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Special points of interest:

- > Peer Support & Officer Wellness
- > Training Unit Updates
- > Probation Practice Tips
- > New Legislation

Ce Assessments Suite Implemented October 1 in New York State

On Oct. 1, OPCA implemented the Ce Assessments Suite to make various screening and assessment instruments available to all probation departments and officers in New York. The MAYSI-2—Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument—is now available to be completed electronically in Ce Assessments. The MAYSI-2 or mental health screening is required to be conducted for all youth—PINS and JD's eligible for intake and diversion services. Similarly, the RAPID Instrument which assists probation officers in completing screenings for all PINS and JD youth eligible for Intake and Adjustment services, is required. The RAPID assists in identifying youth who may be subject to sexual exploitation, and in need of services provided through Safe Harbour Programs. Also new, New York City Probation Officers will access the DVSI-R through Ce Assessments to inform supervision of individuals convicted of domestic violence crimes.

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DCJS Distributes \$20 Million to Support Pretrial Services in New York State

On Sept. 29, all counties outside of New York City were notified that they would be receiving a portion of the \$20 million in pretrial services funding that was outlined in the Governor's 2022 State of the State policy agenda. This funding was provided to support a continuum of pretrial services, including screening and assessments, supervision, a centralized case management system, and dedicated information sharing with the court system. Probation departments and community-based providers will receive this critical funding to expand and enhance services that enhance public safety and return more people to court. DCJS allocated this funding based on the five-year average of lower court arraignments in each county. In New York City, pretrial services are provided by the Criminal Justice Agency (CJA).

Extreme Risk Protection Orders

On Aug. 24, *Everytown for Gun Safety* presented a webinar for New York's Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice partners regarding New York's Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) law as found in Civil Practice Law & Rules Article 63-A. This webinar, hosted by the DCJS Office of Public Safety, was well attended, with an audience of nearly 800, including many probation professionals. Extreme Risk Protection Orders are civil matters and CHRI information cannot be accessed by any agency for such purpose. Further, ERPO Background Investigations as described in CPLR §6342(9) are intended to be completed by police departments as the "law enforcement agency having jurisdiction" pursuant to the statute.

When developing an ERPO petition, police departments must include evidence that an individual is a harm to themselves or others. Police departments will review past police contacts, calls for service, local record managements system, crime analysis centers, etc., to conduct this analysis. Police departments may contact probation departments as part of this analysis.

The Red Flag Law, also known as the Extreme Risk Protection Order law, became effective in New York State on **August 24, 2019**. The law prevents individuals who show signs of being a threat to themselves or others from purchasing or possessing any kind of firearm. On May 18, 2022, Governor Kathy Hochul signed an Executive Order to require State Police to file for an ERPO whenever they have probable cause to believe that an individual is a threat to themselves or others. Governor Hochul also signed legislation on June 6, 2022, as part of a landmark gun legislation package, on June 6, 2022 Gov. Kathy Hochul signed a law that expanded who may file an ERPO petition to include health care practitioners who have examined an individual within the last six months; amended the firearm licensing statute to ensure mental health practitioners' reports on potentially harmful individuals are considered closely when determining whether to issue a firearm license; required police and district attorneys to file ERPO petitions when they have credible information that an individual is likely to engage in conduct resulting in serious harm; and required State Police and the Municipal Police Training Council to create and disseminate policies and procedures to identify when an ERPO petition may be warranted.

Please be advised that the Municipal Police Training Council, with the support of DCJS, will be convening meetings in the coming months to develop guidance and model policy for police departments regarding ERPO's. Upon issuance, OPCA will distribute such guidance and model policy for the reference of probation departments. The recording of the webinar can be found here. Should you have any questions, please contact Gary Govel, Community Correction Representative 3, at (518) 457-4336 or gary.govel@dcjs.ny.gov.



The Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS) held its 20th Annual Business Meeting in New York City at the NY Hilton-Midtown, Sept. 26-28. This year's ABM marked the 20th Anniversary of the adult interstate compact, and this meeting was the most attended ABM in the Commission's history. The Commission is comprised of representatives from all 50 states and 3 federal territories, who gather each year to vote on various interstate rules and discuss topics and trends that affect the interstate transfer of individuals on community supervision. On Tuesday, Sept. 27, the agenda included several topics including "Lessons Learned: COVID," "The Changing Landscape of Substance Abuse and its Impact on Supervision" and a very impactful panel titled "Past, Present, Future: Engaging Victims." The Tuesday session ended with the viewing of the Commission's recent documentary called "The Road Home," which followed the lives of individuals who had transferred their supervision from one state to another. On Wednesday, Sept. 28, the Commission reviewed a University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute Compact Study to assess how states are meeting the mission of the Compact and how it can meet its future goals. The Commission also reviewed and approved an increase in annual dues—the first in nearly 10 years. NYS Compact Administrator Robert Maccarone delivered the [keynote address](#) on the day of the Annual Business Meeting, Sept. 28.

Informational Exchange and Panel Discussion: "The Role of Criminal Justice Advisory Boards in Criminal Justice Planning, Coordination, and Implementation."

On Aug. 25, OPCA hosted an Informational Exchange and panel discussion titled "The Role of Criminal Justice Advisory Boards in Criminal Justice Planning, Coordination, and Implementation." Panelists from Dutchess, Niagara, and Westchester Counties joined OPCA staff for a wide-ranging, informative, and enthusiastic conversation about the role of Criminal Justice Advisory Boards in community program settings. While certain regulatory requirements are shared by the Boards, OPCA learned that each shapes its focus based on the needs of a particular program or jurisdiction. In one location, the Advisory Board is a means of promoting transparency, using its meeting time to review outcome data with its stakeholders. Another Board has found success in assigning specialized projects to one of its subcommittees, allowing a more immediate and stricter focus on planning and implementation. Although Advisory Board meeting schedules and formats have been affected by the challenges of recent years it has also highlighted their importance in the support they provide. A recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

A very special thanks to our panelists representing Dutchess (Jonathan Heller and Gary Christensen), Niagara (John Cicchetti and Angela Beightol), and Westchester (Linda Bartus and John Slotwinski) Counties.

OPCA Supports 2022 NYS Probation Officer Association Annual Conference in Syracuse, New York

OPCA was pleased to again support the Annual Conference of the NYS Probation Officers Association. More than 175 Probation Directors, Supervisors, and Officers attended the 2022 Annual Conference entitled, *“Redefining Resiliency, Remaining Optimistic and Adaptive in Probation Supervision,”* held July 27-29 in Syracuse, New York. OPCA has continued to support the evidence-based training of probation professionals by providing scholarships for conference registration. State Director Robert MacCarone has described the annual conference as the “premiere training event” for probation officers and a cost-effective means of training significant numbers of probation professionals over a three-day period. This year’s conference included nearly 25 workshops on probation practice such as Tactics Training, the Use of Polygraph, Probation Searches, Restorative Practices, and Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention Practices within Probation Practice. OPCA sponsored five workshops and included training on Evidence-Based Probation Practice, Race Equity and Inclusion, Probation Peer Support Teams and Officer Wellness, Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression, and the Importance of Supervision, Mentoring, and Succession Planning in Probation.



2022 State Director's Award for Outstanding Service by a Probation Officer Awarded to New York City Probation Officer Joel Figueroa

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On July 28, New York City Department of Probation Officer Joel Figueroa was presented the OPCA 2022 Outstanding Service by a Probation Officer Award at the New York State Probation Officer Association Awards Ceremony. As a member of the NYC Department Probation Team, Probation Officer Figueroa develops programs and events to divert youth from further juvenile justice involvement through the "Every Child has an Opportunity to Excel and Succeed (ECHOES)" Program. This provides youth with opportunities to develop a strong sense of self and pride to enhance their futures. Probation Officer Figueroa takes his dedication to youth services even further through his guidance of a mentoring group for young men in the Bronx – 'Strong Wise & Achieving Goals' (SWAG) – that promotes accountability, resiliency, and leadership. Through SWAG, he facilitates group and individual mentoring sessions, community outings, and the 'breaking of bread' to create positive peer environments for young people to succeed.

New York City DOP Deputy Commissioner Gineen Gray nominated Probation Officer Joel Figueroa to receive this prestigious award. The DOP's Senior Director of Programs and New Initiatives, Audrey Wilson, was present to support Probation Officer Figueroa and reinforce his commitment and ingenuity. Probation Officer Figueroa's tendency to go above and beyond was also acknowledged, including his development of a positive message notice, which involves leaving uplifting notes at the homes of youth that were not present for a home visit. The Department noticed that Probation Officers received positive feedback from youth on supervision. Director Maccarone encouraged Probation Directors and Officers to institute this practice in their own departments and said, "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery".



2022 DCJS Commissioners Award Ceremony

On Sept. 20, Commissioner Rossana Rosado hosted the 2022 Commissioner's Recognition Award ceremony where two of OPCA's very own staff were honored. **Teresa Scanu-Hansen**, Community Correction Representative 3, was awarded the **Joe Yattaw Award for Excellence and Mentoring** and **Frank Cangiano**, Community Correction Representative 2, received the **Outstanding Employee Recognition Award**. The annual Employee Recognition Awards Program recognizes and honors outstanding employees who were nominated by a manager, supervisor, or peer. Congratulations to Teresa and Frank for their unwavering commitment to probation supervision, re-entry and correctional alternatives.



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 #2022-5: Juvenile Justice Reform**
- **State Director's Memorandum #2022-6: 2022 NYS Ignition Interlock Device Semi Annual Report**
- **State Director's Memorandum #2022-7: Probation Ce Assessments**

Probation Practice Tip

Interstate Practice Tip - ICOTS Profiles

ICOTS Users should create a Transfer Request or Request for Reporting Instructions for an individual placed on probation supervision when they are ready to submit the request(s). Transfer Requests and Requests for Reporting Instructions should not be created in anticipation of a probation sentence or possible transfer. ICOTS Users should submit the request(s) under the individual's existing ICOTS Offender Profile if one exists and should only create a new ICOTS Offender Profile if necessary. ICOTS Offender Profiles must contain the following information:

- the name of the individual requesting interstate transfer; and
- the individual's DOB, Social Security Number (if it exists), Race, Sex, FBI Number and a photograph (clear, color, cropped photo).

If an existing ICOTS Offender Profile requires updating or corrections, please email Kelly.palmateer@dcjs.ny.gov for assistance.

Previously shared practice tips can be found on the [DCJS website](#).

Probation Officer Wellness and Peer Support Program Updates

On Aug. 23, OPCA partnered with the New York State Office of Mental Health to deliver the Officer Wellness for Probation Professionals training. We are pleased to report 146 probation professionals attended this four-hour training. In September of 2022, OPCA concluded Phase II of Peer Support Team Training when it hosted the International Critical Incident Foundation (ICISF) 14-hr Group Crisis Intervention training at the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. Presently, there are 81 trained Peer Support Team Specialists and 21 Peer Support Team Programs across New York State. In an effort to assist our peer support team members, OPCA has created the PST ListServ and PST Quarterly Call. The PST ListServ has been active since June 2021 and the Quarterly Calls were initiated in April of 2021. Both tools afford opportunities where Peer Specialists can discuss implementation plans, share policies/resources and offer mutual support to other trained specialists throughout the state. No confidential information is shared. The next Quarterly Call took place on Oct 19. If interested in joining the Peer Support ListServ, the Peer Team Quarterly Call or learning more about Peer Support, please contact Danielle.Brendese@dcjs.ny.gov.

Wellness Tip: October is recognized as Emotional Awareness month. Please see the below link from the National Institutes of Health titled “Your Healthiest Self – Emotional Wellness Toolkit - 6 Strategies for Improving your Emotional Health.”

<https://www.nih.gov/health-information/emotional-wellness-toolkit>

Interested in learning more about peer support and officer wellness, please contact Danielle Brendese at Danielle.Brendese@dcjs.ny.gov or 518-457-1671. Additional information and resources can also be located on the IJ Portal: Resources>Reference Library>Probation>Peer Support & Wellness.

Training Updates

Letter of Recognition – Probation Officer Matthew Muldoon (Oswego)

On Aug.31, OPCA graduated 20 individuals from the Summer 2022 Fundamentals of Probation Practice Academy. Probation Officer Matthew Muldoon from Oswego County graduated the academy with an overall average of 99% over the four weeks of training. Officer Muldoon was named the Valedictorian of the academy class. Congratulations Officer Muldoon and all the graduates!



ICYMI Webinar: Before and After Data on the Impact of Bail Reform

Thank you to all who attended the webinar hosted by DCJS and John Jay College of Criminal Justice on Sept. 21. The full recording of the event, as well as additional resources relating to the data presented during the event, can be found on the [Data Collaborative for Justice website](#), and also on the [Bail Conference webpage](#). DCJS has published extensively on the impact of the bail laws since the original 2019 reforms. All materials can be found on the [DCJS website](#).

Probation Periodical Electronic Newsletter – Nassau County

Nassau County Probation issued the first installment of their Probation Periodical Electronic Newsletter in August. This newsletter hopes to bridge gaps and ensure various areas of the Department are informed and connected. Future issues will highlight policy updates and focus on wellness and team building. The newsletter can be read [here](#).

Peaceprints of WNY Awarded Federal Investment to Provide Services to Justice-Involved Youth

On Oct. 3, Peaceprints of WNY was awarded \$750,000 to work with justice-involved young people ages 14 to 18. Over the course of three years, this program will connect 100 individuals with a case manager during their incarceration at the Erie County Youth Detention Center and up to a year after their release. This program, Empower Youth, is currently funded by the Peter & Elizabeth Tower Foundation and this additional investment will expand the number of people who are served. More information can be found [here](#).

Probation Practice and Data Integrity Webinar – Youth Probation Practice

Throughout the summer of 2020, OPCA hosted a series of Probation Practice and Data Integrity Webinars concerning Youth Probation Practice. The series included both best practice and data-focused sessions. If you were unable to participate in the original presentations, or just want a refresher, each of these short webinars are recorded and available for viewing on the IJ Portal by navigating to Resources>Reference Library>Probation>Presentations. Additionally, OPCA compiled a Q&A document for questions posed during and after the webinars that can also be found on the IJ Portal. It is suggested that you access these webinars by using Chrome as your browser, as they do not load properly using Internet Explorer. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Cox at Jennifer.cox@dcjs.ny.gov.

Legislation

On July 20, Governor Kathy Hochul signed [eight pieces of legislation](#) to provide support and resources for victims of human trafficking. These new laws will ensure locations such as airports, bus terminals, hotels and truck stops prominently feature information on human trafficking. This will inform employees and visitors of crucial information about the horrible practice of human trafficking, as well as provide discreet ways for victims to learn their rights and available resources.

On Aug. 8, Governor Kathy Hochul signed a [package of legislation](#) to promote fairness and restore dignity for justice-involved individuals. The first piece of legislation will allow individuals under community supervision to attend required programming such as substance abuse treatment during nonworking hours to avoid any conflicts with their own work schedule. The legislation allows individuals to prioritize both employment and treatment. The second piece of legislation aims to correct outdated terminology in state law. Moving forward, the word "inmate" will be replaced with "incarcerated individual" to further reduce the stigma against people involved in the criminal justice system. Previous legislation covered all instances of state law but did not cover active pieces of legislation in 2021 that were signed into law and included the term "inmate."

On Aug. 9, Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation that will increase public awareness on job opportunities in New York State. Legislation ([A.8458A/S.6803A](#)) will authorize the New York State Department of Labor to develop a public awareness campaign that will promote the New York State Job Bank. The New York State Job Bank is an online resource maintained by the NYSDOL to connect job seekers with over 250,000 jobs across all industries.

On Aug. 9, Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation ([S.687/A.3998](#)) to strengthen restrictions on imitation weapons, which can be used to commit crimes. The new law makes imitation weapons easily identifiable, preventing them from being used to commit crimes and allowing law enforcement to identify a device as fake when assessing threats.

On Aug. 10, Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation ([S.5933-A/A.8133](#)) that will direct the Department of Labor to conduct a study on the statewide employment rate of trans individuals in the State, in consultation with the Division of Human Rights. This study will be used to determine whether there is a disparity of employment rates between transgender New Yorkers and other residents in New York State.

Executive Law Update - Essential Personal Property (EPP)

On Oct. 13, Governor Kathy Hochul [announced](#) that victims and survivors of crime whose essential personal property was stolen, damaged or destroyed during the incident, may now receive up to \$2,500 to replace items deemed necessary for their health, safety or welfare. Prior to this change, state law capped the reimbursement rate at \$500, an amount that failed to keep pace with inflation and cost-of-living increases. This financial assistance is administered by the State Office of Victim Services, which provides a critical safety net for victims and survivors who may not have the resources to pay for expenses resulting from crime.

All press releases and executive orders can be found [here](#).

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Retirements

Robert Starks, Director of Allegany County Probation

OPCA would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the retirement of Robert Starks, Allegany County Probation Director. Director Starks retired with more than 40 years of public service to the probation department in Allegany County, New York. He has dedicated his life to his community and working to help individuals change their lives for the better. Deputy Commissioner and Director Maccarone described Director Starks as someone who undoubtedly touched and positively influenced the lives of so many residents in Allegany County, which has resulted in improved victim and community safety. Over the years, he witnessed and admired Director Starks' knowledge, professionalism, integrity, and quiet manner. OPCA wishes Director Starks and his family the very best of health and every happiness in the many years to come.

Craig MacNeil, Albany County Probation

On July 27, OPCA presented a certificate to Craig MacNeil, Probation Assistant at the Albany County Probation Department, for his outstanding service as a Workforce Development Specialist and to celebrate his well-deserved retirement after serving in this career for more than 30 years. Craig was a member of the first class in New York State to receive a certification as a Workforce Development Specialist (WDS), formerly OWDS, in 2008, and was one of the first WDS in New York State to become a certified program facilitator. Craig was also one of the first WDS to facilitate the **Ready, Set, Work!** and **Ready, Set, Work!** for Sex Offenders employment readiness group interventions as well as the Career University-Advancing to the Next Level youth-focused career readiness group intervention, which is now a component of the Albany County Probation Department's Project Growth initiative for justice-involved youth. His work has also helped to shape the overall philosophy of workforce development practices across New York State.

