

Message from the Executive Director



Felix M. Rosa, Jr.
Executive Director

New York State is facing a current-year shortfall of at least \$1.5 billion and a budget deficit next year of \$12.5 billion. Earlier this year, Governor Paterson instituted a new process called core mission budgeting. In August, he directed every state agency to create a comprehensive inventory of all of the programs that they administer and designate whether they believe each program had a high, medium, or low relation to the agency's core mission. This process helped us decide how to best direct our limited resources to our highest priority initiatives.

As a result, on October 23, 2008, the New York State Division of Parole notified 28 contract service providers that we would be cancelling their contracts as of December 1, 2008. These contracts primarily provided outpatient substance abuse programs throughout the State.

While these programs provide needed assistance, the cancellation of these contracts is

part of a multi-faceted strategy to increase efficiencies among a number of state agencies that contract for these types of services. This decision was made after careful consideration and with the belief that individuals who currently receive these services will continue to receive them, with little or no disruption at their current location or from a new provider. We are confident that those needing substance abuse services will get them.

The New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) will receive additional funding that will be allocated to a number of the programs that were previously under contract by the Division of Parole. OASAS anticipates funding will also be allocated for FY 2009-2010.

In fact, OASAS has already contacted these program providers with regard to transitioning payment and services. Additionally, we anticipate that Medicaid funding will be available to these agencies so that they can continue their important work.

We will continue to work with the Governor's office and the Division of Budget as they develop parameters for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

We are very pleased that budget decisions have not affected our staffing and that we can continue to meet our mission.

Moving forward, our strong focus on re-entry initiatives will play an even greater role in our operations. The introduction of graduated sanctions and a risk assessment tool will begin to become part of our supervision process during 2009.

We will do more with our community partners and increase our attention to some of the personal challenges that are common among parolees, such as domestic violence.

The upcoming year will bring situations that will surely test us, but I am confident that they will end with successes we will celebrate.

NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF PAROLE

Parole Report

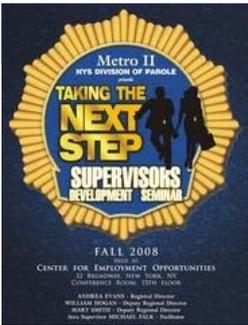
Race Against Violence

The Women Against Violence organization held a fun run on Sunday, October 19th, 2008 to raise money and increase awareness about domestic violence issues. The 10th annual race attracted over 200 runners to Paul Jones Park in Brooklyn—including a contingent from the Division of Parole. The race raised over \$10,000.



Our Mission

To promote public safety by preparing inmates for release and supervising parolees to the successful completion of their sentence.



Metro II Supervisory Training

Senior parole officers in Metro II took part in a special program designed to strengthen their management skills and talk about on-going efforts to integrate re-entry initiatives into parole supervision.



Expanding Domestic Violence Programs

Parole officers have long understood the difficulties that instances of domestic violence place on the families of parolees returning to the community. Domestic violence can effect its victims over generations. It can also be a strong barrier to successfully re-entering society for offenders and often results in a return to prison.

This is why the Division of Parole is pleased to have Sherry Frohman and Molly LaMora in its Domestic Violence Unit (DVU). Ms. LaMora is a parole officer who joined our DVU after working in the domestic violence field in Clinton County as a program specialist and a facilitator for an abuser accountability program. Ms. Frohman, who joined the Division in 2008 has worked on behalf of domestic violence victims and their children for more that 25 years in advocacy and governmental positions. She served as executive director of the NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence for twelve years and was appointed to positions in the New York State

Department of Health and New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV).



Sherry Frohman and Molly LaMora

In the last year, Molly has led efforts to establish case management strategies specifically aimed at identifying and responding to incidences of domestic violence as well as developing a new domestic violence policy and procedure for the Division through an initiative started by OPDV.

As part of the Re-Entry Services Unit, Sherry and Molly will now be able to expand comprehensive domestic violence training for parole officers statewide. Utilizing video-conferencing capabilities officers will learn to better understand the dynamics of domestic violence, how to identify abusers through a review of pre-sentencing reports and techniques for responding to specific incidents.

Additionally, the Division will partner with other state agencies including DCJS and Probation and the advocacy community to apply for grants that will allow us to expand our programs further.

Making Smiles

After learning that the North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents (NAAWS), was raising funds to re-build parks and playgrounds in Louisiana and Mississippi, the Division staff to rolled up their sleeves and opened their hearts to this massive undertaking.

Agency staff donated over \$6000.00 to NAAWS for their worthy cause, Operation Smile. On September 10, 2008 Division staff presented a check on behalf of parole employees to the president of NAAWS, Mr. Art Leonardo.

Pictured left to right are Steve Claudio, Janice Smith, Marco Ricci, Art Leonardo, and Melvin Williams.



Glory House Recovery Dinner Honors PO Deborah Code

Glory House Recovery, Inc. is a 24 hour supervised residential recovery program designed specifically for women, suffering from alcoholism, drug addiction or homelessness located in Hempstead, NY.

On October 30, they held their annual awards dinner at the Hofstra University Student Center and honored parole officer Deborah Code. Over 200 people attended the event.

Officer Code has worked for the Division for 20 years starting with a nine-year stint supervising parolees re-entering the community, known as the Releasee Assistance Program. Today she is a parole officer in the Re-Entry Service Unit, assisting fellow officers to obtain services for parolees.

She works as a parole liaison on the Nassau County Re-Entry Task force, which brings together law enforcement and community-based organizations.

Officer Code is very active in Bethel AME Church in Copiague, NY serving as president of their floral club and as a member of the education and scholarship committees.

Parole In The Community



Red Ribbon Week

On October 30, Region 1 and one of their re-entry partners; the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, held an outdoor event in honor and celebration of Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week is a national awareness campaign focused on the dangers of drug use.

Held in Roberto Clemente Plaza in the South Bronx, staff distributed packets to neighborhood children that included drug free literature and resources, delicious treats, and other free give-a-ways including stickers, ribbons, comic

books, silicone bracelets, and dog-tag necklaces - all of which promoted messages of a drug-free, healthy lifestyle.

Back to School Jamboree

Metro II held a "Back to School Jamboree" on September 6, 2008 at locations in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. 16 POs, 3 SPOs, 3 B/Cs and both of the DRDs-all took time out of their weekend to give back to approximately 250 little people in all three boroughs.

Staffers handed out school supplies to the children of parolees who could not afford to provide their children with the simple necessities children need to feel encouraged about returning to school. Donations were taken from all staff.



SPO Letricia McCleary and PO Timyiaka Waithe of Brooklyn 2, get backpacks ready for the kids.

Beilein Addresses Board of Parole

Thomas A. Beilein, the newly appointed chairman of the New York State Commission of Correction was the guest speaker at September's Board of Parole meeting. His agency is the watchdog agency for jails, prisons and secure detention facilities. The position is a good fit for Chairman Beilein as the agency became empowered after the Attica riots and Beilein spent five days there during the uprising.

The current focus of the Commission is reviewing the operational standards of county jails and a review of construction plans for all new jails and prisons. Many of our existing jails need updating, but at a cost of \$75,000 – 100,000 per cell, Beilein is prudently looking at projected prison populations to determine which projects are appropriate.

Beilein is working on a plan to reduce the amount of time parole violators spend in county jails because the current reimbursement rate of \$37.60 per day is not enough to cover costs for localities. The Division of Parole, through a number of proactive initiatives such as simultaneously notifying the courts and DA about violations, has been able to reduce the time violators spend in county jails to 14 days.



Orleans Re-Entry



A visit to the Orleans Correctional Facility in September gave a first hand look at the progress of the first-ever specialized re-entry unit, for Erie County releases, which opened in Orleans in August 2007.

A joint effort between the Division of Criminal Justice Services, Department of Correctional Services, the Division of Parole, and OASAS, the program has been very well received and has recently been expanded to include inmates who will be released to Monroe County.

“Governor Paterson has asked that agencies find ways to share services. This is a great example of inter-agency cooperation at work,” executive director Felix Rosa said.

“We’re working together to consolidate our efforts so that we can be more effective and reduce costs

while improving results.”

The two 60-bed units are located in adjacent dorms at the men’s medium security correctional facility in Albion, Orleans County, about midway between Rochester and Buffalo. The units are expected to serve as models for helping inmates nearing release prepare for their return to society.

DOCS and the Division of Parole collaborated with the Erie County and Monroe County Reentry Task Forces to create the transitional dorms, where DOCS transfers certain inmates who are within three to four months of release from prison for eventual return back to Erie and Monroe counties. The offenders meet in person with the parole

officers, case workers, potential employers and others from their nearby home county who will form their key support network after release. Preparation for the transition back to society plays a critical role in ex-offenders’ success in obtaining employment and readjusting to their families and communities.

During their 90- to 120-day stay at the unit, participating inmates join with a



team made up of DOCS and Parole officials and community and faith-based agencies to assess each offender’s needs, ranging from possession of necessary documents to employment and housing opportunities and issues surrounding family reunification, on a case-by-case basis. Staff emphasizes the inmate’s personal responsibilities in preparation for his return to the community.





Pedro Hernandez, a parole officer from Region 5 thinks the program has a lot of potential. "From an inmate's point of view, this is good for them. Especially if they are meeting their parole officer for the first time."

"My job is to make sure these individuals are ready to enter the community without causing harm," field parole officer Terry Anderson from Buffalo, said. "Job development, self-esteem development – there is more out there than crime. I want to let them know that my job is to keep them out of prison, not send them back. This is a community issue, not just parole."

Darlene Smith, a facility parole officer at Orleans Correctional Facility summed everything up. "I've been in this business for 16 years. I have never seen this type of cooperation between agencies."



Parole Officer and Warrant and Transfer Officer Graduation

On October 17, twenty-three new parole and warrant officers were officially sworn in at a graduation ceremony at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Manhattan. Family and friends along with Division personnel were on hand to congratulate them.



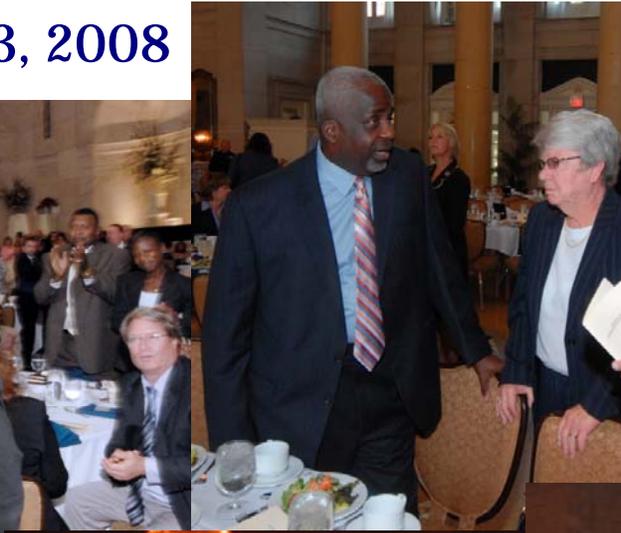
2008 New Facility Officers and Warrant Officers:

- FPO Shenika Babb- Edgecombe CF
- FPO Najieb Isaac-Edgecombe CF
- FPO Sheila Williams- Edgecombe CF
- FPO Tammy Gronau- Walkkill CF
- FPO LoLisa McLaughlin- Hudson CF
- FPO Tamimou Ouro-Agouda- Downstate CF
- FPO William Zewan- Sullivan CF
- WO Patrick O'Donoghue-W/T Buffalo
- WO Christopher Armenia-W/T Albany
- WO Antonio Suarez-W/T NYO
- WO Derek Garcia-W/T NYO
- WO Harold Folmsbee- W/T NYO
- WO Liah Reid (Bell)- W/T NYO
- WO Tommy Martis- W/T NYO
- WO Robert Rosenberger-BSS NYO
- WO Steven Montigny-BSS NYO
- WO William Ruland-BSS NYO
- WO Edwin Flores-BSS NYO
- WO Reinaldo Medina-BSS NYO
- WO Aretha Rhoomes- BSS NYO
- WO Brian Aber-BSS NYO
- WO Brett Jones- BSS-NYO
- WO William Hayward-BSS NYO



September 13, 2008

Division of Parole Service Awards Luncheon







Operation Halloween

The agency's annual "Operation Halloween" was successful once again and gave parents and the community a measure of comfort, knowing that sex offenders under parole supervision were being monitored closely. In its tenth year, "Operation Halloween" imposes special conditions on sex offenders during holiday festivities.

The Division of Parole supervises 2,299 sex offenders statewide and takes that responsibility very seriously. We impose special conditions on sex offenders, conduct surveillance, unannounced home visits and curfew checks at the offenders' residence on Halloween. This collaborative, multi-pronged containment strategy helps protect children, parents, caregivers and the community.

Beginning in the early afternoon on Halloween, or immediately following dismissal from work or other approved community programs, all sex offender parolees were instructed to remain in their residences until 6 a.m. the following morning. Parolees were not to participate in any Halloween activity; not permitted to wear any costume, mask or other disguise; and could not open the door to any minors

who were out trick-or-treating. The news media was extremely helpful in getting the message out from Nassau County all the way to Buffalo. Over 17 different media outlets rode along with our parole teams to get a first hand look at our operation.

Halloween is often filled with fun and scary surprises, but the prospect of someone preying on a child is not the kind of frightening experience parents should have to worry about. By implementing these special conditions, the Division of Parole is doing what it can to make sure that all of New York's families could have a safe and enjoyable time while trick-or-treating.



Wellness Fairs

Wellness fairs were held in regions statewide over the past few months including Region 5, Central Office, Region 3, and Metro 1. Turnout was spectacular and staff was treated to a number of informational and instructive wellness features including blood pressure screening, nutritional guidance, elder care

advice, retirement planning, smoking cessation and more!



The following article is included courtesy of WHAM television in Rochester. This commentary was included in a blog written by reporter Patrice Walsh.

Second Chances

Not everyone believes criminals who have served time in jail deserve a second chance once they get out, especially when they have committed crimes against children. We accompanied New York State Parole Officers on visits to paroled sex offenders during the annual Operation Halloween.

What we saw as we rode along with them and stood by as they knocked on doors, was officers not just doing their job of making sure these offenders don't violate the conditions of their parole, but also an unexpected bond.

Parole Officers like John Maslyn are on a first-name basis with paroled sex offenders they monitor. They know their every move, because many of these offenders wear GPS monitoring devices on their ankles. Their job is to make sure these parolees don't hurt another child. But they also take time to get to know these offenders and help them stay out of trouble. They cannot make exceptions if they violate the conditions of their parole, and sometimes that means sending the offender back to prison.

On the night we tagged along on the patrols we visited some tough neighborhoods. The homes where many of these offenders live are run-down in very poor neighborhoods. They do not live there anonymously. Their neighbors know who they are and what they have done. And for those who are parents with children, it is not easy to be welcoming and neighborly to someone who has hurt a child. One mother told us she tries to keep her children in-

side and knows where they are at all times. She feels at ease knowing these Parole Officers keep close watch on the sex offenders and monitor their every move.

We talked to John, one of the parolees who received a visit from his officers on Halloween. John served six years in prison for sexual offenses involving a child.

He was also wearing an ankle GPS monitor because of a recent parole violation.

John was following the restrictions on Halloween, staying inside with the lights off and not celebrating Halloween or handing out any candy. Not only did his Parole Officers ask John how he was doing, they seemed to genuinely care that he is trying to take advantage of his second chance.

He hopes to someday be reunited with his own children. As a parent myself, it is tough to think about what John did or imagine how his act hurt his victim and their family. There is of course, no guarantee John will stay out of trouble.

But it was clear John had respect for the Parole Officers who are watching him and that he doesn't want to go back to prison. What was more obvious, is that these two officers genuinely care about what they do. They make these visits not just on Halloween but weekly to make sure these offenders obey the law and to keep them from hurting another child.

Whether or not you believe in second chances for paroled sexual offenders, knowing these officers are watching them, and working with them, should give all of us a little greater sense of security.



NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF PAROLE ANNUAL AWARDS

Awards presented for public safety and community services

The New York State Division of Parole commended nearly two-dozen honorees for public safety, community service and bravery at the New York State Division of Parole Annual Awards Ceremony in September.

The annual ceremony, held at the Hall of Springs in Saratoga Springs, New York, pays tribute to the courage, perseverance, hard work and dedication of sworn and non-sworn members of the New

York State Division of Parole, Board of Parole as well as the Division's community partners.

Executive director Rosa stated, "As we move forward with our efforts to improve the re-entry process and deliver a heightened sense of public safety, we must never forget those within this agency that are responsible for getting the job done. It is with their dedication and hard work that this agency is able to accomplish its mission."

See all the photos on pages six and seven.



Parole Memorial Service

Each December since the untimely passing of parole officer Barry Sutherland in 1976, members of the parole family gather for a



memorial service. As is tradition, the afternoon's activities were organized through the efforts of the NYS Parole Officers Association and the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 27.



This year's service was held on Friday, December 12 at the Church of the Holy Cross in New York City.

Retirees and their families along with current staff joined together to honor the memories of those who served the Division of Parole who have passed away during the previous year. A special service conducted by parole chaplains Rev.

Peter Colapietro and Rabbi Jay H. Rosenbaum touched the hearts of the hundreds in attendance. Special remarks were also delivered by Stuart Jay Levine, George Torodash, and H. Susan Jeffords. The ceremony concluded with the lighting of memorial candles.

After the moving service, everyone headed to McCaffrey Hall for some light refreshments and lots of reminiscing.



New York State Division of Parole Governor David A. Paterson

Executive Staff

Felix Rosa
Executive Director

Terrence Tracy
Chief Counsel

Jeffrey Nesich
Director of Administration

Angela Jimenez
Director of Downstate Operations

Timothy O'Brien
Director of Upstate Operations

Michael Buckman
Director of Policy Analysis

Cecelia Hamblin
Chief information Officer

Lynn Goodman
Director of Re-Entry Services

Jose Burgos
Director of Human Resources Management

Heather Groll
Director of Media Relations

Have A Story to Share?

The Parole Report is always looking for items of interest to people at the Division. We are interested in innovative re-entry programs, community activities and other special stories. We especially love digital photos.

If you have an idea, let your supervisor know so that they can pass it along for you!