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## Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week Recognized in New York

Special points of interest:

- > Recent Enacted Legislation
- > Domestic Violence Resources
- > State Director's Memoranda
- > Research In Brief

The week of July 18 was marked as Pre-trial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week, a time to formally acknowledge the professionals who have dedicated their careers to helping keep their communities safe. [American Probation and Parole Association](#) (APPA) Executive Director and CEO Veronica Ballard Cunningham visited New York State and met with State Probation Director and DCJS Deputy Commissioner Robert M. Maccarone, and Albany County Probation Director Bill Connors, Columbia County Probation Director Vincent Doto and Warren County Probation Director Robert Lusi. Executive Director Cunningham toured the Probation Department offices in Albany and Warren counties and personally thanked staff for their work.



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## Monroe County Probation Department Hosts Regional DVSI-R Trainings

The Monroe County Probation Department recently trained 35 probation officers from Monroe, Cayuga, Ontario, Seneca, and Wayne counties in the use of the Revised Domestic Violence Screening Instrument (DVSI-R). The trainings were facilitated by certified DVSI-R trainers Probation Supervisor Julie Wagner and Probation Officer Kelly Montagliano both from Monroe County Probation Department. The DVSI-R instrument, which assists probation professionals with decision-making and development of supervision case plans, should be completed whenever an individual is sentenced to probation supervision for a domestic violence crime. To date, nearly 600 probation staff from 57 different probation departments in the state have received the training since it was launched in 2018. The DVSI-R instrument is available through the eJusticeNY Integrated Justice Portal (IJPortal): People > Supervision > COMPAS > Search > Person > Alternative Screenings > New Case or Existing Case > DVSI-R.

## NYS Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team: Implications for Probation

Staff from the state Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) and DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) earlier this year presented a webinar titled, [New York State Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team: Implications for Probation](#).

In addition to the webinar, PowerPoint [slides](#) and a [tool kit](#) of resources are available. The webinar and the **Probation Response to Domestic Violence package** are both available through the IJ Portal: Resources > Reference Library > Probation > Specialized Supervision > Domestic Violence.

Developed by OPCA, OPDV and the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the **Probation Response to Domestic Violence** provides guidance to probation professionals in the investigation and supervision of domestic violence cases, as well as resources for agencies seeking to develop and implement related policies:

- Model Investigation and Supervision Procedural Package;
- Custody Investigation Guidelines;
- Intake Guidelines for Orders of Protection Involving Family Offenses; and
- NYS Probation Officer Domestic Violence Policy Guidance.

## Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) Webinar – The Young Impaired Driver: Prevention, Management and Treatment.

More than 170 probation professionals and treatment providers recently attended ***The Young Impaired Driver: Prevention, Management, and Treatment***, a training webinar delivered in collaboration with the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF). Training on this topic is critical because statistics show that drivers who are 16 and 17 years old are three times more likely than adults to be involved in a fatal accident for every mile they drive, especially during the summer months. While new drivers represent 4 percent of the licensed drivers in New York State, they are involved in between 7 to 8 percent of the total number of crashes reported. The webinar covered an overview of new trends and risk factors, myths and misconceptions, rehabilitative treatment services and effective intervention techniques, as well as a summary of available educational campaigns and other resources available. The webinar is available through the IJ Portal: Resources > Reference Library > Probation > Training Resources > Reference Library > Probation > Specialized Supervision > DWI.

## Westchester County Fundamentals of Probation Academy Graduates Seven New Probation Officers

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The Westchester County Fundamentals of Probation Academy recently graduated seven probation officer trainees: three who will work in Westchester County; three in Orange County; and one in Rockland County. Instructors from Westchester Probation and Rockland Deputy Probation Director Joseph DiCarlo taught the four-week, in-person class, which followed social distancing and cleaning and disinfecting protocols, and featured outdoor group activities when the weather permitted. Trainees completed 25 modules on topics including, but not limited to, case planning, evidence-based programs and services, motivational interviewing, probation supervision procedures, and procedural justice.

Congratulations to  
all the graduates!



## Probation Departments Recognized for DNA Collection Compliance

OPCA recently awarded certificates of commendation to 39 probation departments in the state to recognize their contribution to public safety and offender accountability by achieving a DNA Collection Rate of at least 90 percent for individuals' sentence to probation supervision during 2020. Seven of those 39 departments achieved a 100 percent DNA Collection rate .

The seven departments to achieve 100 percent DNA Collection rate were Clinton, Essex, Greene, Hamilton, Lewis, Schuyler, and Yates.

New York State law requires individuals who are convicted of felonies and Penal Law misdemeanors to provide a DNA sample. Probation departments play a critical role in ensuring these individuals comply with that obligation and are reminded to review their written policies concerning DNA sample collection pursuant to the Subject Index. DNA Collection training is available through the IJ Portal: Resources > Reference Library > DNA: Select "Training Resources," then the "Convicted Offender DNA Collection Training" link.

*Please note that users will need to use the Internet Explorer web browser to view the video.*

## 51 Probation Departments Receive Training Certificate of Achievement

A total of 51 county probation departments have received certificates of achievement for fully complying with the state's Staff Development Standards for Probation Professionals for the year 2020. Probation professionals who work for those departments have completed the 21 hours of in-service training required by Title 9, Part 346 of New York Codes, Rules and Regulations. OPCA is committed to providing training in evidence-based practices so probation officers can help justice-involved individuals make long-lasting changes in their lives. Trainings are available through the IJ Portal, as well as emailed to probation directors and staff development officers. Please contact the [OPCA Training Unit](#) for more information.

### State Director's Memoranda

The following State Director's Memorandum is available through the IJP: Resources > Reference Library > Probation > Director's Memoranda

- State Director's Memorandum #2021-7: Amended: Family Court Act Article 7 – Effective Immediately Persons in Need of Supervision ("PINS")

### OPCA Training Updates

The OPCA Training Unit recently hosted its quarterly Training Committee meeting, which was attended by more than 50 probation professionals from across the state. Unit staff provided training updates and an overview of the 2021-22 training plan, which will include:

- Fundamentals of Probation Practice (FPP)
- IJ: Courage to Change Facilitator
- IJ: Forward Thinking Facilitator
- DVSI-R
- Basic and Advanced MI
- NYCOMPAS End User
- Girls Circle
- Decision Points
- Decision Points DUI
- Peer Support Phases 1&2
- Stable and Acute
- Static 99R
- Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS)
- Career University
- SOGIE 101 & 201
- Collaborative Case Work (CCW) Refreshers Phases 1-3
- Alternative to Incarceration (ATI), County Re-Entry Task Force, Vocation, Education/Employment and Re-Entry Unit, and Interstate Webinar Trainings

The next Training Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 16; all [prior meetings have been recorded](#).

For more information, please contact the [OPCA Training Unit](#).



## Probation Officer Wellness and Peer Support Program Updates

This fall, OPCA will offer Group Crisis Intervention, the second International Critical Incident Foundation (ICISF) course for individuals interested in becoming Peer Team Specialists. The training will accommodate up to 35 participants and preference will be given to Peer Specialists who attended the Assisting Individuals in Crisis course offered by OPCA in February 2021. Please watch for the training announcement for course date, which will occur sometime in November, and registration information.

OPCA also created a Peer Support ListServ and hosts Peer Support Quarterly Calls, both of which give trained Peer Specialists the opportunity to discuss implementation plans, share policies/resources and offer each other mutual support. *No confidential information is shared.* The next Quarterly Call will be scheduled in October. Please contact [Danielle.Brendese@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Danielle.Brendese@dcjs.ny.gov) for more information about these opportunities to connect.

Many thanks to all of our Peer Specialists for providing this much needed support to our probation officers!

### Probation Professional Practice Tips

#### *Locating Probation Absconders with help from the state's Crime Analysis Center Network*

DCJS partners with local law enforcement agencies to support a [network of 10 Crime Analysis Centers](#) that provide investigative support, data analysis and information to help police and prosecutors in 34 counties across the state more effectively solve, reduce and prevent crime. The centers, located in Albany, Broome, Erie, Franklin, Monroe, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Orange, Suffolk counties also assist any law enforcement agency upon request.

Probation departments are strongly encouraged to [contact the Centers](#) for assistance with locating an individual on supervision who has absconded. The crime analysts, field intelligence officers and other professional staff at the CACs have access to a variety of state and federal databases, social media and other open-source information that can be used to locate individuals who have failed to report.

#### *Preventing Duplicate Cases in Caseload Explorer and IPRS*

Duplicate cases in Caseload Explorer (CE) impact the accuracy of data, which are used at the state and local level for reports and guide policy and practice, among other important purposes. Please complete the following steps when encountering the "Request Channel Timeout" error message to avoid creating a duplicate case:

1. Confirm the case has been registered in eJustice with a new registration number
2. Take the Registration Number and enter it manually on the CCS case in Caseload Explorer
3. Reset errors

Following these steps eliminates the duplication of cases in the system. Please contact [Colleen.Thorn@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Colleen.Thorn@dcjs.ny.gov) or [Danielle.Brendese@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Danielle.Brendese@dcjs.ny.gov) with any questions.

*“Take Home” Messages for working with Youth and Adolescents*

The [New York State Youth Justice Institute](#) recently hosted [“Lunch and Learn” webinar featuring Keith Cruise, Ph.D.](#), director of clinical training at Fordham University and co-director of the Center for Trauma Recovery and Juvenile Justice, which is a technical assistance center affiliated with the [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#). Professor Cruise offered the following “take home” messages and questions to consider when working with youth and adolescents who may have experienced traumatic events:

- Traumatic event exposures and trauma reactions do not excuse delinquency behavior but can help to explain the behavior.
- Traumatic event exposures and trauma reactions are best considered as responsivity factors.
- Consider what events or reactions are driving delinquency risk for each adolescent.
- What functional behavioral difficulties are likely to occur given the presence of TEE load and active trauma reactions?
- Do we find a buffering effect of trauma-specific treatment services via increased self-regulation that impacts specific dynamic needs and recidivism reduction?

An initiative of the DCJS, the Office of Children and Family Services and the University at Albany, the Youth Justice Institute works to build and strengthen the capacity of communities to adopt evidence-informed practices that improve outcomes for youth and families involved in the youth justice system. Email [youthjustice@albany.edu](mailto:youthjustice@albany.edu) to learn more.

*Clarification on Caseload Explorer Assessments Release*

Please note that the recent update to CE Assessments now features a “Save as Draft” button to allow users to save incomplete assessments and return to them at a later time. Previously, users could exit an assessment instrument before completion and the draft would auto-save.

**New Recorded Webinars**

[Ideas for Violence Reduction](#) explored the Violence Reduction Project, a collection of essays written by individuals from academia, law enforcement, and community members who propose solutions on the “how and now” by focusing on the proximate causes of violence, not the root causes. Part of the DCJS Law Enforcement Series, the webinar feature retired New York City Police Department Chief Louis Anemone and John Jay College of Criminal Justice Professor Peter Moskos discussing the events of the past year, including COVID-19, protests and social unrest. They focused on current policing challenges, specifically issues related to police legitimacy, and the need to re-focus efforts on traditional community policing. While community policing can mean different things to different people, at its core, it is a tool designed to better connect police with the communities they serve.

The [National Institute of Corrections \(NIC\)](#) hosted a webinar detailing the proper usage of the Risk, Need and Responsivity Principle and how it can reduce disparities, enhance criminal justice outcomes, and contribute to effective and equitable justice reform. Participants also learned strategies to create and maintain collaborative relationships to achieve reentry goals specific to their jurisdictions. The recording will be posted on the [NIC website](#) once it is available.



There are a variety of resources available for criminal justice practitioners to keep apprised on current trends and research so they can continue to develop professionally and better serve their communities.

- Orbis Partners publishes a [blog](#) with a focus on criminal and juvenile justice, child welfare, evidence-based interventions, and other matters affecting our communities.
- The Youth Justice Institute publishes a monthly [e-newsletter](#) “On the Same Page!” and includes cutting edge youth justice resources and research.
- The National Institute of Justice – Crime Solutions is a [web-based clearing house](#) of programs and practices that have undergone rigorous evaluations and testing to determine effectiveness.

## A Look Back at Probation History

Chautauqua County Probation Director Gilbert Taylor recently shared [a probation report from the county, circa 1919](#) with OPCA. Do you have historical reports or facts about your department? Share them with [Taylor.Alfred@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Taylor.Alfred@dcjs.ny.gov) for possible inclusion in an upcoming issue of eFocus. If you are unable to view the 1919 Probation Report, please contact [Taylor.Alfred@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Taylor.Alfred@dcjs.ny.gov).

## Recently Enacted Legislation

Legislation signed in August removes all instances of the word or variations of the words “inmate” or “inmates” and replaces them with “incarcerated individual,” “incarcerated individuals” or a variation of those words in a variety of state laws, including, but not limited to Civil Service, Election, Penal, Criminal Procedure, and Mental Hygiene, and the New York City administrative code and city charter.

The [Gender Recognition Act](#) removes longstanding barriers to equality under the law and ensuring expanded protections for transgender and non-binary New Yorkers. The law allows New Yorkers to use "X" as a non-binary sex designation on New York State driver's licenses. It also ensures that New Yorkers will be able to have their gender identity on official documents and provides protections to reduce discrimination against nonbinary and transgender New Yorkers by permitting name change and sex designation changes to be sealed more easily. Finally, the legislation will provide New Yorkers the ability to amend their birth certificates and use a designation of mother, father, or parent for the first time. allows New Yorkers to use "X" as a non-binary sex designation on New York State driver's licenses, state IDs and birth certificates.

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[www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/opca](http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/opca)

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## **National Institute of Corrections (NIC) - FREE eCourses on NIC Learn Center**

The [NIC Learn Center](#) serves as a learning hub for federal, state and local government employees of corrections agencies. We provide hundreds of eCourses to help you reach your personal and professional goals. You must be logged in to gain access.

New users click [here](#).

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