

Welcome to *E-YASI*, an electronic newsletter from the New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (DPCA), written specifically for YASI users and policymakers.

E-YASI is distributed by the New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives and funded through a grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. *E-YASI* is now available on the Probation Services Suite of *eJusticeNY*.



Robert M. Maccarone, State Director
Norma Tyler, Juvenile Justice Manager and YASI Project Director
Patricia M. Donohue, Editor
Issue Number 3; December 29, 2006

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. Overview of 2006 YASI Training and Technical Assistance - it's not too late to schedule your county's site visit.
2. Quality Assurance tips for YASI users - YASI Benchmarks in 2007 Annual Plans, Orbis information on YASI software versions and patches, updates for YASI email distribution lists.
3. YASI in 2007 - Initial Trainings, Follow Up Trainings, Supervisor Trainings, Director Data Workshops, Super-Users trainings, continued technical assistance site visits, and development of model YASI protocols in juvenile probation.

1. Training and Technical Assistance Overview

- Three (3) rounds of two-day YASI Initial training and two-day Follow Up training, delivered by Orbis Partners, were held March-July 2006 in Schenectady, Ontario, and Westchester counties, training nearly 100 additional staff from probation and related disciplines on YASI assessment and case planning protocols.
- February to November 2006, 29 YASI Technical Assistance site visit sessions were provided in 27 counties. Diana Wavra, from Orbis Partners, and DPCA participated. The site visits provided an opportunity for staff and directors to assess their PINS and JD processes within the context of the YASI Pre-Screen, Full Assessment, PDI, Case Planning, Reassessment, and data usage.
- A theme that arose during the site visits is that counties are using the YASI assessment component with confidence and competence, but are struggling to apply the assessment results to the YASI Case Plan and service referral process. To assist counties, four (4) Case Planning Booster sessions were held during December 2006: 12/4 in Monroe County; 12/5 in Onondaga County; 12/6 in Rockland County; and 12/7 in Albany County, providing

Case Planning technical assistance to over 100 YASI users statewide. To schedule a future YASI Technical Assistance site visit please contact Patti Donohue at either 518-485-5158 or Patricia.Donohue@DPCA.state.ny.us.

2. Quality Assurance Tips from DPCA and Orbis Partners

- For the 2007 Annual Probation Program Plan, DPCA has proposed a series of YASI implementation benchmarks - looking at numbers and percentages for both 2006 and proposed in 2007. YASI implementation benchmarks include Juvenile Staff Training; Assessment at Intake, Investigation, and Supervision stages; Case Planning, Service Referrals, and Reassessments during Diversion and Supervision stages; sharing of YASI results when placement is the disposition; and overall Quality Assurance and Data Utilization within each department.
- The YASI software is being constantly refined, and patches are released periodically to address software issues that have been brought to the attention of Orbis Partners. In order to ensure that all counties are using the most recent version of the software, beginning in 2007, Orbis will be sending DPCA updates as new versions are released, which we will pass on to you. Currently, counties are able to find the latest patch available for download from the web address:

<http://www.orbispartners.com/support/support.htm>

To download the update patch you will be prompted for a login; please use **yasiuser** as the username and **wakefield** as the password.

The latest version of the software is release 3.3.61 PDI. This latest version fixes issues relating to report printing, PDI generation and syntax, and some domain-specific problems when generating full assessment results. Orbis is currently in the process of contacting the few remaining counties that are not using the latest version and hopes to have everyone updated by the end of the year.

Should you encounter any YASI-related issues, please don't hesitate to call the Orbis Partners support line. If you experience an installation-related issue or any other technical support issue, please call 1-888-682-7720.

- DPCA maintains 2 YASI email distribution lists - one for Probation Directors/Commissioners in departments where YASI is implemented, and the other for YASI Primary Contacts/Coordinators. These two lists, in addition to the DPCA Staff Development Officers email distribution list, are used to notify departments of upcoming YASI trainings, meetings, or events, and to distribute the quarterly E-YASI newsletter. If you would like to either add, remove, or change a name on either email distribution list, please contact Patti Donohue at either 518-485-5158 or Patricia.Donohue@DPCA.state.ny.us.

3. **YASI in 2007** - Through a DCJS grant, DPCA will be able to continue to provide a variety of YASI trainings, technical assistance, and software enhancements during 2007.
 - YASI trainings will include three rounds each of the two-day Initial training and two-day Follow Up training; two (one-day) YASI Coaching for Supervisors training; two (one-day) YASI Super Users training; and a YASI data drop training with accompanying three (one-day) Director Data Workshops.
 - Technical Assistance site visits will continue in 2007, as requested by individual counties.
 - Software enhancements will include the release of the YASI Detention software; the integration of YASI and Caseload Explorer; PDI software for the MSDE version; a re-write of the Mental Health domain to separate out the aggression and violence indicators; and the Case Planning Self Population Functionality.
 - Orbis Partners and DPCA will complete a YASI Long Term Validation Follow Up Study with a written report.
 - Orbis Partners and DPCA will develop and distribute an instructional "YASI Overview" CD. This CD will be provided to YASI counties to help with in-service training needs.
 - DPCA will also develop and distribute NYS specific recommended model YASI protocols for use in juvenile probation.

E-YASI is distributed by the New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (DPCA) and funded through a grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). If you have any questions or comments regarding the YASI project or E-YASI, please contact Patricia Donohue, Community Corrections Representative 2 at 518-485-5158 or email her at Patricia.Donohue@DPCA.state.ny.us.

E-YASI is also available on the Probation Services Suite of *eJusticeNY*.