



Michael C. Green
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Robert M. Maccarone
Deputy Commissioner and Probation Director

Daniel J. Robertello
eFocus Editor

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New York State Warrant Notification System Recognized

The state Warrant Notification System developed last year by the state Office of Information Technology Services, the Division of Criminal Justice Services, and the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision will receive an award during the New York Digital Government Summit. The system will be named "Best Application Serving the Public" at the conference in Albany on Sept. 21.

Activated in November 2017, the system automated notifications from the state's Wanted System – the repository for all warrant information – that are made to 54 state prisons, eight regional parole offices, 57 county probation departments and the New York City's Department of Probation. These agencies collectively oversee more than 200,000 offenders across the state.

Previously, law enforcement agencies received no automated notification when an arrest warrant for an individual in custody or under supervision was issued, canceled or purged. The new system automatically makes these notifications and provides the law enforcement officer entering a warrant with the probation, parole, or incarcerated status of the individual. On average, the new system generates about 20,000 notifications – including 2,000 to probation departments – that are generated per month through, which demonstrates the large scale of critical information that was previously unavailable to law enforcement agencies.

Probation directors are now developing written procedures on how warrant notifications will be handled by their respective departments. For additional information on the Warrant Notification System, please refer to State Director’s Memorandum # 2017-11 on the Integrated Justice Portal.

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### **New York State Recognizes Probation Professionals for Outstanding Service**

New York State recognized Monroe County Supervising Probation Officer David Fluellen and Erie County Juvenile Probation Officer July Orlowski for their outstanding work to effect positive change in individuals under their supervision. Fluellen received the Director’s Award for Outstanding Service by a Probation Officer – Adult Services, while Orlowski received the Outstanding Service by a Probation Officer – Juvenile Services. The awards are presented annually by the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives at DCJS in recognition of exceptional service, dedication and professionalism by a probation officer who has significantly contributed to the field of community corrections.

Fluellen has served more than 20 years with the Monroe County Probation Department and oversees its Swift, Certain and Fair program. The program enrolls probationers between the ages of 16 and 24 who are likely to be the perpetrators or victims of gun violence and engages them in additional services and supervision. Fluellen supervises 20 individuals who would ordinarily be in either county jail or state prison based on their charges, but are instead referred to the Swift, Certain and Fair program to get them to change problem behavior.



*Monroe County Supervising Probation Officer David Fluellen*



*Erie County Juvenile Probation Officer July Orlowski*

Orlowski manages runaway services for the Erie County Probation Department. Her position was created by Erie County in 2017 to divert youth who run away from home from entering the Family Court system. Through her work, Orlowski has been instrumental in helping runaway youth return home safely and from entering the juvenile justice system. In several instances, her work has helped law enforcement identify runaways who are victims of sex trafficking.

The pair received their awards during the New York State Probation Officers Association Annual Conference in Ithaca in July. The Outstanding Service award – ordinarily presented to one probation officer – was divided into adult services and juvenile services categories this year, in part due to strength of the nominations for Fluellen and Orlowski. [Read more](#) about these awards.

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Albany hosts Ninth Annual New York State Ignition Interlock Conference



Nearly 100 law enforcement professionals participated in the Ninth Annual New York State Ignition Interlock Conference in August. The conference at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany was attended by a probation and conditional discharge monitors, New York State-qualified ignition interlock device manufacturers, judges, defense attorneys and representatives from various state agencies, including the state Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services and state Department of Motor Vehicles. The day-long conference featured a dynamic program of panel discussions, presentations, and a variety of networking opportunities.

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## A Letter from the NYS Council of Probation Administrators (COPA) President Scott Glueckert

Let me begin by commending you all for the professionalism and dedication you have to our field. As probation directors and commissioners, we ask a great deal of you and without fail you deliver. Many of you put your personal lives on hold for the sake of your caseload and your probationers. Your efforts to assist supervised individuals move from the pre-contemplation phase, where the probationer cannot see an issue as being a problem in their life, to the contemplation phase, where the probationer begins to recognize that perhaps the issue is a problem for them are the first steps in being an effective change agent. Please remember that you make a difference every day in people's lives, although you often do not know it or see it right away.

With the onset soon of Raise the Age, we are going to be asking more from you yet again. The age of criminal responsibility will rise on Oct. 1, 2018, and again on Oct. 1, 2019, and with this increase will come a system wide change in how we deal with youth under probation supervision and in the communities. A critical – perhaps the most critical – component of Raise the Age will be your engagement with the youth and their families. To be successful at engagement you will be asked to be open with your communication, respectful of your client's struggles, and patient with their capacity to change. However, we must always be aware not to confuse change with progress. While we seek to impress on probationers' positive change we also hope for positive sustainable change. Those with the highest risk will be referred to the most appropriate treatment and service providers for intensive interventions. Lower risk individuals may be less vigorously monitored. However, in every case the centerpiece of effecting positive sustainable change will be the engagement skills of the Probation Officer. Whether you are delivering a cognitive behavioral intervention program or making a curfew check on a Thursday night, you will be the primary drive behind the engagement of the probationer and a key determinant in their success under supervision. Directors and commissioners are here to support your efforts in this paradigm shift.

We cannot express our appreciation enough for your day-in and day-out dedication to this profession. Thank you.

*Scott Glueckert is the director of the Delaware County Probation Department and president of the New York State Council of Probation Administrators. His letter was addressed to the New York State Probation Officer's Conference in Ithaca in July.*

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### **Arrest Rates for 16 and 17 Year Olds Decline**

According to a report released by the DCJS Office of Research and Performance, arrests rates for 16 and 17-year olds have declined in the first six months of 2018. Comparing these figures to those captured during the same time period in 2017 has revealed an 18% decline in arrests of 16-year olds and a 24.5% decline in arrests for 17-year olds, resulting in an overall decline of 22%. These declines are in addition to the 35% decrease in arrests between 2013 and 2017. You can read the full report here:

<http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/youth-arrests/index.htm>

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### **Domestic Violence Screening Instrument Training**

The DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives is offering a course in Albany on Sept. 12 for probation officers wanting to become certified trainers for the Revised Domestic Violence Screening Instrument (DVSI-R). The course – offered in two separate sessions – will be facilitated Dr. Kirk Williams, a professor at the Department of Criminology, Law & Society at the University of California, who developed the instrument; and Joseph J. DiTunno, deputy director of Family Services for the Court Support Services Division of the Connecticut State Judicial Branch. Probation officers who are interested in the training must first complete the [pre-requisite training webinar](#). So far, there are 35 probation officers from 30 counties in New York State enrolled to attend the in-person training. Once completed, they will be certified to provide the training to probation staff in their region. OPCA is aiming to have officers from all counties across the state trained in using this risk assessment tool. OPCA worked with the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) and the NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV) in researching the tool and planning the training associated with the implementation of the DVSI-R.

The Domestic Violence Screening Instrument is designed to determine whether an individual arrested or convicted of domestic violence is likely to reoffend. The screening instrument has been used in Connecticut since 2004 and has helped probation officers improve supervision of domestic violence offenders. The risk assessment tool is posted in the Northpointe/NYCOMPAS suite; a paper-based version is also available. The tool should be used strictly as a supplement to the NYCOMPAS general risk assessment.

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### **OPCA Visits STRIVE International in Harlem**

On 8/28/2018, DCJS-OPCA Representatives Cynthia Blair, ATI Program Manager, and Frank F. Cangiano, CCR-2, , visited the STRIVE International Program located in East Harlem, New York. STRIVE's mission is to support and assist clients in obtaining and retaining employment through training, case management, and a myriad of other services both on site and through referrals. OPCA was provided program information and a tour of the STRIVE International services by Philip Weinberg, CEO, Verna L. Hamilton, Advancement Program Manager, Terrence D. Byerson, Future Leaders' Program Coordinator, and Cecelia Hemingway-Morrell, Director of Re-entry Services.



In addition to a standard 4-week career readiness workshop entitled CORE, STRIVE International also offers a Future Leaders Program specifically for clients between the ages of 18-24 who have been involved in the juvenile or adult justice system and SMART (Specialized Model for Adult Reentry and Training), career training program for clients who are released from the Riker's Island Correctional Facility into the local community. Additionally STRIVE offers many other services and programs. Please click here for more information <http://www.strivenewyork.org/>. STRIVE International is thankful for their continued relationship with the New York City Probation as well as other important sources of collaboration for this important work.



Please contact Frank F. Cangiano either via email at [frank.cangiano@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:frank.cangiano@dcjs.ny.gov) or phone at (518) 485-5153 with any questions about this program.

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Thinking for a Change 'Booster' Course

The DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives is now offering Thinking for a Change 'booster' courses to help individuals who completed the full curriculum while incarcerated. The refresher course was offered recently in Erie County and Monroe County, with 10 of the 14 individuals who enrolled completing it successfully; a third section is now underway. Participants reported that the course will help them empathize with others and handle situations in a better way. They also indicated that it taught them new skills and reminded them of others they had previously learned.



Training is available in Albany for Thinking for a Change facilitators on Sept. 27. This course is geared for facilitators who intend to use the curriculum with their county re-entry task force. For more information, please contact Margaret.Schieferstine@dcjs.ny.gov or call (518) 485-5157.

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## **Governor Cuomo Announces \$2.2 Million to Combat Violence in the City of Albany**

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced \$2.2 million for programs aimed at combating and reducing violent crime in Albany after a spate of street violence in the city this summer. The funding is aimed at addressing systemic and economic challenges that have plagued certain Albany neighborhoods for decades. “Protecting the public is the top responsibility of government and in order to combat violence you need to address the underlying factors that allow it to thrive in our communities,” said Governor Cuomo. The funding will help bolster workforce development, assist individuals suffering from mental illness, and upgrade city surveillance systems. “This initiative with the input from members of the community, law enforcement, and local officials is expanding social services and workforce development in the area,” Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul said. “This funding will further help reduce poverty and violence in Albany and provide new opportunities for youth and families.”

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## **Albany County Probation Department Program Receives National Award**

The National Association of Counties presented an achievement award to Albany County recognizing its innovative and effective Probation Driver's Licensing Program. Established by county Probation Director William Connors, the program helps probationers obtain the necessary identification to secure employment – specifically driver's licenses. The program has been completed by 31 individuals, with 19 of them using it to find meaningful employment. “The Probation Driver's Licensing Program gives those who only want to get back to work a second chance by helping them secure long-term employment,” said Albany County Executive Daniel McCoy, who accepted the award in July during the association's annual conference in Nashville, Tenn.

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## **Sex Offender Registry Address Confirmation – Second Quarter Report**

The Office of Probation released its statewide Sex Offender Registry Address Confirmation data for the second quarter of 2018 on Aug. 21. The following results were reported:

- Probation departments confirmed the addresses of 92.5 percent of sex offenders under probation supervision through positive home contact
- Change of address forms were filed on less than 1 percent of active cases
- Probation absconders – warrants already existing were issued or requested in 6.5 percent of cases

All jurisdictions should still generate the legacy COR Report from the IJ Portal and utilize it as a baseline for sex offender address confirmation. For Caseload Explorer jurisdictions, the SOR Report generated in the IJ Portal should be compared to the active SORA report generated from Caseload Explorer. Discrepancies between these two reports these should be investigated and corrected immediately.

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## **Juvenile Justice Indicator – First Quarter Report**

DCJS released its Juvenile Justice Indicator Report for the first quarter of 2018 on July 11. This report details system outcomes for juveniles in New York State and provides practitioners with data to gauge performance. The report includes several noteworthy data points: There were 178 fewer statewide detention admissions in during the first quarter as compared to the same period in 2017 – an 18 percent decline. There was also a 10

percent decline in probation intake cases, while petition filings dropped by 20 percent. These outcomes are indicative of the ongoing hard work and commitment across the state to provide juvenile offenders with the best possible opportunities for success.

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OPCA Training Updates and Schedule

- The Office of Probation and Correctional Alternative’s Training Unit continues to facilitate Probation Specialized Juvenile Justice training throughout the state. The program has been offered in Albany, Erie, Westchester and Onondaga counties. Two additional training sessions are scheduled for September and December in Nassau County and Warren County respectively.
- Applications are available for the Fall 2018 OSST/Peace Officer/Fundamentals of Probation Practice program, which starts on Oct. 1.
- The Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives sponsored Interactive Journaling training for trainers in Jefferson County and Tompkins County. The training certified 17 individuals. There are an additional 13 individuals enrolled in another section of the training being offered in Westchester County in September. The training is aimed at supporting counties in advance of the law changes under Raise the Age.
- The Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives sponsored three Basic Motivational Interviewing training sections in Albany last month, resulting in more than 60 professionals receiving training in this curriculum. Training in Advanced Motivational Interviewing is also being offered at three locations across the state this fall. Individuals interested in receiving this training must first complete the basic course. The advance course training follows:

Albany	Oct. 2 – 3
Syracuse	Oct. 23 – 24
Yaphank	Nov. 13 – 14



Professionals certified in the Basic Motivational Interviewing training that was conducted in Albany last month

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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 #2018-9: July 13 – New York State Ignition Interlock Device Uniform Event Report**
- **SDM #2018-10: July 16 – Revised Domestic Violence Screening Instrument Training**
- **SDM #2018-11: Aug. 14 – Probation Department Health Homes Liaison**
- **SDM #2018-12: Aug. 16 – Women’s Risk Needs Assessment**

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Awards, Additional Training, and News from County Probation Departments

- [Adolescent Brain Development – Research Implications for Community Corrections](#): Cost-free, online-based, accredited training offered by the American Probation & Parole Association.
- [Research Says: Best Practices in Assessment, Management, and Treatment of Impaired Drivers](#): Cost-free, online-based training course offered by the American Probation & Parole Association.
- [Mind Science of Bias, Anxiety & Threat: Two Day Training & Strategy Session](#): In Rochester, Sept. 19 – 20. Registration is required.
- [Rural Opioids Technical Assistance Grant Program](#): The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is seeking applications for funding to assist rural communities in addressing the opioid epidemic.
- [Multi-System Collaboration Training and Technical Assistance Program](#): The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform provides support to jurisdictions wishing to improve juvenile justice system outcomes.

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Practice Tip

Probation Supervision rules under Title 9 NYCRR Part 351 require positive home contact. For those assessed at the greatest risk of reoffending, positive home contact is required each month from case assignment. High-risk individuals require positive home contact during the first month of case assignment and two additional times during the following three months. Medium-risk offenders require one positive home contact during the first 45 calendar days from case assignment and as needed thereafter. Notwithstanding the benefit of unannounced homes visits, probation departments should consider scheduling the first home contact with low-risk offenders to ensure it is positive.

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Quick Fact

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention advises that aspects of adolescent development should be used when designing and implementing procedures for providing services to help youth avoid reoffending and while holding them accountable. The publication, "[Formal, Post-Adjudication Juvenile Probation Services](#)," found that "most criminal conduct in adolescence is driven by developmental influences that will change with maturity, thus positive adults in the youths' lives should focus on rewards and immediate consequences while working to help them develop self-control and self-confidence." This suggests that juvenile justice programs should be designed and delivered in conjunction with parents, families, peers, schools, and communities.

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