



**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 5, 2000

RE: Briefing for the Executive Director's Report at the
September 8, 2000 Authority Meeting

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

Publications

- With the assistance of the Office of Public Information and the Office of Administrative Services, R & A staff published nine (9) reports since the last Authority meeting, including:
 1. *Evaluation Report: A Comparison of Evaluation Findings on Sex Offender Probation Projects in Six Illinois Counties* (June, 2000).
 2. *Evaluation Report: An Implementation Evaluation of the Specialized Sex Offender Projects in DuPage, Lake and Winnebago Counties* (June, 2000).
 3. *Research Report: Juvenile Crime and Justice System Activities in Illinois: An Overview of Trends* (June, 2000).
 4. *Research Bulletin: The Chicago Women's Health Risk Study at a Glance* (June, 2000).
 5. *Trends & Issues Update: Drug Offenders on Probation* (May, 2000).
 6. *Trends & Issues Update: College Campus Crime Data in Illinois* (August, 2000).
 7. *On Good Authority: Neighborhood Order and Community Policing in Chicago* (June, 2000).
 8. *On Good Authority: Community Policing Combines Problem Solving, Planning and Teamwork* (August, 2000).
 9. *Proceedings of the Criminal Justice Planning Assembly* (July, 2000).
- **County Profiles** - Profiles have been completed and mailed directly to each State's Attorney, Sheriff, Public Defender, Chief Judge and Chief Probation Officer in the State. Complete sets were also prepared and mailed to research staff of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and the Illinois Department of Corrections. All 102 profiles have also been uploaded to the Authority's Web site

and, at last count, had been downloaded 2,622 times.

- **Identity Theft** - Sal Perri's Web site article on identity theft has proven extraordinarily popular having been downloaded over 700 times. Permission has been granted for its use on other Web sites as well.
- Staff also contributed to the latest issue of *The Compiler*, which deals with the Criminal Justice Planning Assembly.

Information Request Handling

ITEM	LAST QUARTER 4/1 - 6/30/2000	PREVIOUS QUARTER 1/1 - 3/30/2000
Information requests handled:	344	314
Monthly average number of requests:	115	79
Percent of requests completed within two (2) days:	82%	77%
Geographic Origin of requesters:		
Chicago metropolitan area	24%	31%
Other region of Illinois	37%	42%
U.S. other than Illinois	30%	16%
Outside the U.S.	4%	3%
Unknown	5%	8%
Type of requester:		
Government agency	30%	41%
Private citizen	18%	24%
Private agency	18%	18%
Researcher	5%	5%
Student	6%	8%
Media	2%	4%
Legislators	<1%	<1%
Inmates	2%	<1%
Unknown	-	<1%
Chicago Women's Health Risk Study	19%	-
Method of request:		
Telephone/fax	59%	68%
Mail	6%	6%
Email/Internet	27%	24%
In-person	8%	2%
Publications disseminated:		
Mailed in response to written requests	6,996	18,659
Mailed in response to Web site requests	new	-
Downloaded from Web Site	4,147	2,161
Persons registered for CJ Dispatch (Email notification of updates)	488	378

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 all county profiles, making them readily available "on-line".
- The number of visitors to the site continues to soar – we now are averaging nearly 600 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 almost 500 persons who have registered for this information service.
- Staff also continue to contribute to the ongoing development of the Authority's secure intranet site (www2.icjia.state.il.us) as well.
 - We have instituted an on-line periodical/journal review and routing feature, which allows staff to examine the contents of over six (6) dozen paper and electronic periodicals, journals, newsletters and other publications.
 - Agency forms, policies, rules, schedules and other materials have begun to be uploaded to the site.

CHRI Audit

- Staff completed the data collection & analysis portion of the record timeliness test dealing with mailed submissions. Preliminary findings have been distributed internally for informational purposes.
- Local data collection continues for the accuracy & completeness portion of the audit. A number of on-site data collection visits have taken place and a number of agencies have submitted copies of source documents.
- Staff also continues to interview Bureau of Identification staff as part of the ongoing effort to document data handling and processing procedures and policies.

Briefings/Presentations

- Staff made presentations at:
 - the annual criminal justice research and evaluation conference in Washington, DC sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice;

- the annual meeting of the federal Bureau of Investigation's Homicide Working Group; and
- meetings of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission.

Planning and Research Committee

- The Planning and Research Committee met on August 14, 2000. Staff briefed the committee on the work of the Authority's Institutional Review Board, post-Criminal Justice Planning Assembly activities, and discussed the organization and content of the first State Criminal Justice Plan. The committee will next meet in early November to review a draft of the plan.

Institutional Review Board

- Staff convened the Authority's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for its second meeting on Friday, June 23, 2000 at the Erie Family Health Center in Chicago. The IRB has completed its review and consideration of three (3) applications prepared by Research & Analysis Unit staff pertaining to our evaluation of various aspects of the Juvenile Reform Act.
- As a result of IRB discussions several revisions to the applications were made corresponding to recommended changes to the research protocols and procedures. All three applications have now been approved by the IRB.
- Another application for the IRB's consideration is currently under development by staff. The application relates to a study of adult and juvenile probation outcomes being undertaken in collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and Loyola University's Department of Criminal justice.

Criminal Justice Planning Assembly

- Staff helped conduct the inaugural Criminal Justice Planning Assembly. Many staff participated in the preparations for the event and assumed duties of discussion group facilitator, recorder and/or resource person.
- Subsequent to the Assembly, staff has helped organize and convene advisory groups to follow up on issues raised at the Assembly and to develop aspects of the State Criminal Justice Plan.
- Staff have initiated additional literature review, data collection and analysis in support of various advisory groups and helped put together various meeting materials for these groups.

- Staff helped put together a draft outline of the State Criminal Justice Plan for review by the Planning & Research Committee and the full Authority.
- Staff helped put together a report on the Criminal Justice Planning Assembly, which has been mailed to attendees and post-Assembly advisory committee members.
- Staff also helped put together work group reports for inclusion in *the Compiler*, and for presentation to the Planning & Research Committee, and at a special meeting of criminal justice professional associations convened to gather input on the Assembly and its output.

Grant Awards/Applications

- 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. The \$20,000 grant was awarded in August and the project has been initiated.
- Staff partnered with the Illinois State Police's Firearm Services & Crime Statistics Bureau in the development of a \$1 million grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics for the development of a crime reporting program compatible with the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The project is a joint effort of ISP, the Authority, McLean County Sheriff's Office, Waukegan Police Department and the University of Illinois's National Center for Supercomputing Applications. The application calls for Authority staff to provide survey development and implementation support and to generate various publications from the project designed to demonstrate the utility of incident-based crime data.
- Staff initiated development of the next State Justice Statistics (SJS) program grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics, which will provide further support for our continuing effort to analyze and demonstrate the utility of incident-based crime data.

Other Projects/Activities

- **Evaluation of the Cook County Sheriff's Day Reporting Center Program:** the final report is being prepared for printing.
- **Evaluation of the Cook County State's Attorney's Victim-Witness Program:** the final report on our NIJ-funded is undergoing final review.
- **Behind Closed Doors** project: A final report of this NIJ-funded study entitled, which is due on September 30, 2000, is under development.

- **Gun Crime Study:** this is the BJS-funded project being carried out in partnership with the Illinois State Police, which will establish on-line access to criminal history record information for research purposes. ISP is about to contract with Bull Systems to establish the data warehouse, which will be constructed from "live" CHRI. The warehouse will be placed on an in-house file server Authority staff will access for data downloads. Staff has helped develop technical specifications for the warehouse and are now awaiting for ISP to execute the contract with Bull Systems for production of the work.
- **The study of MEG Unit and Local Police Department Drug Targets:** this is a BJA funded study being carried out in partnership with Loyola University's Department of Criminal Justice. Data collection and coding continues for information from task forces. Comprehensive statistical profiles for each unit presenting the context of surrounding agencies have been developed and were the source for a BJA-requested interim report in July at the national conference on criminal justice research and evaluation. Criminal history profiles of task force arrestees are currently being developed.
- 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. The overview report was completed and published in August.
- **Study of Probation Outcomes:** Staff continued to finalize plans with officials from Loyola University, Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities, Department of human Service Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse and the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, for our special study of all probationers (adult & juvenile) 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. The data collection instrument and instructions have been completed and are currently being field-tested.
- Staff met with officials of the Attorney General's Gang Crime Prevention Center (GCPC) to help develop analysis and information dissemination plans relating to Illinois Department of Corrections data provided monthly to the GCPC. Staff is currently developing a data base application for use by the GCPC which will facilitate and support their analysis of this data and their ability to generate law enforcement intelligence bulletins from it.

- Staff met with officials of Abt & Associates who are conducting a national assessment of multi-jurisdictional drug task forces on behalf of the U.S. Department of Justice. They have selected Illinois as a "pilot state" for the development and testing of a national data collection instrument to support evaluation. Staff responded to their fact-finding inquiries and arranged for three (3) site visits to Illinois drug enforcement units. Some further staff involvement in the project is expected.

Staff Development/Training

- Staff has initiated a strategic planning process, which will feed information into the agency's planning activities. A series of opinion surveys, informal interviews and meetings have been conducted to facilitate this.
- Staff have initiated a more formal staff development program which, at present, includes:
 - A hands-on course on research methods and statistics is being held every other week following a course syllabus and involving practical exercises; and
 - Quality assurance assessment practices are being developed pertaining to information request handling.

Staff/Personnel Changes

- Departures: Kelly Marzano, intern (July)
Jenette Johnson, intern (August)
Michelle Fugate, research analyst (September 8, 2000)
- Arrivals: David Katz, research analyst

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

Cc: Becky
Mark
Tracy
Jim

GFR:r