



**ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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Memorandum

To: Authority Members

From: *GR* Gerard F. Ramker, Ph.D.
Research and Analysis Unit

Date: February 18, 2004

Re: Research and Analysis Unit Report – March 5, 2004 Authority Meeting

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

I. ONGOING ACTIVITIES

A. Publications

Since the last Authority meeting, R & A staff published seven (7) reports:

- *Research Report:* Female Delinquents Committed to the Illinois Department of Corrections;
- *Research Bulletin:* Disproportionate incarceration of African Americans for drug offenses in the United States.
- *Research Bulletin:* The use of probationer and substance abuse treatment services in Illinois.
- *Research Bulletin:* Sharing criminal history record information – The Interstate Identification Index.
- *Research Bulletin:* Results of the 2003 Criminal History Record Information Audit.
- *Research Bulletin:* Chicago Homicide Dataset Series – Why is the age discrepancy a risk factor for intimate partner homicide? – Examining the influence of offender criminal history.
- *Research Bulletin:* The justice system's response to drug offenses and substance abuse.

Staff also completed individual profiles for each of Illinois' twenty-one (21) Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEGs) and drug task forces. The profiles will be sent to each of the units and their respective policy boards and participating agency officials.

B. Office of Public Information

The Office of Public Information (OPI) designs, edits and publishes the Authority's written materials, including: press releases; the agency's annual report; the agency's newsletter called, "The Compiler"; and other publications such as research reports, research bulletins, and evaluation summaries. OPI staff also respond to information and assistance requests from the public, the media, and others.

ICJIA Annual Report. Staff completed a draft of the Authority's annual report for 2003. It is currently undergoing executive staff review.

The Compiler. Staff is completing work on the Winter 2004 issue of The Compiler, which is focusing on Illinois' multijurisdictional drug task forces and their efforts at combating the proliferation of methamphetamine in the State.

Press Releases. OPI staff issued three (3) press releases since the last Authority meeting. The releases, which are available on the Authority's website, are summarized below:

- January 2, 2004 - **Governor invites local law enforcement to apply for \$1 million federal grant**
CHICAGO — Governor Rod Blagojevich announced today that the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) will be accepting proposals from local law enforcement agencies to participate in a \$1 million federal Local Law Enforcement Block Grants (LLEBG).
- January 29, 2004 - **Authority-Funded Programs Provided Critical Services to more than 100,000 victims of crime in 2003**
CHICAGO -- The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority announced today that during 2003 it helped fund services for more than 100,000 victims of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, elder abuse, and other crimes.
- February 18, 2004 - **Public safety, improved information systems among Governor's top initiatives for Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority - Authority targets funds to more effectively combat guns, drugs and violence in Illinois communities**
SPRINGFIELD – Governor Rod. R Blagojevich announced today the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, with the assistance of federal grants and state funding, will continue to make law enforcement in Illinois more efficient and effective. Even faced with tight fiscal times, the authority will target resources to underserved areas of the state and toward the problems of guns and drugs.

A fourth press release (on the Authority's grant for the Chicago Police Department's Project Bridge) has been drafted and is currently under review by the Governor's Office. OPI staff also edited and did layout work on several research bulletins for R&A. Staff also supported the Federal and State Grants Unit (FSGU) with editorial assistance.

B. Briefings/Presentations

Since the last Authority meeting, R & A staff made presentations at and/or attended meetings of the:

- Illinois Department of Corrections' Illinois Returning Home Project Steering Committee;
- Illinois Drug Court Professionals Associations Fall conference;
- Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council and Grant Review Committee;
- Illinois Integrated Justice Information System (IIJIS) board, planning and technical committees;
- Meetings of the Cook County Girls Link steering, education and program development committees;
- Justice Research and Statistics Association's (JRSA) Research, Nominations, and Executive committees;
- Legislative hearing on criminal record expungement issues;
- Crime Analysts of Illinois Association meetings;
- Administrative Office of Illinois Courts POLARIS advisory committee;
- Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives Partners;
- North Lawndale Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC) Forum and Data Workgroup;
- Illinois Youth Court Association advisory board meeting;
- Governor's Ex-Offender Employability Committee meeting;
- University of Chicago's Incarceration Research Group;
- Advisory Group for the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) Formerly Incarcerated Employment Study;
- Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission's Juvenile Detention in Illinois annual report advisory committee and its Disproportionate Minority Confinement subcommittee.
- Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, Terrorism Private Sector Subcommittee;
- Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives grant sites meeting; and,
- Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives partners meeting;

C. Criminal Justice Information Clearinghouse

The Authority serves as a statewide clearinghouse for statistics and other information about the criminal justice system. During the second quarter (10/1/03- 12/31/03) of SFY04, R&A staff responded to 308 requests from people seeking information — an average of 103 requests per month. Most came from other government agencies (31 percent) and the general public (32 percent). Other requests came from private agencies (16 percent), researchers (11 percent), students (7 percent), news media representatives (2 percent), prison inmates (1 percent), and legislators (less than 1 percent). About 23 percent of the requests originated in Chicago. Thirty-nine percent originated in other parts of the state. All other requests for information were received from outside Illinois. R&A distributed 11,332 Authority publications during this period. *[TABLE 1 (attached) provides statistics for the latest state fiscal year quarter.]*

D. Web Site Development

R&A staff also contribute 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 on the site. A new Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section has been added to the site to cover the most-often-asked-for information received by Clearinghouse staff. We also continue to actively gather user satisfaction information and other feedback "on-line." Staff also continues to upload publications to the site and have perfected our on-line ordering forms and protocols. The site averaged over 1,100 daily user sessions during this period, and we now have 1,410 registered users of the Authority's email program (called "CJ Dispatch"), which automatically alerts Web site visitors to new information added to the site. Staff continue work on database applications and new software for the site which will allow

visitors to download, display and graph data in a variety of formats. *[Table 2 (attached) presents website statistics for the latest state fiscal year quarter.]*

E. FSGU Support Efforts

Upon request, R&A staff review and comment on proposed program narratives submitted by potential grantees to FSGU. The focus of R&A comments are in the areas of proposed objectives, goals, and performance measures. FSGU staff also request R&A assistance in the development of data reports for proposed programs. R&A staff has also assumed responsibility for the computerization of some program performance data and, upon FSGU request, we produce program status reports and/or profiles assessing performance over a given period of time. Some staff accompanies FSGU staff on grant monitoring site visits as well. Since the last Authority meeting, staff have spent considerable time updating the "Statement of the Problem" section for the next *Statewide Strategy to Control Drug and Violent Crime*, which must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice in connection with our continued receipt of Byrne program funds. *[Table 3 (attached) presents FSGU support statistics for the latest state fiscal year quarter.]*

F. Technical Assistance

R & A staff are frequently called on to provide a variety of technical assistance on extra-agency research and evaluation, and program implementation projects. For example, since the last Authority meeting:

- Staff continued to provide limited assistance to several third-party research projects involving studies of individuals' criminal history records; including those conducted by:
- Staff continue working with the Illinois Department of Correction's Going Home Program's Reentry Steering Committee.
- Staff continue participating with the Governor's Sheridan Re-Opening Working Group.
- Staff are participating on the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' POLARIS advisory committee.
- Staff are participating on the advisory board for the Illinois Department of Employment Security's Formerly Incarcerated Employment Study.
- Staff are participating in a working group to advise the Harvard Injury Control Research Center and the Centers for Disease Control on the best way to report homicide data for practical use at the local level.

- Staff continue to collaborate with FSGU staff on the research, development and testing of alternative funding formulas for the allocation of federal monies to Illinois' multijurisdictional drug enforcement units.
- Staff assisted professors in Northern Illinois University's Department of Psychology who are reviewing various DeKalb County criminal and juvenile justice data.
- Staff assisted Illinois State Police officials in the creation of grant and data reports for tracking the use of video equipment they will provide around the state.
- Staff are assisting the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics in evaluating and redesigning their "Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics."

II. CURRENT PROJECTS

A. Assessing Illinois' Multi-Jurisdictional Enforcement Groups and Task Forces

This is a short term periodic publication that summarizes drug enforcement activities across Illinois' twenty-one multi-jurisdictional drug task forces. The profile is intended to provide an overview of the drug and violent crime problem in the jurisdictions covered by the units and the response to these problems by the them. The 2004 research report was published in February 2004.

B. DUI Trends and Issues

This is a short term research project intended to describe significant statistical trends and issues related to driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Data has been collected from a number of national, state and local sources, and analysis has been completed. The *Research Bulletin* is undergoing final editorial review.

C. Factors that Put Youth at Risk for Delinquency

This is a short term research project intended to describe Illinois data on "risk factors" associated with juvenile delinquency. Data has been collated at the county and state levels on a number of recognized risk factors. Analysis will be initiated shortly. A Research Bulletin is planned for publication in 2004.

D. Illinois Substance Abuse Monitoring Network

R&A staff, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services' Office on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse established an Illinois Substance Abuse Monitoring Network. This group functions as a special workgroup to facilitate the exchange and analysis of information regarding the nature and extent of drug use, drug abuse, and drug markets in Illinois. The group has met twice and the next meeting is being planned.

E. Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Audit

The unit's Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Audit Center is an ADAA-funded in-house effort to continuously examine the accuracy, completeness and timeliness of this information, and to recommend strategies for its improvement.

2004 CHRI Audit. Staff continue to work with a download of Computerized Criminal History (CCH) data to determine audit methods appropriate for analysis of electronically generated data. The next audit project will examine data from a sample of Illinois' 102 sheriff's departments.

McLean County Study. In response to a request from the Authority's Information Systems Committee relative to the Authority's criminal justice information system integration efforts, staff are completing a study of criminal history reporting in McLean County prior to and after county-wide system integration implementation. A final report will be completed shortly.

CHRI Improvement Plan. Staff continue to work with the CHRI Improvement Workgroup to develop and submit an updated CHRI Improvement Plan. The plan is necessary to meet funding requirements from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs relative to national criminal history record improvement grant funding. The workgroup includes representatives from Illinois' local and state criminal justice agencies. Information flow documentation has been collected and staff are beginning to develop an improvement plan.

Juvenile Criminal History Reporting Study. Staff is analyzing the extent of reporting of juvenile arrest, charge, and disposition information mandated under 1998 reforms to the Illinois Juvenile Court Act.

F. Chicago Homicide Dataset Update Project

The R&A Unit maintains a comprehensive database containing information on every homicide that occurred in the City of Chicago between 1965 and 1996. This information is culled from Chicago Police Department files following a long-standing collaborative process developed with the department's Detective Division. Staff recently completed an effort to update the dataset with information for the years 1997 through 2000, and will soon begin collecting 2001 data. We expect to generate a variety of research products from this dataset and to develop an archive version for use by other researchers through the University of Michigan's National Criminal Justice Data Archive. Staff also continues to collaborate on various third-party projects involving use of the Chicago Homicide Dataset.

G. Statewide Crime Victimization Survey

Growing out of recommendations in the *State Criminal Justice Plan*, staff initiated a state crime victimization survey modeled on the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice

Statistics' Crime Victimization Survey, and similar efforts in other states. Through a "request for proposals" process, staff selected a vendor to undertake the survey, incorporate defined sampling and methodological strategies, and provide the Authority with a data file. Data collection ended on April 30th. We have received the data file and codebook from the vendor. A project report will be completed this Winter.

H. Program Evaluation and Research Projects

The R&A Unit pursues an aggressive program evaluation and research agenda through an in-house ADAA-funded grant program. Current/ongoing evaluation and research efforts supported by the Authority include the following:

1. Evaluation of the Jackson County School-Based Probation Program

Staff from the Center for the Study of Crime, Delinquency and Corrections at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale began the evaluation of this probation project in April. A preliminary meeting with project staff, the Authority and the evaluation team has taken place and the evaluators are working toward the design of instruments, data collection efforts and interviews with staff. A final report is due September 30, 2004.

2. Evaluation of Moral Reconciliation Therapy in the Franklin/Jefferson County Evening Reporting Center Program

Staff from the Public Administration and Policy Analysis Department at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville began the evaluation of this probation project in April. After a preliminary meeting with project staff and the Authority, the evaluation team has begun to create and review project databases. The evaluators are also working toward a documentary review of the project, refinement of outcome measures and the identification of a comparison group. A final report is due September 30, 2004.

3. Lake County Domestic Violence Probation Program Evaluation

This is an impact evaluation of a specialized probation program in Lake County focused on domestic violence offenders, and is being carried out by Justice Research Associates (JRA). The project is a follow-up to an implementation evaluation recently completed by JRA and is focusing on the outcome differences between the program participants and a comparison group. A final report is due shortly.

4. Study of Disproportionate Incarceration of Minorities for Drug Crimes

This project is a collaboration between the Authority and Loyola University Chicago, The John Howard Association and TASC, Inc. The study is examining the impact of sentencing laws and practices on the minority community, particularly in response to convictions for drug related crimes. Research bulletins planned include reports on national trends, drug law changes, the nature of addiction and treatment, the Illinois perspective on minority

incarceration and policy recommendations. The first report in the series, dealing with the national perspective on the issue, has been published.

5. Reintegration of Gang Offenders in the Community Study

In collaboration with DePaul University's Department of Sociology, the Illinois Department of Corrections, and the Attorney General's Gang Crime Prevention Center, a small-scale, pilot study of the reintegration process is being conducted. The study is largely qualitative, examining how gang & non-gang offenders go about reintegrating into their communities of origin. A final report on the study is due August 30, 2004.

6. Community Mobilization: Best Practices and Lessons Learned

This project involves the development of a series of four research briefs on different aspects of the Attorney General's Gang Crime Prevention Center Community Mobilization Program. The first of four research briefs is available on the topic of resident decision making versus representativeness in the community. The remaining report topics include the evolution of program implementation, resident involvement/coalition building and integration into the surrounding community. These reports are currently undergoing staff review.

7. CAPS at Ten

This project is being conducted by Northwestern University and is the last phase of a comprehensive multi-year assessment of the Chicago Police Department's community policing program. The Authority has been supporting this evaluation for several years and this final analysis will focus on the main themes that have characterized Chicago's program. A final report on this phase of the study has been reviewed. The full report will be available in April 2004.

8. Returning Home-Illinois Research Project

This project is being carried out by The Urban Institute. It involves the development of several products including a portrait of prisoner reentry in Illinois, a briefing on pre-release expectations on returning Illinois prisoners, and an advisory report addressing how funds made available to the Illinois Department of Corrections through the Authority should be prioritized to reduce recidivism rates. The evaluation team, with the assistance of Authority staff, completed the portrait of prisoner reentry in Illinois and presented it in April. Urban Institute staff have completed 400 pre-release surveys, over 400 interviews with inmates and 69 family interviews. The final report on this project has been received and will be published soon.

9. Illinois Going Home Program Evaluation

An implementation and preliminary impact evaluation of the Illinois Going Home Program is currently being conducted by the University of Chicago. The program is a major offender

reentry effort funded through a partnership of contributing federal agencies and in concert with a number of Chicago-area government, community and faith-based organizations. The evaluation will determine if the program was implemented as designed, how it worked in the field and the effectiveness of the program. Evaluators are currently creating a database on returning ex-offenders, and are developing an impact study to measure the programs effectiveness in the areas of offender employability and recidivism.

10. Circuit Court of Cook County, Department of Social Service, Domestic Violence Intervention Program

This project is being conducted by University of Illinois at Chicago under the direction of Larry Bennet and the West Side Domestic Abuse Project (WSDAP) in collaboration with the Social Service Department of the Circuit Court of Cook County. In 1999, UIC and WSDAP developed an assessment tool for batterers aimed to increase the safety of victims and improve the ability of staff to identify men who are at high risk and intervene to reduce their risk by assertive case management. This project will use existing Cook County PROMIS data and supplemental data collected from case records on men participating in the Domestic Violence Intervention Program. Researchers will be able to collect longitudinal data on predictors of attrition and outcomes for men who batter that can be used by policy makers and staff to improve intervention services. Researchers will also be able to contribute important information to the larger criminal justice and violence against women communities about the effectiveness of justice-based intervention with batterers. Researchers are now examining data on nearly 11,000 male domestic violence clients. A final report on this project is due on October 31, 2004.

11. An Evaluation of the Chicago Police Department's CLEAR Initiative – Phase II

The continued evaluation of CLEAR, the Citizen and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting project, is scheduled to continue with a grant to the University of Illinois at Chicago. CLEAR is a major initiative of the Chicago Police Department to integrate information systems and processes within the department. The continued evaluation will focus on the efforts aimed at the introduction of high-priority applications, and the resources and processes needed to develop and implement the major components of CLEAR. A full report will be available in December 2004.

12. An Evaluation of Bloom Township's Neighborhood Restorative Justice Mediation Program

The Neighborhood Restorative Justice Mediation Program (NRJMP) is a volunteer-based, victim-offender mediation program. The purpose of the NRJMP is to utilize the Balanced and Restorative Justice approach in response to juvenile crime and provide an alternative to formal prosecution for first time juvenile offenders. The NRJMP brings victims and offenders together in a neutral setting with the goal being to develop a plan for repairing harm done to the victim that both the offender and victim can agree upon. Operating since

2000 in the 6th Municipal Court District of Cook County, the NRJMP expanded into the 5th Municipal Court District in the Spring of 2001, the 2nd and 3rd Municipal Districts in the Fall-Winter of 2001, and the 4th Municipal District in early 2003. The manner in which this program has evolved provides an opportunity for researchers to conduct meaningful process evaluations of the program in the 6th, 5th, 2nd, and 3rd districts and an impact evaluation of the NRJMP as it functions in the 6th district. A request for proposals has been under development with the expectation that the evaluation could begin in 2004.

13. Analysis of Datasets Maintained/Available Through the Authority

A Request for Proposals (RFP) is currently being developed to seek proposals for the analysis of datasets currently available through the Authority. These small-scale projects will seek to answer a variety of research questions on offender reentry data, corrections data, victimization data, and domestic violence and victim services data. The RFP is scheduled to be released in 2004.

14. Safe Haven Domestic Violence Program Evaluation Project

Staff are currently evaluating the Chicago Safe Havens demonstration site, a project funded under the Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program. The Safe Havens Program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2000 to provide an opportunity for communities to support supervised visitation and safe exchange of children, by and between parents, in situations involving domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, or stalking. The project enables custodial parents to drop off their children for court ordered visits and exchanges, without having to face the non-custodial parent. The visit with the non-custodial parent takes place at a visitation center, with social service staff observing and monitoring the visit. The purpose of the supervised visitation program is to enable custodial parents to comply with court ordered visitation, without having to fear that they or their children will be re-victimized. ICJIA research staff will serve as local evaluators for the demonstration initiative.

15. Criminal Justice Agencies Needs Assessment Survey Project

A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be released in early 2004 seeking proposals to conduct a criminal justice needs assessment in Illinois. The primary purpose of this study is to supply information that will demonstrate the needs of criminal justice organizations, and identify areas that need improvement. The information will also be used to guide decision-making regarding where to best allocate resources. A secondary purpose of this study is to provide information that outlines if, and how, the needs of criminal justice organizations have changed over time by comparing the data collected as part of this study to the results of a needs assessment survey conducted in 1996. Major components of the criminal justice system will be surveyed on topics such as workload demands, training needs, staff retention, information systems and programming.

16. Chicago Public School Peer Jury Program Evaluation Project

An evaluation will be initiated this spring that focuses on the Chicago Public School's Peer Jury Program and its operation and development during the 2003/2004 school year. The study will focus on three schools that implemented the program, but will also involve the collection of some general descriptive data pertaining to the program as a whole. The evaluation will assist program practitioners and technical support staff in improving the program, and assist Chicago Public School's administrative staff in making future decisions regarding the program. In addition, the study will contribute to bodies of research examining restorative justice and programming for minors.

17. Evaluation of IDOC's Sheridan Correctional Center Therapeutic Community Program

Research and Analysis staff are participating in the development and evaluation of the recently opened Sheridan Correctional Center. Open since January, Sheridan operates as a fully dedicated therapeutic community for inmates in need of substance abuse treatment. Sheridan will provide all participants access to a wide array of services, including substance abuse treatment, education and vocational programming. The program will also prepare inmates for release into the community and provide access to services and support following their release. In addition to Authority staff, a number of organizations assisted in the development of Sheridan, including treatment agencies, governmental agencies, community organizations, national experts and inmates. The prison will operate at a capacity of 1,300 inmates and include males that are projected to serve between 6 and 30 months, be eligible for placement in a medium security facility and be in need of substance abuse treatment. Sheridan is the largest treatment prison in the county. The evaluation of Sheridan will be a collaborative effort between the Authority and the Illinois Department of Corrections, and will be guided by an Evaluation Advisory Committee. The process and impact evaluation will involve extensive quantitative data collection and qualitative information from focus groups and interviews with staff and participants. The evaluation will seek to measure changes in participant attitudes, beliefs and psychological functioning, in addition to participants' preparedness for release. The study will also examine the extent and nature of institutional violations and measures of recidivism after release. Employment and access to services will also be studied.

I. Externally-Funded Research and Evaluation Projects

R&A staff have been successful in the pursuit of external discretionary grants to support research and evaluation efforts. Several current projects are or were supported by such grants:

1. NIJ Chicago Women's Health Risk Study (CWHRS) Follow-Up

The Chicago Women's Health Risk Project is a continuing collaboration of Chicago medical, public health, and criminal justice agencies, and domestic violence experts to identify factors that indicate a significant danger of life-threatening injury or death in

situations of intimate partner violence. Collaborating agencies include the Chicago Department of Public Health, Erie Family Health Center, Cook County Hospital, Chicago Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence, Cook County Medical Examiner's Office, Chicago Police Department and the Authority. Project research included detailed interviews with abused women sampled as they entered a hospital, clinic, or health center for treatment, as well as interviews with people who knew victims of intimate partner homicide. By comparing data on abused women with similar data on people who have been killed by an intimate partner, the project helps agencies develop collaborative ways to identify and respond to potentially life-threatening intimate violence situations. A follow-up study looked at the effects of community capacity to determine whether the violence stopped or declined in the abused women's neighborhoods. The research provides vital information to beat officers, clinical staff, and other decision-makers in the field. The Chicago Women's Health Risk Project was supported with grants from the National Institute of Justice, the Authority, and other agencies. A number of reports, journal articles and other publications have been developed from the research. Staff continues to be solicited for presentations and briefings on the research and project tools, and data continue to be requested for use by other researchers. Most recently, Carolyn Rebecca Block was asked to present relevant findings as part of in-service training efforts in the Chicago Police Department. Current collaborations on reports from CWHRS include:

- *Risk Factors for Latina Women*. Eva Hernandez and Sara Naureckas.
- *PTSD, Abused Women and Pregnancy and Miscarriage*. Gregory Laskin, National Center for PTSD Research.
- *Social Support Network and Abuse*. UIC Ph.D. Dissertation, Perla Ilagan.
- *Abused Women and the Criminal Justice System*. Kim Davies and Jacquelyn Campbell.
- *Domestic Violence Help Seeking: Implications for Intervention*. Michelle Fugate, Leslie Landis, Kim Riodan, Sara Naureckas and Barbara Engel.
- *Female Perpetrated Femicide*. Nancy Glass, Jane Koziol McLain and Jacquelyn Campbell.
- *Same Sex Intimate Partner Homicide*.
- *Help Seeking by Abused Women*.

Staff also continues to operate The CWHRS Forum, a listserv focused on research and policy issues related to the risk of intimate partner homicide. It allows members to easily share information and technical assistance.

2. IJJC Study of Disproportionate Minority Representation in the Cook County Juvenile Justice System

This project is funded by the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission (IJJC) utilizing U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) funds. It is a study of disproportionate minority representation among juveniles in the Cook County Juvenile Justice System. Staff has completed the collection and analysis of aggregate data from various juvenile justice system contact points, and has presented a draft of those findings at a meeting of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission. Staff collected case-level data on a sample of juveniles to measure the possible influence of specific factors on

decisions made as the juveniles are processed through the system. A final report was approved by the Commission and added to the Authority's website. A *Research Bulletin* drawing from these findings is also planned.

3. JRSA Profile of Girls Committed to the IDOC Youth Centers

This project is funded through a grant from JRSA, Authority staff in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) is conducting an in-depth examination of the backgrounds, needs, and services received by female delinquents that have been committed to IDOC. Ultimately, this project seeks to develop research, programming and policy recommendations to aid the state in the implementation of gender-specific programming for female delinquents. The project entails examining already existing information collected by IDOC on each female inmate. These data are being used to develop an in-depth profile of girls residing in IDOC. In addition, more detailed and exploratory data will be collected through focus groups of IDOC staff members regarding the barriers and successes to working with girls, girls' unique needs, and the types of services that may help girls return successfully to their communities. Additionally, a detailed inventory of the programs currently offered through IDOC and the characteristics of the girls receiving these programs, in combination with the needs assessment, will assist in identifying service gaps. The final report of the project has been completed and published.

4. JRSA Detention Screening and Detainment Practices in Illinois Study

This project is funded through a grant from the Justice Research and Statistics Association. The grant funds a study of the validity, reliability and equity of scoreable screening instruments being used in Illinois in connection with juvenile detention decisions. The project involves a collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, local probation departments, and others.

III. GRANT PROPOSALS

R&A staff routinely pursue discretionary grants to support data collection, research, and evaluation activities. Frequently these projects involve collaborations with universities and/or other criminal justice agencies.

1. *Awarded* – Staff partnered with the University of Illinois at Chicago's Jane Addams College of Social Work in a grant proposal to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Substance Abuse Policy Research Program for a study of co-morbidity rates (co-occurring substance abuse and mental issues) in criminal offenders. The proposal was awarded in the Fall and UIC is in the process of contracting with the Authority for its portion of the project.
2. *Under development* - Staff will partner with INFONET staff and the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault on a proposal for the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics to document the profile of Illinois sexual

assault victims and their offenders, and to assess the outcome of sexual assault cases in Illinois. We hope to submit the proposal in December 2003.

3. *Under development* – Staff is consulting with JRSA on the submission of study proposals to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) that may involve several other states in an examination of the impact of methamphetamine abuse on local criminal justice systems.

IV. ONGOING STAFF DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING

- Staff continues to conduct and/or take part in a variety of staff development and training programs and projects. These include: (a) observations/site visits to several key criminal justice agencies; (b) peer review process for project development and pre-publication; (c) partnerships with the academic community; (d) development of specific training classes including ArcView mapping, multivariate statistical analysis, basic SPSS use, data availability in criminal justice, among other topics; and (e) human subject research issues/concerns and practices.
- Several R&A staff persons are actively pursuing advanced academic degrees in graduate programs and post-graduate programs. Some staff also serve as adjunct faculty in criminal justice and other social science programs.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information on any of these activities.

GFR:r

Cc: Lori G. Levin
Robert P. Boehmer
R&A Supervisory Staff

TABLE 1. Information Request Handling Statistics

ITEM	FIRST QUARTER 7/1-9/30/2003	SECOND QUARTER 10/1-12/31/2003	THIRD QUARTER 1/1-3/31/2004	FOURTH QUARTER 4/1-6/30/2004	FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
Information requests handled:	320	308			628
Monthly average number of requests:	107	103			105
Pct of requests completed within two days:	85%	90%			87.5%
Geographic Origin of requesters:					
Chicago metropolitan area	26%	23%			24.5%
Other region of Illinois	48%	39%			43.5%
U.S. other than Illinois	18%	22%			20.0%
Outside the U.S.	2%	2%			2%
Unknown	8%	14%			11%
Type of requester:					
Government agency	43%	31%			37%
Private citizen	24%	32%			28%
Private agency	18%	16%			17%
Researcher	7%	11%			9%
Student	5%	7%			6%
Media	2%	3%			2.5%
Legislators	<1%	0%			0%
Inmates	1%	1%			1%
Unknown	-	-			-
Method of request:					
Telephone/fax	45%	36%			40.5%
Mail	3%	5%			4%
Email/Internet	26%	34%			30%
In-person	1%	6%			3.5%
ICJIA Web site	24%	17%			20.5%
Publications disseminated:					
Mailed in response to requests	44,287	11,332			55,619
Downloaded from Web Site	35,718	49,422			85,140
Total	80,005	60,754			140,759

TABLE 2. Web Site Traffic Report

	FIRST QUARTER 7/1-9/30/03	SECOND QUARTER 10/1-12/31/2003	THIRD QUARTER 1/1-3/31/2004	FOURTH QUARTER 4/1-6/30/2004	FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
Hits for Home Page	1,111,871	1,230,829			2,342,700
Number of User Sessions	92,412	107,135			199,547
Average Hits Per Day	12,087	13,377			12,732
Average User Sessions Per Day	1,005	1,165			1,085
Average Use Session Length (minutes)	14	15			14.5
Unique Visitors	46,598	61,157			107,755
Visitors Who Visited Once	39,138	51,597			90,735
Visitors Who Visited More Than Once	7,460	9,560			17,020
Persons Registered for CJ Dispatch (Email notification of updates)	1,343	1,410			1,410

TABLE 3. FSGU Support Requested: Statistics

Activities Requested by Federal and State Grants Unit	PROGRAM	FIRST QUARTER 7/1-9/30/03			SECOND QUARTER 10/1-12/31/2003			THIRD QUARTER 1/1-3/31/2004			FOURTH QUARTER 4/1-6/30/2004			FISCAL YEAR TO DATE		
		REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING	REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING	REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING	REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING	REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING
PROGRAM NARRATIVE REVIEW	ADAA	19	19	0	13	13	0							32	32	0
	JAIBG	-	-	-	-	-	-							0	0	0
	VOCA/VAWA	-	-	-	2	2	0							2	2	0
	MVTPC	-	-	-	-	-	-							0	0	0
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-							0	0	0
	Total	19	19	0	15	15	0							34	34	0
DATA REPORT DEVELOPMENT	ADAA	5	5	0	10	7	3							15	12	3
	JAIBG	-	-	-	-	-	-							0	0	0
	VOCA/VAWA	-	-	-	3	3	0							3	3	0
	MVTPC	-	-	-	-	-	-							0	0	0
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-							0	0	0
	Total	5	5	0	13	10	3							18	15	3
DATA REPORT ENTRY (Number of projects for which monthly/quarterly data reports were computerized)	ADAA	78	78	0	78	78	0							156	156	0
	JAIBG	14	14	0	-	-	-							14	14	0
	VOCA/VAWA	Not applicable			Not applicable									0	0	0
	MVTPC	7	7	0	7	7	0							14	14	0
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-							0	0	0
	Total	99	99	0	85	85	0							184	184	0
PROJECT STATUS REPORT (Number of assessments completed)	ADAA	-	-	-	4	4	0							4	4	0
	JAIBG	-	-	-	-	-	-							0	0	0
	VOCA/VAWA	-	-	-	1	1	0							1	1	0
	MVTPC	-	-	-	-	-	-							0	0	0
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-							0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	5	5	0							5	5	0
PROGRAM PROFILE (Number of profiles)	ADAA	-	-	-	-	-	-							0	0	0
	JAIBG	-	-	-	-	-	-							0	0	0
	VOCA/VAWA	9	9	0	1	1	0							10	10	0
	MVTPC	-	-	-	-	-	-							0	0	0
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-							0	0	0
	Total	9	9	0	1	1	0							10	10	0