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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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**1. Probation Best Practices Presented at 2016 Partnership for Youth Justice Conference – Creating a Fair & Equitable Youth Justice System**

The Partnership for Youth Justice hosted a conference in Syracuse in September that focused on creating a fair and equitable youth justice system. The conference featured state Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Executive Deputy Commissioner Michael Green, state Office of Children and Family Services (OFCS) Acting Director Sheila Poole and the state Unified Court System Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks. Mark Soler, Executive Director of the Children’s Center for Law and Policy, presented a powerful presentation titled “Racial and Ethnic Disparities – Practical Implications.” Green and Poole together presented on “Alignment for Equity.”

John Adams, Executive Deputy Director of the DCJS Office of Probation and Corrections Alternatives (OPCA), led a panel on probation intake and adjustment, which featured the following local probation department officials: Colleen Breslin of Albany County, Larry Mattle of Monroe County and David Tomidy of Oneida County. Mark White, Deputy Commissioner of the DCJS Office of Juvenile Justice, participated in a panel on graduated responses and violations, which featured local probation officials Melissa Foulke of Broome County, Tom Morris of Dutchess County, and John Plackis and Laura Turner, both of Nassau

County. The conference was funded by the New York State Juvenile Justice Advisory Group and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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2. Planned Enhancement to the PSI Repository - Deletions of Supplemental Investigations

DCJS is implementing a new feature to the Pre-Sentencing Investigation (PSI) Repository that will allow probation professionals to delete supplemental investigations. OPCA Executive Deputy Director John Adams asked all departments using Caseload Explorer to designate two individuals to delete supplemental investigations in the Repository. The full names of these designees and their IJ Portal user ID (typically last name and first initial) should be provided to OPCA so they can be authorized. The New York City Department of Probation must designate two individuals for each borough and provide the same information to OPCA.

If a probation department submits a revised full PSI/PPI to the Repository, only the most current full PSI/PPI will be displayed. All PSI report copies are retained. There can be more than one copy of the supplemental PSI/PPI report ordered for the same criminal matter over a period of time, so the Repository displays all of them. Revisions to a supplemental report ordered by a court require the department to manually delete the unrevised copy from within the Repository.

Since deleting supplemental PSI/PPI documents requires careful oversight, the individual selected for this task must have the authority of a probation director or commissioner, who are able to review unrevised supplemental reports in the Repository when ordered by a court.

Once probation departments have submitted their authorized contacts, state will assign the designated individuals a role in the system that will allow them to delete unrevised supplemental reports in the repository. For more information, please contact Adams at John.Adams@dcjs.ny.gov or (518) 485-7692.

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## 3. Shine the Light – October is Domestic Violence Month



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and all New Yorkers are asked to participate in the [Shine the Light](#) campaign by wearing purple, either throughout the month or on Thursday, Oct. 20. Hundreds of individuals, municipalities, organizations, law enforcement agencies, businesses and colleges across the state participate in the annual campaign, now in its ninth year. For more information about the campaign or for ideas to raise awareness of domestic violence, please visit [this link](#).

Also, please be aware that the New York State Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline **(1-800-942-6906)** offers help and information 24 hours a day, in English, Spanish and other languages. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing can call 711. OPCA applauds the efforts of probation departments and community corrections programs throughout the state to bring awareness to this issue, to support victims of domestic violence and to hold perpetrators of domestic violence accountable.

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#### 4. Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Criminal Justice System

Onondaga County probation officers recently attended a three-hour DCJS training on ways to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system. Requested by Onondaga County Probation Director Andrew Sicherman, the training focused on perspective and implicit bias, as well as some practical application skills to be used in daily practice. The training provided participants the opportunity to discuss stereotypes, bias, and how personal histories, experiences and trauma impact decisions making. A total of 63 probation officers and supervisors completed the two-day training, which was taught by Mark White, deputy commissioner of the DCJS Office of Juvenile Justice and Trista Deame, the agency's disproportionate minority contact coordinator.

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#### 5. Tania Peterson Chandler, Esq., Receives Sara Tullar Fasoldt Leadership Award

The NYS DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives presented the Sara Tullar Fasoldt Leadership and Humanitarian Award to Tania Peterson Chandler, Esq., for her leadership and dedicated services to men and women involved in the criminal justice system in New York State.

Tania Chandler has demonstrated outstanding commitment to providing effective services to individuals with substance use and/or co-occurring disorders, who are involved in the criminal justice system and to reducing recidivism in New York State.

At right, DCJS Deputy Commissioner and State Probation Director Robert M. Maccarone presented Tania Chandler with the award during a ceremony at the Hicksville Community Center.



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#### 6. State Director's Memoranda

**# 2016-7: July 7** – Probation Swift, Certain and Fair Program Model - A Procedural Justice Approach to Managing Individuals under Community Supervision

**# 2016-8: August 2** – Probation Sex Offender Management – Mobile Gaming Applications

**#2016-9: August 15 – Career University - Advancing to the Next Level**

**#2016-10: September 26 - ICAOS and ICJ Bench Cards and Jail Administrators Desk Card**

As a reminder, all State Director's Memoranda are posted to the IJ Portal: Resources > Reference > Library > Probation > Director's Memoranda

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## **7. OPCA Training Schedule**

### **Thinking for a Change (T4C) Training**

OPCA hosted three, four-day, in-person sessions of the National Institute of Corrections' Thinking for a Change facilitator training in Albany, Monroe, and Onondaga counties. There are classes scheduled on Tuesday, Oct. 4, and Wednesday, Oct. 12 for the remaining session in New York City.

Thinking for a Change (T4C) is a 25-lesson cognitive behavioral intervention program. The 40-hour training prepares participants as facilitators to deliver T4C with offender groups. OPCA encourages the use of cognitive behavioral intervention with medium- and high-risk clients, particularly those with medium- to high risk-related to criminal thinking and related needs.

For more information, please contact Patricia Clements at [Patricia.Clements@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Patricia.Clements@dcjs.ny.gov) or (518) 485-0905.

### **Motivational Interviewing**

OPCA is hosting motivational interviewing training on Tuesday, Oct. 25 and Wednesday, Oct. 26 in Monroe County. It recently sponsored the training in Albany and Onondaga counties and New York City.

Motivational interviewing is a communication style and skill that is applicable in all aspects of community corrections and re-entry work. This evidenced-based practice can be used by community corrections professionals to help reduce recidivism through positive change.

Topics covered during each training session include the stages of change; the four processes of motivational interviewing; motivational interviewing technical skills; ambivalence; OARS; resistance/discord; change talk; and case planning. The training is available to all probation officers, as well as professionals in the fields of alternatives to incarceration, probation and reentry.

For more information, please contact Patricia Clements at [Patricia.Clements@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Patricia.Clements@dcjs.ny.gov) or (518) 485-0905.

## **NYCOMPAS Training**

OPCA is hosting a two-day training on New York Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (NYCOMPAS) in Onondaga County on Wednesday, Oct. 12 and Thursday, Oct. 13. The training, recently held in Albany and Monroe counties and New York City, is for staff with no prior NYCOMPAS training.

Participants will receive guidance on how to complete and utilize the results of the NYCOMPAS, which is a broad-based, gender-neutral, risk and needs assessment instrument designed to assist probation officers and community corrections professionals in making recommendations to supervising authorities.

Those recommendations assist release and supervising authorities in their decision-making process regarding suitability of community corrections sentencing and release options, appropriate conditions, and/or program services, intervention measures, and supervision classification of adult offender populations in New York State.

For more information, please contact Patricia Clements at [Patricia.Clements@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Patricia.Clements@dcjs.ny.gov) or (518) 485-0905.

## **OSST/Peace Officer/Fundamentals of Probation Practice-Spring 2017 Class Dates Set**

The spring 2017 Probation Officer Safety and Survival Training (OSST)/Peace Officer/Fundamentals of Probation Practice Course dates are as follows:

- OSST: Monday, March 6 and Tuesday, March 7
- Peace Officer: Wednesday, March 8 and Friday, March 10
- Week 2: Monday, March 20 through Friday, March 24
- Week 3: Monday, March 27 through Friday, March 31

The fall 2016 Probation OSST/Peace Officer/Fundamentals of Probation Practice Course is full. The dates are as follows:

- OSST: Monday, Oct. 3 and Tuesday, Oct. 4
- Peace Officer: Wednesday, Oct. 5 and Friday, Oct. 7
- Week 2: Monday, Oct. 17 through Friday, Oct. 21
- Week 3: Monday, Oct. 24 through Friday, Oct. 28

For more information, please contact Patricia Clements at [Patricia.Clements@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Patricia.Clements@dcjs.ny.gov) or (518) 485-0905.

## **Offender Workforce Development Specialist Training Wraps Up—Graduates 28**

On Sept. 16, OPCA awarded 28 probation officers with certificates for completing the Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training course. Westchester County Probation Officer Sheryl Day-Davis was named the class valedictorian. The graduation ceremony at the Alfred E. Smith Building in Albany featured remarks from New York's Secretary of State Rossana Rosado and was attended by Kamillah Smith, assistant secretary for public safety in Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's office.



To date, OPCA has hosted 10 training courses and certified 259 probation officers. The training is provided through a partnership between the National Institute of Corrections and OPCA. A total of 112 *Ready, Set, Work! (RSW!)* groups were reported by different agencies to OPCA in 2015. For more information regarding OWDS training and/or *RSW!* groups, please contact Community Correction Representative Frank F. Cangiano at [Frank.Cangiano@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Frank.Cangiano@dcjs.ny.gov) or (518) 485-5153.

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8. Awards, Events, Additional Trainings and News

New York State Probationer Employment Report for 2014-2015

The New York State Probationer Employment Report for 2014-2015 is now available. This report provides probation departments with a snapshot of probationer employment as reported in the annual probation applications and plans. The probationer employment information reflects the number of probationers employed as a percent of those determined by probation to be employable, as well as a percent of those under supervision as listed in the Integrated Probation Registrant System.

To view the full report click here: <http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/opca/index.htm>

Please feel free to contact OPCA Community Correction Representative Frank Cangiano at (518) 485-5153 or Frank.Cangiano@dcjs.ny.gov for further assistance.

2016 New York State Probation Officers Conference

The New York State Probation Officers Association conducted its annual training conference in July at the Niagara Falls Conference and Events Center. The conference featured workshops, networking opportunities and an awards luncheon. The following awards were presented:

- **State Director's Award for Innovation in Probation:** Cattaraugus County



- **The Award of Honor:** Probation Officers William Foro and Vencent Lewis of Albany County



- **The Presidential Distinguished Award:** Senior Probation Officer John Galdun of Orange County



- **Jeannie Farrell Award of Achievement:** Probation Office Stewart Granger of New York City



Not pictured:

- **The Presidential Distinguished Award:** Probation Supervisor Deborah LaRock of Niagara County
- **State Directors Award for Outstanding Service:** Jill Porter of Suffolk County

Fallen Rensselaer County Probation Officer Honored

Rensselaer County Probation Officer Anthony “Tony” Patignani, who died suddenly in February, was honored recently after his department dedicated its training room in his name. Patignani, who was a member of the New York State Probation Officers Association, worked with the department for five years and was remembered as a dedicated officer who was always seeking to further his career through training and considered the department his “dream job.” He is survived by his wife, Danielle, and daughter, Addison, along with many other family members. Many attended the dedication ceremony, during which the department established an annual recognition award in his memory.



Jefferson Probation Department Youth Appreciation Picnic

In August, the Jefferson County Probation Department hosted its first Youth Appreciation Picnic, which provided participants an opportunity to form new relationships.

“This event began with the belief that if the youth we work with could see their probation officer, case worker, and or advocate in a different role that perhaps this could initiate a new avenue for positive change,” said Probation Director David Corey.

The department invited county Department of Social Services caseworkers, local Youth Assistance Program advocates, and staff from the Children’s Home of Jefferson County, as well as youth involved in at-risk programs. Department staff provided food and a large variety of outdoor games and attendees enjoyed the picnic, which the Probation Department is working to make an annual event.

Lawyer's Manual on Domestic Violence, 6th Edition Now Available

The New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts is distributing copies of the revised Lawyer's Manual on Domestic Violence, edited by Mary Rothwell Davis, Dorchen A. Leidholdt, and Charlotte A. Watson. This edition marks the 20th anniversary of publication. The last edition was published in 2006, so the revisions were necessary to reflect changes in the area of domestic violence during the past decade. The new edition includes a chapter on probation authored by OPDF VAWA/Victim Services Unit Manager Bill Schaefer and OPCA Director Robert Maccarone.

The update and distribution of printed copies was made possible through a federal grant from the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women. The content is an unofficial text representing the views of its contributors, not necessarily those of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, the state Division of Criminal Justice Services, the state Unified Court System, the Judicial Committee, or any state judge.

For additional copies, please email womeninthecourts@nycourts.gov. The volume is also available online at www.nycourts.gov/ip/womeninthecourts/pdfs/DV-Lawyers-Manual-Book.pdf. The Judicial Committee publishes a number of useful documents available on the DCJS website.

Just Released!

Probation System Review Guidebook, 2nd Edition

The RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice released the [**Probation System Review Guidebook, 2nd Edition**](#) written by John A. Tuell and Kari L. Harp. Since the first edition was released in 2011, the Resource Center continues to expand the scope and breadth of the Probation System Review process, resulting in further advances and refinement to the review framework. The review structure includes an analysis of four key elements: administration, probation supervision, intra- and interagency work processes and quality assurance. These advances occurred in partnership with an ever-growing cadre of jurisdictions that have partnered with the Resource Center to undertake the [**Probation System Review**](#).

Through the proliferation of these reviews, new tools and resources were developed to better assist jurisdictions in reviewing their probation department and juvenile justice system. The second edition of the *Guidebook* provides jurisdictions with the tools and analytical framework that will guide the alignment of their practices with national best practice standards, whether independently or with the facilitation offered through an on-site review. Based on the up-to-date and relevant research on adolescent development, risks-needs-responsivity approaches, probation supervision, graduated system of responses, family engagement and data-driven decision making, the second edition of the *Guidebook* aligns its approaches with the most current advances in the field.

To learn more about our Probation System Reform efforts, please [visit our website](#).

Tribal Access to Justice Innovation

[Tribal Access to Justice Innovation](#) is a new website highlighting innovative tribal justice programs from around the country. Developed by the Center for Court Innovation's Tribal Justice Exchange, the website provides ideas and inspiration to reformers looking to address common challenges such as substance use, domestic violence, gang involvement, and juvenile delinquency.

Tribal Access to Justice Innovation, which can be found at tribaljustice.org, contains profiles of dozens of tribal justice programs, along with videos, podcasts, and other resources. For instance this website provides:

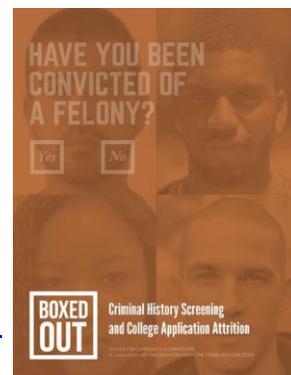
- Material about the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's [Healing to Wellness Court](#);
- Video about the Puyallup Tribe's [G.R.E.A.T. summer camp for at-risk youth](#);
- An audio interview with the coordinator of the Navajo Nation's [Peacemaking Program](#).

These items are a small sample of what is available through tribaljustice.org, and the website is continuing to grow. The Center is working with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, the National Criminal Justice Training Center at Fox Valley Technical College, and tribal justice practitioners across the country to highlight more innovative programs and add more resources. The center is also seeking [suggestions](#) for programs to be included on the website.

SUNY Bans the Box on Admissions Application

The State University of New York (SUNY) is poised to become the first university system in the nation to put aside criminal history screening in its admissions process. SUNY'S Board of Trustees voted to no longer require student applicants to disclose prior felony convictions during the admissions process starting with the 2018 admission cycle. After this time, students will only be asked to reveal a prior conviction if they are seeking on-campus housing, studying abroad or looking to participate in field experience or internships.

The Center for Community Alternatives (CCA), as a lead member of the [Education from the Inside Out Coalition](#), laid the foundation for this important policy change with our 2015 case study on SUNY, "[Boxed Out: Criminal History Screening and College Application Attrition](#)."



The Board recognized that the practice of asking about criminal history records was deterring qualified applicants – especially ethnic minorities – from completing the application process, essentially 'boxing' them out of attending college. The [resolution](#) references CCA's work extensively. Read what Director of Justice Strategies Emily NaPier had to say about the historic decision in [this story](#) from The Atlantic Magazine.

CCA's work on this issue began 10 years ago with a client who was referred to them after encountering a policy barring admission to certain people with felony convictions. Since that time, CCA researched, organized, and advocated to ensure that people involved in the criminal justice system have fair access

to education. The change comes on the heels of a major announcement in May from the U.S. Department of Education encouraging colleges and universities to go '[Beyond the Box](#)' and eliminate barriers to admission for people with criminal history records. The federal guidance also drew heavily on CCA reports.

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9. Practice Tip #1: The eJusticeNY Integrated Justice Portal contains a wealth of information for probation and other community corrections professionals and is updated frequently. Many of the resources are located under Resources>Reference Library>Probation OR Resources>Reference Library>Community Corrections. For access to the Portal, please speak with your agency TAC or send an e-mail to: CCCenter@dcjs.ny.gov .

Practice Tip #2: When referring probationers to a community-based program, it is good practice to conduct an in-person contact at the program location with both the probationer and the program staff (collateral contact) and maintain the same level of supervision as indicated in the case plan.

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10. Quick Fact: The 2016-2017 Probation Annual Plan and Application data indicates that during 2015, 44 of the 58 probation departments across the state achieved 100 percent compliance with 9 NYCRR Part 346.6(a), which requires that "...all probation officers shall, after the first year of service, annually complete a minimum of 21 hours of continuing probation education credit in advanced probation practice..." This achievement means that of the 2,688 probation officer trainees, probation officers, senior probation Officers, supervisors, and directors in NYS, 2,611 completed the required 21 hours. Congratulations to the 44 departments with 100 percent compliance.

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