

Welcome to *E-YASI*, an electronic newsletter from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services--Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA), 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 OPCA website www.dpc.a.state.ny.us



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1. **Caseload Explorer/YASI Integration Advances**

AutoMon, Inc. reports in their December 2010 Review that there are now currently 30 counties live with the integrated Caseload Explorer/YASI software. Statewide there are 43 Caseload Explorer counties eligible for implementation of the integrated software. Implementation of the CE/YASI eliminates duplicate data entry by probation officers of legal history information. Live counties include:

Allegany	Chenango
Cattaraugus	Clinton
Columbia	Erie
Dutchess	Essex
Fulton	Hamilton
Jefferson	Lewis
Nassau	Orleans
Ontario	Niagara
Oswego	Schuyler (Probation and CIS)
Schenectady	Schoharie
Steuben	St. Lawrence
Suffolk	Tompkins
Sullivan	Ulster
Warren	Yates
Wyoming	Tioga

2. J-RISC 2010--Third Year Results

In year three, 2010, 296 high risk youth entered J-RISC and 202 completed within the calendar year, with the remainder carrying over into 2011. Of the 202 high risk youth who completed the evidence based program, 155 showed reductions in risk level, as demonstrated through the use of the 90 day periodic case review, part of the YASI reassessment protocol. Rates of completion within the seven counties ranged from 45% to 93% with an average of 67% (an increase from 47% in 2009). More importantly, risk level reductions ranged from 65% to 100%, with an average of 80% (up from 73% in 2009), indicating that the high risk youth and their families who completed an evidence based program (FFT, MST, etc.) through the J-RISC program, showed a marked reduction in their risk of recidivism.

3. Probation Workload System DPCA30 Family Court Report Addressed

AutoMon, Inc. and OPCA have recently updated the DPCA30 Family Workload State Report. The issue identified with the report was isolated to Line 10 (Probationers Received during Month) where cumulative totals, rather than actual count for the given period, were being reported. The error in the DPCA30 Family Workload Report has been corrected and tested by Jefferson, Ulster, and Dutchess counties. To assist counties with their submission of corrected historical DPCA 30 reports submitted to OPCA, AutoMon, Inc. has developed the DPCA30 Section 10 Stats report which will be distributed to counties, along with step by step instructions. This will ensure accuracy of future juvenile justice and family court data.

4. PINS Definition Amended to Safeguard Sexually Exploited Youth

In April 2010 the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children Act was passed in New York, which led to modifications to the Family Court Act and the Social Services Law to better safeguard sexually exploited youth. The Family Court Act modifications included additions to the PINS definition in Section 712 (a) and a procedural change to Section 311.4 which includes a presumption that a person charged as a JD for a prostitution offense meets the criteria for certification as a victim of a severe form of trafficking, as defined in Section 7105 of Title 22 of the United States Code (Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000). State Directors Memorandum #2011-3, dated March 8, 2011 was sent to all Probation Directors and Commissioners.

5. NIC “Thinking for a Change” is Piloted for Juveniles

The National Institute of Corrections *Thinking for a Change* (T4C) program model is an integrated, cognitive behavioral change program designed for offenders and delivered in small group settings. It includes cognitive restructuring, and the development of social and problem solving skills over 22 basic lessons with the capacity for unlimited continuing lessons to meet the particular needs of each group of participants.

In the past two years OPCA has trained community corrections representatives from more than 21 different probation departments and ATI Programs to be *Thinking for a Change* facilitators. The majority of these facilitators are now conducting this program and seeing a positive response from those who have participated in their groups.

The *Thinking for a Change* model and curriculum is currently being provided for juvenile groups by probation departments in Ulster, Essex, Monroe, and Niagara counties. For more information, please contact Patti Donohue at either 518-485-5160 or Patricia.Donohue@DCJS.state.ny.us.

6. Upcoming DCJS forums on Juvenile Assessment Centers (JACs)

The NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) is holding two forums on the topic of Juvenile Assessment Centers (JACs) as a potential front-end juvenile justice system reform that can help communities manage juveniles in more productive and cost effective ways.

Presentations will be held in **Mineola, NY on Tuesday, April 12 and on Wednesday, April 13 in Syracuse. Both sessions will be held from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.**

National experts will present on models that operate in Miami, Florida, Colorado and Connecticut, which provide an opportunity to address the risks and needs of youth that are driving delinquency and system involvement. JACs begin service following arrest, offering law enforcement a resource for effective assessment and case management of youth, without requiring long hours of law enforcement involvement and case processing. Model programs provide targeted assessment and case management, appropriately engage needed services early in the process, screen out youth who present low risk for re-offending and match more intense system involvement with youth who pose the highest risk to public safety.

DCJS encourages members of law enforcement, probation, presentment agencies, other court officials, mental health providers, schools and community-based not-for-profit agencies to attend. Registration is free. Registration is via http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/jac_april_registration. For questions, please call DCJS at (518) 457-3670.

7. Juvenile Justice News, Resources, and Trainings

- ♣ During 2009, the NYS Commission of Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (CQCAPD) provided training around Special Education advocacy to 168 probation officers around the state. During 2010, training was provided to 37 additional probation officers. OPCA wishes to express their appreciation to CQCAPD for including probation officers in their training opportunities.
- ♣ **YOUTH POWER!** is a NY statewide network of young people who have been labeled and are seeking change. They have experience with many different types of services that are overseen and funded by federal, state, and local government. Their 2011 Priority Agenda includes Youth Involvement and Peer Support; Reduce and Eliminate Restraint and Seclusion Across Systems; Juvenile Justice Reform; Increase Monitoring and Oversight of Psychiatric Medication; Increase Monitoring and Oversight of all Youth Residential Facilities; Education; Foster Care; and Stop and Prevent Bullying. If any probation department is looking for youth representation in the work that they do, please contact youthpower@fnys.org or 888-326-8644 or 518-432-0333.
- ♣ The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has published an article discussing Scared Straight Programs. OJJDP has indicated that Scared Straight Programs are ineffective and can harm youth. Read the full article at http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2011-01-31/news/bs-ed-scared-straight-20110131_1_straight-type-programs-straight-program-youths
- ♣ OJJDP has also published “Substance Use and Delinquent Behavior Among Serious Adolescent Offenders”. This article focuses on understanding the connection between substance use and

serious offending, including how these behaviors affect one another in adolescence and how they change in early adulthood, particularly when one behavior ceases. Read the full article at www.ojjdp.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=254883

- ♣ The US Secretary of Education has released a document that outlines key components of bullying laws and policies in 29 states. To read the document, www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/secletter/101215.html
- ♣ OJJDP announces the 2011 Gang Symposium “Progress through Partnerships” being held June 7-10, 2011 in Orlando, Florida. The symposium will focus on gang-related programs and gang reduction strategies. For more information see their website, www.gangsymposium.org
- ♣ The National Center for Education Statistics has published a report that provides high school dropout and completion rates in the US between 1972 and 2008. Also included is data about students’ age, sex, race/ethnicity, and the on-time graduation rates from high school. To view the full report, <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2011012>

YASI Factoid!

80% of YASI assessments are conducted at Intake/Diversion. The remaining 20% are conducted at Investigation or Supervision. Investigation and Supervision YASI assessments show that 72% are male and 28% are females; 30% are for PINS cases and 70% are for JD cases; 19% are under age 13; 49% are age 14-15; and 32% are age 16+.

E-YASI is distributed by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services--Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA). 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@DCJS.state.ny.us.