



Welcome to eFocus, an electronic newsletter produced by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services--Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA). OPCA publishes this newsletter to further its goal of promoting public safety through probation services and other community corrections programs. We welcome your suggestions.

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New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)
Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives
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In this Issue:

1. **Caseload Explorer Regional Users Group Meetings**
2. **DWI Probation Offender Management Focus Groups**
3. **New York Association of Pretrial Services (NYAPSA) and Crime and Justice Institute (CJI) Pretrial Services Program Focus Groups**
4. **New York City Warrant Review Initiative**
5. **OPCA Training**
6. **2013 State Director's Memoranda**
7. **Awards, Events, Additional Trainings and News**
8. **Practice Tip**
9. **Quick Fact**

1. **Caseload Explorer Regional Users Group Meetings**
OPCA has reinstated the regional Caseload Explorer users groups, which provide a forum for Probation Directors, Administrators and Caseload Explorer super-users to share their experience and knowledge and an opportunity for discussion with OPCA regarding this important tool. Following a successful session held in Albany in June, additional users' group sessions were convened in Monroe, Jefferson, Cortland and Warren counties in August and September. OPCA expresses its appreciation to the departments who hosted these important meetings and participants who provided suggestions to improve the CE system. Please contact Colleen Thorn at Colleen.Thorn@dcjs.ny.gov with any questions, suggestions or enhancement requests..

2. **DWI Probation Offender Management Focus Groups**
OPCA is pleased to announce that the five scheduled focus groups in Clinton, Albany, Broome, Monroe and Nassau counties were convened with excellent participation by probation, treatment and law enforcement professionals. These meetings provided practitioners an opportunity to exchange information on DWI offender supervision techniques and allowed them to offer insight into future planning and policy development. OPCA expresses its appreciation to the departments who hosted these important meetings and the participants who shared their experience with us. OPCA will share the information and practice tips gathered from these meetings with departments and will begin the next steps of utilizing the information gathered to develop model policy and procedures. Please contact Maureen McKeown at Maureen.McKeown@dcjs.ny.gov if you have additional questions or suggestions.

Workforce Development Specialist through NIC and the National Career Development Association (NCDA). Completion of this training also is necessary to facilitate the **Ready, Set, Work! (RSW!)** curriculum. For more information, please contact Cynthia Blair at Cynthia.Blair@dcjs.ny.gov or (518) 485-5145.

- ~ Earlier this month in Lake Placid, OPCA delivered training on recent changes to “Leandra’s Law” to town and village judges at the State Magistrates Association’s annual conference. Training topics included: current arrest, conviction and disposition statistics on both DWI and Leandra’s Law cases; amendments to Leandra’s Law that took effect Nov. 1, 2013 (Chapter 169 of the Laws of 2013); rates of ignition interlock device (IID) installation and waivers; IID negative events/failed tests statistics by county; DWI fatalities; and judicial roles, responsibilities and regulatory requirements.

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## 6. Recent State Director’s Memoranda

- ~ 2013-12 Probation Supervision Rule (9 NYCRR Part 351): Juvenile Contact Substitution, County Approved Programs
- ~ 2013-13 DNA Subject Index Guidance
- ~ 2013-14 Interstate and Intrastate Transfer of Probation Supervision

*All State Director’s Memoranda are posted to the eJusticeNY Integrated Justice Portal (IJ Portal). To access them, log on to the IJ Portal, click on Resources, Reference Library, Probation and finally, Director’s Memoranda.*

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7. Awards, Events, Additional Trainings and News

- ~ The New York Highway Safety Symposium will be held at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool on Sunday, Oct. 20 through Tuesday, Oct. 22. This annual event, sponsored by the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee, the New York State Association of Traffic Safety Boards, and the New York State STOP-DWI Association Inc. is a great training opportunity for probation professionals. Topics of interest to probation include drug impaired driving, prescription drug abuse, distracted driving, victims services, DMV re-licensure procedures and more. Visit <http://itsmr.org/NY%20Highway%20Safety%20Conference.htm> for more information, the full agenda and to register.
- ~ The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA), in partnership with the National Curriculum and Training Institute (NCTI), are offering Facilitator Certification Training to deliver Cognitive Behavior Change curricula. This training addresses the importance of understanding individual learning styles and how activities, games and small groups can enhance the learning process. Accredited by APPA, this training is approved for 35 contact hours. Visit http://www.ncti.org/cgi-bin/ncti.cgi/class_registration.html?class=81129&CID=JDC4%40westchestergov.com&Campaign=Crossroads%20email%208/27/13&Name=Joseph%20DiCarlo&Email=JDC4@westchestergov.com&NoHistory=CreateHistory,Browse for more information.
- ~ The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released *Changing Course: Preventing Gang Membership*, a book that explains what we know, based on the evidence, about how to keep children and teens from joining gangs. *Changing Course* highlights the important nexus of public safety and public health and engages readers in a new way of thinking about the topic. . Visit <http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOJOJP/bulletins/8a7217> for more information.
- ~ “Shine the Light on Domestic Violence” Campaign
During October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, show you care about ending domestic violence by participating in the Shine the Light on Domestic Violence (aka Turn the

State Purple) campaign coordinated by the state Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV). purple! Shine a purple light on a building, hold an awareness event or wear a purple ribbon. All New Yorkers are being asked to wear purple on Wednesday, Oct. 16, but you can turn purple any day of the month to let survivors know they are not alone and have the full support of their communities. Domestic violence, abuse and coercive control impacts everyone: victims, their loved ones, friends, family, advocates, colleagues, neighbors as well as first responders, health care providers and workers in the criminal justice system that become involved with the aftermath. Those who choose to be abusive toward their partner need to know loud and clear that domestic violence is never a private matter and that they will be held accountable for their actions. Visit www.opdv.ny.gov for ways to turn purple and share your photos with OPDV via e-mail: opdvpurple@opdv.ny.gov. The agency will share photos via Facebook (www.facebook.com/NYSDomesticViolence) and Twitter (@NYSOPDV). You also can join the conversation on Twitter: #shinethelight.~ ~ ~ ~ ~

8. **Practice Tip:** The use of Merit Credit encourages positive offender change by establishing primary goals to be achieved, such as program completion and retained employment, while offenders are under supervision. Merit Credit should be directly related to the probationer's identified criminogenic needs as determined by the risk and needs assessment, order and conditions of probation and case plan, and must be clearly documented in the case record. Merit Credit must reflect achievement that is sustained and measurable.

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9. **Quick Fact:** According to the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS), there were 5,779 adult probation cases and approximately 400 juvenile cases being supervised in New York State as of July 2013. A total of 3,888 of the adult cases were transferred in from other states.

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The eFocus is now distributed to thousands of community corrections professionals across New York State. You may receive more than one copy if your name and e-mail address appear on different criminal justice and community corrections mailing lists. If so, please e-mail Patricia Clements the name you would like removed from distribution.