

Welcome to *E-YASI*, an electronic newsletter from the New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (DPCA), written specifically for YASI users and policymakers.

*E-YASI* is distributed by the New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives and funded through a grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. *E-YASI* is now available on the Probation Services Suite of *eJusticeNY*.



Robert M. Maccarone, State Director  
Norma Tyler, Juvenile Justice Manager and YASI Project Director  
Patricia M. Donohue, Editor  
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**1. YASI Case Planning Booster sessions held December 2006-an overview**

- DPCA held 4 regional YASI Case Planning Booster sessions the first week of December 2006 in Rochester, Syracuse, Pomona, and Albany, providing an opportunity for over 88 YASI users from 25 counties to hone their skills in both case planning protocols and software. Topics included: review of good probation practices, review of the 4 Principles of Effective Intervention and the 4 Steps of Effective Case Planning, review of specific items in the Pre Screen and Full Assessment, and the elements of good case planning (Stages of Change, Importance and Confidence, Feedback, Barriers, Incentives, SMART goals, and action steps).
- A direct outcome of the YASI technical assistance site visits and Case Planning Booster sessions held in 2006 is that counties have been able to improve their use of YASI protocols and data to influence policies and procedures around assessment and case planning. This includes improving connectivity of youth and families with services targeting criminogenic need areas in order to reduce recidivism. One example is in Ontario County, where Probation Supervisor Sharon Collins indicates that "the biggest advantage I see to case planning is to keep the services joined to the story....From a planning perspective, I have used the YASI information to increase the services available to our youth and families. For Example, we had a number of youth scoring high in the Family Domain and were able to justify buying Functional Family Therapy (FFT) slots to fill that need...and FFT led to staff recommending

Multisystemic Therapy (MST) and this has been a huge service to us...I am now working on obtaining some sort of program to address the lack of services we currently have for youth who score high risk in the Skills Domain....”

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## 2. Model Worksheets for YASI Case Planning

- Useful tools have been developed by DPCA and Orbis Partners to assist Probation Officers with improving their case planning skills and focusing on the presenting problem. The three model worksheets are: *Case Staffing Worksheet*; *Ten Important Questions to ask Staff When Reviewing the Supervision Plan*; and *Nine Questions to ask Staff Regarding Referrals*. These worksheets were provided at the Case Planning Booster sessions and were well received. If your department would like further information regarding these documents or are interested in receiving electronic copies, please contact Patti Donohue at either 518-485-5158 or [Patricia.Donohue@DPCA.state.ny.us](mailto:Patricia.Donohue@DPCA.state.ny.us) to have them emailed to you.

## 3. Check out the Dutchess County YASI Interview Project!

- To enhance their use of YASI, Dutchess County has initiated a quality assurance project to video-tape one YASI Full Assessment and Case Planning interview with a youth and family. Probation Supervisor Nick Ignaffo volunteered to take the spotlight. This video-tape will be used as a training tool for new and experienced probation staff to increase their skills in interviewing at both the assessment and case planning stages. Staff will review the video to identify interviewing strategies that were effective in gathering assessment information, as well as missed opportunities. For case planning, the video will be used to demonstrate good skills in engaging a youth and family, including how to prioritize and focus on criminogenic risk and need areas as identified by the YASI.

## 4. Updated Guidance on Child Neglect YASI Item

- One of the consistent questions that arose during the four Case Planning Booster sessions was how should staff answer YASI Full Assessment Section 2 Family, Item 2, “Has there ever been a family court finding of child neglect?” Upon consultation between DPCA and Orbis Partners, it was determined that the lower standard of an ‘indicated’ case would be a good risk marker, rather than the higher standard of a child abuse or neglect ‘finding’, which can only occur if the matter is referred to Family Court. DPCA urges all counties to review their practice with this item and modify accordingly.

## 5. YASI 2007-2008

With continued DCJS support through federal grants, DPCA will provide a variety of YASI software enhancements, technical assistance, and training during 2007-2008.

- **INTEGRATION-** Integration of YASI and Caseload Explorer is well underway. A planning meeting was held in Ottawa, Canada 4/10-4/13, 2007 with representatives from Orbis Partners, Automon, DPCA, and Warren County Probation Supervisor John Adams working together to achieve this goal.
- **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE-** YASI Technical Assistance will continue in 2007. DPCA will reach out to counties who were unable to receive technical assistance in 2006. To schedule a site visit, please contact Patti Donohue at either 518-485-5158 or [Patricia.Donohue@DPCA.state.ny.us](mailto:Patricia.Donohue@DPCA.state.ny.us).
- **WEB BASED YASI-** A web based version of YASI will be released later this year and will include the following software enhancements: the YASI Detention Tab; PDI software for the MSDE version of YASI; a re-write of the Mental Health domain to separate out the aggression and violence indicators; and the Case Planning Self Population Functionality.
- **LONG TERM VALIDATION STUDY-** Orbis Partners and DPCA have begun a YASI Long Term Validation Follow Up Study with a written report expected later this year. The sample includes 3,263 youth whose cases will be used to examine the predictive validity of YASI over a long period of time. Thank you to all YASI counties who worked hard to submit outcome data.
- **YASI MODEL PROTOCOLS-** DPCA will also develop and distribute NYS specific recommended model YASI protocols for use in juvenile probation during 2007-2008.
- **INITIAL TRAINING-** YASI trainings will include three rounds each of the two-day Initial training. This is a good opportunity for new counties to come on board this year, and for counties that have identified staff needing YASI training in their 2007 Annual Program Plan Attachment E. The Initial training focus is the Pre-Screen and Full-Assessment functions of YASI.
- **FOLLOW-UP TRAINING-** Subsequent to the two-day Initial Training, three rounds of the two-day YASI Follow Up trainings will be held. Follow-Up training focus is the Case Planning function of YASI.
- **SUPERVISOR TRAINING-** Two one-day each YASI Coaching for Supervisors trainings will also be held in early 2008. Supervisor training includes skills specific to staff motivation, quality assurance techniques, and overview of the administrative and quick report functions.
- **TRAINING FOR TRAINERS-** Two 2-day each YASI Trainings for Trainers will be held to address the in-service training needs of departments and to build YASI training capacity statewide.
- **DATA DROP-** A YASI data drop will be scheduled. Counties will be notified of the data drop and of the directions to electronically send the data to Orbis

- DIRECTOR DATA WORKSHOPS- Three one-day each Director Data Workshops will be held to give counties an opportunity to review and to learn skills to better manage and utilize their YASI data.

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*E-YASI is distributed by the New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (DPCA) and funded through a grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). If you have any questions or comments regarding the YASI project or E-YASI, please contact Patricia Donohue, Community Corrections Representative 2 at 518-485-5158 or email her at [Patricia.Donohue@DPCA.state.ny.us](mailto:Patricia.Donohue@DPCA.state.ny.us).*

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