



Michael C. Green
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Robert M. Maccarone
Deputy Commissioner and Probation Director

David W. Lewis
eFocus Editor

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1. Women’s Risk and Needs Assessment (WRNA)

In 2014 and 2018, 18 instructors and five “end-users” from both the probation departments and ATI programs were trained as trainers for the Women’s Risk and Needs Assessment (WRNA) by Ashley Bauman, with the approval of the instrument’s author, Dr. Pat Van Voorhis of the University of Cincinnati. In 2018, the WRNA was made available through the Northpointe suite to those staff who were instructed by Ashley Bauman. They were required to provide a WRNA Policy from their agency and have that policy approved by the DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives. These early adopters of the WRNA included: Allegany, Dutchess, Niagara, and Oswego County Probation Departments; the Woman’s Opportunity Rehabilitation Center (WORC); and the Broome County Jail program. These early adopters of WRNA have reported that implementation of the WRNA has been helpful and believe the long-term benefit to the women assessed will be invaluable. Counties and programs that wish to utilize WRNA for their departments/agencies should be prepared to identify the

appropriateness of programs and services in their area; identify staff who have a genuine need to assist women while under probation supervision or in an ATI program; have staff trained by a certified trainer of the WRNA tool (end-user training is three days); develop a Policy and Protocol that is shared with OPCA; and, once approved, utilize the WRNA that is made available in the Northpointe Suite.

Any questions regarding WRNA or how to obtain access to the WRNA tool in Northpointe, or obtaining a sample policy, please contact Colleen Thorn at [colleen.thorn@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:colleen.thorn@dcjs.ny.gov).

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## 2. Upcoming “Responding to Domestic Violence” Conference

The Division of Criminal Justice Services, in collaboration with the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV), the NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV), and the NYS Office of Victim Services (OVS), is pleased to announce a full-day training to be held on **Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Empire State Plaza in Albany**. Probation and parole officers, domestic violence intervention program staff, as well as victim advocates and law enforcement officers are strongly encouraged to attend. The conference titled “**Responding to Domestic Violence: Effective Collaborative Community Responses**” will include noted domestic violence expert and national presenter James Henderson, MAC, CAC-R. Henderson is currently the Director of Offender Accountability for the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention and a private consultant. From 1991 – 2008, he was a probation officer responsible for overseeing the policies and practices of Intensive Probation for Domestic Violence Offenders in Ann Arbor, MI.

This conference will examine the complexities surrounding victims in domestic violence relationships; the messaging courts send to offenders, their victims and children; the research around offender accountability and effective supervision – which policies reinforce that victim safety is our top priority; and probation’s insistence that offenders can and must change their behavior. Additionally, program participants will be challenged in their beliefs on what causes violence, and how best to address the underlying causes through supervision, support, and accountability.

Notably, a panel of experts and professionals in the field will highlight different evidence-based models that address domestic violence intervention and how to encourage maximize collaboration with justice partners to achieve community safety through effective collaborative community responses. The conference will also identify the advantages of probation group reporting and the research supporting it as an effective evidence-based strategy for domestic violence offenders.

**Early registration is recommended** as the conference is limited to 200 participants. For individuals interested in attending this conference event, please complete the application available below:

[Application LINK-Responding to Domestic Violence](#)

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Community Correction Representative David Lewis at [david.lewis@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:david.lewis@dcjs.ny.gov) or via phone at (518) 485-5518.



### 3. Tenth Annual New York State Ignition Interlock Conference

The Tenth Annual New York State Ignition Interlock Conference took place on August 22, 2019, at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. Over 110 attendees took part in this daylong event, which covered many important topics related to New York State's Ignition Interlock Program. The agenda included presentations by Dr. Ward Vanlaar of the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF), Judges Michael Yavinsky and Joseph McCormack of the Kings County Criminal Court, DCJS, DMV, Dr. Ben Nordstrom of Responsibility.org, and an interactive session with the NYS Qualified Manufacturers.

Additionally, representatives from Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety (DADSS) were on the concourse with one of their vehicles to demonstrate an emerging technology in the effort to eliminate DWI across the nation ([www.dadss.org/](http://www.dadss.org/)).



### 4. A4 Restriction Removal Pilot Project Update

OPCA continues to collaborate with the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) on the implementation of the A4 Restriction Removal Pilot Project. The project, which commenced on November 18, 2018, now includes eight participating pilot counties.

As announced in e-Focus issue #151, the project involves participating probation departments and CD Monitors providing notice to DMV through a designated email box that, when appropriate, the A4 (court ordered IID) restriction can be removed from an operator's driving record. Counties using Caseload Explorer can produce this A4 Removal Notice/Certificate of Completion through that system. Goals of the project include:

- Providing additional security measures to protect the A4 Removal Notice/Certificate of Completion from potential fraud or any unauthorized revision made by operators
- Promoting timely removal of the A4 restriction from operators driving records when appropriate
- Improving quality and accuracy of DMV data, including that utilized by law enforcement during traffic stops
- Reducing foot traffic in local DMV offices by encouraging operators to apply for duplicate licenses with the A4 restriction removed online, rather than in person
- Reducing repeat requests by operators to probation departments/CD monitors for copies of previously issued A4 Removal Notices/Certificates of Completion.

As of October 1, 2019, DMV has processed a total of 2,311 A4 Removal Notices/Certificates of Completion submitted through this project. Arrangements will be made in the near future to begin Phase III of the project, with the participation of additional jurisdictions, and a goal of eventual statewide implementation. Should you have any questions, please contact Michele Melendez at [Michele.Melendez-McKearin@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Michele.Melendez-McKearin@dcjs.ny.gov) or Leonard Price at [Leonard.Price@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Leonard.Price@dcjs.ny.gov).



## **5. The Crossover Between Teen Mental Health & Substance Abuse**

“Growing up is a difficult process for many teens across the U.S, as developing a positive self-image can be a daunting task in the face of society's ever-changing landscape. Teens feel pressure from many different areas of their lives: from their parents, their school, their job, their friends, and even from interactions on social media. It is no wonder, then, that so many teens suffer from mental health issues like depression and anxiety. But when teenagers are struggling with a mental health problem and have no healthy outlet to deal with painful or difficult emotions, they can instead end up turning to alcohol or drug use as a form of self-medication. It is a scenario many are familiar with in adults, but with teenagers the risks are much higher because their brains are still developing. At this critical point in their development, drug and alcohol use can be far more problematic.” ~ Multisystemic Therapy (MST) Services

[Learn more](#) about the crossover between teen mental health and substance abuse.



## **6. Dutchess County Probation Partners with Lucky Orphans to Help At-Risk Youth**

This past summer, youths in Dutchess County involved in the juvenile justice system partnered with rehabilitated horses to learn how to build trust, foster teamwork, and improve interpersonal skills through the EquiNorth Equine Assisted Youth Development Program at Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue in Dover Plains as part of the Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections' Juvenile Risk Intervention Services Coordination (J-RISC) program. The participants attended weekly sessions for eight weeks that included hands-on exercises with the animals in addition to classroom-based and homework assignments on topics such as non-verbal

communication, anger management, organizational skills, self-care and mental health, and time management.



*Several J-RISC participants took part in hands-on exercises with horses at Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue in Dover.*

The Dutchess County's J-RISC Program offers intensive services for youth ages 12-17 involved in the juvenile justice system, who are at a high risk to recidivate. J-RISC seeks to prevent out-of-home placement and reduce recidivism through a team intervention approach. In addition to supervision and diversion activities with his or her assigned Probation Officer, J-RISC youth and their family members undergo Functional Family Therapy (FFT) – an evidence-based program designed to reduce recidivism – with a therapist provided in partnership with Astor Services for Children and Families. The probation officer and therapist work collaboratively with a probation case manager aide, who provides support to the families and engages the youth in prosocial activities designed to build skills and promote community involvement, giving back, learning, and personal growth.

[Learn more](#) about Dutchess County Probation's partnership with Lucky Orphans.



## **7. Recent Governor's Legislation on Protection for Victims of Domestic Violence**

The following are recently signed Governor's Legislation:

- **Governor Cuomo Signs Legislation Amending the Family Court Act Regarding Juvenile Delinquency**
  - S.6475/A.7939 bill was signed by Governor on 9/13/19. Effective date 12/12/2019
  - Amends FCA §308.1(8) to expand the authority of probation in the determination of the suitability of adjustment services in a JD complaint to consider the views of the complainant, and the impact on the complainant and the community.
  - Amends FCA §308.1(9) to enlarge the initial JD adjustment period to three months (previously it was 2) before requesting a two-month extension of the adjustment service period.
  - Amends FCA §320.6(2) allowing for Family Court to refer a JD back to Probation adjustment services at any time during the pendency of the case. Previously, it was only allowable at the Initial Appearance on the petition. This amendment also requires probation to consider the views of the complainant and impact to complainant and community when determining suitability for adjustment, as was amended in 308.1(8).
- **Governor Cuomo Signs Legislation Expanding Protections for Victims of Domestic Violence**
  - S.2625/ A.5608 Amends Definition of Domestic Violence to Include Forms of Economic Abuse
  - S.3232-A/A.219 Gives Domestic Violence Victims the Right to Vote by Mail
  - S.1243/A.4467A Allows Domestic Violence Victims to Report Abuse to Any Law Enforcement Agency in New York State, Regardless of Where the Act Took Place
- **Governor Cuomo Signs Legislation Expanding Employment Nondiscrimination Protections for Victims of Domestic Violence**
- **Governor Cuomo Signs Legislation to Increase Protections for Crime Victims**
  - S.1868/A.5614 Allows Victims of Domestic Violence to Seek Damages Against Those Who Fail to Obey or Enforce an Order of Protection
  - S.6167/A.7079 Expands Eligibility for Compensation to Victims of Unlawful Surveillance Crimes
  - S.6353/A.7051 Expands the Definition of "Child Victim" to Include Children Who Witness a Crime

[See all legislation from the Office of the Governor.](#)

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## 8. Recent State Director's Memoranda

The following State Director's Memoranda are posted to the IJ Portal:

Pathway: Resources > Reference > Library > Probation > Director's Memoranda

- **SDM #2019-2: March 28, 2019 - Raise the Age—Probation Regulations Title 9 NYCRR-Parts 348, 350, 351, 352, 356, and 359**

- **SDM # 2019-3: April 30, 2019 - “Leandra’s Law” Implementation- January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2019 Report**
- **SDM #2019-4: May 24, 2019 - Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument-Version 2 (MAYSI-2)**
- **SDM #2019-5: September 30, 2019 – IID Mid-Year Report Jan-June 2019**

## 9. OPCA Training Updates and Schedule

- A total of seven Motivational Interviewing (MI) trainings have been announced by OPCA to take place this year. The training began in June and will continue into October. Please see below for details on the remaining MI trainings that are available.
- Sixteen YASI Trainings have been scheduled for September and October. Please see below for details on the remaining training dates that are still available.
- OPCA is offering two Regional DVSI-R trainings in September and October that have been announced and will take place in Essex County and Ulster County. Additional DVSI-R training are being planned for the fall in Monroe and Suffolk Counties. Please see below for details.
- Four Interactive Journaling Training for Trainers (TFT) have been scheduled for September and October. See below for the remaining training dates that are still available.
- Other trainings OPCA plans to offer this year but have not been officially announced yet include: COMPAS, Interactive Journaling (facilitator), Thinking for a Change (TFT), Decision Points and MAYSI-2.

### Upcoming Training Events

| <i>Training Type</i>     | <i>Location</i>    | <i>Dates</i>     | <i>Application Deadline</i> | <i>Comments</i>           |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Regional DVSI-R Training | Kingston, New York | October 16, 2019 | October 1, 2019             | <a href="#">Apply Now</a> |

## 10. Awards, Additional Training, and News from County Probation Departments

The following awards were presented at the 2019 New York State Probation Officers Association (NYSPOA) Conference:

- Westchester County Supervising Probation Officer, **Guilda Tavarez**, received the *2019 Officer of the Year Award* and the *James Piersanti Leadership Award*.



- Dutchess County Probation Officer, **Michele Pfeil**, received the *Award of Honor*.
- Cattaraugus County Probation Officers, **Melissa Dieteman** and **Gordon Diffenderfer**, received the *Jeannie Farrell Award of Achievement*.
- Westchester County Supervising Probation Officer, **Daniel DePonto**, received the *Presidential Distinguished Service Award (A)* and Nassau County Assistant Deputy Director, Andrew Eichhorn, received the *Presidential Distinguished Service Award (B)*.

Additional Trainings:

- [Identifying and Supervising Victims of Intimate Partner Violence](#): This free online training addresses intimate partner violence through enhanced and specialized supervision practices.
- [Supervising Juveniles with Mental Disorders](#): This online course examines the best practices in effectively supervising juveniles with mental health disorders (cost: \$35).

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## 11. Practice Tip(s)

The Marin County Probation's Wall of Change Program recognizes individuals who have made admirable progress through treatment, education and perseverance. The recipients have all received credit through the Probation Department's Wall of Change recognition program. Those who enter the



Probation Department office at the Civic Center can see photos and short stories posted on the Wall of Change about probationers who have committed to leading safe and sober lives and subsequently experienced stability and personal triumph. The celebration event is designed to inspire new clients and prove that positive results are achievable.

[Watch the video](#) Marin County Probation: Wall of Change program.

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## 12. Officer Wellness Tip(s)

Get up and drink a bottle of water!

Benefits of drinking water in the morning:

- Rehydrates your body
- Flushes out toxins
- Improves metabolism
- Increases brain power
- Boosts immune system

[Read 9 Life Changing Wellness Tips to Lead a Better Life](#) by Vartika Kashyap.

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## 13. Quick Fact

Effective case planning is the successful foundation for change and defines the working relationship between the probation officer and their clients. The case plan details the expectations of the probation client and other persons who can influence and contribute to positive change. The case plan should clearly define long-term goals (achievable by the end of probation), short-term goals (achievable from reassessment to reassessment) and action steps (achievable from one probationer contact to the next). It is important case plans identify the roles and responsibilities of each person involved in the case plan, and realistic time frames for achieving stated goals. Effective case planning leads to long-term behavioral change and a reduction in recidivism which is the primary focus of probation professionals.

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