

Youth Justice Introduces The Carey Guides

The Youth Justice team strives to support our local youth in making positive behavior changes to help themselves and help keep our communities safe. In an effort to improve supervision for youth and reduce recidivism, Columbia County hosted a two-day training of the Carey Guides for our Youth Justice staff, along with several colleagues from around the state. The Carey Guides are evidence-based tools that directly target criminogenic needs (risk factors that are most likely to lead to a youth committing new crimes). The goal is to teach youth the skills specific to their needs to enable them to make behavior changes. In order to determine criminogenic needs, staff first complete a risk assessment with youth. If the outcome shows that a youth is at medium or high risk to reoffend, staff look at the areas of the assessment that indicate where skills are needed. For example, if a youth indicates that they generally make poor choices when they are with friends, one of their criminogenic needs is likely to be related to peers and negative influence. Knowing this information, staff can choose a guide that targets behavior change in this area. The Carey Guides are a great addition to a team dedicated to serving the youth of Columbia County. We look forward to using these tools to help our youth make changes for themselves.

