

Dutchess County Office of Probation and
Community Corrections

2010 Annual Report



William R. Steinhaus
County Executive

Mary Ellen Still
Director of Probation

William A. Fluck
Deputy Director

Catherine A. Lane
Deputy Director

2010 Annual Report

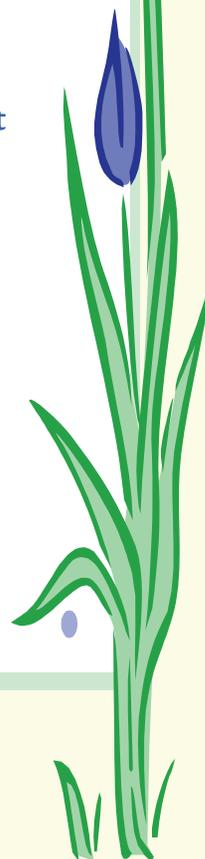
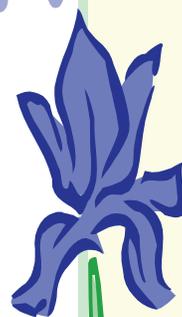
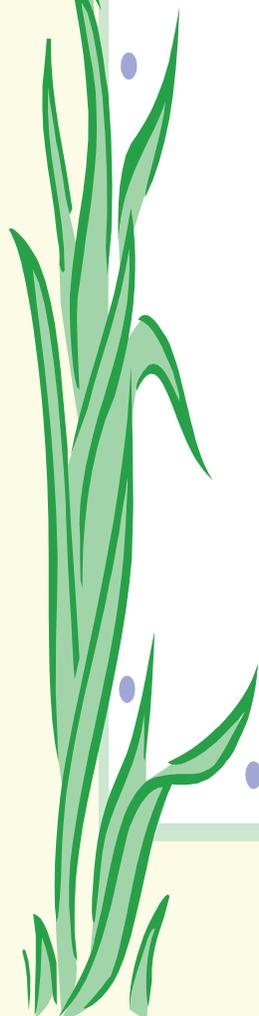


A Message From the Director

I am once again pleased and proud to submit the Annual Report for the Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections. The 2010 Annual Report reflects the continued efforts of the department's staff to implement evidence-based practices, an objective that has been a primary focus for the past several years. Beginning with the introduction of actuarial assessments, the foundation of evidence-based practices, the department has embarked on a multi-year journey to use the best research available to guide our efforts to reduce recidivism. These practices, combined with the creativity and dedication of staff, have shown very positive results. As the challenges and accomplishments of 2010 are described throughout the report, the many facets of the department are revealed, from work with at-risk youth to supervising domestic violence offenders. Probation employees routinely display the attributes needed to successfully deal with the various job requirements that help to ensure community safety. The department recognizes and appreciates the ongoing support of County Executive William R. Steinhaus and the Dutchess County Legislature.

2010

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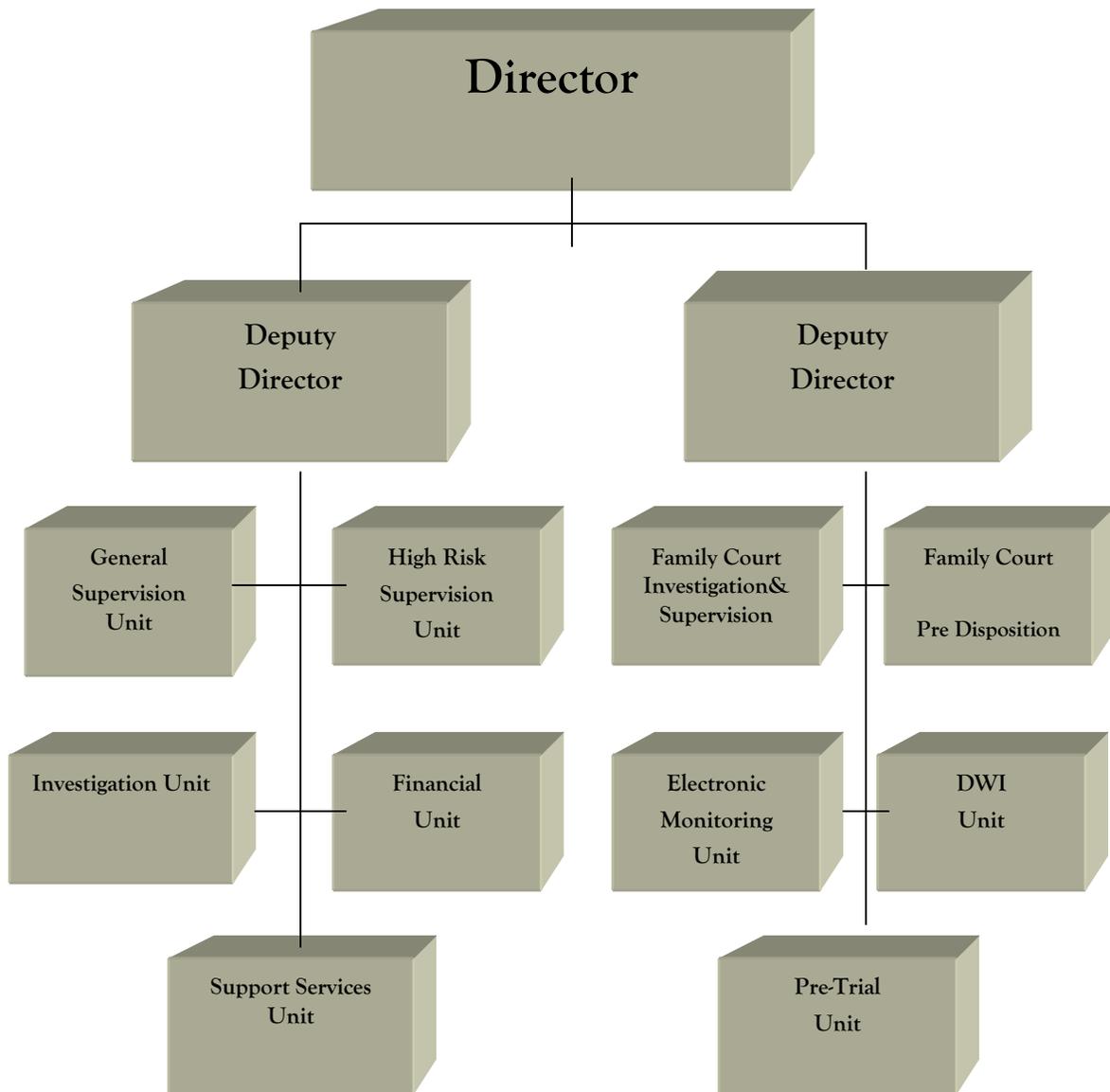
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Organizational Chart





MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections is to protect the community through intervention in the lives of those under supervision by facilitating compliance with court orders and serving as a catalyst for positive change. We operate in collaboration with our criminal justice partners and the community. We provide services to courts, help strengthen families and give victims a voice in the justice system. We provide leadership and services in a cost effective community based setting.

Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections



Units

Family Court Supervision
Family Court Diversion
Pretrial Services
Electronic Monitoring
Investigations
High Risk Supervision
General Supervision
DWI
Financial

Unit Administrators

Thomas Morris
Karen DeSimone
Jonathan Heller
John Kryzak
Joanne Nellis
Karen O'Connor
Jane Walker
Joanne Nellis
Peggy Milone

Dutchess County Legislature Public Safety Committee

Kenneth Roman, Chairman
Steve White, Vice Chairman

James Doxsey John Thomes
Marge Horton Donald J. Sadowski, Jr.
Benjamin Traudt

Definitions of Terms

AJL– Aegis Justice Link
CASAC– Alcohol Substance Abuse Counselor
COMPAS– Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions-actuarial risk & need assessment
DAAC– Domestic Abuse Awareness Classes
DART—Domestic Abuse Response Team
EM– Electronic Monitoring
FFT—Functional Family Therapy
GREAT—Gang Resistance Education and Training
ICAOS– Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision
ICOTS—Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System
IMPACT– Integrated Municipal Police Anti-Crime Team
ITAP– Intensive Treatment Alternative Program
JEM—Juvenile Electronic Monitoring
JRISC—Juvenile Risk Intervention Services Coordination
LPR—License Plate Reader
LSI-R—Level of Service Inventory-Revised
MAYSI– Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument
MHJJ—Mental Health Juvenile Justice
PINS—Persons in Need of Supervision
PSI– Pre-Sentence Investigation
PVRC– Probation Violation Residential Center
ROR– Release on Recognizance
RUS -Release Under Supervision
THP– Transitional Housing Program
VIP- Victim Impact Panel
VSU—Victim Services Unit
YASI—Youth Assessment Screening Instrument

Evidence based policy is an approach that helps people make well informed decisions about policies and programs by putting the best available evidence from research at the heart of policy development and implementation. Evidence based practices rely on multiple studies, often referred to as meta analysis.

Evidence based practices are those based on research—they are science based rather than opinion based.

Family Court Unit Intake/Predisposition

Karen DeSimone, Unit Administrator
Paul Spagnoli, Senior Probation Officer

The youth and families of Dutchess County continue to face the challenges of our times; often needing services and support and calling for assistance during a time when economic struggles have limited the other community resources available. Probation Diversion programs assist youth at risk; seeking to address and resolve their needs while diverting them from a more formal response in a courtroom. While this seems increasingly difficult in these times, the need remains and our efforts continue. The youth of today face challenges unlike any of generations past. Technology has advanced quickly and opened a world of new communications. With this emerges issues never before known to the Juvenile or Criminal Justice system. Youth are now cyber-bullied. They are tempted with drugs found in their own bathroom cabinets or readily available on the shelves of retail stores. The problems of our youth and families have become more complicated and we strive to meet their needs and assist them to achieve the most positive outcomes. While these challenges are often abundant, we are reminded that youth remain our greatest asset in the future and our families are the true strength of our communities.

▪ **Intake Function**

- ❖ ***Family Court Intake*** assists the public by preparing various petitions necessary to access Family Court. The various petitions prepared include petitions for spousal support, modification of child support, custody, visitation, paternity, guardianship and family offense petitions for those who seek Orders of Protection. Representatives from Grace Smith House Inc. assist in completing family offense petitions as well as providing advocacy for domestic violence victims.

Appearance tickets issued to potential juvenile delinquents by police departments throughout the county are returnable to Intake. In 2010, 188 Appearance Tickets were returnable to Probation Intake.

Intake also accepts PINS complaints from parents/schools and occasionally police officers. In 2010, 365 PINS complaints were received.

- **Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS)**

712(a) of The New York State Family Court Act defines a Person in Need of Supervision as a person less than eighteen years of age who does not attend school in accordance with the provisions of part one sixty-five of the Education Law or who is incorrigible, ungovernable or habitually disobedient and beyond the lawful control of a parent or other person legally responsible for such child's care, or other lawful authority, or who violates the provision of section 221.05 of the New York State Penal Law which is the unlawful possession of marijuana.

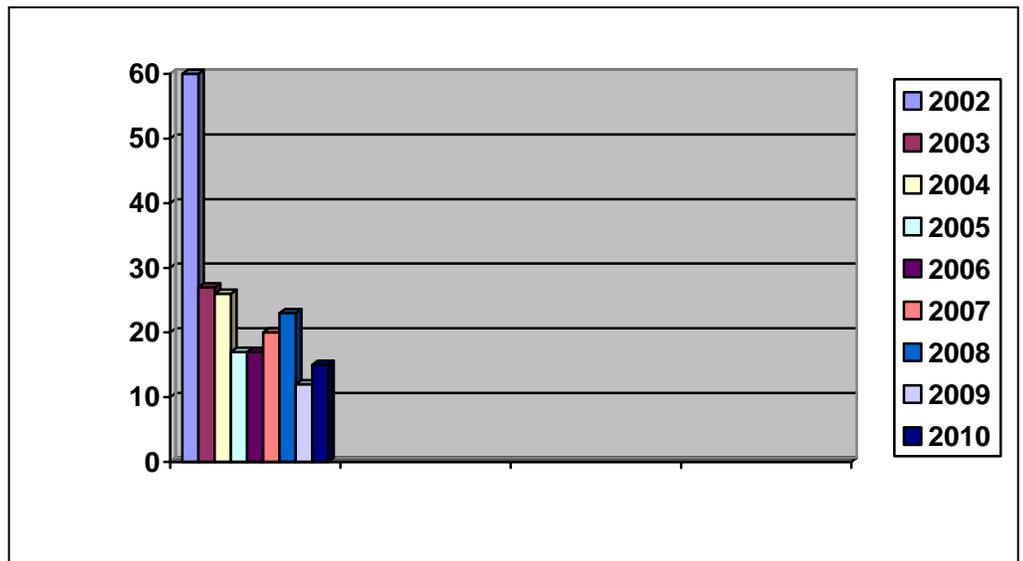
- **PINS Diversion Services**

All youth subject to a PINS complaint are offered a period of Diversion services. During this time, the youth and their family, working with a Probation Officer, are referred to various identified community programs to address the needs which led to the complaint. Diversion services are voluntary and also require the cooperation of the parent / guardian of the youth. Diversion cases typically remain open for 6 to 9 months with services ending when the case plan objectives are met and the behavior has improved.

The Probation Officers in this unit assist the youth in completing a Case Management Plan which is developed with the family and part of the initial YASI Assessment (see YASI below for further information). During the period of PINS Diversion Services, the Probation Officers work closely with the youth and families to address the identified needs that brought them to Diversion by referring them to various programs both within and outside of the agency. If diversion does not resolve the complaint, the matter may be referred to Family Court for further intervention. The Probation Officers in this unit are committed to divert cases from the Family Court whenever possible; as it is a far better outcome to address the needs of a youth and their family on a voluntary basis. This successful effort has resulted in a reduction in PINS petitions forwarded to Family Court and a dramatic reduction in PINS placements in the past several years.

PINS PLACEMENTS

2002 – 60
2003 – 27
2004 – 26
2005 - 17
2006 - 17
2007 – 20
2008 – 23
2009 - 12
2010 - 19



The PINS coordinator, Paul Spagnoli, receives and assigns all new cases, and facilitates cases through the assessment process including the scheduling of School Review Meetings and the review of the 30-day Youth Assessment Screening Instrument [YASI] which includes a case management plan. The PINS Coordinator organizes and facilitates a weekly Intake Review Committee during which all cases accepted for Diversion Services during the preceding week are reviewed with the various co-located services available on-site to consider early referral for assistance. The PINS Coordinator also communicates regularly with all school districts regarding utilization of the program and coordination of individual cases.

- ❖ **YASI** - The YASI is an evidence-based tool effective in determining risk and protective factors. The domains with the highest risk factors are targeted in the case management plan. PINS Diversion youth with a PRE-YASI low risk level are referred out of the agency to the Youth Services Unit as evidence shows keeping low risk cases in the juvenile justice system actually increases risk of recidivism.
- ❖ **MAYSI** A mental health screening is conducted on all consenting PINS & JD Diversion youth by use of a **MAYSI** questionnaire. The **MAYSI** (Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument) identifies signs of mental health issues among youth between the ages of 12 – 17 years. Depending on the results, immediate referrals to an appropriate agency may be made or a further evaluation recommended.

- ❖ **The Collaborative Solutions Team** assists in mental health screens, consultations, interventions [including crisis], safety assessments, mediation, and substance abuse screening and assessment. They can be utilized as a team or individually at any stage from intake to case supervision. In 2007 a new mediator was hired who serves as both a mediator and the Unit’s Restorative Justice Manager.

- ❖ **PINS Case Management** A certified social worker from the Astor Clinic continues to work with our younger children [10 & under] as well as children referred for a second time to the PINS Program. The worker may do outreach to families in the home to assist them in linking to services. The certified social worker works within the Office of Probation and Community Corrections in partnership with the assigned probation officer.

- ❖ **Functional Family Therapy (FFT)** Functional Family Therapy is an evidence-based family counseling approach that has been demonstrated to be effective to a wide range of at-risk youth and their families. A team of professionals comprised of Probation Officers, Astor clinical staff, and staff from the Dutchess County Department of Mental Hygiene currently make up the team providing this service to youth and their families involved with the Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections. A single team member will provide the actual family sessions, but will also work closely with the assigned probation officer. The FFT counseling approach works to develop the unique strengths of each family, and to enhance the families’ ability to make positive changes in the future on their own.

- ❖ **“Tail Waggin’ Tutors”**



Deputy Director, Cathy Lane with her Therapy dog, Annie.

Therapy Dogs International, Inc. (TDI) is a volunteer group organized to provide qualified handlers and their Therapy Dogs for visitation in a variety of facilities and settings. “Tail Waggin’ Tutors” program is one of TDI’s many services. Children and youth who may be struggling with reading are given the opportunity to bond over a shared story. The youth’s confidence and reading skills grow in a relaxing environment. “Annie”, a TDI registered Therapy Dog, provides “Tail Waggin’ Tutoring” to youth who are served in our Family Court Units on an as needed basis. This is one of the more innovative approaches to meeting the needs of our youth at risk. Her presence in general is soothing to staff, families and everyone she meets.

- **Juvenile Delinquent (JD)**

301.2(1) of The New York State Family Court Act defines a Juvenile Delinquent as a person over seven and less than sixteen years of age, who, having committed an act that would constitute a crime if committed by an adult.

- **JD Diversion Services**

Following the Appearance Ticket Intake interview, Juvenile Delinquency complaints are reviewed and considered for Diversion Services. Similar to PINS Diversion Services, participation in the JD Diversion program is voluntary on behalf of the youth and family, however, the victim of the youth's crime must also be in agreement to divert the case and the youth must be willing to accept some responsibility for the crime they are accused of committing. Most JD cases meeting that criterion are offered JD Diversion services for a period of 2 to 4 months. JD Diversion youth with a PRE-YASI low risk level are referred out of the agency to the Youth Services Unit as evidence shows keeping low risk cases in the juvenile justice system actually increases risk of recidivism. The remaining appropriate JD complaints are assigned to a Probation Officer who completes a YASI and a Case Management Plan and then helps facilitate the youth in meeting the obligations of the plan. The youth work closely with the Probation Officer to address any identified needs that may be contributing to the behavior that brought them into probation and monitor the payment of restitution, if necessary. Additionally, the youth is required to complete the JD Diversion Restorative Justice Program.

- ❖ **JD Diversion Restorative Justice Program**

Launched in 2009, the JD Diversion Restorative Justice Program brings to the unit the traditional philosophy of Restorative Justice; a community response to crime whereby the central focus is shifted to victim needs and offender responsibility for repairing the harm caused. As such, cases assigned to the JD Diversion program have the following requirements for successful program completion:

1. All youth are required to complete **Community Service** hours. The amount of hours is determined by the classification of crime committed. The youth and the Probation Officer will strive to find a community service location which connects to the act committed.

2. All youth are required to attend a **Victim Empathy Workshop** facilitated by the Restorative Justice Manager and a Probation Officer. This 90 minute workshop is scheduled monthly and also offered as an individual session for any youth who may not benefit from the group environment (such as a younger participant). During the workshop, there is a 45 minute interactive discussion with written exercises regarding the definition of empathy as it relates to the actions of the participants. This is followed by a 45 minute session during which

each participant produces a letter of apology to the victim of his/her criminal act. The letter produced is forwarded to the assigned Probation Officer who then works with the youth to make corrections as needed.

3. All cases require direct contact with the victim of the offense. Probation Officers will seek information from victims, refer victims for support services if needed, and use the victim input to complete a **Victim Impact Statement**. Victim input is also sought to determine what type of community service is selected or if the victim chooses to receive a letter of apology from the youth.

The JD Diversion Restorative Justice Program completed its infancy in 2009 and now looks ahead to expanding. In 2010, the program expanded to include Victim-Offender Mediation and Group/Family Conferencing.

2010 Annual Report for Family Court Investigation and Supervision Unit

Audra Schumacher, Unit Administrator
Sarah Kennedy, Senior Probation Officer
Chantal Sherwin, Senior Probation Officer

The Family Court Investigation and Supervision Unit provides probation services to children and families who are involved with the juvenile justice system. These services include pre-dispositional investigations for Custody, Visitation, Guardianship, Neglect, Family Offense, Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) and Juvenile Delinquency (JD). Probation supervision is provided for youth adjudicated as Persons in Need of Supervision and Juvenile Delinquents, as well as for youth who received Supervised Adjournments in Contemplation of Dismissal on JD and PINS petitions. Pre-dispositional supervision of juveniles who were arraigned in Family Court is also provided.

Investigations

Two full-time and one part-time officer in the Family Court Unit prepare seven different types of investigations that are used in the juvenile justice system. The majority of reports produced by the Family Court Unit are for Juvenile Delinquency and PINS matters. The investigations are used by the Family Court, County Attorney's Office, Department of Social Services, Office

of Children and Family Services, therapists and supervising probation officers. The primary purpose of the investigations are to assist the Family Court in making sentencing decisions for children and youth. In addition, officers whose primary assignment is supervision of probationers are regularly called upon to prepare updated investigations and reports on probationers under their supervision.

The Youth Assessment Screening Instrument (YASI) is administered and utilized as an integral part of the Pre-dispositional Investigation. The investigation includes sections on the Legal/Family Court History, Present Offense including the description and both respondent's and victim's statements, Social and Family History, School and/or Employment History, Community and Peer Relationships and Use of Free Time, Alcohol and Other Drugs, Physical and Mental Health, Attitudes, Skills, Home Environment, Evaluative Analysis and Recommendation. In addition, the risk and protective factors are assessed utilizing the YASI with a case plan formulated as part of the YASI.

The following chart illustrates the breakdown of investigations handled by the Family Court Supervision and Investigation Unit during 2010.

Family Court Investigations 2010								
	Custody	Supplemental	Guardian	J.D. Pre-Dispositional	PINS Pre-Dispositional	Visitation	Other	Total
JAN.	1	0	0	11	5	0	0	17
FEB.	2	0	0	9	9	0	0	20
MAR.	10	0	2	8	8	0	0	28
APR.	3	2	1	10	6	0	0	22
MAY	6	1	2	16	1	0	0	26
JUNE	1	2	1	9	4	0	0	17
JULY	1	0	0	13	4	0	0	18
AUG.	1	0	2	4	6	0	1	14
SEPT	4	1	0	2	1	0	3	11
OCT.	5	0	0	8	5	1	0	19
NOV.	3	0	0	7	8	0	0	18
DEC.	7	0	0	2	2	0	0	11
Total	44	6	8	99	59	1	4	221

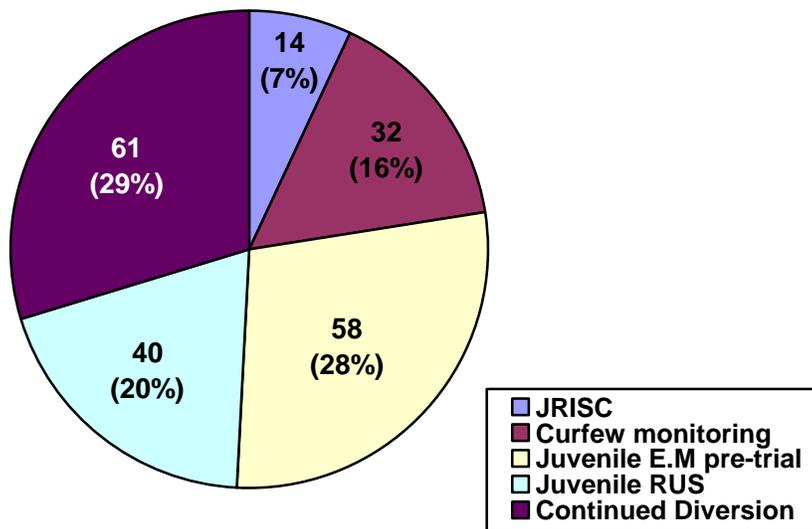
Pre-trial Services and Programs

Probation liaison services are provided on Tuesdays in Dutchess County Family Court by a Probation Case Manager Aide. This is particularly important as we have found the courts and assistant county attorneys to be responsive to our efforts to utilize programs that offer alternatives to pre-trial detention.

The pre-dispositional use of the Juvenile Electronic Monitoring (JEM) Program has remained a popular option used by the Family Court Judges in Dutchess County. This has given potential probationers the opportunity to demonstrate, while their case is pending, that they can safely remain in the community, thus preventing placement outside their home. The investigating officer takes into consideration the progress of those released to pre-disposition JEM in their report to the court. Pre-dispositional status included juveniles arraigned on Violations of Probation and released to JEM while their violations were pending. A majority of pre-dispositional electronic monitoring juvenile cases have achieved successful completion.

In an effort to reduce the number of youths being housed in detention prior to the disposition of their case, we continue to expand and utilize a variety of pre-dispositional programs. In addition to having a court liaison present in court on Tuesdays when most juvenile cases are heard, the Office of Probation and Community Corrections receives the daily census of all youth remanded to non secure detention as well as secure detention. A probation officer reviews each case to determine if the youth can be released from detention and safely maintained in the community under the supervision or intervention of one of the pretrial programs. We continue to work towards the goal of providing rehabilitative services, while maintaining youth in their homes whenever feasible, in light of need to maintain the safety of both the youth and the public.

Juvenile Pre-Trial Programs 2010



- **Release Under Supervision (RUS)** – Pre-trial supervision of JD or PINS cases based on specific conditions of pre-trial release outlined by the Family Court Judge.
- **Curfew Monitoring Program** – Probation staff conduct in-person and phone curfew checks several times a month to verify curfew compliance. The court can mandate the youth to participate in this program or it can be a voluntary participation agreed upon by the family.
- **Juvenile Electronic Monitoring (JEM)** – This program continues to be utilized frequently by the Family Court Judges in lieu of pre-dispositional detention.
- **Juvenile Risk Intervention Services Coordination (JRISC)** –The Juvenile Intervention Service Coordination Program (JRISC) is grant funded and provides intensive services to prevent out of home placement of high risk youth as identified by the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI). A probation officer, a probation case manager aide, and an Astor therapist are all on-site at the probation office and work collaboratively. The JRISC team maintains a caseload of fifteen juveniles. Families participate in Functional Family Therapy; an evidence based program which research has shown effectively reduces recidivism.
- **Continued Diversion / Return to Diversion** – This program continues to expand. It involves only PINS cases. When a petition is filed in Family Court due to refusal to participate in diversion or poor performance on diversion, the judge may order a family to participate with diversion services until disposition of the case.
- **Mental Health Juvenile Justice (MHJJ)** –provides numerous services to prevent out of home placement of youth with mental health issues (can be sentenced to probation or on diversion). The Astor therapist and case manager aide are co-located at the Office of Probation three days a week and work collaboratively with the probation officers.

Supervision

The mission of the Family Court Unit, as it applies to supervision, is to prevent youth from becoming further involved in the juvenile justice system and to prevent their progress into the adult criminal justice system by addressing the underlying issues. Caseload size varied with one Sr. Probation Officer and two probation officers assigned to intensive caseloads which include those on electronic monitoring, in Youth Treatment Court or in the juvenile sex offender caseload. Due to the intensity of services provided to those on specialized caseloads, the number of youths per officer is limited. The intent was to maintain specialized caseloads with a maximum of 15 youth. In addition to providing intensive supervision of the youth on Juvenile Electronic Monitoring (JEM), the JEM officers also have other specialized duties related to their specialties.

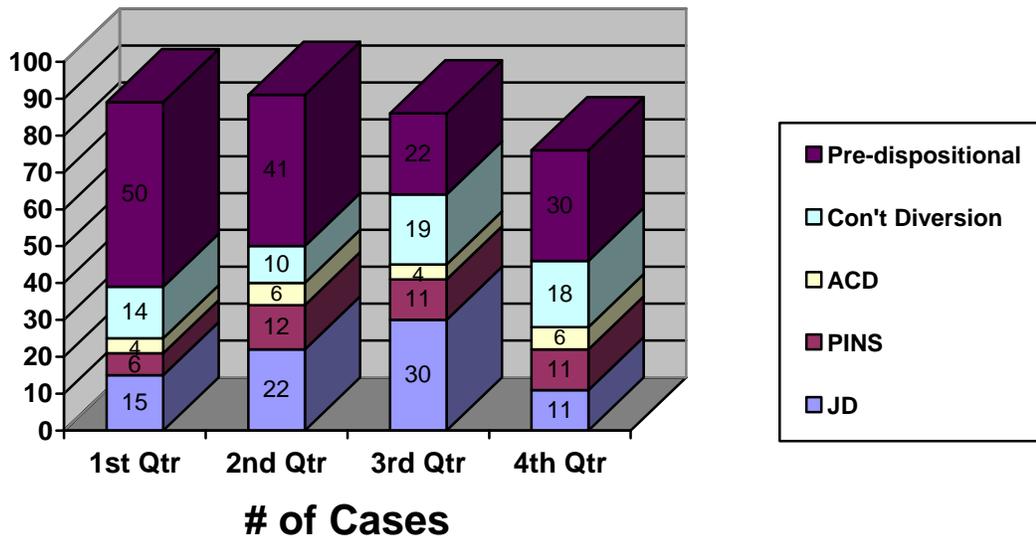
A Senior Probation Officer oversees various groups held in the office and co-facilitates several groups to address needs and develop strengths. The Youth Treatment Court officer is part of the Treatment Court Team and attends the team meetings and court sessions, facilitates referrals to the Treatment Court and has intensive contact with

rehabilitation programs, schools and service providers. This officer also provides transportation of probationers and at times their family members to and from rehabilitation centers and court appointments. The juvenile sex offender (JSO) officer has extensive contact with the juvenile sex offender therapists and attends bi-monthly meetings with the JSO staff and PDI writer assigned to JSO cases. Maintaining these intensive caseloads and incorporating treatment and service providers through successful collaboration has maintained the availability of services within the probation framework, thus preventing out of home placements whenever feasible within the constraints of community safety.

In addition to assessing risk and protective factors, the officers monitor behavior at home and at school and intervene as appropriate to address the identified needs. The probation officers offer opportunities for youth to increase the protective factors in their lives by establishing groups on site, in school and within the community in education, leisure activities, social skills development, anger management, gang resistance education and cognitive behavioral development.

We continue to have a senior probation officer assigned to the BOCES BETA site who works with youth who are on both diversion and formal probation supervision. We also continue to have two probation officers within this unit who taught the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) program in the Poughkeepsie City Schools in 2010. Probation Officers directly linked youth with services within their communities to address needs and develop protective factors. Included were community service opportunities, employment programs, parenting classes, school counseling, and treatment for substance abuse, mental health issues and sexual offending behaviors.

Juvenile Supervision Cases Received in 2010



The Family Court Supervision and Investigation Unit continues to evolve while providing the youth of Dutchess County with innovative evidence-based services and alternatives to placement.

PRETRIAL SERVICES UNIT
Jonathan Heller-Unit Administrator
Carol Hooper, Senior Probation Officer

This Unit is a specialized division in the department that has the primary responsibilities of Pretrial Release Services, both interstate and intrastate probation transfer services and user-based, first line information technology support as well as various related secondary responsibilities. In addition to the Supervisor and the Senior Officer, staffing included eight Probation Officers and one Case Manager Aide

Pretrial Services Unit

The presence of an effective Pretrial Release program has been shown to provide mitigation of jail crowding; providing for a more efficient and equitable use of jail confinement while offering the courts many other options for community based offender management.

Most of the counties in New York State operate some form of formalized pretrial release program, administered either by governmental or non-profit organizations. These programs facilitate release without financial conditions by identifying appropriate defendants for release on recognizance (ROR) or release under supervision (RUS). In general, ROR refers to the release of a defendant on his or her promise to appear in court. RUS refers to the release on a promise to appear with other conditions, which restrain the defendant's behavior and movements, and are monitored by the pretrial service.

Dutchess County is fortunate to have been involved in providing pretrial service programming for the past 37 years. Finding roots in the US Supreme Court decision Stack vs. Boyle in the 50's and the Vera Institute's Manhattan Bail project in the 60's and 70's, Dutchess County Probation structured a pretrial release protocol in 1974. Our 'ROR' program was developed in order to avoid unnecessary pretrial incarceration of primarily indigent defendants, based on the premise that if the purpose of bail is to ensure the defendant's appearance in court; then bail is a benefit only for those who can afford it.

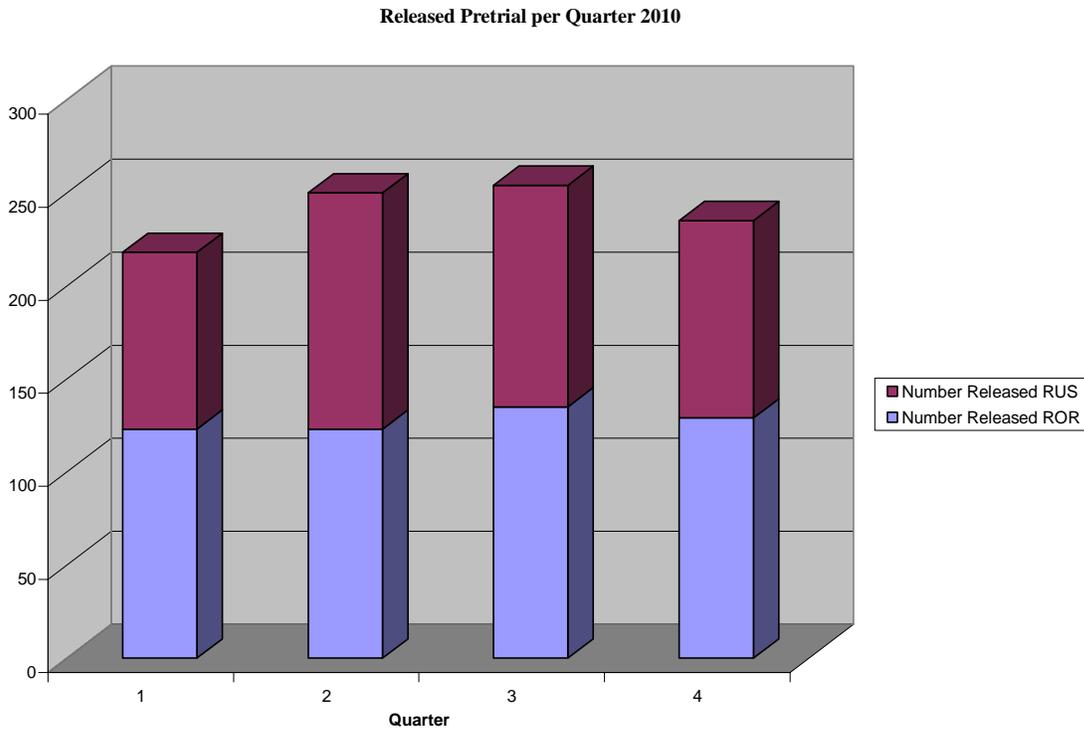
Initially only a jail based program, the structure in Dutchess County followed the Vera Institute's programming very closely, and our program proceeded unchanged until the late 1980's, when the jail population exploded. This was not unique to Dutchess or New York for that matter and, as such, ROR/RUS programs across the nation were bolstered and expanded. Following the national and statewide trend, and with an influx of dedicated state funding, we expanded several times during this period.

The Pretrial Services Unit within the department remains primarily focused on providing courts with another option to bail, with the goal of reducing unnecessary pretrial detention. Dutchess County continues to offer release services along a 'continuum of control'; defendants are considered initially for those releases that are least restrictive, however, if release is not achieved, or the defendant presents a greater risk, more limiting release options are considered, such as electronic monitoring. This approach has proven successful and aids in dispositional

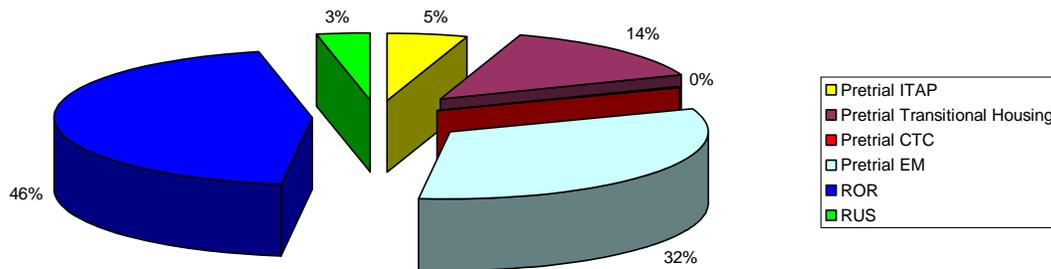
planning across the entire criminal justice system process, providing additional options and tools as alternatives to incarceration.

Commonly referred to as ROR/RUS, the program continues to follow the same basic structure as previous years: an interview of the defendant is conducted, information is verified and a validated risk tool is applied to make a determination as to the risk of failure to return to court. This program has expanded through the years as needs presented, to include screening at the jail twice daily on business days and once on Sundays. Additionally, officers within this unit staff the higher volume courts in order to preclude the incarceration of those defendants deemed appropriate and eligible for release. Screening and evaluation for these least restrictive programs occurs following the guidelines set by both the state and national pretrial standards. As such, evaluations are completed expeditiously and the information and recommendations are forwarded to the courts as soon thereafter as possible. Those defendants deemed ineligible for direct release are carefully reviewed for more restrictive programming such as Electronic Home Detention, ITAP, and Transitional Housing, each described in detail elsewhere in this report.

For the period of 2010, the number of interviews and releases remained consistent with previous years, and tend to follow the number of jail admissions. Quarterly representations are shown below:



2010 Releases to Pretrial Programs by Percentage



The Pretrial/Mental Health Diversion Initiative continues to respond to the increased numbers of criminal defendants entering the jail with serious mental health issues. The program, first piloted in the City of Poughkeepsie Court, targets a population of individuals with mental health issues whom, for whatever reason, have lost connections to necessary services. In many cases, these individuals may display behaviors that ultimately lead to arrest, essentially criminalizing underlying mental health issues that have manifested themselves in these behaviors. The Diversion Initiative seeks to connect, or in many cases re-connect, these individuals with services, addressing the issues and avoiding incarceration. The pretrial services officer staffing City Lockup conducts initial screening via the Pretrial Release eligibility interview. Specific responses then require that the case be forwarded to a Forensic Screener employed by Dutchess County Department of Mental Hygiene. Both an immediate preliminary plan and a longer term plan are put in place in order that the individual's needs are met, and in many cases the criminal prosecution is avoided entirely, netting a savings of both jail and court time.

Pretrial in 2010

2010 saw both positive and negative impacts on Pretrial Services in Dutchess County. Because of ever increasing budget constraints, Pretrial Services was required to re-evaluate and trim some functions. As many of these functions require evening and off hour activities, support was sometimes provided by overtime expenditures. As budgets dictated a reduced amount of available overtime, each function was evaluated so as to save the most amount of money with the least impact on jail population. It was determined that elimination of staffing of a secondary evening court, the staffing of the jail by a pretrial officer on one weekend day (as opposed to both) and the elimination of holiday jail interviews, would provide the greatest fiscal savings

while impacting the viability of the program the least. We have done our best to maintain a full level of service despite these adjustments.

On the positive side, most of the unit staff was able to attend a statewide Pretrial Services conference in April. The New York Association of Pretrial Service Agencies (NYAPSA) held a pretrial conference for the first time in 10 years. The conference was held in Troy, New York and over the span of 2 days; we enjoyed a wealth and variety of speakers and presentations on timely topics, historical perspectives and instruction from basic to advanced pretrial practices. The speakers included some nationally recognized experts in the pretrial field such as Delbert Boone, President of NND Productions, a consulting and training firm based in New York, Cliff Kenean, Deputy Director of the District of Columbia Pre-trial Services Agency, and Tim Murray, Executive Director of the Pretrial Justice Institute (PJI). Probably the most positive thing that the staff was able to take from the conference was the ability to interact with other pretrial professionals from across the state, allowing for the exchange of ideas and providing the opportunity for program self assessment. All staff brought back positive feedback and were reinvigorated about and around Pretrial Services.

2010

Pretrial Investigation competed – 2514
Pretrial cases received - 973

Adult Drug Courts

Drug Courts were introduced to Dutchess County in 2001. The first half of 2010 saw a continuation of the Drug Courts serving the adult population in operation in the cities of Poughkeepsie and Beacon. However, in July, the City of Poughkeepsie Drug Court was terminated and the remaining cases were transferred to the Beacon Drug Court. The department continued to maintain a consulting and service role in the Family Treatment Court. The Office of Probation and Community Corrections provides designated staff assigned to each court. The Probation Officers have specific roles and duties but work as part of the Drug Court Team.

One result of the repealing of many of the Rockefeller era drug laws was the formation of Judicial Diversion at the County Court (felony) level. Judicial Diversion is an initiative of the New York State Office of Court Administration (OCA) and provides those defendants found eligible for the program a heretofore unavailable opportunity to ultimately reduce the felony to a misdemeanor contingent upon successful completion of the intensive programming. Pretrial Services officers provide supervision services and drug screening as well as participating in dispositional planning. The model follows the drug court team approach and program participation is long term.

Administrative and Transfer Service Bureau Unit

The administrative caseload with the geographical designation of 'Eastern Dutchess' remained within the unit, supervised by the officer staffing the Dover Office on a full time basis. This officer has the additional responsibilities of the Transfer Service Bureau, with caseloads of both intra- and inter-state probation transfers, as well as a caseload of deported felony probationers.

Administration of the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision's (ICAOS) Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System (ICOTS), an automated, web based interstate transfer facility, also remained centralized within the unit. Additional training was provided at both the state and national level, which further enhanced our utilization of the Compact Services for Interstate transfer for both incoming and outgoing probation supervision cases.

Probation Information Technology

In the area of information technology, 2010 was another year of providing for the department's needs through training, as well as regularly being called upon to resolve issues on both the hardware and application functionality. The AJL (Aejis Justice Link) enables searches across the four Public Safety applications within county government (Sheriff, DA, Jail and Probation) in order to share demographics (including photos), charge information, and a number of other pieces of data. The application was deployed late in 2009 but in 2010 an interactive link from the Caseload Explorer® case management system directly to the AJL was added. The link saved steps in switching between applications and permitted data imports from these other agencies, realizing a significant time savings.

During the summer months of 2010, a series of web based training sessions were provided by the Division of Criminal Justice services on the proper utilization of the COMPAS® risk assessment instrument. This training was beneficial and in fact, we used portions of that training in later department wide trainings.

Caseload Explorer® underwent a significant upgrade in the third quarter of 2010. As this upgrade was significant, and there were several other identified user and training based issues, we scheduled a department wide mandatory training program at the end of the year. The half day sessions provided the users with direction so that they could more fully utilize the features of the case management system as well as applying tools such as COMPAS on a more consistent basis.

Electronic Monitoring/Warrant Unit

Jack Kryzak, Unit Administrator
John P. Egan, Sr. Probation Officer
Vicki Bradley, Sr. Probation Officer

Our department has been supervising adult offenders on Electronic Monitoring since 1989. This technology allows probation officers to continuously monitor defendants/probationers in their homes through the use of a small transmitter attached to the ankle and a receiver installed in the home. Teams of probation officers working around the clock, seven days a week, supervise individuals on this program. Pagers carried by probation officers enable them to respond immediately in the event that an individual on EM leaves his or her residence without authorization. Mobile EM receivers carried by officers in vehicles allow them to detect transmitters in the community, if the transmitter is in range.

In February 2009, our department began using this technology to monitor juveniles following an agreement with the County Attorney's Office and Dutchess County Family Court. Juveniles considered for EM can be either adjudicated or pre-dispositional, who are at risk and facing the possibility of placement in non-secure or secure detention. By providing these individuals with the enhanced supervision available through electronic technology, along with services to address any special needs, their chances of maintaining lawful and productive behavior are improved significantly.

The courts use this alternative to incarceration/detention option extensively because it allows individuals under intensive supervision to remain employed or in school, and therefore productive, while enabling probation officers to respond immediately in the event of a violation of program rules.

During 2010, 535 new Electronic Monitoring cases were received from the courts, 91 of which were juveniles; averaging 37 adults and 8 juveniles per month. The total number of individuals placed on EM in 2010 represents a 9% increase above the 2009 calendar year level. The Electronic Monitoring program has had an enormous impact on managing the jail population over the years, and it has also been helping to reduce the number of juveniles placed in non-secure and secure detention. As an alternative to incarceration/placement, EM has played a significant role in reducing the number of days served by defendants/respondents in custody.

The Intensive Treatment Alternative Program (ITAP) and the Transitional Housing Program (THP) are part of the Electronic Monitoring Unit. ITAP, which is jointly operated by the Department of Mental Hygiene and Probation, has one probation officer assigned to it full time. This program provides intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment Monday through Friday to defendants mandated by the courts. The Probation Officer assigned to ITAP uses the COMPAS Probation Risk Assessment Instrument to identify primary and secondary risk and need factors, and then develops a case plan with input from ITAP counselors. The case plan helps to determine what goals and tasks the defendant needs to work on in order to progress in treatment. Goals and tasks are developed to resolve the highest risk factors first. Once progress is made on primary goals, which address the highest risk/need factors, the defendant can begin working on secondary goals and ultimately progress to employment and independent sober living. The COMPAS has proven to be an accurate, reliable and helpful assessment instrument in the substance abuse treatment process. ITAP averaged 59 individuals in treatment per month in 2010, with 69 new admissions during the year.

THP provides defendants, who have agreed to participate in treatment, with a secure, supervised, substance free residential environment. Most defendants placed in ITAP are housed initially at THP to help insure compliance with treatment goals while they attend ITAP. Alternative housing becomes available as defendants progress in treatment and eventually reintegrate back into the community. THP also provides temporary residence to some defendants before they enter inpatient treatment. THP and ITAP collectively act as alternatives to incarceration while offering defendants with serious substance abuse problems the opportunity for recovery. During 2010, 199 individuals were admitted to THP, and of that number 154 were successfully discharged to inpatient treatment programs, half way houses or the community.

Since 2008, Project MORE, Inc., the contract agency for THP, has operated the Probation Violation Residential Center (PVRC) in the Mid-Hudson area at THP, as the result of a grant from the New York State Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives. The grant area consists of Columbia, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam and Ulster Counties. PVRC was established as an alternative to incarceration program for felony probation violators facing revocation and re-sentencing to a term with the Department of Correctional Services. Those individuals determined eligible for PVRC, reside at THP where they are provided with a variety of supportive services to include GED training, Moral Reconciliation Therapy, substance abuse evaluation/education/treatment, and employment and life skills training. Currently, PVRC allows a maximum of 8 individuals in the program at any given time for up to 90 days depending on each individual's risks, needs and progress. Individuals who successfully complete PVRC can expect a favorable disposition in their violation of probation proceeding. During 2010, Project MORE, Inc. admitted 28 probationers into the PVRC program. Also in 2010, a total of 21 PVRC participants were discharged from the program; 16 successfully and 5 unsuccessfully. PVRC's success rate has shown that this program can assist probationers in their rehabilitation in a cost effective manner. As a result, funding for this program has been approved for 2011.

The Warrant Bureau is also a part of this Unit. A probation officer assigned to the Warrant Bureau oversees efforts to apprehend individuals for whom judges have signed Violation of Probation warrants or, in some cases, bench and arrest warrants. This officer works closely with local and state law enforcement agencies to enhance execution of these various warrants. During 2010, 131 Violation of Probation warrants were issued by various courts in Dutchess County and investigated by our department's Warrant Bureau. Also during 2010, 142 Violation of Probation warrants were executed by this department directly or with the assistance of police agencies within New York or adjoining states. Swift action on warrants helps hold these offenders accountable and serves to ensure community safety. Additionally, the Warrant Bureau assists the United States Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in the arrest of foreign born individuals who are in the United States illegally, and who have been determined by ICE to be subject to deportation based on certain probation eligible convictions. These individuals are taken into custody at the Probation Office by ICE agents and held in federal custody while the disposition of their deportation case is decided.

In addition to efforts made by the warrant officer and other probation officers to apprehend probation violators, this department is also involved in crime reduction as a member of the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Integrated Municipal Police Anti-Crime Team (IMPACT). The primary goal of IMPACT is to reduce violent crime and gun violence in designated counties through strategies developed by respective District Attorney's Offices, local/state /federal police agencies as well as probation and parole.

As part of this strategy, and in conjunction with IMPACT guidelines, this department has designated two probation officers as IMPACT Field Intelligence Officers (FIO). Their duties include collecting information regarding local criminal activity and sharing it with other law enforcement agencies to further crime prevention. Frequently, this information is obtained from individuals on probation with the assistance of their supervising probation officers. The IMPACT grant has also permitted the FIO's to receive specialized training in such areas as search warrants, gang identification and criminal intelligence. In 2010, a portion of the IMPACT grant was used to send 8 probation officers to a 4 day intensive training on the identification, criminal activity and methodology of street and motorcycle gangs.

The Field Intelligence Program continues to utilize a Remington License Plate Reader (LPR), obtained through a grant from the NYS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, which is employed to corroborate probationers' compliance with court orders and to assist other law enforcement agencies in IMPACT operations. The LPR is able to identify vehicles that have suspended registrations; are stolen or are associated with active arrest warrants.

2010 Annual Report

Tom Morris, Unit Administrator
Donna Rhoads, Senior Probation Officer
Pam Francis, Senior Probation Officer
Dan Bryant, Senior Probation Officer

Adult Investigations

Completion of court ordered pre-sentence Investigation reports is one of the services performed by the Office of Probation and Community Corrections that is mandated by New York State Law. In addition to other specifications, the New York State Penal Law, Criminal Procedure Law, and Executive Law governs the scope and nature of investigations and establishes that pre-sentence reports shall be completed by probation officers.

The purpose of pre-sentence investigation reports is to provide sentencing courts with pertinent information prior to sentencing regarding an offender to include the following:

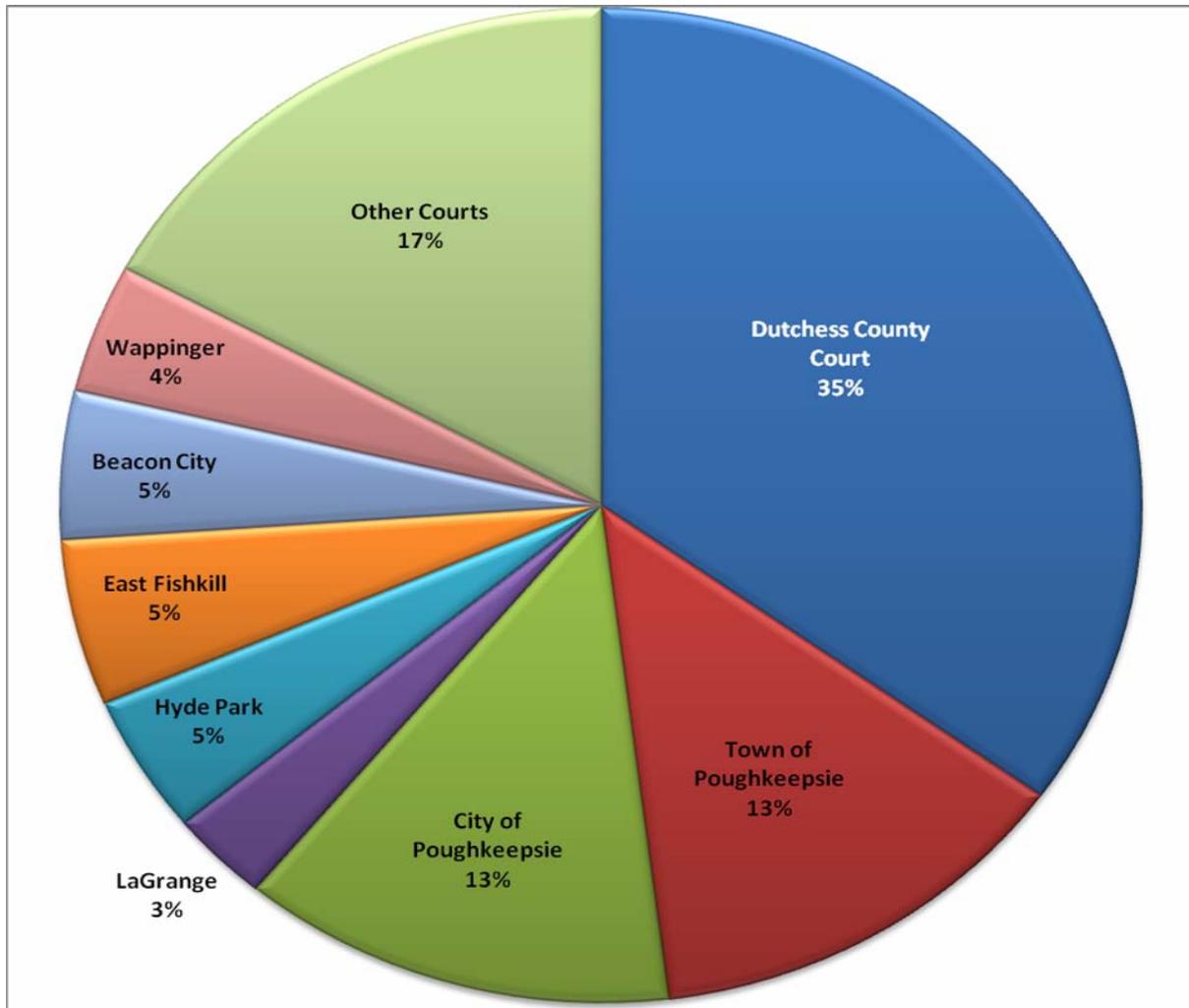
- Legal history information and analysis
- Facts of the presenting offense(s) from the point of view of the prosecution, defendant and the victim.
- Social circumstances
- Education
- Employment
- Military
- Physical health
- Mental health (including drug/alcohol use or abuse info and treatment history)
- Restitution information (if applicable)

A more recent addition to the investigative process is the completion of a standardized risk assessment tool to provide an objective measure of the offender's likelihood to re-offend. At present, the investigating probation officer will administer the COMPAS risk assessment. The COMPAS not only measures risk to re-offend, but also rates an individual's propensity for violence. Another facet of the COMPAS assessment identifies factors that are known to contribute to an offender's overall risk, including issues such as: vocational problems, family issues, substance abuse, mental health and attitude. If some or all of the above factors can be addressed, an offender's risk to re-offend may decrease.

At the conclusion of the report the investigating probation officer conducts an analysis of the factors that he/she believes led to the offender's involvement in his or her criminal activity. The officer also makes a recommendation to the court for sentencing with a view to minimize the likelihood that the offender will continue criminal involvement. The probation officer must also balance the offender's needs with the community's requirement to preserve order and ensure community safety.

It should be noted that the courts are not bound by recommendations made as part of the pre-sentence investigation report. Additionally, if a sentence of probation is recommended, the investigating officer will also recommend specific conditions of probation designed to address the offender's needs and community safety concerns. Finally, the officer will prepare the Order of Probation Supervision which contains the recommended conditions of probation to accompany the pre-sentence investigation report to court.

In Dutchess County, thirty-four different courts may order investigations. The following is a representation of the breakdown of investigations that were ordered by various courts in Dutchess County during 2010.



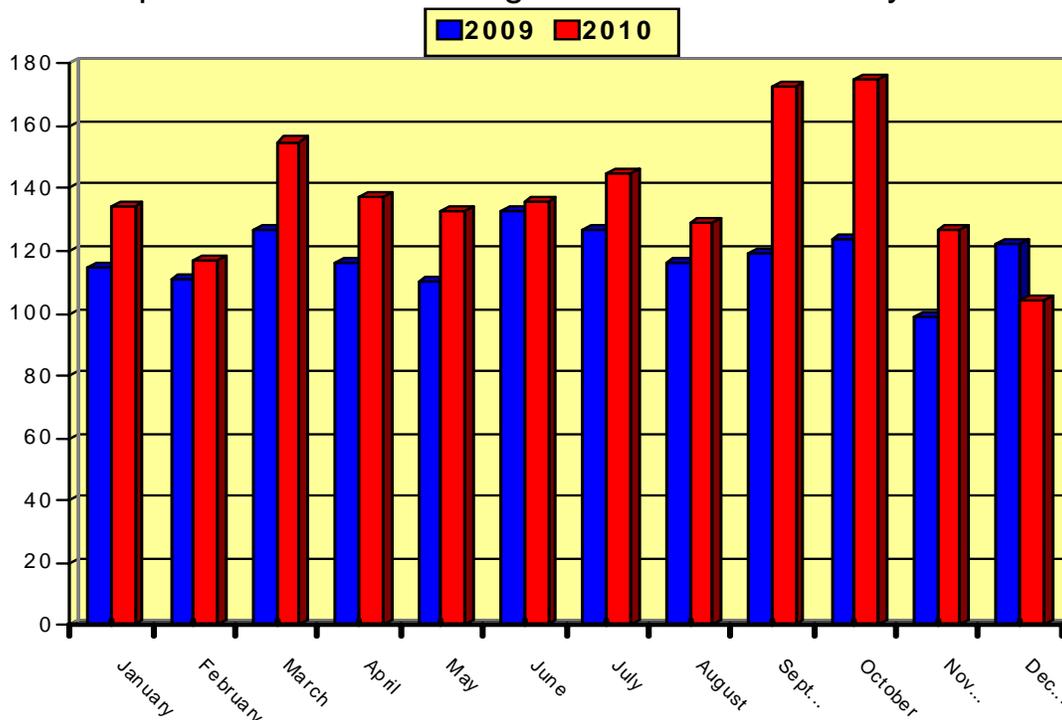
In addition to providing guidance and support to courts involved in sentencing decisions, pre-sentence investigation reports are also utilized by a host of agencies within and outside the criminal justice system. Pre-sentence investigations are used extensively by probation officers and corrections officials to aid in programming and classification of offenders. With the permission of the courts, PSI's also may be provided to treatment agencies. State agencies that are responsible for issuing professional licenses are also provided copies of pre-sentence reports in order to determine if certifications should be revoked upon conviction of a criminal offense.

The Adult Investigations Unit also is responsible for processing applications for Certificates of Relief from Disabilities (CRD). When an individual is convicted of a crime

he or she may incur certain disabilities as defined by New York State Law. These disabilities may include loss of certain rights and privileges such as the right to hold public office, to possess firearms or to vote. Recently numerous agencies have begun to require a CRD in order to license an individual to engage in certain types of employment even though job licensing is not specifically defined in law as a disability incurred by a criminal conviction. Some examples of job licensing requiring a CRD include nursing assistant, security guard, barber and bus driver. The Investigations Unit processes applications for CRD's, sends them to courts, prepares necessary forms and informs the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services when a CRD has been issued. Frequently, courts will order an investigation into the circumstances surrounding an offender's application and request for a CRD. In these cases, probation officers conduct the investigation and then make a recommendation as to whether or not the offender should be granted or denied a CRD. With the addition of numerous agencies that now require ex-offenders to obtain a CRD prior to licensing or certifying an individual to work in certain fields, the number of CRD applications and investigations has increased in the past few years.

Over the past several years, the number of pre-sentence investigations ordered has also steadily increased. In 2010 the number of investigations ordered increased in every month but December representing a 17% increase in the number of investigations ordered. The following graph illustrates the increased number of investigations from 2009 to 2010.

Comparison of Investigations Ordered by Month



	Other	Pre-Plea	Pre-Sentence	CRD	Total
2009	1	65	1,286	67	1,419
2010	3	82	1,491	89	1,665

As the result of increased workload, the same number of staff members have had to adapt and innovate in order to continue to fulfill state mandates as well as other functions of the unit. We recently developed and implemented a short form report to be used for completion of some pre-sentence and CRD investigations. The new report format was designed to increase efficiency by minimizing the inclusion of extraneous information while including the pertinent elements of the investigation in a logical and easy to read layout.

In addition, the role of the Senior Probation Officer in the victim services function of the unit has been scaled back in order to accommodate the increased investigations workload. Victim services in the form of outreach and assistance continues to be available for the victims of more serious and violent crimes. We are fortunate that we continue to have a Crime Victim's Specialist from Family Services Inc. working in the Adult Investigations Unit on a part-time basis. A Senior Probation Officer also continues to oversee the Victim's Services component of the unit, but interfaces with victims to a lesser degree than in the past.

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2010

ANNUAL REPORT

ADULT SUPERVISION UNIT

Jane F. Walker, Unit Administrator
Vivian Cirillo, Senior Probation Officer

Evidence based practices and supervision strategies which have evolved from this correctional philosophy have had a tremendous impact on community corrections and have been the major theme of almost every annual report submitted over the past five years.

As stated in past reports, the convergence of rising offender populations, serious budgetary concerns and years of correctional research was highlighting the fact that long held beliefs in traditional supervision models; models which failed to accurately evaluate criminal risk and emphasized the quantity of contacts over quality of contacts produced, at best, short term behavioral changes that did little to address recidivism. Consequently, the focus became finding a solution to the problem of repeat offenders recycling through the criminal justice system and demonstrating the same or similar patterns of criminal behavior.

Confronting the long held belief in a “one size fits all” contact-driven supervision model continues to be a challenge, especially for staff trained to believe that community safety was maintained by seeing offenders as frequently as possible and, under threat of punishment, telling them what, when and how to change their behavior. Although this strategy may have worked in the short term, research was bearing out that in the long term, it had little or no lasting impact on a high risk offender’s criminal behavior. Furthermore, evidence was suggesting that it could actually be counter productive for lower risk offenders.

Essentially, the annual report has therefore become an opportunity within the department to assess what has worked, what hasn’t and what we have discovered as the result of attempting to learn, accept and implement programs based on evidence based practices over the past 12 months.

Status of Evidence Based Assessments/Case Planning:

On-going training and reinforcement of the concepts of evidence based practices appears to have contributed to a greater understanding and acceptance of changes implemented by the department over the past several years. However, this continues to be a work in progress. Additionally, as stated in previous reports, one of the foundations of the evidence based model is the competent use of a risk assessment tool. This tool measures various risk factors and the “criminogenic” (crime producing) needs that feed them (i.e. unemployment, substance abuse etc...). They are used to determine an offender’s level of risk (high, medium and low) and the best method of addressing the risk factors that fuel criminal behavior. Since this department was one of the first in the state to implement the use of these tools, research steered the agency towards the “LSI” (Level of Service Inventory). When the state began to promote the use of an actuarial assessment tool, they embraced an equivalent tool called COMPAS and we since recognized the wisdom of utilizing the same assessment tool. Therefore, in 2010 the Adult Supervision Units completed the training necessary to start transitioning to the exclusive use of COMPAS. The technical aspect of this transition continues, especially in the area of case planning. The training to address this issue will be held in conjunction with training on the new supervision rule. It is anticipated that this training will take place in 2011.

Cognitive Based Supervision Groups Cognitive behavioral strategies, including motivational interviewing and group reporting to target an offender’s specific criminogenic needs, are viewed as key in helping identify and modify behaviors that have led to criminal activity. In the past several years, numerous staff members have been trained to develop and facilitate these types of groups. In 2010, officers from the General Supervision Unit ran two employment groups utilizing the curriculum from the “Ready, Set Work” job readiness program. Since research shows a direct correlation between unemployment and recidivism, this program continues to be a valuable asset to the department and the offenders who participate. Probation Officer Beth Bobela, coordinator of the Ready, Set Work program is now an OWDS (Offender Workforce Development Specialist) who conducts trainings at the state level through the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives and National Institute of Corrections (NIC).

In 2010, Officer Diana Francis also coordinated and facilitated two Women’s Anger Management groups as well as a Shoplifter’s group, and a Men’s Anger Management group. Officer Francis also co-facilitates the Ready, Set, Work program.

Over the last 18 months, Senior Probation Officer Diane Whiteman has coordinated and facilitated a Victim Impact Panel (VIP) for non DWI offenders. We know from experience in the STOP DWI Unit, that Victim Impact Panels are not only useful in promoting healing for victims, but also in effecting positive change in offenders, even where other treatment options have failed. This year, through the efforts of SPO Whiteman, more non DWI offenders were introduced to the benefits of attending this powerful presentation. Probation Officers from various adult supervision units were also invited to attend the panel as well. In subsequent meetings with offenders, participating officers were then able to discuss with the offender how their criminal behavior directly impacts and harms others. Two more panels are scheduled for 2011. In addition, cognitive groups are offered at the Community Transition Center, a contract agency to the Office of Probation.

Current Trends and Issues

Statistics indicate that accidental fatal drug overdoses have soared by **500** percent over the past ten years, largely due to the abuse of prescription painkillers such as OxyContin, Vicadin and methadone, all synthetic versions of opium. Those greatest at risk of fatal overdoses are teenagers and young adults. Probation Officers can attest to the veracity of these numbers. Almost each officer in the General Supervision Unit could produce statistics of either fatalities or hospitalizations directly related to prescription drug abuse. Of even greater concern is information received on a potent new painkiller called Opana. Opana is estimated to be six to eight times more powerful than morphine and, in 2010, resulted in the deaths of more people than cocaine and heroin combined. Seeking treatment for substance abusers continues to be a challenge, in large part due to the nature of addictions as well as various economic factors, including soaring health care costs and issues presented by indigent offenders. We continue to maintain close relationships with local treatment providers and social service agencies in order to develop strategies to address these problems.

Over the past several years there has been a sharp increase in the number of offenders with diagnosed and undiagnosed mental illnesses. This is also true of the MICA population (Mentally Ill /Chemically Addicted). Given the pronounced and often complex treatment needs of this population, it is important to understand the services and programs which comprise the mental health service delivery system for Dutchess County. To that end, Frank DeSiervo, Clinical Division Chief of Mental Health Services with the Dutchess County Department of Mental Hygiene, attended a Management Team meeting in 2010 to discuss issues of mutual concern. Thereafter, staff started attending the weekly Community Solutions Meeting at the Department of Mental Hygiene. This meeting provides a forum for service providers to discuss shared cases and to address various concerns and potential gaps in services.

Policies concerning adult supervision units were reviewed and updated in 2010. These include policy and procedures on Search Orders, Restitution and Interim supervision. Interim supervision is essentially an agreement entered into by a defendant eligible for a probation sentence. Defendants are then allowed to demonstrate whether or not they can maintain compliance with terms and conditions articulated by the court, the results of which will help the court determine a final disposition. Major reforms to New York drug laws in 2009 resulted in the expansion of the use of interim supervision during 2010, especially in designated Drug Courts.

Looking ahead

The New York State Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives has formed a multi-agency workgroup to review and propose new supervision rules incorporating principles of evidence based practices. A goal for 2011 is to combine training on these new rules with training on the case planning aspect of the COMPAS risk assessment tool. Another goal is to maintain and possibly expand the use of in-house cognitive behavioral groups. We are also looking to expand our knowledge and use of home based CBT programs. Finally, though often challenged by changes in rules, technology and correctional philosophies, staff remain committed to demonstrating how efficient and effective community based supervision programs can be. We also look forward to using the “best practices” of our profession to serve the best interests of our communities.

The High Risk Unit 2010 Annual Report

Karen O'Connor, Unit Administrator
Jeffrey Walraven, Senior Probation Officer
Robert Dosiak, Senior Probation Officer

The High Risk Unit of the Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections encompasses four different types of caseloads. The unit is supervised by a Unit Administrator with training and experience in all four areas of supervision. The Unit also has two Senior Probation Officers, seven Probation Officers and a social worker assigned to Probation by the Department of Mental Hygiene. The Unit utilizes all three of the Department's satellite offices.

High Risk Supervision

The majority of the probationers supervised by the High Risk Unit are placed there because they have scored in the high violence and high recidivism categories of the COMPAS Risk Assessment Tool. Each of the five officers who supervise this category of offenders maintains a caseload of between 45 and 60 cases, lower than the general caseloads. The caseloads have increased slightly over the past year. These cases require a higher level of supervision. The close monitoring of these cases is accomplished by field visits, home visits, and collateral and community contacts, in addition to the more traditional office reports. In addition, referrals are made to the appropriate in-house or outside program. A follow up COMPAS is done in six months to determine if the offender has made enough progress to be moved to a lower level of supervision. As expected, and predicted by research, this caseload also generates the greatest number of violations of probation.

During 2010 we encountered many challenges that have had a significant impact on the High Risk Unit. The New York State Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives has been working on a new Supervision Rule that will increase accountability and the types of contacts required for the highest risk cases. Although the new rules have not been mandated as of the end of 2010, we have received several drafts and are making every effort to meet the anticipated changes. The new rules will emphasize evidence based practices, a positive change for the profession.

Dutchess County had two County Court Judges retire and two new Judges elected. Therefore, adjustments have to be made throughout the system. In addition, jail overcrowding makes it difficult to contact probationers when they are incarcerated as they are often housed outside of the county. Probationers have also been affected by the slow economy, making it difficult to get jobs and pay restitution and supervision fees. We are learning how to do more with less by looking for training that is free and local, rearranging schedules, attempting to be more efficient in home visits with fewer county vehicles and taking other measures to live within our means and continue to ensure community safety.

Sex Offender

In addition to the High Risk cases that are determined by COMPAS score, the High Risk Unit also has a PO II and a PO I who supervise the Sex Offender caseload. These caseloads consist of approximately 100 offenders charged or convicted of crimes of a sexual nature. The biggest change in this caseload in 2010 has been the explosion of technology available to the public. The boom in smart phones, small cameras, e-readers, e-pads, has us scrambling to keep up with the sex offenders ability to reach pornography, contact children and other potential victims and violate orders of protection. We have gained ground in finding and monitoring sexual offending behavior via computer and internet use by acquiring free software that allows us to access offender's electronic devices. The two officers assigned to the Sex Offender Unit in addition to the Unit Administrator and an Officer assigned to do Sex Offender investigations routinely use the Static 99 risk assessment tool, together with the COMPAS risk assessment. The officers continue to look for training in this rapidly evolving area of criminal justice. The New York State Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives has published new guidelines for the supervision and investigation of both adult and juvenile sex offenders. Dutchess County Probation was actively involved in helping establish those best practices and many of our practices were adopted by the State as guidelines. In addition the Sex Offender Probation Officer II and Probation Officer I, along with several others, have been able to continue to work with various other county, state and private agencies to provide the most up-to-date and comprehensive protection from sex offenders available anywhere in the country.

Community Transitions Center

The Community Transitions Center has one Probation Officer II assigned to the center to supervise approximately 50 offenders, many who report daily. This year there was a large increase in the evening program which accommodates an additional 20 to 35 offenders. These offenders are supervised by other Probation Officers; however the Sr. Probation Officer handles the administrative duties and any problems that come up while they are in attendance at CTC. The CTC program is contracted out to BI, a company that provides criminal justice services to a variety of agencies. BI greatly expanded the evening program in the second half of the year, making the programming available to a far wider population of probationers. The part time program allows probationers who have a commitment to a job or child care to be able to take advantage of the important programming available. The director of CTC, an employee of BI, retired at the end of 2009 thus creating a transitional situation

while new leadership was put into place. Although this took extra work on the part of the Sr. Probation Officer, the transition went very smoothly and has resulted in expanded programming and better attendance at the program.

Domestic Violence

The Domestic Violence Unit is staffed by a Senior Probation Officer and a Probation Officer supervising caseloads of offenders convicted of a domestic violence offense. Additionally, offenders that are on probation for non-DV offenses but demonstrate a documented domestic violence history are often supervised in this unit. Most of the offenders are mandated to complete Domestic Abuse Awareness Classes (DAAC). Offenders are supervised intensively and are subject to frequent unannounced field contacts. Victim safety is prioritized; and to that end, the Probation Officers and the Victim Services Unit maintain regular contact with victims of domestic violence. The Probation Officers also work closely with the DAAC Forensic Educational Coordinator. DAAC case conferences are held biweekly, and Probation Officers are welcome and encouraged to sit in during classes.

The Domestic Violence Unit is also part of the Dutchess County Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART), which is a multi-agency response to DV arrests made by the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department, the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department, or the Beacon Police Department. Communication among agencies is an essential component of DART. When a DV arrest occurs “after hours”, the police agency holds the offender in lock-up until the following morning. DART’s goal is to make pre-arraignment recommendations in an attempt to promote a consistent response to domestic violence arrests. The consistent response to DV arrests is further enhanced by the Poughkeepsie Integrated Domestic Violence Court and the Beacon Domestic Violence Court. An Integrated Domestic Violence Court presides over concurrent criminal and Family / Supreme Court dockets.

During the past year the Probation Officers who work in the DV unit have participated in several work groups organized to address the disturbing increase in fatal or near fatal domestic violence incidents that occurred over the past year. The Domestic Violence prevention community is constantly reviewing the protocols to look for ways to contain the violence, offer help to victims, and use technology to enhance safety.

DWI UNIT 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Unit Administrator----Joanne Nellis Senior Probation Officer----Robert Davis

The specialization of the DWI Unit is based on the particular needs of the DWI offender and the significant danger their behavior presents to the community. Close monitoring of these individuals, which includes extensive fieldwork, and interagency cooperation, has aided in our goal of promoting community safety, while addressing offender needs (high risk areas), and holding the offenders accountable for their behavior.

The unit maintains a staff of eight (8) probation officers, a Unit Administrator and a Case Manager Aide. In 2010 the unit supervised between 610 and 636 offenders at any given time, approximately 1/3 of the total adult probationers supervised by the department. The unit is divided into three levels of supervision. These supervision levels are determined by use of the risk/assessment tool (LSI/COMPAS), prior DWI record and cooperation with prior probation sentences, if any. Offenders are then assigned to a caseload based on their risk level.

The STOP-DWI Program provides supervision to the high-risk DWI offenders. The program is comprised of three (3) officers with smaller caseloads. The offenders assigned to this program generally have multiple DWI related convictions; have prior experience with the criminal justice system, or have been involved in a DWI related crash. One of the officers of the STOP-DWI Program is a Senior Probation Officer, who is credentialed as an Alcohol Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC). As a CASAC, this officer is able to consult with staff as needed and provide insight into the offender's behavior, and motivation toward treatment.

Four (4) officers supervise the medium-risk offenders and another officer, trained specifically in women's issues, supervises all the female DWI offenders. A Case Manager Aide, under the direct supervision of the Unit Administrator, manages the Administrative Caseload. The Administrative caseload is comprised of lower-risk offenders who have been supervised for a significant amount of time and have completed all or most court mandates.

In 2010 the DWI Unit continued our use of group reporting sessions, and implemented several new initiatives in our effort to maintain quality supervision in an atmosphere of decreasing resources and increased workloads.

Month	Total Received	Female	Male
January	30	9	21
February	24	6	18
March	34	8	26
April	35	15	20
May	20	6	14
June	33	9	24
July	23	4	19
August	39	7	32
September	25	10	15
October	27	7	20
November	26	6	20
December	33	10	23

Active Call Center:

Through a grant from the Dutchess County STOP-DWI Program, the department was able to purchase a computer and programming specifically for use as an active call-in center. Offenders assigned to the STOP- DWI supervision caseloads are entered into the database. They are required to call in each evening to a designated number and through phone prompts, are told to report the next day or to call the following evening. When told to report, the offender reports at a designated time the next day and they may be drug/alcohol tested, or participate in a general office report. Probationers are given a letter at the beginning of their supervision, explaining their obligation. Participation in the Active Call Center is generally used as a positive measure when making decisions about step down from the intensive caseload, early release from supervision and re-licensing. The resulting random drug/alcohol screenings (from when they are told to report) are a good indicator of compliance with supervision.

We have kept participation in the Call Center to the STOP-DWI caseload, because of the limited personnel available to conduct random drug testing throughout the day. We conducted two weekend report sessions during 2010 through the Active Call Center, which were quite successful; 95% of those told to report did so.

It is hoped that the use of the Active Call Center, through it's randomness, will alleviate the load of office reports, and produce a more accurate picture of an offender's commitment to a sober lifestyle.

Another tool the DWI Unit began using in 2010, also through a grant from the Dutchess County STOP-DWI Program was the "Street Test" (**80 Hour Test**). "Street Test" is the name given to a full panel urine drug screen, which includes a test for alcohol. This is a laboratory test following the strict requirements of chain of custody. This alcohol test is unique in that it does not depend on the presence of alcohol in the body, which the body quickly processes. Instead it tests for a metabolite of alcohol that is processed out of the body much slower, i.e. up to 80 hours after alcohol was consumed.

The Street Test is being used as a tool to enhance probation supervision and monitoring capabilities. It is not intended to replace Alco-sensor testing and conventional drug screening. The use of these tests is to facilitate compliance and results are also used when making decisions regarding early release from supervision and re-licensing.

Leandra's Law

On November 18, 2009, the then acting New York State Governor David Paterson signed the Child Passenger Protection Act, also known as Leandra's Law, in remembrance of Leandra Rosado, an eleven year old victim who was killed as a result of a DWI crash.

The passing of Leandra's Law made New York State one of the strictest states in the country regarding sentencing for a DWI conviction. Leandra's Law has two main components: the first created in recognition of the accident that took Leandra's life, makes it a felony to drive drunk with a child under 16 in the car. The second requires anyone who has been convicted of a DWI to get an ignition interlock device (IID) installed in his or her vehicle. The second part of the law became effective August 15, 2010. All convicted DWI offenders are now required to have the

IID in any vehicle they own or operate. Although the law was only in effect for 4 months of 2010, the DWI Unit received 61 cases sentenced under the law. Of those, 18 probationers had the device installed in their vehicle during that time. This essentially doubled the amount of people we had on our caseloads with the IID.

The monitoring of those offenders sentenced under Leandra's Law requires regular inquiries with the Department of Motor Vehicles to check the status of any vehicles that may be titled or registered to the offender. If an offender has a motor vehicle registered or titled in their name, they are required to have the IID installed in the vehicle within 10 days of sentence, or assuming ownership. The Law requires the probation officers to notify the sentencing court of failure to have the IID installed within the allotted timeframe. The officers are required to make the notification within 5 days.

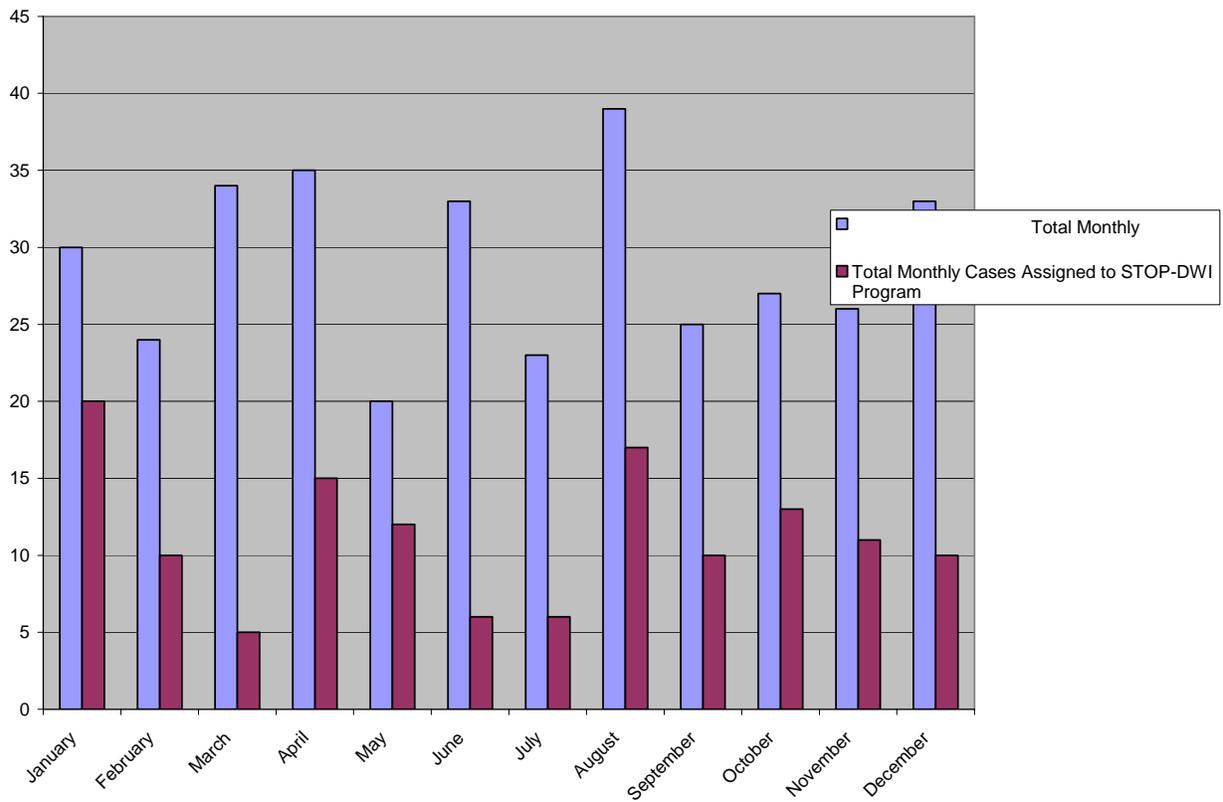
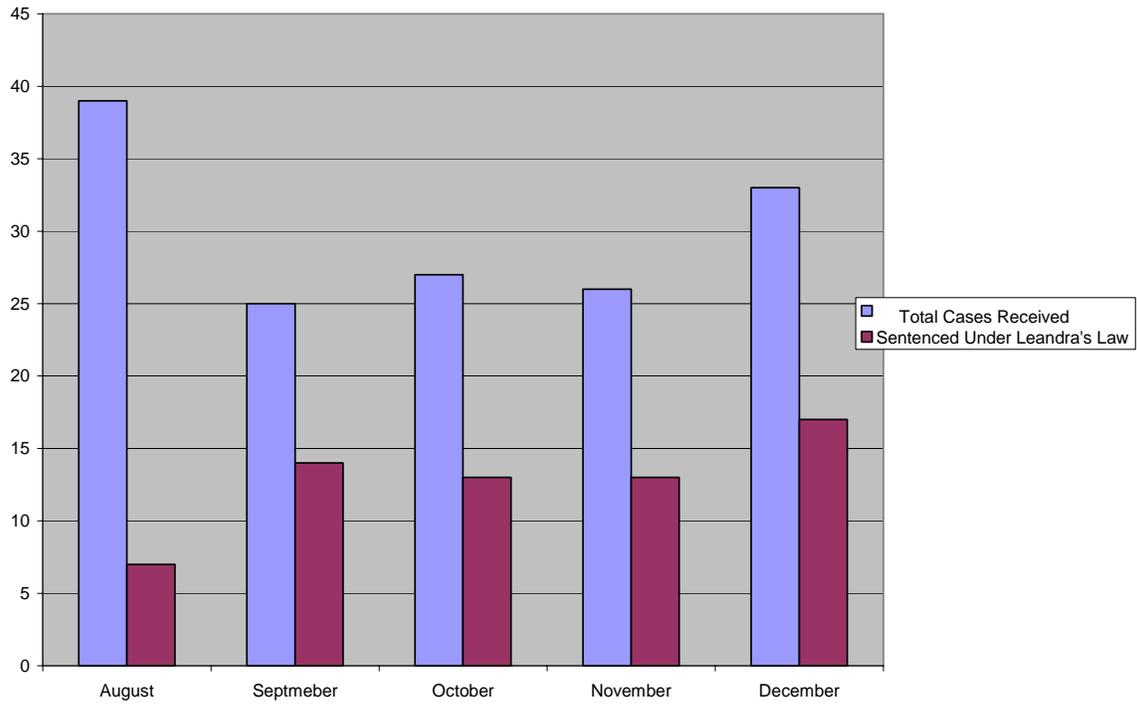
Once an offender has the IID installed, the probation officers are required to monitor the reports generated by the Interlock Company. Most devices require an individual to have the information downloaded monthly. However, any violations of the IID will generate a report to the officers. Again these violations must be reported to the sentencing court within 5 days of our notification.

The unit's workload has been impacted by the initial and periodic DMV checks. There are six different Interlock Companies contracted with NYS to provide services and each has different procedures for reporting information, and how the officers access the information. This has been somewhat challenging, but the dedication and commitment of the DWI officers to community safety has helped them to meet this challenge.

The DWI Unit began piloting the use of Probation License Monitor, a computer software program that provides real time DMV activity of offenders on their caseload. Information provided includes any tickets issued, suspensions, payment of driver fees, and attempts to obtain a license. The License Monitor Company will begin to provide registration information as well in May 2011, which will help the officer's in monitoring compliance with Leandra's Law. The information is provided through an email alert to the officers indicating a change in the offender's status with DMV.

In 2010 the DWI Unit continued to work diligently to provide Dutchess County with public safety through intervention in the lives of those under supervision by facilitating compliance with court orders and serving as a catalyst for positive change.

Total Cases Received Compared to Leandra's Law



FINANCIAL UNIT 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Peggy Milone, Business Manager
Theresa Brown, Principal Accounting Clerk

Financial Unit Responsibilities

The financial unit is divided into 2 sections:

Section one is responsible for:

- state claims for revenue reimbursement
- the supervision of contracts with various agencies throughout the county
- the accountability of all bills our department incurs during the year from various outside vendors and interdepartmental services
- Section two is responsible for:
 - the collection of supervision fees that go directly into county revenue
 - the collection of restitution and the distribution of money to pay victims
 - the restitution surcharges that go directly into county revenue

We have state claims which reimburse the county monies that are spent through enforcing the laws within our county. The claims with the state include ATI, ISP, ESSO, STOP DWI, JRISC, DSS and the regular State Aid claim. All of these state contracts need constant supervision and management ensuring that money spent from supervising defendants on probation has been reimbursed in all four quarters of the fiscal year. In 2010 the state introduced a Block Grant for Regular State Aid, ISP, ESSO, and J-RISC contracts combined. The grant reimbursement is considered an entitlement. Every year an amount is decided by the state. In each quarter a state aid voucher is completed with 25% of the allotted amount of the grant for reimbursement into the county's revenue. In 2010 we received over \$1.6 million.

Probation uses the services of interdepartment county offices such as the Auto Center which services and supplies all our vehicles, OCIS which maintains our computers and programs, the mailroom, and the print shop. All these departments bill monthly for their services. We are responsible for payment to each department for their services.

We use the services of non-county agencies such as Astor Services for Children and Families, Community Transition Center, Mediation Center, Transitional Housing and Family Services. These contracts may be renewed every year. PINS programming, Juvenile Risk Intervention Service Coordination and the Collaborative Solutions Team are some of the services covered by these contracts. These agency contracts are administered by this unit and reviewed carefully; making sure expenditures are spent as agreed within the contract.

We also manage contracts with the county for vendors such as doctors, interpreters, vendors to provide equipment and to monitor probationers, drug testing companies, drug supply companies, leases for equipment, and rental of properties.

The Financial Unit also collects restitution from defendants who have been ordered by the courts to do so. This money is then distributed to the victim/s of that defendant and there is a 5% surcharge that is also collected that goes to our county revenue accounts. A \$30.00 supervision fee can be collected monthly from defendants as directed by a local law. Money collected from these fees are part of the revenue for Dutchess County.

The County established the use of a procurement charge card which allows us to purchase goods for our department from various outside sources. These sources have websites that are dedicated to Dutchess County only.

RESTITUTION SURCHARGES AND SUPERVISION FEES COLLECTED IN 2010 FOR REVENUE

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH

SURCHARGE/RESTITUTION: \$ 2,274.41
ADULT SUPERVISION FEES: \$ 20,485.60

APRIL - MAY - JUNE

SURCHARGE/RESTITUTION: \$ 2,971.25
ADULT SUPERVISION FEES: \$22,270.57

JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

SURCHARGE/RESTITUTION: \$ 3,636.31
ADULT SUPERVISION FEES: \$24,367.93

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

SURCHARGE/RESTITUTION: \$ 4,490.97
ADULT SUPERVISION FEES: \$44,001.12

TOTALS FOR 2010

SURCHARGE/RESTITUTION: \$ 13,372.94
ADULT SUPERVISION FEES: \$ 111,125.22

Restitution collected for 2010 was \$303,951.85

Restitution distributed to victims in 2010 was \$306,929.81



Support Services

Karen Kotchie – Support Services Assistant

Lori Olheiser - Senior Program Assistant

Awilda Zack - Senior Office Assistant

The Support Services staff includes a Support Services Assistant, a reception staff of three as well as a support staff of thirteen. This unit plays a critical role in the daily functioning of the agency from the moment the doors open in the morning to the time they close at the end of each day. Hundreds of people come into our office for assistance each week and numerous phone calls are received daily. In 2010, an astounding 32,980 people came through the front doors to report to the Poughkeepsie Office of Probation and Community Corrections. Hundreds of additional people come in seeking information or assistance as well. The support staff routinely interacts with lawyers, judges, police officers, and state, local and federal authorities in a professional manner.

Due to the nature of the work, accuracy as well as timeliness is imperative in all aspects of the support staff's duties. Support staff is responsible for assisting the officers with the preparation of reports for Family as well as criminal courts, typing various correspondence, data entry, and opening and closing all case files. Support staff is also responsible for opening and closing as well as re-certifying cases through the Department of Social Services Connections program. These cases are followed for a year and result in a monthly reimbursement to our department of \$1,800 per child for the duration of the case.

The Unit is also responsible for additional data entry into case files which includes information obtained from District Attorney's files to be used in presentence investigations and entering all notes from biweekly Community Transition Center case conferences.

Since the inception of ICOTS (Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System) in August 2009, it has grown to occupy a large portion of two clerical positions. These positions correspond with the Interstate Compact Office in Albany and deals with our own staff to get the information needed to accept or send out a transfer of supervision.

In May 2010, the clerical support unit assumed the responsibility of processing all Domestic Incident Reports received from different police agencies throughout the county. After establishing whether any of the involved parties are currently active with probation, the document is scanned and becomes part of the permanent record. Between taking on this process in May 2010 and the end of the year, the clerical support team processed 2,278 Domestic Incident Reports.



In addition to these duties, the support staff is responsible for ordering supplies, upkeep of all copiers and printers, maintenance of all case records, past and present, as well as the many other supporting duties critical to the functioning of the agency.

The payroll for the Poughkeepsie, Beacon, Dover, and Millbrook offices is done by the Support Staff Senior Program Assistant located in the Poughkeepsie office. The changes made to the payroll system in 2009 were continuously reviewed, updated, and modified in 2010 to continue to keep the payroll system as efficient as possible.

All the functions of the support staff are continually reviewed for effectiveness and efficiency. The support staff meets the many challenges with both enthusiasm and creativity. They are the foundation which supports the Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections.

Training and Staff Development

Professional staff is required to complete twenty-one hours of training each year. Training for probation officers must encompass a wide range of topics in order to equip them with the tools necessary to perform their duties. Officers also need to be trained in evidence based practices in community corrections on a regular basis. Consequently, the average probation officer receives many more hours than the required twenty-one hours of training each year. In fact, staff

received 4,216 hours of training in 2010. We are extremely fortunate to have adequate training monies made available by the county to address staff and department needs. 2010 priorities for officer training included motivational interviewing skills, mental health issues for people in the criminal/juvenile justice system, alcohol/substance abuse issues, officer safety, offender employment, domestic violence, sex offenders, Restorative Justice practices and victim issues.

Highlights of training received include:

Motivational Interviewing and Cognitive Behavioral Approaches:

- Eight officers attended training on Motivational Interviewing and Cognitive Behavioral Programs.
- Three officers completed training as facilitators of Moral Reconciliation Therapy, a cognitive curriculum for people involved in the Criminal Justice System.
- One officer completed training as a trainer for probation officers in developing Motivational Interviewing skills.

Mental Health:

- Almost all Probation Officers attended the Connect training workshop series, a joint effort between the Office of Probation and Department of Mental Hygiene to deliver training to probation and ATI staff on understanding and responding to persons with serious mental illnesses and co-occurring substance abuse disorders who are on probation or involved in ATI programs.
- We have one probation officer who has continued her training as a Functional Family Therapist. Other juvenile probation officers attend training on Functional Family Therapy to understand how to deliver services to families receiving this program in a manner consistent with its principles.
- Twenty-three probation officers attended training on Suicide Prevention.

Alcohol/Substance Abuse:

- The Sr. Probation Officer assigned to the STOP DWI Unit and the Deputy Director maintain their CASAC credentials by completing at least 40 hours of continuing education in alcohol and substance abuse every two years.
- Six officers attended Women and DWI: Reducing Recidivism.

- Seventeen officers attended Winning the Opiate Battle presented by the Council on Addiction Prevention and Education.
- Nine probation officers attended the NYAPSA Pre-Trial Services Conference and participated in addictions training with Delbert Boone, a nationally recognized expert.
- Three officers attended training on Brief Intervention for Marijuana Use.

Officer Safety:

- Seventy-five probation officers completed Article 35 training.
- Seventy officers are certified to carry pepper spray for this department and remain up- to-date with recertification training.
- Twelve officers are certified to carry and use batons.
- Thirty-three officers meet departmental requirements to carry a firearm.
- One hundred six staff attended annual updated training on Workplace Violence, MSDS Right to Know, Blood Borne Pathogens and Emergency Evacuation Procedures.
- Forty-seven staff attended Office Safety Training.
- Twenty-one officers attended Defensive Tactics Training.
- Thirty-three staff attended Field Safety Training.

Offender Employment:

- Our Officer Workforce Development Specialist Probation Officer attended instructor training and workforce training. She continues to provide employment groups to probationers.

Domestic Violence:

- The Sr. Probation Officer and Unit Administrator who specialize in domestic violence probation supervision attended a full day training on Domestic Violence Danger Assessment.
- The Sr. Probation Officer in the Domestic Violence Unit attended two day training on Domestic Violence Awareness.

Sex Offenders:

- Three officers attended Building Connections: Sexual Assault and Mental Health Project Trauma Training.
- Two officers who supervise a specialized sex offender caseload attended Decreasing Sexual Abuse and Increasing Community Safety, a three day ATSA training.

Restorative Justice:

- Officers in the Family Court Diversion Unit continued to be trained in Restorative Justice practices by our co-located mediator.
- Two officers co-facilitated Victim Empathy Letter Writing Workshops which are held with all youth who participate in the JD Diversion Program.

Victim Issues:

- Seventeen officers attended Victimology: How a Victim Thinks, Feels, Reacts, Recovers, Heals from a Crime.
- Thirty-two officers attended training on conducting Victim Impact Panels for non-DWI offenders. This led to the first Victim Impact Panel for non-DWI offenders to be held in Dutchess County.

Other related trainings included: Over one-quarter of probation staff attended the COMPAS Web-based training. COMPAS is an evidence based tool that assesses criminogenic risk and areas of need for probationers. All staff continued training in the Caseload Explorer system. Twenty officers and support staff completed a 20 hour course on Spanish for Social Workers. This covered basic Spanish necessary to communicate with Spanish speaking probationers in addition to some cultural training.

PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATION PROGRAM

Dutchess County has developed a Public Access Defibrillation Program (PAD) to increase the chances of survival for citizens and/or staff members who may become victims of cardiac arrest. The Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections became a PAD site in September 2003. Since that time, 12 people have been trained as “lay rescuers” in the use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) by the County Health Department. Having the AED on site with trained officers and the entire department participating in drills has helped us develop new skills to meet staff and community needs.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

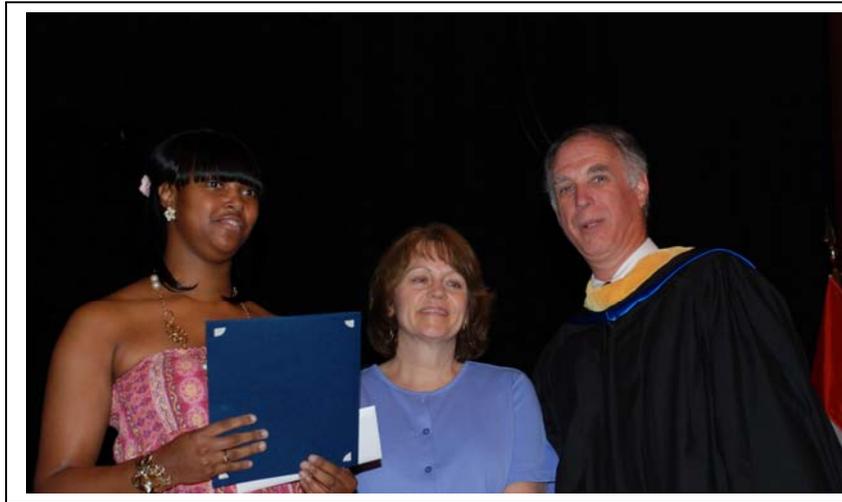
Dutchess County Employees Earn State Award

Probation and Social Services Deputy Commissioners Honored for “Outstanding Collaboration”

Dutchess County Executive William R. Steinhaus and Director of Probation & Community Corrections Mary Ellen Still announced two Dutchess County employees, Deputy Probation Director Catherine Lane and Deputy Commissioner of Social Services Debra Bonnerwith, have been honored with a statewide award for “*Outstanding Collaboration between Probation and Social Services.*” The award recognizes their partnership work on the *Juvenile Pretrial Services Program*, which has significantly contributed to the field of prevention and juvenile justice, strengthening Dutchess County’s ability to improve outcomes in the lives of children and their families through evidence-based practices and programs.



Robert M. Maccarone, Director of NYS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, Debra Bonnerwith and Cathv Lane



Probation Officer Peggy Elmendorf presented a Dutchess Community College student with a scholarship from CAYSA – (Corrections and Youth Services Association). CAYSA's mission is to exert a positive influence on both state and national correctional policy and to promote the professional development of individuals working in all aspects of the corrections field. Peggy has been on the CAYSA committee since 2006.



Senior Probation Officer Diane J. Whiteman, LMSW was honored at a Champions of Victims' Rights celebration on April 21st, 2010. Diane received a Crime Victim's Team Award from Family Services Inc.