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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. Raise the Age Rule Amendment Training Webinars

The DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) has a series of webinars available to highlight the March 27, 2019 promulgation of probation regulations. This learning series assists probation professionals in implementing the rule amendments that have been incorporated into Parts 348, 350, 351, 352, 356 and 359 due to the implementation of the Raise the Age Law in New York State. Probation departments are encouraged to watch each of these webinars. To access these recordings, please follow the provided pathway in the eJustice NY portal below to find webinar recordings regarding Raise the Age from September 2018 to present in chronological order. The webinars include a description, the recording and any attachments that were provided during that recording.

Pathway: eJustice NY → Resources → Probation → Specialized Supervision → Raise the Age

Please submit any questions to OPCARTATA@dcjs.ny.gov.

2. Domestic Violence Screening Instrument – Revised (DVSI-R) End-User Training Update

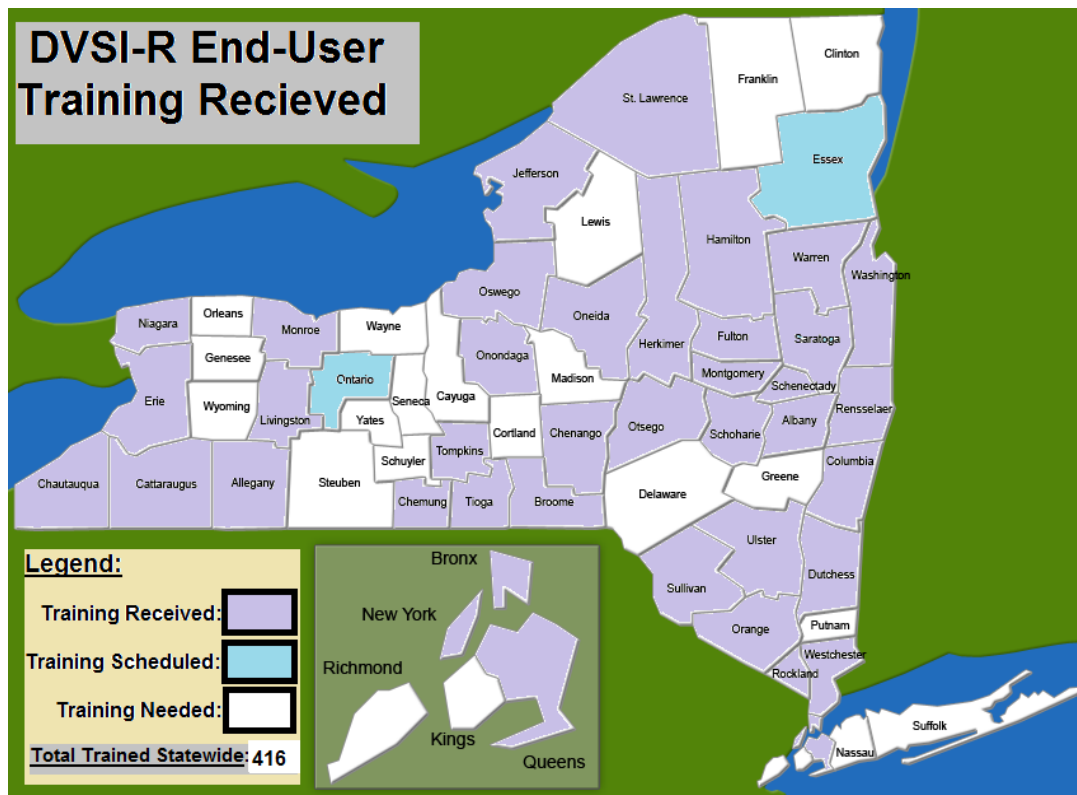
In September 2018, OPCA offered two courses for probation officers to become certified trainers for the Revised Domestic Violence Screening Instrument (DVSI-R). The courses were facilitated by Dr. Kirk Williams, the developer of the instrument and a professor at the Department of Criminology, Law & Society at the University of California, and Joseph DiTunno, deputy director of Family Services for the Court Support Services Division of the Connecticut State Judicial Branch. Thirty-four probation officers from 29 counties in New York State attended the training in Albany and were certified as DVSI-R trainers.

As of July 16, 2019, an additional 416 probation staff from 37 counties have received DVSI-R training from certified DVSI-R trainers. All probation staff who received end-user training are now able to utilize the DVSI-R with individuals placed on probation supervision for domestic violence-related offenses. As we move forward into 2019, OPCA aims to have at least one officer from each county across the state trained in utilizing this valuable domestic violence screening tool. The DVSI-R screening tool is available electronically through the Northpointe/NYCOMPAS suite, as well as on paper.

On June 28, 2019, OPCA, in collaboration with Senior Probation Officers and Certified DVSI-R trainers Tiffany Comeau and Thomas Bryson from Fulton County Probation Department, conducted a Regional DVSI-R Training in Fultonville (Montgomery County). The successful training included 20 probation staff from eight counties who are now qualified DVSI-R end-users.

Additionally, two Regional DVSI-R trainings are scheduled to take place in Ontario County on August 15, 2019 and Essex County in September (TBD). For more information on these trainings, see OPCA Training Updates and Schedule below.

The below map of New York State shows which county probation departments have received DVSI-R end-user training, in addition to those counties that have DVSI-R trainings planned for the near future.



Effective abusive partner intervention programs focus on offender accountability and domestic violence education while offering participants who want to change their behavior the chance to do so. Anger management curricula should never be a central component of an abusive partner intervention program. For more information, review the [Abusive Partner Intervention Programs: New York State Guidelines](#) published by the state Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (www.opdv.ny.gov).

3. *Decision Points* Pilot Project

From March 18 – 20, 2019, OPCA provided a 20-hour *Decision Points* facilitator training. *Decision Points* is a flexible Cognitive Behavior Intervention (CBI) that can be used in combination with other programming, or as a stand-alone program depending on a probationer’s level of need. The evidenced-based training was facilitated by *Decision Points* authors Juliana Taymans, PhD and Steven Swisher M.Ed, MS, both of whom are the primary authors/developers of the well-respected *Thinking for a Change (T4C)* curriculum. The training served as New York State’s pilot and included five probation departments (Dutchess, Erie, Nassau, Schenectady and Tioga), each of which had two probation officers trained as *Decision Points* facilitators, who will co-facilitate group trainings for juveniles engaged with Juvenile Probation and the Intake and Adjustment process. While *Decision Points* is being implemented as a Raise the Age initiative, the curriculum can be used for adults under supervision. OPCA encourages departments to conduct their own cognitive behavioral intervention training as they can best ensure consistency to the model and client attendance.

The Dutchess County Probation Department, for example, has already seen positive results since implementing *Decision Points* on May 1, 2019.

“Our first group was yesterday. We started with three of my toughest students at an alternative high school, as we both truly believe that this could be used with anyone regardless of the stage of change they are in. All three completed the pre-program interview prior to starting, and all three came to school and participated on the scheduled first group (5/1). They all participated and helped keep each other on task.”

~Sandy Carroll, Senior Probation Officer, Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections

“Our group has been going well and the youth involved seem to enjoy the content and really be getting something from it. We plan to continue running the group throughout the summer and then go from there. One individual is nearing completion.”

~John Guercio, Probation Officer, Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections

All pilot sites are scheduled to implement the *Decision Points* program this summer.

4. Erie County Opioid Overdose Response Project

In 2016, 301 people died from opioids in Erie County. In response, the Erie County Opiate Epidemic Task Force developed a cross-domain collaboration framework and initiated an education and prevention campaign, including naloxone distribution and training. As a result, in 2017, Erie County’s opioid overdose death rate declined 17 percent. This year, the project will tackle opioid abuse in the probation population with the Probation Opioid Response Initiative. This includes utilizing a validated risk assessment tool for probationers who are at risk for opiate/opioid overdose and the institution of an Opioid Review Board to modify policy and intervention strategies with the ultimate goal of reducing overdose fatalities and opioid misuse across Erie County.

Read more about the Erie County Opioid Overdose Response Project [here](#).

5. Westchester County Probation Officer Trainee Graduation

Westchester County Probation held its Winter 2019 Academy for new probation officer trainees. This class successfully completed eight weeks of training Fundamentals of Probation Practice (FPP), Drug Description & Testing, Field Work, First Aid, Report Writing, Defensive Tactics, Handcuffing, Initial OC, Initial Baton, Caseload Explorer, Officer Wellness and more. In April, they returned for the fourth week of FPP along with seasoned officers from Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess and Rockland counties. The Westchester POTs will return in August to complete Initial Firearms, concluding their academy training.

Dutchess County Probation Officer Kelly Milano also joined the academy and successfully completed the FPP curriculum.



Pictured from left to right: POTs Olivia Johnson, Shawna Cole, Christine Abreu, Stefanie Gross, Commissioner Rocco A. Pozzi, POTs Luz Contreras, Tyais Cunningham, Marissa Crescenzo, John Whalen and Nehru Wilkins.

6. NYS Civil Service Testing Guides – “Standard Specifications for Professional Probation Positions”

The New York State Department of Civil Service has revised the Probation Series of exams utilized by local civil service agencies to align with the new [Appendix H-10](#), “Standard Specifications for Professional Probation Positions,” effective May 28, 2019. The revised tests, which were offered in June, cover the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) that are needed by candidates when they are first hired. KSAs acquired through training are not covered in the tests because they are not needed upon appointment. A testing guide published by Civil Service for the positions of Probation Assistant, Probation Officer 1 Trainee, Probation Officer 1 is available [here](#). Please note that Civil Service has not prepared a test guide for the other titles found in Appendix H-10. However, candidates may find helpful information in the publication "General Guide to Written Tests." This publication is available online at [Test Guides and Resource Booklets](#).

7. Jail-Based Cognitive Behavioral Intervention (CBI) Programs Forum

On March 20, 2019, DCJS hosted a one-day forum for the 15 funded Jail-Based Cognitive Behavioral Intervention (CBI) Services Programs. The forum was held at the Alfred E. Smith State Office Building in Albany.

The forum included presentations from DCJS staff on the CBI jail-based program model, case documentation, the new operational assurance payment milestone, the fidelity initiative and lessons for operating successful programs. There was also a presentation on the Community Corrections Data Submission Application with a demonstration of how to enter required program data.

The forum included interactive discussions with programs on client engagement, program rollout, logistics and more. Staff provided a brief description of their programs, including the intake and assessment process, CBIs utilized and jail logistics. Grantees also shared information on successes and challenges experienced to date. The information shared in the interactive discussions allowed programs to learn from each other and help DCJS provide targeted assistance to programs and their jail partners.



More than 50 people attended, including representatives from all 15 jail-based CBI programs and most of their jail partners.

8. Alternatives to Incarceration Bail Poundage Inquiry

In response to an email from a probation department regarding the 1 percent fee attached to bail money deposits, OPCA advises that Chapter 166 of the laws of 1991 established Section 99-M of the General Municipal Law. This states that an additional 1 percent fee of the amount of bail money deposited in conjunction with criminal actions shall be imposed and used to fund a local jurisdictions' alternatives to incarceration service plans approved by the then-Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives pursuant to Article 13A of the Executive Law. These funds "shall not be used to decrease any money approved to fund the alternatives to incarceration service plan..." These funds are only to be used to *enhance or supplement* a county's Article 13A service plan.

9. Dutchess County Investment into Project MORE

According to an audit conducted by the Dutchess County Comptroller's Office, the daily cost to incarcerate a person is higher for Dutchess County than the cost to provide alternative services that may be more effective in reducing future criminal activity. According to the report, the average cost to incarcerate a person at Dutchess County Jail is \$210 per day; whereas, a person receiving aid through county programming costs between \$6.84 to \$46.04 a day.

For the past 10 years, the contract agency Project MORE Inc., has worked with the sheriff's office and the county Department of Probation and Community Corrections to provide several alternatives to incarceration that include the Transitional Housing program, the Community Transition Center, the Re-Entry, Stabilization, Transition and Reintegration Track program and the Women's Center. These programs offer a variety of services to individuals incarcerated and released from jail, including housing, anger management, employment aide and more. Comptroller Robin Lois said the report confirms there is a high success rate in the county's programs.

Read more about the success rates of each of these alternative to incarceration programs in Dutchess County [here](#).

10. Onondaga County Probation Officers Honored for Life-Saving Actions

An Onondaga County probation officer saved a man from overdosing on opiates in May. Two other probation officers spotted a house fire in April and made sure four occupants got out safely. Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon visited the probation department to publicly thank and honor them for their life-saving actions.



Probation Officer Kristen Jackson (left) was honored for saving a man's life by administering Narcan. Probation Officer Kristen Williams and Supervisor Scott Snyder (right) were recognized for helping four people escape a burning house in April. (Pictures by Tim Knauss)

Read the full article [here](#).

11. NYSPOA 2019 Training Conference: “3 Days of Peace, Love & Supervision”

The New York State Probation Officers Association holds its annual conference July 31, 2019 – August 2, 2019 in Sullivan County at the Resorts World Catskills in Monticello. The theme is “3 Days of Peace, Love & Supervision” due to the venue being near the original Woodstock festival, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this summer. The three-day conference includes dynamic workshops, networking opportunities and vendor exhibits. Find the official schedule of workshops in the [POA Pre-Conference Guide](#).

Additional information about this event can be found [here](#).

12. Monroe County Probation Officer's Association

Monroe County Probation Officer's Association (MCPOA), in conjunction with the Monroe County Office of Probation-Community Corrections, announced their Annual Training Conference is returning in the Fall of 2019. There is a collection of workshops being offered that focus on officer wellness as well as another collection of workshops that will explore current drug trends with a focus on the heroin epidemic. Also scheduled is a workshop that offers training to prepare attendees to utilize the DVSI-R (Domestic Violence Screening Instrument - Revised). Other topics to be presented include Raise the Age, LGBTQ+ and Implicit Bias. Registration for the conference includes lunch featuring keynote speaker Monroe County Public Safety Director (and former Monroe County Chief Probation Officer) Robert Burns. The conference is scheduled for September 26, 2019 in downtown Rochester. Registration information will be distributed to probation departments statewide. Questions can also be directed to conference co-chairperson Jill Hoff at (585)753-3354 or jhoff@monroecounty.gov.

13. Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week (PPPS Week)

Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week (PPPS Week) raises awareness about the amazing work that community corrections professionals do every day.

This year, July 21 – 27, 2019, the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) invites you to celebrate the incredible community corrections heroes. These individuals work to change lives and provide a safer community for all. Join APPA to celebrate your co-workers, employees, supervisors and your profession!

For more information on PPPS Week and if you are interested in having APPA visit your office, visit the official webpage [here](#).

14. Recent State Director's Memoranda

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

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

- State Director Memorandum #2019-2: March 28, 2019 – Raise the Age – Probation Regulations Title 9 NYCRR – Parts 348, 350, 351, 352, 356 and 359
- State Director's Memorandum #2019-3: April 30, 2019 – "Leandra's Law" Implementation- January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2019 Report
- State Director's Memorandum #2019-4: May 24, 2019 – Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument-Version 2 (MAYSI-2)

15. OPCA Training Updates and Schedule

- Seven Motivational Interviewing (MI) trainings by OPCA take place this year. The trainings started in June and continue into October.
- OPCA is offering two Regional DVSI-R trainings in Montgomery County and Ontario County.
- Other trainings OPCA plans to offer this year but have not been officially announced yet include: COMPAS, YASI, Interactive Journaling, Thinking for a Change, Decision Points, MAYSI-2, OWDS and T4C Booster.

Upcoming Training Events

<i>Training Type</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Application Deadline</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Basic Motivational Interviewing	Alfred, New York	July 23 – 24, 2019	Closed	Class is Pending
Basic Motivational Interviewing	Albany, New York	August 6 – 7, 2019	July 17, 2019	Class is Full
Basic Motivational Interviewing	Ulster, New York	September 24 – 25, 2019	September 3, 2019	Apply Here
Advanced Motivational Interviewing	Utica, New York	June 11 – 12, 2019	Closed	Complete
Advanced Motivational Interviewing	Rochester, New York	July 16 – 17, 2019	Full	Class is Pending
Advanced Motivational Interviewing	Canton, New York	September 10 – 11, 2019	August 20, 2019	Apply Here
Advanced Motivational Interviewing	Fallsburg, New York	October 15 – 16, 2019	September 24, 2019	Apply Here
Regional DVSI-R Training	Fultonville, New York	June 28, 2019	Closed	Complete
Regional DVSI-R Training	Canandaigua, New York	August 15, 2019	July 25, 2019	Apply Here
Regional DVSI-R Training	Essex County	September, 2019	TBA	Announcement coming soon

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

- Orleans County Probation Director **Lucille Taylor Welch** received the Lamplighter Award from the 8th Judicial District NY Court System for Outstanding Women in Law.
- In May, Washington County Probation Director **Anthony M. White** was presented with the Liberty Bell Award by the Washington County Bar Association. This is the most prestigious award given by lawyers to a non-lawyer.



Pictured from left to right: Washington County Public Defender Michael Mercure, Washington County Family Court Judge Hon. Adam Michelini, Washington County Probation Director Anthony White, Kimberly White (Anthony's Spouse) and Washington County Court Judge Hon. Kelly McKeighan

- Probation Directors Honored at COPA Summer Institute

County Probation Directors **Juliann Beatty, Essex** (left), **David Tomidy, Oneida** (center), and **Lorraine Wilmot, Broome** (right) retired this year after years of distinguished service to the probation profession. They were honored at the summer conference of the Council of Probation Administrators held in Lake Placid.



- [Identifying and Supervising Victims of Intimate Partner Violence](#): This free online training addresses intimate partner violence through enhanced and specialized supervision practices
- [Supervising Juveniles with Mental Disorders](#): This online course examines the best practices in effectively supervising juveniles with mental health disorders. Cost: \$35.



17. Practice Tip(s)

The rules of the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS) have the force and effect of federal law and supersede state and local law. Recently, there have been examples of sentencing courts terminating probation sentences in lieu of New York State's responsibility to retake probationers, who have transferred their supervision through the interstate compact. This is in direct conflict with the terms of the interstate compact. *Probation Departments must inform their sentencing courts of their responsibility to issue compact warrants when necessary.* OPCA can assist any department in working with their courts to ensure compliance with the federal regulations. Find more information on state's liability in terminating probation sentences in lieu of retaking [here](#).

18. Quick Fact

The Medical Marijuana Registry Inquiry (MMRI) is a useful tool for Law Enforcement and Probation Officers that allows officers to access the status of an individual's Medical Marijuana Card Registry. The MMRI can be accessed through eJustice under the "People" tab once the Probation Department's TAC contacts eJustice and provides a list of users to access the MMRI. Below is an image of the MMRI in eJustice:

The screenshot shows the eJustice Integrated Justice Portal interface. The main navigation bar includes Home, People, Property, Intelligence, Resources, and Notifications. The current page is titled "Medical Marijuana Inquiry" under the "People" tab. The form is divided into two sections: "By Name" and "By ID".

By Name Section:

- Name: * Last, * First, Middle
- * Birth Date: mm/dd/yyyy
- * Reason For Inquiry: (text area, Using 0 of 200 characters)
- SEARCH button

By ID Section:

- * Complete one of the following:
- Medical Marijuana Registry ID: (text field)
- DMV Client ID: (text field)
- * Reason For Inquiry: (text area, Using 0 of 200 characters)
- SEARCH button

Legend: * = Denotes Required Field. CLEAR button is located at the bottom right of the form.

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Please contact your department's TAC to request access to the MMRI.

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