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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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Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

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1. OPCA Interstate Unit Implements Warrant Tracking Procedure

The Office of Probation and Corrections Alternatives (OPCA) Interstate Tracking Unit has a warrant tracking procedure that structures the handling and follow-through of interstate cases within New York. In July, OPCA's Interstate Compact Unit implemented a policy that defines the practice and procedures of New York's Probation Interstate Unit. This new policy requires communication and collaboration with local probation department designees to confirm that a violation of the probation warrant has been submitted to the sentencing court, the warrant has been issued, and the offender has been taken into custody. There are instances where a case is closed in the Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System, but the sending state must still take action to comply with the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision rules. To be in compliance, several states implemented tracking procedures and systems that ensure warrants are issued and interstate transfers are retaken. For more information, please see State Director's

Memorandum # 2016-14, dated Nov. 3 or contact Matthew Charton at [Matthew.Charton@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Matthew.Charton@dcjs.ny.gov) or at 518-485-2402.

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## 12. Operation Return Lands Prison Sentences for Two Sex Offenders

Operation Return helped the U.S. Marshals Service apprehend a pair of registered sex offenders who violated their probation. Paul Guidotti, who was sentenced to probation after being convicted of felony third-degree criminal sex act, was captured in Arkansas and returned to Dutchess County. Guidotti was resentenced in the Dutchess County Court one and a half years in state prison and five years post-release supervision. Richard Denfrund, who was on probation after a felony conviction, was captured in South Carolina and returned to Erie County. He was subsequently sentenced to serve a year in prison. The effort was part of an ongoing partnership between OPCA, the Marshals, local police and probation departments. These agencies collaborate to apprehend level 2 and level 3 sex offenders who abscond from probation. This group effort is aimed at ensuring sex offenders who attempt to evade supervision are brought to justice and held accountable.

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## 2. Probation Directors and DOCCS Parole Branch Chiefs Report on Community Supervision Strategies during the Third Annual GIVE Conference

Probation and parole officials discussed the strategies their respective organizations use to address gun violence during the third annual Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) conference in Saratoga Springs. The panel discussion included probation directors Derek Miller of Orange County, David Tomidy of Oneida County, and Patrice Dlhopsky of Suffolk County, who were joined by parole bureau chiefs Jeff Jones of Erie County, Ron Hess of Utica and Don Arras of Albany. Each strategy was discussed in the context of principles of the state's GIVE initiative,



Pictured from left to right: Probation directors Derek Miller of Orange County, David Tomidy of Oneida County, and Patrice Dlhopsky of Suffolk County at the GIVE symposium

which seeks to reduce violent crime in areas of the state outside of New York City. These principles include problem-oriented policing, hot spots policing, crime prevention through environmental design, focused deterrence, street outreach and procedural justice. The panel was moderated by state Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Deputy Commissioner Robert Maccarone and Stephen Claudio, assistant commissioner of the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

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### **3. Revisited –Probation Response to Domestic Violence: A Model Investigation and Supervision Procedural Package**

Probation departments can play a critical role in domestic violence cases. In addition to preparing pre-sentence investigations and supervising offenders, probation departments are involved with domestic violence cases in both the family court and criminal court systems. Promptly identifying and appropriately handling domestic violence cases is critical in promoting both victim safety and offender accountability. That's why OPCA teamed with the state Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the New York State Coalition against Domestic Violence to publish a model policy aimed at effectuating a coordinated community response. This package includes guidance on domestic violence investigations and supervision practices; custody investigation guidelines for cases involving domestic violence; intake guidelines for orders of protection involving family offenses, and guidance to handle probation officer-involved incidents. Probation professionals are encouraged to re-familiarize themselves with this important model policy and use it as reference in investigations, supervision, intake and custody.

The policy material is available in the Integrated Justice Portal: Resources > Reference Library > Probation > Specialized Supervision > Domestic Violence

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### **4. County Re-Entry Task Force Coordinators Conduct Annual Meeting**

County Re-entry Task Force (CRTF) coordinators met on Dec. 6 to receive technical assistance and informational presentations from DCJS' Offices of Justice Research and Performance, Internal Audit and Compliance and the Office of Program Development and Funding. The meeting included representatives from each of the 19 existing task forces and from the newly established Queens CRTF. Ana Enright, DOCCS' assistant commissioner of Community Supervision, and staff from her agency discussed case conferencing, intake processes and advancing the collaboration that is critical to the effective operation of the task forces. The coordinators from Broome and Onondaga counties joined the Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation to deliver presentations on successful strategies for Cognitive Behavioral Intervention programming and the use of Ready, Set, Work! Also discussed was the work of ROOTS with the task forces in Albany and Rensselaer counties. Vanda Seward, the Kings County task force coordinator, discussed the recent development of task force pages on the website of the county District Attorney's Office and its utility for informing the public. The 19 CRTF's served 5,100 individuals returning from state prison during the program year ending June 30, 2016.

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### **5. *New Report Available on the Integrated Justice Portal***

Under State Penal Law Section 60.2, individuals sentenced to prison for a conviction under the Leandra's Law provisions also must install an ignition interlock device on their vehicle once they are released. Some agencies which are tasked with monitoring these individuals, however, may not be fully aware of their

obligation under the law. In order to address this issue, DCJS has requested that DOCCS provide a report listing individuals that have been convicted of a Leandra’s Law qualifying offense, who are about to be released back into the community. This report will be generated by DOCCS monthly and posted to the Integrated Justice Portal. Once a report is posted, probation directors will be notified via email.

For more information, please contact Leonard R. Price at [Leonard.Price@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Leonard.Price@dcjs.ny.gov) or at (518) 485-9941.

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**6. Recent State Director’s Memoranda**

**# 2016-11: Oct 4** – “Leandra’s Law” Implementation—Jan. 1, 2016 - June 30, 2016 Report

**# 2016-12: Oct 5** – Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision 2017 Rule Changes

**#2016-13: Oct 17** – IID Installation in Advance of Sentencing

**#2016-14: Nov 3** - Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision  
DCJS Interstate Unit Case Tracking--Probationer Warrants and Retaking

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**

**Offender Workforce Development Specialist**

OPCA will host another Offender Workforce Development Specialist class in Albany between Jan. 30 and Feb. 3; March 20 and March 24; and May 1 and May 5, 2017. [Applications](#) are due Dec. 19, 2016. For more information, please contact Frank Cangiano by email at [Frank.Cangiano@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Frank.Cangiano@dcjs.ny.gov) or at (518) 485-5153.

**Motivational Interviewing**

OPCA will be delivering three additional basic motivational interviewing classes next year, along with two advanced sessions and coaching availability. Dates for these classes will be announced in the coming weeks.

**Probation Supervisor Training**

OPCA discussed the development of probation supervisors training in December, with a focus on recruiting workgroup members. During the webinar discussion, several individuals volunteered for workgroups that will commence following the New Year. The full recording of this meeting is available on the Integrated Justice Portal at the following location: Resources > Reference Library > Probation > Training.

**Executive Leadership Training**

OPCA is offering offer additional executive leadership training next year. Please contact Patricia Clements at [Patricia.Clements@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Patricia.Clements@dcjs.ny.gov) or (518)485-0905 if your department is interested in this training.

**Naloxone Training**

Six probation departments completed opioid overdose prevention training this year. The training offered in collaboration with the state Department of Health and the Harm Reduction Coalition was given to probation departments in Warren, Oneida, Rockland, Schenectady, Niagara, and Manhattan counties. Another 117 probation officers from 12 additional counties joined these regional trainings. Approximately 72 percent of all New York probation officers now have this training and the equipment to administer potentially life-saving doses of Naloxone in an overdose situation.

**Mark your calendars for the 2017 training committee meeting schedule. Each meeting runs from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.:**

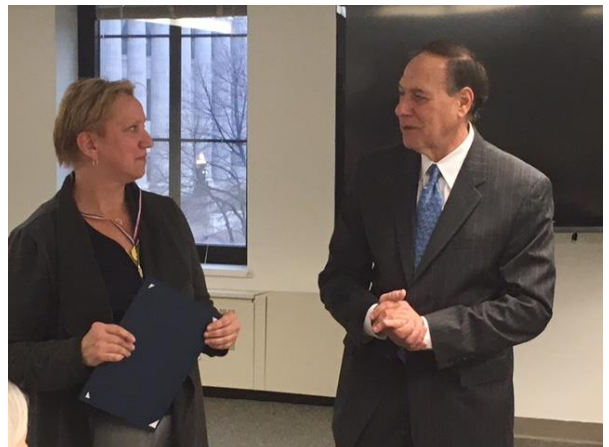
- 1. Feb. 14
- 2. May 16
- 3. Aug. 15
- 4. Nov. 14



**8. Awards, Events, Additional Trainings and News**

**DCJS honors OPCA’s Nancy Andino**

DCJS recognized Community Correction representative Nancy Andino on her retirement and her contributions to her field. She retires with 35 years of public service, including 15 years with New York State. Her compassion and professionalism has remained consistent throughout her career, as demonstrated through her commitment to training, risk assessment, and Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions. Her most recent collaborative work at DCJS was developing a plan to provide technical assistance to promote program improvements. Andino was recognized for her service by Probation Director Robert M. Maccarone and Cynthia Blair, the Alternatives to Incarceration Unit Manager. She will be missed by the probation departments, alternatives to incarceration



Nancy Andino congratulated for her service by Probation Director and Deputy Commissioner Robert M. Maccarone.

programs and at DCJS.

### **Sullivan County Probation Officers Save the Life of a Man Overdosing on Heroin**

Probation Officers Anna Bernhardt and Vinny Reilly acted quickly and saved the life of a man they found nearly dead from a Heroin overdose. The two officers were conducting field contacts and were dispatched to a residence to serve a warrant on a probationer. Upon arrival they could hear someone talking inside the home through a nearby window. The officers went inside after realizing a life may be in peril and administered Narcan and began CPR to the unresponsive man. The individual began breathing again and was taken to the local hospital. These officers had both been on the job for about three years and received Narcan training in April of 2015. To read the full article click [here](#)

### **The New York State Unified Court System's Community Dispute Resolution Centers**

The New York State Unified Court System's *Community Dispute Resolution Centers* (CDRC's) are operated by not-for-profit organizations with primary funding provided by the New York State Unified Court System. Funded through the State Unified Court System, the centers provide alternative dispute resolution services to individuals, families, organizations and communities. The centers can be helpful with various types of persons-in-need-of-supervision and juvenile delinquent cases, where conflict resolution or restorative interventions are applicable. There is a CDRC program in every county of New York State. Please visit the following link for more information: [http://www.nycourts.gov/ip/adr/DR\\_Youth\\_Families.pdf](http://www.nycourts.gov/ip/adr/DR_Youth_Families.pdf)

### **Montgomery County Honors Probation Director at Public Safety Facility Ribbon Cutting**

Montgomery County celebrated the completion of a 10,000-square-foot addition to the county's public safety building by naming the new wing after its longtime probation director. Lucille Sitterly began her working with the county as social services caseworker in 1969 and became a probation officer 20 years later. She became a probation supervisor in 1995 and then was appointed probation director in 2004. The honor came as a surprise to Sitterly, when County Executive Matthew Ossenfort announced the designation during a ribbon cutting ceremony in October.

"There's not many people in this world that I have more respect for than the woman standing right next to me," Ossenfort told the Schenectady Daily Gazette.

The new wing of the facility now houses the county's Office of Emergency Management, the Probation Department, Public Defender's Office and Mental Health Department.

The full article was published in the Daily Gazette, Schenectady, NY dated October 19, 2016.

### **2017 APPA Winter Training Institute**

The American Probation and Parole Association will conduct its 2017 Winter Training Institute in Reno, NV, from Jan. 8 to Jan 11. The conference has more than 50 workshops available, including one on the nationally-recognized New York City Neighborhood Opportunity Network initiative. The institute will also feature a workshop on the tools developed by New York City Department of Probation to aid in the supervision of its high risk probation population, called Structured Decision Making and Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory. In addition, the institute will feature a workshop on women in leadership featuring Francine Perretta. For more information click [APPA 2017 Winter Training Institute](#)

**2017 APPA Annual Training Institute is in New York City!**

**Mark your calendars!** The APPA annual conference is coming to New York on August 27-30, 2017. APPA conducts the largest national training institute for community corrections offering workshops, special sessions, resource expo, and networking opportunities tailored to your needs. When you attend an APPA Training Institute, you will be exposed to discussions on the latest theories and examine the newest technologies as you connect to your peers in enjoyable networking opportunities. APPA conducts an Annual and Winter training institute each year in which the training sessions are developed by a planning committee of community corrections professionals. You will stay informed and obtain information that can be applied to your career when you attend one of these cost-effective training institutes. Visit the APPA website for more information: <http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/StartPage.aspx>

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**10. Practice Tip #1:** Having probationers under supervision serve as confidential Informants and engage with criminal elements presents an inherent conflict of interest and compromises a probation officer’s ability to hold offenders accountable. It is critical that all probationers are supervised in full accordance with applicable regulations and laws.

**Practice Tip #2:** The “probation supervision” classification of a probationer as medium risk in Title 9 NYCRR Part 351 requires one positive home contact during the first 45 calendar days from assignment and as needed thereafter. Greatest risk and high risk cases require one positive home contact each month from case assignment. Although unscheduled home contacts can provide information important to supervision, such home visits can also consume an inordinate amount of probation department time and resources when unsuccessful. Probation departments should schedule home contacts to meet essential contact requirements. Unscheduled home contacts may be utilized to supplement the scheduled contacts. For additional information regarding home contacts required by regulation, please visit the following link: <http://on.ny.gov/2h3fmUj>

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**11. Quick Fact #1:** To date, OPCA’s ATI Unit has conducted action planning and provided technical assistance to 21 community based alternatives to incarceration programs.

**Quick Fact #2:** In the 2016–2017 Annual Probation Plan and Application, 35 (60%) probation departments reported that their departments authorize personnel to carry firearms. Two additional departments are considering the authorization to carry firearms.

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