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Special points of interest:

- > Peer Support & Officer Wellness
- > Procedural Justice Workgroup
- > Probation Practice Tips
- > Save the Dates!

## 2023 Ignition Interlock Device (IID) Non-Installer Initiative

OPCA received grant funding through the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) to focus enforcement efforts on drivers who are convicted of DWI crimes and fail to install required ignition interlock devices in their motor vehicles. “Non-Installers” pose a significant risk to highway and community safety if they skirt the IID condition and continue to drive illegally. OPCA identified three counties – Monroe, Nassau and Saratoga – to implement this year’s initiative, which also includes a public education and awareness announcement aimed at preventing alcohol-related crashes. OPCA trained approximately 60 representatives from the following probation and police departments and prosecutor’s offices: the Monroe County Probation Department, the Rochester City Police Department, the Nassau County Probation Department, the Garden City Police Department, the Saratoga County Probation Department and the Saratoga County District Attorney’s Office. The grant supports overtime costs associated with targeted enforcement activities conducted from Memorial Day through Labor Day – the high-travel vacation season.

Many thanks to Probation Directors Kristine Durante (Monroe County), John Plackis (Nassau County) and Sue Costanzo (Saratoga County) for their participation in this important initiative to make New York State roadways safer.

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## Raise the Age Case Processing and Court Case Outcomes Webinar

On June 7, OPCA partnered with the Office of Justice Research and Performance to deliver a webinar which analyzed the trends and outcomes of Juvenile Delinquency and Adolescent offender cases at probation intake and adjustment, by race and ethnicity, in family court and in the youth part of criminal court. This presentation also included an analysis of court cases outcomes for youth, ages 16 and 17, who are charged with felonies before and after Raise the Age implementation, as well as information on processing of firearm cases.

The presentation included information on three models employed by various counties to address disparate outcomes.

- Jurisdictions have implemented a “blinding” process at intake, so the suitability review strips certain identifying characteristics of the case when making decisions about offering adjustment. Cases not offered adjustment services may also be blinded and reviewed by a panel.
- Credible messengers are made available by probation at the onset of intake case processing to engage a youth/family in the justice system process by explaining what can be expected and helping build trust.
- Credible family messengers take a slightly different approach by engaging the youth’s family in the justice process.
- One jurisdiction has designated a “Data Champion” whose responsibility is to analyze county-level data and present it to the director, deputies, principal probation officers and supervisors for analysis to inform policy development and decision making.

The webinar was recorded and will be made available through the IJP: Resources > Reference Library > Probation > Specialized Supervision > Raise the Age.

## OPCA Convenes Probation Focus Groups on Procedural Justice

OPCA has established an internal workgroup to develop and deliver an in-service training for probation officers on The Essentials of Procedural Justice – a course designed specifically for probation professionals. The goal of the project is to train all probation officers in New York State on the elements of procedural justice and provide promising practices and tools that staff can utilize when engaging with individuals on supervision. While there are several existing training programs on this important subject, the goal is to design a training program that relates directly to the work of probation professionals and individuals on supervision. The work of probation officers is distinctly different from other law enforcement professionals. Probation officers build relationships of mutual trust and understanding so behavioral change can occur over long periods of time. The professional relationships with individuals on community supervision can last as many as 10 years. The quality of that relationship plays a critical role in shaping perceptions of legitimacy and fairness between the officer and the client. The OPCA Workgroup recently released

a survey to probation departments to learn from probation professionals what they believe procedural justice is and to ascertain which departments already have practices or policies in place that support the concepts of procedural justice. The responses received were insightful and will inform virtual focus groups with a select number of probation departments to further discuss the concepts of procedural justice and application to probation practice. The focus groups are scheduled for July. Stay tuned for more information!

**Unified Court System’s 2023 Judicial and Operational Impaired Driving Seminar**

On April 27 (Rochester), May 4 (Manhattan), and May 11 (Glens Falls), OPCA presented at the New York State Unified Court System’s 2023 Judicial and Operational Impaired Driving Seminar. This seminar brought together judges, and court staff, over the course of two days, to provide training on topics related to the processing of impaired driving cases. OPCA’s Lenny Price provided an overview to court staff on *Ignition Interlock Requirements* to increase awareness on how to appropriately handle ignition interlock-related matters before, during, and after sentencing. In total, OPCA trained 208 individuals from courts across New York State.

**DCJS 15-City Tour Update**

DCJS Commissioner Rossana Rosado and DCJS staff have embarked on a 15-city tour to meet with local law enforcement agencies, various community corrections, re-entry, and other community partners to listen and discuss the state’s latest public safety and criminal justice initiatives designed to reduce violent crime and make our communities whole. Commissioner Rosado, along with members of her executive team, have been able to listen to success stories, hear about current priorities and learn about opportunities for meeting unaddressed needs. To date, the team has traveled to Rochester, Syracuse, Albany and Yonkers. The tour will continue through the summer until the middle of September, with stops in Suffolk, Nassau, Buffalo, Niagara, Mt. Vernon, Schenectady, Troy, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, Binghamton and Utica. Each probation department director will be invited to their respective city’s meeting closer to the event dates.



On Wednesday, May 3, while participating in the 15-City Tour with DCJS Commissioner Rossana Rosado and other DCJS Staff, State Director Robert Maccarone addressed the staff of the Monroe County Probation Department and thanked them for their continued hard work and commitment to probation and community safety. Director Maccarone advised Probation Officers of recent technology advancements designed to assist them in the preparation of presentence investigation reports, accomplished through the integration of criminal history record information into the legal history grid of the standardized presentence template in Caseload Explorer. He described the work underway in developing a standardized juvenile case plan that will incorporate the results of the YASI/Caseworks assessment into a new uniform case plan which will be known as the “MAP”—My Action Plan. He also talked with Probation Officers about the importance of their work and advised them to never under-estimate the power their words and encouragement can have on individuals they supervise, particularly youth.

### Probation Commission Meeting

The New York State Probation Commission convened in-person and virtually on May 23 for its semi-annual meeting. Commission members, presidents of the New York State Council of Probation Administrators and the New York State Probation Officers Association discussed probation practice, technology updates, proposed DCJS regulations, changes in peace officer training requirements, and increased funding opportunities for GIVE, CRTF and ATI programs. The next New York State Probation Commission meeting is scheduled to meet November 16, 2023. The recorded meeting can be found [here](#).

### Successful Completion of the YASI Collaborative Case Work Training Series

OPCA, along with Orbis Partners, LLC, completed a *Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) Collaborative Case Work training series*. The three-part series ran from November 2022 to June 2023 and included the initial phase, Collaborative Case Work (CCW) Training for Probation Management Staff during which 110 Probation Directors, Supervisors and other Administrators learned the fundamentals of the YASI Collaborative Case Work model for assessment and case planning. The Assessment and Case Planning Specialized Training Course (CCW Refresher) represented the second phase of the series and trained 197 probation professionals who are responsible for completing YASI assessments and case plans. Video demonstrations and case studies were used to reinforce CCW concepts necessary to conduct valid assessments and build case plans collaboratively with youth. During the Collaborative Case Work (CCW) Coach Training, 30 new probation coaches were trained. Coaches were selected based on interest and demonstrated proficiencies to support probation staff in interviewing, assessing, and developing targeted case plans that focus supervision efforts.

**CCW Coach Retreat:** On July 11-12, OPCA will host its inaugural CCW Coach Retreat at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. The two half-day sessions will provide a platform to welcome the 2023 CCW coaches and include opportunities to network with other coaches, share resources and ideas about the design of CCW coaching among various jurisdictions and interact with Orbis Partners.

Stay tuned for in-person Assessment and Case Planning Specialized Training (CCW Refresher) sessions and a final opportunity to be trained as a CCW coach to begin this fall 2023 and conclude in Spring 2024.

### *Confirmation of Contact Information*

Has your department encountered individuals who are sentenced to probation sentence but fail to provide a valid address and contact information? Probation departments are often provided inaccurate information concerning the individual's address, email or cell phone number at the pre-sentence investigation, which leads to frustration and delay in initiating contact following sentencing. Departments are encouraged to have the district attorney request the presiding judge to have the individual before the court confirm their address, cell number, email, social media accounts, etc., on the record. Departments are also encouraged to test the cell phone number and other social media accounts during the investigation while the individual is before them.

### *DVSI-R Utilization by Probation Departments 2022*

The Revised Domestic Violence Screening Instrument (DVSI-R) assists probation professionals in making more informed supervision case plans and decisions. A DVSI-R should be completed for each individual sentenced to probation supervision for a domestic violence crime. A recent report to departments provided county level data reflecting the use of the DVSI-R, which should be utilized as a specialized risk assessment to compliment the general assessment, NYCOMPAS. The DVSI-R instrument can be accessed on the IJP: People > Supervision > COMPAS > Search > select Person > Alternative Screenings > New Case or Existing Case > DVSI-R. The DVSI-R assessment is also enabled in CE Assessment for the New York City Department of Probation, but DCJS is requesting that probation departments continue to complete this in the COMPAS suite.

### **Professional Wellness and Peer Support Program Updates**

On May 23, OPCA and the Office of Mental Health held an in-person Professional Wellness training titled, "It's Not Just Suicide Prevention: Implications of Trauma Exposure & How to Build Resilience," at the New York State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany, N.Y. Attendees included 23 community correction professionals.

"Self-care means taking care of yourself so that you can be healthy; you can be well; you can do your job; you can help and care for others, and you can do all the things you need to and want to accomplish in a day." – Moira Lawler

You can find [here](#), resources about self care and why it is so important to your health. If you are interested in implementing a peer support team program, please contact [Danielle.Brendese@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Danielle.Brendese@dcjs.ny.gov) or by phone (518) 457-1671.

### **OPCA Delivers Lunch and Learn Webinar on Impact of Trauma on Justice Involved Individuals**

On May 24, more than 100 criminal justice professionals participated in the OPCA Lunch and Learn webinar titled, "Impact of Trauma on Justice Involved Individuals." The webinar opened with a review of the definition of trauma, the types of trauma and the latest research on the prevalence of trauma among the general population and even higher rates among justice involved individuals. The webinar pivoted to the science behind trauma and various physiological responses to certain situations. Lastly, participants were provided an overview of the principles of trauma informed care approaches, along with specific examples of what they can do to bring more trauma informed case methodologies into their everyday work with justice involved individuals. One of the most important lessons that we have learned – from studies of trauma and its impacts – is that people are resilient. People do survive, and often thrive, despite the most heinous life conditions. Professionals can help build resiliency in their clients by encouraging the individual get connected, learn coping skills, remain hopeful, find activities that promote selfcare, stress management and relaxation, and be proactive. The webinar recording is available [here](#).

## Two OPCA Staff Graduate from SAMHSA's GAINS Trauma-Informed Training

In the spring of 2023, OPCA professionals Melinda Vick and Danielle Brendese attended a highly sought-after training and now join approximately 2,400 fellow trainers throughout the United States. Policy Research Associates, Inc., which operates SAMHSA's GAINS Center, developed a Train the Trainer (TTT) – "How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice Responses." This training provided information on how best to increase knowledge of what trauma is and builds a skillset for trauma-informed responses among criminal justice and behavioral health providers who serve justice involved individuals.

Within the community corrections field, the prevalence of trauma experienced by justice-involved individuals is significantly higher than the general population and calls for a trauma-informed approach. Departments and community corrections agencies that utilize trauma-informed responses can help professionals avoid re-traumatizing individuals; increase public safety; decrease recidivism; promote and support recovery; and link individuals to trauma-informed services and treatment. Stay tuned for more trauma informed training opportunities!

Congratulations to Melinda and Danielle!

You may find more information on the SAMHSA's GAINS Center and the resources available [here](#).

## New York State Department of Labor-DCJS Partnership

In 2022, DCJS launched a series of webinars to showcase various Department of Labor (DOL) workforce initiatives for justice involved individuals. Professionals from DCJS-funded programs, probation departments and DOL Career Centers worked together to develop a streamlined referral process for justice involved individuals to better access workforce initiatives. Several free vocation and career initiatives are available such as the Gun Violence Prevention Initiative (GVPI) and the Youth and Young Adult Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act program, which offers career development for youth and young adults, ages 16 to 24, who face significant barriers to employment and education. OPCA acknowledges the many probation officers who have attended regional meetings with DOL partners to solidify a referral process to link youth and young adults to these initiatives. DOL-DCJS partnership meetings will be announced soon.

You may contact your local DOL representative [here](#), for more details. An [email distribution list](#) is available for more information on how to attend these regional meetings. The [NYS DOL webpage](#) also provides many resources for justice involved individuals looking for assistance with career development and employment. Read more about DOL workforce initiatives [here](#).

## Training Unit Updates

On May 4, a class of 24 probation professionals from 10 counties graduated OPCA's *Fundamentals of Probation Practice* curriculum. Orange County Probation Director Tim Davidian was the guest speaker, and his remarks were well-received. Chenango County Probation Officer Steven Weiler and Dutchess County Probation



Officer Jessica Fell were both named co-valedictorians, each graduating with an average of 97.4 percent. We congratulate each of the officers who marked this achievement and wish them a long and rewarding career!

### Save the Dates!

*NYSPOA: July 26-28 in Syracuse*

The New York State Probation Officers Association (NYSPOA) Annual Conference will be held in Syracuse, N.Y., from July 26 through 28. The annual conference continues to be the premiere training opportunity for probation officers in New York State. OPCA is once again providing scholarships to probation officers, and OPCA will facilitate workshops again this year.

*NYS IID Twelfth Annual Conference: Aug. 8 in Albany*

OPCA will be convening the Twelfth Annual Ignition Interlock Program Conference on Aug. 8, at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany. Please note that seating is limited, and persons who have not preregistered will not be allowed entry. Attendees must cover their own costs for travel and/or overnight accommodations. Additional event information and registration will be shared soon.

*American Probation and Parole Association Training Institute: Aug. 27-30 in New York City*

The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) will be convening in New York City to hold their in-person Training Institute. Attendees will have access to more than 80 workshops touching on all aspects of pre-trial, probation and parole.

*NYS DCJS 2023 Public Safety Symposium: Sept. 27-29 in Albany*

DCJS will bring together criminal justice professionals from around New York State, and beyond, for the 2023 Public Safety Symposium at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany, N.Y., from Sept. 26 through 28. The goal of the symposium is to bring together executives, police command staff, prosecutors, community supervision, crime analysts, researchers, community members and criminal justice practitioners from around the state and country. Over the course of three days, the attendees will share innovative ideas, evidence-based violence reduction practices, as well as updates on police reform and reinvention collaborations.

## Celebrate National Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week (#PPPSWeek)

Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision week is held from July 16-22, 2023! The 2023 PPPS Week theme is Stronger Together. Follow #PPPSWeek for more information!

### Erie County Probation PRIDE!

Erie County Probation Department is proud to be an inclusive agency. Every staff member is given SOGIE (sexual orientation, gender identity and expression) training to increase awareness, promote equity, and create a positive environment for all individuals.



### Research in Brief

Effective Rating: Program Profile: Environmental Corrections Mode

A community corrections model that focuses on opportunity-reduction strategies to reduce recidivism for individuals on parole or probation was recently rated effective. There were significantly higher reductions in new arrests for those involved in the treatment group. A specialty mental health program in Texas for individuals serving a probation sentence was rated promising for lowering the rates of technical violations and rearrests. Read more [here](#).

### Governor Announcements

On May 8, Governor Kathy Hochul highlighted her \$1 billion plan to overhaul New York State's continuum of mental health care. The funding will expand mental health services for school-aged children and outpatient services, as well as funding to establish new residential units. Read more [here](#).

Gov. Hochul also announced more than \$7 million for 15 providers across New York State to support medication for addiction (MAT) treatment by establishing comprehensive, low-threshold buprenorphine services. Read more [here](#).

On June 15, Governor Kathy Hochul convened a summit on youth mental health and delivered opening remarks to more 1,000 attendees. She vowed that New York will lead the way in youth mental health, suicide prevention, eating disorder programs and home-based crisis intervention. She talked about the risks of social media and the harm that can result. Lastly, she empowered the panelists to recommit to solving these issues, creating solutions and bringing about change. Read more [here](#).



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