



**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: May 24, 2001

RE: Executive Director's Briefing #11 - June 1, 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 two (2) reports since the last Authority meeting:
 1. *Evaluation Report: An Implementation and Initial Impact Evaluation of the Adult Sex Offender Probation Project in Cook County* (February 2001).
 2. *On Good Authority: Specialized Sex Offender Probation in Cook County Links Supervision, Treatment* (March 2001).
- The unit also produced comprehensive statistical profiles on each of Illinois' twenty-one (21) metropolitan enforcement groups and multi-jurisdictional drug task forces.

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 over 600 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) as well.

Planning and Research Committee

The Planning and Research Committee met jointly with the Budget Committee on April 5, 2001. A second meeting was held on May 22, 2001. A variety of meeting materials were prepared for and reviewed at these meetings.

State Criminal Justice Plan

Staff has finalized a version of the *State Criminal Justice Plan*. It will be considered for adoption at the Authority's June 1, 2001 meeting. Revised language around the issue of recourse for crime victims is being developed by an interagency workgroup facilitated by the Federal and State Grants Unit. 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 will help 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.
- Staff met with officials of Loyola University, TASC and the John Howard Association to discuss a proposal for a comprehensive study of criminal sentencing in Illinois.
- Staff participated in several meetings of Attorney General Jim Ryan's study group regarding racial profiling legislation.

Information Request Handling

ITEM	LAST QUARTER 1/1-3/31/2001	PREVIOUS QUARTER 10/1-12/31/2000
Information requests handled:	421	372
Monthly average number of requests:	140	124
Percent of requests completed within two (2) days:	80%	81%
Geographic Origin of requesters:		
Chicago metropolitan area	33%	27%
Other region of Illinois	43%	39%
U.S. other than Illinois	17%	20%
Outside the U.S.	1%	4%
Unknown	6%	10%
Type of requester:		
Government agency	35%	31%
Private citizen	21%	22%
Private agency	20%	17%
Researcher	10%	12%
Student	10%	11%
Media	3%	3%
Legislators	<1%	1%
Inmates	2%	2%
Unknown	-	-
Method of request:		
Telephone/fax	50%	48%
Mail	5%	4%
Email/Internet	22%	24%
In-person	<1%	5%
ICJIA Web site	21%	19%
Publications disseminated:		
Mailed in response to written requests	26,697	19,949
Mailed in response to Web site requests	569	7,301
Downloaded from Web Site	9,698	9,687
Total	36,964	36,937
Persons registered for CJ Dispatch (Email notification of updates)	641	549

Web Site Traffic Report

	LAST QUARTER 1/1-3/31/2001	PREVIOUS QUARTER 10/1-12/31/2000
Hits for Home Page	307,500	N/a
Number of User Sessions	37,819	37,709
Average Hits Per Day	5,289	5,521
Average User Sessions Per Day	435	409
Average Use Session Length (minutes)	21	23
Number of Unique Visitors	14,973	12,227
Number of Visitors Who Visited Once	12,026	9,367
Number of Visitors Who Visited More Than Once	2,947	2,860

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 a program status report or profile assessing performance over a given period of time.

1/1/01 - 5/24/01	PROGRAM	REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING
PROGRAM NARRATIVE REVIEW	ADAA	6	6	0
	JAIBG	54	51	3
	VOCA			
	MVTPC			
	Total	60	57	3
DATA REPORT DEVELOPMENT	ADAA	9	9	0
	JAIBG	14	14	0
	VOCA			
	MVTPC	7	7	0
	Total	30	30	0
DATA REPORT ENTRY (projects)	ADAA	52	52	0
	JAIBG			
	VOCA			
	MVTPC			
	Total	52	52	0
PROJECT STATUS REPORTS	ADAA	28	28	0
	JAIBG			
	VOCA			
	MVTPC			
	Total	28	28	0
PROGRAM PROFILES	ADAA	21	21	0
	JAIBG			
	VOCA			
	MVTPC	10	10	0
	Total	31	31	0

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 the Illinois Family Violence 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 Restorative Justice Committee meetings;
 - Meetings of the Legislative Commission on Prison Management Reform;
 - Illinois Youth Summit sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago.
 - Briefing of Adam Graycar, director of the Australian Institute of Criminology;
 - Briefing of Steven P. Lab, the National Institute of Justice's crime prevention evaluator;
 - Harris School of Public Policy Studies graduate seminar on information systems research and policy, University of Chicago;
 - Cook County's GIRLS LINK evaluation advisory committee meetings;
 - Western Illinois University, Department of Law Enforcement Administration's professional advisory committee;
 - Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' POLARIS project advisory committee meeting;
 - Administration of Justice Conference at Southern Illinois University;
 - Williamson County juvenile justice workgroup meeting.
 - Briefing to the Chicago Department of Public Health Executive Board on the Chicago Women's Health Risk Study; and

- Cook County Integrated System for Women Offenders meeting.

Other Projects/Activities

- **CHRI Audit** - Data collection, coding and entry on the current audit continue. Staff have redesigned the methodology slightly to test livescan submissions and other electronic reporting. Some local data collection continues for the accuracy & completeness portion of the audit. A number of on-site data collection visits have taken place and a number of agencies have submitted copies of source documents. Staff also continues to interview Bureau of Identification staff as part of the ongoing effort to document data handling and processing procedures and policies.
- **Chicago Women's Health Risk Study** - The collaborators plan a number of publications for 2001, including a research bulletin "fact sheet" on key findings for a general audience; a research bulletin discussing universal screening for intimate partner violence; a report describing the circumstances surrounding intimate partner homicides; a report on help-seeking and intervention; and a report on risk factors for Latina/Hispanic women. Staff continue to also support collaborators in making presentations on the CWHRs:
 - Dr. Edmund Donoghue, a collaborator on the project, presented a paper on the study at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.
 - Barbara Engel made a presentation on the collaboration in the study at a joint workshop on domestic violence conducted by Bowling Green State University and the Lucas County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.
- **Evaluation of the Cook County State's Attorney's Victim-Witness Program** - detailed review comments have been received from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office (CCSAO). Staff is revising the draft report and preparing a response to the 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. The BJS grant project is scheduled to conclude on June 30, 2001.
- **The study of MEG Unit and Local Police Department Drug Targets** - this is a BJA funded study being carried out in partnership with Loyola University's Department of Criminal Justice. Data collection and coding continues for information from task forces. Comprehensive statistical profiles for each unit presenting the context of surrounding agencies have been developed. Criminal history profiles of task force arrestees are currently being developed. The CHRI data

extracted for the Gun Crime Study are being used to develop profiles of local department arrestees. The project was recently extended through 2001.

- **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 is scheduled for completion in 2001. Reports on case studies are nearing completion.
- **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 continues to collect and analyze aggregate data from various juvenile justice system contact points, and is also tracking a cohort of juveniles across various agencies that comprise the system. A final report is expected in August 2001.
- **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 guidebook and manual will be made available statewide, with expected distribution later this year.
- **Profiles of Metropolitan Enforcement Groups and Drug Task Forces project** - Through activities under the Drug and Violent Crime Evaluation Program, R & A staff have amassed a large amount of data measuring the extent and nature of drug and violent crime in Illinois and the impact these crimes have had on the criminal justice system. In addition, as part of its monitoring and evaluation efforts, the Authority also requires funded programs to submit monthly data reports describing their activities and accomplishments. To put this information into the hands of Metropolitan Enforcement Group and Drug Task Force directors and policy board members, staff periodically develop comprehensive profiles for each MEG and Task Force. The

profile is intended to provide a general overview of the drug and violent crime problem in the jurisdictions covered by Illinois' MEGs and Task Forces, and the response to these problems by the units. The updated profiles were completed in April 2001.

- **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.
- **Henry/Mercer Counties Drug Task Force Evaluation** - Work continues on 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). 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. The project will be completed later this year.
- **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's 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 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 submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics. The project would 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 developing a 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 exploring the development of 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 also exploring participation 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. The group met in Chicago on May 22, 2001 to discuss next steps.
- 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.

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 attend training courses as needed. Staff recently attended courses on spatial statistics, Microsoft office products, management & supervisor training, computerized crime mapping, and other courses.
- 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: None.
- Arrivals: Laurie Millner, research assistant (summer intern), May 7, 2001
Emily Myrent, research assistant (summer intern), May 14, 2001
Tom Nichol, research assistant (summer intern), May 29, 2001
- Transfers: None.

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