



THE PROBATION REPORTER

Volume 5, Edition 2

November 2006

Message from the Chief

By Doug Rasines

As the holiday season quickly approaches, it brings with it an opportunity to set aside our day-to-day annoyances and complaints and focus upon that which we value and hold dear. Please join me in sharing a note of appreciation for the efforts of all of our staff at this special time of year.

I would first like to recognize several staff who have been newly hired, recently promoted or have received special recognition since the last edition of the newsletter:

New staff: Judy Newsom (Legal Office Assistant I/II); Kathy Davison (Deputy Probation Officer I/II); Jessie Wood (Deputy Probation Officer I/II); Jayme Turner (Sr. Fiscal Asst.); Justin Bacon (Juvenile Corrections Officer); John Morgan (Juvenile Corrections Officer); Jennifer Wilbur (Juvenile Corrections Officer); Chris Andrews (Juvenile Corrections Officer)

Promotions: Meara McCovey (Supervising Juvenile Corrections Officer); Chris Petersen (Deputy Probation Officer)

Special Acknowledgement- Jim McCue and Fel Barlow (Detention Services Awards); Jody Green, Ryan Schlesiger, and Barbara Benich (juvenile in-service training on court proceedings and testifying);

Mike Tully and Coral Sanders (conversion of forms to Spanish); Stacy Reyes (development of Family to Family model for probation services); Joe Eldridge and Paula Swihart (nomination for state foster parent association awards). Congratulations to you all!

Since our last newsletter staff have been working with a local consultant in developing and implementing a department-wide interpersonal communications training plan. This has been initiated as part of our broader work plan to further enhance our organizational development activities and provide a basic foundation for future training in the area of motivational interviewing. The 8-hour training consists of four modules: (1) positive interpersonal communication; (2) conflict management and resolution; (3) adopting positive attitudes; and (4) working through change. The training is not designed nor expected to directly solve problems, but rather to provide staff some basic tools necessary for effective communication, negotiation, or handling conflicts (both peer and client related). Our goal is to help all employees become more successful in effecting positive change in the workplace, and in those we work with, through clear communication. Approximately one-half of the department has thus far completed this training and the remainder will have an opportunity to participate in a spring session to be offered the last week in February and first week in March 2007.

With the restoration of state Standards and Training for Corrections (STC) funding to support training for probation and juvenile correctional officer staff, a plethora of very job relevant courses have, and will continue to be offered, throughout the fiscal year. Many of the courses are designed to enhance staff skill sets and keep staff abreast of new and emerging trends in the areas of juvenile/criminal justice, substance abuse and addiction, and mental health and family centered services.

The Department stands committed to not only building a foundation for the integration of best practices within probation services, but also to

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creating an organizational capacity to develop and learn from our own evidence of what works in effecting offender change. As we continue to work on building organizational capacity, it is important to recognize that morale and motivation does not depend upon solely upon money and funding. Rather, providing recognition for our work, an opportunity to learn, an opportunity to use one's talents and creativity, and the instilling in staff a sense of contribution can be the greatest motivators for staff and their understanding of the larger purpose of the organization.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not comment on the recent tragedy involving the death of a local teenager. One cannot be untouched, directly or indirectly, by what has occurred. As we acknowledge the grief and anguish being experienced and struggle for understanding, let us try to work together, each in our own way, to do what we can to prevent a similar situation from occurring again. May we offer a prayer, individually and collectively, for the members and friends of the family and for all the officers involved in this tragic incident.

Peace be with you and yours throughout the holidays!

Detention Mentions

By Tim Toste

There's not much to mention about detentions that can't wait until the next issue of *The Probation Reporter* so I can talk about a couple of other things. First of all, Wendy Temple, the SJCO formerly known as Wendy Rebik, gave birth to her baby girl in October. Congratulations Wendy and we hope to have you back soon!! We miss you! We also thank you for letting us borrow Jude Temple. Yes folks, there is a connection there, a husband and wife connection! We recently hired Jude as an extra help Correctional Cook to help out in the Juvenile Hall kitchen. He's doing a great job and we really appreciate his willingness and flexibility in helping Roberta. Roberta Womack, our Food Services Supervisor, has been barely holding our food services program together for many months working many twelve hour days due to her staff requiring leave and our lack of extra help cooks. One of the leaves of absence was for Correctional Cook Daniel Zuniga whose wife gave birth to their second child, a girl. Congratulations to Daniel and his wife. To hopefully provide even more coverage we also welcome

Leanne Regpala to the ranks of our extra help cooks; of which we now have two who have good availability! It's a very short list of extra help, but more people than we had a month ago! Thank you Roberta for holding it all together for so long and for helping the Sunshine Committee and some staff who need to keep a dish warm for a potluck.

We had some staff movement in the past month. Supervising Juvenile Corrections Officer Dave Demyan resigned to take a position as a facility manager for a group home for developmentally delayed minors. Though Dave has consented to stay on as an extra help JCO, we will miss his weekly presence in Juvenile Hall and his leadership. Good luck Dave! With the departure of Dave came an opportunity for promotion for someone else. That someone is Meara McCovey. Meara worked as an extra help JCO for a time in both the Juvenile Hall and Regional Facility before accepting a regular position assigned to the Regional Facility. She will be moving to Juvenile Hall to assume Dave's vacant SJCO position. Congratulations Meara! As the dominoes began to fall, we found ourselves with one too many full time females working in Juvenile Hall which was a result of the promotion of a female SJCO to replace Dave. Because of this, Trena Martin has volunteered to transfer to the Regional Facility where there will be a vacant female position due to Meara's promotion. I'm sure the dust will settle soon and everyone will adjust. I appreciate detention services staff's patience during this transition.

To close, some of you may know that I am now (shanghaied) on the Sunshine Committee. It's a pleasure to be a part of this well-intentioned group and I hope I can be a positive contributor for as long as they'll have me. With this in mind, I suggested a one year campaign called "Get to Know Your JCO" which the committee quickly adopted. I pitched my idea on the heels of one committee member suggesting we begin welcoming new JCOs to the department in the same fashion as all other departmental new hires. The committee recognized that though they will begin welcoming new hire JCOs immediately, there were many JCOs currently working that should be given some recognition...hence "Get to Know Your JCO". For each month in 2007 we will feature one JCO each from the Juvenile Hall and the Regional Facility and distribute their photo and some information provided by the staff themselves that they want to share. We should be able to "introduce" all of our JCOs to the rest of the department by the end of 2007, if not, we'll keep going until we do!

Cultural Corner

By Vikki Bernstein

Mission Statement

The Cultural Diversity and Awareness Committee (CDAC) is dedicated to enhancing the execution of the Probation Department's Mission Statement by joining efforts with other community agencies and cultural advocates to expand understanding of the broad spectrum of cultures in our growing and diverse community.

The staff currently working as part of the committee are: Michael Tully, Shaun Brenneman, Vikki Bernstein, Vicki Webb, Barbara Robie, Barbara Boerger, Mardi Bessellieu and Coral Sanders. New members are always welcome, as are new ideas. The meetings are on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 1:15 p.m.

The CDAC has been working on a plan for the upcoming year. The brief outline below contains goals for the next six months plus a few plans that are already in motion.

CDAC has connected with DHHS office of Cultural Diversity and Community Affairs. The plan will be to share information, and training as much as possible.

CDAC will remain in contact with HSU Cultural Diversity group regarding future events that are available to the public and for consultation with CDAC.

CDAC will continue to invite community members to work with the committee on an as needed basis.

December – Have the Adult and Juvenile victim and appointment letters that have been translated into Spanish made into shells, available by computer and hard copy, to Debbie for use by the first of the year.

January – Ken Nakamura will meet with Management and Senior PO's on January 31, 2007 to discuss cultural relevance and assist in mapping out an implementation plan. Ken has already met with CDAC and is willing to work with the committee as time allows.

February–March – American Indian Cultural Awareness

Some of the ideas the committee developed are:

- Connect with Tene Kremling (L.C.S.W. & consultant, Yurok Tribe) to work with CDAC and

to assist in developing and/or presenting a training for the department.

- Invite Anthony Trombetti to work with CDAC for future training. Anthony is a Prevention Specialist for the Yurok Tribe, a Foster Parent for one of our youth and he presently assists Native American youth who are in custody,
- Invite Millie Grant, Director of Hoopa Valley Tribal Division of Human Services, to work with CDAC and to assist in arranging a training for the Probation Department

One of the ideas of the committee was to have an all day training, possibly at HCOE with lunch provided by the Relay for Life Team. The training would consist of a variety of presentations from members of the local tribes.

April – May – Latino Community

Santiago Cruz has offered to work with CDAC and assist in doing a presentation to department staff. We are hoping Santiago will introduce us to other members of the Latino Community for departmental training. Santiago and his wife, Theresa, publish El Heraldito.

History of Probation – the Early Years

By Doug Rasines

On March 8, 1909, the California Legislature passed a law that the counties of the State of California should appoint a probation committee consisting of seven respectable citizens to act as a Probation Committee in each County. It also made provisions for the appointment of a Probation Officer by the Superior Court Judge, with the approval of the Probation Committee.

On March 31, 1909, action was taken in Humboldt County to establish the Probation Committee and a Probation Officer. The first Probation Officer of Humboldt County was appointed on March 31, 1909, and his name was Walter K. Porter. The first Deputy Probation Officer was appointed on October 1, 1909. The first Deputy Probation Officer was a woman by the name of Mrs. Mercy Stevens of Hydesville. Old records revealed that various offenses, such as stealing, gambling, runaway, curfew, having cigars in possession, incorrigible, drinking, unsuitable parents, forgery, homelessness, eloping, and "playing hooky", were routinely brought to the attention of the

Probation Committee.

The Probation Committee would review all cases that came to its attention. Records indicate that the Probation Committee during the month of May, 1910 handled a total of six cases involving local children. Youth and their parents would appear before the Probation Committee to have their case reviewed. It was at the Probation Committee's discretion as to whether or not they would direct the Probation Officer to file a petition in Juvenile Court. Instructing the Probation Officer whether or not to file a petition lasted until approximately 1940, at which time, the Probation Officer took over the responsibility for determining whether or not petitions should be filed in the Juvenile Court.

Notations from historical records

- April 2, 1911, the Probation Officer was instructed to patrol the city of Eureka from the hours of 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. each night, five nights per week.
- February 23, 1923, the Probation Officer was instructed to visit all the towns in Humboldt County at least once a month.
- October 12, 1910, the Probation Officer was instructed to investigate a report that young boys were being admitted to houses of ill fame in the city of Eureka.
- November 10, 1910, two girls escaped from the detention home and after two days, were found in a barn loft at Buhne and K Streets by Probation Officer Porter. They were then confined in the County Jail.
- May 17, 1912, the Probation Officer reported that the District Attorney thought that no conviction could be had in the "Malone case" and it was decided that the lady members of the Committee would go en masse to see Eureka Mayor Georgeson to see if something could not be done to make the woman leave town.
- On March 18, 1910 notation in the Probation Committee minutes stated that an earthquake gave the Committee a "severe shaking up" and the meeting was adjourned.

The first juvenile "Detention Home" in Humboldt County was constructed in 1909 adjacent to the old County Hospital on Harrison Avenue in Eureka. It burned to the ground on June 23, 1920. A two-story house on California Street between Henderson and Harris Street was then used for a Juvenile Hall. This was used as a Juvenile Hall up until 1930 when it was

then moved to the big house on the southwest corner Wabash and Lowell Streets in Eureka.

In 1937 the Juvenile Hall was relocated and occupied at 529 I Street in Eureka. (This concrete building currently houses the Public Health Branch of the Department of Health and Human Services.) In May of 1963, the Probation Committee (now called the Juvenile Justice Commission) made plans for a new Juvenile Hall which were approved by the Department of Corrections and the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors. The plans called for the Juvenile Hall to be built on the northern edge of the grounds of the County Hospital on Harrison Avenue.

In September 1966, the Humboldt County Probation Department consisted of the Chief Probation Officer and twelve Deputies, one of which was a female. There was a clerk for Adult services and a clerk for Juvenile services typing reports for the Court. Also in the office were a special supervision deputy clerk, a receptionist, and a bookkeeper. In the Juvenile Hall were two couples working three days on and four days off, alternating on a twenty-four hour basis. They had a cook that worked a regular full-time weekly shift. At this time Judge William G. Watson Jr. was the Juvenile Court Judge. Then Chief Probation Officer, Mr. Earl Hemenway, stated that Judge Watson was very interested in juvenile justice matters and was a representative on several of the Governor's Committees regarding youth and families.

The new (current) Juvenile Hall was built and dedicated at its present location on Harrison Avenue on April 10, 1970. Excerpts from the dedication handout indicate that its costs were \$808,912, and it was completely "modern" in every aspect including innovative features such as, a juvenile court and judges chambers, a multi-purpose room, and a central control unit with visibility to all areas.

Mr. E Alan Campbell served the Courts and communities of Humboldt County as Chief Probation Officer from 1973-1981. During his term as Chief the department followed up on a colorful past and an emerging state leadership role initiated by Judge Watson.

.....more probation history to follow in the next edition of The Probation Reporter.



Sunshine Salutations

By Barbara Robie

Wow, what a season change this has been! The days are getting shorter, that desire to hibernate taking us over, the rains coming more frequently keeping us all cooped up – all excellent reasons to keep our attitudes up and the positive flowing!

Our last two potlucks were unique and appeared to be enjoyed by all branches of Probation. Our silent auction raised \$184 for the fund. There were some really great donations for the auction. The BBQ provided some humorous moments and was ultimately saved by Mike Tully's wizardry with a BBQ, as well as Jan Macpherson's ability with the microwave.

The most recent function was the pumpkin decorating contest and potluck. Hats off to Steve Schmidt from the Regional Facility who made a great "pin the stem on the pumpkin" game. First place winner was Nikki Kriger, second to Ray Watson, and third to Vikki Bernstein. Each received a creative gift bag made by Tamara Hansen. Laurie Michel won best decorated pumpkin.

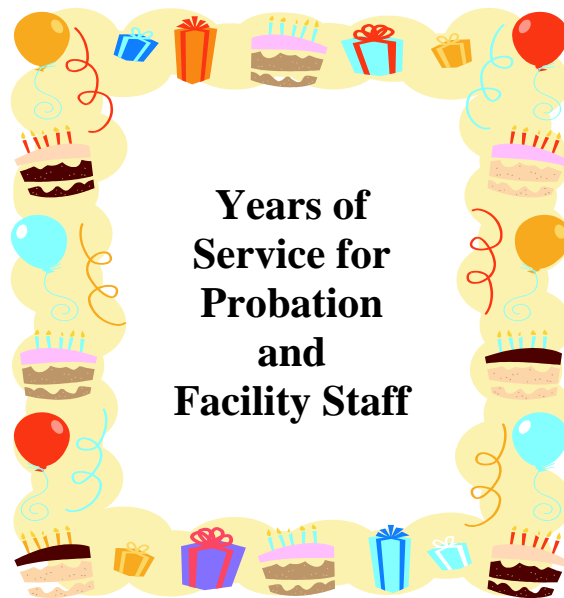
Rumor has it Paula Sargent birthed a baby boy on the 8th. Congratulations Paula, and welcome to Brice Ivan! Two boys are sure a handful.

Welcome also to the newest of the new hires. Apologies to all for not getting their bio's out yet. Look for bios on Jessie Wood, Kathy Davison, Jayme Turner, as well as Probation Aides Juan Escobedo and Tania Plascencia.

The function of the Sunshine Committee is to welcome new employees with a bag of treats, write up a small bio to introduce new employees to the department, as well as provide cards, flowers, or small tokens to acknowledge life events of coworkers. We also purchase the year of service pins and plan and organize potlucks. Things we do not cover include birthdays, weddings, and transfers within the department.

Please consider donation to the fund if you haven't. Look across the hallway and see the person you are supporting with your donation. Your money goes to your coworkers when they need our support the most. The potlucks are not funded by the Sunshine Committee – we organize the, donate items from our own homes or pockets, because we feel it's really important to have events that bring us all together to get to know each other and share a little laughter.

Fair warning to all, January is right around the corner and we will be reminding all to contribute as a whole to support the committee with 50 cents a paycheck, a dollar a month, or twelve dollars a year. Anyway you say it, it's money well spent! The Sunshine Committee wishes all the best in the coming months of the year, and remember, just because there's no sunshine in the sky doesn't mean there isn't plenty around!



Years of Service for Probation and Facility Staff

The following employees had, or will have had, an anniversary for the time period of **September 1, 2006**, through **November 30, 2006**. Thanks to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commissions for their contribution toward service pins to support our employee recognition efforts.

1 year

John Robey
Sara Quenell
Michelle Gonzalez
Brian Grossman

2 years

Gabe Charlton
Robert Bisgrove

4 years

Jan Macpherson

5 years

Ray Watson
Robert Wenzel
Cheryl Kaska
Justin Decarolis

6 years

Eric Wheeler
John Stopkowicz
Barbara Benich

7 years

Rich Scoville
Paula Sargent

8 years

Keith Wallace

9 years

Verna McGaughey
Tamara Hansen
Pam Johnson

13 years

Diana Cavinta

14 years

Dolores Cano
Steve D'Agati

15 years

Paula Swihart
Tim Clohessy

18 years

Bill Damiano

20 years

Tim Toste

21 years

Mardi Bessellieu



Relay for Life

By Mike Tully

Relay 2007 efforts are underway. My teammates have again committed themselves to put forth their time and energy to raise donations and awareness in the battle against cancer for another year. In this regard, we are thankful for the opportunity to present a lunch at our Department meetings. Comments about our culinary skills continue to be positive. Thanks for your support.

Additionally, we hope to make available the “opportunity drawing” with more consistency. A suggestion was made at the last Department meeting to have a sign-up sheet for additional helpers with this fundraiser. We will be doing this soon and hope some of you will assist if able.

Thanks again for your support from Team #151 – Officers Cuffing Cancer: Barbara Boerger, Megan Gotcher, Nikki Kriger, Laurie Michel, Will Nalty, Kermit Owen, Ryan Schlesiger, Jake Hayes, Andy McLaughlin, Paula Swihart, and Michael Tully.



Foster Care Recruitment, Development, and Support

By Stacy Reyes

You may have heard about something called the Annie E. Casey Foundation or their Family to Family initiative. It's been described as the “new way of doing business” and was designed for the Child Welfare Departments... but now... there is a cutting edge Probation Department in the Northern Forests of California who has grabbed this initiative and said “Let's make it work for our youth too!” Yep! You guessed it, we are that Department.

Wait! Wait! Wait! Don't put this article down yet. I know, “just another program”, the “new WRAP” “We'll do it until it dies” etc. etc. I said it too! So what is so cool about Family to Family? It's practical, it makes sense, we are already doing work that it encourages, but most important it is driven by values. Values like “Every youth deserves a family”, “Every family deserves support”, and “Every Probation Department needs the community.” We

all know this. We operate with these values in mind every day.

Please give me your ear for a moment; I want to share more with you.

The Family to Family initiative has four core strategies to guide systems toward operating from a value point of view. This does not in anyway negate the safety of the community or youth; Family to Family actually promotes safety of the youth and we are committed to the safety of the community. The strategies of Family to Family are:

- Recruiting, Developing, and Supporting Resource Families
- Building Community Partnerships
- Making Decisions as a Team
- Evaluating the Results

Let me take you a little farther in depth with one of these core strategies and show you just how “cutting edge” we are at Probation.

Recruiting, Developing, and Supporting Resource Families

As the Foster Care recruiter for probation I am working collaboratively with Peggy Hobbs at CWS to “mainstream” our message. The recruitment slogan is “You may be one to the world, but you are the world to one.” Our color scheme for publications is blue, red, and gold (yellow). We have compiled a kit of publications for several types of audiences and are presenting in the community the same message for prospective resource families. We are not only recruiting for resource families but for other supportive efforts such as being a permanent relationship for a youth. This “community member” might be the coach, teacher, family friend, or someone new who wants to give their time by taking a youth to after-school activities, movies, or simply remembering their birthday and holidays with a card. Through these efforts our hope is to have a larger pool of foster families wanting to work with teens and more community support for a teen. This can help the probation officer by ensuring a youth gets to school every day or be another person on a youth's crisis plan to call. Anyone can “recruit” these community members wanting to help our teens by leaving a flyer in the doctor's office next time you go. In the family to family initiative, recruitment is everyone's job and I can tell you all, each of us has done it one way or another already. Your professionalism in your phone conversations to parents, community members, and other

support persons in your client's team, further develop the permanency bond for that youth. We have been in the mind of recruiting; now we have the words to make it stronger...Recruiting, Developing, and Supporting.

So here is some language for your use:

Resource Family – licensed foster family

Relational Permanency – someone who will be a permanent connection/support in the life of a foster youth.

Community Partner – someone from the community who can be or is a permanent relationship to a foster youth. (coach, music instructor, dance instructor, family friend, volunteers, etc.)

Neighborhood – as defined by the youth and used to draw community partners from the youth's neighborhood.

The Family to Family Initiative may be new to us in name, but the way to work it promotes supports much of what we are doing now. It looks to make our job easier by providing ways to bring the community forward to support each and every youth in our efforts to be a Best Practice Department in the way we keep the community safe.

So before you put this article down, as the recruitment officer I want to thank all of you for the commitment and efforts you make every day to keep our community safe and our youth in their homes.

Look in the next newsletter for an update on Community Partners, and later... Making Decisions as a Team and Self Evaluation.



Suggestions for Working with Tribal Communities

By Tene Kremling, LCSW

Tene Kremling worked as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker at United Indian Health Services for 10 years. In that time she has successfully worked in an integrated way to help serve Native American clients involved with the Probation Department and/or the Department of Health and Human Services. She offers these suggestions for

increasing the understanding, cooperation and success in working with the American Indian Community.

Collaborate – it could be on a grant, it could be when forming a task force to address a specific issue related to tribal concerns; invite tribal representatives to get a better understanding of what native people face; it could be on the technical assistance level in helping to design polity and programs; consider sponsoring a GONA (Gathering of Native Americans) to identify/address tribal concerns.

Find a tribal sponsor who has a working relationship with you and can introduce you to the tribe. Follow their advice on how to proceed and who to contact within the tribal community.

Take time to go to tribal community events, find community leaders – this affords an opportunity to influence many.

Have patience, be genuine, listen and utilize a team approach – don't have a pre-set agenda and then just ask tribal representatives for endorsements.

When you do go talk to a Tribal community, please remember these suggestions for follow-up:

When you ask for data or information on that community, the information belongs to that community. Be sure evaluation data and results are returned and addresses their needs.

It should be a transparent process, with Native people involved in all aspects of the project. As much as possible use Native staff for the project. If youth are the topic they should also be participants.

Remember: the Tribal community wants to work with you to improve the services and care of Native youth and families.

Strategies for Strengthening Integrated Systems:

1. Be a leader and spokesperson within the county network for including community and Tribal agencies in the planning and development of services.
2. Develop a Tribal liaison position.
3. Develop your working relationship with Tribal TANF programs. They have a lot of flexibility, are throughout California, have Native American

providers and subscribe to the wraparound process. Many tribal families may qualify for TANF enrollment. This would be a natural extension of services beyond what the agency can provide.

4. There is no substitute for workers who share the same ethnic background as the clients they work with. Make an effort to recruit Native American staff.
5. Sponsor training of wraparound facilitators in tribal communities so that youth leaving the facility or those just beginning their involvement in the system can get wraparound services in their own community.
6. Request participation and input from successful families who were previously in the system to get their ideas on how needs can be met.
7. Develop with Tribes and non-profit tribal agencies policies which invite and include tribal staff in providing services for your agency. Include an orientation, guidelines and training.
8. Understand the tribal organizational structure, its roles and responsibilities. Are you working with a tribal social service agency, health facility or a non-profit agency? They all would have something to offer the families and would also have limitations. For instance, a tribal social service agency can only work with youth from their tribe, but a health facility formed from several tribes with responsibility for a designated area might be able to provide services to all tribal people. Urban clinics are different than rural clinics in regard to who they can serve.
9. Utilize as many tribal resources, services and schools as you can to connect the youth and families to their own community.
10. Participate and be visible in community events to build trust. It is sometimes difficult to have a balanced view of American Indians if your only contact with them is through the juvenile/criminal justice system.



Grants Slants

By Bill Damiano

Transitions and Changes: Probation has participated in the Anti-Drug Abuse Grant program with the DA's office and local Drug Task Force (DTF) since 1990. The program contributed significantly to improved public safety during its time. Over a thousand high-risk drug-involved offenders were provided intensive probation supervision under that program resulting in timely searches for cause, prompt court actions on violations, as well as positive reinforcement for those offenders motivated to change their behavior. Unfortunately, the program focus was changed by the state this year restricting the use of the funds to street-level multi-jurisdictional task force interdiction services only. Since Probation is not an official member of the DTF, our participation in the program had to end on June 30th. As a result, the fifty or so cases previously provided intensive supervision under that program were distributed to other field supervision caseloads or adult programs.

Juvenile Drug Court (JDC): is now into its sixth and last year of Title II grant funding, which will end March 31, 2007. The plan for continuing at least limited JDC services has been for appropriate cases to be supervised on existing juvenile caseloads with regular court reviews to monitor progress with court-ordered alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment/education services and drug testing, and other orders of probation.

The Adult Drug Court (ADC) program continues to be funded through a variety of revenue sources. This will be the last year we will be eligible to receive federal Justice Assistance Grant funding, which has wholly supported the Senior Substance Abuse Counselor position up until just recently. The ADC program continues to prove its work via positive results for those who are committed to their recovery from substance abuse. Beside contributing to a safer community, program successes have saved the county/state significant amounts of money in costs avoided for prison care, health/mental health emergency visits and social service needs associated with active substance abuse. With essential program costs no longer being completely covered by grants, we will soon be approaching the County Board of Supervisors to request that more of this valuable program's expense be covered by county general funds in order to secure the future of these services.

Finally, our Probation Environmental Preservation Project (PEPP) funding has been guaranteed through June of next year. Federal legislation is pending to extend the funding source for this program through 2014 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.

Why do we seek grants? Our department has valued our grant experiences because they have:

- Allowed us to participate in the development and evaluation of new and promising practices in local, state and national corrections initiatives
- Offered unusual opportunities for staff to participate in regional/national training and professional conferences, increasing the skills and knowledge of these individuals, as well as the department as a whole
- Improved our understanding of the roles and practices of myriad local partner agencies, strengthening services to the community through better linkages and reduction in barriers
- Gained the department and county resources and technology that would not likely have been available otherwise
- Forged strong partnerships with other counties and state agencies, creating supports
- Created and/or supported staff positions which has allowed us to retain skilled/trained personnel in periods that would have required cutbacks

New opportunities: Although bad budget times appear to have leveled off somewhat, the trend continues to be that of greater competition for fewer grant opportunities. Our department recently applied for three grants:

Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002 – Title II Formula Grant: Title II funds are considered “seed money,” meaning you generally only get it once, or twice at most. Since we have previously been awarded two 3-year cycles of funding for a substance abuse program (JDC), in order to re-apply for these funds for the 2007 grant we are required to change our program focus area. A mental health-focused program was selected from the

choices offered in the request for proposals since it seemed to meet the greatest local need. In brief, the program design involves a juvenile mental health court model with intensive probation case management in combination with best practices mental health services (Functional Family Therapy and Aggression Replacement Training). Competition will be stiff for this funding – it is rumored there are 340 applicants for 14 or so grants.

State Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction (MIOCR) Grant: An application has been submitted for the juvenile funding under this source based on the same program design as the Title II grant above. If we are awarded both grants, we would only accept one of them. If we are awarded neither, we have left positions vacant that can accommodate displaced JDC staff while we work toward incorporation of the positions into other existing programs/budgets such as Probation System of Care. Because juvenile MIOCR funds are only available to probation department, competition for this grant is lighter – about 40 applicants for 15-20 grants.

Enhanced Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Technical Assistance Project Grant: This application was for a three-year planning grant to evaluate over-representation of minority groups at various points in our juvenile justice system. For instance, we know that Native Americans appear in local detention data at almost three times the rate they appear in the general county population for that age group. This grant would have allowed us to assess if, or how, decisions from initial law enforcement and Probation contact through DA filing and court processing might contribute to the phenomenon. We received notification on October 27th that our proposal (1 of 16) was not selected for an award. Our congratulations to the five counties that were selected – Contra Costa, San Diego, Los Angeles, Alameda, and Santa Cruz.

