



Welcome to eFocus, an electronic newsletter produced by the NYS 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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<http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/opca>

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1. Caseload Explorer Enhancements Planned

OPCA has planned a total of 23 change orders to Caseload Explorer, including: an update to the Ignition Interlock Report; the ability to remove personal information from reports submitted to DCJS Finance; changes to the PSI template to include adding the ability to import signatures and allow the selection of separate sentencing recommendations and conditions of probation; adding a restitution report with a collection rate; adding a restitution report which will track obligations created and satisfied by crime category; adding a report which will list all probationers and their addresses with the ability to filter out Youthful Offenders and many other general improvements. Work on these changes will begin this summer.

Additionally, as requested by the Probation Directors/Commissioners, work has commenced on the IJ Portal in regards to the workload report (DP30/30A/SORA) upload/deletion/save & retrieve (would allow partial entry & save) process. Once this work is completed, departments will have the ability to delete a workload report and upload a corrected .xml or re-enter the data for the workload report. Additionally, the upload process would allow the department to upload/enter the data for a specific month/quarter. ITS staff estimate that work on the project will be completed by late August. Also, AutoMon has made changes to the next version of Caseload Explorer which will no longer require users to manually change

the .xml workload report file to UTF-8 and will allow departments to un-finalize workload reports. A release date for this version has not yet been established and will likely coincide with the deployment of the other program changes indicated above.

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## **2. Probation Practitioner Guidance for the Management of the DWI Offender**

OPCA – Adult Operations has prepared this important draft document to better manage the DWI offender with the goal of reducing recidivism and DWI-related highway fatalities. Deputy Commissioner Maccarone recently completed three regional trainings with the Office of Court Administration in implementing the DWI Offender Accountability Program with specialized judges handling DWI cases. The Probation Practitioner Guidance has been distributed to the DWI Focus Group members and the members of the Probation Team – Advisory Council on Impaired Driving, who provided their recommendations. This draft was recently sent out to Probation Directors/Commissioners to provide them with an opportunity to review and provide recommendations. COPA PARC has indicated its interest in reviewing and providing comments as well.

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3. The 2014 Sara Tullar Fasoldt Leadership and Humanitarian Awards

Each year, OPCA presents the Sara Tullar Fasoldt Leadership and Humanitarian Award to leaders from the field of probation and community corrections. The award symbolizes the life and work of Sara Tullar Fasoldt, former head of the NYS Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, who succeeded in immeasurably strengthening and improving the field of community corrections. This award is presented annually.

Deputy Commissioner and Director Robert Maccarone presented the award to Linda Shields, the retiring Probation Director of the Chautauqua County Probation Department, before members of the probation department and county legislature, the county executive and her family on May 21. The award was given to Ms. Shields for her outstanding leadership and significant contributions to the field of community corrections.



Elizabeth Gaynes, Executive Director of the Osborne Association, was also presented with the award before her staff and board of directors at the association's offices in the Bronx on June 20. The award was given to Ms. Gaynes for her extraordinary leadership and dedicated services to men and women involved in the criminal justice system and their families. Deputy Commissioner and Director Maccarone said, "Ms. Gaynes leads with compassion and commitment when establishing comprehensive programs throughout the system, including alternatives to incarceration and prison programming."



4. DNA Award Presented in Chautauqua County

On May 21, Deputy Commissioner and Director Robert M. Maccarone and Executive Deputy Director John H. Adams presented the annual DNA award to the Chautauqua County Probation Department.



From left to right: John Adams, Executive Deputy Director; Robert Maccarone, Deputy Commissioner and Director; Philip Evans, Probation Supervisor; Tom Narraway, Probation Director; and Vince Horrigan, County Executive.

5. Field Visits to Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Genesee, and Steuben County Probation Departments

DCJS Deputy Commissioner and Probation Director Robert Maccarone and Executive Deputy Probation Director John Adams recently visited Probation Departments in Western New York, meeting with staff, probation directors and county representatives. It was clear that the departments are working hard to improve probationer outcomes and enhance public safety. The state director discussed with each department the new supervision rule to include the merit credit and juvenile contact substitution components, as well as the future application of real-time video reporting technology.

6. Albany Co. Executive Recognizes Probation Department's *Ready, Set, Work!* Program

Albany County is taking its ***Ready, Set, Work! (RSW!)*** program to a new level with an onsite computer lab. Deputy Commissioner Robert Maccarone joined Albany County Executive Daniel McCoy and Probation Director William Connors on June 16 for a demonstration. Craig MacNeil, an Offender Workforce Development Specialist and Offender Employment Retention Specialist, heads up the Albany County Employment Services Unit and facilitates the ***RSW!*** groups for Albany County Probation. He selected one of his ***RSW!*** graduates to

be a part of the news conference. For more information you can watch the Time Warner Cable News cast at <http://albany.twcnews.com/content/745432/albany-co--program-prepares-people-on-probation-to-enter-the-workforce/>.

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## **7. NYS Justice Mental Health Collaboration Program Grant – Phase II Counties**

On July 15, Deputy Commissioner and Director Robert Maccarone, Executive Deputy Director John H. Adams and Project Manager Bernard Wilson of OPCA and Dr. Lori Torgersen of the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) met with strategic partners in Erie and Niagara counties to provide information on the Justice Mental Health Collaboration Grant. DCJS and OMH are commencing the Phase II implementation of the JMHCP in the following counties--Albany, Erie, Niagara, Onondaga, and Orange. Work with the Phase I counties - Monroe, Nassau, Rensselaer, Schenectady, and Westchester - continues. More on this grant project is available at <http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/opca/justice-mental-health.htm>

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- 8. The “Assessment of Pretrial Services in New York State” report**, published in July, was produced by the Community Resources for Justice—Crime and Justice Institute (CJI) for the New York State Association of Pretrial Service Agencies (NYAPSA) and the NYC Criminal Justice Agency (CJA). NYAPSA received a modest grant from the US DOJ-- Bureau of Justice Assistance to conduct this study that included a survey of probation, pretrial service programs and judges, and to conduct three regional focus groups. The Office of Court Administration assisted with the review of the survey and its distribution to judges. OPCA provided support and technical assistance to this project and the Office of Justice Research and Performance provided technical assistance in reviewing the initial survey design. The NYAPSA, CJA, CJI and DCJS very much appreciate the cooperation of probation, pretrial service agencies, and the Office of Court Administration with this important project. View the full report at <http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/opca/index.htm>.
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9. OPCA Trainings

During the second quarter of 2014 (April-June), OPCA has provided 17 different trainings to the fields of probation, ATI, re-entry and community corrections. More than 2000 professionals from these disciplines have been trained in topics such as OWDS, Thinking for a Change (T4C), NYCOMPAS, Probation Peer Specialist, Interactive Journaling, ATI Reporting Requirements, DWI, Leandra’s Law, ICAOS and JIDS. Below is more information on some of these and other upcoming training opportunities.

- .. **Northpointe Trains ATI, probation professionals on NYCOMPAS:** Northpointe, the developers of the Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS) trained more than 150 ATI and probation professionals on the use of the NYCOMPAS risk and need assessment instrument. A train-the-trainer session held from June 9-12 produced 14 additional certified trainers.
- .. **DMV Training on Relicensing:** On June 10, Joe DeThomasis, Kellie O’Hara and Ida Traschen of the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) presented a live meeting on the topic of DMV relicensing. More than 400 people attended, including probation officers, conditional discharge monitors and treatment providers. A recording of this meeting has been uploaded to the IJ Portal and can be found by going to Resources, Reference Library, Probation, and Training.
- .. **Justice Mental Health Collaboration Program:** On Wednesday, June 18, 23 participants consisting of Probation, Mental Health and Peer representatives from four counties: Monroe,

Rensselaer, Westchester and Nassau participated in the **Probation, Mental Health, Peer Specialist Supervision Group** training program co-facilitated by the Schenectady team Kevin Pausley and Lynne Davison. The use of Forensic Peer Specialists is a best practice in promoting recovery for individuals with mental illness.

- " **Interstate Regional Trainings Commence:** On June 18, OPCA Interstate staff traveled to Wyoming County to complete the second of seven regional trainings on the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS) and the Interstate Commission for Juveniles (ICJ) rules, operating systems and audit measures. The training was attended by 19 probation personnel from 13 different counties.

The next regional trainings are scheduled for **Wed., July 30 in Onondaga County, Tues., August 19 in St. Lawrence County, Wed., Sept. 17 in Ulster County and Monday, Sept. 29 in Albany County**. For more information, contact OPCA Community Corrections Representative Matt Charton at matthew.charton@dcjs.ny.gov or (518) 485-2402.

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## **10. Recent 2014 State Director's Memoranda**

**No State Director's Memoranda have been issued this month.**

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

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11. Awards, Events, Additional Trainings and News

- " On May 29, the Cattaraugus County Probation Department hosted representatives from *Good Times of Olean*, a local entertainment and recreation center, as they interviewed probationers for employment opportunities at the facility. This collaboration was made possible when a former probation employee, Andrew Klice, accepted a job at *Good Times* with responsibilities that included hiring new workers. Being familiar with the emphasis the Cattaraugus County Probation Department places upon the importance of employment for probationers to succeed, Andrew contacted Sr. Probation Officer Ann Faulkner, the department's 200% of Poverty Employment Program coordinator, and after an additional meeting a plan was developed to conduct interviews the following week.

Eleven probationers were identified as good candidates based upon observations of their participation in the probation system and in the evidence-based programs offered at the department. Of the 11 candidates interviewed, seven got second interviews and four were hired.



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- 12. Practice Tip:** In answering the vocation question within NYCOMPAS (any scale set), self-employment should be scored just as you would other employment. The practitioner should evaluate if the person is really gainfully self-employed.

- 13. Quick Fact:** The DMV Driver Abstracts you obtain through eJusticeNY are usually four- or 10-year abstracts. A lifetime abstract can be requested from DMV using an MV-15F form.

In Memoriam:

The probation community is saddened to learn of the sudden loss of Nassau County Probation Officer Rexie Cruz, a father of two children. Probation Director John Fowle described Cruz as a professional who worked quietly to get the job done every day. .

We express our sympathy to the Nassau County Probation Department and Officer Cruz's family. . .

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