

# Probation News

## *Supporting Positive Change*



PREPARED BY THE  
SACRAMENTO COUNTY  
PROBATION DEPARTMENT

"The mission of this newsletter is to inform our County Supervisors and their constituents of events and program accomplishments. Probation is dedicated to Supporting Positive Change by building strong partnerships and providing the best possible services to our community."

### Sacramento County Culture Excellence Initiative

#### **Core Value: Respect**

"We listen and give voice to others and treat them with compassion, empathy, and dignity."

This month, we proudly recognized employees who exemplify the value of Respect. These individuals consistently show kindness, understanding, and appreciation for those around them. Their actions create an inclusive environment where every voice is valued and heard.

Congratulations to our honorees: ASO III Robert McGill, ASO II Nicole Norman, Sr. DPO Richard Wylie, Sr. DPO Jacquelynn Jackson, ASO II Angelica Losoya and Sr. DPO Tiffany Merritt. Not pictured: DPO Reginald Cherry, SPO Russell Nelson and SPO Stewart Grace.

Each of these employees was nominated by a peer or colleague for demonstrating the following behaviors:

- Valuing the work of others and recognizing their contributions.
- Actively listening and seeking to understand others' contributions, experiences, and opinions.
- Supporting and acknowledging others' voices, opinions, thoughts, and feelings.
- Treating people with kindness.
- Listening with empathy and assuming positive intent.

Their commitment to respect inspires us all to lead with compassion and dignity.





# Staff Spotlight

## Chief's Roundtable

### Recognition

At this month's Chief's Roundtable meeting, we highlighted the dedication and achievements of staff and teams who continue to make a difference in our department. This month, we recognized:

- **Manuel Gonsalves**– (Retired Annuitant)
- **Sr. DPO Tiffany Merritt**– Peer Support
- **The Communications Unit**– Professional Standards
- **The Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Unit**– Juvenile Field Services

We thank each of these individuals and teams for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to supporting our mission and values.







# Staff Spotlight

## Thank You, Sr. DPO Tiffany Merritt: A Legacy of Care and Support

The Peer Support Team would like to extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to Senior Deputy Probation Officer Tiffany Merritt as she steps down from her role as Peer Support Program Coordinator.

Sr. DPO Merritt has been a dedicated member of the Peer Support Program for the past eight years. For the last two years, as Coordinator, she has led with heart, vision, and an unwavering commitment to the well-being of our staff.

During her tenure, Sr. DPO Merritt achieved remarkable accomplishments:

- Streamlined access to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Secured culturally competent therapists
- Initiated a collaboration with our chaplaincy program, now including pet therapy visits

These initiatives reflect her understanding of what real support looks like and the importance of creating multiple pathways for care and healing.

Sr. DPO Merritt has quietly done countless things behind the scenes—many unseen but deeply felt—carrying the emotional weight of this role with grace and always putting the needs of others first. Her efforts have made the department a more supportive and compassionate place.

On behalf of the Peer Support Team, thank you for your incredible leadership, dedication, and heart. Your legacy will continue to benefit our officers now and for years to come.





# Staff Spotlight

## Congratulations to Ms. Jessie Storrs 2026 Sacramento County Teacher of the Year



We are proud to announce that Ms. Jessie Storrs, our Librarian at the Youth Detention Facility, has been named the 2026 Sacramento County Teacher of the Year!

At the recognition dinner on August 22, 2025, Ms. Storrs was honored for her extraordinary contributions to education. Her teaching philosophy—*“meeting students where they are, creating spaces where they can fully be themselves, and walking beside them as they become who they’re meant to be”*—reflects the care, compassion, and dedication she brings to her work every day.

Her achievement is a testament to her unwavering commitment to students and the transformative power of education. We are incredibly proud to celebrate this well-deserved milestone!

The Sacramento County Teachers of the Year program recognizes outstanding educators who exemplify excellence in teaching, with nominations submitted annually by school districts across the county.

## Probation Officers Support SAL Golf Tournament

Sr. DPO’s Brittany Eveleth and Eva Cota joined this year’s Sheriff’s Activity League (SAL) golf tournament and received a big thank-you from the youth members: *“You make all of this possible!”* SAL builds positive youth-law enforcement connections through athletics, mentorship, and community events.





# Program Spotlight

## Batterer's Treatment Program (BTP)

Last September, DPO Aracely Hurtado was assigned as the Certification Officer for the Batterer's Treatment Program (BTP). Upon reviewing the program, Hurtado identified a need to improve communication and collaboration among all parties involved.

DPO Hurtado first met with each of the eight BTP providers to discuss concerns, including defendant accountability, lack of payments, and frequent terminations. After gathering feedback from the Family Violence Unit, a consistent issue emerged: defendants were repeatedly allowed to re-enroll in BTP until their probation expired without completing the program.

To address this, Hurtado requested a meeting with the Court, which included Public Defender Supervisor Slaughter, District Attorney Supervisor Reeves, Judge Williams, and two court clerks. After discussion, they agreed to streamline the process and hold defendants to the highest level of accountability to ensure successful program completion.

Key changes implemented include:

**First termination:** Defendants complete an in-house sanction (Adult Work Project) before re-enrolling, which reduces court calendar impact and allows restitution toward victims (\$60 per day of AWP).

**Second termination:** Probation files a violation of probation.

**Third termination:** Defendants are remanded to serve 90 days in custody.

**In-person enforcement:** Zoom classes are discouraged due to lower effectiveness; in-person attendance is required.

These updates have significantly reduced terminations, minimized transfers into the county, and increased successful BTP completions.

DPO Hurtado attends BTP court every Friday to update the Judge on compliance. Requests for Zoom appearances or attorney stand-ins are not approved without probation confirmation of compliance. Bench warrants are issued if defendants fail to appear. Judges may extend probation or remand defendants as needed to ensure program completion.

The new BTP model has drawn attention from other counties interested in replicating its success.

As one provider shared:

*"I like the new BTP model. After twelve-plus years, it's the best it has ever been."* – Daniel Thomas, Man Alive



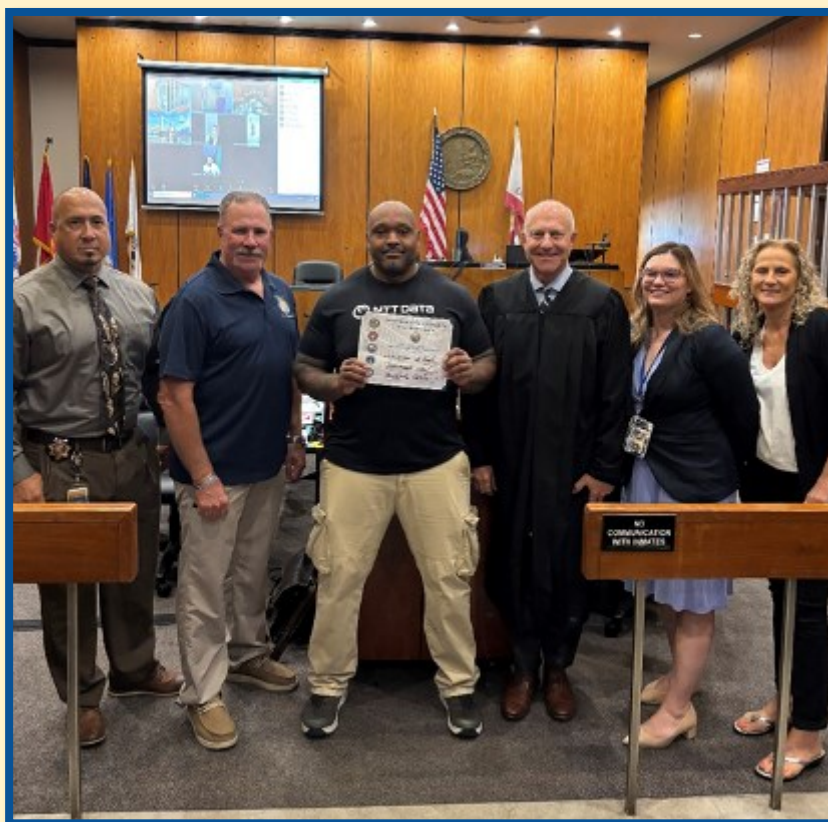




# Celebrating Success

## Veteran's Treatment Court Graduates

On August 15, 2025, the Sacramento County Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC) celebrated a client's graduation. The VTC clients participate in a 12-month comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation program that links veterans with benefits and services in order to break the cycle of substance abuse and criminal behavior. Probation and the entire VTC Team wish this graduate a healthy and happy future!



*Supporting Positive*  
**CHANGE**



# Officers & Programs Making a Positive Impact

## Collaborative Court Pro Social



On August 28, 2025, clients in the Veteran's Treatment Court program participated in a pro-social, community service event at Troopathon. Troopathon is a non-profit organization that puts together and mails care packages to deployed service members. Veteran's Treatment Court clients are always a welcome group at Troopathon, as their personal military experiences away from home motivate them to create as many care packages as possible. Working together, clients and Officers exceeded the day's goal by over 125 packages!

## Mental Health Diversion

Sr DPO Francisco Recinos wanted to support a Mental Health Diversion (MHD) client in attaining steel-toed boots required for a new employment opportunity. Because of the client's hard work and progress in the MHD program, Recinos reached out to our partners at the Assistance League of Sacramento (ALS) and they happily purchased the boots. The ALS is a non-profit organization dedicated to "transforming the lives of children and adults through community programs." The client expressed gratitude to both Recinos and ALS and is well on his way to achieving his goals of completing the MHD program and maintaining gainful employment.







# Officers & Programs Making a Positive Impact

## Probation Outreach at First Steps Communities Homeless Shelter



On August 7, 2025, Adult Field Probation Officers connected with community members, conducting compliance checks, answering questions, providing resource referrals, and distributing essentials such as food, clothing, and water. This event offered a supportive space to engage with probationers and the community.

## Celebrating Community at National Night Out!

On August 5, 2025, Sacramento County Probation joined neighbors, law enforcement, and community partners to celebrate **National Night Out!** The evening was filled with fun, connection, and community spirit. A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who came out to support and celebrate with us, your participation strengthens the bonds that keep our communities safe and connected.







# Keeping Our Community Safe

## DISTRICT- 4

August 28, 2025

*SAFE Unit*

7800 block of Sayonara Drive, Citrus Heights  
CA 95610

On August 26, 2025, a residential search warrant was authored for a probationer. On August 28, 2025, probation officers served the warrant at the individual's residence. During the search, officers located a 9mm handgun in the bedroom. Following Miranda advisement, the individual admitted to possessing the firearm and was transported and booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail.



## DISTRICT- 1

August 4, 2025

*High-Risk Probation*

900 block of Sayonara Drive, Sacramento, CA  
95838

On August 4, 2025, Deputy Probation Officers conducted an investigation following a Proposition 63 referral to locate outstanding firearms registered to a probationer. As a result of the investigation, officers successfully recovered two rifles and one semi-automatic pistol.



**Check out Probation social media to stay up-to-date on efforts to support and keep our community safe!**



# Youth Detention Facility (YDF) News

## Staff Recognition



On August 20, 2025, Assistant Probation Officers Veronica Puente and John Parker were each presented with Challenge Coins in recognition of their outstanding service in organizing and facilitating the 2025 Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Week event at the Youth Detention Facility.

Through their exceptional coordination, attention to detail, and creativity, they successfully planned an event that celebrated staff appreciation and highlighted the hard work and dedication of their team. Their efforts not only made the event meaningful but also reinforced the value placed on staff and their contributions.

## Sacramento Office of Education (SCOE)

On August 21, 2025, we proudly celebrated the high school graduation of four remarkable residents. The residents demonstrated extraordinary perseverance and dedication throughout their academic journey. Despite facing numerous challenges, they refused to give up, inspiring everyone around them with their resilience. Their families, SCOE administration, and probation officers all gathered to celebrate and support these outstanding young individuals, showing just how much their achievements mean to our community. We look forward to witnessing the continued success of these residents.







# Youth Detention Facility (YDF) News

## Culinary Arts Program

Week two of the Culinary Arts Program had residents rolling up their sleeves and diving into everyone's favorite comfort food, pizza! Guided by Chef Doolittle, participants learned how to prepare homemade dough from scratch using all-purpose flour, active yeast, olive oil, and kosher salt. After practicing the art of stretching their dough to a perfect 12-inch round, they topped their creations with a variety of favorites like pepperoni, sausage, jalapeños, onions, peppers, and ham before baking them to perfection.

By week three, the program took a sweet turn with funnel cakes. Residents crafted batter, mastered the funneling technique, and carefully poured the mixture into hot oil in a circular motion, forming the classic fair-style treat. Once fried golden, they had a chance to customize their funnel cakes with a spread of indulgent toppings like whipped cream, strawberries, chocolate syrup, powdered sugar, and caramel.

Through these hands-on lessons, residents aren't just making food; they're building confidence, learning teamwork, and gaining skills they can carry forward beyond the kitchen.





# Youth Detention Facility (YDF) News

## Northern California Construction Training (NCCT)

August was a month of achievement, growth, and new beginnings for the residents participating in the NCCT program.

Twenty-one residents proudly stepped into the world of Traffic Control, completing the “Flagging” class. The Flagging Certification is a nationally recognized program that not only equips participants with valuable job skills but also opens the door to future employment opportunities. This milestone demonstrates the determination of our youth to prepare themselves for meaningful careers and brighter futures.

In addition to their classroom success, residents showcased their craftsmanship and creativity by designing and building their own personal patio chairs. These projects will be sent home to their families as tangible symbols of hard work, skill development, and progress. Every cut, nail, and polish represent growth, confidence, and the pride of creating something lasting with their own hands.

We also welcomed new student referrals into the program this month. After completing their entry testing, they began their NCCT journey with hope and motivation, eager to take advantage of this opportunity for a fresh start and a pathway toward success.

Overall, August reflected the resilience and potential of our residents. With each certification earned, project completed, and new student welcomed, our NCCT program continues to inspire a vision of success and second chances. The commitment the youth show today lays the foundation for their tomorrow.







# Youth Detention Facility (YDF) News

## Leadership Education Athletic Program (LEAP)

In August, the Leadership Education Athletic Program focused on personalized physical training. Throughout the month, residents engaged in learning how physical training works and received valuable instruction on the proper ways to stretch and warm up. Many residents took the opportunity to express their personal fitness goals, and in turn, they were provided with organized physical training tailored to their needs. The training sessions were successfully completed within the allotted hour, ensuring that everyone learned the correct techniques to train their bodies effectively for optimum health.

Residents were also assigned a task which consisted of creating artwork of their choice for the courts. Residents are drawing and painting historical landmarks and influential political figures.





# Youth Detention Facility (YDF) News

## Horticulture Program

This month in the Horticulture Program, residents have gained a tremendous amount of knowledge. After completing landscape maintenance, they learned how to transplant, grow plants from seedlings, grow plants utilizing hydroponics, complete irrigation plans, irrigation maintenance, irrigation construction, and built light stands for their plant growth utilizing the hydroponic method.

So far, they have planted strawberries, peppers, squash, pumpkins, zucchini, tomatoes, basil, mint, rosemary and flowers. The residents have developed a solid work ethic as individuals and as a crew.



## Chaplaincy

On August 25, 2025, four residents made the meaningful decision to be baptized, marking the beginning of a new chapter in their spiritual journey. This day represents a significant step forward in their commitment to personal growth and positive transformation. The Youth Detention Facility is proud to support and celebrate these individuals as they embrace this path toward lasting change.







# Probation's August 2025 Community Partners



**Follow us on all the Socials**



Instagram

This newsletter is also available online: <https://saccoprobaton.saccounty.gov/Pages/DistrictNewsletters.aspx>

Please send questions and comments to: [ProbationNews@saccounty.gov](mailto:ProbationNews@saccounty.gov)