

News from the Juvenile Probation and Detention Services

Division: Fact Sheet

Last update: April 20, 2018

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, Senior Probation Officer Margo Ferretti, was elected to serve another term as Secretary.

Probation Officers continue to be members of the Illinois Probation and Court Services Association and 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 01-23-18, Claudia Gilhooley attended the Welfare Council of Highland Park / Highwood meeting.

The Detention Trauma and LGBTQI committees continue to meet on a regular basis.

Programming

A Music Appreciation Group has started on a weekly basis in detention. The residents are listening to all different types of genres. They have been encouraged weekly to "Listen Differently" which is the motto of the group. The residents have also been given and completing writing prompts during each meeting.

The Probation Department has implemented their new program, HOPE (High-Risk Offender Programming through Engagement). This intensive six-month program will service high-risk youth in the community by providing support through engagement in best practices/ evidence-based programming and service projects, to prevent removal of the youth from their home, provide youth the skills to become productive members of society and strengthen the family unit. The Lake County Health Department will be providing the program with a full-time therapist through their System of Care Grant.

A meeting was held to discuss the Detention garden project set to begin in late April/early May.

The Probation Department is in the process of reviewing/evaluating its Victim Assistance Program.

Planning

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

The Juvenile Division has been meeting on a regular basis to address new legislation, including automatic expungements. A policy has been created and employees have been trained.

The Juvenile Division is in the process of evaluating our Home Detention Program.

Partnerships

Probation continues to conduct bi-monthly service reviews with Psychological Services, Lake County Health Department, and NICASA.

A representative from Catholic Charities presented at the Probation Unit meeting regarding their Violence Intervention and Prevention Program.

FACE-IT participants continue to volunteer at the 1st Presbyterian Church serving food and setting up cots for the homeless on a weekly basis.

FACE-IT participants continue book discussions at the Vernon Area Public Library monthly.

Volunteer Yoga classes continue weekly in detention.

Brian Isom from Adult Probation presented to residents in Detention for Black History Month.

Voluntary Crocheting is being done in detention three times a week.

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

In February, Superintendent Lynette Hampton conducted a presentation at the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism in Gurnee.

Juvenile Probation / Detention Services has started meeting with DCFS on a quarterly basis as an ongoing effort to improve outcomes for dually-involved youth.

Juveniles counselors from the Trauma Committee participated in a 5K race in support of Trauma Awareness.

The FACE-IT Program has partnered with Lake County Workforce Development to develop a job skills program for all participants.

Training and Education

Probation Officers and Juvenile Counselors continue to attend trainings to promote improved customer service, technical skills and professional development.

Probation Officers, Juvenile Counselors and Managers participated in Mental Health First Aid Training in the months of January and February through the Lake County Health Department.

On 01-22-18, Bill Abernathy attended the Illinois State University Career Fair.

In January, the teachers in secure detention attended a training on *Smart Boards*.

During the month of January, Juvenile Counselors were trained on completing pat down searches by the Lake County Sheriff's Department.

On 02-01-18, Managers attended *Understanding and Addressing Nonsuicidal Self-Injury* at Warren Township Youth and Family Services.

In February, Deputy Superintendent Dennis McMahan attended ServSafe Food Protection Manager Certification training and has been certified as Director of Food Services.

Karin McLafferty and Robert Brothers attended training through the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts on the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) in February.

Teachers and teacher's aide attended the training, *Legal Issues in Special Education: Putting Theory into Practice*. This training was sponsored by the Lake County Education Services.

On 02-14-18, Principal Probation Officer William Abernathy

In March, Unit Manager Darrin Taylor attended the training *Growing Like a Weed: The Effects of Marijuana on the Brain*.

Detention's medical employees completed a *Blood Borne Pathogens* training for detention employees.

In March, Unit Manager Jennifer Zakaras attended the Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention training.

On 04-15-18, Probation Officers received training from the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts on *Behavior Analysis*.

Dr. Andrews, from Kane County Juvenile Justice, conducted an LGBTQI training for detention, intake, and FACE-IT staff.

Education staff attended the Juvenile Educators Conference pertaining to education for incarcerated youth.

Education staff attended a MAC Book training at the Vernon Area Public Library

Awards/ Promotions

On 01-12-18, the JOA Awards Ceremony was held at Mickey Finns. Karin McLafferty was the recipient of the Juvenile Justice Award and Mario Urbina was the recipient of the Past President's Award.

The Juvenile Probation Department was this year's recipient of the *Golden Gavel Award* at the Annual Employee Awards Ceremony.

DATA Focus Group & Technology

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

Girl Wise

The 15th Annual Girl Wise Conference was held on April 7, 2018 at the College of Lake County. The conference targets middle school through high school-age girls and is dedicated to educating, supporting, and promoting them to develop into healthy, resilient and productive women. A total of 62 girls and 50 chaperones attended this all-day event. Additionally, about 50 volunteers helped coordinate and assisted on the day of the conference. This year's conference kicked off with breakfast generously donated by NICASA, a resource fair, and Junior's Challenge Course programming, a "low ropes course" facilitated by juvenile probation officers and youth counselors with the 19th Judicial Circuit Court. There was also a clothing drive with new/gently used donations, including many dresses for attendees to take and wear to prom! Opening remarks were given by the Director of Juvenile Probation and Detention Services, James Edwards; Lake County State's Attorney, Mike Nerheim; and Regional Superintendent of Schools, Roycealee Wood. The keynote speaker this year was Juan Ortiz. His presentation focused on empowerment and the ability to make the best of any situation.

Lunch was generously donated by the Regional Office of Education. The remaining portion of the day included two breakout workshops for high school ages and two breakout workshops for middle school ages. These workshops were presented by OMNI Youth Services, The Zacharias Center, Randi Moxi and Nicole Sicuro Leipski. There was also a workshop for chaperones on technology, presented by Carol Gudbrandsen of the Lake County State's Attorney's Office, Cyber Crimes Division. The day ended with a raffle and every attendee walked away with a parting gift! Any future participants interested should visit <http://19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us/1230/Girl-Wise-Conference> in early September to begin registering for the next conference!

Jr's Challenge

On 05-16-16, Mario Urbina and Jesus Rodriguez were certified to manage the Jr's Challenge Course. This certification is good for three years.

On 02-26-18, facilitators attended the annual Roundtable Event at JCYS's Camp Henry Horner in Ingleside, Illinois.

The 2018 season kicked off with a new employee and intern challenge course on 04-12-18. FACE-IT residents participated in an all-day course on 04-19-18.

The Juvenile Division is in the process of piloting a Leadership Course to identified seventh grade middle school students displaying high-risk behaviors in lieu of suspensions.

Public Service

Youth continue to find public service sites on their own.

Internships

On 01-11-18, Ardel Christian from Trinity International University started his internship and will be primarily assigned to secure detention.

On 01-29-18, Kelsey Leger from University of Wisconsin, Parkside started her internship and will be primarily assigned to the Probation unit.

New Hires

Grecia Ramirez was hired as a Juvenile Counselor in detention on 1/31/2018.

Melissa Villarreal and Nick Vice were hired as Juvenile Counselors in Detention in the month of February.

Tour

The Vernon Hills Police Department was given a tour of the detention center.

Associate Judges DeRue and Melius received a tour of the Juvenile Justice Complex.

Colleen Quigley, a student from the University of Iowa was given a tour of the Juvenile Justice Complex.

A tour was given to the Vernon Hills Police Department and Casey Morgan Assistant Director of Judicial Operations.

Inspections

On February 6th, 2018 Juvenile Detention, Intake, and the FACE-IT Program passed the PREA Audit and are now in compliance.

Upgrades/Automation

The Juvenile Division obtained ten new CPR mannequins that meet the new AHA guidelines. Five new training AED replicas were purchased.

New gun lock boxes were installed outside of intake and the Sheriffs Department entrance.

Central Control has gone green by completing forms on the computer versus use of hard copies.

The Website Content Editors for the Juvenile Division have continued to update the website by providing the following online: payment options, minimum group reporting submission of monthly reports, PREA information, Jr's Challenge participant packet.

Seven new cameras were installed in detention to cover blind spots per the PREA Audit.

Juvenile Probation Officers and Home Detention Officers upgraded to smart phones.