



THE PROBATION REPORTER

Volume 6, Edition 1

August 2007

Message from the Chief

by Doug Rasines

As the summer season winds down, the new fiscal year is just beginning, bringing with it both challenges and opportunities. The County budget has been adopted and appears stable. At the State level, continuation funding to support probation services appears to have generally remained intact. Questions remain, however, around the level of sustained funding for Prop 36 programs and the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction (MIOCR) grant program. In addition, the State's legislative initiatives regarding prison and juvenile justice reform continue to evolve.

The Department has been anything but idle throughout the summer months, continuing to forge ahead with several internal and external work plans (not all-inclusive by any means):

- In June, work began on the update of the Juvenile Hall Needs Assessment. The study will compile and analyze a wide range of historical and current statistical demographic and program data and related information concerning the adequacy of the Juvenile Hall facility. The study will also evaluate and make recommendations regarding the further utilization,

modification, or expansion of the existing Juvenile Hall in meeting service demands over the next 20 years.

- Jody Green and Bill Damiano have taken the lead for the implementation of an Employee Recognition & Retention workgroup and a departmental Speakers' Bureau workgroup, respectively.
- We are continuing to develop strategies for managing the additional workload associated with the State Omnibus Conservatorship and Guardianship Reform Act of 2006, which significantly increases the requirements involved in processing of civil conservatorship and guardianship investigations.
- Planning continues toward identifying and implementing strategies that could best resolve the Department's office space needs.
- A Semi-Annual Department Meeting is scheduled for September 12th, and plans are beginning for an upcoming Strategic Planning session intended to clarify the Department's goals and objectives, and chart its direction for the next three years.
- Efforts continue toward addressing the issue of employee recruitment and retention. As Chief Probation Officer, I will continue to remain outspoken on the issue, and work with county leadership in an effort to improve the Department's ability to recruit and retain quality staff.
- Selected staff are being trained as facilitators for implementing the "Girl's Circle" program, a structured support group model for girls age 9-18 years. The model includes a series of weekly gender relevant, themed discussion groups to promote critical thinking as it relates to girls lives, such as: respect for authority, use of drugs/alcohol, healthy decision making,

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Message from the Chief – continued from pg. 1

trusting self and others, body image, and sexuality. The model is a promising approach for increasing pro-social behaviors, building personal skills, strengths and competence in girls, while at the same time reducing delinquency and recidivism.

Lastly, Probation is a delicate balance between treatment and the need for holding probationers accountable at the other end. To meet that challenge, we will continue to engage in efforts to maximize staff effectiveness, facilitate internal and external communication, enhance our infrastructure to ensure the provision of quality services, and expand partnerships that support the Department's mission, vision, and values.

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The Northern California Community Blood Bank is putting on a **Blood Drive** at Probation on **September 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** The bloodmobile will be located between the main office and the Regional Facility. Have a little something to eat and hydrate yourself a short time before donating. If you have never donated before and think you might be interested, or simply have questions about the process or eligibility to donate, you can go to their website at [www.nccbb.org](http://www.nccbb.org) to get more information. Please reserve a time slot on one of the sign-up posters (outside Doug's office and in the institutions), or you can just drop in if you can't schedule it ahead of time. You can donate on County time if you are already scheduled to work and have it approved in advance with your supervisor.

## **Cultural Diversity and Awareness Committee (CDAC)**

### **Update by Jody Green**

Since my last newsletter update, things in the land of CDAC have been moving a bit slowly because of lack of availability of CDAC members. We have continued to meet, but attendance has been sparse. Hopefully, more members will be available for the next meeting on **September 19, 2007 @ 1:15.**

Humboldt State University Professor of Social Work, Ken Nakamura, LCSW, met with staff from the adult and juvenile divisions in the month of July to discuss the relevance of cultural diversity when working with people. Staff in attendance reported the discussion with Ken was thought provoking and meaningful to their jobs. Ken is a great asset to our community, and we will continue to work with him in the future. Providing presentations by community members on the topic of cultural diversity continues to be a goal of CDAC. The presentations are informative, aid in our professional development, and provide valuable information and insight into working with the community. Prior to scheduling more presentations, we would like to hear staff ideas about what cultural barriers you may be experiencing that interfere with your ability to do a good job. We will soon be asking for your input, so please take the time to provide this information when asked.

In addition to gathering input from staff, CDAC will be working with the Speakers' Bureau on giving presentations to different cultural groups to not only inform these groups about probation, but also to gather input from those groups about how we might improve our service to the community and identify resources available to serve clients in those respective communities. The information gathered will assist us in the departmental and program planning process.

**Coming soon to a supervisor near you...** will be written instructions on accessing interpreting services to utilize when working with a non-English speaking probationer or his or her parents. This protocol should be finalized very shortly.

If you are interested in joining CDAC, new members are always welcome. Please contact me for details.

# Training Update

by Tim Clohessy

The probation training calendar is under construction. The following local classes for Probation Officers and Juvenile Corrections Officers have been scheduled:

*September 26 - Testifying In Court*  
*October 20 - Chemical Agents*  
*October 22 - Editing With Style*  
*November 2 - Addictions - Dr. Alex Stalcup*  
*November 8 - Time Management*  
*December 3 - Verbal Defense*

Back by popular demand: January 11, 2008 - Spanish For Corrections

All of these courses are certified by the Corrections Standards Authority. Additional classes will be scheduled as they become available.

## Officers Sworn In



Probation Officers (PO) and Juvenile Corrections Officers (JCO) were sworn in by Presiding Judge John Feeney on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

Front row, left to right: Dustin Asbill (PO), Justin Diesslin (PO), Tim Jernigan (PO), Gabe Charlton (PO), Darren Ghisetti (PO), Duane Smith (PO), Jessie Wood (PO).

Back row, left to right: Morgan Douglas (JCO), John Robey (PO), Kathy Davison (PO), Chris Petersen (PO), Jen Butler (PO), Jennifer Wilbur (JCO), Don Mederios (JCO).

## Relay for Life

by Megan Gotcher

Thank-you to everyone who attended this year's Relay for Life event. Your support, donations, and feet for walking were greatly appreciated.

Donations are still being accepted through the month of August. The total amount raised by Officers Cuffing Cancer will be announced at the Departmental Meeting.

Lunch will be provided for a minimal donation of \$5.00 at the Departmental Meeting on September 12.





**Family to Family  
Core Strategy –  
Building Community  
Partners  
by Stacy Reyes**

Supervision of a minor on probation can be time consuming, frustrating, and concerning, depending upon the circumstances surrounding the youth. Acknowledging that we as a department cannot supervise a youth within a specified neighborhood or community without the help of that community can mean the world of difference to the youth and the probation officer. The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Family to Family Initiative has identified six specific benefits for the child welfare system of developing partnerships with neighborhood and community-based organizations. These benefits have the possibility to be seen in the realm of Juvenile Justice, as well as when we form these partnerships.

- It enhances the child welfare system's ability to recruit, train, retain, and support neighborhood-based foster care, thus improving outcomes for children who enter the system.
- It helps assure that interventions respect the cultural and racial backgrounds of the children and families, and are readily accessible to them.
- It increases the types and numbers of available formal and informal services.
- It helps build a network of enduring supports for families within their neighborhoods.
- It re-invests dollars within neighborhoods, creating jobs and promoting economic development in poorer communities.
- It helps the community see the complexity of a child welfare agency's role, thereby improving the service's local image.

Building partnerships takes time and a lot of listening. As probation staff, we must commit ourselves to "see" our clients beyond their actions that resulted in their appearance before the court. Finding out from the client and his/her family who they turn to for assistance and support in their own neighborhood is a step in that direction – asking, "what worked?" prior to coming to the attention of the Probation Department. In listening

to the answers to these questions we might learn about a home in a community that is already providing a safe environment for youth after school. Building a partnership with that family and assisting them in becoming a licensed foster home may prevent future teens entering our system or providing a home within their own community. Seeking out the faith-based or cultural organizations within a community can assist in providing additional support for the youth and his/her family. In short, the more open we are in building the partnerships, the more resources we have available to assist and supervise our probation youth. This in all terms and purposes has a greater chance of contributing to more successful terminations from probation.

Like all core strategies of Family to Family, everyone is part of forming these community partnerships. Sharing the partnerships with other officers assists our own co-workers, the client, the family, and most importantly, empowers the public to maintain the safety of their own neighborhoods and community. Each officer can build a partnership by sharing the Family to Family vision of our department, defining "community" with your client and his/her family, breaking down barriers with a "how **can** we address this issue?", and supporting the development of new services and interventions in the community. Again, each officer can do this, officers are doing this, and with this partnership we can provide our youth the greatest rehabilitation service: a supportive network in their own neighborhood.

*Family to Family Updates*

Resource Family Recruitment, Development, and Support

On September 28, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the General Hospital Burre Room, Probation will be hosting their first Open House for Foster Parents. All licensed foster parents are encouraged to come, regardless of their desire to work with teens. The presentations will include our need for foster parents, how they will be supported in working with our youth, juvenile probation programs, and a tour of the New Horizons program and Juvenile Hall. The panel of presenters will be juvenile Probation Department staff, with a welcome introduction from our Chief Probation Officer, Doug Rasines. Lunch will be prepared and hosted by the county's Independent Living Program youth. A wooden bowl, made by one of our own probation youth will be raffled off to a lucky foster parent. Staff from other agencies are welcome, but

priority will be given to foster parents. Call (707)476-1284 to RSVP. Spaces are limited!

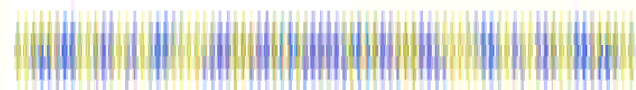
Team Decision Making (TDM)

Good news in TDMs for Probation. We have received the blessing from our Annie E. Casey Technical Advisor, Jana Rickerson, to move forward yet again and roll out in “placement disruption” and “reunification” TDMs. This extends this service to the Placement Unit in our department. Our protocol has been completed and the final draft is in review with Ms. Rickerson. Congratulations to all who have contributed to TDM roll out!

Self-Evaluation (Data)

Probation has conducted a total of nine Imminent Risk TDMs for seven separate youth at the time this report was completed. Each meeting was initiated by the deputy probation officer who believed the youth had reached the point to be staffed for out-of-home placement. Reasons mitigating this request for TDM included, but were not limited to, non-compliance, self-harm through the use of drugs, or a safety risk to the community. Seven of the outcomes were to have the youth remain in their home with parents. Two outcomes included out-of-home placement; however, neither of these two youth were placed in out-of-home care. Circumstances prompted an additional TDM for the two meetings with the out-of-home consensus and resulted in each youth remaining in their home. Of all youth that have received a TDM, three have since been terminated from probation.

*Thank you for your efforts to keep communities safe, promote healthy families, and build strong communities.*



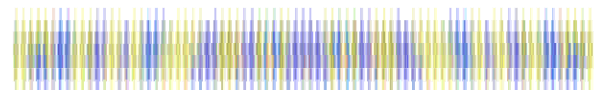
## **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commissions (JJDPC) Update by Toni Martin**

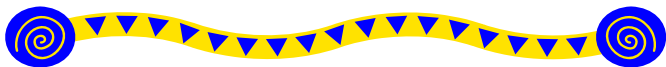
After being dark for the month of July 2007, the Humboldt County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commissions met on August 8, under the leadership of their new chairperson, David Douglas. Supporting Chair Douglas are the following officers: Vice Chair Administration, William Daniel; Vice

Chair Juvenile Justice, Nadine Fleek; Vice Chair Delinquency Prevention, Rose Baker; Vice Chairs Community Relations, Maureen Johannsen and Antoinette Martin.

Offering a streamlined meeting plan, Chair Douglas led the group in planning for the fall meetings. The fall agenda will include continued reports from our essential community partners whose activities significantly affect our youth. The September program will be provided by Health and Human Services. Support for parents of acting out youth will be the topic for October. November, December, and January will focus on educational programs for youth. The effects of methamphetamine will be a common thread during these presentations. At the suggestion of Supervisor Smith, the Commissions lent their support and name to community education efforts by the Speed Prevention Awareness Network (SPAN). This is consistent with the Commissions long range goals and program for the upcoming year.

The Commissioners were concerned as they listened to report after report of exceptionally successful programs, including evidenced-based practices, and that, at the same time, there are significant issues throughout the county in recruitment and retention of our qualified experienced staff. The Commissioners were further informed through discussion led by Supervisor Smith and Chief Probation Officer Doug Rasines, that Humboldt County cannot compete with other counties, the state, and other organizations for equitable salaries. The Commissioners see this as a significant problem and would welcome suggestions from the community, Board of Supervisors, and staff about how we could assist with this issue. Regarding issues surrounding recruitment and retention of personnel for Humboldt County, the Commissioners requested brief regular reports on attempts to keep dedicated and qualified employees. Supervisor Smith and Chief Rasines agreed to provide these. The discussion concluded with a unanimous statement of concern regarding this threat to core and innovative programs as experienced personnel continue to leave the county for similar positions elsewhere.

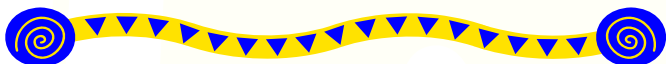




## NEW HIRES

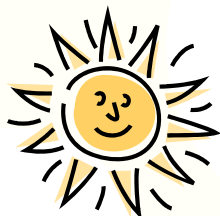
Dustin Asbill – Probation Officer  
 Justin Diesslin – Probation Officer  
 Tim Jernigan – Probation Officer  
 Marilyn Woodruff – Legal Office Asst.  
 Rebecca Younger – Legal Office Asst.

# WELCOME



## PROMOTION

John Robey – Probation Officer



## Sunshine Committee

by Megan Gotcher

The Sunshine Committee has helped the department extend a welcome to 10 new employees. Hopefully, you have enjoyed the introductions provided via e-mail. Sunshine Committee funds have allowed the department to acknowledge the loss of two family members and welcome three new additions to excited families.

Plan to attend the Fall Equinox Kick Off September 21<sup>st</sup>. Bring a family portrait and potluck dish to share with fellow employees. Information will be posted soon. A potluck will possibly be organized in October as well.

## YEARS OF SERVICE



The following employees had, or will have had, an anniversary for the time period of June 1, 2007 through August 31, 2007.

|                                                                                          |                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>1 year</u><br>Jennifer Wilbur                                                         | <u>10 years</u><br>Ryan Schlesiger<br>Stephanie Smithson |
| <u>2 years</u><br>Kevin Bayless<br>Karen Maynard<br>Jeannie Patterson<br>Kristen Wallace | <u>11 years</u><br>Mike Tully                            |
| <u>3 years</u><br>Jake Hayes                                                             | <u>12 years</u><br>Kevin Samsel                          |
| <u>4 years</u><br>Meara McCovey                                                          | <u>13 years</u><br>Jody Green<br>Brett Moranda           |
| <u>5 years</u><br>Ryan Blanchard                                                         | <u>14 years</u><br>Roni Bodeen                           |
| <u>6 years</u><br>Barbara Boerger<br>Chris Brannon<br>Petrina Fennell                    | <u>15 years</u><br>Steve Schaening                       |
| <u>7 years</u><br>Shawn Burger<br>Megan Gotcher                                          | <u>17 years</u><br>Mark Cory<br>Debbie Damiano           |
| <u>8 years</u><br>Kelly Keen                                                             | <u>18 years</u><br>Cynthia Petersen                      |
|                                                                                          | <u>20 years</u><br>Moe Pratton                           |

# Workgroup Scoop

by Bill Damiano

The **Speakers' Bureau** workgroup has accomplished a lot in the last few months. The group created a color brochure about the department that can be handed out at presentations or recruitment opportunities. The group also drafted the following FAQs for our department website to offer another vehicle to inform people about probation:

- ❖ What is probation?
- ❖ What is the difference between adult supervised probation and court probation?
- ❖ What is the difference between probation and parole?
- ❖ Can I find out who is on probation?
- ❖ Do I have a warrant?
- ❖ Can I get a copy of a report?
- ❖ How do I get my juvenile record sealed?
- ❖ What do I have to do to get my record expunged or get a pardon?
- ❖ Firearm rights on felony probation
- ❖ How do I get an early termination?
- ❖ Where is Juvenile Court held, and when?
- ❖ When I turn 18, will I still be on juvenile probation?
- ❖ What can I do with an out-of-control teen?
- ❖ When can my child be released from Juvenile Hall?

The group has arranged a training on Presentation Skills with Louisa Rogers Communications to enhance that skill set for individuals interested in responding to requests for speakers about careers in probation or about probation services. The training is set for September 10<sup>th</sup> and is already full. With the colleges back in session, the group will be reaching out to make contact and setting up some presentations to appropriate classes, and, hopefully, do some promotion to aid in our recruiting efforts. Contact Bill Damiano for more information.

The 3-day **Motivational Interviewing** training with Mary Mehes of J-SAT just completed its second session August 17<sup>th</sup>, and we have a total of 32 staff who have completed the training. We are currently negotiating with J-SAT to arrange a third session in late January/early February for another 15 to 20 people. The STC Course Evaluation forms show 87% of the two group's ratings were either "Very good" or "Excellent", so the course has been very well received by staff. Some of the positive comments people made include:

*"Great course which can help improve my effectiveness in my work."*

*"Outstanding!"*

*"It is something I will be able to use."*

*"Very good course. Instructor very knowledgeable."*

*"Added a lot of tools to my tool belt."*

*"I feel this information will be helpful. The key is to look for the positive and use the tools when they will work."*

Several staff pointed out in the training that we already use many of these skills. That is certainly true – we have some truly awesome staff who do great work with individuals and families. This training is meant to further enhance our probation officers' skills and assist them in being more effective in their work, if possible. It was eye-opening when the class shared the kinds of behaviors that they personally experienced from people who elicited resistance in them, as well as the behaviors of people who had major positive influences on them. When the group looked at how that translated to how we sometimes interact with probationers and their families, it became clear that it is pretty easy to unintentionally make people's behavior change less likely by taking a certain approach with them. If nothing else, our ability to recognize someone's state of readiness to change, as well as what kinds of interventions are likely going to be the most fruitful (or least frustrating), is going to get honed in this training. If it can help reduce staff frustration, it is worth checking out. The fact that the techniques are scientifically supported to improve outcomes is an added bonus.

Some questions have understandably arisen in relation to this training: **What are Admin and Management expectations around MI?** Again, we want to enhance case management skills and offer new tools – no more, no less. **Will staff be rated in performance evaluations on their use of these skills?** Yes; however, they will be considered in the greater context of a person's general case management skills, not solely focused on MI. **Will there be refresher or advanced MI Training?** The ideal is to build on recent training and develop internal resources which will support the ongoing use of MI in the department. We will be approaching a few staff regarding their interest in being trained as MI trainers for the department. **Are we going to be required to use different language in our chrono notes as a result of MI?** No, you should not be using MI acronyms or buzz words in your case notes. What *might* be different about your chronos will primarily be in the content – such as what conclusions you and the probationer came to together about addressing their case plan, or factors they shared that may impact the plan.

## FIESTA ZUCCHINI

2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 lb. zucchini, quartered lengthwise, cut crosswise in 1/2-inch wide pieces  
(about 3 zucchini)  
3 garlic cloves, minced  
1/4 teaspoon dried oregano, crumbled  
1/2 cup salsa  
1/2 cup shredded Monterey jack cheese

1. Heat olive oil in heavy medium skillet over medium heat.
2. Add zucchini, garlic, and oregano; sauté about 2 minutes, until garlic is just golden.
3. Add salsa, lower heat, and simmer until zucchini is just tender, around 4-6 minutes.
4. Sprinkle cheese over zucchini, cover and cook until cheese melts and zucchini is done to your liking.



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## Nutrition Facts

Calculated for **1 serving** (169g)  
Recipe makes **4 servings**

**Calories 142**

Calories from Fat 101 (71%)

| Amount Per Serving             | %DV        |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Total Fat</b> 11.3g         | <b>17%</b> |
| Saturated Fat 3.7g             | 18%        |
| Polyunsat. Fat 1.0g            |            |
| Monounsat. Fat 6.2g            |            |
| Trans Fat 0.0g                 |            |
| <b>Cholesterol</b> 12mg        | <b>4%</b>  |
| <b>Sodium</b> 281mg            | <b>11%</b> |
| <b>Potassium</b> 415mg         | <b>11%</b> |
| <b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 6.7g | <b>2%</b>  |
| Dietary Fiber 1.8g             | 7%         |
| Sugars 3.1g                    |            |
| <b>Protein</b> 5.5g            | <b>10%</b> |
| Vitamin A 434mcg               | 8%         |
| Vitamin B <sub>6</sub> 0.3mg   | 17%        |
| Vitamin B <sub>12</sub> 0.1mcg | 1%         |
| Vitamin C 20mg                 | 34%        |
| Vitamin E 1mcg                 | 4%         |
| Calcium 136mg                  | 13%        |
| Magnesium 28mg                 | 7%         |
| Iron 0mg                       | 4%         |
| Alcohol 0.0g Caffeine 0.0mg    |            |

## BBQ AND SOFTBALL EXTRAVAGANZA

Batter up! It's time for our sixth annual BBQ and Softball Extravaganza.

This year's event will be held on

**Saturday, September 15, 1:00 p.m. at Cooper Gulch.**

Grab your friends, family, and children and come on down.  
Even if you don't want to play, please come and enjoy the fun.  
Heckling can be better than actually playing!

A memo has been sent out with complete details,  
but if you missed it contact Tim Toste for more information.

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## Detention Mentions

by Tim Toste

We have several male candidates in the background process for our four male vacancies between the Regional Facility New Horizons program and Juvenile Hall. We recently interviewed female JCO candidates to replace Kristin Wallace, who took a position with Changing Tides, formerly known as Humboldt Child Care Council. We hope to fill all five vacancies very soon. We are also constantly entertaining applications for extra help staff for facilities.

We're pleased to have both Dolores Cano and Rich Scoville back to work. They were both off on medical leaves for a while and it was difficult to fill their hours, let alone their years of experience. Welcome back Dolores and Rich!

The Juvenile Hall population has been manageable in recent months, albeit with an occasional spike. The New Horizons population has been extremely low for months, but we're getting some interest from outside counties. Contra Costa County Probation has contacted us about two potential commitments, while a deputy public defender from Santa Clara County has an interest for his client. We'll continue to work with these counties to see if we can be of service.

We are working on revising our Youth Transition Services (YTS) process in facilities to make it more meaningful to JCOs, POs, and of benefit to minors. The Juvenile Hall Facility Manager and I met with the Juvenile Probation Division and discussed ways to improve our process and how to make it more beneficial and helpful to POs. Juvenile Probation Director Jody Green will attend the Juvenile Hall staff meeting to discuss the process with JCOs in hopes of making the YTS process better for all parties.

The Regional Facility JCOs and mental health staff met with La Piana consultant Bob Harrington and worked on a mission statement for the New Horizons program. It is a work in progress and part of an overall effort to improve collaboration amongst all New Horizons staff.

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## Grants and Programs

by Bill Damiano

As most of you are aware, the Governor just signed the FY07/08 state budget. Two of our Probation programs, SACPA and MIOCR, just barely survived the budget process, and the final impacts to our local SACPA program are as yet unknown. The Adult Drug Court grants were not contentious this year and were funded as expected, and PEPP funding which is federally based was extended for this fiscal year.

When SACPA was passed by the voters it had funding at \$120 million per year for five years attached to it for state-wide use. That funding ended June 30, 2006, which created a new need to haggle over annual funding for the program as part of the state budget process. Whether funded or not, the SACPA sentencing structure for drug offenses would remain unaffected. Funding for FY 06/07 was again \$120 million and got a slight bump with \$25 million to augment SACPA services through the Offender Treatment Program (OTP) to those counties who submitted and had plans to augment their programs with OTP funds approved (we didn't). The Governor and legislature passed senate bill 1137 to attempt to strengthen SACPA by allowing flash incarceration for specified violations, similar to what occurs in drug courts, but that law was challenged as soon as it was chaptered and has been stopped by an injunction (Alameda case # RG06278911, *Gardener v.*

*Schwarzenegger*). The case has not proceeded beyond filing of motions, and the Governor and legislature have discussed leaving SACPA unfunded due to its overall effectiveness being less-than-desired without meaningful sanctions for violators. Fortunately, funding for SACPA was included in the recently signed budget, even though it reduced to \$100 million with \$20 million in OTP funds - essentially sliding back to the original funding level of \$120 million statewide. The SACPA program funds three Probation positions (Sr. PO, DPO I/II and LOA I/II) as well as treatment support for SACPA offenders. Following these cuts, in order to bring our county SACPA budget up to last year's level, Humboldt still needs to apply and get approved for the OTP funding to make us whole, and that will require the County to provide matching funds for the OTP portion of the program. In other SACPA program news, the program site is moving to a new location in the Trimble Building (at Wood and I Streets) on the Mental Health campus in about a month. We should have our Sr. PO position filled just in time for the move.

When the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction (MIOCR) Grant was originally awarded to us by the state it included eighteen months of funding. In order to balance the FY 06/07 budget, and because the 18-month program fell into two separate state fiscal years, the state Department of Finance decided to only include funding for the first 6 months of the program in the state budget; this action made it necessary for the Governor and legislature to include funding for the last 12 months of the grant in the FY 07/08 state budget. The Governor just signed a budget which does just that. We currently have two staffed positions in the program (Sr. PO and LOA I/II) and are funding specialty Functional Family Therapy services for youth and families with grant funds. We are sad to report that Sr. PO Michelle Gonzalez will be leaving us to relocate to Siskiyou County - she will be sorely missed by staff and probationers alike. Michelle has done an awesome job of getting this program up and running and working out the kinks in the program procedures. **Thank you, Michelle, and we wish you good fortune in Siskiyou!** In any event, we have ten participants now ordered into the program, which has been well received by participants and their families.

The Adult Drug Court (ADC): The program just held another graduation ceremony on August 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. in Judge Cissna's courtroom. Ten graduates completed the program on that date. Altogether this group avoided 32 years of prison time and have made priceless life changes in their individual journeys to sobriety. The ADC team continues to do awesome work with their 82 program participants.

The program is still down one DPO I/II position that is still being filled with extra help at about 80% time - Thanks again to Mike Saul! The position is not likely to be filled immediately as Senior PO interviews are about to get under way and there's no telling where the holes might be that will need backfilled with DPO I/II's following that process.

The Probation Environmental Preservation Project (PEPP) just wrapped up a summer of work-experience (paid) trail projects in the Arcata Community Forest, something that has been much appreciated by that community. The school and Probation staffing will be the same for this year and everyone seems eager to get started with the new school year.



People become really quite remarkable when they start thinking that they can do things. When they believe in themselves they have the first secret of success.  
~ Norman Vincent Peale ~

