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In this Issue:

- 1. 2018 New York State Conference on Re-Entry and Reintegration**
- 2. The Success of the Monroe County Gun Court**
- 3. Racial and Ethnic Disparity Training for Trainers**
- 4. New Upgrade of Caseload Explorer Available**
- 5. The Sixth Annual Association of Ignition Interlock Program Administrators Conference**
- 6. Governor Cuomo Announces \$7.5 Million to Strengthen Ongoing Efforts to Combat MS-13**
- 7. Recent State Director’s Memoranda**
- 8. OPCA Training Schedule**
- 9. Awards, Additional Trainings and News from County Probation Departments**
- 10. Practice Tips**
- 11. Quick Fact**



1. 2018 New York State Conference on Re-Entry and Reintegration

More than 250 criminal justice professionals and service providers attended the New York State Conference on Re-entry and Reintegration, hosted in May by the state Division of Criminal Justice Services and state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. The event in Albany featured panel discussions and presentations to highlight services that contribute to the successful re-entry of persons returning home from incarceration. Topics included programming in facilities to assist individuals with transitioning from prison to the community, higher education available pre-and post-release, housing, family reunification and legal tools available to overcome barriers to employment, licensing and housing posed by a criminal conviction. New York Secretary of State Rossana Rosado and Marta Nelson, Special Counselor for criminal justice initiatives and chair of the Governor’s Council on Community Re-entry and Reintegration, discussed the important accomplishments being made by the Council, including ending blanket discrimination against people with criminal convictions to reside in state-funded housing, “banning the box” on state employment and State University of New York applications and the recent granting of pardons to restore voting rights to individuals under community supervision.



2. The Success of the Monroe County Gun Program

Monroe County has implemented a 12-month program that will divert certain individuals charged with firearm-related offenses to a specialized “Gun Court,” which is designed to balance offender accountability and address underlying issues resulting in their criminal behavior. Under the program, certain defendants are placed on interim probation in lieu of sending them to jail or state prison. The program is a collaboration among the Rochester Mayor’s Office, Rochester Police, the administrative and supervising judges of Monroe County Court, the county District Attorney’s Office, county Probation Department, and Defense Counsel. These groups collectively agreed to take a new approach to gun violence following a spate of shootings that resulted in 84 victims over the course of 93 days in summer 2015.

Read Supreme Court Justice Thomas Moran’s opinion piece on the Gun Court in the Rochester *Democrat & Chronicle* [here](#).

Many of the agencies participating in the Gun Court program also partnered to implement Probation’s Swift, Certain, Fair Program, which is based on the principles of procedural justice and allows probation officers to work intensively with high-risk individuals to change their lives. In addition to accountability measures such as Nightwatch, the program offers participants opportunities to engage in cognitive behavior and education or vocational programs. The Probation Swift, Certain, Fair Program is funded by DCJS, which also provides technical assistance along with the Rochester Institute of Technology Center for Public Safety.



3. Racial and Ethnic Disparity Training for Trainers

The Center for Children’s Law and Policy facilitated two days of training on the topic of racial and ethnic disparities for probation officers from Erie, Westchester, Monroe, Nassau, and Suffolk counties, and two DCJS units: the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, and Office of Youth Justice. Several in the class will serve as anchor trainers: individuals tasked with delivering the fundamentals of probation practice training to new probation officers. The training included the history of race in the United States, implicit bias, racial anxiety, stereotype threat, and a host of research studies illustrating these concepts.



4. New Upgrade of Caseload Explorer Available

AutoMon has deployed Caseload Explorer 6.1.2, which fixes several bugs and includes enhancements and security updates. The SORA report and the Ignition Interlock Device and Leandra’s Law tracking tools all received significant updates. Please visit the following link for a list of all changes and updates: <https://automon.com/cx-release-notes-v-6-1-2/>.

AutoMon is providing an online sign-up site to schedule a date for the updates, which must be completed by July 13.



5. The Sixth Annual Association of Ignition Interlock Program Administrators Conference

The Sixth Annual Association of Ignition Interlock Program Administrators Conference was hosted in St. Louis, Mo., in May. The conference brings together manufacturers, administrators, and a host of relevant professionals to share the latest advancements and resources in this specialized field. OPCA Community Correction Representative 2 Leonard Price was elected to a two-year seat on the Association's Board and also participated in a panel discussion on the latest interlock technology.

Please note that the Ninth Annual Ignition Interlock Program Conference will be in Albany on Thursday, Aug. 16. Information on the conference has been sent to all probation departments and monitors.

6. Governor Cuomo Announces \$7.5 Million to Strengthen Ongoing Efforts to Combat MS-13

Governor Andrew Cuomo recently announced \$7.5 million to fund program to combat MS-13, an international criminal gang linked to a wide range of violent criminal activities. The funding will support strategies aimed at reducing gang violence, diverting at-risk-youth from gang life, and supporting community organizations that work with local populations. Read the Governor's announcement [here](#).

7. Recent State Director's Memoranda

The following State Director's Memoranda are posted to the IJ Portal:

Resources > Reference > Library > Probation > Director's Memoranda

- **SDM #2018-7: June 22, 2018 – IID “Non-Installers” with Titled/Registered Motor Vehicles – Probation/Monitor Notification to the Court and District Attorney**
- **SDM #2018-8: June 28, 2018 – Communicating the Benefits of Youthful Offender Adjudication to Probationers**
- **SDM #2018-9: July 13, 2018 - IID Uniform Report Event Form**
- **SDM #2018-10: July 16, 2018 – Domestic Violence Screening Instrument Implementation**

8. OPCA Training Updates and Schedule

The OPCA Training Unit completed the first of five regional trainings to prepare probation officers for implementing the state's Raise the Age law in their counties. A total of 35 officers from Western New York

region that training and additional sessions are scheduled for Westchester, Onondaga, Nassau, and Warren counties later this year.

OPCA also is hosting training on Forward Thinking, a method of interactive journaling that focuses on working with youth and young adults. The three sections being offered this summer are intended to help counties prepare for changes associated with Raise the Age. Each session will educate trainers to teach this curriculum. The tentative schedule is as follows:

Jefferson County	Aug. 1 – 3
Tompkins County	Aug. 13 – 15
Westchester County	Sept. 11 – 13

Training opportunities also are available for professionals in the alternatives to incarceration and re-entry fields. A tentative schedule for basic and advanced motivational interviewing training is as follows:

Basic Motivational Interviewing	Jamaica	Aug. 14 – 15
Basic Motivational Interviewing	Albany	Aug. 16 – 17
Basic Motivational Interviewing	Canandaigua	Aug. 22 - 23
Advanced Motivational Interviewing	Albany	Oct. 2 – 3
Advanced Motivational Interviewing	Syracuse	Oct. 23 – 24
Advanced Motivational Interviewing	Yaphank	Nov. 13 – 14



9. Awards, Additional Trainings and News from County Probation Departments

- **New York State Probation Officers Association Annual Conference** - July 25 – 27 at the Hotel Ithaca in Ithaca: <https://www.nyspoa.com/conferences/>
- **2018 New York Association of Pretrial Service Agencies Conference** - Oct. 21 – 22 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy: <http://www.nyapsa.org/>
- **American Probation and Parole Association’s 43rd Annual Training Institute:** July 29 – Aug. 1, in Philadelphia, Penn.: <http://www.appa-net.org/institutes/2018-Philly/attend/>
- **Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week** - Sponsored by the American Probation and Parole Association, July 15 – 21: <http://www.appa-net.org/PPP-Supervision-Week/>
- **Safety and Justice Challenge, Innovative Fund Competition** - John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Urban Institute is making funding available for justice agencies implementing bold ideas to reduce over-incarceration: <https://innovation-fund.fluidreview.com/>
- **Opioid Abuse and Evidence-Based Treatment:** July 18, cost-free. General overview and strategic treatment tactics: <https://register.gotoweinar.com/register/370848070003702787>

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10. Practice Tip

California State University at Fullerton researchers Jonathan Lee and Allen Lim cite motivational interviewing among the most promising strategies for probation officers to use when working with challenging caseloads. Their recent study, "Probation: What Works," states that an "offender who talks about the benefits of change is more likely to make a change, whereas an offender who argues and defends their actions or the status quo is more likely to continue their present behavior." Motivational Interviewing is particularly useful when used with those clients who are more oppositional or otherwise higher-risk than others. Read the full report [here](#).

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11. Quick Fact

The use of motivational interviewing is not limited to working with criminal justice-involved populations. The model was first introduced to help people quit smoking. Since that time, this technique has been used by the psychological and medical communities and the broad applications of motivational interviewing make it a dynamic and essential tool for officers working with populations dealing with a host of issues.

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