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STATE DIRECTOR'S MEMORANDUM #2010-15

TO: Probation Directors and Commissioners

FROM: Robert M. Maccarone *R.M.M.*
Deputy Commissioner and Director

DATE: December 3, 2010

SUBJECT: New York State Probation Juvenile Sex Offender Management
Practitioner Guidance

I am very pleased to make available to probation and community correction professionals the New York State Probation Juvenile Sex Offender Management Practitioner Guidance. This is the companion document to OPCA's NYS Sex Offender Management Practitioner Guidance issued in July of 2009 concerning the effective management and supervision of adults in the community who have sexually offended. Both documents provide practitioners with the latest research and information concerning the treatment and effective management of individuals convicted of sexual offenses and adjudicated/sentenced to community probation supervision. Probation supervision continues to be the most frequently imposed disposition by sentencing courts in New York State.

In addition to a careful review of the literature concerning juvenile sex offender management and the effective practices of other practitioners, including probation professionals in other states, these recommendations for effective community supervision and management were drawn from probation and treatment professionals throughout New York State during the ten (10) focus groups convened by OPCA in 2008/2009. Juvenile Sex Offender Management poses significant challenges to probation departments statewide. OPCA's 2010 Survey of Juveniles Who Sexually Offend in New York State reported that 600 juveniles are under probation supervision, which includes nearly 250 youth adjudicated Youthful Offenders. Importantly, this document addresses the management of juveniles under 16 years of age, as well as young adult offenders aged 16 up to 19 years of age because their behaviors and amenability to treatment and potential for change are more closely allied with that of juveniles than adult offenders.

While this Practitioner Guidance describes the challenges to probation and treatment professionals in effectively managing juveniles who sexually offend, it also bravely attempts to inform and distinguish inappropriate from predatory behaviors and the important opportunity that community supervision and treatment offer in changing future behavior, decreasing victimization and improving community safety. This Guidance also recognizes and emphasizes the important role that community based collaborative networks must play in assisting probation professionals in effectively managing juveniles who sexually offend.

I want to acknowledge the support of the U.S. Department of Justice' Bureau of Justice Assistance SMART Office, and technical assistance provided through the Center for Sex Offender Management and Center for Effective Public Policy in April 2010. I also wish to acknowledge the work of OPCA Community Correction Representative Laura Zeliger for her commitment and important work on this project.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the many probation professionals throughout New York State who contributed their knowledge and expertise and supported this project. I very much appreciate your continued commitment and professionalism.

Attachment:

NYS Probation Juvenile Sex Offender Management Practitioner Guidance