



THE PROBATION REPORTER

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October 2009

Message from the Chief

by Doug Rasines

As we roll through the first quarter of the fiscal year, county budgets remain somewhat unstable partially due to the troubled economy, but more in part due to the politics being played out at the state level. All we truly know for sure is that the fiscal picture is not a pretty one and will likely get worse before it gets better. That said, the Board of Supervisors, County Administrative staff, and our Department administration are developing contingency plans that will allow the county to minimize its fiscal risk while maximizing its ability to provide efficient services to the public and clients we serve.

On the budget bright side, state subsidies for juvenile justice programs (Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act, Juvenile Probation and Camps, Youthful Offender Block Grant) appear to have

remained intact for FY 2009-10. In addition, new federal stimulus funding (\$45 million) has been directed toward adult probation services through Senate Bill 678, the California Community Corrections Intensive Probation Services Act. This funding is designed to enhance Probation's ability to reduce the rate of adult felony probationers being sent to prison, thereby reducing overall state prison costs. While individual county allocations have yet to be determined, the minimum allocation per county is \$25,000. On the downside, however, there has been a 50% reduction in state funding for the Substance Abuse Crime Prevention Act (SACPA – Prop 36) program. This has resulted in the loss of one probation officer from our SACPA program; however, we are hopeful that a portion of the remaining county SACPA funding allocation can be used to support our one remaining SACPA officer, thereby ensuring the ability to provide intensive supervision and case management for this drug offender population.

Despite the nicks and cuts experienced through the budget process, we continue to move forward guided by our three-year strategic plan. The departmental strategic planning workgroup will be convened on October 21st to review accomplishments to date, as well as make adjustments in our goals for the upcoming year.

We are also applying to the state for a three-year grant aimed at supporting our efforts to assess and address the over-representation of minority youth in our juvenile justice system. These funds are designated to better equip agencies with the tools and resources for developing and strengthening data collection capacity, as well as developing and implementing community-based disproportionate minority contact (DMC) reduction activities, including stakeholder training and education and the development/expansion of delinquency

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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prevention and diversion programs for at-risk youth. The proposal is due October 5th, with the grant awards expected to be made in November and a DMC grant start date of January 1, 2010. Thanks to Ken Blackshear for his assistance in drafting the proposal and to the many collaborative partner agencies who have provided letters of support for the proposal.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank all of our staff for their hard work, positive attitude, and support in helping to keep Probation focused on our mission at hand.



The Probation Department has closed out its training books for fiscal year 08/09 with the submission of the Annual Financial Statement to Standards and Training for Corrections (STC). In August, Dan Cheetham, the Department's STC Field Representative, found that we were in "Substantial Compliance." Dan said that a finding of "Substantial Compliance" is as good as being found in "Full Compliance." Staff should be commended for its efforts to achieve compliance with STC training hour regulations.

We have started into the new fiscal year by sending recently hired or promoted staff to Core Trainings. Jesika Bradley, Nakia Harris, and Justin Nadigoo have just returned from Probation Officer Core Training in Sacramento. Currently, Chris Brannon is in Sacramento for Supervisor Core Training and Jessica Kalis, Sammy Gentle, Thomas Halvorsen, and Amber Smith are in Red Bluff for Juvenile Correctional Officer Core Training.

As the year progresses, staff is being assigned to trainings scheduled with College of the Redwoods. You are reminded that if you are unable to attend any training, please let the training manager know as soon as possible so a replacement can be found to attend in your place. Upcoming trainings are listed below.

In addition, at the end of October, Assessments.com will provide training to Adult Division Supervisors and selected Senior Probation Officers concerning the adoption and implementation of the Risk-Needs Assessment Tool, STRONG. For the Juvenile Division, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) training, provided by California Indian Legal Services, is scheduled for the beginning of December. In addition, California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) will supply Medical Issues training to Facility staff during the last two weeks of October.

Staff is reminded that Work-Related Education, Training, and Professional Development (WRE) hours can be utilized towards meeting the STC training hour requirement. Education and professional development opportunities can be counted as training hours. In order to get credit for these training hours, the WRE Roster/Evaluation Forms need to be completed and submitted to STC during the fiscal year of the training. Line staff and supervisors can satisfy up to half of their annual training hour requirement with WRE hours. If you have any questions about the use of WRE hours, please check with your supervisor or the training manager.

I want to thank Department Division Directors, Supervisors, and staff for their support as we work towards STC compliance, and as I learn my new job. In addition, a special thank you to Jayme Turner and Mary Porter for all their help to coordinate the fiscal arrangements for staff to attend Core Training.

PC 832 Firearms	October 7 through 9
Probation Firearms Training	October 19 through 23
Management of Assaultive Behavior	October 27 through 29
Management of Assaultive Behavior Update	November 4
Interviews and Interrogations	December 7 through 9



Sunshine Snippets

by Jennifer Holcombe

Can you believe the first day of Autumn is already here? Where has the time gone?

On July 8, 2009, Sunshine hosted an Ice Cream Social Potluck at "H" Street. Although the turnout was on the smaller side, there was nothing small about the selection of amazing ice cream toppings, and desserts. Some folks even treated folks to homemade ice cream. Thank you to everybody who participated.

Our second big event since the last newsletter was our barbeque and silent auction fundraiser. I must say, that was an amazing success. Appropriately, we had a glorious day of sunshine. Folks who participated in lunch enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers, and a variety of side dishes. We also had libations and desserts. In addition, we had some amazing silent auction treasures that folks were able to bid on. Several items ensued a bidding war; luckily it was settled amicably. A big thank you to all the folks who provided food, beverages, desserts, and auction items. Sunshine would also like to thank our chef extraordinaires; Tim Toste and Brett Moranda. The generous contributions and support helped to raise much needed funds for the committee.

Doing what we do best; Sunshine has been very busy spreading well wishes and good cheer to many of our co-workers. During the month of August we acknowledged the passing of loved ones for three of our co-workers, we sent healing thoughts to a co-worker who had major surgery, and finally we acknowledged the birth of a new baby. Your continued support makes this all possible.

Be on the lookout for another fall harvest event and perhaps something that involves goblins and ghosts near the end of October.

Thank you again for your continued support and involvement in the Sunshine Committee. We gladly accept new members and donations throughout the year.



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Holcombe

Anna Josephson enjoying a Sundae with the works at the Ice Cream Social.



Cooking up burgers at the barbeque fundraiser; chef extraordinaire – Tim Toste.

Wherever you go...No matter what the weather...Always bring your own sunshine!

Living by Example

A Young Man's Success Story

by Doug Rasines

18-year-old Dao Vang was recently selected as a recipient of a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice, Outstanding Achievement Award for his achievements and successful contributions to his community following his involvement in the juvenile justice system. On September 17th, Dao received his award at the California Probation, Parole, and Correctional Association state conference held in Indian Wells, CA.

Dao successfully completed probation by remaining law-abiding, paying his restitution fine, maintaining a drug-free lifestyle, and participating in the county Gang Risk Intervention Program (GRIP). Dao was a model student at Court and Community School while earning his way back to mainstream school from where he graduated this past year and earned a community college scholarship. He worked closely with the GRIP program coordinator and intervened with gang involved youth to help deter them from gang activity.

This year Dao was named Youth of the Year by the Boys and Girls Club of the Redwoods. Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys and Girls Club member can receive. The title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community, and Boys and Girls Club, as well as his ability to overcome personal challenges and obstacles.

Dao is attending College of the Redwoods to study Administration of Justice. He plans to become a police officer, and currently serves as a Sergeant in the Sheriff's Explorer's program. The Explorer's program introduces young adults to the many varied opportunities available in a career in law enforcement. Dao volunteered with the Teen Court program and has served in every position in the courtroom, including student attorney and student judge. He has recruited several of his friends to volunteer for the program as well, and served as a representative for Humboldt County last summer at the California Statewide Youth court Summit at the University of California, Davis. He also served on the school site council at Eureka High School and as a mentor with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Dao was recently sworn in as a youth commissioner for the Humboldt County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commissions.

Although Dao was born in California, he understands the challenges his family endured as a Hmong refugee family. He demonstrates a commitment to represent the Hmong people in a positive manner. Dao values education as an avenue to become a constructive member of the community. His ambition to serve in law enforcement will allow him to continue to be a role model and impact the lives of others in a meaningful and positive way. Congratulations to both Dao and his family!



Dao Vang

Detention Mentions

by Tim Toste

From June 1, 2009 to this writing, the Juvenile Hall average daily population has been 26.5 minors in our 26 bed facility. While we often have a dip in the average daily population during the Summer months, we weren't so fortunate this year. We're hoping it's an aberration rather than a prediction of the Fall months, which usually bring higher numbers of admissions. In Fall 2008, our average daily population swelled to 31.5 minors, which can cause unease amongst the minors in custody and an increase in incidents due to the stress of being crowded. It also often means additional staff on each shift to meet minimum staffing ratios when exceeding 30 minors in Juvenile Hall. We'll see what impact our new pre-admission assessment tool, Detention Risk Assessment Instrument or DRAI, has on our population. We began using the DRAI just this past Spring.

By contrast, the Regional Facility New Horizons program population has remained low for several months, though at this writing we have 15 residents occupying our 18 beds. Mendocino County now has a reserved bed contract, so they will have at least one bed filled throughout the calendar year. Referrals and inquiries from other counties have virtually stopped since the economy took a plunge last Fall; couple that with the fact that the State hasn't resolved its budget problems as of this writing and it would seem counties are holding onto resources until they have a clearer financial picture of the coming fiscal year.

There are some staff changes since our last writing. New to New Horizons is clinician Jennifer Phillips; she appears to be adjusting well to a complicated program and we're glad to have her. We also have Mental Health case manager Tammy Rogers back permanently and we are thrilled to have her back in the fold. Tammy brings back to us her facilitation skills and keen sense of organization, which are greatly appreciated in an often chaotic program. We also have AOD specialist Bruce Kaye temporarily with us until the Mental Health Adolescent Treatment Program (ATP) is off and running. We're very pleased to have Bruce's knowledge and experience, if only on a temporary basis.

There are a couple of Regional Facility staff updates for the Juvenile Corrections Officers as well. Sr. JCO Manny Martir recently left us to further his education out of the area. Robert Bisgrove was promoted to Sr. JCO to replace Manny. We've also added one new extra help since our last report. Sara Beyene is our newest extra help JCO and we welcome her.

A final note on the Regional Facility. We are working on moving a project along to replace the antiquated and often malfunctioning control panel. It controls the intercom system, cameras, sally port locks, etc. We plan to replace it with a touch screen system similar to what we have in Juvenile Hall so we can tie the two systems together so one can operate the other in an emergency. It is a slow process as we must go to bid, but we're committed to following it through to the end.

New Horizons programs staff continue to work with Bob Harrington, a consultant with La Piana Associates. We recently had a full day retreat with staff from all program disciplines to work on communication, perceptions, security issues, and sharing of treatment information. The day was a great success and much was learned about each discipline and how we can best work together for the success of the residents.

Holiday Happenings

by Jennifer Holcombe

Just a reminder to everybody; the Holiday Party is just around the corner. Thanks to all of you generous 50/50 participants, we will be having yet another amazing celebration! Again, we hope to have amazing door prizes, silent auction items, and delicious food.

This year's party will be held at:

**The Wharfinger Building
on
December 5, 2009**

Be forewarned; dust off your Hawaiian shirts and grass skirts. A Luau awaits you!



YEARS OF SERVICE

The following employees had, or will have had, an anniversary for the time period of July 1, 2009 through October 31, 2009.

1 year

Candace Jordon
Jackson Robbins

2 years

Dustin Asbill
Justin Diesslin
Brian Grossman
Tim Jernigan
Rebecca Younger

3 years

Kathy Davison
Jayme Turner
Jennifer Wilbur

4 years

Kevin Bayless
Karen Maynard
John Robey

5 years

Robert Bisgrove
Sara Quenell

6 years

Darren Ghisetti

7 years

Ryan Blanchard

8 years

Barbara Boerger
Petrina Fennell
Ray Watson

9 years

Megan Gotcher
Eric Wheeler

10 years

Kelly Keen

11 years

Verna McGaughey
Keith Wallace

12 years

Tamara Hansen
Stephanie Smithson

14 years

Kevin Samsel

16 years

Diana Cavinta

17 years

Dolores Cano

18 years

Paula Swihart

19 years

Mark Cory

21 years

Bill Damiano

23 years

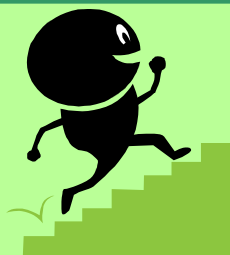
Moe Pratton

24 years

Tim Toste

24 years

Mardi Bessellieu



PROMOTIONS

Robert Bisgrove - Sr. JCO
Kevin Samsel - Supervising PO



Tim Clohessy - Supervising PO
Manny Martir - Sr. JCO



Thomas Halvorsen - JCO I/II
Cindy Mowrey - JCO I/II



2 Hour Turkey

It really works! This method results in a juicy, delicious bird in 2 hours (well, 2-3 depending on the size of the bird).

1 (12 lb) turkey

Salt and pepper to taste

¼ to ¾ cup vegetable oil, to coat

Paprika

1. Cut off skin at the neck.
2. Cut off wing and second joint
3. Remove giblets. (It's probably a good idea to cook the wings and giblets to make stock since most of the juice will stay in your turkey rather than making a lot of pan drippings.)
4. Clean turkey and pat dry.
5. Salt and pepper inside and out.
6. Coat all over with oil, rubbing in a little to make sure you have a good coating.
7. Sprinkle generously with paprika.
8. Place turkey on its side in a large roaster.
9. Roast in a 400 degree oven for 2-3 hours.
10. ¾ of the way through the cooking time turn turkey to the other side. It's very important that you **DO NOT PIERCE THE SKIN**. To ensure you don't pierce the skin and let out all the juices, you might want to use a couple old (clean) oven mitts and just pick up the bird to flip it.



Apple Cranberry Sauce

This is a twist on your "open the can" cranberry sauce, quick and easy to make.

6 Granny Smith apples (cored, peeled, and diced)

1 (12 ounce) bag cranberries (fresh)

1 lemon (sliced and seeded)

1 cup sugar

½ cup water (may substitute cranberry juice)

¾ cup dried, sweetened cranberries

1. Stir together apples, fresh cranberries, lemon, sugar, and water in a large saucepan over medium heat. Bring to a boil stirring often.
2. Reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes or until mixture starts to thicken.
3. Remove from heat and stir in dried cranberries.
4. Cool, cover, and chill until ready to serve. Can be stored for up to 2 weeks in the fridge.

Adult Entertainment

by Bill Damiano

Adult Division

After nine years of effort in building the County SACPA program (Prop 36), the program was essentially gutted by state budget cuts. The offices of our co-located program with County AOD were closed and the two SACPA officers returned to H Street while we sorted out how, or if, we could continue to pay for the positions. The County severely scaled back funding for SACPA treatment, and probation officer presence at the weekly SACPA court calendar was discontinued on September 4th. The Adult Field Unit had to absorb 120 felony SACPA cases, which necessitated some restructuring of caseloads. Because the sentencing law didn't change and there are many nuances to Prop 36 processes, it was decided that it would be best if the SACPA cases could remain on specialized caseloads with officers who would be our SACPA specialists. We are currently using frunding from Targeted Case Management (TCM) to continue to support the Senior Probation Officer position associated with the program. However, since we had to absorb the loss of two officers in Adult Field (one SACPA officer and one frozen vacancy), in order to leave the mandated SACPA caseloads intact it required two other caseloads to be disbursed and reassigned amongst the remaining staff; we chose to eliminate our two remaining TANF caseloads. **Kudos to all of Adult Field for the extraordinary work you have been doing in reassessing and transferring cases.**

Our application for the Edward Byrne Competitive Grant under the federal stimulus program has likely been denied, though we have received no official word. If it is eventually approved, we will be able to maintain a probation SACPA position for two years, and, perhaps, restore some services that we've lost. There also remain a number of questions about other federal stimulus dollars that were allocated to SACPA's Offender Treatment Program, replacing half of last year's state SACPA funding. Probation Admin will be meeting with DHHS Mental Health Branch and other SACPA partners in coming months to explore options regarding that funding piece. And, there is a possibility that other legislation that was approved as part of the state budget (SB 678) could support some aspect of this program, but that remains to be determined as well.

Our Adult Drug Court program's two state grants were thankfully spared in the state budget process. Drug Court continues at full staffing and is averaging around 100 participants at any given time. As evidence of our successful program a graduation was held on July 31st for another 8 participants. Family and community members turned out in droves to honor those folks' awesome accomplishments. The following stats demonstrate some of those achievements and continue to show how valuable the program is to these offenders, their families, and the community in general.

- ✓ Again, over **28 years of prison time was avoided** with an estimated cost savings to the state of over **\$1,367,604** at an average cost per year of \$48,843 per inmate per year.
- ✓ The graduates served a total of **261 days in local jail** as an original sentence or for minor violations of probation with local incarceration costs of around **\$20,000**, so the **net savings to tax payers** was around **\$1,347,604**.
- ✓ **Six** of the graduates **held a full-time (5) of part-time (1) job** at graduation, with the part-timer also attending college full-time. Two graduates were receiving permanent disability income.
- ✓ **Three** graduates who had been homeless at program entry **gained stable, clean and sober housing**.
- ✓ **Three** graduates either **retained or gained custody of their minor children**, or reestablished visitation.
- ✓ **Graduates completed over 250 hours of community service work**, as well as a number of them holding at least one service position in AA or NA.

Good stuff, huh?! Drug Court certainly makes a difference.

Evidence-Based Practices

The Adult Division is soon beginning the process of implementation of the STRONG risk and needs assessment tool. We will be hosting an Assessments.com Overview Training October 27-29 here in Humboldt County for the Northern California Probation Consortium implementation teams. Our division managers will attend for our county and this will kick off the long process required for proper implementation. Staff and partner agencies will be informed and involved throughout the process so that we can all get the maximum benefit from the tool and achieve our desired results – safer communities and improved offender outcomes.



Grandpa's Words

by Beverly Ford



Every other year when I attend Beyond the Bench, I always get melancholy and think about my grandfather, Dewey. At Beyond the Bench, young adults are present and tell stories about their lives and growing up in the foster care system. Dewey had a story to tell about his own childhood and growing up in the system. My grandfather's story is one that I have told many times in my office while working with minors and their families. However, I have never told my co-workers Dewey's story. His story and one simple sentence said to me many years ago have forever changed my way of remembering how important family is.

Dewey was born in Minnesota in the 1910s. When he was just a baby, Dewey's father took off one day and never returned. Dewey's mother did what she could but got very ill. When Dewey was about three, his mother placed him in a Catholic orphanage. Dewey remembered his mother visiting him a couple of times at the orphanage and then he never saw her again. She died from her illness when Dewey was about five. There were no Kevin Campbell HOPE searches for extended family members back then. In fact, he was just told that he had no family. In the orphanage, Dewey did not celebrate birthdays or holidays. He did not even know the date or year he was born! The "Sisters" at the orphanage abused Dewey in many ways. For example, if he misbehaved, he was forced to kneel down on hard, cracked corn.

When Dewey was around 10, the orphanage literally "farmed" him out as a farm-hand at numerous farms. This was the foster care system at the time. Dewey moved from farm to farm as work was available. He rarely had a bedroom, basically his only possessions were the clothes on his back, he did not attend school, and no one ever stepped up to take him into their family. It was a very hard way to grow up. He was a farm-hand until the age of 18.

After Dewey became 18, he decided it was time to establish a birthday date. Any records of Dewey were destroyed in a fire at the orphanage. Dewey could choose any date he wanted to be his birthday. Ironically, he chose Valentine's Day. A day when one shows loved ones and family how much they care.

Dewey got married to Frieda and eventually became a father to my uncle and mother. My grandparents were married for over 60 years. When my mother was around 4, Dewey started looking for his father. He found his father up in Alaska in poor health. Dewey brought his father back to his home where he stayed until he died. By finding his father, Dewey found family members he never knew he had. He invited his new family members to come live close to his family and they did. Dewey did his own successful Kevin Campbell type HOPE search.

When I was about 14, I got the courage to ask Dewey why he would want to find his father when, because of him, he had to endure such a horrible childhood. He said the simplest yet complex sentence, "Because he was my father." I realized then and still do today while working with youth, it does not matter how many mistakes a parent makes, it is very important for kids to feel loved by their parents and have a sense of family. I know as probation officers we understand this importance of family. I just feel it is important to remember the foster youth who spoke on October 2, 2009, had the same hopes and dreams of a young boy in 1914. Family, family members and all that they imply are priceless and forever!

