

Evidence-Based Practices

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Special points of interest:

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Motivational Interviewing rolls out
By Melanie Longi, DPO

In December 2013, the first team of Motivational Interviewing Trainers was formed. Melanie Longi and Dale Herren, already certified trainers, conducted the first full three day training certifying Patty Zirkle, Kyle Smith, Cory Clever, Emily Flood, Anthony Morrow, and Kelly Boyer. Emily, Anthony, and Kelly went onto become trainers attending a four day train the trainer. Melanie and Dale attended as a refresher. The newly formed and freshly trained team met to develop a plan to train every officer in the Mohave County Probation Department. In April 2014, the first three-day training was held in Kingman resulting in 18 officers being certified in Motivational Interviewing. In June 2014, the same training was held in Bullhead City producing another 27 certified officers, and in October 2014, the remaining 15 officers were certified in Lake Havasu City. In December 2014, the team will welcome two new trainers, Ashley Carter and Cory Clever. In 2015, the first annual certification training for new officers and refresher course for certified officers will be offered.

New EBP Tools for Juvenile Officers
By Kyle Smith, DPOS

The Juvenile EBP Committee has been meeting monthly and created a Rewards Pyramid and Graduated Sanctions Guide for Supervision Officers. These will assist both new and seasoned officers in to appropriately address violations and hopefully steer youth back on track by initiating sanctions appropriate to the behavior. The latter will assist officers in providing the appropriate rewards to youth who are doing well and meeting their case plan goals. To further reinforce positive and pro-social behavior and cognitions, the Parental Thank You Letter, Journey to My Future, and Certificates were created by the team. At our most recent meeting, a Job Developer Grant Moniker and File Order Template were created and are awaiting approval to move forward. The Job Developer Grant will bridge the Workforce Connection and Probation together to assist our youth with employment opportunities, skills, and maintenance. These life skills will be invaluable to them and with a Moniker to empower and excite the youth to participate we are furthering the Mission, Vision, and Values of our Department.

Tips for High Caseloads

By Ed Prell, DPOS

With most of our adult caseloads running high, consider the following options to help your day-to-day operations:

1. Keep the FROST updated. Make sure you are seeing probationers in accordance with MIN, MED, or MAX standards.
2. Maximize your field work by seeing probationers at community restitution, at work or at treatment. Also group field visits by geographic area to save time.
3. Have one day per week (not your OD day) to work on paperwork without distractions. Have one other day per week strictly for office appointments.
4. Avoid UA's at the office as these are a time hog. Refer probationers to TASC as appropriate, or try to get a written admission of use.
5. Utilize the "Client Ticklers" screen in APETS to notify you of important dates. Also utilize Microsoft Outlook Tasks to help organization.
6. When doing Petitions to Revoke, consider a summons if appropriate. Arrests consume more time, particularly in outlying offices.
7. Monitor cases for full termination and early termination, if eligible. Close cases promptly.
8. Provide good field lists to the surveillance officer to help with field contacts.



EPICS II Training Update

By Krystal Rivero, DPO

EPICS II has finally begun to roll out in Mohave County. The Kingman and Havasu offices have attended two trainings and have learned six new skills. The Bullhead and Strip offices have attended one training and learned three new skills. As we continue to educate and finalize EPICS II within our department, several people will be attending an EPICS II training in Phoenix during the week of January 5-9, 2014. Please continue to utilize your newly learned skills and bring our department out as the front runners with utilization of EBP, Motivational Interviewing and EPICS II in the State.

We wish everyone a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!

