

# News from the Juvenile Probation and Detention Services

## Division: Fact Sheet

*Last update: December 29, 2016*

The Juvenile Probation and Detention Services Division provides a continuum of services to families of youth who have been referred by law enforcement for delinquent offenses. Services range from informal diversion from court to highly structured supervision or probation in the community. The Division also provides in-house residential treatment as well as a secure detention center for more serious and/or chronic juvenile offenders.

### **JOA/IPCSA/Committee Participation**

Probation Officers continue to support the Juvenile Officers Association through their membership as well as serving on the board. Officers attend general meetings bi-monthly during the lunch hour at various locations throughout the County. For the upcoming year, Principle Probation Officer, Mario Urbina, has been elected to the Board to serve as Vice President and Senior Probation Officer Margo Ferretti, to serve another term as Secretary.

Probation Officers continue to be members of the Illinois Probation and Court Services Association and also attend meetings through the Lake County Gang Task Force, Lake County Sexual Assault Council's sex offender treatment committee, the Youth Empowerment for Success Coalition and the Juvenile Justice Council.

On 03-04-16, Claudia Gilhooley, Mary Marsolek and Lori Sandquist attended the Lake County Sexual Assault Coordinating Council Meeting. Juvenile stakeholders have been working to include the juvenile protocol as part of the Lake County Sexual Assault Coordinating Council Protocol. The juvenile protocol has been completed and was adopted at this meeting.

On 04-27-16, Robert Cesar, Director of Juvenile Probation / Detention Services, Claudia Gilhooley, Assistant Director of Juvenile Probation, Lynette Hampton, Superintendent and Dennis McMahan, Deputy Superintendent, attended the Committee Meetings for IPCSA. Juvenile Counselors attended the three-day conference.

During the month of May, Claudia Gilhooley, Lynette Hampton, Claudia Kasten and Mary Marsolek attended the Illinois Juvenile Justice Committee meeting in Chicago.

On 06-15-16 to 06-17-16, Mario Urbina attended the Illinois Juvenile Officers Association Conference in Peoria, Illinois.

Claudia Gilhooley, Assistant Director of Juvenile Probation is a participant on the Consent Committee for the Dually Involved Youth Program, a Pay for Success Project run by the Conscience Community Network. Monthly meetings have occurred to discuss program updates, identification of youth who are DCFS wards in contact with the juvenile justice system and creation of a workflow specific to Lake County for receipt and tracking of referrals to the Dually Involved Youth Program.

On 06-28-16, the SMAART Committee and Training Committee met with Robert Verborg at the Depke Juvenile Justice Complex.

On 10-26-16, Bob Cesar, Claudia Gilhooley, Lynette Hampton and Dennis McMahan attended the committee meetings at the IPCSA conference. Estela Kohl, Kristina-Molly Ryan and Dan Filson attended the IPCSA Fall Conference from 10-26-16 to 10-28-16.

On 11-16-16, Claudia Gilhooley presented at the JOA meeting at the Gurnee Police Department. The election also took place for the upcoming year. Mario Urbina was elected to serve as President and Margo Ferretti as Secretary.

## **DATA Focus Group & Technology**

The DATA group continues to meet on a monthly basis. We continue to seek ways to improve data collection and workflow.

The Lake County website team has partnered with a new vendor to provide the County's public-facing website with a new layout design, new user friendly tools and other features. Principal Probation Officer Sia Booras, Assistant Director Claudia Gilhooley, Senior Juvenile Counselor Roger Salgado and Administrative Assistant Gina Zastany have been appointed as the approved content editors for our divisional page/content specific area on the Court's public facing website.

## **Girl Wise**

The Girl Wise committee has been meeting on a regular basis in anticipation of the upcoming 13th Annual Girl Wise Conference on April 16, 2016 at the College of Lake County from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Principal Probation Officer Cheryl Sersen has stepped down as chair and Senior Probation Officer Courtney Alexander and Juvenile Counselor Molly Ryan will be co-chairing the committee moving forward.

On 04-16-16, the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Girl Wise Conference took place at CLC in Grayslake. Approximately 145 girls were in attendance. A total of 148 girls and 30 parents attended this all-day event, which was the biggest turn out yet! Additionally, 41 Volunteers helped coordinate and assisted on the day of the conference. Volunteers included Girl-Wise committee members from Juvenile Probation/Detention Services, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office, the United States Navy, College of Lake County, Girls on the Run, OMNI Youth Services, and UP2US. You can check out the following link to the Press Release: <http://19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/1176>

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Girl Wise Conference will be held on April 8, 2017. Planning for this conference has started. The next meeting is scheduled for 11-30-16.

## **Planning**

Probation Officers continue to utilize satellite offices in order to be closer to the youth being supervised in the community and for minimum group reporting. In order to make resources available to officers at satellite locations, we are piloting having a vehicle stationed at the Park City Branch Court location.

## **Internships**

Intern Kristen Schrems from Western Illinois University has been assigned to the Probation Unit for the spring semester. Principal Probation Officer Bill Abernathy continues to provide orientation for all interns and attended the Career Fair with Intern Alexis LaPorta from Illinois State University who is assigned to secure detention.

Intern Michael Hicks, from Western Illinois, will primarily be assigned to secure detention.

On 08-24-16, three interns will be starting their internship with Juvenile Probation / Detention Services. Yanitza Delgao will be scheduled full-time and assigned to probation, Jennyfer Garcia and Viviana Mendez will both be slated part-time and assigned to detention.

## **Awards/ Promotions**

Principal Probation Officer Timothy Ulrich was the recipient of the Justice Award at the Juvenile Officers Association's Annual Holiday and Award Celebration in January.

On 06-01-16, Michelle Burns received the Employee of the Month and Robert Schroeder received his 30 Years of Service award.

Michelle Burns, Estela Kohl and Dan Filson were the recipients of IPCSA's Distinguished Service Award.

Estela Kohl was promoted to Senior Probation Officer via Career Path.

## **Public Service**

Assistant Probation Officer Alejandro Guajardo has been working with residents in the FACE-IT residential program to complete public service hours. Residents have been completing hours through the "Partners for Progress" (Horse Farm) in Wauconda and the soup kitchen at Wildwood Presbyterian Church in Wildwood. We continue to seek new sites to secure for our youth in their communities.

During the month of March, we are coordinating public service projects for the upcoming spring break. Youth will be completing work on the Jr's Challenge Course in preparation of the upcoming season.

## **Training and Education**

Probation staff continues to attend trainings to promote improved customer service, technical skills and professional development. Trainings included the following for the months of January and February: Emerging Adults and the Criminal Justice System: Charting the Course for Policy and Practice (Loyola's Center for Criminal Justice Research, Policy and Practice), Excel Training (College of Lake County), Legal Implications of Senate Bill 100 (SEDOL Classic Conference), Dually Involved Youth (Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform) and Emerging Teen Drug Trends and Treatment Options (Gateway).

Trainings included the following for the month of March: Culturally Sensitive Approach to Working With Latino Families (Warren Township), Child Pornography and Traveler Investigations (Lake County Sheriff's Office), a conversation with Dimitri A. Christakis, MD, MPH (CONNECT North Chicago) and Career Day at Grayslake North High School.

Probation service continues to address the needs of the growing population of youth between the ages of 17-20 through available services in the community. The Independence Center, A New Foundation Center and ATP will be presenting at unit meetings to educate Probation Officers on services available to this population in the community.

In the month of April, juvenile staff attended the spring Juvenile Justice Council conference. Jeffrey Baile presented on Professional Interviewer and Interrogator- Improving your Interviewing and Communication Skills Through Scientifically-Based Methods.

In the month of June, Claudia Gilhooley and Michelle Vendegna attended Ethics and Cultural Competence in Working with the LGBTQ Population sponsored by SEDOL and CYN. Probation Officers attended training, Sexuality and Autism Spectrum Disorder: When Autism and Criminal Justice Intersect, sponsored by the Lake County Juvenile Justice Council and the State's Attorney's Office.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Superintendent Lynette Hampton, Assistant Director Claudia Gilhooley and Deputy Superintendent Momodou Njie attended the IPSCA Appreciation Meeting. The detention committee met and discussed issues pertaining to detention improvement.

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 secure detention Unit Managers attended leadership training in Yorkville, Illinois. The training consisted of behavioral interviewing and personal productivity.

In the month of July, Probation Officers attended an all-day training sponsored by Rosecrance, *The New Heroin Epidemic*.

Trainers of Handle With Care attended recertification training on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 David Fischer from the Court Involved Youth Project conducted training on LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Question, and Indifferent). All juvenile personnel participated in the training.

Juvenile Probation / Detention Services staff participated in a webinar training pertaining to PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act). Policies and procedures are being updated and the staff are adapting to the changes. Several trainings were conducted to better educate the staff members. Two committees were formed (PREA Review and LGBTQI) to help facilitate the policy and procedural changes.

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 there was training at the Warren Township on LGBTQI youth in which Jennifer Zakaras and Marlon Clark attended the training. This training discussed how to provide services to the LGBTQI population.

Probation Officer Estela Kohl attended Basic Training through AOIC in the month of December 2016.

## **Partnerships**

Probation continues to conduct bi-monthly service reviews with Psychological Services, Lake County Health Department, and NICASA. A representative from the Independence Center in Waukegan attended a unit meeting to discuss services they offer to adults 18 year old and over with a history of mental illness.

Probation Officer Lorenzo Bess coordinated a tour of the juvenile facility for Highland Park Police Department for the month of December, 2016.

A tour was conducted of FACE-IT and detention for Columbia University students on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Members of the John Howard Association were given a tour of the Juvenile Division's programs in August 2016.

Peace Circle Groups in FACE-IT and detention continue on a weekly basis.

Quentin Road Baptist Church and the Monday evening Church group continue to hold voluntary church services on Monday and Thursday evenings.

Conflict resolution (IBARJ) continues to take place in detention.

FACE-IT attended the following community outings in 2016: The Lincolnshire Marriott Theatre's productions *Singing in the Rain*, *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying*, *Sister Act*, *Evita*, and *Man of La Mancha*; the BAPS Swaminarayan Temple in Bartlett, Illinois; Didier Farm; Ryerson Farms; and the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie, Illinois; and the Quentin Road Baptist Church Christmas Pageant. These events promote social development with the youth and allowed them to experience different cultures, religions, and social activities.

On October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 a meeting was held with Superintendent Lynette Hampton, Deputy Superintendent Dennis McMahan, Mary Marsolek from Psychological Services, and Nick Caputo, and Michele Esser, from the Lake County Health Department to discuss clients in detention with difficult mental health issues.

The "Read for Life Program" conducted its 100<sup>th</sup> Book Discussion/Celebration on October 28<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the Vernon Area Public Library. The program has been active in the FACE-IT program since 2006. In addition to the "Read for Life

Program” the FACE-IT participants have begun attending a “Living Literature Program” at the Vernon Area Public Library on a monthly basis.

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 a meeting was held with Superintendent Lynette Hampton, Deputy Superintendents Momodou Njie and Dennis McMahan, Psychological Services Mary Marsolek, Principal Juvenile Counselor Jennifer Zakaras and Nick Caputo, Michele Esser, and Shawna Fister from the Lake County Health Department to discuss PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) and their possible roles and responsibilities in regards to the PREA once it is implemented in the detention center and FACE-IT.

### **Jr’s Challenge**

Jr’s Challenge facilitators will be attending the annual Roundtable event in March at Camp Manitoqua and Retreat Center to kick off the 2016 season. Training will also take place at the Depke Juvenile Justice Complex for utilizing portable equipment

During the month of April, the Mundelein High School Leadership class completed the Jr’s Challenge Course. A course was conducted with all new staff and interns as well.

On 05-16-16, Mario Urbina and Jesus Rodriguez were certified to manage the Jr’s Challenge Course. We are in the process of scheduling courses for the upcoming season and have reached out to Lake County Health Department and NICASA to offer this opportunity to the youth Court involved and in these programs, as well as Adult Probation.

During the month of June, Adult Probation Officers and Interns participated on the Jr’s Challenge Course low ropes and high ropes course. Upon completion of the course, they expressed enjoyment of the course, felt more of a connection with one another, and were each able to take away something they learned from the course with respect to application to their lives and enhancing their interactions with their clients.

During the months of July and August, Probation clients as well as FACE-IT residents, participated on the Jr’s Challenge Course.

### **Education Program**

Teachers and teacher’s aide attended APEX training in June 2016. New computers were installed in all classrooms in detention and FACE-IT.

A new classroom in detention was completed in July 2016 that will be used for lower function residents and residents pursuing their GED.

Smart Boards and mac books were purchased for the classrooms in Detention and FACE-IT to enhance the education program.

### **Inspections**

Health Department conducted a semi-inspection of the kitchen on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. The kitchen passed the inspection without any violations.

DJJ conducted a semi-inspection of the detention center on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2016.

### **Upgrades**

The camera system in the detention center is currently being upgraded to better enhance safety and security.

New key card access system was installed in the complex to enhance safety and security. It was completed on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

A new warmer, steamer, and table were installed in the kitchen.

New cafeteria tables were purchased for the FACE-IT program.