



Florida Association of
Community Corrections

FACC

Training Florida's Community Corrections Professionals



President's Message

Welcome to the next edition of the Florida Association of Community Corrections (FACC) Newsletter! In the last edition we had an opportunity to look back at the challenges of 2020. We looked to 2021 with hope and gratitude. It is appropriate now to use this opportunity to reflect on how far we have come. As a field, within our respective communities, and as individuals. This is the theme of our 2021 inaugural Virtual Institute, "Navigating Community Corrections, Exploring the Path We've Taken, Current Road Conditions, and the Virtual Highway Ahead."



Isabel Perez-Morina

*Chief Executive Officer
The Advocate Program, Inc.*

It seems that we have been in a constant state of transition. In Florida, things are rapidly changing. Most of you have been asked to return to in office work, Court policies and practices continue to change, and overall things do not yet feel settled. Many in our field feel less connected. It almost feels like we are starting a new job but in the same place. This past year with all that was going on, many of us had an opportunity to reflect. In reality, prior to the pandemic, our caseloads were too high. Our lives centered around work and what had to be done. One positive thing about this past year was that with caseloads down, less court hearing and travel, we were able to focus on those parts of the job that we love and spend more time on each client. The work life balance shifted to life, and we had more time for self-care, wellness, and family. Now you are being asked to give parts of that up and go back to the hustle. For my staff caseloads are sharply rising, Court is demanding more of their time, and 8 hours no longer seem like enough. Stress levels are rising, and we are at a constant risk of reducing the quality of our work.

The system has always asked too much of us and this is no different. Professionals in this field always rise to the occasion. Ultimately, we know the impact of our work and what is on the line for those we serve. Their freedom and future depend on how well we do our job. So, take a breath. Connect with your coworkers. Like we tell our clients, one day at a time. Things will settle because they must – the pendulum always swings. Our field will continue to get smarter. There will be more resources in technology that will help us do the work we need to do, and hopefully we will increase our staffing and resources. One valuable thing I learned in 2020 – reduced caseloads work, and we all need to advocate for what works.

I hope that you will all join us this summer and attend our virtual institute as we explore all the above and set the tone for what is to come. We are looking forward to our annual community corrections forum where we can interact and learn from each other. Visit our website <https://www.faccnet.org> for program information and to register for the virtual conference. On behalf of the Board of Directors of FACC, let me again thank you for all that you.

See you next month!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isabel'.

Isabel Perez-Morina, Ph.D.

About FACC

Executive Board

Isabel Perez-Morina.....	President
Michael T. Anderson.....	Vice President
Joe Lipsey.....	Treasurer
Iris McDonald.....	Secretary
Dana McMahon.....	Immediate Past President



Mission Statement

To promote excellence in community corrections through quality training, networking, and leadership.

The primary goals of the association shall be to:

- Provide quality, state-of-the-art training & education. Promote communication and networking among membership and community corrections organizations
- Increase public awareness and the acceptance of the effectiveness of community corrections in prevention, reduction, and deterrence of criminal and delinquent behavior
- Encourage and promote the growth of FACC
- Provide representation to decision makers on community justice issues
- Facilitate partnerships and affiliations with other justice components to enhance public safety
- Assist community corrections agencies in responding to the needs of victims
- Advocate and support implementation of evidence-based practices

[FACC By-Laws](#)

Seminole Collaborative Opioid Response Effort

The Seminole County Sheriff's Office Misdemeanor Probation Division is a small piece of the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, but we have an important role in helping combat the opioid epidemic in our county. For many decades, the Misdemeanor Probation Office had been a part of the Board of County Commissioners for Seminole County. However, in October of 2016, Probation was transitioned to the Seminole County Sheriff's Office under the leadership of Sheriff Dennis Lemma. The transition allowed for a more cohesive working environment for Probation and our clients, the Sheriff's Office, and other community partners. As our nation is dealing with a substance use crisis, the timing could not have been better since the Seminole County Sheriff's Office has made finding commonsense solutions to the growing opioid epidemic a priority. These solutions can potentially be implemented not only in our county, but across our state and nation as well.

One of the first steps taken by Seminole County Sherriff's Office to combat the rising opioid epidemic was the creation of the "Seminole County Opioid & Heroin Task Force" in 2017. This task force was initially made up of three subcommittees: Criminal Justice/First Responders, Treatment/Recovery, and Education/ Prevention and Community Outreach. These subcommittees would meet quarterly to share information regarding community resources, treatment options and availability, and trends in treatment opportunities within the criminal justice system. In 2018, heading into 2019, this task force was rebranded as the "Seminole County Opioid Council," and new members and partners were added, including the "Medical" subcommittee. In 2019 four committees realigned to improve and refine the overall strategy.

- Prevention Committee
- Public Safety & Criminal Justice
- Treatment & Recovery
- Medical Committee

Opioid Crisis

In addition to the rebranding and adding the Medical Committee, Sheriff Lemma wanted the Seminole County Opioid Council to be more “grassroots,” and numerous other sectors of the community and law enforcement were invited to participate to include the Florida Department of Corrections Probation and Parole, political and religious leaders, and parents and family members who had lost loved ones to the opioid crisis. Pre-COVID, the Seminole County Opioid Council would meet monthly. Each committee Chair would present to the group ideas and progress applied to that subcommittee’s area of expertise. This information-sharing created a great deal of collaborative discussion on improving current systems of care, streamlining access to substance abuse services, and fostering new ideas and philosophies regarding treatment needs in the immediate community.

Also formed in 2019 was the “Seminole Collaborative Opioid Response Effort” or (SCORE), which consists of a team of sworn law enforcement detectives. SCORE was one of the first public-private partnerships, truly collaborating on saving lives from this tragedy. For our agency, that meant responding to every overdose in the county to determine what underlying factors are present that lead each individual on their path to addiction in the first place. For some responses, that meant providing wraparound services for both the individual in need and their family. The SCORE initiative also created the path for our opioid recovery programs inside the John E. Polk Correctional Facility.

The SCORE Team detectives are also unique in that they come from a place of empathy and compassion, recognizing substance use disorders as an illness instead of acting in traditional law enforcement roles. The primary purpose of the SCORE Team is to assist those who suffer from substance use disorders with finding treatment services, assisting with a warm handoff to detox facilities, and providing follow-up services to assist with recovery and sustainability. SCORE detectives also do a great deal of community outreach, visiting halfway houses, sober living facilities, and various other treatment facilities in an effort to provide continued support post-treatment.

The Seminole County Sheriff’s Office realized through the SCORE detectives and the misdemeanor Probation division that a piece was missing: the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) had overdosing cases involving probationers that they were not made aware of since overdoses are not a criminal issue and typically do not result in an arrest. In order to rectify the issue, DOC probation is now notified of any probationers that experience an overdose or are deceased due to overdoses. This new process helps to ensure probation officers are aware of emerging substance abuse disorders involving existing clients that may have otherwise gone undetected and subsequently wraparound services not offered.



Opioid Crisis

We quickly became aware that tracking overdose cases and information sharing were critical components; therefore, a proposal was submitted in 2021 requesting a civilian position be added to the SCORE Team to provide detectives assistance managing the rising number of opioid overdose cases. This request was granted and filled by a Probation Officer within the Probation Division of the Sheriff's Office. .

The Probation Officer who fills this position splits his time between supervising a high-risk population of probationers and performing case management duties with the SCORE Team. The high-risk probation cases consist of individuals who have been identified to have significant substance abuse issues. The position of a High-Risk Probation Officer, initially created in 2017 by the Probation Division, was established in an effort to try and provide a more evidence-based approach for substance-involved individuals who require additional assistance and supervision.

When referring to SCORE duties, the High-Risk Probation Officer has multiple responsibilities and is considered a hybrid position. In some cases, the Probation Officer position can be somewhat adversarial at times. It is essential to remember that individuals referred to SCORE are generally not on probation. Any services offered or accepted by these individuals are completely voluntary. This is in an effort to reinforce the idea that the Probation Officer is there to assist the individual and is not there in an adversarial role.

Another step in our approach to fighting the opioid crisis is adding fentanyl to the drug test cups. Much deadlier than heroin, fentanyl is becoming a more popular drug abused by those addicted to opioids but not included in the standard drug test cups. Adding fentanyl to the drug tests is ultimately resulting in more violations and arrests. Thus, it has been determined that many individuals supervised had severe substance abuse issues that were not representative of their initial offense or, in many cases, their criminal history. As a result, the High-Risk Probation caseload increased to between 45 to 60 cases and is made up primarily of individuals that have met various criteria, including:

- three or more DUI's
- a significant criminal history showing a pattern of substance use
- individuals who test positive for various narcotics and are reinstated to probation
- individuals that are court-ordered to residential treatment

Cases can be transferred after their initial assignment to a General Risk Officer if determined they meet these criteria, or a case can be transferred to the High-Risk Officer after months of supervision by a General Risk Officer if there has been a significant violation involving the use of substances. High-Risk Probation cases are supervised monthly in the office, and the field and are drug/alcohol tested regularly. High-Risk cases are not static and can be transferred back to a General Risk Officer after determining that an individual has demonstrated sustainable recovery.

The SCORE caseload is unique because cases may be inactivated due to a refusal to participate in services, but the case is never completely closed. Due to the nature of addiction and its consequences, many individuals may eventually change their minds and accept or request services. In this instance, a case would be re-activated after possibly being inactivated for some time.

Opioid Crisis

In conclusion, since the inception of the “Seminole Collaborative Opioid Response Effort” (SCORE), the “Seminole County Opioid Council” and the Hybrid High Risk/SCORE Probation Officer, a great deal has been accomplished to establish a more streamlined and holistic approach to dealing with the opioid epidemic in Seminole County.

- The Sheriff’s Office and SCORE have partnered with the Seminole County Health Department to include a grant-funded paramedic dedicated to addressing medical issues and referrals to medical services to those who are SCORE involved.
- Through Partnership with AdventHealth, the grand opening of the Hope and Healing Center was held in early April of 2021. The facility is a ten-bed men’s residential treatment center offering a host of various services to include Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT). The Hope and Healing Center also offers Intensive Outpatient Treatment (IOP) for those who qualify at no cost.
- There are Peer Specialists and Community Navigators who assist the SCORE team in coordinating treatment services.
- Residential treatment programs for men and women in the John E. Polk Correctional facility, Accepting Change through Treatment (ACTT).
- AdventHealth in Altamonte Springs has been designated as the primary hospital for overdoses in Seminole County and is accompanied by Treatment Navigators and Peer Specialists.

This article highlights just a few initiatives developed to ensure our community continues to heal and strive toward more effective ways to address substance use disorders and the opioid epidemic. The increase in overdose cases and overdose deaths are incredibly alarming, and the fact is that these trends aren’t slowing down. This is why addressing the opioid epidemic, and those with substance use disorders is a top priority for the Seminole County Sheriff’s Office Misdemeanor Probation Criminal Justice and Rehabilitation Division.



About the Authors

Lisa Zucker, Manager

Manager Zucker has been with the Seminole County Sheriff’s Office (SCSO) for the last 5 years. Previously she had spent 21 years with the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) and worked her way through the ranks to a Supervisor.



Matthew Hughson, Probation Officer II

Officer Hughson has been with the Seminole County Sheriff’s Office (SCSO) since 2006 with the probation division. Prior to that he worked with substance abuse programs in the Central Florida area.



Offender Credits Officer for Peaceful Surrender



On Saturday, May 1, 2021, Correctional Probation Senior Officer (CPSO) Frank Ceja from the Stuart Office (191) received a call from the Martin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Detective Matt Fritchie. An offender on community control had barricaded himself in his home and was refusing to surrender. Observing that the deputies had their CEWs (conducted electrical weapons) drawn and fixed, the offender grabbed his small child in his arms, shielding him from being approached and apprehended. During the standoff, MCSO discovered that the offender was on community control supervision. MCSO Det. Fritchie contacted CPSO Ceja requesting his assistance in convincing the offender to surrender. CPSO Ceja called the offender and the two spoke for several minutes. CPSO Ceja then hung up the phone and called his supervisor to receive permission to go to the scene and assist MCSO. While in-route to the offender's residence, MCSO called CPSO Ceja back advising that the offender surrendered shortly after hanging up the phone with him. CPSO Ceja continued to the Martin County jail where he spoke to the offender and explained the VOP arrest that was underway. The offender credited CPSO Ceja for his surrendering, telling him that he was a "voice of reason." Thank you CPSO Ceja!

Advocate Program Honors America's Hero's

This Memorial Day, Advocate Program took part in United Way's Mission United Memorial Day Ceremony where our fallen military heroes were honored. In remembrance of 50 veterans from Miami Dade, 50 American flags were placed in tribute at the Mike B. Fernandez Monument. Each flag was tagged with the veteran's name. The Program honors the men and women of the United States military who lost their life while serving our country.

This quarter, in collaboration with the Miami VA, Advocate Program opened a Homeless Veteran walk in Clinic at Advocate Program's Offices. Stationed at the clinic will be VA Homeless Outreach staff, VA Employment Specialists, and Advocate Program SSVF Outreach staff. This initiative will add an additional location in Miami Dade where homeless veteran can receive services with no appointment necessary. Through this partnership, homeless veterans will be able to be quickly assisted to begin their journey to services and permanent housing.



FDC and Salvation Army's Partnership

The Salvation Army's relationship with the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) began in 1976 when The Salvation Army took over the supervision of misdemeanor probation cases in many Florida counties, including Volusia County. A contract was executed between FDC and The Salvation Army that provided funding by FDC to supplement the fees paid by the probationers. Soon after, in 1982, FDC and The Salvation Army established a partnership to address the need for additional work release beds across Florida. The Army's network of residential facilities provided the opportunity to open satellite programs under the supervision of existing FDC work release centers. Daytona Beach was one of these original satellite programs. FDC and The Salvation Army maintained this relationship in Daytona Beach for many years, transitioning to residential substance abuse treatment in 1991. Not until flooding caused by Hurricane Irma in September of 2019 did this partnership in Daytona Beach come to an end. The storm left the facility uninhabitable. After a lengthy renovation of the facility and the execution of a new contract, the partnership continued. In October of 2020, the program reopened with half bed capacity. The first three graduates were honored at a ceremony on June 7th. Due to the economic effect of the pandemic, it did not make the reopening easy. Filling all the positions has been a struggle with a lot of obstacles along the way. At last, I am happy to report that all the positions are filled, and we will soon be running at full capacity.



CSOSA of Washington D.C. Visit to Region II

During the week of June 1st, Circuit 4 hosted representatives from the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) located in Washington, DC. We were able to showcase what we do here each day and highlight the hard work of our staff. To say we kept our visitors busy is an understatement! During the two-day event, we had presentations from Region 2 Circuit leadership, gang training presented by the gang unit of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, a planned compliance initiative (PCI) with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and 4th Circuit State Attorney's

Office. The PCI focused on gang members and offenders on supervision for gun related crimes. Other activities included a drug testing planned compliance initiative, a job and resource fair and a tour of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Re-entry Center and Operation New Hope. During the PCI with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, four illegal weapons were located along with drugs and other contraband. During the job fair, three offenders were hired directly on the spot. Circuit 4 has strong relationships with our community partners, and we welcome the opportunity to accentuate the hard work we do!



Each Day is a New Opportunity in Working with Youth

Working in the juvenile justice field is challenging and rewarding as we strive to provide the interventions needed to prevent youth from getting deeper into the criminal justice system. In order to accomplish this, the Juvenile Probation Officer must understand both risk and criminogenic needs to deal with the individual complexities related to each youth and the family. They must develop, implement and monitor a holistic plan based on the needs and strengths identified in our assessments and evaluations. They must also incorporate standard conditions of probation and other measurable goals denoted and agreed upon with the youth and families.



Our goal is to provide to each youth the most appropriate evidence-based intervention whether it is cognitive behavioral therapy, group or individual therapy among a variety of options offered by contracted providers. It may be simply enhancing or building upon a youth's strengths and working with them through the Stages of Change.

When the youth is in need of evidence-based services the Juvenile Probation Officer immediately "books" the referral in our Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS). The provider accepts the referral and begins the intake process to initiate services within days. Our agency recognizes the importance of Risk, Needs and Responsivity as described in the 6th Edition of the Psychology of Criminal Conduct – James Bonta and D.A. Andrews 2017 as well as numerous other publications and articles. Our agency follows the Principles of Effective Intervention in all our efforts throughout the continuum of care within the DJJ system.

It is always a privilege to share one of our good news stories which is a classic example of building on strengths. Pictured above is a former Post Commitment Probation youth with Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor Terry Evans. While under the supervision of the Department, this youth made major strides to turn his life around; he was also playing football and holding down a job. The youth's mother is very proud of his efforts and accomplishments. She told JPOS Evans that she finally had her son back and she's ever so thankful of the services and encouragement provided by the Department. The young man thanked JPOS Evans for stepping into his life and being tough on him when he needed it. JPOS Evans reports he will always remember this youth because this youth brought out the best in him as a JPO Supervisor.

It's About Community



Correctional Probation Senior Supervisor (CPSS) Amber Crews from the Lake City Office (030) has been instrumental in arranging and establishing a partnership with Habitat for Humanity in Columbia County, Florida. This was accomplished by meeting with board members and speaking with the State Attorney as well as Circuit Court Judges. This is a unique partnership, in that offenders on supervision and Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) staff will be working side by side to build a house this summer. Offenders will receive a \$10.00 credit toward court cost and fines for each hour that they work on the project as well as receiving valuable building experience. The goal is to build a home in Columbia County for a family in need and receive the true satisfaction of giving back to our community.

Hiring Event for Offenders

On April 21, 2021, the Melbourne Office (181) held a hiring event aimed at assisting unemployed offenders find employment. Probation Officers reviewed their cases and selected unemployed offenders and provided them with specific reporting times for the event to assist with spreading out attendees. Employment Specialist (ES) Tiffany Raymond coordinated with our Second Chance employers and community partners to set up tables for each of our partnered participants. Attendees included: Big 3 Lawn Care, Top Notch Lawn Care, Vocational Rehab, Labor Ready, Brevard Recover Works, Hammond Kitchen and Bath, Burger King, Career Source Brevard and "SWA" Sustainability Workforce Alliance. Fifty-three offenders attended the event which was held outdoors in the parking lot under tents and trees, providing for a comfortable and shady atmosphere with plenty of room to social distance. The Melbourne Probation Office, under the leadership of Senior Supervisor (CPSS) Darrell Costellic, came together along with our community partners for the benefit of our supervised population resulting in multiple offenders becoming employed.



Not So Routine Fieldwork



On Monday, April 12, 2021, Correctional Probation Senior Officers (CPSO's) Daniel Salazar and Rose Pokojski of the Panama City East Office (144) were doing routine field work. Upon arrival at an offender's home, CPSOs Salazar and Pokojski approached the residence, which was an RV/Camper. The door to the RV was wide open and they could see the offender sitting in a chair, who appeared to be sleeping. CPSO Salazar loudly called out to the offender, but he did not receive a response. CPSO Salazar then entered the RV and observed an uncapped syringe on the chair next to the offender, he immediately called 911. At the dispatcher's direction, CPSO Salazar performed a sternum rub on the offender, but still no response. The dispatcher advised that EMS was in route and instructed CPSO Salazar to monitor the offender and to call back if he stopped breathing. Shortly after that, Bay County Sheriff's deputies arrived on the scene. CPSO Salazar advised them of the situation and cautioned them about the uncapped syringe. The deputy administered 4mg of NARCAN, then CPSO Salazar

assisted in moving the offender to the floor. EMS arrived and had to administer an additional 7mg of NARCAN before the offender responded. The syringe field tested positive for fentanyl. The deputies obtained a search warrant, and the offender was also found to be in possession of multiple firearms. CPSOs Salazar and Pokojski acted quickly and professionally. Their actions were instrumental in saving this offender's life and taking multiple weapons away from a convicted felon.

Agency Spotlight



Misdemeanor Probation

Manatee County Probation directs and supervises clients placed on misdemeanor probation. Manatee County Probation enforces various court orders and refers defendants to various rehabilitative services in the community.

*This program operates with minimal cost to the county, state, federal government, or taxpayers.

Pretrial Release

Manatee County Supervised Release aspires to benefit the local Criminal Justice System and surrounding community by providing relief from unnecessary and expensive jail overcrowding as a reasonable alternative to pretrial detention for qualifying arrestees. This Program can include Electronic Monitoring as an option.

Offender Work Program

This program provides a sentencing alternative for offenders at the time of sentencing to perform various labor activities for the benefit of the community in lieu of incarceration at the Manatee County Jail. The program participant is paying his/her debt to society by working in Manatee County, thereby reducing the taxpayer's costs.

Pre-Trial Intervention

The Pre-Trial Intervention Program is for first time offenders only. This 90-day Program requires participants are required to pay Cost of Supervision fees, Investigative Costs, State Attorney Costs and complete 25 hours community service at an approved site. Substance abuse offenders are required to complete a drug & alcohol evaluation and recommended treatment. All participants are subject to random drug & alcohol testing.

Victim Impact Panel

The DUI Victim Impact Panel Program is an awareness program for offenders charged with misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The panel is a non-confrontational presentation, consisting of crime victims telling personal stories of how impaired drivers forever changed their lives. Guest speakers, educational presentations and information are also provided. There is no cost to attend and open to the public.

Special Response Team

Manatee County misdemeanor Probation Officers partner with local policing agencies to monitor high-risk offenders in the community and ensure compliance with court-ordered conditions of supervision. A weekly schedule is coordinated with agencies detailing which offenders to visit and the location.

Manatee County Probation Services

Jennifer B. Burgh, Probation Services Manager
Manatee County
Neighborhood Services Department, Probation Division
Office: 941-749-3051
Jennifer.burgh@mymanatee.org

Employee Spotlight



Edward Rufus

Program Manager

Florida Department of Corrections



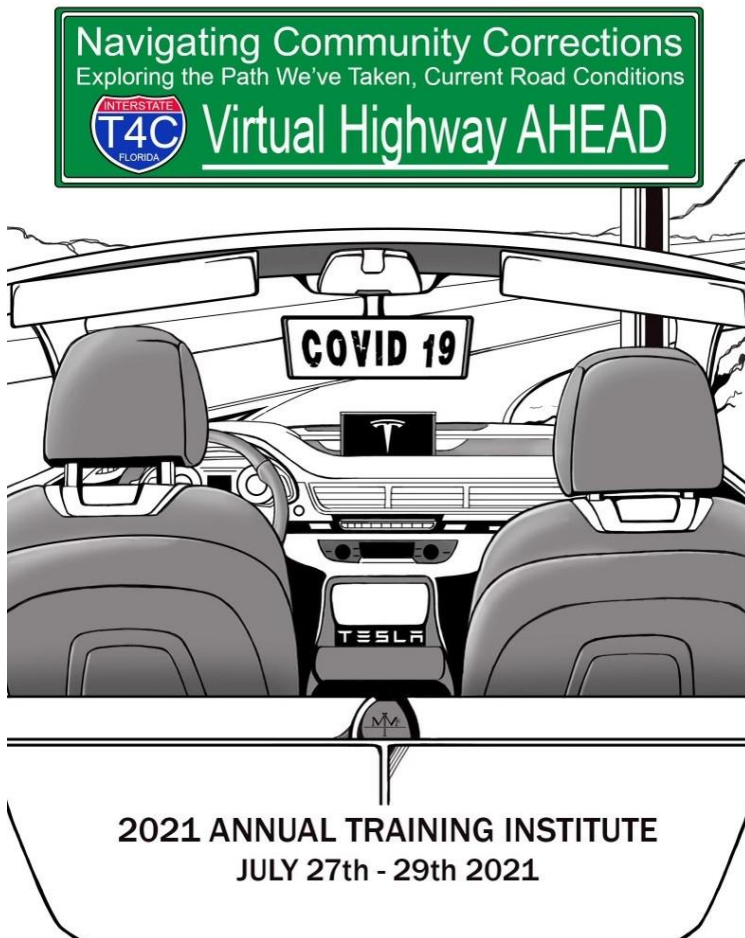
Program Manager Edward Rufus has been with the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) for 25 years and currently works in the Region IV Regional Office.



Program Manager Edward Rufus from the Region 4 Office was named Community Corrections Employee of the Year. Mr. Rufus began his career with the Department of Corrections in January of 1996 and has worked his way through the ranks from Correctional Probation Officer to Correctional Probation Sr. Supervisor. In his current position he is responsible for the oversight and facilitation of the Southeast Basic Recruit Academy (SEBRA). To date, he has successfully managed and coordinated four (4) academies that have been a cost savings of over \$1,000,000. Recruits have a pass rate on the FDLE exam of 95% and approximately 94% of the recruits are still working for the Department. Thanks to Mr. Rufus SEBRA has been a great success!

Edward Rufus was presented the Community Corrections Employee of the Year award by Secretary Mark Inch, Deputy Secretary Ricky Dixon and Assistant Secretary Joe Winkler.

Events



2021 ANNUAL TRAINING INSTITUTE
JULY 27th - 29th 2021

To register click [HERE!](#)

- ❖ Register as an Individual
- ❖ Register with Multiple people
- ❖ Attend 7 Plenary Sessions
- ❖ Featuring 3 Guest Speakers

Featuring
Keynote Speaker

Joe Russo



Special Message
Secretary Mark Inch



Closing Keynote
Elmo Golden

