

# The Condition of Probation

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## Juvenile Services Building Gets Long Overdue Renovation

By Kevin Lynch

For people who have worked at the Juvenile Services Center building off of Lucas Valley Road in San Rafael, the challenges and charm of the site are well-known. With gentle hills, little traffic and periodic wildlife appearing, it is a tranquil and bucolic setting that helps to counter the sometimes stressful and difficult work that occasionally takes place in a juvenile probation office. However, the building is also very old and has not been updated or maintained in a very long time, if ever, since its original construction. This has meant that the offices are often cold or hot, depending on the weather, and that what one staff person is



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## Chief's Corner

By Michael Daly

### Be the Dream

On January 16<sup>th</sup> 2013, the Marin County Probation Department was given the Martin Luther King "Be the Dream" award as the government agency that was recognized for "our exemplary leadership in the advancement of equity in Marin County." Marin Grassroots and their Equity Advisory Committee acknowledged our Department's commitment to social equity and justice through our efforts in addressing Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) and promoting restorative justice efforts as an alternative to school suspensions and low level crimes that particularly affect people of color.

The Probation Department was ecstatic that we were nominated and received this award. The Department has been working hard in our community outreach efforts in collaboration with all of

our partners for several years. It has paid off!

The actual ceremony was at the 4 Points Hotel in San Rafael and emceed by Dana King formerly a newscaster the local TV station KPIX - Channel 5. Our Department recognized the efforts of some of the individuals who truly drove these efforts and they were invited to attend this event. They include: James Bell from the Burns Institute ([www.burnsinstitute.org](http://www.burnsinstitute.org)), Laura Kantorowski, Chair of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJJPC), Don Carney, also from JJJPC, Maite Duran, our contracted employee who is leading our DMC and restorative justice efforts in San Rafael, Luke McCann from Marin County Office of Education, Probation Department employees Marissa Wertheimer, Kevin Lynch, Lee Lancaster, Jeana Reynolds,

Nuvia Urizar and Teresa Tillman.

Our work with restorative justice and our goals of having it recognized as an alternative way of achieving a positive outcome continues to grow. Our goal is to work with the JJJPC and our partners in education to have restorative justice principals utilized as an alternative to school suspensions if at all possible. Recent legislation in the education codes in California have encouraged the development of alternatives for minors facing automatic suspensions/expulsions. Advocates for restorative justice have stressed the use of these practices to resolve some school issues. More and more middle schools and high schools in Marin are adopting restorative justice principals as an alternative to suspension/problem solving and are achieving excellent outcomes.

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## Mission Statement

*The mission of the Marin County Probation Department is to reduce the impact of crime in the community by providing accurate and comprehensive information to the courts, by providing community based sanctions and treatment for offenders, and by working cooperatively with law enforcement agencies and community organizations with similar objectives.*

## Staffing Changes

### PROMOTIONS



Mike Tito was promoted to Probation Supervisor. Mike has worked at our Juvenile Hall since 2000, where he has been a Group Counselor. Mike's position as a Supervisor will be in the institution.

Thabiti Terry (Terry) earned a promotion to Deputy Probation Officer. Terry began working with the Marin County Probation Department in May 2012 as a group counselor in Juvenile Hall. He enjoyed working in Juvenile Hall very much and gives a lot of credit to the staff there for helping him succeed in that setting. He stated he "is forever grateful to have been a part of that professional group of individuals."



Nuvia Urizar has been promoted to Probation Supervisor and she is assigned to the Adult Division. Nuvia's 14 year career had been in the Juvenile Division, where she worked in both Intake and Supervision Units, and as a Court Officer.

### New Hires



Anthony (Tony) Raitano was born and raised in Santa Rosa, California. After graduating high school, he worked as a custodian in at Rincon Valley Union School District and Petaluma City Schools for 12 years. In 2007, Tony decided to go back to school at Santa Rosa Junior College and graduated with honors in 2009. He then attended Sonoma State University and received his Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. In 2012, Tony began an internship at Marin County Probation Department's Juvenile Division, which led to a position as an extra-hire group counselor at Juvenile Hall. Tony has been married to his wife, Jessica, for three years and they have two beautiful boys, ten and two years old. Tony enjoys spending time with his family, camping, playing pool, watching movies, and also working in the yard and just relaxing in his free time. He is very happy to be working for such a great Department and starting a new career in the Juvenile Division.

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## **Goodbye to Joanne Buckwalter**

**By Matt Perry**

Joanne Buckwalter recently worked her last day for the Probation Department on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Joanne started her career as an intern in 1982. She worked in the Juvenile Division as a clerical support staff as well as “uptown” at the Civic Center. She has worked a variety of assignments including Juvenile Hall as well as a contract employee for diversion, community service work and the beginning of the adult offender work program. In 1984, Joanne was promoted to a Deputy Probation Officer and worked in supervision assignments, county parole and investiga-

tions.

Once promoted to a Probation Supervisor, she was assigned to the parole unit where she worked for approximately seven years. She finished her career as the supervisor assigned to the investigations unit in the Adult Division.

Joanne is quite proud of her efforts during her time in the union which she felt helped to get all probation officers the safety retirement we now have. An “interesting” time for her was working through the Civic Center retrofit with all of the challenges it presented but

she said all work continued throughout the difficult remodel.

Joanne has enjoyed her time with the County of Marin and says, “I have been through five chiefs in my career.” She feels that she has viewed all of her new assignments as a challenge and dug right into them. She is looking forward to traveling more during her retirement as she is an enthusiastic traveler. She has visited all but four states in the United States by car. We wish her well in her continued travels. Thank you Joanne!

**Joanne was celebrated at a retirement party on February 28th. Friends, family, and co-workers all came out to show appreciation for all that Joanne did for the Probation Department during her employment.**



**Joanne Buckwalter and Mike Daly. Mike gave a nice speech and honored Joanne with a retirement badge.**

**Tori Lemos, Laura Shaer, Susana Tabanut and Jeff White**



**Steve Blair, Mike Daly and David Cole enjoying the festivities.**





## **Juvenile Services Building Gets Long Overdue Renovation** **(from pg. 1)...**

experiencing on one side of the building could be the exact opposite of what is occurring in another office on the other side of the building. In addition, security is severely lacking. This was demonstrated by a burglary and vandalism of the office that took place some 18 months ago. The County of Marin, after careful consideration of all options (including razing the building entirely and re-locating the Juvenile Division office), has decided to improve and upgrade portions of the building to address these issues.

This renovation has been divided into two phases and Phase One is already well underway. In Phase One, the contractors will address the comfort of the building by replacing windows and improving the heating system. This portion of the work has involved some

interruption of work but it is nothing compared to what will happen during Phase Two of the project. In that portion, the contractors will renovate the reception area so that it is more secure, and install cameras and improve overall security of the doors. There will also be some cosmetic improvements, including new flooring. Phase Two work will hopefully begin in the fall and continue through the winter. Anyone who has had work done on their own home knows, however, that plans do not always turn into reality. Therefore, staff will have to be flexible and be prepared for some challenges. There will be times when we will close down wings of the building to allow contractors space to do their work. Fortunately, the recent acquisition of mobile laptops, and our staff's use of

smart phones, will offset at least a portion of the challenges posed by not having access to our offices for periods of time.

Most staff appreciate the beautiful setting we work in at Juvenile Services. Once the renovation is completed, we will also be able to enjoy more security and comfort as well. Working around the construction will be challenging, but I am certain it will be well worth it once it is complete.

## **Chief's Corner (from pg. 1)...**

Our Department is in full support of this concept. The schools where there are more kids of color, particularly Davidson Middle School, has had unbelievable success utilizing restorative justice as an alternative to suspension.

As far as our efforts go with addressing Disproportionate Minority Contact in Marin, we are well into our second year of working with our natural partners in criminal justice as well as our community based organizations trying to develop policies/practices/programming to help offset this social issue as well as striving to becoming a government agency that is transparent, equitable and offering the best service to the public in a culturally competent manner. We have an active group led by Director Kevin Lynch and Maite

Duran and the hard work continues. Our staff is enthusiastic and are very much interested with this issue at all levels.

Lastly, I would be remiss not to thank our original pioneers relative to Marin's efforts to addressing Disproportionate Minority Contact. Former Chief Probation Officer Bill Burke and former Directors of Juvenile Services Nicki Kuhn and Darnell Roary were strong proponents of taking on this issue and all should be commended for their courage and leadership. Part of the award we just received goes to you as well.

2012 was a great year for our Department in many different ways. I expect 2013 to be even better. In the words of

the famous college basketball coach John Wooden when asked to define "Competitive Greatness", he said "Be at your best when your best is needed. Enjoyment of a difficult challenge." Bring on 2013.

## **Staffing Changes (from pg. 2)...**

Lourdes (Lulu) Duran was born and raised in Napa County, California. She spent her high school days playing sports, including basketball, track and field, volleyball and cross country. Her time in athletics afforded her the opportunity to travel throughout the country, which she enjoyed. After graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Sacramento State University, she worked a wide range of jobs as she sought out a position within her field of study. Lulu was later hired by Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA), which is stationed at the Marin County Probation Department. While working with probation officers, she discovered what a great opportunity it would be to work for the Probation Department. Lulu enjoys spending time with her family, loves the outdoors and traveling. She is very excited to begin her new journey in the Adult Division and work with such a great group of people.



Mike Beird was born and raised in Sonoma County, California. After graduating high school, he moved to Southern California to attend San Diego State University. While enjoying the surf, sand, sun and studying, he earned his Bachelor's Degrees in both Criminal Justice and Sociology. After completing his two degrees, Mike moved to South and Central America. While immersing himself in the Latin culture, he traveled throughout nine different countries volunteering his time with various organizations. Mike's volunteer work included everything from teaching at schools in underprivileged neighborhoods to saving Leather Back Turtles from poachers. Mike now fills his leisure time with family, friends and outdoor activities. Mike is very excited to be a part of the Probation team and would like to thank everybody for such a warm and helpful welcome to the Department.

Omar Padilla was born and raised in Marin County and attended Tomales High School. After graduating from Santa Rosa Junior College with an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts, he went on to Southeast Missouri State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Relations, with a minor in Criminal Justice. Omar is very excited about working with the Probation Department and enjoys being surrounded with a great group of co-workers. During his off time, Omar enjoys fishing and spending time with his family.



Josh Davis grew up in the suburbs of the Twin Cities (St. Paul and Minneapolis). Josh graduated college with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and worked for several years in various criminal justice agencies before being hired as a probation officer for Ramsey County (St. Paul, Minnesota). While working full-time for probation, Josh earned his master's degree in Public Administration. Josh and his wife Tracy moved to California in 2007 and have enjoyed every sunny moment hiking, biking and surfing. Josh and Tracy are also the proud parents of a 7 month old baby boy who never stops smiling. Josh began volunteering at Marin County Juvenile Services and eventually got hired as an extra-hire Group Counselor at Juvenile Hall. He was then given the opportunity to work as a deputy probation officer within the Restitution Unit and later within the Supervision Unit where he works today. Josh says, "Every day is rewarding and challenging in equal measures." He enjoys working with such a diverse group of professionals "who truly care about their clients."

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## Staffing Changes (from pg. 5)...

### TRANSFERS



Susana Tabanut transferred within the Adult Services Division. She transferred from high risk adult supervision to the restitution caseload.



Eric Olson has taken on the challenge of high risk supervision in adult and will be leaving his current assignment as a juvenile placement officer.



Yvonne Van Burren made the leap from felony investigations to medium risk supervision



After six years Heather Damato moved from juvenile supervision to adult supervision. She is supervising the STAR caseload.



Janene Conner is continuing her career in juvenile services but is now part of the intake unit.



After three years as the Juvenile Drug Court DPO, Jeff White has been granted early release due to good behavior and he has been assigned to a High Risk caseload in the Juvenile Division.

## Staffing Changes (from pg. 6)...

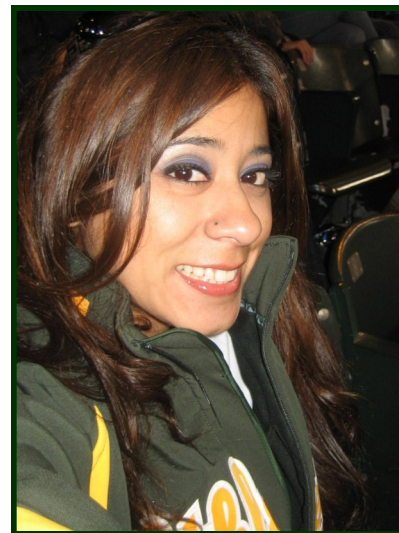
### MORE TRANSFERS



Tori Lemos left the Juvenile Hall. She is now a supervisor for the investigations unit of Adult Services.



Heather Donoho took on Juvenile Drug Court. She was previously assigned to the juvenile intake unit.



Elizabeth Carranza moved to high risk supervision from medium risk supervision within adult services.



Dave Cole continues to supervise medium risk cases with an emphasis on Prop 36 cases, he transferred units within the Adult Division.



Yuliana Valenzuela will continue in juvenile services. She will be joining juvenile placement from juvenile supervision.



Abby Dennett moved from intake to supervision within Juvenile Services



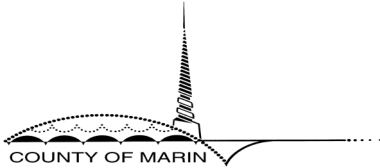
**MARIN COUNTY PROBATION  
DEPARTMENT**

3501 Civic Center Drive Rm. #259  
San Rafael, California  
94903

Phone: 415-499-6599

Fax: 415-499-3787

E-mail: Probation@marincounty.org



***The Condition of Probation***

***Marin County Probation Department Newsletter  
Editorial Policy***

*The Condition of Probation* is published quarterly by the Marin County Probation Department. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a forum for communication and the sharing of information. *The Condition of Probation* publishes articles and information related to Mission and Departmental operations & activity. Articles submitted may be edited for content, clarity, or length.

**Editorial Board Members**

Michael Daly, Kevin Lynch, Matt Perry, Nancy Hillman, Abby Dennett, and Alisha Krupinsky

**Today's Draw: Yuliana Valenzuela**

**By My Tran**

Yuliana Valenzuela was born in Lodi, California. She spent her early childhood in East Sacramento until her family moved back to Lodi when she began high school. In Lodi, she lived on a ranch, which was a big culture shock from growing up in the city life.

Yuliana is all about adventure and having fun. After she graduated high school, she moved to Maui for a year to enjoy the relaxing lifestyle and warm sun. Seeking a new type of adventure, she relocated to Squaw Valley to snowboard for a season. She later traveled cross country to the East Coast and moved to New Hampshire for one summer. After she'd had enough fun, she returned to California to further her education.

Yuliana graduated from Sonoma State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice. While she was studying in 2005, she

began an internship with Juvenile Services at the Marin County Probation Department. In 2007, she became an extra-hire group counselor in Juvenile Hall and within the year, she was hired on full time. While she was working in Juvenile Hall, she began to learn the ropes of being a probation officer by also filling in as one on an extra-hire basis. In May 2010, she fulfilled her dream and became a deputy probation officer full-time. Yuliana has worked in the Intake Unit and Supervision Unit in Juvenile Services, where she was recently assigned to as a placement officer. She is also a weaponless defense instructor for the Department.

Yuliana loves to travel and explore the world. She travels to Mexico very often to visit family, and has also traveled to France, Italy, Portugal, and Spain with her mother. Some of her favorite experiences around the world include Easter Mass led by Pope Ben-



edict, joining in the festivities of El Dia De La Virgen de Guadalupe in Mexico City, and salmon fishing in Alaska. Yuliana spends her weekends very active by hiking, running, and spending time outdoors.

Yuliana is a great joy to work with and we are proud to have her as part of our Probation Family.