



**ILLINOIS  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Candice M. Kane  
Executive Director

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

**DATE:** November 23, 1999

**RE:** Briefing for the Executive Director's Report at the  
December 3, 1999 Authority Meeting

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

### **Awards**

The Research and Analysis Unit was recognized by the Justice Research and Statistics Association at its annual meeting in Baltimore. Staff won two (2) top awards for excellence in analysis in connection with recent publications:

- The Trends and Issues Update on *Trends in Drug Arrests*, written by Bob Bauer and David Olson; and,
- The report *Nature and Extent of Family Violence in Illinois*, written by Jennifer Hiselman, Erica Morrow, and others.

This was the third year in a row that Authority publications have been selected for this recognition.

### **Grant Awards**

The U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics awarded our joint grant application with the Illinois State Police's Bureau of Identification (BOI) in Joliet. The grant will allow us to establish a research center focusing on criminal history information by creating an on-line connection to the BOI. The connection will support our research on gun crime offenders in Illinois as well as a host of other research endeavors.

## **Information Requests**

- During the third quarter of 1999, a total of 452 information requests were handled by staff. Thus far in 1999, we handled a total of 1,331 requests or an average of about 150 per month. During the second quarter:
  - *Geography*: 61% of the requests came from within the state, 29% from other states, 1% from outside the U.S.
  - *Requester*: 30% from other governmental agencies, 25% from citizens, 16% from private agencies, 5% from students, 2% media, 17% researcher and 5% other.
  - *Request method*: Telephone/Fax 49%, Email 31%, Mail 7%, and Walk-in 13%.

## **Publications**

- With the assistance of the Office of Public Information and the Office of Administrative Services, R & A staff published nine(9) reports since the last Authority meeting:
  1. *Research Report*: An Overview and Assessment of Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, and Elder Abuse Data in Illinois.
  2. *Evaluation Report*: Evaluation of the Kankakee Metropolitan Enforcement Group.
  3. *Evaluation Report*: Evaluation of the Kankakee County Violent Crime Task Force
  4. *Audit Report*: Criminal History Records Audit: Disposition Reporting in Cook County
  5. *Research Bulletin*: The Chicago Women's Health Risk Project at a Glance.
  6. *On Good Authority*: Kankakee MEG Unit Employs Problem-Solving Approach to Combat Drug Crime.
  7. *On Good Authority*: Only Half of Reportable Cook County Court Dispositions on Rap Sheets.
  8. *On Good Authority*: Citizen Awareness, Local Involvement Fuel Community Policing Program.
  9. *Trends and Issues Update*: Probation Trends in Illinois.
- Staff also contributed significantly to the Fall 1999 issue of *The Compiler* which focused on computer crime in Illinois.

## **Web Site Development**

- Staff continue development of the Authority's Web site ([www.icjia.state.il.us](http://www.icjia.state.il.us)). We have expanded the amount and type of criminal justice data available on the site and information about current research projects and evaluations. The number of visitors to the site continues to soar – we average several hundred persons a day who spend about twenty minutes browsing the site. The number of people downloading documents and viewing data continues to increase as well. Trends and Issues Updates, for example, have been downloaded over 200 times. The SANE RFP was

downloaded 260 times during October alone.

- Staff have also begun planning and development around the Authority's intranet site.

### **Briefings/Presentations**

- Staff made two (2) presentations at the annual meeting of the Justice Research and Statistics Association: Tracy Hahn made a presentation on interpreting crime statistics in jurisdictions where crime has not decreased; and, Mark Myrent participated in a discussion panel on the use of institutional review boards in criminal justice research.
- Staff took part in a career day recruiting event at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy Studies. Several potential candidates met with staff to discuss employment opportunities at the Authority.

### **Research and Policy Committee**

- Staff convened the Research and Policy Committee two times since the last Authority meeting. At our meeting in October, staff reacquainted committee members with the organization of the Authority and the activities and projects staff are involved in. Detailed presentations were made by the Authority's Information Systems Unit, Federal and State Grants Unit, General Counsel, and Research and Analysis Unit.
- We also reviewed the Authority's State Fiscal Year 2001 budget submission to the Governor's Office, which included proposals for expanded General Revenue funding to support new programmatic initiatives.
- The committee also initiated a dialogue on the proposed Criminal Justice Planning Summit, which the Authority has previously discussed. Staff was instructed to develop a preliminary plan for the summit for discussion at the next committee meeting.
- Our November committee meeting was dedicated exclusively to the proposed planning summit. Staff presented a preliminary plan for the summit which committee members discussed at length. A number of modifications to the plan were suggested.

### **Ad Hoc Committee on Disposition Reporting**

- Staff convened the Authority's Ad Hoc Committee on Disposition Reporting two times, and met with the Cook County Information Committee several times to follow up on issues raised in the latest CHRI audit. A Plan of Action has been prepared with

the collaboration of the Circuit Court Clerk's Office, the Chicago Police Department, the Illinois State Police, and other entities.

### **Other Projects/Activities**

- Staff is about to send the Crime Analysis Applications Handbook to the printer. The handbook was developed as part of a federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Statistics.
- The final report on our evaluation of Chicago's Municipal Drug and Gang Enforcement Pilot Programs was completed. It has been presented to the Chicago Police Department for review.
- A final report on our evaluation of the City of Chicago's alley lighting project is nearing completion.
- A final report on our evaluation of the Cook County Sheriff's Day Reporting Center Program has been drafted and circulated for internal review;
- Staff continued work on various aspects of several projects: (1) the study of MEG Unit and local police department drug targets; and (2) the "Behind Closed Doors/Community Crime Prevention" study.
- Several staff reviewed/scored grant applications on behalf of the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority and our own Federal and State Grants unit.
- Staff continued work on two research projects funded by the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission: (1) an evaluation of the impact of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act; and, (2) a study on minority over-representation in the Cook County juvenile justice system. Surveys and other data collection instruments have been prepared and are being implemented.

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

Cc: Becky  
Mark  
Tracy  
Jim

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