

This Week At PPP...

*"We are embarking on an exciting time in the history of PPP. Please take note of this week's new development and stay tuned for future updates." **Jerry B. Adger, Director***



National Accreditation Initiative

Part of the Director Adger's vision for the Department is to become a nationally accredited law enforcement agency. In pursuit of that vision, this week marked an exciting milestone for SCDPPPS as Director Adger signed the enrollment agreement and the Agency was accepted as a candidate for national accreditation by the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Why seek accreditation? The benefits of accreditation are numerous, but, include:

- Facilitation of the Agency's pursuit of professional excellence
- Greater accountability within the agency
- Reduced risk and liability exposure
- Stronger defense against civil lawsuits
- Staunch support from government officials
- Increased community advocacy
- Increased community and staff confidence in Agency
- Increased confidence of Governor and Legislature in Agency

Now the real work begins in this initiative, and it will involve and require the support of everyone in the entire Agency. The Director has appointed a cross-divisional steering committee to review agency policies and practices in view of CALEA Standards of Accreditation. This panel will work with managers and staff to ensure that SCDPPPS is in compliance with these standards and to document the "proofs" for those standards. This panel is composed of Deputy Director for Legal Services and Policy Robert Mitchell as Chair, Deputy Director for Field Operations Mike Nichols, Asst. Deputy Director for Field Operations Cliff Howle, Legal Counsel Octavia Wright, Human Resource Director Patrice Boyd McAdams, Director of Training Melissa Ray, Florence AIC Alan Collins, Anderson AIC Gerald Black and Program Coordinator Crystal Owens, Executive Assistant Dawn Nichols and Executive Assistant Loretta Goodwin will provide technical support.

The Steering Committee will also be assisted by various subject-matter experts, as well as a Field Operations Subcommittee composed of AICs Collins and Black as co-chairs, Program Coordinator Crystal Owens, Florence Team Leader Jack Witherspoon, Laurens Team Leader Michael Richards, Darlington Agent Brandon Kelly, Anderson Agent Cliff King, Greenville Offender Supervision Specialist Jocelyn Jones, Greenville Offender Supervision Specialist Christina Worthy, Florence Field Office Specialist Ashley McKenzie, and Aiken Field Office Specialist Lisa Kenner.

In addition to these committees, every staff member will need to enhance his or her own policy awareness and compliance to meet these standards. The process to attain accreditation could take up to three years, but it is hoped that this can be accomplished in less than that three year window.

The goal to become accredited is ambitious, but the anticipated results are worthy. Once successful, SCDPPPS will be the first probation and parole agency in the country to attain CALEA accreditation. Please join in supporting this effort to make SCDPPPS a nationally accredited law enforcement agency.

Director Adger signs the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

