

Web Site Development

Staff also contributed toward the continued development of the Authority's Web site (www.icjia.state.il.us). (A Web Site Traffic report is presented in **TABLE 2** attached to this memorandum.) We continue to expand the criminal justice data and information available on the site. 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 averages nearly 430 daily user sessions, and we now have 799 registered users of the Authority's email program that automatically alerts Web site visitors to new information added to the site.

Staff also continues to contribute to the ongoing development of the Authority's secure intranet site (www2.icjia.state.il.us). Institutional Review Board rules, forms and instructions were added to the site for staff access, in addition to criminal justice research news and information, other agency forms, and announcements.

Staff also continues to develop and refine the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council website (www.icjia.state.il.us/mv) to further assist and educate individuals about motor vehicle theft prevention.

Web-Based Inventory of Community Based Programs - As part of the Authority's evaluation of the Juvenile Reform Act (which is described below), 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, and 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.

FSGU Support Efforts

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 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. **TABLE 3** attached to this memorandum summarizes this staff activity.

Planning and Research Committee

Staff is planning the next meeting of the Authority's Planning and Research Committee, which will be in March or April. The meeting is expected to review and discuss the

Research & Analysis Unit's workplan as reflected in the Authority's Strategic Plan, including all current and planned internal and external projects. The committee also oversees the work of the Authority's Institutional Review Board (IRB), and will be briefed on these activities.

Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Audit

The unit's Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Audit Center is an ADAA-funded in-house effort to continually examine the accuracy, completeness and timeliness of this information, and to recommend strategies for its improvement. With regard to the current audit, data collection has been completed. The final phase of analysis is progressing and sections of the draft final report are being compiled. Qualitative information from the Cook County Circuit Court Clerk and the Illinois State Police (ISP) regarding the follow-up activities from the 1999 audit report recommendations has been received for inclusion in the final report. Staff also continues to participate in technology related training opportunities and ISP-hosted regional Livescan User meetings.

EVALUATION PROGRAM

The Research and Analysis Unit pursues an aggressive program evaluation and research agenda through an in-house ADAA-funded evaluation program. An update on current projects follows.

2000 Probation Outcome Study

With the cooperation of the Probation Division of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (as well as individual probation departments) information for all adult and juvenile probationers discharged during November 2000 was collected and analyzed to identify the characteristics of Illinois' probation population, the conditions of their sentences and the outcomes of these sentences. A final report summarizing the general characteristics and outcomes of Illinois probationers has been drafted and is undergoing review. An *On Good Authority* has also been drafted for review. In addition, a series of more specific analyses are underway, some of which will involve partnerships between the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit and researchers in universities throughout Illinois.

Identifying Groups of Violent Probationers at High Risk to Recidivate and Fail at Treatment

This project is utilizing information collected as part of the 2000 Probation Outcome Study, and represents a partnership between Authority staff and Loyola University's Department of Criminal Justice. The study will examine factors associated with probationers' recidivism and results of participation in treatment programs. A final report of the study is due August 21, 2002.

Chicago Community Policing (CAPS) Program 2001-2002

This project is being conducted by Northwestern University and is the final 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. A final report on this phase of the study is due December 31, 2002.

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. A final report is due December 31, 2002.

Little Village Community Youth Worker Study

This is an extended study of data derived from the Little Village Gang Violence Reduction Program (GVRP). The GVRP was one of a series of recent initiatives in Illinois and elsewhere to address the youth gang problem. The Chicago Police Department administered the project between 1992 and 1997 with federal funds provided by the Authority. University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration Professor Irving Spergel designed the project and became its coordinator. Among other components of the comprehensive program was the employment of youth outreach workers. This study will examine survey data and other information on this component of the project. A final report is due June 30, 2002.

Citizens and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting (CLEAR) Project Evaluation

The CLEAR project is a major initiative of the Chicago Police Department to integrate information systems and processes within the department and, in many ways, represents an evolution of community policing efforts incorporating technological advances, increased accountability measures, community participation and other developments. The University of Illinois at Chicago and Northwestern University CLEAR is conducting the evaluation of. A final report is due December 31, 2002.

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 will be conducted. The study will be largely qualitative examining how gang & non-gang offenders go about reintegrating into their communities of origin. The project has been reviewed and approved by the Authority's Institutional Review Board. A final project description and contract are under preparation, and we expect the study to be initiated in 30 to 45 days.

Henry/Mercer Counties Drug Task Force Evaluation

The 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. The limited evaluation is also examining the impact of the unit (which existed for the period 1991-1996) on the types of drug arrests made, and the numbers of persons arrested who were subsequently convicted and committed to the Department of Corrections. A report will be made to the Authority at the March 1, 2002 meeting.

Statewide Crime Victimization Survey

Growing out of recommendations in the *State Criminal Justice Plan*, staff is attempting 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 developed a "request for proposals" which will have the selected vendor undertake the survey, incorporate defined sampling and methodological strategies, and provide the Authority with a data file. The RFP was finalized and published in October 2001 pursuant to Department of Central Management Services guidelines. Proposals were due November 30, 2001. Staff is meeting with the prospective vendor later this month and expects to implement the survey in the Spring 2002.

Final Evaluation Reports Received – Publications Under Development

Drafts of final reports have been received for the following external evaluation projects and are undergoing staff review and/or staff is developing final publications at this time.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Evaluator</u>
An Implementation Assessment of the Domestic Violence Probation Projects in Lake, Winnebago and Kankakee Counties	Justice Research Associates
An Impact Evaluation of Juvenile Probation Projects in Christian, Peoria and Winnebago Counties	University of Illinois at Springfield
An Evaluation of Specialized Sex Offender Probation Projects in Coles, Madison and Vermilion Counties	University of Illinois at Springfield
An Evaluation of Sex Offender Probation Projects in Lake, DuPage and Winnebago Counties	Loyola University Chicago
Process and Impact Evaluation of Specialized Domestic Violence Probation Projects in Peoria, Sangamon, and Tazewell Counties	University of Illinois at Springfield

Chicago Homicide Dataset Update Project

The Research and Analysis 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 began an effort to update the dataset with information for the years 1997 through 2000. 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. Data collection activity has nearly been completed. The data cleaning process will take several more weeks to complete.

EXTERNALLY-FUNDED PROJECTS

NIJ Chicago Women's Health Risk Study (CWHRS)

This was a federally funded (National Institute of Justice) study of factors associated with lethal domestic violence. The NIJ report was completed months ago but the data and findings continue to be utilized, discussed and studied for a number of purposes, and future products are planned:

- A group of CWHRS collaborators is nearing completion of a report on help-seeking and intervention results.
- 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.
- Staff have 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 post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and domestic violence, and on the relation between domestic violence and social support.
- The "CWHRS Forum" listserv has 96 members and three separate interest groups: child survivors and witnesses, strangulation and choking, and social support network (SSN).
- Under a no-cost extension of the NIJ grant to allow for the further development and refinement of the CWHRS calendar history data, a UIC researcher is helping us compile all of the calendar history data into a single database.

NIJ Evaluation of the Cook County State's Attorney's Victim-Witness Program

This was a federally funded (National Institute of Justice) evaluation of the Cook County State's Attorney's Victim Witness Program. The final report has been submitted to NIJ and to the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. The full report and an *On Good Authority* on the project are planned for publication by June 1, 2002.

BJS Gun Crime Study

This is a federally funded (Bureau of Justice Statistics) 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 criminal history data have been received and have been analyzed. Archiving procedures are being finalized and the report on an analysis of all 1998 arrests for gun-related charges is nearing completion. A final report to BJS will be completed by the end of March 2002, and *Research Bulletin*

summarizing the report is also planned for publication later in the spring.

BJA Study of MEG Unit and Local Police Department Drug Targets

This is a federally funded (Bureau of Justice Assistance) study being carried out in partnership with Loyola University's Department of Criminal Justice. Data regarding criminal histories, and drug arrest dispositions, for a sample of Illinois' multi-jurisdictional drug task force targets and a comparison group of local police department arrestees has been collected and coded, and is now being analyzed to better understand the differences between MEG/TF and local police department drug targets. In addition, the project has also developed a means to compare Authority-funded MEG and Task Force activities with the general drug control activities in the areas they serve. This technique was used to develop new comprehensive statistical profiles for each unit, and place their efforts into the larger context of drug control efforts in the jurisdictions they work in. A final report for the project will be completed at the end of March 2002. A *Research Bulletin* and at least one external publication are planned.

IJJC Evaluation of the Impact of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act

This project is funded by the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, utilizing Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) funds, 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 was submitted to the Juvenile Justice Commission and advisory board members for their review. Revisions are underway and the final report is expected by the end of March 2002. Three *On Good Authority* publications based on the full report are also planned.

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

This project is funded by the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission utilizing OJJDP funds, and is 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 has presented a draft of those findings at a meeting of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission. Staff is also collecting 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 Phase II report will be completed by the end of this calendar year. *Research Bulletins* drawing from these findings are also planned.

BJS State Police NIBRS Grant Project

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. In connection with this State Police grant, R&A staff are to: (1) assist in the evaluation of crime analysis tools which will be developed as part of the project, and (2) develop "case studies" on how local law enforcement agencies make use of the expanded incident-based crime data. To date, staff has attended an organizational meeting for the project is assisting in the formation of project steering and advisory committees.

JRSA Disproportionate Minority Confinement Grant Project

With the assistance of a \$20,000 grant from the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA), staff is developing comprehensive statistical profiles for each of Illinois' 102 counties focused on assessing disproportionate minority overrepresentation and containing a host of data and information relative to juvenile justice planning, problem identification and problem solving. The profiles will be available in printed form and will be downloadable from the Authority's web site. We expect to complete the profiles by May 1, 2002.

BJS Crime Analysis and Mapping for Local Police Grant Project

Staff 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 was recently notified that this grant has been awarded. The project will be initiated in March 2002.

JRSA Multi-State Research on Homicide Data Grant Project

With the assistance of a \$4,500 grant from JRSA, Staff is participating in a funded five-state (Illinois, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Utah and Michigan) grant project facilitated by JRSA to study incident-based homicide data. Staff will be collecting and analyzing homicide case information from several local police departments in Illinois as part of this project.

NSF Spatial Metadata Training Grant Project

Staff received a \$5,000 grant from the Federal Geographic Data Committee (National Science Foundation) through the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) to develop a workshop on Spatial Metadata. The first workshop was presented at the JRSA national meeting in New Orleans in October 2001. The second will be held at the NIJ Research & Evaluation Conference in Washington, DC in July 2002.

EXTERNAL GRANT PROPOSALS UNDER DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW

- Staff helped develop and submit a proposal for a National Institute of Corrections grant for research and evaluation with the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). The

proposal is for a collaboration with IDOC, the University of Illinois at Chicago, Loyola University Chicago, the Authority, the Isaac Ray Center, and the John Howard Association.

- Staff developed and submitted a research proposal to the National Youth Gang Center for a study that would examine the recidivism of gang versus non-gang members released from Illinois prisons.
- Staff is developing a joint project proposal with Loyola University's Department of Criminal Justice, the John Howard Association and Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities to study sentencing practices in Illinois. The project will be funded through the Authority's ADAA-funded evaluation program.
- Staff is working with the Attorney General's Gang Crime Prevention Center on a joint project, which will result in a series of four (4) publications highlighting practices and experience around community capacity building. The project will involve human subject research issues and so will be subject to review by the Authority's IRB. The project will be funded through the Authority's ADAA-funded evaluation program.
- 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 expanded FY 2000 ADAA-funded Evaluation Program in-house grant for review by the Federal and State Grants Unit. The Authority has already approved the expanded designation.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

R & A staff continues to provide a variety of technical assistance on extra-agency research and evaluation projects. Since the last Authority meeting:

- Staff provided significant technical assistance to the Governor's Capital Punishment Commission on 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 utilizing criminal history record information (raphseets) and information obtained via the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS). Staff also analyzed over 7,000 death certificates obtained from the Illinois Department of Public Health to try to match additional victim information to the IDOC records. Staff also prepared a plan (including IRB protocols) for convening focus groups of homicide victim survivors to help develop a report for the Commission from this community. The focus groups are convening February 6th, 7th and 11th. A report on this research will be submitted on February 15th. Finally, staff is working with Northwestern University's Center on Wrongful Convictions to develop additional information for the

Commission's report to Governor Ryan.

- Staff is providing assistance to the Illinois State Bar Association in connection with an upcoming three-day conference in April. Staff is developing a report on state demographic trends and their potential impact on the courts in the future.
- Staff continued to assist 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;
 - Illinois Department of Human Services and Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
 - University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy Studies; and
 - Northwestern University's Medical School.

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD ACTIVITIES

The Authority established an Institutional Review Board (IRB) to review all research and evaluation projects conducted by or supported by the Authority, which involve human subjects. Such research must be scrutinized for compliance with various laws and regulations designed to protect human research subjects. The IRB convenes to consider research applications and to review the status of previously approved studies. Since the last Authority meeting:

- The IRB also approved a revised application for the Reintegration of Gang Offenders in the Community Study to be conducted by Dr. Greg Scott of DePaul University.
- The IRB also approved a revised application for the Cook County Disproportionate Minority Representation Study.
- The IRB approved the application for the Authority-funded impact evaluation of a domestic violence probation program in Lake County to be conducted by Justice Research Associates.
- The IRB approved the application for Homicide Victim Survivor focus groups being coordinated by Authority staff for a report to the Governor's Commission on Capital Punishment.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING

- Staff continues 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; (d) development of specific training classes

including ArcView mapping, effective public speaking, multivariate statistical analysis, basic SPSS use, data availability in criminal justice, among other topics; (e) human subject research issues/concerns and practices; and, (f) project management training.

- A total of nine (9) R&A staff persons are currently pursuing advanced academic degrees: Five (5) are enrolled in graduate programs and four (4) are in post-graduate programs. Additionally, three (3) staff are pursuing professional licenses for information systems auditing.