



Winter 2025

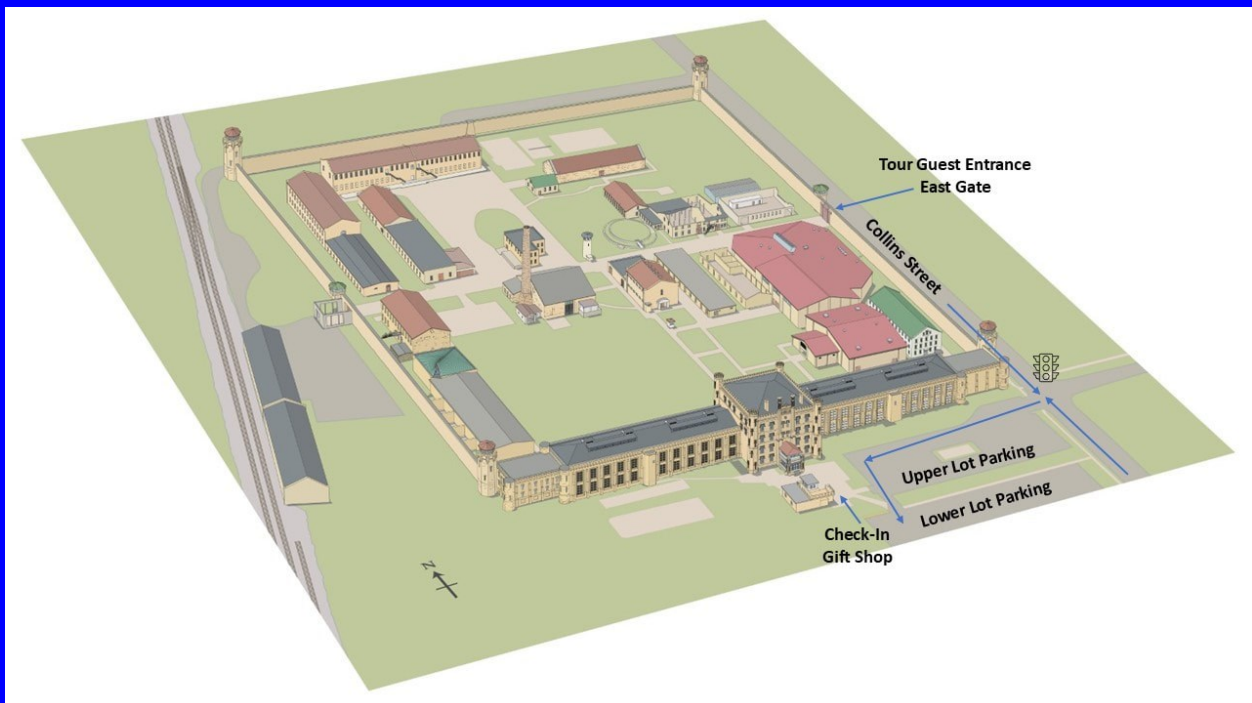
OUTLOOK

ILLINOIS PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES ASSOCIATION



Fall Conference Attendees Enjoy Tour of Old Joliet Prison

See more on page 47



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REGIONAL MEETING INFORMATION

***Region 1 Meeting— March 5 @
10:00 a.m. via Zoom***

***Region II Meeting: March 7 @ 10:00 a.m.
via Zoom***

***Region III Meeting: March 4 @ 10:00
a.m. via Zoom***

Zoom links found [Here!](#)

2025 IPCSA SPRING GOLF OUTING

Registration Now Open!

Register [Here!](#)

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS



Happy New Year Everyone,

As I begin my term as President, I would first like to take time to recognize outgoing President Tod Dillard. I am so honored, and frankly a little intimidated, to be following in Tod's footsteps as the incoming President. I have served on the board since 2021. During that time I have witnessed Tod take IPCSA to new heights. With his leadership, the board has added the annual Leadership Symposium, added monthly roll call trainings, started regional pop-up trainings, formed the IPCSA Leadership Academy, became a COPE presumptive provider, and the list goes on. However, the most important qualities I believe Tod exhibited as President, were his ability to encourage the board members to openly express ideas, to lead by example, and to invest in the future of the Association and its membership. While, all of the members of the board poured their hearts and souls into the Association for the past few years, a team can only go where their leader takes them. As I start my term as President, I sincerely want to thank Tod for being my mentor, my friend, and someone I strive to do proud during my term.

Now, looking forward to 2025, as I mentioned above, the inaugural class of the IPCSA Leadership Academy is set to graduate in April. Twenty-five participants were chosen for this class by the Leadership Committee. The academy is year-long with participants attending three-8 hour-in-person sessions, six virtual sessions, and completing and presenting a capstone project prior to graduation in April. The academy was made possible with a partnership with the Alliance for Community and Justice Innovation (ACJI)- Dr. Alexandra Walker. Participants tackled many topics including VUCA, Adaptive Challenges, Psychological Safety, and Organizational and Personal Alignment. As a participant in this year's academy, I can tell you it has been challenging, educational, fun, interesting, and a self-reflective experience I will never forget. I believe it has made, and will continue, to make me a better leader, CMO, and President. I strongly encourage anyone who is interested in being a leader in their department, the Association, and/or the field to apply for the next IPCSA Leadership Academy. It will be worth it.

My goal as President is to continue to grow the Association in several areas. I want IPCSA to continue to provide quality, COPE approved trainings throughout the state at conferences, regional trainings, virtual roll calls, and who knows, maybe we will see some new and exciting ways to bring trainings to the membership in the future. IPCSA will continue to develop, present, and support legislation that improves the lives of the people we serve, our members, and provide the ability and resources to do our jobs well.

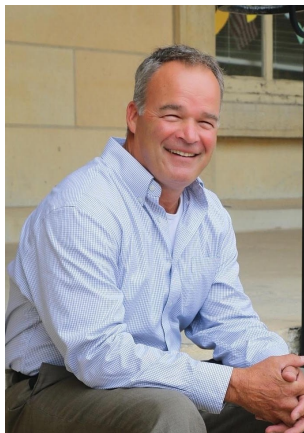
As President, I also desire to grow the IPCSA committees in both numbers and participation. Many past presidents have said that our committees are the "backbone of the association" and I whole-heartedly agree. Our committees provide the voice of the membership. They allow our association to make a difference across the state in many ways. I believe that one voice, when added to others with "one voice," can truly change the world. I invite all members to join an IPCSA committee. We have 19 different committees so the choices are numerous. If you all are like me, and I suspect many of you are whether you want to admit it or not (LOL), you are in this field to make a difference and the committees are a great way to do so. If you have questions about the committees or are interested in joining a committee; please reach out to me at car-la.stalnaker@clintoncounty.illinois.gov or our Representative Chair Deborah Norman at DNorman@lakecountyil.gov. (See page 58 for a complete listing of committees and respective contact information.

In closing, I hope to see all of you (yes, I said ALL of you) in 2025, whether it be at a conference, roll call, committee meeting, training, or a leadership event, please stop by and say hey. I enjoying seeing familiar faces and meeting new people.

Respectfully,

Carla Stalnaker
IPCSA President

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR OUT-GOING PRESIDENT



Hey everyone,

I want to thank President Carla Stalnaker for asking me to share some thoughts with you one last time. When reflecting on these past four years, it's hard to put into words just how much this experience has meant to me. It's been wonderfully challenging, and incredibly rewarding, but above all, it's been an honor to serve as your president.

When I took on this role, I knew it would push me outside of my comfort zone. And it did—constantly. But those challenges turned out to be some of the most fulfilling experiences I've had. While working with members, collaborating with the Executive Board, or partnering with our committees, I've been continuously inspired every step of the way by the dedication and passion I've witnessed at every turn.

One of the things I've come to appreciate is just how much work goes on behind the scenes. It's been a team effort the entire way, from planning conferences that truly serve our members to ensuring our association's voice is heard in key discussions. I've been fortunate to work with an incredible group of people who care deeply about what we do and the communities we serve.

Our association has grown through expanded training opportunities, strengthened legislative advocacy, and an improved overall experience for our members. Our conferences more dynamic and inclusive, and we strive to ensure there's something for everyone. IPCSA continues to evolve in order to meet the needs of our profession.

I want to thank our members, the Executive Board, committee chairs, and everyone who has played a role in IPCSA's success. Your hard work, ideas, and dedication have made this experience unforgettable. And serving as your president has been one of the great privileges of my career. I'll always look back on this time with pride and gratitude.

Though my term as president has ended, I'm not ready to step away just yet. I'm staying on the board, as your state-wide representative, as I'm still committed to IPCSA's mission and to supporting the incredible work we're doing. This association has been such an important part of my life, and I'm excited to see where the next chapter takes us. After 34 years in probation, serving on the board has allowed me to learn and grow in ways I hadn't expected—it has been an incredible opportunity and I encourage anyone to pursue it if given the chance.

Let's keep building on what we've started and continue moving IPCSA forward. I was fortunate to have President Stalnaker serve as my president-elect, and I can say unequivocally the Association is in very capable hands—provided she can stay upright on the dais :) .

All the best,

Tod Dillard
IPCSA State-wide Representative

“ I want to thank our members, the Executive Board, committee chairs, and everyone who has played a role in IPCSA's success. Your hard work, ideas, and dedication have made this experience unforgettable. And serving as your president has been one of the great privileges of my career. I'll always look back on this time with pride and gratitude.”

Tod Dillard



Capitol Report – February, 2025

By John McCabe
IPCSA Director of Governmental Relations

January, 2025 marks the start of several transitions. First, there is a new Illinois General Assembly, the 104th biennial meeting. All four leadership positions have been re-elected. I have not participated in all of them, as this is only my 25th General Assembly since I started on House Legislative staff. And, speaking of transitions, it will be my last General Assembly. Joining the IPCSA Legislative team is Mark Jarmer, a Veteran and a veteran of the General Assembly and the House Staff to make sure that IPCSA remains in capable hands in the State Capitol.

In one of the final acts of the outgoing General Assembly, House Bill 4144, Karina’s Law was passed. This law strengthens the safety of victims who have filed an order of protection by clarifying the confiscation or removal of weapons. This legislation was supported by IPCSA and is awaiting final approval by Governor JB Pritzker (see page 7 of this publication).

The Illinois Children’s Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative just updated it’s BEACON (See page 33 of this publication) resource finder for juveniles to improve access for families. Dr. Dana Weiner continues her efforts to cut red tape to get access to services. She has proven to be a great friend to probation. Anyone that has used BEACON, please reach out to me. The Executive Board is looking to add more training for either the conferences or a Roll Call on BEACON. We would like to be able to give any feedback, positive or not, to Dr. Weiner.

I also wanted to thank the Research Committee and all the CMO’s that participated in our survey concerning staff retention. We are hoping this will help our efforts to IPSCA will continue to work to eliminate the unbalanced reimbursement rate for those Salary Subsidy positions and provide greater resources for retention efforts.

However, there is not all good news on the horizon. With the end of Federal support for COVID and inflationary and other growth, the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget has projected \$3.2 billion deficit in the upcoming State Fiscal Year 2026 budget. This deficit will have to be fixed with any combination of budget cuts and revenue increases. This will make any new initiatives difficult. Also, it will put pressure on all agencies to find ways to reduce spending. Our hope is that the Supreme Court and AOIC will continue to support probation as they have for the past six years.

I want to thank in advance the IPCSA Committees and committee members for helping review new legislation. The introduction deadlines are Feb. 7th in both the Senate and House.

Protecting Communities, Changing Lives continues as the mission statement of IPCSA.

If you have any questions concerning IPCSA Legislative Proposals, please feel free to contact John McCabe at johnmccabe@att.net, Mark Jarmer at mcjarmer@gmail.com, or Legislative Committee Chair, Tom Gregory, Vermilion County CMO, at tgregory@vercounty.org. Anyone that wishes to follow legislation can visit the Illinois General Assembly’s web site, www.ilga.gov. The Illinois General Assembly is transitioning to a new website. Contact John McCabe, johnmccabe@att.net or Mark Jarmer if you have questions on how to use this very helpful website.

MEET MARK JARMER



Mark Jarmer
IPCSA Deputy Director of Governmental Relations

While some of you have met Mark at the last two conferences, this will give you a little more information about his background.

Farmer, speech writer, educator, historian, Hollywood mogul, researcher, staff director, and now governmental relations consultant.

Mark was born into an 800-acre, wheat farming family in Kansas, where he learned about the value of honesty and hard work. Mark joined the U.S. Army after high school and served with distinction from 1987-92; and again from 2001-2003. Mark re-enlisted with his Infantry Company after 9/11.

He graduated Arizona State University in 1995, summa cum laude, with a degree in political science and a minor in biology. After graduation Mark worked as the principal speech writer for Russell Rhoades, Director of Arizona's Department of Environmental Quality. In 1997, Mark's father fell ill with cancer and Mark moved from Arizona to Kansas, accepting a teaching position at Garden City Community College in Kansas, to be near to his father. He also coached his inter-collegiate Parliamentary debate teams to national titles, and instructed courses in American History and Philosophy. Mark completed his Master's degree at Fort Hays State University. Mark was published in college as a co-writer on a research paper for the National Science Foundation on the nexus between science and juris prudence.

Mark's big Hollywood moment occurred when Mark served as an expert consultant on the Clutter family murders, during the Hollywood production of the major film, Capote.

After returning home from his second military service, Mark returned to teaching. He accepted an analyst position with the House Democratic Research and Appropriations staff. Mark staffed Higher Education, Veterans' Affairs, Consumer Protection, Human Services, General Services, Public Safety, Capital, and Agriculture committees. He also reviewed two legislative support agencies, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Commission on Governmental Forecasting and Accounting. In 2019, Mark was promoted to Director of Research and Appropriations - at which he served until 2024.

Today Mark co-owns Delta Capitol Group, a veteran-owned public policy consulting and lobbying firm. Mark is married to Christine, who is an R.N. Mark has five children and a labrador retriever named Whiskey Francis, and enjoys spending time at his cabin on Table Rock Lake in Missouri.

IPCSA EXECUTIVE BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION			
▶ President	Carla Stalaker	Clinton County	618-594-6635 x136 .. carla.stalaker@clintonco.illinois.gov
▶ President-Elect	Seth Krause	McHenry County	815-334-4400 sakrause@22ndcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov
▶ Secretary	Stephen Sells	Kane County	331-291-2009 sellssthen@16thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov
▶ Treasurer	Brian Brown	Peoria County	309-634-4200 bbrown@peoriacounty.org
▶ Representative Chair	Deborah Norman	Lake County	847-377-3660..... dnorman@lakecountyil.gov
▶ Statewide Representative	Tod Dillard	Morgan County	217-243-9468 tdillard@morgancounty-il.com
▶ Region I Representative	Melissa Spooner	Cook County	312-443-4497 Melissa.spooner@cookcountyil.gov
▶ Region II Representative	Vacant		
▶ Region III Representative	Banee' Ulrici	Montgomery County	217-532-3506 baneeu@montgomerycountyil.gov
▶ Government Relations	Mark Jarmer	Delta Capitol Group	620-640-7702 mcjarmer@gmail.com
	John McCabe	John McCabe & Associates	312-543-0644 johnmccabe@att.net
▶ Executive Assistant	Cheryl Meyers	Effingham County	217-347-7931 association1969@ipcsa.org



ILLINOIS PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES ASSOCIATION

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www.ipcsa.org • ipcsa1969@gmail.com

January 17, 2025

The Honorable J.B. Pritzker, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

RE: House Bill 4144
Recommendation: **Sign into Law**

Dear Governor Pritzker:

On behalf of the Illinois Probation and Court Services Association (IPCSA), we are writing to express our strong support for the signing of Karina's Bill. This critical piece of legislation, which the Association supported when originally filed as House Bill 1404 in 2023, aims to enhance the safety of victims of domestic violence by ensuring that law enforcement officers promptly remove firearms from individuals subject to orders of protection.

The period when a survivor is leaving an abusive relationship is often the most dangerous. The immediate protection provided by Karina's Bill can significantly reduce the risk of violence during this vulnerable time. Karina Gonzalez's tragic case, where she was allegedly shot and killed by her husband despite having an order of protection, underscores the urgent need for this bill. Karina's Bill will close the existing loophole in the current law, which has left many victims vulnerable due to the lack of clear procedures for firearm removal. By requiring law enforcement to confiscate guns within 96 hours of a judge's order, this bill will provide a critical layer of protection for victims and their families.

The Human Advocacy Committee and the Association's membership believe that the implementation of Karina's Bill will save lives and prevent further tragedies. The Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence released its annual Domestic Violence Homicide Report for 2023, noting a dramatic increase of 121% in the number of deaths resulting from domestic violence in the state over 2022. Of those deaths, firearms were the means of death in 68% of the incidents, indicating that removal of firearms is a life-saving effort.

We urge you to sign Karina's Bill into law and take a significant step towards protecting the lives of domestic violence victims in Illinois. Your support for this legislation will demonstrate a commitment to the safety and well-being of our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Carla Stalnaker
President
Clinton County

Linda L. O'Brien, Co-Chair
Human Advocacy Committee
Cook County

Angela Sebbalos, Co-Chair
Human Advocacy Comm.
Lake County

Illinois Probation: Protecting Communities, Changing Lives

ELECTION INFORMATION/ROLL CALL INFORMATION

IPCSA BOARD POSITIONS OPEN FOR ELECTION 2025

Secretary

Treasurer

Region I Representative

Region III Representative

Deadline to submit nomination is June 1, 2025

In the Fall of 2025, the IPCSA Executive Board positions identified above are open for election. Region I encompasses the following circuits: 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23 and Cook County. Region 3 consists of the following Circuits: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 20.

You must work in the region to qualify as the region's representative.

The following qualifications are necessary to run for office:

- ▶ Full membership in the Association.
- ▶ Active participation in committees or special projects for two years.
- ▶ Appropriate judicial officer approval to attend, to travel, and devote time to the Association business.
- ▶ Verification of qualifications by the Nominations/ Elections Committee.

IPCSA Executive Board Members in collaboration with the IPCSA Committees will be hosting a series of **Roll Call Events**

2:00– 3:00 p.m.

- ▶ *Open exclusively to IPCSA members*
- ▶ *Watch your emails for upcoming notifications*
 - ▶ *COPE Approved*

2025 Tentative Schedule

February 25– Topic TBD, Becky Self, AOIC

March 25, Pretrial, Pretrial Committee

April 29-Juvenile Redeploy Initiative, 4th Judicial Circuit

June 24-Beacon, IDHS

August 26-PSC, William Blundell

September 30-TBD

November 26-TBD

(Roll Calls are not scheduled during Conference and Symposium months. Schedule and topics are subject to change.)

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS 2024 Distinguished Service Award Winners

The Distinguished Service Awards are presented to the Probation and Court Service professionals who, in the opinion of their Chief Managing Officers, deserve individual recognition for their dedication and commitment to their clients, peers, and the community.

Joseph Ahr

Lake County

Elizabeth Holmes

Sangamon County

Julie Russel

Winnebago County

Amelia Almazan

Lake County

Lexi Inman

McHenry County

Ashley Salmon

Henry County

Peter Atterburg

McHenry County

Jacqueline Juodis

Kendall County

Stephanie Sankis

Lake County

Lawrence Brazil

St. Clair County

Jayson King

Jersey County

Jeff Seaman

Madison County

Amanda Brewer

Douglas County

Zach Klatt

Kendall County

Autumn Smith

Dekalb County

Delores Brittain

Will County

Sarah Lange

Madison County

Jeannie Spencer

Whiteside County

Ashley Campbell

Calhoun County

Cynthia Littleton

Cass County

Timothy Stevens

Kendall County

Jessica Carbajal

McHenry County

Kent Lovelace

Montgomery County

Alexis Stropes

Mercer County

Susan Chirico

Will County

Lance McCann

Kankakee County

Lori Trout

McHenry County

Martha Coffey

McHenry County

Beth McFarland

Marion County

Gabrielle Tucker

Bureau County

Dryden Craven

Pike County

Shannon Mertes

LaSalle County

Cortez Vaughn

Kane County

Mona Crubaugh

Effingham County

Eric Newby

Lake County

Kellie Verdun

Iroquois County

Evan Driver

Pike County

David Nix

Dupage County

James Wilder

Fulton County

Ashley Dryden

Effingham County

Leo Orban

Sangamon County

Michael Wilkinson

Madison County

Christy Foster

Clinton County

Brad Paschal

Madison County

Dana Winchell

McHenry County

Andrea Fox

Kankakee County

Justin Polich

Will County

Amy Yerbic

Fulton County

Julie Goodwick

Kane County

Tesha Robertson

Peoria County

Alesia Zander

Champaign County

2024 DISTINGUISHED AWARD WINNERS



2024 IPCSA AWARDS PRESENTATION



Gene Hughes Award Highest Professional Standards **CHRIS WATKINS** Will County

The Gene Hughes Award is given to a Probation Officer who has exemplified the highest standards of the profession.

For nearly three decades, Chris Watkins has been deeply involved in social services, demonstrating his unwavering dedication and commitment. Chris began his career with Will County as a Juvenile Detention Officer in 1998 and held various roles at the Detention Center, including Critical Response Officer, Shift Supervisor, Chief of Security and Superintendent. Notably, he played a key role in the construction and management of the River Valley Justice Center.

In 2020, Chris became the Assistant Director of the Will County Probation Adult Division. He became Director of Court Services for Will County in 2021.

Chris is a fearless leader who embraces change and innovation. He advocates for the professional growth of his staff, investing time, energy, and resources into their development and the advancement of his department. Notable initiatives include the procurement of Babbel to allow his staff to explore and learn a different language to better serve clients and implementation of a new performance appraisal software that enables comprehensive performance reviews, staff engagement surveys and the establishment of measure of professional goals for staff.

Chris Watkins is an advocate for not only his staff, but for the clients that his department serves. Examples include purchasing bus passes for clients who have a hard time getting to probation or treatment appointments, and purchasing laptops so clients can come into the office and complete GED prep work. He also helped facilitate one of the longest standing and youth favorite volunteer groups within detention. He remembers the oath he took when starting his employment with Will County and takes time to remind others that we are here to provide a service to our clients and serve the community.

Chris's commitment to serving the community extends beyond his professional life. He dedicates his time to coaching, wrestling for high school students and younger kids, demonstrating his personal investment in the community.

Chris attributes his accomplishments to the administration team, but his leadership fosters an environment of autonomy. He allows his team to be quirky however the consequences of that freedom comes with a cost of hearing his site origins to words and subjects in which staff sit and get a history lesson.

Chris has been a long standing member of IPCSA and is a member of the Supreme Court Probation Policy Advisory Board.

Congratulations Chris Watkins as this year's recipient of the Gene Hughes Award –Highest Professional Standards Award.



Darrel O. Smith President's Award JOHN McCABE McCabe and Associates

Darrel O. Smith began his career in probation in Madison County as a student intern and rose to the position of Chief Probation Officer. During his tenure and under his leadership, Madison County initiated numerous progressive programs in adult probation. Darrel was also known for his tireless efforts in working with legislative and judicial leaders, and the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts on behalf of the profession. His contributions to the Association are immeasurable and a standard for all to follow. In memory of Darrel O. Smith, the Association presents an annual award to the member, or members who, in the opinion of the President of the Association, have made an outstanding contribution to the Association, and the profession.

John McCabe is someone who has dedicated 37 years of service to our association and whose contributions have been felt by all of us in many ways.

John McCabe is a leader and a mentor. His guidance and support have been indispensable. He has been there behind the scenes, always offering insight, wisdom, and stability. His authenticity and ability to build meaningful relationships with everyone is unmatched. John has been a coach and cheerleader to all of those who have served on the Board at one time or another.

Beyond that, his influence extends far beyond the IPCSA boardroom. As the Director of Governmental Relations for IPCSA, John has built strong relationships with legislators, ensuring that the voice of the Association is heard in the state Capitol. His connections, understanding of the legislative process, and tireless advocacy have been crucial in advancing our profession and securing a better future for probation and court services.

If you've spent any time around him, you also know he's an avid White Sox fan, and just like his commitment to his favorite team, his loyalty to IPCSA is unwavering. So much so that he's often referred to unofficially as the IPCSA historian and photographer, documenting our journey and preserving our legacy along the way.

John's ability to foster genuine dialogue is a testament to his leadership. He ensures that every voice is heard, and he always has the best interest of IPCSA at heart.

John's 37 years of service, his relationships with legislators, and his commitment to IPCSA are a legacy in themselves. John has been, and continues to be, an irreplaceable part of the association.

Congratulations John McCabe as this year's recipient of the Darrel O. Smith President's Award.



William C. Albertson Award Field of Achievement **SUSAN PAYTON McHenry County**

The William Albertson Award is presented to the recipient who has exemplified the highest standards of the profession in the field of achievement.

Susan Payton came to probation as a second career after a first career in “Corporate America.” She came to probation because she wanted to make a difference in her community. Her first career afforded her a wealth of experience in how to find efficiencies, how to improve processes/practices and how to operate an organization effectively. These traits are vital to the success that McHenry County has had in their implementation and, most importantly sustainment, of EPICS and other evidence based practices. And, McHenry County has tried to extend their lessons learned to other departments, as well as the AOIC as others effort toward the implementation of Core Correctional Practices. Many of the processes and information that McHenry County has been able to share with the field were either created or modified by Susan.

Susan’s work ethic is beyond compare. She is constantly challenging established practices with the intent of considering other perspectives or potential ways to get the job done, while also considering the impact on staff and ultimately how that relates to the delivery of service to clients, the Court and the community. Susan was instrumental in the success of IPCSA Spring Conference 2024. And, she was willingly shared ideas and information with Will County in their efforts to put on an amazing fall conference 2024.

Susan will be retiring in 2025.

Susan has a Bachelor’s degree in Management and Leadership and an Associates degree in Computer Science. She is a current member of IPCSA, APPA, Toastmasters Inc-Professional Speaking Club, and Dale Carnegie Inc-Professional Speaking and Communications. She has ten years of service in probation and has elevated to Deputy Director because of her experience, education and professionalism. She contributes to the community through her church and she is also a member of a gardening club in Woodstock. Susan has two amazing children who have grown up to be professionals within the field as well so her influence is having ripple effects that will continue to benefit the community beyond her retirement.

Congratulations Susan Payton as this year’s recipient of the William Albertson Field of Achievement Award.

IPCSA CONTACT INFORMATION

217-663-6728
association1969@ipcsa.org

P.O. Box 474
Effingham, IL 62401





Pauline Gansauer Award Field of Dedication KELLI VANDERLEI Kendall County

The Pauline Gansauer Award is presented to the probation officer who has exemplified the highest standards of dedication to the profession. An individual who has their own goals that align with probation and court services. An officer who strives to improve their personal growth, their department and field of probation and court services.

Kelli Vanderlei walked through the doors of the old Kendall County Courthouse as a young intern ready to learn everything she could. She took every experience she encountered in stride and grew from it. She decided right there and then that Kendall County was her home and these were her people. She began her career as a probation officer on December 1, 1992.

Kelli has worn many hats during her tenure (intern, support staff, juvenile officer, adult officer, administrative officer, etc), but the hats she wears as an investigative officer and senior probation officer are the ones that highlight her many strengths the most. As an investigative officer, she writes Social Histories and Pre-Sentence Investigations for the court. She takes the title of “investigative” officer to heart and truly digs into the heart of what brought an individual into the court system. She approaches her work with empathy, understanding the challenges and circumstances faced by individuals on probation. This helps in building trust and fostering a supportive environment. She utilizes skills, knowledge and ability to build rapport with anyone. Her skills help her to uncover the truths and present it in a meaningful way, providing guidance regarding strategies that will work best for the client should community corrections be an option.

Kelli demonstrates her impeccable ethics and integrity by consistently adhering to ethical guidelines and standards, ensuring fairness and honesty in all interactions with clients, colleagues, and the court system. Kelly understand the importance of collaboration and teamwork. She works well with colleagues, law enforcement, social services, and other stakeholders, recognizing that a collaborative approach often leads to better outcomes for those on probation.

Kelli is well respected for her skills and knowledge by all. Her commitment, love and dedication for the department and community shows in everything she does.

As senior Probation Officer, Kelli continues to step up to any challenge that is given to her. She helps younger staff learn and grow by allowing herself to be interviewed by community colleges or high school students, co-facilitating the internship program, and allowing fellow co-workers to shadow her as an investigative officer. She is the perpetual cheerleader for teammates and seeks out the good in everyone. Kelli makes it a point to celebrate others’ milestones or personal celebrations at home, as she understands that home life is what motivates work life for our profession. Her wonderful sense of humor, steel trap memory and endless knowledge of anything music and old movie trivia makes her the go-to for balancing out the workday when it becomes just a little too much.

Congratulations Kelli Vanderlei as this year’s recipient of the Pauline Gansauer Field of Dedication Award.



**S. William Ettinger Award
Field of Service
LINDA O'BRIEN
Cook County Social Service**

The S. William Ettinger Award is presented to the individual who, in the opinion of the Executive Board and the Awards Committee, has exemplified the highest degree of dedication and service to the Association.

This award honors an individual who embodies enthusiasm and a commitment to enhancing our association and the lives of others—truly a motivator, innovator, and leader. When people meet Linda O'Brien, they see someone who has a spirit filled with love and energy—enough to illuminate an entire room.

Linda O'Brien is truly laugh-out-loud funny, often voicing what everyone else is thinking and having the courage to say it aloud, prompting everyone to burst into laughter. Since beginning her career as a caseworker in 2001, Linda's enthusiasm for the work has been contagious; she not only shares jokes but also recognizes the challenges and significance of our mission to improve the lives of those we serve. Linda deeply understands the responsibilities to the courts, community, and clients, and she tirelessly advocates for the importance of our efforts. Colleagues describe her as an outstanding leader who motivates others with her passion and energy. As a trainer, Linda fosters a learning environment that is both enjoyable and engaging. Participants leave the sessions enriched with knowledge and uplifted by the humor and warmth of spending time with this remarkable individual.

Always bringing innovative ideas to the table, Linda fosters collaboration among committee members and as a committee chair, she organizes training events during conferences, emphasizing the value of human connection in a supportive and open environment- consistently seeking ways to enhance support and elevate the voices that are often unheard or even silenced.

As an avid collector of Marvel and DC memorabilia, It is no surprise that Wonder Woman holds a special place in Linda's heart. While balancing a full-time job, she earned her Master's degree, led the development of Restorative Justice Courts, and was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Domestic Violence. She truly embodies the essence of a remarkable and wonderful woman!

As part of her Leadership Academy application, Linda reflected on the words of Marshall Goldsmith: "Leadership is providing inspiration and vision, then developing and empowering others to achieve this vision." This perfectly captures the essence of Linda O'Brien.

Congratulations Linda O'Brien as this year's recipient of the S. William Ettinger Field of Service Award.



Robert E. Burdine Award Officer of the Year **SUSAN DUNN Macoupin County**

The Robert E. Burdine Award is awarded to the line officer who, in the opinion of the Awards Committee, has exemplified highest standards of the profession by the specific accomplishments and/or contributions to his/her department.

Using conservative numbers, Susan Dunn has touched the lives of over 2000 justice involved individuals, both adult and juvenile, within the Carlinville, Illinois, and Macoupin County area.

In 1999, Susan was hired to serve as the Juvenile Diversion Officer in Macoupin County. She tirelessly advocated for youth to improve their lives, future prospects, family relationships, living arrangements, and self-worth. She engaged in many educational opportunities to learn more about how to motivate change in youth and to advocate for their futures in our community.

In 2007, the diversion program ended, and Susan transitioned to become Juvenile and Adult Administrative Officer. During these years, she continued to advocate for her clients and put their needs first. Though reporting to the Court was always a part of Susan's role, she has always considered a Petition to Revoke as a last report. She believes in people and their ability to change.

In 2016, Susan became a general Adult and Juvenile Probation Officer, and then, in 2010, she added Drug Court Officer to her many responsibilities. In 2023, she became a full time Drug Court Officer, leaving juvenile probation behind.

All along the way, Susan has worked day in and day out to change lives. She supported. She advocated. She motivated. She affirmed. She positively rewarded. She cared deeply.

It is impossible to count the amount of furniture Susan has found and given to clients who needed a bed or tv stand or a kitchen table. It is impossible to count the number of after-hours phone calls and texts Susan has received and never asked for extra time or money for or the trips to treatment or to the doctor or to the grocery store.

Susan is one of the good ones. If one of your loved ones is placed on probation, you should hope that they get Susan as an officer. She will do everything in her power to help her clients succeed. She thinks outside of the box, and she asks the community to help. She will call community members who she knows have the thing her client needs and she will ask them to help. She is transparent in her hospitality and offers it to everyone. No client is left behind.

She has contributed to thousands of families in her community and the ripples of her work are bountiful.

Susan has a Bachelor of Science from Eastern Illinois University. She has worked with Macoupin County Probation and Court Services for 26 years and is a current member of IPCSA, ILAPSC and APPA. In addition to her work, she is an active member of her church, sports local sports teams and attends games regularly. Susan loves tradition and her family.

Congratulations Susan Dunn as this year's recipient of the Robert E. Burdine Officer of the Year Award.



Michael Rohan Innovative Leadership Award **STACI STEWART Lee County**

The Michael Rohan Innovative Leadership Award is presented annually to the program or person in detention or probation that exemplifies leadership in offender program development with demonstrated evidence of effective outcomes with clients.

Staci Stewart has been actively involved in the Lee County Problem-Solving Courts, writing grants, and implementing one of the first pretrial programs in her circuit. She is quick to implement ideas into the office and is committed to serving the community and the clients that come through the Lee County Probation Office. Staci has worked with local transportation agencies to provide transportation to those who are unable to get to their appointments within the community and has also worked with local community leaders to develop new ideas to address the mental health and substance abuse problems in the area in the form of developing and/or bringing a treatment facility in the area to help those in need.

Staci is well known and very respected throughout the courthouse and has strong relationships with all of the offices in Lee County. She has developed a very professional work environment and has always helped and encouraged fellow colleagues to be the best they can be.

Staci not only has been involved with IPCSA, but also with All Rise, the Illinois Association of Problem-Solving Courts, and is currently serving as a mentor for the IPCSA inaugural Leadership Academy. Outside of Probation, Staci is a member of the Partnership for a Healthy County which focuses on substance use disorders and mental health issues in Lee County along with being involved in a current grant project through the Office on Violence Against Women focusing on Domestic Battery and Sexual Assault.

Staci started her career in the probation world in the 1990's after completing her Bachelor's degree at Western Illinois University. She was then promoted to caseload supervisor and ultimately as Director of Lee County Probation.

Congratulations Staci Stewart as this year's recipient of the Michael Rohan Innovative Leadership Award.



NOT AN IPCSA MEMBER?

**Become a member to secure
reduced conference and other training rates**

Submit your membership [HERE!](#)



Frank Calkins
Committee Member of the
Year Award
ALICE ELLIOTT
Kendall County

The Frank Calkins Committee Member of the Year Award is presented to an individual who demonstrates dedication and support of the Association through committee work. They encourage new members to join and encourage involvement in both the Association & committee work. The recipient is an individual who works with committee to develop workshops, distribute information, and is an asset promoting the betterment of the field.

Alice Elliott is an advocate of succession planning. As a CMO, she encourages staff to attend trainings and join organizations to both enhance their knowledge and skills and to foster relationship building. She ensures the resources are available to make this happen. Alice has similarly done the same within the association.

Alice Elliott worked as part of a IPCSA Leadership Committee member to create a framework to build skills of current members through the formation of a Leadership Initiative. This effort resulted in the creation of the IPCSA Leadership Symposium and the IPCSA Leadership Academy.

The Leadership Academy initiative brings together 50 leaders within our membership to learn and grow together: 25 academy participants and 25 Academy mentors. As a Leadership Committee member, Alice took the lead in recruiting mentors for the inaugural academy participants. She then spearheaded the efforts of pairing each academy participant with a mentor based on the individual goals and attributes conveyed by each participant. Feedback from current academy members is that their pairing has been spot on! Current academy participants will pay it forward by mentoring the next academy. If betterment of the field and association is a core attribute of this award, then Alice's efforts to develop leaders and informed practices is the essence of the Frank Calkins Award.

In addition to her roll on the IPCSA Leadership Committee, Alice Elliot has served as both chair and co-chair of the Research Committee. She recognizes the importance of seeking research to inform our decisions. She is also an active member of the CMO Committee. Alice has close to 36 years within our field, the last nine of which have been as the CMO (first at Stephenson and Carroll County and now with Kendall County). She earned an Administration of Justice degree through Southern Illinois University.

Congratulations Alice Elliott as this year's recipient of the Frank Calkins Committee Member of the year award.

***Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think
what nobody else has thought.***

Albert Szent-Gyorgyi



Exemplary Service Award **DONNA DUNN** Clarity Healthcare

The Exemplary Service Award, previously designated as the Citizen's Award, is presented to an individual in the Community, who has served to further Probation and Court Services through their dedication and commitment to the private sector.

Donna Dunn has demonstrated the very definition of this award by serving to further probation and court services through her dedication and commitment within the private sector. She provides quality counseling to justice involved individuals and has been a key part in helping to bring intense outpatient substance abuse treatment to the Pike County Probation Department. She is working directly with the CMO to bring Drug Court back to Pike County, while also attending conferences and meetings to help move this project forward.

Donna is described as empathetic but direct and as having the perfect approach to working with justice involved individuals.

Pike County Chief Managing Officer Evan Driver stated, "She is a huge part of our team and we are so thankful for her work in leadership roles. Having her work alongside our department has been wonderful."

Congratulations Donna Dunn as this year's recipient of the Exemplary Service Award.

Being a Change Agent

- ⇒ **Motivation: To engage with clients in strategic and intentional ways.**
- ⇒ **Knowledge: of evidence-based practices**
- ⇒ **Skill: Applying evidence-based practices consistently and appropriately. Ensuring a high degree of fidelity.**



John McCabe Legislative Service Award

Meg Loughran Cappel

Senator, Illinois 49th District

The John McCabe Legislative Service Award is presented to the individual who, in the opinion of the Executive Board, has displayed legislative leadership which prioritizes criminal justice legislation that positively impacts probation and court services.

State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel began representing the 49th Senate District in December 2020 following years of shaping lives as a special education teacher and advocate.

Loughran Cappel has long been dedicated to fostering inclusive environments for students to learn and thrive. She first entered the professional world as a special education teacher. In 2015, Loughran Cappel became a union representative for her school's teacher's union — AFT-IFT Local 604 – to support other educators and help them have meaningful careers. Two years later, she served on the Joliet High School Board, where she worked to improve school safety and technical problems within the district.

As a Joliet native, Loughran Cappel had dedicated her life to giving back to the community that helped shape her into the person she is today. She is a member of the Plainfield-Shorewood Chamber of Commerce and Romeoville Chamber of Commerce.

Senator Loughran Cappel serves as chair of the Senate Appropriations Education Committee and is a member of the Senate Agriculture, Education, Labor and State Government Committees.

Loughran Cappel and her husband own a small business located in Shorewood where they reside. Together they have three children.

While she is not as active in criminal justice legislation as she is on education issues, she demonstrates the type of values in Springfield we value as an Association.

Congratulations Senator Meg Loughran Cappel as this year's recipient of the John McCabe Legislative Service Award.

FALL CONFERENCE AWARDS BANQUET OCTOBER 9, 2025

WHO WILL YOU NOMINATE?



Connie Kaiser Restorative Justice Award **KATHY STARKOVICH** DuPage County

The Connie Kaiser Restorative Justice Award is presented to the person, persons, or Court Services Department, who in the opinion of the Awards Committee, exemplifies the highest standards of the profession in the area of promoting restorative justice principles, practices and activities for youth in detention.

Kathy Starkovich is recognized nationally for her expertise in detention programming to employ evidence-informed behavior management strategies and programming to enhance institutional safety and influences pro-social change. She has consulted with the National Partnership for Juvenile Services and was sought by the National Institute of Corrections to collaborate on the development of a guide, *Quality Practice for Working with Youth in Confinement*. Kathy Starkovich co-authored the section on Effective Programs and Services. Her expertise is not limited to detention programming. Kathy is trained in evidence-informed practices and a variety of cognitive-behavioral interventions. She regularly shares her vast knowledge through state and national work groups and as a trainer for more than twenty years. Countless staff throughout Illinois have been trained by Kathy in detention basics, motivational interviewing, risk assessments, core correctional practices and coaching.

Kathy Starkovich is currently a mentor for the inaugural IPCSA Leadership Academy. She is also a key member of a state-wide task group working towards the development of a state-wide detention screening instrument. Kathy is a current member of the Adult Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board whose goal is to reduce the number of individuals sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Kathy's reach in building our profession doesn't start at the point of professional employment. Kathy has been an adjunct faculty member at Elgin Community College and the University of Aurora. Her skillful leadership and willingness to tackle challenging issues is often sought when introducing new concepts and or enhancing services and protocols.

Kathy has been in the field for over 28 years, beginning with her internship with Cook County Adult Probation while earning a Bachelor's degree from Illinois State University in 1995. She later earned a Master's degree in Criminal Justice from Lewis University in 2004 and is a 2021 graduate of the American Probation and Parole Association's Leadership Institute.

Congratulations Kathy Starkovich as this year's recipient of the Connie Kaiser Restorative Justice Award.

THE 5 R's OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Relationship Respect

Responsibility Repair Reintegration

AWARDS NIGHT





May is
Mental Health
Awareness
Month

Mental Health Awareness Month is a perfect time to start conversations in your community about mental health illnesses. Every conversation you have about the importance of recognizing and treating mental illness can make a difference!

IPCSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

IPCSA Executive Board of Directors invites you to participate in a *Mental Health Awareness Campaign* during the month of May. Each department is asked to sponsor an awareness campaign between May 1 and May 31st.



This is NOT a contest to judge a winner, but to recognize those departments for their participation. Each participating department will be entered into a drawing to win an “office ice cream party.” (up to \$150.00 value)

Additional campaign information coming in April at www.ipcsa.org

IPCSA CUBS GAME

April 25th at 1:20 p.m. Cubs vs. Phillies

Original 200 tickets are sold out!

ADDITIONAL TICKETS ARE BEING ORDERED. Send your order NOW to guarantee your seat!!! Ticket cost is \$25.00 each!

Please reserve your tickets by emailing Frank Morelli at FMorelli@lakecountyil.gov . He will need to know your name, county, number of tickets, total cost of the order and your phone number. Ticket orders will not be confirmed until he receives your payment.

Payments can be made by Venmo at:



Frank Morelli
@Frank-Morelli-7

OR



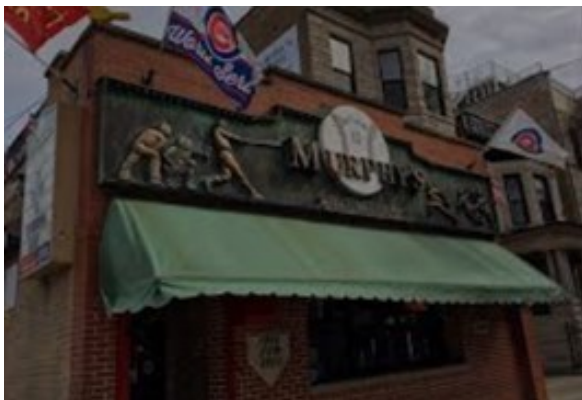
venmo

Scan this code to pay



By check made out to IPCSA and sent to Frank Morelli at Lake County Adult Probation, 215 West Water Street, Waukegan, IL 60085. Once your payment has been received you will get an email confirmation that your order has been accepted. No refunds will be issued unless we can resell your ticket.

The un-official Pre-IPCSA Cubs Game Outing is confirmed for Murphy's Bleachers. I have again reserved the upstairs (South) bar at Murphy's Bleachers. The gathering will start at 10:30 am and will conclude at approximately 12:30 pm with the raffle. As always, the cost is free to attend (food and drinks are on your own). Please remember to buy a drink for your host.



IPCSA BUSINESS MEETING 10/4/24

- Call Meeting to Order – Tod
Tod called the meeting to order at 9:06AM
- President’s Comments – Tod
Tod thanked the association for a great conference. He thanked Will County, and the presenters for all their hard work. Acknowledged the Program committee for their hard work to make the conference a success. Congratulated award winners from last night.
- Introduction of Current Board Members – Tod
- Legislative Report – John
Fully funded again this next year for salary reimbursements
SB2197 –
HB2347 – Will ban detaining 10-12 year olds. Passed the house. Stalled in the senate.
We are working with Juvenile Justice Commission on alternatives to detention.
Salary subsidy positions: John explained what these are, we will be trying to phase these out this year and include retention funding while increasing starting salaries.
John introduced Mark Jarmer to the association.
- Treasurer’s Report – Brian
In good standing, although we are operating with a net loss of about \$12,000 this year due to legislator transition.
- Upcoming Conference Announcements – Mark your calendar
Spring 2025 – Adams County, May 7- 9, 2025 – (Hasan Davis – Keynote)
May 6th – Leadership Academy Graduation??
Leadership Symposium – Galena July ?? (Marcus Hodges)
Fall 2025 – Champaign County, October 8 – 10, 2025 (Allan Kehler – Keynote)
Carla reviewed the upcoming conferences with the association.
- Election Results (Frank Morelli)
Frank discussed the candidate forum that was held prior to the conference.
President Elect
Seth Krause from McHenry County
Statewide Rep.
Tod Dillard from Morgan County
Region 2
Andrew Schulz from Peoria County
Constitutional Amendment – OSPS Membership (Tod)

Tod discussed the proposal to allow OSPS staff into membership either full time or through affiliate membership. Tod opened this topic up for discussion with the association. Tracey Carriere (13th Circuit) – asked about affiliate membership. Probation officers were listed in the language. Tod acknowledged that was a typo. Cheryl recommended adjusting the language to state “out of state probation officers.” Tod asked to amend this on its face. This was approved by the association.

Greg Norkus (St. Clair): With OSPS separating from AOIC, does that change anything? Tod says he doesn't think so. He stated that we are all Court Services and facing similar issues. Greg asked what the counties that already have Pre-Trial staff are considered from a membership perspective. Tod stated they are already members.

Chris English (St. Clair) asked if this might open the door to Parole one day becoming part of the association.

Tod asked for a motion to change the language to membership to include OSPS staff to become members.

Mike Venditti motioned, Sharon Hoffman seconded. Motioned carried with a few nays.

- Constitutional Amendment – Board attendance 75%

Tod explained the change to the constitution. The board is looking to change language to indicate that if you are a member of the executive board, you need to attend at least 75% of meetings. Tod opened it up for discussion. No discussion.

Andrew Dugas (Vermillion) motioned; Christy Foster (Clinton) seconded. Motioned carried.

- Committee Reports – Deborah (all committee notes given to Deborah after each representative spoke)

Awards – Lissa presented

CMO – Tod presented

Detention – Ryan Presented

Human Advocacy – Linda presented

Interstate/Intrastate – Sharon presented

Juvenile – Jessica presented

Membership – Deborah presented

Nominations/Elections – No presentation

Officer Safety & Wellness – Jennifer presented

Pretrial – Mike presented

Program – Tina presented

Research – Alice presented

Resource – Nick Presented

Sex Offender – Lindsey presented

Substance Abuse/PSC – Kim Reed Presented

Supervisor – Dan Gates presented

Technology – Ashley presented

Representative – Deborah presented; Annual plans due soon.

- Call for Old Business – Tod

None

- Call for New Business – Tod

Tod recognized Jennifer Crites and the work she has done on the board. She is an outgoing board member.

Tod presented Chris Watkins with a plaque for hosting, and thanked Chris and Will County. Chris made remarks and thanked his team in Will County.

- Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Tracey Carriere. Seconded by Andrew Dugas. Motion carried.²⁶

2025 IPCSA SPRING CONFERENCE

Becoming an Agent of Change

May 7-9th, 2025 Adams County

Featuring Keynote Speaker A. Hasan Davis, J.D.



Justice with Eyes Wide Open:
Transforming Systems Through
Hope and Humanity

Hasan Davis, JD, is a renowned advocate, speaker, and leader in juvenile justice reform and restorative practices. As someone who navigated his own challenging journey through interrupted education, justice system involvement, and social support systems, Hasan brings a deeply personal perspective to his work. Despite facing significant hurdles, including being adjudicated a youthful offender at age 11 (7 years of probation) and expelled from multiple schools, he earned his GED, a Bachelor's degree in communications, and eventually a law degree (Juris Doctor).

Hasan has served as Commissioner of Juvenile Justice for the state of Kentucky, where he championed innovative reforms and led efforts to implement restorative justice practices. Through his HOPE Framework-Humanity, Optimism, Perspective and Empathy-he equips probation officers, court workers, and youth serving professionals with tools to create equitable, compassionate systems that foster growth and success.

Hasan's work is informed by his personal experience and his commitment to transforming justice systems to serve as true Halls of Justice. His story of resilience and transformation inspires audiences to become "Hope Dealers," building relational health and fostering meaningful change in their communities.

Registration information coming soon to www.ipcsa.org!

GOLF OUTING

Registration Now Open! [Register Here!](#)

2025 LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

July 22-24, 2025

Eagle Ridge Resort-Galena, Illinois
Register [Here!](#)

Featured Speaker: Marcus Hodges



Marcus Hodges, immediate past-President of the National Association of Probation Executives, began a trajectory of impressive public service when he joined the Virginia Department of Corrections in 1992. Throughout his career he has worked to promote programs and processes that support the reintegration of released offenders to the community. Experienced in prisons, community corrections, and probation and parole, Hodges joined the National Institute of Corrections as a Correctional Program Specialist with the Community Corrections/Prisons Division. With a primary focus on community corrections, his tenure included work in the areas of transition from prison to community, evidence-based practices in corrections, and pretrial services. Other focus areas included programming on promoting a positive corrections culture and managing a multi-generational workforce.

As a Chief Probation and Parole Officer and as a Regional Administrator for the Virginia Department of Corrections, Hodges promoted strategic and innovative risk management, offender programming, and comprehensive and robust processes for reintegration success. In 2015, Hodges was named to Governor Terry McAuliffe's Committee for Parole Review and worked on associated sub-committees to develop an in-depth review of the efficacy of the parole system.

In 2017, he was named the Associate Director for the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency in Washington, D.C. In recognition of his work, in 2018 he received the Middle Atlantic States President's award for Innovation in Corrections.

Day 1

Visit Beautiful Downtown Galena

12:00-1:00	Registration
1:00-3:00	General Session
3:00-3:15	Break
3:15-4:15	Breakout Session
4:15-4:45	General Session

Day 2

8:30-10:30	General Session
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-11:45	Breakout Session
11:45-1:00	Lunch
1:00-2:00	Breakout Session
2:00-2:15	Break
2:14-4:15	General Session

Day 3

8:30-9:30	Breakout Session
9:30-9:45	Break
9:45-Noon	General Session

Visit Beautiful Downtown Galena

Total:12.5 COPE Training Credit

SAVE THE DATE

2025 FALL CONFERENCE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY OCTOBER 8-10, 2025



Featured Speaker:

**ALLAN
KEHLER,**
B. Ed., B. PhEd.

HISTORY OF OLD MAN WINTER

Over the years IPCSA has established many traditions. One of the little known traditions is the raffle prize known as Old Man Winter. Old Man Winter was given to IPCSA as a raffle prize by an unknown donor at the fall 2007 conference in Sangamon County. The first winner of Old Man Winter was Boyd Pressley of Madison County. Boyd, being dedicated to IPCSA, wanted to share his good fortune with the rest of the membership and donated his prize back to IPCSA in the Spring of 2008. And, a tradition was started. Old Man Winter, which stands at 3 feet tall and is best described as “creepy”, has now adorned the offices of many counties from around the state. Over the years each county has added something to Old Man Winter before passing him on.

Born in Sangamon

Spring 2008	Madison County Boyd Pressley	Spring 2013	Adams County Rollie Thomas
Fall 2008	Vermilion County Tara Woodard	Fall 2014	Lake County Frank Morelli and Jaime Oliphant
Spring 2009	Adams County Jennifer Hoffman	Fall 2015	John McCabe
Fall 2009	Lake County Jennifer Zakaras	Spring 2016	St. Clair County
Spring 2010	Whiteside County Ken Burn	Fall 2016	Dekalb County
Fall 2010	Putnam County Andy Cersa	Spring 2017	Dekalb County
Spring 2011	Mason County Hilary Barrett.	Fall 2017	13 th Judicial District
Fall 2012	Marion County	Spring 2018	Kane County
		Fall 2018	Lake County
		Spring 2019	Rock Island County
		Fall 2019	Cass County
		Fall 2023	Ford County
		Fall 2024	Will County

IPCSA FALL CONFERENCE CALL FOR PRESENTERS



Illinois Probation and Court Services Fall Training Conference October 8-10, 2025 Champaign County

The Illinois Probation and Court Services Association is a membership organization of probation and court services practitioners across the state. IPCSA is actively soliciting workshop proposals for the 2025 Fall Conference.

IPCSA conferences examine the state of community corrections practice in Illinois and the nation, and provide a forum for practitioners to examine their roles in achieving “best practices. IPCSA welcomes workshops with a research or evaluation component as well as policy development. Workshop proposals should articulate principles which encompass evidence-based practices.

If you have any questions, or would be interested in presenting at 2025 fall conference, please complete this form and email it to tquick@vercounty.org.

Presenter(s) Information:

Name:
Agency/Organization:
Work Address:
City: State:
Phone: Email:

Name:
Agency/Organization:
Work Address:
City: State: Zip:
Phone: Email:

Title of Session/Presentation:

Length of presentation: 90 minutes 3 hours other: please specify _____

Does your presentation assist attendees in one of more of the following areas (check all that apply):

- Gain knowledge of applicable statutes (Probation Officer’s Act, Juvenile Court Act, and/or the Pretrial Act)
- Gain knowledge of evidence-based principles for effective client change
- Gain or improve understanding of the Probation Casework Model to assist attendees in identifying risk domains that contribute to offender behavior
- Gain or improve understanding of the stages of change and the attendee’s role as an agent of change
- Assist attendees with interacting with clients in a non-judgmental, respectful and fair manner
- Gain or improve understanding of governmental and non-governmental systems and resources both locally and statewide.

Do you charge a speaker fee? No Yes: if yes, how much? _____

Do you charge travel expenses? No Yes: If so, please specify. _____

Primary Contact/Lead Presenter:

Please send this form to Tina Quick at tquick@vercounty.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: July 1, 2025

IPCSA SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The Illinois Probation and Court Services Association is a professional organization that among other things is designed to “*Promote initiatives that improve the delivery of probation, pretrial, juvenile detention, and court services.*” The Executive Board has developed this scholarship opportunity to give back to members who are furthering the mission to support professional growth and development.

In 2025, the IPCSA Executive Board will award one (1) scholarship for up to \$500.00 to a member, who is **furthering their education (beyond Bachelor’s level) in a related field or a member who **needs assistance in paying off student debt** related to obtaining a bachelor/master degree.**

Scholarship Criteria:

- ▶ The application period runs from April 1 through June 30
- ▶ Scholarship money can only be used towards tuition, fees and/or books for a class during the application year or previous student loan debt.
- ▶ Scholarship awarded to a current “full member.”
- ▶ Applicant must be currently employed in probation, pretrial or detention in Illinois
- ▶ Applicant must have worked for probation, pretrial or detention in Illinois for two (2) years prior to application.
- ▶ Applicant who is pursuing a higher degree in a related field must be enrolled in an accredited college or university or who will be using the scholarship for debt relief purposes (must be from an accredited college or university and the degree must be from a related field).

Scholarship Process and Selection

The Executive Board will take applications from April 1st through June 1st of each year through a google link posted on the website at www.ipcsa.org. Applications must be filled out in full and be accompanied by a current resume. A small committee of three Executive Board members will review all applications and make a recommendation to the full board, who will vote on the scholarship winner no later than July. Decisions will be based on the above listed criteria, an agreement to the scholarship conditions, contents of the application, and demonstrated commitment to the applicant’s department, the Association and the profession. The board will have final approval of scholarship selection decisions and will not discriminate against applicant’s disability, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual identity. The small committee of the Executive Board will make notification to all applicants no later than August.

Payment and Verification

A direct payment in the form of a check will be made to the selected candidate with an announcement being made during the Fall conference.

Furthering education

The scholarship awardee will be required to submit registration verification along with copies of receipts for books for upcoming education.

Debt Assistance

For those individuals who are using the award to repay previous school related cost, verification of debt must be provided. Awardee must provide documentation the scholarship has been applied in accordance with the criteria.

In addition, awardee will be required to furnish the Executive Board with a letter from Director/supervisor verifying the recipient is not receiving competing funds.

Questions may be directed to: association1969@ipcsa.org

Academy #2 sessions start Spring, 2026. Applications coming this summer to www.ipcsa.org

Here's what current attendees are saying about the inaugural Academy:

What has been the most valuable aspect of the Academy:

- ▶ “Building collaborative relationships across the state with folks I had little to no contact with before the academy. Rebuilding my self-esteem and confidence. Permission to dream and try something new and different.”
- ▶ “The growth gained through having tough/challenging conversations.”
- ▶ “The trainings are invaluable and all of the feedback from Dr. Walker, mentor and my peers.”
- ▶ “ I am a newer supervisor, so having the variety of experiences and expertise has been very beneficial.”
- ▶ “The way Dr. Walker has made the information practical and understandable.”

What has been the most challenging aspect of the leadership academy?

- ▶ “Being able to contain myself at work and not understand why everyone else isn't pumped.”
- ▶ “Just being able to actually apply things. I never feel like we have enough time together, or enough time in a day to actually do the work in office.”
- ▶ “Getting out of my head and in my own way by overthinking, which is on me, not the Academy.”
- ▶ “Taking the topics discussed and being intentional about incorporating them into my work.”

Describe the leadership skills or concerns you have applied to your current role:

- ▶ “I am trying to see my staff's perspective and trying to control my reactions in a more willful way rather than just reacting.”
- ▶ “I have looked at projects and workloads in a way by determining what is an adaptive problem vs. a technical problem. I have also been using the principles of psychological safety including trying to eliminate rigid thinking among staff and myself, evaluation how I show up to situations, and trying to work in a way that would achieve the goal or purpose.”
- ▶ “Increasing the awareness of depreciative mindset traps and setting targets for myself and team to be more mindful through positive prompts.”
- ▶ “I feel like my leadership style is more structured in my thinking and my responses.”
- ▶ “My ability to engage with various leadership personalities has absolutely increased.”

BEACON

Find Behavioral and Mental Health Resources for Your Child



Is your child struggling with mental or behavioral health challenges?

Start using BEACON today – the new platform from the State of Illinois designed to simplify how Illinois families connect with the behavioral and mental health services they need.

Use BEACON to:

- Find mental and behavioral health services near you
- Request personalized help to understand the right next steps for your child
- Upload important documents related to your child's mental and behavioral health

Access the portal:



Find FAQs, instructional videos, and updates:



BEACON FAQ

1. What is BEACON?

Answer:

BEACON is the state's new online portal designed to help Illinois families connect to behavioral health resources. It streamlines the process of finding and accessing behavioral health services to help ensure that every child in Illinois can receive the support they need.

2. Who can use BEACON?

Answer:

BEACON is available to families, state agency staff, and healthcare providers across Illinois. Families can use the public portal to find services, get help navigating complicated systems, and connect with state programs, and state agency staff use BEACON to coordinate care across programs.

3. How does BEACON match families with the right services?

Answer:

BEACON uses up-to-date information about eligibility for state services paired with information shared by families to identify programs and services that may help. Using a resource matching feature that considers a family's specific needs, BEACON can identify the most appropriate state-funded and community-based programs and provide a list of services that best fit the family's needs.

4. How does BEACON help with case management?

Answer:

BEACON coordinates communication between state service providers and gives families a place to store important documents that may be needed to confirm a child's eligibility for programs. The platform allows for real-time updates on the status of the state's response to families, ensuring that everyone stays informed.

5. Can BEACON be accessed on mobile devices?

Answer:

Yes, BEACON is designed to be accessible on any device, including desktops, tablets, and smartphones. This flexibility allows users to access the platform anytime and anywhere, making it easier for families and staff to stay connected and informed.



A NEW ERA IN CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORT

The State of Illinois is excited to introduce BEACON, a centralized platform designed to revolutionize how we connect Illinois families with the behavioral health services they need. BEACON simplifies the process of finding and accessing services for youth who are struggling with mental and/or behavioral health challenges.

BEACON makes it easier for families to get help by streamlining the process of finding resources; connecting families with professionals who can help; ensuring families receive timely and coordinated support by enabling collaboration among state agencies; and empowering families to make informed decisions about their children's health.

Anyone seeking assistance, support, or services for youth experiencing mental health challenges can use the BEACON portal to:

- Find services for which youth are eligible.
- Manage records.
- Request additional help.
- Receive real-time updates.

BEACON offers:



Centralized Resource Hub

BEACON brings together resources from multiple state agencies into one easy-to-navigate platform, ensuring families have access to comprehensive support.



Streamlined Case Management

The platform allows for seamless coordination between agencies, reducing delays and ensuring that families receive timely care.



User-Friendly Interface

BEACON is intuitive and easy to use, with tools that guide users through each step of the process, from finding services to managing care plans.



Access the portal
beacon.illinois.gov

Find Updates
<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=163633>



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6. How does BEACON enhance collaboration between state agencies?

Answer:

BEACON facilitates seamless collaboration by centralizing case information and enabling real-time communication between agencies in a secure and private platform. This ensures that all parties permitted by the Consent Form have access to the same information, allowing them to coordinate their efforts more effectively and provide comprehensive support to families.

7. Is the information on BEACON secure?

Answer:

Absolutely. BEACON is built with robust security measures to protect sensitive information that can only be shared with youth and legal guardian consent. The platform ensures that all data is encrypted and accessible only to authorized users, providing families and service providers with the confidence that their information is safe.

8. What should I do if I encounter technical issues with BEACON?

Answer:

If you experience any technical issues while using BEACON, you can contact the support team through the platform's help section or by reaching out to your designated IT support within your agency. They will assist you in troubleshooting and resolving any problems you may encounter.

9. How can I provide feedback on BEACON?

Answer:

We encourage all users to provide feedback on their experience with BEACON. You can submit feedback directly through the platform's feedback form or by contacting your agency's BEACON coordinator. Your input is valuable in helping us improve the platform and better serve Illinois families.

Additional training forthcoming

IN MEMORY

I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the passing of our beloved former supervisor, Eric P. Larson, who retired in April and tragically took his own life recently. His loss has deeply affected our team—some are overwhelmed with grief while others who didn't know him as well, are still processing.

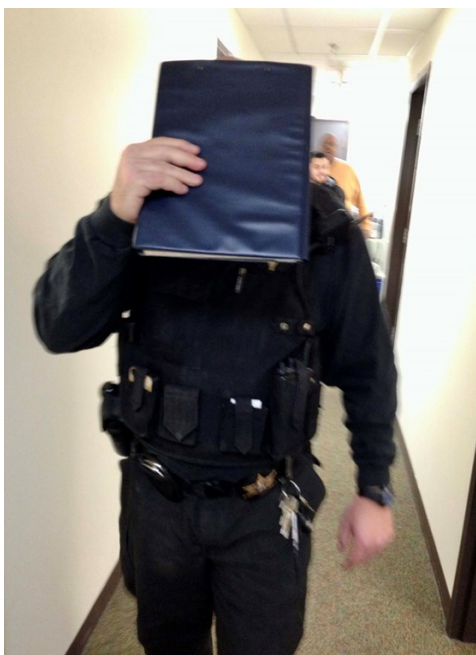
Eric dedicated 30 years of his life to serving the Will County community with honor and distinction, earning the respect and admiration of colleagues, law enforcement, judicial partners, and community organizations alike. He was a dependable and steadfast leader who stood by his team, especially in challenging situations with management—a quality that set him apart. Throughout his career, Eric supervised teams handling intensive probation, sex offender monitoring, electronic monitoring, pre-sentence reporting, caseload management, and more. He shouldered every challenge that came his way with professionalism and grit. Eric was a polarizing figure—you either loved him or found him hard to understand—but those of us who worked with him knew his commitment to his team and his mission was unwavering.

He was deeply respected by everyone he encountered, from maintenance staff to attorneys, police departments, and judges. His “old-timers” and close colleagues will miss him terribly. Eric never sought the spotlight and shied away from recognition, but his impact on our profession and community is undeniable.

In this line of work, the toll on our mental health is real and often unspoken. Eric's passing is a stark reminder of that reality. I wanted to take this opportunity to share a tribute to a supervisor who meant so much to many of us.

Rest in peace, Eric P. Larson.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Stamm,
Senior Probation Officer
Will County Adult Probation Department

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

McHenry County

Illinois Probation & Court Services Association held its bi-annual conference in Will County, Illinois in early October.

- ◇ A number of staff won Distinguish Service Awards! Staff are nominated by their manager and/or Deputy Director for their dedication and commitment to their clients, peers and the community. Distinguished Service Award Winners include: Peter Atterberg, Dana Winchell, Jesica Carbajal, Lexi Inman, Martha Coffey, and Lori Trout
- ◇ Deputy Director Susan Payton was awarded the William C. Albertson Field of Achievement Award! This award is given to the individual who has exemplified the highest standards of the profession in the field of achievement.

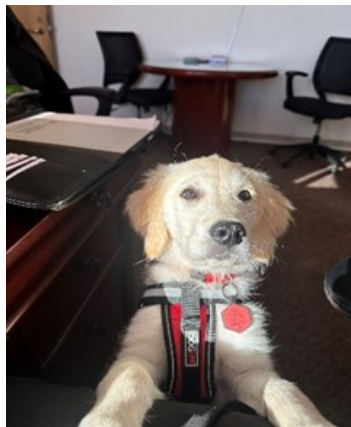


- ◇ While at IPCSA in Will County, the group visited the Old Joliet Prison (circa- The Blues Brothers). Luckily, none of us was required to stay.



McHenry County

- ◇ Probation & Court Services now has a therapy dog “in training”! Louie is an English Cream-Golden Retriever. Once trained and certified, Louie will provide comfort to probation clients & staff, or whoever needs a cuddle and hug. He is still very much a puppy, so he loves to play!
-We’ve been able to secure free veterinary services through Huntley Animal Hospital and free grooming services through Claws & Paws in McHenry!



- ◇ Probation & Court Services held our annual Chili Cookoff on November 1st. Staff brought in their best chili recipes to share and we even had some actual judges (minus their robe) get in on the voting!

Most Unique – “Sugar & Spice” by Larissa Smits

3rd Place - “Offense” by Jennifer Woolford

2nd Place - “Whoremel” by Steve Wisniewski (a play on Hormel Foods)

1st Place – “Jason’s Chili” by Matt Heere*

*Matt Heere’s “Jason’s Chili” also won IT’s chili competition in November.



McHenry County

Probation & Court Services used some of our Wellness Funds for a volleyball competition against Lake County Probation & Court Services on Saturday November 23rd. McHenry County was ready (see the uniforms) and won out in each game!!!



Effingham County

Effingham County Probation Department showed their support of the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run by wearing t-shirts and lining the streets to cheer on the runners. Effingham County Probation's very own Melissa Kirsey, Addictions Counselor, joined the runners again this year (pictured on right).



WILL COUNTY

Will County Court Services has had a busy yet enjoyable few months.

In 2024, PPP Week featured several staff appreciation games and a department cookout. Additionally, the department collected donations for CASA, including clothing and toys for children.



WILL COUNTY

CCP support groups have been initiated in the adult division and have proven to be a significant support for officers.

CCP Support Groups

Will County also wrapped up the year by hosting the Fall IPCSA conference for the first time. Our team put together 35 baskets and raised approximately \$2,200 for each charity, Guardian Angel Community Services and Ready Set Ride. This achievement would not have been possible without our dedicated staff, who contributed numerous ideas and volunteered to manage the conference tables.



Cook County Social Service Department Celebrating PPPS Week!

BRIDGEVIEW OFFICE



The management team of the Bridgeview Office shared the cost of stocking the breakroom with snacks and coffee for everyone!

Everyone in the Bridgeview office received a Certificate of Appreciation in honor of PPPS Week.

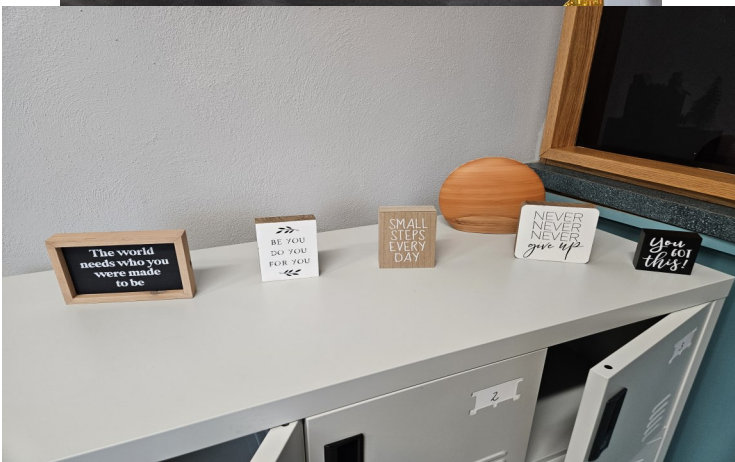
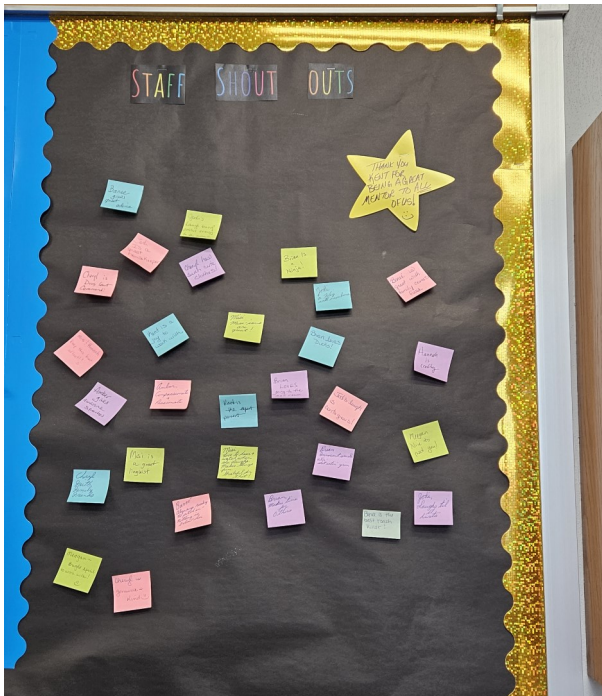
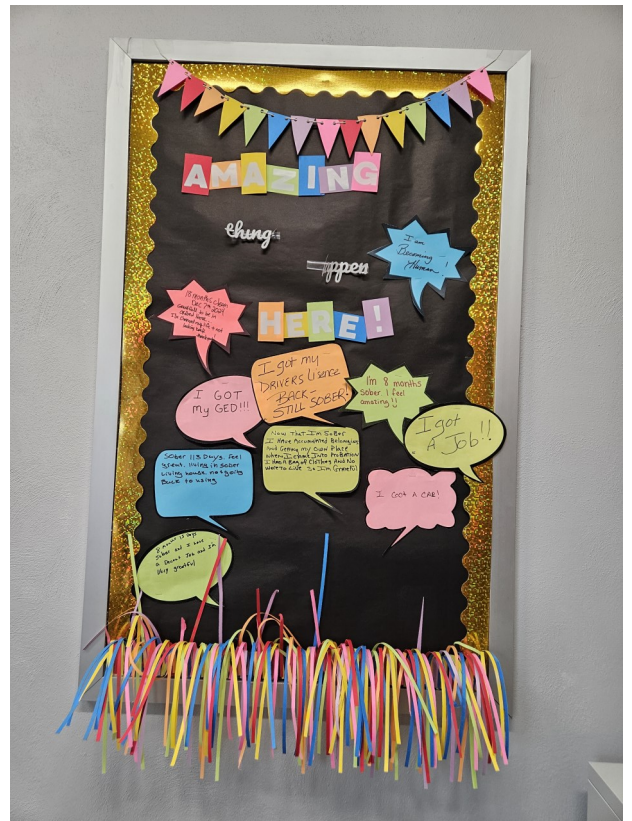
BRIDGEVIEW OFFICE



Pretrial Officer Adilene Villa won the candy jar by guessing how many pieces there were. The total amount was 83 and she guessed 85.

July 21-27, 2024

MONTGOMERY COUNTY



9TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

In October of 2024 Director Bridget Pletz purchased and distributed "Just Cure It" t-shirts to all probation and detention staff in the 9th Judicial Circuit in order to show support for two staff members who had gone through breast cancer treatment in the past year. Staff were encouraged to wear the shirts every Friday during the month of October.



Pictures from top left: Administrative Office in Galesburg, Fulton County Probation Office, Hancock County Probation Office; 2nd row: Henderson County Probation Office, Knox County Probation Office, Knox County Drug Court; 3rd row: McDonough County Probation and Drug Court/Pretrial, Warren County Probation Office; 4th row: Mary Davis Detention Home.

LAKE COUNTY Probation was honored to have Silver Medal Paralympian Isaac Jean-Paul, son of Senior Probation Officer Rosemary Jean-Paul, visit our department. Isaac shared his experiences and Silver Medal from the 2024 Summer Paralympics in Paris. Video to his Paralympic win <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdMWnUO1EaY>

Isaac participated in the Paralympics in 2020 and 2024. He won a bronze medal in Tokyo in 2020 and a Silver Medal in Paris in 2024. Both were in the Long jump.

Isaac has a visual impairment called retinoschisis and is legally blind. He has participated in Track and Field events since the age of 18 against able body athletes. Isaac is a two-time world record holder in the T-13 classification for visually impaired athletes in both the high jump and long jump. He has medaled on the podium at many sporting events, the World Championships earning a Bronze Medal in 2017 (Long Jump), a silver medal in 2019 (Long Jump) and a Gold Medal in 2023 (High Jump).

In addition to his successes in Track and Field, Isaac has also written a book (on Amazon) titled "Mya's Marvelous Day at the Games." As an author he is dedicated to rewriting the narrative surrounding marginalized groups, advocating for inclusivity and diversity that empowers individuals everywhere. His journey as a professional athlete with a disability is a testament to the power of resilience, and his story continues to inspire others to overcome their own obstacles.

Lake County is extremely proud of Isaac and his accomplishments. We have been excited to share his success with him and his family.





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- FOSTER CARE
- GROUNDWORK DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM
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- SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICE CENTER
- SUZY'S CARING PLACE

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10/10/2024

Illinois Probation & Court Services Association
PO Box 474
Effingham, IL 62401

Dear Friends,

On behalf of all of us at Guardian Angel Community Services, we would like to thank you for your generous donation in the amount of \$2233 on 10/4/2024. Your support enables us to continually and effectively respond to the needs of individuals and families in our community through our core programs:

- **GROUNDWORK** offers a 24-hour emergency shelter for survivors of domestic violence, along with crisis intervention, counseling, and legal advocacy services.
- **SUZY'S CARING PLACE** provides housing to domestic violence survivors and their children, and is aimed at reducing the incidence of homelessness by addressing the emotional and economic consequences of victimization.
- **SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES CENTER** offers medical and legal advocacy, counseling, and a 24-hour emergency hotline for survivors of sexual assault.
- **EXCHANGE CLUB CENTER** educates and equips parents with the tools necessary to nurture healthy child/youth development and to prevent child abuse and neglect through parenting classes.
- **FOSTER CARE** recruits, trains and provides oversight and support to foster parents/guardians who offer a caring and safe environment to children who have been removed from their environment due to abuse or neglect, while also meeting the needs of youth in foster care and assisting their families towards reunification.
- **PARTNER ABUSE INTERVENTION PROGRAM** helps individuals develop healthy, mutually supportive relationships to eliminate domestic violence from their lives.

As your partner in caring for our community, Guardian Angel treasures the support and trust we have earned from you, our generous friend and donor, and we remain committed to a high level of excellence as your service provider. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Ines Kutlesa

Ines Kutlesa, MA. LCPC. LPHA. CCTP.
Chief Executive Officer

Thanks so much!

Guardian Angel Community Services is a licensed 501(c)(3) charitable organization. No goods or services were provided to you in exchange for your gift, therefore the entire amount of your contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Please save this donation acknowledgement for tax purposes.

FALL CONFERENCE RECAP



HOSTED BY WILL COUNTY



Learn more about the Joliet Prison [HERE:](#)





**SHOUT OUT TO OUR
VENDORS FOR THEIR
SUPPORT OF THE
ASSOCIATION!**

5 FOR 5

Name	Best Time at Conference	Favorite IPCSA Conference Attended	Why Field of Probation/ Court Services	If not Probation/ Court Services then What?	Client Funniest Excuse fo a Violation
Kayla Harder Livingston County	Every conference! There are always great trainings, exhibits, food, and social networking.	1st Conference- Bloomington, Illinois. Great welcoming experience to learn about what all probation has to offer and the Stop the bleed training I went to was very hands on and informative.	I wanted to be a police officer. I did an internship at the probation office I currently work for and then I never left.	Police Officer	The client thought they may have kissed someone who was under the influence and that's how they tested positive for >5,000ng of Meth.
Hannah Roig Pike County	Trivia	Will Co- Joliet prison tour was the best outside conference I have ever experienced	My dad recommended the job to me. I talked with the assistant in the department and she said I would be good at it. So I applied and didn't get the job at first but got it the second time around. I am 3 years in and absolutely love it!	Accounting	My son uses-he must have gave it to me like the flu
Andrew Dugas Vermilion County	The speakers, trainings and awards ceremonies	50th anniversary in Bloomington Illinois	Seeing an old supervisor getting an oil change and asking questions.	Sales	"You charge me for drug tests, you must be a pimp"
Shannon McCormick Will County	The social event	Will Co. because we were the host county and I was able to volunteer and see all the work that goes into putting the conference on.	I did my internship at Will Co. Probation	Baker	You don't want to know! I work in detention!
Geoff Livengood DeKalb County	Awards Night	Normal (ISU)- Great atmosphere, plenty to do in walking distance, great conference content, great food, been to tons of IPCSA conferences, that one is #1!	Natural step from detention.	Teacher	NSFW

ABOUT OUR COMMITTEES

Awards Committee

Hello Everyone! The Awards Committee had an absolutely wonderful time at the Awards Banquet at fall conference. We had SO many wonderful nominations that it was truly a challenge to select the recipients. Seeing the surprised faces of the winners, hearing the cheers, and above all listening to the speeches detailing the incredible work done day in and day out by our colleagues makes all the hours spent planning, decorating, reading nominations, and stressing over making sure we didn't miss any anything or anyone worth 10x that effort. We will not list the winners here, as they are part of the featured articles in this edition of the OUTLOOK. Please spend some time reading about these amazing Detention, Probation and Court Services Officers. We know you will be inspired!

We are already discussing the 2025 awards. Our hope is to keep the process simplified for those who make nominations so that our job can be even more challenging this year! I know you all know someone worthy of recognition. So, start thinking, planning and maybe even spying on your peers so you can get us the most detailed nominations possible. This will give your candidate their very best chance at taking home some hardware at Fall Conference. Nominations will be accepted starting in the Summer. Just watch the website, Facebook page, and your emails for the announcement. Once again, nominations will be accepted online. If you have any questions about nominations or wish to join our committee, please contact either Lissa Desplinter at ldesplinter@co.rock-island.il.us or Tracy Carriere at TBCarriere@bureaucounty-il.gov.

ABOUT OUR COMMITTEES

Human Advocacy Committee

The **Human Advocacy Committee** celebrated our second anniversary at the Fall 2024 Conference in Will County. This group was compiled from other smaller committees and was formerly known as the Domestic Violence/Victim Concerns/Gender Responsive Committee. In 2023 we claimed the new, inclusive moniker of the Human Advocacy Committee, promoting equity, understanding, and safety for all. The committee has continued to meet monthly via Zoom since coming together in 2022. Additionally, in-person conference committee meetings continue to be well attended, growing by 30% from our first committee meeting in 2022.

Our committee experienced a shift in leadership at the start of 2024. The outgoing co-chair, Jenee Westjohn, had to step down from the position after embracing a new adventure and job with the AOIC. Angela Seballos/Lake County has bravely jumped in to co-chair this committee with Linda O'Brien/Cook-Social. She has been an active member of this committee, so she knows what she signed on for (hahaha!)

Along with a commitment to growing our numbers, the Human Advocacy Committee is committed to leave a place better than when we arrived. We achieve this by inviting the membership to support a local organization where the conference is held with a donation drive. We continue to be humbled by how quickly and generously the IPCSA membership mobilized for both the spring and fall 2024 conferences.

At the 2024 IPCSA Spring Conference, IPCSA members showed up and joined us in supporting Refuge for Women. Refuge for Women-Chicago began serving female survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation ages 18+ through long-term residential healing programs to offer a trauma-informed continuum of care in McHenry County since 2016. As many as 25,000 women and girls are sexually exploited and trafficked in the Chicago-area every year and this agency has responded to the need. Survivors reside at Refuge for Women for 12-24 months and receive safety, stabilization, medical care, counseling, recovery services, equine therapy, life skills development, wellness opportunities, education completion, job skills training, workforce development and so much more in the Long-Term Program Home and Transitional Living Home. An additional shout out goes to Nancy Juarez Root/Cook-Social. She and her sister generously donated their time, talent and finances and baked 150 cookies, adorned with the IPCSA logo. IPCSA donated \$900 in various gift cards as requested by the agency. Crystal Botero-Rand, Community Engagement Coordinator for Refuge for Women-Chicago, deeply appreciates the Association's generosity.

At the 2024 IPCSA Fall Conference, the membership showed up AGAIN and joined us in supporting Guardian Angel Community Services (GACS). Founded in 1897, Guardian Angel Community Services started as a facility to care for dependent and neglected children. In 1971, the agency's mission was broadened to address the increasingly complex problems of children and families. One initiative was the implementation of a Partner Abuse Intervention Program (PAIP) designed to help individuals in their efforts to develop healthy, mutually supportive relationships and eliminate domestic violence from their lives. In 1983 the organization established the Groundwork domestic violence program, recognizing the crime of domestic violence as a community problem, and successfully coordinated efforts among professional services to build and enhance broad-based support for its program. Groundwork provides comprehensive programming for survivors and their families that includes a 24-Hour Emergency Hotline and Emergency Shelter, Crisis Intervention & Safety Planning, Individual and Group Counseling, Legal and Medical Advocacy and Prevention Education and Community Outreach. Approximately \$1873 was raised by the Association to support the agency's work through apples sales, gift cards and direct Amazon Wish List purchases.

The culmination of the generosity of the membership and supporting probation agencies, it is estimated that the Association gifted approximately \$5,373 between cash/gift donations, items donated during the conferences, items donated through each agency's agency Amazon Wish List, and PayPal donations directly to the agencies. The Association's kindness and generosity deeply impacted the recipient. Our team can't thank the membership enough for showing up for these events!

The committee continues to actively explore professional development opportunities to contribute to the Association. First, the committee sponsored the 07/30/2024 Roll Call, where Cordelia Coppleson, Bureau Chief-Law Enforcement Training Coordinator at the Illinois Attorney General's office, has graciously presented on Firearm Restraining Orders.

Second, an Outreach Team from GACS presented during our fall committee meeting about the agency's various services, advocacy initiatives, and trends they are seeing in the courts. The team entertained a very dynamic Q &A session after the presentation.

The Human Advocacy Committee continues to meet monthly via Zoom. **OUR NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025 AT 2PM:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88910720944>. Anyone interested in joining this energetic, fun, and creative group of advocates can contact Co-Chair Linda O'Brien (Linda.Obrien@cookcountyil.gov) or Angela Seballos (ASEballos@lakecountyil.gov) for additional information.

ABOUT OUR COMMITTEES (CON'T)

Interstate / Intrastate Committee

Meeting Minutes from 10/2/24

1. Trainings
 - A. Fall adult trainings completed
 - B. Fall juvenile trainings about to start
2. Forms: Edit transfer packets due
3. Best Practices for Intrastate and interstate discussed
 - A. Discussion of what counties do when there are warrants and policies prevent home visits for absconder interstate violations.
 - B. A training for Relias is being put together – but no word on when that will be.

If you want to be on the email list and you aren't contact either Sharon or Julie (see page 58 for contact information)

Juvenile Committee

A new state-wide Juvenile Detention Screening Tool is on the horizon for Illinois. In an effort to enhance fairness and consistency in juvenile detention decisions, Justice System Partners, in collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, has developed a new Detention Screening Tool for use across Illinois. The Juvenile Detention Screening Tool is aimed at standardizing the assessment process for determining whether a juvenile should be detained or released. This initiative seeks to replace the varied screening tools previously used across the state, which has led to inconsistencies in detention decisions.

The new Juvenile Detention Screening Tool is designed to objectively evaluate risk factors identified through extensive analysis of data provided by jurisdictions throughout Illinois, which indicate pre-adjudicatory recidivism. It also helps screeners to identify mandatory detention holds, offenses requiring review by a State's Attorney prior to release, and other factors that may require consideration. Additionally, the tool prompts the screener to explore the possibility of alternatives to detention. The screening tool serves as a guide to detention decisions, not the decision-maker.

By implementing this tool, Illinois aims to ensure that detention is reserved for cases where it is truly necessary, thereby promoting fairness and consistency in the juvenile justice system.

A number of Illinois counties began piloting the new screening tool in August 2024. The pilot sites are currently using the new tool, scoring it alongside their current tools and providing data regarding the results. According to Mr. Mark Bronke, AOIC Detention Manager within the Detention Services Unit, AOIC plans to begin training on the new Juvenile Detention Screening Tool during the first part of 2025.



IPCSA Committees...
the Backbone
of the Association!

ABOUT OUR COMMITTEES (CON'T)

Membership Committee

Do you know you are one of the most important pieces in Illinois Probation and Court Services? You may ask what do I mean by that? Back in 1969, a small number of probation officers got together and formed an organization where like-minded people could come together and share thoughts on how to serve the population of people involved in the criminal justice system. The founders of IPCSA wanted officers to be equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge to be able to better serve and help individuals and families get their lives back on track.

IPCSA's membership consists of dedicated individuals who work towards creating opportunities for our members to excel in their profession by serving as volunteer board members, committee chairs and presenters at IPCSA training events such as spring and fall conferences, officer safety trainings, Roll Calls, Leadership Symposium and most recently the Leadership Academy. IPCSA has dedicated members appearing on your behalf in Springfield to advocate for issues that are important to us.

In addition to learning new skills, IPCSA members come together to give back to the community we are in. As this world moves forward, we must move forward with it. We do that by joining and sharing our knowledge. Now you see why you are the most important member of IPCSA. We are the ones who make this Association shine. Every fall we turn on the spotlight at the award banquet to celebrate our colleagues accomplishments in the field. I hope now you understand why you are important to IPCSA. It is simple, we could not do it without you.

If you know someone that has not heard about how wonderful IPCSA is, take the time to share this article.

For more information about IPCSA and membership visit us at www.ipcsa.org, like us on Facebook, or contact Deborah Norman, Representative Chair at dnorman@lakecountyil.gov.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Helen Keller.

Nominations / Elections Committee

This past year IPCSA completed elections for the following Executive Board positions: Congratulations to Region 2 Representative Andrew Schulze of Peoria County, State-wide Representative Tod Dillard of Morgan County, and President-Elect Seth Krause of McHenry County

In the fall 2025, the IPCSA Executive Board positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and Region 1 and Region 3 Representative will be open for election. Region 1 consists of the following Circuits: 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23 and Cook County. Region 3 consists of the following Circuits: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 20.

The following qualifications are necessary to run for office: Full membership in the Association, Active participation in committees or special projects for two years, appropriate judicial officer approval to attend, travel, and devote time to the Association business, and verification of qualifications by the Nominations/Elections Committee. If you would like more information about these elections, or about becoming a committee member, please contact Frank Morelli at 847-377-3646



ABOUT OUR COMMITTEES (CON'T)

Officer Safety and Wellness Committee

As always it seems like the year flies by and the next thing you know we are doing annual plans for the next successful year! The Officer Safety and Wellness Committee (OSWC) has had another successfully busy year. As always, we would like to thank each member of the committee for their commitment to safety and wellness this past year. If you are interested in joining or helping the committee to continue its efforts towards a safe and productive work place in the State of Illinois, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Crites at jcrites@champaigncountyil.gov or Kelsie Roberts at kroberts@morgancounty-il.com.

National Response Control Tactics (NRCT) was offered at both spring and fall conferences of 2024. With 22 probation officers being certified instructors in NRCT throughout the State, this will continue being offered at both spring and fall conferences in the future and with the expansion of offering regional trainings!

The Basic Home Contact Safety (BHCS) Training was offered two times this year at ILEAS in Urbana, IL with full attendance and will continue to be offered next year in 2025. As always, if you have attended the BHCS and would like to help be a role player, please contact one of the co-chairs! OSWC is always looking for some good role players.

Wellness is just as important to this committee as the safety portion, especially with the stress of the job and other outside stressors we encounter in life. OSWC will start sending out monthly wellness information, starting with the 12 Dimensions of Wellness. This information will be sent out via email and posted on the IPCSA Facebook page. A wellness activity was also offered at both conferences to start the day and the conferences off right. OSWC also hosted a booth at both spring and fall conferences with an entry to win a Hydro Flask water bottle by answering a wellness related question. Be on the look out and stop by the booth at future conferences and grab a piece of fruit to keep you alert and energized throughout the day!

Something OSWC is looking at for the next year is the possibility of a step challenge at conference and a “park crawl” throughout the year. Be on the look out for more information regarding these two events!

Pretrial Services Committee

In 2024 at the IPCSA Fall Conference the Executive Board adopted changes to the language in the IPCSA constitution, allowing frontline staff and first-level supervisors from OSPS to become full members of IPCSA. Twenty-two counties across Illinois continue to operate county-run pretrial programs and face challenges very similar to those encountered by OSPS. Whether it’s managing caseloads, ensuring compliance with pretrial conditions, or navigating new legislative requirements, these shared responsibilities create common ground. The association and the Pretrial Committee already serve as a platform for addressing these concerns, and including OSPS officers will strengthen this collaboration moving forward. Their inclusion ensures that no matter the jurisdiction—whether it’s county-run or state-managed—we are unified in our approach to pretrial services, and we can better advocate for the needs of all pretrial officers across the state. This collaboration and influx of pretrial professionals also creates a greater need for trainings to educate pretrial officers in Illinois on the latest best-practices and innovations in pretrial services. As a result, a pretrial specific training track is being developed in collaboration between the IPCSA Pretrial Committee, IPCSA Executive Board, and the newly formed Illinois Judicial College Committee on Pretrial Education (CPTE). This training track will ensure quality training option for Pretrial officers at all future IPCSA conferences

ABOUT OUR COMMITTEES (con't)

Program Committee

The Program Committee would like to report working together and showing our support getting through both spring and fall conferences in 2024, was successful. Once again, we would like to thank the McHenry County (spring 2024) and Will County (fall 2024), for hosting the IPCSA Conferences for the year, and the Executive Board for being so supportive for all of our Members.

The upcoming spring conference will be in Quincy, on May 7 – May 9, 2025. Hasan Davis will be our keynote speaker along with many other great training sessions. Spring conference 2025 will be hosted by Adams County at the Atrium Hotel on the 3rd and Oakley Lindsay Center in Quincy, Illinois, followed by fall conference 2025 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Champaign, October 7, 2025 – October 9, 2025 hosted by Champaign County.

The Program Committee continues to search and provide relative and informative trainings for all our members that are now COPE approved. The Program Committee is always open to suggestions and/or ideas that will help make the Conference successful. The Program Committee will meet again at the Spring Conference in Quincy. If you have any suggestions, referrals, comments, or would like to join the Program Committee please contact Tina Quick at tquick@vercounty.org or Suzanne Stamm at sstamm@willcountyillinois.com. Thank you all for everything you do and we look forward to seeing you in May.

Representative Committee

One highlight of fall conference is the awards banquet. The Representative Committee had the honor of awarding one IPCSA committee member the Frank Calkins Committee Member of the Year Award. This year was tough and a close one! Congratulations to Alice Elliott of the CMO Committee. This award is presented to a committee member who demonstrates dedication and support of the organization through committee work. Alice has been busy this year with the Leadership Academy and Research Committee. Alice encourages staff to attend training and to join IPCSA to both enhance their knowledge and skills to foster relationship building. Alice support has been unwavering to the Association. Congratulations Alice on an excellent job!!

I would also like to recognize members of the Association who once were chairs and stepped down for retirement, take positions on board, or left the field of probation for other opportunities:

- ▶ First, Mona Durbin of Effingham County. Mona stepped away from the field of court services. She was a member of the Program Committee for many years. I dubbed her and Tina the dynamic duos. They worked hard to ensure the conference ran as smoothly as possible. Thank you Mona for your service!! Suzanne Stamm joined the Program Committee as co-chair in 2024.
- ▶ After many years in probation, Jana Haskin of the Juvenile Committee retired! Congratulations Jana. Laura Bergman joined the Juvenile Committee as co-chair in 2024.
- ▶ Jenee Westjohn of the Resource Committee and Human Advocacy Committee stepped down as chair and co-chair after accepting a position with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. Don't worry! Hopefully we will still see her around at conferences as she has remained a member of the Association and will continue to serve a committee member. Nick Buccieri and Kaylee Underwood became co-chairs of the Resource Committee in 2024. We welcomed Angela Seballos as co-chair of the Human Advocacy Committee in 2024.
- ▶ Stephen Sells moved from the Supervisor Committee to the IPCSA Executive Board to serve as secretary to the Association
- ▶ Dan Gates moved from the Research Committee and became co-chair of the Supervisor Committee in 2024 with Brooke Plachno.
- ▶ Mary Colleen Powers moved to the Research Committee and became co-chair in 2024.
- ▶ Julie Cho-Valldjuli became co-chair of the Inter/Intra State Committee in 2024.
- ▶ After Mic Seward retired, Kelsie Roberts joined as co-chair of Officer Safety and Wellness Committee in 2023.
- ▶ Marty Offutt-Gruber stepped down as co-chair of the Pretrial Committee at Fall 2024 conference and Tammy Williams joined the Pretrial Committee as co-chair. Marty served as chair of the committee for many years. Thank you, Marty, for your dedication to IPCSA and the committee. I could always count on you getting me the notes without asking!!
- ▶ Lindsey Liddicoatt stepped down as chair of the Sex Offender Committee in 2024.
- ▶ Kaitlin Eskew stepped down as chair of the Technology Committee in 2024 after accepting a position with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts in 2024. While we had her, Kaitlin and her co-chair Ashley Dryden turned the Technology Committee around!

We represent probation officers and detention officers throughout the state. Get involved because we represent you! We need your ideas for training to help us stay some of the finest officers in probation. For more information about the Association or any committee go to www.ipcsa.org, like us on Facebook, or contact Deborah Norman, Representative Chair at dnorman@lakecountyil.gov or 847-377-3660.

ABOUT OUR COMMITTEES (CON'T)

Research Committee

“The association of criminal justice supervision setting with overdose mortality: a longitudinal cohort study” Binswanger, I.A et al. (2020).

As the opioid epidemic became more prevalent and overdose deaths continued to rise, the justice system was challenged to offer alternatives for those struggling with substance use. In Illinois, laws were passed to provide alternatives to arrest, jail, and overdose deaths. The Illinois Heroin Crisis Act PA 099-0480 expanded the use of Naloxone to non-medical personnel. Additionally, under the Emergency Medical Services Access Law PA 097-0678 individuals are provided some immunity in seeking emergency medical assistance for an overdose. The local health department now offers Naloxone to the community for free. Local law enforcement officers, probation officers, and even schools are prepared or are in the process of preparing Naloxone procedures in the event of overdose situations.

In 2020, findings of a study which looked at whether there was association among criminal justice supervision and overdose mortality were published. The longitudinal study by Ingrid A. Binswanger looked at individuals sentenced to prison, jail, probation or jail plus probation for a felony conviction in Michigan from 2003 to 2006. Using the National Death Index, they assessed overdose mortality to December 2012. They calculated overdose mortality rates by pre-sentence opioid use, drug convictions and supervision setting (ie. sentenced to prison, jail or probation). Among 140,266 individuals followed over a mean of 7.84 years, 14.9% of the 1131 deaths were due to overdose. More than half of overdose deaths occurred in the community (57.7%), nearly a third (28.8%) on probation and 12.8% on parole. The adjusted risk of overdose death was lower for persons on probation than those in the community without probation or parole. Pre-sentence daily opioid use was associated with an increased risk. Drug possession and delivery convictions were not significantly associated with overdose mortality. This study pointed out overdose related deaths increased during transitional periods from prison and probation. **Conclusion:** Based on the absolute or relative risk, parole, probation and community settings are appropriate settings for enhanced overdose prevention interventions. Ensuring that individuals with pre-sentence opioid use have access to harm reduction and drug treatment services may help to prevent overdose among people involved with the criminal justice system.

Citation

Binswanger, I.A., Nguyen, A.P., Morenoff, J.D., Xu, S., & Harding, D.J.; (2020). The association of criminal justice supervision setting with overdose mortality: a longitudinal cohort study. *Society for the Study of Addiction*, 115, 2329-2338.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32267585/>

Let the Research Committee know of topics you'd like more information about or studies your department is currently engaged in. ipcsa1969@gmail.com.

If you are interested in learning more about the research committee, please reach out to Allice Elliott aelliott@kendallcountyil.gov or Mary Colleen Powers mc.powers@dupagecounty.gov

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HOSTING A CONFERENCE IN 2026?

Contact Carla Stalnaker at

carla.stalnaker@clintoncounty.illinois.gov

ABOUT OUR COMMITTEES (CON'T)

Resource Committee

Twelve Vendors participated at Fall Conference. Vendor raffle winners were:

Visions: Taco Basket -Bridget Pletz, 9th Judicial Circuit

Goodin Associates:

\$100 Amazon gift cards

Cheryl Meyers, Effingham County

Bridget Pletz, 9th Judicial Circuit

Tammy Williams, Kane County

Dill pickles and blanket

Donovan Schwanke, Adams County

Tyler Tech: Gift card– Kate Moran-Rescke, McLean County

Track Group: 43” Flat Screen- Laura Savage, McHenry County

Vendor Cards:

Merchandise

Ashley Salmon, McHenry County

Christine Winters, Effingham County

\$30 gift cards

Jessica Durbin, Peoria County

Trey Potts, Livingston County

Ron Torkiben, Kane County

Sex Offender Committee

The Sex Offender Committee met at fall conference and discussed home contacts and CCP. The discussion was on how it works in each county. Each county is running it different. Further discussion was held on the lack of approved SOMB treatment in Rural areas. Next meeting planned for Spring Conference in 2025. If you are interested in joining the Sex Offender Committee, I can be contacted at Brian VanMeter @ bvanmeter@kendallcountyil.gov.

Substance Abuse & Problem-Solving Committee

The Substance Abuse and Problem-Solving Court Committee met on Wednesday of Fall Conference. Two representatives from NAMI of Will/Grundy County spoke at the meeting explaining their mission and services they offer.

The committee focused more on mental health issues/concerns this conference as they recognized mental health disorders are an ever growing issue for clients and many jurisdictions have mental health courts.

The committee spent time discussing possible trainers for future conferences and topics they may want to address in future meetings. They also shared ideas about possible upcoming fundraisers at the committee table.

John McCabe and Mark Jarmer, IPCSA Government Relations, appeared at the meeting briefly to give an overview of how they assist with pending or current legislation surrounding issues relevant to the committee and to the committee members' jobs.

This year, the committee had a silent auction item at their table, raising funds for Cornerstone Services, a local mental health agency. Conference attendees also had an opportunity to make tangible or financial donations to Cornerstone through a fundraising project sponsored by the committee.

ABOUT OUR COMMITTEES (CON'T)

Supervisor's Committee

The Supervisor Committee is headed by Dan Gates (Kane County) and Brooke Plachno (Ogle County). The committee's main purpose continues to be a sounding board and support system for those managers/supervisors throughout the state. It is focused on helping each other on statewide initiatives/directives, hiring issues, and other managerial related duties.

In 2025, the committee will continue to discuss possible trainings or speakers to bring to the IPCSA Conferences. The committee feels that having management specific trainings at both conferences is beneficial. The committee will also be discussing purposeful home contacts, staff incentives, and any other topics of concern for management.

The First Annual Leadership Academy will graduate in Spring 2025 and the Supervisor Committee is invested to help and support all members that participate. We will want to debrief how the academy is going and see the pros/cons of each session.

The Leadership Symposium is scheduled for July 22-24, 2025 in Galena, IL with Marcus Hodges to be the keynote speaker.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Supervisor Committee, please contact Brooke Plachno at bplachno@oglecountyil.gov or Dan Gates at GatesDan@16thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov to be added to the roster. The Supervisor Committee's next meeting will be at Spring Conference on May 07, 2025 in Adams County.



**IPCSA Upcoming
Events:
Click [Here!](#)**

IPCSA COMMITTEE INFORMATION



Committees provide numerous functions for the Association. Whether it is developing training, working with vendors, helping with legislation or fundraising, the committees are vital to the future of our Association. It is necessary to receive permission from your Chief Managing Officer to join a Committee. Please contact any of the following chairpersons if you want information or would like to join a committee.

- ▶ Awards Committee Tracy Burke-Carriere (co-chair) 13th Judicial Circuit..... 815-872-9851 TBCarriere@bureaucounty-il.gov
- ▶ Awards Committee Lissa Desplinter (co-chair) Rock Island County 309-558-3784 ldesplinter@co.rock-island.il.us
- ▶ CMO Committee Lisa Aust (co-chair) Kane County austlisa@16thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov
- ▶ CMO Committee Tod Dillard (co-chair) Morgan County..... 217-243-9468 tdillard@morgancounty-il.com
- ▶ Detention Committee Dennis McMahan (co-chair) Lake County 847-377-7989 DMcMahan@lakecountyiil.gov
- ▶ Detention Committee Mike Davis (co-chair) Kane County 847-377-7989 davismichael@16thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov
- ▶ Human Advocacy Linda O'Brien (co-chair) Cook County 312-325-9017 linda.obrien@cookcountyiil.gov
- ▶ Human Advocacy Angela Sebellos (co-chair) Lake County 847-377-4504 asebellos@lakecountyiil.gov
- ▶ Interstate/Intrastate Committee Sharon Klapperich (co-chair) Lake County 847-377-3878 sklapperich@lakecountyiil.gov
- ▶ Interstate/Intrastate Committee Julie Cho-Valldejuli (co-chair) 16th Judicial Circuit 630-4449-3156 Valldejulijulie@16thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov
- ▶ Juvenile Probation Committee Jessica Brannan (co-chair) Adams County 217-277-2170 jbrannan@co.adams.il.us
- ▶ Juvenile Probation Committee Laura Bergman (co-chair) Morgan County 217-234-9468 lmcneal@morgancounty-il.com
- ▶ Legislative Committee Thomas Gregory (chair) Vermilion County 217-554-7901 tgregory@vercounty.org
- ▶ Membership Committee Deborah Norman (chair) Lake County 847-377-4348 dnorman@lakecountyiil.gov
- ▶ Nominations/Elections Committee Frank W. Morelli (chair) Lake County 847-377-3646 fmorelli@lakecountyiil.gov
- ▶ Officer Safety and Wellness Committee Kelsie Roberts (co-chair) Morgan County 217-243-9468 kroberts@morgancountyiil.com
- ▶ Officer Safety and Wellness Committee Jennifer Crites (co-chair) Champaign County 217-384-3753 jcrites@champaign.il.us
- ▶ Pretrial Services Committee Tammy Williams (co-chair) Kane County 630-232-2772 williamstamara@16thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov
- ▶ Pretrial Services Committee Michael Venditti (co-chair) DeKalb County 815- 895-7193 mvenditti@dekalbcounty.org
- ▶ Program Committee Tina Quick (co-chair) Vermilion County 217-554-7929 tquick@vercounty.org
- ▶ Program Committee Susanne Stamm (co-chair) Will County 815-545-7676 sstamm@willcountyiillinois.com
- ▶ Representative Committee Deborah Norman (chair) Lake County 847-377-3660 dnorman@lakecountyiil.gov
- ▶ Research Committee Alice Elliott (co-chair) Kendall County 630-553-4180 aelliott@co.kendall.il.us
- ▶ Research Committee Mary Colleen Powers (co-chair) Dupage County 630-407-8379 mc.powers@dupagecounty.gov
- ▶ Resource Committee Nick Buccieri Dekalb County 815-895-7193 nbuccieri@dekalbcounty.org
- ▶ Resource Committee Kaylee Underwood Kendall County 630-553-4081 kunderwood@kendallcountyiil.gov
- ▶ Sex Offender Committee Brian VanMeter (co-chair) Kendall County 630-553-4180 bvanmeter@co.kendall.il.us
- ▶ Sex Offender Committee Caleb Lawrence (co-chair) Tazewell County 309-478-5754 clawrence@tazewell-il.gov
- ▶ Substance Abuse Committee Christine Winters (co-chair) Effingham County 217-347-7931 cwinters@co.effingham.il.us
- ▶ Substance Abuse Committee Kim Reed (co-chair) 16th Judicial Circuit 630-406-7191 ReedKimberly@16thCircuit.IllinoisCourts.gov
- ▶ Supervisor Committee Brooke Plachno (co-chair) Ogle County 630-762-2774 bplachno@oglecountyiil.gov
- ▶ Supervisor Committee Dan Gates (co-chair) 16th Judicial Circuit 630-762-2774 GatesDan@16thCircuit.IllinoisCouts.gov
- ▶ Technology Committee Ashley Dryden (chair) Effingham County 217-342-8411 adryden@effinghamcountyiil.gov

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