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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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Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

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1. Roadside Stop II: Probation Encouraged to Spur on Expansion

DCJS Executive Deputy Commissioner Michael C. Green recently issued a memorandum to all police chiefs in New York urging them to assist in expanding the Roadside Stop Phase II. The initiative has provided police the capability to electronically notify probation of roadside stops involving probationers.

The second phase became operational in January 2015 and expanded the functionality of Roadside Stop Phase I. More details about this expansion are included in State Directors Memorandum 2015-1, which is available via the eJusticeNY Integrated Justice Portal (IJ Portal).

Green noted that in order for the initiative to reach its full capacity, every police agency in the state should have the ability to provide electronic notification to probation. He asked police agencies to work with their IT vendors to add the "Notify Probation" checkbox to mobile data terminals during maintenance or when upgrades are required.

State Probation Director Robert Maccarone shared the memo with all county probation departments and requested each director to pursue such enhancements with local police chiefs. To date, police agencies in Oneida, Schoharie, Suffolk, and Westchester counties have taken steps to implement this functionality.

2. DCJS Commences ATI Program Realignment Action Planning and Technical Assistance

The Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives in partnership with the Office of Justice Research and Performance and Office of Program Development and Funding at DCJS have worked to increase the capacity of alternatives to incarceration (ATI) programs in an effort to deliver effective services and reduce recidivism. A cornerstone of this system is the program assessment process using the Correctional Program Checklist developed by Dr. Edward Latessa of the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute.

The checklist highlights the strengths and weaknesses in programs when compared with evidence-based practices. DCJS contracted with Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) and John Jay College of Criminal Justice to perform checklist assessments for the agency's funded programs. After the assessment is complete, Probation and ATI unit staff visit each program to offer action planning and technical assistance.

The first session was conducted at Greenhope Services for Women in October. Action planning and technical assistance sessions were convened at BASICS Residential Stabilization Center in November and on-site with EAC Brooklyn and EAC Bronx TASC programs in December. Another seven programs receiving final checklist reports are scheduled to have action planning and technical assistance sessions beginning in January and running through April.

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3. Juvenile Justice – Translational Research on Interventions for Adolescents in the Legal System (JJ TRIALS) Cooperative Agreement research project

OPCA, Columbia University and six counties are participating in JJ-TRIALS, a national research project funded by the by the National Institute of Drug Abuse to seven participants across the country. Columbia is among six research centers across the nation participating in the project, which is being coordinated by the Illinois-based Chestnut Health Systems.

As part of the project, OPCA and Columbia are working with Niagara, Onondaga, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Orange, and Nassau counties to identify research strategies to examine the behavioral health care continuum for youth in community juvenile justice settings and to determine what approaches work best to improve the operation of the cross-agency activities.

Site implementation teams are developing measureable goals related to the screening, assessment or treatment of substance use and/or mental health conditions. The teams also are using data to influence programming decisions.

Juvenile justice staff and community service partners are involved in developing site goals using data to review progress, make changes, and support the overall purpose of helping troubled youth to better use community behavioral health services. Study activities are derived from these principles:

- Service need is identified by an initial screening, followed by clinical assessment when appropriate.
- A treatment plan is created for youth in need of services and they are referred to the appropriate care.
- Youth referrals initiate services in a timely manner.
- Youth are retained in treatment for sufficient time to achieve behavioral health change.

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4. Regional Re-entry Job Summits

The state's third Re-entry Job Summit in October featured presentations highlighting the nature and extent of work force needs, economic development activities and emerging opportunities for the re-entry population. Hosted in Buffalo, the summit drew more than 100 individuals from re-entry task forces, human service providers, economic development agencies and other workforce-related organizations from the Western New York and the Finger Lakes region. Also attending were parole officers, staff from Wende Correctional Facility and federal and county probation officers.

Participants conveyed a strong commitment to utilize data and resources presented and maintained by the state Labor Department to identify living wage jobs for individuals released from prison. Efforts are underway to coordinate a Central New York Regional Re-entry Jobs Summit early next year. In the interim, follow-up regional workshops are being scheduled with respective labor market analysts to allow more time for task force members to study trend data, such as emerging occupational fields, from the state Department of Labor in order to identify actively hiring employers.

5. OPCA Training

YASI CaseWorks eTraining: A friendly reminder that if a probation department has staff member(s) who needs online YASI CaseWorks eTraining, send an e-mail with the individual's name and email address to patricia.donohue@dcjs.ny.gov. Probation will then approve access to the eTraining and notify Orbis Partners, which will then e-mail the individual with the proper link and credentials. To date, 130 of the 250 eTraining accounts have been used. Training takes about 10 hours and users can save their work to complete it at their own pace.

This eTraining provides a comprehensive and visual introduction to the tool, greatly reducing the learning curve. As users progress through the training, they are introduced to research that supports the use of assessment and case planning tools. They also see the instrumental role the tools play in every stage of effective case work. The course uses a variety of learning activities:

- Audio clips presenting content.
- Video clips demonstrating effective case work skills.
- Reading material presented in brief paragraphs or bullets.
- Graphic presentations of key concepts.
- Pop-ups providing more detailed information on topics.
- Brief quizzes designed to help review and grasp covered topics.
- Brief case studies with problem-solving exercises.
- Practice entering assessment information using the CaseWorks software.
- End of chapter tests to evaluate mastery of the course content.

OPCA/New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) Firearms Training Course: Firearms training for 12 new probation officers from Albany, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer and Washington counties was hosted by Albany in November. Probation appreciates the cooperation of all students, directors and DOCCS staff.

Firearms Course in Nassau County: Nassau County Probation recently hired members of its first training class held since December 2010. Seven trainees from the county successfully completed Peace Officer and Fundamentals of Probation course material and are expected to begin careers as probation officers shortly. The Nassau County Probation Department wishes all of their new trainees luck!

Fundamentals of Probation Practice Training for Anchor Trainers: OPCA provided training to trainers from Westchester, Monroe and Suffolk counties at the Westchester County Probation Department earlier this month. The training was designed to provide certified instructors with an in-depth overview of the Fundamentals of Probation Practice course curriculum and to provide the necessary skills to become an anchor trainer. Anyone interested in offering this training may contact Patricia Clements at Patricia.Clements@dcjs.ny.gov or (518) 485-0905.

6. State Director's Memoranda

SDM#2015-8 issued Dec. 2, 2015: *Ignition Interlock Devices, Monitoring Tasks and Measures Report*

SDM#2015-9 issued Dec. 17, 2015: *Satisfied Restitution Obligations by Crime Type — New Reporting*

As a reminder, all State Director's Memoranda are available via the IJ Portal: click on Resources, Reference Library, Probation and Director's Memoranda to access them.

7. Awards, Events, Additional Trainings and News

Patricia Donohue, a community correction representative with OPCA, recently received the prestigious *DCJS Commissioner's Award for Operational Services* for her efforts to ensure ATI, Probation and Community Re-Entry Task Force professionals are trained on cognitive behavior interventions, evidence-based skills and assessment instruments.

At right, Patricia poses with her award, joined by from left to right, Probation Director Robert Maccarone, husband Doug, nephew Keven, and mother Norma.

In 2014, trainings she offered included the NYCOMPAS risk and needs assessment instrument (143 users and nine people trained as trainers); Thinking for a Change (122 facilitators and 10 people trained as trainers); Offender Workforce Development Specialist trainings (25 people trained), Interactive Journaling (10 people trained) and the Women's Risk and Needs Assessment (WRNA) instrument (12 people trained).



These efforts help build capacity so these trainings can be provided on an ongoing basis throughout the state, translating to having many opportunities to change offender behavior.

Evidence Based Practices: It is important that community corrections programs be based on the evidence-based literature and that all staff members have a thorough understanding of this research. Literature should be consulted on an ongoing basis and be disseminated to staff regularly.

Key texts, as well as major criminological and psychological journals should be consulted for information about working with offenders with mental illness and co-occurring substance abuse problems. Some examples of these texts include “Psychology of Criminal Conduct” by Don Andrews and James Bonta; “Correctional Counseling and Rehabilitation” by Patricia Van Voorhis, Michael Braswell, and David Lester; “Choosing Correctional Options That Work: Defining the Demand and Evaluating the Supply” edited by Alan Harland; and “Contemporary Behavior Therapy” by Michael Spiegler and David Guevremont.

Journals that should be regularly reviewed include: Criminal Justice and Behavior; Crime and Delinquency; and the Journal of Offender Rehabilitation. Collectively, these sources provide information about assessment and programming that can be applied to groups and services delivered by the program. It is important that the core program and all of its components be based on a coherent theoretical model with empirical evidence demonstrating its effectiveness in reducing recidivism among offender populations (e.g., cognitive behavioral and social learning therapies).

Management, Treatment of Sex Offender Resources Available from National Institute of

Corrections: This [collection of resources](#) is intended to provide a broad overview of research and trends in the management and treatment of sex offenders. The page highlights resources specific to corrections, reentry, juveniles and females and includes links to webinars on managing sex offenders, the Sex Offender Management Assessment and Planning Initiative, and to a resource package for paroling authorities.

Ignition Interlock Devices Online Training: DCJS’ Office of Public Safety recently released an online training titled “Ignition Interlock Devices in New York State.” Individuals completing the training can submit their information at the end of the session to receive a certificate from DCJS. Additionally, individuals who appear in the Police and Peace Officer Registry will have their record updated to include successful completion of the training.

Developed by the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police and funded through a grant from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, this training provides a comprehensive overview of ignition interlock devices: how they appear, how they work, common circumvention tactics and enforcement guidance for police officers.

Under a provision of Leandra’s Law, ignition interlock devices are court-ordered for all DWI offenders in New York. Drivers have the condition on their license – meaning they cannot drive a vehicle unless it is equipped with an interlock device – and judges have ordered 15,000 drivers to install the devices in their vehicles.

This training provides an opportunity to learn about interlock appearance, functionality, driver license restriction codes, and Vehicle and Traffic Law sections for enforcement. The training video is approximately 20 minutes long and is followed by a brief review of the important points to remember.

If you have any questions about the training, computer system requirements, or technical difficulties, please contact Molly Bates at molly.bates@dcjs.ny.gov or (518) 485-5304. Click this link for the training: <http://criminaljustice.ny.gov/ops/training/other/Ignition-Interlock/story.html>



8. Practice Tip: Moderate-risk clients should receive between 100 hours and 150 hours of evidence-based treatment services, while high-risk clients should receive between 200 hours and 250 hours of such services. Evidence-based treatment services are defined as programs that target criminogenic needs using cognitive-behavioral intervention.

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9. Quick Fact: According to the state Department of Motor Vehicles, there were 7,849 alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes in 2014 resulting in 292 deaths and 5,674 injuries. DCJS appreciates the ongoing efforts of probation departments and other agencies monitoring DWI offenders pursuant to Leandra's Law.
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