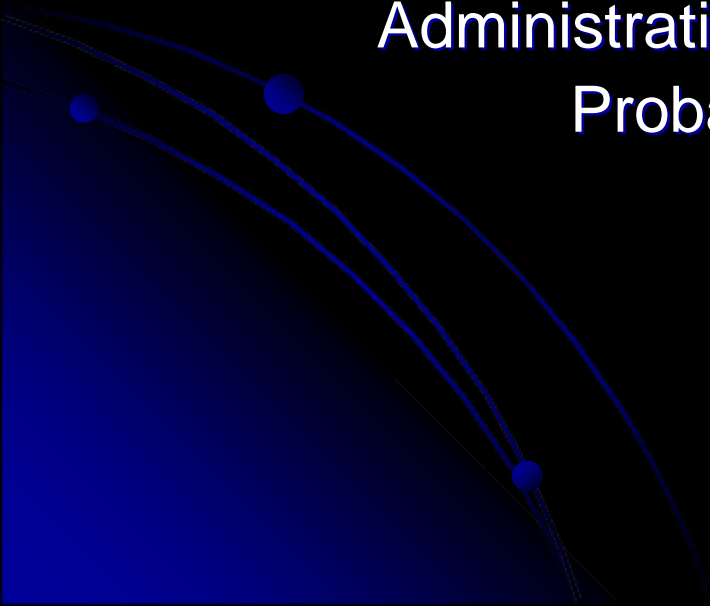


# Keeping the Train on the Tracks: Moving Towards Data Driven Decision Making

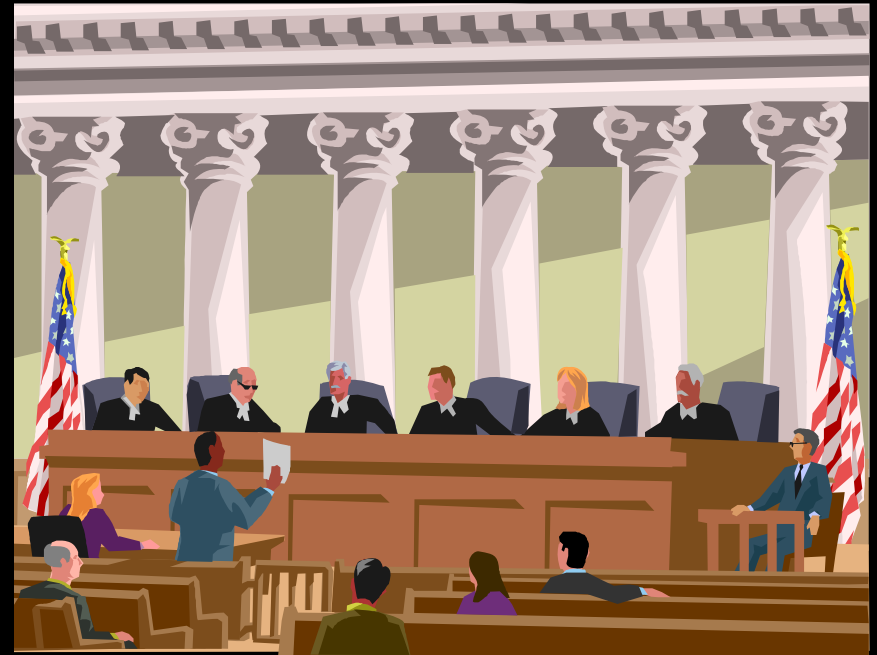
Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts  
Probation Services Division

APPA Presentation  
July 23, 2006



# Illinois Probation Judicial Branch Function

- General Oversight of the Illinois Courts
- Constitutionally and Statutorily Vested in the Illinois Supreme Court
- Five Court Districts
- 7 Supreme Court Justices
- 22 Circuit Courts – 102 Counties
- 64 Probation Departments



# Probation and Probation Officer Act

## 730 ILCS 100/15(1)

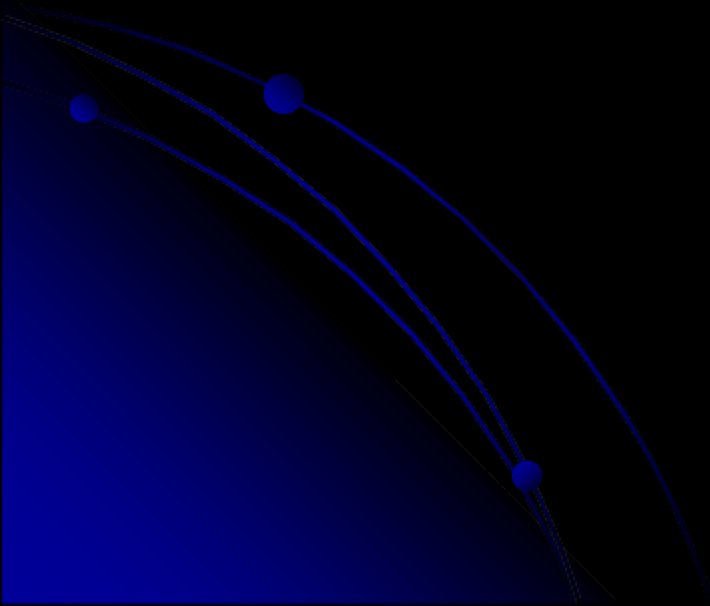
- “The Supreme Court may establish a Division of Probation Services whose purpose shall be the development, establishment, promulgation, and enforcement of uniform standards for probation services in this State, and otherwise carry out the intent of this act”

# The Probation Division

- State and Local Partnership - Funding
- Development and promulgation of state standards
- Basic Training for new probation and detention officers
- Training for Managers and CMO's
- Field Coordinators provide technical assistance and oversight

# Probation and Detention in Illinois

- Approximately
  - 100,000 Active Adult Probationers
  - 17,500 Active Juvenile Probations
  - 18,000 Annual Detention Admissions



# Evidence Based Practices in Illinois

- Extensive training on EBP at all levels in probation
- What Works Grant
- Re-Design of Basic Training
- New Assessment and Case Management System in Adult and Juvenile
- NIC/CJI EBP Initiative
  - Six Implementation Sites
  - Research Component
- Re-Design of the Annual Plan


# Evidence-Based Practices

- Moving towards Data Driven Decision Making



# Annual Probation Plan [730 ILCS 110/15 (6)]

“Have on file with the Supreme Court an annual plan for continuing, improved, and new Probation and Court Services Programs approved by the Supreme Court or its Designee...”



# Annual Probation Plan

- Statutorily required for reimbursement
- Undergone two major revisions
- Significant focus on EBP – Adult, Juvenile and Detention
- Requires data on assessment and case planning
- Designed as dynamic strategic planning process



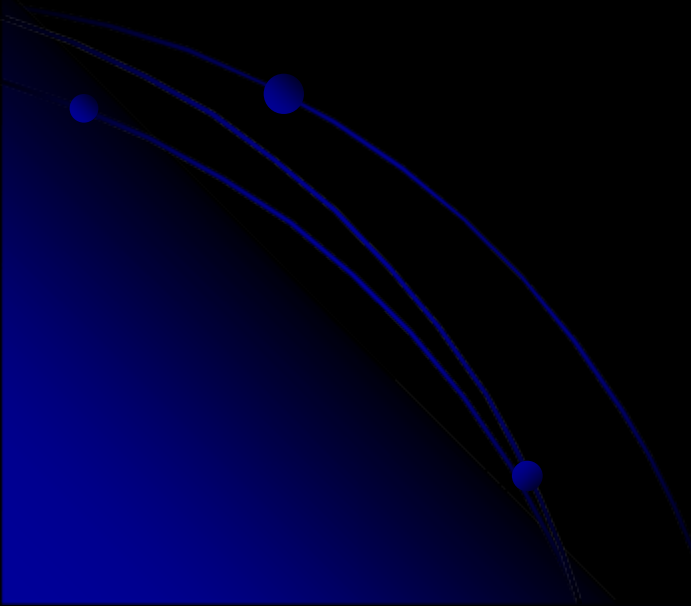
# Under Construction ...

## Probation Operations Field Book

- Designed to support the annual plan process
- Used as monitoring and planning tool for probation field coordinators
- Helps determine administrative and operational needs of probation and court service departments

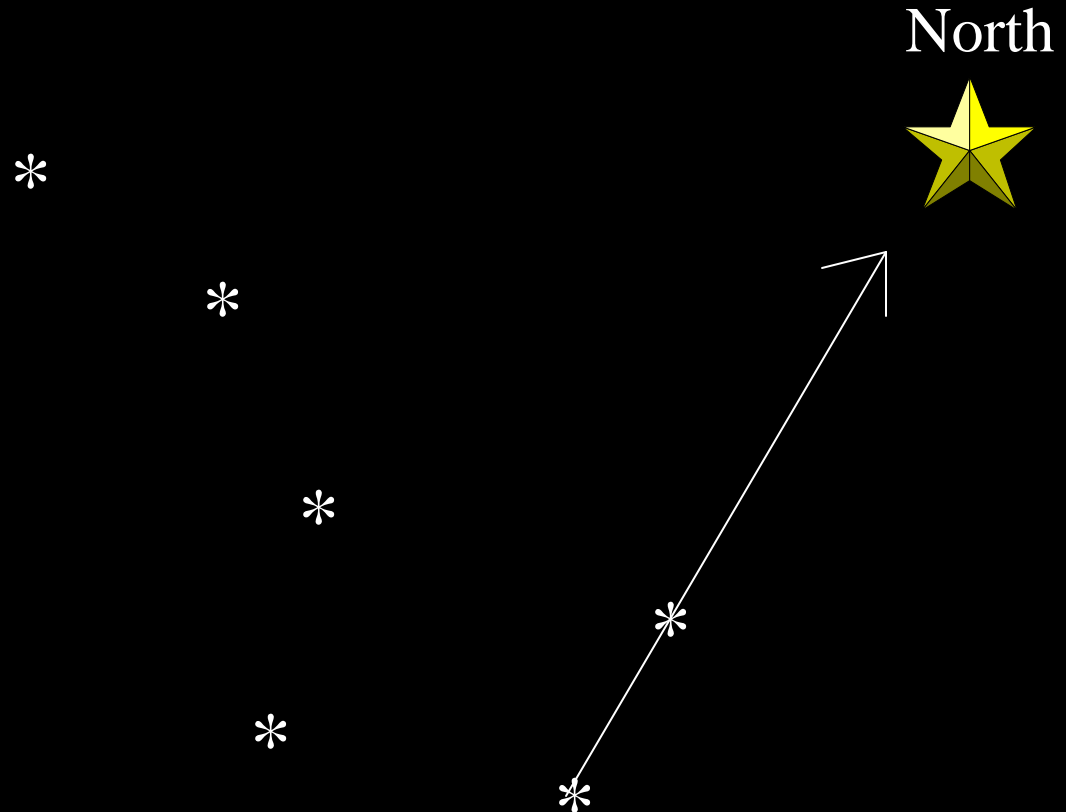
# Current Reporting System

- Aggregate Statistical Reports
  - Trend data analysis only
  - Counts events and cases
- Lacks case specific information

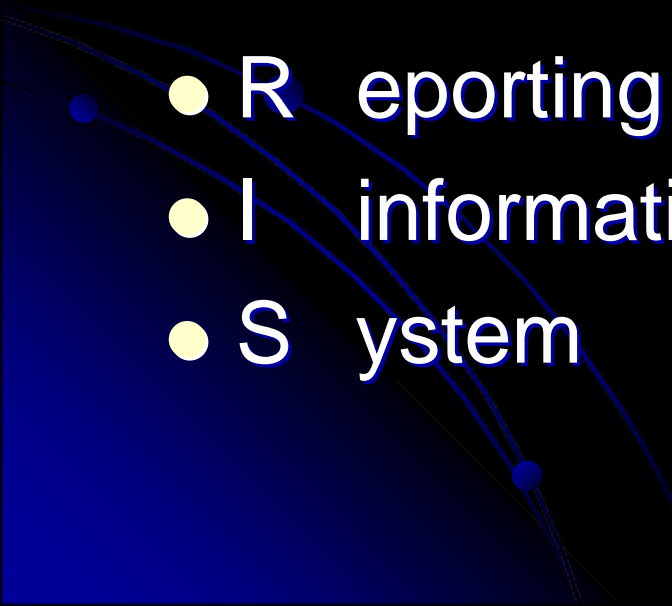


# Polaris ...the North Star Points the way

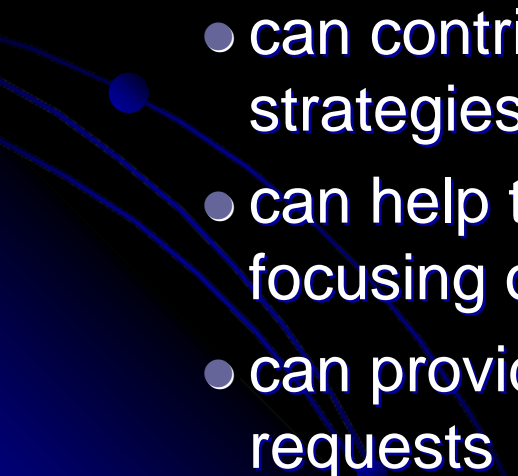
- For Centuries, travelers have found their way by recognizing\* the Big Dipper, and finding the North Star to provide a point of reference for their journey.



# POLARIS

- P robation
  - O n
  - L ine
  - A utomated
  - R eporting
  - I nformation
  - S ystem
- 

# POLARIS

- Develop a case specific reporting system which:
    - is focused on measuring success in accomplishing Probation/Court Services Mission
    - can contribute to improve supervision strategies
    - can help to improve training effectiveness by focusing on effective supervision practices
    - can provide credible information for resource requests
- 

# POLARIS Implementation

- Phase I

- Development of Data Elements and Data Dictionary

- Phase II

- Design and System Requirements

- Phase III

- Complete application design and development
- Web based secure environment
- Phase IV
- Test data transmission
- Resolve System Flaws

It is not always possible to know what one has learned, or when the drawing will arrive. You will continue to shift, sift, to shake out and to double back. The synthesis that finally occurs can be in the most unexpected place at the most unexpected time. My charge...is to be alert to the drawings.

Virginia B. Smith