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IN TOUCH with OWDS

NYS DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives: IN TOUCH WITH Offender Workforce Development Specialists (OWDS)

Welcome to *In Touch with OWDS* an electronic newsletter from the New York State DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA), written specifically for OWDS and others interested in offender employment

News

- Suffolk County Probation OWDS
- OPCA Graduates 4th Albany OWDS Class



Inside Highlights

- Employment Matters
- 2011 DOWD Conference

Other News

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- 200% of Poverty Employment News
- OWDS Corner

Leading the Way... Suffolk County Probation adds four Probation Officers certified in OWDS in joint training program with US Probation – Eastern District.

In collaboration with the United States Probation Office– Eastern District, the Suffolk County Probation Department had four Probation Officers certified as OWDS in January. The collaboration grew from relationships created at an **Employment Matters** training held in 2009 in Suffolk County. Probation and Parole officers serving Long Island, and other community and government agencies participated in the OPCA one day training. Senior US Probation Officer Ed Kanaley from the Eastern District and Labor Specialist III **Matt Lucas**, from Suffolk County Probation, collaborated in bringing an OWDS training to Long Island.

Lucas was part of the NY team sponsored by OPCA that completed the OWDS training in 2006-2007 with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), and he was certified as an OWDS instructor in 2007. Twenty- eight professionals completed this OWDS training including four POs from Suffolk County Probation and seven officers from US Probation. Congratulations to all the Graduates for all their hard work, Especially Suffolk County Probation Officers **Deborah May**, **Joe Nelson** **James O'Neal** and **Jennifer Ray**.

OPCA Graduates 4th Albany OWDS Class

On May 26th, 2011 the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, in collaboration with the NYS Department of Labor and County Probation Departments, graduated the fourth class of Offender Workforce Development Specialists (OWDS) from its In-State Partnership with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). This year's class included probation officers, service providers from 200% of Poverty and other Alternative to Incarceration Programs and the first participant from NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. There are now another 22 professionals having completed the 180-hour training. With the addition of these 22

OWDS, the OPCA led collaboration has trained 86 OWDS in Albany. Along with the two teams that attended NIC's national training, 103 OWDS have now completed the program.

Congratulations OWDS Class of 2011

Cattaraugus Probation Leads in OWDS

The Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with Erie 2- Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES, recently completed the Offender Workforce Development Specialist training program for correction officers, probation officers and community service organizations. Among the graduates were: probation officers **Melissa Dietsman**, **Gordon Diffenderfer**, **Gerald Embs**, **Christopher Giermek**, **Tonya Kilby**, **Nila McIntyre**, **Clara Ramadhan**, **Michael Sharbaugh**, and **Luanne Whitcomb** from the Cattaraugus County Probation Department.

OPCA Graduates **Fourth** Albany OWDS Class



2011 OPCA Class joined by trainers along with DCJS Deputy Commissioner and OPCA Director Robert Maccarone and Executive Deputy Director Tom Slater and OPCA's Bernard Wilson Supervising Contract Manager

Dolores Cogan	Washington County Youth Bureau
Amy Colon	Family of Woodstock
Cyre Crandle	NYC TASC
Brandon DeLuke	TASC of the Capital Region
Sarah Dobbs	Ontario County Probation
Donnette Duncan	Palladia, Inc.
Patrick Fitzgerald	NYS Dept. of Corrections and Community Supervision
Shakina Forbes	NYC TASC
Daniel Hope	Exodus
Shelley Horne	St. John's Riverside
Nowellyn James	Center for Community Alternatives, NYC
Amy LaForte	Altamont Program, Inc.
Denise Lengvarsky	Cattaraugus County Probation
Diana Ortiz	Exodus
Leonard Price	Schoharie County Probation
Antoinette Renna	TASC of the Capital Region
Karen Rogers	Cattaraugus County Probation
Denise Skokowski	Erie County Probation
William Townsend	Washington County Youth Bureau
Carlos Valencia	Family of Woodstock
Elizabeth Viglione	Fortune Society
Josephine Weiss	Erie County Probation

Congratulations Class of 2011

Denise Lengvarsky with Director Robert Maccarone



Valedictorian

Top of the Class

Denise Lengvarsky from Cattaraugus Probation claimed the top spot this year. Denise is a Probation Officer and supervises adult probationers. She is also the Department liaison for the City of Olean Problem Solving Courts which include Drug Treatment Court and Recovery Access Court. Denise has also served in the Forensic Mental Health Program as part of a Shared Services grant. Denise has also received training through OPCA as a facilitator for **Thinking for a Change** and she co-facilitates that program in Cattaraugus County. Denise has her Masters Degree in Education and Counseling Psychology. **Congratulations Denise!**



Patrick Fitzgerald with Director Robert Maccarone, Executive Deputy Director, Tom Slater and Cynthia Blair

Salutatorian

Patrick Fitzgerald is the first NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision employee to graduate from OPCA's OWDS class. He is the Industrial Superintendent at Coxsackie Correctional Facility. Patrick attended the National Institute of Correction's 3 day OWDS overview in 2010 for the National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA) and his appetite was whetted for more. As Industrial superintendent, he is regularly involved in the career development of peers, subordinate staff as well as inmates. Mr. Fitzgerald has 21 years of experience with the offender population at DOCCS. He has also served as a high school teacher and spent 15 years in the armed services and is a Master Sergeant with the New York Air National Guard. With his wealth of experience and knowledge it is no wonder he was a shining star in the OWDS training. **Congratulations Patrick!**

OWDS Theorist, John Krumboltz



Keynote Speaker:
Dr. John Krumboltz, Stanford University
PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE

Correctional officers have the difficult job of reducing recidivism while enforcing the law. Career counseling with their clients must take into account the harsh lives that most of their clients have experienced. Finding even a part-time job is a step toward a more satisfying life for their clients.

John Krumboltz

OWD Specialists know him as one of the four theorists taught in the NIC sponsored OWDS training: John L. Holland, Donald Super, Nancy Schlossberg and John Krumboltz. Krumboltz is known for the "learning theory as well as his revolutionary work on the effects of happenstance on career choices. According to Dr. Krumboltz, this theory (happenstance) offers liberation and fulfillment on many levels to anyone willing to make the most of unexpected life circumstances

The exciting conference also offered an opportunity for DCJS OPCA employee **Cynthia Blair** and NYS Probation Officer Associations President **Mark Pisano**, to collaborate with the National Institute of Corrections Program Specialist **P. Elizabeth Taylor** on a re-entry workshop, **OFFENDER REENTRY: A Question of Public Safety.**

The workshop covered defining moments in corrections, a working definition of reentry, the OWDS University Model, evidence based programming and the NYS Pathways to Employment **Ready, Set, Work!** and **Retention Counts!** programs.



P. Elizabeth Taylor presents at DOWD conference

Also presenting a workshop at the San Francisco DOWD Conference was **Matthew Charton** from Albany County Probation and **Cynthia Blair**. Cynthia and Matt gave a workshop on the NYS DCJS OPCA **Ready, Set, Work!** for Sex Offenders.



Matt Charton presents on RSW!-Sex Offenders



Featured speaker John Krumboltz with Program Manager, Cynthia Blair



To:
New Global Career Development Facilitators
Robin Toyloy

Robin graduated was a member of the 2010 Albany OWDS class. She is the first member of her class to receive the GCDF certification.



**Suffolk Probation Officer OWDS Graduates
Joe Nelson, James O'Neal, Deborah May, and
Jennifer Ray**

Matt Lucas, OWDS from Suffolk County Probation, was part of the OPCA sponsored NY team that completed the OWDS training in 2006-2007 with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). He was also one of the first OWDS certified as a Global Career Development Facilitator Instructor through OPCA's partnership with NIC.



**Matt Lucas, Suffolk County Probation's Labor
Specialist III**



**Supervising US PO, Patricia Doherty was Head
Trainer. She is joined here by Senior US PO, Ed
Kanaley from the Eastern District**

Employment Matters Training in Suffolk County

The Suffolk County Probation Department hosted **Employment Matters** Training on Thursday, April 7th in Hauppauge, NY at the Suffolk County Legislature Bldg. OWDS and Labor Specialist III **Matthew Lucas** coordinated the event that featured two recent graduates from the January 2011 Long Island OWDS as trainers. Sr. United States Probation Officer Ed Kanaley and Sr. United States Probation Officer Michelle Powell served as trainers alongside Lucas, as well as Glenn Martin, VP of Development and Public Affairs at the Fortune Society, Inc. In addition to the great information, this event served to strengthen the partnerships that have been fostered through prior Employment Matters Trainings, as well as from the January OWDS class

OWDS Corner

By **Karen Rogers, OWDS, MSEd**

I am a recent graduate of the OWDS training. As a seasoned student, I can honestly say it was both difficult and rewarding. This training pushed me to break old habits and take chances accepting new ideas. There has never been any doubt how important work is to a person's self esteem. This training got to the core of how important and essential work is to everyone. Work does define who we are. Not just what kind of work we do but all we learn from each job. Having worked since the age of 17 I've had my share of entry level jobs. The only time I felt out of life's loop was when I wasn't employed. This time only lasted less than a year but it felt longer. OWDS reminded me how difficult finding work can be for offenders. It also reminded me that being prepared to work takes lots of work. Helping people believe they can obtain a job and will be accepted back in society is a skill I have gained and plan to make good use of as a probation officer.

Cattaraugus Probation Officer



Karen Rogers

OWDS Corner:

We invite original articles from Offender Workforce Development Specialists. We will try to share one in each issue.

Keeping In Touch:

Offender Workforce Development Specialists should advise as soon as they receive their **GCDf** or other certificates, promotions, etc.

Didn't see **your** name here? Let us know what you are doing. Also please contact Cynthia Blair if you need technical assistance with your **Ready, Set Work!** or **Refention Counts!** groups at 518-485-5162 or cynthia.blair@dcjs.state.ny.us