

THE PROBATION REPORTER

August 2004

Volume 3, Edition 1

Message from the Chief by Bill Burke

As the summer season winds down most of us are going through the annual shock of wondering how the summer slipped away. While being an active participant in this annual ritual myself, I can share a bit about some things that were occurring as the summer was passing. The word *passing* should be considered the operative word, as in "the State has been busily *passing* the budget." With passage and signature by the Governor on July 31, we now have a clearer picture of what lies ahead for the County and our Department in FY 04-05.

The State budget presents an undeniable threat for both this year and the future. On the other hand we need to recognize Probation-related successes that we achieved in this year's state budget, especially in the context of this difficult budget era. Most significant among these was the continuation of JJCPA/COPs funding and Probation TANF funding. The success in sustaining these resources was accomplished through the diligent efforts of Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), our legislative advocates, local and statewide legislators, and our natural partners in other disciplines and the community. Summer has not been an idle, or relaxing, time for those involved in developing, advocating, and negotiating this year's State budget.

Of the two, the Probation TANF is a bit more complex in that Federal TANF funding ends October 31, and State General Funds are provided for the remainder of the year, and thereafter . . . theoretically. Because General Funds are so precious in this down budget cycle and there are tremendous competing interests for the GF we can anticipate the need to continue to demonstrate our successes every year on both a local and statewide basis. Fortunately, we have a history of doing this through of application in our Adult TANF caseload, the Northern California Regional Facility, and Juvenile Hall. Statewide this funding source has been utilized in a variety of programs and services ranging from successful prevention programs to ranches and camps for juvenile offenders.

Another significant success this budget season was our ability to sustain our Targeted Case Management reimbursement mechanism. Our success could not have occurred without the conscientious efforts of all of the Probation staff who participated in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the project. You should all be proud of the role and model that you have provided throughout the state with the Humboldt application. Finally, we could not have brought this valuable resource to fruition without the skill, knowledge, and collaborative attitude of the Public Health Branch, DHHS, specifically Laura Knight. This has been a wonderful partnership.

No matter how you slice it, had we not sustained JJCPA, TANF, and TCM this year we would be in a very dire situation.

Other significant happenings since our last edition include the recent retirement of longtime Supervising Probation Officers Liz Anker and Eric Olson. Liz, I believe, is the last connection to the era in which Probation Officers conducted 300 WIC investigations for

the Court. I actually remember seeing some of her reports! They were produced through the state of the art technology of carbon and onion skin paper (see Eric Olson's article on page 2 for confirmation). Liz has also always been a leading advocate for the professionalization of our discipline.

Eric will perhaps be best remembered for his sense of humor in meetings. Fortunately for us we won't have to miss Eric at all. He will remain associated with the Department under contract as Head of Service for the Probation System of Care program. I look forward to our ongoing relationship with Mr. Olson and exposure to his rather unique world view on a wide variety of topics and interests, particularly soccer.

Kudos to the volunteer "Posting Committee" for the professional display of our adopted Mission Statement, Core Organizational Values, and Operating Principles at all of our office locations. You folks did a great job! On particularly challenging days one needs only to take a look at these documents to be reminded of what we do and why we do it.

Finally, I would again like to acknowledge our own American Cancer Society *Relay for Life Team* and their extraordinary efforts during this year's event. In addition to the actual members and donors, several other staff participated in the event, some reportedly covering the midnight shift. Word has it that the team has already initiated planning for next year's event. It is always inspiring to see our staff so actively involved in the community.

Things to look for in upcoming months include:

- Our semiannual Department meeting to be scheduled in September
- Ongoing developmental efforts across disciplines in the areas of Evidence Based Practice development, Mental Health Court, and the Speed Prevention and Awareness Network II (SPAN II), among others
- Continued outreach and search for alternative funding mechanisms
- Monitoring State initiatives surrounding Juvenile and Criminal Justice reform
- Now that many time consuming budgets issues are somewhat resolved we will be revisiting progress surrounding the goals identified in our Strategic Plan, 2004-2006.

There are obviously many other things going on and, as always, if you have any questions feel free to drop by for a cup of coffee, or tea, . . . chai . . . perhaps Ovaltine?

Humboldt County Probation Department The Probation Reporter

Newsletter Committee Members

Bill Burke, Chief Probation Officer

Barbara Boerger, Editor

Liz Anker

Vikki Bernstein

Jody Green

The Probation Reporter is published by the Humboldt County Probation Department. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a forum for communication and the sharing of information. The Probation Reporter does not publish anonymous, politically oriented, or critical articles. Opinions expressed are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Humboldt County Probation Department. Articles submitted may be edited to meet space requirements. Submit stories or story ideas to the editor or Committee members.

From the Desk of the Persistent Assistant by Doug Rasines

Since 1993, the Probation Department has continued to claim for Federal Title IV-E funding. This funding mechanism assists local agencies who are charged with administering foster care programs, and performing activities/services pertaining to investigation, family maintenance, family reunification and permanency planning for youth at risk of removal from their home and/or placed in foster care. There are two types of Title IV-E funding. One is for Assistance Costs, the actual cost of foster care, residential and group home placements and the other is for Administrative Costs, which include agency salary and benefits and indirect costs such as office expenses, telephone, insurance and travel. Claiming for administrative costs is driven by the number of probation officer hours time studied to juvenile Title IV-E programs. The administrative claiming for associated Title IV-E eligible activities performed by probation officers has resulted in a major source of revenue for the department (\$800,000 for FY 2003/04). During the last three years, however, federal authorities have taken several steps to restrict claiming of Title IV-E funds, including establishing a more rigid definition for who is a "reasonable candidate" for foster care. Federal policy has been made more explicit and federal Health and Human Services Departmental Appeals Board (DAB) decisions have resulted in substantial disallowance of claims in several states.

Against this backdrop, the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) has taken a pro-active role in providing technical assistance to probation departments throughout California in reviewing agency claiming practices so as to minimize the potential for disallowance of claims and identify possible additional claiming areas. Probation departments are being advised to limit claiming administrative costs for those cases in which "reasonable candidacy" can be established by:

- The filing of a petition, or
- minor was a dependent in foster care at the time of referral, or
- a case plan has been established which clearly indicates that absent preventative services, foster (i.e., out-of-home) care is the planned arrangement for the child.

In addition, departments must adhere tightly to federal Title IV-E and state Division 31 requirements regarding the completion of the case assessment, eligibility determination, formalized case plan, court findings and orders, probation officer visits with child and parents, case plan reviews/updates, ICWA compliance, administrative time studies, etc. Failure to comply with these requirements could result in disallowance of probation's Title IV-E claim.

A team of probation managers/supervisors recently completed CPOC-sponsored training in Title IV-E compliance. In the coming weeks, the department's Title IV-E/Division 31 workgroup will be reconvened with the goal of reviewing and revising, as necessary, our current Title IV-E policies and procedures. Subsequently, in-service training will be provided to all juvenile probation officers and supervisors in order to ensure our continuing compliance with federal Title IV-E foster care regulations, and as such, ensure the department's ability to maintain an essential revenue source.

A Backward Glance by Eric A. Olson

[While we continue to appreciate Mr. Olson's world view, there is some question as to his memory relating to some of the below anecdotes. As we go to press, we have been unable to either confirm or deny comments regarding DPOs Bird, Smith, Gaedicke, Seely, and Sohrakoff. The comment regarding Lehman is probably true, however, because he did the same thing to me. ~ Bill Burke]

Probation records may contradict me, but I remember my first day at 2002 Harrison as August 13, 1979. I had been hired as a PO I because, when Rich Brazil asked me during the job interview, "What do you think the biggest challenge facing Probation will be over the next few years?" I replied, "Dealing with Status Offenders." I had read somewhere that the laws allowing detention of truants and "beyond parental control" juveniles had changed and figured that coming up with alternatives to Juvenile Hall would present a challenge. Still does.

Naturally, I was assigned to the Juvenile Intake Unit, Supervised by Dave Lehman. He came into my new office and laid a stack of files on my desk. "Welcome to Probation. Now get to work." No background check, no psychological eval, no polygraph. No CORE Course, either. One learned by doing. Fortunately, I had expert guidance from Gary Bird and Tom Smith. The three of us made sure nothing got done during the Juvenile Intake Unit meetings. Ralph Gaedake was another inspiration. He was a field officer and so was out "in the field" from 8:05AM to 11:55AM every day. Then it was one hour in the break room doing the crossword. At 1:05PM he was back in the field and we wouldn't see him again until 4:55PM. Man, he could really cover the territory.

Back then, we didn't have computers or copiers. Everything was typed using carbon paper to make the copies on onionskin paper. Donna Morrow would patiently erase my mistakes from the original and the three copies, then re-type the corrections. One would try to get it right the first time. No radios, no oleoresin capsicum spray, no firearms policy, no strategic plan. No grant-funded programs, no "sally port" for Juvenile Hall - hardly any female probation officers, either. Liz Anker was there, of course, and Linda Bird and Penny Sohrakoff (she was Penny Kopriva back then, and Penny Nickel before that).

Dave gave me my big break when he asked me to be the Probation representative to the "Child Custody Team." This was Judge Thomas' idea of a way to deal with the parents who were bringing their children to Family Law Court over custody disputes. I thus embarked on a peculiar career for a Probation Officer, doing Family Law mediation, Child Custody Investigations, Step-Parent Adoption Investigations, Conservatorship Investigations and Guardianship Investigations along with a regular Intake caseload. Eventually, I represented Humboldt County on the Judicial Council's committee on Mediation Standards and helped develop the "Children of Divorce" workshop which became mandatory for divorcing parents and is a model for other counties in California.

When Judge Buffington transferred mediation services to contract providers, I was assigned to the Adult Intake Unit with Ned Seely as my supervisor. Ned could always tell my reports were perfectly written. At least it seemed that way because he never read them before he signed them. Here again I had expert guidance from my co-workers, Penny Sohrakoff and Mike Yanke. Penny taught me to

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take a month off every summer and go fishing and Mike taught me to take two months off and go to Europe. After Penny became the Supervisor, she raised expectations of my reports, so I turned to Mike Saul for guidance on how to write truly meaningful PSIs.

I have made many friends during my years at Probation and value the efforts everyone in the Department makes to ensure the safety of our community and the rehabilitation of juvenile and adult offenders. Carry on, folks! What you are doing is important work.



Eric Olson receives his retirement Proclamation from Supervisor Roger Rodoni



Liz Anker receives her Proclamation from Supervisor Jill Geist



GOOD-BYE LIZ AND ERIC - YOU'LL BE MISSED!!

Grants Slants by Bill Damiano

Our Juvenile Drug Court has been back in operation for about 3 months thanks to our receiving another Title II grant through the Board of Corrections in December, but it won't be in full swing until we can extricate our JDC PO from his previous assignment. Joe Eldridge has been split between the Juvenile Filed Unit and JDC since Aimee Brown left to return to college and has been doing a remarkable job in a chaotic situation - thank you Joe! A PO recruitment is currently underway at the County and, with hiring and background processing, it will likely be a few months until we can fill the Field position and free Joe up. We also have a new MH Clinician, Gabriel Bennett, assigned to the program and our AOD provider is once again Fortuna Community Services.

A local decision was made to scrub the High Risk Youth Education and Public Safety (SB 1095) program before we got it fully planned and implemented due to the unreliability of the funding at the state level. Pending legislation proposes to block grant the SB 1095 funds along with many other categorical school-related funding programs. In place of the HRY program, Probation and the County Office of Education have agreed to modify the Probation Environmental Preservation Programs. Plans are to extend the program day to at least 5 hours, add 2 Americorps Volunteers, and officer additional programming and services to participating students. Plans to add a Senior PO position to the program are in the works and recruitment is underway.

We received Notification in June that our application for \$12,080 to the Bureau of Justice Assistance Bulletproof Vest Partnership program for this past fiscal year was approved at 10.44%. The BVP program allows jurisdictions to apply for up to 50% reimbursement for past and future ballistic vest purchases. About half of last year's application was for prior purchases, so the 10% reimbursement will allow us to claim again this year for previously purchased body armor as well as provide some funding to purchase more vests this year.

Adult Division Doin's By Bill Damiano

We'd like to announce the recent hire of Jacob Hayes as a Deputy Probation Officer I into the Adult Field Unit. Adult Field was impacted by the departure of Donna Humphrey from TANF, Matt Langford who was with us only briefly and who left us to enter the CHP Academy, as well as the continued medical leave of another officer. Matt's position will be filled as soon as possible. In the meanwhile, the remaining Adult Field probation officers continue to do an awesome job of covering their own assignments as well as the vacant positions. We continue to appreciate the volunteer work of Lou Lau, and welcome HSU Work Study student, Kathleen Ellion - both of whom are important to the operation of the Field Unit while we're down regular positions.

Leaving Wonderland

or

Alice Grown Older

By Liz Anker

When I began my career as a deputy probation officer in January of 1971, little did I know what an unusual adventure it would turn out to be. I was immediately immersed in a world which, at that time, was predominately male. There was one other female P.O. I started out at \$640 per month which, at that time, was a good salary. The experienced male P.O.s were making considerably more and, before the massive waves of inflation hit, were able to support their families without the financial necessity of having a working spouse. There was a strict dress code and female officers were not permitted to wear slacks, even when in the field. Female officers were not invited to the annual peace officer appreciation dinner which was sponsored annually by a local service club. Pregnancy was also defined as a voluntary condition, and any illness possibly associated with the condition, such as morning sickness, did not qualify the female employee to use her sick leave. After seeing a fellow P.O. subjected to that policy due to her presumed voluntary pregnancy, I conducted some research and found the sick leave rules were in violation of federal law. When made aware of this problem, the Board of Supervisors quickly brought a change in that way of defining pregnancy...

The role of juvenile intake P.O. was, in many ways, far broader than it is today. In addition to handling the cases of 601 and 602 W&I minors, we also filed all the dependency petitions in juvenile court and maintained the shelter homes where law enforcement lodged abused and neglected children. Handling those difficult cases and working closely with Child Welfare most often fell to me. We had several shelter care homes for the Dependents. Nadine Fleek and Opal Brinkman were two of the most outstanding, and opened both their hearts and beautiful homes to the traumatized children we received in protective custody. At the time I started they were paid \$1.50 per day for a child, and were only paid when a bed was filled. I'm sure both of them spent more of their own money on the children as well. I shall always remember their kindness to those frightened children. Seeing children who had been physically and sexually abused or seriously neglected was a sad experience. Dealing with their usually irate parents, who would be on our doorstep when we opened in the morning after their children had been removed, was a challenging experience; however, it did give me the opportunity early on to learn how to de-escalate volatile situations, a skill which served me well later in my career in adult probation.

Other duties of juvenile intake probation officers in the old days were to act on behalf of the juvenile court judge as traffic hearing officer for all driving citations in the county received by minors. We designated one day per week as Traffic Hearing Day; I usually found Traffic Day to be rather enjoyable, as the minors were generally not the usual delinquents we got into the Hall. In terms of the 601 and 602 W&I cases, the probation officer had discretion over filing. The 601s, or status offenders, could be detained in Juvenile Hall. Juvenile court was held in the upstairs conference room of the main office, and was considerably less formal than it is now. I worked with Judges Montgomery, Wilkinson, and Thoms in juvenile court. I think they had more of an opportunity for interaction than the present judicial workload allows. In fact, at times, they even called upon us to be "marriage counselors" when a minor was requesting the court's permission to be married. The first time I was assigned this task I was younger than the

prospective groom...

After leaving the role of juvenile intake officer I've had many assignments, primarily in adult probation, both court investigations and filed supervision and special programs, such as intensive supervision. At times, the workload had seemed crushing and resulted in frustration over not having the time and resources to do an even better job in protecting the community and offering guidance to those defendants who really do want to change.

Books have always been one of my joys in life, and being an *Alice in Wonderland* fan, gave me the opportunity to see humor and absurdity in the system and to back off and take another look. When a co-worker would question a word used in a report, I could say, as Humpty Dumpty does, "When I use a word it means exactly what I intended it to mean, neither more nor less."

When Chief Probation Officer Hemenway retired in the mid-seventies and was replaced by Al Campbell, who was steeped in modern management practices, specializing in memos, I was able to submit my own memo on memos to him, thanks to Alice. It went like this:

"The horror of that moment," the King went on, "I shall never, never forget!" "You will though," the Queen said, "if you don't make a memorandum of it." Fortunately for me, Chief Campbell had a good sense of humor...

All long term county employees have experienced the cyclical financial problems, and many have been frustrated by the periodic budget shortfalls. However, I'm reminded we are in wonderland and the rule in wonderland is jam tomorrow and jam yesterday - but never jam today.

So, it's all been curiouser and curiouser in wonderland, but Alice, grown older, is able to see that she definitely wouldn't have wanted to miss the journey....



PET/OWNER IDENTIFICATION CONTEST

POT-LUCK LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2004 NOON - 1:00 P.M.

Editor's note:

On July 20, 2004, Supervisor Jimmy Smith introduced, and the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors adopted, the following proclamation designating Jul 18-24, 2004 as Probation, Parole, and Community Supervision Week in recognition of the efforts of Humboldt County Probation Officers to provide services to our community and ensure public safety.

**Proclamation
Of the Board of Supervisors
County of Humboldt**

Whereas, July 18-24, 2004 is National Probation, Parole, and Community Supervision Week; and

Whereas, Probation Officers, as an agent of and at the direction of the Superior Court, oversee the rehabilitation of adult and juvenile offenders, support and protect crime victims, oversee reparation of the harm done to the community and victims, and supervise dangerous and resistant offenders; and

Whereas, Probation Officers conduct investigations and recommendations for the Superior Court for Adult and Juvenile Offenders; and

Whereas, Probation Officers serve the needs of their clients and the community by promoting public safety and law-abiding behavior; and

Whereas, Probation Officers are experts in such areas as offender rehabilitation, substance abuse, sex offenders, mentally ill offenders, child abuse, domestic violence, gang activity, crime and delinquency prevention, search and arrest practices, and field officer safety; and

Whereas, Probation Officers are recognized as key members of, and partners within, the law enforcement community; and

Whereas, Probation Officers are at the heart of community supervision and work hand in hand with social service agencies, educational agencies, and community groups and organizations to provide offenders and victims with necessary services; and

Whereas, the Probation Officers of Humboldt County possess a rich history of creative efforts and programming in partnership with the community aimed at reducing the incidence and impact of crime and delinquency;

Whereas, the Probation Officers of Humboldt County enjoy a richly deserved State and national reputation for quality services to the community,

Now, therefore, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims

July 18-24, 2004 as "Probation, Parole, and Community Supervision Week,"

and urges the citizens of Humboldt County to support the Probation Officers of the Humboldt County in their efforts to ensure the safety of our community.

Dated: July 20, 2004 Jimmy Smith
Supervisor, District 1

Please submit a picture of your favorite pet by Thursday, September 16, 2004. **The pictures should be turned into Cheryl Kaska at the Main Reception Desk by that date.** The contest will be on Thursday, September 30, 2004, during a Pot-Luck luncheon to which all employees are invited. Please bring your favorite dish (salads, entrees, desserts) for the luncheon to be held at Noon until 1:00 P.M. on September 30 in the Main Conference Room. The Sunshine Fund will provide beverages.

The next scheduled meeting of the Sunshine Committee is Thursday, September 2, 2004 at Noon in the Probation Main Conference Room. All employees are welcome and encouraged to join us. We will be planning for the Pet/Owner Identification Contest - Pot-Luck Luncheon, as well as other future activities (Halloween, Christmas, etc.). Your input is appreciated.

The Sunshine Committee, in its effort to recognize significant life events of the employees of the Department, would like to honor those employees who have celebrated Years of Service anniversary with the Probation Department during the months of May, June and July 2004:

CONGRATULATIONS

Vikki Berstein	14 years
Debbie Damiano	14 years
Marc Cory	14 years
Steve Schaening	12 years
Jody Green	10 years
Brett Moranda	10 years
Mike Tully	8 years
Ryan Schlesiger	7 years
Laurie Michel	6 years
Roberta Womack	6 years
Will Nalty	6 years
Coral Sanders	5 years
Arlene Woody	5 years
Kelly Keen	5 years
Diane Ratterman	4 years
Shawn Burger	4 years
Stephanie Duxbury	4 years
Jeanne Kirke	3 years
Barbara Boerger	3 years
Petrina Fennell	3 years
Chris Brannon	3 years
Ryan Blanchard	2 years
Gregory Horne	2 years
Chris Petersen	2 years
Barbara Robie	2 years
Sarah Geyer	2 years
Julia Terrini	1 year

WELCOME NEW PROBATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

Jacob Hayes 7/4/04 (promotion from Juvenile Corrections Officer to Probation Officer)

SUNSHINE FUND SERVICES

During the past quarter, the Sunshine Fund has recognized the birth of one baby, the loss of family members of two employees, the leaving of two employees to pursue other career paths, and the welcoming of two new employees.

Continued support of the Sunshine Fund is encouraged. Donation average is \$1.00/month or \$12.00/year. Current participation is at 45%. Contact any of the following members of the Sunshine Committee for donating, or for other information: Vikki Bernstein, Sharon Gage, Megan Gotcher, Cate Halliday, Tamara Hansen, Cheryl Kaska, Barbara Robie, John Stopkowitz, Paula Swihart, Diane Williams.

Relay for Life
by Megan Gotcher

Thank-you to all that participated by donating time, money, and energy. We made a donation of over \$2000.00 to the American Cancer Society and racked up 72 miles on the track. Official members make a large commitment to the 24-hour relay. We will be looking for new members next year. Remember, Relay For Life is the third weekend in July every year.



Some of the participants in the Relay for Life

Bottom (left to right): Barbara Boerger, Laurie Michel, Bev Ford, Jan Macpherson

Top (left to right): Tamara Hansen, Mike Tully, Bobby Caruthers, Will Nalty, Kermit Owen



Greetings from the Gulf!

By Jim McCue

As many of you know (or not), the Department has two members currently serving in the Gulf, specifically Iraq. The first, as you may have guessed is DPO Andy McLaughlin; the other is JCO Robert Falk. Both are currently serving in the same unit; our very own local National Guard unit: Company B, 579th Engineer Battalion. Both of our guys left for Iraq at the same time, and are currently serving together. I have had contact with Robert, and in comparing his email to Andy's, much is the same; the constant patrolling, the endless heat, the long days and short nights. Robert also reports that he has had some relatively "up close and personal" encounters with "unfriendly" automatic weapons fire, mortar barrages, and RPG (rocket propelled grenade) assaults. He apparently has also had the opportunity to ride a camel, so when pictures become available, I will attempt to get them posted here. All in all, however, Robert reports that he is managing to "soldier on" as best as the situation permits, but would obviously rather be back here in the States. About a month ago, Juvenile Hall Staff collected a variety of items to send to Robert, who received them relatively quickly. Most items were off the list of things that Andy had sent a request for, especially items of a sun-blocking nature. Another box will be going out to Robert towards the end of August/beginning of September, so anyone who cares to write him and have it enclosed, or would like to send him some stuff (non-perishable, non-meltable please), please feel free to drop it off at the Hall. Also, just a little trivia about Robert: this is his second deployment related to the conflict in Iraq. He was first deployed to a base in Utah, for approximately nine months in 2002-03, to "backfill" for a full-time unit that had been shipped to the Gulf. He was then home for approximately three to four months, until he was recalled to active duty in Iraq.

Training Trivia
by Tim Clohessy

We have begun a new training year, and it is off to a good start. We were the first in the State of California to offer the "Juvenile Sex Offender Basics" course in July, and it was well received. There will be a follow-up session with some of those who attended to assess what was retained.

Identified last year in our "training needs process" was information about local gang activity. As a result, we participated in a county wide "gang training". At the probation department's urging, the course was created by the Humboldt County Gang Task Force, sponsored by the College Of The Redwoods Public Safety Training Center, and hosted by the Humboldt County Office of Education. In attendance were law enforcement officers from throughout the county representing many agencies. Our representative to the gang task force, Deputy Probation Officer, Tamara Hansen was instrumental in orchestrating the collaboration of all these agencies. She did a great job and should be commended.

Next up is another collaborative effort. Our training office has created and orchestrated a new course in "The Dynamics Of Domestic Violence" on September 2. We have enlisted the support of the District Attorney's Office, The Public Health Department, and the MEND/WEND program to put together an in depth look at this crime from investigation to prosecution, to victim assistance, to treatment, and to probation case planning and supervision. It will be held at the Humboldt Area Foundation and is exclusive to

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probation staff at present, but if other agencies express and interest in attending, accommodations can be made.

Continuing in development are courses in "Addictions", "Probation Software Applications", "Working With Mentally Ill Offenders", "Custodial Aftercare & Transition Planning", Division 31/Title IV-E training, and computer based courses. We will also be consolidating into several short sessions, courses to update staff on critical Policies and Procedures surrounding safety issues. The "Targeted Case Management" class will be updated and held in the near future. All of these classes are being developed with the assistance of local experts in collaborative relationships with probation at very low or no cost. Ideas for new topics of training are always welcome as it is our goal to provide our staff with training that is realistic to what they do every day, useful information, and to develop professionalism of the staff and the agency.

We will continue in our support of the Law Enforcement Training Managers committee, and look forward to participating in Advanced Officer Training Courses sponsored by the College Of The Redwoods Public Safety Center.

Detention Mentions by Tim Toste

The Juvenile Hall population of late is more often than not within Board of Corrections rated capacity. The on-call P.O.s and participants of the daily Juvenile Hall population meeting are to be commended for continuing to screen cases for detention and working on screening cases to be released. Also, thanks goes out to Home Supervision P.O. Shawn Burger who almost always provides same day service when minors are authorized for release by the Court and approved by a Supervising Probation Officer. I know the Juvenile Corrections Officers appreciate the breathing room before the next crowding crisis.

Facility Managers Mark Cory, Mardi Bessellieu and I are feverishly performing background investigations on candidates for vacant positions in both the Juvenile Hall and Regional Facility. We had five regular positions to fill and have filled one so far with offers out to three others that are pending outcomes of the final process. The one position filled so far is by former extra help JCO Stephanie Chavez who is assigned to the Juvenile Hall part time and also works some extra helps shifts in the Regional Facility. We are also backgrounding extra help cooks and many more extra help Juvenile Corrections Officers as we have lost many extra help staff recently resulting in a few cases of mandatory overtime for some Correctional Cook and Juvenile Corrections staff.

We are going to have what I believe will be our third annual BBQ and Softball Extravaganza on August 28 at 1:00 p.m. at Cooper Gulch. Be sure to bring your ice chest with something you want barbecued, and, of course, the beverage of your choice. For those who have skills, a nice side dish to share would be appreciated. Be sure to bring some plates/utensils so as not to be dependent upon others to take care of your unorganized self! I will bring my BBQ to town and others are certainly welcome to do the same to help out with the cooking.

Anyone willing and able to play is welcome (no workers' comp. for the injury prone!). No "ringers" please, we'll just divide up into teams and hope to fill out two rosters and play. Friends, family, and children are all invited to bring their meat to barbeque (or soybean product, for the meatless) and a softball glove. Wendy Rebik will provide the bats, balls, and bases, and perhaps even a lovely cake...if she has time.

Even if you don't want to play, please come and enjoy the fun. Heckling can be better than actually paying!

I will have a sign up sheet for the staff in the main Probation building on my door so we can get a feel for how many participants there will be. Even if you don't plan on playing, please sign up so we know you're coming. There will be a sign up sheet at each of the facilities as well. All staff, regardless of classification, age, creed, looks (good or otherwise), socioeconomic background, religion, attitude (good only), color, gender, or being vertically challenged are encouraged to participate by playing, watching, cheering, booing, cooking, eating, and being merry. See you there!

