

Cumberland County

Adult Probation Newsletter

Happy Holidays!

This edition marks the one-year anniversary of the Adult Probation Newsletter. We hope you have found it useful to learn about the Adult Probation Office, as we have shared our new initiatives, staff updates and staff achievements over the last year. In 2022, Adult Probation will continue to strive to meet the needs of the individuals we serve. Please continue to join us quarterly for our updates.



Overdose Intervention Court (OIC) By Nate Fazenbaker



On February 27th, 2018, as a response to the growing Heroin Epidemic the Cumberland County Courts started Opioid Intervention Court. It was originally developed to be an early intervention program targeting individuals in the Criminal Justice system who were suffering from Opioid dependency and abuse. The goal was to reduce overdose deaths and to start the recovery process immediately, while Offender's cases were proceeding through the court process. The program also accepted individuals on active supervision by the courts who's Opiate abuse warranted a more severe intervention. During the program the participants were required to be in court up to 5 times a week to meet in person with the Judge and team. The court team consists of Judge Brewbaker, members of Restorative Sanctions team, District Attorney, Public Defender, and Probation. They were also assigned a Certified Recovery Specialist who are part of the team. As participants moved through the program and met milestones, their requirements and reporting lessened. During the period from February 27th, 2018, to December 20th 2021, the program had 197 participants. 87 participants successfully completed the program and saw over 67% of the participants improve their employment, and financial situation upon completion.

Noticing a shift in the drug trends, and a continued commitment by the courts to assist individuals with Substance Abuse issues, there were changes made to the existing program. Starting in September 2021 Opioid Intervention Court became Overdose Intervention Court (OIC) and expanded the parameters for participation. The substance abuse issues by participants no longer just require an opiate addiction, and may include Methamphetamines, Cocaine, and certain other drugs. The total time in the program has been extended from 4-6 months to around 12 months. The number of times required to appear in court per week has reduced, but supervision remains the same. As a result of participation, the individuals will have their criminal charges dismissed or drastically reduced following successful completion. The parameters of the program remain the same with Treatment and recovery being the primary focal point. With the development of the new OIC, and continuing adaptation by the Courts to address the growing substance abuse issues in the community, we hope to see continued participation. Through a treatment oriented -team approach and with the dedication and hard work put in by our participant's this new program creates hope, and a path forward for individuals dealing with substance abuse issues.

Shop With a Cop

Probation Officers Karen Rhinehart and Brad Stubbs participated in Shop With a Cop on Saturday, December 3rd, 2021. The event was held at the New Kingston Fire Company from 8-2 PM. The event was organized by the Silver Springs Twp. Police Department. The morning started with approximately 30 children from the Cumberland Valley School District having breakfast with Police Officers from numerous West Shore



municipalities, Fire Fighters and 2 Cumberland County Adult Probation Officers. Before the children were taken to shop at Walmart on the Carlisle Pike, they had time to climb and jump on the fire equipment. Two buses took the participants to Walmart and each child was permitted to spend approximately \$400 on items they wanted to purchase. After the shopping was completed, everyone returned to the Fire Company and had lunch provided by Chick-Fil-A and had the presents wrapped. The event was enjoyed by all, and the children seemed very appreciative of the event.

Job Fair

On October 28th, 2021, the Adult Probation Department, in partnership with CareerLink, sponsored a Job Fair at New Life Church in Carlisle. CareerLink had reported that recent Job Fairs they hosted had not been successful because employment is plentiful. Fortunately, the Job Fair was very successful and approximately 51 people came seeking



employment. There were 16 employers on hand, willing to hire returning citizens. The Job Fair provided for on-the-spot interviews and immediate hiring. 11 returning citizens left with a job and 9 others had job interviews scheduled with employers from the Job Fair. CareerLink was very impressed with the turnout and have asked Adult Probation to host another Job Fair in the Spring of 2022. Thanks to Pastor Ryan of New Hope Church who is always so gracious to the needs of the Adult Probation Department and those we serve.

Staff Accomplishments

Jenna Kurtz and Kyle Latimer graduated from the County Adult Probation/Parole Officer Basic Training Academy on December 16th, 2021. Congratulations Kyle and Jenna!!

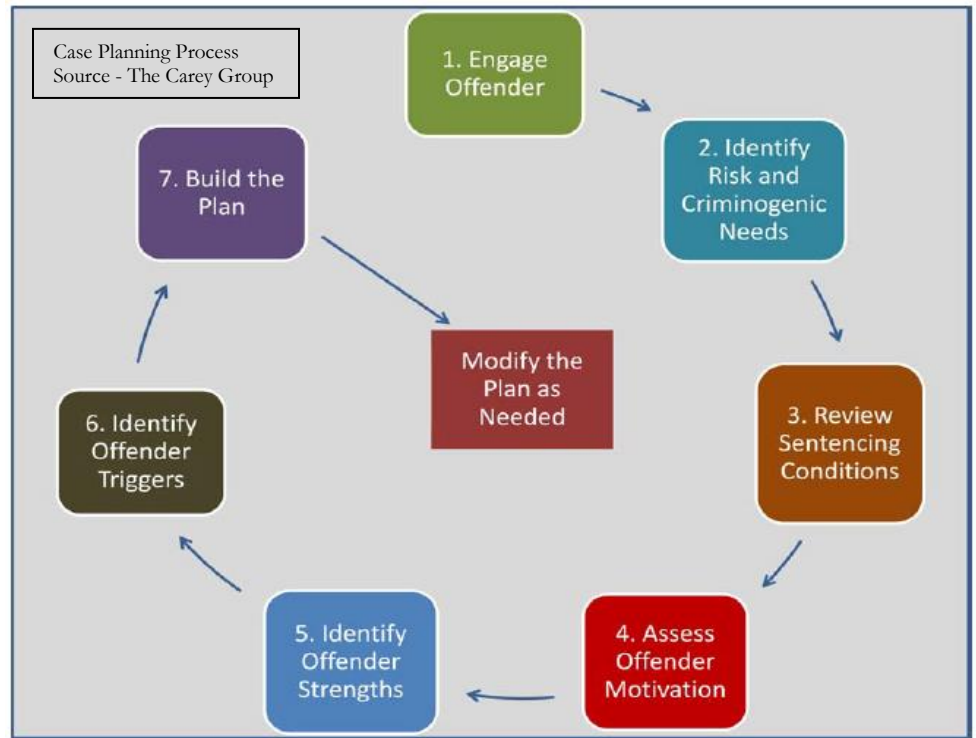


On October 26th, 2021, eight staff members from the Adult Probation Department became certified as instructors in APPA/NCTI's Cognitive Behavioral Therapy-Real Colors/Crossroads Program. Criminal Attitudes and Behavior Patterns is a Criminogenic Need that if addressed, can reduce recidivism. The first course began on December 16th, 2021, with 11 participants. Probation plans on running regular groups throughout the year. Thanks again to Pastor Ryan for letting our office use New Life Church for the groups. The Real Colors/Crossroads Program has been successfully used for the past 6 years with the Treatment Court participants.

EBP Initiative

The Department continues to grow our use of evidence-based practices with the recent implementation of case planning. Over the past year, probation officers participated in training on the effective use of case planning followed by practice sessions to hone the skills learned in training. Historically, when an offender is placed on probation/parole supervision the conditions of probation/parole, also referred to as the offender supervision plan, are reviewed with and signed by the offender. The offender supervision plan contains the rules of probation/parole, a list of dos and don'ts, primarily don'ts, that offenders are required to follow in order to stay in compliance with the Court. In addition to the offender supervision plan, offenders are now encouraged to complete the activities contained in a case plan. The case plan is the backbone of the supervision process, a mutually agreed upon roadmap for probation officers and offenders to identify and solve problems that could hinder the offender's success. It is a written document, establishing supervision goals with timelines to complete activities that are calculated to address the offender's individual criminogenic needs. Prior to preparing the case plan, the probation officer identifies the offender's individual criminogenic needs and risk to commit future crimes through the use of a validated assessment tool. The research shows that behavior change occurs

best by targeting moderate/high risk driver criminogenic needs (i.e. anti-social personality, anti-social attitudes/cognitions, and anti-social peers). The case plan is flexible and changing as circumstances change over the period of supervision, in contrast to the supervision plan which is static, very rigid and designed to uphold compliance to the rules of probation/parole. Case planning advances outcomes in the short term (completion of supervision goals) and in the long term by promoting behavior change in offenders, reducing recidivism as well as improving public safety. The case plan can help offenders by establishing supervision priorities and clearly defining expectations designed to improve outcomes. It also allows the offender to gauge their own success. For the probation officer, the case plan prioritizes offender skill building objectives and provides a structured document that improves efficiency. It allows probation officers to plan activities in advance to address a problem area rather than just reacting to problems as they occur. The case plan also provides a consistent way to measure the offender's success throughout the period of supervision.



Department Statistics (October 1 - December 30, 2021)

- 138 ORAS/CST Assessments Completed
- 209 Pre-Sentence Investigations Completed
- 641 Successful Field Visits Made
- 165 Additional Attempted Field Visits
- 69 Pre-Parole Investigations



Finally, as we end our first year, thank you to all those individuals, agencies and offices who work with the Adult Probation Department to make what we do possible. We look forward to our continued collaboration and success. Happy New Year!!

