

Evidence-Based Practices

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Special points of interest:

- Juvenile EBP Rollout
- MI training update
- Pre-Trial Services

Juvenile Division Continues EBP Rollout
By Kyle Smith, DPO

The juvenile division is currently working on numerous projects in anticipation of becoming an EBP-certified Court. As a result, the Juvenile EBP Committee (Kyle Smith, Melanie Longi, Nancy Tharpe, Emily Flood, and Patty Zirkle) has recently been pulled in to help assist on several of these projects. After an extensive brainstorming session, our committee developed a new juvenile mission and vision statement which has been presented to the Chief and Assistant Chiefs for consideration. Our second project will be developing a graduated sanctions matrix. This matrix will help officers to administer swift and appropriate responses that match each youth's offense severity, level of risk, and service needs. Additionally, we will be reviewing our current rewards/incentive matrix to ensure it is aligned with EBP and conducive to best practices.

New website up and running
By Steve Cromer, DPO

The Mohave County Courts Adult Probation portion of the website has recently undergone a refreshing facelift and will launch publicly very soon. This newsletter will also be published online quarterly.

In addition, online payments are now being accepted for Superior and Justice Courts. This is a very helpful tool for us to help increase our collections. Our probationers now have another method to make their payments, and can even be made while at your desk.

Pre-Trial Services is off to a smooth start!

By Rhonda Mayo, DPO

The Public Safety Assessment Screening (PSA) tool utilized by the Mohave County Probation Department is a non-interview screening process to determine a defendant's likelihood of committing a new crime while on pretrial release or failing to appear to his/her court appearances. This tool assesses the defendant's risk level based upon their current charge, criminal history, previous failure to appear, and any new criminal activity. The tool provides a score which is the basis for the recommendation for release. The recommendations include release on own recognizance, release with conditions (Level I, Level II, and Level III), and maximum conditions if released.

Since the inception in mid-May of the Mohave County Probation Department Pretrial Service's use of the PSA tool, one hundred five defendants have been screened to access their risk level recommendation for release. Eighteen defendants scored with the release recommendation advising maximum conditions if released; Thirty-two defendants were released own recognizance and/or with a combination of pretrial supervision, level I or II; Twenty-two have been released with a combination of a cash bond and pretrial supervision. The remainder were either released own recognizance or bonded without pretrial supervision.

Currently there are thirty defendants on pretrial supervision. Twelve of the defendants are still in jail pending bond while the remaining eighteen are in the community. So far the program has been a success as we have yet to have any of our pretrial defendants fail to appear or commit new crimes while out on pretrial release and supervision.



Motivational Interviewing Training Continues

By Ed Prell, Superior Court Liaison, and Anthony Morrow, DPO

Motivational Interviewing (MI) training kicked off in Bullhead City on June 18, 2014. Kingman officers have already completed the three day course and are implementing the techniques taught into their daily interactions with probationers. The three day training is fundamental in preparing officers for the implementation and understanding of the EPICS II curriculum and goals. In that regard, training will continue throughout this year for all probation officers and detention officers. I would encourage all trained officers to continue practicing the techniques; after all, what is the WORST thing that might happen?"

The training schedule is as follows:

Bullhead City Office

- Day 1- Wednesday June 18, 2014
- Day 2- Wednesday June 25, 2014
- Day 3 - Wednesday July 2, 2014

Lake Havasu City Office

- Day 1- October 15, 2014
- Day 2- October 22, 2014
- Day 3- October 29, 2014