



Did you know?

“Orange County Probation Department 101”

Those familiar with “probation” work recognize that the concepts of “modern probation” (i.e. investigation, intake and supervision) can be traced back to the work John Augustus (i.e. “The Father of Probation”) accomplished in Massachusetts between 1841 and 1858. As a result of his efforts, the first juvenile court would be established in Chicago in 1899 and “probation” would be introduced as part of the juvenile court procedure in 30 states.¹ Over the years, the Orange County Probation Department has contributed a great deal to advance the good work first established by the Father of Probation.

In 1909, Superior Court Judge Z.B. West (one of the founding attorneys of the Orange County Bar Association) appointed the first county Probation Committee. On April 16, 1909, the committee selected Reverend J.H. Scott as the county’s first Chief Probation Officer. Since then, 12 individuals have led our organization to ensure: 1) the courts were provided service, 2) juvenile and adult probationers were managed and 3) victim issues were addressed. Those listed below answered the call and chose to follow in Chief Scott’s footsteps:

Paul E. Wright (1920 – 21)

Russell R. Miller (1921 – 25)

Leroy A. Warren (1925 – 30)

Nora M. Allen (1930 – 39)

David R. McMillan (1939 – 67) – Carl S. Warner (served as interim when Chief McMillan served in the armed forces during WW II)

Margaret C. Grier (1967 – 78)

Nancy K. Nelson (acting 1978 – 79)

Michael A. Schumacher (1979 – 99)

John Robinson (acting 1999 – 2000)

Stephanie Lewis (2000 – 05)

Colleene Preciado (2005 – 10)

Steven J. Sentman (2010 – 2022)

¹ www.nyc.gov/html/prob/html/about/history.shtml

Orange County Probation Department highlights:

In 1951, Orange County expanded its Juvenile Hall operations at 1207 Fruit Street in the City of Santa Ana. The David R. McMillan School is established on the site. In 1956, Joplin High School is established on land donated to Orange County for a boys' ranch. In 1959, the Albert Sitton Home (now Orangewood facility) becomes the county home for neglected and abused children. Juvenile Hall is moved adjacent to the Albert Sitton Home and the Otto A. Fischer (first juvenile hall school principal) School is dedicated on the site of the new Juvenile Hall location. Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) becomes established in 1960. In 1966, Rancho Potrero Boys' School opens on the grounds of the Joplin property. CPO David R. McMillan (longest sitting CPO in Orange County) served as first President of CPOC.

In 1969, Chief Grier oversees the agency as the Youth Guidance Center opens. In 1970, the Los Pinos Forestry Camp and Los Pinos High School opens. In 1976, the California State Legislature passed AB 3121, which prohibited the incarceration of juvenile status offenders (W&I Code, 601). Sitton Home transfers from probation to the Orange County Social Services Agency and Rancho Potrero and McMillan School close. The population at the Youth Guidance Center also becomes newly defined. Chief Grier guides the incorporation of CPOC in 1976 and all Chiefs endorse the by-laws of the new association.

Chief Schumacher publishes the department "Strategic Plan" in November 1990 and promotes the "Balanced Approach" to community protection. Based on 1980 juvenile recidivism studies, the department's "8% Early Intervention Program" was born and a pilot program involving first or second time juvenile offenders in Anaheim and Buena Park who fit a profile of youth who became chronic repeat offenders would take shape. These repeat offenders would later be known as the "8%" population. In 1992, the new receiving wing (i.e. Intake and Receiving Center, Unit Y and Unit Z) open at Juvenile Hall. On December 22, 1999, The 8% Solution: Preventing Serious, Repeat Juvenile Crime, authored by Chief Schumacher and Gwen A. Kurz is published.

On July 1, 2001, Chief Lewis leads the agency as probation partners with the Health Care Agency and Social Services Agency to initiate the Wraparound Program in Orange County. The program is designed to lessen the number of youth referred to out of home placement. In 2003, Chief Lewis oversees the opening of STATION 14, the Probation Department's Computer Aided Dispatch Center. In May of 2003, construction of Unit Q begins. In 2004, construction of the Youth Leadership Academy begins. In 2005, Chief Lewis, with Orange County Board of Supervisor approval, works with CPOC to sponsor legislation to expand the use of Global Positioning Technology (GPS) to monitor adult sex offenders. The Orange County Probation Department operates (6) six Youth and Family Resource Center (YFRC) facilities that serve youth and their families throughout the County of Orange.

In 2007, Chief Preciado is named "Woman of the Year" by the Women of Vision organization. In 2008, Chief Preciado oversees the agency as it partners with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to launch the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). The purpose of the initiative is to ensure alternatives to detention strategies and/or community based services are utilized so that youth are not needlessly detained. In May 2008, the Probation Department partners with the

Crime Justice Institute (CJI) to begin the Integrating Effective Probation Practices (IEPP) project. The basis of the project is to infuse Evidence Based Practices (EBP) into daily operations. In June 2008, probation hosts the *Lives Worth Saving* summit and brings the faith community and non-profit organizations to discuss strategies of combating gang violence. In August of 2008, the department launches the Electronic Contact Reporting (ECR) software application. In June of 2009, probation opens a Youth Reporting Center (YRC) facility in Santa Ana and in Anaheim. As part of a continuum of sanction model, probation wards are referred to the facilities in lieu of being arrested, confined and addressed formally in court. In April 2010, the department opens the Center for Opportunity Re-entry and Education (CORE) facility for adult offenders. The center's goal is to assist adults with educational goals and provide cognitive based treatment interventions to assist with the reintegration of offenders back into the community.

On July 30, 2010, Steven J. Sentman is sworn in as Orange County's 13th Chief Probation Officer. Chief Sentman establishes a new vision: "*A Safer Orange County Through Positive Change*" for the Orange County Probation Department. In August of 2010, the Orange County Probation Department is awarded the Innovative Use of GPS award for its 24/7 GPS Monitoring Center. Probation receives the National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award for the development of the Integrated Case Management System (ICMS). In April 2011, probation shares the Ralph N. Kleps Award for Improvement in Administration of the Courts with Judge Wendy Lindley for work accomplished in Orange County's Combat Veterans Court. In July 2011, CORE receives the NACo Award. On October 2011, implementation of the Public Safety Realignment Act began and the newest probation division; the Postrelease Community Supervision (PCS) Division is born. Chief Sentman chairs the Orange County Community Corrections Partnership (OCCCP). The County 2011 Realignment Plan is submitted and approved by the County Board of Supervisors.