



**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: December 7, 2000

RE: Briefing for the Executive Director's Report at the
December 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 five (5) reports since the last Authority meeting, including:
 1. *Evaluation Report: An Evaluation of the Cook County Sheriff's Day Reporting Center Program: Rearrest and Reincarceration After Discharge* (October, 2000).
 2. *Trends & Issues Update: Trends in Violent Crime and the Justice System's Response* (September, 2000).
 3. *On Good Authority: Supervising Sex Offenders in DuPage, Lake and Winnebago Counties* (October, 2000).
 4. *On Good Authority: Outcomes of the Gang Violence Reduction Project* (August, 2000).
 5. *On Good Authority: Combating Gang Violence in Chicago's Little Village Neighborhood* (August, 2000).

Web Site Development

- Staff also contributes toward the continued development of the Authority's Web site (www.icjia.state.il.us):
 - We continue to expand the criminal justice data and information available the site.
 - We continue to gather user satisfaction information "on-line."

- We continue to upload publications to the site and have perfected our on-line ordering forms and protocols.
- We continue to average about 500 daily user sessions.
- We have also perfected the email program that automatically alerts Web site visitors that have registered to new information added to the site. There are currently about 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.

Governor's Summit on Gangs, Guns and Drugs

Staff assisted in the Governor's summit in a number of ways including the preparation of written materials, facilitation of discussion groups, presentations, mailings, registration, and other functions.

Planning and Research Committee

- The Planning and Research Committee met on November 20, 2000. Staff reviewed the draft State Criminal Justice. Another meeting is being planned for January, 2001.

State Criminal Justice Plan

Staff continued to contribute toward the development of a comprehensive criminal justice plan for the State. A draft of the plan was completed and mailed for review by the six (6)

advisory committees prior to the November 20, 2000 Planning and Research Committee meeting.

Information Request Handling

ITEM	LAST QUARTER 7/1-9/30/2000	PREVIOUS QUARTER 4/1 - 6/30/2000
Information requests handled:	354	344
Monthly average number of requests:	118	115
Percent of requests completed within two (2) days:	86%	82%
Geographic Origin of requesters:		
Chicago metropolitan area	26%	24%
Other region of Illinois	44%	37%
U.S. other than Illinois	21%	30%
Outside the U.S.	3%	4%
Unknown	6%	5%
Type of requester:		
Government agency	36%	30%
Private citizen	26%	18%
Private agency	19%	18%
Researcher	8%	5%
Student	6%	6%
Media	2%	2%
Legislators	<1%	<1%
Inmates	2%	2%
Unknown	-	-
Method of request:		
Telephone/fax	52%	59%
Mail	7%	6%
Email/Internet	25%	27%
In-person	2%	8%
ICJIA Web site	14%	-
Publications disseminated:		
Mailed in response to written requests	21,957	6,996
Mailed in response to Web site requests	158	New
Downloaded from Web Site	6,201	4,147
Total	28,316	11,143
Persons registered for CJ Dispatch (Email notification of updates)	512	488

Briefings/Presentations

- Staff made presentations and/or attended at:
 - the annual meeting of the Criminal Justice Statistics Association;
 - the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology;
 - meetings of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission;

- annual meeting of the Association of State UCR programs;

Institutional Review Board

- Staff has forwarded two applications for expedited review by the Institutional Review Board in connection with:
 - A study of disproportionate minority representation in the Cook County juvenile justice system; and
 - A study of adult and juvenile probation outcomes in collaboration with the Department of Corrections, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and Loyol University.
- A meeting is being planned to review the status of the three human subject research projects previously dealt with by the IRB. This will likely take place in January.

Grant Awards/Applications

- Staff continues to work on 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

- **Chicago Women's Health Risk Study** - staff held a special forum to present and discuss key findings of this research. The forum was well-attended and we have received much positive feedback. We continue to plan further dissemination of the results of this important study.
- **Evaluation of the Cook County State's Attorney's Victim-Witness Program:** the final report on our NIJ-funded is undergoing final review.
- **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. Because progress has not been made to establish the ISP data warehouse constructed from "live" CHRI, we are seeking a data "dump" from ISP to populate a database application we have developed in-house. The project will conclude in June, 2001.
- **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. Criminal history profiles of task force

arrestees are currently being developed. The project was recently extended through 2001.

- Staff continued work on 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. Case studies are underway and preliminary data collection plans and protocols have been established
- **Study of Probation Outcomes:** Staff finalized 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 2000. Data collection has been launched. 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 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, arranged for site visits to Illinois drug enforcement units, and have had follow-up meetings to brief Abt on our research and evaluation efforts in this area. Some further staff involvement in the project is expected.
- Staff continue to provide technical assistance to the Governor's Capital Punishment Commission in the design and conduct of a special analysis of capital cases in Illinois. Staff will help the commission's researchers link Chicago Homicide Dataset data to information maintained by the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Staff Development/Training

- 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;
 - Special topic presentations are being scheduled on various topics including data probation and corrections data sets; and

- Quality assurance assessment practices are being developed pertaining to information request handling.

Staff/Personnel Changes

- Departures: Dan Higgins, Senior Research Analyst (12/20/00)
Jim D'Archangelis, Senior Research Analyst (12/15/00)
- Arrivals: Alissa Clark, research assistant

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

Cc: Becky
Mark
Tracy
Jim

GFR:r