



# EFFECTING CHANGES

NEVADA COUNTY PROBATION NEWSLETTER

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## Chief Ertola's Message

The one thing probation can always count on is there will be change. Changes impacting probation occur in state legislature, new evidenced based practices, relationships with county and community partners, departmental change in policy, staff departures and new staff arrivals just to mention a few. Our department has seen numerous staff leave us this year, most notably Program Manager Mike Dent who was hired as the Director of Social Services in Nevada County. Our loss is their gain. Mike leaves a huge hole for us in knowledge and experience. However, I feel we have capable staff ready to move up within the organization and take on new challenges. I look forward to the upcoming competitive recruitment for two Program Managers. On the flip side, we have been extremely fortunate to bring experienced, quality individuals on board as Deputy Probation Officers. Their prior experience as Group Supervisors, Police Officers, Mental Health Case Worker and Deputy Probation Officers will only make our team stronger. These additions give me great confidence in the future of our department.

As I have said, change is inevitable. I have an obligation to consistently evaluate and maintain our practices to promote positive change and outcomes. I foresee numerous changes within the department moving forward. Along with numerous promotional opportunities, I am looking forward to starting a Pre-Sentence Supervision Program, evaluating the juvenile hall programming and grading systems and partnering with community partners such as FREED, John Muir Academy and One Stop Shop for our high risk adult population. We have a great foundation in place. My expectation and challenge to staff is to embrace positive change and become involved in the process. Everyone's input is critical to our futures successes.

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## Chelsea Skalisky selected as Juvenile Hall's Employee of the Quarter

Throughout this past quarter, GS I Skalisky has performed her job at an exceptionally high level as a Group Supervisor. Chelsea recently completed Core training and has applied all that she learned in a positive and effective manner. Chelsea's auxiliary jobs are to maintain the GPS equipment and safety and security of the facility, her attention to detail is evident with her extra duties and she is always ready to report her findings.



On numerous occasions, Chelsea has flexed her schedule to meet the needs of the institution and does so with a positive attitude. Chelsea continually shows up for her shift early and ready for any assignment. Chelsea is quick to recognize potential problems and report back to her supervisor. Chelsea's hard work, dedication and willingness to help out her shift teammates have earned her the respect of her peers in the facility. It is the Management Team's honor to present GS I Skalisky with the recognition of Employee of the Quarter.

## Steve Sinclair selected as Probation's Employee of the Quarter

Steven Sinclair came to our department with 9 years of probation experience from Shasta County. The majority of his experience was in adult supervision; however he ended his time in Shasta as a Supervisor in their Juvenile Hall detention center. Steven joined our team on July 29, 2013. Although he was getting his bearings, he demonstrated his leadership skills early on and promoted from a DPO II to a DPO III in November 2013. Steve has quickly garnered the respect of all of the probation staff, his fellow officers look to him for guidance and his supervisors know they can count on him to assist with any task.



He continues to demonstrate his belief and support of the Mission and Vision of Nevada County Probation. He maintains a great sense of humor and has fit in to our family very well. We all feel fortunate to have him on our team and we understand why Shasta was sorry to lose him. Steve is currently overseeing the 290 sex offender case load and preparing for his role as the Pretrial Release Officer on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This is new ground for the probation department and we know the project is in good hands.

# Welcome Aboard!

Jim was hired as a Deputy Probation Officer in August of 2013. He came to our department after 9 years with the Grass Valley Police Department. Jim and his wife of 13 years, Nikki, have 2 children; Kolby is 11-years-old and Kalli is 6-years-old. He enjoys camping and spending time with his family as well as coaching baseball, softball and basketball.



**Jim Amaral,  
Deputy  
Probation  
Officer**

Jeff was hired as a part-time Group Supervisor in September of 2011 and became full-time in September of 2013. He came to our department from Milhous Boys Ranch where he worked as a shift supervisor. Jeff graduated from Hope University in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Jeff loves to golf and frequent Reno during football season and is a huge Dodger and Raider fan.



**Jeff Duran,  
Group  
Supervisor**

Shelby was hired in March of 2014 as a Group Supervisor. She came to our department from Auto Nation Honda in the Roseville Auto Mall where she worked in the Business Development Center. She played softball for Sierra College and Pfeiffer University, where she graduated with her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.



**Shelby  
Fleming, Group  
Supervisor**

Darsi was hired in April of 2014 as a Legal Office Assistant. She came to our department after having moved back from Kauai, HI, where she worked as a Dispatcher for the Kauai Police Department. She also has 15 years of law enforcement experience as a Deputy Sheriff here in Nevada County and San Bernardino County. Darsi is married and has 2 adult children and 1 grandson. She loves outdoor activities, swimming, softball and gardening. Kauai was beautiful, but she missed family, friends, home and having 4 seasons!



**Darsi Gaines,  
Legal Office  
Assistant**

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Tarah was hired as a Deputy Probation Officer in August of 2013. She came to our department from Tulare County Probation Department. Her husband, Chris, is a Deputy Sheriff in Kings County and they have a 7-year-old son, Landon.



**Tarah Guild,  
Deputy  
Probation  
Officer**

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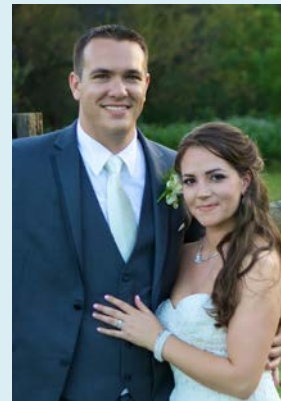
Teresa was hired in November of 2012 as a Temp and was hired on full-time as a Legal Office Assistant in July of 2013. Teresa and her husband of 28 years, Rick, own a mortgage company and a real estate development firm. She has 2 children; Peter attends the U.C. Santa Cruz and is double-majoring in Business and Community Studies and Grace is Pre-Med at U.C. San Diego. Teresa graduated from University of Texas with bachelor degrees in Business Administration and Marketing. She was a competitive gymnast until age 21, has a black belt in Tae Kwon Do and loves to cook.



**Teresa Kooi,  
Legal Office  
Assistant**

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Jennifer was hired as a Group Supervisor in March of 2014. She came to our department from Children's Behavioral Health where she ran groups for young children, assessments, and individual therapy for teens. She moved up here from Long Beach where she worked in special education. She was recently married to Clinton Carman, a fire investigator. They have 4 cats and a tropical fish aquarium. They love to run, garden, scuba dive and watch movies.



**Jennifer  
Krezek, Group  
Supervisor**

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Jessika was hired as a Cook in November of 2013. She came to our department from the small town of Graton where she worked as a line cook in a very busy restaurant. Over the last 20 years she has worked in many restaurants, catering companies and has owned her own catering company. She has 2 dogs and 2 cats, loves to garden and cook, and has recently discovered she enjoys home repair and restoration through working on her own home.



**Jessika  
Munroe, Cook**



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Steve was hired as a Deputy Probation Officer in July of 2013. He came to our department from Shasta County Probation Department where he worked as a Juvenile Detention Officer, Deputy Probation Officer and Supervising Deputy Probation Officer in the juvenile institution. Steve has a 17-year-old daughter and 6-year-old son and enjoys playing softball.



**Steve Sinclair,  
Deputy  
Probation  
Officer**

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Chelsea was hired in September of 2013 as a Group Supervisor. She came to our department from the San Juan Unified School District. Chelsea still lives in Sacramento and works part-time at the San Juan Unified School District because she is “crazy” and loves to commute!



**Chelsea  
Skalisky,  
Group  
Supervisor**

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Jeremy was hired in January of 2014 as a Deputy Probation Officer. He came to our department from Turning Point Community Programs, where he provided intensive case management services to adults with mental illness. He has lived in Nevada County since 1980 and graduated from Nevada Union High School 1992. He has one daughter who is 8 ½, and they enjoy boating and camping!



**Jeremy Vance,  
Deputy  
Probation  
Officer**

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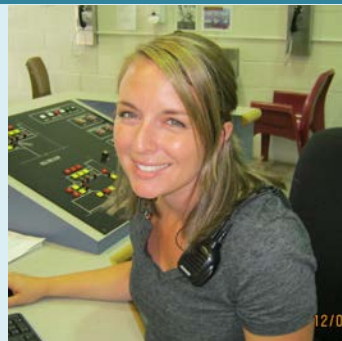
Tina was hired as a Legal Office Assistant in May of 2013. She came to our department after having been a Certified Family Law Paralegal specializing in trials and discovery for 14 years and a Domestic Engineer “aka Stay-at-Home Mom” for 9 years. She is the proud wife of CHP Officer, Chris West, and mother to 16-year-old Andrew, 14-year old Emily and 8-year-old Aaron.



**Tina West,  
Legal Office  
Assistant**

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Jessica was hired as a Group Supervisor in December of 2014. She graduated Sacramento State University with a bachelor’s degree in Social Work and completed an internship at a school working with emotionally disturbed youth. While in school she worked as a manager in the customer service industry. She lives in Auburn with her boyfriend, David, and enjoys hiking, camping, backpacking, soccer, running half-marathons, cooking, going to plays and sporting events.



**Jessica Wilson,  
Group  
Supervisor**



# PROJECT H.E.A.R.T.

Holding Excellence Above Relapse Team

Project H.E.A.R.T. was founded in 2011 and has grown to seventy members. The purpose of Project Heart is understanding the lack of true friends for those caught in the cycle of life damaging issues such as family and relational discord, substance abuse and criminal activity. Project H.E.A.R.T. Inc. is committed to provide men and woman support groups with the focus on building trusting life-long relationships through adult peer mentorship. Project H.E.A.R.T. main objective is to provide a group of true friends who support a consistent atmosphere that is safe, moral, ethical, and legal.

Using the catalyst of group meetings, special events and community service opportunities, Project H.E.A.R.T. provides a compassionate and stable relational structure by which people can find acceptance, guidance and friendship while supporting one another and the greater community. Project H.E.A.R.T. maintains a current list of professional referrals such as substance abuse treatment, marriage counseling, anger management, financial and employment services to refer its participants when needed. Project H.E.A.R.T. will assist in supporting the individual while they work to rebuild relationships, overcome life-damaging issues and establish skills to improve social stability and functionality.

## AB 12 Success Story

The Juvenile Unit was able to share an incredible life changing experience with one of our Foster Youth. This young lady has had to overcome and endure many personal and extenuating challenges. Despite the upheaval in her already chaotic life, she remained focused in school, volunteered in various employment opportunities and remained dedicated to her future plans toward independence. Upon her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, she was faced with the harsh reality of attempting to establish her independence while attending school full-time and working a part-time job. She was provided AB12/212, Extended Foster Youth services and continued to move forward in her life. Further, she remained determined to complete high school, ultimately earning her high school diploma. Although, shortly after turning 19 years old, she found herself homeless and with no family to seek support from. Teaming together with some county and community agencies, she was able to locate a local family who was willing to take her into their home temporarily until a long-term or permanent placement could be found.

In doing so, this young lady not only found herself in a new place of residence, but also found her way into their hearts, soon becoming an integral part of the household, and more importantly, a member of their family. Not only did this young lady find a home, she found a family and her foundation. One year later, in the spring of 2014, this family completed an adult adoption, adopting her at the age of 20 years old! She has since blossomed into a vibrant and outgoing young adult whose ambitions now include obtaining a college degree. She continues to work two part-time jobs, one of which she receives fresh vegetables in exchange for her labor. Given her personal hardships and life experience, she will often seek out the homeless, giving the fresh vegetables she earned. When asked about her future plans, she states she will never forget where she came from, and despite life's bumps, she is capable of accomplishing anything she sets her mind to. But most of all, she is thankful for the loving family who embraced her as their own. She now has a family and a place to call "home"!

## Moral Reconciliation Therapy Graduation

The MRT group (Moral Reconciliation Therapy) celebrated the graduation of David Santos at our weekly meeting June 25<sup>th</sup>. David joined the MRT group in January of this year and immediately dedicated himself to working the steps in the program and becoming an integral member of the group. As David progressed, he became a leader and truly set the tone for the group to follow. David was committed to completing the program, regular attendance and leadership. We are all proud of his accomplishment in completing the program and wish him continued success in whatever he tackles next. Way to go David!



## Lobby Remodel is Almost Finished!

The lobby remodel project is almost complete! The walls have been painted, our new sign (pictured at right) has been placed and new display cases have been hung. It has become a much more welcoming space that represents our department well. To complete the lobby remodel project we will be installing new counter tops, one for the reception window and one for clients to utilize while filling out forms. The television will run a feed of county services to help educate clients to available resources and services and make time spent in our lobby educational! Thank you to everyone who has assisted transforming our lobby from sterile and dull to warm and inviting!



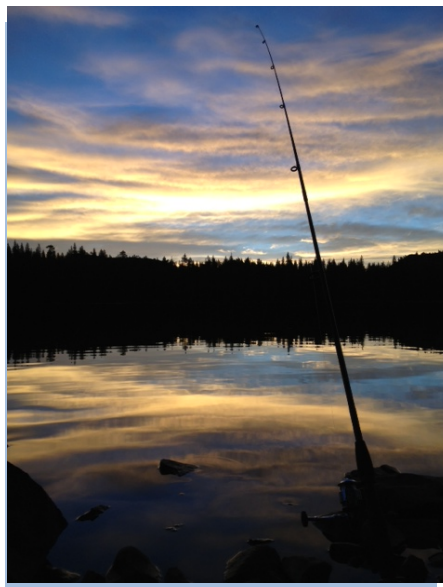


# Fishing Academy on the Hunt

This past May 17, 2014, the Probation department kicked off their first Nevada County Fishing Academy trip. The second event took place on June 7, 2014. The dates will continue monthly through at least September 2014. The program is getting rave reviews from clients, parents and interagency collaborators.

The following is based on actual events. It was a clear cool morning. The volunteer "fish hunters" met sharply at 0800 hours. The goal was clear, to take the mountain, scope out a fishing opportunity and return with dinner in hand. We checked our egos at the door. Any great fisherman knows it's not about the fish, it's about the experience. But dinner would also be good. We ascended in elevation from Nevada City to some place about half way to the clouds, or so it seemed. The fish hunters were nervous as some had not been where we were about to venture. The anticipation felt cruel yet satisfying in a way. What would we learn today? Are we in over our heads? No... we thought, this is an opportunity that does not come along often enough. We arrived at the high mountain lake to find the water very still. Mayflies were dancing on the water, an unexpected treat. Hungry trout would surface to feed and jump out of the water...as if to say, here I am.

We approached cautiously and surveyed the lay of the land. One spot looked most promising thus we did not dillydally to set camp.



"Were burning daylight" one hunter exclaimed. "Shhh, patience" we clamored. The lines were set and the bait was adrift. Was it a bite or the wind moving the pole? The game was on. First, one bite and then another. "Fish On, Fish On" I heard excitedly. One of the hunters grabbed the pole and heaved to the rear in a hook setting motion that we previously trained for. Just as the fish was close to shore....zzzzzz....the reel would scream. Not long after, the beautiful rainbow trout swam toward shore as if to say..."I am too tired to fight, you won". The crew shouted with excitement. Dinner would be plentiful this night.

Most have heard the old adage about giving a person a fish and feeding them for a day, but teach a person to fish and you feed them for a lifetime. Although this concept may be true, what Probation and our collaborators do on a daily basis goes far beyond the fish. We have regular ongoing opportunities to affect positive change in the lives we serve. We don't always know when or how that change will occur, however, we strive to create opportunities and open doors. A big shout out and thank you to all who endeavor in this change process. Hold your head high and know that change will come on its own terms.....but it will come.





## Juvenile Hall Enjoying the Fruits of Their Labor

The recent expansion of the Juvenile Hall garden has proved bountiful! Under the direction of Juvenile Hall Cooks, Lynn Slay and Jessika Munroe, the incredible success of the garden and orchard has allowed the minors to enjoy a wide array of fresh fruits and vegetables in their meals, as well as the ability to assist in the planting, nurturing and harvesting of these foods.

The harvest has provided 8 different varieties of tomatoes, multiple varieties of peppers, squash, berries, apples, nectarines, pears and grapes. These fresh items are incorporated into many of the home-style dishes that the minors and staff enjoy including; chili verde, chili relleno, salsa, tomato soup, fajitas, jalapeno poppers, smoothies, zucchini bread and peach pie.

In the coming years the hope is to expand the orchard and plant a wider variety of fruits and vegetables in the garden. With the spirit of community service that the department embodies, a plentiful harvest in the coming year would allow the Juvenile Hall to share the bounty with the local food bank.

## MAMA TERESA'S KITCHEN



### Yummy Gluten- and Sugar-Free Chocolate Coconut Cake

#### Ingredients:

2 cups packed almond meal (raw almonds whirred in food processor to a flour-like consistency...also, I've used pecans, too.)

¾ + cup dark cocoa powder (use more if you like it chocolaty)

¾ tsp baking soda

½ + cup shredded coconut (use more if you like it coconut-y)

Pinch salt

2 cups packed pitted dates

¾ cups cold, strong coffee

4 eggs

2 ½ Tbsp coconut oil

2 ½ tsp vanilla

Soak dates in the coffee for several hours (at least) to soften, stirring occasionally.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Liberally grease 9" springform cake pan.

Mix dry ingredients and set aside.

Place dates/coffee liquid in food processor and process to a smooth paste.

Process date mixture, eggs, coconut oil and vanilla until smooth.

Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and stir until smooth.

Pour into greased cake pan.

Bake 25 to 30 minutes. It will look undercooked but that's okay...you want it a little gooey.

Let cool before inverting pan and serving. I chill cake, dust with powdered sugar and serve cold with fresh whipped cream or ice cream, and garnish with fresh mint.

## Congratulations on your promotions!

**Hope Claar**

*Senior Group Supervisor for Work Release*

**Jared Elster**

*Deputy Probation Officer*

**Dennis Haack**

*Senior Group Supervisor*

**Robin Tamietti**

*Deputy Probation Officer*



## Current Recruitments

The Probation Department is currently recruiting for the following position. If you are interested in joining our team please visit [www.mynevadacounty.com](http://www.mynevadacounty.com).

- Probation Program Manager

*The following staff have left us for greener pastures:*

*Program Manager, Mike Dent, is now the Director of Social Services*

*Senior Group Supervisor, Cody Duthoy, has moved with his family to Colorado*

*Group Supervisor II, Steve McNallen, has retired!*

*Your farewell is just an end of yet another chapter in your life.  
There are new opportunities waiting for you and we wish you all the best  
for your continued success.*









# Probation Stars



*People recognized by their co-workers for a job well done!*

Thank you Tina for researching (and showing us all) how the transfer-out process is done on CLETS!

-Teri-Lynn

Thank you Teri-Lynn for all the comic relief. It is greatly appreciated!

-Teresa

Thank you Rebecca for fixing the printer...AGAIN!!!

-everyone

Thank you Evan. You have completely taken over the 1203.9PC transfer in/out matters in a short amount of time. Your thoroughness and comprehension in processing these is both important and greatly appreciated. In just a couple of months of passing this responsibility to your desk, you are tracking and processing as many as I ever had at one time.

-Teri-Lynn



## Staff and Contributors

*Mike Ertola – Chief Probation Officer  
Rebecca Spurgeon -- Legal Office Assistant  
Merrill Straub – Deputy Probation Officer  
Jeremy Vance – Deputy Probation Officer*

*Teresa Kooi – Legal Office Assistant  
Fred Viola – Deputy Probation Officer  
Victoria DeFriese – Acting Probation Program Manager  
Angie Coffey – Sr. Legal Office Assistant*