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1. Pilot program automates Sex Offender Registry's change of address function: The Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA), Sex Offender Registry and probation departments in Albany, Onondaga, Ulster and Warren counties have launched a pilot program enabling sex offenders to file a change of address electronically.

2. New online service connects New Yorkers to treatment: Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in February announced a new web-based service that will help connect New Yorkers struggling with addiction to treatment.

The state Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services' Bed Availability Dashboard application collects daily bed availability data from state-certified treatment providers and then makes it available in real-time on the agency's website.

Learn more: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-unveils-new-tool-guide-new-yorkers-addiction-treatment>

Several important upgrades to the dashboard will occur in the coming months, including the incorporation of outpatient, gambling, and opioid treatment programs. Also, the dashboard will soon have the ability to display program availability based on location.

In a related development, the web-based Level of Care for Alcohol and Drug Treatment Referral (LOCADTR) application was launched for providers and corrections workers to determine the most appropriate level of care for individuals struggling with substance abuse.

For more information on how to implement or access LOCADTR, visit <https://oasas.ny.gov/treatment/health/locadtr/index.cfm>

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3. Probationer arrest data reports: The Probationer Felony Re-Arrest Rate report is now updated through 2015 and posted on the DCJS website. The report breaks down statistics by county and includes bookmarks for convenience. Probationers are examined as a group, based on their year of sentence in a state court; interim supervision cases are excluded.

The report tracks recidivism rates among probationers during their first, second and third year following their initial sentence: <http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/probationer-rearrests.pdf>.

The updated Parolee and Probationer Arrest/ Percent of Total Arrest within County report for 2006-2015 also is available: <http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/parolee-and-probationer-arrest.pdf>

This report breaks down arrests by county and also is bookmarked. Data included in the report is based on:

- County of supervision (Supervision ORI). Jurisdiction ORI was used only when Supervision ORI was not present in the parole/probation record
- Felony arrest events, not the unique number of parolees/probationers arrested (e.g., one parolee/probationer may have multiple arrest events)
- Parolees under supervision and probationers under supervision for felony and/or misdemeanor offenses. Interim probation supervision and federal probation cases are excluded.

Please note that some web browsers may not properly display bookmarked documents. If this occurs, download the PDFs of the reports and use Adobe Acrobat to view them.

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4. Revised Domestic Incident Report and DIR training for police: DCJS recently completed a redesign of the New York State Domestic Incident Report. Crafted with input from stakeholders across the state, the new form is aimed at assisting law enforcement with investigations and better serving others from the law enforcement community, including probation and parole officers. The new form is being sent to police agencies the week of April 25, so probation officers can expect to see them soon.

DCJS developed an online training that includes an overview of the form and highlights the importance of accurate completion of the document by law enforcement.

The training is available here: <http://criminaljustice.ny.gov/ops/training/other/DIR-Training/story.html>

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5. ICAOS Rule Amendments: When the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS) conducted its annual meeting in Portland, Ore. last fall, Commission members approved several rule amendments, which took effect on March 1. Those amendments:

- Clarify which misdemeanor offenders qualify for transfer under the compact
- Detail a clear procedure for returning an offender to a sending state
- Clarify the information that sending states should be providing when requesting a discretionary transfer
- Detail the requirement that receiving states specify reasons for rejecting a discretionary transfer and allow for offenders to be eligible for mandatory reporting instructions after the disposition of a violation or revocation proceeding

In addition, the Commission passed a new rule providing important relief to localities for costs associated with mandatory retaking. The rule states that a prison sentence imposed on an offender convicted of a new crime occurring outside of the sending state during the compact period may satisfy or partially satisfy the sentence imposed by the sending state for the violation committed. The rule requires approval from the sentencing or releasing authority in the sending state and consent of the offender. This option will be available to the sending state in the Response to Violation Report.

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6. New initiative to assist domestic violence victims: Governor Cuomo recently announced that insurers and HMOs offering comprehensive health insurance coverage through the New York State of Health individual marketplace must now allow victims of domestic violence or spousal abandonment to enroll in insurance plans at any time during the year. The state Department of Financial Services created a special enrollment period permitting these individuals to enroll outside of the annual open enrollment period, which runs from Nov. 1 and Jan. 31. The following guidance is being provided to insurers and HMOs by the Department of Financial Services:

- The special enrollment period is available for individual coverage outside the New York State of Health to any member of a household who is a victim of domestic violence, including unmarried and dependent victims within the household, as well as victims of spousal abandonment, including their dependents.
- For applications received by the 15th of the month, coverage will be effective on the first day of the following month. For applications received after the 15th of the month, coverage should be effective on the first day of the second following month.
- Insurers and HMOs may include either an item on the application or request a separate statement from the applicant attesting to their eligibility for the special enrollment period.
- Insurers and HMOs should not require that the applicant have been a victim of domestic violence or spousal abandonment within a specified period of time.

- Insurers and HMOs may not require any proof of eligibility or apply overly burdensome requirements on applicants seeking to use the special enrollment period.

Additional information on the special enrollment period is available on the Department of Financial Services [website](#).

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## 7. OPCA Training

**Spring 2016 OSST/Peace Officer/ Fundamentals of Probation Practice Training:** A total of 39 probation officers from 21 counties graduated in March, representing the largest class to date. As a reminder, the Fall 2016 class will run Oct. 3 through Oct. 7; Oct. 17 through Oct. 21 and Oct. 24 through Oct. 28. The Firearms course is scheduled for Nov. 14 through Nov. 18 in Albany.

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

**NYCOMPAS System Requirements:** In order to ensure compatibility with the NYCOMPAS application, Northpointe has published the following specifications:

Hardware: Customers are responsible for installing and configuring all client-side hardware. Note that because the Northpointe Suite is a web-based application, client side specifications are minimal. System hardware should meet or exceed Microsoft minimums for the operating system installed.

- Operating System: Windows 7, 8
- The graphics card and monitor should support 1024 by 768 pixels screen resolution for optimal interface rendering.

Software: Internet Browser Requirements:

- Windows Internet Explorer version 11
- Chrome
- Adobe Reader 9.0

An Important Note about Client Browser Use: Browsers no longer supported by Microsoft will not be supported by Northpointe. Any other browser used – aside from those specified by Northpointe – *will not be supported*.

The management of client machine browsers is *key* to the success of COMPAS operability. Northpointe works closely against the Microsoft product lifecycle specifications for Internet Explorer to guide support timeframe and versioning requirements.

Note there are key differences between the different Internet Explorer browsers, from version 8 to version 11. Northpointe is unable to implement custom code changes to ‘fix’ compatibility issues for older browsers and/or operating systems that do not comply with system requirements.

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8. State Director's Memoranda

2016-1: March 2, 2016 - Leandra's Law Annual Report

2016-2: March 8, 2016 - Probationer Employment in NYS

2016-3: April 5, 2016 - Domestic Incident Reports

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

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## 9. Awards, Events, Additional Trainings and News

**NIC Webinar:** Veterans Treatment Courts: A Second Chance for Vets who Have Lost Their Way, will be held 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17. The webinar is designed for criminal justice professionals, veterans' service organizations and community-based providers.

[Click here to download the webinar flyer](#)

For additional resources on justice-involved veterans, see NIC's [Veterans webpage](#).

**Human Trafficking Model Policy:** Law enforcement officers are often the first to encounter and interact with human trafficking victims while on duty. Equipping law enforcement with the knowledge of the common conditions that perpetuate this crime and providing agencies with the tools needed to respond to human trafficking cases will not only enhance the ability of law enforcement to help victims obtain essential services and safety, but also aid investigators in the apprehension of traffickers.

The New York State Municipal Police Training Council approved a Human Trafficking Model Policy to provide guidance to agencies. Although not required to use this policy, law enforcement agencies are encouraged to customize its protocols to meet their needs while being mindful of its original intent. The protocols identified in the policy support law enforcement by providing agencies with guidance on the following key issues:

- The state's Human Trafficking Law
- Procedures for interviewing human trafficking victims
- Guidelines for identifying human trafficking victims
- Procedures for the victim referral process, review and follow up

Questions about the model policy can be directed to Carl Boykin: [carl.boykin@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:carl.boykin@dcjs.ny.gov) or (518) 485-7718.

Download the policy here: [human trafficking model policy.pdf](#)

**HUD guidance on housing for people with criminal history records:** The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development released [guidance](#) making it clear that blanket bans on renting or selling homes to individuals with a criminal record constitutes illegal discrimination in violation of the Fair Housing Act. Landlords also must distinguish between arrests and convictions, thus reinforcing the presumption of innocence.

The guidance offers protections for the more than 100 million people with a criminal record living in the United States. Often, these individuals are barred from housing because of their past. Landlords are now required to take an individualized approach in considering criminal justice records in order to avoid violating the Fair Housing Act. Because of racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system, the guidance recognizes that relying on criminal records to exclude people from renting or buying housing has a discriminatory effect.

HUD's policy reinforces a commitment to 'second chances' and promotes public safety, since access to stable housing is a key ingredient in reducing recidivism. The guidance is another important step in ongoing efforts to roll back the damaging consequences of mass criminalization and mass incarceration.

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**10. Practice Tip:** As prom season approaches, many public service announcements focus on DWI prevention, with the hope these messages thwart senseless tragedy.

Probation departments can play a key role in this capacity by holding DWI offenders accountable. This can be through careful and ongoing monitoring of probationers, while helping them acknowledge and change their criminal behavior. Prom season is an opportune time for probation officers to address the issue of drinking and driving with young adults now under the supervision.

Probation departments can also conduct operations reminding DWI probationers of their court-ordered obligation to abstain from drinking and to only operate a motor vehicle with an installed ignition interlock device. Many departments have successfully reinforced accountability by having probation officers clandestinely observe DWI probationers for compliance as these individuals arriving for scheduled probation appointment.

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**11. Quick Fact:** Uniform Traffic Tickets issued for VTL 1198 (7-a) – driving without an ignition interlock device – in New York State have nearly more than tripled, from 726 in 2011 to 2,767 in 2014.

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