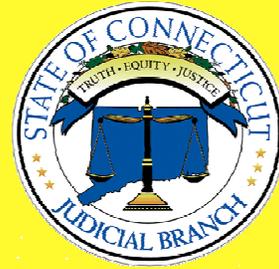


CSSD Chronicle

State of Connecticut Judicial Branch

Court Support Services Division

Thursday, July 15, 2010



Probation, Parole & Community Supervision Week July 18-24, 2010

The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) is celebrating 35 years of international support and education to its members, and has requested all state governments to designate a special week to recognize and honor the probation, parole, and community supervision personnel who work with offenders. Here in Connecticut, Governor M. Jodi Rell issued a proclamation declaring July 18-24, 2010 as “Probation, Parole & Community Supervision Week,” urging citizens to recognize the outstanding achievements of probation and parole officers, as well as other community supervision personnel. (*A scanned version of the proclamation can be found at the end of this newsletter.*)

CSSD Executive Director Bill Carbone noted that the Judicial Branch, and the Court Support Services Division are proud to join the Governor in honoring the dedicated probation professionals who exemplify the work of John Augustus, considered by many to be the founder of probation services. Augustus believed that many an offender’s hearts “were not wholly depraved, but gave promise of better things” and affirmed that the overarching purpose of probation is rehabilitation. The work that CSSD employees do is a testament to that vision.

Probation’s Historical Roots—The idea of probation for criminal offenders had its beginnings in the 1840s. The APPA website, www.appa-net.org provides a brief overview of probation’s auspicious start which is reprinted here:

“John Augustus, a Boston cobbler, is credited as the ‘Father of Probation.’ In 1841, he persuaded the Boston Police court to release an adult drunkard into his custody rather than sending him to prison—the prevalent means of dealing with law violations at that time. His efforts at reforming his first charge were successful, and he soon convinced the court to release other offenders to his supervision. However, this first unofficial probation officer did not perform his altruistic work without controversy. His efforts were resisted by police, court clerks, and turnkeys who were paid only when offenders were incarcerated.”

“In 1843, Augustus broadened his efforts to children when he took responsibility for two girls, ages eight and ten, and an 11-year-old boy, all of whom had been accused of stealing. By 1846, he had

taken on the supervision of about 30 children ranging from nine to 16 years old.”

Probation Now, and in the Future—APPA’s website goes on to say that “today, probation is a nationally recognized, court-ordered sanction that allows a person to remain in the community under the supervision of a probation officer. The conditions of this community-based supervision can vary. It can include jail time, fines, restitution, community service or other sanctions. Probation can also require offenders to fulfill a predetermined number of visits to their probation officer. Probation officers work hand-in-hand with community groups and social services agencies to provide offenders and victims with the support and services they need.”

Connecticut’s Probation History—Since the 1950’s, Connecticut’s own probation services have undergone significant and dramatic changes. In March of 1956, the state legislature passed the *Adult Probation Act* and 44 full-time officers, all with college degrees and with an average criminal justice experience level of seven years, were appointed. The new officers augmented the then existing force of approximately 69 part-time and 18 full-time officers who had previously been providing the state’s probation services. On July 1, 1956 the first state *Office of Adult Probation* was established along with 19 field offices, and three district offices in Bridgeport, Hartford and Willimantic. For the first time, probation coverage was available in all court locations throughout the state and work began on creating standardized policies and procedures for all offices.

Over the years, probation services have

continued to progress and reflect national criminal justice standards. However, the last ten years have been especially productive in Connecticut with a Judicial Branch reorganization in 1999 that created the Court Support Services Division. Adult and Juvenile Probation now work collaboratively with other CSSD departments to provide clients and the community with some of the best services available. Major initiatives to promote the professionalism of Connecticut's probation officers and provide "best practice" probation services to offenders include:

- *Use of validated, scientifically based assessments to identify proper risk levels and client needs to ensure appropriate service referrals
- *Motivational Interviewing (MI) training to officers, a technique which has proven effective in changing behavior and criminal thinking patterns
- *Increasing resources to establish manageable caseloads so that officers have the time necessary for quality interaction with clients
- *Use of evidence-based practices in contracted programs that are proven to be successful with offenders
- *Evaluation and quality control efforts to ensure that goals are being achieved and that the most effective services are being provided

CSSD's progressive and effective probation services culminated in national recognition with the accreditation of Adult Probation Services by the American Correctional Association (ACA) in 2006, and re-accreditation in 2009, along with the recent accreditation of Juvenile Probation Services in 2010. According to CSSD's Executive Director Bill Carbone, "Our journey toward risk reduction among offenders is going well and credit should be given to the dedication and professionalism of Connecticut's probation officers for that progress. The recent accreditations by ACA is a testament to their efforts. The citizens of Connecticut should be very proud and appreciative of our probation officers, and I welcome this opportunity to acknowledge them for their hard work."



***CSSD Juvenile Probation Officer Trainees
Graduation Ceremony, LOB, Hartford, June 4, 2010***

CSSD Graduates New Officers to Continue Our Work—Two classes of new probation officers, along with Family and Bail Services staff, recently held graduation ceremonies after successfully completing six months of pre-service training.

The CSSD Training Academy awarded diplomas to 19 Juvenile Probation Officer trainees, 12 Family Relation Counselor trainees, and seven Bail Services staff on June 4, 2010. The ceremony, held at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, was attended by family, friends, and other judicial personnel, including CSSD Executive Director William Carbone, who congratulated the class and wished them success in their new roles.

On June 11th, a similar graduation ceremony was held at the Supreme Court building in Hartford for 39 Adult Probation Officer trainees. In addition, a new tradition was instituted

with an award presentation for the "Outstanding Adult Probation Field Training Officer." The agency's first award recipient was George Hamberg, APO II from the Bristol office of Adult Probation.

Role of CSSD Field Training Officers—New APO trainees are paired with a veteran Field Training Officer (FTO) on the first day of Pre-service Training. FTOs facilitate on-the-job training and meet with the new probation officer on an as-needed basis during their probationary period. During her remarks at Hamberg's award presentation, Laura DiFelice, CSSD Training Academy Manager, noted that the duties of the FTO also include being a



CSSD Executive Director Bill Carbone (center) with “Outstanding Field Training Officer” George Hamberg, APO II (left), and APO Trainee Carlos Hernandez (right)

role model for the new trainee, as well as “clearly communicating the expectations of the agency, teaching the trainee the policies of the department...and evaluating the trainee on his or her progress as an Adult Probation Officer Trainee.”

DiFelice added that as the recent class of APO trainees approached the end of their training, they were asked to submit a statement about their FTO, to “explain how their FTO assisted and mentored them, and how their FTO impacted their professional growth within CSSD.”

APO Trainee Carlos Hernandez, from the Bristol Office of Adult Probation, began his winning statement by saying, “I have learned so much from my appointed Field Training Officer.” Hernandez went on to acknowledge Hamberg’s fairness and respect when dealing with offenders and noted, “George has been nothing less than helpful, selfless, gracious, and diligent in his quest to provide me with the skills necessary to perform my job duties to the best of my ability.” Hamberg responded to his award by saying, “Everyone at our office did a tremendous job assisting Carlos as a trainee. I think the role of an FTO is vital in making sure a trainee learns the job the

right way. I had great FTOs when I started and they helped me out a lot.”

These skills, modeled by an FTO, can make a significant impact on the individual Adult Probation Officer Trainee in terms of imprinting attitudes, style, values, and ethics in carrying out the duties of a Connecticut Adult Probation Officer. George Hamberg, as well as all the FTOs who are part of the training program, are well deserved of public recognition for the leadership they provide to their individual APO trainees.

In addition to Hamberg’s award at the graduation ceremony, special recognition was also given to CSSD Training Academy instructors Kristen Sirois and Ed Chmielewski in appreciation for their efforts in coordinating and implementing the new officer training process. “I was very pleased to see the Adult Probation Training Academy staff acknowledged for their hard work and professionalism,” said Laura DiFelice, CSSD Training Academy Manager. “This recognition validates their efforts in coordinating and delivering a comprehensive training curriculum with the assistance of CSSD adjunct trainers, and outside vendors, who are content experts.”

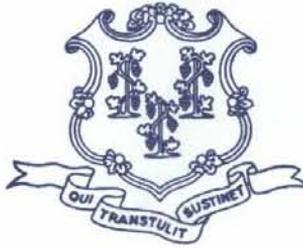


(Left to right) CSSD Executive Director Bill Carbone, Training Academy Instructors Kristen Sirois and Ed Chmielewski, and APO Trainee Carlos Hernandez

Congratulations!

The CSSD Chronicle is a regular publication of information and news about the Court Support Services Division. Questions or comments on this edition, or suggestions for future articles, can be directed to Linda.Grzeika@jud.ct.gov

State of



Connecticut

By Her Excellency M. Jodi Rell, Governor: an

Official Statement

WHEREAS, the great State of Connecticut is truly fortunate to have professional, dedicated and committed parole officers within the Department of Correction and probation officers within the Judicial Branch; and

WHEREAS, these officers supervise thousands of offenders in our state's communities; and

WHEREAS, these officers serve under often dangerous and difficult conditions; and

WHEREAS, probation and parole officers in the State of Connecticut daily protect the public through oversight of offenders; and

WHEREAS, the crime rate in the state's urban areas is positively impacted by the strict supervision of the offenders under these officers jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, an offender's potential for successfully rejoining law abiding society is greatly enhanced through the efforts of these officers; and

WHEREAS, offenders with special needs such as mental health issues are guided through reintegration by these officers; and

WHEREAS, these officers take swift and decisive action to remand offenders who are not compliant with the requirements of their release; and

WHEREAS, through their efforts, the state's finite correctional resources can be reserved for those who require incapacitation from society; and

WHEREAS, July 18-24 is National Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week; now

THEREFORE, I, M. Jodi Rell, Governor, do hereby officially proclaim the week of July 18-24, 2010 as

PROBATION, PAROLE AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION WEEK

in the State of Connecticut.



M. Jodi Rell
Governor