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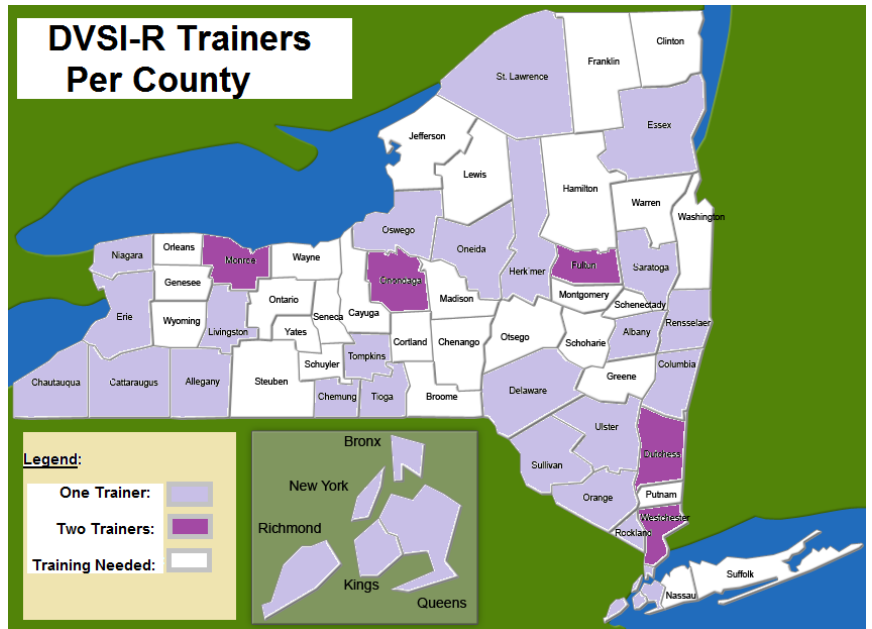
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1. Domestic Violence Screening Instrument – Revised (DVSI-R) Training Follow Up

The Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) provided two courses in September so probation officers could become certified trainers for the Revised Domestic Violence Screening Instrument (DVSI-R), which is designed to determine whether an individual arrested or convicted of domestic violence is likely to reoffend. The courses in Albany were facilitated by Dr. Kirk Williams, the developer of the instrument and a professor at the Department of Criminology, Law & Society at the University of California, and Joseph DiTunno, deputy director of Family Services for the Court Support Services Division of the Connecticut State Judicial Branch. Thirty-four probation officers from 29 counties in New York State attended the in-person training, in addition to staff from other offices within DCJS and the state Department

of Corrections and Community Supervision. All attendees are now able to provide DVSI-R training to probation staff in their regional areas.

The Westchester County Probation Department has since trained six of its officers to use the DVSI-R, and the Onondaga County Probation Department is preparing to do its first training for staff members. OPCA aims to have officers from all counties across the state trained in using this domestic violence screening tool. The accompanying map New York State shows which county probation departments have train-the-trainers for the DVSI-R.



The screening instrument has been used in Connecticut since 2004 and has helped probation officers improve supervision of domestic violence offenders. The screening tool will be available through the Northpointe/NYCOMPAS suite, as well as on paper, and should be used strictly as a supplement to the NYCOMPAS general risk assessment.

Effective abusive partner intervention programs focus on offender accountability and domestic violence education while offering participants who want to change their behavior the chance to do so. Anger management curricula should never be a central component of an abusive partner intervention program. For more information, review the [Abusive Partner Intervention Programs: New York State Guidelines](#) published by the state Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (www.opdv.ny.gov).

2. Raise the Age Webinar Series – Learning Collaboratives

OPCA developed the Raise the Age – Probation Practice and Learning WebEx Series to assist probation professionals in the preparation and implementation of the law. Topics in the series have included **The Role of Probation in the Implementation of the Raise the Age Law**, **The Role of Probation in the Youth Part of the Superior Court**, and **Caseload Explorer Upgrades**. The OPCA Juvenile Operations Unit has facilitated the series with significant collaboration from county probation departments that highlighted their best practices: Rensselaer County facilitated the **Court Diversion Council**; Broome County, **Supporting Youth Nurturing Change**; Albany County, the **Juvenile Community Accountability Board**; and Schenectady County, the **Community and Home Integration Program**.

All modules and accompany handouts in the series are available for viewing on the eJusticeNY Integrated Justice Portal: Resources > Reference Library > Probation > Specialized Supervision > Raise the Age. The webinar detailing Caseload Explorer enhancements also is available through the Portal:

Resources > Reference Library > Probation > Case Management Tools > Caseload Explorer Upgrades and Description webinar.

For more information or questions, contact the OPCA Juvenile Probation Operations team at opcaRTATA@dcjs.ny.gov.

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### 3. Caseload Explorer Upgrades

Implementation of Raise the Age has resulted in a host of changes being made to Caseload Explorer. In addition to Caseload Explorer Upgrades webinar, an email sent by OPCA Executive Deputy Director John Adams detailed changes made in the areas of permissions, case changes, and the program’s password policy. Notable changes include:

- Family Case Folder – Charge Types
- Intake JD Case – Complaint Received: A date is now required
- Criminal Case Folder: Added specialized detention to Custody Status
- Contact Events: Added Initial Involuntary Assessment and Case Planning
- PRCR Event: Added Adolescent and Juvenile Offender Voluntary Case Plan

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4. Making a Difference: Offender Workforce Development Specialist

As part of the DCJS: Making a Difference series, OPCA staff hosted a forum in September about the National Institute of Corrections’ (NIC) Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) Training and the Ready, Set, Work! and Career University - Advancing to the Next Level career readiness programs. Rensselaer County Senior Probation Officer Pauline Franz; Ron “Cook” Barrett, a gang prevention and youth specialist with the Albany County Probation Department; and Tim Staples, coordinator of the Schenectady County Re-Entry Task Force, shared their experiences as facilitators of these groups. A woman on probation in Albany County also shared how the Ready, Set, Work! program positively impacted her ability to obtain and maintain employment. The Making a Difference series for DCJS employees is designed to highlight the agency’s work and impact in the community. OPCA thanks everyone who contributed to this event, especially the DCJS Office of Human Resources Management and Deputy Director Sheryl Kretzler.

If you have any questions about the Offender Workforce Development Training, please contact Frank F. Cangiano at Frank.Cangiano@dcjs.ny.gov or (518) 485-5153.

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### 5. Credible Messenger Justice Center Opportunities

The Credible Messenger Justice Center (<https://cmjcenter.org>) has announced several opportunities for probation professionals interested in learning more or developing credible messenger programs in their jurisdictions. The Center will host its New York City Immersion Experience from June 26 through June 28,

2019, which will allow participants to visit programs and collaborate directly with those working on this initiative. On June 27, 2019, the Center will host its annual conference, which will address all topics related to the credible messenger approach.

A team of professionals from Onondaga County said of their participation in last year’s event, “Now that we have returned home, we have expanded our community-based committee to be more inclusive, and we have submitted our county budget to include additional funding for credible messengers and community-based supports. Our participation at the conference definitely moved all these issues up on the priority scale.”

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## 6. Health Home Liaison Officers for Probation

State Director’s Memorandum # 2018-11 (Aug. 14, 2018), requested that probation directors designate probation officers to serve as Health Home liaison officers to establish a single point of contact for Health Home Agencies and facilitate communication with these providers.

OPCA has compiled a directory of these liaisons by county, which is available on the Portal: Resources > Reference Library > Probation > Directories > Probation Department Health Home Liaison Contacts – October 2018.

Health Homes provide the infrastructure needed to support integrated care and person-centered case management. OPCA staff were joined by Amy Clinton from the state Department of Health for a webinar that addressed the following:

- Health Home eligibility criteria and appropriateness for adults and children
- Health Home referral process
- Benefits of Health Home and county Probation Department collaboration

The recording of the Health Homes webinar can be accessed at the following WebEx [link](#).

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## 7. New York State Warrant Notification System Receives Award for 2018 Best Application Serving the Public at GOVTECH – The Center for Digital Government

DCJS and the state Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) received the Best Application Serving the Public Award from the Center for Digital Government at its annual Best of New York Awards Conference - GOVTECH. The award, presented in September, recognized the development and implementation of the Warrant Notification system, which is designed to enhance partnerships among police, parole and probation in bringing into custody individuals with warrants. The system generates about 20,000 warrant notifications monthly, of which about 2,000 involve individuals under probation supervision. At right, DCJS



Deputy Commissioner and Probation Director Robert M. Maccarone speaks after receiving the award on behalf of DCJS.

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### **8. New York Association of Pretrial Service Agencies (NYAPSA) Conference 2018 Olgiati Award Given to Dutchess County Principal Probation Officer Jonathan Heller**

Jonathan Heller, a principal probation officer with the Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections, recently received the 2018 Olgiati Award at the annual conference of the New York Association of Pretrial Service Agencies (NYAPSA). In addition to his role in Dutchess County, Mr. Heller serves as the vice president for diversion on the NYASPA Board of Directors.

Nominated by Mary Ellen Still, director of the Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections, Mr. Heller was recognized for “pioneering most of the pretrial and ATI initiatives available in Dutchess County.” The nomination continued: “Jon is certified as a Pretrial Services Professional by the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies. He is always willing to share his knowledge and expertise having served on a state workgroup to develop guidelines for pretrial services, serving as a resource for other jurisdictions and participating in the development of a gender-specific pretrial screening instrument with the National Resource Center on Justice Involved Women and the Center for Effective Public Policy. Jon has raised the profile of pretrial services in the county and serves on the Executive Committee of the Criminal Justice Council while also chairing the Special Populations sub-committee.”



The award, named for Ennis J. Olgiati, recognizes lifetime achievement in the field of pretrial services and individuals or organizations having a national impact on pretrial policies and services.

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### **9. Dutchess County Probation Officer Honored for DWI Prevention Efforts**

Dutchess County Probation Officer Ashley Pilla was recently recognized at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony, sponsored by the Dutchess County STOP-DWI Planning Board, for her key role in the county’s ignition interlock device (IID) enforcement initiatives. Ms. Pilla was lauded for her diligence and dedication in preventing DWI-related crimes in her jurisdiction through close collaboration with local law enforcement and OPCA.



### **10. Ignition Interlock Device Event Report Template**

Title 9 NYCRR Part 358, “Handling of Ignition Interlock Cases Involving Certain Criminal Offenders,” states that IID manufacturers “shall take appropriate, reasonable and necessary steps to confirm any report of

failed tasks, failed tests, circumvention, or tampering and thereafter notify the appropriate monitor.” To assist monitors’ compliance with the task of providing prompt notification to the court and district attorney and taking any immediate supervisory actions with respect to the operator, OPCA worked with IID manufacturers to develop and implement a standardized notification for New York State. The template has successfully completed testing and is scheduled for statewide implementation on Jan. 2, 2019.

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11. Probation Domestic Violence Services Survey Results

A State Director’s Memoranda issued in September highlighted initial results from a statewide survey that was designed to identify available programs for domestic violence offenders throughout the state. OPCA will continue working with departments to enhance the resources available to the field. Notable results from this survey include:

- 98 percent of probation departments reported domestic violence offender intervention and management programs are accessible to their domestic violence offender probationers;
- 84 percent of probation departments reported domestic violence intervention and management services are available within their counties; and
- 43 percent of probation departments identified the domestic violence program model used by their counties either the Duluth Model (10 counties), New York Model (seven counties), or other models (eight counties).

Complete survey results are forthcoming. In the interim, please review the memo, which was issued on Sept. 20, 2018, for more information.

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## 12. Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program Guidance and Technical Assistance

Information and technical assistance about Raise the Age planning centered around the Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program and services funded under that program is available from the state Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS): [https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/jj\\_reform/rta-guidance.asp](https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/jj_reform/rta-guidance.asp) The site includes guidance for to articulate and denote costs for these programs in a Raise the Age Comprehensive Fiscal Plan, among other information.

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13. Recent State Director’s Memoranda

The following State Director’s Memoranda are available through the Portal:

Resources > Reference > Library > Probation > Director’s Memoranda

- **SDM #2018–13 dated Aug. 29, 2018:** Information Sharing with the Family Court for LDSS-OCFS
- **SDM # 2018–14 dated Aug. 29, 2018:** “Leandra’s Law” Implementation – Jan. 1, 2018 – June 30, 2018 Report

- **SDM #2018–15 dated Dec. 5, 2018:** Revised Domestic Violence Screening Instrument (DVSI-R) Release

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#### 14. OPCA Training Updates and Schedule

- A class of 32 newly-appointed officers from throughout the state completed the four-week Fundamentals of Probation Practice (FPP) course in November. In addition to the traditional curriculum, the course included Officer Safety and Survival Training, Peace Officer Training, and the Probation Specialized Juvenile Justice Training. Valedictorian honors were shared by Rebecca Seifts of Oneida County and Jennifer Kloss of Jefferson County.



- The two final, week-long Probation Specialized Juvenile Justice trainings occurred in Nassau County in September and Warren County earlier this month.
- In November, OPCA provided a two-day facilitator training, “Interactive Journaling – Courage to Change,” in Niagara Falls. The training, an evidence-based supervision/case management model developed in collaboration with several federal Probation offices, was attended by 20 probation officers, supervisors, employment specialists and re-entry task force staff from Erie, Monroe, Wayne and Niagara counties.
- Beginning this month, OPCA is offering the Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) Training. Completion of the 180-hour course allows professionals to facilitate the Ready, Set, Work! and Career University – Advancing to the Next Level programs. The training concludes in March 2019.
- More than 30 probation and community corrections professionals completed the Advanced Motivational Interviewing course offered by OPCA in October and November. Albany, Onondaga and Suffolk counties hosted these trainings.

- Six newly-appointed probation directors and supervisors completed OPCA's Executive Leadership course in November.
- OPCA has several upcoming trainings scheduled throughout the state:

| Training Type                                                   | Location        | Dates                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Interactive Journaling: Courage to Change Training for Trainers | New York City   | Dec. 18 – Dec. 19, 2018  |
| Interactive Journaling Forward Thinking Training for Trainers   | Albany County   | Jan. 3 – Jan. 4, 2019    |
| Interactive Journaling Forward Thinking Training for Trainers   | Onondaga County | Jan. 16 – Jan. 17, 2019  |
| Interactive Journaling: Courage to Change Training for Trainers | Albany County   | Jan. 24 – Jan. 25, 2019  |
| Interactive Journaling: Courage to Change Training for Trainers | Onondaga County | Jan. 30 – Jan. 31, 2019  |
| Interactive Journaling: Forward Thinking Training for Trainers  | Nassau County   | January 2019 (Dates TBD) |

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15. Awards, Additional Trainings and News from County Probation Departments

- [Tribal Employment Issues and Reentry](#) : The webinar which focuses on matters specific to tribal communities will be held 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. Dec. 19.
- [APPA Executive Summit of Community Corrections Leaders](#): The American Probation and Parole Association will hold its 2019 Executive Summit of Community Corrections Leaders in Miami, Florida, March 7 – March 8.
- [APPA 2019 Winter Training Institute - Miami, FL](#): The American Probation and Parole Association will hold its 2019 Winter Training Institute in Miami, Florida, March 10 – March 13.
- [New York State Mandated Reporter Training](#) : The self-directed online training is customized for disciplines including social services and law enforcement. This is an ongoing opportunity.
- [Surviving the Trenches: The Impact of Trauma Exposure on Corrections Professionals](#): The recorded webinar examines the impact of psychological trauma on corrections professionals.

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### 16. Practice Tip

Title 9 NYCRR Part 351 – Probation Supervision rule includes the requirement of positive home contact frequency and timelines.



- Greatest Risk: One positive home contact is required each month from case assignment;
- High Risk: One positive home contact is required during the first month from case assignment, thereafter, three home contacts are required during each quarter, one completed each month during the quarter, two of which must be positive home contacts;
- Medium Risk: One positive home contact is required during the first 45 calendar days from case assignment and as needed thereafter; and
- Low Risk: Home contact as needed.

Counties should use a combination of scheduled and unannounced home visits. The first home visit should be scheduled to ensure the probationer is at home, particularly for high risk cases where the home visit should occur as soon as possible following sentence.

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17. Quick Fact

It is essential that all probation departments reduce the number of closable cases beyond maximum expiration date (MED) in a timely manner and assign the necessary staff resources to oversee this process on an ongoing basis. Please utilize the “Active Cases Beyond MED” report found in the Portal: (Resources > Reporting Services > IPRS Reports > Legacy Reports > Active Cases Beyond MED) to identify your department’s cases that are closable per IPRS. New York State’s Warrant Notification System relies on IPRS data: If a case eligible to be closed is left open, inaccurate information will be provided to law enforcement. Please refer to State Director’s Memorandum 2017-11 for additional information about the Warrant Notification System.

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