Mission Statement

The Agency provides education, training, and treatment designed to encourage positive changes and meet the rehabilitative needs of offenders. We are committed to enhancing public safety through the utilization of evidence-based practices to reduce the rate of recidivism while promoting efficiency and economy in the delivery of correctional services. We are dedicated to improving quality of life and public safety by being professional and non-judgmental with respect to individual needs; being proactive through accountability, empathy and encouragement to support offenders; and creating awareness to empower individuals to make positive changes resulting in an alternative lifestyle to live productively and lawfully.

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Spotlight: Thadeous Larkin

Thadeous Larkin is an Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney with Prince George County Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office. He is from Taberg, New York, not New York City which is a very important distinction that Thadeous likes to make. He graduated from Washington and Lee University in 2008 with a major in politics. Thadeous said he decided to go to Washington and Lee University because he fell in love with the campus and Virginia the first time he visited. After graduating from Washington and Lee University, he went on to the Boston University School of Law and graduated in 2011. Thadeous began working for Oceans Caucus Foundation and International Conservation Caucus Foundation as the Congressional Liaison from 2011-2012. He then was offered his dream job of being an assistant commonwealth’s attorney, which he happily accepted with Wythe County Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office. Thadeous remained in that position until he came to work in 2014 for Prince George Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office. When asked why he chose to be an assistant commonwealth’s attorney, Thadeous stated that he believes in upholding the laws and protecting communities; he also enjoys working with the law enforcement community. In his spare time, Thadeous enjoys playing trivia, guitar, and bass. He is also very involved in Virginia politics and enjoys spending time with his best friend “Clay”. Thadeous rescued Clay from the pound. His role models are his father and Abraham Lincoln.

RCJA has a great working relationship with the Prince George CA’s Office, and we couldn’t appreciate more the fact that Thadeous even plays volleyball with our team! He also failed to report that he is well versed at singing to donkeys while playing basketball!

The Wicked Few....

While the name may lead you astray, The Wicked Few is actually a non profit organization wanting to engage in the community in any way possible. As per the club rules and regulations, each member has a charity to focus on, giving back and doing something each year, whether that is giving of their time or giving of their money. One member was quoted as saying, “Our mission is the charity work, to give back to the community of what we’ve been sucking from it for the last 20 years, 30 years.” Two members of this group are currently under supervision of RCJA. Their clubhouse, a detached garage, acts as a thrift store for people in need and is filled with various household and clothing items. Members of the surrounding communities can make donations at any time and anyone in need is welcome. Though the club gives an abundance back to the community, the members fight the stereotype that often comes with motorcycle clubs and their somewhat rough exteriors...

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RCJA’s First Annual Job Fair

On May 29, 2015, Riverside Criminal Justice Agency held its first Annual Job Fair at the Prince George Library. RCJA took on this endeavor to assist our clients and community members in gaining access to employment opportunities. We took advantage of the strong connection Prince George County Administration already has with local businesses and educational institutions while assisting in connecting the community to these resources. Many of the clients we serve in the criminal justice system have struggles attempting to enter or reenter the workforce. However, we recognized that they are not alone. In the current job market, many people in our local area still struggle at finding vocational and educational opportunities as a whole.

Our staff contacted many companies and agencies as well as the Virginia Employment Commission in order to help establish the Job Fair. In the beginning, everyone was uncertain as to the success of such an event in our area with no public transportation and the lack of any experience in doing something like this before! Social media was utilized to spread the word about the event, and then we just waited….

With the following employers and educational institutions willing to participate, the event was a great success: Goodwill, John Tyler Community College, International Paper, Integrity Staffing (Amazon), Dollar General, Food Lion Distribution, Lowes, Virginia Employment Commission, Southside Program for Adult Continuing Education, and Merit Medical. Over 200 individuals attended the event, and they were well received by the vendors. People were eagerly and patiently waiting at least thirty minutes prior to the opening of the Job Fair before it began despite the heat. And, when the doors finally opened at 9:00 am, the entrance line was wrapped around the Library! Participants came from Prince George, Hopewell, Colonial Heights, Chesterfield, Surry and as far out as Waverly and Franklin to attend the event. The vendors were very glad that was such a large number of people in attendance and voiced the desire to partner with RCJA again to repeat the event next year.

It felt amazing to assist in fostering potential opportunities for those in our community. We are looking forward to an even more successful event next year.
The Wicked Few

While the club members may support different charities or organizations in the community and may have different faiths, each and everyone has a love in their hearts for motorcycles, as evidenced by the dozen or so parked out in front of the clubhouse. One member who has ridden from Virginia to California on his bike stated, “I’ve been riding for 40 years. I guess it’s the wind in your hair. It clears your head. It’s an experience, and once you get into it, it clears your head.”

The brotherhood, as the president of the organization refers to the close knit relationship between the club members, stands strong and is something that each member holds closely, despite any conflict that may arise. He states, “There’s no drugs allowed, no illegal activities allowed and any misbehavior will be handled with extreme caution by us. We’re men here. We’re all men. This is a brotherhood. You may not like your brother now but you will love and respect him.”

The patch that is sewn onto the vests and jackets of the club members is held in high regard. The members work to make sure the image of the club is one that is always held to high standards in the community.

From Easter Egg Hunts to bike helmets, the club has also donated money to the American Cancer Society and helped the VFW on Christmas Eve. Most recently, the club held a fundraising event for a family who suffered a house fire; they collected money, clothes and any other donations for the family.

“We want to let people know we’re not the bad ones, we’re not the ones to worry about,” the president said. “If you see us and you need help, approach us. We’re here. Don’t be scared of us. We’re not here to hurt.”

How Important is Wellness to Your Organization?

Studies have shown that nearly 50% of an organization’s profits are consumed by employee health care costs and a ‘high risk’ employee can cost an organization almost $3,000 more per year than their ‘low risk’ colleagues. In addition, ‘high risk’ employees are shown to be 18% less productive, which adds up to 7 hours per week or 2 months per year in lost productivity. Every employee has some sort of health risk to varying degrees, whether it is unhealthy eating, lack of exercise or sleep, drinking, smoking, or even something genetic. By working with an employer who promotes health and wellness, not only will you be more able to complete your daily job responsibilities, but you will have more energy to give to your family and friends after your workday is complete.

Workplace Wellness programs can help employees attain and maintain a healthier lifestyle, even if it is something as simple as learning how to reduce stress and/or muscle strain while you are on the job.

Studies have shown that employers spend around $8,000 annually on each employee’s medical care, which includes medical insurance, disability, and worker’s compensation. For employers who seek out and implement a Workplace Wellness program, they find that, on average, medical costs fall by about $3.27 for every dollar spent on wellness programs, and absentee days fall by about $2.73 for every dollar spent.

Other studies have shown that Workplace Wellness programs can reduce sick leave by 28%, medical costs by 26%, and 30% among worker’s compensation claims. While changing behavior is solely on employees, employers have a tremendous opportunity to help their employees see the value of adopting healthier behaviors so that they can live healthier lives. An employer’s culture sets the tone for its employees and a supportive work environment, where managers reinforce a sound wellness strategy and keep employees motivated and engaged.

Workplace Wellness programs can be used to drive and reinforce healthy behaviors, bringing benefits to the employer, the employee, and to the community. In the end, workplace wellness programs should be viewed as an investment in the most important asset any organization has... its employees. Studies continually show that employees are more likely to perform well when they are in optimal health.

In conclusion, strengthening the organization’s culture, employee loyalty, and decreasing overall health care costs are the benefits of having a wellness program integrated into the overall business strategy.
4. Create Healthier Patterns - Remember that most relationship difficulties are due to a dynamic between two people rather than one person being unilaterally “bad.” Chances are good that you’re repeating the same patterns of interaction over and over; changing your response could get you out of this rut, and responding in a healthy way can improve your chances of a healthier pattern forming.

5. See The Best In People - Try to look for the positive aspects of others, especially when dealing with family, and focus on them. Developing your optimism and reframing skills can help here! The other person will feel more appreciated, and you will likely enjoy your time together more.

6. Remember Who You’re Dealing with - Seeing the best in someone is important; however, don’t pretend the other person’s negative traits don’t exist. Don’t tell your secrets to a gossip, rely on a flake, or look for affection from someone who isn’t able to give it. This is part of accepting them for who they are.

7. Get Support Where You Can Find It - Get your needs met from others who are able to meet your needs. Tell your secrets to a trustworthy friend who’s a good listener, or process your feelings through journaling, for example. This will help you and the other person by taking pressure off the relationship and removing a source of conflict.

8. Let Go Or Get Space If You Need It - Know when it’s time to distance yourself, and do so. If the other person can’t be around you without antagonizing you, minimizing contact may be key. If they’re continually abusive, it’s best to cut ties and let them know why.

Tips:
1. Try not to place blame on yourself or the other person for the negative interactions. It may just be a case of your two personalities fitting poorly.
2. Remember that you don’t have to be close with everyone; just being polite goes a long way toward getting along and appropriately dealing with difficult people.
3. Work to maintain a sense of humor – difficulties will roll off your back much more easily.
4. Be sure to cultivate other more positive relationships in your life to offset the negativity of dealing with difficult people.