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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.

www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/opca

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1. Probation's Role in Identifying, Assessing, and Assisting Potential Victims of Human Trafficking:

More than 200 probation personnel across the state participated in a training webinar on Jan. 10 aimed at gaining a greater awareness of human trafficking issues. Entitled "Probation's Role in Identifying, Assessing, and Assisting Potential Victims of Human Trafficking," the training provided information on how to identify and assess the needs of victims of human trafficking. The webinar also examined local probation practices being utilized in an effort to address human trafficking. The webinar was offered by the state Division of Criminal Justice Services, in conjunction with the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), state Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), and the Westchester County Department of Probation. A recording of the webinar is available in the Probation Suite on the Integrated Justice Portal. State Director's Memorandum #2017-1 was issued on Feb. 17 and provides additional guidance on human trafficking. The memorandum also includes details on several screening tools. For more information, please contact Matthew Charton at Matthew.Charton@dcjs.ny.gov or (518) 485-2402.

2. Regional Employer Roundtables—Designation of Probation Employment Liaisons: State officials hosted a roundtable discussion in the Syracuse and Binghamton to explain the nuances of probation and parole to employers interested in hiring individuals under these distinctly different types of supervision. The two discussions –the first of 10 occurring across the state –provided an opportunity officials from the state

Department of Labor, state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), and state the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA to explain the roles of parole and probation, while also giving employers a forum to ask questions about the varied roles of each. The discussions included input from Onondaga County Probation Director Andrew Sicherman, Oswego County Probation Director Deborah Meyers, and Broome County Probation Director Lorraine Wilmot.

In preparation for these discussions, county probation directors must designate a liaison within their department so that employers have a single point of contact for employers. The probation employment liaison will direct employer inquiries concerning specific probationers to the appropriate officer to ensure a timely response.

Those directors who haven't yet submitted the name, title and contact information for their liaison are asked to provide this information via email to Frank F. Cangiano, Community Correction Representative 2, at Frank.Cangiano@dcjs.ny.gov. This information will be maintained and updated on the OPCA website and shared with the Department of Labor. For more information, contact Cangiano at (518) 485-5153.

- 3. Governor Cuomo Presents the 12th Proposal of the 2017 State of the State Agenda:** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo launched the 'New York Promise' Agenda this winter in an effort to advance social justice and affirm New York's progressive values. This sweeping and unprecedented package of reforms is aimed at setting a national standard for protections against all forms of discrimination.

"At these stormy times of instability and confusion, New York must serve as a safe harbor for the progressive principles and social justice that made America," Governor Cuomo said. "We will hold the torch high to light the way toward opportunity, because that is New York's promise. This promise is not just in words but in actions and we will push even further to advance the social progress we have made and continue the fight."

The 'New York Promise' Agenda includes a number of crucial reforms aimed at impacting the criminal justice system from arrest to trial in an effort. The Governor's proposal includes the following measures:

- An overhaul of New York's antiquated bail system
- Ensuring access to a speedy trial
- Raising the age of criminal responsibility
- Improving witness identification procedures
- Recording police interrogations for serious offenses
- Extending the Hurrell-Harring settlement reforms statewide

Governor Cuomo's announcement about the proposals is available [here](#).

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- 4. JJ-TRAILS Project Update:** OPCA is working with Columbia University on the National Institute of Health Juvenile Justice-Translating Research Interventions for Adolescents in the Legal System(JJ-TRAILS). The five-year research project is aimed at determining the best ways to identify and address the behavioral health needs of the youth served by community juvenile justice agencies. The project involves six research centers across the United States, including Columbia University, Temple University, Emory University,

Mississippi State University, Texas Christian University, and the University of Kentucky. Each site has identified a state-level research partner. In New York, Columbia has partnered with Niagara, Onondaga, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Orange, and Nassau counties. Work on the project began in 2013 and is expected to continue until 2018.

This large national study has resulted in presentations at various professional conferences, including the New York State Probation Officers Association conference in Niagara Falls last year. The work has also resulted in manuscripts for publication in professional journals, including one co-authored by the primary researchers and the six state-level juvenile justice partners in New York. The article, “The Benefits of Community and Juvenile Justice Involvement in Organizational Research,” is expected to appear in an upcoming issue of the [Journal of Juvenile Justice](#) and was produced with the assistance of OPCA’s Patti Donahue.

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## 5. Recent State Director’s Memoranda

**State Director’s Memorandum #2017-1: Feb. 17, 2017:** Probation Guidance on Human Trafficking

As a reminder, all State Director’s Memoranda are posted on the IJ Portal: Resources > Reference > Library > Probation > Director’s Memoranda

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6. OPCA Training Schedule

Motivational Interviewing

- OPCA provides probation professionals with seven basic and two advanced motivational interviewing training sessions. Advanced participants are eligible for “coaching and coding”—professional feedback on utilizing the motivational skills used during probation-probationer interviews.

Interstate

- Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision(ICAOS) —Training on New Rules April 11, April 27, May 11, and May 23 via WebEx.

Executive Leadership Training

- April 17 to April 18.

Training Committee Meeting

- May 16, Aug.15, and Nov. 14.

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## 7. Awards, Events, Additional Trainings and News:

### **The American Probation and Parole Association 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Training Institute—New York**

The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) conducts the largest national training institute for community corrections. The training institute offers workshops, special sessions, a resource expo, and networking opportunities. APPA conducts the training institutes in the summer and winter annually. The training sessions are developed by a planning committee of community corrections professionals and aimed at keeping their peers informed. The training institutes also facilitate networking opportunities among probation and parole professionals. Discount registration is available for individuals, agencies or members of educational facilities. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **The Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections Handbook**

The Dutchess County Probation Department developed a handbook in 2008 as a part of the orientation process for adults newly placed on probation. The booklet is reviewed with probationers during their initial interview, so that any questions they have may be answered. Other functions –including DNA sample collection, photos, and drug testing –are also completed at this interview. Feedback from the handbook has been generally positive, especially from those who have never been on probation before.

### **Albany County Probation Department Program Named Semifinalist in Harvard’s Innovations in American Government Awards Competition**

Albany County Probation’s Juvenile Community Accountability Board was selected as a semifinalist in this year’s Innovations in American Government Awards competition. Advanced from a pool of more than 500 applications from all 50 states, the county’s submission was chosen as an example of novel and effective action that had a significant impact and that they believe can be replicated elsewhere.

The accountability board provides probation a diversion option for juveniles charged with misdemeanors or low-level felony offenses. The board also provides reparative experience to victims, the community, and the offender without needlessly expending correctional resources that can be used for more serious juvenile offenders. The accountability board is intended to provide an alternative to traditional juvenile crime responses and focuses on repairing the harm caused to victims, while also enabling juveniles to learn about the impact of their offenses and ways to avoid re-offending.

“These programs demonstrate that there are no prerequisites for doing the good work of governing,” said Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in American Government Program, which is sponsored by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. “Small towns and massive cities, huge federal agencies and local school districts, large budgets or no budgets at all — what makes government work best is the drive to do better, and this group proves that drive can be found anywhere.”

The Ash Center will invite 10 finalists to Cambridge to present to program’s National Selection Committee in March, with the grand prize winners to be named in June.

Please visit the [Government Innovators Network](#) for the full list of semifinalists and for more information regarding the Innovations in American Government Awards.

**Fentanyl FYI for First Responders:** The state Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse has published an article about the hazards posed to first responders by drugs containing Fentanyl or other comparable substances. Information about signs that warn of the presence of Fentanyl and what to do if in the event of exposure are included in this [article](#).

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10. Practice Tip #1: Post-Sentence Probationer Engagement: It is important to promptly engage high- and greatest-risk probationers following their sentence.

- a. Develop and utilize initial reporting directions, which the sentencing court can provide to the probationer (e.g. report immediately following sentencing or next business day, or following release from jail for split sentences).
- b. Utilize weekly reporting until all initial assessment and case planning activities required by Part 351 are completed.
- c. Schedule home contacts promptly following sentence and release as required by Probation Supervision Rule Part 351. Such home contacts will also create an important opportunity to engage the probationer’s family as a support to the probationer in achieving goals of the case plan.

Practice Tip #2: Many handheld breath alcohol testers, such as the [Alco-Sensor FST](#), are capable of measuring the headspace over a liquid to determine if alcohol might be present. These features can eliminate the need for an officer to potentially expose him or herself to dangerous fumes by sniffing the liquid. The feature is known as headspace sampling.

Practice Tip #3: Chapter 491 of the Laws of 2012 requires criminal courts to consider the individual’s history of use or possession of firearms, as well as any violation of an order of protection issued by any court for the protection of a member or members of the same family or household as defined in CPL 530.11(1). This is regardless of whether the order is in effect when considering conditions of release or bail requirements for someone charged with a crime or crimes against a family or household member. Probation officers should routinely provide judges with any DIRR information available to them before there is a determination in pre-trial matters.

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