



**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:** March 1, 2000

**RE:** Briefing for the Executive Director's Report at the  
March 3, 2000 Authority Meeting

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

### **Information Requests**

- During 1999, a total of 1,618 information requests were handled by staff or an average of about 135 per month. About 85% of all responses to requests were completed within 48 hours. During the year:
  - *Geography:* 67% of the requests came from within the state, 24% from other states, 2% from outside the U.S.
  - *Requester:* 32% from other governmental agencies, 25% from citizens, 18% from private agencies, 9% from students, 3% media, 9% researcher and 4% other.
  - *Request method:* Telephone/Fax 57%, Email 32%, Mail 7%, and Walk-in 4%.
- Additionally, in response to requests, we disseminated over 44,000 publications during the year.

### **Publications**

- With the assistance of the Office of Public Information and the Office of Administrative Services, R & A staff published ten (10) reports since the last Authority meeting, including:
  1. *Evaluation Report:* Evaluations of the Christian County Extended Day Program, the Peoria County Anti-Gang and Drug Abuse Unit, and the Winnebago County Day Reporting and Assessment Centers.

2. *Evaluation Report: An Implementation Evaluation of the Enhanced Domestic Violence Probation Program in Champaign County.*
  3. *Handbook: Incident-Based Crime Analysis Manual: Utilizing Local-Level Incident Reports for Solving Crimes.*
  4. *Research Bulletin: Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program in Cook County (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 1999).*
  5. *On Good Authority: Juvenile Probation Programs Evaluated.*
  6. *On Good Authority: Champaign County Enhanced Domestic Violence Probation Program Evaluated.*
  7. *On Good Authority: Violent Crime Task Force Cracks Tough Homicide Cases in Kankakee County*
  8. *Trends and Issues Update: Perceptions of Crime Trends in Illinois.*
  9. *Trends and Issues Update: Intimate Partner Violence in Illinois.*
  10. *Trends and Issues Update: Measuring Hate Crime in Illinois.*
- Staff also contributed significantly to the Fall 1999 issue of *The Compiler* which chronicled 30 years of criminal justice trends in Illinois.
  - Articles derived from the Chicago Womens Health Risk Study were published in Violence Against Women and in Homicide Studies.

### **Web Site Development**

- Staff continue development of the Authority's Web site ([www.icjia.state.il.us](http://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 several hundred persons a day who spend about twenty minutes browsing the site. There were over 10,100 user sessions during January 2000. The number of people downloading documents and viewing data continues to increase as well. Trends and Issues Updates and On Good Authorities, for example, have been downloaded hundreds of times.
- Staff have also begun planning and development around the Authority's intranet site.

### **Briefings/Presentations**

- Publications were made available at Authority displays at the Winter meetings of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and the Illinois Sheriff's Association.
- Staff made presentations to: an advisory group for the Attorney General's victim information notification program; the Illinois DARE Officers Association; the Authority's Ad Hoc Committee on Violence Against Women; the Attorney General's Crime Victim and Witness Notification Advisory Committee; the American Society of Criminology; the National Institute of Justice's Crime Mapping Research Conference.

### **Research and Policy Committee**

- Staff convened the Research and Policy Committee on February 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposed Criminal Justice Planning Summit. Staff reviewed the proposed plan for the summit, a draft background paper, date(s) and location, and other aspects of the event.

### **Ad Hoc Committee on Disposition Reporting**

- Staff continue to plan for the next meeting of the Authority's Ad Hoc Committee on Disposition Reporting. It is anticipated that this committee, which will become a subcommittee of the new Information Systems Committee, will be convened to discuss activities arising from the last audit, as well as the plan for the next audit.

### **Other Projects/Activities**

- Staff completed portions of the 2000 State Strategy for Byrne Memorial Formula Grant Program.
- Staff drafted a background paper to support the Criminal Justice Planning Summit planned for June 2000.
- Staff completed the final report on our evaluation of the City of Chicago's alley lighting project. The report has been presented to the City's Department of Streets and Sanitation.
- The Incident-Based Crime Analysis manual project, funded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, was completed with publication of the handbook.
- A final report on our evaluation of the Cook County Sheriff's Day Reporting Center Program is nearing completion.
- A final report on our NIJ-funded evaluation of the Cook County State's Attorney's Victim-Witness program is nearing completion.
- Staff continued work on various aspects of several projects: (1) the study of MEG Unit and local police department drug targets; and (2) the "Behind Closed Doors/Community Crime Prevention" study.

- Several staff reviewed and scored Local Law Enforcement Block Grants for the Federal and State Grants Unit.
- Staff continued work on 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. Surveys and other data collection instruments have been prepared and are being implemented. Many staff have been involved in field data collection in dozens of police departments and sheriff's offices around the state, and we have utilized students from SIU- Carbondale, SIU - Edwardsville, NIU, UIC and Loyola in the project as well.
- Two external evaluation projects - Loyola University and the University of Illinois at Springfield - examining sex offender probation programs have been launched.
- Staff is finalizing the membership and procedures for the Authority's Institutional Review Board which will oversee research dealing with human subjects.

**Staff/Personnel**

- Resignations: Shawn Hutton, Planning and Program Evaluation Center analyst  
Elizabeth Kooy (3/15/2000), Juvenile Evaluation project analyst
- New hires: James Thurmond, CHRI Audit Center analyst  
Christopher Humble, CHRI Audit Center analyst  
Michelle Repp, Research Assistant/Library  
Marisa Schultz (3/1/2000), MVTPC research analyst  
Timothy Lavery (3/16/2000), Juvenile Evaluation project analyst

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

Cc: Becky  
Mark  
Tracy  
Jim

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