

# THE PROBATION REPORTER

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February 2006

## Message from the Chief

By Doug Rasines

Now that we have had a chance to regroup after Mother Nature's chaotic welcome in to the new year, I would like to extend a big "Thank You" to the many public and private emergency services employees and volunteers who spent countless hours working throughout the new year to minimize the impact of the severe weather we all experienced.

Several significant developments have occurred since our November issue including the rotation of the Honorable Judge Marilyn Miles to Juvenile Court, the promotions of Vikki Bernstein to Division Director of Juvenile Services and Doris Echeveria to Fiscal Services Supervisor, the allocation of new Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) set-aside funds, the first chance look at the Governor's budget proposal for FY 2006-07, and planning for the annual review of the Department's Strategic Plan.

### State Budget:

Foremost to the sustainability of several critical departmental programs is the status of the State budget. I am glad to report the Governor's proposed budget offers some good news for probation services including restoration of Juvenile Justice and Crime Prevention

Funding which supports juvenile diversion activities and the New Horizons program at the Regional Facility, restoration of Juvenile Probation and Camps Funding (replacing Probation TANF funds) which supports correctional case management activities in the Juvenile Hall and Regional Facility, restoration of Prop 36 funding to support treatment, case management and probation supervision for substance abusing adult offenders, and the inclusion of kinship-care assistance funding for relative and non-related extended family member caregivers providing out-of-home placement alternatives for juvenile justice involved youth. I remain cautiously optimistic, however, since the Governor's budget should be viewed as the beginning of a long budget advocacy and negotiation process, with the likelihood that several changes may occur over the months ahead.

### Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG):

Humboldt County has been identified as one of 28 counties in California eligible for a share of one-time Federal JABG set-aside funds. Based on the funding formula outlined in federal law for JABG funds, Humboldt County is eligible to receive a set-aside allocation in the amount of \$173,663. Under federal law, JABG "set-aside" funds must be expended on programs that fall into specific designated program purpose areas and these funds must be expended before November 30, 2006. Consistent with the department's strategic plan, the proposed JABG program funding plan, as approved by the local Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, will include:

1. Enhancing Native American health/mental health and transition support services to youth in the Juvenile Hall and Regional Facility via service agreements with United Indian Health Services, Hoopa Human Services, and Two Feather Native American Family Services.
2. Augmentation of training provided to juvenile corrections and juvenile probation officers, and assist with incorporation of outcome-based practices across probation services.

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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## ***Message from the Chief - continued from pg. 1***

3. Upgrade juvenile probation records management system and improve capacity for information sharing across agency systems.

4. Enhancement of existing juvenile diversion, home supervision, and kinship search capacity.

### Strategic Planning:

On February 17, 2006 the Department will complete an internal review of its Strategic Plan. The departmental strategic planning committee, comprised of management and line staff representatives from all service divisions of the department (juvenile, adult, fiscal, administrative support, and institutions), will meet to review/revalidate our departmental mission, operating principles and values, strategic goals and develop action plans on which to focus our efforts for the coming year.

In closing, in the coming months we will continue our efforts to maintain fiscal stability and more fully develop our relationships with other human services providers in assisting the clients we serve. With the support of many dedicated staff, it is my hope that we can build an empowered organization in which individuals have the knowledge, skill, desire, and opportunity to personally succeed in a way that leads to collective organizational success.



## **JJDPC, What is it?**

**By Antoinette Martin**

Just as Juvenile Probation activities are often not understood by many outside the system, people within and without the system often are not knowledgeable about the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commissions (JJJPC).

Through State legislation, Juvenile Justice Commissions were established in California in 1971 as mandatory county commissions. The legislature also suggested a structure for the development of Delinquency Prevention Commissions but did not make them mandatory. In January of 1972, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors passed Ordinance 819, which established the Humboldt County Delinquency Prevention Commission and designated the Humboldt County Juvenile Justice Commission to serve in the capacity of the Humboldt County Delinquency Prevention Commission. The prompt action by the Board of Supervisors to combine these Commissions set the stage for the development of a balanced Commission which encouraged involvement of

Commissioners in activities supporting delinquency prevention, as well as monitoring the welfare of youth already involved in the juvenile justice system.

Section 229 of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) outlines the duties of Juvenile Justice Commissions. According to state law, commissions are to: Inquire into the administration of the juvenile court law in the county or region in which the commission serves. For this purpose the commission shall have access to all publicly administered institutions in the community shall inspect such institutions no less frequently than once a year, and may hold hearings. A juvenile justice commission shall annually inspect any jail or lockup within the county which is used for the temporary confinement of minors for more than 6 hours. Section 230 WIC states that the Juvenile Justice Commissions may make recommendations regarding provisions of Juvenile Law. In addition, group homes receiving placements by order of the Juvenile Court may be inspected by the Juvenile Justice Commission.

According to statutes in the Administrative Code, Delinquency Prevention Commissions may: a) Make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on policies and programs for the prevention of delinquency. b) Promote a community understanding regarding the nature of delinquency and the services needed by youth. c) Stimulate and assist communities in the development of effective delinquency prevention projects. d) Coordinate the utilization of county resources and projects to assist communities in delinquency prevention efforts. e) Operate delinquency prevention programs with the approval of the County Board of Supervisors.



### **Recent Developments at the JJDPC**

JJDPC has been working closely with the Probation Department for over 20 years in supporting services for children, youth, and families. Recently during their training, the Commissioners had a chance to review the 20-year history and the impact of the Commissions in the community. Highlights included significant activities which encouraged collaboration, community empowerment including town meetings, support to grant activities, publication of the Laws for Youth booklet, establishment of the Youth Service Bureau, publication of *Humboldt County Celebrates*, and long

range delinquency prevention activities to name a few. Over the past few years, the Commissions have increased their networking with community agencies and have focused their attention on supporting innovative activities brought to them by the reports of community agencies.

Recently, Commissioners were delighted that our new Chief Probation Officer, Doug Rasines, chose to be sworn in by Judge Reinholtzen at the Commissions meeting. Following, he outlined ways in which the Commissions could work supportively with the Probation Department.

The Commissions are presently setting goals for the next two years. In addition to identifying individual concerns and goals, we are soliciting recommendations from agencies and individuals as to areas which need the particular focus and expertise of Commissioners. It is those who work in the system, on the front lines, who see systems needs and sometimes feel immobilized in their ability to effect system change. Ideas in areas which might be a focus for the Commissions are welcomed. In addition, we welcome attendance at any of our meetings by Probation and other agency staff. We meet the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. At present, we are meeting at United Indian Health Services.

### **Building an Interdisciplinary Team**

For several years, at the Regional Facility, staff from four disciplines have been making a tremendous effort to develop a true interdisciplinary team focused on the needs of youth with co-occurring disorders, including mental health needs, criminal thinking, and substance abuse. Involved staff have to learn to communicate in the language of other disciplines while they build rapport and make decisions. Making the abrupt transition from "Probation communication" to "Mental Health communication" to "Education communication" to "Correctional Officer communication" requires tremendous skill and flexibility. Both the pace and language vary. A remarkable example of this is the work of Probation Officer Stacy Reyes in communication across these disciplines. We commend her for her skill and willingness to work so hard at building an interdisciplinary team.



## Detention Mentions

By Tim Toste

Detention Services continues to roll along at its usual steady pace. I say this as facilities are built on routine and structure for staff and detainees alike. Routine and structure are what creates behavior modification more than most people realize. Knowing what to expect day in and day out creates a calming effect on minors detained in Juvenile Hall and the Regional Facility. A disruption in normal programming can create anxiety and uncertainty amongst the detained population, which is why our staff work so diligently to keep our schedule as often as possible. When incidents occur and are handled appropriately, a good supervisor will, after ensuring everyone's safety, attempt to get back to normal activities as soon as possible. Doing so alleviates minors' anxieties by letting them know staff can handle any situation while attempting to lessen the impact to others as much as possible, making the general population feel safe. This might be why some people think working in a facility is boring. I tell people it is what you make of it. There are plenty of interesting things to do in between the routine safety checks, documentation, incident reports, sick call, moving groups to/from places, etc. One of the things most staff like to do is talk to the kids. This brings me to my first topic: Youth Transitional Services.

For many years, facility staff time-studied activities to claim TANF dollars in certain service areas. TANF revenue is now replaced by Juvenile Probation & Camp Funding, which is state general fund dollars. While juvenile corrections officers (JCOs) continue to time study to certain activities, we have added more structure to the services provided. Youth Transitional Services (YTS) has been created to better document what service activities are being provided to youth in our facilities. Below is an outline of our process.

1. At admission, a minor is assigned to a Juvenile Corrections Officer/Case Manager (CM).
2. Following detention hearing or arrival at the RF, the assigned CM completes an "Initial Service Plan".
3. The CM is to meet 2-3 times per week with minor to discuss progress with their stated service plan. The CM is to maintain case chronicles in minor's admission file.
4. Every two weeks, the CM completes a "Detainee Evaluation Report" to update the minor's service plan objectives/progress, as needed.

5. Prior to a minor's release, the CM is to meet with the minor to discuss his/her progress in achieving their stated objectives and develop plans for transition from custody. After the minor is released, the CM will make a closing chrono in the minor's file.

Formalized case management isn't anything new to facilities. We've had programs such as Project New Leaf, Detainee Discussion Groups, and Family Discussion Groups in years past at Juvenile Hall. As the years went by and our population began to increase, we began to get away from formalized interactive programming with minors due to the impact on staff time caused by the pressures of crowding. We hope to have a positive impact on every minor's behavior while in custody and to assist them in working through their transitional plans.

We have two new hires in Detention Services. Steve Schmidt is a full time JCO assigned to the Regional Facility and Nate Kees is an extra help JCO. We welcome both. Eric Dick was recently hired into a regular JCO position after being extra help for a couple of years. Eric was our rock amongst extra help men as he was always willing and able to consume literally hundreds of hours each year. We welcome his experience and congratulate him on his recently born baby boy.

On January 31, 2006, we had our Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) biannual facility inspection. Gary Wion was here on behalf of the CSA and inspected both the Juvenile Hall and Regional Facility. Gary found our facilities to be in good repair and noted only small areas that could use some attention. Gary also had some valuable recommendations on documentation and for updating our policy and procedure manuals. It's very helpful to have a fresh set of eyes to look over an operation to see things we might become blind to, and also to bring other ideas and experiences from other county juvenile facilities. We thank Gary for his time and his helpful input. I'd also like to commend our staff for keeping our facilities in such good repair year round.

Finally, I would like to remind all probation staff and co-located agency staff to come to our fifth annual Bowling Bonanza on February 25, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m. at Harbor Lanes in Eureka. Contact me for details.



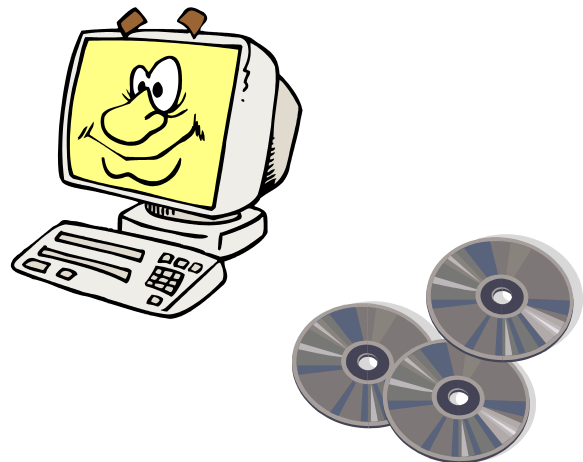
## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**By Doug Rasines**

Our departmental IT plan continues to forge ahead with a formal proposal to be presented before the Board of Supervisors in February 2006. Probation Department staff have been meeting regularly with staff from the County Information Technology Division to develop the phased implementation of the proposed Probation IT plan.

The first phase of the plan (6 months) includes completing upgrades in hardware and software applications; network/server upgrades; consolidation of existing departmental databases to allow for single-point of data entry; and the allocation of an additional staff position at Information Technology Division to provide the necessary hardware and software installation/maintenance, desktop support, network administration and maintenance, and Probation Department staff training and support. We hope to have phase one of the plan completed by August, 2006.

The second phase of the IT plan (years 1-2) involves the development of a broader-based resource and funding package to support the purchase of a comprehensive Probation Information/Case Management System which will allow for the computerized sharing of information across agency systems, enhance ability for sound client and program decision-making, and improve monitoring of individualized program outcomes/effectiveness. Representatives from the District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Department, Superior Court, Probation and the County Administrative Office will soon begin meeting as members of a local Law Enforcement Cabinet to discuss matters of mutual interest regarding information/case management systems and the sharing of records/information across agencies.



## Senior Moments

By Cate Halliday

Salutations all!!! During my short stint as Sunshine Committee President, one of my duties was to interview and introduce new staff members. This gave me an idea: why not interview senior staff (a.k.a. the Dinosaurs) of the department.

Sharing the stories of senior employees will offer historical perspective of our department, and introduce the newer employees to the “elders”, through the sharing of memorable stories of the past.

Thus, my first interview with our Miss Betty.

*I began work here at the Probation Department in October 1989 as a data entry clerk. I duplicated jail bookings for Probation, ran rap sheets, and performed secretarial duties for the County Parole Board and Electronic Monitoring Program. Later, community service work (CSW) was added to my list, along with Family Mediation. Convicted offenders coming in with electronic monitors, lesser offenders doing CSW, and then the calamity of Family Mediation. (I loved this job.) It was like a Lucille Ball episode every day of the week.*

*During a break in service for four months, I worked at the Placer County Jail in Auburn. After reinstatement here, I went back to my old job with a bit of the fun removed. My last promotion found me in Juvenile services, involved in the Wraparound program for minors and their families. Today, I'm still doing juvenile paperwork, dreaming of the good old days when the workload seemed unbearable, but was so interesting that I couldn't wait to get to work.*

Betty was asked to share a memorable day on the job.

*In 1990, I worked in a small, very narrow, four room, windowless office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the courthouse. A counter with a swinging, half-door separated myself from the public – one way in and one way out. Got the picture?*

*One night, an unusually bad earthquake had hit. All alone in the office the next morning (still feeling a bit shaken), I was not prepared for the man that popped in to my office. I greeted this “normal” looking man with a feeble, “Good morning, can I help you?” He said, “Yes, I'd like a restraining order against the devil.”*

*The man said that during the earthquake, the devil's horn poked him, and he pulls back his hair to show me an “owie” on his forehead (things are getting worse). At that time, another man was running around town with antlers attached to his baseball cap. I figured these two were camped out together and during the quake had bumped heads. I told him, “I know just the person who can help you,” and darted through the half-door, past him, and out into the hall.*

*After he follows me into the hall, I tell him, “Let's go down to the Marshal's office.” The man gets a panicked look on his face and asks, “Do you think this is more of a religious matter?” I tell him yes, and he takes off down the stairwell like he was on fire. I couldn't resist going down to the Marshal's office and telling them the story. Ron Lee, the Marshal at the time, laughs out loud and says, “We all want a restraining order against the devil.”*

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Senior Legal Office Assistant Betty Bowles

## A Quiz (Not) for Department Dinosaurs Only

By Cate Halliday

1. Whose ex-employee's husband was famous for his pup-in-a-blanket potluck dish?
2. What is the name of our first assistant chief?
3. What probation officer, in a prior life, was called to Juvenile Hall to unplug toilets and unjam cell doors?
4. Who developed and began the Juvenile Assigned Work Service (JAWS) program?
5. What are the names of the two staff first assigned to the JAWS program?
6. Name the probation officer that began his employment here wearing an earring and his hair in a long ponytail down his back.

Look for the answers in the next issue of *The Probation Reporter*.

If you have suggestions for future trivia questions, please submit to Cate Halliday.

## New Juvenile Deputy Public Defender

By Jody Green

As reported in the last newsletter, there was a change in juvenile public defender. Post publication, that seat has again rotated. Jennifer Dixon is returning to the adult world (good luck Jennifer), and Joanne Carter has recently been hired by the Public Defender's office and assigned to delinquency court. Some of you may remember she previously appeared in delinquency court for approximately 18 months when she was employed by the Conflict Counsel's office. Joanne is pleased with her new assignment (so far). A Rhode Island native, Joanne moved to California in 1998, and specifically to Humboldt County, in 2000. She attended law school at the largest law school in the United States – Thomas M. Cooley in Michigan. Joanne was admitted to the Bar in 1999. Please welcome Joanne aboard our fun ship.

## Years of Service for Probation and Facility Staff

The following employees had, or will have had, an anniversary for the time period of December 1, 2005 through February 28, 2006.



### 1 Year

Kathleen Ellion

### 3 Years

Julia Terrini

### 4 Years

Dave Demyan  
Dayna Wilcox

### 5 Years

Robert Wenzel

### 7 Years

Sandra Jordan (retired)

### 9 Years

Kay Lamb

### 11 Years

Doris Echeveria  
Jim McCue

### 14 Years

Sherri McKenna

### 16 Years

Tammy Robison

### 20 Years

Cate Halliday

## PARKING REMINDER

All Probation, Education, and Mental Health staff are reminded not to park in the spaces behind the Regional Facility marked "No Parking" between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon.



Additionally, all staff are encouraged to park county vehicles in the graveled area behind the Juvenile Hall rather than behind the Regional Facility. Spaces behind the Regional Facility are intended for court personnel and Regional Facility staff parking. Parking behind the Regional Facility by non-employees is forbidden.

**THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION**

## Holiday Feast

By Cate Halliday

The first Holiday Feast occurred on December 16, 2005 at the home of Senior Probation Officer Shawn Burger and his wife, Shawn Thompson. Cheryl Kaska and myself were the "Feast" committee. Thankfully, many staff supported our efforts to create a joyful and relatively stress-free social event.

A big thanks to all who donated the creative, yummy, and fun auction items. Also, muchas gracias to our Chief Doug, and Directors Tim and Bill for the smoked turkey, roast beef, and ham. Thank you so much Roberta for taking time out of your meal preparation schedule to cook our meat.

Prizes were won, service awards presented, and I believe a good time was had by most. It should be noted that due to considerable donations, the formerly titled "Christmas" Fund not only was not depleted, but grew by \$66.00. We now have \$361.67 for next year's event.

I know many staff were disappointed there was not a lunchtime potluck, but when Shawn offered his home, I, with management support, jumped at putting the offer out to the department. I felt it was important, especially for new staff, to have the opportunity to attend a Holiday Celebration outside the walls of probation; to relax, enjoy, and not be on duty.

Again, a huge thank-you to Mr. and Mrs. Shawn Burger for inviting us into their lovely home for the 2005 Holiday Feast.



# Grants Slants

By Bill Damiano

Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) is winding up its fifth year of Title II grant funding, and fifth year of Comprehensive Drug Court Implementation (CDCI) grant funding through state Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP). We are currently writing our proposal to the Corrections Standards Authority for the final year of funding under the Title II program which would run from April 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007. The CDCI program is now part of the Governor's annual budget process, and is likely to continue so long as state funds are available and the outcomes remain as positive as they have been the last five years.

Since our last JDC update, the program has seen more staff transitions. We've recently welcomed Mental Health Clinician, Thomas Pugel, to the team following David Johnston's departure. Tom brings great experience to the program, and has familiarity with our population and specialty programs, having worked in the Regional Facility. The program was both pleased and sorry that our Extra Help PO, Michelle Gonzalez, was hired into a permanent position in the Healthy Returns Initiative program, but count ourselves very fortunate to have hired Carolyn Dowdy as her replacement. Carolyn came to us with many years of experience as a deputy PO in Sonoma and Nevada counties and has put her excellent writing skills and sensibility to work for the program. And, finally, our Supervising Probation Officer, Sandra Jordan joined the ranks of "the retired" on December 31<sup>st</sup> after many years of dedicated service to probation in both Tehama and Humboldt counties. Our department owes Sandy tremendous thanks for raising the standard of our department's conservatorship investigations and reports, as well as for her contributions to our department's arming and specialty supervision programs. We wish her a healthy and happy retirement full of good hunting & fishing.

The Adult Drug Court program continues to be funded through a variety of sources: State Drug Court Partnership, federal Local Law Enforcement Block Grant and Justice Assistance Grant, county general funds, fees paid by offenders, and MediCal Targeted Case Management reimbursements. This program has seen its share of staff transitions as

well. Most recently we hired Terry Coddington into the Senior Substance Abuse position where she has been using her excellent clinical skills in an extra help capacity since Neil Tarpey left our employ. Karen Maynard joined us as Legal Office Assistant several months ago after many years working in schools, adding warmth and a great attitude to the team. Senior PO Paula Sargent has been doing an extraordinary job managing the caseload single-handed since the DPO II, Alan Borchardt, was re-assigned to the FRU unit - thank you Paula! Help is on the way, hang in there!

The SACPA (Prop 36) program is wrapping up its final year of legislated funding this coming June - the law would remain unchanged, however, whether funded or not. The Governor has included the same level of funding for next fiscal year in his budget proposal, and there is CPOC-supported legislation (SB 803) pending to amend the law to add limited sanctions such as "flash incarceration" to the program. Senior PO Jim Conroy has been the mainstay of the program, employing his unbelievable organizational skills and pure industry to managing that busy caseload - Thanks Jim! We have requested that the second PO position allocated to SACPA be unfrozen and paid for by funds previously supporting extra help and the portion of the supervisor position over this program (which would be frozen).

Our Probation Environmental Preservation Project (PEPP) funding also sunsets in June of this year. There is currently federal legislation pending to extend the funding source for this program for another 6 years which seems to have broad support within both houses. The bill is entitled the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2005 (HR 517) which has Representative Mike Thompson as a co-sponsor.

Our partnership continues with the District Attorney's office in the Anti Drug Abuse grant which is funded by federal Edward Byrne Memorial monies. This funding has continued well beyond the originally intended 1996 phase-out date. We do not yet know the final federal budget impacts on the program for the fiscal year 2006, but the formula grants to states appear to have funding fairly consistent with the current year.

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