



THE PROBATION REPORTER

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November 2007

Message from the Chief

by Doug Rasines

Holiday Greetings!!

As the holiday season and the New Year approach it is an opportunity to reflect and acknowledge the perseverance and professionalism demonstrated by staff in adapting to changes, in overcoming challenges and in helping to meet the needs of the Department. I cannot express how much I appreciate *everyone's* efforts in this respect.

As part of the recent juvenile justice reform legislation (SB 81), which became effective 9/1/07, the State will no longer accept juvenile commitments to state facilities (CYA) unless the offender has committed an offense which could otherwise result in the offender being tried as an adult. In return for the more restrictive commitment criteria, the State will provide counties with an annual Youthful Offender Block Grant to enhance the capacity of county probation departments to provide rehabilitative and supervision services for the chronic, yet less serious offender population which will need to be effectively served at the local level. Services could include everything from prevention, early intervention, up to and including detention services. The formula to derive the county annual

allocation is determined by the number of county felony court dispositions coupled with the county's population of minors, 10-17 years of age. Each county will receive at least a minimum annual block grant allocation of \$117,000. Humboldt County's allocation for this fiscal year (prorated) is \$58,500. Additionally the legislation requires that by January 1, 2008 each county submit a Juvenile Justice Development Plan to the State Corrections Standard Authority (CSA). The plan must include a description of the programs, placements, or strategies to promote a continuum of evidence-based services to be funded through the Youthful Offender Block Grant. Therefore, between now and January, probation administration will be working with internal and external stakeholders to identify those existing core services which could be enhanced and/or service gaps which should be addressed to better meet the needs of this target population.

On October 23rd the Board of Supervisors approved a probation office space lease agreement which will allow for the eventual consolidation of the adult services division at a single location (555 H Street) in downtown Eureka. Consolidation of the adult intake and field services units at the same location will provide several benefits:

- (1) It will significantly improve service delivery capacity and administrative efficiencies,
- (2) It will allow for the consolidation of juvenile services back to the main department with close proximity to Juvenile Hall and the Regional Facility, and
- (3) It will allow for potential future office space expansion.

The service consolidation is planned to occur in a phased move. The first phase, tentatively scheduled for March 2008, will relocate adult field services from the main office to the H Street site. The second phase (approximately 4-6 months after completion of phase I) will relocate adult intake and court services from

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

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our current J Street office site to the H Street location, and will also involve the return of out-stationed juvenile services to the main department.

Work continues toward embedding best practices approaches within probation services. Efforts are on-going within juvenile services to employ the Family to Family - Team Decision Making model for developing juvenile placement decisions; we strive to provide job relevant training (motivational interviewing, addictions interventions, etc.) to enhance staff's ability to work effectively with clients and families; gender specific juvenile offender discussion/support groups have been implemented to both enhance offender resiliencies and impact moral reasoning; and we continue to explore how to expand our service capacity by integrating with other health and human service agencies to provide a more holistic approach in serving clients with multi-agency involvement.

In February 2008, I hope to convene a Strategic Planning session in order to develop a new three-year plan for the Department. Although many unknowns exist from year to year, having a general direction and framework in place will allow the Department to be better prepared and more proactive in our response when critical issues arise. Participants for the Strategic Planning Workgroup will be selected across disciplines, divisions, classifications, and job assignments so as to be as inclusive as possible.

Lastly, on behalf of the management team I would like send holiday greetings to all of our staff, volunteers and readers.

Quick Stress-Busting Tips for the Holidays

excerpted from About.com

Have a positive attitude.

Try not to worry about things out of your control.

Eat nutritional food. Decrease the amount of fat and sugar you eat.

Rest. Try to get eight hours of sleep each day.

Avoid drinking caffeinated beverages.

Problem solve with people around you. Ask them to help you alleviate stress.

Meditate, or take a class in relaxation and stretching techniques - like Tai Chi or Yoga.

Exercise. A few extra minutes of exercise a day can benefit your overall health.

Get a massage. A massage can be beneficial for the mind and body.

A Drug Court Success...Reason to Hope...

Chief's Note: I received a letter recently from a prior Adult Drug Court client, and with the author's permission we are including the letter here as encouragement to others. The name of the author has been changed to protect identity.

My name is "Jane" and I'm an addict. I am writing you in hopes that you can help me or point me in the right direction, I would really like for someone or entity to acknowledge/recognize the Humboldt County Drug Court system, in Eureka, California, because I think they get very little praise for the wonderful selfless job they do for our community.

Drug Court was the catalyst for me and the only reason I am where I am today, they saved my life. At a time when I didn't want to live anymore, they helped me overcome my addiction by being extremely supportive yet firm. At a time when I felt so dirty for the things I had done and how I ruined my life, they gave me hope when there didn't seem to be any. I'm so thankful for the awesome Paula Sargent for her kindheartedness and unwavering support, she was my sunshine and the reason I graduated this program, Ron Harpham for his honesty, Stephanie Smithson for referring me to Drug Court, Neil Tarpy for his drug counseling, Judge Feeney for telling the DA I wasn't a danger to anyone but myself, I'll never forget that and the unforgettable Judge Cissna for his commitment to this program. I want nothing more than to honor all of these people for believing in me and making me want to be a better person. They are heroes in my eyes, they were there for me throughout this entire process and I will not let them down.

I could not have done this on my own, I know if I would not have gotten in trouble I never would have stopped using drugs. There are times I wished I would've responded to the Lord's subtle taps upside the head to quit using drugs and believe me there were plenty. Unfortunately it took a brick to make me realize this was not what He had intended for me.

I have done two television shows regarding methamphetamine addiction, in hopes to detour any one person from going down that dark and lonely path of addiction. I think it is extremely important that young people see the effects of meth, at a time when they are so into their appearances, that is why I chose to reveal my life as a drug addict on national television and expose some pretty raw footage of myself and my teeth, my horrible teeth.

God has blessed me with a new smile, thanks to Thomas F. Vert DDS. He graciously donated his time and money to give me a beautiful new smile. Now I will talk, talk, and talk, to anyone that will listen about how drugs affected my life, my health, my family and my children and how my drug use progressed to a point where I had to steal for my drug money. I also let them know they're not alone. Millions of people in this world feel pain and despair at some point in their life. When you need to cope with that pain and you can't do it alone, it's okay to say "I need some help". It's the first step to recovery and a healthy life.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Blessings,

"Jane"

WINTER TRAINING SCHEDULE

These are the classes planned for winter and spring. Some specific dates are yet to be confirmed.

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Verbal Defense | December 3 |
| Spanish For Corrections | January 11 |
| Motivational Interviewing | January or February |
| Sexual Predators | February |
| Time Management | March |
| Ethics | April |
| Law Updates | May |

YEARS OF SERVICE

The following employees had, or will have had, an anniversary for the time period of September 1 through November 30, 2007.

1 year

Kathy Davison
Jayme Turner

2 years

John Robey

3 years

Gabe Charlton
Robert Bisgrove

6 years

Ray Watson

8 years

Paula Sargent
Rich Scoville

9 years

Keith Wallace
Verna McGaughey

10 years

Pam Johnson
Tamara Hansen

13 years

Paula Dolf

14 years

Diana Cavinta

15 years

Steve D'Agati
Dolores Cano

16 years

Tim Clohessy
Paula Swihart

19 years

Bill Damiano

21 years

Tim Toste

22 years

Mardi Bessellieu



NEW HIRES

Brian Grossman (Probation Officer)
Dore Haws (Probation Officer)
Manuel Martir (Juv. Corrections Officer)

PROMOTIONS

Megan Gotcher (Sr. Probation Officer)
Tim Jernigan (Sr. Probation Officer)
Barbara Robie (Sr. Probation Officer)



HOLIDAY PARTY



**Saturday, December 1
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

Wharfinger Building, Eureka

Main course meats will be provided, please bring your holiday specialty sidedish or dessert to share.

Food, fun, and prizes! A sign-up sheet for your raffle donation is located at the main office. There will also be a very exciting grand prize!

Please bring a holiday ornament, no more than \$10 in value, if you would like to participate in the ornament exchange.

RSVP to Jody Green, Bill Damiano, or Sara Quenell by November 26 if you plan to attend.

A CDAC Moment

by Jody Green

The Cultural Diversity and Awareness Committee (CDAC) continues to meet and monitor our cultural diversity plan. We recently reviewed our original plan developed in 2005 to gauge our progress and determine if updates to the plan were needed. Because "cultural competence" is unattainable due to the ever-evolving nature of the community and society as a whole, it is sometimes difficult for a cultural diversity group such as our own to mark accomplishments. Since CDAC was formed, however, the group has accomplished several things. In and of itself, the formation of the group is an acknowledgment by the Department that we recognize and value human diversity, and we appreciate the importance of learning about and being mindful of varying cultures. A plan to further the CDAC goals was developed using a template from the Santa Cruz County Probation Department, and this has been the plan in place since the beginning of the committee. One of the accomplishments of this group has been the development of a relationship with the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Client and Cultural Diversity. This allows us to learn about relevant trainings and other events happening in the community. Senior Legal Office Assistant, Vicki Webb, maintains a cultural calendar in the main Department, so staff can learn of various events happening in our community. Another of CDAC's endeavors has been to translate several forms into Spanish and to develop a procedure for procuring interpreter services. While both of these tasks will require ongoing work, both of these goals have initially been met. One of the next projects will be to create a protocol to respond to non-English speaking clients who telephone or walk-in without an appointment. Humboldt State Social Work Professor Ken Nakamura has now met with the juvenile and adult probation divisions and provided feedback to the management team on ways to continue to improve services, and consequently, improve outcomes for our probationers, their families, and the community. CDAC is suggesting we incorporate culturally related training into our yearly training plan to improve and increase our educational opportunities to staff. We will also work on community outreach to provide education about the Probation Department's mission in the community.

As CDAC moves from developing our plan to implementing and monitoring our plan, we will reduce the frequency of our meetings. We would also like to hear from staff any concerns you may have about how our Department is doing with cultural diversity and any ideas you have about what you need to do your job more effectively.

Three Cheese Hot Artichoke Dip

The Super Bowl 2008 kickoff is right around the corner. Millions of Americans and people all over the world are already planning their Super Bowl party. Here's a quick and easy appetizer your guests will love. So put on your favorite team's colors and get ready for some football!

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

1 (8 oz.) block cream cheese, softened
1 cup mayonnaise
1 (14 oz.) can artichoke hearts, drained & chopped
2 green onions, sliced thin
½ cup grated Parmesan
1 cup shredded mozzarella
Dash hot sauce
Dash Worcestershire sauce
Salt and pepper (to taste)

In a large mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese with a hand-held electric mixer until smooth, then beat in the mayonnaise until smooth. Add remaining ingredients and spoon stir together until combined. Transfer the dip to a pie plate or shallow baking dish. Bake in a preheated oven for 30 to 40 minutes until the top is golden brown the the dip is bubbling. Serve hot with crackers, tortilla chips, bread sticks, or veggies.



Sunshine Salutations

by **Barbara L. Robie**

Wow, has it been a year already? I guess that means we've been having a lot of fun! We can look forward to a new year of continued fun in the department known as Probation. Our next pot luck will be in January to celebrate the beginning of 2008. Before that happens, let's take a moment to look at the last three months.

We've had some new members join our family. Hopefully everyone received the short biographies written to introduce each employee. Our newest co-worker is Dore (think Nemo). She has not had her intro written yet, which gives us all something to look forward to.

We also had two pot lucks in the last three months. The first had a 'family portrait' theme to help co-workers put a name to the face of our family members. The second was a favorite 'fall festival' theme extravaganza. Both were well attended and the food was incredible as well as abundant! Try to attend the next pot luck in January. Look for posters for the date.

Since the last newsletter, Sunshine has sent gifts to the most recent babies born to our co-workers. Congratulations! A flower arrangement was also sent to a co-worker on the passing of a close family member - our condolences go out at this sad time.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the years and hard work Ms. Tamara Hansen contributed to the Sunshine Committee as our treasurer. She resigned this year and Justin Diesslin is acting interim treasurer until our next Sunshine meeting. A big thank you also goes out to Cheryl Kaska who was our secretary. Pam Johnson has graciously accepted the interim acting secretary until January 2008. If you have wondered what you could do to be involved in a positive work activity, this is where you want to be. Contact any member to find out times and places of meeting and come check it out.

Since January is right around the corner, I want to remind everyone we will be actively seeking contributions for 2008. The suggested, encouraged, needed, contribution is 12 dollars for line staff and 20 for management. We will never turn down a donation. All monies are used to support each other when life has decided to throw a curve ball. We would also like to thank so many people who contributed extra last year. It really makes a difference when we consider the rising cost of gifts, flowers, and baby keepsakes!!!

At this time, members are as follows: Barbara Robie, Megan Gotcher, Tim Toste, Nikki Kriger and Paula Swihart, Pam Johnson, Marilyn Woodruff, and Justin Diesslin.



Electronic Monitoring Resource Center – A Free Service of NLECTC

The National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) is a component of the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ's) Office of Science and Technology. NLECTC serves as an "honest broker" offering support, research findings, and technological expertise to help State and local law enforcement and corrections personnel perform their duties more safely and efficiently.

One of the recent initiatives launched by NLECTC is the Electronic Monitoring Resource Center (EMRC). EMRC was created in response to an articulated need from the field for access to a central source of quality, authoritative data and technical assistance related to establishing, operating and evaluating electronic monitoring programs.

EMRC is a web-based, searchable database that contains documents in the following subject areas:

- **Technology** - which includes information on both existing and emerging technologies.
- **Legislation** – which includes proposed and enacted laws from various States on issues related to electronic supervision.
- **Procurement** – which contains examples of requests for proposals, requests for information, invitations to bid, notice of awards and contracts.
- **Program Administration** - which contains examples of forms, policies, procedures, eligibility criteria, offender contracts, response protocols, and workload standards.
- **Legal issues** – which includes documents related to liability issues, admissibility of electronic supervision data in court, and so on.
- **Reports and Research** – which includes published research, studies, surveys, legislative reports, and other documents of interest.

The other main feature of EMRC is a discussion forum that allows electronic monitoring program managers, administrators, and line staff to easily communicate about issues in areas such as procurement, workload, and response protocols.

This resource will allow practitioners to expand their small networks and begin to share information with their colleagues across the country. Access to the site is limited to active, public sector criminal justice professionals. Individuals who would like to participate must first request access and provide contact information before they receive a username and password. To see what type of information is available within EMRC and to request access, please visit <https://emresourcecenter.nlectc.du.edu>.

In addition to this online resource, NLECTC also has staff with considerable expertise in offender monitoring available to provide technical assistance to agencies in need. This service, as well as access to EMRC is offered free of charge to criminal justice agencies.

For more information about NLECTC and the services that we provide please contact Joe Russo at 800-416-8086 or jrusso@du.edu



Grants Slants

by Bill Damiano

Since our last newsletter, the SACPA program (Prop 36) moved to its new location in the Trimble building (corner of Wood and I Streets) and as of late September received a new Senior Probation Officer. All program staff were happy to welcome Barbara Robie following her promotion to Senior - congratulations Barb! DPO Ric Medley was particularly appreciative of Barbara's arrival - thank you for holding down the fort all those months, Ric! Although the program suffered significant funding cuts this fiscal year as the result of the Governor's budget process, after seeking input from partner agencies, DHHS Mental Health Branch applied to the state and were granted Offender Treatment Program (OTP) funding to enhance our local SACPA program. The OTP funds essentially restore services that would have been lost otherwise - a 1.0 FTE Deputy Probation Officer position.

The Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction (MIOCR) Grant Healthy Alternatives program continued operation following the departure of Michelle Gonzalez at the end of August by the grace and support of the already understaffed Juvenile Field Unit. A special thanks is owed to SPO Ryan Schlesiger and DPOs Petrina Fennell, Tamara Hanson and Barbara Boerger for managing the coverage of the HA cases and appearing on the HA court calendar. To everyone's relief, at the end of September the program has a fine new Senior Probation Officer - Megan Gotcher was promoted out of the Adult Field Unit to apply her skills and education to this specialty program. Congrats Megan!

The next 3-day Motivational Interviewing (MI) training is scheduled for the end of January/beginning of February 2008. We've had a total of 32 DPOs, Supervising POs and administrators go through the classes so far, and have another 23 positions to go to have all non-institutions staff trained in the basic principles of MI. With that many folks still needing the training, a fourth session will likely be planned for Spring or Summer 2008, and that should take care of the initial phase of implementation. The trainer for the January session will be **Bradford M. Bogue**, Director of Justice Systems Assessment & Training (J-SAT) in Boulder, CO. Mr. Bogue is an investigator, author, and expert in the field of probation case management. He has been the principal investigator for more than 50 program evaluations in community corrections, including two

probation workload analyses and a multi-site probation process and outcome evaluation. He designed the Risk and Resiliency Check-up Assessment and other innovations for the field, including automated case plan applications and quality assurance systems. Mr. Bogue is a motivational interviewer and the lead author for a definitive book on case planning, *The Probation and Parole Treatment Planner* (Wiley, 2003). He also is the lead author for a National Institute of Corrections position paper, "Principles of Effective Interventions."

On November 2nd we had the nationally recognized speaker S. Alex Stalcup, M.D. back for another interactive training on Addictions and Effective Collaborative Interventions with Substance Abusers. Special thanks go to Fortuna Community Services for hosting the event and going to special trouble to make sure the site was well equipped and supported with Starbucks coffee for the good doctor's presentation. Also to be thanked is DHHS for their generous assistance with costs and for coordinating grand rounds with Dr. Stalcup and local doctors the day before the training. Staff from Probation, multiple branches of DHHS (Public Health, Social Services, Child Welfare, Dual Recovery Programs) and Fortuna Community Services attended. Participants learned about the science of addiction and recovery, assessment and appropriate treatment planning and support, and did interagency work in the afternoon on a few case studies. The training was again well received.



BLOOD DRIVE

The Northern California Community Blood Bank is putting on a Blood Drive at Probation on **December 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.** The bloodmobile will again be located between the Main office and the Regional Facility. Don't forget to have a little something to eat and hydrate yourself a short time before donating. If you think you might be interested, but have questions about donating, you can go to their website at www.nccbb.org to get more information. Sign-up sheets will be posted outside the Chief's office and in the institutions. Don't worry, if you can't schedule it ahead you can also just try to drop in and see if there's a space available. Donation can be on County time if you are already scheduled to work and have it approved in advance with your supervisor.