



**ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

120 South Riverside Plaza • Suite 1016 • Chicago, Illinois 60606 • (312) 793-8550

MEMORANDUM

TO: Candice M. Kane
Executive Director

FROM:  Gerard F. Ramker, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Research and Analysis Unit

DATE: September 4, 2001

RE: Executive Director's Briefing #12 – September 7, 2001 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 ten (10) reports since the last Authority meeting:
1. *Research Report* – 2000 Annual Report: Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council (June 2001).
 2. *Research Report* – An Evaluation of the Illinois Department of Corrections' Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Program (June 2001).
 3. *Research Report* – Criminal Justice Plan for the State of Illinois (June 2001).
 4. *Research Report* – Report of Governor Ryan's Summit on Gangs, Guns and Drugs (June 2001).
 5. *Trends and Issues Update* – Measuring a Felon's Likelihood of Receiving a Prison Sentence in Illinois (July 2001).
 6. *Trends and Issues Update* – Examining Restorative Justice (June 2001).
 7. *On Good Authority* – Cook County Day Reporting Center Serves as an Alternative to Incarceration (July 2001).
 8. *On Good Authority* – Authority Adopts State Criminal Justice Plan (July 2001).
 9. *On Good Authority* – Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Program Provides Residential, Aftercare Services (June 2001).

10. *On Good Authority* – Community Mobilization Fuels Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (June 2001).

Web Site Development

- Staff also contributed 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. Research assistants are computerizing & cleaning a variety of county-level judicial and probation statistics.
 - We continue to gather user satisfaction information and other feedback "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 now have 673 registered users of the Authority's email program that automatically alerts Web site visitors to new information added to the site.
- Staff also continue to contribute to the ongoing development of the Authority's secure intranet site (www2.icjia.state.il.us).
- Staff also developed and launched an Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council website (www.icjia.state.il.us/my) to further assist and educate individuals about motor vehicle theft prevention. This site enables law enforcement, government, and the community to learn about the activities of the Council and its funded programs. Links to the auto theft prevention programs currently funded through the Council, as well as prevention programs in other states, are also available. The website includes easy access to publications, safety prevention tips, and local and national sources of auto theft information.

Planning and Research Committee

Staff is planning the next meeting of the Authority's Planning and Research Committee. The meeting is expected to review and discuss the Research & Analysis Unit's workplan, including all current and planned internal and external projects.

State Criminal Justice Plan

The Authority adopted the *State Criminal Justice Plan* at its June 1, 2001 meeting. R&A staff are developing detailed workplans which draw on the State Criminal Justice Plan and the Authority's Action Plan. The workplan will also be incorporated into the Authority's strategic plan for submission to the Governor's Office on Performance Review.

Technical Assistance

- Staff continue to provide technical assistance to the Governor's Capital Punishment Commission in: (1) the design and conduct of a special analysis of capital cases in Illinois. Staff helped the commission's researchers link Chicago Homicide Dataset data to information maintained by the Illinois Department of Corrections; and (2) the design of a proposal to study the cost of capital litigation in Illinois. Staff participated in conference calls/interviews of about twelve commissioners and others to help consultants identify key issues and sampling plan considerations for their final proposal; reviewed and commented on drafts of the study proposal; and, processed contract payments to the Commission's consultant.
- Staff is facilitating and assisting in several third-party research projects involving studies of individuals' criminal history records including those conducted by:
 - Loyola University's Department of Criminal Justice;
 - University of Chicago's Chapin Hall;
 - University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy Studies; and
 - Northwestern University's Medical School.

FSGU Support

Upon request, R&A staff review and comment on proposed program narratives submitted by potential grantees to the Federal and State Grants Unit (FSGU). The focus of R&A comments are in the areas of proposed objectives, goals, and performance measures. FSGU staff may also request that R&A assist in the development of a data report for the proposed program. R&A staff have also assumed responsibility for the computerization of program performance data and, upon FSGU request, produce program status reports and/or profiles assessing performance over a given period of time.

Juvenile Justice Council Workshops

Six workshops designed to assist in the formation and support of juvenile justice councils are scheduled throughout Illinois in September. The goal of the workshops is to provide information to attendees who are struggling with meeting the responsibilities of juvenile justice councils. The four objectives for the workshops involve providing information that can assist in the development of a juvenile justice council; introducing and summarizing the Authority publication "Enhancing Local Juvenile Justice Systems in Illinois: A Guidebook and Evaluation Manual"; providing attendees with the opportunity

to learn from those who are more experienced with the functioning of juvenile justice councils; and, facilitating the support of a network of juvenile justice councils. Currently, the workshops have over 350 registrants.

Web-Based Inventory of Community Based Programs

As part of the Authority's project evaluating of the Juvenile Reform Act, staff developed a web based inventory of community based programs that serve youth. Collection of information on these programs began in December of 1999. This on-line, searchable inventory is a work in progress which is continually updated and revised as new program information comes to our attention. The inventory is intended to be a public resource -- a listing of programs that are available in a community, with appropriate descriptive and contact information. Currently, the inventory includes over 300 community-based programs that serve youth from all over Illinois.

Briefings/Presentations

- Staff made presentations and/or attended:
 - Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention and Grant Review Committee meetings;
 - Meeting of the Data Collection Committee of a local family violence coordinating council;
 - Information Systems Committee and integration workgroup meetings;
 - Cook County Girls Link program development committee and steering committee;
 - Illinois Juvenile Justice Forum and Illinois Restorative Justice Resource Center meetings;
 - Cook County's GIRLS LINK evaluation advisory committee meetings;
 - Illinois Statewide Youth Development Conference;
 - Juvenile Justice Initiative 2001 Spring Wrap-Up Meeting;
 - Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, DMC Subcommittee;
 - Horizons' Community Services group;
 - National Institute of Justice's Research and Evaluation Conference;
 - Haymarket Group Summer Institute; and

- Federal Bureau of Investigation's Homicide Research Working Group.

Other Projects/Activities

- **CHRI Audit** - CHRI Audit – Data collection as been completed and staff are working to complete the final phase of data cleaning. Preliminary methods of testing accuracy and completeness of data are being developed. Timeliness testing of mailed submissions has been completed and components are being gathered for the qualitative sections of the final report. Staff continue to participate in technology related training opportunities hosted by the Illinois State Police. The program narrative and budget for the FFY2000 CHRI audit grant are being developed for submission to the Federal State Grants Unit. The planned start date for the 2002 CHRI Audit is February 2002.
- **Chicago Women's Health Risk Study** – A group of CWHRS collaborators is nearing completion of a report on help-seeking and intervention results in the data. Another group is writing a report on risk factors for life-threatening injury or death for Latina/Hispanic abused women, which should be completed later this year. Reports and publications from the project are still in demand, including the full NIJ report, the Project at a Glance, the paper on proxy methods, two papers on collaboration, and the presentation given to NIJ last July. We also have been handling requests for the instruments and scales developed for the study, including the Social Support Network scale, and the English and Spanish versions of the questionnaires. CWHRS archived data are being used for studies on PTSD and domestic violence, and on the relation between domestic violence and social support. The “CWHRS Forum” listserv has 95 members and three separate interest groups: child survivors and witnesses, strangulation and choking, and social support network (SSN). The SSN interest group includes researchers who are using the SSN scale developed for the CWHRS. Products:
 - Two forthcoming CWHRS publications: an article in the October 2001 issue of the NIJ Journal, and a chapter in the “Violence Against Women Proceedings.”
 - Five presentations on the CWHRS: Homicide Research Working Group, Haymarket Institute (2 presentations), Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition, NIJ Research & Evaluation Conference.
 - Briefing of Lisa Tonnes (Horizons) on CWHRS findings regarding violence by same-sex intimate partners.

We have also received a no-cost extension of the NIJ grant to allow for the further development and refinement of the CWHRS calendar history data.

- **Evaluation of the Cook County State's Attorney's Victim-Witness Program** – Based on their extensive review comments, staff is revising the draft report and preparing a response to the Cook County State's Attorney's Office (CCSAO).
- **Gun Crime Study** - this is the BJS-funded project being carried out in partnership with the Illinois State Police, which we hope will establish a warehouse of criminal

history record information for research purposes. Extracts of 1998 criminal history data have been received and are under analysis. We have also requested similar extracts for the years 1996, 1997, 1999 and 2000. A final report on the BJS grant project, which ended June 30, 2001, is nearing completion.

- **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 were developed. Criminal history profiles of task force arrestees are currently being developed. The CHRI data extracted for the Gun Crime Study are being used to develop profiles of local department arrestees.
- **Evaluation of the Impact of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act** - this project is funded by the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission and is a complex, multi-phase study evaluating the implementation, process, and impact of recent changes to the Juvenile Court Act in Illinois. The project involves the study of processes by which individuals and agencies impacted by the Act's legislative changes understand the major statutory provisions and the extent to which local implementation efforts are consistent across the state. The project also involves the collection of statewide juvenile arrest data from local law enforcement agencies. A final report draft has been submitted and staff continues to make in-house revisions.
- **Study of Disproportionate Minority Representation in the Cook County Juvenile Justice System** - Pursuant to a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services, staff initiated a study of disproportionate minority representation among juveniles in the Cook County Juvenile Justice System. Staff has completed collection and analysis of aggregate data from various juvenile justice system contact points, and is preparing a draft of those findings for presentation at an October 12th meeting of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission. Staff is also tracking a cohort of juveniles across various agencies that comprise the system for a phase II report due by the end of the year.
- **Needs Assessment Guidebook and Evaluation Manual for Juvenile Justice County Councils project** - Through a grant awarded by the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) in connection with the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, R & A staff have developed a needs assessment guidebook and evaluation manual for use by local juvenile justice county councils. The needs assessment guidebook is intended to assist county councils in developing an inventory of data indicators, including juvenile risk factor data, to determine areas of need and provide information and guidance on how to assess and evaluate the needs and resources of local juvenile justice systems. The evaluation manual describes the types of accountability-based and competency skill building programs that are consistent with a balanced and restorative justice philosophy as is encouraged by the new juvenile court act (PA90-590) and provides direction on how to evaluate and measure the effectiveness of local juvenile justice programs. Staff provided the draft to three partnering counties and the Illinois

Juvenile Justice Commission for feedback. The final report, "Enhancing Local Juvenile Justice Systems in Illinois: A Guidebook and Evaluation Manual" has been made available statewide.

- **2000 Probation Outcome Study** - 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 and computerization has been completed. Some data cleaning is still being conducted. Some limited analyses of the data have begun to be carried out. The study is examining performance while on probation including criminal justice contacts, treatment participation, and other interesting information. Draft initial reports have been developed for review. Staff have begun to consult with the academic community to develop interest in third-part research using the data.
- **Henry/Mercer Counties Drug Task Force Evaluation** - This project, which is part of R & A staff's ongoing efforts to assess the impact of multi-jurisdictional drug task forces and Metropolitan Enforcement Group (MEG) Units (funded by the Authority), is nearing completion. With respect to the limited life span of the Henry/Mercer Task Force (1991-1996) we are evaluating its effects on drug crime and arrest activity both during its existence, as well as how its termination affected these measures within the geographic region that it covered. We are attempting to study the impact of the unit on the types of drug arrests made, the numbers of persons arrested who were subsequently convicted and committed to the Department of Corrections, and the number of offenders referred for drug treatment.
- **Statewide Crime Victimization Survey** - In connection with the Drug and Violent Crime Evaluation project and growing out of recommendations in the State Criminal Justice Plan, staff have initiated a project to launch 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. Staff have developed a "request for proposals" soliciting a vendor to undertake the survey, incorporating defined sampling and methodological strategies, and provide the Authority with a data file. The RFP is expected to be distributed in June 2001 and the survey implemented in September 2001.

Grants/Resource and Project Development

On an ongoing basis, Research and Analysis Unit staff seek external grants to support its research and program evaluation agenda. Grant applications under development or recently submitted include:

- a \$1.2 million discretionary grant application developed jointly with the Illinois State Police was awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics. The project will lead to the development of local records management solutions and a

state central repository for National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data;

- Staff submitted a \$20,000 grant application to the Justice Research and Statistics Association in response to a request for proposals to assess disproportionate minority confinement initiatives as part of an overall juvenile justice evaluation project. We recently received notification that this grant has been awarded.
- Staff is developed a \$50,000 grant application for the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics' State Justice Statistics program for the development of a crime analysis and mapping manual for local law enforcement. The publication would be a companion piece to the already-published crime analysis manual.
- Staff is exploring the development of a joint application with the University of Illinois at Chicago's Center for Research in Law and Justice for the creation of a model research-practitioner collaboration to more effectively integrate research and evaluation findings into practice and policy making.
- Staff is putting the finishing touches on a joint grant application with Loyola University's Department of Criminal Justice, the John Howard Association and Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities for a research project examining sentencing practices in Illinois.
- Staff is participating in a funded five-state grant project facilitated by the Justice Research and Statistics Association to study incident-based homicide data. The U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics has given initial approval to Illinois participating in the study along with Hawaii, Massachusetts, Utah and Michigan.
- Staff completed the budget portions of the FY 1999 ADAA-funded CHRI audit in-house grant for review by the Federal and State Grants Unit.
- Staff completed the program narrative, budget and evaluation action plan for the FY 2000 ADAA-funded Evaluation Program in-house grant for review by the Federal and State Grants Unit. The program has been approved.
- Staff received funding from the Federal Geographic Data Committee (National Science Foundation) through the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) to develop a workshop on Spatial Metadata, which will be presented at the JRSA national meeting in New Orleans in October 2001.

Institutional Review Board

- Staff have been working on potential revisions to the IRB application related to the Probation Outcome Study which would (1) propose sharing research data with the Department of Human Services' Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, and (2) sharing limited data with academic research partners. The proposed revisions will be submitted to the IRB for consideration.

- Staff is also preparing status reports on projects that were the subject of previous applications.
- Staff has been participating in human subjects research training dealing with protections, confidentiality issues and other aspects, culminating in the execution of staff privacy certifications for the Juvenile Reform Act evaluation project and Probation Outcome Study project.

Staff Development/Training

- Staff continue to implement 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; and
 - (d) development of specific training classes: effective public speaking, multivariate statistical analysis, basic SPSS use, data availability in criminal justice, among other topics.
- A total of ten (10) R&A staff persons are currently pursuing advanced academic degrees: Four (4) are enrolled in graduate programs and six (6) are in post-graduate programs.

Staff/Personnel Changes

- Departures: Laurie Millner, (summer intern)
Emily Myrent, (summer intern)
- Arrivals: Stacy Bowling, research analyst (Motor Vehicle), August 20, 2001
Susie Okolita, research assistant, August 20, 2001
John Koressel, research assistant, September 4, 2001
Eileen McDermott, research assistant, September 4, 2001
- Transfers: Michelle Repp, intern to research analyst, September 4, 2001

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

Cc: Executive Staff
Becky Block
Mark Myrent
Tracy Hahn
Karen Levy McCanna

GFR:r

Information Request Handling Statistics: Last Quarter vs. Previous Quarter

ITEM	LAST QUARTER 4/1-6/30/2001	PREVIOUS QUARTER 1/1-3/31/2001
Information requests handled:	346	421
Monthly average number of requests:	115	140
Percent of requests completed within two (2) days:	88%	80%
Geographic Origin of requesters:		
Chicago metropolitan area	30%	33%
Other region of Illinois	42%	43%
U.S. other than Illinois	20%	17%
Outside the U.S.	2%	1%
Unknown	6%	6%
Type of requester:		
Government agency	36%	35%
Private citizen	24%	21%
Private agency	23%	20%
Researcher	6%	10%
Student	9%	10%
Media	1%	3%
Legislators	1%	<1%
Inmates	-	2%
Unknown	-	-
Method of request:		
Telephone/fax	51%	50%
Mail	3%	5%
Email/Internet	22%	22%
In-person	3%	<1%
ICJIA Web site	20%	21%
Publications disseminated:		
Mailed in response to written requests	33,973	26,697
Mailed in response to Web site requests	8,493	569
Downloaded from Web Site	8,434	9,698
Total	50,900	36,964
Persons registered for CJ Dispatch (Email notification of updates)	673	641

Web Site Traffic Report: Last Quarter vs. Previous Quarter

	LAST QUARTER 4/1-6/30/01	PREVIOUS QUARTER 1/1-3/31/2001
Hits for Home Page	448,287	307,500
Number of User Sessions	37,111	37,819
Average Hits Per Day	4,925	5,289
Average User Sessions Per Day	407	435
Average Use Session Length (minutes)	23	21
Number of Unique Visitors	14,567	14,973
Number of Visitors Who Visited Once	11,585	12,026
Number of Visitors Who Visited More Than Once	2,982	2,947

FSGU Support Statistics: 1/1/01-8/17/01

	PROGRAM	REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING
PROGRAM NARRATIVE REVIEW	ADAA	51	51	0
	JAIBG	61	61	0
	VOCA	14	14	0
	MVTPC			
	Other			
	Total	126	126	0
DATA REPORT DEVELOPMENT	ADAA	15	12	3
	JAIBG	14	14	0
	VOCA	2	2	0
	MVTPC	7	7	0
	Other			
	Total	38	35	3
DATA REPORT ENTRY (projects)	ADAA	52	52	0
	JAIBG			
	VOCA			
	MVTPC			
	Other			
	Total	52	52	0
PROJECT STATUS REPORT	ADAA	28	28	0
	JAIBG			
	VOCA			
	MVTPC			
	Other			
	Total	28	28	0
PROGRAM PROFILE	ADAA	21	21	0
	JAIBG			
	VOCA	2	2	0
	MVTPC	14	11	3
	Other			
	Total	37	34	3