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Probation Officer Wellness and Peer Support Training Program

In February, DCJS trained 30 probation officers from 16 departments to serve as peer support specialists. The virtual training was provided from Feb. 23 to 25. Officers acquired skills needed to be trained specialists in delivering important peer support services and completed the “Assisting Individuals in Crisis” curriculum. Peer support teams function as a support and debriefing resource for probation professionals experiencing personal and work-related stress and following critical and traumatic incidents. Jeffrey Lating, Ph.D., a credentialed faculty member of the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF), led this virtual training. Prior to COVID-19, the ICISF did not offer an online training for “Assisting Individuals in Crisis.” In April, DCJS will conduct a WebEx call for all newly trained peer specialists and will include representatives from existing peer support teams (Tompkins, Rensselaer and Monroe counties) to provide technical assistance and support, discuss implementation strategies, discuss peer support techniques and the challenges in providing services during the pandemic. Probation officers from Broome, Cattaraugus, Delaware, Franklin, Fulton, Jefferson, Livingston, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Orleans, Oswego, Ulster, Warren, Westchester, and Yates counties comprised the first class of peer specialists.

Special points of interest:

- > Probation Best Practice
- > New YAS/Caseworks Reports
- > State Director’s Memoranda
- > Virtual Training Opportunities

Virtual Probation Executive Leadership Training Program to Convene March 18-19

The Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) has scheduled its first ever virtual training for the Probation Executive Leadership program for new probation directors and deputies from March 18 to 19. Newly appointed probation directors from 13 counties will participate. Presentations will include leadership and leading change, an overview of statutory and regulatory authority, recent statutory changes governing probation practices, quality assurance, evidence-based probation practices, building internal capacity, intrastate and interstate transfers, specialized community su-

pervision and fiscal responsibility. The program will conclude with a director’s panel discussion, led by experienced probation directors who will discuss contemporary challenges in probation practices.

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For more information , please contact the training unit via [email](#).

New YASI/Caseworks Aggregate Data Reports Now Available to Probation

DCJS-OPCA is pleased to announce the re-launch and availability of the YASI aggregate county-based data reports on the Integrated Justice Portal, found through the following pathway: E-Justice Portal > Resources > Reporting Service > Juvenile Justice (folder) > YASI (folder).

Probation officers will see report folders labeled Alcohol Drug, Client Assessment, County Profile, Family, Legal History, Mental Health and School. Contained within each of these folders are a series of data scripts that can be manipulated for each county's YASI data. The YASI aggregate data reports are updated monthly through YASI Caseworks data transfers from Orbis Partners. These are avail-

able for department analysis to support program planning, separate from functions available in the YASI statistical reports in Caseworks.

Staff should continue to find these reports useful for analyzing and supporting the program and service needs of probation-involved youth.

OPCA extends its appreciation to probation directors and members of the probation workgroup for analyzing and reformulating these reports.

For questions about YASI reports, please email the [OPCA Juvenile Operations Unit](#).

Caseload Explorer (CE) Check-In Continues to Assist Probation Departments

DCJS-OPCA expedited the statewide roll-out of the web-based CE Check-In in March 2020 at no expense to probation departments. While originally intended for use with low risk caseloads, Check-In has greatly assisted probation departments during the COVID-19 pandemic with contacting individuals under supervision electronically, supplementing traditional contacts with higher risk cases. The most recent CE Check-In report indicated that 40 probation departments were actively using the web-based system and effectively leveraging the power of electronic reporting and communication during these challenging times. CE Check-in allows probation departments to maintain electronic contact with probationers and includes a text messaging function, as well as alerts, which notify probation officers when clients may be out of compliance.

There are three recorded sessions regarding NY CE Check-In available on the Integrated Justice (IJ) Portal :
Resources>Reference Library>Probation>Case Management Tools.

CE Activity by the Numbers: (April 2020 to January 2021)

- 201,589 web check-ins;
- 282,465 text message reminders;
- 228,133 email reminders sent to probationers;
- 137,835 text messages received from probationers; and
- 127,562 text messages sent by probation officers.

The Warren County Probation Department collaborated with its Employment & Training Administration to pilot a virtual career class for youth who have been engaged in the juvenile justice system. Probation Officer Justin Mallory and Employment & Training Administration Youth Counselor Jill Metcalfe co-facilitated eight lessons on Zoom and included presentations from 10 “Ready, Set, Work!” curriculum modules. The employment readiness curriculum for justice involved individuals covers a variety of topics, including legal issues,

financial incentives, job interviews, employer expectations, job search and retention, and information on career center services throughout New York State. Importantly, “Ready, Set, Work!” builds skills to obtain and sustain successful employment. The materials for the class were available on Google Classroom, and students reported enjoying the class. The Warren County Probation Department plans to continue to offer the “Ready, Set, Work!” curriculum to prepare their youthful offenders for a successful career path.

Erie County Adult Behavioral Health System Resource Map

The Erie County Department of Health has released a new tool for probation professionals to utilize when searching and identifying programs within the Adult Behavioral Services system. The [map of programs](#) is a Microsoft Excel file and will be continuously updated by the Erie County Department of Health. The map is structured with tabs featuring specific treatment areas, including substance abuse, mental health, housing, domestic violence, and peer support, as well as programs available for that geographic area. For example, the map lists the various substance abuse programs and treatment options available (inpatient, outpatient, residential, MAT, detox) and then identifies the names of specific programs for each option.

Service providers are continuously being afforded the opportunity to update their information, so the map is as up to date as possible. All questions should be directed to Mark O’Brien, LCSW-R, Commissioner of Mental Health via [email](#).

New Electronic Human Trafficking Victim Referral Procedure

DCJS and Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) are pleased to announce its new electronic human trafficking victim referral procedure. This secure [web-based eReporting system](#) will allow law enforcement to electronically submit human trafficking referrals to the state. Previously, the only method to submit a referral was by fax. This streamlined process more quickly and efficiently permits New York State victims of human trafficking to access much needed support and services. Staff from the DCJS, in consultation with the OTDA, will review the referrals to determine whether an individual is eligible for

assistance. To ensure that law enforcement agencies and social service organizations are receiving the training and education needed to facilitate coordinated implementation of the law, the state has an Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking. The Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking is co-chaired by the Commissioners of DCJS and OTDA. For more information on the Task Force, referral process and the electronic submission form, please visit the DCJS Human Trafficking Prevention [website](#).

If you have questions regarding this new procedure, please contact DCJS Human Trafficking Prevention Director C.J. Boykin, at 518 485-7718 or 518 320-4121 (carl.boykin@dcjs.ny.gov).

Traffic Deaths Surge During the Pandemic, Despite Fewer Drivers on the Road

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that an estimated 28,190 people died in motor vehicle crashes during the first nine months of 2020, an increase of 4.6 percent compared to 26,941 fatalities reported for the same time period in 2019. Although the causes for these fatal crashes were not specified, most serious injuries and/or fatalities were attributed to unsafe driving behaviors, such as speeding, driving under the influence, distracted driving and not wearing a seat belt.

NHTSA also provided an examination of the prevalence of alcohol and drugs among seriously and fatally injured drivers, before and during the COVID-19 emergency through mid-July 2020. A report published in October 2020 found that 65 percent of drivers treated at trauma centers for injuries due to serious crashes had alcohol or drugs in their system, compared with 50.6 percent before the pandemic. The results also revealed that the proportion of drivers involved in crashes who tested positive for two or more categories of drugs increased from 17.6 percent before the pandemic to 25.3 percent during

the public health emergency. THC was found to be more prevalent among drivers involved in crashes when compared to alcohol (32.7 percent vs. 28.3 percent), and opioid use among drivers almost doubled from 7.5 percent to 13.9 percent during the public health emergency.

Further, a research report titled "[Impaired Crashes on New York Roadways: 2015-2019](#)", released by the Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research in January 2021, indicates that 42.9 percent of fatal crashes statewide involved a driver, pedestrian or bicyclist who was impaired by alcohol and/or drugs in 2019. On Nov. 30, 2020, 19,809 individuals were on probation supervision in New York for driving while intoxicated, driving while ability impaired, or aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, according to the DCJS Office of Justice Research and Performance.

State Director's Memoranda

The following State Director's Memoranda are posted to the IJ Portal: Resources > Reference Library > Probation > Director's Memoranda

- **State Director's Memorandum #2021-1: Probation Restitution & Financial Obligations Report**
- **State Director's Memorandum #2021-2: Revision to Title 9NYCRR Part 364, Conditional Release Conditions**

Update: State Director's Memorandum #2020-11

The DWI Conviction Report, described in State Director's Memorandum #2020-11--DWI Conviction Report, has been updated and modified to ensure that only those convicted of Leandra's Law offenses are included. The new report logic has been tested to ensure that the information accurately reflects what is occurring locally. The modified report is available in the IJ Portal .

OPCA Training Updates

MAYSI-2- Sessions 7 & 8 conducted

On Jan. 28, DCJS-OPCA concluded their training series on the use of the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI-2), and more than 540 individuals were trained. Mental health screening for juvenile delinquent adjustment cases has been required since April 2020, per 9 NYCRR Part 356 and State Director's Memorandum #2020-2. Mental health screening will also be required in PINS Diversion Services in 9 NYCRR Part 357, when promulgated. For MAYSI-2 tools and support, please see State Director's Memorandum #2020-2. In addition, departments may also reach out to the MAYSI-2 Help Desk at nysap@umassmed.edu.

Recorded Training Available

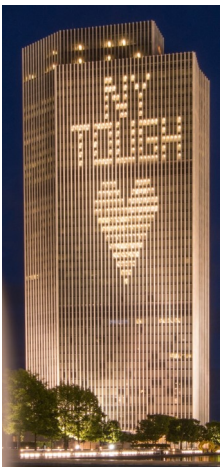
Domestic Violence Screening Instrument-Revised (DVSI-R).

On Jan. 20, over 200 probation professionals participated in an informational WebEx regarding the Summary Risk Rating items within the Domestic Violence Screening Instrument-Revised (DVSI-R). The DVSI-R is a specialized assessment tool used by probation officers who supervise domestic violence offenders in New York State. The DVSI-R should be used in the supervision of all domestic violence cases. This presentation was recorded and is available on the IJ Portal: Resources> Reference Library> Probation> Specialized Supervi-

sion> Domestic Violence

Evidenced-Based Crime Strategies, Implementation, and Successes During the Pandemic

On Jan. 26, DCJS presented a webinar entitled "Evidence-Based Crime Strategies, Implementation, and Successes During the Pandemic." The presentation focused on the City of Newburgh Police Department and how its members addressed obstacles during the 2020 pandemic. These obstacles included layoffs, an officer-involved shooting, a change in leadership and a significant increase in shootings. These obstacles were addressed through a 10-week collaboration between local police, the State Police and Orange County partners. The collaboration resulted in reductions in confirmed shots fired cases and shooting victims. Additionally, the Orange County GIVE program continued its Non-Fatal Shooting Project, as well as Group Violence Intervention by altering custom notification methods and call-ins to align with health and safety measures. The partnership continued the work despite shutdowns, social distancing and other challenges. The City of Newburgh had a lower number of shooting victims in 2020 than in 2019. The recording can be found [here](#).



Probation Practice Tips

Adding Social Media Platforms to Caseload Explorer

In response to inquiries from the field, Automon has provided directions for adding social media platforms to Caseload Explorer. Staff members with system administrator access can use the application to add social media information. The full instructions can be found [here](#). For additional assistance, please contact support at: support@automon.com or 480-368-8555 (option 2).

Capturing Gender Identity in Court-Ordered Investigation and Caseload Explorer

On Dec. 17, OPCA hosted a probation practice and learning webinar on recording *gender identity* in court-ordered investigations and Caseload Explorer. The webinar provided professionals with the basic skills to have the conversation with defendants and properly document *gender identity*. The webinar supplements State Director's Memorandum #2020-13. During this webinar, probation officers were provided with an introduction and overview of the concepts surrounding gender identity and how they may impact the role of the probation officers when documenting a person's current/presenting gender. The material presented in the webinar was consistent with the updated *Fundamentals of Probation Practices* (FPP) curricula. This presentation was recorded and is now available through the IJ Portal: Resources>Reference Library>Probations>Presentations.

Officer Wellness Tips

The Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) has a podcast series called The Beat, which features interviews with experts from many disciplines and provides law enforcement, first responders and community corrections professionals with the latest developments in community policing. The September episode featured tools and resources available to help individuals with the stress inherent to this profession. You can find the current The Beat Podcasts [here](#). To access previous episodes of The Beat, visit [The Beat archive](#).

Update: Employment, Vocation, Education Community Resources in Interactive Google Maps

The new interactive Vocation and Education Resource Map, which contains more than 450 locations of various education, employment, and advocacy programs, now includes apprenticeship programs! Check it out! The resource map is live on the [DCJS website](#).



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