

# Evidence-Based Practices

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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**Special points of interest:**

- **Crossover Youth Practice Model**
- **Juvenile GED Rollout**
- **Pre-Trial Services Pilot Program**
- **Project SAFE Update**

**GED Update**

By Kyle Smith, DPO

The target date for administering the GED tests to juveniles will be sometime mid-year 2014. There are new GED administrators that will be taking the web-based training soon. The department will be purchasing 30 GED tests in May. There are currently on-line practice exams; which the juveniles can take at their residence. Clients may schedule their pre-exam at [www.GED.com](http://www.GED.com), there is a cost of \$6.00 per subject. Exam scores can be received within 3 hours of taking the exam. The maximum score for each subject is 200 with a minimum passing score of 150.

**Project SAFE Reminder**

By Krystal Rivero, DPO

The stated goal of Project SAFE (Swift Accountable Fair Enforcement) is to swiftly and proportionally address negative target behaviors, primarily drug use, so that clients will ultimately reduce their criminal behavior and successfully complete probation. Choosing a swift sanction in lieu of filing a Petition to Revoke Probation may be the best and appropriate option.

Our target population for these sanctions should include:

- ⇒ Substance abusers
- ⇒ High-risk probationers
- ⇒ Those with poor impulse control

**Pre-Trial Services**

By Ed Prell, Superior Court Liaison

Daily, Judges evaluate and make pre-trial release decisions on recently arrested defendants with little to no viable information. All the while asking, "What are the chances that a recently arrested defendant, if released before trial, will commit a new crime, a new violent crime, or fail to appear for court?"

Currently, most individuals are detained pre-trial merely because they cannot afford to post the monetary bail, which among other things, creates a disparity between the affluent and the poor. Research suggests that many pretrial detainees do not present a threat to the public's safety or a substantial risk of failing to appear.

In response, a Public Safety Assessment (PSA) tool was developed by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation (LJAF) in an effort to lessen the disparity and offer a "comprehensive, universal risk assessment" tool that can "accurately, quickly, and efficiently assess the risk that a defendant will engage in violence, commit a new crime, or fail to come back to court."

Mohave County was chosen as one of five pilot sites in the state to implement this new assessment tool. Pursuant to [Administrative Order 2014-12](#) the Probation Department has been tasked with implementing a pre-trial program that includes the use of this tool and other evidence based practices.

If everything comes together as planned, then beginning on or about May 1, 2014, our department will launch a new pre-trial division that will prepare a risk report for felony offenders appearing before the Superior Court. Progressively, the division will develop and encompass both felons and misdemeanants from all of the Justice Courts, and the Kingman Municipal Court. This includes the supervision of pre-trial defendants, electronic monitoring, future court reminders, and other evidence based pre-trial practices.



**Crossover Youth Practice Model**

By Elaine Grissom, Asst. Chief Probation Officer

The term "Crossover Youth" refers to youth who enter both the delinquency and the dependency systems. Some of these youth could be dually adjudicated or a youth going through the Adjustment Process and has had contact with the child welfare system.

Georgetown University developed a practice model to bring both of these systems together when working with the youth who "crossover" into both systems. The model is designed to enhance practices to meet the special and often complex needs of youth who are involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Research demonstrates that a youth's history of maltreatment increases the likelihood of later involvement in multiple systems of care, including juvenile justice, child welfare and behavioral health.

Three rural counties, Mohave, Coconino and Yavapai, will be participating in this model. Each county is required to create an Implementation Team that is both knowledgeable and supportive of the work. The recommended representatives/members of the Implementation Team include the judiciary, probation, corrections, child welfare, education, mental health, youth, parents, law enforcement, attorneys, CASA's.

The first local team meeting will be held April 2, 2014. Three regional meetings will be held in Flagstaff on April 24, August 19 and October 28.