



PROBATION



Volume 2, Number 3

Spring 2016

The Massachusetts Probation Service

HEAT Program Continues Mission Of Educating Communities About Addiction



Chief Vincent Piro

About 10 years ago, Woburn District Court Chief Probation Officer Vincent Piro and Probation Officer Michael Higgins began noticing that more and more young people— “the athletes, scholars, and the ‘good kids’ who never got into trouble”—were coming before the court for crimes such as theft and possession associated with drug addiction. Piro and Higgins witnessed the grip of oxycontin, which gave way to heroin addiction, take hold of the community a decade before it became a statewide epidemic.

"Fatal overdoses were rapidly increasing and many were occurring after individuals were being released from detox," Piro said.



Dr. Ruth Potee

This was the environment from which HEAT (Heroin Education Awareness Task Force) was born. HEAT was created to inform local parents about addiction, including what to look for if a child is using drugs. Its mission--then and now--is education, prevention, and treatment of substance abuse, according to Piro. The program continues to be strongly committed to its education focus and is hosting its 10th Annual HEAT Conference on Friday, June 17th, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel, 2 Forbes Road, Woburn. The registration closed quickly due to high demand. Each year, the conference typically draws a capacity crowd of more than 300 Probation, law enforcement, treatment, and human services professionals. Since its inception, HEAT has educated 6,000 people about opioid addiction and finding treatment for 3,000 individuals.

"We are passionate about educating as many people as possible. If we can stop a person before they put a needle in their arm, we have accomplished our goal in stopping the progression of the addiction and ultimately saving lives," Piro said. "This disease does not discriminate and the stigma is slowly evaporating. We are especially encouraged by all of the statewide efforts in the battle against such a horrible addiction and the great strides with the recovery efforts," Piro said.

This year's HEAT Conference features keynote speakers Steve Wood, a toxicologist and clinical nurse practitioner in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Winchester Hospital, and Higgins, now a retired Probation Officer and current HEAT coordinator as well as Substance Abuse Coordinator for the Town of Billerica. Woods will discuss emergency room trends. Higgins will address networking education and treatment as well as community partnerships. The other speakers are Dr. Ruth Potee of Valley Medical Group in Greenfield, and Brian Teague, an addict in recovery and director of Michael's Sober Living. Potee will talk about specific causes, effects, and the damages of addiction. Teague will share his struggles with addiction, life in recovery, and services that have helped in his journey to recovery.

Over the years, HEAT expanded from locating detox beds and substance abuse treatment to long-term treatment programs. The program has also worked closely with parents to educate them about the use of Section 35, an involuntary commitment to a rehabilitation facility and how to find substance abuse counseling that fits the needs of the individual. HEAT has become a model for Probation program such as Opiate Awareness Taskforce (OAT), in Greenfield, and the Greater Lynn Opiate Task Force. HEAT Program coordinators have also worked with Boston Mayor Marty Walsh and the Boston Fire Department's FAITH (Fighting Addiction in the Hub) Program. HEAT has hosted a number of events such as Prescription Drug Take Back and Narcan trainings which HEAT offers in collaboration with local police departments.

"The program helped me make decisions I couldn't make on my own such as going into long-term care. It took some time before it all clicked and I even went to jail. But, HEAT is the best thing that ever happened to me," said Ryan, a former HEAT participant.

The 10th Annual HEAT Conference is being sponsored by the Woburn District Court Department, local law enforcement agencies, HEAT, Institute for Health and Recovery, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, and AdCare Educational Institute, Inc.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

HEAT Program	Page 1	Above & Beyond	Page 7
Commissioner's Spring Message	Page 2	Specialty Courts Update	Page 8
The Strategic Plan	Page 3	Graduation Season	Page 9
Hiring Report	Page 6	Chiefs Association Conference	Page 10

A quarterly newsletter featuring the news and updates of The Massachusetts Probation Service.

A Spring Message From The Commissioner



Edward J. Dolan

Dear Colleagues:

Spring is symbolic of new beginnings and change and there are a number of new developments taking shape in the Massachusetts Probation Service this spring and summer.

One of the key initiatives is the Probation's Strategic Plan. As you can imagine, every agency needs a blueprint to chart its success and this is where the Strategic Plan comes into play. Several teams, representing a cross-section of Probation, have been meeting over the past couple of months and have developed five key focus areas: Probation Practice, Probation Services, Workforce Development, Business Processes and IT, and Governance and Alignment. Members of the Strategic Plan Steering Committees (see Committee names on pages 4-5) are working diligently to construct a solid foundation on which to build the future of Probation. This project will not be complete without your input. Please take time to review Page 3 which provides an overview of the work that is being done and let us know what you think. We welcome and value your opinions.

In addition to the Strategic Plan, the hiring of new employees has been a top priority. A new First Deputy Commissioner, Lydia Todd, has been hired to assist in the day to day operations of the agency. Nine new Chief Probation Officers have been appointed as well as Assistant Chief Probation Officers. You may read about our new staff in the Hiring Report on Page 6. The agency has also completed an important project and that is the implementation of (OYAS) Ohio Youth Risk Assessment System Tool, a helpful risk/need measurement tool for Juvenile Probation Officers.

Spring is a time of graduation as hundreds of Probationers complete Drug Court, Changing Lives Through Literature, and Parenting Programs in ceremonies across the state which are marked by the heartwarming testimonies of probationers who are transforming their lives and changing old habits. As you can see, we have all been quite busy as we work together to make our agency one that we are proud of. Thank you for your tireless efforts and support of our dual mission to maintain the safety of our communities while guiding those individuals in our care and custody toward a better path in life.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Dolan, Commissioner
The Massachusetts Probation Service

Probation Updates: News Briefs on Probation-Related Activities

Probation On The Hill



The Massachusetts Senate recently adopted a budget rider in a 31-7 vote which gives judges new discretion over whether to impose fees on probationers. Probation is waiting to see if the language will be fully adopted and passed into law. If passed into law, judges would be able to waive probation fees if they make a "written finding of hardships," according to the language adopted by the senate. "We need to make it possible for people to get back on their feet, get out of the system, start living their normal life," Senator William Brownsberger, co-chairman of the Judiciary Committee, told the State House News Service on May 26th.

Probation supervision fees can cost defendants up to \$780 per year in addition to other potential fees such as a \$50 fee when a default warrant is issued because of a defendant's failure to pay.

New Juvenile Risk/Need Tool Implemented Across The State

The Ohio Youth Risk Assessment System (OYAS) Tool has been fully implemented in the Juvenile Courts across the state and the OYAS Supervision Standards, which govern the use of this tool, went into effect on May 2nd. In addition to the standards, the new OYAS forms are also now available. The OYAS is used for case management, planning, and to determine levels of Probation supervision for youth. Members of the OYAS Training Team helped prepare their colleagues to use this new tool. Training Team members included Barnstable Juvenile Chief Probation Officer Lonnie Welchman, Assistant Chief Probation Officer Karen Sullivan, Essex Juvenile Assistant Chief Probation Officer Colleen O'Leary, Norfolk Juvenile Probation Officer Erin Lynch, Hampden Juvenile Probation Officer Kristin Hurst and Middlesex Assistant Chief Probation Officer Todd Rogato.

OYAS is one of two risk/assessment tools being used by Juvenile Probation Officers. The other tool, the Juvenile Arraignment/ Appearance Screening Tool (also referred to as J-PAST), is designed to support judicial decisions for youths facing detention and is being piloted in six Juvenile Courts: Bristol, Essex, Hampden, Middlesex, Suffolk, and Worcester counties. The JPAST is a pre-trial aid used to determine whether a minor before the court is likely to appear for future court dates or should be held on bail or released to the custody of a parent or guardian.

"By guiding recommendations about which youth are more or less likely to appear in court, a validated risk assessment tool can standardize the process and build a more equitable system," said John Millett, Probation's Statewide Supervisor for Juvenile Court.

Probation Plays Key Role In Fatherhood Summit



Photo provided by Deputy Commissioner-Field Services Dianne Fasano. Left to right, back row: Phil Landry, Wayne Chase, Zacharia Rezends, Jay Brennan, William Gosmon, Renee Payne, Kevin Sheehan, Raymond Bernard, John Johnson, Randy Draper, Joseph Bianculli, Edil Flores, Laurie Plante, Chris Gillis, Ryan Lefebvre, and Matt McDonough. Left to right, first row: Brian Mirasolo, Corrin Nelson, Randy Horton, Richard O'Neil, Francine Ryan, Arron Pridgeon, Brad McNichols, Jason Avellar, Alexander Daugherty, Michele Mullin, Joyce George, and Dianne Fasano.

Approximately 30 Probation employees attended the 4th Annual Fatherhood Leadership Summit in Marlborough on April 27th. The theme of this year's summit was "Changing Systems, Changing Lives" which focused on how state and local service providers can work together to enhance their delivery of services to fathers as they seek to develop and maintain positive relationships with their children, according to Probate and Family Court Statewide Supervisor Richard O'Neil.

The keynote speaker was Joseph T. Jones, founder of the Baltimore, Maryland-based Center for Urban Families. Jones is a national leader in workforce development and fatherhood and family services programming. The day's workshop topics included "Fathers, Trauma, and Healing: The Untold Story," "Addressing the Needs of LGBTQ Fathers & Children," and "Getting Dads to Work: Overcoming Barriers to Employment Through Systems Collaboration."

"As the Massachusetts Probation Service moves forward in developing evidence-based practices when interacting with individuals placed on Probation, recognizing the importance of the family must be considered," O'Neil said. "The most important message of the summit is that court-involved fathers can change. Despite their often times trauma-filled life histories, instability in their formative years, lack of positive male role models in their life, and history of involvement in the criminal justice system, men can still be good fathers and play a positive, nurturing role in their children's lives."

Probation participated in the annual Father Family Fun Day on Saturday, June 11th, at Harambee Park in Dorchester where Probate and Family Court Probation Officers set up a resource table with information about the Massachusetts Probation Service's 13 Fatherhood Programs across the state.

Probation's Strategic Plan

Probation representatives from throughout the Massachusetts Probation Service have been working diligently on the Massachusetts Probation Service's very first Strategic Plan. The final draft will be reviewed on June 29th with the goal of releasing the completed version in mid-July. This three-year plan is based on five main focus areas, each represented by an individual task force:

- **Probation Practice:** Strengthening and standardizing our work with evidence-based best practice.
- **Probation Services:** Expanding, enhancing, and leveraging internal and external services.
- **Workforce Development:** Developing our team members through career progression, training, coaching, and roles clarification.
- **Business Processes/IT:** Improving enterprise and case management systems and business processes; ensuring our team members have access to state of the art technology.
- **Governance and Alignment:** Enhancing our governance model to ensure timely execution of the strategic plan; improving internal and external communication.

Each of the five task forces worked on the major aforementioned goals and created action steps, also referred to as "tactics," to ensure that the goals are accomplished. The last step is to assign a "Champion" to each tactic, to make sure the collective work gets done to take the agency to the next level of quality.

"The best plans are flexible and while this particular plan will help us triage our time, attention, and resources for the next three years, we can also anticipate adjustments along the way," said Commissioner Edward J. Dolan.

Massachusetts Probation Service Strategic Planning Teams

MPS Steering Committee

Name	Title	Department/Court
Edward Dolan	Commissioner	MPS Administration
Dianne Fasano	Deputy Commissioner- Field Services	MPS Administration
Crispin Birnbaum	General Counsel	MPS Administration
Michael Coelho	Deputy Commissioner-Programs	MPS Administration
Katherine Diaz	Assistant ELMO Coordinator	ELMO
Ellie Sullivan	Assistant Probation Officer	Superior Court
Donald Chausse	Chief Probation Officer (CPO)	District Court
Rebecca Ramirez	Assistant CPO	District Court
Richard O'Neil	Statewide Supervisor	FSD/PFC
Dani Lopes	Statewide Clinical Director	OCC
Vincent Pena	CPO	Juvenile Court
Joan Hogan	Probation Office Manager (POM)	BMC
Corinn Nelson	Victim Services Coordinator	MPS Administration

Workforce Development

Name	Title	Department/Court
Chrissy Ruuska	POM	Worcester Superior Court
Linda Almeida	Assistant Chief Probation Officer (CPO)	Wareham District Court
Julie Bennett	CPO	Barnstable P&F Court
Mike Candito	Probation Officer (PO)	Worcester Juvenile Court
Patricia Gavin	Statewide Training Director	MPS Administration
Francine Hammersley	PO	BMC-East Boston
Lisa Hickey	Assistant Supervisor	OCC-Community Service
Pamerson Ifill	Regional Supervisor	MPS Administration/Region 1
Natalie Lorenti	Administrative Attorney	MPS Administration
Daniel Maltais	PO	Middlesex P&F Court
Richard O'Neil	Statewide Supervisor	MPS Administration/FSD
Yvonne Roland	Operations Coordinator	MPS Administration

Probation Practices

Name	Title	Department/Court
Jennifer Brady	ACPO	Stoughton District Court
Sandra Adams	ACPO	Attleboro District Court
Steven Busby	PO	Middlesex Superior Court
Kerrin Costello	POIC	OCC - Salisbury CCC
John Fitzgibbons	PO	Worcester District Court
John Gilpatrick	PO	Plymouth P&F Court
Julie Jacobs	PO	BMC-Central
Erin Lynch	PO	Norfolk Juvenile Court
Sandra Perachi-Taylor	PO	Berkshire Superior Court
Nina Pomponio	Administrative Attorney	MPS Administration
Rebecca Ramirez-Abdella	ACPO	Leominster District Court

Massachusetts Probation Service Strategic Planning Teams

Probation Practices

Name	Title	Department/Court
Jennifer Brady, Team Leader	CPO	Hingham District Court
Sandra Adams	ACPO	Attleboro District Court
Steven Busby	PO	Middlesex Superior Court
John Fitzgibbons	PO	Worcester District Court
John Gilpatrick	PO	Plymouth P & F Court
Julie Jacobs	PO	BMC-Central
Erin Lynch	PO	Norfolk Juvenile Court
Sandra Perachi-Taylor	PO	Berkshire Superior Court
Nina Pomponio	Administrative Attorney	OCP
Rebecca Ramirez (SC Member)	ACPO	Leominster District Court
Sandrine Riberio	Coordinator	OCP/Probation Records Unit

Probation Services

Name	Title	Department/Court
Michelle Williams (Team Leader)	CPO	BMC-Charlestown
Jose Avila	PO	Essex Juvenile Court
Christine Costa	Program Manager	OCC-Plymouth CCC
Joyce George	ACPO	Bristol P & F Court
Phil Landry	ACPO	Brockton District Court
Antonio Lima	POIC	Taunton District Court
Dani Lopes	Regional Program Manager	OCC
Brian Mirasolo	Field Services Administrator	OCP
Corinn Nelson	Victim Services Coordinator	OCP
David Skocik	Statewide Supervisor	OCC-Community Service
Heather Whynot	PO	BMC-Central
Tori Wilhelm	PO	Northern Berkshire District Court

Business Development & IT

Name	Title	Department/Court
Christopher Hercun (Team Leader)	PO	Barnstable P & F Court
Paul Keefe	Project Manager	OCP
Tonie DeAngelis	CPO	Greenfield District Court
Katherine Diaz	Assistant ELMO Coordinator	ELMO
Michael Leahy	ACPO	Fall River District Court
Laura Lempicki	Manager of Research	OCP
John Millett	Statewide Supervisor	Juvenile Court
Danielle Slaney	POM	Norfolk P&F Court
Rachel Spencer	POII	New Bedford District Court
Christopher Cannata	Assistant Supervisor of CS	OCC/CS

Hiring Report:

Lydia Todd Is Named New First Deputy Commissioner



First Deputy Lydia Todd

Probation Commissioner Edward J. Dolan has appointed Lydia M. Todd the new First Deputy Commissioner of the Massachusetts Probation Service. Todd, who will oversee the day-to-day operations of Probation, recently served as the deputy director for NFI Massachusetts, Inc.

“I am thrilled to be called to serve the Massachusetts Probation Service and Trial Court staff. I look forward to supporting their work in providing the best possible services to the Commonwealth’s citizens: the public, Probation and partner professionals, and probationers alike,” Todd said.

She has extensive senior management and leadership experience and is a United States Air Force veteran. Todd has held the positions of Deputy Chief of Institutional Services for the Massachusetts Parole Board, Director of Program Evaluation for Massachusetts Half-Way Houses, Inc., Director of Organizational Development for the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, and most recently as Deputy Director/Director of Operations at NFI. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Psychology from Park College, a master’s degree in Applied Sociology from the University of Massachusetts-Boston and a master’s degree in Philosophy from Yale University. Todd is an instructor in the UMASS-Boston Sociology and Criminal Justice Departments.

New Chiefs Are Added to Probation Ranks



The Massachusetts Probation Service has added nine new Chief Probation Officers to its ranks and they recently posed for this photo at the Massachusetts Chief Probation Officers Association Spring Conference. To read more about the conference turn to page 8.

Posing left to right, back row, are Clinton District Court Chief Patrick Ball, Hingham District Chief Jennifer Brady, Taunton District Chief Kelley Hamilton-Welzel, and Brookline District Chief Jeffrey Jarasitis.

In the front row, left to right are Edgartown and Nantucket Chief Probation Officer Jennifer Pease, Worcester Superior Chief Jean Curtin, Fall River Chief Probation Officer Donnelle Gomes-Talley, Lynn District Chief Joseph Pennucci, and Boston Municipal Court (BMC)-Brighton Chief Michael Dube.

*****Nearly 30 new Assistant Chief Probation Officers have been appointed across the state. An ELMO Program Manager was hired in the last few months and there are plans to hire two ELMO Assistant Coordinators. To read about these new positions, check out the next issue of "This Week In Probation" coming out on June 27th.**

Henry Bayas Is A New Assistant CARI Coordinator



Henry Bayas

Henry Bayas was hired as the new Assistant CARI (Court Activity Record Information) Coordinator in the Records Unit in the Central Office of the Massachusetts Probation Service. Bayas started his new position on April 17th.

As Assistant CARI Coordinator, Bayas is responsible for providing a variety of clerical and administrative support. Prior to his appointment, Bayas was employed as an Identity Specialist and later as a Probation Case Specialist at the Roxbury Division of the Boston Municipal Court (BMC). Bayas began his career with the court system as a Courtroom Procedures Clerk at the Roxbury Court in 1989. In 2000, he was named a Probation Case Specialist.

“I have a passion for helping people,” Bayas said.

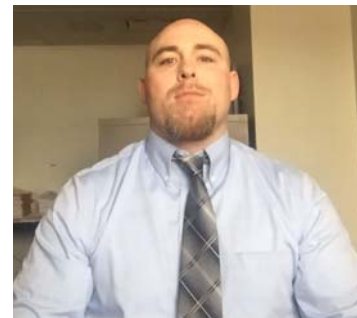
Above and Beyond: Probation Employees Who Are Making A Difference



Francine Hammersley



Fiona Bycroft-Ryder



Paul Shaughnessy

Each day, Probation employees are making a positive impact on the communities they serve. Three Probation Officers went above and beyond the duties of their jobs by saving a life, granting the wishes of at-risk teens with limited means, and helping fellow law enforcement respectively.

An East Boston Probation Officer came to the aid of man who had passed out behind his wheel with his foot on the brake on a hilly incline near a busy intersection. A Worcester Juvenile Court Probation Officer has been making the prom dreams of high school seniors, come true every year for the past eight years. A Dedham District Assistant Chief Probation Officer assisted the FBI with identifying an individual who made bomb threats to colleges in several states. Here are their stories.

Francine Hammersley and Mary London, both Probation Officers at Boston Municipal Court-East Boston, were on scheduled home visits April 29th in the Orient Heights section of East Boston when they noticed a car parked in the middle of the street with break lights on. They pulled in behind him. Hammersley got out of the car and found the man having a seizure with his foot on the break and the car still running, just feet away from a busy intersection.

"I am not sure what made me look in his direction but when I did, I knew something wasn't quite right so I stopped the car and went to check on him," said Hammersley, a nine-year Probation Officer. She immediately put the car into park and contacted police. Hammersley and London waited until the ambulance arrived at the scene where paramedics performed a "sternal rub" which revived the man and he was transported to the hospital. "Just another day in the life of a Probation Officer," Chief Probation Officer Thomas Tassinari said. "They did a fine job and he is probably still alive because they stopped to help."

Worcester Juvenile Probation Officer Fiona J. Bycroft-Ryder has made it possible for court-involved Worcester County teens who cannot afford to buy their own dresses and rent tuxedos, to attend their proms in style. Each year, for the past eight, Ryder has collected donated formal gowns and dresses, scheduled free makeovers—including hair appointments, and arranged tuxedo rentals. "Many of the young people I work with have never had a makeover and did not think that they would be able to attend their prom. It is nice to know that something so easy to set up can make such a difference." Bycroft-Ryder also offers makeovers to teens throughout the year. "I currently have two salons offering free service, one in Worcester and one in Clinton. I, at times, have used this as an incentive for juveniles to do well on probation, particularly those who may need a self-esteem boost, or for those who have successfully completed their probation."

Recently appointed Brookline District Court Assistant Chief Probation Officer Paul Shaughnessy was a Dedham District Court Probation Officer when he received a call from a local detective seeking information on one of his probationers who was being investigated as a suspect in an emailed bomb threat to a North Carolina university. Using GPS points, Shaughnessy was able to place the man at his home at the time of the threat which he shared with an FBI agent assigned to the Joint Terrorism Task Force. He advanced the case in court, obtaining a warrant on Probation cases. The suspect was arrested by local police. The FBI agent obtained a federal warrant based on the new information Shaughnessy provided. He coordinated with the FBI, Homeland Security, and a Norwood detective. The offender was held without bail and found to be a danger to the US. He was scheduled to be indicted on similar charges in Chicago and Rhode Island.

"This kid was terrorizing a lot of innocent people and we stopped that," Shaughnessy said.



Maria Burke, JERICO Associate Director; Sister Joan Magnani, Executive Director; Community Service's Michael Orlandi, Assistant Court Services Coordinator, and Michael LeCours, Assistant Statewide Supervisor.

Community Service Is Honored By the Jericho Foundation

The Massachusetts Trial Court Community Service Program, an initiative of the Massachusetts Probation Service, was recently recognized with the 2016 Humanitarian Award by JERICO: The Bureau for Exceptional Children and Adults for work performed by Community Service crews which included cleaning buildings and landscaping the agency's 37-acre property.

For more than a decade, the Community Service Program has provided supervised work crews on a weekly basis at JERICO's Holyoke-based facility. JERICO is a non-profit agency that works with parents, families, and professionals throughout Western Massachusetts for full inclusion of children and adults with special needs and disabilities into schools and the community. The award was presented at an April 24th luncheon at Summit View Banquet House in Holyoke. Assistant Statewide Community Service Coordinators Michael LeCours and Michael Orlandi were on hand to accept the award.

Tracy Breen Is Juvenile Court Ovation Award Recipient

Norfolk Juvenile Probation Case Specialist Tracey Breen was recently recognized with a Massachusetts Probation Service Ovation Award.

Breen, 17-year employee, received numerous nominations from her colleagues for this award. She was credited for her strong work ethic, professionalism, energy, and the extra time and care she expends helping with Norfolk Juvenile's MOM Power and Triple P Parenting programs. She volunteers her time after ours by babysitting the children of the mothers enrolled in the groups. Breen also assists with the SMART Program for teens.

"The days are long on our program nights. To look at Tracy wearing a constant smile and very enthusiastically interacting with the toddlers warms my heart and reminds me of the good that we do for those that truly need and deserve it. Her patience, kindness and hard work are truly inspiring," said Norfolk Juvenile Probation Officer Tracey Clogher.

Breen said of her award, "I really love my job and I feel honored to be acknowledged."



Juvenile Statewide Supervisor John Millett, Norfolk Juvenile PCS Tracy Breen and Norfolk Juvenile Chief Mark Prisco.

Specialty Courts Update

Two new Probate and Family Specialty Courts have opened in the Franklin and Hampshire County areas.

An official opening ceremony for the Franklin Family Drug Court, the state's first, is taking place June 17, 2016 at Greenfield Community College. Probation Commissioner Edward J. Dolan will address the audience. Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey will serve as keynote speaker.

The Franklin Family Drug Court is for families who have a case in the Franklin Probate and Family Court and are dealing with substance use disorder. The recovering parent must come to the court every two weeks and be tested. The parent receives support services, and is given an individual treatment plan developed collaboratively by the parent and licensed treatment provider. The goal of the court is to treat the entire family, including assisting the parent(s) with recovery, addressing the needs of the child and caregiver, and removing the stigma of addiction. Services for children will also be provided and feature trauma assessments and follow-up treatment, education about the disease model of addiction, and referrals for resources and supportive services for the caregiver.

The Family Resolution Court at the Hampshire Probate and Family Court, the first in the nation, opened in May. A community-based problem-solving pilot based on Australia's "Less Adversarial Trial," the goals of the court are to reduce the affects of parental conflict on children by strengthening post-separation family relationships, reach child-focused resolutions for divorced and separated parents and their children that are tailored to the family's needs, include the child's input, and encourage cooperation between parents to promote a healthy parental relationship following separation. Each family is assigned a Court Support Team consisting of a Probation Officer, a family consultant, and a child's attorney. Families are referred to community resources such as family/child therapy, substance abuse treatment, financial planning, employment, housing, etc. The Family Resolution Court is also less formal than standard court hearings. Parents are asked to bring photos of their children when they meet with the judge.



Official Opening Day of the Holyoke Veterans Treatment Court. Left to right: Regional Supervisor Francine Ryan, Holyoke Chief Sean McBride, Deputy Commissioner Michael Coelho, and Chicopee District Court Chief Stephen P. Ashe.

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS VETERANS TREATMENT COURT OPENING

The Western Massachusetts Veterans Treatment Court hosted its official Opening at the War Memorial Building in Holyoke on May 20th. Seventeen court-involved veterans, ages 27 to 68, are enrolled in the 18-month sessions. This new court will accept referrals from Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden counties. The Western Massachusetts Veterans Treatment Court, managed by Holyoke Chief Probation Officer Sean McBride and Probation Officer Antonio Padilla, is one of five Veterans Treatment Courts. The other four are at Boston Municipal Court-Central Division, managed by Probation Officer Geraldine Jurczak; Norfolk County Veterans Treatment Court, run by Probation Officer Timothy Holleran; Framingham District which is overseen by Probation Officer Brian Torpey; and Lawrence District which is managed by Probation Officer Gregory Richardson.

HOMELESS COURT IS HONORED

The Homeless Court was honored with the Boston Bar Association's President's Award at Law Day on May 6th. The court was first established in 2012 by BMC-West Roxbury First Justice Kathleen Coffey, BMC-West Roxbury Probation Officer David Giacalone, the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS), Suffolk District Attorney's Office, and the Pine Street Inn. This specialty court session enables offenders to resolve many misdemeanor offenses, non-violent felonies, and outstanding warrants, according to Matthew McDonough, BMC-West Roxbury Chief Probation Officer. "Active warrants often create barriers for homeless individuals looking to obtain housing, pursue treatment and participate with workforce development programs. The Homeless Court provides access and support to motivated individuals through their journey out of homelessness," McDonough said.

Judge Coffey attributed the success of the Homeless Court to the collaborative spirit of its "justice partners." She said, "Through these collective efforts, homeless defendants are given a 'second chance' to secure housing, employment and an opportunity to maintain substance disorder treatment and mental health services within the community."

Probation Programs Host Graduation Ceremonies Across the State

Spring is Graduation season.

Nearly 100 court-involved individuals have completed Probation programs such as the Fatherhood, Mothers, and Womanhood groups.

Probationers are also completing and transitioning from Drug and Veterans Courts. The most recent graduations included the Changing Lives Through Literature Reading Group of Greenfield District Court on May 17th, The MOM Power Group of the Norfolk Juvenile Court Probation Department on May 4th, The Cambridge District Court's Mothers Enrichment Program graduation on 10th and the Dorchester Fatherhood Program graduation on May 11th.

These celebrations, planned by Probation staff, often include heartwarming stories told by Probationers who were at first reluctant to participate in the programs but came around when they discovered ways to reconnect with their families or were introduced to community resources.

Eight men and women recently participated in the Making Real Changes Job Club, a collaborative effort of Essex Superior Court Probation Department and the North Shore Employment Center in Salem. The June 9th ceremony featured Job Club Alumnus Michael Boucher, who credits the club for helping him find employment as a cement truck driver. After completing the Job Club, the company where Boucher was hired, coincidentally performed work at the very same courthouse in Salem where Boucher often went before the judge for past behavior.

"I never believed that there would be so many people who would want to help you," Boucher told the graduates.



Cambridge Fatherhood Program graduation. Left to right: Graduating father Russ, Middlesex Probate & Family Probation Officer Kevin Sheehan, Middlesex Superior Probation Officer William Gosmon, Cambridge District Assistant Chief and Program founder Ronald Lane, and Newton District Court Probation Officer Ricky Hymon.



Womanhood Program Graduation at Eastern Hampshire District Court. Left to right: Rae Wilder, Jessica Badeau, Kerriann Kelley, Tonya LaDuke, Ashley Jewett, Heather Laclair, Michelle Jean, and Greta Hagen, Assistant Director of Development from Safe Passage. Probation Officer Regina Sanderson.

Suffolk Probate & Family Probation Honors Homeless Women For Mother's Day



Suffolk Probate & Family staff. Left to right: Probation Officer Jessica Grassia, Probation Case Specialist IV Tyaisha Abdul Aziz, Probation Office Manager Tawauka Bryant, Assistant Chief Probation Officer Valerie Taylor, Probation Officer Krystyna Gagne, Probation Officer Scott Goldberg, and Probation Officer Jillian Lanney.

The Suffolk Probate and Family Court Probation Department presented 14 gift bags filled with personal care items or toiletries, collected by Probation staff, to women at the New Chardon Street Shelter in honor of Mother's Day. The Probation staff are also planning to distribute 15 gift bags to homeless men in honor of Father's Day. The men's bags are being distributed to residents at the Veterans Administration's satellite office on City Hall Plaza in Boston.

"Oftentimes in a shelter setting, guests do not get things like their own soap, lotion, or toothbrushes. Many are victims of domestic violence and arrive at the shelter with nothing," said Suffolk Probate and Family Chief Probation Officer Marguerite Riley. "We put out a donation box and staff bought gift bags to make the presentation a little more festive in honor of Mother's Day and Father's Day."

This was the first time the department conducted the toiletry drive for the Mothers Day and Father's Day gift giveaways. Each year, the Suffolk Probate & Family staff have provided toys and clothing to give to the children of clients at Christmas time. The Mother's Day and Father's Day charity efforts were the idea of Suffolk Probate & Family staff who collected the items. Probation Case Specialist IV Tyaisha Abdul-Aziz coordinated the packaging of the items.

Chief Probation Officers Association Hold Spring Conference



Chief Probation Officer Association President Alfred Barbalunga addresses fellow Chief Probation Officers at Spring Conference.



Chief Probation Officers from across the state listen intently to speakers at the Spring Conference held recently at The Endicott Estate in Dedham.



Left to right: Norfolk Superior Chief Milton Britton Jr., Chelsea District Chief Carmen Gomez, Boston Municipal Court (BMC)-Charleston Chief Michelle Williams, and New Bedford Chief Donald Chausse.

More than 60 Chief Probation Officers from across the state traveled to Endicott Estate in Dedham on May 12th for the Chief Probation Officer Association's Spring One-Day Conference.

Chief Association President and Southern Berkshire District Court Chief Probation Officer Alfred Barbalunga welcomed newly-appointed Chief Probation Officers (see photo of new chiefs on Page 4) and recognized the work of recently retired Chief Probation Officers Angelo A. Dinardo (Cambridge District) and John H. Mezzetti (Nantucket and Edgartown).

John Bello, Director of Facilities Management for the Massachusetts Trial Court, served as the keynote speaker and shared with the audience his interesting career journey which included working for the Massachusetts Port Authority where he oversaw the maintenance of Logan International Airport, and ensured that the facility was "hotel ready" at 4 a.m. each day when it opened to the public. Vincent Lorenti, Executive Director of the Office of Community Corrections, spoke of a new change at the centers which places Probation Officers In Charge, renamed Senior Community Corrections Probation Officer, in the local courts where they collaborate with Probation Officers and judges to direct offenders to the center's resources—substance abuse and mental health counseling, drug testing, job skills training and preparation for the Hi-Set exam which was previously referred to as the GED or General Equivalency Diploma.

Daniel Pires, Statewide Manager of the Electronic Monitoring Center, spoke to the Chiefs about the upcoming distribution of the new GPS equipment which is scheduled for this month, and the new SCRAM Breath Device, a portable alcohol monitoring device with facial detection technology.

Elections for Association officers returned Barbalunga for a second term as president; Plymouth Probate and Family Chief Kevin Coughlin as vice president (first term); Barnstable Superior Chief Brian Weber as clerk; and Norfolk Juvenile Chief Mark Prisco as treasurer.

Quote of the Quarter:



Chief Justice Ralph Gants

In a recent meeting with the Editorial Board of The Brockton Enterprise, Chief Justice Ralph Gants was asked what percentage of the Massachusetts Trial Court's Annual Budget is allotted for Probation. Chief Justice Gants responded:

"It is the most understaffed part of our budget. The reason is not only that probation has had the largest reduction in staff since 2001, but we're also asking probation to do much more than they had done before. We want them to be more involved in terms of bail decisions. We want them to be helping us to identify those persons who could be diverted from the system before they get into the system, especially if they have issues with regard to mental health or drugs. We want them to be more involved in helping to craft sentences for judges."

The Probation Update Newsletter

Probation Update is an internal publication featuring the current news of The Massachusetts Probation Service.

Please forward newsletter stories and story suggestions or comments to:

Coria Holland, Communications Director
The Massachusetts Probation Service

617-624-9319; CP: 617-429-5629

coria.holland@jud.state.ma.us

