

THE Compiler

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Fall 2002



PUBLICATIONS 3

RESEARCH 4

GRANTS 6

TECHNOLOGY 7

Implementing the strategic plan for criminal justice

Priority issues help to guide the use of limited resources

In 1999, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority began to develop a strategic criminal justice plan for Illinois as a means of identifying priorities and maximizing the use of limited resources. The intention was to have a plan that would help guide the work of the 100 staff members of the Authority and set priorities for the allocation of the more than \$60 million in federal grant funds that the Authority administers each year. This was not a plan that was destined to sit on a shelf, and it hasn't.

The Authority brought together a broad array of criminal justice and social service professionals from across the state to develop the plan, and asked them to identify issues confronting the justice system and set goals and objectives. Nearly 150 criminal justice professionals and community service leaders actively participated in a two-day planning assembly in June 2000. The work of that assembly was further refined through the efforts of six advisory committees and Authority staff, and finally consolidated into the *Criminal Justice Plan for the State of Illinois*, which was unanimously adopted by the members of the Authority in June 2001.

(Continued on page 2)



Criminal Justice Plan for the State of Illinois

- Information Systems
- Collaboration
- Services
- Utilization of Resources
- Accountability





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Created in 1983, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is a state agency dedicated to improving the administration of criminal justice. Most of the work of the Authority falls into three major divisions: Research and Analysis; Information Systems and Technology; and Federal and State Grants Administration.

The Authority is governed by a 20-member board comprised of state and local leaders from the criminal justice system and members of the public.

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Since that time, Authority staff and our partner agencies have worked to address the strategic issues raised in the plan and to commit resources necessary for accomplishing the numerous goals and objectives. They have done this through coordinated planning and collaboration with a broad array of agencies; implementation of specific projects and evaluations to measure program effectiveness; and ongoing research and assessment of criminal justice issues and needs in Illinois.

The Authority is uniquely positioned to develop and spearhead implementation of a strategic plan for criminal justice in Illinois. The Authority's central mission is to improve the administration of criminal justice in the state. With a board of 20 leaders representing various criminal justice agencies and public interests, the Authority's structure is collaborative in nature. The membership includes top executives of all major criminal justice agencies in the state, as well as heads of local agencies and members of the public. Projects undertaken by the Authority are almost always conducted in conjunction with other state or local agencies.

The organization of the Authority staff also benefits the strategic planning effort. Indeed, most of the staff is dedicated to carrying out the mission of the Authority through three distinct functions: information systems, federal and state grants, and research and analysis. The expertise of Authority staff in each of these areas contributes significantly to carrying out the strategic plan, whether it is promoting the integration of justice information systems, administering federal grants and monitoring the effectiveness of specific programs, or gathering criminal justice data and conducting research to guide the use of resources.

This issue of *The Compiler* takes a look at the *Criminal Justice Plan* and highlights some of the major initiatives the Authority and our partners have undertaken to achieve the plan's goals and objectives. Some of the initiatives were already under way before the plan was adopted, while others were launched in response to specific needs or gaps in service identified in the plan. The priority issues identified in the plan pointed to critical needs in five overarching areas: information systems, collaboration, services, utilization of resources, and accountability. Implementation of the plan — the goals and objectives — has been structured around those five areas, although different projects and initiatives may relate to more than one of the five overarching needs.

Information systems

Integrated justice information

One of the most critical issues identified in the Criminal Justice Plan is the need for sharing criminal justice information. An integrated justice information system would establish standards allowing state and local agencies to electronically exchange information regarding criminal histories and the criminal justice system status of offenders. This network for sharing information would reduce the amount of time spent redundantly entering data at different stages of the criminal justice process, and ensure that vital information on adult and juvenile offenders is accurate and current.

An integrated information system would be of tremendous help to police departments, prosecutors' offices, courts, and jails — allowing them to work more efficiently and effectively. It would benefit policymakers as they allocate resources by fostering more effective gathering and utilization of

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The Authority's central mission is to improve the administration of criminal justice in the state.

critical information on offenders, incidents, and victims.

For the past several years the Authority has worked with the Illinois State Police and other agencies on the development of the Illinois Integrated Justice Information System (IJIS). In December 2001, the governor signed an executive order creating an IJIS governing board, consisting of representatives from local, county, and state criminal justice agencies, and chaired by the Authority's executive director.

The board spent the past year developing a strategic plan for creating an integrated justice information system in Illinois. The plan will be completed in December and become the guiding document for building such a system.

The next step for the board is to secure the passage of legislation creating a permanent IJIS governing board to ensure continued oversight of the integration implementation process. The new board's initial tasks will be to continue promoting integrated justice information systems throughout the state, completing a needs assessment, identifying data exchange standards, and developing operational requirements for an electronic information exchange network.

System upgrades

Through several new and ongoing projects, the Authority is working with other agencies and organizations to improve the state's communications infrastructure for criminal justice and build an enhanced reporting system, which will capture more information about incidents, crime victims, and offenders.

The Authority currently operates information systems that support law enforcement agencies and allow the exchange of information between agencies, and between agencies and their officers in the field. Upgrades to these systems are enhancing and facilitating the exchange of information

among law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

The Police Information Management System (PIMS) is a records management system that provides shared information to more than 50 participating agencies. In the coming months the system is set to be completely overhauled and updated to expand its capabilities for information sharing and make it compatible with the National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Another system developed and operated by the Authority is the Area-wide Law Enforcement Radio Terminal System (ALERTS), a mobile data system in police squad cars that provides officers with instant access to vital information. Working with the Illinois State Police and the Illinois Department of Central Management Services, the Authority recently completed an upgrade to ALERTS making it compatible with a similar system in use, the Illinois Wireless Information Network (IWIN). The upgrade allows officers on the different systems to exchange information through e-mail.

Enhanced data collection

In the past couple of years the Authority also has developed an information system for victim service providers. InfoNet is a web-based data collection system developed in partnership with the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Among other functions, InfoNet helps these agencies and their members track basic information about clients served and various services that are provided. It is proving to be an extremely valuable tool for case management and the targeting of resources.

As a result of its success, the use of InfoNet has been expanding. The Authority is collaborating with the Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois to identify data collection and reporting requirements for child advocacy centers. Also,

(Continued on page 4)

New publications from the Authority

"Understanding and addressing female delinquency in Illinois"

Recently, practitioners, policymakers and researchers have taken notice of the sizable increase in the number of female delinquents entering the juvenile justice system. However, because girls account for a small percentage of juvenile arrests — 27 percent of all juvenile arrests nationwide in 1999 — and because their offenses are often considered less serious than those committed by boys, female delinquents are often overlooked. This 12-page *Research Bulletin* summarizes information about female delinquents in Illinois, including arrests of female delinquents, the number and characteristics of females on probation and in detention, and information on females in Illinois Youth Centers operated by the Illinois Department of Corrections.

"An analysis of gang members and non-gang members discharged from probation"

This four-page *On Good Authority* analyzes data from the 2000 Illinois Probation Outcome Study to compare gang members and non-gang members sentenced to probation. This report summarizes the differences in gang probationer demographics and socioeconomic conditions, conviction offenses, substance abuse and criminal histories, as well as probation conditions and outcomes.

Based on information reported by probation officers in Illinois, an estimated 6 percent of adults discharged from probation in 2000 were identified as gang members — nearly 5,000 of the more than 88,000 probationers discharged that year.

"Advances in technology help boost the quality of criminal history reporting"

This four-page *Trends and Issues Update* focuses on the recent and emerging technologies that are enhancing electronic criminal history reporting.

(Continued on back page)

Research

JRSA Awards

The Authority was presented with three awards Oct. 3 in Boston at the annual U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics/ Justice Research and Statistics (JRSA) national conference. They included:

■ Phillip Hoke Award for Excellence in Analysis, which recognizes outstanding efforts to apply empirical analysis to criminal justice policy-making in the states, for the report, "An Implementation Evaluation of the Juvenile Justice Reform Provisions of 1998."

■ Technical Excellence Award, which recognizes an Internet website as an outstanding effort in utilizing this electronic media for information dissemination, for the Authority's website.

■ Certificate of Recognition for Technical Innovation, which recognizes outstanding examples of leadership in applying new technologies and analysis methods to the information needs of the justice community, for the Authority's web-based CJ DataNet.

JRSA is a national nonprofit organization of state criminal justice planning and research agency directors, researchers, and practitioners throughout government, academia, and criminal justice organizations. JRSA conducts multistate research on statewide and system-wide problems such as domestic violence data collection and convenience store crime, and practices such as community policing.

Short-term research projects

R&A staff are currently engaged in a number of short-term studies on specific criminal justice issues. The *DUI Trends and Issues* project is intended to describe significant statistical trends and issues related to driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The *Drug Arrest Trends in Illinois* project is intended to describe trends related to drug arrests and substance abuse treatment in the State. A project on *Promising Approaches for Delinquent Girls* is designed to provide a review of effective programs for dealing with female juvenile delinquents. The *Electronic Reporting of Criminal History Information* project is an effort to produce a public education and training piece for law enforcement

(Continued on page 5)

the Illinois Department of Human Services has adopted InfoNet as the data collection and reporting tool for domestic violence programs the department funds.

Additional initiatives related to information systems include Authority participation with Illinois State Police in the federally funded National Incident-Based Reporting System implementation program, which will explore methodologies for collecting incident-level data. Also, the Authority is using Anti-Drug Abuse Act (ADAA) funds in a project with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts to develop a state-wide case-based reporting system for adults and juveniles on probation.

The Authority also is working with the Chicago Police Department to evaluate the department's Citizens and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting (CLEAR) project. CLEAR is a major initiative to integrate information systems and processes within the police department.

Collaboration

While most projects undertaken by the Authority are collaborative efforts, some are specifically designed to bring together various groups or agencies with an interest in criminal justice. Numerous initiatives are designed to foster communication and coordination between criminal justice personnel and victim service providers, and collaboration is encouraged as part of the Authority's federal grant process.

To bridge gaps in services and establish a multidisciplinary response to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, the Authority dedicated funds allocated under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to implement model domestic violence protocols and sexual assault response guidelines. Eleven domestic violence protocol and two sexual assault guideline implementation sites were established to bring criminal justice agencies and victim service providers together, and to restructure the criminal justice system's response to crimes of violence against women.

The Authority requires that organizations receiving funds under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) demonstrate collaborative efforts with public and

private agencies in their communities. All VOCA grantees have networking agreements with other area agencies and organizations that work with or encounter crime victims. These relationships help maximize the use of resources, avoid duplication of services, augment referrals, facilitate victims' experiences with the criminal justice system, and improve community response to crime victims.

Sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) pilot programs have been launched in four counties around the state and are another example of collaborative efforts on behalf of victims of crime. Implementation of these programs was made possible through a combination of VOCA and state funds. Through the programs, specially trained sexual assault nurse or physician examiners provide health assessments and collect forensic evidence from victims in the emergency room at each site. These examiners also testify regarding victims' injuries at criminal prosecutions.

Strong demand for nurse examiner training led to a collaborative effort to standardize the curriculum for the SANE program. Staff from the Authority, Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Human Services, Illinois State Police, and Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, along with representatives of the affected medical associations, formed a committee to develop state standards for a SANE curriculum for hospitals in Illinois interested in the program.

The Authority is regularly involved in collaborative research projects. Recently, these have included a study with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts on probation outcomes; audits of criminal history records information in conjunction with the Illinois State Police and the Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court's Office; and a study of disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system in Cook County involving multiple agencies.

A unique and nationally recognized study of domestic violence led by the Authority involved collaboration with numerous partners. Among those who took part were the Cook County Medical Examiners Office, the Chicago Department of Health, the Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence, the Chicago

Police Department, the Erie Family Health Center, and Cook County Hospital. Known as the Chicago Women's Health Risk Study, the project identified factors that place women who are abused by an intimate partner in danger of life-threatening injury or death.

The Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998 encouraged the creation of county or regional juvenile justice councils as a means of coordinating juvenile justice efforts and maximizing resources. In July 2001, the Authority published and disseminated the *Juvenile Justice Council Guidebook and Evaluation Manual* as a resource for existing councils and jurisdictions interested in creating a council. The guidebook addresses juvenile justice plan development, grant writing, and interagency agreements.

The Authority also is working with the state Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse and other federal, state and local agencies and organizations to establish a Substance Abuse Monitoring Network. This collaborative effort is designed to facilitate the exchange and analysis of information regarding the nature and extent of drug use, drug abuse, and drug markets in Illinois. This research is intended to better inform and shape state drug control policy.

Services

The need for more services for crime victims and adult and juvenile offenders received considerable attention in the *Criminal Justice Plan*. The plan acknowledges that offenders often have multiple service needs, such as mental health problems and substance abuse issues, which must be dealt with if they are to become law-abiding citizens. The plan also addresses the many needs of victims of crime and of children exposed to violence. In addition, the plan recognizes the need for early intervention and the identification of risk factors that may lead children to criminal activity, and the importance of addressing the special needs of juvenile offenders.

Through its various grant programs, the Authority has made a determined effort to support victim and offender services at the state and local levels. Also, through numerous research projects the Authority uses its resources to identify service needs and analyze the effectiveness of existing programs.

Victim services

With the adoption of the *Criminal Justice Plan*, the Authority has emphasized the need to support existing services and bring resources to underserved or neglected geographic areas and population groups, such as rural parts of the state, children, and non-English speaking victims.

For victims of domestic violence who are trying to leave an abusive environment, the Authority has provided VAWA and VOCA funds for 10 transitional housing programs. These programs frequently serve women who have limited education and few job skills, and consequently have no means of supporting themselves financially. Transitional housing therefore is critical to their ability to leave a dangerous situation and begin to establish their independence.

Using federal grant funds, the Authority has been able to enhance the services being brought to children and the elderly. Working with the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and the Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois, the Authority has helped expand services to child witnesses of domestic violence, elderly victims of domestic abuse, and child victims of sexual assault and abuse.

Using ADAA funds, the Authority has provided forensic interview training to child advocacy center service providers who work with abused children. The forensic interview approach is designed to keep interview sessions to an absolute minimum and reduce the potential for trauma to children, which repeated disclosures might cause.

Offender services

In the area of services for offenders, the Authority has directed significant resources toward enhancing services to support the reintegration of offenders into the community. Working with the Illinois Department of Corrections, the Authority has designated funds for several substance abuse programs for offenders in prisons and after their release. The Authority also funds numerous treatment programs for offenders using federal Residential Substance Abuse Treatment funds. (See the Summer 2002 issue of *The Compiler*

(Continued on page 6)

Research continued

agencies dealing with mandated reporting of information to the Illinois State Police's criminal history system. Written reports on these projects will be forthcoming this winter.

Evaluations

R&A continues their evaluation program and research agenda with the issuance of two new requests for proposals. Proposals for an implementation and impact evaluation of the Jackson County School-Based Probation Program have been requested. In this program, minors who are sentenced to juvenile probation in Jackson County are assigned two probation officers: a school-based officer and a traditional line officer.

The second request is for an evaluation of the Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) component in the Franklin/Jefferson County Evening Reporting Center Program. This program focuses on at-risk minors who spend weekday evenings at the center receiving treatment and participating in group activities, including MRT, a cognitive-behavioral treatment approach that constitutes a core component of the evening reporting center program.

The parameters for an evaluation of Illinois' Returning Home Program are under development and a request for proposals will be made in 2003.

A number of evaluation final reports will also be available in early 2003. A multi-year, multi-phase evaluation of the Chicago Police Department community policing program (CAPS) is nearing completion by Northwestern University, with a complete report available in January. Northwestern will continue their assessment of CAPS with a final evaluation scheduled to take place next year.

Northwestern, along with the University of Illinois at Chicago, will also submit a final evaluation report on the Chicago Police Department's Citizen and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting (CLEAR) program. CLEAR is a major initiative to integrate information systems and processes within the department and represents an evolution of community policing efforts by incorporating technological advances, increased accountability measures and community participation. The evaluation report on CLEAR will be available in January.

Grants

Authority sets sights on new program funding

Authority staff recently applied for funding from the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Act program. Administered by the National Institute of Justice, the program is designed to help forensic laboratories improve the quality, timeliness, and credibility of services for criminal justice purposes. The program makes \$5 million available nationally, with \$141,689 available to Illinois. If the application is accepted, the award will be shared by the Illinois State Police Forensic Sciences Command, DuPage County Crime Laboratory, and Northern Illinois Police Crime Laboratory. A response to the application is expected in February 2003.

Federal financial guidelines available online

Grantees can keep up to date on guidelines governing federal grants administered through the Authority with the ICJIA Federal Financial Guide, available online at: www.icjia.state.il.us. Featuring commonly used forms, special requirements, and a user-friendly PowerPoint presentation highlighting critical points, the guide is the Authority's rulebook for the administration of federal grant programs. It includes accounting standards, allowable costs, and procedures for grant administration, and is based on the federal laws and regulations, the Office of Justice Programs' Financial Guidelines, applicable federal Office of Management and Budget circulars, state laws, and Authority policies.

VOCA law enforcement and prosecution proposal request

In September, the Authority issued a request for proposals for victim services projects to be implemented through local law enforcement and prosecution agencies. Nearly \$1.5 million in Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) funds is available for this program over a two-year funding period. Projects implemented through this solicitation will enhance the response of the criminal justice system to crime victims. Authority staff and other criminal justice and victim service professionals are scoring the 20 proposals received by the submission deadline. Funding recommendations will be presented to the Authority Budget Committee in January 2003.

for a more detailed look at ex-offender reentry programs and initiatives in Illinois.)

Through the Probation Outcome Study, the Authority looked at the impact probation programs have had on offenders. This research will support the identification of needs and help guide program development.

Several initiatives have been launched to assist in the legal defense of indigent people facing criminal prosecution. The Authority recently launched a new and innovative program to bring much-needed resources to public defenders in the state's most rural counties. Many of these counties do not have full-time public defenders. Instead, local attorneys are appointed by judges to represent indigent defendants. Not surprisingly, resources for investigative services, expert witnesses, and evidence analysis are meager or nonexistent.

To address these deficiencies, the Authority launched the Rural Defense Project. Through an ADA grant, eligible county public defenders apply to the Office of the State Appellate Defender for investigator, expert witness, and forensic services. The appellate defender enters into subcontracts with vendors to provide these services on a case-by-case basis. Based on the response so far, it is anticipated that there will be significant demand for services under this program, which began July 1.

Funds also have been designated for programs supporting public defenders in more populated counties, and the Authority recently sponsored statewide forensic evidence training for public defenders.

Juvenile offenders

The Authority also has committed funds for some new and innovative probation projects to provide intensive services for juveniles at risk of detention or those returning to their communities from detention. Juveniles returning to homes in Chicago's North Lawndale community, one of the most economically depressed and crime-ridden areas of the state, receive intensive multi-systemic therapy through highly trained clinical social workers. Multi-systemic therapy emphasizes a holistic approach to services. By working with the juvenile, his or her family, school,

and community support structures, it seeks to bring about positive change in the juvenile and his or her environment.

Another recent initiative supported by the Authority is the implementation of juvenile reporting centers in several counties. These centers provide services and emphasize positive social activities for juveniles at risk of detention. Three of these projects will be the subject of an independent evaluation scheduled to begin in early 2003.

Utilization of resources

Making the best use of available resources is an essential part of improving the criminal justice system in Illinois. The Authority is committed to maximizing available resources by supporting programs that have been proven to be effective, and by constantly evaluating and assessing existing programs. Accurate and timely assessment of clients will ensure interventions are appropriate and effective. Adoption of state-of-the-art assessments and implementation of best practices across all criminal justice agencies will ensure that services match needs.

The Authority regularly conducts evaluations of funded programs to determine their efficacy. These evaluations are usually conducted by independent, outside contractors. Reports from these evaluations are published by the Authority and made available to the program participants as well as the general public. Typically, an Authority staff member also will write a summary of the evaluation report, and these summaries are printed and widely distributed, either by regular mail or through the Authority's website. Recent evaluation reports include: "An Impact Evaluation of the Juvenile Probation Projects in Christian, Peoria and Winnebago Counties," and "A Process and Impact Evaluation of the Specialized Domestic Violence Probation Projects in Peoria, Sangamon and Tazewell Counties."

The Authority also strives to provide the latest information on criminal justice practices by acting as a clearinghouse for information from the federal government and other sources. Most of the information from the clearinghouse is available on, or can be obtained through, the Authority's website.

To improve the response to juveniles who come in contact with the justice system, the Authority is working with the Probation Division of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts on implementing an improved system for assessing juveniles and identifying the best treatment options for individuals. The Juvenile Risk Reduction project will evaluate juveniles utilizing a very comprehensive assessment instrument, which will provide probation officers with a risk level for the juvenile and recommended treatment options.

This assessment instrument has been proven effective in other states. A statewide juvenile probation advisory committee selected it as a standardized assessment and case management system for Illinois. The system is in use at 15 pilot sites and will eventually be expanded to probation departments throughout the state.

The Authority also is working with the Illinois Department of Corrections to determine resources necessary to develop and implement an adult risk and needs assessment instrument.

Accountability

The *Criminal Justice Plan* identified accountability as a necessary and central principle for the criminal justice system. The system must ensure that offenders are held accountable for their actions, programs must be held accountable for performance, and the system must be held accountable to the citizens of Illinois, particularly victims.

The assessment and evaluation efforts already discussed play a major role in ensuring accountability. Efforts to improve information systems and data quality also will improve accountability by providing the public with better, more accurate, and more current information on crimes and the system's response to those crimes.

Other Authority efforts relating to accountability include research and technical support provided by the Authority for the Governor's Commission on Capital Punishment, and an evaluation of the implementation of provisions of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998.

The Authority also has compiled and published profiles reflecting the work of multi-jurisdictional drug and violent

crime units throughout the state. Additional ADAA funding has been channeled to these specialized task forces to crack down on serious drug offenders and hold them accountable.

County profiles looking at crime trends and arrest rates in all Illinois counties have been compiled, published, and made available on the Authority website.

The Authority also evaluated the victim-witness program of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and started work on a statewide victimization survey. Both of these projects will help assess the system's response to crime victims and improve services to victims in Illinois.

The future

Working with its many partner agencies and organizations, the Authority has made great strides toward fulfilling the goals and objectives of the *Criminal Justice Plan*. While this effort will be an ongoing process, it must also be one that is adapted to address different circumstances. When the plan was first drafted more than two years ago, terrorism was not a priority issue. Today it is, and we must adjust our resources accordingly.

The threat of terrorist attacks makes the creation of an integrated justice information system even more imperative. Such a system would be a tremendous asset to efforts aimed at preventing an attack and to ensuring a coordinated response if an attack occurred.

Much also remains to be done to provide better services to victims of crime, and to provide them with a method of recourse if they feel the system has failed them.

The reality of a state budget crisis means that resources in the foreseeable future will be severely limited. Therefore, everything possible must be done to plan and implement the most effective programs, and to identify and focus on the most pressing criminal justice needs. ■

Technology

IIJIS strategic planning initiated

The Illinois Integrated Justice Information System (IIJIS) board met Sept. 19 and Oct. 30 to review drafts of the IIJIS Strategic Plan. The plan includes an endorsement letter for integration from the board, an executive summary, and mission, vision, and values statements. The body of the report contains discussion of several challenges involved with justice integration. Goals, objectives, outcomes, and performance measures associated with each challenge also are included. The plan concludes with proposed legislation to create a new IIJIS Governing Board that can assume responsibilities regarding integration implementation.

ALERTS news

The Authority collaborated with other government agencies and Motorola to test and implement Datatac2 on the Area-wide Law Enforcement Radio Terminal System (ALERTS) network, the Authority's in-car computer terminal system for police. Datatac2 is Motorola's latest mobile data radio network system. Another recent effort allows e-mail messaging between ALERTS and users on the state's other mobile data terminal system, the Illinois Wireless Information Network (IWIN).

PIMS under renovation

Users of the Authority's Police Information Management System (PIMS) met Oct. 18 in Chicago for the announcement of a vendor to develop a replacement for PIMS. Megg Associates Inc., of Salt Lake City, will design the new system. At the meeting, users selected PIMSNet as the name of PIMS' successor. Since the meeting, the Authority has been working with Megg Associates to establish a project plan and time frame for transition to PIMSNet.

Staff members also continue to work with local agencies to implement a reporting enhancement to PIMS. A method for converting all PIMS data has been developed and will be used to maintain data in the Query Manager. The new Query Manager is now used by four PIMS agencies. The conversion methodologies that were developed to move data from PIMS into the query manager will be used to migrate data from the existing PIMS to PIMSNet.

(Continued from page 3)

“Process and impact evaluation of the specialized domestic violence probation projects in Peoria, Sangamon and Tazewell counties”

A final report is available on a process and impact evaluation of the specialized domestic violence probation projects in Peoria, Sangamon, and Tazewell Counties. The report by the University of Illinois at Springfield provides a description of the problem of domestic violence, the study methodology, and a brief review of relevant literature. The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the implementation processes of the three counties as well as the short-term impact of each of their specialized programs.

A four-page *On Good Authority* companion report summarizes the evaluation findings, including the need to draw upon community resources when supervising this population. The evaluation also noted that each program was effectively addressing alcohol and substance abuse problems and that the programs are learning more about domestic vio-

lence probationers and identifying patterns that are relevant to their supervision.

“Impact evaluation of the juvenile probation projects in Christian, Peoria and Winnebago counties”

A final report compiled by the University of Illinois at Springfield on the impact evaluation of intensive juvenile probation projects in Peoria, Winnebago and Christian counties is available. This report details how and to what extent the three projects were affecting their respective target populations.

An *On Good Authority* highlights the evaluation findings, including the need for assessment tools to identify mental health issues and interventions to address both mental health and substance abuse, and the need for aftercare services. The evaluation also notes that distinct and graduated phases within the program would serve as an incentive to cooperate with program requirements.

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