

Cumberland County

Adult Probation Newsletter

Happy Spring!

We are sure everyone is glad winter is over and warm weather is upon us. It is that time again when Adult Probation would like to share with everyone what has been happening in our office since the beginning of 2022.



TOMS Court By Karen Rhinehart



What is TOMS Court and how does it work? TOMS Court is Cumberland County's version of mental health court. TOMS stands for Together Optimizing Mental-Health Solutions, this name was used to honor Judge Brewbaker's father (Tom) who suffered with mental illness and ultimately ended his life via suicide. The current TOMS Court team consists of Judge Brewbaker, Paul Polensky (Coordinator), Kim Metzger, Esq. (ADA), Bradon Toomey, Esq. (Assistant Public Defender), Karen Rhinehart (Adult Probation/Parole Officer), Jon Shank and Amittee Griffith (Case Managers from Penn State Holy Spirit), Brian Wilson (MH/IDD representative), Christine Ramond (CCP representative), Linda Lawlor (Sheriff's Deputy), Julie Neubauer (Sadler Clinic representative), SSD Drachma (Adult Probation and Parole's Service Dog) and Matt Kudrick (Judge Brewbaker's Law Clerk).

TOMS Court is designed to help those who are suffering with a serious and persistent mental illness which has escalated to a point they have become involved within the criminal justice system as a result of their mental illness. Serious and persistent mental illnesses that are pre-requisites for TOMS Court include a diagnosis of one of the following within the last two years Major Depressive Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder, or Other Specified Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorder. TOMS Court is designed to address new criminal charges, but an applicant/participant can be on supervision for old charges and if accepted into TOMS Court will be supervised by the TOMS Court Probation Officer, Karen Rhinehart.

Those who wish to apply for TOMS may fill out the application or be referred by a variety of resources including Probation Officers, Police Officers, Attorneys, MDJs, Mental Health Case Managers, Prison Staff, Judges or Family Members. After an individual submits an application with the required documentation, the case is reviewed by the District Attorney's Office who has ultimate veto power. After approval by the District Attorney's Office, Jon Shank will review the records and decide if they meet the minimum diagnostic and treatment requirements. If approved, Jon will contact the individual to get a better understanding of their situation and treatment history. If approved by Jon Shank, the individual will be scheduled to observe TOMS court. After observation of TOMS Court, the TOMS Court PO will set up an interview with the individual to gather information related to a Pre-sentence Investigation Report (PSI). After the TOMS Court PO interview, the team will discuss everyone's findings and make a final decision. The team's final decision will be relayed to the applicant's attorney by Paul Polensky. If accepted into the program, a PSI will be written and provided to the team.

To enter TOMS Court an individual will plead guilty to the top charge on their docket(s). If they successfully complete TOMS Court, their charges will either be dismissed or dismissed and expunged. If they are unable to complete TOMS Court they will be sentenced on their charges. TOMS Court expected length is approximately 18 – 24 months consisting of 4 phases. Phase 1 is a minimum of three months and requires weekly attendance at Court. Phase 2 is a minimum of four months and requires attendance at Court every other



Together Optimizing Mental-Health Solutions

week. Phase 3 lasts a minimum of four months and requires attendance in Court every three weeks. Phase 4 is a minimum of six months and requires attendance in Court every four weeks. In addition to attending Court, participants must remain compliant with drug testing, and both mental health and drug and alcohol treatment. They also meet with their probation officer and case manager on a regular basis, and work on their goals given in Court as well as their case plan and any goals that may have been assigned by treatment providers.

Challenges are part of growth and are dealt with on many levels with TOMS Court participants. Sanctions and rewards are based on each individual and their progress and/or history of sanctions. Sanctions are on a graduated scale and can include writing assignments (essays and/or worksheets), house arrest, community service and/or incarceration. Each success is celebrated with the participants and when they complete the program, they participate in a graduation ceremony.

Job Fair

On April 28, 2022, Adult Probation, in partnership with Career Link, will host our second Job Fair at New Life Community Church. All employers coming to the Job Fair are willing to hire returning citizens. At this point, there are at least 25 employers registered to be at the Job Fair. At our last Job Fair in October 2021, 11 individuals left the Job Fair with employment. Nine other individuals had job interviews set up. This is a great opportunity for our offenders to find employment or even seek better employment. Thank you, Pastor Ryan, for letting Adult Probation and Career Link use New Life Community Church for this important event.

Looking for a New Start?
find it at our **Job Fair**

If you are, or have been, involved in the Criminal Justice System and are looking for employment, this Job Fair is for you!

When: April 28, 2022 . Thursday . 10am - 2pm
Where: New Life Community Church
64 East North Street . Carlisle

Details:

- Job fair is for individuals involved with **Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation, and Domestic Relations** (re-entrants welcome)
- Food service, warehousing, office work, and retail employers will be represented
- Bring resume (if possible) and a form of identification
- On-site resume assistance
- Apply on-site
- Potential on-site interviews

Questions: Ashley Rohm, Cumberland Re-Entry Coordinator • aroh@cpcpa.net • 717.240.6522

Sponsored by: Workshop by Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

Staff Updates



Ashley

Cam

- On February 28, 2022, Cam Strohe joined the staff of Adult Probation. Cam graduated from Shippensburg University in May 2020, with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. He received his Master of Science in Criminal Justice in August of 2021. Cam was on the Track and Field Team at Shippensburg and was a Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) champion. Cam started in Probation as a Transfer Officer but will be taking over the Sexual Offender caseload.
- Ashley Shughart started with Adult Probation on March 14, 2022, as an Administrative Assistant. Prior to her employment at Probation, Ashley worked in the kitchen at the Claremont Nursing & Rehabilitation Center beginning in 2011. In 2015, Ashley became a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and worked in this capacity at Claremont before making the career to change to Adult Probation.
- March 11, 2022 was Angie Chiara Williams last day with Adult Probation. Angie left Probation to be a Regional Training Specialist at Gaudenzia Drug and

Alcohol Programs. Angie had been doing a lot of training throughout the state in Motivational Interviewing and became an excellent trainer. Gaudenzia will benefit from Angie's excellent training skills as well as her knowledge on addiction and recovery. Adult Probation wishes Angie great success in her new venture.

- Kara Stepanchick will be leaving the Sexual Offender Unit and taking over Angie Chiara Williams DUI/Administrative caseload. Kara did an excellent job with the sexual offender caseload and made some great improvements to the program.
- It was with great sadness to report that Cyndi Stimeling, our Administrative Assistant for the last 23 years, passed away on January 20, 2022, at age 48 due to complications with heart failure. A visitation was held for her at Musselman Funeral Home on February 1, 2022. Cyndi will be greatly missed by the staff of Adult Probation.



Cyndi

New Initiatives

In past Newsletters, Adult Probation has shared new initiatives being attempted by our office to enhance the lives of our offenders. During Covid, POs were not scheduling individuals for Court for technical violations. There was a back log of DUI offenders who were not in compliance with their mandatory DUI requirements who were approaching their max dates. In November 2020, Adult Probation began holding Administrative Hearings with offenders who were approaching the max date of their sentence but had not completed their DUI requirements. The goal of the hearings was to resolve the case, so a Court hearing was not necessary. The Administrative Hearings have been held by Zoom with Chief Darby Christlieb and Supervisor Ryan Donlevy in attendance. Also present for the hearing, is the DUI Officer assigned to each offender. Prior to the hearing, each offender is mailed a copy of their petition and a hearing notice. During the hearings, the petition is reviewed, and many suggestions are made as to how individuals can complete the requirements of their DUI without a Court appearance. The hearings have proven to be very successful, and individuals scheduled for an Administrative Hearing have been grateful to have the opportunity to resolve issues before being scheduled for Court. Particularly around the time when Covid was at its worst, offenders were grateful to be given an extra opportunity to complete their DUI requirements. The Administrative Hearings are available for all DUI offenders regardless of where they live. There have also been numerous transfer cases scheduled for administrative hearings.



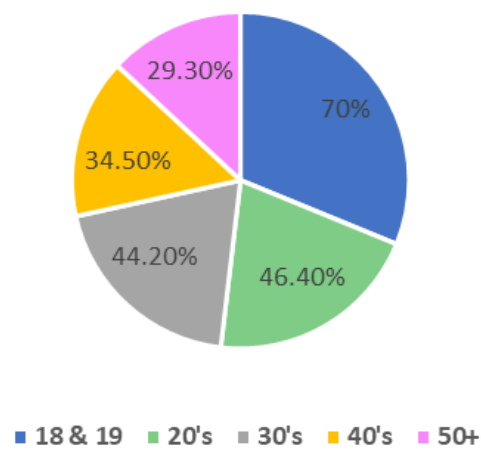
As of April 1, 2022, there have been 186 individuals scheduled for Administrative Hearings. Ninety-nine of these cases have been closed without any court action. There are 35 cases that have open petitions and remain open. There are 28 active bench warrants. The remaining cases have been revoked and re-sentenced.

EBP Initiative

Several years ago, the department started down the path of becoming an evidence-based organization. The journey began in 2016 with the implementation of a 4th generation risk/needs assessment tool. Assessment helps officers to identify the offender’s risk to commit addition crimes and the criminogenic factors that lead to reoffending. The department recently implemented case planning, another evidence-based practice. Between those two initiatives a whole host of practices proven through research to reduce recidivism were implemented. An important part of the EBP process is reviewing our outcomes to determine if the practices put in place are working effectively. The department recently concluded a recidivism study in partnership with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and Indiana University of Pennsylvania. This study, the first of its kind in Pennsylvania, has laid the groundwork for future recidivism studies of offenders placed on county probation/parole in all 67 counties. The study analyzed 4,887 offenders over three years starting 2016-17. Researchers defined recidivism as a rearrest for a felony, misdemeanor, or summary offense during the study period. The analysis found that offenders placed on county probation supervision recidivated at a rate at 39.4% for the 2016 cohort and 36.5% for the 2017 cohort, while offenders released from the county jail recidivated at a rate of 46.1% and 47.5% respectively. The following are key takeaways:

1. Young offenders recidivate at the highest rate - ages 18-19 at a rate of 70% compared to people in their twenties at 46.4%, thirties at 44.2%, forties at 34.5%, fifty and over at 29.3%. This shows we need to focus more resources on the younger age groups.
2. People released from Cumberland County Prison (CCP) after being held for non-payment of fines and cost recidivated at the highest rate (55.8%) as compared to the lowest rate of recidivism (people paroled by the Court) at 38.3%. This speaks to the value of the supervision provided by Adult Probation. People released pretrial on bail without any supervision from the courts recidivated at a rate of 47.9%. Again, showing that some form of supervision may help to reduce recidivism.
3. People who were convicted for a felony were more likely to be rearrested for a misdemeanor (60.6%). Those convicted of a misdemeanor were more likely to be re-arrested on another misdemeanor (76.2%). This shows that

Recidivism by Age Group



for the most part, those being rearrested are not committing more serious offenses which speaks to the department's effectiveness.

4. The recidivism rate for the 2017 cohort of probation cases decreased 7% as compared to the 2016 cohort. This corresponds with adult probations push to become an evidence-based organization. In 2016, we began using assessment to determine supervision levels (high and moderate risk offenders receive the most attention while low risk offenders receive very little attention). During the same time period we also started using other research backed principles to guide our decision-making process.

The study shows that the evidence-based practices implemented within the department over the past several years are showing promise. Additional study over several more years is required to gauge the departments true effectiveness at improving outcomes. We realize as a department and as a system, to become effective at reducing recidivism we must regularly examine our outcomes and improve or eliminate the processes that are ineffective while expanding the practices that are proven through research to be most effective.

Department Statistics (January 1 - March 31, 2022)

- 152 ORAS/CST Assessments Completed
- 247 Pre-Sentence Investigations Completed
- 791 Successful Field Visits Made
- 201 Additional Attempted Field Visits
- 79 Pre-Parole Investigations



This Newsletter goes out at a time when the staff of Adult Probation are seeing our offenders struggle severely with substance abuse. The number of positive urines for Fentanyl and other serious drugs continues to rise each week. Thank you to all the offices and agencies who work with Adult Probation to meet the needs of our offenders.

Our Vision

The Cumberland County Adult Probation Office is committed to rebuilding the lives of the people we serve to provide for healthier and safer communities.

Our Mission

To increase the quality of life of offenders by focusing and building on their strengths and working towards reducing their thinking errors and harmful behavior patterns. Our office is focused on meeting the individual needs of our offenders through the use of Evidenced-Based practices by utilizing opportunities for offender rehabilitation and treatment. By doing this, we will be able to reduce recidivism and increase public safety.

Guiding Principles

- Engages collaboratively with our stakeholders and the community.
- Honors the belief that people can change.
- We value impartiality, accountability, professionalism, and a strong work ethic.
- Promotes honest, respectful, and forthright communication.
- Integrity and ethical conduct are essential at all times.