



**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: May 31, 2000

RE: Briefing for the Executive Director's Report at the
June 2, 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 the first quarter of 2000, a total of 314 information requests were handled by staff or an average of about 79 per month. About 77% of all responses to requests were completed within 48 hours. During the period:
 - *Geography:* 73% of the requests came from within the state, 16% from other states, 3% from outside the U.S.
 - *Requester:* 41% from other governmental agencies, 24% from citizens, 18% from private agencies, 8% from students, 4% media, 5% researcher, and 1% other.
 - *Request method:* telephone/fax 68%, email 24%, snail mail 6%, and walk-in 2%.
- Additionally, in response to requests, we disseminated over 18,000 publications during the period.

Publications

- With the assistance of the Office of Public Information and the Office of Administrative Services, R & A staff published four (4) reports since the last Authority meeting, including:
 1. *Evaluation Report: Evaluation Report: Evaluating Gang and Drug House Abatement in Chicago.*
 2. *Evaluation Report: The Chicago Alley Lighting Project.*

3. *Research Bulletin: Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program in Cook County (4th Quarter 1999).*
 4. *Trends & Issues Update: Prison Sentences for Drug Offenders.*
- We have begun distribution of the latest county profiles - 45 profiles have been completed and distributed in the counties and are available on-line on the Authority's Web site.
 - Staff also contributed to the latest issue of *The Compiler* which dealt with criminal justice system integration.

Web Site Development

- Staff also contributes toward the continued development of the Authority's Web site (www.icjia.state.il.us):
 - We have expanded the criminal justice data available on the site through the CJDataNet.
 - We are now actively gathering user satisfaction information "on-line."
 - We have uploaded 45 county profiles. In the last week alone, these various county profiles have been downloaded nearly 1,000 times.
 - The number of visitors to the site continues to soar – we now are averaging nearly 500 user sessions per day.
 - We initiated an email program that automatically alerts Web site visitors that have registered to new information added to the site. There are currently over 300 persons who have registered for this information service.
- Staff also contribute to the ongoing development of the Authority's intranet site as well.

CHRI Audit

- Having finalized plans with executive staff and the Illinois State Police, staff initiated several phases of the next audit of the State's criminal history record information.
- The first data collection phase on record timeliness was conducted at the Bureau of Identification. Preliminary data analysis on this information was also completed.
- Staff initiated contact with local agencies to begin arrest data collection and site visits.

Briefings/Presentations

- Staff made presentations at the Harris School of Public Policy Studies at the University of Chicago, and at Indiana State University's Department of Criminology.

Planning and Research Committee

- The Planning and Research Committee did not meet during this period. An ad hoc advisory committee on the Criminal Justice Planning Assembly was convened three (3) times during the quarter. The advisory committee assisted tremendously in the development of the Assembly program, background materials, pre-Assembly survey, and other preparations for the event, which are described more fully below.

Institutional Review Board

Staff convened the Authority's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for its inaugural meeting on Thursday, May 18, 2000. The IRB reviewed its policies and procedures, and began consideration of its first application regarding a proposed research project involving human subjects. The second IRB meeting has been scheduled for Friday, June 23, 2000 at the Erie Family Health Center.

Criminal Justice Planning Assembly

- Staff procured three-ring binders and index dividers for use as Assembly notebooks.
- Staff completed development of the background materials for inclusion in the notebooks prepared for Assembly attendees, including background papers, summaries, and fact sheets in each discussion group area.
- Staff developed a preliminary invitation list for review by the advisory committee and executive staff, who made numerous modifications, additions and deletions.
- Staff developed and mailed invitations to approximately 165 persons.
- Staff completed and mailed a pre-Assembly survey asking invitees to identify critical issues in each of the discussion group areas. We are in the process of summarizing survey findings for the Assembly.
- Staff contacted potential keynote speakers for the Assembly and eventually identified three (3) who have confirmed participation.

- Staff met with hotel staff to finalize meeting room, lunch and other logistical matters.
- Staff convened ICJIA staff targeted for involvement in the Assembly several times to finalize preparations.
- Staff arranged for a training course for discussion group facilitators and staff.
- Staff prepared lists of workgroup questions.
- Staff prepared floor plans and meeting room maps for inclusion in the Assembly notebook.
- Staff finalized and mailed Assembly notebooks to all confirmed attendees, as well as all Authority members, members of the ad hoc advisory committee, and participating staff.
- Staff identified workgroup participants.
- Staff developed posters for use in workgroup rooms during the Assembly.
- Staff participated in discussions with the General Counsel and the Federal and State Grants Unit regarding post-Assembly workplans.

Other Projects/Activities

- 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 developed a joint grant application with the Justice Research and Statistics Association for a multi-state project involving helping local officials assess their juvenile justice systems' needs and evaluate programmatic changes.
- 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.
- Staff continued work on three research projects funded by the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission: (1) an evaluation of the impact of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act; (2) a study on minority over-representation in the Cook County juvenile justice system; and, (3) a juvenile justice system overview and data trend report. Surveys and other data collection instruments have been prepared and are being implemented. Many

staff were 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.

- Staff met with officials from Loyola University, Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities and the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, to make plans for a special study of all probationers discharged in the state during a selected time period in the Fall of 2000. The study will examine performance while on probation including criminal justice contacts, treatment participation, and other interesting information. We are also exploring the possibility of two related studies: (1) a study looking at juveniles discharged from probation; and, (2) a comparative study matching the probation samples against a sample of releasees from the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Staff/Personnel

- Departures: James Thurmond, CHRI Audit Center (5/26/00)
Heather Schinzing, Statistical Research Center (5/31/00)
- Arrivals: Karen Vincent, Res. Analyst, Statistical Research Center (6/19/00)
Jenette Johnson, Intern, Criminal Justice Information Clearinghouse (6/5/00).

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

Cc: Becky
Mark
Tracy
Jim

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