

*The County of Chester
Office of the Controller
Internal Audit Department*



*Audit Report
Office of Adult Probation
For the year ended December 31, 2007*

Valentino F. DiGiorgio, III, Controller

COUNTY OF CHESTER
AUDIT OF OFFICE OF ADULT PROBATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

Christopher Murphy, Chief Probation Officer
Office of Adult Probation
Chester County Courthouse
West Chester, PA 19380

COUNTY OF CHESTER
AUDIT OF OFFICE OF ADULT PROBATION
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COUNTY OF CHESTER OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER

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VALENTINO F. DIGIORGIO, III
Controller

April 18, 2008

Office of Adult Probation
Chester County Courthouse
West Chester, Pennsylvania

Internal Audit has audited the accounts of the *Office of Adult Probation (APO)* in conjunction with the *Office of the Clerk of Courts* as of December 31, 2007, and has compiled the attached Statement of Assets and Liabilities and the related Statements of Cash Receipts, Disbursements, and Cash Balances for the year then ended. It is Internal Audit's responsibility to audit annually the accounts of any office receiving money for use by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to report the results of such audits to the Chester County Commissioners and the Chester County Court of Common Pleas. It is management's responsibility to maintain, update, and reconcile these accounts on a continuous basis.

Our audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit in a manner that will provide *reasonable assurance* that the accounts are free of material misstatement and that amounts are properly supported and approved.

As described in Note 1, the accompanying financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. Accordingly, the statements referred to above are not intended to present the financial position and results of operations of *APO* in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, accounts maintained by *APO* are stated fairly as of December 31, 2007. Consequently, the corresponding financial statements prepared by Internal Audit present fairly, in all material respects, the assets and liabilities of *APO* as of December 31, 2007, and the cash receipts, disbursements, and cash balances for the year then ended.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, Internal Audit has also issued a report dated April 18, 2008, which provides our evaluation of *APO's* internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, policies and/or procedures. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Valentino F. DiGiorgio, III
Controller

COUNTY OF CHESTER
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURTS / ADULT PROBATION

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

DECEMBER 31, 2007

Assets

Cash - Clerk General Account - CPCMS	\$ 19,493	
Cash - Clerk Summary Appeal Escrow - CPCMS	29,986	
Cash - Clerk Bail Escrow Account - CPCMS	1,265,83	
Cash - Clerk / APO Costs, Fines & Restitution Account - CPCMS	<u>601,689</u>	
Total Cash from CPCMS Accounts		\$ 1,917,002
Cash - Clerk Bail Escrow Account – Legacy		341,691
Cash - Clerk Summary Appeal Escrow - Legacy		11,745
Cash - Clerk Bail Bondsman Escrow - Legacy		25,000
Cash - Clerk Change Fund		300
Cash - APO Change Fund		200
Cash - Automation Fund Account	\$ 10,175	
Cash - Automation Fund CD	<u>60,000</u>	
		<u>\$ 70,175</u>
Total Assets		<u>\$ 2,366,113</u>

Liabilities

Undisbursed Funds:		
Due to County - Clerk	\$ 103,471	
Due to County - APO	176,736	
Due to Commonwealth of PA - Clerk / APO	119,703	
Due to Municipalities - Clerk / APO	35,953	
Due to Bail Bondsman - Clerk	25,000	
Due to Clerk of Courts - Automation Fund	73,770	
Due to Individuals - APO	<u>1,830,980</u>	
Total Undisbursed Funds		\$ 2,365,613
Due to County - Clerk Change Fund		300
Due to County - APO Change Fund		<u>200</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>\$ 2,366,113</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

COUNTY OF CHESTER
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURTS AND ADULT PROBATION
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND CASH BALANCE
CPCMS ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

Cash Balance, January 1, 2007		\$ 1,403,623
Receipts	\$ 7,848,892	
Disbursements		
Costs, Fines & Restitution	\$ 6,085,067	
Filing Fees	38,573	
Bail Escrow	1,117,635	
Summary Appeal	<u>94,238</u>	
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 7,335,513</u>	
Excess of receipts over disbursements		<u>513,379</u>
Cash Balance, December 31, 2007		<u>\$ 1,917,002</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

COUNTY OF CHESTER
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURTS
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND CASH BALANCE
BAIL ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

Cash Balance, January 1, 2007		\$ 450,914
Receipts:		
Bail Escrow	\$ 0	
Bail Escrow Interest	16,432	
Miscellaneous Receipts	<u>120</u>	
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 16,552</u>	
Disbursements:		
Bail Escrow Refunds	\$ 108,644	
Bail Escrow Interest	<u>17,131</u>	
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 125,775</u>	
Excess of disbursements over receipts		<u>(109,223)</u>
Cash Balance, December 31, 2007		<u>\$ 341,691</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

COUNTY OF CHESTER

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURTS

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND CASH BALANCE
SUMMARY APPEAL ACCOUNT**

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

Cash Balance, January 1, 2007		\$ 11,743
Receipts:		
Summary Appeal Escrow	\$	0
Interest		0
Miscellaneous Receipts		<u>2</u>
Total Receipts	\$	<u>2</u>
Disbursements:		
Summary Appeal Escrow Refunds	\$	0
Bank Fees and Interest Adjustment		<u>0</u>
Total Disbursements	\$	<u>0</u>
Excess of receipts over disbursements		<u>2</u>
Cash Balance, December 31, 2007		<u>\$ 11,745</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

COUNTY OF CHESTER

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURTS

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND CASH BALANCE
*AUTOMATION FEE FUND***

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

Cash Balance, January 1, 2007		\$ 50,503
Receipts:		
Fees collected by the Office of the Clerk of Courts	\$ 4,349	
Fees collected by the Office of Adult Probation	15,290	
Certificate of Deposit	60,000	
Interest	<u>84</u>	
Total Receipts	\$ 79,723	
Disbursements		
Purchase of Certificate of Deposit	\$ 60,000	
Bank Fees	<u>51</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$ <u>60,051</u>	
Excess of receipts over disbursements		<u>19,672</u>
Cash Balance, December 31, 2007		<u>\$ 70,175</u>

COUNTY OF CHESTER
OFFICE OF ADULT PROBATION
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Background and Reporting Entity

The APO provides supervision of offenders and facilitates offender rehabilitation. Additionally, the department compiles investigative reports that assist the Court in making sentencing and parole decisions.

There are eight programs under which the APO provides services:

General Supervision – This program includes the Probation Officers assigned to supervise general probation, parole or Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) cases.

Pre-Sentence Investigation – Responsible for completing Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI) reports for the Court.

Collections – Responsible to collect fines, fees, costs and restitution ordered by the Court.

Intensive Supervision Programs – Provides intensive supervision services to a variety of high risk, high need clients including sex offenders, mental health offenders, repeat domestic batterers, and chronic drug and alcohol abusers.

Intermediate Punishment – Provides electronic monitoring and intensive supervision services to offenders approved for the Intermediate Punishment Program by the Court. Provides a safe alternative for non-violent prison bound offenders.

Drug Court – Provides an alternative for those convicted of non-violent drug offenses including intensive supervision, drug testing, treatment and non-traditional court intervention to stop drug abuse.

Community Service – Provides a coordinated and supervised approach to the completion of community service by offenders as ordered by the Court.

Bilingual Supervision – This program includes the supervision of Spanish speaking clients ordered to participate in any of the four major programs.

COUNTY OF CHESTER
OFFICE OF ADULT PROBATION
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

The actual operating expenses of the *APO* are paid by the County of Chester. These costs include the salary and wages of office employees, fringe benefits, postage, telephone, office supplies, computer/LAN use, and furniture and equipment. These costs are not included in the audited Statements of Cash Receipts, Disbursements, and Cash Balances.

Basis of Accounting

The books and records of the *APO* are maintained on the cash basis of accounting. Consequently, receipts are recognized when received rather than when assessed or otherwise due, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when the obligation is incurred. Accordingly, the accompanying statements do not present the assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, and cash balances in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Note 2 - Legal Matters

Our audit disclosed no pending litigation involving *APO* or its Chief Probation Officer (Christopher Murphy) for the year ended December 31, 2007.

Note 3 – CPCMS System

The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (*AOPC*) initiated a project in 2001 to develop and implement a statewide Common Pleas Court Case Management System (*CPCMS*). *CPCMS* is now installed in the Commonwealth's sixty judicial districts in sixty-seven counties; *CPCMS* was implemented in Chester County February 6, 2006. *CPCMS* provides case management tracking for the offices of the Clerks of Court, Court Administration and Common Pleas judges and their staffs. Additional user groups include county fiscal offices, probation departments and limited write access for criminal justice-related offices (District Attorney, Sheriff and Prison) connected to a county network.

COUNTY OF CHESTER

OFFICE OF ADULT PROBATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

Note 3 – CPCMS System (continued)

All case-related funds and financial transactions receipted after the implementation of CPCMS must be maintained in and tracked through CPCMS; the Clerk of Courts (*Clerk*) was required to establish new bank accounts for this purpose.

CPCMS requires that the records and funds for transactions for all fines, costs and restitution be maintained in one bank account “belonging to” the *Clerk*, regardless of whether one or more offices or departments actually receipt or disburse all or part of those funds, and that all transactions for that account to be recorded in CPCMS. Prior to CPCMS, the majority of fines, costs and restitution was collected through payments made to Chester County Adult Probation (*APO*). Some disbursements were done by the Clerk; however, most disbursements of fines, costs and restitution were done by vouchers prepared by *APO* for disbursement by the County. The *Clerk* established the required new “Clerk of Courts / Adult Probation” bank account and consulted with *AOPC* and with Chester County *APO*, Court Administration, DCIS, Controller and Finance to establish procedures to best implement and administer the new joint bank account which contains co-mingled funds receipted and disbursed according to CPCMS requirements (none of these funds are now disbursed through the Chester County Controller or Treasurer). As a result, the financial statements of each office must be combined into one set of financial statements in respect to the shared bank account (the Fines, Costs and Restitution account).

Note 4 – Automation Fee Fund

The *Clerk* established a new fund in 2004 pursuant to the Pennsylvania Clerk of Courts Fee Bill; 42 PCS 1725.4. In addition to any other fee authorized by law, an automation fee of not more than \$5 may be charged and collected by the *Clerk* for the initiation of any action or legal proceeding. The automation fee shall be deposited into a special Clerk of Courts automation fund established in each county. Moneys in the special fund shall be used solely for the purpose of automation and continued automation update of the Office of the Clerk of Courts. Until 2007, the *Clerk* maintained this fund in a Deferred Revenue account on the County General Ledger. In September, 2007 the *Clerk* opened a separate bank account and certificate of deposit to hold these monies.



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VALENTINO F. DIGIORGIO, III
Controller

April 18, 2008

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Chester County Courthouse
West Chester, Pennsylvania

Report on Compliance and on Internal Controls Over Financial Reporting

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, the scope of our audit included an examination and evaluation of the adequacy and effectiveness of *APO's* system of internal controls and *APO's* quality of performance in carrying out its assigned responsibilities. The primary objectives of internal controls include the following:

- Compliance with policies, procedures, laws, and regulations
- Accomplishment of goals
- Reliability and integrity of information
- Economical and efficient use of resources
- Safeguarding of assets.

In addition, generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS) require that auditors obtain an understanding of the internal control process and assess control risk in financial statement audits. For a financial statement audit, internal control is defined as a process which is designed to provide reasonable assurance that objectives regarding the reliability of financial reporting, the effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and the compliance with applicable laws and regulations are achieved. The internal control process consists of five components. They are the *control environment*, *risk assessment*, *information and communication*, *monitoring*, and *control activities*.

The *control environment* sets the tone of the organization and is the foundation for all other components of internal control. The collective effect of various important factors defines the *control environment*, which in turn establishes, enhances, or mitigates the effectiveness of policies and procedures. These important factors include the entity's organizational structure and methods of assigning authority and responsibility.

The *risk assessment* is the entity's identification and analysis of relevant risks to the achievement of its objectives, and forms a basis for determining how the risks should be managed.

Information and communication are the identification, capture, and exchange of information in a form and time frame that enables people to carry out their responsibilities.

Report on Compliance and on Internal Controls Over Financial Reporting (continued)

Monitoring is a process that assesses the quality of internal control performance over time.

Control activities are the policies and procedures that help ensure management directives are carried out. These policies and procedures may be classified as:

- Authorization
- Segregation of duties
- Documentation
- Physical safeguards
- Independent checks and balances.

Our audit disclosed no significant weaknesses that, in our opinion, pose a significant risk to *APO* and/or to the County of Chester:

Other findings of a lesser significance in the areas of internal control and compliance specifically:

- Recording and recordkeeping with respect to manual receipts
- Compliance with policies and procedures with respect to cash and voided disbursements

have been addressed under separate cover with the management of *APO* for its action and/or response. Copies of the Management Letter will be made available upon request.

This report is intended for the information of the Chester County Board of Commissioners and the Chester County Court of Common Pleas. This report is, however, a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Valentino F. DiGiorgio, III" followed by a stylized flourish.

Valentino F. DiGiorgio, III
Controller

COUNTY OF CHESTER
OFFICE OF ADULT PROBATION
SUMMARY OF EXIT CONFERENCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

Due to the nature of the audit findings and recommendations, an exit conference was not warranted for the 2007 audit. Management of the Office of Adult Probation has chosen to accept the report as presented.