



## PHILADELPHIA ADULT PROBATION & PAROLE DEPARTMENT

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
CRIMINAL TRIAL DIVISION  
CHIEF CHARLES J. HOYT  
DEPUTY CHIEF DARLENE V. MILLER

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**DATE: May 13, 2016**

**TO: Members of Philadelphia City Council**

**SUBJECT: Remarks – Innovation at the Philadelphia APPD**

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On behalf of the Philadelphia Adult Probation and Parole, Chief Probation Officer Charles Hoyt and Deputy Chief Probation Officer Darlene Miller, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for inviting me to speak about the many innovative programs and projects that are currently active and working to make a difference in the lives of our large and diverse supervision population.

My name is Chris McFillin, and I am the Director of the Specialized Supervision Division of the Philadelphia Adult Probation and Parole Department. Before I highlight specifics of the Specialized Supervision Division, I would like to provide you with a general overview our department.

Currently, the department supervises approximately 45,000 individuals and approximately 63,000 sentenced dockets from both Municipal Court and Common Pleas Court. The task of supervising one of the largest probation and parole populations in the country is assigned to a dedicated staff of approximately 246 case-load carrying officer with the support of over 80 administrative and management staff.

The Mission of the Probation Department is to protect the community by intervening in the lives of the individuals. We hold them accountable by enforcing the orders of the Court. Through a balance of enforcement and treatment strategies, we afford the individuals the opportunity to become productive, law abiding citizens. We provide all possible assistance to the victims of the individuals we supervise.

The supervision population is representative of a wide spectrum of risk and needs, requiring our officers to identify and develop a unique supervision approach that is fair, firm, and consistent. The theme of 2016 for the department is the full implementation of the Risk-Need-Responsivity Principle (R-N-R). This evidence-base strategy takes a holistic approach to each individual of the supervision population by assessing risk level through the use of our world-renowned UPENN Risk Tool, assessing the needs of the offender through the use of our SMART Grant Needs Tool, and finally matching the appropriate services to the individual in an effort to provide them the best opportunity for success now and into the future.

While I serve as the Director of the Specialized Supervision Division, there are other divisions of the department that I would be remiss to not acknowledge at this time:

The Anti-violence Division specifically supervises those individuals of our supervision population that represent the greatest level of risk to reoffend. This division's approach to supervision is intensive through a combination of weekly contacts and community interaction. Individuals of this division also have an opportunity to participate in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), a program developed several years ago and continues to evolve today, having positive life-changing impact on its participants. We are also in the process of expanding the reach of this program so more individuals can take advantage of its rewarding experience.

The remaining divisions of the department are General Supervision and Administrative Supervision.

The General Supervision Division supervises the largest portion of the population with approximately 12,000 supervision individuals. The supervisors and officers of this division supervise the most diverse of all the populations in the department. Through the application of such techniques as Motivational Interviewing and R-N-R, each officer is working diligently to reduce recidivism and provide the best possible service outlets. The department is constantly seeking to evaluate and adopt new approaches to addressing this population.

The Administrative Supervision Division is the most technologically advanced of all the departments, adopting new means of supervision through the advancement of interactive reporting services, involving computers, tablets, GPS, and mobile devices. The use of such technologies has improved resource allocation and overall efficiency, allowing the department to address other areas of need through a strategic shift in staff, while maintaining the highest degree of required supervision and offender interaction.

Now, I wish to speak in regards to the division to which I am assigned as director, Specialized Supervision. The division supervises individuals that are court-ordered to a specialized form of supervision as a result of a conviction on a specific offense and/or an identified treatment requirement. The division supervises approximately 8500 individuals. The division encompasses a variety of units, each with its own specialized function: House Arrest, Forensic Intensive Recovery (FIR), Intermediate Punishment (IP), Domestic Violence, Mental Health, Sex Offender, and Specialty Courts, which is a collection of various new court-initiatives: Veterans Court, Mental Health Court, DUI Treatment Court, and Dawn Court.

In regards to supervising individuals with court-ordered addiction therapy and/or drug treatment, the Specialized Division has two units: FIR and IP.

The FIR Unit supervises approximately 700 individuals with 1351 supervision dockets. In this Unit, all individuals undergo an assessment conducted by FIR-PHMC (Public Health Management Corporation). Using the individual's self-reported information, a report recommendation is developed with a referral to inpatient treatment or out-patient treatment. Once sentenced, the individual must comply with the treatment recommendation as a condition of probation supervision. To provide support to the individual on the path to recovery, a FIR case manager is assigned, who serves as a liaison between the treatment provider and the probation officer, providing information regarding the individual's treatment compliance. In April 2016, the FIR Unit administered 390 urinalyses. Unlike the other units in the department, the FIR program accelerates the process of assessing the level of care and identifying the funding source, which significantly reduces delays in responding to the needs of the supervised individual. In some instances, the incarcerated individuals are streamlined from prison to treatment by

way of Sheriff's transportation. The level of involvement and communication between the criminal justice partners and the community in this processes echoes the concept of "Once Voice...One Message," where the individual has clearly defined boundaries and is receiving consistent flow of encouragement along their journey to recovery.

Similarly, Intermediate (IP) addresses the addiction needs of its supervised individuals, but with respect to a particular population, those individuals arrested convicted for drug offenses with state-mandatory sentences. IP takes a hybrid approach to supervision through the use of electronic monitoring in lieu of incarceration for a portion of the supervision period. The individual also receives an assessment, conducted by FIR-PHMC and a treatment recommendation is developed. Often, the individuals under IP supervision are transported by The Philadelphia Sheriff from prison to an inpatient facility or recovery house at which time an electronic monitor is installed. Individuals maintain residence at the recovery house with permission to leave said facility only to attend out-patient treatment. This program provides a valuable sentencing alternative to individuals to receive addiction and rehabilitative services while remaining in the community that would otherwise be housed in a State Correctional facility. IP represents a collaborative effort between the District Attorney, Public Defender, and the Probation Department.

In terms of new innovations on the horizon, a pilot-project, under the direction of The Honorable Ramij Djerassi, Prisoner Re-Entry Enhanced Accountability (PREATS) is currently underway. The overall premise of the project is to adopt the latest identification technology to monitor an individual's treatment attendance through fingerprint scanning. Each time the individual attends a treatment session or supervision visit with the probation officer, he/she utilizes the fingerprint scanning device which transmits real-time electronic notifications to all vested parties. In the event, the individual fails to attend a treatment session, the notification increases the speed and efficiency of response and intervention by the Probation Department. Consistent with the belief that interventions be swift and certain, increased compliance is the expectation of this program with the application of graduated sanctions for non-compliance assisting in encouraging individuals on the road to recovery.

With the City of Philadelphia being a recent recipient of a MacArthur Award, a diversion program for individuals in violation of their supervision due to substance abuse and addiction issues is in development and preparing for testing, Fall 2016. In an effort to reduce prison populations and adopt the successful qualities of the FIR and IP programs through their relationship with PHMC, individuals referred to this program will receive an assessment, treatment referral, and assigned a probation officer, specifically designated to this court program. The individual will report weekly to court to status his/her progress and undergo urinalyses to monitor compliance. This is another example of a collaborative effort between the criminal justice system and the community to develop innovative new methods of supporting our supervision population law-abiding citizens.

The Philadelphia Adult Probation and Parole Departments represents only one part of a large Criminal Justice System that works tirelessly each and every day to ensure public safety throughout our great city and while we acknowledge that this is a collective effort, the Probation Department assumes the most critical roles on the journey of any returning citizen, the Agent of Change. Consistent with our mission statement, the goal of the department it to provide opportunity to individuals to become assets to their community and city. Each and every day our dedicated officers face the same questions:

- How will I secure funding for an individual's treatment?

- Can I secure stable housing for this individual?
- What are viable employment opportunities for individuals with criminal records?
- Can I motivate this individual to change?
- How do I respond to this concerned citizen's complaint?
- How do I craft a supervision recommendation that will best position this individual for future success and reduced risk?

The task before all of us is a difficult one, but we at the Philadelphia Adult Probation and Parole Department welcome it. The challenge motivates us to continue to innovate, think outside the box, and develop lasting relationships with academics and practitioners around the globe, always committed to our vision of become a leading organization in the field of community supervision by implementing evidence-based strategies.

Again, on behalf of the Philadelphia Adult Probation & Parole Department, Chief Charles Hoyt, Deputy Chief Darlene Miller and the over 300 dedicated officers and staff, we thank you for this platform to speak to you about the innovation and development that is thriving each and every day.