

Welcome to *E-YASI*, an electronic newsletter from the New York State 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.dpca.state.ny.us](http://www.dpca.state.ny.us)



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**1. UPDATE- Caseload Explorer/YASI Integration**

OPCA is pleased to share the current status of the Caseload Explorer/YASI Interface. AutoMon, OPCA, and Orbis kicked off the integration project in October 2009. The first county went live in February 2010 and as of August 2010 there are 19 counties in full operation and 3 counties in Test Mode. As counties go live with CE 2010, access to the YASI interface is included. Test Mode counties include Rockland, Genesee, and Franklin. Live counties include:

- Chenango County
- Clinton County
- Fulton County
- Hamilton County
- Jefferson County
- Nassau County
- Niagara County
- Ontario County
- Orleans County
- Oswego County
- Schenectady County
- Schoharie County
- St. Lawrence County
- Suffolk County
- Sullivan County
- Tompkins County
- Ulster County
- Warren County
- Yates County

## **2. YASI and the OMH Clinic Plus/Probation Department Project**

As an outgrowth of The Children's Plan <http://www.ccf.state.ny.us/Initiatives/ChildPlanHome.htm> OPCA 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 or any other relevant domain, such as Attitudes, Aggression/Violence, or Substance Use.

This Clinic Plus/Probation joint initiative facilitates 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.

Data obtained from the Youth Assessment Screening Instrument (YASI) statewide database indicates 13-18 percent of PINS and JD youth show indications of substance abuse issues, and 45% of PINS and JD youth show indications of being at risk of recidivism due to mental health issues.

Counties identified to participate in the Clinic Plus/Probation Department Project at this time include: **Monroe, Onondaga, Niagara, and Albany**. Interested counties must have a licensed Clinic Plus provider and YASI data which supports the need for an on-site mental health provider. For more information, contact Patti Donohue at (518) 485-5160 or [Patricia.Donohue@DCJS.state.ny.us](mailto:Patricia.Donohue@DCJS.state.ny.us).

## **3. Dutchess County wins award for Juvenile Pre-Trial Services Using YASI**

Two Dutchess County employees, Deputy Probation Director Catherine Lane and Deputy Commissioner of Social Services Debra Bonnerwith, have been honored with a statewide award given annually by OPCA for "Outstanding Collaboration between Probation and Social Services."

The award recognizes their partnership and work on the Juvenile Pretrial Services Program, which uses the YASI Detention Screen, and has resulted in a decrease of out-of-home detention numbers and a \$200,000 savings for taxpayers. The Juvenile Pretrial Services Program involves the cooperation of Family Court judges, county attorneys, and law guardians working with the families to develop and implement a service plan as an alternative to detention.

Dutchess County's alternatives to detention services for youth also include electronic monitoring by Probation as well as the Mental Health Juvenile Justice and J-RISC programs which involve case management, evidence-based therapy and additional supervision by probation officers.

#### 4. DCJS and OCFS research begins with YASI statewide database

OPCA has begun discussions with the Division of Criminal Justice Services Office of Justice Research and Performance (DCJS) and the Office of Children and Family Services Bureau of Evaluation and Research (OCFS) to share aggregate YASI data collected by 550 juvenile probation officers representing 57 probation departments in NYS. The database is rich, with 200,157 assessments on 111,416 youth since YASI began in 2000. An evaluation of the data will provide three distinct benefits to NYS. First, it will provide a comprehensive picture of what NYS youth 'look like' in terms of risk, need, and protective factors. Second, it will begin to assist NYS in conducting recidivism studies on youth who touch the state's juvenile justice system, and third, it will provide data on which to base funding, program, and policy decisions in the future.

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

- ❖ Substance Use--In January 2009, the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) launched the *Your Story Matters* campaign at [www.iamrecovery.com](http://www.iamrecovery.com) to help raise awareness of the chronic disease of addiction; combat the stigma wrongly associated with substance use disorders and problem gambling addiction; and promote the message that prevention is proven, treatment works and recovery is real. The *Your Story Matters* campaign emphasizes the light at the end of the tunnel and offers insight into a battle worth the fight. It is dedicated to the individuals who are leading productive, healthy and fulfilling lives in recovery and the friends and families who have supported loved ones through their battle with addiction.

*Your Story Matters* offers hope to those still in the grips of alcoholism, chemical dependency or problem gambling. The individuals who choose to share their stories at [www.iamrecovery.com](http://www.iamrecovery.com) represent the future -- they are the hope, inspiration and proof that recovery is happening every day across the state and beyond. Through these stories of courage, second chances, gratitude, and potential, New Yorkers can walk proudly in celebration of recovery in a society that welcomes their achievements.

- ❖ Parent Training--A leading objective of the Children's Plan is to "increase the availability of education programs for families that build knowledge and offer skills and techniques that parents can use in raising emotionally healthy children". To this end, the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) has joined forces with Prevent Child Abuse New York (representing the NYS Parenting Education Partnership, or NYSPEP) and Families Together in an effort to improve parenting education in NYS by:
  - improving access to and quality of parenting education programs at the local level via a new searchable website;
  - identifying parenting education needs and access issues through surveys and focus groups; and,
  - supporting the professional development of parenting education.

NYSPEP, formed in 2007 includes approximately 250 members statewide (including representatives of seven state agencies), has assumed a leadership role in parenting education in New York State. Under a separate, but related initiative with OCFS, they are in the process of developing a new Parent Kit based on a California model which has been demonstrated to increase positive parenting practices. For more information regarding either project, please contact Michelle Gross of Prevent Child Abuse New York at (518) 445-1273 or [mgross@preventchildabuseny.org](mailto:mgross@preventchildabuseny.org) or Eileen Myers of OMH at (518) 473-8502 or [CCONEMM@omh.state.ny.us](mailto:CCONEMM@omh.state.ny.us).

- ❖ Department of Labor--The Educator Academy allows educators the time they need to explore and develop individualized youth strategies for life and work readiness and success. It is designed for middle and high school counselors and teachers of all disciplines. The Academy is a blended learning experience that takes place over a six week period. It includes face-to-face sessions as well as an online component.

This program has been designed to offer the latest information on the global and local labor markets, career development research and theory, free technology resources and expectations of the ever-changing workplace.

For more information, contact Victoria Gray, NYS Department of Labor, Youth Initiatives Office by e-mail [Victoria.Gray@labor.state.ny.us](mailto:Victoria.Gray@labor.state.ny.us) or by telephone at (518) 402-0440

- ❖ Special Education Training— In 2009, the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives began including the NYS Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (CQCAPD) training announcements in their EFocus and EYASI newsletters. Since that time, 167 probation officers have received the "Start to Finish: Steps to Successful Special Education Services" training. The cross-systems initiative shows a steady growth in attendance of probation officers due to consistent inclusion of announcements in each newsletter and outreach efforts by CQCAPD. This is a desired outcome of the Children's Plan. For more information on this cross-agency initiative, please contact Patti Donohue at 518-485-5160 or [patricia.donohue@DCJS.state.ny.us](mailto:patricia.donohue@DCJS.state.ny.us). You can visit [www.cqc.ny.gov](http://www.cqc.ny.gov) for more information about trainings available by CQCAPD.

- ❖ School Community Partnership information—Three programs can provide information to assist with local school community partnerships to improve the lives of youth:

- ✓ [www.communitiesinschools.org](http://www.communitiesinschools.org)
- ✓ [www.higherachievement.org](http://www.higherachievement.org)
- ✓ [www.readyby21.org](http://www.readyby21.org)

- ❖ Graduation Rates—"Diplomas Count" is an annual look at nationwide trends related to high school graduation. The latest research from the Editorial Projects in Education Research Center indicates that for the class of 2007 (most recent available data) the graduation rate is 68.8%, a drop from the 2006 class rate of 69.2%. More troubling is the graduation gaps between students in different demographic groups. For the full report, <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/06/10/34execsum.h29.html>.

- ❖ Key Child Data—The Children’s Defense Fund has released “The State of America’s Children 2010”, a compilation of the most recent and reliable national and state-by-state data on poverty, health, child welfare, youth at risk, early childhood development, education, family income, and gun violence. The report indicates alarming numbers of children at risk and that children in America lag behind almost all industrialized nations on key child indicators. For the full report, <http://www.childrensdefense.org>.
  
- ❖ NYC Mental Health Services for Youth--The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) recently announced a comprehensive solution to address the chronic need for community-based mental health alternatives in Brooklyn for children and their families, and the lack of intensive residential treatment in New York City for court-involved youth with mental health problems. Implementation of the plan is expected to begin in summer 2011 and phase-in will occur over a 3 year period. This investment is made possible through the reconfiguration of OMH services and the shift of OMH and OCFS resources. The expansion of services is responsive to the goals of the NYS Children’s Plan <http://www.ccf.state.ny.us/Initiatives/ChildPlanHome.htm>
  
- ❖ Mental Health Guide for Young People—“Mental Health: A Guide to Action” is a mental health guide designed by young people for young people. It includes descriptions of mental health issues, resources, and ways to take action to promote mental health personally and in the community. Available at [http://tig.phpwebhosting.com/guidetoaction/Mental\\_Health\\_Guide\\_to\\_Action.pdf](http://tig.phpwebhosting.com/guidetoaction/Mental_Health_Guide_to_Action.pdf)
  
- ❖ The Teen Years Explained—Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health has published a guide which describes the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social, sexual, identity formation, and spiritual changes that happen during the second decade of life. Available at [http://www.jhsph.edu/adolescenthealth/\\_includes/Interactive%20Guide.pdf](http://www.jhsph.edu/adolescenthealth/_includes/Interactive%20Guide.pdf).
  
- ❖ Publications Announced by OJJDP
  - ✓ “America’s Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well Being 2010” can be accessed at [www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/index.asp](http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/index.asp)
  - ✓ “Healing Invisible Wounds: Why Investing in Trauma-Informed Care for Children Makes Sense” can be accessed at [www.justicepolicy.org/](http://www.justicepolicy.org/).
  - ✓ “Juvenile Court Statistics, 2006-2007” can be accessed at [www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov).
  - ✓ “Census on Juveniles on Probation” available at <https://ojjdp.gmu.edu/public/>.
  - ✓ “Juvenile Delinquency Probation Caseload, 2007” is available at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp).

**YASI Factoid!**

New York State probation YASI Pre Screen data reveals that there are 36.5% youth at Low risk; 33.5% at Moderate risk; and 30% at High risk of recidivism. This distribution of approximately 1/3 low, 1/3 moderate, and 1/3 high risk youth in NYS probation is in keeping with national data.

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*E-YASI is distributed by the New York State 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](mailto:Patricia.Donohue@DCJS.state.ny.us).*