



ANNUAL REPORT

For
2013

In 2013 the Greene County Probation Department continued to provide mandated services to adults and juveniles in the community. Over the year, the department received 239 new adult probationers, either from local sentences or incoming transfers from other jurisdictions (other counties in New York or other states) In addition, 13 formal juvenile probationers were received; and another 3 in an informal capacity, after having been referred by the family court. At the end of the year, we were supervising 444 criminal court probationers, many of whom were serving more than one probation sentence. Of those 444 offenders, 191 were felons. This department continues to have a significant workload for the county size/population. For comparative purposes, neighboring Delaware County, with approximately the same population, was supervising 238 criminal offenders at the end of 2013; while neighboring Columbia County, with a population some 20,000 more, had 391.

Where appropriate, supervision included the requirements that offenders pay restitution, engage in available educational, vocational, and/or treatment programs, and submit DNA samples (collected by this department), in order to remain at liberty. 2013 saw the continuation of the required ignition interlock for DWI probationers who own or operate a vehicle. While most Greene County probationers sentenced under “Leandra’s Law” have avoided the interlock requirement by having disposed of their vehicles, this department’s officers remain responsible for reviewing those cases to ensure that offenders have disposed of the vehicles as claimed, with the offenders required to submit notarized affidavits to support their claims, or, as required by a law change late in the year, to state under oath in court that they had disposed of the vehicle. In 2013 the department’s main DWI officer, with the assistance of other officers and the Greene County Sheriff’s Department/STOP-DWI, was able to continue the DWI victim impact panel, to further educate those offenders as to the effect their conduct has on others.

In addition to the formal, i.e., court ordered, supervision cases, 2013 saw a total of 57 juvenile cases referred to the department. The majority of these were Juvenile Delinquents, youth from ages 7-15, inclusive; who have committed what would be crimes if they were adults. A Person In Need of Supervision, or PINS, is a “status offense,” i.e., the conduct which they have alleged to have displayed is age specific and not otherwise necessarily illegal. A total of 22 cases, including some “carryovers” from 2012, were successfully diverted from the family court system through participation with the department’s intake/diversion supervision program. Nearly one-half of those were juvenile delinquents, with their cases “terminated in their favor,” and sealed. Most of the family court cases are handled by a senior probation officer, who has a small adult caseload in addition to her juvenile tasks.

Another significant part of this department’s tasks include the preparation of pre-plea/pre-sentence (criminal court) and pre-dispositional (family court) investigations/reports. These reports, which require a probation officer to make assessments of an offender based on

legal history/delinquent behavior and social circumstances, are utilized by the courts as an aid in determining which offenders should remain in the community. In 2013, 297 were completed/closed for the (local and county) criminal courts, with another 2 completed for the family court. The vast majority of the criminal reports were completed by a single probation officer, as her main task.

In 2013 the department also continued to oversee an Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) program, which placed a variety of offenders at community service work sites throughout the county. This year again saw 57 individuals assigned to the work sites, with 50 satisfactorily completing their obligations. These numbers again far exceeded the targets of 50 assigned and 40 completed, therefore, we were again able to maximize our state reimbursement for this program. In addition to reducing the cost of confining such offenders, their presence at the work sites helped to show the community that offenders are being held accountable for their actions. A probation officer oversees this task, in addition to her overall adult probation supervision responsibilities.

The collection of restitution also remained a significant activity for the department. This obligation not only includes the collection of restitution from people who are under our direct supervision, but also from those who have been incarcerated/released on parole or have been otherwise conditionally discharged and still obligated to pay despite no other tie to this department. In 2013 we opened 70 adult restitution cases, either as a condition of probation or simply as the designated restitution collection agency for Greene County, regardless of the sentence. In 2013, the department collected \$120,915.30 in criminal restitution payable to crime victims, and \$4,640.39 in surcharges payable to the county. Additionally, another \$1,627.50 was collected from juvenile offenders. For 2013 over \$40,000 in collected restitution was payable to public or non-profit agencies, including nearly \$18,000 in welfare fraud reimbursement and nearly \$10,000 for unemployment fraud.

In 2013, the department continued to participate in a variety of collaborative efforts designed to enhance services to those in need. Those efforts, both in the juvenile and adult spheres, included the Greene County (criminal) Drug Court program, to which a senior probation officer has been assigned and has been a valuable asset to the Drug Court team; the Single Point of Access for troubled youth, and jointly (mental health clinician and senior probation officer) monitored sex offender treatment groups. The sex offender treatment groups, which are held at this department, include one session during the standard work day and another during the late afternoon/early evening. Thus, offenders are able to engage in services not only at a convenient time, but also in the local area, which also serves to aid in the local supervision process. Department members have also assisted local or regional substance abuse, child abuse, and juvenile justice teams. Officers have also partnered with various law enforcement agencies in

investigations, with several leading to the seizure of weapons from convicted felons, and another in the seizure of computers found to have obtained child pornography.

In 2013, this department underwent several operational changes. In June, state supervision rules for convicted and adjudicated offenders were revised, and all adult and juvenile offenders had to be classified into new supervision levels. More significantly, in late October, this department joined the vast majority of the other probation departments in the state in using the Caseload Explorer case management system. Getting the system in use required considerable training and “background” work, including having to manually input all of the open case records. Utilization of the system has allowed for members of the department to have far more case information readily available, and has also enabled the department to submit pre-sentence reports electronically to the state’s report repository. We have continued the use of the QuickBooks software program to facilitate restitution tracking and disbursement, with the intent of transferring that function into the financial component of the Caseload Explorer program sometime in 2014.

The attachments to this narrative should help to understand the level at which the department operated during the year 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Frisbee
Probation Director

Date of Report: April 1, 2014

WORKLOAD**SUPERVISION**

Adult criminal	Felony- 191	Misdemeanor- 253	Total	444
Adult family	1			1
Juvenile	Juvenile Delinquent- 0	Person In Need of Supervision- 28	Total	19
<u>Total formal probation supervision as of 12/31/13 (person count, not case count)</u>				464

Juvenile intake supervision	JD- 5, PINS- 8			13
Pre-adjudicatory supervision	JD- 1, PINS- 1			2
<u>Total persons supervised (formal and informal) as of 12/31/13</u>				479

INVESTIGATIONS

Total Completed/Closed	299*
	(297 criminal, 2 family)

*This number does not include reports closed by cancellation or death of offender.

RESTITUTION (probation sentences or otherwise)

Total Collected	\$ 127,184.19
	(\$120,916.30 -criminal)
	(\$ 4,640.39 -surcharge)
	(\$ 1,627.50 - family)

RESTITUTION COLLECTED FOR DISBURSEMENT TO PUBLIC/NON-PROFIT AGENCIES

Greene County DSS	\$	17,835.57
NYS Dept. of Labor	\$	9,702.75
Village of Catskill	\$	110.00
Columbia County DSS	\$	525.00
Athens Rural Cemetery	\$	1,300.00
Catskill Women's Softball League	\$	465.29
Greenville Central School	\$	127.00
Catskill Central School	\$	1,350.00
City of Albany	\$	338.94
Columbia Memorial Hospital	\$	702.25
Greene County Treasurer (surcharge)	\$	4,640.39
Heart of Catskill Association	\$	103.00
NYS Dept. of Taxation & Finance	\$	1,137.50
Windham Chamber of Commerce	\$	1,825.70
Total	\$	40,163.39

JUVENILE DELINQUENT (JD) & PERSONS IN NEED OF SUPERVISION (PINS)

Total referred to Probation	57
	(38 JD, 19 PINS)

Total diverted from family court	22
	(10 JD, 12 PINS)

ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION (COMMUNITY SERVICE)

57 adults assigned, 50 completed**

** The New York State Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives/Division of Criminal Justice Services provides different levels of reimbursement for each assigned adult and each completed adult. For 2013 we were able to obtain \$5,998 in reimbursement. Unfortunately, this reimbursement is based on the goals of 50 adults and 40 assigned, therefore, even though we vastly exceeded the goals, we did not receive any additional aid for it.

OTHER REIMBURSEMENTS

For 2013, New York State continued with a block grant for probation aid, a total of \$122,328. In addition, the Greene County STOP-DWI program funded 50% of the salary for the department's DWI officer, and another \$19,000 to assist in departmental functions.

Continued in 2013 from NYS was funding for probation cases sentenced under the "Leandra's Law" provisions to have an ignition interlock device installed on any car owned or operated by a defendant. For 2013, this department received a total of 35 "Leandra's Law" probation cases, at a rate of \$110.21 per case, for a total of \$3,857.35.

The department also received 1% of posted bails in the county, to offset alternatives to incarceration efforts, and over \$800 from the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, to offset the expenses of conducting pre-sentence investigations on inmates who have committed crimes while housed in a state prison in Greene County, and subsequently prosecuted and convicted in Greene County Court.