



# *Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania*

## *Allegheny County Adult Probation and Parole*



*Pittsburgh's Three Rivers  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

### *2013 Annual Report*



# Mission Statement



**Allegheny County Adult Probation and Parole is charged by the Court of Common Pleas with the responsibility of providing effective community-based alternatives to incarceration, improving public safety, partnering with community and law enforcement resources and promoting positive behavioral change from offenders.**

## ***The Principles Supporting Adult Probation and Parole's Mission:***

***Through individual assessment, direction and assistance, most offenders can and will become contributing members of our community.***

***That offenders can and will be held accountable for the harm they cause to individuals as well as to the community at large.***

***Recognizing our responsibility for public safety, a comprehensive system of community corrections, including incarceration and reentry, will be developed and supported.***

***The strengths and resources of our community are vital to the success of our offenders.***

***That excellence in the quality of Court services requires sensitivity to racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity.***



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**Honorable Donna Jo McDaniel**  
**President Judge**  
**January 2009 - December 2013**



**Honorable Jeffrey A. Manning**  
**Administrative Judge**  
**January 2009 - December 2013**  
**Sworn in as President Judge,**  
**December 24, 2013**



**Honorable David R. Cashman**  
**Administrative Judge**  
**Sworn in December 27, 2013**



**Claire C. Capristo, Esquire**  
**District Court Administrator**



**Thomas M. McCaffrey**  
**Criminal Court Administrator**

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT****ADULT PROBATION DIRECTOR,  
RONALD J. SEYKO**

***On behalf of the probation officers and staff of the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania – Allegheny County Adult Probation and Parole Department, I am proud to present our 2013 Annual Report.***

This report highlights the activities and accomplishments that are directly related to the hard work of our dedicated staff, which have advanced probation and parole's mission during the past year. Furthermore, these accomplishments could not have been realized without the close professional relationships and collaborations that our department has with the many law enforcement, human service, and community organizations who share in our efforts to improve public safety and promote positive behavioral change from offenders under supervision.

Allegheny County is the second largest probation and parole department in Pennsylvania. In 2013, the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole conducted an audit of the department regarding compliance with the Board's rigorous performance-based standards for probation and parole agencies. After reviewing policies and procedures, meeting with staff, and visiting several office sites, the auditor concluded that Allegheny County Adult Probation and Parole was in 100 percent compliance with the expected standards of performance.

In addition to supervising offenders on county probation, parole, and intermediate punishment, the department has contributed to the success of the Fifth Judicial District's seven problem-solving courts. The seven court programs include DUI Court, Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Veterans Court, Domestic Violence Court, Pride Court, and Sex Offender Court. Problem-solving courts are instrumental in holding offenders accountable for their behavior, while promoting their successful, crime-free adjustment in the community. In 2013, Allegheny County's DUI Court received accreditation by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. The DUI Court program became one of only seven programs in Pennsylvania (and the only stand-alone DUI court) to achieve this recognition based on its adherence to nationally recognized best practices designed to reduce recidivism and promote the successful rehabilitation of offenders. Another problem-solving court, Drug Court, is being considered for accreditation by the Supreme Court; it is anticipated that Drug Court will be accredited in early 2014.

In 2013, the probation and parole department and county jail moved closer to the start of validating a new risk/needs assessment for offenders. The genesis of this project was the result of Allegheny County's selection as a Bureau of Justice Assistance "Justice Reinvestment Initiative" site. This initiative allowed the Fifth Judicial District to analyze the drivers of the criminal justice system population, including the process and timing by which risk assessments are conducted. Although the screening and risk tools used throughout the criminal justice system are validated, the assessments are administered multiple times by different system partners (e.g. Jail, Probation, Alternative Housing providers), not shared appropriately, and have a financial cost per assessment. To address this issue, a plan was developed to implement a single, validated, no-cost assessment tool to support the entire criminal justice system. The development of Allegheny County's assessment, validated on the Allegheny County offender population for accuracy in predicting risks for committing crimes, will save the court the expense of paying a private provider for the assessment. The savings can then be reinvested in criminal justice system initiatives. The final version of the assessment questions was completed and computer testing conducted throughout December. Data collection with the new risk/needs tool will begin January 2014.



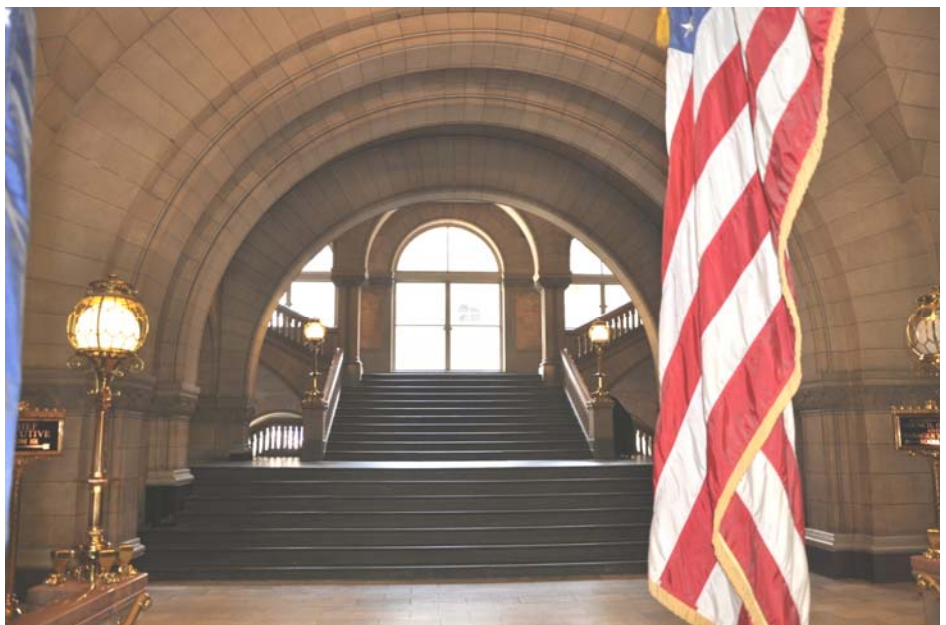
Offender reentry to the community following a jail sentence has been a priority for the past several years with the assistance of two Second Chance Act (SCA) grants. With the grant funds, the adult probation and parole department established a unit of five probation officers dedicated to providing reentry supervision and services for offenders paroled from the Allegheny County Jail. This year, the Urban Institute completed an evaluation of the SCA reentry models in place in Allegheny County between 2009 and 2013. The Urban Institute's research findings indicate that the SCA reentry programs reduce the likelihood of participants being re-arrested and for those who are charged with another crime, prolongs the time to re-arrest compared to a matched group who did not participate in SCA reentry. Additional findings revealed that SCA had strong program implementation fidelity and received consistently high marks from participants and family members. Although the SCA grants have expired, reentry efforts have continued. In partnership with the Allegheny County Jail Collaborative, an enhanced reentry model has been instituted that focuses on the early identification of up to 400 medium and high-risk offenders who are enrolled at the jail in programing designed to address crime-causing behaviors. Five reentry probation officers are teamed with community workers for the coordination of supervision and rehabilitative services for those with the greatest needs upon release. Linkage to structured supervision and programming at the department's Day Reporting Centers (DRC) and through community service providers are critical components of this reentry model.

Adult Probation and Parole continues to operate two DRCs located in the eastern and south side sections of the City of Pittsburgh. The DRCs are "one stop shops" of probation and social services for offenders. In the fall of 2013, the Department of Human Services made available up to \$300,000 in block grant funds for 12 months of services provided at the DRCs. These funds enhance and expand drug and alcohol testing and assessment, adult education, job preparation, employment search, and life skill opportunities that have been offered since the centers opened. Additional services put in place include the provision of short-term emergency housing and housing assistance resources. This model of supervision and service delivery is backed by research that indicates that DRC programs decrease the likelihood that offenders will commit new crimes compared to a matched group of offenders not involved in DRC programs.

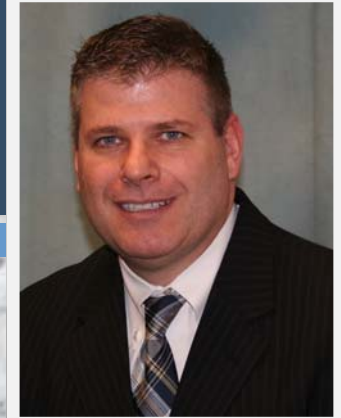
In 2013, the Electronic Monitoring (EM) Unit had another successful year. It is important to note that there were 1,728 EM supervision cases closed with only 36 offenders of this group arrested while on EM, which placed recidivism at an outstanding two percent for the entire year.

Adult Probation and Parole continued its work with law enforcement agencies throughout the county in 2013. The department is in the second year of collaboration with the Sheriff's Office regarding gang intervention strategies. This project, supported by a Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, enhances collaboration with law enforcement agencies in the gathering and sharing of gang intelligence. These efforts allow for coordinated gang suppression and interdiction strategies over the two-year period of the grant. In 2013, there were eight gang suppression and interdiction operations conducted. The Adult Probation and Parole Department also teamed with the Pittsburgh Police during the Pittsburgh Marathon and many other law enforcement and warrant apprehension details. Probation officers also assisted other county law enforcement agencies in these types of activities throughout the year.

*We continue to strive to enhance probation and parole services through effective practices that are supported by research as being effective in reducing recidivism and improving the lives of those under our jurisdiction. This article presents just a few highlights of the work of Adult Probation and Parole in 2013. I am confident that you will find the following articles both informative and interesting as you read about the many outstanding activities that our staff members perform to fulfill our mission.*



**A MESSAGE FROM**  
**ADULT PROBATION DEPUTY DIRECTOR,**  
**FRANK J. SCHERER**



As you will see in the pages of the 2013 Annual Report, Allegheny County Adult Probation had many accolades and successful endeavors during the year. We continue to be on the forefront of evidence-based supervision strategies.

Despite successes, we have no intention of resting on our laurels. In 2014, all new offenders deemed medium to high risk to re-offend, based on a locally validated proxy, will undergo a Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) risk/needs assessment. Offender Supervision Plans will be developed based on the outcomes of the LSI-R and offenders will be referred to appropriate services, many of which are co-located in our Day Reporting Centers (DRC). In 2014, we will continue our strong collaboration with the Department of Human Services, who help to fund these co-located services and monitor offender outcomes.

We are always seeking to improve capacity in our centers and within our highly trained probation officer force. In 2014, we plan to augment current cognitive behavioral therapy classes in our centers and improve the training of probation officers to reinforce positive behaviors that offenders have learned. We will also implement the use of motivational interviewing, an evidence-based practice that helps officers develop a strong rapport with offenders. This rapport can improve the supervision plans, assist probation officers in making better informed decisions related to the offender's supervision in the community, and decrease offender non-compliance. By improving the ability of officers to concentrate on the highest risk behaviors, we believe we can improve public safety while reducing recidivism.

We look forward to the exciting changes on the horizon at Adult Probation. We will continue to strive for improved outcomes and accountability while reducing the harm caused by offenders in our communities. I want to personally thank all of our staff for another year of dedication and hard work.





# ADULT PROBATION OVERVIEW



The Allegheny County Adult Probation Department is responsible for providing probation, parole, and intermediate punishment supervision of offenders for the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania. The agency has 188 full and part-time employees, of whom 130 are probation officers, making Allegheny County Adult Probation the second largest such agency in Pennsylvania.

In 2013, Adult Probation was responsible for supervising 21,772 offenders in the community on probation, parole, and intermediate punishment. Of these offenders, 39 percent were under supervision for felony level offenses, 56.8 percent for misdemeanor offenses, and 4.2 percent for summary offenses. In addition to providing direct supervision of offenders, Adult Probation also provides other services to the Court including:

- ◆ The submission of presentence investigation reports - 609 in 2013
- ◆ Representing Adult Probation at Gagnon II probation violation hearings before the Court through the Court Liaison Unit
- ◆ Conducting Gagnon I hearings for alleged probation violators in the Allegheny County Jail three times per week and in the courthouse one day per week
- ◆ Operating two Day Reporting Centers that serve as the focal point for the delivery of various services for offenders, including job readiness, job search, drug assessments and testing, GED classes, life skills, and community service

- ◆ Acting as core stakeholders in the Court's seven problem solving dockets
- ◆ Participation in various strategic planning committees that have been established by the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania
- ◆ Interacting with other law enforcement agencies in Allegheny County on issues of mutual interest
- ◆ Providing Electronic Monitoring of offenders who are sentenced to intermediate punishment or are on Pretrial Electronic Monitoring

The Adult Probation Department is divided into units which supervise offenders based upon their level of risk and by the type of sentence imposed by the Court. The identification and use of established evidence-based probation practices is a core component of Adult Probation's supervision of its offender population. Since 2008, Adult Probation has used a locally validated proxy scoring tool to identify offenders as low, medium, or high risk of reoffending. Offenders who are identified as low risk are placed on minimum supervision caseloads and are monitored for compliance with Court ordered conditions and for payment of Court cost, restitution, and supervision fees. Offenders identified as medium risk are assigned to community based offices. These medium risk offenders undergo a more detailed risk assessment, the Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R), which identifies the specific criminogenic needs of the offender. Probation officers assigned to these units develop an offender supervision plan based upon the LSI-R assessment. Offenders are then provided services directly at one of the Day Reporting Centers or are referred to service providers within the community. Probation officers document offender compliance with their supervision plans using a web-based application known as Mobile Probation Officer (MPO). The overall goal of the MPO initiative is to reduce the rate of recidivism of offenders while providing services to the offender population.

In addition to the risk/needs items that are determined from the LSI-R, the probation officer also includes in the supervision plan any special conditions ordered by the Court. Thereafter, probation officers meet with offenders in their homes or the community and review their progress on the supervision plan, with the offender's progress (or lack of progress) being noted in the MPO system.



Offenders who successfully complete their plans and pay their financial obligations are released from probation at the end of their supervision period, and in some instances, requests for early termination of probation are submitted to the Court for offenders who complete their plans. Offenders who fail to make adequate progress on their plans are coached and counseled by their assigned probation officer. Offenders who are non-compliant for an extended period of time, or are charged with a new crime, are addressed through the probation violation process. Currently, all of Adult Probation's community based offices are operating in the mobile environment.

Offenders identified as high risk are assigned to the Adult Probation's High Impact Unit (HIU). These offenders are closely monitored for compliance with their sentence and are moved into the violation process if they fail to complete Court ordered conditions, substantially violate the rules of probation, or are arrested for new criminal offenses. Those offenders who show a willingness to participate in services are engaged by their probation officer and are referred to community resources for assistance. Probation officers assigned to HIU also work closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in regard to issues of mutual interest.

In 2013, Adult Probation hired a manager to help the

department administer its expanding offender data needs, and also assigned a dedicated full-time training supervisor who now coordinates the ongoing training and workforce development needs of the department. These two employees substantially bolster Adult Probation's commitment to the use of evidence-based probation practices.

In addition to its commitment to identify and implement evidence-based probation practices, Adult Probation continues to provide the Court with Electronic Monitoring (EM) services for offenders sentenced to intermediate punishment. In 2013, Adult Probation added three full-time probation officers to its EM unit. The EM unit has the capacity to monitor over 1,000 offenders electronically. At years end, 800 offenders were under Electronic Monitoring supervision.

Adult Probation is proud of the level of service that it provides to the Court and to the community and strives to consistently meet the agency mission. The management team, including the director, deputy director, and five managers meet on a weekly basis to review department operations and review progress on established strategic priorities. Adult Probation looks forward to furthering its various initiatives and providing the Court and the community with a high level of service in 2014.

### CASELOAD AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013

Probation	19,196
Parole	1,227
Intermediate Punishment	931
Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD)	3,925
Probation without Verdict	418
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,697</b>

### CASELOAD PER PROBATION OFFICER

McKeesport Community Based Office	115
North Side Community Based Office	130
Central Community Based Office	74
South Hills Community Based Office	120
Wilkinsburg Community Based Office	83
Electronic Monitoring	46
High Impact Unit	125
Forensic Unit (Mental Health)	112
Domestic Violence Unit	86
Sex Offender Unit	74
DUI (Driving Under the Influence) Unit	198
Minimal Supervision Unit	1095
Intermediate Supervision Unit	476
Inter-State/Inter-County Unit/State	487/545/3424

# ADULT PROBATION HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## CIVIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE VISITS DAY REPORTING CENTER - EAST

The Allegheny County Jail Collaborative's Civic Advisory Committee held its October 2013 meeting at Adult Probation's Day Reporting Center (DRC) in East Liberty. The committee, chaired by Fred Thieman, President of the Buhl Foundation, chose the DRC site for their meeting in order for the group to observe the DRC in action and discuss the collaboration between Adult Probation and the Department of Human Services in providing services to offenders at the centers.

Mr. Thieman commenced the meeting and introduced the Honorable Jeffrey A. Manning. Judge Manning spoke about Adult Probation's approach to supervising over 25,000 offenders by using risk assessments to identify and focus resources on those offenders who are moderate to high risk to re-offend. Judge Manning outlined the benefits of the DRCs, noting that they provide an important opportunity for the community as well as the offenders, one that will ultimately return to the community an individual who is better than the one arrested.

Erin Dalton, Deputy Director of The Department of Human Services, presented to the advisory group the results of a recent study that compared offenders who participated in DRC programs to a similar group who did not have access to DRC programs. The study revealed a greater number of technical violations for the DRC group, but less crime. For high risk offenders, the average convicted violation rate (new arrest while under supervision) is 7 percent for the DRC group compared to 29 percent for the non-DRC group. For medium risk offenders, the average convicted violation rate is 12 percent for the DRC participants, almost 10 percent lower than that of the non-DRC probationers. Ms. Dalton summarized that DRCs appear to be a smart approach to serving and supervising offenders.

For the remainder of the meeting, the committee separated into two groups; one of which toured the DRC facility, the other of which stayed for a presentation by Ron Seyko, Director of Allegheny County Adult Probation and Parole. The groups then switched after the first presentation so everyone had the opportunity to attend both sessions.

Mr. Seyko's presentation provided a brief history of supervision practices leading up to the change to community-based, mobile probation officers, and the creation of the two DRCs. The director outlined the services provided at the DRCs, including the additional programs offered through the Department of Human Services (DHS) block grant funds and discussed the reentry program that is in place and how it is

closely linked to the DRCs. Finally, Mr. Seyko presented plans for the future, which include the possibility of additional sites, a continuation of the partnership with DHS, and further evaluations of the effectiveness of the DRC model.

When the groups reconvened, a discussion of the DRC model took place. Mr. Thieman concluded the meeting by pointing out how things have changed over the past 20 years with improved collaboration between systems. Mr. Thieman said the historic lack of coordination between systems makes this partnership even more impressive, when one considers that none of this existed until recently. Criminal Court Administrator Thomas McCaffrey pointed out that the DRCs and probation efforts are part of a bigger vision, not a probation or court program, but a community-wide effort.



Director Ronald J. Seyko speaks to the Civic Advisory Board during their visit to the DRC East.

## BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM (BIP)

In January 2013, President Judge Donna Jo McDaniel, with the goal of reducing domestic violence, directed that an effort be undertaken to study the available Batterers Intervention Programs (BIP) for criminal offenders. Collaboration began with representatives from the Fifth Judicial District Court Administration, the District Attorney's Office, Adult Probation, Magisterial District Judges, the Department of Human Services, Family Court, and Judges Jill E. Rangos and Donna Jo McDaniel.

On-site observations of interested providers were conducted in order to evaluate program format and quality. Of those providers, four were authorized by the Court to provide BIP services for domestic violence offenders in Allegheny County.



Meetings were conducted throughout 2013 to assess methods of offender referral, compliance, and participation tracking. Program reports were subsequently standardized in order to provide consistency and as a means to measure outcomes and amend guidelines as necessary. Work continues on a common database that will be accessible to all participating agencies and providers, which will provide real-time access to program information and offender outcomes.

Ongoing monitoring and observation of the approved BIP Programs and consistent BIP planning group meetings will measure and maintain the quality of services, address procedural issues as they arise, and provide ongoing assessment of BIP standards for providers. With these efforts, the Fifth Judicial District and Adult Probation will continue to seek best practices for reducing domestic violence in Allegheny County.

### **A NEW PARTNERSHIP: ALLEGHENY COUNTY ADULT PROBATION AND ALLEGHENY COUNTY JAIL JOIN FORCES TO IMPROVE REENTRY**



**Reentry Probation Officers**  
(L-R) E. King, R. Jones, D. Woods, C. Jamerson  
(Back) R. Harris

In 2009 and 2010, the Allegheny County Jail Collaborative and Adult Probation received federal grants to provide coordinated reentry services to sentenced inmates returning to the Allegheny County community through the Second Chance Act. These programs, known as SCA 1 and SCA 2, provided eligible offenders with an individual service plan, service coordination, and support during incarceration and after release. In October 2013, as the second of these grants came to a close, Adult Probation and the Allegheny County Jail (ACJ) partnered to develop a new reentry model program which would continue to provide these services.

This partnership utilizes a team approach toward offender reentry, with five probation officers and four ACJ Community Service Coordinators geographically paired to serve offenders

based on the address they will return to upon release. Offenders are introduced to the program during incarceration, and the assigned probation officers conduct enrollment presentations and risk assessments in the ACJ. This immediate contact allows the offender to develop a relationship with their assigned probation officer throughout incarceration. As offenders near their minimum release date, the community service coordinators engage with those who need the highest level of support following their release and begin working with the assigned probation officer to coordinate the necessary services for each offender.

Through partnership, community service coordinators and probation officers are able to provide a more complete range of services and oversight for each offender. Most importantly, the differences in their roles complement one another to reinforce both the benefits and consequences of fully participating in recommended services.

In total, the program will serve up to 400 clients annually, each of whom is assigned a reentry probation officer and a community service coordinator. Since the program's inception in October 2013, the Reentry Program served 200 offenders, 56 of whom were newly enrolled through the Adult Probation and ACJ partnership.

### **JUSTICE REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE**

In 2009, Allegheny County was selected as a site of a Bureau of Justice Assistance "Justice Reinvestment Initiative." This initiative allowed the Fifth Judicial District to analyze the drivers of the criminal justice system population, including the processes and timing by which risk assessments are conducted. Although the screening and risk tools used throughout the criminal justice system are validated, the assessments are administered multiple times by different system partners (e.g. jail, probation, and alternative housing providers), not shared appropriately, and have an financial cost per assessment. To address this issue, a plan was developed to implement a single, validated, no-cost assessment tool to support the entire criminal justice system.

In 2013, Adult Probation and the ACJ moved closer to validating a new risk/needs assessment for offenders. The development of Allegheny County's assessment, validated on the local offender population for accuracy in predicting risks for committing crimes, will save the Court the expense of paying a private provider for the assessment. These savings can then be reinvested in criminal justice system initiatives. In November 2013, the final version of the assessment questions was completed, and staff training took place. Data collection with the new risk tool is scheduled to begin in early 2014.

## COOP PLANNING AND EXERCISE

Each year, Adult Probation is responsible for updating its portion of the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania. With a compliment of 188 full and part-time employees, emergency readiness is a crucial component of being able to provide ongoing supervision of offenders in the community in the event of an emergency, pandemic, or natural disaster. Adult Probation's COOP planning includes documentation of its essential business practices, its need for resources and office space in the event any location becomes unavailable

for an extended period of time, key contacts, and employee contact lists.

In 2013, the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania required each department to conduct a "table top" exercise in which a disaster event was contemplated. The management team at Adult Probation reviewed the scenario and then discussed and documented how Adult Probation would react. A detailed account of the exercise was submitted to Court Administration of the Fifth Judicial District for review.

## BLOCK GRANTS

Allegheny County Adult Probation received a grant from the Department of Human Services (DHS) to expand and improve services offered at the Day Reporting Centers (DRC). Adult Probation and DHS worked closely to determine the best method to utilize this funding and expand the current services. Six services were identified as presenting the greatest need; Batterers Intervention Program (BIP), Housing, Drug and Alcohol Assessments, GED classes and testing, and employment assistance.

The Batterers Intervention Program is an educational course for offenders involved in intimate partner violence. Block grant funding is available for offenders who are indigent and unable to pay. Offenders in need of this service are not turned away due to financial circumstances, allowing for expedited treatment. Currently, four agencies provide BIP classes: DACC, Renewal, Persad, and the Women's Center and Shelter.

Appropriate housing is another area of concern, especially for offenders being released from the Allegheny County Jail. With this in mind, block grant funding has been provided for short-term housing and/or housing assistance. Adult Probation and DHS contracted with Community Human Services (CHS) to provide six apartments, five for males and one for females, at Wood Street Commons. These six units are available for offenders who lack housing options. Offenders are able to stay in the units for up to 90 days while they explore other housing opportunities with help from CHS. In addition to the units at Wood Street Commons, CHS also assists offenders who lack stable housing. CHS works with offenders, discusses their options and provides the best possible solution. Prior to the DHS block grant, Goodwill Industries was conducting GED preparation classes at both DRC sites through a state grant; however, this grant did not cover the cost of the GED test. By acquiring the block grant funds, Adult Probation was able to contract with Goodwill to cover the cost of the GED test while also enabling Goodwill to place additional computer stations for GED programming at each DRC location.

Adult Probation also teamed with Goodwill for employment assistance. Block grant funding has enabled Goodwill to create and operate a 12-week course to assist offenders in job readiness skills and employment referrals. The funding also allows Goodwill to provide general job search assistance to offenders.

Another critical need was the expansion of Adult Probation's ability to provide drug and alcohol assessments at each DRC. Prior to receiving block grant funding, there was a lengthy waiting list for such assessments. With block grant funding, an additional treatment agency was contracted to provide drug and alcohol assessments, eliminating the waiting list, while allowing for same day assessments.

The block grant has enabled Adult Probation to expand the type and number of services to a larger number of offenders allowing them to become productive members of the community.



DRC East classroom utilized for GED preparation .



## DUI COURT ACCREDITATION

August 21, 2013



State Supreme Court Justice Deborah McCloskey Todd presenting DUI Court Accreditation plaque to the Honorable Kevin Sasinoski.

The Allegheny County DUI Court program marked its eighth anniversary in 2013. This program was initiated by the District Attorney's Office and Adult Probation to target third time DUI offenders. As a condition of their admission in DUI Court, these high-risk offenders participate in a rigorous rehabilitation process in lieu of a mandatory state-length period of incarceration.

The success of the program was officially noted on August 21, 2013, when the Allegheny County DUI Court received the honor of accreditation from the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC). This commendation was designed to recognize problem solving courts in Pennsylvania that best adhere to the National Ten Key Components, as well as nationwide best practices in specialty court models. Courts that utilize the suggested framework of the Ten Key Components are those programs most likely to achieve the most successful outcomes.

According to the AOPC, the accreditation process was originally derived from concern expressed by the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing after data was released regarding judges who preside over individual specialty court programs. As the DUI Court program replaces standard incarceration with a sentence of Intermediate Punishment and Probation, the leniency of the individual judges was questioned by publicly reported data. The accreditation process, while lengthy, will recognize those jurists who preside over such programs and ensure the validity in sentencing.

Once the document review is completed and the site visit is conducted, a report is generated by the state Problem Solving Court Analyst. This report includes an updated

literature review as well as commendations and recommendations in relation to each of the Ten Key Components. The report is then reviewed by the AOPC Problem Solving Court Administrator. Once approved, the report and pertinent documents are forwarded to the state accreditation committee, which consists of an eight person team who reviews the document and gives recommendations for or against accreditation.

To date, the Allegheny County DUI Court is the only stand-alone DUI problem solving court in the Commonwealth to receive the honor of accreditation. Additionally, Allegheny County was presented with the award by State Supreme Court Justice Deborah McCloskey Todd during the bi-annual graduation ceremony. As each court must submit for reaccreditation every three years, program coordinators are currently reviewing recommendations made by the AOPC and implementing those which are suggested to enhance the program.

Another notable accomplishment for 2013 was Adult Probation Supervisor Jacquelyn Piatt's appointment to the State Accreditation Committee for the review of other applicants interested in receiving program accreditation. This appointment is given to just a handful of Problem Solving Court team members throughout the Commonwealth, and Jacquelyn is to be commended for her hard work and dedication that resulted in her appointment. The State Accreditation Committee meets annually to review the criteria and rubric of the accreditation process, in addition to conducting monthly conference calls to review each application with the entire team.

Allegheny County DUI Court continues to grow and prosper each year and their work is invaluable to the Fifth Judicial District and the residents of Allegheny County. The DUI Court team continually researches, develops, and implements procedures for the program that follows the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) standards and looks forward to what the next year may bring.



DUI COURT TEAM

(L-R) J. Whittaker-Piatt, K. Santoro, G. Collins, A. Lindberg, R. Kraus, Hon. K. Sasinoski, J. Kantz, L. Mitchell, J. Rathfon, A. Pfeifer, F. Scherer

# ADULT PROBATION

## PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS

In addition to supervising offenders on county probation, parole, and intermediate punishment, Adult Probation and Parole contributed to the success of the problem solving courts (PSC). Adult Probation continued to collaborate with human service agencies and local treatment providers to safely and effectively supervise offenders in the seven PSCs as of the end of 2013. Regular review hearings allow for swift intervention regarding non-compliant behaviors, which is crucial to the success of the PSC model. Rather than being merely punitive, however, regular review hearings also provide the Court with a venue for publicly recognizing an offender's compliance, often celebrating their success with a graduation ceremony, such as those in Veterans, Drug, DUI, and Mental Health Courts.

### PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT

DRUG COURT

DUI COURT

MENTAL HEALTH COURT

PRIDE COURT

SEX OFFENDER COURT

VETERANS COURT



### WELCOME CAROLINA ALMARANTE-TERRERO

Adult Probation would like to welcome Carolina Almarante-Terrero to the Fifth Judicial District as the Problem Solving Court Coordinator, where she oversees the day-to-day operations of the Court's problem solving court (PSC) dockets.

In her current position, Ms. Almarante-Terrero closely monitors, reviews, and enhances Allegheny County's seven problem solving courts, as well as serving as a conduit between the Probation Department, the Court, and various community providers.

Following her appointment in February 2013, she has been actively involved in streamlining PSC operations to improve data collection and accessibility of program information across departments and agencies involved with Allegheny County's problem solving courts. In addition, Ms. Almarante-Terrero collaborates with PSC teams on planning, program analysis, and policy implementation to establish and meet national accreditation standards.

Before joining Allegheny County's Court of Common Pleas, Ms. Almarante-Terrero was a program analyst for the Allegheny County Department of Human Services. Her work entailed researching evidence-based practices for criminal justice programs, drafting program recommendations to enhance reentry services in the Allegheny County Jail (ACJ), assessing the ACJ Reentry Program operations to expedite enrollment into jail-based services, and collaborating with probation administrators and ACJ service providers to improve outcome reporting practices.

Ms. Almarante-Terrero is a former Coro Fellow in Public Affairs. She received her Bachelors of Science in Public Administration at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, and a Masters of Science in Public Policy and Management with a concentration in Urban and Regional Economic Development from The John Heinz III College, School of Public Policy and Management, at Carnegie Mellon University. Ms. Almarante-Terrero was born and raised in Washington Heights on the Upper Westside of Manhattan.



## DUI COURT



Hon. Kevin G. Sasinoski

*The Honorable Kevin G. Sasinoski has presided over the Fifth Judicial District's DUI Court docket since its inception in 2005. He was kind enough to provide the following article on DUI Court from a judicial perspective.*

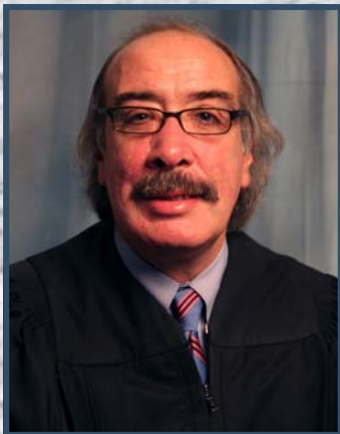
A little over eight years ago, I was asked by Judge Donna Jo McDaniel, Administrative Judge of the Criminal Division, to consider presiding over a newly emerging specialty court in Allegheny County – DUI Court. I agreed, and after a short time, any hesitation or reservations about doing so were put to rest after meeting with the county probation officers and Assistant District Attorney Becky Walker who were associated with developing the program. I recall, vividly, Frank Scherer confidently responding to my concerns by saying “We can do this.” The rest is, as they say, history.

Allegheny County's program has recently gone through the accreditation process by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, which is a significant milestone of achievement. With more than 200 participants at any given time, over 401 graduates, and a success rate of 90 percent, the program has flourished. The program is a team effort, staffed with dedicated professionals who have invested their experience and hard work in the program. As the supervising judge, the District Attorney, Public Defender, probation officers, and treatment providers have made my job easy. I'd be remiss in not thanking the sheriff's department for sending as many deputies as needed on any review date to transport violating offenders to the county jail for a little time to reflect on their commitment to the program.

I have taken personal satisfaction with the hard statistical data which substantiates the success of the program in reducing recidivism rates in DUI cases. The program remains a work in progress, as we continually look for novel ways or perspectives to incorporate into the established routine of the Court. With the continued support of our President Judge Jeffrey A. Manning and Administrative Judge David R. Cashman, I am confident that Allegheny County's DUI Court will continue as a model of success among the emerging specialty court approach in the criminal justice system.



## VETERANS COURT



Hon. John A. Zottola

*The Honorable John A. Zottola has presided over the Fifth Judicial District's Veterans Court docket since its inception in 2009. He was kind enough to provide the following article on Veterans Court from a judicial perspective.*



My experience with the problem solving court model of case diversion began in March 2006, when I was appointed to preside over the county's Mental Health Treatment Court (MHC). The successes of the MHC model of diversion, treatment, and community supervision led to the call for the establishment of an avenue to deal with veterans' issues in the criminal justice system while being mindful of the need to protect public safety. The creation of Allegheny County's Veterans Court was based on recognition of the tremendous sacrifices made by our veterans for the safety, freedom, and liberties of their fellow citizens and the special circumstances that may exist when a veteran finds him or herself in the midst of the criminal justice system.

Veterans need and deserve diverse treatment in the criminal justice system as a result of traumas sustained in military conflicts. A substantial percentage of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as previous wars and conflicts, suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or other mental illnesses. For those returning with PTSD or other mental disorders, both societal expectations and family challenges often demand quick reintegration into a society for which they may be ill equipped. As a result of these pressures, veterans grapple with stresses that often result in criminal episodes.

We now recognize that veterans believe that participation in mental health, drug, or other treatment courts may stigmatize them as a result of certain aspects of military culture; because of this, the diversion of veterans to a separate Veterans Court will encourage participation and treatment for some veterans who would otherwise avoid it. The goal of Veterans Court is to reduce the percentage of veterans with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders by considering the experience of war before sentencing and by helping former soldiers find treatment. The critical threshold is to convince

arrested veterans that there is no shame in accepting help.

The treatment court approach to criminal justice is radically different from the traditional understanding of the criminal justice system. Treatment courts approach the resolution of cases as a team, as opposed to using the traditional adversarial model, in which the judge is always the arbiter. While the traditional approach places the judge at the top of the pyramid, treatment courts are horizontal in nature, with the judge acting as the ultimate arbiter only when a consensus cannot be reached by the team.

A typical treatment team consists of Judge, Assistant District Attorney, Public Defender, Forensic Support Specialist, and Specialized Probation Officers. Two other important component members of the treatment team are the Veterans Administration (VA) and a Veterans Mentor. Veteran mentors serve as informal advisors to court participants by helping with a variety of issues ranging from VA paperwork and benefit questions, to encouraging and supporting veterans who are uneasy about entering treatment. The mentorship component places the powerful bonds of military service to good use by enlisting local veteran volunteers to help overcome participants' resistance to treatment and point them in the right direction. They also provide gentle or forceful coaxing of the veteran to be medically compliant, treatment compliant, drug and alcohol free, and crime free. Mentors are supportive individuals who have 'been there and done that' and can offer support and praise when accomplishments are achieved.

Allegheny County's Veterans Court accepts both misdemeanor and felony cases, with the ultimate goal of providing an effective and efficient criminal justice tool to, whenever possible, divert a veteran in the criminal justice system.





### MENTAL HEALTH COURT

(L-R) T. Kennedy, T. Ban, A. Perry, Hon. B. Lazzara, C. Christmas, J. Demblowski, S. Leslie



### DRUG COURT

(Seated) S. Just, R. Newman, R. Hudock, S. Demino  
(L-R) E. Porter, R. McConnell, J. Santoro, C. Mustakas, Hon. L. Nauhaus, J. Blecher, E. Vayansky, J. Rose, D. Sommers



### VETERANS COURT

(L-R) C. Christmas, Hon. J. Zottola, R. O'Brien



### SEX OFFENDER COURT

(L-R) J. Ninehouser, H. Bradford, K. Walls, J. Rivera, M. Bowie, R. Fortunato



### PRIDE COURT

(L-R) A. Lindberg, J. Zacharias, Hon. K. Sasinoski, K. Santoro



### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT

(Seated) Hon. D. McDaniel  
(L-R) C. Butterfield, R. Zeleznik, C. Bartosh, T. Allen, M. Sullivan, D. Spurgeon, M. Ventura, J. Kearney, B. Dalbon

# ADULT PROBATION ELECTRONIC MONITORING

Adult Probation's Electronic Monitoring unit (EM) began its 25th year of operation in 2013. The program, originally created as a cost-effective alternative to incarceration, continues to supervise cases that otherwise involve mandatory periods of incarceration, as well as cases transferred from the Allegheny County Jail. Currently, EM utilizes two types of equipment to monitor offenders: radio frequency (RF) and Transdermal Alcohol Detection or TAD (a unique combination of RF technology and alcohol sensor testing). Allegheny County is unique in that all monitoring is done "in house" by Court staff, instead of outsourcing to other companies for the computer monitoring aspect of supervision.

In 2011, EM received grant funding from the Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA) to purchase TAD equipment. This distinctive type of supervision allows for 24 hour alcohol monitoring of offenders classified as high risk imbibers. TAD utilizes alco-sensor technology to monitor the level of alcohol emanating through a participant's perspiration. The equipment is fastened to the offender's ankle and remains there throughout the course of supervision. The equipment functions utilizing a plunger style system to securely press against an offender's leg with a "vacuum" that collects perspiration from the offender. Blood alcohol levels are monitored, and if an offender ingests alcohol, an alert is forwarded to monitoring staff for review. Each alert is also submitted

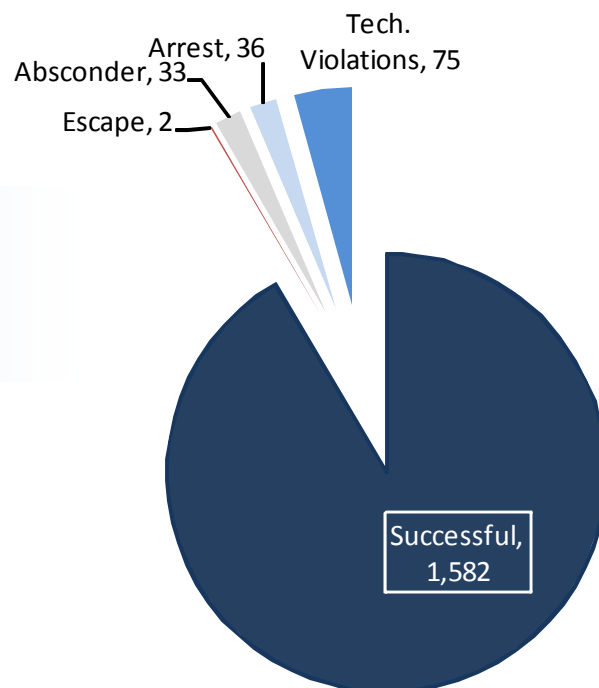
for confirmation through Behavioral Interventions, a process geared to eliminate alerts that may be caused from environmental alcohol. EM currently has 57 units used for DUI Court offenders and other cases flagged for the use of alcohol sensor, as well as nine units purchased for the use of Veterans Court participants.

In 2013, EM received 1,748 new cases with an overall recidivism rate of offenders under EM supervision at just 2 percent.

The EM unit also supervises offenders according to risk level and cases are assigned as low, medium, or high risk. Additionally, EM houses two of the largest problem solving court programs; Drug Court and DUI Court. EM also serves individuals sentenced to Mental Health Court, Domestic Violence Court, PRIDE, Veterans Court, and Sex Offender Court.

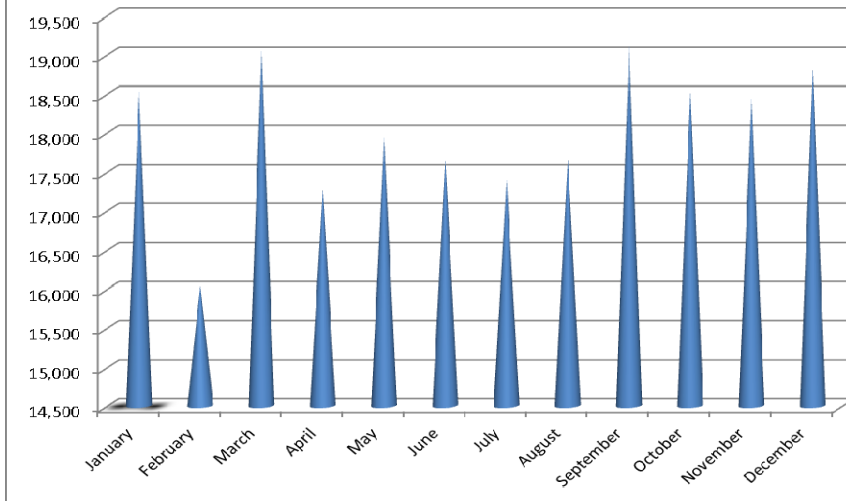
Participants placed on EM are responsible for paying the fees associated with the monitoring of their individual equipment. The fees, which are assessed on a sliding scale according to the offender's income, are billed and collected monthly by the Court fiscal department as well as the individual officers. In 2013, EM had the highest fee collection rate since inception, collecting \$1,350,778 in supervision fees, an average of \$112,564 per month.

## 2013 ELECTRONIC MONITORING CASE COMPLETIONS





### JAIL DAYS SAVED 2013



*In addition to the monies collected, the EM unit saved taxpayers a total of 216,452 “jail days,” an estimated savings of \$14,502,284.*

## DUI ALTERNATIVE TO JAIL PROGRAM

The DUI Alternative to Jail Program, a collaborative effort between Adult Probation and Pretrial Services, experienced continued success toward its mission of increasing compliance with sentencing requirements and reducing the costs associated with supervising first time DUI offenders. The program was originally implemented in 2010 as a means of reducing the backlog of offenders sentenced to jail or Electronic Monitoring for their first DUI conviction. Since that time, the program has eliminated a backlog of over 1,000 cases.

Following conviction, eligible offenders must pay a \$500 program fee prior to serving a four day sentence at one of two hotels in Allegheny County. Although offenders spend four days in a hotel (as opposed to spending two or three days in jail), the program is hardly a vacation, as offenders must attend group therapy sessions each day, as well as complete the state mandated DUI classes for license restoration.

In 2013, 623 offenders completed the DUI Alternative to Jail Program, resulting in \$230,050 in program fees being collected. Program funds are then reinvested into the program, making it completely self-sustaining. As such, the program has also proven to be of great financial benefit to the taxpayers of Allegheny County by greatly reducing the number of ‘jail days’ served by this offender population.

*“The DUI Alternative to Jail Program has reduced Electronic Monitoring and jail costs without sacrificing community safety. It has been a very good collaborative team effort and Pretrial Services is doing a good job of operating the program. It’s an important program and we expect it to continue.”*

*Ronald J. Seyko, Director  
Adult Probation*

# ADULT PROBATION

## LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERS



Adult Probation continued to partner with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in 2013, with probation officers from across the agency participating in a total of 19 official law enforcement details in both the City of Pittsburgh and the greater Allegheny County area.

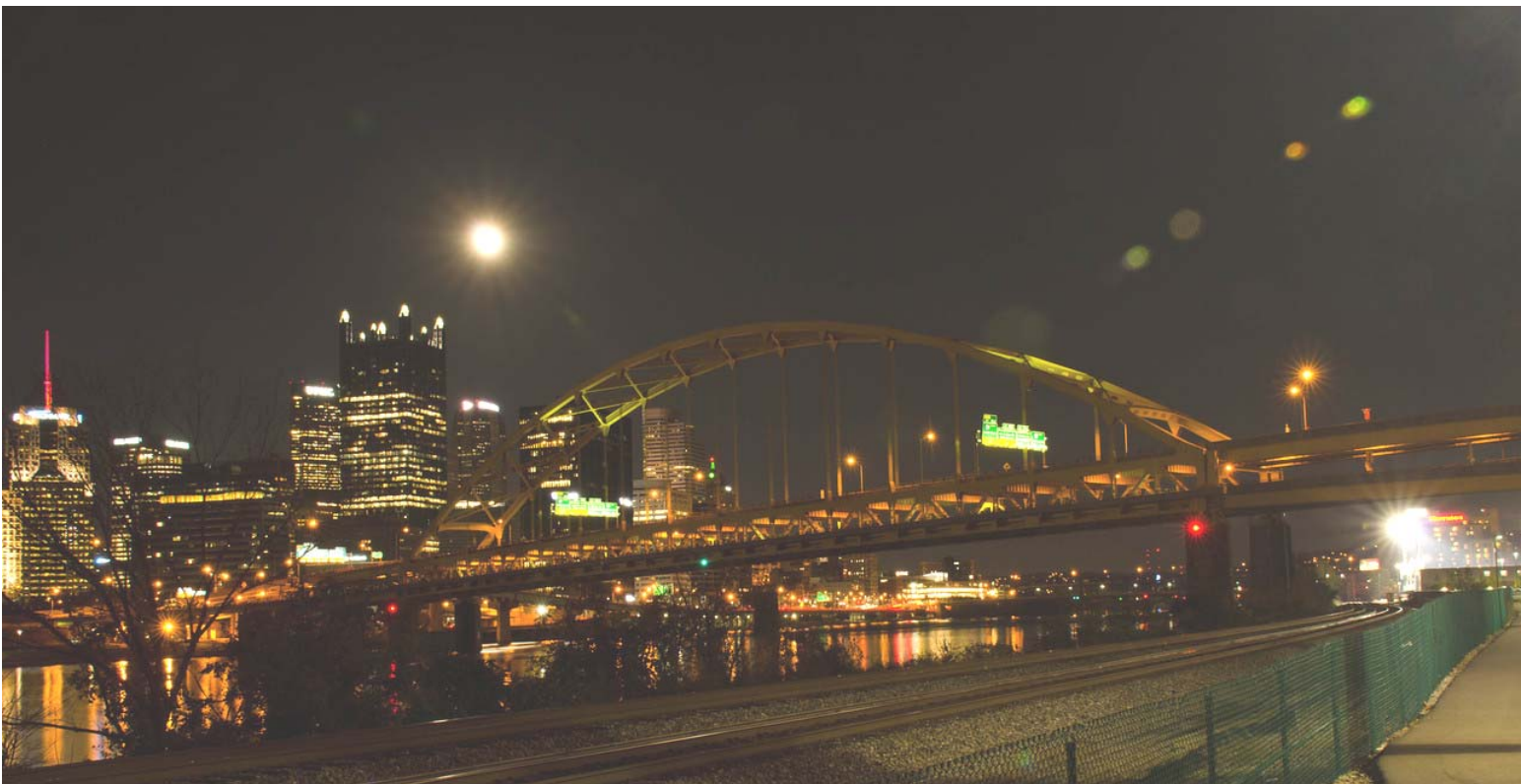


Adult Probation continued its ongoing relationship with the Pittsburgh Initiative to Reduce Crime (PIRC) and the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police (PBP) by partnering in three PIRC responses related to gang affiliated violent crimes in city neighborhoods. Besides these PIRC details, Adult Probation also coordinated eight gang suppression and interdiction details with the Sheriff's Office under the auspices of the two year Gang Interdiction Grant awarded in 2012. Special recognition is given to Probation Officer Marc Wilner and Supervisor Sabrina Orlansky for their dedication and expertise in coordinating and conducting these operations.

In addition to gang interdiction efforts, Adult Probation participated in 10 Nuisance Bar details, as well as responded to numerous requests for assistance from local police departments throughout Allegheny County.



As a result of the Adult Probation's enhanced relationships with various law enforcement agencies, Adult Probation was requested by the PBP to assist with security details for the City of Pittsburgh Marathon in May 2013. Coming so swiftly on the heels of the tragic bombing at the Boston Marathon just a few weeks prior, local security concerns were obviously heightened, and Adult Probation assigned nine probation officers to assist in these security efforts.





# ADULT PROBATION COMMUNITY PARTNERS

## DAY REPORTING CENTERS

Allegheny County Adult Probation continues to operate two Day Reporting Centers (DRC), one of which is located in the Arlington section of the city, and the other in East Liberty. The goal of the DRCs is to reduce recidivism by providing offenders with a structured learning environment, individual case plans that promote positive lifestyle change, and building constructive relationships within the community, with the ultimate goal of offenders becoming crime free, tax paying citizens. With these goals in mind, Adult Probation partnered with the Department of Human Services to enhance the services offered at the DRC's and to improve outcomes.

In 2013, over 2,700 offenders were referred to the DRCs for various services, such as; General Education Preparation & Testing, Batters Intervention Programming, Job Readiness, Anger Management, Drug & Alcohol Assessments, and Housing Assistance. Despite the challenges associated with serving offenders, the DRC

model has experienced great successes, with the majority of referred offenders completing their Court-ordered stipulations within the first year of supervision.

The DRCs also participate in many community service projects throughout the year, providing well over 1,000 hours of community service to local neighborhoods. Some of the projects include; the Pennsylvania Adopt a Highway Program, the City of Pittsburgh's Redd-Up Program, and Habitat for Humanity. These efforts have led to numerous articles of appreciation in local newspapers.

The Day Reporting Center model of offender services and supervision has become a successful component of the criminal justice system in Allegheny County. As Adult Probation continues to enhance services through the development of meaningful community partnerships, offenders will be better prepared to successfully re-integrate with their communities and families.

ADDISON BEHAVIORAL CENTER

ALLENTOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP.

ARLINGTON SENIOR CENTER

ASSET DEVELOPERS, INC.

BELTZHOVER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

RASHEAR ASSOCIATION

CITY OF PITTSBURGH REDD-UP TEAM

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DOMESTIC ABUSE COUNSELING CENTER

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HILLTOP ALLIANCE

MERCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

MON-VALLEY INITIATIVE

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

PA STATE ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

PYRAMID HEALTH SERVICES

SOUTHWESTERN PA REENTRY COALITION

SPRINGBOARD KITCHENS

THE CENTER FOR VICTIMS

ZONE 3 PUBLIC SAFETY TEAM



The Adult Probation Day Reporting Center volunteers assisted the Allentown Community Development Corp. in planting and mulching the Allentown gateway garden at the intersection of Arlington and Warrington Avenues.

(Photo taken by the South Pittsburgh Reporter)



Adult Probation continued its relationship with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) in 2013 by hosting quarterly Victim Impact Panels (VIP) at the Day Reporting Center – South. Participation in the VIP program is required for offenders adjudicated in DUI Court. In 2013, over 100 offenders completed the MADD VIP program.

Victim Impact Panels afford those whose lives have been permanently affected by impaired or reckless drivers the opportunity to give their perspective of how being the victim of an impaired driver has altered their lives and families, and to educate DUI Court offenders on the consequences of impaired driving.

# ADULT PROBATION TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

## TRAINING

In 2013, Adult Probation staff met their mandated training requirements, attending nearly 10,000 hours of professional and workforce development training. In addition to existing staff, eight new probation officers and two DRC Community Monitors also completed the three-week basic training program in 2013. Many thanks go out to the managers, supervisors, officers, and support staff that volunteered their time and energy to train the newest members of the department.

In December 2013, Lauren Pegher assumed the role of Adult Probation training supervisor. As the dedicated training supervisor, Lauren's focus in 2014 will be to restructure and codify the agency's training and work force development practices to provide targeted training opportunities for both professional and support staff.



During 2013, 82 officers participated in the necessary training to maintain their firearms certification, in addition to seven newly certified officers who attended the two week basic firearms course.

## PROBATION 101

*In an effort to help educate local law enforcement, treatment, and social service agencies on risk based supervision practices, Adult Probation has undertaken efforts to provide training to staff members. This training, termed "Probation 101," provides an opportunity for Adult Probation staff to inform police officers, treatment specialists, and social service workers of the many changes made within Adult Probation in recent years regarding community supervision. In 2013, Probation 101 trainings were provided to two cadet classes at the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police training academy, the Veterans Administration, the Center for Victims, the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council, and Greenbriar Treatment Center.*



Risk Assessment Training conduct by  
Brian Lovins, Ph.D., Consultant

## Interstate Compact CLE

The Adult Probation and Parole Department hosted a Continuing Legal Education seminar on "Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision" that took place on November 15, 2013. The training was presented by Margaret Thompson, Director of Interstate Services, and Al Robinson, Deputy Chief Counsel for Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole. The training provided the framework and rules for the transfer between states, specifically the eligibility criteria, mandatory versus discretionary requests, waiver of extradition, and supervision requirements under the compact.

Margaret Thompson, Director of Interstate Services





## EAST COAST GANG INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION



In April 2013, the East Coast Gang Investigators Association (ECGIA) held their annual conference in Pittsburgh, and Adult Probation was able to send 16 staff members to this two-day event.

Adult Probation was also able to secure ECGIA memberships for those staff members through the Gang Interdiction Grant award.

The ECGIA was established in 1998 in response to gang related criminal activities up and down the east coast. Formed by a small group of dedicated law enforcement personnel aimed at sharing gang related information, networking, and training, the ECGIA has grown to include over 2,200 members from New York, New Jersey,

Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island, North Carolina, South Carolina, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Georgia, Florida, Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, throughout the Midwest, West Coast, and Canada.



High Impact and Electronic Monitoring Unit Officers attend the ECGIA Conference.

## SEX OFFENDER COURT PRESENTATIONS

Adult Probation was again asked to present at the annual Mid-Atlantic Region of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (MARATSA) conference, which was held at Station Square on May 9, 2013. Members of the Sex Offender Court (SOC) team, including the Honorable Donna Jo McDaniel, Manager Alan Pelton, Supervisor Jasmine Rivera, and sex offender treatment specialist Rita Lucas of Mercy Behavioral Health conducted the presentation.

This year's presentation focused on the lessons learned during the implementation phase of Sex Offender Court in Allegheny County and the necessity of building strong relationships with both local law enforcement and treatment agencies in order to effectively supervise sexual offenders and protect the community.



Manager Alan Pelton presenting at the MARATSA Conference.



Sex Offender Court Presenters  
(L-R) Hon. D. McDaniel, J. Rivera, R. Lucas, A. Pelton

On May 20, 2013, Supervisor Jasmine Rivera was asked by the regional Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP) Sex Offender Unit to co-present at the annual Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections (PAPPC) conference, which was also held at Station Square. Special thanks to Jasmine for lending her input and expertise on the supervision of sexual offenders and the newly enacted Adam Walsh sexual offender registration statutes to this effort.

# ADULT PROBATION

## WELCOME NEW STAFF & PROMOTIONS

In 2013, the Adult Probation Department hired and trained eight probation officers, two DRC community monitors, and one manager. Our newest staff members bring with them a wealth of experience from a variety of fields, including: adult probation, federal probation, mental health, research and analysis, the District Attorney's Office, Pretrial Services, and the Beaver County Sheriff's Office. After training, the newest members of the department were assigned to mobile, specialty court, and administrative caseloads.



Kathryn Collins, Ph.D.

On December 30, 2013, Kathryn Collins, Ph.D. was appointed Analyst/Quality Development Manager at Adult Probation. Dr. Collins has a Doctorate in Public and International Affairs and a Master's Degree in International Development from the University of Pittsburgh and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from American University. Prior to joining Adult Probation, Dr. Collins worked in research and data analysis with Great Lakes Behavioral Research Institute, Allegheny County Department of Human Services, University of Pittsburgh, McGee Women's Research Institute and Foundation, and Carnegie Mellon University.

### 2013 NEW PROBATION OFFICERS



Marcus Englert



Jessalyn Kenner



Timothy Kennedy



Jennifer Demblowski



Dustin Kohler



Shannon Leslie



Lindsay Peluso



Andrew Buban





Steve Esswein, Manager

On April 8, 2013, Steve Esswein was promoted to Manager. Steve is a graduate of Ohio State University, with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology, as well as a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Kaplan University. Steve began his career with Adult Probation in 1999, where he supervised a general caseload in the Wilkinsburg Field Center. In 2002, Steve transferred to the North Side Field Center, and in 2007, he was promoted to Supervisor at Electronic Monitoring.



Michelle McDowell, Supervisor

On December 16, 2013, Michelle McDowell was promoted to Supervisor of the Wilkinsburg Field Center. Michelle is a graduate of Point Park University with a B.A. in Psychology, and she began her career with Adult Probation in 2005, where she supervised a large caseload in the McKeesport Field Center. In 2010, Michelle transferred to the Electronic Monitoring Unit, where she served as a Drug Court Officer.

Ed Vayansky, Supervisor



On December 16, 2013, Ed Vayansky was promoted to Supervisor at Electronic Monitoring. Ed is a graduate of IUP with a B.A. in Criminology, and he began his career with Adult Probation in 2005, where he supervised a Mental Health (Forensic) caseload in the North Side Field Center. In 2007, Ed transferred to the Special Services Unit, where he supervised offenders convicted of sexually related offenses. In 2011, Ed transferred to the Electronic Monitoring Unit, where he supervised a high risk caseload.



Lauren Pegher, Training Supervisor

On December 16, 2013, Lauren Pegher transferred into the newly created full-time Training Supervisor Position. She began her career with Adult Probation in 2006, working with first-time and multiple DUI offenders. In 2007, Lauren transferred to the McKeesport Field Center and supervised a general caseload. Upon transferring to Electronic Monitoring in 2008, she supervised Drug Court offenders. Lauren was promoted to Supervisor at Electronic Monitoring in 2009, after which she revamped the EM Intake system and was instrumental in the development of the Therapeutic Housing Program. Lauren has a B.S. in Psychology and a B.A. in Sociology from Slippery Rock University and a Master's Degree in Criminology from IUP.

# ADULT PROBATION SWEARING-IN CEREMONY



On November 1, 2013, the Honorable Jeffery A. Manning presided over the swearing-in ceremony welcoming new probation officers: Andrew Buban, Jennifer Demblowski, Marcus Englert, Pedro Hersan, Charles Jamerson, Timothy Kennedy, Lori Koska, Lindsay Peluso and Andrea Perry.

## Oath of Office

*I, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and that I will perform the duties of my position with fidelity and competency at all times.*



(Front L-R) J. Demblowski, M. Englert, C. Jamerson, L. Koska, L. Peluso, L. Colavecchia  
(Back L-R) F. Scherer, A. Perry, A. Buban, P. Hersan, T. Kennedy, R. Seyko, B. Dunbar, F. Halloran, L. Pegher, S. Esswein, C. Christmas, A. Pelton



# ADULT PROBATION STAFF



MANAGEMENT

(L-R) A. Pelton, C. Christmas, B. Dunbar, R. Seyko, F. Scherer, K. Collins, S. Esswein



SUPERVISORS

(Sitting L-R) L. Colavecchia, N. Ballard, L. Pegher, J. Whittaker-Piatt, M. McDowell  
(Standing L-R) E. Vayansky, C. Davis, M. Poluszejko, C. Babicz, J. Bright, F. Halloran, D. Works, I. Reed, J. Rivera



SUPPORT STAFF

(L-R) C. Davis, K. Tommasin, R. Thomas, J. Echard, M.J. Gorchock

## ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT



(L-R) C. Babicz, S. Davis, L. Peluso, L. Stedila, D. Maze

## PRESENTENCE UNIT



(Seated L-R) S. Meredith, D. Epler,  
(Standing L-R) M. Poluszejko, R. Dulac, D. Young

## ELECTRONIC MONITORING SOUTH



(Seated L-R) J. Siemon, L. Marecic, J. Whittaker-Piatt, K. Santoro, L. Jarusinski  
(Standing middle L-R) A. Smith, W. Fries, J. Brown, L. Brownfield, K. Torris, T. Martin  
(Standing back L-R) J. Rathfon, R. Kraus, R. Tutko, M. Gally, J. Kantz, B. Jackson, E. Jeffries

## DAY REPORTING CENTER SOUTH



(Seated L-R) I. Hennessy, K. McVay, R. Redman  
(Standing L-R) J. Fielder, N. Ballard, M. Mazza, E. Smida

## COURT LIAISON UNIT



(L-R) J. Mannion, C. Jonas, D. Podsiadly, K. Oliver, K. Ollis, A. Lynn,  
L. Little, K. Garnic



## DAY REPORTING CENTER EAST



(L-R) J. Caldwell, R. Niznik, D. Works, T. Garner, H. Fontaine, K. Duttine

## NORTHSIDE COMMUNITY BASED OFFICE

(Front L-R) J. Cote, D. Fitzgerald, K. Maire, M. Ventura, L. Almo  
(Back L-R) P. Hersen, R. Harris, J. Ling, B. Garstecki, V. Cugini

## SOUTH HILLS COMMUNITY BASED OFFICE

(Seated) L. Colavecchia  
(Standing L-R) B. Dalbon, R. Galey, J. Kenner, L. Lewis, M. Engler, R. Jones, J. Casey, J. Argueta

## WILKINSBURG COMMUNITY BASED OFFICE

(Seated L-R) M. McDowell, G. Spencer, C. Bartosh  
(Standing L-R) N. Watkins, E. King, K. Petro, A. Thompson, R. DeMary, R. Panigal

## ELECTRONIC MONITORING EAST

(Seated L-R) K. Brooks, L. Sullivan, D. West, S. Chapman  
(Standing L-R) J. Bright, B. Morgan, R. Wincko, W. Dapper, I. Marcus, R. Tekavec





**McKeesport Community Based Office**

(Front L-R) R. Zeleznik, L. Salopek, C. Jamerson  
(Back L-R) D. Giesey, M. Goodnack, J. Moore, R. Wirth



**ISC/DUI Unit**

(Front L-R) C. Zmenkowski, A. Weaver, L. Koska, E. Splane  
(Back L-R) F. Halloran, N. Jubera, E. Franklin, D. Koerner



**Special Services Unit**

(Front L-R) H. Bradford, J. Ninehouser, R. Fortunato, J. Rivera  
(Back L-R) M. Blankenbicker, M. Bowie, J. Aston, M. Maroni

## ***IN MEMORY OF GREG DEET***

*July 15, 1976 - August 13, 2012*

*On August 13, 2012, our beloved friend and co-worker, Probation Officer Greg Deet, passed away after a long battle with illness.*

*Throughout this difficult period, Greg remained positive and battled courageously, all the while maintaining a genuine concern for how his family, friends, and co-workers were doing.*

*Greg was easy-going, upbeat, and friendly with everyone he met, and he will be dearly missed at the Agency, and especially in the ISC/DUI Unit.*

*Greg began his career at the Adult Probation Office on October 17, 2005, after previously being employed at the District Attorney's office. Greg was well-liked by his peers as well as the clients he supervised. He was thoughtful, generous, and caring.*

*Greg was a proud graduate of Central Catholic High School and Duquesne University. He loved going to Steeler games, Jimmy Buffet concerts, and the beach (specifically Ocean City, Maryland) with friends and family. Greg was always fun to be around and happiest spending time with those he loved, enjoying good food, a cold beer, and having a good laugh.*

*We will never forget our good buddy and dear friend .*



*Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania  
Allegheny County  
Adult Probation*

PRESIDENT JUDGE  
JEFFREY A. MANNING

ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE  
DAVID R. CASHMAN

DISTRICT COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
CLAIRE C. CAPRISTO, ESQ.

CRIMINAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
THOMAS M. MCCAFFREY

DIRECTOR  
RONALD J. SEYKO

DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
FRANK J. SCHERER

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



MANAGER  
Brian Dunbar

Frank Halloran  
Supervisor  
ISC/DUI

Jim Ling  
Supervisor  
North Side CBO

Claudia Babicz  
Supervisor  
Administrative Unit

Facilities  
Management

Gagnon Hearing Officer

Computer Systems

Expungements

MANAGER  
Alan Pelton

Sabrina Orlansky  
Supervisor  
HIU Unit

Jasmine Rivera  
Supervisor  
Special Services Unit

Karen Ollis  
Supervisor  
Intake/Court Liaison Unit

Michelle McDowell  
Supervisor  
Wilkinsburg CBO

Michael Poluszeiko  
Supervisor  
Presentence Unit

Training  
Supervisor  
Lauren Pegher

MANAGER  
Stephen Esswein

Nicole Ballard  
Supervisor  
DRC 1 ~ South

Electronic Monitoring  
Jacquelyn Whittaker-Platt  
Edward Vayansky

Electronic Monitoring  
Jason Bright

DUI Court  
Drug Court

Administrative  
Banked Caseloads

Logistics

Firearms

MANAGER  
Charlene Christmas

Dante Works  
Supervisor  
DRC 2 ~ East

India Reed  
Supervisor  
Central CBO

Lisa Colavecchia  
Supervisor  
South Hills CBO

Jordan Moore  
Supervisor  
McKeesport CBO / MSC

Cynthia Davis  
Supervisor  
Clerical Administrative Office

Mental Health Court  
Veterans Court  
Domestic Violence Court

MANAGER  
Kathryn Collins  
Research Analyst



**564 FORBES AVENUE**  
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