



**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: September 2, 1999

RE: Briefing for the Executive Director's Report at the
September 10, 1999 Authority Meeting

This memorandum highlights the work performed by Research and Analysis Unit staff since the Authority last quarterly meeting:

Information Requests

- During the second quarter of 1999, a total of 414 information requests were handled by staff. Thus far in 1999, we handled a total of 879 requests or an average of about 150 per month. During the second quarter:
 - *Geography:* 74% of the requests came from within the state, 23% from other states, 3% from outside the U.S.
 - *Requester:* 33% from other governmental agencies, 23% from citizens, 22% from private agencies, 8% from students, 5% media, 4% researcher and 5% other.
 - *Request method:* Telephone/Fax 63%, Email 28%, Mail 9%, and Walk-in <1%.

Publications

- With the assistance of the Office of Public Information and the Office of Administrative Services, R & A staff published fifteen (15) reports since the last Authority meeting:
 1. *Evaluation Report:* Evaluation of the Cook County Juvenile Sheriff's Work Alternative Program.
 2. *Evaluation Report:* Evaluation of the Little Village Gang Violence Reduction Project: Training and Group Supervision of Community Youth Workers.
 3. *Evaluation Report:* Evaluation of the Little Village Gang Violence Reduction Project: The First Three Years.
 4. *On Good Authority:* Drug Court Provides Treatment Alternatives to Incarceration.
 5. *On Good Authority:* Making a Prison Gang Free: The Taylorville Correctional Center.

6. *On Good Authority*: County Prosecution Programs Provide Resources to Increase Violent Crime Convictions.
 7. *On Good Authority*: Community policing in Chicago: An Evaluation.
 8. *On Good Authority*: Juvenile Work Program Provides Alternative to Detention.
 9. *Research Bulletin*: Collaboration in the Chicago Women's Health Risk Study.
 10. *Research Bulletin*: Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) Program in Cook County, 2nd Quarter Results.
 11. *Trends and Issues Update*: Trends in Illinois Crime: 1994-1998.
 12. *Trends and Issues Update*: The Juvenile Justice Reform Act.
 13. *Trends and Issues Update*: Trends in Illinois Drug Arrests.
 14. *Trends and Issues Update*: Illinois Prison Population Trends.
 15. *Trends and Issues Update*: Sentencing Felony Offenders in Illinois.
- Staff also contributed significantly to the Summer 1999 issue of *The Compiler* which focused on computer crime in Illinois. Staff have also begun to develop articles for the Fall issue as well.

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 who spend about twenty minutes browsing the site. The number of people downloading documents and viewing data continues to increase as well. Staff have also begun planning and development around the Authority's intranet site.

Briefings/Presentations

- R & A staff continued to provide consultation and technical assistance to the Illinois Juvenile Justice Forum and other entities in various activities around implementation of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act.
- Staff conducted a roundtable discussion on 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 in July.
- Staff presented information on juvenile justice statistical trends and the Juvenile Reform Act at the annual meeting of the Illinois DARE Officers Association.
- Staff made presentations regarding the Family Violence Data Collection Project and the Chicago Women's Health Risk Study at the Program Evaluation and Family Violence Research: An International Conference in Durham, New Hampshire, in July.
- Staff participated in the FBI's Homicide Research Working Group at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA, in June. Staff (and others) presented information from the

Chicago Women's Health Risk Study.

- Staff participated in a briefing for legislators sponsored by the Legislative Research unit in Springfield.
- Staff participated on a data collection committee for the Department of Human Services' Illinois Prevention 2000 project.
- Staff initiated data presentations on drug and violent crime issues for the staff of the Federal and State Grants Unit.

Projects

- Staff implemented two evaluations of domestic violence probation programs funded by the Authority. The projects were launched through a "request for proposals" process initiated last Spring.
- Staff completed the latest CHRI audit report and is completing *an On Good Authority* summarizing the report. A meeting of the Authority's Ad Hoc Committee on Disposition Reporting is being convened in late September to review the report.
- The Chicago Women's Health Risk Study was completed with the final report submitted to the National Institute of Justice in July. Additional publications are being considered and planned for this year.
- Staff completed the Family Violence Data Collection Report on behalf of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council's Data Collection Committee. The report is being finalized for printing.
- Staff is putting the final touches on a Crime Analysis Applications Handbook as part of a federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The handbook will be printed in September.
- 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 September.
- Staff continued work on various aspects of several projects: (1) the evaluation of the Cook County Sheriff's Day Reporting Center Program; (2) the study of MEG Unit and local police department drug targets; (3) the evaluation of the City of Chicago's alley lighting project; and, (4) the "Behind Closed Doors/Community Crime Prevention" study.

- Several staff reviewed/scored grant applications on behalf of the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority and our own Federal and State Grants unit.
- Staff submitted a joint grant application to the Bureau of Justice Statistics which would allow the Authority to establish a research center focusing on criminal history information by creating an on-line connection to the Bureau of Identification in Joliet.
- Staff initiated two research projects funded by the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission: (1) an evaluation of the impact of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act; and, (2) a study on minority over-representation in the Cook County juvenile justice system.

Personnel

- Six new staff persons have been hired to carry out the projects funded by the Juvenile Justice Commission, including: Megan Alderden, Elizabeth Kooy, Kimberly Burke, Charese Jackson, Tracie Pasold and Kelly Marzano.
- Paperwork and interviews were completed to transfer seven (7) current contractual staff to payroll positions. The hiring process will continue to fill other existing vacancies which number four (4) at this point..

Please let me know if you would like further information on these activities.

Cc: Becky
Mark
Tracy
Jim

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