



THE PROBATION REPORTER

Volume 8, Edition 1

January 2010

Message from the Chief

by Doug Rasines

As we venture into a new year, both opportunities and challenges can be seen on the horizon. The Honorable Judge Christopher Wilson has decided to extend his “tour of duty” in Juvenile Court, which will help to provide strong leadership and continuity as we proceed with several initiatives aimed at improving outcomes for youth and families. The continuing opportunity remains for participation in the Northern California Probation Consortium (NCPC) in developing a regional implementation plan for the use of a validated and automated risk-needs tool in adult services. This, combined with the influx of federal stimulus funding from the American Recovery and Restoration Act (ARRA) targeting adult offenders, will help support efforts to enhance our service capacity and improve outcomes related to adult probation revocation rates,

thereby, hopefully, reducing the number of probationers committed to state prison. With the receipt in January of a new state Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) grant, the Department will have the resources to begin to systematically identify and address issues which may be factors in the over-representation of minority youth within our local juvenile justice system. And, lastly, although county departments will be hard pressed to maintain a status quo environment given projected budgetary concerns, the January release of the Governor’s proposed budget for FY 2010-11, at least for the time being, leaves critical vehicle license fee (VLF) funding for probation services intact.

Given the current political and fiscal climate, it is imperative that we continue to look for ways to expand our collaboration with other community partners in meeting the service needs of multi-agency involved clients. True collaboration is seldom an easy undertaking, and can at times become very uncomfortable. However, our ability to successfully meet our intended mission will rest increasingly on our ability to rally together with others around shared goals and values. In order to support our work with natural stakeholders within the County, it will be important to be mindful that collaboration takes patience, understanding, and an awareness of each other’s legal standing, statutory obligations, and culture; that collaboration takes trust...trust in one another’s competencies, judgments, and motivations behind our respective actions and decisions; and that collaboration means being willing to relinquish control at times, and accept that we as individual agencies and entities cannot attain the same level of success as we can working collectively.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Doug Rasines, Chief Probation Officer
Barbara Boerger, Editor
Debbie Damiano, Publisher
Jody Green

The Probation Reporter is published by the Humboldt County Probation Department. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a forum for communication and the sharing of information. *The Probation Reporter* does not publish anonymous, politically oriented, or critical articles. Opinions expressed are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Humboldt County Probation Department. Articles submitted may be edited to meet space requirements. Submit stories or story ideas to the Editor or Committee Members.



Sunshine Snippets

by Jennifer Holcombe

Although it is quite rainy outside, there's sunshine around the corner. Winter will soon be gone and sunny days will abound. As we make our way through a water-logged January, it is time to remind everybody how important your donations are to the Sunshine fund. You never know when you may need a little sunshine sent your way. Sunshine helps honor our co-workers as they experience some of life's obstacles. Most commonly, Sunshine honors a co-worker if they experience a significant illness, surgery, or loss of a loved one. We also acknowledge births of babies. Often times, Sunshine is not aware of significant events until they have already passed. The Sunshine Committee wishes to acknowledge these significant events. Customarily, the supervisor of the employee experiencing the event will contact the chair or a member of the committee and advise them on how to proceed. This helps the committee respond in an appropriate amount of time.

What's on the horizon? Sunshine will be holding a potluck on **February 10, 2010** at noon in the main department break room. Since February is the month of "love," the potluck theme is "Foods You Love." We encourage folks to bring the foods they love the most to share with their co-workers. Since February is also synonymous with chocolate, I am sure there will be plenty of that at the event as well.

A big thank you to all who have donated so far this year and to those who continue to participate in committee meetings and functions. We always encourage new members and participation.

Here's to Sunshine. It's just around the corner!

There is no investment you can make which will pay you so well as the effort to scatter sunshine and good cheer through your establishment.

~ Orison Swett Marden



HOLIDAY LUAU HIGHLIGHTS



This year's party was a success. Tons of food and decorations, awesome attire, and great company!!



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Holcombe

Andy and Lael McLaughlin took the honors for "best dressed."



Barbara Robie happily displays her winning raffle ticket.



Darren Ghisetti provides some sage advice to the crowd, as Bill Damiano prepares to grab back the microphone.



Super Bowl Sunday Recipes



Chili, Plain and Simple, but Darn Good

from Recipezaar.com

Serves 8

- 2 lbs. lean ground beef
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 6 large garlic cloves, coarsely chopped (not minced)
- 2 tsp. dried oregano
- ½ tsp. crushed red pepper flakes (adjust to taste)
- 2-3 Tbsp. chili powder
- 2 tsp. cumin
- 4 (14 ½ ounce) can stewed tomatoes, with juice
- 1 (15 ounce) can tomato sauce
- 2 tsp. seasoning salt or white salt, to taste
- 2 (15 ounce) cans red kidney beans, with juice

This recipe makes a wonderful chili. It's strongly suggested you make it 1-3 days ahead as the flavors will intensify and ripen – you'll really notice a difference in flavor if made ahead.



1. In a large pot, brown the ground beef with onion and green bell pepper until no longer pink; drain all fat.
2. Add in garlic, oregano, and chili flakes; cook, stirring until browned.
3. Add in stewed tomatoes, tomato sauce, and seasoned salt; bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring.
4. Reduce heat to low and cook uncovered for 1 ½ hours, stirring occasionally.
5. Stir in the beans with their liquid and continue to cook for another 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Slow Cooker Taco Soup

submitted by Jody Green



- 1 lb. ground beef or ground turkey breast
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 28 oz can crushed tomatoes
- 15 oz can corn, undrained
- 15 oz can kidney beans, undrained
- 15 oz can black beans, undrained
- 1 envelope dry Hidden Valley Ranch dressing mix
- 1 envelope dry taco seasoning mix

Brown hamburger with onion. Drain. Combine with remaining ingredients and put in slow cooker. Cover and cook 4-6 hours on low. Garnish with tortilla chips, sour cream, and shredded cheese.



YEARS OF SERVICE



The following employees had, or will have had, an anniversary for the time period of November 1, 2009 through January 31, 2010.



1 year

Sammy Gentle
Jessica Kalis
Amber Smith

2 years

Dore Haws
Jennifer Holcombe
Anna Josephson

3 years

Duane Smith

4 years

Terry Coddington
Steve Schmidt

5 years

Kathleen Ellion

9 years

Dayna Wilcox

10 years

Paula Sargent

12 years

Pam Johnson

15 years

Jim McCue

24 years

Cate Halliday



Goodbye

Mardi Bessellieu
Facility Manager

Welcome Back

Diane Ratterman
Legal Office Assistant

New Hires














Brian Corning
Juvenile Corrections Officer

Crystal Perez
Juvenile Corrections Officer

Nathan Zink
Juvenile Corrections Officer

FOR WEIGHT-CONSCIOUS OFFICE WORKERS

Those who feel guilty about not getting enough exercise may take comfort in the following list of “activities” that can be performed right at the desk. Each is accompanied by its purported calorie-burning equivalent.

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>CALORIES BURNED</u>
 JOGGING YOUR MEMORY	125
 BEATING AROUND THE BUSH	75
 CLIMBING THE WALLS	150
 PASSING THE BUCK	25
 THROWING YOUR WEIGHT AROUND	50-300 (depending upon your weight)
 WADING THROUGH PAPERWORK	250
 STICKING YOUR NECK OUT	175
 CHEWING NAILS	200
 MAKING MOUNTAINS OUT OF MOLEHILLS	500
 DRAGGING YOUR HEELS	100
 PUSHING YOUR LUCK	250
 CLIMBING THE LADDER OF SUCCESS	750
 WRAPPING UP AT DAY'S END	12
TOTAL CALORIES BURNED:	2662 (allowable per day)



TRAINING CALENDAR

QPR Training – February 10
Officer Safety Training – February 26 and 27
Critical Incident Training – March 9-12
Arrest and Control Techniques – March 25
Fire and Life Safety – March 25

Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI)

by Jody Green

The DRAI is a risk-based instrument tool used on all minors presented for admission to Juvenile Hall. The assessment covers a variety of items and, based on the outcome, produces a detention recommendation. The three types of recommendations the DRAI makes are:

- Secure Detention
- Eligible for Alternative to Secure Detention
- Eligible for Release without Restriction

Our first DRAI was completed on April 2, 2009. The data on the right covers the time period of April 2, 2009 through January 1, 2010.



Total DRAIs completed: 224

- # that were mandatory bookings: 82 (36.6%)
- # that were warrants: 21 (9.4%)
- # that were violations of probation: 71 (31.7%)
- # of non-drug felony offenses: 57 (25.4%)
- # of drug offenses: 12 (18.6%)
- # of non-drug misdemeanors: 63 (28.1%)
- # with active formal or information probation: 118 (52.7%)
- # with other pending court matters: 89 (39.7%)

A Regional Facility Success Story

by Tamara Hansen

I recently had the opportunity to work with a young girl in the New Horizons Program in the Regional Facility. She, like so many others, was raised around drugs most of her life. Before starting New Horizons she had been using methamphetamine, marijuana, ecstasy, and almost anything anyone would offer her. Mom and dad were addicts and eventually divorced after dad was convicted of a sex offense. Like so many families involved in the drug culture, they had few boundaries. Up until her last arrest, she and her father were both on warrant and allegedly using meth together. He would "hook her up" with his adult male friends who would in turn supply her with drugs.

Her mother eventually remarried and has been clean and sober for over a year. She now owns her own business while her dad continues in and out of jail.

Like so many other youth in the system this is just another sad story, right? Well, this young lady decided while she was participating in New Horizons she wanted something better in her life than "chasing a bag."

During her time in New Horizons she worked really hard in school and completed high school nearly a year early, graduating from the New Horizons School. Working with the support of her teacher, case manager, and wraparound facilitator she was able to enroll at College of the Redwoods while in custody. She began school last week and is enrolled full time. We were able to facilitate her attendance on the main campus while she was still in New Horizons until she completed her program a week later.

Her ambition is to be a chef and attend a culinary school in San Francisco once she turns 18. She would like to be a chef on a cruise ship eventually.

Although there may be 50 cases you work with where you have some doubts about future successes, you always wish for the best. Here is one that seems to be on the right track. I hope to some day read about the great chef that came from the streets of Eureka. I wish her luck!





Detention Mentions

by Tim Toste

While the Juvenile Hall average daily population from June 2009 to the end of September 2009 was slightly over our 26-bed maximum, it has gone down to 22.13 since. At this writing we seem to be flirting with hovering close to capacity for the past couple of weeks. One contributor to the filled Juvenile Hall beds is the 4-5 minors waiting for a bed to open in the Regional Facility. The Regional Facility seemed to have a wave of minors committed at once so many are due to transition from there around the same time, which means we aren't getting the one or two open beds a month like we usually have.

SJCO Chris Brannon had a new addition to his family recently, while Senior JCO Steve Schmidt will have a new arrival very soon. Speaking of new arrivals, we do have some new staff since our last newsletter. The Regional Facility recently added regular part time JCO Is Crystal Perez and Brian Corning, while Nate Zink is our newest full time JCO I. The Juvenile Hall added Cindy Mowrey as a regular part time JCO I. We welcome all our new regular staff and point out that we have our full compliment of regular positions filled in facilities. The one technical exception is one of the four Senior JCO position allocations for Juvenile Hall that has yet to be filled. It would seem existing staff aren't interested in applying therefore it remains filled by a regular JCO I/II person.

We have recently bolstered our extra help ranks as well. We also welcome Mike Le, Jeremy Siemer, Tim Kindley, James Sweet, Ryan Riddle, and Jennifer McElroy. We appreciate their efforts and availability.

Both facilities were inspected by the Institute for Medical Quality (IMQ) on January 13th. The IMQ reviews both the medical and mental health practices, policies, and procedures in the Juvenile Hall and Regional Facility to ensure they meet a certain standard for a two year accreditation. The IMQ review team spent an entire day reviewing medical/MH charts, interviewing staff and detained minors, as well as pharmacy practices. The accreditation is a voluntary program that the California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) participates in to ensure the County we are meeting community standards of care within our locked facilities. The County contracts with CFMG to provide medical services in the Juvenile Hall, Regional Facility, and Humboldt County Correctional Facility and provides some training to all our staff. Though a report from IMQ won't be forthcoming for weeks, the review staff indicated we meet their standards and although we do have some issues to work out regarding the timeliness of delivery following written prescriptions for psychotropic medications, the IMQ team had very positive things to say about our medical and mental health program and the quality of care that detained youth are receiving. We are in the process of improving that system with our Mental Health Branch of DHHS.

The Regional Facility recently wrapped up its work with technical assistance consultant Bob Harrington of La Piana. We'll miss Bob after working with him regularly for about four years shortly after obtaining our Healthy Returns Initiative grant from The California Endowment. Following Bob's intensive work with the entire Probation Department, we had him turn his focus to the New Horizons program staff in the Regional Facility. Probation, Juvenile Corrections Officers, school, and mental health staff owe a great deal of our success in the integration of our disciplines to Bob's

Detention Mentions, continued from page 7

focus on us in the past two years. He left us with a very good framework to guide us in the future. Thanks Bob, we'll miss you.

Last, but certainly not least, I wanted to commend the job the Correctional Cooks are doing down in the Juvenile Hall kitchen. About two weeks ago they had their garbage disposal removed for repair as it sounded as if it were about to explode. Much to our chagrin, the disposal could not be repaired so we had to order a new one. Consequently, rather than being sans a disposal for a couple of meals they will have been without one for more than two weeks before the new one is shipped to us. Rather than rinsing about fifty or more meal trays three times a day into the disposal they have resorted to hauling much more garbage and have a makeshift drain as you can see from the photos at the right. Thanks to them for tolerating a difficult work environment while still getting out our regular menu of tasty meals.



OLD NEW OR NEW OLD

by Ken Blackshear

So when a retiree comes back to work at Probation is he a new old employee or an old new employee? Whichever it is, my name is Ken Blackshear and I find myself back at Probation eight years after retiring as a Division Director.

What brings me back is the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) grant. I am working part time as the Project Director for this grant from the Corrections Standards Authority to address the concern over the disproportionate number of minority youth that come into the Juvenile Justice System. The first phase (Year 1) is to strengthen the foundation for a DMC initiative including contracting with an expert consultant to conduct probation staff training on DMC and to assist with

data analysis to determine the nature of DMC in Humboldt County.

I look forward to meeting or renewing acquaintance with all of you as I tackle this task and I appreciate the warm welcome I received on my return.



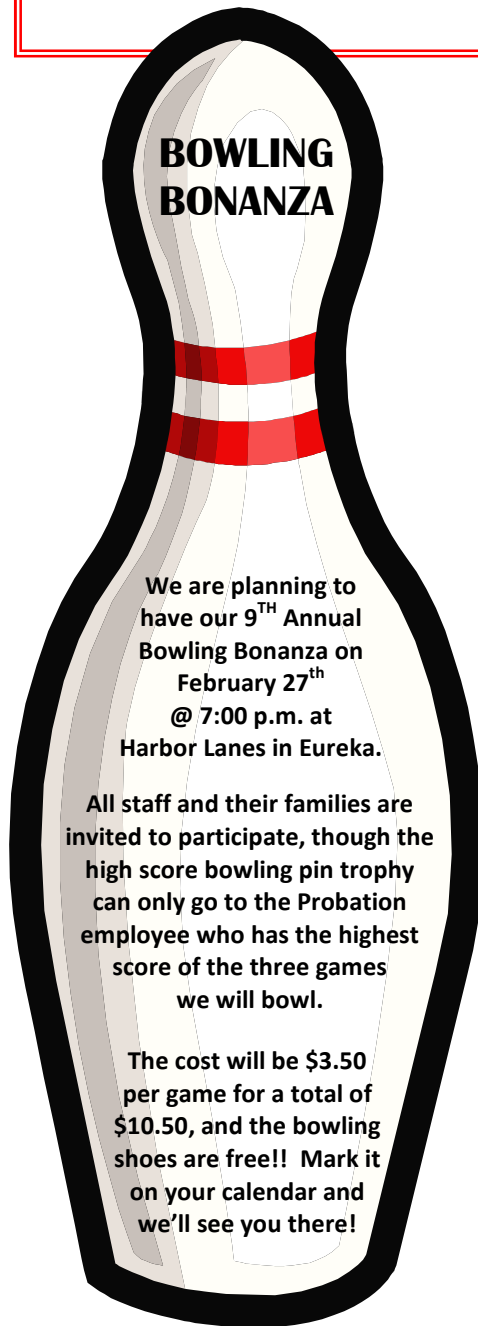
DMC Project Director, Ken Blackshear



MEETING FOR MEETING'S SAKE

During his or her lifetime, the average American will spend three years in business meetings. How does one survive? Here is a list of suggestions:

1. Never arrive on time; this stamps you as a beginner.
2. Don't say anything until the meeting is half over; this stamps you as being wise.
3. Be as vague as possible; this avoids irritating others.
4. When in doubt, suggest that a subcommittee be appointed.
5. Be first to move for adjournment; this will make you popular; it's what everyone is waiting for.



Adult Entertainment

by Bill Damiano

The Prop 36 program (previously known as SACPA), still exists at the state level, however, now in the form of the Offender Treatment Program (OTP). State funding to support SACPA services was eliminated in the state FY 2009-10 budget, with the caveat that federal stimulus money through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) - Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program would be directed to the OTP, providing a backfill for 50% of the loss in state funding. While the details of the budgetary and grant application process were being finalized, Probation continued to dedicate two active supervision caseloads to qualifying felony drug offenders. The funding for those positions has been a mix of county general funds and Medi-Cal revenue generated by Targeted Case Management activity with these offenders. Since our last newsletter there have been some positive developments on that front. After some meetings with Probation, the County's Mental Health Branch submitted an application for the federal Recovery JAG funds which were being offered through the OTP program. The submitted plan once again reflects a collaborative effort between DHHS-MHB and Probation, by providing JAG funding for 50% of the cost of the Senior PO assigned to those offenders, as well as funding key AOD staff serving the program. The program is scaled back from what it once was, but it continues to retain many of the positive features of our prior effort. Probation is proposing to fund the other 50% cost of the Senior PO through the grant period October 1, 2009 through March 31, 2011. Approval of applications is expected to take about 4 to 6 weeks. Should the application be denied for some reason, the plan is for the Senior PO to shift into the currently vacant Senior PO position in the adult division (with the actual assignment to be determined). The submitted OTP plan is also based on the use of a therapeutic court model for this population. As a result, Probation has been able to return the services of one PO to the weekly Prop 36 calendar. Probation continues to work with Judge Hinrichs and our counterparts at DHHS-MHB with the intent of making that calendar format more effective for these offenders. Unfortunately, however, a separate grant to which Probation had applied, the Edward Byrne Competitive Grant, under the federal stimulus program to support an additional probation officer for the Prop 36 caseload was denied.

A new state program associated with Senate Bill 678, the California Community Corrections Performance Incentive Act of 2009, was passed last legislative session. The state decided to dedicate additional federal Recovery JAG funds as seed money for this project. The grant is entitled the Evidence-Based Probation Supervision Program (EBPSP) and will provide funds to the department for three years, through September 30, 2012. The state's interest is in reducing the number of felony offenders being revoked and sentenced to prison. Our submitted plan proposes the restoration a DPO I/II in adult field supervision to get active supervision caseloads down to 50:1, use of the STRONG risk/needs assessment to identify the offenders at highest risk to re-offend when making supervision and intervention decisions, and to have department staff trained as facilitators in the "Thinking For a Change" cognitive-behavioral treatment program. This will allow us to focus our resources on the offenders most likely to affect community safety, and provide services proven effective at significantly reducing recidivism in high risk offenders. Again, approval of applications is expected to take 4 to 6 weeks.