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1. Probation Supervision of Impaired Drivers Curriculum – New Online Training

OPCA is now offering “Probation Supervision of Impaired Drivers,” a new online course that highlights the probation officer’s role through the process of managing impaired driving offenders. Designed with support from the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee and in cooperation with the SUNY Professional Development Program, this training is a prerequisite program for the Fundamentals of Probation Practice curriculum, but is available to all probation professionals. The course includes historical background on the statutory efforts to combat impaired driving and highlights the importance of these laws. The course includes the following:

- An overview of Leandra’s Law, and related DCJS Regulations, Title 9 NYCRR Part 358, and the activities required of probation officers under current law and regulation;
- Best practices to implement during pre-sentence investigation and supervision;
- Scenario-based questions and updated data regarding motorists charged with or convicted of an impaired driving related offenses; and more.

The updated pre-requisite course can be found in the Integrated Justice Portal at the following path: Resources » Reference Library » Probation» Training» OPCA Prerequisite Peace Officer/Fundamentals of Probation Practice Training Materials. As an additional resource, the Probation

Practitioner Handbook for the Management of the DWI Offender is also available for reference in the Portal at Resources » Reference Library » Probation » Specialized Supervision » DWI.

Every critical area included in the effective supervision of this high-risk population is detailed in the manual. There is also an emphasis on the importance of communication with all stakeholders to assist rehabilitative efforts, increase offender accountability, and further improving public safety. Please do not hesitate to contact Michele Melendez at (518) 457-7277 or Michele.Melendez-McKearin@dcjs.ny.gov, or Leonard Price at (518) 485-9941 or Leonard.Price@dcjs.ny.gov with any questions regarding this course.

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## 2. New York Highway Safety Symposium

DCJS Deputy Commissioner and State Probation Director Robert Maccarone joined along with staffers Leonard Price and Michele Melendez-McKearin at the annual New York Highway Safety Symposium in Niagara Falls in October. The trio hosted a discussion on the Ignition Interlock Device Non-Installer Enforcement Pilot Project, which provided an overview of the issues related to non-installation, the goals of the grant, and exploring the experiences and outcomes related to the non-installer enforcement pilot. The symposium –jointly organized by the New York State STOP-DWI Association, the New York State Association of Traffic Safety Boards, and the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee –focused on the innovative practices in the state’s effort to reduce deaths and injuries related to traffic crashes.



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3. Impaired Driver System Available to Probation Officers

The Impaired Driver System is now available to help probation officers (See State Director’s Memorandum #2017-7) manage individuals under supervision. Developed by the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services in collaboration with the state Department of Motor Vehicles, the system tracks motorists charged with or convicted of an impaired driving offense as they move through the processes of screening, assessment, treatment and/or participation in an Impaired Driver Program. The system includes the following:

- History of events tracked by the arrest or violation dates received via electronic transfer from the DMV or manual data entry by an authorized user;
- Clinical interview information and biopsychosocial assessment;
- Interviews with collateral sources;
- Urine drug screening results;
- Arrest report and abstract of driving record.

All probation departments should ensure their probation officers have access to the system and use it when making recommendations to courts during pretrial, presentencing and supervision of DWI offenders. This system seeks to simplify the information sharing process and improve efficiency with data collection.

To gain access, probation officers must first complete and submit an IRM-15s form, which can be found at https://apps.oasas.ny.gov/portal/page/portal/OASAS_APPS. For more information, please contact Michele Melendez at (518) 457-7277 or Michele.Melendez-McKearin@dcjs.ny.gov; or Leonard Price at (518) 485-9941 or Leonard.Price@dcjs.ny.gov.

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#### 4. Probationer Sex Offender Annual Address Verification and Polygraph Testing Important

State Probation Director Robert Maccarone released a memorandum in October regarding sex offender address registration and Section 345.4(b)(4) of the Probation State Aid Block Grant rule, which addresses the polygraph testing of sex offender probationers.

Probation departments were provided a spreadsheet designated by borough or county of those offenders who have not yet submitted their annual verification. Each department should run the Portal *Address Confirmation* report to assist law enforcement agencies with addressing probationer non-compliance with the annual sex offender address verification process.

Each department should also conduct polygraph testing of all level 3 sex offenders in addition to periodic polygraph testing for other sex offender probationers based on their actions or other concerns developed during supervision.

For more information, please contact Matthew Charton, at [Matthew.Charton@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Matthew.Charton@dcjs.ny.gov).

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5. Fundamentals of Probation Practice Fall 2017

Newly appointed Probation Officers participated in the Fundamentals of Probation Practice training in October. This comprehensive training event equipped 27 officers from 14 counties with the knowledge and practical application needed to be successful.

The training featured guest speakers from probation departments in Cayuga, Schenectady, Ulster, and Jefferson counties. Students were instructed on several topics including safety and survival training, rules of evidence collection, report writing, interviewing, and a range of evidence-based strategies. Each officer successfully completed this course. Desiree King-Dailey of St. Lawrence County Probation Department and Anthony Clark of Ulster County Probation Department were named class valedictorians, having received perfect scores. Warren County Probation Director Robert Lusi addressed the new probation officers on evidence based practices during their graduation ceremony.



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## 6. New York City Department of Probation Officers Help Puerto Rico in Wake of Devastating Hurricane

Probation Officers from the New York City Department of Probation's Harlem Neighborhood Opportunity Network and Manhattan Family and Intake Services donated supplies they collected for the relief effort Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria. Probation Officers brought boxes and grocery bags filled with critically needed items including baby food, diapers, batteries, feminine hygiene products, and first aid supplies to the Fire Department station in East Harlem.

"This catastrophic hurricane season has caused havoc, displaced thousands and destroyed entire communities in Puerto Rico," New York City

Department of Probation Commissioner Ana M. Bermúdez said. "New Yorkers have deep personal ties to Puerto Rico. I was born in Guaynabo suburb of San Juan, Puerto Rico and still have family on the island; the urgent need for help is staggering. I would like to commend our officers for organizing and collecting the items and most of all for their unyielding compassion."

The Neighborhood Opportunity Network is a network of community organizations, government agencies, local businesses, and community residents that connects people on probation and other community residents to opportunities, resources, and services at seven offices and satellite offices throughout the five boroughs.



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## 7. New York Association of Pretrial Service Agencies Conference 2017

The New York Association of Pretrial Service Agencies hosted its annual conference in Troy on Oct. 29. The two-day conference offered a variety of training opportunities, including sessions on the continuity of services between jail and the community and on the opiate epidemic.

In addition, OPCA staff hosted sessions on action-planning and implementing evidence-based practices in a host of applicable settings. During the conference, Deputy Commissioner and Probation Director Robert MacCarone presented the Sara Tullar Fasoldt Leadership and Humanitarian Award to Peter C. Kiers, executive director of the New York City Criminal Justice Agency, for his outstanding commitment to providing effective services to individuals who have been arrested. Kiers' pretrial work has gained international acclaim, as he continues to work with various agencies to bring needed changes to this area of the criminal justice system.



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## 8. Recent State Director's Memoranda

The following State Director's Memoranda are posted to the Portal:

Resources » Reference » Library » Probation » Director's Memoranda

- **SDM #2017-8:** Sept. 22 – “Leandra’s Law” Implementation – Jan. 1, 2017 - June 30, 2017 Report
- **SDM #2017-9:** Oct. 6 – Operation Return 4 – Expanded Eligibility Criteria
- **SDM #2017-10:** Oct. 30 – Probation Supervision of Impaired Drivers Curriculum – New Online Training

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## 9. OPCA Training Schedule

The Training Unit welcomes Dan Robertello, who was hired as a community correction representative in September. He has experience as a criminal justice administrator and educator, and will help coordinate OPCA's training efforts.

The following training has been scheduled:

- **NYCOMPAS:** A training on the use of the NYCOMPAS assessment is in Albany on Dec. 4 and Dec. 5. This training is designed specifically for those who have no prior NYCOMPAS training.
- **Thinking for a Change:** Thinking for a Change facilitator training is scheduled in two counties in December. Erie County will host one of the four-day trainings starting on Dec. 5. Albany County will host the second four-day training, starting on Dec. 19.
- **Women's Risk and Need Assessment:** A five-day training for trainers in the use of the Women's Risk and Need Assessment tool is scheduled in Albany between Feb. 12 and Feb. 16.
- **Interactive Journaling:** The Change Companies will host training in Albany. The three-day Interactive Journaling facilitator training is scheduled to begin on March 27. The two-day Interactive Journaling training for trainers is slated to start on Feb. 20.

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## 10. Awards, Additional Trainings and News from County Probation Departments

The [Justice Clearinghouse](#) is an integrated, multi-disciplinary online community and resource for Justice professionals. From your neighborhood cop, to prosecutors, the probation officers, court staff — even the academics who research and study this sector, the Clearinghouse is intended to help justice professionals stay on top of the trends, best practices and success stories in their industry through articles, webinars and



training. While a significant portion of Clearinghouse members are law enforcement, there are members from a variety of Public Safety organizations.

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11. Practice Tips

What is Dosage? Up to 70 percent of an offender’s free time should be occupied with meaningful and appropriate activities, according to the National Institute of Corrections. This especially pertains to high risk offenders, who should be paired with services meeting their specific needs, including substance abuse treatment, employment programming, educational services, and mental health treatment. Ensuring that an offender’s time is appropriately structured also serves as a vehicle to link the individual with prosocial resources and groups, both of which have been shown to reduce recidivism.

The American Probation and Parole Association reports that only 38 percent of probation departments conduct home and field visits in teams. Increasing visits with the accompaniment of a fellow officer reduces risk. In conducting these visits in pairs, officers can better monitor potentially hostile environments while ensuring meaningful contact with the offender is made.

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## 12. Quick Fact

While the overall probation population of the United States has remained relatively unchanged during the past decade, the percentage of women under probation supervision increased by 2 percent. The Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that women now represent 25 percent of the country’s total probation population.

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