



News for Immediate Release

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Parole Board Holds Second Annual Training to Change Offender Behavior

Harrisburg – Chairman of the Board of Probation and Parole Michael C. Potteiger announced the beginning of a week-long national training program for agents to learn skills that can change offender behavior.

“The key to reducing recidivism is to change offender behavior and one of the proven ways to do that is to change their thinking,” Potteiger said. “As part of Governor Corbett’s ongoing efforts to enhance public safety and reduce recidivism, Pennsylvania is pleased to host this training. We welcome our partners from other government agencies and other states.”

Since 2008, parole agents have been delivering the National Curriculum and Training Institute’s cognitive behavioral programming to offenders in its district offices. Providing this programming was an innovative idea to meet a programming need specifically for offenders that was not available in the community.

“The board saw a need for programming to specifically address the criminal thinking patterns of parolees, and we have developed the capacity to provide this programming by training almost 200 agents as facilitators,” Potteiger said.

The programs are based on cognitive behavioral therapy approaches which have been proven successful in preventing future crime – changing a person’s thinking can change their behavior. The group sessions that are held with offenders promote pro-social change by allowing participants to learn and practice specific life-skills, increasing participant self-confidence, and by identifying and cultivating lifetime patterns for self-improvement.

Participants in this year’s training include individuals from the Board of Probation and Parole, Bucks County Probation, McKean County adult and juvenile probation departments, Mercer County Juvenile Probation, Piedmont Court Services of Virginia and the U.S. Probation Department Western District of New York.

The program, taking place this week in Harrisburg is accredited by the American Probation and Parole Association. The National Curriculum and Training Institute offers curriculum, consulting, and related program services using evidence-based principles that promote individual pro-social behavior change for those involved in the criminal justice and juvenile justice systems.

For more information about the Board of Probation and Parole, visit www.pbpp.state.pa.us.

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