evaluation and planning. In 2011, 110 inmates completed this program.

Career Workshop: A volunteer facilitated two sessions per week of job and college preparation planning skills.

Work Release Program
Work Release Inmates: There were a total of twenty-two (22) inmates out for day work release for 2011. There was one (1) inmate on child care release in 2011.

Spiritual Services Conducted in 2011

Sunday Service: Weekly Catholic group that meets on Sunday for the female inmates.

Sunday Bible Study: Weekly group for female inmates.

Monday Night Bible Study: Bible study conducted for female inmates and special needs inmates.

Catholic Services: Weekly Catholic program offered to females and to male general population units.

Bible Study and Music Ministry: Program for male general population that includes bible study and spiritual music.

Spiritual Services Assistant: A volunteer was available for a total of ten (10) hours per week to assist with handling requests for spiritual services.

Catholic Counseling: Four (4) volunteers currently offer individual Catholic counseling to inmates.

Mediation: Two (2) volunteers facilitated a meditation program for two units.

Internships

SCDOC hosted interns from the University of New Hampshire in 2011. Four (4) interns were from the Justice Studies Program and one (1) from the Social Work Program. During the academic year each of these interns provided approximately twelve (12) weekly hours of service. Duties included: Assistance with educational programs, assisting with discharge plans, observing in the TC units and administrative support.

Inmate Services

Library: The Programs Department solicited and managed donations of more than 7,000 books in 2011. Currently there are more than 11,000 titles in the library.

Law Library: Three (3) law library computer stations containing New Hampshire State, Federal and Immigration Laws were provided for inmate use.
Discharge Planning and Substance Abuse Entry Report

During 2011, 89 inmates were interviewed and assessed for reentry into the community. As determined by the assessments, the services needed by inmates ranged from transportation to securing proper forms of identification, with transportation being the highest need. Out of 89 inmates, 48 were in need of transportation, 46 were in need of employment, 40 did not have medical insurance, 35 were in need of substance abuse treatment, 32 needed public assistance, 27 needed housing, 25 needed medications, 20 needed mental health treatment and 21 needed identification. As part of the discharge planning, inmates were referred to the appropriate service agencies for assistance such as: Healthcare for the Homeless Van, Department of Health and Human Services, City Welfare, Housing Authorities, Homeless Shelters, New Hampshire Employment Security, Coast Bus Service, Catholic Charities Counseling Services, Dover/Rochester Counseling Services, Southeastern NH Services and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA).

Inmate phone screens to substance abuse programs totaled 65 during 2011. Out of that total, 44 were accepted to substance abuse programs like the Farnum Center, Southeastern NH Services and Phoenix House. The majority of the referrals to substance abuse programs came from the court as an agreement, commitment, or court order. The other referrals came from United States Probation and attorneys.

Isabel Padial, Manager/Inmate Advocate
Programs Department
2011 JAIL INDUSTRY ANNUAL REPORT

Earnings Comparison

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Invoiced 2009 - 2011

We were very pleased with our increase in business this year and will strive to increase business in 2012 thus increasing earnings as well as inmate workers.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marilyn Allen, Jail Industry Director

2011 FAMILY RECEPTION CENTER ANNUAL REPORT
The Family Reception Center (FRC) is nine (9) years old as of March of 2012. Our mission has been to provide a comfortable, trusting, and supportive environment where inmates’ families and friends may come before or after visits to receive validation, support, and resources that may lessen the negative impact experienced through incarceration. Based on our continued data collection we are indeed lessening stress. Updated data still shows that we continue to have approximately 3,200 contacts over a given year with families.

Quarterly events for families include Easter Baskets, a summer barbecue, Halloween goody bags, and a visit from Santa during the Christmas Holiday season. Santa poses with the families for pictures. These pictures are given to their loved ones who are incarcerated at our facility. Santa and his volunteers distribute presents to any children who visit during the Holiday Season. In addition, we were able to give away two (2) free Thanksgiving baskets to two lucky families again this year. Information is available to families at the Family Reception Center on how to maneuver through the Corrections system. In addition, resource materials are available from neighboring agencies.

The Family Reception Center continues to be self-sufficient thanks to the assistance of our FRC volunteers and board members. Without these people, the doors of the FRC could not remain open to welcome the inmate families and children. I want to say a very special thank you to the Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund, who has supported the FRC almost from the beginning.

This year a long-term volunteer, Reverend Ellen Lankhorst donated $100.00 to the FRC. Many local agencies and friends of the Family Reception Center also donate items for our special events throughout the year.

The Family Reception Center also supports itself through weekly inmate picture taking, as well as the sale of Christmas cards to inmates during the holiday season. As a result, Strafford County is proud to say that the FRC continues to meet their goal of welcoming and supporting inmate families and children during a very difficult time in their life. Recent research continues to support the premise that inmates who experience support during incarceration, including visits, have a much greater chance of success at time of release.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Allen Founder & Coordinator

2011 STRAFFORD COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ANNUAL REPORT
Strafford County Community Corrections is composed of several programs, all united under the same mission. We work within the criminal justice system to create a safer community. We provide the courts with accurate information and offer viable cost-effective pretrial and sentencing options through a balance of enforcement and treatment strategies, while holding offenders accountable and affording them the opportunity to become productive law-abiding citizens.

**Pretrial Assessments:** Strafford County Community Corrections completes assessments on all defendants booked into the Strafford County House of Corrections. The interview or assessments takes place as soon as possible, and is the first step in preparing the defendants assessment for court. The intake coordinator then uses the information gathered as a foundation to assist them when completing the report for the court. Typically the assessment contains criminal history, pending charges, address history, employment history, education, dependents, and community ties.

This assessment is given to the Judge to aide in making an informed decision when determining if bail supervision is necessary. The assessment is available for use during the defendant’s arraignment, probable cause hearings, and bail hearings.

In 2011, Community Corrections completed 577 assessments on defendants booked into the jail.

Some interesting facts about 2011 Assessments:

- 18% of the defendants interview were found not acceptable
- 19% of the defendants interviewed are charged with a domestic violence crime.
- 40% are charged with misconducts. *(Violation of Probation, Breach of Bail, or failure to appear)*
- 33% of the defendants interviewed are charged with a felony.
- 34% of the defendants interviewed were arrested by Rochester PD.
- 48% of the defendants interviewed are unemployed.

**Pretrial Supervision:**

All defendants on Strafford County Community Corrections Pretrial Supervision must comply with a standard set of conditions that we tailor to the needs of the individual client. The court may also order specific conditions for the defendants to follow.
Examples of standard conditions are:

- Checking in by telephone daily
- Reporting to our office at the discretion of the defendants Case Manager
- Refrain from the use of excessive alcohol
- Submit to mandatory random and scheduled drug testing
- Adhere to a curfew
- Electronic monitoring to include GPS or the use of remote alcohol monitoring
- Court ordered no contacts
- Notification of all changes to telephone numbers, address, and employment
- Notify the staff of any contact with Law Enforcement
- Refrain from the use of any alcohol
- Refrain from possessing firearms
- House checks to ensure complianc and verify address and living situation
- Travel Restrictions

Community Corrections completed 238 total intakes. Of the clients placed with Pretrial Supervision 33% were ordered from Dover District and 36% from Rochester District.

Of the 277 cases that were closed in 2011, 74% of the clients successfully completed and did not have a violation that caused termination from the program. Most importantly 99% of the clients appeared at their respective court dates. Of the violations we had these are some of the common violations:

- 14% had alcohol violations
- 36% had positive drug tests
- 14% picked up new charges
- 20% absconded supervision

One area of concern is we saw an increase in the amount of time defendants were on supervision.

**Average Length on Program**

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**Trends of 2011 Pretrial Supervision:**

- 88% of the defendants being supervised are male.
- 46% of the defendants are unemployed
- 28% of the defendants have no GED or High School Diploma
- 39% of the defendants have misdemeanor Domestic Violence related charges
- $47,674.33 worth of fees were collected
- 5,684 days of community service were completed
- 670 job searches were completed
- 78% of our drug tests completed were random drug tests.
Based on these averages if Community Corrections Pretrial Clients stayed in jail it would have cost the County $3,022,362 in 2011.

**Post-Trial Supervision:**

Community Corrections has two (2) post-trial programs. The first is Administrative Home Confinement (AHC). This is a court ordered program where the defendant typically spends some time in jail and the remainder at home and is supervised in the community.

The second program is the Step-Down Program. The idea behind this program is to encourage continued life improvements for inmates as they transition from life within the jail facility back into the community. This is accomplished by taking inmates incarcerated in the HOC who are of good behavior and attending programs. Community Corrections then files a motion on the defendant’s behalf with the court. If granted the inmate is released into the community under the supervision of Community Corrections.

Community Corrections will complete an assessment on the sentenced inmates in the jail to see if they are appropriate for either of these programs. In 2011, Community Corrections completed 73 assessments on inmates who were incarcerated at the HOC. We consider 2011 another successful year for AHC and Step Down. We had a total of 115 intakes which is up 17% from last year. We also had a success rate of 87%. Two of the most common violations are drug use at 22% and alcohol use at 15%.

**Trends of 2011 Post Trial Supervision:**

- 89% of the defendants are male
- 39% of the defendants are charged with a motor vehicle related offense
- The average defendant is on supervision for 148 days
- $79,770.11 worth of fees were collected
- 10,671 days of community service were completed

Based on the averages if these defendants were required to spend their entire sentence in jail, it would have cost the County $1,412,660.

**Pretrial Diversion:**

The Pretrial Diversion Program in collaboration with the Strafford County Attorney’s Office has had another year of growth with 43 intakes and assisted in collecting $12,091.25 in restitution. The Diversion Program has been created for people who have had no prior criminal dealings with the criminal justice system and who the County Attorney’s Office does not anticipate returning to the system. We had 10 clients not
complete the program this year due to new charges that were brought up against them.

**Employability Program:**

The Employability Program brings together Community Corrections and the Division of Child Support Services in a partnership that will assist delinquent obligors to come into compliance with their child support order and help prevent civil incarceration to the Strafford County HOC. This program is the first in the State of New Hampshire and shows one more time how Strafford County stays on the cutting edge and has a seamless approach to corrections and the judicial process. In 2011, we had 46 new intakes, which saved $114,540 if these clients had to be incarcerated. But more importantly, we assisted in collecting over $29,156 worth of child support.

Strafford County Community Corrections would like to acknowledge and gratefully thank the Strafford County Superior Court, Circuit Court and Family Court Judges, the County Attorney’s Office, local prosecutors and defense attorneys, the New Hampshire Public Defenders Office, local Police Departments and the Strafford County House of Corrections for their continued support.

We would also like to thank the Strafford County Board of Commissioners and County Administrator Ray Bower for their continued support and innovative guidance.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Joseph R. Devine, Jr.*

Joseph R. Devine, Jr., Director
In 2011 the Alternative Sentencing Programs in Strafford County experienced continued growth and programmatic enhancements. By rehabilitating offenders in the community, we save taxpayer money while maintaining public safety and returning offenders back into the community as law abiding citizens. The Alternative Sentencing Programs co-exist in this county as part of an overall philosophy shift to supervise and rehabilitate offenders in the community with help from the entire County infrastructure. Without any piece of this infrastructure, these programs would not be able to operate as efficiently or as successfully as they do.

This infrastructure includes: Strafford County Community Corrections, including the Community Work Program, the NH Public Defenders-Dover office, the County Attorney’s Office, the Strafford County Department of Corrections, including the Therapeutic Community Program, the Strafford County Sheriff’s Department, Southeastern NH Services, NH Department of Corrections Probation/Parole, and the Strafford County Superior Court, Rochester and Dover Circuit Courts and the Family Court Division. Of course, County-alternative sentencing programs require local government support and without this support from the Strafford County Commissioners, Chairman George Maglaras, Robert Watson, and Catherine Cheney, these programs would not exist. The leadership from County Administrator Raymond Bower has been crucial over the past year as he provides the initiative and support we have needed to grow. In 2012 we will continue to seek the enhancement of our County Criminal Justice Programming and the infrastructure that supports these programs.

**Adult Drug Treatment Court:** Following a year-long pilot program, the Drug Court commenced full-operations on January 19, 2006 after securing a Department of Justice grant for three (3) years and was the first adult drug court in New Hampshire. The Drug Court is a specialty court program that connects non-violent, felony and misdemeanor-level, substance-abusing offenders and NH State Prison Parolees who meet the same criteria, sentenced out of Strafford County Superior Court, to an integrated system of intensive alcohol and drug treatment in the community, combined with case management, community monitoring, strict court supervision and progressive incentives and sanctions. By linking participants to treatment services, the program aims to address offenders' addiction issues that led to criminal behavior, thereby reducing recidivism, and protecting public safety.
The Drug Court is designed to be a 12-month felony-level, and a 6-month misdemeanor-level alternative sentencing program, divided into three phases, and followed by one year of probation. The Drug Court utilizes such programs as the Work Program, Therapeutic Community, Transitional Housing, and Re-Entry Specialists to help support sanctioning and clinical interventions. Over the past year, the Drug Court held steady with an average enrollment of 60 participants and graduates and average of 20 participants from the program each year. Since 2009, Strafford County has participated in a state-wide drug court meeting where all of the drug courts from NH discuss success and challenges while reviewing best practice models. A background check of all our graduates and terminated participants found the graduates’ recidivism rates over the past five (5) years for a new criminal charge is 9%, while the recidivism of the terminated drug court participant was 50%. This data was collected between April-June, 2010 and included everyone that began the program on January 19, 2006 and forward. The study was updated in 2011 and found almost the exact same recidivism rates. For more information regarding the Drug Treatment Court please contact: Alex Casale, Director @ 516-7193 or Carrie Lover, Coordinator @ 516-7195.

Community Corrections Mental Health Pre-Trial and Post-Trial Supervision:
Strafford County Pre-trial Mental Health Supervision provides case management and supervision of defendants who have been diagnosed with a mental illness, while residing in the community, awaiting trial. Through case management and supervision, the defendant is assisted to obtain and maintain appropriate mental health services and access medications to ensure stability while in the community. Defendants are released from jail without (in most cases) having to post cash bail. Supervision consists of daily/weekly phone and/or office check-ins, case management, voluntary referrals to services, medication checks, drug screens, and mental health compliance. In 2011, the Pre-trial Mental Health Supervision program averaged 40 clients at any given time and had a total of 162 total intakes.

Strafford County Post-Trial Mental Health Supervision offers community-based supervision to inmates of the Strafford County Jail. The Administrative Home Confinement program is a court ordered program in which inmates are found eligible for release once sentenced from court. The Step-down Program is a jail program that provides incentives for inmates who exhibit good behavior and willingness to participate in appropriate rehabilitative programs while incarcerated. All inmates released into the community are required to wear a GPS tracking device and/or a sobrietor. Program participants with mental illnesses are required to continue medications and mental health treatment in the community as part of conditioned release. In 2011, Mental Health Post Trial-supervised on average seven (7) inmates in the community and had a total of twenty-eight (28) intakes for the year. For more
information regarding the Mental Health Court, please contact Blair Rowlett, Director @ 516-5182 or Carrie Lover, Coordinator @ 516-7195.

**Strafford County/Rochester Circuit Court Mental Health Court Pilot Program:** This alternative sentencing program commenced operations in June 2007. The Mental Health Court provides court supervision and treatment services to mentally ill defendants to promote engagement in treatment, improve quality of life, decrease recidivism and increase community safety and awareness of mental health issues. The Mental Health Court is a 3-phase specialty court program designed for adults who have one or more misdemeanor-level and/or felony-level offenses and who are eligible for mental health treatment. The Mental Health Court involves frequent court appearances, as well as individualized treatment planning and case management. This program also awards incentives for healthy, appropriate behavior and imposes sanctions for negative behavior. The Strafford County Community Corrections program has made great strides in identifying and releasing clients with Mental Health issues. In coordination with Strafford County Judges and the local mental health center, SCCCP has helped develop bail language that compels defendants to get mental health treatment as a condition of their bail. The continuity of supervision that is provided from pre-trial to post-trial is a major factor in the referral and success of the program. The program is used in lieu of a jail sentence. Majority of successful completions result in convictions being vacated. The Mental Health Court team is consists of Judge Cappiello, Thomas Velardi, Carrie Lover, Blair Rowlett, Alexander Roth, Rochester Police Department, Judi Rogers, and Elizabeth Solof. In 2011, the Mental Health Court averaged eight (8) participants. The Mental Health Court was an outgrowth from the Strafford County Mental Health Council. In 2007, the Council also began a Crisis Intervention Team which includes staff from the Rochester and Dover Police Departments, Community Partners and NAMI-NH. In 2008 this team became certified as a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) who responds to mental health-related police calls to ensure a more systematic, sensitive approach to persons with mental health issues. For more information regarding the Mental Health Court, please contact Blair Rowlett, Director @ 516-5182 or Carrie Lover, Coordinator @ 516-7195.

**Habitual Offender Academy Program:** After the NH Department of Corrections eliminated funding for the traditional State-wide Academy Program in 2009, the Strafford County Attorney’s Office identified a need for the continuation of such programming for an identified Habitual Offender (HO) population. The primary goal of the Habitual Offender Program is to help persons with a Habitual Offender charge, work towards getting their driver’s license back. This process entails guiding participants through the Department of Motor Vehicles. Those who participate in the program are also on Administrative Home Confinement through Strafford County Community Corrections Program. There are two tracks to the HO Program; one track
for those who do not have any substance abuse issues and one track for those that do have substance abuse issues. Those who have a history with substance abuse are required to participate in counseling and self-help meetings as determined by a drug and alcohol evaluation. All those who participate in the Habitual Offender Program regardless of the track are required to attend the Life Skills group that the program runs. All participants are required to complete 150 hours of community service, call in for nightly curfew checks, and maintain a full time job or full time schooling. In 2011, the Habitual Offender Academy Program had 22 referrals with an average daily headcount of 14 participants. For more information regarding the Academy Program, please contact Carrie Lover, Coordinator @ 516-7195.

**Specialized Transitional Housing Program:** Strafford County Specialized Transitional Housing Program opened its doors on November 16, 2009. Strafford County received a federal grant from the Department of Justice that provided grant funding through March 2012. The focus of the Housing Program is to reduce the recidivism rate of the jail and prevent more County residents from being victims of crimes. Strafford County recognizes the importance of providing a smooth transition from the House of Corrections back into the community. Some of the road blocks those individuals face exiting the House of Corrections are homelessness and lack of structure. The purpose of the Housing Program is to provide those individuals with a residence for up to 90 days which allows them the ample time to find employment and a stable living environment. Individuals who will be considered eligible for the program will have completed extensive programming inside the House of Corrections and will complete the screening process for the program. While residents will not be inmates of the House of Corrections they will have to follow strict rules in order to reside in Housing. Residents will be subject to curfews, mandated to attend in house programming, and will be expected to complete job searches every day. The grant provided Strafford County with the ability to hire a Specialized Transitional Housing Director and a Re-Entry Case Manager with responsibilities to include monitoring the daily occurrences at Housing, helping the residents find employment and permanent housing, as well as running programming at Transitional Housing. In 2011, Transitional Housing-housed 65 residents with an average length of stay of 37 days. Out of the 54 residents who were eligible for employment, 45 obtained employment while residing at Transitional Housing and 3 residents completed their GED’s. For more information regarding the Specialized Transitional Housing Program, please contact or Carrie Lover, Coordinator @ 516-7195.

**Re-Entry Specialists:** Strafford County was awarded a one (1) year grant in the amount of $160,730 through The Second Chance Act Federal Grant Program through September, 2011. This grant has allowed Strafford County Community Corrections to hire two (2) full time Re-Entry Specialists. The Second Chance Act of 2007 provides a
comprehensive response to the increasing number of people who are released from prison and jail into communities and the subsequent challenges communities face as offenders attempt to reintegrate into society. A combination of trends in sentencing, incarceration, and post-release supervision has brought prisoner reentry to the forefront of discussion among policy makers, practitioners, and researchers. Without consistent support systems, access to resources, and positive intervention, a newly released offender is at risk to return to a life of crime therefore creating more victims of crime in our local community. A national average suggests a drug court participant commits 105 crimes before entering the program. Re-entry and transitional services allows for additional resources to be dedicated to prisoner/community integration, thus decreasing the potential number of victims associated with criminal activity. Further, many offenders have substance abuse or mental health problems that require immediate and persistent attention. Through this grant award, Strafford County will continue to build upon its overall therapeutic approach towards public safety and offender-community reintegration. For more information regarding Re-Entry, please contact Thomas Herzig @516-7198, or Jennifer Laferriere Re-Entry Specialists @ 516-7191 or Carrie Lover, Coordinator @ 516-7195.

Strafford County’s Alternative Sentencing/Supervision Programs and Specialty Courts team members who exhibited dedication and professionalism in 2011:

*Alex Casale, Drug Court Program Director
*Jamie Bennett, Drug Court Senior Case Manager
*Christopher Gowell Specialty Courts Case Manager
*Blair Rowlett, Mental Health Programs Director
*Amanda Vachon, Mental Health Programs Case Manager
  Tom Herzig, Reentry Specialist
*Jennifer Laferriere, Reentry Specialist
*Bruce Campbell, Specialized Transitional Housing Re-Entry Case Manager
*Carrie Lover, Criminal Justice Programming Coordinator

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Lover
Carrie Lover, MSW, LADC Candidate,
Strafford County Criminal Justice Programming Coordinator