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DCJ Partners with FBI on Computer Forensics

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The Department of Community Justice (DCJ) is the only parole and probation department in the nation to have a full-time examiner assigned with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) forensic laboratory. DCJ staff are using these cutting edge approaches to help break the cycle human trafficking, foiling sex crimes, identity theft, drug and gang activity and fraud cases.

The Northwest Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory (NWRFCFL) is a multi-organizational partnership that helps this community conduct forensic examinations of electronic devices and digital media, such as computers, cell phones, flash drives and other digital forms of information. NWRFCFL is part of a national network of Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) sponsored, full digital forensics laboratories and training centers, developed to help agencies enforce federal, state, and local criminal laws relating to computer-related criminal activity.

For probation and parole departments, computer forensic technologies can be used to do everything from, comb through computer hard drives for child pornography, to extract text messages and photos from suspects' cell phones, to tracking offenders use of "Craigslist" and other community websites for activity that relates to prostitution or human sex trafficking.

"The computer forensics lab is a great tool for this community to shed light on public safety challenges facing this county," said Commissioner Diane McKeel. Noting the role that the lab is playing to help foil human trafficking, the Commissioner said, "DCJ's role in this lab is helping our community to take every action possible to ensure that all human beings have the right and opportunity to thrive."