

**U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services  
District of New Hampshire**

**Personnel Changes and Highlights**

Data Quality Analyst Doris Hood passed away on November 13, 2012.

Scott Christensen, Matthew Senesi, and Kate Mattei were hired as U.S. Probation Officers on December 3, 2012.

Dan Whitmoyer was hired as a Data Quality Analyst on March 11, 2013.

Supervisory U.S. Probation Officer James Bernier retired on March 29, 2013.

Dan Gildea and Chris Pingree were promoted to Supervisory U.S. Probation Officers on April 8, 2013.

Tim Brown was promoted to Probation Officer Specialist on April 22, 2013.

Deputy Chief U.S. Probation Officer Cathy Battistelli retired on April 30, 2013.

Kevin Lavigne was promoted to Deputy Chief U.S. Probation Officer on May 6, 2013.

Jodi Gauvin was promoted to Supervisory U.S. Probation Officer on May 20, 2013.

U.S. Probation Officer Melissa Elworthy transferred to the District of Maine on July 12, 2013.

Robert Birdsey was hired as a Systems Administrator on July 15, 2013.

Scott Davidson and Jennafer McNutt were hired as U.S. Probation Officers on July 29, 2013.

U.S. Probation Officer Matt Farwell transferred from the District of Colorado on August 12, 2013.

Systems Administrator Eric Swanson transferred to the U.S. District Court on September 6, 2013.

**Pretrial Services**

In FY 2013, the District of New Hampshire realized an 18% decrease in pretrial activations, reaching its lowest number since FY 1995 (143 activations) with 145 activations. Although there was a slight increase from FY 2011 to FY 2012, pretrial activations have been steadily declining in the past five years. Cases received on pretrial supervision are following the same trend with activations decreasing by 24%.

New Hampshire's pretrial detention rate increased by 3% from FY 2012 to FY 2013; however, it is 10% below the First Circuit average of 60%. Pretrial supervision investigations decreased for the

first time since FY 2010. Of that decrease, the most notable is the decline in pretrial supervision violation investigations. There were 22 pretrial supervision violation investigations in FY 2013, reaching its lowest number since FY 1994 (15 investigations).

### **Presentence Investigations**

A total of 151 presentence investigation reports were completed during FY 2013; an 11% decrease from the number of reports completed in 2012. This number also represents a sharp decline (32%) from the number of investigations completed in FY 2011. The 2013 average submission time for presentence reports was 110.49 days, increasing in efficiency by 4%.

FY 2013 also saw a change in the types of cases received by our office. Specifically, the office has seen more multi-defendant prescription medication cases, as well as increases in the number of immigration and sex-related cases.

### **Post-Conviction Supervision**

In FY 2013, the Supervision Unit underwent numerous changes with respect to both personnel and process/practices. The unit primarily focused on the timely submission of case plans by USPOs, where dramatic improvements were made. Other changes involved marked increases in field work by USPOs (including more done during “non-traditional” hours), field work in pairs (rather than officers by themselves), and telework by all officers. The Supervision Unit implemented a number of changes to help reduce paperwork and increase overall efficiency.

There were a total of 390 cases on active supervision in FY 2013, which was a slight increase from FY 2012. There were 179 cases closed from active supervision in FY 2013; 53 of which were closed due to revocation.

FY 2013 saw an increase in revocations for the third straight year reaching 45 revocations. The increased revocation rate coincides with a riskier offender population, as there was a 3% increase in the average Risk Prediction Index (RPI) score among active supervision cases going from 4.12 in FY 2012 to 4.26 in FY 2013. Of those revocations, drug use made up 40% of all revocation types. In FY 2013 the overall revocation rate of active supervision cases rose for the fifth straight year reaching 30%.

In FY 2013, the highest number of cases (25) in the last five years were terminated early from supervision, which realized a total savings of \$95,991.41.

### **LASER Docket Program**

The District of New Hampshire began a pilot “front-end” drug court program in July 2010. The Law-Abiding, Sober, Employed, and Responsible (LASER) Docket is a cooperative effort between the Court, the United States Attorney’s Office, the United States Probation Office, the United States Marshal Service, and the Federal Public Defender’s Office. LASER is a rehabilitative court program for individuals involved in the federal criminal justice system which offers a creative blend of

treatment and sanction alternatives in an effort to effectively address defendant/offender behavior, promote rehabilitation, and reduce recidivism, as well as ensure the safety of our communities. During FY 2013, three pretrial defendants and three post-conviction offenders were approved for the program, bringing the total number of participants for the fiscal year to seven. All of the program participants were medium or high risk cases based on the RPI, with the exception of one. During the course of the fiscal year, one participant graduated from the program while one was terminated.

### **Treatment Services**

FY 2013 saw an increase of 4% of the total number of clients receiving contract substance abuse treatment as well as a 17% increase in the number of clients receiving contract sex offender treatment. There was a 8% decrease in the number of clients receiving contract mental health treatment as more clients are receiving mental health treatment via non-contract treatment providers.

Substance abuse treatment costs were decreased by 29%, while sex offender treatment costs were increased by 5%. Mental health treatment costs were also increased in FY 2013 by 8% (Figure 4.1). Copayments for substance abuse and mental health services both slightly increased while copayments for sex offender treatment decreased by 28% (Figure 4.2).

### **Second Chance Act**

On April 9, 2008, the *Second Chance Act of 2007*, Pub. L. No. 110-199, was enacted which authorized the Director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Court to contract for “treatment, equipment and emergency housing, corrective and preventative guidance and training, and other rehabilitative services designed to protect the public and promote the successful reentry of the offender into the community.” The aim of the Act was to reduce recidivism, help offenders rebuild ties with their families, assist them in establishing a self-sustaining life, support evidence-based practices, and protect the public. Districts were allotted funds under the Second Chance Act for offender/defendant support in emergency and transitional services situations. The effective use of these funds is designed to reduce recidivism and mitigate crisis situations that offenders and defendants under supervision often encounter. The funds are “not to confer luxuries or privileges upon offenders” (42 U.S.C. § 17501(a)(4)). In FY 2013, Second Chance funds were expended on housing, transportation, food/clothing, and other miscellaneous items.

### **Information Technology**

The U.S. District Court Information Technology Department has continued to work closely with Robert Birdsey, the Systems Administrator for the U.S. Probation Office on several key IT initiatives. Over the course of FY13, the New Hampshire U.S. Probation Office achieved the following goals:

- Cut-over staff from Blackberry handsets to iPhones and moved from DES to Traveler for mobile email
- Implementation of iPACTS for use with iPads and iPhones deployed to staff
- Implementation of Airwatch to effectively manage the new mobile devices and

- applications
- Implemented drive encryption for all laptops taken into the field, as well as desktops located in the office
  - Completed PACTS GEN3 Upgrade, together with PPS
  - Geocoded PACTS Addresses for Mapping Tools, trained staff on use and benefit
  - Deployed and trained staff on password management tool
  - Met milestones in regards to keeping the staff IT hardware current and efficient

Several IT projects and upgrades are slated to be completed in FY 2014. The Probation Office looks forward to working with the U.S. District Court Information Technology Department on these tasks.

### **Officer Safety**

In March of 2013, Officer Response Tactics (ORT) training was held at the NH Police Standards and Training Council facility in Concord, NH. This training was led by NTA-certified instructors Karin Hess, Eric Gray, and Christopher Pingree, and covered a range of techniques from the national ORT curriculum culminating in a dynamic stress drill requiring the application of all techniques practiced throughout the day. Later that same month, several members of the office took advantage of ORT training offered by NTA-certified instructors in the District of Rhode Island. Thereafter, a series of monthly ORT workshops were offered to all officers in this district. Specifically, these were one-hour sessions which focused on general fitness while incorporating basic ORT skills.

In September of 2013, NTA-certified instructors Gray, Pingree, and Matthew DiCarlo provided instruction to officers from both this district and the District of Rhode Island on one-handed survival techniques utilizing non-lethal training ammunition and training pistols.

Additionally, semi-annual firearms qualification and training days were held in October 2012 and May 2013, during which officers participated in a number of drills to enhance their weapons skills. Other firearms practice days were held at various points throughout the fiscal year. In addition, in February 2013 and July 2013, a few of the district's firearms and officer safety instructors participated in firearms training courses at the Sig Sauer Academy in Epping, NH.

### **Training and Professional Development**

In FY 2013, the District of New Hampshire participated in a number of national and local training seminars, as attendees and/or presenters, including, but not limited to, the following:

FJC Leadership Development Program  
Institute for Deputy Chiefs  
ATLAS Training & Certification  
Appropriations Law for the U.S. Courts  
Budget Fundamentals  
Basic Procurement  
The Judiciary Purchase Card Program  
Treatment Services Training

CISM Training  
Data Quality Academy  
DSS  
Location Monitoring  
Federal Sentencing Guidelines  
U.S.S.C. Guideline Training  
Stress Reduction  
PACTS Gen3  
PCRA Training & Certification

### **Employee Recognition**

During FY 2013, and consistent with the recommendations of the year's peer-based Employee Recognition Committee, the following staff members were cited for outstanding work:

#### **District Award for Sustained Superior Performance – Eric Gray**

Eric Gray was chosen to receive this award based on numerous areas where he was recognized by his peers for sustained superior performance. First, he was a driving force behind the office's safety program, having led several training events for officers, which utilized manualized officer safety techniques and promoted fitness. Second, Eric displayed a tremendous work ethic, and was a role model to the Supervision Unit, both in terms of the quality of his work as well as his commitment to meeting deadlines and submitting case plans in a timely manner. Third, he showed dogged determination in his collection of restitution and fines, highlighted by his work to secure a restitution payment of nearly \$100,000. Finally, Eric went "above and beyond" the call of duty in serving as a mentor to new officers in his unit, exhibiting professional maturity well beyond his years and a commitment to organizational excellence. In addition to the foregoing accomplishments, Eric was lauded for his cooperative behavior, his positive demeanor, and his team-oriented approach to his work. Congratulations Eric Gray!

#### **Chief's Award for Quality Improvement – Kelley West**

Kelley West was chosen to receive this award based on the precision in which she managed her procurement and property responsibilities as well as the cost-cutting initiatives that she routinely exercised. Specifically, she maintained strict oversight of the office's inventory and diligently tracked all purchases and expenditures. Of significance, Kelley was able to obtain surplus mobile phones from the District of Puerto Rico at no charge. She then obtained a credit from E-Cycle for those phones, as well as for the office's own surplus phones. That figure was then applied to the cost of our new iPhones and accessories, producing a 62 percent savings for the office. In addition, Kelley was exemplary in scheduling and supervising cyclical maintenance projects in the office (i.e., painting and carpeting), often arriving early, staying late or working on the weekends to supervise these various projects to completion. Finally, Kelley was praised for her reliability and cooperative spirit. Congratulations Kelley West!