

NEW YORK STATE
PROBATION COMMISSION MEETING
Alfred E. Smith Building
Albany, NY 12210
June 26, 2025

This meeting was conducted in person at Alfred E. Smith, and virtually via Cisco Webex.

Members Present: Matthew Charton, Deputy Commissioner and Director, DCJS
Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives
Rocco Pozzi, Commissioner Westchester County
Department Probation
Ana Bermudez, Former Commissioner of the New York City
Department of Probation
Jeffrey Butts, PhD. John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY)
Joseph Wargo, Jefferson County Probation
Karl Pflanz, Principal Law Clerk and representing Judge Joseph
Zayas, Commission Member

DCJS Staff Present: Dean Defruscio, Deputy Commissioner of Policy and
Planning, DCJS
John Watson, Special Assistant with the Office of Legal
Services
Teresa Scanu-Hansen, Juvenile Probation Operations Unit
Manager, DCJS-OPCA
Nicole Aldi, Alternatives to Incarceration Unit Manager, DCJS-
OPCA
Frank Cangiano, Adult Probation Operations Unit Manager, DCJS-
OPCA
Kimberly Schiavone, Fiscal and Administrative Management Unit
Manager, DCJS-OPCA
Katey Cullen, Administrative Specialist 1, DCJS-OPCA

Special Guests: Dan Connor, President of the New York State Probation
Officers Association

Welcome and Introductions:

Deputy Commissioner and Director (DC) Matthew Charton welcomed the members of the NYS Probation Commission. Matt also introduced DCJS Deputy Commissioner of Policy and Planning Dean Defruscio who had a few opening remarks. Dean Defruscio thanked everyone for attending the meeting and expressed congratulations to Matt Charton on his promotion.

Deputy Commissioner and Director Matthew Charton thanked Dean and wanted to thank DCJS OPCA Adult Probation Operations Unit Manager Frank Cangiano for all his work in getting the meeting together. All parties involved in the call also introduced themselves and the meeting agenda was reviewed.

The previous meeting's minutes were also brought up by DC Charton for review by the probation commission. A motion to accept the previous meeting's minutes was made by Joseph Wargo, Commission member, and seconded by Rocco Pozzi, Commission member.

The NYS Probation Commission

Frank Cangiano explained that NYS Executive Law allows for the appointment of a state probation commission that serves at the advice and consultation for the commissioner of DCJS. Section 242, 243 and 246 outline the role of the probation commission as it relates to consulting with DCJS on matters relating to probation services.

Probation Commission Items

Update on probation supervision for young people with guns

OPCA Community Correction Representative 3 Teresa Scanu-Hansen thanked the Commission for the conversation that began in December 2024 on probation practice with youth involved in possessing guns. Since then, the discussion on young people with gun offenses has come a long way. Teresa Scanu-Hansen thanked Ana Bermudez, Commission member, for contributing to that workgroup and indicated it has been helpful to have Ana's insight as well as sharing information about partnering with stakeholders that exist within those communities.

Teresa indicated that a few ideas have taken shape in partnering with the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to reinvigorate partnerships between the probation field and OCA in training environments. They are in the process to get training space for court personnel and judges to become involved in judge trainings.

Teresa also indicated that the use of the SNUG program and other credible messenger programs are being used as ways to support dialogue between probation departments and credible messenger programs in communities. Initial next step is for DCJS OPCA to submit a workshop for the SNUG conference that is occurring in Albany, New York in November 2025. Teresa also indicated that other ways are being explored for DCJS OPCA to give more training options to probation staff to operationalize these concepts that are effective in engaging higher risk kids and to help them thrive.

Youth Detention

Teresa Scanu-Hansen shared information about a workgroup that is focused on youth detention. Rocco Pozzi, Commission member, shared news on the new facility that Westchester County is attempting to build that will immediately house 60 youth with the ability to add 20 extra beds if needed. DC Matthew Charton brought up how important it is to have preventive services to help the youth population.

Commission member Joe Wargo asked about the other kinds of services and programs the workgroup is considering as there is more focus on programming as an alternative to detention. Discussion was brought up that judges seem to be making the decision to detain youth more and not release them back to the community.

Commission member Rocco Pozzi talked about the type of youth who are going into these facilities as these are a tougher population and they are committing serious crimes which makes it challenging for judges to release them safely into the community. Mary Frascello, Deputy Commissioner from Westchester County Probation mentioned that Westchester County is working very closely with vocational programming, BOCES, Westchester Barbering program, financial literacy programming, mentoring program, 914 United (previously incarcerated individual who talk to the kids about his time in detention) along with many more programs to provide more offerings for youth in the community. Joe Wargo brought up the fact that he does not have the beds in his community to hold these children and when they get placed into facilities around the state, his department is not able to know what is going on with these youth when they are in these detention facilities.

Update on training for Seniors/Supervisors/Administrators

DC Charton states that the DCJS OPCA training unit has worked very hard on a supervisor's course, and it will be piloted by October 2025 at the latest. Commission member Ana Bermudez asked if the probation commission could see a copy of the curriculum and to potentially provide feedback. DC Charton indicated, per the new regulation, probation supervisors may need to complete this course as part of their transition to these positions.

DC Charton further talked about the Executive Leadership training for new Probation Directors. DCJS Office of Public Safety works with various vendors where they send their Chiefs of Police and Administrators. The training they put their people through is not all about policing it is more on leadership. DC Charton spoke with OPS DC Mike Bonse and asked for one seat for our directors. He agreed to allow us one spot for our directors to attend. This was a big favor as there are hundreds of applications that come through for each class. The cost of the training will be covered by DCJS.

Title 9 NYCRR Rule and Regulation Updates – Part 346

DC Charton indicated the draft version of Title 9 NYCRR Part 346 is with the executive team being reviewed in the chamber and hoped to have the final version back by the end of summer 2025 and at that time they will send it out for public comment. DC Charton did indicate that given the changes in the Basic Course for Peace Officers (BCPO) and the length of Fundamental Probation Practices, probation departments will now have 12 months to complete FPP.

207 C Benefits for Probation Officers statewide

Commission member Joe Wargo wanted to ask if there were any changes that have been made to looking into probation officers being able to receive 207C benefits. DCD Charton stated that there have not been any changes. DCD Charton asked that POA write up a letter with what they would like to see come out of this legislation. Dan Connor, NYS POA president, stated that POA would put together a letter of support and send it in. Commission member Rocco Pozzi

mentions that he thinks a reach out to CSEA and other unions could be important as this is a contractual issue.

NYS POA Conference

NYS POA President Dan Connor talked on the upcoming POA Conference set for July 30th – August 1st 2025. They have had a lot of assistance from DCJS OPCA to teach a few different classes. DCD Charton mentioned that the DCJS Press Office was making plans to attend the NYS POA conference this year.

Focal Issues for Commission Feedback

Probation Officer Recruitment and Retention update

DC Charton explained how DCJS OPCA will be assisting probation departments in probation officer recruitment and retention efforts. Law enforcement in general has struggled with recruitment all over. He indicated that initial steps have been taken to develop relationships with John Jay College and hope to expand to SUNY and CUNY schools in hopes to get probation departments into the colleges to speak to the students.

Commission member Rocco Pozzi stated that in Westchester county they are doing a lot of recruitment already. Their probation department attended career days at the schools as well as worked with the local universities to allow college students to come in and do internships with the department to expose them to probation work. Commission member Pozzi indicated that one difficulty was the issue with other law enforcement agencies having a more attractive retirement system available

Commission member Dr. Jeffrey Butts added that he sees youth full of compassion and want to contribute but these students may not know of the opportunities. This summer in NYC the summer youth employment program is providing paid internships to help expose those still in college to probation departments. Commission member Joe Wargo stated that in his county there are many people that do internships, and they do retain some of those people.

DC Charton stated that DCJS OPCA is really trying to come up with a way to explain to people what probation does and how this profession is very different from other law enforcement agencies.

A discussion on the minimum required education for probation officers also ensued during the meeting.

Pre-Trial

Alternative to Incarceration Unit Manager Nicole Aldi mentioned that there has been a lot of conversation regarding the funding for pre-trial services. She indicated that one issue that has been brought up is regarding the oversight between OCA and DCJS, to include what can the money be sent on as well as the pieces of non-monetary conditions that are put as conditions of the court. Nicole Aldi further indicated that pretrial services between each county could look very different. It was further indicated that the use of electronic monitoring has increased and has put a strain on smaller counties. DCJS OPCA would like the commission's input on what they are seeing in their jurisdictions regarding pre-trial.

Commission member Ana Bermudez mentioned that the issue NYC Probation Department had with electronic monitoring came when they didn't have resources to check on alarms associated with the alerts of electronic monitoring. Rocco Pozzi stated that when they ran the electronic monitoring program, they had someone working the alerts 24/7. Most of their cases under EM were sex offender cases and they wanted to monitor these cases closely, however it is not currently a 24 hour a day/ 7 days a week program. Commission member Joe Wargo mentioned that they do EM monitoring through Jefferson County Probation as well in a similar way.

Karl Pflanz, sitting in for Commission member Judge Joseph Zayas, was open to hearing that what the courts can do to assist. Nicole Aldi brought up that city and county courts that are overseen by OCA have a more uniformed approach whereas the smaller village and town courts do not have a similar approach when ordering pre-trial conditions of release.

It was further indicated that it would be helpful to have conversations between the pretrial agencies and the judges on how to make the 60 day pre-trial rule work as when the 60 days comes up it is not always known what judges and courts are going to do. Karl Pflanz agreed that having something in writing that he can bring back to his team would be great regarding this pre-trial question.

Vacant probation commission position

Frank Cangiano mentioned there is currently one vacant position in the probation commission. The individual needs to be a member of the community, who has demonstrated an interest and involvement in the field of probation.

Other business

Joe Wargo mentioned he sat in with the YASI Caseload Explorer Integration workgroup. Phase one is complete, and they are beginning phase two to help correct current case management system issues.

DC Charton wished to recognize the work of Bob Maccarone who came back as a project coordinator to help address issues with the probation case management system, Caseload Explorer. DC Charton also indicated that DCJS is putting together a request for proposals for a new case management system that would be uniform throughout the state. This was done based off COPA coming to DCJS asking for a change. Commission member Ana Bermudez mentioned that it should incorporate a good case management module to it that is not a checkbox system.

DC Charton concluded the meeting and was open to positive feedback regarding the commission and the meeting.