

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)
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# 1. Caseload Explorer Regional Users Group Meetings

OPCA has reinstituted 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 <a href="mailto:Colleen.Thorn@dcjs.ny.gov">Colleen.Thorn@dcjs.ny.gov</a> 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 <a href="Maureen.McKeown@dcjs.ny.gov">Maureen.McKeown@dcjs.ny.gov</a> if you have additional questions or suggestions.

# 3. New York Association of Pretrial Services (NYAPSA) and Crime and Justice Institute (CJI) Pretrial Services Program Focus Groups

The New York Association of Pretrial Service Agencies (NYAPSA), in cooperation with The Crime and Justice Institute at Community Resources for Justice (CJI), has received a federal grant through the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance to examine pretrial services utilization and practices in New York State. The grant provided for a detailed survey of pretrial and probation programs and practices across the state, in addition to a brief survey of judges. The second phase involves a series of focus group discussions facilitated by CJI and representatives from Probation Departments are strongly encouraged to attend and participate. The schedule is as follows: Tuesday, Oct. 8 in Rochester; Wednesday, Oct. 9 in Albany and Thursday, Oct. 10 in New York City; all meetings will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information or to register, please contact Dave Parilla of CJI at (617) 482-2520, ext. 132 or dparilla@cri.org by Friday, Oct. 4.

### 4. New York City Warrant Review Initiative

The effective management of probation warrant cases is recognized across the state as critical to public safety. Several departments have initiated reviews of their warrant caseloads with the intent of holding probation violators accountable, while wisely allocating their resources. The New York City Department of Probation (DOP) recently did an extensive review of its outstanding probation warrants and shared the following results. As of July 31, 2013, the DOP had screened 4,317 non-violent felony and misdemeanor probation warrant cases. Of that total, 1,269 were identified as eligible to be vacated by the courts and so far. 744 of them have been vacated. Meanwhile, the DOP had located half (47 of 92) of the Violent Felony Offender probationers wanted on warrants that were less than two years old. Of the 47 VFO cases located, 36 had their warrants vacated with the following outcomes: three were restored to probation, 10 were terminated, 19 were resentenced, three remain pending; and one was classified as "Other.". Of the 11 VFOs whose warrants were not vacated, two were found to be incarcerated, one was deceased and eight had been deported. Probation Departments are encouraged to use the data provided in the monthly Probation Threshold Report as a reference in their warrant management efforts.

### 5. OPCA Trainings

- OPCA is pleased to announce that 30 newly hired probation officers and probation officer trainees have been accepted into the 2013 Fall Officer Safety and Survival Training (OSST)/Peace Officer/Fundamentals of Probation Practice training course. The following counties will be represented in this class: Albany, Chemung, Columbia, Dutchess, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, Montgomery, Onondaga, Orange, Oswego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, St. Lawrence and Tompkins.
- A three-day Cyber Crime Training was completed in Corning on Sept. 25.
- Three training sessions on the Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol (J-SOAP) were conducted earlier this month in Clinton, Broome and Oneida counties. As a result, 82 additional probation and community corrections professionals have now been trained to properly use this valuable tool.
- Due to demand, OPCA will host a second Offender Workforce Development Specialist training this year. Training dates are: Monday, Sept. 30 through Friday, Oct.4; Monday, Nov. 18 through Friday, Nov. 22and Monday, Jan. 13 through Friday, Jan. 17, 2014. The 180-hour training, held at the state Department of Labor's training site in Albany, will provide instruction in the National Institute of Corrections' Offender Workforce Development Specialist curriculum and successful completion will lead to certification as an Offender

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.

#### 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 <a href="http://itsmr.org/NY%20Highway%20Safety%20Conference.htm">http://itsmr.org/NY%20Highway%20Safety%20Conference.htm</a> 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 <a href="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.</a>
- 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 <a href="http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOJOJP/bulletins/8a7217">http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOJOJP/bulletins/8a7217</a> 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 <a href="www.opdv.ny.gov">www.opdv.ny.gov</a> for ways to turn purple and share your photos with OPDV via e-mail: <a href="mailto:opdvpurple@opdv.ny.gov">opdvpurple@opdv.ny.gov</a>. The agency will share photos via Facebook (<a href="www.facebook.com/NYSDomestic">www.facebook.com/NYSDomestic</a> Violence) and Twitter (<a href="@onySOPDV">@ONYSOPDV</a>). 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.

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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