

SATCO Helping Offenders Help Themselves
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Hillsborough County Commissioners

New Hampshire is gripped by a heroin epidemic the likes of which we have not seen. The deadly combination of heroin and prescription drugs has taken a toll on our communities, our state and our nation. Addiction, overdose and criminal behavior has fractured families, strained our first responders and burdened the criminal justice system.

The rapid onset of the heroin epidemic magnified how limited our community resources and treatment centers are to assist those who try to overcome addiction. Statistically most heroin related deaths occur within the community and not while someone is in custody. But as a society, we must acknowledge that addiction leads to crime and crime leads to incarceration. As public and private resources join forces to combat the crisis, we seek to assist by offering a viable program to those who are incarcerated for a short term. The Program is a "Substance Abuse Treatment Community for Offenders" or "SATCO." The goal is simple: to save lives

SATCO offers treatment during short term incarceration and passage into the community. Confinement to county jails is limited to 12 months. SATCO also offers to bridge the transition between confinement and the community through intense in-house treatment coupled with a pre-release re-entry program. SATCO envisions Licensed Alcohol and Drug Clinicians (LADC's) to assess and treat inmates, facilitate group involvement, formulate individual treatment plans and collaborate with community resources; a Job Development Specialist to facilitate resume writing, employment skills, work release, community services and, ultimately, employment; and a Case Manager as the liaison between the inmates, corrections and outside services for proper placement and reintegration. SATCO is modeled after existing programs in other counties with favorable results. It's been scrutinized and analyzed and is better as a result. It may not be conceptually perfect, but it's a beginning. A beginning and a chance to turn things around before a person becomes a recidivist ingrained in the criminal justice

system. We are committed to providing that chance. We are also committed to evaluating the program to determine whether it brings about favorable results. We are circumspect in the expenditure of taxpayer money and appreciate the exercise of restraint when considering programs. But we believe that SATCO warrants support. We have a simple goal: to save lives.

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