

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.



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1. Latest update on YASI 5-Caseload Explorer Integration-Statewide Server

After several months of county by county technical assistance, DPCA and Orbis Partners are pleased to announce that all 57 counties implementing YASI have been successfully upgraded to the web-based YASI 5! The next step is to obtain feedback from local YASI users and make the necessary adjustments to improve the software at the user level.

Any user who wishes to provide feedback may send it to Patti Donohue at Patricia.Donohue@DPCA.state.ny.us. It will then be shared with the Chief Information Officer at Orbis Partners. Additionally, any user who is experiencing a software 'challenge' may contact Orbis immediately via e-mail support@orbispartners.com, by phone at 1-888-682-7720, or via the internet at <http://www.orbispartners.com>. The Orbis Partners support team is available Monday-Friday from 9:30am-5:30pm for real time assistance.

Counties with the most current version of Caseload Explorer may opt to implement the YASI 5 version which is integrated with Caseload Explorer. Warren County has been successfully using this version for several months. County level IT concerns regarding firewall security and probation data are being currently being addressed by DPCA, Orbis Partners, and AutoMon.

The YASI 5 statewide database will be hosted by Orbis Partners until DCJS is prepared to

migrate the data and host the software and database on a statewide server within the NY Offender Assessment and Data Sharing (NOADS) system, similar to the COMPAS adult assessment protocol. This migration is expected to occur within the next 1-2 years.

2. YASI and the proposed new JD Intake Rule

Part 356 of Title 9 NYCRR-Preliminary Procedure for Article 3 Juvenile Delinquency Intake has been in development for nearly 2 years by DPCA and the JD Rule Revision Workgroup, and was sent out for the first informal review by probation departments in February 2009. Feedback from counties and COPA PARC has been incorporated, and a second draft was sent out for probation department review on August 24, 2009. The next step is for DPCA Counsel to begin the process of formal rule making through the Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform.

Many evidence-based probation practices have been incorporated throughout the proposed Rule to improve JD diversion services and outcomes. Use of actuarial assessment at Intake, case planning which focuses on identified risk, need, and protective factors, and periodic reassessment to measure progress are built into the rule, as they are integral to the successful resolution of presenting issues and effective diversion of JD cases.

3. YASI and Clinic Plus

As an outgrowth of The Children's Plan (located at www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/engage), DPCA and the NYS Office of Mental Health have partnered to provide designated Clinic Plus providers with additional resources that will make it possible for mental health staff to be on site at probation departments to provide immediate screening of youth who score high in the YASI Mental Health domain.

This Clinic Plus-Probation joint initiative will facilitate timely access to mental health evaluations for youth where the YASI Full Assessment indicates a high need for assessment and possible treatment referral, and will also provide consultation as needed to juvenile probation staff regarding youth mental health issues and social emotional development.

Counties identified at this time include Monroe, Onondaga, and Niagara. Interested counties must have a licensed Clinic Plus provider and YASI data which supports the need for an on-site mental health provider. Interested counties may contact either Patti Donohue at 518-485-5160 or Patricia.Donohue@DPCA.state.ny.us for more information.

4. YASI and JRISC

Since January 2008, seven NYS counties have implemented a new DPCA initiative, Juvenile Risk Intervention Services Coordination (JRISC). The seven counties are Dutchess (FFT); Monroe (FFT and MST); Niagara (BSFT and MST); Onondaga (MST); Orange (Strengthening Families and ART); Oswego (Adolescent Transitions Program and FFT); and Schenectady (FFT and ART).

Each JRISC county has identified a particular juvenile probation population for the program, either PINS and/or JD's, at a particular stage of the juvenile justice process, either Intake or Supervision. Counties make referrals to the JRISC program through the identification of youth who are high risk in one or more of the domains contained in the YASI Full Assessment. The

JRISC program involves intensive supervision of the case and a referral to an evidence-based intervention, as identified above.

A summary of JRISC for 2008 indicates that within those seven counties a total of 187 high risk PINS or JD youth were referred to JRISC, and as of 12/31/08, 30 had successfully completed the JRISC program.

5. Juvenile Case Management and Reassessment Training-formerly YASI Follow Up

DPCA is pleased to announce the availability of "*Juvenile Case Management and Reassessment Training*" for Juvenile Probation Officers using the YASI. This training will focus 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 will provide juvenile probation staff with case management guidance that is consistent with the evidence-based *Fundamentals of Probation Practice (FPP)* Curriculum.

As a pre-requisite, participants must have completed either the live two-day YASI initial training or the YASI E-Learning Program. Training will be provided regionally with dates/places announced as trainings are scheduled. Initial regional training sessions have now been held or scheduled:

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

Future sessions will be in the Broome County area during December 2009; in Albany on January 20, 2009; and in the Hudson Valley and NYC/Long Island areas in early 2010. Individual announcements for registration will be sent to regional clusters of counties. Training will be provided by DPCA staff with the assistance of local FPP and YASI trainers.

Training participants will learn 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; learn to make referrals to services that specifically address the identified risk and need factors that give rise to the PINS or JD behavior; learn more about services and interventions that are effective in reducing recidivism with the juvenile justice population; and learn the value and process associated with periodic case reassessment.

6. Juvenile Justice News and Resources

- The NYS Department of Labor offers CareerZone, a free internet resource for students, parents, counselors, educators, and job seekers. Features in CareerZone include a tool to assess personal career interests and identify options as well as a secure password protected portfolio section for advanced career exploration, self-assessment, and resume writing. For more information, www.nycareerzone.org or email support@nycareerzone.org, or call toll free 1-877-226-5724.
- Child Trends is a non-profit, non-partisan research organization dedicated to improving the lives of youth by conducting research and providing science-based information to

improve the decisions, programs, and policies that affect children and their families. Child Trends collects and analyzes data; disseminates research; designs and evaluates programs; and develops and tests promising approaches to research. To access Child Trends go to www.childtrends.org.

- The NYS Education Department lists school report cards, graduation rates, and demographic information by school district at www.emsc.nysed.gov.
- The NYS Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System was developed in 1990 to monitor priority health risk behaviors that contribute to death, disability, and social problems among youth in the United States. For current NYS specific data go to www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/states/ny.htm.
- OJJDP has released a fact sheet regarding JD Probation Caseloads which is located at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=246502>.
- The US Department of Education has awarded \$32.8 million to promote Safe Schools and Healthy Students. In New York, 4 school districts received an award: In Broome County, \$1.4 million to the Broome-Delaware-Tioga BOCES; in Oneida County, \$1.4 million to the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES; in Wayne County, \$731,992 to the Sodus Central School District; and in Cayuga County, \$1.4 million to the Union Springs Central School District. Congratulations to all four award winners! For more information about the Safe Schools, Healthy Students initiative, go to <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2009/07/07102009.html>.
- The NYS Council on Children and Families has announced the Innovations Project, a mechanism for local agencies to work cooperatively with state government to improve the delivery of services to children and families. Applicants are invited to present ideas through a request for technical assistance-ideas believed to be hindered by government regulations, rules, policies, or administrative structures-and request expeditious assistance in removing these barriers. The Innovations Project provides an accessible mechanism for turning innovative ideas into action and change. For more information go to www.ccf.state.ny.us/Initiatives/InnovateHome.htm.
- The 2009 KIDS COUNT Data Book is now available from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The KIDS COUNT book is complemented by a new online data center that contains hundreds of measures of child well-being covering national, state, county, and city level information. Website users can access customizable graphs and geographic profiles with measures that are of interest to those working in juvenile justice. Access the 2009 KIDS COUNT Data Book at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>.
- OJJDP has released a new edition of its Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Technical Assistance Manual. This 4th edition presents methods for calculating and analyzing DMC and describes how jurisdictions can use data to facilitate informed decision-making, collaborative approaches, intervention strategies, performance measures, and evaluation. This edition also features new information about intervention strategies specific to serving Hispanic youth in the juvenile justice system. To access this manual go to www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/dmc_ta_manual/index.html.

- 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" will provide probation officers with information to better understand the Special Education process. "Close Encounters with THOSE People: A Different Perspective on Diversity and Disability" is also available. The trainings are conducted by trainers from the NYS Commission on Quality and Care for Persons with Disabilities (CQCAPD) regionally and via videoconference. For schedule and registration information, go to www.omr.state.ny.us/wp/index.jsp and look in the current Catalogue of Training for the classes. If you have any additional questions, please contact Patti Donohue at either 518-485-5160 or Patricia.Donohue@DPCA.state.ny.us.

YASI Factoid!

The New York State YASI database now holds nearly 175,000 assessments, dating back to 2000 when YASI began with the original 6 pilot counties!

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.