

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

**Personnel Changes and Highlights**

Tim Merna was appointed as a U.S. Probation Officer on January 26, 2015; he transferred from the District of Utah.

Riaka McCormick was appointed as a U.S. Probation Officer on January 26, 2015; she transferred from the District of Guam.

U.S. Probation Officer Karin Kinnan retired on April 30, 2015.

Eric Czapka's position as Student Intern was discontinued on August 8, 2015.

**Pretrial Services**

In FY 2015, pretrial activations in the District of New Hampshire increased by 2%, with 198 activations. In FY 2015, we received 36 defendants for pretrial supervision. New Hampshire's pretrial detention rate in FY 2015 was 48.9% (excluding immigration cases), which is 8.6% lower than the national average of 57.5%

Pretrial supervision investigations increased in FY 2015. There were 23 pretrial supervision violation investigations in FY 2015, representing a 53% increase.

**Presentence Investigations**

A total of 226 presentence investigations<sup>1</sup> were completed during FY 2015; a 52% increase from the number of investigations completed in FY 2014. This number is the highest it has been since reaching 239 in FY 2010. FY 2015 saw a continuing trend 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. New Hampshire's disclosure rate remained perfect, with a 100% of Presentence Investigation Reports being disclosed on time.

**Post-Conviction Supervision**

There were a total of 341 cases on active post-conviction supervision at the end of FY 2015, the majority (86.4%) were on supervised release, with 44.7% of all supervision cases being for a drug offense conviction. In New Hampshire, 41.5% of our post-conviction supervision cases are high or moderate risk, compared to 28.3% nationally. These percentages result in New Hampshire having the 7th highest risk caseload nationally. The dynamic risk factors of those under supervision is fairly consistent with national averages, with the exception of substance abuse, which is significantly higher (40% in New Hampshire, compared to 24% nationally).

There were 193 cases closed from active supervision in FY 2015; 78 of which (40%) were closed due to revocation. 70 offenders represented these 78 cases, and of those revoked, 53 (68%) were considered technical violations related to substance abuse, 16 (21%) were major violations, and 9 (11%) were minor violations.

In FY 2015, 14 cases were terminated early from supervision, which realized a total savings of \$70,125.00.

**Treatment Services**

Treatment services costs in all categories saw an increase in FY 2015. Specifically, post-conviction substance abuse treatment and testing costs increased by 10%, while post-conviction sex offender treatment costs increased by 11%. Sex offender treatment costs have increased steadily since FY 2012. Our biggest increase in costs can be seen in post-conviction mental health treatment where it increased by 62%. In FY 2015, we began running a manualized cognitive behavioral program called Thinking for a Change (T4C). T4C is an integrated, cognitive behavioral change program for offenders that includes cognitive restructuring, social skills development, and development of problem solving skills.

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to full Presentence Investigation Reports, this number also includes 65 Retroactive Amended Guideline Reports.

Overall services rendered to pretrial defendants increased by 10% from FY 2014 to FY 2015.

### **LASER Docket Program**

The District of New Hampshire began operating a drug court program in July 2010. The Law-Abiding, Sober, Employed, and Responsible (LASER) Docket is a cooperative effort between the Court, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the U.S. Probation Office, the U.S. Marshal Service, and the Federal Public Defender's Office. LASER Docket 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 2015, 6 pretrial defendants and 4 post-conviction offenders were approved for the program, bringing the total number of participants to 11 for the fiscal year. Finally, 1 participant graduated from the program while 1 participant was terminated.

### **Space Reduction**

In support of the Judiciary's space reduction initiatives, the U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services Office relocated our Manchester, NH satellite office out of privately leased space into the Norris Cotton Federal Building. By utilizing a modified integrated work initiative (IWI) design, we were also able to reduce our square footage.

### **Information Technology**

The U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services Office continues to operate a shared IT department in conjunction with the Clerk's Office. Over the course of FY 15, the District of New Hampshire achieved the following goals:

- Provided quarterly IT training for staff.
- Implemented a new help desk solution called Service Desk Plus for court staff. This system also serves as the new project management solution utilized by IT.
- Norris Cotton Federal Building Migration - worked with the AO, AT&T, and local Probation staff to migrate all IT equipment, and add additional equipment to our new remote location. This project also included smaller projects such as IPT Extension Mobility for Probation staff.
- iPhone 6s Upgrade - migrated all probation staff from iPhone 5 to iPhone 6s, which also included reconfiguring Airwatch with JENIE.
- iSelf Report Deployment - configured, tested, and deployed iSelf Report to all Probation staff, allowing officers to complete risk assessments in a mobile environment.
- Courtroom Upgrades – worked with the District Court to aid in the upgrades of all the courtroom technology.

### **Officer Safety**

The Officer Safety program for the District of New Hampshire had a productive FY 2015. In December 2014, two officers were certified as Officer Response Tactics (ORT) Instructors and, in January 2015, one officer was certified as a Firearms Instructor. Firearms qualifications took place in October 2014 and May 2015. Both sessions included training blocks designed to enhance officers' weapon-handling skills and accuracy. In addition, the District utilized the New Hampshire Department of Corrections' monthly practice range sessions. At these sessions, officers received one-on-one training from the District's certified firearm instructors. The practice sessions were well attended by officers and allowed them to focus on individual improvement in a controlled environment.

In May 2015, ORT training was held at the Howard Recreation Center in Concord, NH. This training provided a "back to basics" approach, allowing officers to revisit basic techniques through observation, drills, and individual instruction. In June 2015, instructors conducted an Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) classroom presentation and training in accordance with AO policy. This training provided updated information regarding OC, deployment, and post-incident procedures. Instructors administered the OC Examination at the conclusion of the presentation with 100% of officers passing the written test.

### **Training and Professional Development**

In FY 2015, the District of New Hampshire participated in a number of national, regional, and local training seminars, as attendees and/or presenters, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Procurement Training
- Group Crisis Intervention
- Sig Sauer Academy
- Writing for Clarity
- Southern NH University Drug Summit
- Medication Assisted Treatment
- National Strategic Planning Session
- Exploring the Sexual Offender & Physical Abuser
- Federal Drug Sentencing Guidelines Amendment Reentry Conference
- Active Shooter Security Training
- STARR Implementation Training
- 2015 USSG National Guidelines Training
- ATLAS Security Awareness Training
- Evaluation Instrument Training with HR Edge
- Taking Action to Reduce Opioid-Related Harm
- Child Support Training
- Financial Investigation Training
- CISM Training

### **Recognition**

During FY 2015, and consistent with the recommendations of the year's peer-based Employee Recognition Committee, the following staff members were cited for outstanding work:

Sean Buckley: District Award for Sustained Superior Performance

Kelley West: District Award for Special Service/Exceeding Expectations

Steve Seero: District Award for Special Service/Exceeding Expectations

Tim Brown: Chief's Award for Community Service/Public Relations