



**ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Candice M. Kane
Executive Director

FROM: Gerard F. Ramker, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Research and Analysis Unit

DATE: June 2, 1999

RE: Briefing for the Executive Director's Report at the
June 4, 1999 Authority Meeting

Information Requests

- During the first quarter of 1999, a total of 465 information requests were handled. This was an average of 155 per month and represented a 41% increase over the previous quarter.
 - *Geography:* 67% of the requests came from within the state, 21% from other states, 3% from outside the U.S.
 - *Requester:* 31% from other governmental agencies, 29% from citizens, 16% from private agencies, 13% from students, and 11% other.
 - *Request method:* Telephone/Fax 57%, Email 37%, Mail 5%, and Walk-in 1%.

Publications

- R & A staff have published nine (9) reports since the last Authority meeting:
 1. *Executive Summary:* Evaluation of the Little Village Gang Violence Reduction Project;
 2. *Evaluation Report:* IDOC's Gang-Free Environment Program;
 3. *Evaluation Report:* Community Policing in Chicago: Years 5-6;
 4. *Evaluation Report:* Violent Offender Prosecution Program in Kankakee, Sangamon, and Winnebago Counties;
 5. First Quarter 1999 Report on the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) Study in Chicago;

6. *On Good Authority*: Reducing youth gang violence in urban areas: one community's effort;
 7. *On Good Authority*: Drug court provides treatment alternative to incarceration;
 8. *On Good Authority*: Making a prison gang-free: the Taylorville Correctional Center.
 9. *On Good Authority*: County prosecution programs provide resources to increase violent crime convictions.
- Staff contributed significantly to the Spring 1999 issue of *The Compiler* (soon to be published) which focuses on probation in Illinois.
 - R & A staff also collaborated with the Illinois State Police in making improvements to the annual report from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program known as, "Crime in Illinois." The report was published in May.

Web Site Development

- Staff continue development of the Authority's Web site (www.icjia.state.il.us). We have expanded the amount and type of criminal justice data available on the site and information about current research projects and evaluations. The number of visitors to the site continues to soar – we average over 500 persons a day. The number of people downloading documents and viewing data continues to increase as well. Two significant developments which promise to increase visitors are:
 - The Governor's Office, as part of its establishment of a Federal Clearinghouse on all federal grants, has designated the Authority's site to be the State's official site for information on all criminal justice related federal grants.
 - The Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) is launching a membership campaign which will, among other things, advertise the Authority's (and the other Authority-like state agencies) web site.

Briefings

- R & A staff continued to provide consultation and technical assistance to the Illinois Youth Network and other entities in various activities around implementation of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act. We helped conduct various statewide training sessions and, most recently, helped conduct a workshop on the Act for McHenry County officials concerning their implementation of a county coordinating council pursuant to the Act.
- Staff made a presentation on the State of Criminal Justice Information Systems to a graduate students and faculty of the University of Chicago's Harris Public Policy Institute and Chapin Hall.

- Staff have been invited to conduct a roundtable discussion of our evaluation of the Cook County State's Attorney's Victim Witness Program at the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation in Washington next month.
- Staff provided statistical updates and data presentations for the VAWA program update, and Budget Committee workshops.

Other

- The latest CHRI audit report is nearing completion. The report is being re-reviewed by the Illinois State Police and the Cook County Circuit Clerk's Office. Some additional interpretive analyses are being completed. The report will be presented at the September Authority meeting.
- The Women's Health Risk Study is nearing completion. The final report will be submitted to the National Institute of Justice at the end of this month.
- We are also completing the Family Violence Report on behalf of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council's Data Collection Committee. The report will be completed in the next two weeks.
- We are also completing the Crime Analysis Applications Handbook as part of a federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The handbook will be completed at the end of the month.
- We are also nearing completion of the final report on our evaluation of Chicago's Municipal Drug and Gang Enforcement Pilot Programs. The final report will be completed in July.
- Several staff reviewed/score grant applications on behalf of the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority and our own Federal and State Grants unit.

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