

### **ADULT PROBATION**

Allegheny County Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania

### 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.

Pictured above is the 2018 view of the Allegheny County Courthouse during roof renovation replacing 450,000 tiles that topped the courthouse since it opened in 1888.

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Honorable Jeffrey A. Manning **President Judge** 

### 2018

### **COURT ADMINISTRATION**



Honorable David R. Cashman **Administrative Judge** 



Linda L. Kelly, Esquire **District Court Administrator** 



Effective

Thomas M. McCaffrey **Criminal Court Administrator** 



**Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark President Judge** 



Honorable Jill E. Rangos **Administrative Judge** 

### **Director's Message**



ADULT PROBATION
DIRECTOR
FRANK J. SCHERER

On behalf of the employees of the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania Adult Probation and Parole Department (Adult Probation), it is my distinct pleasure to present our 2018 agency annual report.

2018 marked the conclusion of the agency's three-year Smart Supervision grant through the Bureau of Justice Assistance, along with our research partner, the Urban Institute. The overall goal of the grant was to strengthen community supervision practices and improve offender outcomes with evidence-based practices. During the grant period, all professional staff were trained in the Carey Group Four Core Competencies of building professional alliances, skill practices to address criminogenic needs, effective case planning, and rewards and sanctions. In addition, multiple real-time dashboards were developed to monitor implementation successes, evaluate outcomes, and track recidivism. The grant also provided for technology upgrades throughout the agency. Adult Probation will continue utilizing the strategies implemented during the Smart Supervision initiative and is committed to using the tools and techniques gained during the project.

Adult Probation is proud to be a partner in the Allegheny County Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) grant that was awarded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in October 2018. A primary goal of the grant is to safely reduce the population of the county jail by 20 percent within two years.

Adult Probation will play a key role in the grant through strategies to address the detainer population. In 2015, Adult Probation and the criminal courts collaborated to review the detained population and significantly reduced the average population by about 400 inmates. As a part of the Safety and Justice Challenge, Adult Probation will continue to monitor detainers and implement strategies to make sure that probation violations are expeditiously resolved.

The courts and Adult Probation implemented two policies, both in alignment with the Safety and Justice Challenge Implementation Plan. An early probation violation policy was enacted to expedite probation violation hearings for offenders who were detained in the county jail for a new crime and had both the new charges and probation case assigned to the same judge. Offenders spend an average of 65 days detained while awaiting a probation violation hearing after the resolution of their new violating case. The early probation violation strategy aims to eliminate this delay by consolidating both matters in one concise hearing.

Early termination is the second probation policy related to the SJC grant. Collaboration between Adult Probation and the Office of the Public Defender has allowed for compliant low-risk offenders, as assessed by established criteria within Adult Probation, to have a motion submitted to the courts asking for termination of their probation in advance of the scheduled expiration. As with the early probation violation strategy, expansion of the offender population eligible for early termination will grow as we safely establish additional criteria and continue our collaborative efforts with the Office of the Public Defender and the courts.

Please take a few moments to review the report and learn more about these initiatives, as well as other agency accomplishments and highlights in 2018; none of which would be possible without the dedication of our staff.

Our agency commitment to evidence-based supervision practices and jail reduction strategies would not have been possible if not for the leadership and guidance from President Judge Jeffrey A. Manning and Criminal Court Administrative Judge David R. Cashman as well as District Court Administrator Linda L. Kelly, Esquire, and Criminal Court Administrator Thomas M. McCaffrey. On behalf of Adult Probation, I would also like to congratulate and formally welcome our new president judge, the Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark, and criminal court administrative judge, the Honorable Jill E. Rangos.

Frank J. Scherer, Director

### **Deputy Director's Message**

The close of 2018 represented several milestones and accomplishments for the Adult Probation Department (Adult Probation), as we continue toward full implementation of evidence-based practices. As noted in Director Scherer's message, the department concluded the collaboration with our research partners at the Urban Institute as our three year Smart Supervision grant ended. Although the closing of the grant represented the official end of the evidence-based practices training phase, the diligence required for true application will continue in 2019 and beyond. I would like to



ADULT PROBATION
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
ALAN F. PELTON

extend my thanks to all staff, at every level of the department, for their hard work and dedication to improving outcomes and increasing public safety.

As readers will note in this report, Adult Probation also made significant strides in offering pro-social services to all offenders under supervision with the opening of the Community Resource Center – North. This facility, located in the Perry Hilltop section of the city, houses several Adult Probation units and additionally offers services and assistance to offenders in the northern neighborhoods of both the City of Pittsburgh and greater Allegheny County. As in our three existing centers, services offered at our new location allow offenders to address specific court conditions "in house", such as drug testing and evaluations, cognitive behavioral therapy, community service opportunities, and employment assistance.

In addition to these efforts, Adult Probation staff worked with court IT personnel throughout 2018 to upgrade the agency's electronic database system. When completed, the new system will automate several critical functions which will reduce data entry workloads and afford probation officers more time to focus on supervision practices.

While Adult Probation is proud of its accomplishments in 2018, much work remains as we enter 2019 with staff applying and sustaining the lessons learned during the prior three years of evidence-based training.

Alan F. Pelton Deputy Director

# ADULT PROBATION OVERVIEW

The Allegheny County Adult Probation Department (Adult Probation), in conjunction with the Pretrial Services Department (Pretrial Services), supervises people on bail supervision or sentenced to county probation, parole, or intermediate punishment by the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania. There are 139 adult probation officers for this task. Pretrial Services supervises all defendants under bail supervision, participating in the Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition program (ARD), or in the DUI Alternative to Jail program, while Adult Probation is responsible for the supervision of all probation, parole, and intermediate punishment sentences within the county.

At the end of 2018, 25,476 offenders were under supervision in the county. This represents a 3 percent (636) increase from the previous year. Sixty-eight percent (17,428) were supervised under a probation sentence, while 9 percent (2,240) were supervised under intermediate punishment, parole or probation without verdict. Twenty-three percent (5,808) of offenders were supervised under bail or ARD. Fifty-three percent (13,480) of offenders were supervised for a misdemeanor. (See Table 1 for more details).

Adult Probation utilizes evidence-based practices in its supervision model. Offenders are screened for risk prior to case assignment, and those screened as medium or high-risk receive a full risk/needs assessment, the Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R). Supplementing the LSI-R is an offender service plan designed to determine an offender's goals for supervision. These plans provide both offender and probation officer with action steps, fostering a collaborative and inclusive approach to supervision utilizing best practices.

Adult Probation operates four community resource centers (CRCs), including the new center located in Pittsburgh's Northside community. The CRCs are central locations for medium and high-risk offenders to meet with their probation officers and receive services. Services such as battering intervention programs, cognitive behavioral therapy, employment services, and GED preparation are funded with support from Allegheny County Department of Human Services. Furthermore, offenders can report

for drug testing at these centers, and in the event of positive tests, may receive a comprehensive drug and alcohol assessment. In 2018, 2,402 offenders were served at the CRCs, and of those who completed services in the year, 51 percent completed their service or program successfully. (See Table 3 for more information on CRC referrals).

Adult Probation also supports the judicial district's seven problem-solving courts – Drug Court, DUI Court, Mental Health Court, Veterans Court, PRIDE (Prostitution) Court, Sex Offense Court, and Domestic Violence Court. Each of these courts is supported by its own distinct probation unit: as of the end of 2018, these seven units supervised 1,447 offenders. Of the 230 offenders who completed problem-solving court programs in 2018, 75 percent successfully completed their program. (See Figure 2 for more details).

Adult Probation concluded the training phase of its Smart Supervision grant in 2018. Continuing its partnerships with the Urban Institute and Center for Court Innovation, Adult Probation expanded its use of evidence-based practices and continuous quality improvement (CQI) efforts. In 2018, Adult Probation conducted 14 trainings related to evidence-based practices, and the department now has 39 trainers responsible for promoting and teaching various supervision strategies and topics related to evidence-based practices. Furthermore, the department expanded its use of real-time dashboards to track supervision benchmarks, and CQI and evaluation efforts of initiatives such as LSI-R assessments and dosage-based supervision will continue in 2019.

Adult Probation continued a variety of initiatives aimed at improving outcomes and procedural justice. The department continued to work with the court on the scheduling of early probation violation hearings. This process aims to schedule probation violation hearings on the same day an offender has a new charge disposed, resulting in less jail time and costs to the court. Another key initiative is a collaboration with the Office of the Public Defender to seek early termination of supervision for compliant offenders. In 2018, 96 individuals were granted an early termination of probation as a result of this project.

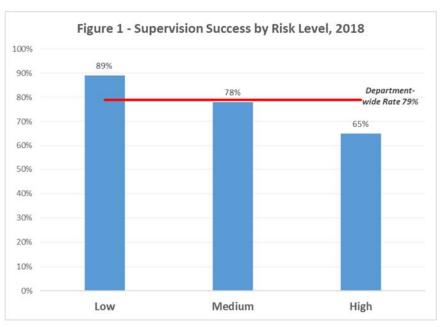
A major effort Adult Probation began in 2018 was the redesign of its case management system. The new system will emphasize user-friendliness and efficiency, and will better connect with other court data sources. The redesigned system will improve data collection, streamline processes such as service referrals, and will notify officers of updates to their caseloads with a robust alert system. The updated system will be completed between late 2019 and early 2020.

In conjunction with the court and county, Adult Probation is a participant in Allegheny County's Safety and Justice Challenge through the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. This \$2 million initiative promotes the over arching goal of reducing the Allegheny County Jail population by 20 percent. As a challenge team member, Adult Probation is examining its policies and practices to determine how it can best contribute to the targeted jail population reduction while maintaining its commitment to public safety.

Adult Probation measures success in a variety of ways, from the number of offenders without any violations or arrests, to recidivism, to offender participation in programs and services. Figure 1 assesses offender success by examining the proportion of those who completed supervision in 2018 without a new conviction or revocation based on technical violations. Of the 10.490 offenders who completed supervision in 2018, 79 percent were successful. A more detailed review by risk level shows that 89 percent of lowrisk offenders completed successfully, 78 percent of medium-risk offenders completed successfully, and 65 percent of high-risk offenders completed successfully.

In 2018, in addition to providing direct supervision, Adult Probation also:

- Completed 441 pre-sentence investigation reports.
- Conducted 4,284 Gagnon I violation hearings for alleged probation violators once a week in the county criminal courthouse and three times a week in the Allegheny County Jail.
- Presented 3,174 Gagnon II violation hearings before the court through the Court Liaison Unit.
- Collaborated with national and local partners, such as the Center for Court Innovation, Vera Institute, and Urban Institute.
- Participated in national and statewide conferences, including the MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge network meeting, American Probation and Parole Association, and PA Drug and DUI Court Conference.
- Served over 2,400 people at one of our community resource centers, helping address offender service and supervision needs.
- Completed the initial round of four core practices training for probation officers throughout the department.
- Continued monthly briefcase training for probation officers to stay familiar and updated on evidencebased practices.



#### **TABLE 1**

Offenders Supervised on December 31, 2018			
Probation	17,428		
Parole	1,148		
Intermediate Punishment	842		
Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD)	3,090		
Probation Without Verdict	250		
Bail	2,718		
Total	25,476		
Offenders Under Supervisi Offense Grade	on by		
Misdemeanor	13,480		
Felony	11,222		
Other	774		
Offenders Under Supervision	by Race		
Caucasian	14,011		
African-American	10,955		
Other	510		
Average Caseload by U	nit		
Field Offices - High-Risk	91		
Field Offices - Medium-Risk	99		
Low-Risk Unit	836		
Electronic Monitoring	41		
DUI Unit (Driving Under the Influence)	160		
Restitution Unit	299		
Sex Offense Court	64		
Domestic Violence Court	64		
Mental Health Court	44		
Drug Court	50		
DUI Court	47		
Veterans Court	48		
PRIDE Court	75		
Reentry Unit	78		
Inter-state	462		
inter-state			
Inter-county	432		
	432 3,463		

### **TECHNOLOGY**

### **Building a New Case Management System**

In 2018, Adult Probation began work to redesign its case management system. Committees consisting of all level of staff supported the core development team in identifying requirements and desired new features for the upcoming application.

The new system will improve user-friendliness, expedite work processes, and will organize data in a more structured manner for outcome tracking. Key improvements include:

- automated reporting.
- elimination of redundant data entry and reducing reliance on external tracking sources such as spreadsheets or other applications.
- a notification system to alert staff, probation officers, and supervisors of major updates or action items.
- automatic data flows from other court systems to more promptly receive information.

These changes will allow Adult Probation to spend less time on minor time-consuming tasks in order to focus as much effort as possible on supervising offenders. The upcoming system will also allow the department to more accurately monitor processes in order to promote continuous quality improvement. The updated case management system is set to launch between late 2019 and early 2020.

### **Using Data and Technology to Improve Outcomes**

Over the last decade, Adult Probation has transitioned into an evidence-based department emphasizing the use of data analysis to inform practice. This commitment to analytics and evaluation continued in 2018, with the deployment of additional real-time dashboards and with the various ad hoc analyses to measure department performance. With initiatives such as Smart Supervision and the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge, Adult Probation is constantly measuring the impact of its practices and adjusting these practices accordingly. In addition to these major initiatives, Probation has:

- examined caseload statistics to evaluate its regional transfer policies.
- enhanced dashboards monitoring the LSI-R, problem-solving court population, and detained population.
- analyzed in-program and post-program outcomes such as re-arrests, revocations, and successful program/service completion for its offenders.
- developed tools for mobile supervision, including a mobile-friendly caseload summary.

Additionally, Adult Probation is committed to improving the technology used by its officers and staff. As part of its Smart Supervision initiative, the department is investing in enhanced laptops for field officers to use while in the community. This equipment will be distributed throughout the department in 2019.

### **SMART SUPERVISION**

In 2015, Adult Probation received a threeyear Smart Supervision grant from the Office of Justice Programs through the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The training phase of the Smart Supervision initiative concluded in December 2018, capping a three-year process to expand the use of evidence-based practices (EBPs) throughout the department.

Adult Probation worked with the Urban Institute (UI) to assess current department processes, research best practices, and evaluate offender outcomes before and after implementation of EBPs in the department. UI also conducted qualitative outreach with Adult Probation staff to measure thoughts and attitudes toward these new supervision approaches. During the initiative, Adult Probation implemented a dosage-based supervision model in which offenders supervised by the department's Reentry Unit received supplement human service dosage in addition to contacts from their probation officers to better address criminogenic needs. In addition to focusing on offender needs, Adult Probation collaborated with the Carey Group to provide department-wide training, including an emphasis on the Four Core Competencies of building professional alliances, using skill practice to address criminogenic needs, effective case planning, and rewarding success and responding to non-compliance.

In order to monitor and evaluate these initiatives, Adult Probation developed almost 20 real-time dashboards over the course of the grant to monitor implementation success and evaluate outcomes. Key dashboards monitored utilization of the department's needs assessment and case plan, summarized officer caseloads, and tracked offender

recidivism in an effort to improve processes and practices. Moving forward, Adult Probation will continue utilizing many of the strategies implemented during its **Smart Supervision** initiative, and the department is committed to using the tools and techniques gained during this project to use EBPs with fidelity.

# HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### **TUNISIAN SITE VISIT**

Adult Probation and Duquesne University Professor, John Rago, hosted visitors from Tunisia for a site visit to educate them on community corrections practices in Pennsylvania.

Deirdre Morgan, a senior corrections advisor for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement

Affairs (INL) United States Embassy, Tunis, Tunisia, and INL Judicial Advisor Zouhaier Jaouadi, visited in May 2018, to discuss and review local criminal justice practices related to community supervision, pretrial services, the courts and jail



operations to inform their work in these areas in Tunisia.



(L-R) J. Rago, D. Morgan, A. Pelton, Z. Jaouadi

### MULTNOMAH COUNTY SITE VISIT



The Department of Community Justice (DCJ) staff of Portland Oregon visited Adult Probation in the spring of 2018 to consult on the agency's mobile probation officer initiatives.

**L-R:** Frank Scherer, Allegheny County Adult Probation Director; DCJ staff: Wende Jackson, Adult Services Senior Manager; Keith Murphy, Adult Services Probation/Parole officer; Karen Rhein, DCJ Facilities Project Manager; Ken Yee, Adult Probation/Parole officer.

### SAFETY AND JUSTICE CHALLENGE

Adult Probation is a partner in Allegheny County's Safety and Justice Challenge grant, awarded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in October 2018. One of the goals of the grant is to safely reduce the population of the Allegheny County Jail by 20 percent within two years. In addition to housing individuals serving a short-term period of confinement, the jail also holds individuals awaiting trial, the resolution of a probation violation, or transfer to another correctional facility. Through the Safety and Justice Challenge, Allegheny County is working to ensure that the jail is used only where necessary.

The application process for the Safety and Justice Challenge required an in-depth analysis of jail population data, which helped determine the strategies of the project. The analysis found that while admissions to the jail have been trending down, long lengths of stay were contributing to keeping the jail population full. The analysis also found that the majority of the jail population is comprised of individuals awaiting action on a new charge or probation violation, and that over one third of the jail population had a local probation detainer.

Adult Probation is playing a key role in the grant through strategies to address the detainer population. In 2015, Adult Probation collaborated with the court to review the detained population in the jail and significantly reduced the average number of detainers from about 1,300 to about 900. As a part of the Safety and Justice Challenge, Adult Probation continues to monitor detainers and implement strategies to ensure that probation violations are resolved expeditiously.



Standing L-R: Erin Dalton, Deputy Director, Department of Human Services Office of Analytics, Technology and Planning; Molly Morrill, Safety and Justice Challenge Project Director; Sanjeev Baidyaroy, Adult Probation Data Analyst; Thomas McCaffrey, Criminal Division Administrator; Rachel Fleming, Esquire, Deputy District Attorney; Matthew Dugan, Esquire, Deputy Director Office of the Public Defender; Frank Scherer, Director of Adult Probation; Seated L-R: Angharad Stock, Deputy Court Administrator-Special Courts, and Janice Dean, Director of Pretrial Services.

In May of 2018, the court and Adult Probation implemented two policies, both of which would become the catalyst for the probation strategies selected for the Safety and Justice Challenge implementation plan. Offenders currently spend an average of 65 days detained while awaiting a probation violation hearing after the resolution of their new charge(s). In an effort to reduce or eliminate this time period, Adult Probation enacted an early probation violation policy to expedite probation violation hearings for offenders detained in the jail as the result of a new crime by working with the court and the District Attorney's Office to schedule both the offender's trial and probation violation hearing on the same day. Although the strategy only includes offenders who meet the above criteria, an expansion of the criteria to include offenders with multiple judges, detainers, and outstanding cases is in the planning

The second policy also named as a strategy within the grant is an early termination policy. A collaboration between Adult Probation and the Office of the Public Defender, this policy allows compliant offenders to have a motion submitted to the court requesting for the early termination of their probation. These offenders must be under supervision for a non-violent misdemeanor or lower offense with all mandatory minimum sentences met and have served at least half of their supervision period, with no outstanding warrants or attributable convictions post intake. As with the early probation violation strategy, this program will expand as we safely establish additional criteria to allow for different populations of offenders to have these motions filed on their behalf.

In the first three months of the Safety and Justice Challenge, from October through December 2018, Allegheny County has realized a five percent decline in the jail population, and Adult Probation looks forward to continuing to implement its strategies as a part of the project, and contributing to the overall reduction of the jail population.

"The goal of the grant is to safely reduce the population of the Allegheny County Jail by 20 percent within two years."

### CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM

In March 2018, Probation Officers Kelly Walter and Dana Maze, as members of the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT), attended the annual Statewide

Crisis Intervention Team

meeting. Throughout the state, Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) and Mental Health First Aid programs include law enforcement officers, first responders, hospital staff, mental health treatment providers, family advocates, corrections officers, and probation and parole officers. Team members receive training to respond to crises involving a person experiencing emotional or behavioral disturbances, mental illness, and/or substance abuse problems. The topics of the meeting included "How Being Trauma Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses," "How to Effectively Incorporate the LGBTQIA+ Topic in CIT," and "Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Training for Crisis Intervention Teams."

The court's critical incident response team is a collaboration of Adult Probation and Juvenile Probation employees, who are specifically trained to provide short-term support, guidance, and assistance to individuals and groups of employees that have been involved in a work related critical incident. In addition to their quarterly meetings, in 2018, members also participated in team building activities led by Venture Outdoors at North Park.

In December 2018, team members celebrated 10 years of service, and received special recognition from Juvenile Probation Administrator Russell Carlino and Adult Probation Director Frank Scherer. Special recognition should also

be given to Probation Officer Mike Turzak, who continues to serve as the only original member of CIRT from

Adult Probation.

~Dana Maze, Probation Officer



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ALLEGHENY COUNT FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLYANIA ALLEGHENY COUNTY PROBATION 437 Orant Street, 300 Face Building Pitaburgh Ponnsy writin 152 19 (4\*2):360-410 FAX (412) 300-3030

Nathaniel Almond, Nicole Ballard, Jennifer Cellante, Kelly Fretz, Courtney Harrison,

Michele Howard, Justin Innocent, Dustin Kohler, Dana Maze, David Mink, Thomas O'Connor, Jan Ransom, Kathleen Ransom, Emilinda Rolon, Michael Turzak, Kelly Walter,

ingela Wyman

From: Russell Carlino, Juvenile Probation Administrator

Frank Scherer, Adult Probation Director

Date: December 12, 2018

To:

Re: Congratulations to CIRT for 10 Years of Service

The personal safety and emotional well-being of our staff are our highest priorities. Unfortunately, and despite our best efforts to keep staff safe, members of both the Juvenile and Adult Probation Departments have experienced serious, and in some cases life-threatening, incidents over the last ten years.

As a CIRT member, your prompt, professional and empathetic attention to these matters provide support and assistance to our Probation Officers, CISP Monitors, and support staff when they need it most. There can be no doubt that through your efforts staff recover and return to normalcy more quickly than would otherwise be possible. Rest assured that your work is positively affecting not only those directly involved in these incidents, but every member of the Probation Department.

Thanks for volunteering to be a member of CIRT, in addition to your many job responsibilities.

Congratulations to the entire Critical Incident Response Team on 10 years of service.

Your commitment and hard work are appreciated by all.

Russell Carlino

Juvenile Probation Administrator

Frank Scherer Adult Probation Director



Front: Jen Cellante; Emilinda Jarrett; Justin Innocent; Kelly Fretz; Dana Maze; Kelly Walter.

Back: Dustin Kohler; Dave Mink; Kathleen Ransom; Tom O'Connor; Angela Wyman; Jan Ransom; John Brown; Mike Turzak; Nate Almond.

### OPENING OF THE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER NORTH

At the close of 2018, the fourth CRC opened in Pittsburgh's Northside to deliver pro-social services to the North catchment area consistent with the direction of the other CRCs. The other CRCs are located in Pittsburgh's East Liberty neighborhood, Pittsburgh's Arlington neighborhood and in the City of McKeesport. Like the other community resource centers, the CRC – North is accessible from public transportation, and its location removes barriers that many in that catchment area faced to access services necessary to reduce the likelihood of recidivating. The CRC - North is working to implement the strategic planning goals with a focus on safety, efficiency, and community partnerships.



~Martha DeSantis, Supervisor



### ADULT PROBATION AWARD



Probation Officers John Miller and Michael Bowie receiving a director's award in recognition of their work related to community safety.

L-R Officer John Miller and Officer Michael Bowie

# PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS

Adult Probation collaborates with the District Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, and community based treatment agencies to provide supervision of offenders adjudicated in the Fifth Judicial District's seven problem solving courts, which are Drug Court, DUI Court, Mental Health Court, Veterans Court, Domestic Violence Court, PRIDE Court, and Sex Offense Court. At the end of 2018, 1,447 offenders were being supervised in the seven problem solving courts. See Table 2 for the number of participants in each court.

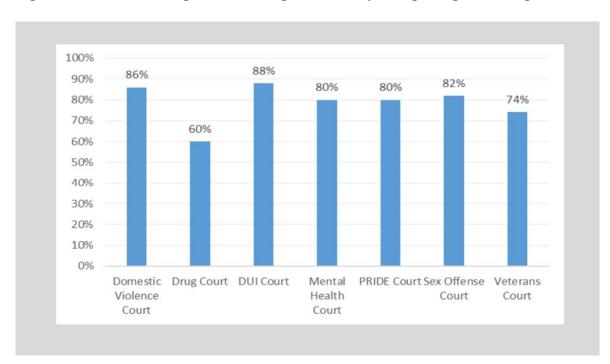
Adult Probation has dedicated units assigned to each problem solving court and probation officers in these units work closely with the court, treatment providers, and the offender to design an individualized supervision plan for each court participant. Supervision plans may include mental health treatment, drug and alcohol treatment, education or employment requirements, community service, along with any other conditions imposed on a case by case basis.

In 2018, 220 offenders successfully exited one of the problem solving courts. See Figure 2 for successful completion rates by program.

Table 2: Offenders Participating in Problem Solving Courts on December 31, 2018

Court	Total Offenders
Domestic Violence Court	324
Drug Court	186
DUI Court	245
Mental Health Court	161
Prostitution Court (PRIDE)	69
Sex Offense Court	424
Veterans Court	38
Total Offenders	1,447

Figure 2 - Percent of People Graduating/Successfully Completing each Program,



### **DRUG COURT**

The Drug Court program expanded its member participation significantly in 2018, with 186 participants at year's end versus 130 at the end of last year, and began implementing electives and engaging with community providers to assist participants with life skills.

The Drug Court team collaborated with Citizens Bank to offer participants basic banking classes, budgeting classes, and credit restoration classes, and staff from Penn State University taught participants cooking on a budget classes.

In April, the Drug Court team and participants worked with staff from Adult Probation, Justice Related Services, and Pittsburgh Mercy to give back to the community by volunteering for a community service event at Cribs for Kids, assembling safe sleep packets for infants.

Drug Court team participated in the Recovery Walk Pittsburgh in September 2018. The Pittsburgh Recovery Walk is an event that aims to dispel the negative stigma associated with recovery from addiction, and instead celebrate the many roads to recovery and all those who

have traveled them. For this year's

For this year's event, the Drug Court team was honored to have former Pittsburgh Penguin, Kevin Stevens, graciously agree to speak to participants, sharing about his own struggles with addiction and his road to recovery. The Drug Court team members also



RECOVERY WALK 2018
Rachel Newman, Drug Court ADA;
Karen Duffola, Drug Court
Coordinator, and Bridget Bauer,
Drug Court Case Manager are
pictured with Drug Court
participants.

spoke at Nar-Anon's 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting in Upper St. Clair.

To stay current with recent trends and training initiatives regarding recovery, the Drug Court team attended the Pennsylvania Association of Drug Court Professionals conference at State College, PA in November, and in December, the team hosted a Holiday Speaker Jam to over 30 participants, who were able to mingle and celebrate the holidays while networking and building peer supports.

In addition to the activities and programs listed above, the Drug Court team continued to work with Pittsburgh Mercy to provide the Breaking Free Group to all Drug Court participants; building upon the Wellness Initiative within the Drug Court program. Breaking Free is a cognitive behavioral therapy program that helps participants understand the thoughts and feelings that influence behaviors and provides them with the tools to avoid and manage negative thoughts and feelings that may lead to poor decision making.

The Drug Court team also focused on expanding the Peer



Panel by adding participants who are compliant with the program and are approaching graduation to the panel. Peer Panel members share their stories and experiences with Drug Court participants and provided support to new participants on the day of their plea into the program. The Peer Panel also created lapel pins in remembrance of the victims of the Tree of Life shooting and collected

over \$170.00, which they donated to the first responders.

Moving forward in 2019, the Drug Court team plans to expand its choices of electives offered to the participants in order to provide them with the best opportunity to maintain their sobriety.

~Karen Duffola, Drug Court Coordinator



Former Pittsburgh Penguin, Kevin Stevens, spoke to participants about his struggles with addiction.



Karen Duffola and Kevin Stevens



L-R: Deputy Director Alan Pelton, Kevin Stevens and Director Frank Scherer

### **DUI TREATMENT COURT**

Allegheny County DUI Treatment Court (DUI Court) marked the 13th year of operations in 2018. In 2018, DUI Court accepted 111 new pleas, and had 73 individuals successfully complete the program, celebrated by semi-annual graduation ceremonies. The court, which is designed to rehabilitate, boasts an 88 percent successful completion rate, with an average of 35 months in the program.

In view of the nationwide opioid epidemic, the DUI Court team has made addressing drug-impaired driving a priority in 2018, expanding our multidisciplinary team from two Justice Related Service's (JRS) case managers to three, as well as gaining another probation officer, to assist in coordinating care for the court's ever-changing population. JRS has also started to provide critical resources in the form of prevention for those affected by the opioid epidemic by offering Narcan to individuals and families. The DUI Court team has also worked diligently to coordinate treatment and services for probationers that meet the need for Vivitrol to aid in recovery. Vivitrol was initially approved by the Food and Drug Administration to combat alcoholism in 2006; however, it has been found to be effective in addressing opioid use disorder as well.

Keeping in line with DUI Court ideology to monitor alcohol use, Adult Probation continues to utilize transdermal alcohol detection for 24 hour alcohol testing. Transdermal testing measures the concentration of alcohol present in perspiration that is constantly produced and given off by the skin. Probation officers also utilize the hand held Soberlink devices, which combines a professional grade breathalyzer that is wirelessly connected to a cloud-based web portal. The technology uses facial recognition to confirm identity,

tamper resistant sensors to ensure integrity of the tests, and automation to create a seamless monitoring solution.

With JRS leading the way, the DUI Court team collaborated with Cribs for Kids for a successful community service event. The event hosted supervisors, probation officers, case managers, and probationers who worked together to prevent infant sleep-related deaths by educating parents and caregivers on the importance of practicing safe sleep for their babies and by providing portable cribs to families who otherwise cannot afford a safe place for their babies to sleep.

The DUI Court team has instituted a Peer Panel in 2018 that convenes at Pittsburgh Mercy. The Peer Panel is comprised of DUI Court alumni and current participants who assist and support those struggling with sobriety and substance-related issues.

In July, the DUI Court team attended a three-day training hosted by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. The conference is the world's largest on treatment courts and criminal justice reform, and with 33 tracks and 300 sessions, this annual conference provides the DUI Court team with the knowledge and skills to further hold to the National DUI Court guiding principles.

Allegheny County DUI Court continues to uphold its accreditation by the Pennsylvania Superior Court. This process includes document submission as well as a site visit by the accreditation board, which includes DUI Court stakeholders from across the state, as well as the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts.

~Jackie Whittaker-Piatt, Supervisor

### **VETERANS COURT**

Veterans Court celebrated the graduation of 25 veterans at the annual graduation ceremony on November 1, 2018. In addition, Veterans Court worked in conjunction with the Allegheny County Jail to open the veterans service pod in April 2018. This partnership provides new referrals of incarcerated inmates to determine if they are eligible to participate in Veterans Court, and also provides placement for a period of time for those who violate their conditions of Veterans Court. Veterans classified as minimum or medium security inmates are eligible to be housed on this unit and receive the services from community veteran programs. These programs include: Soldier On, Thinking for a Change, PAServes, Veterans Justice Outreach, Veterans Job Club, Veterans Leadership Program, Veterans' Outreach, Pittsburgh Immersion, and Alcoholics Anonymous. Our Veterans Court is also teaming up with the PA Board of Probation & Parole and the PA Department of Corrections (SCI Mercer) in pursuance of a pilot veterans reentry program that would allow military veterans to transition through a specific program with unique access to VA services prior to being paroled.



Veterans Court Challenge Coin

Received upon completion of

Veterans Court

### MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Mental Health Court (MHC), the Honorable Beth A. Lazzara presiding, is a treatment court designed to provide intensive treatment and supervision for offenders with qualifying criminal charges, who have a documented qualifying mental health diagnosis. The court promotes communication between the criminal justice system and mental health systems, as well as providing intensive supervision and treatment services for appropriate individuals.

In 2018, the court expanded its reach within Adult Probation with the continuation of probation transfers into MHC. This process allows offenders under regular supervision who are facing technical violations of their supervision to transfer into MHC upon the recommendation of their current probation officer. Individuals referred for transfer into MHC are interviewed by the MHC team to ensure they meet the qualifying criteria for entry into the court. Once transferred into MHC, participants are offered the full range of treatment and support services.

The MHC team researched several possible diversion tracks that would offer appropriate supervision and treatment services to the mental health offender population, while also giving them an opportunity to have the impact of their criminal history record minimized. Team members traveled to New York City to visit the Brooklyn and Queens Mental Health Courts, and the Mental Health Court in Montgomery County, PA. Based on the information gathered through research and site visits, the court team has begun the process of creating a proposal for a post plea, pre-sentence diversion track for eligible MHC offenders.

The MHC team celebrates successes throughout the year with quarterly graduation ceremonies, where graduates receive public praise and recognition for their accomplishments and receive a certificate from Judge Lazzara. In 2018, 31 MHC participants graduated from the program.

~Robert Panigal, Mental Health Court Coordinator

### **SEX OFFENSE COURT**

Sex Offense Court (SOC) is a collaborative, containment model approach to managing and processing criminal cases involving Megan's Law/SORNA offenses. The goals in adopting this approach are to increase offender accountability, enhance community safety, and reduce recidivism. SOC is unique from other problem-solving courts in that it is not an opt-in court.

To achieve these goals, the court and Adult Probation have assembled a team of specially trained probation officers to supervise these offenders closely, and selected mental health providers who use evidence-based techniques designed to address the specific concerns presented by this unique offender population. In addition, SOC provides appropriate levels of supervision as well as treatment based on the offender's level of risk and needs.

Regular compliance review hearings allow direct judicial supervision, the opportunity to address concerns promptly and the ability to sanction non-compliance swiftly. Such reviews enhance offender accountability and allow the court and SOC probation officers to focus resources on offenders presenting with higher risk behaviors.

The Honorable Donna Jo McDaniel, Jill E. Rangos, Alexander P. Bicket and Mark V. Tranquilli preside over SOC cases. The Honorable Thomas E. Flaherty presides over cases where SOC offenders fail to comply with registration requirements. At the close of 2018, 344 offenders were under the supervision of SOC probation officers, with average caseloads of 64 offenders per officer.

In 2018, the SOC probation officers and program supervisor began the task of updating the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Allegheny County Sex Offense Court Protocol. Probation officers also attended trainings with the Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Network (SAPEN) enabling them to collaborate with other professionals and peers who specialize in the supervision and treatment of sex offenders.

Additionally, the SOC probation officers attended statewide and regional trainings offered by the Sexual Offenders Assessment Board, participated in the Western Pennsylvania Collaboration of Sex Offender Probation and Parole Officers, and continued their involvement with the Allegheny County Crimes Against Children Task Force.

Since its inception in 2011, the Allegheny County Adult Probation SOC Program continues to be a model program within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

~Bruno A. Mediate, Supervisor

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT

The Allegheny County Domestic Violence (DV) Court carries a specialized docket for domestic violence cases, the Honorable Donna Jo McDaniel presiding. Offenders with multiple active DV cases, those with a prior criminal history and conviction of DV related offenses, and those who have violated a Protection from Abuse order with the same victim are earmarked for DV Court.

Conditions imposed at sentencing include, the Battering Intervention Program (BIP), no victim contact, drug and alcohol evaluation and treatment, mental health evaluation and treatment, and random drug screens. A team of five specialized probation officers intensively supervise offenders in DV court. Offenders attend regular compliance hearings to address concerns quickly and swiftly sanction non-compliance.

On July 1, 2018, improvements to BIP services went into effect. These changes include streamlining service delivery and improving communications with referral sources. BIP, funded through the Allegheny Department of Human Services (DHS), provides a curriculum-based psychoeducational group for individuals who perpetrate intimate partner violence. There are currently four BIP providers in Allegheny County; the Persad Center, Renewal Inc., Wesley Family Services, and the Women's Center and Shelter. Wesley Family Services also offers two weekly BIP groups at the Allegheny County Jail.

In 2018, DV probation officers attended a training provided by the Center for Victims. This organization is a one-stop-shop, with one message, one number to call, and one door for people to walk through to get the best combination of services to meet their needs. Services include therapy and counseling, emergency shelter, transitional housing, protection from abuse assistance, safety planning, children's advocacy and counseling,

medical advocacy and more. DV officers also attended other related trainings and webinars, as well as risk-needs assessment and evidenced-based training offered by Adult Probation staff.

Adult Probation also continued its partnership and participation with the STOP Violence Against Women Act Coalition (STOP/VAWA) in 2018. This coalition consists of members from the District Attorney's Office, Adult Probation, the Sheriff's Office, DHS, Pittsburgh Action Against Rape, and the Center for Victims, UPMC, and several other community-based organizations and service providers.

STOP/VAWA develops and implements law enforcement and prosecution strategies to decrease violent crimes against women. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency is responsible for coordinating VAWA funds with local agencies throughout PA. Funds

through VAWA provide for systematic and sustained focus on permanent systems change, simultaneously developing and enhancing a comprehensive network of domestic violence and sexual assault victim service advocates and programs throughout the community.



~Bruno A. Mediate, Supervisor

### **PRIDE COURT**

The PRIDE (Program for Re-Integration, Development and Empowerment) program is the treatment component for Allegheny County's Prostitution Court, a problem solving court under the direction of the Honorable Kevin G. Sasinoski. The PRIDE program, which has been in existence since 2004, works with offenders convicted of a prostitution charge.

PRIDE Court underwent significant growth and change in 2018, with the treatment component of the PRIDE program moving to a new location at Positive Pathways in the West End. Positive Pathways offers counseling and social service supports to PRIDE Court participants to address recovery from the lifestyle of prostitution and exploitation from a post-traumatic stress model focusing

specifically on the complex issues resulting from involvement in the sex industry. Program participants attend weekly, post-traumatic stress centered, psychoeducational groups where they gain knowledge and support from sharing previous life experiences around the violence and exploitation associated with their often many years of work in the sex industry. Participants also engage in drug and alcohol treatment, psychiatric care and many support services. Additionally, participants, working closely with their Reentry Unit probation officer, receive intensive case management services and learn the life skills necessary for re-integration back to a lifestyle free of sexual violence and exploitation.

~Michelle M. Mazza, Probation Officer

# COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTERS

In previous generations of community supervision, individuals placed on a period of probation or parole would be closely monitored by a probation officer. If the offender violated the terms of their supervision, they were likely to be detained in jail to await a violation hearing. The belief was that once an offender was penalized by being incarcerated, they would not reoffend due to the fear of being detained again. Over the years however, research has indicated that practice is ineffective and may actually make lower risk offenders more likely to reengage in criminal activity. As a result, probation and parole departments have adopted evidence -based practices to more effectively supervise offenders in the community. The evidence-based practices theory is a holistic approach to addressing offenders, and focuses more on the risks and criminogenic needs of each individual offender. By providing programming to address an offender's criminogenic needs, we are reducing an offender's risk level, and in turn reducing recidivism and improving public safety.

To accurately assess an offender's criminogenic needs a probation officer first conducts a Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R) risk – needs assessment. The LSI-R identifies the offender's criminogenic needs that require the most focus, which include antisocial cognition, antisocial personality, antisocial associates,

Table 3: Referrals to Community Resource Centers, by Type of Referral, January 2018 – December 2018

Referrals for Services	Total Offenders
Adult Education (GED)	44
Batterers Intervention Program	203
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	119
Community Service	230
Drug and Alcohol Evaluation	1,171
Drug Testing	1,117
Employment Assistance/Job Search	341
Other Services	89
Total Referrals	3,314
Total Offenders referred*	2,402

\*Offenders may be referred for multiple services

family/marital status, substance abuse, employment, education, and leisure time.

To properly address an offender's identified needs, appropriate programming must be provided. This is where Adult Probation's four Community Resource Centers (CRCs) come into play. The CRCs provide both on-site and community based programming to address an offenders criminogenic needs. The programming provided includes cognitive behavioral therapy, battering intervention programming, job search, adult education classes, drug and alcohol evaluations, and urinalysis. Adult Probation employs community monitors at each CRC who coordinate services and can refer offenders to community based service providers for anger management, community service, parenting classes, mental health evaluation, and treatment, housing assistance, and job training programs.

In Allegheny County, these CRCs have revolutionized the job duties of the modern day probation officer, greatly reducing the time spent on finding appropriate programming and coordinating the offender's presence and participation in those programs. Now, with the assistance of the community monitors for service coordination, probation officers can focus more time on higher risk offenders. From a probation officer's perspective, a community resource center is a "one stop shop" to assist in their offender's rehabilitation and reentry into the community.

~David Bidwell, Supervisor

In 2018, there were 2,402 people referred to the four CRCs for 3,314 services (people may be referred for multiple services). Adult Probation will continue to expand on effective service utilization to address criminogenic needs thus helping progressively more offenders become positive, contributing members of our community at large. See table 3 for a breakdown of referrals by type.

### CRC STRATEGIC PLANNING

In partnership with Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Adult Probation began a strategic reassessment of the Community Resource Centers (CRCs) in 2017, which continued into 2018. Priorities of the plan include increasing utilization of the CRCs to reduce recidivism among people on probation, creating consistency between the CRCs, and reengagement with service providers in the community.

Probation officers make referrals to the CRCs in order to fulfill both court ordered stipulations and to address criminogenic needs as assessed by the officer. Services offered at the CRCs include employment assistance, cognitive behavioral therapy, drug and alcohol testing, drug and alcohol assessments and referrals to treatment, and referrals to parenting classes, Battering Intervention Program, continuing education programs, workforce development programs, and community service.

Throughout 2018, the CRC supervisors regularly met with leadership to further the goals of the strategic plan. Committees were formed to delve into drug testing procedures, incentive programs, safety concerns in the CRCs, and streamlining referrals.

### **Low-Risk Compliance Caseloads**

Adult Probation utilizes a proxy score to establish an offender's risk to re-offend, and offenders are assigned to the appropriate caseload based on the results of the proxy score. Offenders with proxy scores from 2 to 4 are assigned to the Low-Risk Compliance (LRC) caseload from intake, regardless of court ordered special conditions. The LRC probation officer will help direct and/or refer the offender to necessary programs to complete his or her special conditions.

Offenders with a proxy scores from 5 to 8, who are initially supervised by a community-based probation officer can be transferred to the LRC caseload upon their compliance. Compliance is defined as an offender having completed all court ordered special conditions, the offender's identifiable needs have been addressed, and the offender is compliant with the general rules of community supervision and has not incurred any new convictions prior to transfer.

Transferring compliant offenders to a LRC allows community-based probation officers more time to attend to higher risk offenders' criminogenic needs. If an offender obtains attributable pending charges while on an LRC caseload, or fails to comply altogether, the case may be transferred to a community-based probation officer for more intense supervision.

~ Katelyn Duttine, Probation Officer





• In 2018 there were 9,475 community service hours completed by probationers.





### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**



Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force









Allegheny County Department of Human Services Allentown Community Development Corp.

Beautiful Pittsburgh Initiative
Beltzhoover Civic Association
Brashear Association
Carrick Community Council
City Council District 3
City of McKeesport

Community Kitchen Pittsburgh
Family Resources

Gateway Rehabilitation Center Goodwill Industries of Western PA

Greater Pittsburgh Community Foodbank

Greenbriar Treatment Services
Habitat for Humanity
Hilltop Alliance
Keep PA Beautiful
MADD

Mercy Behavioral Health
Mon-Valley Initiative
Mon Yough Community Services
PA Adopt A Highway Program
Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force
Pyramid Health Services
Southwestern PA Reentry Coalition
Steel Valley Council of Governments
Three Rivers Youth

Women's Center and Shelter











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RENEWAL,













### **ADULT PROBATION UNITS**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE STATE CASELOAD**

Adult Probation is responsible for the initial case processing of offenders sentenced to a state correctional institute, and who are also placed on a period of probation following their release from prison. Following case initiation, the probation case is transferred to the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP) for approval and acceptance.

Criteria for the acceptance of the offender's probation by the PBPP include, an existing case with the offender in question, the case is graded as a felony, the period of probation is a minimum of two years, and cases where the court has ordered the PBPP to provide supervision. Once accepted, these "special probations" fall under the jurisdiction of the PBPP.

The PBPP provides probation supervision in Mercer County and Venango County, as neither of those counties has a local, county level probation department. The PBPP also provides supervision of felony cases in Blair County.

Adult Probation's Admin-State caseload contained 3,495 offenders at the end of 2018, totaling 6,029 cases, making this the largest caseload in the commonwealth. *~Alan Pelton, Deputy Director* 

### **INTER-COUNTY UNIT**

The Inter-County Unit, located at Adult Probation headquarters, provides supervision for offenders sentenced in Allegheny County, but reside in any of the other Pennsylvania counties. Immediately following sentencing, these offenders are directed to report to the Inter-County Unit to complete their initial intake interview and the Inter-County Transfer of Supervision Application. In 2018, 1,855 offenders were assigned to the Inter-County Unit from intake.

The transfer applications are prepared by the supervising probation officer and submitted to the receiving county along with sentencing orders, criminal complaints, signed rules of probation, offender demographic information, and any other relevant information for the case to be effectively supervised by the receiving county. Once the other county obtains the documents, the local probation department conducts an investigation, and notification of acceptance or rejection is made within 45 days. If accepted, offenders are required to adhere to all court ordered conditions, the Allegheny County rules of probation, and any additional rules and requirements imposed by the receiving county. If rejected, offenders are still required to adhere to the general rules of supervision, complete all court ordered conditions, and comply with their established supervision plan.

For any offender residing in Allegheny County at the time of sentencing, but later moving elsewhere in Pennsylvania, the same formal supervision request is made to the receiving county. In these instances, community based probation officers transfer the case(s) to the Inter-County Unit to manage the transfer request, monitor offender compliance, and ensure completion of special conditions. This year, 527 cases were transferred into the Inter-County Unit.

In 2018, an inter-county transfer checklist was created for community based probation officers to reference prior to transferring cases to the Inter-County Unit. The probation officer most familiar with the offender collects comprehensive and accurate data prior to submitting the transfer paperwork to the Inter-County Unit. By heeding the checklist, case rejections by the receiving county are reduced.

Regardless of the transfer process, Allegheny County maintains jurisdiction of the cases and the Inter-County Unit probation officers handle any violations. Inter-County Unit caseloads average 432 offenders per officer.

Transferring an offender's supervision to their home county ensures that they are more proximately monitored for compliance and more efficiently connected with local services; therefore, prompt positive behavioral change is promoted and statewide public safety is improved.

~Martha DeSantis, Supervisor

#### **COURT LIAISON AND INTAKE UNITS**

Located in the Allegheny County Courthouse, the Court Liaison and Intake Units are an integral part of Adult Probation. The Intake Unit is comprised of five clerks, an intake probation officer, and an inter-state compact probation officer. The intake officer serves as a liaison to the Allegheny County Jail, while the inter-state compact officer facilitates the transfer of supervision for offenders convicted of a crime in Allegheny County, but reside in another state.

Following sentencing, judicial staff instruct offenders to report to the Intake Unit to begin the processing of their case into the Adult Probation system. This unit is the first encounter that offenders have with the agency and is responsible for gathering all relevant contact information, individual identifiers, and ensuring that court orders are correct and properly entered into the Adult Probation database. Intake staff also provide offenders with critical information pertinent to their case, such as the rules and regulations of community supervision, reporting instructions, and information related to any court imposed conditions, such as Alcohol Highway Safe Driving classes for DUI offenders and Megan's Law registration instructions for convicted sex offenders. In 2018, the Intake Unit interviewed and processed 14,359 cases.

The Court Liaison Unit (CLU) serves as a critical link between the various courtrooms and Adult Probation staff.

The unit is comprised of three probation officers and a support staff member, who are responsible for scheduling violation hearings, communicating between the agency and the judiciary, executing the lodging and release of offenders in the ACJ following violation hearings, and conducting formal violation hearings before the court. In short, they attend to the innumerable issues that arise in the criminal justice system that effect Adult Probation and criminal court operations.

In 2018, CLU received 7,829 violation reports, 7,942 warrant and detainer requests, and the unit's probation officers conducted 3,174 violation hearings before the court.

The Court Liaison Unit also works closely with the court to reduce the time it takes to resolve violations regarding offenders in the Allegheny County Jail who have been convicted of new attributable criminal charges through the early probation violation process. This is accomplished by channeling an offender's new criminal case to their original sentencing judge, allowing the court to address the offender's criminal violation(s) as part of, or immediately following, sentencing on the pending attributable criminal charge(s).

~Sarah Manning, Supervisor

### **RESTITUTION & DUI UNITS**

The Restitution Unit is responsible for the supervision of low-risk offenders who do not have special conditions, with the exception of restitution. As of December 31, 2018, there were 2,019 offenders under the supervision of this unit. Offenders in the Restitution Unit are required to attend an initial interview, during which they are screened and approved for supervision within the unit. During the initial interview, the rules of probation are thoroughly explained, along with the offender's requirement to pay restitution and court costs. Offenders with pending charges, or those who indicate current drug usage or treatment, are transferred to a more intense level of supervision, where their needs can be effectively addressed.

Probation officers in this unit enforce the court order by monitoring restitution payments and scheduling violation hearings when an offender is not making regular payments, or when a case is nearing expiration and restitution remains unpaid. The Restitution Unit, in cooperation with the Department of Court Records, is responsible for collecting the majority of restitution in Allegheny County.

The DUI Unit is responsible for supervising adjudicated DUI cases in Allegheny County. At the end of 2018, there were over 956 cases supervised by the DUI Unit.

Each individual who is convicted of a DUI is required to meet with a probation officer at an initial interview, at which time rules of probation are thoroughly explained. In most cases, DUI offenders are required to complete Alcohol Highway Safe Driving classes and treatment as a condition of probation or parole. The offender's level of treatment is determined by a drug and alcohol assessment that must be completed prior to sentencing. DUI Unit probation officers coordinate the offender's safe driving classes and treatment within the four regional alcohol programs; Alternatives, Pittsburgh Mercy, Mon-Yough, and the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic. Offenders must complete classes and treatment prior to the expiration of their probation, or a violation hearing is scheduled.

The DUI Unit also supervises offenders who incur a DUI outside of Allegheny County but reside within the county. These offenders are supervised in cooperation with other counties throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The DUI stipulations are monitored, and monthly supervision fees are required to be paid.

In 2018, both the Restitution and DUI Units relocated to the new Community Resource Center – North facility, where optimal resources and services are provided to offenders. *Frank Halloran, Supervisor* 

#### PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION UNIT

One manager, three probation officers and eight contracted presentence investigators comprise the Presentence Unit at Adult Probation. Contracted investigators are generally retired law enforcement officers from a variety of local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies. These presentence investigative reports are statutorily required for cases when the offender can be sentenced to a period of incarceration of one or more years, or when the offender is less than 21 years of age at the time of conviction. The unit completed 441 presentence reports for the court in 2018.

The preparation of the presentence report requires the investigator to have a thorough understanding of the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems, the ability to accurately interpret an offender's record of arrests and prosecutions, or RAP sheet, and strong interviewing and investigatory skills for obtaining information from numerous social service agencies and court systems.

The scope of the reports prepared by the unit varies depending on the type of report the court requests. If there is a victim involved, they are contacted to provide a "victim impact statement" and they may express their opinion on what they feel would be an appropriate sentence for the offender. Presentence reports include a detailed narrative of the offense(s) based upon official records, as well as a statement from the offender, if the latter chooses to do so. All presentence reports include the offender's adult and juvenile criminal history if the offender was 28 years old or younger at the time of the offense(s).

The presentence reports also include the offender's prior adjustment to custody and to supervision within the community. Presentence reports provide the court with information regarding the offender's mental and physical health, financial condition, educational background, family history, and work experience or vocational skills. The purpose of these investigative reports is to provide the sentencing judge with comprehensive criminal and socio-economic background information to assist the court in making the most appropriate sentence for criminal convictions and probation violations.

~Charlene Christmas, Manager

### FIELD CENTERS

Within the past year, the North Side Community Based Office, the final "old generation field center," joined the ranks of the Community Resource Center (CRC) teams, and all five community based offices now operate out of one of the department's four CRCs. These centers provide a multitude of in-house services and relevant treatment options to medium and high-risk offenders under court supervision.

As with any population of mixed socioeconomic, familial, educational, physical and psychological experiences, offender motivation varies. Aligning underlying values and ethics with social norms remains an age-old challenge in community corrections, heavily influenced by an uneven ratio of offenders to staff. Adult Probation's goal is not merely to 'move' an offender to the end of probation and/or parole without any rule violations, but to

apply evidence-based practices to assist offenders to make positive, intrinsic changes in their lives to move beyond involvement in the criminal justice system.

In 2018, probation officers attended a variety of evidence-based trainings to implement motivational interviewing skills, case plan development, and additional core competencies to more effectively interact with each individual offender. Familiarization and competency with each of these skill sets will continue with training for newly hired probation officers, as well as ongoing refresher trainings for existing staff throughout the year. Field supervisors will continue to meet regularly with staff to focus on problematic cases and assess probation officer skill levels and case plan effectiveness.

~James Ling, Supervisor

Table 4 - Case Movement To and From Field Centers

New Cases Assigned	5,630	
Cases Received from Other Units	2,265	
Cases Transferred to Other Units	1,228	

#### **ELECTRONIC MONITORING UNIT**

The Adult Probation Department's Electronic Monitoring Unit (EM) marked its 30th year of operation in 2018 and continues to be a cost-effective alternative to incarceration by supervising offenders within the community who otherwise would have received mandatory periods of incarceration. The staff at EM is comprised of a manager, three supervisors, 30 probation officers (including a Drug Court coordinator and a DUI Court coordinator), nine fulltime support staff, and seven part-time monitors. The office operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and answers the emergency telephone number for Adult Probation after normal business hours.

The EM unit uses several types of equipment to monitor offenders; radio frequency (RF) and Transdermal Alcohol Detection (TAD), which is a unique combination of RF technology and alcohol sensor testing. This device continuously tests the offender for the presence of alcohol 24 hours a day. In addition, the EM unit also utilizes a handheld alcohol testing device, Soberlink (SL2). This device is a remote breathalyzer system that utilizes cellular networks and allows offenders to submit on demand testing for alcohol. Offenders carry the SL2 device, which is the size of a smartphone. The device alerts the offender of a requested breath test, notes the exact GPS position of where the device is located, and takes a photo of the offender as they take the test. The photo, breath alcohol content, and GPS location are then uploaded to a web system and sent to the supervising officer or designated EM representative via email and text message. DUI Court participants are the primary users of

the SL2 devices and TAD units, but both devices are also used on other cases as deemed appropriate by the court. This technology enables offenders to remain in the community where they can continue to work, support their families, attend counseling, and give back through community service.

The EM unit houses two problem solving court programs; Drug Court and DUI Court, both of which have been accredited by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. This unit also serves offenders sentenced to Mental Health Court, Domestic Violence Court, PRIDE Court, Veterans Court, Sex Offense Court and defendants placed on pre-trail electronic monitoring.

In 2018, the EM unit had a monthly average of 896 offenders under supervision and processed 1,713 new offenders into the program during the year, with 92 percent of the offenders successfully completing the program. Throughout this period, only 3 percent (51) of the participants were arrested on new criminal charges while on electronic monitoring. The EM unit operates without a waitlist, and those who are eligible for EM supervision in the Allegheny County Jail are normally processed within 24 hours; all others are scheduled for installation within one week of the unit receiving the case from the court.

Participants placed on EM are responsible for paying the fees associated with the monitoring of their individual equipment. Fees are assessed on a sliding scale, according to the offender's income.

~Steve Esswein, Manager

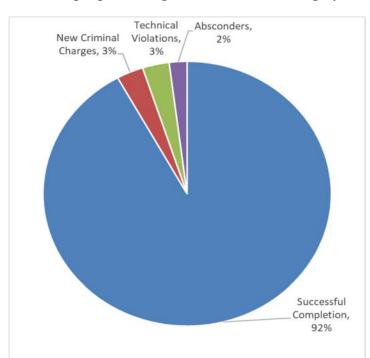


Figure 3 – Percent of people exiting electronic monitoring by closure reason

ALLEGHENY COUNTY ADULT PROBATION & PAROLE

#### REENTRY UNIT

The Reentry Program remains a collaborative effort between the Allegheny County Jail (ACJ), Adult Probation, and various community outreach and workforce development agencies, led by the Allegheny Jail Collaborative since 2010. The goal of the program is to promote justice reform for incarcerated individuals in need of additional counseling, support services, and programming that can lead offenders to a productive lifestyle and help reduce the likelihood of recidivism.

Adult Probation's role is significant in that one dedicated unit works closely with reentry partners, and use best correctional practices to offer intensive case management to program participants, pre and post release.

Adult Probation's Reentry Unit is comprised of five probation officers, who begin establishing professional alliances with moderate to high-risk inmates as they are serving their sentences or while detained in the ACJ for probation or parole violations. Offenders in the reentry program are offered programming and services in the ACJ, such as cognitive behavioral therapy, drug and alcohol treatment, and workforce development training that support prolonged pro-social activities and help negate both past failures and future roadblocks to success.

Reentry participants are assigned a jail service coordinator, who facilitates programming, housed on the ACJ's reentry pod, and are provided with GED classes, parenting classes, trauma based drug and alcohol education, and cognitive behavior classes while in the jail or alternative housing.



L-R: S. Orlansky, Supervisor; Probation officers: E. King, D. Woods, M. Giles, R. Niznick, R. Jones, and A. Thompson who will be replacing D. Woods.

Once released to the community on parole or probation, participants have the support of a Reentry Unit probation officer and reentry support specialist, where a host of other benefits and career opportunities are made available to them, ranging from trade school enrollment to community college, transportation assistance for up to three months, housing assistance, and case management services.

~Sabrina Orlansky, Supervisor

- Reentry served 312 total offenders on 12/31/18.
- 205 offenders served were active participants of the Reentry Program.
- Of people who exited the Reentry program in 2018, 57% did so successfully.

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

In 2018, Adult Probation staff completed 9,570 training hours and professional development in accordance with the standards set by the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole. Eight new employees joined the department and each completed 120 hours of orientation.

Our Basic Firearms class consisted of seven Allegheny County officers, one officer from Clarion County and two from Butler County. Adult Probation conducted an in-house critical incident report writing class for continuing education.

### Firearms Recertification and Basic Firearms Certification Training





Supervisor Robert O'Brien and Probation Officer Garrett Voettiner shared the "Top Gun Award" for the best qualifying score in the Basic Firearms Class



### **CPR/First Aid Training**

In conjunction with the department's Smart Supervision initiatives, five Adult Probation staff members completed a three-day CPR/First Aid instructor course through the American Red Cross. The department purchased necessary training equipment and all staff will be trained in these critical skills.



CPR/FIRST AID INSTRUCTORS

L-R: Officer, L. Trychta; Officer, R. Jones; Supervisor, M. McDowell; Officer, R. DeMary; and Officer. J. Fielder



A support staff training was held on basic first aid, CPR, and self defense and awareness. The first aid and CPR portion was taught by the Adult Probation CPR instructors.







#### SELF DEFENSE TRAINING









law enforcement experience. He is a staff instructor Emeritus with PPCT, the largest subject control agency in the world, and provides training for Federal Air Marshalls.

#### PROBLEM SOLVING COURT TRAINING

Greenbriar Treatment Center provided a six part training series for probation officers in the department's various problem-solving courts. Monthly trainings were held from May 2018 until October 2018 and covered a variety of topics in relation to addiction and behavioral health conditions. Topics included:

- Addiction as a Behavioral Health Condition: Is It Really a Disease?
- Co-occurring Disorders: Understanding the Relationship Between Addiction, Trauma, and Other Mental Health Conditions
- Being Therapeutic Without Needing a License: Principles of Motivational Interviewing and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Peer Support Groups: What They Are and How They Work
- The Screening and Clinical Assessment Process: How Level of Care is Determined, and Why Clinical Opinions May Vary
- Principles of Pharmacology: From Psychotropics and MAT to Drug Effects and Drug Interactions

#### **EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES**

Over the course of 2018, Adult learning, cognitive behavioral Probation completed its initial evidence-based practices training phase, as the three year Smart Supervision grant came to a close. Probation officers attended evidencebased practice trainings that focused on administering risk and needs assessments, skill practice, and case planning.

Engaging in skill practice, the second in the Four Core Competencies of evidence-based practices • in community supervision, concentrated on social

interventions, and the importance of identifying and addressing skill deficits. Effective case planning and management training concentrated on identifying drivers, responsivity factors, triggers, and appropriate dosage for individual offenders.

#### THE FOUR CORE COMPETENCIES

- **Building Professional Alliance**
- **Skill Practice**
- Case Planning
- Rewards & Responses to Noncompliance

Adult Probation staff attended a number of local, state, and national conferences in 2018, including the Pennsylvania Justice Network (JNET), the Pennsylvania Association of Drug Court Professionals, the County Chief Adult **Probation and Parole Officers** Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania DUI Association, the Pennsylvania Pretrial Services Association, the Bureau of Justice Assistance Conference, the American Probation and Parole Association's winter and summer training institutes, the Sexual Awareness Prevention Education Network (SAPEN), the Criminal Justice Advisory Board, and the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge.

### **SWEARING IN CEREMONY**

2018

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 competence at all times.



On November 2, 2018, Criminal Division Administrative Judge David R. Cashman administered the oath of office to eight newly appointed Adult Probation Officers.



L-R: D. Sommers, M. McDowell, L. Pegher, S. Manning, G. Voettiner, S. Baidyaroy, M. St. Jacques, M. McCutcheon, Hon. D. Cashman, R. Hancharik, T. Schmidt, J. Garland, A. Pelton, F. Scherer

### NEW HIRES 2018



SANJEEV BAIDYAROY Manager

Sanjeev joined Adult Probation on August 20, 2018, as the department's Research Manager and Data Analyst. He received his Bachelors Degree in History & Policy and a Master's Degree in Public Policy & Management from Carnegie Mellon University. Prior to joining Adult Probation, Sanjeev worked as a data analyst with Allegheny County Department of Human Services. He has also worked at Carnegie Mellon University and previously served on the board of the Young Preservationists Association of Pittsburgh.

Sarah joined Adult Probation on April 30, 2018. She is a graduate of Edinboro University, with a degree in Criminal Justice. Prior to joining Adult Probation, Sarah gained criminal court experience with her previous positions with the District Attorney's Office, Arraignment Court, and as a minute clerk for the Honorable Thomas E. Flaherty.



**SARAH B. MANNING**Supervisor



JARRETT M. GARLAND Probation Officer

Jarrett joined Adult Probation on October 1, 2018. He is a graduate of Clarion University, with a Liberal Arts degree and a Master of Education in Marriage and Family Therapy degree from Duquesne University. Prior to joining Adult Probation, Jarrett worked as therapist and assessment counselor at The Program for Offenders and Pyramid Healthcare.



MADDISON JAKIELA Community Monitor

Maddison joined Adult
Probation on December 10,
2018. She is a graduate of
the Indiana University of
Pennsylvania, with a degree
in Criminal Justice and
Sociology. Maddison
completed an internship at
Adult Probation prior to
graduation.



NOAH C. DAVIS Support Staff

Noah joined Adult
Probation full time on April
16, 2018. He is a graduate
of Slippery Rock University,
with a degree in
Criminology and Criminal
Justice. Noah began his
career at Adult Probation as
a part time EM monitor
prior to assuming his
current position.



**SEAN M. EDWARDS**Support Staff

Sean joined Adult Probation on April 16, 2018. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, with a degree in Criminal Justice. Sean brings experience from Renewal Inc., where he worked as a community corrections monitor.



JACOB A. TYSKIEWICZ Support Staff

Jacob joined Adult
Probation on October 1,
2018. He is a graduate of
Point Park University, with a
degree in Accounting.
Jacob previously worked at
Pretrial Services.

## STAFF PROMOTIONS





**DAVID E. BIDWELL** Supervisor

David was promoted to supervisor of the Community Resource Center - East on October 29, 2018. He originally joined Adult Probation on May 2, 2016. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Edinboro University. Prior to joining Adult Probation, David worked as a probation officer in Erie County for nine years.



**MEGAN ST.JACQUES Probation Officer** 

Megan is a graduate of Mercyhurst University, with a degree in Criminal Justice and Community Corrections, and she completed an internship with Adult Probation prior to graduation. Upon graduation, Megan began her career at Adult Probation as a part time EM monitor before moving to full-time positions as the CRC – South support staff and subsequently as a community monitor prior to assuming her current position.



**ROBERT J. HANCHARIK Probation Officer** 

Robert joined Adult Probation on October 17, 2016, as a community monitor at the CRC Mon Valley location. Robert became a probation officer on May 29, 2018. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Administration of Justice from Penn State University. Robert brings work experience from the United States Air Force as a class instructor.



TORI A.SCHMIDT **Probation Officer** 

Tori is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, with a degree in Criminology, and she completed an internship at Adult Probation prior to graduation. Upon graduation, Tori began her career at Adult Probation as a part-time EM monitor, moving to a full-time support staff member prior to assuming her current position as Probation Officer.



**MICHAEL. D. MCCUTCHEON Probation Officer** 

Michael joined Adult Probation as a community monitor on June 16, 2015. He became a probation officer on February 19, 2018. Michael holds an undergraduate degree in Criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), where he worked as a dispatch operator for the IUP Police Department while attending school.



**DOUGLAS I. THASE** Community Monitor

Doug joined Adult Probation in 2016 as a part time EM monitor, and he transferred into a full time EM monitor position on January 23, 2017. Doug became a community monitor on May 29, 2018.

### Frank T. Halloran

**SUPERVISOR** 

### Years of Service Award

Supervisor Frank Halloran achieved a significant milestone in his career with Adult Probation in 2018, celebrating his 30th year of service with the department.

Congratulations!



(L—R) Deputy Director, Alan Pelton;

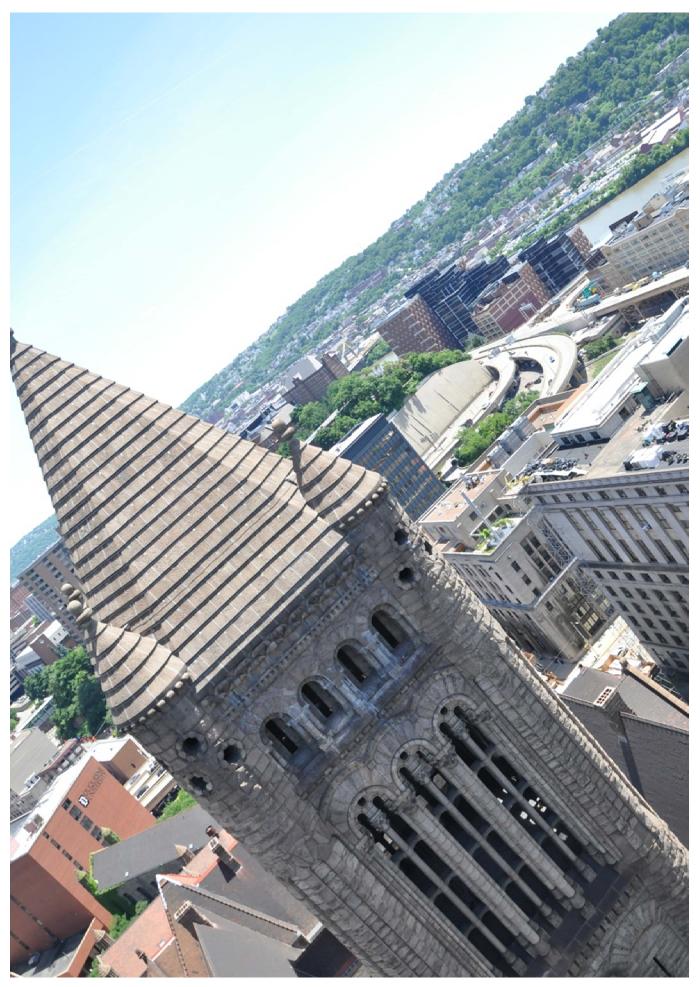
### Retirement

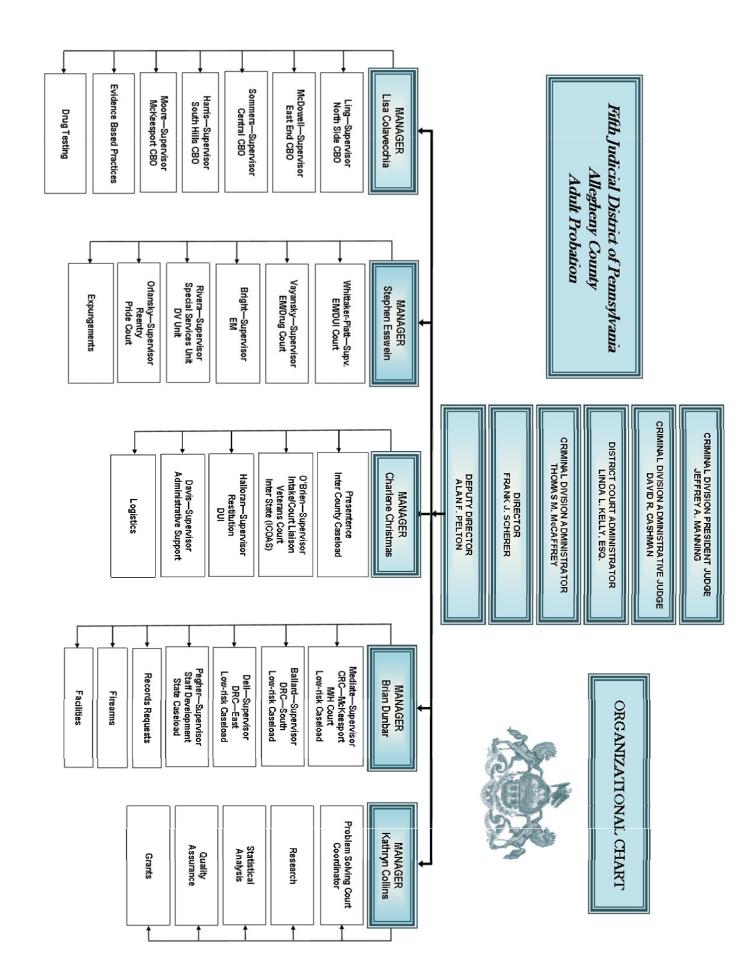
Mark Rimmel

**Probation Officer** 

Mark retired on May 4, 2018. Mark worked at Adult Probation for 20 years and eight months.

Enjoy your retirement Mark!





# Allegheny County Adult Probation



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