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eFocus is published by the DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) to further the goal of promoting public safety through probation services and other community corrections programs.

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**1. Albany County Probation Director William Connors receives the Sara Tullar Fasoldt Leadership and Humanitarian Award**

DCJS Deputy Commissioner and Probation Director Robert M. Maccarone recently presented Albany County Probation Director William Connors with the 2018 Sara Tullar Fasoldt Leadership and Humanitarian Award for his outstanding leadership and significant contributions to the field of community corrections. Presented annually, the award is named for a former state probation director and recognizes individuals who exemplify her leadership, humanitarianism and dedication to strengthening the field of community corrections. Under the leadership of Director Connors, the Albany County Probation Department has implemented effective

supervision strategies as well as alternatives to incarceration and other programs and services, including: the Parent Project; Thinking for a Change; Ready, Set, Work!; Project Growth/Career University; Mental Health Peer Support and Advocacy; and a Financial Education Group. During his tenure, the department has been nationally recognized for its work. Last year, the National Association of Counties recognized its Probation Driver's Licensing Program and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University recognized its Juvenile Community Accountability Board as a Top 25 Program for Innovations in American. At right, Director Connors is joined by Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy (left) and Director Maccarone. Also on hand for the presentation were several members of the Albany County Probation Department, representatives from other county government agencies, and Director Connors' family.



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## 2. Dutchess County Leaders Honor Probation Director Mary Ellen Still for 40 Years of Service



Dutchess County Probation Director Mary Ellen Still was recently honored by the county for 40 years of continuous service.

Director Still began her career in December 1978 as a probation officer trainee and has demonstrated commitment, poise, vision and leadership within the agency since that time. Members of the DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) congratulate Director Still for this impressive achievement.

Pictured are Principal Probation Officers Jon Heller and Joanne Nellis, Director Mary Ellen Still, and Deputy Director Thomas Morris.

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## 3. Interstate Commission for Juveniles 2019 Performance Measurement Assessment Results

The Interstate Compact Office has received the results of the Interstate Commission for Juveniles 2019 Performance Measurement Assessment, which is designed to measure the New York State's compliance with Commission rules, policies and procedures during the assessment period. State Probation performed exceptionally well, achieving nearly 100 percent compliance in all standards during the assessment period, which coincided with the 2018 calendar year. This success is attributable to the continued dedication, cooperation and hard work of local probation departments and Interstate Compact Office staff at DCJS.

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## 4. Ignition Interlock Compliance Pilot Project Implementation

DCJS is partnering with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Albany, Orange, and Monroe County probation departments to pilot electronic notification of an operator's certification of compliance and permitted de-installation of an ignition interlock device. Probation departments participating in the pilot program

electronically notify DMV to authorize the removal of the A4 restriction (ignition interlock condition) from the license files of operators who have satisfied requirements associated with installation of the ignition interlock device as part of a conviction and sentence for a misdemeanor or felony DWI.

This electronic submission directly to DMV from probation departments is designed to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the information and prevent potential fraud and falsification of records, which occurred recently in one county. It also allows operators who have complied with the installation requirement to re-apply for their driver's license online.

DCJS will continue to evaluate the pilot project and seek expand the pilot to additional counties. Please contact Michele Melendez (Michele.Melendez-McKearin@dcjs.ny.gov) or Leonard Price (Leonard.Price@dcjs.ny.gov) for more information.

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### **5. DCJS Training Performance: 2016 – 2018**

OPCA trained nearly 5,000 probation and community corrections professionals last year, coming close to doubling the number of individuals who were trained in 2016. In 2018, 4,946 professionals attended 78 different training courses: that compares to 2,310 in 2016 and 4,102 in 2017.

Implementation of the state's Raise the Age Law prompted the increase, as OPCA offered a new, Probation Specialized Juvenile Justice Training, in addition to a series of webinars developed specifically to educate probation officers about the new law and inform them about best practices being used throughout the state. All nine webinars were recorded and are available via the eJusticeNY Integrated Justice Portal (IJPortal). Other training topics included ATI practices; Offender Workforce Development *Ready, Set, Work!*, Interactive Journaling and Motivational Interviewing. OPCA also offered a series of trainings on Leandra's Law and other topics related to DWI enforcement and management of probationers.

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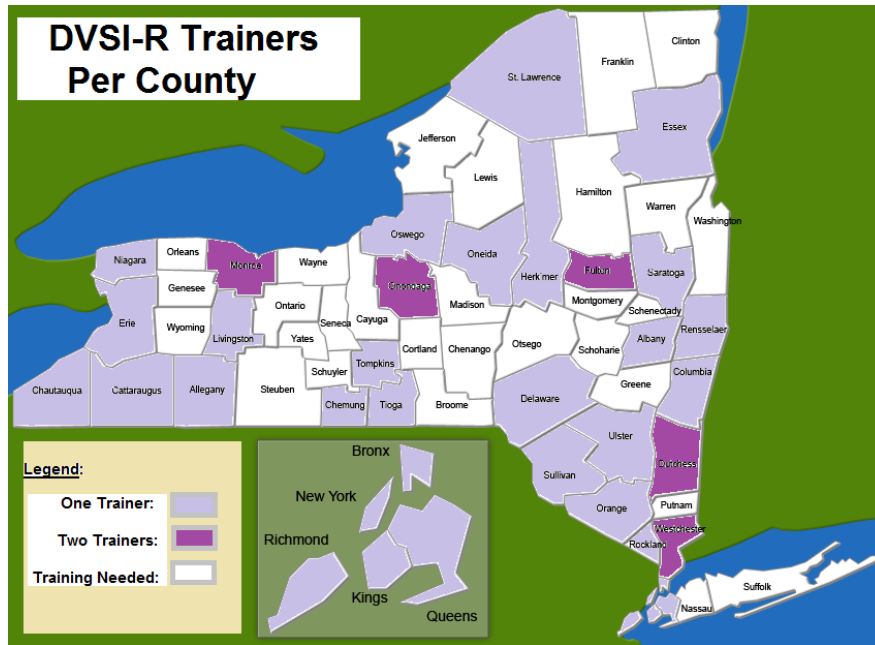
### **6. Domestic Violence Screening Instrument – Revised (DVSI-R) Training Plans**

Last fall, OPCA offered two courses to train probation professionals in the use of the Revised Domestic Violence Screening Instrument (DVSI-R), which is designed to inform probation supervision in domestic violence cases. Facilitated by Dr. Kirk Williams, author/developer of the DVSI-R, and Joseph DiTunno, deputy director of family services for the Court Support Services Division of the Connecticut State Judicial Branch, the training resulted in 35 probation professionals from 29 counties being certified as trainers in the use of the DVSI-R.

Since then, 28 counties have developed and submitted training plans to OPCA so they can train additional probation officers in their regions to utilize the DVSI-R. As of early February, an additional 185 probation officers in 10 counties have been trained through that initiative.

**The DVSI-R screening tool is now available electronically through the NYCOMPAS suite.**

The goal for 2019 is to train probation officers in every county in the use of the DVSI-R, consistent with county probation department policies. The map below represents county probation departments with certified trainers. Probation departments are encouraged to work with probation directors from departments with certified trainers to train their staff in the use of the DVSI-R, as needed.



Effective abusive partner intervention programs focus on offender accountability and domestic violence education, while offering participants the opportunity to change their behavior. Anger management curricula is not a substitute for an effective abusive partner intervention program.

For more information, review the [Abusive Partner Intervention Programs: New York State Guidelines](http://www.opdv.ny.gov) published by the state Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence ([www.opdv.ny.gov](http://www.opdv.ny.gov)).

## 7. DCJS expands OPCA Juvenile Operations Unit

OPCA is expanding its Probation Juvenile Operations Unit to address the implementation of best practices and ensure the effective implementation of the state’s Raise the Age (RTA) law. Community Correction Representative 3 Teresa Scanu-Hansen leads the unit, which is staffed by Community Correction Representatives Lisa Karam and Ian Grugan and Community Corrections Representative 2 Jennifer Cox.

In recent months, the staff members have been tasked with several responsibilities, including participating in the DCJS workgroup charged with reviewing the RTA Plans submitted by counties. Public Safety Grants Representative Kimberly Schiavone and Program Aide Kathleen Cullen have supported that work.

The expansion of the Juvenile Operations Unit signals DCJS’ commitment to increasing the capacity to provide technical assistance and training to probation departments to implement evidence-based practices, assist youth in achieving successful outcomes and realize the goals of RTA.

- Inquiries related to Raise the Age implementation should be directed to [OPCARTATA@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:OPCARTATA@dcjs.ny.gov).
- YASI-related questions, including e-Training account requests, can be directed to [opcaYASI@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:opcaYASI@dcjs.ny.gov).

**8. OPCA Establishes New Vocational/Educational, Employment and Re-Entry Unit**

OPCA has established at Vocational/Educational, Employment and Re-Entry (VER) Unit, which will provide probation departments and re-entry and alternatives to incarceration programs with resources related to educational and vocational programming for justice-involved individuals.

Led by Community Correction Representative 3 Michele Clark, the unit oversees DCJS-grant funded programs in the community: 15 that provide employment-focused services and Re-Entry Task Forces that operate in 20 counties across the state. The unit also is chiefly responsible coordinating the Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training program.

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**9. Second Chance Act Grant Update—Child Trauma Screen (CTS)**

In 2016, the DCJS Office of Youth Justice was successful in obtaining a federal Second Chance Act grant to examine juvenile probation assessment with a focus on youth trauma. Through the grant, awarded to Kids Oneida, probation departments in Oneida, Otsego, Oswego, Madison, Herkimer and Montgomery counties will administer the Child Trauma Screen (CTS) to youth and caregivers at the earliest point or time in their involvement with the youth justice system in those counties. In January, Dr. Keith Cruise of the National Youth Screening and Assessment Partners provided trainings in Madison and Herkimer counties on the need for trauma screening in the youth justice system and how to effectively administer the CTS. A policy on how best to administer the CTS has since been drafted by Probation Directors in the six counties with the assistance of Kids Oneida and DCJS. Results from the CTS will assist probation officers with determining a youth’s need for further clinical trauma assessment and where indicated, treatment by a specialized trauma-specific intervention provider.

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**10. 2019 New York State Probation Officers’ Association Conference Announced**

The New York State Probation Officers’ Association is currently seeking presenters for its annual conference, which is slated for Wednesday, July 31 through Friday, Aug. 2, 2019, at the Resorts World Catskills Casino in Monticello, Sullivan County. Requests to present must be completed and returned to NYSPOA as soon as possible. Visit [www.nyspoa.com/conferences](http://www.nyspoa.com/conferences) for more information.

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**11. DCJS funds 15 Jail-Based Cognitive Behavioral Intervention Programs**

According to a DCJS analysis, approximately 65 percent of individuals released from jail were reconvicted of a crime within five years. Cognitive behavioral intervention programs designed to help individuals who are incarcerated change patterns of thinking, improve positive motivation and further develop social skills are now operating in jails in 15 counties: Albany, Broome, Cayuga, Dutchess, Livingston, Monroe, Nassau, New York, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Rensselaer, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester.

Funded by grants administered by DCJS, these programs aim to reduce recidivism and reliance on incarceration. CBI programs have been demonstrated to improve an individual’s understanding of the ways in which thoughts influence behaviors and provide the individual with the skills needed to change thinking and ultimately, behavior that leads to re-offending.

Please contact Shaina Kern ([Shaina.Kern@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Shaina.Kern@dcjs.ny.gov)) or Alden Saddlemire ([Alden.Saddlemire@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Alden.Saddlemire@dcjs.ny.gov)) for more information about these programs.

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12. OPCA Training Schedule

OPCA, in close collaboration with select counties, the state Probation Officers' Association, and the state Council of Probation Administrators, has begun efforts to develop an Officer Wellness Model for county probation departments. A working group is examining models that currently exist in probation departments and identifying resources and literature to create a framework for a model that can be implemented by probation departments. Please contact Daniel Robertello at Daniel.Robertello@dcjs.ny.gov for further information about this training or those featured below.

Upcoming Trainings

Training Type	Location	Dates	Status
Decision Points	Albany	March 18 – 20, 2019	Accepting Applications: Apply Here
Interactive Journaling: Forward-Thinking Facilitator Training	Westchester	March 21 – 22, 2019	Accepting Applications: Apply Here

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## 13. 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 #2019-1: January 18, 2019 – Standard Specifications for Professional Probation Positions Title 9 NYCRR Appendix H-10**

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14. Awards, Additional Training, and News from County Probation Departments

OPCA Community Correction Representative 3 Gary Govel last month received the DCJS Commissioner’s Award for Operational Services. Govel was recognized for his work on a 12-year project to update the Standard Specifications for Professional Probation Positions (H-10) and his significant contributions to the state’s Warrant Notification and Roadside Stop projects.

From left to right: DCJS Executive Deputy Commissioner Michael C. Green, Deputy Commissioner and HRM Director Karen Davis, Community Correction Representative 3 Gary Govel and Deputy Commissioner and Probation Director Robert M. Maccarone



[APPA Executive Summit of Community Corrections Leaders:](#)

A senior leadership-focused forum to identify the most pressing issues facing community corrections leaders.

[Identifying and Supervising Victims of Intimate Partner Violence:](#)

A free, online training that addresses intimate partner violence through enhanced and specialized supervision practices.

[Surviving the Trenches: The Impact of Trauma Exposure on Corrections Professionals](#)

A free, online training that addresses the role of primary trauma, secondary trauma and compassion fatigue among community corrections professionals.

[Supervising Juveniles with Mental Disorders](#)

This online course (\$35 fee) examines the best practices in effectively supervising juveniles with mental health disorders.

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15. Practice Tip

According to the [LA Probation Governance Study: Review of Best Practices in Probation](#), “...higher educational attainment is associated with increased effectiveness in working with youth; that probation personnel trained in culturally competent, evidence-based, and best practices produce lower recidivism than those providing traditional probation services.”

This study, published by the Los Angeles County Executive’s Office, also recommends that ongoing, annual training for all supervising officers include a blend of core (for example, Understanding and Addressing Risks and Needs) and specialized (for example, Motivational Interviewing) training courses.

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16. Quick Fact

The New York State Ignition Interlock Device Uniform Event Report has been implemented statewide. This form ensures that events required to be reported by qualified manufacturers are done so in a consistent format that is easily identified and interpreted. Please contact Leonard Price at Leonard.Price@dcjs.ny.gov or (518) 485-9941 for more information about this report or anything related to ignition interlock regulations.

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