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SOCK MONKEYS

BY SUPERVISING PROBATION OFFICER TIFFANY HUMPHRIES

Southwest Juvenile Hall implemented a pilot program in the female unit. Each youth was issued a sock monkey after one week of admission in hopes of giving comfort to the youth who have been abused, neglected and have felt unloved. The purpose is to improve behavior and minimize room confinement time. Research has shown that touching a teddy bear can lessen the adverse psychological effects of social exclusion and reduce stress. As a result, teddy bears are often given to trauma victims, including sexually abused children. Clinical trials have established that considerable comfort is obtained from cuddling, naming and speaking to a teddy bear. Various police, fire and paramedic departments routinely issue teddy bears to their officers because they are useful tools in reaching scared, lost and traumatized children. The female youth have become attached to the sock monkeys and are excited that they get to take them home upon release. The girls take pride in their sock monkeys by keeping them clean, naming them and placing them neatly on their beds.







DPO Brittany Cardoza attended California State University, Fullerton where she earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Political Science and joined RCP in June of 2014.



She worked as a counselor at Cal Poly Pomona, guiding students through difficult challenges when 🗸 she came across a listing for Deputy Probation Officer and thought the position would be a unique way to use her counseling experience and skillset with clients from varying walks of life.

DPO Cardoza has held a variety of positions with RCP, including Formal Probation 3-Banked. Compas Assessments, AB109-Level 2 and AB109-Level 2 Homeless.

She has found the most challenging aspect of her job to be working with the homeless population. Upon taking the position, she held the belief that this population would adapt easily to the idea of traditional societal norms (ex: stable housing, employment, etc.). However, having spent the last three years working with homeless clients, she learned this cannot be forced onto someone and instead works to help clients create a lifestyle where they are comfortable and happy, but also become productive and law abiding.

Although working with homeless clients has been challenging, it has also been the most rewarding aspect of her job. "This was an assignment I never knew I wanted," she said. "Over the last three years, I have enjoyed getting to know and work with a segment of the population that is often overlooked, and I have grown quite fond of working with them."

The most memorable experience of her career has been working with a homeless client who regularly absconded from probation. After meeting with the client in custody, he finally reported to probation. Through collaboration with our mental health partners, he finally attained housing, the mental health treatment he needed and received disability benefits. He also reconnected with family he hadn't seen in more than ten years. DPO Cardoza finds it satisfying to drive past the client's former homeless encampment and no longer see him there.

Changing lives is a value DPO Cardoza truly believes in. "As a probation officer, you not only work with your client, but your client's family, friends, etc." she stated. "It's important to remember that what you do for your clients impacts not only them, but those around them."

She advises new DPOs to be open-minded. "You may be given an assignment you did not initially want and it may grow into something you never knew you had a passion for," she said.





TAROUND THE COUNTY

Cabot's Pueblo Museum

The Youth Accountability Team (YAT) recently visited Cabot's Pueblo Museum in Desert Hot Springs. The youth went on a guided tour through the museum and living quarters. The tour consisted of information about Cabot Yerxa, aka "Mr. Desert Hot Springs", the Native American artifacts collected by Cabot and his wife Portia, and the seismic faults in the area and how they created the Desert Hot Springs area. The Pueblo has four stories, is 5,000 square feet and includes 35 rooms, 150 windows, 30 rooflines and 65 doors. Cabot used mostly raw materials and repurposed most of what was in the house, including many of the beams which were old telephone poles. Cabot even used tree trunks as the base of a bed. There were hidden doors that took an alternative route to another building. The Pueblo contained many unique sculptures, such as the ancient weather rock and the massive carving of Waokiye, which means "Traditional Helper" in the Lakota language. Waokiye's face is 22





feet tall and carved from a single 45-ton Sequoia redwood; the feather is 15 feet tall and carved out of an Incense cedar tree. At the end of the tour, the youth received blank note cards to paint their inspirations from the Pueblo on the cover.

Riverside Art Museum Collaboration

YAT, in partnership with the Riverside Art Museum (RAM), created a colorful and inviting mural for the Blindness Support Center in Riverside. The large scale mural included 3-D texture which was used to tell the story of a day in the park for those with low vision to total blindness. The youth dedicated many hours throughout a 10-week period to provide this very special mural to their community. The reveal ceremony and exhibition was attended by our youth and their families, participants of the Blindness Support Services, Inc. center of Riverside and community partners which included the Honorable Judge R. Luebs, Juvenile Court Judge, and Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey. The youth and their families along with other attendees were able to volunteer to be blindfolded and to experience the mural as someone with low vision or total blindness would. It was a great experience for the youth and they are extremely proud of their contribution in creating this mural with RAM.





FOSTERING A NEW PERSPECTIVE

RCP LEADS THE WAY IN IMPLEMENTING QUALITY PARENTING INITIATIVE FOR PROBATION AGENCIES



In order to thrive, all children and youth need excellent parenting, safe homes and loving environments. The Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) is a strategy implemented by the Youth Law Center (YLC) as an approach to strengthening foster care. This initiative was launched in 2008 and geared primarily for child welfare agencies.

Riverside County Probation is the first probation agency to pursue this endeavor, and sent Juvenile Projects Unit (JPU) staff to attend the QPI National Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The conference provided expert discussions and breakout sessions regarding the transformation of foster care. We heard from Dr. Ken Ginsburg, an internationally-renowned expert in youth development and resilience. We also heard from a panel of resource parents and young adults brought up in the foster care system. The conference allowed for a very raw and emotional look at the foster care system and approaches to deal with trauma-centered/informed situations.

JPU networked with other agencies, learning about new programs and innovative practices that could be implemented here at RCP for the benefit of our resource families. JPU plans to meet with the Executive Director of YLC to discuss and focus on the transformation of the juvenile justice system as it applies to foster care. RCP was the only probation department in attendance. Many were surprised, but grateful to see probation involved with foster care youth and families. I'm proud to see RCP once again at the forefront and leading other probation agencies, alongside YLC, in this amazing support system for our probation youth and families.

BY SUPERVISING PROBATION OFFICER MONICA ROSE





DONNA EDWARDS PROBATION SPECIALIST

1. What motivated you to begin a career with the Riverside County Probation Department?

Joining RCP was an organic process for me. Both of my parents were ministers, and so I spent my youth observing them serve the needs of others. This instilled in me the desire and a heart to serve people, especially the "at risk" community. I worked many years in a corporate setting, but I lived far from my job when my son was born and life decisions had to be made. I took some time off from work and pursued other professional goals. Thankfully, when the time was right, a temporary position opened at RCP. A year later, I joined the department full time.

- 2. How long have you worked for the department? 12 years.
- 3. What is your current position? Describe your responsibilities within your current role.

I am currently a Probation Specialist for Pretrial Services where I serve as a liaison between the court, pretrial service investigators and supervision deputies. I process Pretrial minute orders related to court-ordered investigations, as well as supervised own-recognizance (SOR) release orders. My assignment requires me to clarify minute order discrepancies and monitor the SOR telephone reporting line for the west end of the county and/or update pertinent contact information for entry into JAMS. My duties also include updating pretrial disposition and investigations screens in JAMS, running audit reports, serving as a base operator for SOR deputies, submitting trouble tickets, distributing bus passes and backup secretarial duties. I am the resident JAMS proctor and one of the division's designated JAMS deleters.

4. Many people change careers during their lifetime; what motivates you to continue your career with the department?

There is a saying, "Been there, done that!" I have had several careers over my lifetime. Life gives us choices and for the last 12 years, I have made the choice to be exactly where I needed to be. I'm fortunate to work for an organization that is dedicated to changing lives.



5. Thinking back to when you first began with the Probation Department, did you set a career path goal?

It is my ultimate goal to be the best employee that I can, no matter the position. Almost five years into my RCP career, the Pretrial division was established. I eagerly put my name in even though this would be a longer commute, viewing this as an opportunity to learn something new and innovative. The decision to transfer enlarged my opportunities, which led me to my current position.

6. What goals have you set out to accomplish in your current position?

I display professionalism and avoid complacency regardless of the assignment. My goal is to be a part of the solution, to respect all people and to represent myself and the department positively.

7. What do you enjoy about your current position? What are the challenges?

I enjoy the diversity that the position affords. Working Pretrial affords me the opportunity to see many aspects of the department. Every position has it challenges, but challenges are merely opportunities to make us better.

8. What (CORE VALUES) do you believe are most important to the success of our employees or interested job seekers?

Integrity, excellence AND dedication. This might sound a little corny. However, I believe that they are synonymous. These are key values and drivers for our clients.

9. Do you have any memorable moments to share?

Some of my most memorable moments are receiving the SWSD Special Recognition Award for the United Way Campaign, the 2012 SWSD Employee of the Year Award, FPD Employee of the Quarter and participating in Probation Choir for the Employee Awards Ceremony.

10. Based on your experience, do you have any words of advice for staff?

Something I tell myself all the time, and it's hard: Be proactive not re-active. Do and be your best! Don't measure yourself by someone else's success or failures.

11. Do you have any hobbies or outside interests you would like to share?

Although my Faith and Family are not hobbies, both in their own way are motivators. My Faith motivates me to go right when, I sometimes want to go left. My family is my inspiration and my center. Friday is somewhat of our Family game night. My family and I enjoy bowling, going to baseball and basketball games, traveling and my favorites; occasional spa, and shopping days.





YEARS OF SERVICE (*)



30 YEARS

MELINDA ARELLANO MARTHA WARDRUP

25 YEARS

MARIA BARLOW SUSAN CORDOVA

20 YEARS

LUPE CONWAY LACHELLE CRIVELLO TARI DOLSTRA MICHAEL LANGLOIS KEITH MARTINSON VICTOR REGALADO ANDREA REYES ANGELIQUE STENLAKE JOSE GARCIA TAMARA WINN

15 YEARS

JENNIFER ATKINSON JASON BEAM QUAHARI BOBO **TACOB BROWN** CRISTINE CASTRO DOTTIE CROSS RICHARD DENTON JOE DOTY CORINA EPENESA MARIA FRANCO MARIA G. GARCIA SALVADOR GOMEZ LAURA HUERTA SUGI JOHNSON-HAYNES

KELLY LOBO SCARLLETTE LOPEZ CAROL MECHANICK MARY MIXON CASIE MOORE **INGRID OUTLAW** IMELDA PLASCENCIA ALMA RIOS-ARVALLO **OLIVIA SERNA** DENICE STENSON MATTHEW THOMPSON **EDDIE TIAGA** GUILLERMO URQUIZA KRISTIN ZASTROW

PROMOTIONS (*)



ASSISTANT CHIEF **PROBATION OFFICER** RONALD MILLER

PROBATION DIVISION DIRECTOR

JOE DOTY LARRY MEASE

SUPERVISING PROBATION OFFICER

RON CHERKIN ALBERTO LERMA **IENNIFER NARITA** ROBERT RIVERA ANGEL RUIZ DANIEL ULRICH MANDEE WOODS

SENIOR PROBATION OFFICER

DENISE BIRMINGHAM GRISSET DORR JACK HANSEN KYLIE HANSEN KENNYTH MARCIAL

SENIOR PROBATION CORRECTIONS OFFICER

MARIO GALLO SERGIO MACIAS MELISSA PEREZ RAYMUND REBAGAY GODFREY SERAPHIN JAZZMINE SIMPSON

DEPUTY PROBATION OFFICER I

LISA DANIELS CHRISTOPHER GROSECLOSE ROCIO GUERRA JONATHAN HALAS ASHLEY JEWELL JENNIFER KIRK ERIKA PEREZ

SECRETARY II

DAWN DAVIS

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT JESSICA HOLSTIEN

BUSINESS PROCESS ANALYST II IANE VENUS

SENIOR ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT VERONICA RODRIGUEZ

CORRECTIONAL COOK

SHENOUDA BAGDADY PHILLIP BROWN JANIS DUNNING

OFFICE ASSISTANT III SLOANE PEGORELLI

OFFICE ASSISTANT II

MICHELLE BOOKOUT



DIVISION EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR 🗱





MICHELLE REEVES

ADMINISTRATIVE & BUSINESS SERVICES

"She's an exceptional employee. She's extremely analytical. She's a wonderful supervisor and is loved and respected by all her staff."



DERRICK DORSEY-DAVIS

ADULT SERVICES DIVISION

"Derrick pours his heart and soul into his work. He always has a good attitude and he's always very professional. Derrick's skills and knowledge are well know.



MARIA SOTO

ALAN M. CROGAN YTEC

"She's very well informed. The dedication to the job, positive outlook and unassuming work ethic ensures the youth in the YTEC program have an oppournity to change their lives for the better."



STEPHANIE OCHOA

"Stephanie plays a key role in the criminal justice system. People in the courts say she is very thorough, helpful and knows her stuff."



JOSHUA MORA

FIELD PROJECTS DIVISION

"Josh is an intrical part of the Indio Day Reporting Center. He puts forth great effort and goes above and beyond when working with our clients."



MONIKA ORTEGA

INDIO IUVENILE HALL

"Monika is the right hand of Indio Juvenile Hall. Supervisors and staff alike seek Monica for her assistance and technical support."



ISHA JACKS

"She has a way of driving the whole team and getting us to buy in and get on board. She encourages staff to use and develop their skills and talents."



RAINA PEREZ-DIAZ

JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION

"Raina is such a great person to be around. She's always there to find resources for her clients. Raina is dedicated to her assignment but still takes time to bring joy to her coworkers."



DAVID VILLEGAS

RIVERSIDE JUVENILE HALL

"His experience and professionalism is an example to veteran and novice staff alike. Both staff and youth look up to David as a mentor.'



KEILA GARCIA

SOUTHWEST JUVENILE HALL

"Her performance has been exemplary. She has a cheerful, can-do attitude. She is always willing to take on extra work and go that extra mile.



LETICIA HARO

SOUTHWEST SERVICES DIVISION

"Her demeanor is calm and peaceful. She is one of the best-kept secrets in the department. Leticia is a prime example of excellence."



GEORGINA PEREZ

SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION

"Her intelligence, empathy, compassion, patience and drive are invaluable assets for working with youth and their families."



KIZZY MOORE

VICTIM RESTITUTION AND RESOURCES DIVISION

"Kizzy leads the way in connecting victims with the appropriate resources. She's mastered juvenile resitution. She's very passionate about her job."

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD









ALAN M. CROGAN YTEC & AFTERCARE

BRANDI KRALL

CLIFF VASQUEZ

ALAN M. CROGAN YTEC

ROBERT RIVERA

WILLIAM WAITE

ALAN M. CROGAN YTEC

JAZZMINE SIMPSON

KALA WILSON

INSTITUTIONAL PROJECTS TEAM

JILL GORMAN
INSTITIONAL PROJECTS DIVISION

DENNIS MARTINEZ INSTITIONAL PROJECTS DIVISION ISHA JACKS
INSTITIONAL PROJECTS DIVISION

EDDIE TIAGA

VETERANS COURT

MARIVEL OCEGUEDA ADULT SERVICES DIVISION

JOSE VALDEZ ADULT SERVICES DIVISION

YOUTH PROGRAMS

WILLIAM LAMAS JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD (*)







ANNA DEHARO ALAN M. CROGAN YTEC

JOHNNY ORTEGA RIVERSIDE JUVENILE HALL

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



RICK WOLF

IRENE ZUMAYA
JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION





GABRIELA HERNANDEZ
FIELD PROJECTS DIVISION

🝅 2018 RIVCO INNOVATES CEO AWARD 🝅



LAW ENFORCEMENT PORTAL APPLICATION

JOSEPH ATALLA SHARON CALNEK GEORGE KAYMAZ
ASHLEY PARKER OLIVIA SERNA SARIKA SONI
MATT WOODARD

- 🗱 CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS OF CALIFORNIA AWARD 🗱



CRISTINA KAYVON-PIERCE
DESERT SERVICES DIVISION



MONICA ROSE JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION

CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER'S AWARD (*)



DR. JUDI NIGHTINGALE DIRECTOR OF POPULATION HEALTH RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM



It was not an ambition of mine to work in law enforcement or probation, but I saw a billboard in 2006 that read, "Become a Group Counselor," so I applied. I thought I'd be in a comfy office counseling people; instead I found myself at Indio Juvenile Hall (IJH) working with detained youth. I promoted to Senior Probation Corrections Officer in 2015 and was assigned to help develop the IRIS/lota unit at YTEC at Riverside Juvenile Hall (RJH). I later promoted to Supervising Probation Officer and commuted from Indio to Riverside for more than three years before tranferring back to IJH. I'm now the A.M. Shift Duty Officer responsible for control, court, transportation and Detention Control Officer operations.

I learned that the Chief is knowledgeable, humble and kind. He loves his family and has great visions for RCP. I think he is a great public speaker and asked him for some tips, only to find out that public speaking is not his favorite thing to do and that he doesn't think he does it well. He believes the field and institution experiences are unique and there is knowledge necessary to supervise staff that only comes from having spent time in that area of probation. Also, he loves camping and it became a family tradition for him. I shared with him that I have never been camping, but will be going for the first time this year.

I inquired what path I should take in my career and he was insightful and encouraging. He said it's not a bad idea to go backwards in pay in order to advance in your career. He added that as a supervisor, you have a responsibility to ensure that staff understand the purpose, direction and motivation for what you are asking them to do.

I was surprised to find out that the Chief started his career working as a Group Counselor as well. He said he never thought he would become the Chief. He also added that the leadership task becomes more complex with each promotion with more stakeholders placing demands on you.

I was a little nervous when I first heard I was selected to have lunch with the Chief. I did not know what we would talk about; however, he was welcoming, convivial and the topics were interesting. I loved it!

BAKER TO VEGAS UPDATE

by Supervising Probation Officer Michael Belknapp

On March 23 and 24, 2019, 284 law enforcement teams and over 8,000 people from as far away as New Zealand descended upon Baker, California to embark on a grueling 120-mile trek through the Mojave Desert in the 35th Annual Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay. For the 14th consecutive year, the Riverside County Probation Department RCPB2V running team laced up its collective running shoes to battle the elements and challenging terrain in a quest to make it to Las Vegas as fast as possible and bring back a coveted B2V Mug. Despite setbacks which prevented top runners from competing and a last-minute shakeup in the running order, the team pulled together and ran with determination and purpose. Their valiant efforts were again rewarded with another mug. Overall, the team placed 74th, which is the second highest overall finish for an RCP team and they were 7th out of 40 in their division, the highest finish ever in division.

Throughout the year, the runners trained individually and as a team, often spending their weekends getting up early and driving long distances to meet for a run. This type of dedication helped develop teamwork, camaraderie and a sense of accomplishment. However, it isn't just the runners who make this team great. As anyone who has ever been to any kind of race can tell you, there is no event without volunteers. Again, our department represented itself beautifully with dozens of employees and family members who supported the runners. A huge thank you to our volunteers!

2020 will be the 15th year RCP will field a team. With a full complement of runners, an enthusiastic leadership team and a department filled with excellence, there is every reason to believe that RCPB2V will not only field a Top-50 team, but be the top-finishing probation department in the country. If you would like to be part of something special, either as a runner, board member or volunteer, contact Johnny Ortega or Michael Belknapp. Although we field a competitive team, we welcome all runners to join us during team runs. Next year's race will be held April 4th and 5th, 2020 and will finish at the Rio Hotel just off the famous Las Vegas Strip. See you then!













DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS JUNE 28, 2019

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