

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, and juvenile justice professionals.

*E-YASI* is also available on the Probation Services Suite of *eJusticeNY* and on the DPCA website [www.dpca.state.ny.us](http://www.dpca.state.ny.us).



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**1. Caseload Explorer/YASI Integrated Software-Pilot Counties Testing**

DPCA is pleased to announce the availability of the Caseload Explorer/YASI Integrated software. This development is an important step in integrating the probation automated case management and actuarial risk and need assessment functions, and provides probation professionals in New York State with the tools that are needed to do their work. Much time has been invested in addressing technology and security issues and conducting rigorous testing. The CE/YASI software will be made available to five (Hamilton, Dutchess, Tompkins, Jefferson, and Oswego) pilot counties in New York during March 2010 for a second level of testing by probation practitioners. Remaining counties statewide will be provided access to the CE/YASI integrated software with release of the latest version of Caseload Explorer 2010, scheduled to be rolled out in early April 2010.

The CE/YASI integration preloads legal history information and will increase probation efficiency and provide new enhancements for all users. The CE/YASI software will enable users to access the YASI tool from within Caseload Explorer and to view the YASI results, reports, and documents from within Caseload Explorer. Specifically, the software will:

- Eliminate duplicate data entry by allowing relevant CE data to populate YASI
- Reduce time spent on gathering information for the assessment by automating the research required to collect data items

- Improve the quality of assessments by ensuring that the data comes from a uniform source in a repeatable manner
- Provide better integration of assessments into the standard case management process
- Provide users and supervisors with an integrated and standardized means of tracking assessments, case plans, and data
- Reduce the knowledge required of the two applications by providing simple and automated information flow between them

DPCA extends its appreciation to our partners, AutoMon, Inc. and Orbis Partners for their continued commitment to excellence, and to probation officers throughout the State, especially recognizing the efforts of Hamilton County Probation Director John Adams for his important work on this project.

The YASI 5 statewide database will continue to be hosted by Orbis Partners until it is migrated to the NY Offender Assessment and Data Sharing (NOADS) system, similar to the COMPAS adult assessment protocol.

## **2. Caseload Explorer/YASI Integrated Software-Interface Guide for Users**

AutoMon Inc. has developed a “Caseload Explorer/YASI Interface Guide” for users of the integrated software. The user guide will be available at the time of the Caseload Explorer 2010 release and covers topics such as:

- Accessing YASI Through Caseload Explorer
- Various Caseload Explorer Page Screens
- How to access additional support if needed

## **3. Juvenile Case Planning and Reassessment Training for YASI Users-Update**

DPCA is pleased report the ongoing availability of “*Juvenile Case Management and Reassessment Training*” for Juvenile Probation Officers using the YASI. This training focuses on applying evidence-based principles to case work - case planning, referrals, effective programs and reassessments for JD and PINS cases during the diversion, investigation, and supervision stages of probation services. This one-day 5 hour training provides juvenile probation staff with case management guidance that is consistent with the evidence-based *Fundamentals of Probation Practice (FPP)* Curriculum. Training is being provided regionally as follows:

In 2009:

- Erie County—September 21<sup>st</sup>
- Onondaga County—October 30<sup>th</sup>
- St. Lawrence County—November 4<sup>th</sup>

In 2010:

- Albany County—January 20<sup>th</sup>
- Broome County—January 29<sup>th</sup>
- Dutchess County—February 24<sup>th</sup>
- Suffolk County—April 14<sup>th</sup>
- Nassau County—April 15<sup>th</sup>

Individual announcements for registration have been sent to regional clusters of counties. Training is provided by DPCA staff with the assistance of local FPP and YASI trainers.

As a pre-requisite for this training, participants must have completed either the live two-day YASI initial training offered by Orbis Partners in the past or the YASI E-Learning Program currently available on-line.

Training participants are learning to develop case plans that target specific risk and criminogenic need factors, include the use of protective factors, and adhere to the SMART (Small, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely) approach to effective case planning; learning to make referrals to services that specifically address the identified risk and need factors that give rise to the PINS or JD behavior; learning about services and interventions that are effective in reducing recidivism with the juvenile justice population; and learning the value associated with periodic case reassessment.

Counties interested in hosting a future training should contact Patti Donohue at 518-485-5160 or [Patricia.Donohue@DPCA.state.ny.us](mailto:Patricia.Donohue@DPCA.state.ny.us).

#### **4. Dutchess County Alternative to Detention Program Uses YASI Detention Screen**

An article in the Poughkeepsie Journal on December 7, 2009 announced the start of a new juvenile curfew monitoring program to reduce use of detention in Dutchess County. The program, called Juvenile Pre-Trial, is funded by the Dutchess County Department of Social Services, allow probation officers to perform in-person random checks on juveniles to ensure they are where they are supposed to be. The goal of the new program is to reduce the number of days a youth spends in detention and to achieve better outcomes for them. Dutchess County Probation uses the YASI Detention Screen to objectively assess the youth as low, moderate, or high risk of recidivism before the next court appearance.

In 2007, a detention screen was added to the YASI software. The detention screen provides an assessment of **risk of flight** and **immediate risk of reoffending** for youth being considered for pre-dispositional detention. The development of the YASI detention screen was informed by a review of existing detention screening devices used in other jurisdictions that were designed for similar purposes. The YASI detention screen also includes other important factors for managing the risk posed by a youth being considered for detention, such as suicidal indications and appropriateness of parental custody arrangements. There are 10 items included in the detention screen. Each item was included for its likely contribution to increasing risk of flight or immediate risk of re-offending.

#### **5. Juvenile Justice News, Resources, and Trainings**

- Newly released resources from OJJDP include:
  - Comprehensive Gang Model Online Overview--provides a 23 minute presentation of the gang problem, theory, and 5 core strategies to implement the model;
  - Juveniles in Residential Placement, 1997-2008—provides information on the number of juvenile offenders in public and private placement facilities;

- The Keeper and The Kept—a report by the W. Haywood Burns Institute discussing systemic problems specific to the racial and ethnic disparities in youth detention and how to address them;
  - Guide for Preventing and Responding to School Violence—a publication designed to assist local communities, families, law enforcement, and justice systems in working together to take action against school violence;
  - Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 2009—a report providing detailed statistical information on the nature of crime in schools;
  - Juvenile Arrests 2008—a bulletin which summarizes juvenile crime and arrest data reported by local law enforcement to the FBI
- Other juvenile justice resources available include:
- The Act For Youth Center of Excellence has available brief online presentations about Adolescent Development; Civic Engagement; Parent/Family Involvement; Positive Strategies for Challenging Behaviors, and Positive Youth Development. Each 15-25 minute presentation can be accessed at <http://www.actforyouth.net/?training>
  - The Carsey Institute has available a report focusing on the education and work experiences of rural youth as they make the transition from adolescence to adulthood. This report can be accessed at <http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/Report9-IdleYouth.pdf>.
  - The NYS Council on Children and Families has released the 2009 Touchstones/Kids Count Data Book, sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The 2009 Touchstones Book includes a general summary of six Touchstones Life Areas, with regional data from New York State, New York City, and Rest of State. The 2009 Touchstones Book may be accessed at [www.nyskwic.org](http://www.nyskwic.org).
- DPCA is pleased to announce the availability of free one-day courses offered through the NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) on the topic of Special Education. Trainings such as "**Start to Finish: Steps to Successful Special Education Services**" and "**The Next Step Transition Services**" provide probation officers with information to better understand the Special Education process. The trainings are conducted by trainers from the NYS Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (CQCAPD) regionally and via videoconference. The next training, **Start to Finish: Steps to Successful Special Education Services**, is scheduled for Friday April 23, 2010 from 9:30 to 3:00pm at the NYS Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (CQCAPD), 401 State Street, Schenectady, NY. For future trainings please go to [www.omr.state.ny.us/wp/index.jsp](http://www.omr.state.ny.us/wp/index.jsp) and look in the current Catalogue of Training for the classes.
- DPCA is also pleased to announce another free training, "**Close Encounters with THOSE People: A Different Perspective on Diversity and Disability**," being held on Wednesday, March 31, 2010 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This popular training offers a great opportunity for people to see a "different approach" to learning about disabilities, diversity, building effective relationships and conflict resolution. The

training is conducted by trainers from the NYS Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (CQCAPD) at 401 State St., Schenectady NY. To register, please call Layna Maher at (518) 388-0693.

- On February 10<sup>th</sup> DPCA announced a new series of web-based training sessions on NYCOMPAS for probation professionals in New York State. Like YASI for juvenile probation, the NYCOMPAS provides risk and need actuarial assessment as well as case planning and other tools that can be utilized as the foundation for evidenced-based practices related to pre-trial services, pre-sentence investigation, and supervision case planning for criminal court cases.

The goal of this web-based program is to provide comprehensive training in a format that is cost-effective for probation and community correction users and that preserves its content for future reference and use. The trainings will be available in the future on EJustice, the Probation Services Suite.

Trainers from Northpointe will be conducting a series of six web-based trainings on various topics related to NYCOMPAS during the months of February and March of this year. Each training session is from 10am-12pm with the dates as follows:

- February 18<sup>th</sup>—Evidence Based Practice and Risk and Need Assessment
- February 24<sup>th</sup>—Navigation of COMPAS Probation
- March 2<sup>nd</sup>—Conducting the Assessment
- March 18<sup>th</sup>—Interpreting the COMPAS Result
- March 25<sup>th</sup>—Case Planning
- March 30<sup>th</sup>—Future of COMPAS

### **YASI Factoid!**

Probation Officers in NYS add 2500-2800 new YASI assessments to the database each and every month!

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*E-YASI is distributed by the New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (DPCA). If you have any questions or comments regarding the YASI project or E-YASI, please contact Patricia Donohue, Community Corrections Representative at 518-485-5160 or email her at [Patricia.Donohue@DPCA.state.ny.us](mailto:Patricia.Donohue@DPCA.state.ny.us).*