

PROBATION TODAY

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
PROBATION DEPARTMENT



Enhanced Electronic Supervision Promotes Client Success

In July 2009 the Probation Department implemented the use of enhanced electronic supervision for high risk offenders utilizing Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology. At the time of enrollment, only 5% of all discharged participants were employed full-time, whereas 64% of the successfully discharged clients ultimately obtained full-time employment after GPS participation. It is also notable that 61% of clients leaving the program have been discharged successfully. Many significant milestones have been achieved by these clients, including one who received his high school diploma while being supervised and one who graduated from Santa Barbara City College this month. Additionally, several clients have obtained job training resulting in full time employment. The Probation Department is encouraged by the success of the program and by the positive achievements of some of the highest risk probationers supervised in the community.

Submitted by: Probation Manager Heather Bennett

Counseling and Education Center Celebrates First High School Graduate

The Camino Floral Counseling and Education Center (CEC) in Santa Maria held its first high school graduation ceremony on Thursday, May 13th. The ceremony, held at the Rotary-Centennial Park, honored the accomplishments of Mr. Edgar B. Accompanied by his parents, Alfredo and Maria, and his younger sister, and adorned in cap and gown, Edgar received his diploma from Mr. Bob Chapin, Principal of Peter FitzGerald Community School, Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO). The Honorable James Herman, Juvenile Court Presiding Judge delivered the keynote address and Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) Heidie Hensic presented Edgar with a \$500 academic scholarship sponsored by the Counseling and Education Center. While Judge Herman suggested he consider becoming a judge since he wore the gown well, Edgar is instead interested in pursuing a career as a firefighter.

CEC teacher Richard Bresslin, described the "incredible progress" made by Edgar at the CEC, while Ms. Kathryn Adame, Edgar's former teacher, praised this "very bright" young man's accomplishment. Many other friends, DPOs, agency staff, and supporters also attended. Edgar thanked his parents for their continued support, and his parents extended their gratitude to those who helped Edgar. A Santa Maria style barbeque followed the ceremony.

The CEC enhanced academic programming in December of 2009, offering students the opportunity to achieve academic goals through the A+ Credit Recovery Program. As a result, Edgar was able to expedite his graduation requirements in order to become the first high school graduate in the 34 year history of the Camino Floral program. As such Edgar will hold a unique place in CEC history. The Probation Department and the County Education Office congratulate him and wish him well.



Submitted by: Probation Manager Brian Swanson

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



L to R: DPO M. Rivera, Sr. JIO J. Contreras, DPO Sr. J. Talaugon, DPO Sr. S. Cross, JIO Sr. N. Dreste.

On April 11th Santa Barbara County Probation Department staff participated in the first annual 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament fundraiser benefiting Special Olympics. The tournament took place at the UC Santa Barbara Thunderdome and over twenty teams/agencies, including Probation and the Santa Barbara Police Department, participated in the event. Funds raised by the event support the popular Special Olympics basketball program, which serves 30 teenage and adult players with intellectual disabilities. The Special Olympics teams practice weekly under the guidance of 13 volunteer coaches, and will head to CSU Long Beach in June to compete in the Special Olympics Summer Games. The Probation team was proudly represented by Senior Deputy Probation Officer (Sr. DPO) Joe Talaugon, Sr. DPO Spencer Cross, Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) Mike Rivera, Senior Juvenile Institutions Officer (Sr. JIO) Neil Dreste, and Sr. JIO Joseph Contreras. The team was sponsored by the Probation Peace Officers Association and wore Los Prietos Boys Camp T-shirts. The teams and guests had a great time participating in such a worthy cause.

Submitted by: DPO Marisa Arreola

Risk Assessment Presentation

The Probation Department facilitated an in service training on Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) and Probation's use of risk assessments for members of the Public Defender's Office on April 21st. Probation Manager Lee Bethel provided an overview of the use of EBP in the field of community corrections, their benefit to court officers in the adjudication of adult and juvenile criminal cases, and to Probation in developing case plans and supervision strategies. Included in the presentation was an overview of criminogenic factors that are considered when assessing risk to reoffend, and Probation's choice of the Northpointe Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS) for assessing adult offenders. Jill Sharkey, PhD, of the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Santa Barbara, gave an overview of the Santa Barbara Assets and Risk Assessment (SBARA) instrument used by Probation for juvenile assessments. Dr. Sharkey presented information on the empirical foundations of risk assessments in general and for the SBARA specifically, and also discussed the advent of a screening version of the SBARA for use in identifying juveniles at a lower risk for recidivism. Many insightful questions and comments from participants were elicited, providing the opportunity to reinforce the valuable collaboration between Probation and Public Defender personnel to support our mutual clients.

Submitted by: Probation Manager Brian Swanson