

3/5/26

To Whom it may concern:

My name is Kelly Desmond and I have been a member of the Greenfield ReEntry FCSO for a little over 5 yrs. FCSO was the first ReEntry program I had joined. Having the FCSO here in Greenfield has helped hundreds of people with all they offer. They have DBT, Anger mgt, ACT also they provide transportation to and from all the services they offer. FCSO also has women and men groups weekly along

with Peer Support groups. They also schedule people and other services in the community to come in and talk in some groups such as help with Housing, Massability, Banking Social Security, Peoples medicare.

FCSO also tries monthly or every other month trips to Walmart Salvation Army which they will give you a voucher if needed. As you can see Greenfield as a community would be devastated by this loss. The members rely on them and what will happen to

them? As usual they would be lost when they leave jail. They also have an extensive clothing closet you're allowed to go in once a month.

I came to Greenfield Detox after I was released from Chicopee Jail. After detox CSS and TSS I went to a sober house and it was there that I was introduced to Jenn ~~Bre~~ ~~Bre~~ Brzezinski. She knew I came with nothing and the 1st day

She brought me a backpack filled with hygiene products. No one has ever done something like that for me ever.

I grew up in Agawam MA and stayed in Greenfield since because of all the help they offered. Honestly I don't know where I would be w/o FCSO. I have lost contact w/ my family because of my addiction but with FCSO I feel they have become my family.

I would like to personally thank  
Laurie, Jen B, Jen Avery  
Courtney Silva, MICKI Viveiros  
Ruben. Without every single  
one of these people I don't  
know what would of happened to  
me. I'm sober for 3 1/2 yrs have  
my own apartment all because  
of the ReEntry program I don't  
think you'll find a better  
group of people who care so  
much. As you can see taking

Away these many services  
From Greenfield could lead to  
people going back to jail, falling  
Down the wrong path, having no  
Support and being alone with  
No one to turn to for help.

Sincerely

Kelly A. Desmond  
413 325-2220

Kelly Desmond

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**Fwd: From my experience, what makes the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) different from other facilities I've been involved with is:**

1 message

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**Ruben Mercado-Lugo** <rmercado@fcso-ma.us>  
To: Jen Brzezinski <jbrzezinski@fcso-ma.us>

Mon, Mar 9, 2026 at 8:54 AM

Dear Jen,  
As always, thank you for all that you do.  
Below you will find the letter that I received from Benjamin Martinez.  
His contact number is 413 475 4457.

Respectfully,  
Ruben

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **B Martinez** <b27martinez@icloud.com>

Date: Fri, Mar 6, 2026 at 4:02 PM

Subject: From my experience, what makes the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) different from other facilities I've been involved with is:

To: Ruben Mercado <Rmercado@fcso-ma.us>

**My experience with the caseworkers is that whenever I was going through some serious crisis in my life and I felt hopeless and suicidal,,my re-entry caseworker RUBEN MERCADO helped me get the help I need by talking to me and helping me find the answers within myself, also I would like to emphasize,, if RUBEN MERCADO, JEN AVERY or Courtney Silva wasn't involved in my life when I was going through some serious life altering difficulties,,, I probably would have ended my own life or I would have been someone addicted to drugs and possibly overdose on them... Since I have been working with Ruben Mercado and his colleagues,Jen Avery and Courtney Silva, I have learned a lot about coping with my mental health and staying sober. I have completed a (Anger**

**Management) class that has helped me in controlling my emotions and the way I think. The RE-ENTRY center on GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS on MAIN STREET, has helped a lot of people that are homeless or needing a place to learn about coping skills and finding resources that the re-entry team has shown to be worthy of helping those in needs. They have helped so many people Men/Women alike, finding them help with Housing, Raft, drug programs, and even bringing people like myself to crisis center for mental health evaluation and finding them beds in those programs and giving them a chance and a glimmer of hope that there are people that actually care... In closing and thanking those involved in reading this, I pray that you guys would have it in your hearts to please reconsider your decisions about the re-entry center in GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS on MAIN STREET, since it's a place of safe haven and a place where the caseworkers actually care about the people they work with and help. Thank you for taking your time in reading this. Sincerely, Benjamin Martinez.**

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3/2/2026

To Whom it May Concern:

I first heard of FCSO when I woke up in jail after getting my third OUI. I had been suffering from alcoholism for years, and I did not know where to start to get help. When I came out of my cell, a reentry caseworker took me into her office, and started to get me help immediately. Mickey took my health insurance information and started to find places for me to go to get help for my addiction. FCSO was the first place I could ask for help and receive treatment for my addiction. I had been to many other facilities prior and never got the right treatment. She recommended me to a good facility and helped me to get to Recovery Center of America.

After my treatment there I attended groups at the re-entry center. FCSO is one of the only places in the area that offers transportation, so I could actually attend groups, without trying to figure out how I was going to get there. The groups that they offer are different than other places around here. I had tried AA and NA but did not like the format. The women's group at FCSO was one of the best recovery groups I had been too. I made a relapse plan in that group and still have it today almost three years later. The groups were different because we learned stuff that we can apply to our lives (like nutrition, self-care, etc.). Also, they bring support from other communities around. This was the first place where I felt I was not judged by staff and could truly be honest about my addiction.

FCSO and the people who work there honestly saved my life from addiction. It is important to have a place like this in Greenfield since there is a huge need for it. In this area there is a lot of addiction around, and we need more places where you can go and find the resources and connections that can help you. Also, there is recovery court in Greenfield where you are mandated to attend groups, and FCSO offers different types of groups different than AA or NA.

The most meaningful impact I had working with FCSO, was getting sober, and learning skills to stay sober. It was the first place that I could go to offer me support and got me the support I needed to stay sober. After my experience with FCSO, I attended college and am going for my degree in social work. The people who worked there inspired me to go back to school and help other people who are suffering from addiction.

*Chelsea Tela*

Chelsea Tela

62 Hillside Road

Montague MA

Phone Number: 413-313-8040

Email: [Telac2770@stuemail.gcc.mass.edu](mailto:Telac2770@stuemail.gcc.mass.edu)

1. They help us with resources that we need help with contacting. Other facilities are not one on one orientated

It gives me a place (safe) that I feel very comfortable to share my feelings. Both my good and bad days. They are very committed in helping when I reach ~~out~~ out for help, rides, or just a listening ear.

If myself would not have any of these supports.

2. When I left the jail, I came here both during and after. I'm not sure I would be able to open up in another atmosphere. When you are incarcerated you lose a big part of yourself, here I can be my sober self safely. It's really not about if the others were incarcerated. It's about being with people (community) that gives me hope.

3. Even when I left I was so unsure of what to do. When you're an addict, it's easy to just go back to what you know. The people in charge helped me to believe in myself. That I could change. The justice centers meetings have helped me to maintain my sobriety. They also have a resource ~~to~~ person who helps me with paperwork. At this point I have not relapsed.

It has been tough. Yes, I have ~~not~~ done  
the work. They guided me through.  
It would be a great loss to the community  
to lose the justice center.  
We would be losing a big support system.

Marcie Balfour  
53 Beacon Street  
~~Beacon St~~  
Greenfield Ma,  
01301

#  
413-325-3668

March 5, 2026

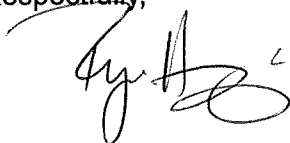
To whom it may concern,

Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) is different from any other facilities I've been involved with. First and foremost, everybody, and I mean everybody including the staff that I have no direct involvement with, knows my name. Doesn't matter who comes to answer the door for me, I am always greeted by name upon my entrance or upon crossing paths with staff which makes me feel welcome every time. They have created a family atmosphere in a warm and welcoming environment in a clinical building. Despite my reasons for being there, despite my criminal history, despite my being an addict in recovery, I am always treated like a fellow human being. I don't ever feel stigmatized or uncomfortable or get that feeling that anyone is looking down their nose at me. There's a genuine vibe that everyone there is there to help and eager to either take part in or see me succeed.

It's difficult for me to imagine having made the same progress and achieving the same goals thus far if Re-Entry Services were based anywhere outside of Greenfield. Having these services locally especially with people from my community has played an integral role in how far I've come. Many of these people are friends of friends and family of mine. Having people from my own community engaged in helping me with these resources and services comes with way more value than from a stranger. The people at FCSO seem to genuinely care and are truly invested in my recovery, my rehabilitation and reintroduction into society oftentimes going out of their way or above and beyond their duties to ensure I receive whatever assistance needed. These acts of kindness go a long way in securing my confidence whenever the time should come where I am vulnerable. It's an extremely important and priceless feature that FCSO has developed, having earned my trust when seeking help.

I have only myself to blame for the choices I have made that landed me in my current situation. It's my behavior and mental health that I need to address. Having the resources locally provided by people I'm familiar with has granted me an easier and better opportunity to work on myself with significant growth. My efforts are more focused on the task at hand minus the stresses associated with having to leave my neighborhood. Classes via CJSC have helped me look inward and acknowledge past behaviors while I work on engaging new ones. I am more accountable via Averahealth screens. Having recently completed classes, I find myself taking more initiative in seeking to better myself and my situation. I know where to look for resources since FCSO has helped me create my recovery network. I know where and who I can ask for help and trust they have my best interest at heart. I am grateful that FCSO is here and counting on them to stay as I continue to progress from phase 4 to phase 5 in Recovery Court and eventually graduating and beyond. There's a real peace of mind knowing this place exists and so close to home.

Respectfully,



Ryan Herzig  
76 Avenue A, #308  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
413-834-8316

LARRY HARNOIS  
03/05/2026

Good morning,

My name is Larry Harnois,  
I have been Incarcerated @ the F.C.S.O.  
and other facilities in Massachusetts.

While being Incarcerated @ FCSO I've  
noticed a level of respect and being  
treated civil, while following all rules  
and regulations as the FCSO hands  
out rule books for all inmates.

As I have been incarcerated @  
different facilities I felt I was treated  
without respect and just a number.

Being talked to as if I was just  
a number and incapable of understanding.

While @ FCSO the staff says thank  
you, plus wanted to know my opinions.

While standing for court, the first thing  
in the morning and through the day  
the C's would say Thank you! to  
all inmates standing even inmates  
that they had to ask to stand for  
court as well.

This made me feel as if I was  
going to have a good day for being where  
I am. I felt equal.

As I have done a very large amount of time in my life in different facilities including the FCSO.

I must say the Re-Entry center has been very helpful in many ways while being institutionalized.

On how to deal with many things in life, that are important for everyday living. By showing me how to use a computer, helping to find jobs, Residential programs, Food banks, The clothing closet, Housing and Section 8 applications and more.

I feel very comfortable going to the Re-Entry center, the staff is amazing and very helpful! If the FCSO did not have this I would have been lost and not having all of these services in one place!

As I left the FCSO this was the first time I encountered this and this was gratefully helpful for my success.

The CO's gave me help almost like a Counselor would have.

They would talk to me in a meaningful manner!

That alone had a great Impact on me. As I know CO's are there to do their main job. They still took the time for every Inmate to be treated fairly.

This was like a culture shock. It doesn't matter what job title there is @ the FCSO and Re-Entry center. They treated everyone with dignity and are there to help you and support you through your time there.

Hi my name is Karen Conway

This was my first time being incarcerated and while at the jail I earn the privilege to come to the Justice Center and Reentry I volunteered I did groups that help me deal with my issues they offer different things to be supported in my community they pick me up to come to groups they help with my health insurance they have people come in and teach about ~~the~~ money they help with people with mental illness and go the extra mile to support the people who come here this is a place that

I will come back to when  
off of parole, I have also  
have come to the health and well  
being where people come in and  
offer massages and other stuff  
and a writing group that I  
truly love, I didn't know I  
could write poems and it uplifting  
This place gives me hope for the  
future and the courage to ~~get~~  
Have  
A Beautiful life (Sorry for my spelling)

But I could tell you so much more  
Ran out of Room!

413-8345145 712 Call Ask for

KADENI Anwar would love to talk

March 2, 2026

1 .I started at fcso back in 2024,and it has been a huge part in my recovery .from groups to helping with rides to being my very big support .I do relie on fcso .it's somewhere to go to get clothes ,food,shelter from the cold. The xmass parties ,the Thanksgiving party's, multiple groups everyweek ,outdoor parties are all great and sober people to go somewhere safe .it makes a huge impact on the community. They helped me through alot ,my court case with rides to court and surrported me through it .Jen Avery is the best ever n would hurt the community by moving or closing more than ever .it's the best program around n helped me so much n still do .i love reentry,since I started I've grown so much graduated from beacon ,I've been at my sober house for year n half now ,I graduate my recovery court program on April 22 2026.jen has helped me fill out housing stuff n helped me get my ssi card.and that's only one person imagine everybody they help in our community.

Ty Sally St.Germaine

Cell: 413-762-0101

 3/4/26

To: Jen Army  
 From: Melissa Grubb  
 413-313-5264  
 Robert  
 Greenfield, MA  
 01301

3/2/26

1) During the last 21 months of my recovery, The Franklin County ReEntry Program has had an amazingly positive impact. I've learned some things about myself, I've learned to value myself worth, to seek out what is important to me & my new life.

- When I faced being homeless, they were there w/ several options
- When all I knew was anger, in Women Empowerment class, I learned just that.

\* I now work full-time (1st time in over 10 years.) I am days away regaining my license. I learned about feelings & how to engage in positive female relationships.

2) Having ReEntry base in Greenfield is so important, 3) I am able to attend both AA & NA mtgs & the ReEntry program. They transportation is also important.

continued

Being in Greenfield allows access to so many women recovery to also attend all recovery based programs.

Having recovery in Greenfield allows access to opportunities that would not be accessible if located somewhere else.

- I'm not sure if I would still be clean & sober today had Greenfield program not been there in my times in need, being there has been several they have helped me through.

3) Looking back, I am different person today. They helped me see my potential and allowed me to find it, but always there to remind me WHAT I AM CAPABLE OF!

There are so many changes that the only way to list them is to say I am the best version of me TO DATE.

I've never this way about myself,

Jen Avery & her team are amazing at what they do. My hope is they remain in Greenfield to help many more women.

Melissa G. Gault

Melissa G. Gault  
413-313-5269

## **The importance of the Franklin County Re-Entry & Justice Center in Franklin County**

Written by: Stella Isabella

The Franklin County Re-Entry & Justice Center in Greenfield Massachusetts has played a critical role in my life and the lives of many others in this community. For individuals who are looking to rebuild their lives after addiction, incarceration, or other personal crises, this center has provided something that many other programs do not: consistent support, real relationships, and practical resources that help people move forward. The possibility of this facility closing is deeply concerning because the services it provides are not easily replaced, especially in a small community like Greenfield.

What makes the Franklin County Re-Entry & Justice Center different from other facilities I have attended is the level of genuine care and commitment shown by the staff and the community environment they create. Many programs offer structured services, but this center goes far beyond the basic requirements. The people who are employed there work effortlessly to build strong and reliable relationships/rapport with the individuals they serve. They treat us all with dignity and understanding, which is essential for those of us who are trying to rebuild our lives. The center also provides a wide range of practical resources, including a clothing closet for individuals experiencing homelessness, access to food, transportation & legal resources, as well as support navigating housing & shelter options. These services meet immediate needs while also helping people take steps towards lasting stability.

The Re-Entry Center has made a significant impact in my life personally. I have been involved in the groups at the center for the past two years and I attend the groups there on a weekly basis. These groups include structured rehabilitation groups for those involved with the legal system, as well as optional peer led groups and a group for women as well as a group for men. Through these programs, I have built strong relationships with both staff & peers who are also working towards recovery and stability. Today I am 10 months into my recovery from addiction and the support I have received through this center has been a major part of that progress.

Before entering into recovery in May of 2025 I was trapped in an extremely difficult and abusive relationship. During that time, one of the members of the Re Entry staff team, Jenn Avery, stepped up to help me during a crisis. She came to Amherst to pick me up and bring me safely to Greenfield. She stayed with me while I worked through crisis services and helped me get into a respite program where I could begin to stabilize. That moment represents the type of support this center provides everyday. It was not simply a service being offered; it was Jenn showing up when I needed help the most. She went

above and beyond for me and I will **NEVER** forget that day. Without her support, my path to recovery from addiction *and* abuse may have looked very different.

Looking back on my time at The Franklin County Re Entry & Justice Center, the most meaningful and impactful part other than what I just mentioned above, has been the sense of deep rooted community and accountability that the groups there provide. Attending weekly groups has given me structure and support, encouragement, has offered me leadership skills by running many of my own peer led groups, and a place where I, as well as many others are reminded that safety, recovery and stability is possible. These groups help people stay connected, learn healthier ways to cope with life's challenges, and support one another. The relationships built there create a network of encouragement that many people do not or cannot find elsewhere.

If The Franklin County Re Entry & Justice Center were to close, the impact it would have on the community of Greenfield would be a devastating loss. Greenfield is a small city, and there are many individuals here who rely on the services this facility provides, including myself. Without it, people struggling with addiction, homelessness or legal challenges would lose access to essential support systems. The center also helps individuals on probation remain compliant and avoid returning to jail by offering structured programs focused on rehabilitation and accountability. Losing these services would likely result in more and more people falling through the cracks, which would affect not only those particular individuals but the entire community.

I have personally witnessed the staff at the center go above and beyond for the people they serve many times. Their dedication helps and encourages individuals to rebuild their lives, strengthen their recovery, and become healthier, productive members of the community. Programs like this not only help people like me, they strengthen the entire town by providing stability and resources, as well as hope to those who need it the most. After all the help I have received in this facility, I have thought many times about what it would take for myself to become a Re Entry case worker so that I can help women who are like I once was. I know some of the Re Entry workers that work at the facility are also in recovery and it inspires me to see them do what they do there.

For these reasons, The Franklin County Re Entry and Justice Center is an essential part of the Greenfield community. Its services provide pathways for people to move forward from difficult circumstances and build healthier lives. Closing this facility would remove a critical support system that many individuals including my own self rely on. Based on my own experiences and all the experiences I have witnessed personally in others, the impact of losing this center would be deeply felt throughout the entire community. Please take this into consideration while making a decision.

To whom this may concern,

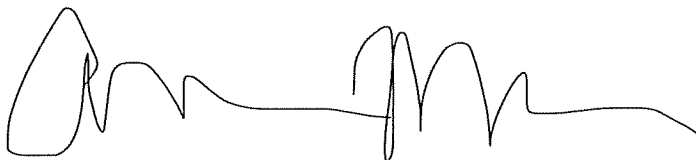
My name is Amanda Marion and I am writing this because the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Re-Entry program/ Justice Center (CJSC) is by far the best resource I have used in the state of Massachusetts. The first time I went to CJSC was while I was still incarcerated at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. I got classified to minimum which allowed me to attend classes and help with housekeeping duties at CJSC. I did not know what to expect, but the moment I stepped foot in the center I was greeted by such wonderful people and truly felt welcomed. Feeling welcome is not something I had felt in a very long time. I immediately immersed myself in everything that the center had to offer. I looked forward to those couple hours out of the jail every weekday. I was taking classes that helped me understand many aspects of building a healthy life and felt that I finally had some place where I felt supported. Everyone who works at CJSC, and everyone who uses the center truly feels like my family.

I eventually was granted parole and my experience and support from CJSC continued to grow stronger. I am in recovery. I am mentioning this because while I was still in active use I lost touch with every aspect of myself that made me who I am. CJSC is more than just a place to go for resources, the people who show up for us everyday is what makes this place so wonderful. Before coming to the center I did not know who to call if I was having a hard time, I didn't even know what I liked to do for fun. I had to learn everything from scratch. My first day out on parole I went directly to the center. The only clothes I had was the gray sweatsuit I purchased on commissary while in jail. The center provided me with clothes that were donated so I would have something to wear. I continued coming to the center multiple times a week. I attended the women's writing group, Woman's Group and Creative Community involvement every week. When it was time for me to find a job I was able to use the computers to do job searching. When I finally got a job the center helped me get to work regularly until I was able to secure my own transportation. There is nothing that the staff at CJSC can't do! Whenever I ask for help, someone is always there; even if they cannot directly help they do everything in their power to direct me to the appropriate person or resource.

Without this center a tremendous portion of my recovery network will be gone, and my day to day life and my recovery will be directly impacted. This place is truly one of a kind, being able to come here is a major reason why I am now over 1 year clean and sober!

Thank you for taking the time to hear my thoughts,  
Amanda Marion

57

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Marion'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and 'M'.