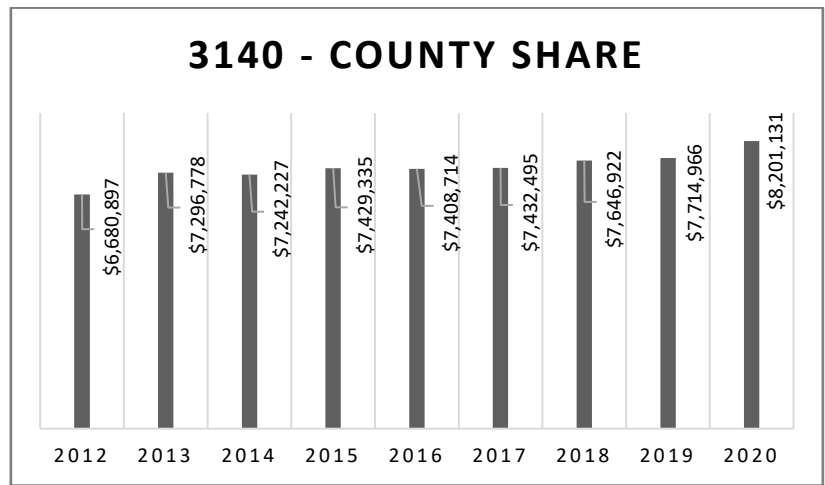


PROBATION 3140



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Albany County Probation Department is threefold. The Department is committed to providing quality services to all courts in Albany County by conducting Pre-Sentence and Pre-Disposition Investigations, Intake and Diversion Programs, supervising adult and juvenile offenders at levels determined by validated risk assessment tools, and by providing and participating in alternative sentencing programs. The Department also serves the community by including the victims of offender's crime in investigation, case planning and supervision. The Department also collects court imposed financial obligations such as restitution, and offender fees. Finally, the Department is committed to holding offenders accountable through the employment of graduated sanctions, as well as providing for and referral to skill-building programs and services that emphasize self-efficacy and positive social adjustment. The department also looks to employ merit credits as incentives for positive community adjustment and as a reward for sustained and measurable achievements.

WHO WE SERVE

We serve all Criminal Courts of Albany County, as well as the Family Court. Once a Defendant/Juvenile appears in court, a Pre-Sentence Report (PSI)/Pre Dispositional Investigation Report (PDI) report may be ordered, which we are required to complete. In 2018 we completed 81 Family Court ordered Investigations and 1,479 Criminal Court Investigations. Once the report is completed offenders may be sentenced to Probation as a Juvenile or an Adult. Juvenile Probation supervision is generally for one year and may be extended for an additional year and Adult sentences range from one, three, five, six, ten years, or lifetime sentences of probation. The amount of Probationers may vary monthly, but we generally average 2200-2300 adult offenders at any given time. Juvenile Services is averaging 100 persons being supervised monthly under court order and another 400 who receive Diversion Services on a yearly average. Adult Probation Officers generally carry regular supervision caseload less than 100. We also have specialized caseloads which average between 40-60 probationers. These caseloads include Drug Court, DWI Offenders, Sex Offenders, Domestic Violence Offenders, Mental Health Probationers, Veteran Probationers and Greatest Risk Probationers. The specialized caseload requires more intensive supervision of Probationers who are at a higher risk of recidivism. Probation Officers who have these caseloads receive additional specialized training.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

We are considered a mid-size Probation Department in New York State. We have 117 staff employees of which most are Probation Officers. We continue in advancing Technology to improve the Probation mission and assist Probation Officers carrying out their job functions.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Albany County continues to be viewed as a leader across New York in the management of Probation. Albany County Probation is often asked by the New York State Probation Director to provide input and participate in new initiatives in the field of Probation. Albany County Probation continues to work towards reducing crime through effective Probation management of offenders. We also continue to work with County partners in reducing Juvenile detention and placements. New in 2019:

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- Raise the Age legislation will provide Probation with an opportunity to make significant impact in the lives of the young people we serve not only through targeted supervision but also through the use of new and innovative programming. Probation continues to move forward on the implementation of various evidence based programs designed to address the needs of this population. Those programs include: Electronic Monitoring as an Alternative to Detention (ATD) for Juvenile Delinquents (JDs); the use of BITS (Brief Intervention Tools) a cognitive behavioral intervention with variety of topics administered by Probation Officers for use with all JD cases; Girl's Circle/Boy's Council, a structured support group facilitated by Probation Officers that integrates relational theory, resiliency practices, and skill training in a specific format designed to increase positive connection, personal and collective strengths, and competence in girls/boys, to be utilized on all JD cases; and Career University, a job readiness program that provides the tools needed to secure gainful employment while accentuating further education and career exploration, to be implemented at the boy's Evening Reporting Center.
- In November 2018, the Probation Department was granted a Certificate of Approval by the New York State Department of Health to operate an Opioid Overdose Prevention Program. In early 2019, utilizing Probation Staff Certified Instructors, the department was able to train all professional staff in the use of Naloxone and subsequently was able to issue Naloxone kits to all trained staff. The ability to carry Naloxone when out in the field provides the potential for Probation Officers to save the life of someone overdosing on Opioids. Albany County Probation is a leader in this endeavor and is one of only a handful of Probation Departments certified by the state for this purpose.
- In conjunction with the County Attorney's Office and Local Trade Unions, Project Growth continues to expose juveniles and young adults to vocational/employment skill building with internships geared toward the trades for those involved with Probation. In August of 2019, Project Growth partnered with the Audubon Society of the Capital Region to design and build a bird sanctuary at Lawson's Lake. The youth involved with Project Growth not only learn valuable trade skills, they also are able to earn a stipend which is put towards the payment of restitution when ordered by the court.
- In January 2019, Probation Director William Connors received the Sara Tullar Fasoldt Award for Leadership and Humanitarianism from State Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives Director Robert Maccarone. The Sara Tullar Fasoldt award recognizes a Probation Director that demonstrates leadership and compassion in designing and implementing programs that help individuals re-think their decision making and change their behavior to become law abiding citizens in their communities.
- The department again in 2018 reached 100% compliance on the requirement that all department officers with Peace Officer status securing 21 hours of training in related Probation topics.
- The department continues to provide specialized programming for Probationers and family members with no increase in staffing. The department facilitates specialized groups to target specific needs of the youth and adults we serve. Officers who received training and /or certifications facilitate the following groups at the Probation Department:
 - o Parent Project: A program geared to parents of ungovernable adolescents and teens, providing parenting strategies to regain parental control and influence.
 - o Juvenile Community Accountability Board: A restorative justice program for juvenile delinquents, allowing community members to impart upon the youth the impact of the offense upon the community and increase juvenile offender accountability by developing action plans for the juvenile to repair the harm committed by the delinquency act.
 - o Ready Set Work: A program offered to probationers who need assistance in obtaining and maintaining employment, which focuses on job seeking and readiness skills, as well as job retention skills.
 - o Financial Education Group: A program designed to help probationers address their financial issues and offers strategies to budget their finances in order to ensure their financial obligations to the victims, court and DWI supervision fees are met.
 - o Mental Health Peer Support & Advocacy: A program conducted in collaboration with Albany County Mental Health, offering diagnosed probationers the support of peers, as well as an opportunity to address issues with the help of Albany County Mental Health professionals, specialized mental health Probation Officers, and a peer support advocate from the Mental Health Empowerment Project.

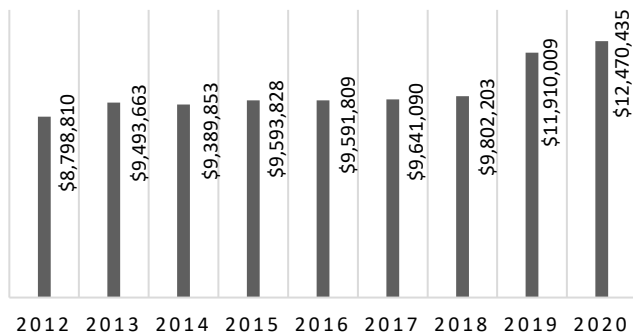
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- o Five Hour Motor Vehicle Pre-Licensing Course: A collaboration between the Albany County Probation Department and the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles will allow probation clients the opportunity to obtain their 5 hour Pre-licensing course making them one step closer to obtaining their driver's license thereby increasing their chances of employment.
- The department continues close collaboration with local government and community partners. For instance, with the Albany Police Department, the Department offers the GIVE VOID, GIVE MDT, GIVE Call-In, and LEAD. Additionally we partner on community safety special details. With the Department of Children, Youth and Families, the department partners on the JDAI initiative, the Regional Youth Justice Team, and the Juvenile Justice Steering Committee.
- The department has partnered with Albany County Department for Children, Youth, and Families, Children's Mental Health/Mobile Crisis Teams, State Division of Criminal Justice Services, the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, Chestnut Health Care Systems, and Columbia University to begin the use of the GAIN-SS, a screening tool used to identify youth who are at imminent risk of suicide and/or those that are in need of a mental health evaluation. Probation staff have been trained on the use of the GAIN-SS and work collaboratively with our mental health partners in an effort to address the mental health needs of the juvenile justice population.

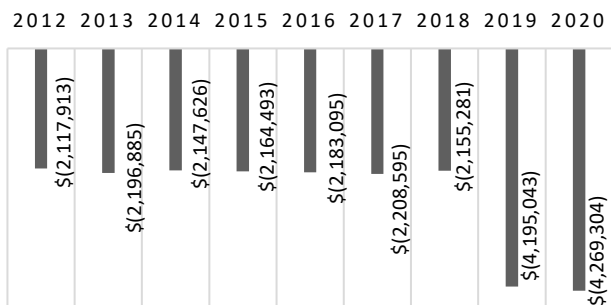
CHALLENGES

- With the Raise the Age (RTA) Legislation due to reach full implantation this October, the Department continues to plan for what is expected to be a significant increase in the number of Juveniles being provided Probation services. The department will continue to assess the risk and needs of these offenders and provide the necessary level of supervision and services. This potentially will add an additional 400 juveniles and young adults to Probation caseloads annually.
- The hiring, training, and retention of staff continues to be a priority for the Probation Department. The department worked closely with the County Executive's Office to fill vacancies as quickly as possible thereby minimizing the disruption to work flow and Probation programming.
- Recent changes to law involving the bail process will impact the Probation Department in 2020. Bail Reform legislation will not be fully realized until specifics emerge as to the role Probation Departments will play in the new process.

3140 - APPROPRIATIONS



3140 - REVENUE



2020 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

The goal of Probation is consistent with our mission to help probationers lead law abiding lives. Recognizing that our probationers have specific needs that must be addressed in order for them to lead productive and law abiding lives, the department remains committed to exploring how our services are delivered in order to best meet those needs. Goals in 2020 will be:

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- The Department will continue to assess the needs of the RTA population in an effort to provide the resources necessary to reduce their criminogenic risk factors and provide a greater opportunity for them to live law abiding and productive lifestyle. The Department will continue to increase the number of Probation Officers trained in the use of the YASI (youth assessment screening instrument) a tool designed to assist Officers in identifying areas of a juvenile's life that are contributing to their criminal behavior. The Department will continue to strengthen our relationship with local, county, and state stakeholders in seeking best outcomes for these youth and to that end, will seek to have all Juvenile Staff trained in motivational interviewing as well as Implicit Bias.
- A goal in 2020, as in previous years, will be the continued focus on victim compensation through the collection of restitution money, and offender accountability through the collection of DWI fees. The department continues to offer electronic payment methods via gov-pay in an effort to make the payment process easier for offenders and to increase the probability of payment.
- The Department will continue to be an active participant in the County's Zero Youth Detention initiative and will work together with other stakeholders in developing, designing, and implementing viable alternatives for youth thereby reducing the reliance on non-secure and secure detention for court involved juveniles.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES

Raise the Age was effective on October 1, 2018 for 16 year old juvenile and October 1, 2019 for 17 year old juveniles. We continue to project and plan for delivering service to this population. It is expected additional staff will be hired in 2019/2020 to meet this need.

Below is highlighted from our DWI adult supervision caseload:

Probationer B. first reported to Probation on 6/13/17 she was residing in a temporary shelter (Interfaith Partnership) and attending out- patient treatment at Eleanor Young. She suffered from some residential instability as she was denied DSS due to her pension and her time in the shelters ran out. She began to isolate and picked up drinking again around September. She was minimizing her drinking and when she would drink it was to black- out status often injuring herself as well as affecting her hygiene. She was dishonest with her initial phone screen with Conifer Park and was then accepted for a stay cut short due to her insurance. She was discharged from Conifer and began drinking again a few days later. Probation Officers then transported her to detox at St. Peter's where she was admitted to a medical floor. She was then eventually accepted into in- patient at SPARC Guilderland and then transitioned into Hope House Women and Children. After a year stay at Hope House Women and Children she graduated on 2/1/19 and transitioned into her own apartment through Albany Housing Authority. She attends out- patient treatment at Hope House and is maintaining sobriety!

Below is highlighted from our Juvenile Intake/Diversion caseload:

A fifteen year old Female was charged with Petit Larceny as she selected and stole nail polish and numerous food items totaling \$64.31. She concealed said items into her bags and exited the store without paying. This Juvenile was cooperative with Diversion Services and was referred to our Juvenile Community Accountability Board where she was given the opportunity to repair the harm done to the community. The Respondent successfully completed apology letters and twenty hours of community service at a local barber shop where she utilized the opportunity to network within her community and showcased her "fashion headbands". She began selling these headbands and has most recently submitted a trademark for her brand. Her future plans are to go to college for fashion and/or cosmetology and is excited for what the future will bring.