



news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 2011

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Colorado probation officers honored during national recognition week *“Creativity in Times of Crisis” celebrated July 17-23*

DENVER – *Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week*, celebrating professionals who help ensure public safety and provide services to crime victims while holding offenders accountable, is July 17-23. The national week-long observance, begun in 2000, recognizes probation and parole officers as an essential part of the criminal justice system.

“Probation serves a crucial role as a community-based sentencing option for the courts,” said Eric Philp, director of the Division of Probation Services. “We use evidence-based practices to ensure offenders placed on probation are safely integrating into society and compensating their victims while keeping some offenders out of prison while they are supervised by their probation officers, providing significant cost savings to the taxpayers.”

Philp said the theme of this year’s recognition week, “Creativity in Times of Crisis,” promotes innovative solutions to budget-related problems in offender supervision brought on by the weak economy.

“Probation, parole and community supervision officers must be creative in finding solutions to make sure those they supervise continue to have the support they need to find jobs, housing and treatment,” Philp said.

In Fiscal Year 2010, Colorado's probation system supervised an average daily population of 50,476 adult and juvenile offenders; monitored 11,448 adults convicted for DUI/DWAI; and was responsible for 22,193 adults on private probation. Success rates were up last year and recidivism rates down for those completing probation, with 66 percent of adults and 73 percent of juveniles successfully completing regular probation, fulfilling their court orders and terms of probation. Colorado probation also notified 16,669 victims of crime of their right to receive notification of certain critical stage events with 17 percent of those victims asserting their rights and being signed up for notification. The Division of Probation Services, a part of the Colorado Judicial Department, also provides information for judicial officers to make sentencing decisions and provides services to victims including monitoring court-ordered restitution and providing notification in changes of case status for certain offenses.

During Fiscal Year 2010, more than \$26 million in restitution was collected by the Judicial Department and distributed to victims, with an additional \$30 million collected for victim assistance and compensation funds. The Judicial Department also collected more than \$8.7 million in fees and surcharges designated for helping indigent probationers with court-ordered treatment and services.

For more information, visit the Colorado Division of Probation Services at <http://www.courts.state.co.us/Administration/Division.cfm?Division=prob> or the American Probation and Parole Association at <http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/>.