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Special points of interest:

- > Probation Commission
- > Peer Support Officer Wellness
- > Probation Practice Tip

New York Transitions from NYCOMPAS to COMPAS-R

During November and December of this year, Equivant conducted both two and four-day training sessions – Training for Trainers and End User Trainers in preparation for the implementation of the COMPAS-R risk and need assessment instrument planned for early 2024. In all, 25 probation and community correction professionals were trained to lead all future training of probation officers and community correction professionals. Nearly 30,000 assessments are completed each year to assist probation and community correction professionals properly classify individuals on supervision and to highlight significant need areas. The NYCOMPAS is a familiar risk and need instrument for probation and community correction professionals – so the transition is expected to go smoothly. The COMPAS-R, a nationally used instrument, is predictive, and it will facilitate standardized training of professionals in the state. It is also transparent, with risk determination easily understood by using a simple summative scoring sheet. To learn more about the instrument, please click [here](#)



Inside this issue:

Yasi CE Case Plan—My Action Plan	2
Procedural Justice Workgroup	3
FPP Academy Class Fall 2023	4
CE Users Helping Users Training	6
State Director Retires	8

YASI - Caseload Explorer Integration -Case Planning – My Action Plan (MAP)—Live Jan. 8

DCJS' Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives has been working for many months integrating the Probation case management system (Caseload Explorer), with the youth risk assessment (YASI) to support uniform case planning across the state's probation departments. Catalis (formerly known as Automon) and Orbis Partners have built an integration that brings the YASI assessment and Caseload Explorer together, utilizing two products, CeAssessments and CePlanning, within Caseload Explorer. and produce an automated uniform case plan for Officers.

In early 2024, probation users will see **several new features** within Caseload Explorer and YASI, including the following:

YASI 2.0 Caseworks – an upgrade of the YASI assessment tool with improved platform functionality and features.

Access to/from YASI 2.0 through CeAssessments to include transmission of assessment events.

CePlanning – a new Caseload Explorer product that supports the uniform case plan, known as My Action Plan (MAP/Juvenile MAP).

Transmission of the YASI Behavioral Analysis & Mapping results to the Juvenile MAP (case plan) in CePlanning.

OPCA extends its appreciation to Albany, Erie, Onondaga, Orange, Oswego, Schenectady, Tioga, and Ulster counties' probation departments for joining in testing this integration in November and December.

Training Dates:

- Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 20, from 10:30 a.m. - noon
- Thursday, Jan. 4, from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- Friday, Jan.5, from 2 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision Commissioner Announces “New Language”

On November 29, 2023, the Commission's Executive Committee unanimously approved replacing the word 'offender' with 'supervised individual' in the Commission's publications, rules, and on the official website. Commission Chair Mary Kay Hudson stated, *“We have a unique opportunity to lead by example and create positive change within the criminal justice system. This shift in language reflects our commitment to foster a more person-centered approach, while eliminating barriers and biases associated with traditional terminology.*

As we move forward, it is important that we raise awareness of this change throughout our states to ensure its successful implementation.” New York State led this change at the national level and requests that all probation and community correction professionals join in this effort.

On November 8, 2023, DCJS-OPCA held its first Procedural Justice Workgroup at the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services training (DHSES) facility located in Oriskany, N.Y. Directors, supervisors and probation officers from Jefferson, Oneida, Onondaga, and Ontario counties (21 individuals) participated in this daylong event aimed at integrating the procedural justice framework into their departments' practices.

During this workshop, the participants were provided a primer on procedural justice to ensure that all attendees were comfortable with the concepts. Afterward, each department began to develop an action plan, tailored to their agencies, to integrate this framework into their practices. The workshop concluded with a report out, allowing each department to share their action plans with the other departments and to discuss how to successfully implement each of their plans.

DCJS-OPCA will meet with these four agencies separately, over the next six months, to discuss their progress with implementation and offer assistance, when necessary.

We would like to thank Jefferson, Oneida, Onondaga, and Ontario counties for taking time out of their busy schedules to participate in this important event and for showing a commitment to the advancement of probation practice. OPCA will continue to monitor the progress of these counties with the intention of expanding this pilot to other counties. If you have questions with respect to procedural justice in probation practice, or would like to participate in future workgroups, please feel free to contact Leonard Price at: Leonard.Price@dcjs.ny.gov or Daniel Robertello at: Daniel.Robertello@dcjs.ny.gov.



2023 New York State Probation Commission Meeting

The New York State Probation Commission convened in-person and virtually on November 16, 2023 for its semi-annual meeting. Commission members, presidents of the New York State Council of Probation Administrators, the New York State Probation Officers Association, and the New York State Office of Court Administration discussed probation practice, specifically issues related to Pre-Plea Investigation Reports and the importance of having them ordered by the Courts for Interim Supervision cases. The Commission also discussed the subject of Department recruitment and the timeliness of having new probation officers complete the Fundamentals of Probation Practice and BCPO training requirements. Additional topics areas included technology updates, proposed DCJS regulations, developing Quality Assurance Programs, and new DJCS funding for Employment Focused Services (EFS) and Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC). The next New York State Probation Commission meeting is scheduled to meet May 23, 2024. The recorded meeting can be found [here](#)

Fundamentals of Probation Practice Academy November 2023

On November 3, 2023, 20 new probation officers from 12 counties graduated from the Fundamentals of Probation Practice Academy in Albany. This class was the first to be taught using the newly revised curriculum, which included modules on investigation and supervision of sentenced individuals in five special populations, which includes those with issues involving mental health, substance use, domestic violence, sexually based crimes, driving while intoxicated or impaired. These special instruction modules were part of the curriculum from 2005-2019 but were revised for a new format. By piloting a new curriculum, all seven academy sites reached a collective agreement and these modules have been included again as separate lessons.

Some new instructors joined the team for this last class. They include: Kristin Hinton (OPCA), Maryum Pearson (Westchester County), Alicia Achatz and Beverly Astor-Torres (Suffolk County), Kelly Miazga (OPCA), Antoinette Dukes (OPCA), and Amelia Allen (Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence). Thank you to all of the students, instructors and support staff, without whom we could not deliver such a successful academy.

Congratulations to the newest graduates: Shelly Reed DeVita (Broome County), Lisa Hubbard (Cortland County), Gregory Gannon and Lauren Santangelo (Fulton County), Courtney Frederick (Montgomery County), Paige Capecelatro, Sarah Hassan, and James Anderson (Oneida County), Jamie Jenks and Kelli Betts (Oswego County), Ryan Neer (Otsego County), Mark Maloy and Melodie Ritter (Rensselaer County), Nicole Hathaway and David Malok (Saratoga County), Patricia Flavin and Imagine Ramnarine (Schenectady County), Sydney Blinn and Briana Ward (Tioga County) and Timothy Perry (Washington County).

Co-valedictorians of the class were Kelli Betts and Ryan Neer with 94.7% averages and our class Salutatorian Patricia Flavin had a 93.3% average!



The Commission highlighted the state probation community's use of uniform face sheets for interstate warrants as a best practice. The commissioner and New York State's director of probation sent an advisory to local probation departments about the timely issuance of interstate warrants, as well as face sheets, developed by New York State, to easily identify the need for full extradition within 15 business days. The State Director's Memorandum further explains the Commission, its authority, circumstances and timeframes in which a compact-compliant warrant is required, expectations for use of the face sheet and the Interstate Compact Office contact information for questions and assistance. Additionally, three face sheets were created for violations that required retaking: technical violations (also known as behavior requiring retaking), new felony/violent crime convictions (retaking is warranted) and absconders. This process was developed with assistance from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, the Office of Court Administration, and the New York City Department of Probation. To learn more about this best practice go [here](#)

DVSI-R Training for Trainer in Nassau County

On November 15 and 16, OPCA provided in-person training at the Nassau County Police Academy for trainers to instruct probation officers in the use of the Domestic Violence Screening Instrument-Revised (DVSI-R). Six probation officers and one victims' services coordinator, from three probation departments, completed the training and were certified as DVSI-R trainers who are now qualified to train other probation officers in the use of the domestic violence screening instrument for sentenced individuals or those placed on interim supervision as the result of domestic violence. The DVSI-R assists probation professionals with supervision decisions, improves accountability of individuals convicted of domestic violence crimes and enhances victim safety. The training was facilitated by accomplished and certified DVSI-R Trainers: former Domestic Violence Probation Officer and current Title IX Coordinator for SUNY Geneseo Sara Mahoney and OPCA Training Unit Community Correction Representative David Lewis.

Currently, 40 probation departments in New York State have a DVSI-R trainer on staff, and more than 1,000 probation employees from 57 probation departments have received DVSI-R End-User training since September 2018. OPCA's goal is to have at least one probation officer trained as a DVSI-R trainer within each department to achieve sustainability. Probation departments that operate training academies should also have at least one trainer.

Probation departments in need of DVSI-R end-user training can contact OPCA's Training Unit at:

opcetrain-ing@dcjs.ny.gov. OPCA will also provide additional DVSI-R Training for Trainers in 2024 for those departments in need of a DVSI-R trainer to sustain end users.



DCJS-OPCA will host a New York State Ignition Interlock Monitor Training Series on:

Part 1 - Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, 1p.m. – 4 p.m. - [Ignition Interlock Monitor Training- Part 1](#)

History of Leandra’s Law
Title 9 NYCRR Part 358
NYS Unaffordability Program
Enforcement Strategies
How to Identify Tamper/Circumvention

Part 2 - Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024, 1p.m. – 4 p.m. – [Ignition Interlock Monitor Training- Part 2](#)

Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee Funding Agreement
Lessons Learned through OPCA’s Quality Assurance efforts
Caseload Explorer Ignition Interlock Functionality
Ignition Interlock report available on the Integrated Justice Portal

Probation commissioners, directors, ignition interlock monitors and members of the judiciary are encouraged to attend. Please forward the invite to local law enforcement partners who assist with addressing impaired driving in your jurisdictions.

[Ce User Bi-Weekly Training Program---“Ce Users Helping Users” Series](#)

The DJCS-OPCA Ce User Training has been a huge success. This training, which consists of six sessions, occurs every other Wednesday; it began November 1 and runs through January 17. The first session had 425 participants; the second session had 348; and the third session had 363 participants. Future sessions are scheduled as follows:

January 3, 2024 – CE Financial System, System Administrator Functions and IPRS errors

Training link: [Caseload Explorer Session 5](#)

January 17, 2024 – Ad Hoc Training

Training link: [Caseload Explorer Session 6](#)

Additionally, all trainings are being recorded and will be posted to the Integrated Justice Portal for future access. If you are interested in leading a future CE User Training, please contact Jessica Smith at Jessica.Smith@dcjs.ny.gov

OPCA Data Integrity Webinars For Juvenile/Youth Probation

DCJS-OPCA has hosted a series of data integrity webinars concerning juvenile/youth probation practice. Each of these short webinars and corresponding handouts (with Ce screenshots) are available in the Integrated Justice Portal: [Resource > Reference Library > Probation > Presentations](#).

- ***JD Case Processing in CE: Creating the FCF and IJD*** ,
- ***Juvenile Offenders and Adolescent Offenders from Youth Part to Family Court in Caseload Explorer***,
- ***Questions & Answers (Q&A)*** on [Youth-Probation Data Integrity topics](#) (a desk-reference for frequently asked Ce-FCF questions), and
- **[Understanding Juvenile Case Processing Data and How it Informs Probation Practice in NYS](#)**— a webinar that highlights areas where probation data entry can be enhanced and provides a way to verify that the data being provided to DCJS is consistent with probation records.

As we enter the holiday season, the opioid epidemic remains a public health crisis in our country. It is no longer considered a prescription problem, but a fentanyl problem.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 110,000 people died from overdose nationwide in 2022. That is more than 300 people each day. Preliminary data from 2023 shows a continued increase. This year, 5,413 New Yorkers died due to an opioid-related overdose. That is roughly one death every two hours. Preliminary CDC data shows an increase of 5.44% (3,567) from 2022, when 3,383 individuals perished from a drug overdose. Although opioid related deaths continue to skyrocket, harm reduction tools created to prevent deaths continue to be available to the public. They include naloxone (Narcan), fentanyl test strips, syringe exchange programs, buprenorphine, and other medications used to treat opioid use disorders.

Similarly, the strategies implemented by New York State include substance use disorder treatment for those battling addiction and are considered the most effective tools to address the number of daily deaths from fentanyl laced products. Since March of 2023, Naloxone has been made available to the public without a prescription. It is distributed at locations visited by those who are vulnerable – clubs, bars, hotels, hospitals, schools/colleges, local jails and prisons.

The most promising techniques available to assist agencies and programs across the state include admissions to treatment centers certified by the state's Office of Addiction Services And Supports and naloxone administrations by EMS, law enforcement, and other community responders, who save lives and tailor interventions to address the ongoing opioid crisis. The programs also provide services to family, friends, and associates of people who have died of an overdose and/or individuals who are at risk of experiencing a fatal overdose.

Recent State Director's Memoranda

The following State Director's Memoranda are available through the IJ Portal: Resources > Reference Library > Probation > Director's Memoranda

- State Director's Memorandum #2023-10 Probation-Monitor Electronic Notification to DMV—A4 Restriction Removal

Governor Announcements

[Clean Slate Act](#)
[Combat Opioid Addiction](#)
[Significant Progress Against Gun Violence and Vehicle Thefts in the City of Rochester](#)



Probation Professional Practice Tips

Motor Vehicle Affidavit: Does your probation department utilize the motor vehicle affidavit? When a person on supervision does not have a motor vehicle titled or registered to them, they are not required to have an ignition interlock device installed in their vehicle. In such cases, how does probation ensure the operator will not use a borrowed vehicle and violate the law? How can family and friends be called upon to support compliance on the part of the operator? The utilization of the motor vehicle affidavit can help raise awareness of the conditions of supervision and the requirements placed on the operator to refrain from operating a motor vehicle unless an ignition interlock device is installed. In some jurisdictions, the operator is required to swear on the record at sentencing, that he/she will not “own or operate” a motor vehicle unless an ignition interlock device is installed— in other jurisdictions, it is not common practice. Even so, this commitment may not prevent supervised individuals from operating a motor vehicle in violation of their drivers’ license restrictions. Family and friends can help.

The Importance of Well Written and Detailed Case Notes

Case Notes should contain four important elements: 1) Status of goal attainment; 2) Identification of new or existing barriers; 3) Identification and status of criminogenic needs; and 4) Role of stakeholders.

While case notes support the work done with a supervised individual, they also support you as a probation professional.

Professional Wellness

The holiday season is known for gathering with family and friends to share with one another in love and tradition. While many people look forward to the season, for others it can be associated with stress, loneliness and sadness. To view an article entitled “The Surprising Antidote to Holiday Stress and Loneliness,” click [here](#).

If you or someone you know is struggling, the New York State Office of Mental Health has numerous crisis prevention resources available. To access these resources, click [here](#).

Cattaraugus County Peer Support and Officer Wellness program held their first “Soup Day Contest” on November 7, 2023. Congratulations to Probation Officer Theresa Grove for her awesome New England Clam Chowder! In addition to a certificate and bragging rights, Probation Office Grove was presented with a \$25 Amazon gift card, courtesy of the Cattaraugus County Peer Support Team!

State Director Retires

State Director Robert M. Maccarone retires after 47 years of public service, 22 years of which has been with the NYS DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives.

On December 5, 2023, Deputy Commissioner Maccarone was presented with a proclamation from New York State Assemblyman David I. Weprin and the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Acting Commissioner Daniel F. Martuscello III for his dedication and commitment in the field of criminal justice services.



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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.

Newsletter Briefs – 2024 NYS Parks Centennial Challenge

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced a year-long celebratory challenge that all New York State residents and visitors can participate in to explore our state parks, learn about New York history, and give back to New York State Parks for the next generation of adventurers. Set to begin on January 1, 2024, the New York State Parks Centennial Challenge includes 100 missions that can be completed at various state parks and historic sites. Participants will need to complete 24 missions throughout 2024 to complete the challenge.

"There is so much to do within our vast state park system, and the Centennial Challenge is a great way to introduce New Yorkers and visitors, alike, to our historic and awe-inspiring properties for 2024's 100th anniversary celebration, "**Governor Hochul said.**"Our park system is an incredible place to visit year-round, and the Centennial Challenge is a great activity for all who are resolving to have a fun and adventurous New Year."

