



The PAPPC Journal

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Save the Date!

THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION ON
PROBATION, PAROLE AND CORRECTIONS

Presents:

The 2026 Training Institute and Conference

**"History as Our Guide: Understanding the
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May 17 – 20, 2026

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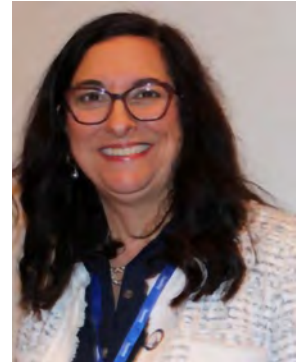
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PAPPC MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION ON PROBATION, PAROLE AND CORRECTIONS (PAPPC) SUPPORTS AND PROMOTES BEST PRACTICE METHODS AND PROFESSIONALISM IN THE FIELD OF JUVENILE AND ADULT PROBATION, PAROLE, CORRECTIONS, INSTITUTIONAL CARE AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION.

A Message from the President CLAUDIA FISHER, 2025-2026



Dear Colleagues,

I am honored to accept the position of PAPPC President for the 2025-2026 term. At our annual training institute, Moving Mountains; Creating a Path for Change I took my oath of office. Our 103rd Annual Training Institute and Conference was an experience for learning, networking, and providing insight & ideas for our futures. I am grateful for the support of the Executive Board who worked tirelessly to bring you a conference that was insightful and relevant to the many changes in our industry.

As President of PAPPC, I promise to execute the duties with professionalism and honor that has been set forth by PAPPC for more than 100 years. We are faced with constant change in our profession that causes us to adjust to the times. In our industry, we are all learning to adapt and embrace the changes that we face. We need to keep our minds open and remember the reason for choosing this profession and the impact you can make on an individual's life. We have engaged in training of evidence-based practices and daily we are making an impact with these tools. While we sometimes struggle with the changes that have been imposed upon us in our profession, we must trust implementing the changes will have a positive impact on society and produce positive outcomes. We are empowered with the knowledge of data driven decision making and are confident that it will propel us into the future.

As a first generation to immigrant parents, I value the hard work and resilience that my colleagues use everyday in their work. In the members of PAPPC I see the strength to try anything, talent to succeed, courage enough to fail, wisdom to learn, and resilience to bounce back even stronger. These are the traits that I will encourage and promote. I will guide the Executive Board members to provide this association with a viable plan to move into the future. I am thankful for the example that has been set forth before me by the Executive Board and look forward to the next chapter. It is with you and your unselfish commitment, along with member participation, that gives us sustainability for years to come. I am humbled by the support and encouragement of being entrusted with the position of President of PAPPC.

I invite and encourage you to actively engage in becoming involved with PAPPPC by requesting to join our Executive Board. I ask that you promote new members by sharing your experience. We work fully on a volunteer basis and with the support of individual agencies who are willing to share the time and talents of their employees. You can submit an email with any questions about becoming active on the executive board to web@pappc.org.

I plan to continue Moving Mountains and creating a path for change!

Sincerely,

Claudia Fisher

PAPPC President

The Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections

2025 – 2026

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Smartphone-Based Supervision – the Swiss Army Knife for Community Corrections

By. Joe Russo



The challenges facing community supervision agencies are well known. Agencies have the complex task of balancing the dual objectives of protecting the public in a cost-effective manner by maintaining offender accountability while at the same time delivering or brokering

rehabilitative services in support of positive behavioral change. Despite this important mission, community supervision agencies have long been under-resourced. More than two-thirds of the population under correctional control are supervised in the community; however, most funding is dedicated to the operation of correctional institutions. Other factors are compounding these challenges. For example, the cohort on supervision today tend to have greater risk factors and needs as compared to the past and caseloads are increasing as agencies are experiencing workforce shortages. Given that many agencies are stretched to capacity, and beyond, effective community supervision can be accomplished only if all available resources are fully leveraged.

Technology has been a great asset in this respect and solution providers have developed a wide range of innovations that have enhanced community supervision over the years. Some solutions have been real game-changers. For example, GPS ankle bracelet technology provided the ability to locate and track offenders in near-real time; a great improvement over RF-based home confinement systems. The introduction of transdermal alcohol sensors offered a way to continuously, remotely, and passively test offenders in the community. Ignition interlock technology is helping to prevent repeat driving while intoxicated violations. Automated risk/needs assessment instruments are critically important in ensuring that agencies are dedicating the appropriate services and level of supervision to each case.

The impact of these, and other, innovations is unquestionable; however, they each have a fairly narrow scope. One notable exception has been the emergence of smartphone-based supervision tools; a revolutionary approach that can simultaneously, and efficiently, address multiple supervision objectives. Thanks to the native power of smartphone technology combined with the innovation of supervision-specific applications, accountability objectives can be achieved through features such as location/curfew monitoring, remote reporting and check-ins. Behavioral change objectives can be facilitated through instant communications with the officer, providing the client with timely access to resources

such as programming, and therapeutic counseling and support via video conferencing. These services, and others, can all be managed via a dedicated case management system.

Unlike other innovations used in corrections, these tools leverage commercial technology and are not immediately recognizable as a sanction. Smartphones are ubiquitous; most individuals are familiar and comfortable with them, and usually keep them within reach.

Functionality Examples

Monitoring the location of clients can be important to the supervision process. Traditional, ankle bracelets are uncomfortable, cumbersome, and stigmatizing. Smartphone-based supervision tools offer many of the basic features of traditional location tracking systems without the burden of stigma. For example, the position of the smartphone is determined through the location services (e.g., Global Navigation Satellite System, WiFi, cell tower trilateration) native to the device. Building on that foundation, solution providers overlay mapping functionality, inclusion and exclusion zones, temporal restrictions (e.g., curfews) and alert protocols for violation response. Ensuring that the client is in possession of the smartphone may be accomplished in two different ways, continuous verification and periodic verification.

When location information is combined with a continuous means of validating the client is with the phone (e.g., tether), much of the functionality of traditional tracking systems can be realized without the stigmatization associated with bulky ankle bracelets. In this approach, a secure, body-worn tether is connected via Bluetooth to the smartphone. The result is similar to the traditional two-piece offender tracking system; however, the components are much smaller than those currently offered by manufacturers. Much like traditional tracking systems, location points are gathered continuously, and an alert is generated if the two devices (smartphone and tether) are separated indicating that the integrity of the location points has been compromised.

The periodic verification approach confirms client identity/proximity to the smartphone and location at distinct points in time. In this configuration, the client may be prompted, by a message on the application, to conduct a biometric check-in to confirm identity/proximity while the device's location point is captured. These check-ins can be programmed to be random, on demand, or scheduled at specific times of the day to determine, for example, whether the client has arrived at work on time or is attending a counseling session.

(continued on page 5)

A major advantage of smartphone-based supervision tools is the ability to efficiently maintain contact with clients. This can take several forms. For example, once identity has been confirmed by biometrics (e.g., fingerprint, voice, facial recognition), clients can remotely submit reports to their officer with updates of employment status, living arrangements, contact information and other important data. These reports can be scheduled by the officer on a regular basis, randomly, or the officer may initiate an immediate prompt. Leveraging the smartphone's camera, an officer can virtually interact with the client to conduct a "face-to-face" interview or a walk-through of the client's home, inspecting the contents of drawers, cabinets and the refrigerator. Of course, communication can also be accomplished via audio calls and text messaging. These tools also offer an efficient way to provide positive reinforcements, an evidence-based practice, to clients who are progressing and can broadcast messages to a large group of clients (e.g., an officer's caseload or the entire supervised population) in situations such as an office closure due to inclement weather or natural disaster. The ability to remotely maintain regular contact with clients is a force multiplier for the officer and can reduce the burden on the client who may have to take time off from work, arrange child-care, and incur transportation costs to meet the officer in-person.

Smartphone-based supervision tools help clients manage their obligations, so they can avoid technical violations which can be costly to the individual, the agency, the community, and the taxpayer. Officers can use the case management platform to populate the client's calendar with important appointments such as court dates, treatment sessions, drug tests, and in-person office visits. Once on the calendar, the client can view their appointments on the application and receive a series of reminders which can increase compliance.

Clients can have immediate and persistent access to a wide variety of resources via the smartphone. Resources can be as simple as a list of available services (e.g., treatment providers, homeless shelters, food banks) in an area. More advanced capabilities include access to job-search platforms that

connect clients with second chance employers and platforms that offer cognitive-behavioral programming and exercises. Video-conferencing capabilities allow for virtual delivery of mental health and addiction counseling, which is a critical need in rural and other under-served areas.

Smartphone-based supervision solutions can be linked with a portable breathalyzer for remote alcohol testing. In this configuration, the officer can send a prompt to the client to confirm his/her identity and video record themselves taking the breath test. Identity confirmation and test

results are recorded in the case management systems and alerts may be sent to the officer per established protocols.

Applications provide an efficient way for officers and clients to securely share documents from anywhere/at any time. For example, clients can use the smartphone to take an image of a paystub and send it to the officer as proof of employment. Likewise, the officer can make the conditions of supervision available via the application, so the client always has ready access.

As noted, officers can manage all these functions, and more, via a dedicated case management platform.

Unlike other technologies, smartphone-based supervision tools are far from a "one-trick pony". They address a broad range of community corrections objectives including accountability, communication, support, and behavioral change. It is GPS monitoring, PLUS! It is remote supervision, PLUS! It is virtual service delivery, PLUS! It is case management, PLUS!. Smartphones are powerful, ubiquitous, and discrete; there are no associated stigmas. As most individuals voluntarily keep their phones within reach at all times, it only makes sense that the smartphone is becoming a focal point for community supervision. With the rapid development of applications and integrated and compatible sensors, the capabilities of smartphones are constantly evolving. These advances promise flexibility and expandability that community corrections has not yet experienced with any other tool, and it is anticipated that smartphones will play a very prominent role in community supervision moving forward.

About Joe Russo

Joe Russo is a researcher with the University of Denver (DU), where he has supported a variety of programs funded by the National Institute of Justice. His work has focused on the identification of high priority technology needs of corrections professionals and managing projects to provide these professionals with better information and tools to perform their important mission. Prior to joining DU, Joe served both the New York City Department of Probation and New York City Department of Correction. Joe is active in several national associations and is a member of the American Probation and Parole Association's Technology Committee, the American Correctional Association's Probation and Parole Committee, and the IJIS Institute's Corrections Advisory Committee. Joe holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Marist College and a Master of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

The 2025 Pappc Training Institute and Conference

The 103rd PAPPC Annual Conference and Training Institute was held from May 18th to May 21st, 2025, at the Mount Airy Casino Resort in scenic Mt Pocono, PA. Sunday evening's welcome reception focused on networking opportunities and live music was performed by Clever Medicine, a band based out of Pittsburgh, PA. The three training days consisted of seven general/plenary sessions, they were: Addiction and Connection to Treatment by St. Joseph's University, The Great Divide – Understanding the Structure of Generations by Barbara Zortman, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) – An Overview, The Warrior Mind by Eric Darling, Act 44 – A Discussion where the Panel Members were: Jeff Angradi, Claudia Fisher, Eric Leydig, and John Manning; Personal Health and Wellbeing by

Amy Evans and Melissa Plotkin. On Tuesday Evening, a 5'oclock Somewhere - Jimmy Buffett Tribute at the Mount Airy Pool and Spa took place. Music and Dancing was provided by a DJ, and fun was had by all. The Training Institute wrapped up on Wednesday May 21st, by the PA DOC K9 Program by Sgt. Mondel Lindsey, Tina Teichman, and Linda Samulevich. The presenters did an incredible job informing the attendees about their respective topics. The sessions are meant to aid all attendees in preparing them for real world situations that can arise in our profession and in the years after retirement. We would like to thank all Conference Attendees for your continued support and for making this year's conference an amazing time that exceeded all expectations.





PAPPC 2025 Criminal Justice Professional of the Year: Denise Bomba



Denise Bomba recently entered her 20th year of service to the Commonwealth. She began her career in 2004 as a Forensic Recreational Service Worker, working to provide planning, organizing, and conducting recreational activity for the most vulnerable and seriously mentally ill inmates in the Commonwealth.

Denise began her career assessing residents' functioning levels, strengths, needs and abilities in order to improve, enhance, and retain participants' highest levels of personal, psychosocial, and physical functioning and rehabilitation. She was promoted to a new position, Corrections Counselor I in 2006, and promoted to Corrections Counselor II in 2007. For several years, Denise carried a caseload as well as providing treatment groups, however for the past 15 years, she has primarily worked as a Corrections Counselor/Treatment Specialist.

Denise is being nominated for her significant enthusiasm and passion for treatment services. She possesses superior skills and knowledge. She excels in her duties as a Treatment Specialist. She is very knowledgeable of relevant DOC policies and has been an asset to her Institution with her knowledge and understanding of the new Vantage system for assessment of inmate programming needs. Denise understands the program materials and relevant techniques used by Treatment Services. She is responsible for providing standardized, evidenced based treatment programming to inmates in her duties as a Corrections Counselor Treatment Specialist, including Violence Prevention, Interpersonal Violence, Thinking for a Change, and Back on Track, and works in conjunction with her coworkers facilitating the Impact of Crime program and the first ever annual Day of Responsibility event in 2017, for which she was given a Commendation. Denise often shares her knowledge when selected as an adjunct instructor at the DOC training academy, training the next generation of Treatment Specialists. She excels at applying her trade by helping inmates achieve their goals for reentry by completing recommended programming.

Denise was previously recognized for her work with her nomination for the DOC's Group Achievement Award for a Special Project or Assignment to reestablish and pass off a music program to the SCI. She used her community contacts for an outside consultant for assistance, finding a local musician for all program / stage direction and music. Along with a coworker, Denise obtained all required sheet music, arranged rental of instruments that were needed, picked them up at the music store, as well as supplied cords for instruments and microphones. Denise spent approximately 15 hours outside of work to put the show together, time it, arrange the order of songs, devised skits, all musical arrangements to suit the inmate volunteers' desires and abilities. Together with her coworker, she spent countless hours recruiting a group of motivated inmates and selected leaders for vocals, musicians, narrators, and skit actors. They arranged weekly meetings with the inmate performers and arranged practices with location, times, and staff supervision. They made programs and gate clearances, callouts and Plans of Actions. The conclusion all of their efforts was a holiday program the likes of which had never been seen for several years at the Institution. Three separate shows were done, one for Specialized Mental Health blocks, and two additional shows for General Population inmates who are employed to attend. Inmate (and staff) feedback was tremendous and due to Denise's efforts on this special project, this format will return on an annual basis.

Finally, and most importantly, Denise is not only an asset for her SCI, but the personification of what a corrections professional should be.



Wisconsin inmates volunteer to build 22 beds for children in need

In a partnership with the nonprofit Sleep in Heavenly Peace, more than 60 SCI inmates worked with community volunteers to build 22 beds for children in need

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By Sarah Roebuck
Corrections 1

STANLEY, Wis. — Nearly two dozen children who might not have had a bed will now have a warm place to sleep, thanks to the efforts of inmates at Stanley Correctional Institution.

In a partnership with the nonprofit Sleep in Heavenly Peace, more than 60 SCI inmates worked with community volunteers to build 22 beds for children in need, according to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

"When individuals are released back into the community, we want them to have the skills they need to succeed and thrive," said Jared Hoy, secretary of the Department of Corrections (DOC). "Part of that is helping the persons in our care find productive ways to give back and connect with their communities. This process starts right away during incarceration and is the reason why our facilities are constantly looking for appropriate opportunities to serve."

The partnership began when Derrick Laufenberg, founder of Sleep in Heavenly Peace's Chippewa Valley chapter, received a donation from SCI inmates who had raised over \$7,300 for the nonprofit, WDOC said. Inspired by their efforts, Laufenberg worked with the prison to organize the bed-building event.

"We had to jump through some hoops to get this to work," said Laufenberg, who believes this is the first time that Sleep in Heavenly Peace partnered with a correctional

facility. "I just thought working with inmates – realistically – we could all be one decision away from being in a similar situation."

The group of more than 60 volunteers at SCI built 22 beds in under three hours on Oct. 9, WDOC said. The beds will be donated to children in Chippewa, Eau Claire, Rusk and Barron counties. In addition, SCI's Stanley Corrections' Outreach Program Equals Success program contributed 10 handmade quilts, with an additional 10 quilts donated by a local charity, ensuring that each child will also receive a colorful, child-friendly quilt.

One of the inmate volunteers, Sean Abbott, said he was happy to help the kids.

"Anytime I get a chance to do something positive in here, I'm going to take it," Abbott said.

Another inmate volunteer, Omar Simpson, said he was grateful for a chance to participate in the event and contribute to the community.

"Every kid should have a bed and be able to get a good night's rest," Simpson said. "It means a lot. It could be my kids that need a bed."

Laufenberg praised the event as his group's best build yet, noting that the partnership not only benefited the children receiving the beds but also left a positive impact on the incarcerated volunteers.

Chili Mac and Cheese By: Ree Drummond

If there's one recipe that I know will always be a hit, it's chili mac and cheese. Now, this isn't a dish you're going to want to serve to dignitaries or anyone you're trying to truly impress. This is comfort food and let me tell you, comfort food isn't supposed to be glamorous! Chili mac and cheese is, however, a meal your family will ask for once a week. It's a beautiful marriage of hearty beef chili and gooey mac and cheese, and really, what could be better?

This family meal is full of meaty, cheesy, saucy goodness and it's so, so amazing. It may remind you a little bit of the Hamburger Helper you grew up eating as a kid, and it's practically just as easy. Everything is cooked right in the same pot—even the pasta—which means it can be on the table in about 30 minutes! Cook this ground beef recipe for dinner tonight or make a big pot next time you're having folks over to watch a football game. I love it with a dash of hot sauce and sprinkle of cheese and cilantro on top. So dadgum good!

Can you leave out the beans?

Sure. If your family isn't a bean-in-chili kind of family, just leave them out! This dish will still turn out hearty and delicious.

How long does chili mac and cheese last in the fridge?

This recipe makes great leftovers. It will keep in the fridge for up to three days stored in an airtight container. Warm it up in the microwave and it's ready to enjoy again!



How To Make Chili Mac and Cheese

INGREDIENTS

- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 small yellow onion, diced
- 2 Tbsp. chili powder
- 2 tsp. ground cumin
- Kosher salt and black pepper
- 3 cups beef broth
- 1 (8-oz.) can tomato sauce
- 12 oz. large elbow macaroni
- 1 (15-oz.) can pinto beans, drained
- 1-1/2 cups grated cheddar, plus more for serving (about 6 oz.)
- 1 cup grated pepper jack cheese (about 4 oz.)
- Cilantro, for serving
- Hot sauce, to taste
- Sour cream, for serving (optional)

YIELDS:
8 serving(s)

PREP TIME:
10 mins

TOTAL TIME:
30 mins

CAL/SERV:
489

DIRECTIONS

Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. When the oil is hot, add the ground beef, garlic, and onion. Season with the chili powder, cumin, and a good pinch of salt and pepper. Cook, breaking up the meat with a wooden spoon, until the beef is cooked through and browned, 6 to 8 minutes. Stir in the beef broth, tomato sauce, macaroni, and beans. Bring to a simmer, cover, and cook, stirring occasionally, until the sauce is thick and the macaroni is al dente, 12 to 14 minutes.

Remove the pan from the heat. Add the cheddar and pepper jack, and fold until the cheese is completely melted. Serve in bowls with cilantro, more cheddar, some hot sauce, and sour cream.

IDEAS FOR SELF-CARE AT WORK

Take some time during the day to prioritize yourself. It can help reduce stress, prevent chronic disease, and help you maintain a healthy lifestyle.



Mental/Emotional

Get in the zone with a positive state of mind

- ☐ Practice deep breathing routinely through the day
 - ☐ Box breathing
 - ☐ 4/7/8 breathing
- ☐ Start your day by writing down three things you are grateful for
- ☐ Take your lunch- get away from your desk and away from electronics

Social

It feels good to contribute and belong.

- ❖ Do something nice for a colleague such as sharing your appreciation for them
- ❖ Participate in a workplace activity- get yourself out of your comfort zone
- ❖ Leave inspiring notes for your colleagues

Intellectual

Your mind needs exercise...flex your brain!

- Play music in background while working
- Listen to a work-related podcast to boost knowledge
- Organize your workspace
- Start your day with a to-do list (ex. urgent, important, can wait)

Physical

A healthy lifestyle helps balance mind, body, and spirit.

- ✓ Every hour or on semi regular basis, take an exercise break- walk, stretch, climb stairs, etc.
- ✓ Drink half of your body weight in ounces of water
- ✓ Pack one healthy snack every day
- ✓ Ground yourself – take your shoes off and walk in grass
- ✓ Walk outside and get some fresh air

Things I will try –

This week-

Next week-

Next month-

Design

Make your desk a comfortable place

- ❖ Add a small plant to your workspace
- ❖ Add photos or quotes that inspire/make you smile

“Self-care means giving the world the best of you, rather than what’s left of you.”

Katie Reed

Meet us in Lancaster, Where History will Meet Hospitality During The 2026 PAPPC Training Institute and Conference

The 'Imperial' name pays homage to our rich history, where timeless charm meets modern comfort!

The Imperial Event Center is the oldest continuously operated hotel site in the United States of America. For nearly three centuries, the second block of North Queen Street has been the center of entertainment and hospitality in downtown Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In the late 19th century, for instance, there were four hotel-taverns on the west side of the block and two on the east side. The train station located at the northeastern corner of Queen and Chestnut streets served as a gateway to the city. You could buy tobacco and cigars, tea, dry goods, drugs, wallpaper, liquor, jewelry, boots and more. There were candy factories, a harness shop, a lock works and a gun shop. Through it all, the southeast corner has been a luxury hotel with illustrious names like the Brunswick (from the 1920s to 1966) and the Imperial (from 1870-the 1920s) which inspired our name. Our site is the block's crown jewel. History was made, Presidents stayed here. You can almost feel the history with every step you take.

The Imperial Through History

1750s - First hotel on site

1860s - The Caldwell House

1870s-1920s - The Imperial Hotel

1920s-1966 - The Brunswick Hotel

1970s - The Lancaster Hilton

Present - The Imperial Event Center, Holiday Inn Lancaster

Presidential Visits

1861 - President-elect Abraham Lincoln

1900s - President William Taft

1900s - President Theodore Roosevelt

Early 1960s - President John F. Kennedy

Late 1960s - President Richard M. Nixon



Contribute to The PAPPC Journal!

THE PAPPC JOURNAL is published by members of the Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections. Articles, announcements and other newsworthy material of relevance to our membership may be submitted for consideration to:

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