



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.

~~~~~  
e-Focus, Issue Number 124, April 2, 2014  
New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)  
Michael C. Green, Executive Deputy Commissioner  
Robert M. Maccarone, Deputy Commissioner and  
Director, Probation and Correctional Alternatives  
Patricia M. Clements, e-Focus Editor  
<http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/opca>

~~~~~  
In this Issue:

1. **Real Time Video Reporting (RTVR) Pilot Programs**
2. **Probation Team-NYS Impaired Driver Advisory Council**
3. **NIC Cognitive Behavioral Intervention Skills Training Program**
4. **University of Cincinnati to train on Women's Risk and Need Assessment**
5. **NYS Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program**
6. **Recent Field Visits to Wayne and Onondaga Probation Departments**
7. **OPCA Training**
8. **Recent 2014 State Director's Memoranda**
9. **Awards, Events, Additional Trainings and News**
10. **Practice Tip**
11. **Quick Fact**

~~~~~  
**1. Real Time Video Reporting (RTVR) Pilot Program**  
OPCA, in conjunction with the Albany, Delaware, Onondaga, and Ulster County Probation departments, will soon begin the real time video reporting (RTVR) pilot program. The pilot program is designed to operate for 60 days to explore the use of this technology in helping probation departments to enhance their contact with individuals under community supervision. A new Probation Supervision Rule (Part 351 of 9 NYCRR) allows probation departments to use RTVR as a form of probationer contact. It is anticipated that this new technology will be used to support probationer employment and to engage individuals under supervision in pro-social activities. It is also anticipated that RTVR can be used as a cost-effective means of supervising low risk offenders, as well as enhancing probationer contact and increasing offender accountability with certain higher risk probationers. RTVR will not serve as a substitute for required in-person contacts or home visits. In recent months, OPCA has worked with probation departments to develop draft procedures and forms to implement the pilot programs. Lessons learned from the pilot program will be shared with probation departments statewide as they look to implement RTVR.

~~~~~  
2. Probation Team-NYS Impaired Driver Advisory Council
The state Department of Motor Vehicles and the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) recently announced the reformation of the state's Impaired Driver Advisory Council and seven specialized teams that will work to reduce drug and alcohol-impaired driver fatalities in New York State. The Probation Team is being led by the state director and

representatives of local probation departments who will work on probation strategies to address impaired driving. The first meeting of the Probation Team is scheduled for April 8 at the Alfred E. Smith Building in Albany.

~~~~~

**3. NIC Cognitive Behavioral Skills Training**

OPCA is collaborating with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) to implement a cross-systems training in the nationally recognized cognitive behavioral intervention program "Thinking for a Change". This facilitator training is being offered to 90 criminal justice and community correction professionals through three regional trainings between April and September. NIC will provide this training using its newly developed "blended training" model, which combines live online training events, independent study and classroom training. Please see the training announcement below for additional information.

~~~~~

4. University of Cincinnati to train on Women's Risk and Need Assessment

OPCA is offering a five-day, train-the-trainer program on the Women's Risk and Need Assessment instrument developed by the University of Cincinnati in Albany from April 28 through May 2. This training is free and open to ATI program and probation department staff. Class size is limited and participants will be selected from an application process. Priority will be given to those programs/agencies serving a high number of female offenders. The training will be presented by trainers from the University of Cincinnati.

~~~~~

**5. NYS Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program**

The state Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCPC) is being implemented in five Phase 1 sites: Monroe, Nassau, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Westchester counties. OPCA is working closely with Policy Research Associates (PRA) to conduct the Sequential Intercept Mapping in all five pilot sites. In May, consultant Eric Weaver, a retired Rochester Police sergeant, will conduct a five-day training in the Emotionally Disturbed Persons Response Teams (EDPRT) model for police, probation and correction officers in Schenectady County. OPCA also is working in partnership with the state Office of Mental Health, which is providing targeted financial awards to the five pilot counties to work more effectively with individuals with mental illness who are incarcerated in county jails. OPCA is also working with OMH to develop advanced training for probation officers with specialized caseloads. Other programs offered include the probation based Peer Advocacy Support Group model from Schenectady County and the First Responder Forum from Monroe County.

~~~~~

6. Recent Field Visits to Wayne and Onondaga Counties

DCJS Deputy Commissioner and Probation Director Robert Maccarone and Executive Deputy Probation Director John Adams recently visited Probation Departments in Wayne and Onondaga counties. The Wayne County Probation Department is doing some exciting computer forensic work and has two staff being trained in cooperation with the federal government. The Onondaga County Probation Department is in the process of moving to redesigned office space within its building and has designed and implemented a new probationer visiting and interviewing center. The state director discussed the new supervision rule to include the merit credit and juvenile contact substitution components, as well as Real-Time Video Reporting technology. These visits showed that probation departments are holding offenders accountable while using evidence-based practices with probationers.

~~~~~

**5. OPCA Trainings**

~

OPCA is collaborating with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) to implement a cross-systems training in the nationally recognized cognitive behavioral intervention program "Thinking for a Change". This facilitator training is being offered to 90 criminal justice and community correction professionals through three regional trainings between April and September. NIC will provide this training, using its newly developed "blended training" model, which combines live online training events, independent study and classroom training. This is a new and efficient way to extend training to community corrections professionals across the state. NIC made this substantial commitment to New York State based upon its plan to offer this valuable cognitive-behavioral intervention program through a cross-systems and collaborative approach that includes Probation, Alternatives to Incarceration programs, the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) Institution and Field Staff, and the County Re-entry Task Forces. The goal is to have trained facilitators provide this important training to individuals involved in the criminal justice system, regardless of whether they are in prison or being supervised in the community. For more information contact Patricia Donohue at [Patricia.Donohue@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Patricia.Donohue@dcjs.ny.gov) or (518) 485-5168. ATI and Re-entry Programs should contact Yvonne Behan at [Yvonne.Behan@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Yvonne.Behan@dcjs.ny.gov) or (518) 485-5153.

~

On Jan. 17, OPCA, in collaboration with the state Department of Labor and County Probation departments, graduated another class of 180-hour certified Offender Workforce Development Specialists (OWDS), the seventh such group from an in-state partnership with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). This year's class included staff from County Probation departments, Alternative to Incarceration programs, 200% of Poverty programs, County Re-entry Taskforces and the State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS). With the 23 graduates, there are now 161 OWD Specialists trained through the partnership. Along with the two OPCA sponsored teams that attended NIC's national training, 178 OWD Specialists have now completed the program. The next three-week OWDS class will be held on Apr. 7-11, June 9-13, and Aug. 4-8, 2014. For more information, please contact Cynthia Blair at [Cynthia.Blair@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Blair@dcjs.ny.gov) or (518) 485-5145.

~

The Probation Peace Officer Training --Fundamentals of Probation Practice Course was held Mar. 3-28, 2014 in Albany. 23 new probation officers from 15 counties completed the 90 hour course. Several segments of the curriculum, including Investigations, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Technology, and Specialized Supervision have been updated to reflect new laws, rules and practice.

~

In February, OPCA conducted a webinar titled, "Best Practices in Investigation." The Live Meeting focused on best practices for investigations and highlighted the revised Fundamentals of Probation Practice Investigation and Report Preparation Module. The webinar and all of the handouts are available on the eJusticeNY Integrated Justice Portal (IJ Portal), click on Resources, Reference Library, Probation and Training.

~

In March OPCA conducted a webinar titled, "Case Planning, Probationer Engagement and Case Notes." This introduced participants to the concepts behind effective case planning, strategies and tools for more effective and targeted probation officer probationer engagement how to stay focused on the priorities identified in the case plan and recommendations for how to document the case progression in case notes. To view the presentation, log on to the IJ Portal, click on Resources, Reference Library, Probation and Training.

~

OPCA has announced a statewide training plan which includes 10 regional NYCOMPAS trainings to be held between April and June. Seats in these upcoming trainings have been reserved for funded programs requiring NYCOMPAS training for program implementation. It is essential that all funded programs ensure that staff apply for and, once approved, attend

this training. Availability permitting, open training slots will be offered to all ATI and Probation department staff. Trainees will be selected and confirmed by OPCA through an application process. For information about dates, times and locations please see the course announcement located on the IJ Portal. Click on Resources, Reference Library, Probation and Training. For more information, contact Nicole Aldi at [Nicole.Aldi@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Nicole.Aldi@dcjs.ny.gov) or (518) 485-8457.

~~~~~

6. Recent 2014 State Director's Memoranda

SDM #2014-1 Release of Pre-Plea and/or Pre-Sentence Reports to the Board of Examiners of Sex Offenders.

All State Director's Memoranda are posted to the IJ Portal. To access them, log on to the IJ Portal, click on Resources, Reference Library, Probation and Director's Memoranda.

~~~~~

## 7. Awards, Events, Additional Trainings and News

DCJS Deputy Commissioner and Probation Director Robert Maccarone and Executive Deputy Probation Director John Adams, swore in the newly elected board of the New York State Probation Officers Association (NYSPOA). The statewide officers of NYSPOA are seated in front. From left to right, they are: Secretary Joseph Wargo (Jefferson County), President Kevin McKay (Albany County), Executive Vice President Michael Sharbaugh (Cattaraugus County), and Treasurer Lisa Geier (Erie County). For a list of all the NYSPOA Board Members, please visit [www.NYSPOA.com](http://www.NYSPOA.com)



### American Probation and Parole Specialized Training Overview

This unique resource provides probation departments with the convenience of customizing their training needs to fit their budget, location and time. In addition to experienced staff, American Probation and Parole also contracts with nationally known consultants to provide the latest information on what works in probation, parole and community corrections.

Available Specialized Training:

- Free Suspicious Activity Reporting Training Cognitive Facilitator Certification Training
- PREA – Preventing Sexual Misconduct against Offenders Facilitator Certification

For more information visit:

[https://www.appa-net.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?WebCode=IIIB\\_Specialized](https://www.appa-net.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?WebCode=IIIB_Specialized)

On April 29, the Schenectady County Department of Probation will host a training titled "Deadly Encounters; A Case Study" presented by Mark Radcliff, special projects coordinator for the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions. Mr. Radcliff will present a case study developed by Officer Jeffrey Wroten of the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission, who died from a gunshot wound sustained while guarding an inmate at Washington County Hospital in 2006.

The National Institute of Corrections is sponsoring this free event and a large turnout event is expected. The training will take place at the DOCCS Albany Training Academy in two sessions: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information please contact Judy Sogoian at [Judy.Sogoian@schenectadycounty.com](mailto:Judy.Sogoian@schenectadycounty.com) or (518) 388-4779 no later than April 22.

~~~~~

8. Practice Tip: Each Probation Director or designee shall assign a case to a probation officer within three (3) business days from the probation department's receipt of the official notification of the disposition from either criminal or family court or the interim probation supervision. Probationers who are high risk or who have past or current firearms related charges should be seen as quickly as possible following sentencing and the home visit soon thereafter. (REVISED 4/16/14)

~~~~~

**9. Quick Fact:** During calendar year 2013, OPCA provided 109 training sessions encompassing 1,005 training hours over 155 training days to 8,546 participants. Training topics included Fundamentals of Probation Practice, Executive Leadership for new directors, ATI/Re-Entry trainings, Offender Workforce Development Specialist, Sex Offender management and risk need assessment tools, Cognitive Behavioral Interventions such as Thinking for a Change and Motivational Interviewing, COMPAS, YASI, Interstate, DWI/Ignition Interlock, the new Probation Supervision Rule and various conferences and symposiums.

~~~~~

eFocus is the property of the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives. Articles may be reprinted with attribution. For more information on any of the topics mentioned above, to report any difficulties you may have experienced receiving this e-mail or if you have information you would like posted in the next issue, please contact Patty Clements at (518) 485-0905 or Patricia.Clements@dcjs.ny.gov.

~~~~~

eFocus is 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 Patty Clements with the name you would like removed from distribution.